

Describe the Elephant



It weighs 480 kilograms. It has large ears and long trunk. It has gray wrinkly skin. It is very cute! It is young.

It is about 1.5 yards tall.

Describe the Octopus Minor



Its body is about 20 cm long.It has two eyes.It has four tentacles.It is covered with slime.

Qualitative vs Quantitative Data

<u>QuaLitative</u> (letters)

- Descriptions using words.
- Data which can be observed but not measured.
- What the object is *like*: texture, smell, taste, appearance, etc.
- Subjective, relative

<u>QuaNtitative</u> (numbers)

- Specific numbers.
- Data which can be measured.
- Length, height, area, volume, weight, speed, time, temperature, humidity, sound levels, cost, age, etc.
- Objective, specific

Qualitative observations are subjective



Quantitative observations are objective

Observation depends on observer

- Location and size of an observer
- Observer limitations





can only see visible light



Measurement

- the assignment of numbers to objects or events
- a type of quantitative observation made with a measuring instrument
- includes both a number and a unit
- units of measurement are essentially arbitrary: people make them up and then agree to use them

Measuring is an important part of everyday life!

What can we measure? Why do we measure? How can we measure? How well can we measure?

How good is the measurement?

- Accuracy is how close a measured value is to the actual (true) value.
- Precision is how close the measured values are to *each other* (repeatability and reproducibility).
- **Bias** is a built-in (systematic) error which makes all measurements wrong by a certain amount.



WHAT can we measure?

- Length
- Distance on land
 - Depth of water
 - Mass
 - Temperature
 - Time
 - Light
 - Electric current
 - Color

And HOW?

- ✓ Ruler
- ✓ Measuring Chain/Tape
- ✓ Sonar (echo sounder)
- ✓ Weighing scale
- ✓ Thermometer
- ✓ Clock, timer
- ✓ Photometer
- ✓ Ammeter
- ✓ Spectrometer



What is a System of Measurement?

A <u>system of measurement</u> is a <u>collection of units</u> of measurement and <u>rules relating them</u> to each other.

• Must have **base units** defined for all major quantities that need to be measured (example: a *foot*).

 Must specify equivalency relationship for all additional units used to measure the same quantity (example: length can also be measured in *inches* or *miles*, defined as 1 foot = 12 inches, 1 mile = 5280 feet).

Systems of measurement have historically been important, regulated and defined for the purposes of science and commerce.

English Units Based Systems

- Imperial System of Measurement (British Empire, 1824):
 - Distance/Length: Inch, foot, yard, mile
 - Volume: fluid ounce, pint, quart, gallon
 - > Area: Acre
 - Weight/Mass (three different systems!): grain, ounce, pound, stone, ton



- US Customary System of Measurement:
 - Mostly same unit names
 - Units are not identical!
 (1 US gal=0.83 imp gal)
 - Different units for liquid and dry measures (liquid/dry ounce)



The Metric System

The <u>metric system</u> is an internationally agreed decimal (based on power of 10) system of measurement. It was originally introduced by France in 1799.

Modern "Metric system" term is a synonym for "SI" or the "International System of Units" (1960)—the official system of measurement in almost every country in the world.

