

Information Content of the Model for Calculating the Finite Precision of Measurements

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Research Article

ABSTRACT

Aims: We argue that the choice of a specific qualitative–quantitative set of variables in a model by a conscious observer fundamentally limits the achievable accuracy of the measurement process.

Place and Duration of Study: Mechanical & Refrigeration Consultation Expert, between January 2020 and July 2020.

Methodology: Using the concept of “finite information quantities” introduced by Gisin, we try to present it as a practical tool in science and engineering in calculating the proximity indicator of a model to the phenomenon being studied.

Results: The formulated metric (**comparative uncertainty**) allows us to set the optimal achievable uncertainty of the model and to confirm the impossibility of implementing the principle of infinite precision.

Conclusion: Any attempt to search for a universal physical theory must consider the uncertainty caused by the observer’s vision and the working of the human brain.

Keywords: Information entropy, measurement uncertainty, measurement units, mathematical model, observability, precision engineering, modeling, random variables.

1. INTRODUCTION

What can people model in their heads? Can a person calculate the value of the Planck constant in his head to draw a line between the macrocosm, where the laws of Newtonian mechanics operate, and the microworld, where the laws of quantum mechanics come into force? Where is the granularity of the reproduced observable picture of the world? All of the above fit into the Popper triad [1] of interaction “Physical world—Information and knowledge—Mental world (a conscious observer).”

Considering the results presented in [2,3], the writer offers a model of reflection (modeling a physical phenomenon) of the researcher/observer and a measure of complexity associated with this. We apply the model and the calculated metric to the problem of ultimate achievable precision when measuring the studied variable. One of the most original reviews of the advantages and disadvantages of statistical methods used to analyze experimental results is presented in [4], in which the extended uncertainty is used to analyze data on the uncertainties inherent in model variables and the uncertainties of experimental results conducted by various laboratories with different measurement methods. However, the presented approach plays by different rules than the standard statistical analysis of theoretical and experimental data with expert evaluation and measurement theory, the

38 principles of which will be true forever and ever. It is explained by the fact that special
39 attention is paid to systematic uncertainty due to the researcher's choice of a qualitatively-
40 quantitative set of variables in the measurement model. This uncertainty is inherent in any
41 models in physics and engineering and, in fact, is the initial one, after which the
42 observer/research team carefully calculates the possible uncertainties of all chosen variables
43 before and after the experiment, using modern mathematical methods of data processing [5].
44 It is considered a "subjective reality," which exists depending on the mind or knowledge of
45 the observer.

46
47 The methods of modern science emphasize the importance of information for measurement
48 and evaluation, which, in turn, are technical tools for observation and experiment in science,
49 as well as for engineering. For several decades, publications on the theory of information
50 and its application in physics indicate two mutually exclusive approaches to assessing the
51 nature of information entropy. According to the first, information entropy is only an abstract,
52 mathematically well-formalized concept and a subjective, measurement-system-dependent
53 feature [6– 8]. As is usually the case in science, the opposite opinion exists. In most of the
54 literature, researchers (see, for example, [9–17]) consider information as a kind of specific
55 substance, as well as a natural, technological and social phenomenon [18]. That is why it is
56 so important to explain and understand the features of modeling a physical phenomenon or
57 process. This fully applies to information entropy.

58
59 Recently published articles claim that the properties of the physical world are independent of
60 our observations of them [19]. At the same time, it is obvious that any physical systems are
61 described in terms (dimensional and dimensionless variables), depending on the observer
62 and thanks to his knowledge, experience and intuition. In other words, the details of
63 observation depend on the frame of reference of the observer or the "free will" of a person.
64 Thus, from the standpoint of the statistical theory of information, the information content
65 embedded in the measurement process model (MPM) takes on a special meaning: it is due
66 to the freedom of the observer's thought to choose one or another variable from the set of all
67 possible variables. In this context, according to the suggested approach, the human
68 evaluation of information is completely ignored. In other words, the set of 100 musical notes
69 played by chimpanzees will have exactly the same amount of information as that of the 100
70 notes played by Mozart in his Piano Concerto No. 21 (Andante movement).

71
72 In turn, information entropy is manifested through the interaction of the measured physical
73 system (PS) and the MPM. MPM can be defined as a physical, conceptual description of a
74 real phenomenon using mathematical concepts and language to facilitate a correct
75 explanation of the system or to study the influence of various variables and to predict
76 patterns of behavior [20]. Moreover, the model is a kind of communication channel [21]
77 between the observer and the phenomenon under study. However, this definition is not
78 accurate, since the MPM is not a material medium and does not transmit information, but
79 only presents it in the mind of the observer.

80
81 The method of reasoning, in which PS (the object of study) is reflected in the MPM used by
82 the experimenter, is very common in the natural sciences, where observers use the MPM to
83 describe the object of their research, and the structure of the MPM affects the results of
84 observations and determines their accuracy. For example, when a physicist uses an MPM
85 with a small number of variables and an MPM with a large number of variables, she or he
86 gets two different answers. Obviously, although the compared models describe the same
87 PS, qualitative and quantitative differences in the use of variables lead to differences in the
88 results, magnitudes of the uncertainties of the MPM and to differences in the requirements
89 for checking the accuracy of experiments.

90

91 The uniqueness of the situation lies in the fact that the information content embedded in
92 MPM is determined by measurable physical variables (hereinafter we will use the term “finite
93 information quantity” (FIQ) [22]), chosen by the observer in accordance with his vision from a
94 particular system of units, for example, SI (International System of Units) or CGS
95 (centimeter-gram-second). Therefore, in this case, changes in information entropy of MPM
96 are subjective. Please note that in practical situations of the MPM formulation, perturbation is
97 not introduced into the PS (in fact, there is an idealistic situation in the modeling process
98 without energy losses), that is, the observer only imagines the picture of the observed PS
99 and conducts a thought experiment. When an MPM is built, it consists of various FIQs, which
100 can contain a deterministic data set or a discrete one, or both. Therefore, the assertion [23]
101 that informational entropy is zero for any deterministic data set does not apply to MPM.
102

103 In this article, we want to demonstrate that a model of a phenomenon can be assimilated
104 with a thermodynamic system and information entropy so that we can estimate the model
105 uncertainty associated with a quantitative and qualitative set of FIQs. Innovation is
106 associated with the rethinking of the physical nature of the model that describes a
107 phenomenon or process. Our goal is to verify how, in the formation of the model, its
108 information entropy is related to the accuracy of the reproduction of the observed object, and
109 how the calculated uncertainty allows us to make assumptions about the preference of a
110 particular measurement method in a particular measuring process. All subsequent
111 considerations relate to the moment of completion of the MPM construction (a qualitative
112 and quantitative set of FIQs is determined) before the researcher/scientific team conducts
113 any calculations to identify the magnitude of various uncertainties inherent in one or another
114 selected FIQ in the MPM.
115

116 In addition, we strive to present the process of observing a physical phenomenon
117 (measuring a variable) in terms of dependence on the observer. Our goal is to show that the
118 use of the concept of “amount of information contained in the model” allows us to estimate
119 the magnitude of its uncertainty in the context of the implementation of subsequent
120 measurements made by the observer. Next, we show how, using the concepts and
121 mathematical apparatus of information theory, it is possible to establish the limit of precision
122 of any measurement process (the “blurriness” of the observed phenomenon) and even a
123 physical law.
124

125 **2. MODELING THROUGH OBSERVER VISION**

126

127 One possible problem in modeling PS, isolated from the environment, is how the observer
128 evaluates experiential information [18] about PS. The observed PS is linked to the
129 environment by a huge number of connections. However, the observer, at his discretion,
130 isolates from this environment only important, from his point of view, interactions and FIQs
131 (“the disorder is in our heads, in our knowledge of a system” [24]). Thus, he destroys those
132 ties that seem insignificant to him. Factually and importantly, information about PS is not
133 transmitted to MPM by material components. It is created by the modeler’s will without any
134 energy dissipation. In addition, by itself, there is no need to discuss any boundary conditions
135 and ambient temperature for the MPM itself because MPM is not the medium. On the other
136 hand, MPM is a unique lens by which the observer perceives the PS, distinguishing it from
137 the environment. This process is called selective perception. We see what we wish to see,
138 and we twist messages around to suit ourselves [18].
139

140 It must be emphasized that the behavior of the observer when constructing finite structural
141 objects [18] (in our case, this is MPM) obeys some algorithm that determines the complexity
142 of the formulated MPM. Such algorithmic complexity is determined by a qualitative–
143 quantitative set of FIQs necessary for an accurate description of the object in question.

144

145 For our research, and with some practical intuition thrown in, assume that the PS has
146 a specific number of properties (criteria, FIQs) that characterize its content. Then, we assume
147 that each FIQ represents the original readout (reading [9], [25], [26]), through which some
148 information on the researched field U (observed object, PS) can be obtained by the
149 observer. In other words, the researcher observing a physical phenomenon, analyzing the
150 process or designing the device, selects—according to his experience, knowledge and
151 intuition—certain characteristics of the object. With this selecting of the object, connections
152 of the actual object with the environment enveloping it are destroyed. In addition, the
153 modeler considers the relatively smaller number of quantities than the current reality due to
154 constraints of time, and technical and financial resources, for example, 10, 20, 50 or even
155 130 variables [27]. Therefore, the “image” of the object being studied is shown in the model
156 with a certain uncertainty, which depends primarily on the number of FIQs considered. In
157 addition, the object can be addressed by different groups of researchers, who use different
158 approaches for solving specific problems and, accordingly, different groups of FIQs, which
159 differ from each other in quality and quantity. Thus, for any physical or technical problem, the
160 occurrence of a particular FIQ in the model can be considered as a random process.

161

162 Without loss of generality, but for simplicity, one may take a pragmatic view and consider a
163 situation of objective reality when modeling a phenomenon in which the observer selects any
164 FIQ in the model in a binary base [28]: 1 corresponds to the inclusion of the FIQ in the
165 model, and 0 means the FIQ is ignored. The adoption of a value of 0 or 1 is carried out with
166 equal “probability.” If we get unreasonable results, this may be a sign that we are using
167 information entropy incorrectly. However, if a specific proposal for a probabilistic measure
168 allows us to solve some problems that cannot be solved in any other way, we will have
169 reason to believe that we are moving in the right direction.

170

171 Thus, we can introduce the postulate of a priori equiprobability (maximum low predictability)
172 of the appearance of any FIQ in the model. In confirmation of this, we would like to recall that
173 the most famous example of such a situation is the fact of studying an electron as both a
174 particle and a wave. We have no way to decide which interpretation is correct (unless the
175 situation when someone intends to knock out an electron from the lattice using only two
176 tools: a hammer and a chisel, to find out its size and shape. This will be recognized, at least,
177 as the nonscientific method [29]). Although two qualitatively different sets of variables are
178 used to describe the motion of an electron, as it turned out, both have the right to life, which
179 led to the concept of electron dualism.

180

181 **3. RESULTS NUMBERS OF FIQs IN SI**

182

183 Various systems of units are used in science and engineering, for example, the Planck
184 system of units [30], British–American System of Units [31] or the centimeter-gram-second
185 (CGS) system of units [32]. However, the International System of Units (SI) is currently the
186 most widely used system. For the convenience of further discussion, but without loss of
187 generality, we choose SI. An additional reason is that SI units are also used by the CODATA
188 (Committee on Data for Science and Technology) methodology [33]. In the future, we will
189 show that the conclusions do not depend on the choice of a specific system of units.

190 The SI is a product of human ingenuity, not nature. Is there a special reason why SI should
191 continue to be respected? Maybe, at some point, the SI will break. The question is when?
192 Not responding immediately to the questions asked, we note the important features of this
193 system.

194

195 FIQ q (which may be the scalar parameter time, a universal constant, as well as a one-
196 dimensional component of the position or the momentum, etc. [22]) is assumed to take

197 values in the domain of real numbers R , i.e., $\mathbf{q} \in R$. Moreover, the dimension of any \mathbf{q} of SI
 198 can be expressed as a unique combination of dimensions of the main base quantities (L –
 199 length, M –mass, T –time, Θ –thermodynamic temperature, I –electric current, J –light intensity
 200 and F –amount of substance) to different powers [34]:
 201

$$202 \quad \mathbf{q} \hat{=} L^l \cdot M^m \cdot T^t \cdot I^i \cdot \Theta^\theta \cdot J^j \cdot F^f, \quad (1)$$

203

204 where l, m, \dots, f are the exponents of the base quantities and take only integer values: $\{l, m,$
 205 $\dots, f\} \in Z \in R$, Z denotes the set of integers that vary in certain intervals [35], [36]
 206

$$207 \quad -3 \leq l \leq +3, -1 \leq m \leq +1, -4 \leq t \leq +4, -2 \leq i \leq +2,$$

208

$$209 \quad -4 \leq \theta \leq +4, \quad -1 \leq j \leq +1, \quad -1 \leq f \leq +1. \quad (2)$$

210

$$211 \quad e_l = 7, \quad e_m = 3, \quad e_t = 9, \quad e_\theta = 5, \quad e_j = 3, \quad e_f = 3, \quad e_l = 7,$$

212

213 where e_l, e_m, \dots, e_f are numbers of options of changes for the exponents of the base
 214 quantities.
 215

216 Each \mathbf{q} defined by (1) contains a “portion of information” [18] or a “finite amount of
 217 information” (the information content of each FIQ is bounded above [22]) about PS.

218 Let us calculate the number of FIQs contained in SI (a similar operation can be carried out
 219 for other systems of units):
 220

221

$$222 \quad \Psi^0 = e_l \cdot e_m \cdot e_t \cdot e_\theta \cdot e_j \cdot e_f \cdot e_l - 1 = 76,544, \quad (3)$$

223

224 where “–1” corresponds to the case where all exponents of the base quantities in formula (1)
 225 are treated to zero dimension.

226 The value Ψ^0 includes both required and inverse FIQs (for example, L^1 is the length, L^{-1}
 227 is the running length). The object can be judged knowing only one of its symmetrical parts,
 228 while others structurally duplicating this part may be regarded as information empty [37].
 229 Therefore, the number of options of dimensions may be halved. This means that the total
 230 number of dimension options of FIQs without inverse FIQs equals $\Psi = \Psi^0/2 = 38,272$.

231 For further discussion, we use the methods of the theory of similarity. It is motivated by the
 232 desire to generalize obtained results in the future for different areas of physical applications.
 233 Moreover, the universality of similarity transformations is defined by the invariant
 234 relationships that characterize the structure of all the laws of nature. According to the π -
 235 theorem [38], the number μ_{SI} of possible dimensionless criteria with $\xi = 7$ base quantities for
 236 SI will be:
 237

238

$$239 \quad \mu_{SI} = \Psi - \xi = 38,265. \quad (4)$$

240

241 It should be noted that the set of dimensionless criteria, μ_{SI} , does not exist in physical reality.
 242 This is a constant and cannot be optimized. However, the observed PS, which actually
 243 exists, can be represented by elements of this set. In addition, μ_{SI} is an important
 244 characteristic of the algorithmic complexity [39] of SI. Moreover, μ_{SI} may be considered as a
 245 subgroup of the infinite Abelian group representing all dimensionless variables [40].

246 It should be emphasized that μ_{SI} reflects the fundamental abolition of the principle of infinite
 precision. Because the information content of FIQ is always limited [22], and the μ_{SI} contains

247 a finite number of FIQs, the maximum amount of information contained in the MPM about PS
 248 is also finite. Thus, it can be argued that, in principle, there is a limit to the possibility of
 249 knowing (or measuring) the researched FIQ. Moreover, this limit is much stricter (stronger)
 250 than the Heisenberg uncertainty principle and can be introduced both in quantum physics
 251 and in classical physics. Further, we will propose a calculation of the magnitude of the initial
 252 and unrecoverable PS uncertainty caused by this precision limit with which the FIQ can be
 253 determined (measured).

254
 255 In the conclusion of this chapter, it should be noted that SI includes the base and derived
 256 FIQs used to describe various classes of phenomena (CoP). In other words, the additional
 257 limits of PS description are determined by the choice of CoP and the number of the derived
 258 FIQs considered in the MPM [41]. For example, usually, when simulating heat transfer
 259 processes, *L*–length, *M*–mass, *T*–time and *Θ*–thermodynamic temperature, i.e., $\text{CoP}_{\text{SI}} \equiv$
 260 *LMTΘ*, are used. From the point of view of the proposed approach, SI contains the
 261 maximum amount of information about the world in comparison with any MPM relating to any
 262 PS.

263 264 **4. AMOUNT OF INFORMATION EMBEDDED IN MPM**

265
 266 When considering μ_{SI} criteria, which have equal probabilities of observer accounting when
 267 constructing MPM, and following the formalism of Landsberg [42] and Lloyd [2], it is possible
 268 to obtain the SI information entropy

$$269 \quad H = k_b \cdot \ln \mu_{\text{SI}}, \quad (5)$$

270
 271 where k_b is the Boltzmann constant.

272
 273 The traditional way of thinking suggests that if we leave the system alone, it will be in
 274 balance; we need to exert force to divert it from balance. At the same time, the informational
 275 interpretation allows us to see the MPM in a new light: when a researcher chooses the
 276 influencing criteria (the conscious limitation of the number of FIQs that describe an object, in
 277 comparison with the total number μ_{SI}), the entropy of the mathematical model changes *a*
 278 *priori*. The MPM entropy change ΔH is generally measured as follows [9]:

$$280 \quad \Delta H = H_{\text{pr}} - H_{\text{ps}}, \quad (6)$$

281
 282 where ΔH is the entropy difference between the two cases, pr is “*a priori*” and ps is “*a*
 283 *posteriori*.”

284
 285 “The efficiency *Q* of the experimental observation method can be defined as the ratio of the
 286 information obtained to the entropy change accompanying the observation” [9]. During a
 287 thought experiment, no distortion is brought into the MPM, that is why $Q = 1$. Then, one can
 288 write according to (6):

$$289 \quad \Delta A = Q \cdot \Delta H = H_{\text{pr}} - H_{\text{ps}}, \quad (7)$$

290
 291 where ΔA is the *a priori* amount of information embedded in the MPM.

292
 293 Using equations (6) and (7) and introducing symbols where z' is the number of FIQs in the
 294 selected CoP and β' is the number of base quantities in the selected CoP leads to the
 295 following equation:
 296
 297

298

$$\Delta A' = Q \cdot (H_{pr} - H_{ps}) = 1 \cdot [k_b \cdot \ln \mu_{SI} - k_b \cdot \ln(z' - \beta')] = k_b \cdot \ln[\mu_{SI} / \ln(z' - \beta')], \quad (8)$$

300

301 where $\Delta A'$ is the *a priori* amount of information embedded in the MPM due to the choice of
302 the CoP.

303

304 The value $\Delta A'$ is linked to the *a priori* absolute uncertainty of the MPM, caused only by the
305 choice of the CoP, Δ'_{mpm} and S , the interval of observation of the main researched FIQ,
306 through the following dependence [9]:

307

$$\Delta'_{mpm} = S \cdot \exp(-\Delta A' / k_b). \quad (9)$$

309

310 Substitution of (8) into (9) gives the following dependence:

311

$$\Delta'_{mpm} = S \cdot (z' - \beta') / \mu_{SI}. \quad (10)$$

313

314 Following the same reasoning, it can be shown that the *a priori* absolute uncertainty of the
315 MPM, caused by the number of recorded dimensionless criteria chosen in the MPM, Δ''_{mpm} ,
316 takes the following form:

317

$$\Delta''_{mpm} = S \cdot (z'' - \beta'') / (z' - \beta'), \quad (11)$$

319

320 where z'' is the number of FIQs recorded in MPM, β'' is the number of base quantities
321 recorded in MPM and Δ''_{mpm} cannot be defined without declaring the chosen CoP (Δ'_{mpm}).

322

323 What is the possible structure of the total MPM uncertainty Δ_{mpm} ? To answer this question,
324 we turn to [43]. The author has proven a theorem which is interpreted as an assertion that
325 the total information amount can be separated into information identifying the element of the
326 partition, plus the average information identifying an element within subsets of the partition.
327 Considering this conclusion, we can represent the total *a priori* absolute uncertainty of the
328 MPM, Δ_{mpm} , as the sum of two terms, in which the first term defines Δ'_{mpm} and the second
329 term dictates the choice of Δ''_{mpm} :

330

$$\Delta_{mpm} = S \cdot [(z' - \beta') / \mu_{SI} + (z'' - \beta'') / (z' - \beta')], \quad (12)$$

332

333 where $\varepsilon = \Delta_{mpm} / S$ is the comparative uncertainty [9].

334

335 There are several interesting features inherent in Equation (12). First, this equation applies
336 to the MPM, in which any FIQs, both dimensional and dimensionless, are used [44]. Equally
337 important, it declares that the precision limit for measuring the researched main FIQ for a
338 given class of phenomena ($z' - \beta'$) and the selected number of considered FIQs in the model
339 ($z'' - \beta''$), clearly defines the smallest value of the comparative uncertainty Δ_{mpm} / S of the main
340 function under study. In addition, the equivalence property is inherent in Equation (12).
341 Equivalence ensures that the structure of the model remains unchanged, regardless of
342 which unit systems are used. It is noteworthy that Equation (12) refutes the principle of
343 infinite precision: no unique measuring equipment, improvement of existing and creation of
344 new measurement methods, the use of powerful computers together cannot overcome the
345 barrier imposed by Equation (12). The point is not in their possible imperfection, but in how

346 the human brain works. According to Equation (12), observation is not a measurement, but a
 347 process that creates a unique physical world in relation to each specific observer.

348

349 Not unimportant is the fact that the choice of any of the various existing systems of units, in
 350 principle, does not affect the stated features of Equation (12). This can be shown using
 351 Equation (8). Imagine that the number of dimensionless criteria and numbers in the
 352 extended system of units (numbered "2") is equal to μ_2 and $2 \cdot \mu_{SI} = \mu_2$. Given that $\ln \mu_{SI} \gg$
 353 $\ln(z'' - \beta'')_{SI}$, $\ln \mu_2 \gg \ln(z'' - \beta'')_2$, and $\ln \mu_{SI} \gg \ln 2$, we can obtain the following relations
 354

$$355 \quad \Delta A_e = \Delta A' + \Delta A'' = k_b \cdot \ln[\mu_{SI} / (z' - \beta')] + k_b \cdot \ln[(z' - \beta') / (z'' - \beta'')] = k_b \cdot \ln[\mu_{SI} / (z'' - \beta'')],$$

356 (13)

$$357 \quad \Delta A_{eSI} / \Delta A_{e2} = [\ln \mu_{SI} - \ln(z' - \beta')]_{SI} / [\ln \mu_2 - \ln(z'' - \beta'')]_2 = \ln \mu_{SI} / [\ln 2 + \ln \mu_{SI}] \approx 1, \quad (14)$$

358

359 where $\Delta A''$ is the *a priori* amount of information due to the choice of the number of all FIQs
 360 registered in the chosen MPM, ΔA_e is the total amount of information contained in the MPM,
 361 ΔA_{eSI} is the total amount of information contained in the MPM, in which the used FIQs are
 362 from SI, ΔA_{e2} is the total amount of information contained in the MPM, in which the used
 363 FIQs are from the extended system of units.

364

365 To check the optimal number of criteria corresponding to a specific CoP, one needs to take
 366 the derivative of Δ_{mpm}/S (12) with respect to $z' - \beta'$ and equate it to zero:

367

$$368 \quad (z'' - \beta'') = (z' - \beta')^2 / \mu_{SI}. \quad (15)$$

369

370 Let us apply (2), (4) and (15) for the thermal-mechanical process ($\text{CoP}_{SI} \equiv \mathbf{LMT\theta}$).

371

$$372 \quad (z' - \beta')_{LMT\theta} = (e_l \cdot e_m \cdot e_t \cdot e_\theta - 1) / 2 - 4 = 846, \quad (16)$$

373

$$374 \quad \gamma_{LMT\theta} = (z'' - \beta'')_{LMT\theta} = (z' - \beta')_{LMT\theta}^2 / \mu_{SI} \approx 19, \quad (17)$$

375

376 where $\gamma_{LMT\theta}$ is an optimal number of criteria in a model inherent in $\text{CoP}_{SI} \equiv \mathbf{LMT\theta}$, "-1"
 377 corresponds to the case where the exponents of all the base quantities are zero in Equation
 378 (1); 4 corresponds to the four base quantities **L**, **M**, **T** and **\theta**, and division by 2 indicates that
 379 there are direct and inverse FIQs, e.g., L^1 is the length and L^{-1} is the run length. The object
 380 can be judged based on the knowledge of only one of its symmetrical parts, while the other
 381 parts that structurally duplicate this one may be regarded as information empty [37].
 382 Therefore, the number of options for dimensions is reduced by a factor of two.

383

384 Then, one can calculate the optimal achievable comparative uncertainty $\varepsilon_{LMT\theta}$:

385

$$386 \quad \varepsilon_{LMT\theta} = 846 / 38,265 + 19 / 846 = 0.0442 \quad (18)$$

387

388 We will apply the considered concept to several examples.

389

390 **5. LIMIT OF PRECISION IN CALCULATING DIGITAL INFORMATION** 391 **CHARACTERISTICS OF A COMPUTER**

392

393 In [2], Lloyd calculated the number of operations per second, R that could be performed by
 394 the ultimate laptop. He showed

395

396

$$R = k_b \cdot T / \hbar, \text{ bits/s,} \quad (19)$$

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where T is the temperature of 1 kg of matter in a maximum entropy in a volume of 1 liter, \hbar is Planck's reduced constant.

399

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Given the dimensions of the FIQs in (19), the problem belongs to the $\text{CoP}_{\text{SI}} \equiv \mathbf{LMT\theta}$, and we can assume that $z'' - \beta'' = 1$ (according to the π -theorem [38]).

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404

To find the value of an absolute uncertainty (ΔR), the mathematical apparatus of differential calculus may be applied [45]:

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$$\Delta R = \sum_{i=3}^1 \left| (\partial R / \partial \xi_i) \cdot \Delta \xi_i \right|, \text{ bits/s,} \quad (20)$$

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where $\partial R / \partial \xi_i$ are partial derivatives of the function R with respect to three FIQs, $\Delta \xi_i$ is the absolute uncertainty of each FIQ measurement.

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$$\Delta R = \left| (\partial R / \partial k_b) \cdot \Delta k_b \right| + \left| (\partial R / \partial T) \cdot \Delta T \right| + \left| (\partial R / \partial \hbar) \cdot \Delta \hbar \right| = \left| (T \cdot \Delta k_b / \hbar) \right| + \left| k_b \cdot \Delta T / \hbar \right| + \left| k_b \cdot T \cdot \Delta \hbar / \hbar^2 \right| = 1.3 \cdot 10^8 \text{ (bits/s)} \quad (21)$$

430

431

432

Having calculated from the data already given, the value of R , one can also calculate the possible relative uncertainty of its determination r_R

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436

$$R = 3.9 \cdot 10^{13}, \text{ bits/s,} \quad (22)$$

437

438

$$r_R = \Delta R / R = 1.3 \cdot 10^8 / 3.9 \cdot 10^{13} \approx 3 \cdot 10^{-6} \quad (23)$$

439

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442

It would seem that the value of r_R is small enough to admit the validity of the proposed formula for R . To be convinced of this, we will calculate the achieved comparative uncertainty

443

444

$$\varepsilon_R = [(z' - \beta')/\mu_{SI} + (z'' - \beta'')/(z' - \beta')] = (846/38,265 + 1/846) = 0.0233 \quad (24)$$

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Obviously, comparing (18) with (24), it can be argued that ε_R is significantly different from $\varepsilon_{LMT\theta}$: $\varepsilon_{LMT\theta}/\varepsilon_R \approx 1.9$. This is because when calculating R (in the MPM), the number of dimensionless criteria, 1, is much less than the recommended one, $\gamma_{LMT\theta} = 19$ (17), that is, a large number of possible influencing factors were ignored. It should be noted that the principles of measurement theory do not allow us to predict the necessary accuracy when conducting quantitative calculations carried out by Lloyd. However, using the FIQ-based method, it is possible to justify the precision limit of the presented formula (19). We only have to wait 250 years [2] to make sure of the validity of this statement.

However, the same considerations in the validity (admissibility) of the presented calculation (19) can be expressed with respect to another original idea about the new principle of mass–energy–information equivalence. In [17], it states that information is not just physical, but it has nonzero and quantitative mass m_{bit} , while it stores information:

$$m_{bit} = k_b \cdot T \cdot \ln 2 / c^2, \quad (\text{kg}) \quad (25)$$

where c is the speed of light, $c = 2.9979 \cdot 10^8$ m/s [34].

In this context, it is shown [17] that the mass of one bit of information at room temperature (300 K) is $3.19 \cdot 10^{-38}$ kg. In this case ($\text{CoP}_{SI} \equiv \text{LMT}\theta$), the theory of measurements is powerless to make a specific judgment in defense or against the proposed calculation. In contrast, having performed similar reasoning within the framework of the FIQ-based method and after making calculations similar to (21)–(24), we can find the ratio between the theoretical value of comparative uncertainty and that achieved in (25): ≈ 1.9 . This significant difference also indicates the difficulty of confirming the mass–energy–information equivalence principle. However, we do not know how many years it will take to verify it.

These two examples are united by the fact that when discussing the relevance of the results, the analysis of the uncertainty of the model was completely absent, especially, the possible analysis of the measurement uncertainty. Thus, any prognostic calculations, even being interesting, elegant, and attractive and having a clear physical thought, must be accompanied by appropriate explanations of the possible limits of their applicability.

So, when clarifying the limit of precision of the presented formulas (19) and (25) [2], [17], the reader has a natural question about the possibility of reaching this limit in the physically correctly formulated MPM. Because the optimality of the MPM is determined by comparison with the achieved comparative uncertainty including the observation interval, it is clear that in the practical case the limit cannot be reached. This is explained by the existence of the inevitable uncertainty of the MPM caused by the initial preferences of the researcher in the process of formulating the MPM. The magnitude of this uncertainty is an indication of how likely it is that the observer’s philosophical inclinations will influence the outcome of this process. Thus, if the initial assumptions of the FIQ-based method are true, the problem of modeling PS in both classical and quantum physics (in addition to the Heisenberg inequality) is associated with the existence of an unavoidable initial vision erosion (“fuzziness”) of the studied PS, which dictates the value of the precision limit for its description.

6. DISCUSSION

494 The presented approach allows us to determine the new role of information entropy in
495 modeling.

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497 In practice, there is always a situation where one and the same FIQ is measured, for
498 example, by two different accurate measuring instruments that implement fundamentally
499 different methods. Of course, it is possible to measure FIQ by different laboratories, but
500 using the same method. We expect that in these two situations the results will be close (“a
501 certain number of digits will remain unchanged” [22]). Although the opposite is also possible.
502 In any scenario, to analyze the data, to establish the credibility of the results obtained,
503 statistical methods (like the Bayesian approach or biased estimators method, the boundaries
504 of which are well known [56]) are used with the mandatory involvement of experts, for
505 example, as in the case of a very complicated CODATA procedure. The result is consistent
506 values of the measured FIQ and its relative uncertainty, but without specifying the size of the
507 possible interval of FIQ changes, which leads to an infinitely large value of entropy [9]. *De*
508 *facto*, the level of measurement accuracy is determined by the existing instrumental base
509 and the confidence of researchers in identifying all possible sources of uncertainties. In such
510 a situation, questions about where the limit of definition of “new digits” [22] in the value of the
511 measured FIQ and which method is more preferable remain open.

512

513 In defense of the right to present the FIQ-based approach instead of traditional statistical
514 methods in the study of physical phenomena, we recall Gödel's work [57]. Gödel discovered
515 that every strictly formal mathematical system has a natural field of application—but when
516 rules are applied to inputs that do not have the same structure that determined the
517 development of the rules, we can expect strangeness. The predictive ability of statistical
518 methods, exacerbated by the need to use subjective expert opinion, is fundamentally limited
519 by the sensitivity of the measurement and the fatal flaws of any calculations [58].

520

521 Statistical physics, generally speaking, is about the lack of information [59]. On the other
522 hand, one of the most fruitful ideas of the 20th century is the use of information theory in
523 modeling physical phenomena in various fields of science and technology to identify their
524 inherent features. We can do this by formalizing the models by identifying a qualitative–
525 quantitative set of FIQs selected by the conscious observer in the models. Thanks to this,
526 there is a sharp paradigm shift due to the normalization of models according to the classes
527 of phenomena. Instead of being interested in one or another probability distribution when
528 analyzing the results of experimental and theoretical calculations of the uncertainties of the
529 constructed models, we are primarily interested in the selected base quantities. Entire
530 families (classes of phenomena) describing different methods of measuring FIQ are
531 characterized by various comparative uncertainties. Therefore, the significance of the
532 indicated characteristics of the FIQ-based method especially increases when it is applied to
533 the analysis of experimental data on measurements of physical constants, which have been
534 implemented over the years by various laboratories using similar or different test benches
535 [60].

536

537 Calculated in accordance with the FIQ-based approach, comparative uncertainty seems
538 fundamental and determined by the class of the phenomenon and the number of FIQs
539 considered. In the proposed interpretation of the FIQ-based modeling process, the choice of
540 physical variables is based on, in fact, the observer's tendency to make a philosophically
541 sound and physically supported decision. In interpreting the FIQ-based modeling process
542 presented here, this leads to the understanding that the limitations of the precision of
543 measuring FIQ are not due to the imperfection of the measuring instruments, computational
544 methods and insufficient computer power. This is an indicator of how much the philosophical
545 inclinations of the researcher influence the outcome of the measurement process. At each
546 stage of the construction of the MPM by the observer, there is complete confidence (the

547 probability is zero) that the MPM will not correspond to the PS with a high degree of
548 precision.

549

550 Comparative uncertainty representing a “systematic effect” [61], [62] and arising from the
551 formulation of the MPM is neither random nor observable. It causes the initial irreparable
552 “fuzziness” of the observed FIQ under investigation, which can be calculated using the
553 amount of information contained in the MPM. Thus, this uncertainty imposes limitations on
554 the value of achievable measurement precision. At the same time, comparative uncertainty
555 is an element for which the traditional statistical approach and “expert judgment” [63] do not
556 work at all.

557

558 It is important to emphasize that, in the context of the modeling process, the FIQ-based
559 approach gave us good reason to believe that the fundamental limit of precision in
560 determining the FIQ, on the one hand, is objective, but on the other hand, subjective due to
561 the will of the “participant” [64]. The physical existence of a tacitly assumed and finite
562 number of selected FIQs leads to a real situation where any PS is “blurred” in the eyes of the
563 observer. The mind of the researcher is deprived of the opportunity to know the exact reality
564 hiding in the shadow of the FIQ-based approach.

565

566 Answering a question that has not yet been asked, what the wrong in this approach is or
567 where are its (reasonable) limitations, the following should be noted. This approach does not
568 give any recommendations on choosing a specific FIQ from SI or another system of units,
569 but only limits their number; the FIQ-based method requires the equiprobable appearance of
570 the FIQs selected by the model designer; it completely ignores the knowledge, intuition and
571 experience of developers; and the approach requires knowledge or declaration of the
572 magnitude of the range of variation of the FIQ being investigated.

573

574 An analysis of various formulas obtained using the same comparative uncertainty provides a
575 reliability check to assess confidence in these results. Conversely, two conflicting results
576 about the same studied FIQ (for example, two calculated values of the Hubble constant,
577 giving rise to a situation called the Hubble tension), measured using various methods with
578 different classes of phenomena, indicate that the reliability of these results may need to be
579 reviewed [44]. Thus, observation (the process of formulating the model) is a scientific
580 problem, the possible solutions of which are realized by identifying previously unknown
581 systematic errors, revising the original models, or discovering new theoretical knowledge
582 [65].

583

584 The act of constructing MPM can be considered as a direct action of the mental world
585 (observer) without energy dissipation, leading to the structuring of information about the
586 physical world. However, the freedom of observer choice cannot be free from external
587 pressure; the choice concerns only the internal alternatives of the decisions he makes. Thus,
588 the problem of formulating the model here may be solved. Nevertheless, the topic of
589 constructing a measurement process model should take its place in scientific discussions.

590

591 **7. CONCLUSIONS**

592

593 Any decision-making mechanism is inherently limited by the behavior of collecting and
594 processing information from the system of which it is a part [66]. The proposed approach
595 provides a relatively simple representation of the decision-making process, with which you
596 can study the effect of the amount of information on the measurement modeling process.

597

598 We discussed the application of the theory of information and the concept of information
599 entropy to the problem of constructing a model of a physical phenomenon, and more

600 precisely, to the process of measuring a finite information quantity. We formulated and
601 calculated the value of the comparative uncertainty characteristic of the measurement model
602 with a specific class of the phenomenon. Then, we applied the proposed metric to the
603 analysis of the possible precision limit of two examples linked to computer characteristics.
604 However, the results obtained, probably, do not fit into the consensus generally accepted in
605 the scientific community. Obviously, any new physical approach with all the results of various
606 experiments must pass the test of time.

607
608 The proposed unconventional FIQ-based approach brings with it a crucial complement to the
609 Popper triad. The model of the measurement process and the system of units from which
610 FIQs are selected, although they are a product of human ingenuity, are interdependent.
611 Their structure and interaction impose a fundamental limitation on the achievement of
612 unprecedented accuracy of observation, modeling and, moreover, FIQ measurement, which,
613 in turn, is associated with the observer's consciousness. This is completely opposite to the
614 idea of the principle of infinite precision. In addition, this leads to the idea of limiting the
615 possibility of knowing (or measuring) FIQ, to a situation where the description of a physical
616 phenomenon is fundamentally incomplete, and to a standard interpretation of the
617 Heisenberg uncertainty principle, but in a more "rigid" form, which is realized in everyday life.
618 Accordingly, the uncertainty of the model, due to the choice of the class of phenomena and
619 the qualitatively-quantitative set of FIQs, can be considered as the principle of finiteness
620 [67]), with which scientists can analyze the accuracy of measuring physical constants and
621 the limits of application of different formulas or physical laws.

622
623 Moving carefully and slowly, constantly in contact with convincing and well-established facts,
624 from time to time we must allow ourselves to satisfy our desire to fantasize [68],
625 remembering that information has a price, and the right information is priceless.

626 **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

627
628 The author blesses the memory of Prof. Dr. E.I. Guigo and Prof. Dr. A.A. Guhman for their
629 continued support during the development of the proposed idea.

631 **ETHICAL APPROVAL**

632
633 The author confirms that this study is not against the public interest, or that the release of
634 information is allowed by legislation.

636 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

637
638 The author has declared that no competing interests exist.

640 **AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

641
642 The author read and approved the final manuscript.

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