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# Scientific Measurements & Equipment

## HASPI Medical Biology Lab 01b

### Background/Introduction

Health and Science  
Pipeline Initiative

### Scientific Data

In the science and medical field, two types of data are collected: quantitative and qualitative. **Quantitative data** can be expressed with numbers or quantities. Mass, length, and temperature are examples of quantitative data. **Qualitative data** is not expressed with numbers, and is gained through observation. Color change, appearance, and texture are examples of qualitative data.

Qualitative		Quantitative	
Like	Easy	23,406	4.3
Awkward	Slow	2m32s	76.8%
	Squirrel		\$45,849
Efficient	How	1,127	3.76%
Ambiguous	Confusing		€12.75

[http://www.analyticshero.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/qual\\_quant.jpg](http://www.analyticshero.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/qual_quant.jpg)

### The Metric System

How do we measure quantitative data? The metric system is the most widely used system of measurement in the world. It is a more universal measurement standard as compared to the customary system used in the United States. The metric system is based on a set of standard basic units to measure length, weight, and volume. The amounts of these basic units can be made larger or smaller with metric prefixes.

#### Length

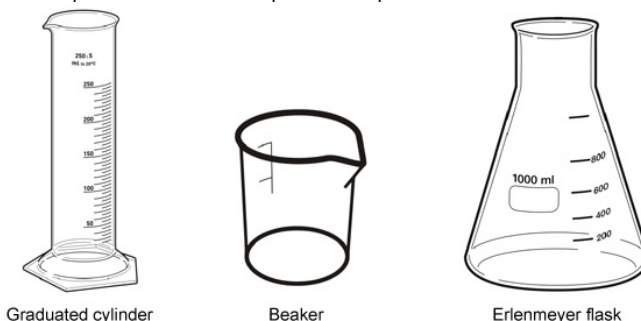
The standard unit of length in the metric system is the **METER**. The primary measurement tool for measuring length is the ruler or measuring tape. For reference, 1 meter is a little longer than 1 yard or 3 feet. It is about half the height of a very tall adult. A centimeter is nearly the diameter of a dime, a little less than half of an inch. A millimeter is about the thickness of a dime.



[http://www.technologyuk.net/physics/measurement\\_and\\_units/images/measurement\\_0013.jpg](http://www.technologyuk.net/physics/measurement_and_units/images/measurement_0013.jpg)

#### Volume

The standard unit of volume in the metric system is the **LITER**. The primary measurement tools for measuring volume include the graduated cylinder, micropipette, beaker, and flask. For reference, 1 liter is a little more than 1 quart. One teaspoon equals about 5 milliliters.



<http://www.mathblaster.com/coolmath/articles/measuring-the-volume-of-a-liquid>

#### Mass

The standard unit of mass in the metric system is the **GRAM**. The primary measurement tool used for measuring mass is the scale. For reference, 1 gram is about the mass of a paper clip. One kilogram is about the mass of a liter of water.



Electronic Weighing Scale

Triple-beam  
Balance

Double-pan  
Balance

<http://2.imimg.com/data2/SX/WR/MY-3125923/electronic-weighing-scales-250x250.jpg>  
<http://www.wikihow.com/Measure-Mass>

#### Temperature

Temperature is expressed in degrees **CELSIUS** in the metric system. The boiling point of water (at sea level) is 100° Celsius, or 100° C. The freezing point of water (at sea level) is 0° Celsius. A hot day is about 30° Celsius.



<http://trade.indiamart.com/details.mp?offer=2354937148>  
[http://images.ir-international.fr/images\\_ir/ir/THM.jpg](http://images.ir-international.fr/images_ir/ir/THM.jpg)

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## Metric Conversions

The metric system is based on the decimal system, and base units of 10s. The following chart can be used to determine how a metric system unit can be converted. In this chart, the metric prefix kilo- would be the largest unit of measurement, while the prefix milli- would be the smallest unit. There are even larger and smaller prefixes in the metric system. For example, the microgram ( $\mu\text{g}$ ) is  $10^{-6}$  grams, or  $10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$  smaller than a gram. The microgram is commonly used in healthcare to measure and prescribe medications. Converting from one metric unit to another is as simple as multiplying or dividing by 10s. Using this chart, a person would convert metric units to the left by dividing by 10 for each unit. If converting the metric unit to the right, multiply by 10 for each unit.

### Metric Conversion

<b>K</b> ing	<b>H</b> enry	<b>D</b> ied	<b>U</b> nusually 	<b>D</b> rinking	<b>C</b> hocolate	<b>M</b> ilk
Kilo  <b>10 x 10 x 10 x LARGER than a unit</b> 1 kilo = 1,000 units	Hecto <b>10 x 10 x LARGER than a unit</b> 1 hecto = 100 units	Deca <b>10 x LARGER than a unit</b> 1 deca = 10 units	* Unit * <b>Meter</b> (length) <b>Liter</b> (liquid volume) <b>Gram</b> (mass/weight) <b>1 unit</b>	Deci <b>10 x SMALLER than a unit</b> 10 deci = 1 unit	Centi <b>10 x 10 x SMALLER than a unit</b> 100 centi = 1 unit	Milli  <b>10 x 10 x 10 x SMALLER than a unit</b> 1,000 milli = 1 unit
km = kilometer kL = kiloliter kg = kilogram	hm = hectometer hL = hectoliter hg = hectogram	dam = decameter daL = decaliter dag = decagram	m = meter L = liter g = gram	dm = decimeter dL = deciliter dg = decigram	cm = centimeter cL = centiliter cg = centigram	mm = millimeter mL = milliliter mg = milligram
Example: 5 kilo	50 hecto	500 deca	5,000 units	50,000 deci	500,000 centi	5,000,000 milli

**DIVIDE** numbers by 10 if you are getting bigger (same as moving decimal point one space to the left)

**MULTIPLY** numbers by 10 if you are getting smaller (same as moving decimal point one space to the right)

[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-ysOte8QLbXs/USV2Ad\\_7ILI/AAAAAAAAAEzk/rfOkkZudeQ/s1600/KHDUDCM.jpg](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-ysOte8QLbXs/USV2Ad_7ILI/AAAAAAAAAEzk/rfOkkZudeQ/s1600/KHDUDCM.jpg)

### Example Conversions

Meter Conversions	Liter Conversions	Gram Conversions
12 m $\rightarrow$ 1,200 cm $\rightarrow$ 12,000 mm	52 L $\rightarrow$ 5,200 cL $\rightarrow$ 52,000 mL	226 m $\rightarrow$ 22,600 cm $\rightarrow$ 226,000 mm
35 cm $\rightarrow$ 0.35 m $\rightarrow$ 0.00035 km	640 cL $\rightarrow$ 6.40 L $\rightarrow$ 0.0064 kL	730 cm $\rightarrow$ 7.30 m $\rightarrow$ 0.00730 km
1.5 km $\rightarrow$ 150 dam $\rightarrow$ 15,000 dm	0.3 kL $\rightarrow$ 30 daL $\rightarrow$ 3,000 dL	5.1 km $\rightarrow$ 510 dam $\rightarrow$ 51,000 dm
986 mm $\rightarrow$ 9.86 dm $\rightarrow$ 0.00986 hm	173 mL $\rightarrow$ 1.73 dL $\rightarrow$ 0.00173 hL	42 mm $\rightarrow$ 0.42 dm $\rightarrow$ 0.00042 hm

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## Scientific and Medical Equipment

Many different types of equipment are used in the biology lab and healthcare industry. Some of this equipment, such as digital scales, graduated cylinders, and thermometers, are very basic and will be used commonly in your biology labs. Other equipment, particularly in healthcare, is so complex that an individual must undergo schooling and training to learn how to operate it. In fact, entire careers in the medical field revolve around the engineering, operating, and repair of medical equipment.

These machines can be used to diagnose disease, monitor conditions, or for treatment. Some common diagnostic equipment includes an MRI machine, CT scanner, or ultrasound machine. Examples of monitoring equipment include blood pressure monitors, medical monitors, and electrocardiograph (ECG) machines. Treatment equipment might include ventilators, dialysis machines, or heart-lung machines.



<http://www.imminst.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Medical-Equipment.jpg>

### Review Questions – answer questions on a separate sheet of paper

1. What is the difference between qualitative and quantitative data? Give an example of each.
2. What is the metric system, and why is it important to use a universal measurement system in science and medicine?
3. What is the standard unit of length? What can be used to measure length?
4. What is the standard unit of volume? What can be used to measure volume?
5. What is the standard unit of mass? What can be used to measure mass?
6. What is the standard unit of temperature? What can be used to measure temperature?

### Conversion Practice

Use the "Metric Conversion" chart on the previous page to convert each of the following measurements.

- |                     |                        |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 7. 18 m = ____cm    | 11. 167 mm = ____m     | 15. 500 kg = ____g     |
| 8. 23 dm = ____hm   | 12. 1,589 daL = ____dL | 16. 700 mL = ____kL    |
| 9. 5 cm = ____mm    | 13. 35.45 mg = ____hg  | 17. 130 dag = ____kg   |
| 10. 5.3 hL = ____mL | 14. 43 dam = ____dm    | 18. 59,932 mm = ____km |

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# Scientific Measurements & Equipment

## HASPI Medical Biology Lab 01b

### Background



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This is a station activity that will allow you to become more familiar with common measurements and equipment used in the medical biology labs for this course.

### Materials

#### Station 1. Ratios & Percentages: Getting Into Medical School

Table 1 & 2 sheet

#### Station 2. Measuring Mass & Volume: Creating IV Solutions

Sodium chloride (salt)

Water

Graduated cylinder

Weighing boat

Digital scale

Flask/beaker

IV drip bag

#### Station 3. Graphing: Comparing Hormone Levels

Graph paper

Ruler

#### Station 4. Measuring Length: Can Fractures Affect Bone Length?

Forearm X-ray images

Ruler

#### Station 5. Making Observations: Mole or Skin Cancer?

Identifying Skin Cancer sheet

Patient Mole images

#### Station 6. Measuring Time: Pulse and Respiration Rate

Timer

#### Station 7. Research and References: To Vaccinate or Not

Computer

Reference Format sheet

#### Station 8. Measuring Temperature: Body Heat

Thermometer

Thermometer cover

### Directions

Task		Response
1	Find a partner.	a. Who is your partner?
2	This is a station lab. There are 8 stations placed throughout the room.	
3	Choose a station and follow the instructions to practice different scientific measurements and/or familiarize yourself with equipment you may use throughout this biology course. Each station should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.	b. Why do you think it is important to collect and use accurate measurements in science and medicine?
4	Answer the questions for each station using the lab answer sheet.	

## Connections & Applications

Your instructor may assign or allow you to choose any of the following activities. As per NGSS/CCSS, these extensions allow students to explore outside activities recommended by the standards.

1. **EVALUATING A RESEARCH PROJECT:** The Public Library of Science (PLOS) contains a variety of open access (free) scientific research articles. Go to the main PLOS web page:

[www.plos.org](http://www.plos.org)

- a. Using the search box at the top of the page, type in any medical disease or condition you are interested in learning more about. A list of research projects associated with that disease or condition will appear. Each research article contains an abstract that summarizes the research project, followed by an in-depth description of the research.
  - b. Choose one of the listed research articles. Some of the articles will be very high level, and you may need to skim a few to find one that is understandable.
  - c. Summarize and evaluate the aim (hypothesis), methods, results (data), and conclusions of the research article.
  - d. Determine whether the research article contains quantitative and/or qualitative data, and give a data example from the actual article.
  - e. Find and summarize an additional research article to challenge or corroborate the conclusion of the first article.
  - f. Cite both articles as references.
2. **COST VS. BENEFIT OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT:** Choose and research one of the following pieces of medical equipment to answer the questions below. Cite your references.

**MRI machine**  
**Hemodialysis machine**  
**Neonatal incubator**  
**Da Vinci surgical robot**  
**Ultrasound system**

**CAT scan machine**  
**Heart-lung machine**  
**Cochlear implants**  
**Artificial pacemaker**  
**Angiography machine**

- a. How does the equipment work?
- b. What medical condition(s) is the equipment used to diagnose, monitor, or treat?
- c. How safe is the equipment?
- d. How reliable is the equipment?
- e. Explain any social, cultural, or environmental impacts that occur through the making and/or use of this equipment.
- f. What is the average cost for a healthcare facility to purchase this equipment?
- g. What is the average cost to use this equipment on a patient?
- h. How many patients will the equipment need to treat before it pays for itself?  
*(Remember to apply what you have learned from this lab about ratios in order to calculate)*

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3. **MORE CONVERSIONS:** Conversions between units within the metric system are easily done. Converting units between the metric system and the customary units commonly used in the United States are a bit more difficult. The following chart contains the metric conversions for some of the customary units used in the U.S.

Customary Units → Metric Units	
Customary Units	Metric Units
1 inch (in)	2.54 centimeters (cm)
1 foot (ft)	30.47 centimeters (cm) or 0.3048 meter (m)
1 yard (yd)	0.914 meter (m)
1 mile (mi)	1.609 kilometers (km)
1 ounce (oz)	28.35 grams (g)
1 pound (lb)	454 grams (g) or 0.454 kilograms (kg)
1 fluid ounce (fl oz)	29.574 milliliters (mL)
1 quart (qt)	0.946 liter (L)
1 gallon (gal)	3.784 liters (L)

To convert the customary units to metric units, simply multiply by the metric unit conversion rate. For example, if the customary unit is 5 inches, multiply  $5 \times 2.54 = 12.7$  centimeters (cm). To convert metric units to customary units, simply divide by the metric unit conversion rate. For example, if the metric unit is 10 liters (L), divide  $10/3.784 = 2.643$  gallons (gal). Using the chart, convert the following measurements:

- 100 yd → \_\_\_\_\_ m
- 105 lbs → \_\_\_\_\_ kg
- 3.5 fl oz → \_\_\_\_\_ mL
- 3.278 mi → \_\_\_\_\_ km
- 1,256,890 in → \_\_\_\_\_ cm
- 25 L → \_\_\_\_\_ qt
- 290 km → \_\_\_\_\_ mi
- 233 m → \_\_\_\_\_ ft
- 8540 mL → \_\_\_\_\_ fl oz
- 6,235,129 g → \_\_\_\_\_ lbs
- 26 qt → \_\_\_\_\_ L → \_\_\_\_\_ dL
- 250 in → \_\_\_\_\_ cm → \_\_\_\_\_ hm
- 560 mi → \_\_\_\_\_ km → \_\_\_\_\_ mm
- 185 lbs → \_\_\_\_\_ kg → \_\_\_\_\_ g → \_\_\_\_\_ dag
- 780 gal → \_\_\_\_\_ L → \_\_\_\_\_ dL → \_\_\_\_\_ hL
- 1,250 mm → \_\_\_\_\_ cm → \_\_\_\_\_ in
- 8,971,250 cg → \_\_\_\_\_ kg → \_\_\_\_\_ lbs
- 2.4 kL → \_\_\_\_\_ mL → \_\_\_\_\_ fl oz
- 25,269 mL → \_\_\_\_\_ L → \_\_\_\_\_ gal → \_\_\_\_\_ qt
- 6,750 cm → \_\_\_\_\_ m → \_\_\_\_\_ yd → \_\_\_\_\_ ft