

Metrology & Hallmark

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From the old to the modern meter

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[metre definition](#) [physical constant](#) [speed of light](#)

Abstract

The article presents the history of the metre definition, from its original idea related to the length of the mathematical pendulum to the modern one, related to the speed of light in a vacuum. This road led through artifacts and physical phenomena used to realization of the length unit. In both cases, this old and modern metre definition, the essence is to refer to the time unit through a physical constant.

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