CCU Task Group on angle and dimensionless quantities in the SI Brochure (CCU TG-ADQSIB)

Background

The status of angle and dimensionless quantities within the SI has been a source of debate for many years. For historical reasons the radian and steradian are treated as derived units, as described in section 2.3.4 of the SI brochure.

Recent discussion in the CCU has signalled that a review of the relevant parts of the SI Brochure, with suggestions for updates, might be a route to clarify important issues with the aim of improving understanding and reducing the possibility of confusion.

To this aim the CCU will establish a Task Group on angle and dimensionless quantities in the SI Brochure with the following Terms of Reference:

Terms of reference

Acknowledging the current status of angle within the SI Brochure as not being a base unit (Section 2.3.3), the Task Group will:

- Review the 9th Edition of the SI Brochure and highlight the parts (text, tables, footnotes, etc) relevant to angle and dimensionless quantities;
- Decide whether the parts identified could be improved to aid understanding;
- Attempt to reach consensus on updated entries for those parts where improvement would be beneficial;
- Consider whether a new, additional Appendix to the SI Brochure would be useful to explain more fully the special considerations for angle and dimensionless quantities;
- Review the historical use of SI supplementary units and consider whether reintroduction would be of benefit (for the units radians, steradians and one);
- Present the outcomes in the form of a short report and list of proposals to the next CCU meeting and also provide progress updates to the CCU Working Group on Strategy.

Membership

Chair: Richard Brown (NPL)

Membership: The membership of the Task Group is open to one expert from each Member, Observer and Liaison Organisation of the CCU, and to personal members. The CCU Executive Secretary and the BIPM Director are *ex-officio* members.

Proposed operation and timeline

It is envisaged that about half of the Task Group meetings will be held online, with additional input requested between meetings. If possible, the Task Group should meet at least once in person and whenever this is considered conducive to achieving consensus.

The outcomes of the Task Group will be presented at the next CCU meeting.