% Error = $\frac{\text{Measured Value} - \text{Accepted Value}}{\text{Accepted Value}} \times 100\%$

Use the % Error to compare the value of a physical quantity measured in the physics lab with an accepted value which was more accurately determined. % Error measures *accuracy*.



Use the % Difference to compare two values of a physical quantity measured in the physics lab using equipment with comparable accuracy. Also use this when comparing a measured value with an estimated value. % Difference measures *precision*, that is, how close two values are to one another.