

Contribution ID: 4495

Type: Invited Speaker / Conférencier(ère) invité(e)

Student reasoning about measurement and uncertainty across classical and quantum mechanics

Monday 27 May 2024 14:15 (30 minutes)

Measurement and uncertainty are important concepts that show up across a standard physics curriculum, from laboratory instruction to quantum mechanics courses. Little work, however, has examined how students reason about uncertainty beyond the introductory level and has generally focused on a single perspective: students' procedural reasoning about measurements. Our team has developed new ways of looking at students' reasoning about measurement and uncertainty that span these contexts, and also explore students' ideas about sources of uncertainty, predictive reasoning about measurements, and ideas about the existence of "true values". I will present our work exploring the interesting variability in student reasoning across these perspectives, classical and quantum mechanics contexts, and introductory and upper-division students.

Keyword-1

Measurement and uncertainty

Keyword-2

Classical & Quantum Mechanics

Keyword-3

Physics Education Research

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Session Classification: (DPE) M2-5 - Case Studies, Writing, Literature, and Reasoning in Physics Education | Études de cas, écriture, littérature et raisonnement dans l'enseignement de la physique

(DEP)

Track Classification: Technical Sessions / Sessions techniques: Physics Education / Enseignement de la physique (DPE-DEP)