To every Indian, Sachin Tendulkar is the greatest Test batsman that ever was. No doubt Bradman had a higher average. Recently, another Indian test batsman was in the news. Rahul “The Wall” Dravid became the second highest run-getter in Test cricket, ahead of Ricky Ponting and just behind Sachin. Sachin, is probably the most successful, when both quantity and quality of performance is taken into account. And for sheer quality of performance, if this can be measured by the batting average, surely Bradman towers above one and all. But then, if there is a prize for “consistency”, is “The Wall” then the most consistent batsman?

That calls for a definition for consistency. Here is where the quasity-exergy theory becomes useful (www.quasity.com). How does one identify the best sportsman? Or the most valuable? The task is difficult because one has to deal
Kallis has been consistent all along his career. In the early part of his career, Dravid was playing more consistently than the rest. Lara, perhaps the most gifted, is also the most unpredictable.

Here, we may find that A has scored more than 12000 runs but B has managed less than 7000. Runs scored now have both quantity and quality attributes, and are more in the category of things that Stalin pointed out, a quantity that has a quality all of its own.

A parameter that is frequently used to compare batsmen is the batting average: we can think of this as computed in terms of runs/inning. When this is brought into the picture, we see that B (87.45 runs/inning) is in a class of his own (A managed only 48.94 runs/inning). Runs/inning can be taken to signify quality of batting. Thus, the number of runs scored is obtained as a multiplicative product of innings (a quantity term) and runs/innings (a quality term). Indeed, in metaphysical, and mathematical terms, we need to find a new terminology for this product. Hence the introduction of the metaphysical relation:

\[
\text{quasity} = \text{quality} \times \text{quantity}.
\]

For a batsman, runs take the role of the quasity term, which combines both quantitative terms. Even this statement needs some clarification.

Joseph Stalin famously pointed out that “Quantity has a quality all of its own.” Taken at face value that A has played 180 innings more than B is itself a statement about the quality of A as a batsman when compared to B. However, how did they actually perform when they went out to bat? Here, we may find that A has scored more than 12000 runs but B has managed less than 7000. Runs scored now have both quantity and quality attributes, and are more in the category of things that Stalin pointed out, a quantity that has a quality all of its own.

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For a batsman, runs take the role of the quasity term, which combines both quantities.
Table 1. Statistics for leading run-getters in the history of Test cricket from the Cricinfo website after analysis reveals that in terms of sheer effort, as measured by Innings batted, Runs scored, Energy and Exergy, Tendulkar ranks above the other five. In quality terms, as expressed by the average number of runs scored for the opportunities one has had at the crease, Bradman towers above the rest. But when it comes to consistency with the bat, Kallis’ fans would rejoice to see that he forges ahead of Bradman.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Innings</th>
<th>Runs</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Energy</th>
<th>Exergy</th>
<th>Consistency</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Kallis</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>11947</td>
<td>48.57</td>
<td>1105281</td>
<td>580206.5</td>
<td>0.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bradman</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>6996</td>
<td>87.45</td>
<td>1212502</td>
<td>611800.2</td>
<td>0.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ponting</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>12363</td>
<td>47.73</td>
<td>1234445</td>
<td>590130.4</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dravid</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>12453</td>
<td>46.64</td>
<td>1205827</td>
<td>580813.5</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tendulkar</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>14738</td>
<td>50.47</td>
<td>1552562</td>
<td>743865.2</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lara</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>11953</td>
<td>51.52</td>
<td>1514553</td>
<td>615837.1</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How does one identify the best sportsman? Or the most valuable? The task is difficult because one has to deal with measures that are purely quantitative and measures that are a proxy for quality.

In quality terms, as expressed by the average number of runs scored for the opportunities one has had at the crease, Bradman towers above the rest. But when it comes to consistency with the bat, Kallis’ fans would rejoice to see that he forges ahead of Bradman.

Let us now apply this theory to identify who among the icons of cricket today, counts as the best, and/or the most consistent. We collect data for five leading run-getters in the history of Test cricket from the Cricinfo website (http://stats.espncricinfo.com/ci/engine/stats/index.html?class=1; template=results; type=batting). Also, for purposes of comparison, we collect information about Bradman. Table 1 displays the salient figures.

There is no doubt that in terms of sheer effort, as measured by $I, R, E$ and $X$, Tendulkar ranks above the other five. In quality terms, as expressed by the average number of runs scored for the opportunities one has had at the crease, Bradman towers above the rest. But when it comes to consistency with the bat, Kallis’ fans would rejoice to see that he forges ahead of Bradman. In fact, it is interesting to see this plotted on a map as shown in Figure 1 in the previous page.

The Energy-Exergy-Entropy sequence shows how consistent Kallis has been all along his career. In the early part of his career, Dravid was playing more consistently than the rest. Lara, perhaps the most gifted, is also the most unpredictable.

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