

How do we actually USE a conversion factor?

Convert 15.75 m to cm

$$1 \text{ cm} = 10^{-2} \text{ m}$$

$$15.75 \text{ m} \times \frac{1 \text{ cm}}{10^{-2} \text{ m}} = 1575 \text{ cm}$$

* Similar to...

If $X = 2$, then

$$\frac{X}{2} = 1$$

15.75 / [EE]-2 .. on TI-83

* This fraction equals one, so multiplying by it does not change the VALUE of the number, only its UNITS!

Convert 0.01893 kg to g

$$1 \text{ kg} = 10^3 \text{ g}$$

$$0.01893 \text{ kg} \times \frac{10^3 \text{ g}}{1 \text{ kg}} = 18.93 \text{ g}$$

DRAG AND DROP

- Drag the part of the factor that contains the unit you want to get rid of (cancel out) to the BOTTOM.

- Then, drag the other half of the factor to the TOP

Convert 14500 mg to kg

$$\text{mg} = 10^{-3} \text{g}$$

$$\text{kg} = 10^3 \text{g}$$

$$14500 \cancel{\text{mg}} \times \frac{10^{-3} \cancel{\text{g}}}{\cancel{\text{mg}}} \times \frac{\text{kg}}{10^3 \cancel{\text{g}}} = 0.0145 \text{ kg}$$

Convert 0.147 cm² to m²

$$\text{cm} = 10^{-2} \text{m}$$

Apply a base unit here (not squared or cubed)

$$0.147 \cancel{\text{cm}}^2 \times \frac{10^{-2} \cancel{\text{m}}}{\cancel{\text{cm}}} \times \frac{10^{-2} \cancel{\text{m}}}{\cancel{\text{cm}}} = 1.47 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2$$

For squared and cubed units, use each conversion factor two (squared) or three (cubed) times. Think of these units as having parts that need to be canceled separately:

$$\text{cm}^2 = \text{cm} \times \text{cm}$$

$$\text{cm}^3 = \text{cm} \times \text{cm} \times \text{cm}$$

$$8.45 \text{ kg to } \mu\text{g} \quad \text{kg} = 10^3 \text{g} \quad \mu\text{g} = 10^{-6} \text{g}$$

$$8.45 \text{ kg} \times \frac{10^3 \text{g}}{\text{kg}} \times \frac{\mu\text{g}}{10^{-6} \text{g}} = \boxed{8450000000 \mu\text{g}}$$

$$8.45 \times 10^9 \mu\text{g}$$

$$88100 \text{ kHz to MHz} \quad \text{kHz} = 10^3 \text{Hz}$$

$$\text{MHz} = 10^6 \text{Hz}$$

$$\text{Hz} = \text{s}^{-1} \text{ (Frequency)}$$

$$88100 \text{ kHz} \times \frac{10^3 \text{Hz}}{\text{kHz}} \times \frac{\text{MHz}}{10^6 \text{Hz}} = \boxed{88.1 \text{ MHz}}$$

Convert 38.47 in to m, assuming 2.54 cm = 1 in

$$2.54 \text{ cm} = 1 \text{ in} \quad \text{cm} = 10^{-2} \text{ m}$$

$$38.47 \cancel{\text{ in}} \times \frac{2.54 \cancel{\text{ cm}}}{\cancel{\text{ in}}} \times \frac{10^{-2} \text{ m}}{\cancel{\text{ cm}}} = 0.97771 \text{ m}$$

Convert 12.48 km to in

$$2.54 \text{ cm} = 1 \text{ in} \quad \text{cm} = 10^{-2} \text{ m} \quad \text{km} = 10^3 \text{ m}$$

$$12.48 \cancel{\text{ km}} \times \frac{10^3 \cancel{\text{ m}}}{\cancel{\text{ km}}} \times \frac{\cancel{\text{ cm}}}{10^{-2} \cancel{\text{ m}}} \times \frac{\text{in}}{2.54 \cancel{\text{ cm}}} = 491300 \text{ in}$$

Accuracy and Precision

- two related concepts that you must understand when working with measured numbers!

Accuracy

- how close a measured number is to the CORRECT (or "true") value of what you are measuring
- "Is it right?"
- checked by comparing measurements against a STANDARD (a substance or object with known properties)

Precision

- how close a SET of measured numbers are to EACH OTHER
- "Can I reproduce this?"
- checked by repeated measurements

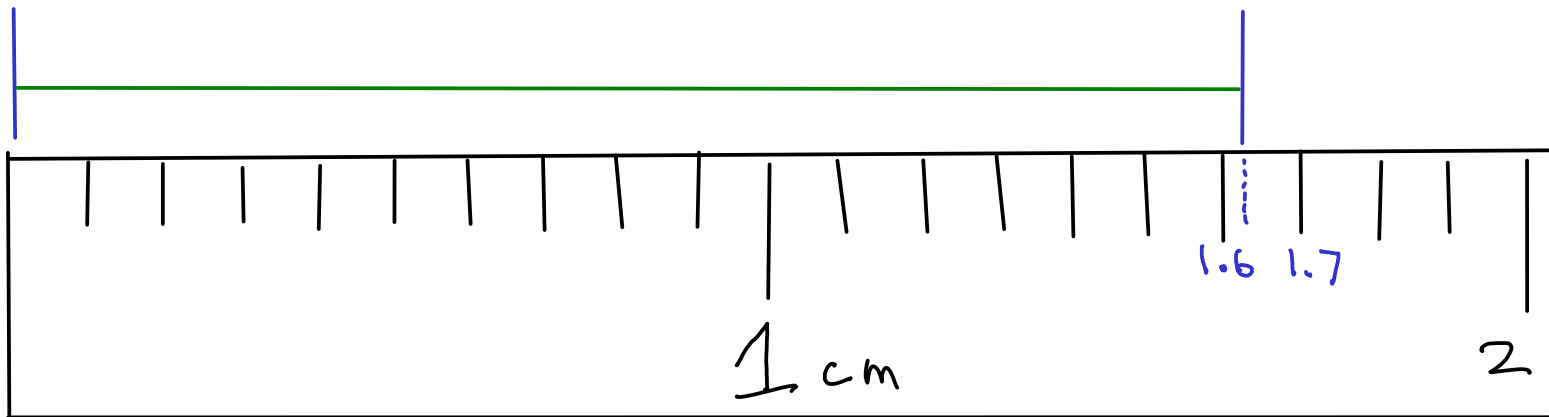
More on precision

Every measurement contains some amount of ERROR, or some amount of deviation from the true value of what is being measured.

RANDOM ERROR is the variability in a measurement that cannot be traced back to a single cause. Random errors cause measurements to fluctuate around the true value, but can be averaged out given enough measurements.

When reporting measurements, we want to indicate how much random error we think is present. How?

Form: $X.XX$ cm



How long is the green line?

Write your answer on the card, then pass the card up to the front!

Our classroom experiment: Results

After throwing away obvious mistakes in reading the scale, we had:

Value	# students
1.60	2
1.62	10
1.63	6

18 measurements

Overall average

$$\bar{x} = 1.62111111 \text{ cm (unrounded)}$$

$$= \underbrace{1.62}_{\text{CERTAIN DIGITS}} \text{ cm } (\pm 0.0) \text{ cm}$$

CERTAIN DIGITS: Appear in nearly all repeats of the measurement

UNCERTAIN DIGITS: Vary.. Variation caused by estimation or other sources of random error.

When reading measurements from a scale, record all CERTAIN digits and one UNCERTAIN (or estimated) digit.

When using a digital device, record all the displayed digits.