Measurements

Measurements are comparisons of properties against accepted standards, called units.

ENGLISH / US SYSTEM OF UNITS:

1 foot = 12 inches 1 yard = 3 feet 1 mile = 1760 yards

5280 ft = 1 mi

So what's the problem?

The English system is hard to use, since each kind of unit (length, mass, volume, etc.) has a completely different set of relationships that must be memorized. And then ... there's the math. Conversions in English involve multiplying and dividing by strange numbers like 5280, 12, etc.

English units are nonstandard and difficult to use. Solution?

THE METRIC SYSTEM

All metric units are made up of COMBINATIONS of BASE UNITS!

Metric Base Units:

Length	meter	m
Mass	kilogram *	kg
Temperature	Kelvin	K
Time	second	s

* we usually treat the gram as if it's the base unit for mass!

- One meter is approximately 3.3 feet.
- One kilogram is approximately 2.2 pounds.

What about SIZE?

Metric units may be made larger or smaller by adding PREFIXES.

A few common metric prefixes:

mega-	10^{6}	M
kilo-	10^{3}	k
centi-	10^{-2}	c
milli-	10^{-3}	m
micro-	10^{-6}	μ

Bigger units

smaller units (or mc-)

MEMORIZE the common metric prefixes listed in the study guide

Applying prefixes

1 _____ m = _____ m

1 cm = 10^{-2} m ($\frac{1}{100}$ m)

1 km = 10^{3} m (1000 m)

Scaling units with metric prefixes ... examples

The distance between here and Columbia, SC is about 107,000 meters. What metric unit would be best suited for a distance like this?

$k = 10^3$ (1000)

107 km

By "best suited", we mean a metric unit that would represent the number without many beginning or end zeros. These kinds of numbers are easier for us to remember!

A piece of chalk is 0.08 meters long. What metric unit would be best suited for this length?

$c = 10^{-2}$ (1/100)

8 cm

Derived Units

- are units that are made up of combinations of metric base units with each other and/or with prefixes

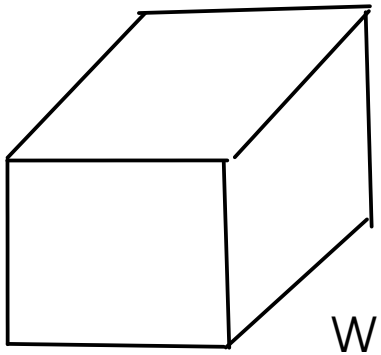
velocity: $\frac{\text{miles}}{\text{hr}}$ $\frac{\text{km}}{\text{hr}}$ $\left(\frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}\right)$ $\frac{\text{length}}{\text{time}}$

Two derived units are particularly important in general chemistry:

1) VOLUME

2) DENSITY

VOLUME



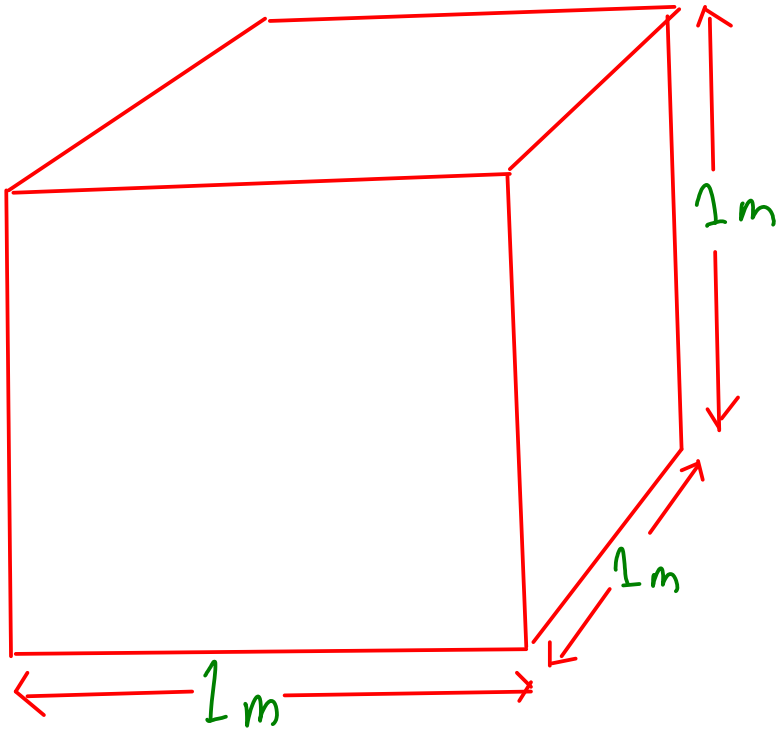
VOLUME = L × W × H

What are the units of volume in the metric system?

VOLUME = meters x meters x meters

m x m x m

= m^3 "cubic meters"



The cubic meter is the simplest volume unit in the metric system, but it's much too large for lab scale or medical work.

Practical issues for volume units

- Cubic meters are too large! A meter is very similar in length to a yard, so a cubic meter is a cube that is approximately a yard long on each side!

A smaller unit For volume?

cubic decimeters! dm^3

(decimeter = 1/10 meter)

Cubic decimeters are given the name "liters", abbreviation "L"

In the lab, we typically need an even smaller unit than the liter, so we use milliliters (mL)

"cc"
cubic centimeter
=
milliliter

$1\ mL = 10^{-3} L$

-or-

$1000\ mL = 1\ L$

DENSITY

- Density is a measure of the concentration of matter; of how much matter is present in a given space

- Density is defined as the MASS per unit VOLUME, or ...

$$\text{Density} = \frac{\text{mass}}{\text{Volume}}$$

What are the metric units of DENSITY?

$$\text{DENSITY} = \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$$

Base unit of mass

Simplest volume unit

Both the kg and the cubic meter are too large for routine lab work! (Our balances have a maximum capacity of about 200 grams!)

So ... we need to scale this unit down!

In the lab, we typically measure masses as grams and volumes as milliliters, so the density unit we will use most often is:

$$\frac{g}{mL}$$

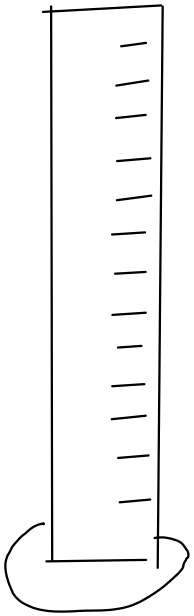
$$\left(\frac{g}{cm^3}\right) \quad \left(\frac{g}{cc}\right)$$

A useful density to remember:

WATER at room temp: Density = 1 g/mL

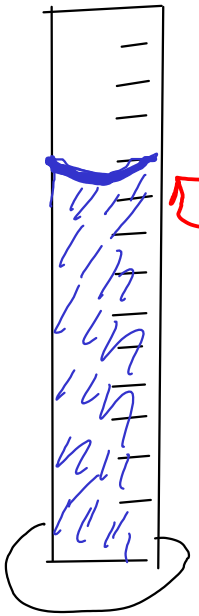
Measuring density

... of a liquid



1) Measure mass of empty cylinder

mass = 97.35 g



2) Fill cylinder and measure volume of liquid

volume = 25.3 mL

3) Measure mass of filled cylinder

mass = 130.55 g

4) Subtract to find mass of liquid

$$\begin{array}{r} 130.55\ \text{g} \\ -\ 97.35\ \text{g} \\ \hline 33.20\ \text{g} \end{array}$$

5) Density = mass liquid / volume liquid

$$\text{Density} = \frac{33.20\ \text{g}}{25.3\ \text{mL}} = 1.31\ \text{g/mL}$$