

Noteset 5C (Part 1) - Unit Conversion Review

Dimensional Analysis

The process of working with measurements in science.

Measurement : Quantity + Unit + Label

Quantity - Number (0-9, decimals)

Unit - System of measure (mass, length, etc)
Division of measurement (g, kg, mg, etc)

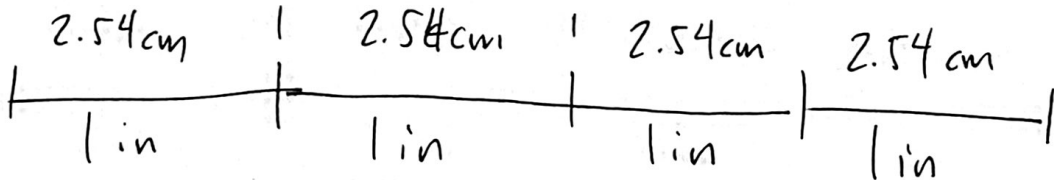
Label - Description of measurement.

Ex: 32.9 g NaCl 23.99 g/mol Ca
 Quantity unit label quantity unit label

Conversion Factor

Relationship between two measurements that are equal, divide to equal 1.

inch and cm

$$1 \text{ in} = 2.54 \text{ cm} \qquad \frac{1 \text{ in}}{2.54 \text{ cm}} = \frac{2.54 \text{ cm}}{1 \text{ in}} = 1$$


Dimensional Analysis / Unit conversion Process

$$\text{Conversion Factor} \quad \text{Conv. A} = \text{Conv. B}$$

Start A $\longrightarrow$ Final B (conversion)

T-chart Method

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \text{Start A} & \begin{array}{c} \text{conv. factor B} \\ \text{conv. factor A} \end{array} \end{array} = \text{Final B}$$
$$= \frac{\text{Start A} \cdot \text{conv. B}}{\text{conv. A}} = \text{Final B}$$

Ex: $25.0 \text{ cm} \longrightarrow \text{in}$ (convert to in)
 $1 \text{ in} = 2.54 \text{ cm} \quad \left(\frac{1 \text{ in}}{2.54 \text{ cm}} = 1 \right)$

$$\begin{array}{c|c} 25.0 \text{ cm} & 1 \text{ in} \\ & 2.54 \text{ cm} \end{array} = \frac{25.0 \text{ in}}{2.54} = \underline{\underline{9.84 \text{ in}}}$$

Ex2 $1.82 \text{ in} \longrightarrow \text{cm}$ (convert to cm)
 $1 \text{ in} = 2.54 \text{ cm} \quad \left(\frac{1 \text{ in}}{2.54 \text{ cm}} = 1 \right)$

$$\begin{array}{c|c} 1.82 \text{ in} & 2.54 \text{ cm} \\ & 1 \text{ in} \end{array} = \frac{1.82 \cdot 2.54 \text{ cm}}{1} = \underline{\underline{4.63 \text{ cm}}}$$