

Direct, Inverse and Joint Variation

y varies directly as x

$$y = kx$$

y increases, x increases

y decreases, x decreases

y varies inversely as x

$$y = \frac{k}{x}$$

y increases, x decreases

y decreases, x increases

y varies jointly as x and z

$$y = kxz$$

y varies as the product of two
or more quantities

k = constant of variation

1. x varies directly as y. Find x when y = 24 and k = 3.

$$x = k \cdot y$$

$$x = 3 \cdot 24$$

$$x = 72$$

2. A varies directly as the square of B. Find A when B = 9 and $k = \frac{3}{4}$.

$$A = k \cdot B^2$$

$$A = \frac{3}{4} \cdot \frac{9^2}{1}$$

$$A = \frac{3}{4} \cdot \frac{81}{1}$$

$$A = \frac{243}{4}$$

3. x varies inversely as y . Find x when $y=30$ and $k=\frac{1}{2}$.

$$x = \frac{k}{y}$$

$$x = \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{30} \quad \frac{1}{2} \div \frac{30}{1} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{30} = \frac{1}{60}$$

$$x = \frac{1}{60}$$

4. x varies jointly as y and z . Find x when $y=15$, $z=3$ and $k=\frac{2}{3}$.

$$x = k \cdot yz$$

$$x = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{15}{1} \cdot \frac{3}{1}$$

$$x = 30$$

5. A varies directly as B and inversely as C . Find A when $B=5$, $C=20$ and $k=4$.

$$A = \frac{k \cdot B}{C}$$

$$A = \frac{4 \cdot 5}{20}$$

$$A = 1$$

6. U varies jointly as V and W , and inversely as the square of x . Find U when $V=6$, $W=7$, $x=9$ and $k=\frac{3}{2}$.

$$U = \frac{k \cdot V \cdot W}{x^2}$$

$$U = \frac{\frac{3}{2} \cdot 6 \cdot 7}{9^2} = \frac{63}{81}$$

$$U = \frac{7}{9}$$

7. x varies directly as y . If $x=12$ when $y=3$, find x when $y=5$.

$$* x = k \cdot y$$

$$\frac{12}{3} = \frac{k \cdot 3}{3}$$

$$k = 4$$

$$x = k \cdot y$$

$$x = 4 \cdot 5$$

$$x = 20$$

8. A varies inversely as the square of P . If $A=5$ when $P=5$, find A when $P=10$.

$$*A = \frac{K}{P^2}$$

$$5 = \frac{K}{5^2}$$

$$A = \frac{K}{P^2}$$

$$\frac{5 = K}{1} = \frac{25}{25}$$

$$A = \frac{125}{10^2} = \frac{125^5}{100^4}$$

$$K = 125$$

$$A = \frac{5}{4}$$

9. F varies jointly as M_1 and M_2 and inversely as d . If $F=30$ when $M_1=6$, $M_2=10$ and $d=\frac{2}{5}$, find F when $M_1=12$, $M_2=20$ and $d=\frac{4}{5}$.

$$*F = \frac{K \cdot m_1 \cdot m_2}{d}$$

$$\frac{60K = 12}{60} = \frac{1}{5}$$

$$F = \frac{K \cdot m_1 \cdot m_2}{d}$$

$$30 = \frac{K \cdot 6 \cdot 10}{\frac{2}{5}}$$

$$K = \frac{1}{5}$$

$$F = \frac{\frac{1}{5} \cdot 12 \cdot 20}{\frac{4}{5}}$$

$$\frac{30 = 60K}{1} = \frac{2/5}{2/5}$$

$$F = 48 \div \frac{4}{5} = 48 \cdot \frac{5}{4}$$

$$60K = \frac{30 \cdot 2}{\frac{2}{5}}$$

$$F = 60$$

10. The recommended dosage of a certain medication is directly proportional to a person's weight. If Laurie weighs 125 pounds and is given 2500 milligrams, find the recommended dosage for Larry who weighs 165 pounds.

$d = \text{dosage}$
 $w = \text{weight}$

* $d = kw$

$$\frac{2500}{125} = \frac{k \cdot 125}{125}$$

$k = 20$

Laurie
 $w = 125$
 $d = 2500$

Larry
 $w = 165$
 $d =$

$d = k \cdot w$
 $d = 20 \cdot 165$


$d = 3300 \text{ mg}$

11. If it takes 8 hours for 6 painters to paint a house, how long will it take 5 painters to paint a house of the same size?

$h = \text{hours}$
 $p = \text{painters}$

* inversely related

* $h = \frac{k}{p}$

$h = 8$
 $p = 6$

 $k = 48$

$p = 5$
 $h =$

$h = \frac{k}{p}$
 $h = \frac{48}{5} = 9\frac{3}{5} \text{ hours}$

12. The intensity of light, I , varies inversely as the square of the distance, d . If the light intensity is 300-foot candles at 25 feet, find the light intensity at 15 feet.

$$* I = \frac{K}{d^2}$$

$$I = 300$$
$$d = 25$$

$$I =$$
$$d = 15$$

$$300 = \frac{K}{25^2}$$

$$\frac{300}{1} = \frac{K}{625}$$

$$K = 187,500$$

$$I = \frac{187,500}{15^2}$$

$$I = \frac{187,500}{225}$$

$$I = 833.33\text{-foot candles}$$