STEM Success Center

## Ch. 1 Dimensional Analysis

## . What is dimensional analysis?

- Dimensional analysis is a useful method that can be used to mathematically cancel out units in order to obtain a desired unit.
. Conversion factors are useful for dimensional analysis (conversion factors are ratios or mathematical relations used to convert one unit to another i.e. $\mathrm{g} / \mathrm{mol}$ or $1 \mathrm{ft}=12 \mathrm{in}$ )


## SI unit prefixes

| Prefix | mega | kilo | deci | centi | milli | micro | nano | pico |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Symbol | M | k | d | c | m | $\mu$ | n | p |
| Value | $10^{6}$ | $10^{3}$ | $10^{-1}$ | $10^{-2}$ | $10^{-3}$ | $10^{-6}$ | $10^{-9}$ | $10^{-12}$ |

Example: $1 \mathrm{~g}=1000 \mathrm{mg}$

Common conversion factors

| $1 \mathrm{ft}=12$ in | $1 \mathrm{~min}=60 \mathrm{~s}$ | $1 \mathrm{mi}=1.609 \mathrm{~km}$ | 1 mole $=6.02 \times 10^{23}$ <br> atoms (particles) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Practice:

1. A Nissan GTR R35 has a top speed of 196 mph . Convert this value to $\mathrm{km} / \mathrm{h}$.
2. For an experiment you need 25 mg of NaCl , how many grams are there in 25 mg of NaCl ?
3. Convert 150 g to kg .
4. Convert 25 mg to g .

## Solutions

1. A Nissan GTR $\mathbf{R 3 5}$ has a top speed of 196 mph . Convert this value to $\mathrm{km} / \mathrm{h}$.

Solution:

$$
\frac{196 \mathrm{mi}}{\mathrm{~h}} \times \frac{1.609 \mathrm{~km}}{1 \mathrm{mi}}=315 \frac{\mathrm{~km}}{\mathrm{~h}}
$$

2. For an experiment you need 25 mg of NaCl , how many grams are there in $\mathbf{2 5} \mathbf{~ m g}$ of $\mathbf{N a C l}$ ?
Solution:

$$
25 \mathrm{mg} \mathrm{NaCl} \times \frac{10^{-3} g}{1 m g}=0.025 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{NaCl}
$$

3. Convert 150 g to kg

## Solution:

$$
150 \mathrm{~g} \times \frac{1 \mathrm{~kg}}{10^{3} g}=0.15 \mathrm{~kg}
$$

4. Convert 25 mg to g

Solution:

$$
25 \mathrm{mg} \times \frac{10^{-3} g}{1 \mathrm{mg}}=0.025 \mathrm{~g}
$$

