

**VARIATION** - Three main types: **DIRECT**, **INVERSE**, and **JOINT**

**DIRECT**  
 $y = mx + 0$

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

$y$  varies directly as  $x$   
 $k$  is called proportionality constant

Graph should look like a line through the point  $(0, 0)$

If  $k > 0$ : positive

If  $k < 0$ : negative

Examples:

- Grades in school & hours of study
- Hours worked & amount of paycheck
- Time spent driving & distance travelled

If  $y$  varies directly as  $x$  and  $y = 6$  when  $x = 11$ , find  $y$  when  $x = 3$ .

$y = kx$        $y = kx$   
 $6 = k \cdot 11$        $y = \frac{6}{11} \cdot 3$   
 $k = \frac{6}{11}$        $y = \frac{18}{11}$

\*\*If  $x$  varies directly as  $y$  and  $y = 6$  when  $x = 11$ , find  $k$ .

$x = ky$   
 $11 = k \cdot 6$   
 $k = \frac{11}{6}$

Find  $x$  when  $y$  is  $-10$  if  $y$  varies directly as  $x$  and  $x = -3$  when  $y = 8$

$y = kx$        $y = kx$   
 $8 = k \cdot (-3)$        $(-10 = \frac{8}{-3} \cdot x)(-3)$   
 $k = \frac{8}{-3}$        $30 = \frac{8x}{-3} = \frac{15}{4}$

If  $y$  varies directly as  $x$  and  $x = -6$  when  $y = 15$ , what is the proportionality constant  $k$ ?

$y = kx$   
 $15 = k(-6)$        $k = \frac{15}{-6} = -\frac{5}{2}$

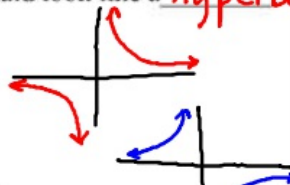
**INVERSE**

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

$y$  varies inversely as  $x$   
 $k$  is called proportionality constant

Graph should look like a hyperbola

If  $k > 0$ :



If  $k < 0$ :

Examples:

- Speed of car & time it takes to get home
- Temperature and thickness of ice on a pond
- Wind speed and the attendance at a baseball game

If  $y$  varies inversely as  $x$ , and  $y = 8$  when  $x = 3$ , find  $x$  when  $y = 14$ .

$xy = k$        $x \cdot 14 = 24$   
 $3 \cdot 8 = k$        $x = \frac{24}{14} = \frac{12}{7}$   
 $k = 24$        $3 \cdot 8 = x \cdot 14$

Find  $x$  when  $y = 16$ , if  $y$  varies inversely as  $x$ , and  $y = 10$  when  $x = 3.6$ .

$(3.6) \cdot 10 = 36$   
 $x \cdot 16 = 36$   
 $x = \frac{36}{16} = \frac{9}{4}$

Find the constant of variation if  $x$  and  $y$  vary inversely and  $x$  is 6 when  $y = -2/3$ .

$xy = k$   
 $6(-\frac{2}{3}) = -\frac{12}{3} = -4 = k$

**JOINT**

$y = kxz$  or  $k = \frac{y}{xz}$

$y$  varies jointly as  $x$  and  $z$

Examples:

- Number of bacteria in mayonnaise depends on temperature in kitchen and time left out of fridge
- Number of ice cream cones sold depends on temperature and the number of beach-goers

If  $y$  varies jointly as  $x$  and  $z$  and  $y = 10$  when  $x = 2$  and  $z = 4$ , find  $y$  when  $x = 4$  and  $z = 3$ .

$y = kxz$        $y = kxz$   
 $10 = k \cdot 2 \cdot 4$        $y = \frac{5}{4} \cdot 4 \cdot 3$   
 $10 = 8k$        $y = 15$   
 $k = \frac{5}{4}$

Find  $y$  when  $x = 6$  and  $z = 8$ , if  $y$  varies jointly as  $x$  and  $z$

and  $x = 4$  and  $z = 2$  when  $y = 6$ .  
 $y = kxz$        $y = kxz$   
 $6 = k \cdot 4 \cdot 2$        $y = \frac{3}{4} \cdot 6 \cdot 8$   
 $6 = 8k$        $y = 36$   
 $k = \frac{6}{8} = \frac{3}{4}$

**A CHALLENGE?**

$y$  varies directly as the square of  $x$  and inversely as  $z$ . If  $y = 30$  when  $x = 2$  and  $z = 6$ , find  $y$  when  $x = 4$  and  $z = 15$ .

$y = \frac{kx^2}{z}$        $y = \frac{45 \cdot 4^2}{15}$   
 $30 = \frac{k \cdot 2^2}{6}$   
 $30 = \frac{4}{6} k$   
 $k = \frac{180}{4} = 45$