

CHAPTER FOUR

VARIATION

Introduction:

This shows the relationship which exists between two variables or quantities.

- For example we may choose to consider the relationship between the number of gallons of petrol used by a travelling car and the distance travelled.

- This relationship or variation will be that, the greater the distance travelled, the greater will be the number of gallons of petrol used.

- Variation truly speaking is the same as proportion.

Types:

- Basically there are three types and these are: :

1. Direct variation.

2. Inverse variation.

3. Partial variation.

NB: Associated with each of these is what certain individuals refer to as joint variation

DIRECT VARIATION :

-This may also be referred to as direct proportion:

-Two variables or quantities such as x and y are said to vary directly, or are directly proportional if

1. both x and y increases at the same time e.g

X	2	3	4	5	6	7
Y	4	8	12	16	20	24

2. both values of x and y decrease at the same time. i.e X decrease as y decreases. e.g.

X	100	80	60	40	20
Y	10	8	6	4	2

Now consider two variables x and y . If x varies directly as y , then we write $x \propto y$, i.e. x is directly proportional to y .

From $x \propto y$, in order to remove the proportional sign, we must introduce a constant,

i.e. if $x \propto y \Rightarrow x = ky$, where k = a constant, which may be referred to as the proportionality constant or the constant of proportionality.

Also if M varies directly as R , then $M \propto R \Rightarrow M = K.R$, where K is a constant.

Q1. Two variables m and v are such that m varies directly as v . Given the constant as 10, calculate m when $v = 20$.

Solution

Since m varies directly as v

$$\Rightarrow m \propto v, \Rightarrow m = kv$$

Where k is a constant.

$$\text{Since } k = 10 \Rightarrow m = 10v.$$

$$\text{When } v = 20 \Rightarrow m = (10)(20) = 200.$$

Q2. The population, P of a nation is directly proportional to the birth rate, R . If the constant is 20, determine the population in million if $R = 5$.

Solution.

P varies directly as R

$$\Rightarrow p \propto R \Rightarrow p = KR,$$

$$\text{Where } k \text{ is a constant. Since } k = 20 \Rightarrow p = 20 R.$$

$$\text{When } R = 5 \Rightarrow P = (20)(5) = 100$$

The population, $P = 100$ million.

Q3. The velocity v of a car is directly proportional to its mass m squared. Given the constant as 5 and the mass of the car as 60kg, calculate the velocity in m/s.

Solution.

$$V \text{ is directly proportional to } m \text{ squared} \Rightarrow v \propto m^2,$$

$$\Rightarrow v = km^2, \text{ where } k \text{ is a constant.}$$

Since $k = 5 \Rightarrow v = 5m^2$

When $m = 60 \Rightarrow v = 5(60)^2$,

$\Rightarrow v = 5(3600) = 1800$,

$\Rightarrow V = 18000 \text{ m/s}$.

Q4. The circumference of a circle varies directly as its radius cubed. Determine the circumference in cm, if the radius is 3cm. Take the proportionality constant to be 4.

Solution

Let c = the circumference and r = the radius.

Since the circumference varies directly as the radius cubed

$\Rightarrow C \propto r^3 \Rightarrow c = kr^3$,

where k = the constant. Since $r = 3\text{cm}$ and $k = 4$

$\Rightarrow c = (4)(3)^3 = (4)(27) = 108$.

The circumference = 108cm.

Q5. The density of a material is directly proportional to the square root of its mass. Given the variation constant as 5 and the mass as 25g, determine the density in g cm^{-3} .

Let d = density and m = mass.

Since the density is directly proportional to the square root of the mass

$\Rightarrow d \propto \sqrt{m}$,

$\Rightarrow d = k \cdot \sqrt{m}$, where k = the constant. Since $k = 5$ and $m = 25 \Rightarrow d = 5 \cdot \sqrt{25}$, $\Rightarrow d = (5)(5) = 25$,

$\Rightarrow d = 25 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

Q6. The speed of a vehicle varies directly as its mass. The speed also varies directly

as its length. Find the speed in km/h, if the car is of mass 120kg and it is 50 m long. Take the variation constant to be 10.

Solution.

Let s = speed, m = mass and l = length.

1. The speed varies directly as the mass $\Rightarrow s \propto m \dots\dots\dots(1)$

11. Also the speed varies directly as the length $\Rightarrow s \propto l \dots\dots\dots(2)$

From 1 and 2 i.e $s \propto m$ and $s \propto l$

$\Rightarrow s \propto m.l$. Removing the proportion sign

$\Rightarrow s = k.m.l$.

Bu since $k = 10$, $m = 120$ and $l = 50$

$\Rightarrow s = (10)(120)(50) = 60,000$

$\Rightarrow s = 60,000 \text{ km/h}$.

Q7. Three quantities, R, Q and M are such that R varies directly as Q. R also varies directly as M. If the proportionality constant is 20, find R when $Q = 1$ and $m = 7$.

Solution

1. R varies directly as Q

$\Rightarrow R \propto Q$.

11. Also R varies directly as M.

$\Rightarrow R \propto M$.

From $R \propto Q$ and $R \propto M$

$\Rightarrow R \propto Q.M \Rightarrow R = KQ.M$.

But since $Q = 1$, $M = 7$ and $k = 20$

$\Rightarrow R = (20)(1)(7) = 140$,

$\Rightarrow R = 140$.

Q8. The velocity of a car varies directly as its mass squared. It also varies directly as the length of the car. Given that the car has a length of 10m and a mass of 30kg, calculate its velocity in km/h. Take the proportionality constant as 200.

Solution

Let v = velocity, m = mass and l = length.

1. Since the velocity varies directly as the mass squared

$\Rightarrow v \propto m^2$.

2. Also since the velocity varies directly as the length

$$\Rightarrow v \propto l.$$

From 1. $v \propto m^2$ and from 2. $v \propto l, \Rightarrow v \propto m^2 l \Rightarrow v = km^2 l$.

But $m = 30$, $k = 200$ and $l = 10$.

$$\text{From } v = km^2 l \Rightarrow v = (200) (30)^2 (10),$$

$$\Rightarrow v = (200) (900) (10),$$

$$\Rightarrow v = 18\,000\,00 \text{ km/h.}$$

Q9. The quantities Q, L and Z are such that L varies directly as Q cubed as well as Z. Given that $L = 160$ when $Q = 2$ and $Z = 5$, calculate the variation constant.

Solution

1. L varies directly as Q cubed $\Rightarrow L \propto Q^3$.

11. L varies directly as Z $\Rightarrow L \propto Z$.

Now from $L \propto Q^3$ and $L \propto Z$

$$\Rightarrow L \propto Q^3 \cdot Z, \Rightarrow L = K \cdot Q^3 \cdot Z.$$

$$\text{But since } L = 160, \text{ when } Q = 2 \text{ and } Z = 5, \Rightarrow L = k (2)^3 (5),$$

$$\Rightarrow 160 = K(8)(5) \Rightarrow 160 = 40K,$$

$$\Rightarrow K = 160/40 = 4.$$

The constant = 4.

10. The distance d covered by a vehicle varies directly as its length, l cubed as well as the square root of its mass m. Given that when $m = 9\text{kg}$, $l = 2\text{m}$ and $d = 120\text{km}$,

1. determine the value of the constant.

11. deduce an expression for d in terms of m, l and k, where k is the constant

111. determine the distance travelled by the car in kilometers, when it is 40m long and has a mass of 60kg.

Solution

1. Since d varies directly as l cubed $\Rightarrow d \propto l^3$

11. Since d also varies directly as the square root of m

$$\Rightarrow d \propto \sqrt{m}.$$

Now since $d \propto l^3$ and $d \propto \sqrt{m}$,

$$\Rightarrow d \propto l^3 \cdot \sqrt{m} \Rightarrow d = k \cdot l^3 \cdot \sqrt{m}.$$

But $d = 120$ when $l = 2$ and $m = 9$, and since $d = k l^3 \sqrt{m}$,

$$\Rightarrow 120 = k(2)^3(\sqrt{9}) = k(8)(3) = 24k,$$

$$\Rightarrow 120 = 24k \Rightarrow k = 120/24 = 5.$$

$$\therefore K = 5.$$

11. We have already noted that $d = kl^3\sqrt{m}$.

To deduce an expression for d in terms of k , l and m , we only substitute the value of the constant (i.e. 5) into the just written expression.

$$\text{From } d = kl^3\sqrt{m} \Rightarrow d = 5l^3\sqrt{m}.$$

111. When $l = 40\text{m}$ and $m = 60\text{kg}$,

$$\Rightarrow d = 5 l^3 \sqrt{m} \Rightarrow d = 5(40)^3 \sqrt{60},$$

$$\Rightarrow d = 5 (64000) (7.7),$$

$$\Rightarrow d = 2,464\,000.$$