Notes: Inverse Variation

Remember that two variables x and y show direct variation if y = ax and $a \neq 0$. The letter "a" represents the "Constant of Variation". The equation for the Constant of Variation is $\alpha = \frac{y}{x}$

On the contrary, if two variables show inverse variation, then they have the equation $\mathbf{y} = \frac{a}{x}$ or $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{y}\mathbf{x}$.

If two variables vary inversely, the products of every ${\bf x}$ and ${\bf y}$ combination are the same.

For example,

x	-3	-2	2	
Y	6	9	-9	

So,
$$6(-3) = -18$$
, $9(-2) = -18$, $2(-9) = -18$

So this is another way to identify inverse variation. The Constant of Variation for this example would be $\mathbf{a} = 6(-3) = -18$ so the equation would be $\mathbf{y} = \frac{-18}{x}$.

Does xy = 4 represents an <u>inverse variation</u>? Yes, because we can write it in the form $y = \frac{a}{b}$ or $y = \frac{4}{b}$.

The equation $\frac{y}{2} = x$ can be written as y = 2x so it represents a <u>direct variation</u>.

The equation y = 2x + 3 is neither, as this is not in the form of direct or inverse variation.

Direct Variation $y = ax$	Inverse Variation $y = \frac{a}{-}$
$a = \frac{y}{x}$	a = yx

Practice 9 Inverse Variation

Hussin A.Rothana

Practice 9 Inverse Va	ariation:
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