

# Theme 1

## Introductory Material

Module T1M1:  
The Predictable Universe

# T1M1 – Learning Objectives

- Identify the approach taken by physicists to understanding complex phenomena.
- Recognize that measurements are really comparisons with a standard **unit** of measure, and that different standard units can be related to each other.
- Distinguish between the specific units of a measured quantity, and the more general statement of the **dimensions** of the quantity.
- Recognize that the dimensions of a quantity are helpful at predicting the relationships that govern a system.
- Understand the idea of **proportionality** to describe the specific way in which quantities are related.

# Module Clicker Quiz!

Now that you have had a chance to  
review the entire first module, T1M1,  
here is your first  
**module quiz!**

**You will need calculator**

**You will get 120s per question**

# Module Clicker Quiz!

## Unit conversion (120 seconds)

- If Einswine was thrown with a speed of 10 m/s, what is that speed in km/h?
- 
- A. 36 km/s
  - B. 2.8 km/h
  - C. 16 km/h
  - D. 52 km/h
  - E. I don't know

# Module Clicker Quiz!

## Dimensional analysis (120 seconds)

- In the following formula, what are the dimensions of the variable ***m***?

$$\frac{U}{2} = Pm^2$$

*U* – dimensions [L/K]

*P* – dimensions [M/K]

A.  $\left[ \frac{MK}{L} \right]$

C.  $\left[ \sqrt{\frac{M}{L}} \right]$

E. I don't know

B.  $\left[ \sqrt{\frac{L}{M}} \right]$

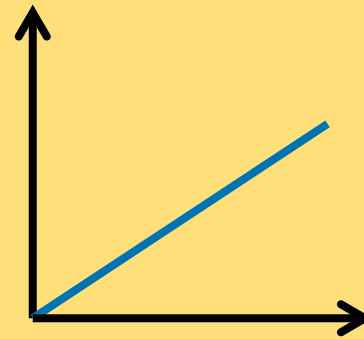
D.  $\left[ \frac{L^2}{M^2} \right]$

# Module Clicker Quiz!

## Proportionality (120 seconds)

- For the formula given, which relationships, when plotted on a graph, would yield a straight line, as shown:

$$\frac{U}{2} = Pm^2$$



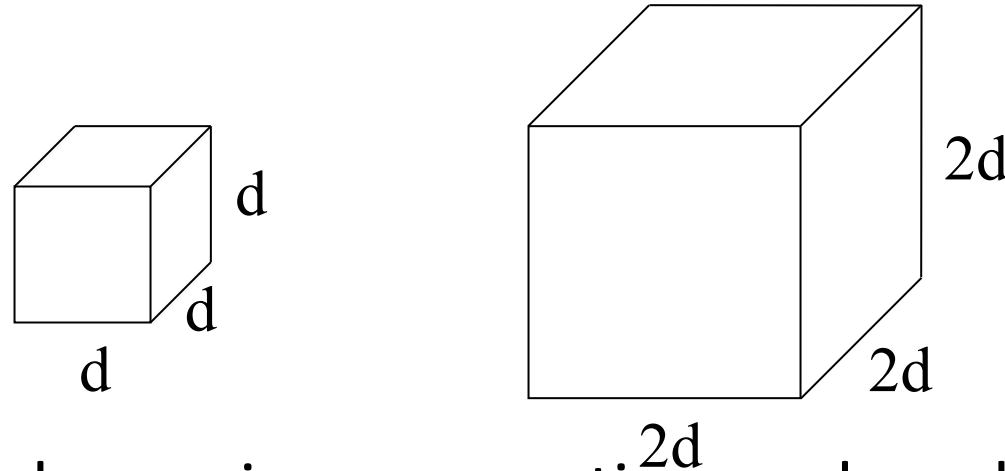
- A.  $U$  vs.  $1/P$  ( $m$  held constant)**
- B.  $U$  vs.  $m$  ( $P$  held constant)**
- C.  $P$  vs.  $m$  ( $U$  held constant)**
- D.  $m^2$  vs.  $U$  ( $P$  held constant)**
- E. I don't know**

# Proportionality

- The natural world rarely provides us with access to all the details to put together a complete picture!
- The trends and relationships that we observe allow us to infer general rules that we incorporate into a model
- Proportionality:  $x \propto y$  implies that
  - If we double  $x$ , then  $y$  also doubles
  - If  $y$  is reduced by  $1/7^{\text{th}}$  of its value, then so is  $x$
- We would incorporate into our model
$$x = a y,$$
where  $a$  is a constant of proportionality, independent of the actual values of  $x$  and  $y$

# Geometric proportionalities

- Isometric = same geometry, different size



- For a simple cube, various properties can be related to the side length:
  - If you double every dimension, how do area and volume change?
  - Area  $\propto d^2$
  - Volume  $\propto d^3$
- Does this change for a sphere (radius  $r$ )?



# Using ratios to solve problems

- From previous slide: How many times more volume of large cube compared to small cube?

$$\frac{V_{big}}{V_{small}} = \frac{(2d)^3}{d^3} = 2^3 = 8$$

- What about two spheres of radii  $r$  and  $2r$ ?

$$\frac{V_{big}}{V_{small}} = \frac{\frac{4}{3}\pi(2r)^3}{\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3} = \frac{(2r)^3}{r^3} = 2^3 = 8$$

- In both cases, when length scale increases 2x, the volume increases by factor  $(2)^3 = 8$ !
- **\*\*\*The details of the shape don't matter (i.e. the  $4/3\pi$  pre-factors cancel when you take a ratio)**

# How do other quantities scale?

- Let's define a general length scale,  $L$ .
  - Could be side length, radius, diameter – any linear measurement of object's size
- We know that:
  - Area  $\propto L^2$
  - Volume  $\propto L^3$
- **What about Mass?  $\propto$  Volume  $\propto L^3$** 
  - Assume that two objects have the same density

# Practical application: Clothing your clone

Mini me weighs exactly  $1/8^{\text{th}}$  of Dr. Evil's mass. How much more material is needed for Dr. Evil's suit than for mini me's?

$$\frac{M_{DE}}{M_{mm}} = 8 = \left( \frac{L_{DE}}{L_{mm}} \right)^3$$

$$\frac{L_{DE}}{L_{mm}} = 8^{\frac{1}{3}} = 2$$

$$\frac{A_{DE}}{A_{mm}} = \left( \frac{L_{DE}}{L_{mm}} \right)^2 = 2^2 = 4$$



**So, four times more material is needed for Dr. Evil's suit than for mini me's.**

# How do other quantities vary with size?

- Start by defining a length scale,  $L$ .
- We know that:
  - Area  $\propto L^2$
  - Volume  $\propto L^3$
- What about Mass?  $\propto \text{Volume} \propto L^3$
- **What about:**
  - **flow into/out of an object – for example, heat flow?**
  - **Production of heat/energy/waste by an object?**

# Clicker Quiz

How would you expect the amount of **body heat generated ( $G$ )** to scale with the linear dimension,  $L$ , of an organism?

A.  $G \propto L^{2/3}$

B.  $G \propto L^2$

C.  $G \propto L^{3/2}$

D.  $G \propto L^3$

E. I have no idea

# Clicker Quiz

How would you expect the amount of **body heat lost ( $H$ )** to scale with the linear dimension,  $L$ , of an organism?

A.  $H \propto L^{2/3}$

B.  $H \propto L^2$

C.  $H \propto L^{3/2}$

D.  $H \propto L^3$

E. I have no idea!!!

# Example: Rate of heat loss

- A grown adult weighs 70 kg while a newborn baby weighs 5 kg.

Compare the

(a) rate of heat loss, and

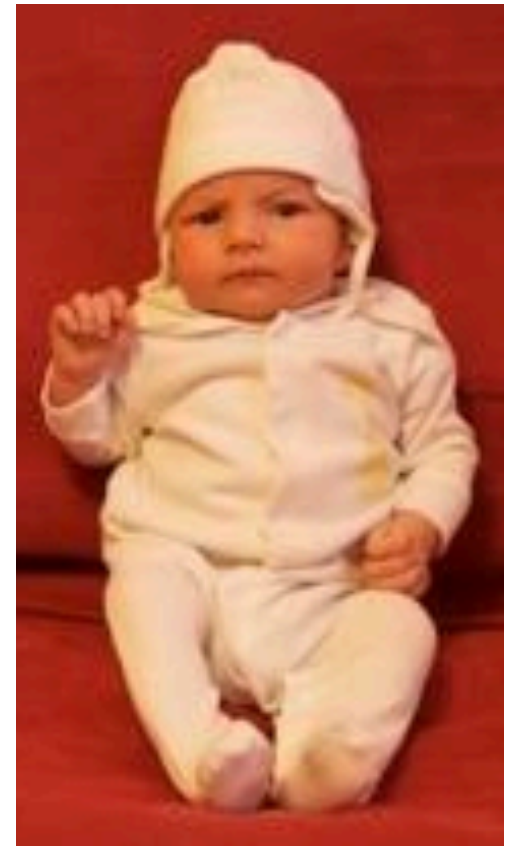
(b) ratio of heat generated

ratio of masses

$$\frac{M_a}{M_b} = 14 \rightarrow \frac{L_a}{L_b} = 14^{1/3} = 2.41$$

$$\text{Heat loss} \rightarrow \left( \frac{L_a}{L_b} \right)^2 = 2.41^2 = 5.81$$

$$\text{Heat generated} \rightarrow \left( \frac{L_a}{L_b} \right)^3 = 14$$



### a) Rate of heat loss (H):

- The 3-step process to solving scaling problems:

1. Start with a known ratio:

$$\frac{M_{Big}}{M_{Small}} = \frac{70}{5} = 14$$

2. Get ratio of length scales:

$$\frac{M_B}{M_S} = \left( \frac{L_B}{L_S} \right)^3 \rightarrow \frac{L_B}{L_S} = \left( \frac{M_B}{M_S} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} = 14^{\frac{1}{3}} = 2.41$$

3. Use this to find ratio of new quantity (H):

$$\frac{H_B}{H_S} = \left( \frac{L_B}{L_S} \right)^2 = 2.41^2 = 5.81$$

So, the big guy loses heat 5.81 times faster

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### b) Heat Generated:

1. This depends on mass

$$\frac{G_B}{G_S} = \frac{M_B}{M_S} = 14$$

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### c) Heat Loss per kg (or heat loss per heat generated):

$$H \propto L^2, \quad M \propto L^3 \Rightarrow \frac{H}{M} = \frac{L^2}{L^3} = \frac{1}{L} \rightarrow \frac{(H/M)_B}{(H/M)_S} = \frac{1/L_B}{1/L_S} = \frac{L_S}{L_B} = \frac{1}{2.41} = 0.415$$

- The adult loses more heat, but the rate of heat loss **per kilogram** is greater for the baby! Remember the heat generation is proportional to mass ( $L^3$ ), so this is exactly what we talked about in class.



# Are we blowing this out of proportion?

- Where do we see this in the ‘real world’?

**Cell size** (from module) – surface area to volume

- there is a practical limit to the size of a cell

**Allometry**: The study of the relationship of body size to other characteristics of organisms (shape, anatomy, behaviour...)

- Metabolic rate  $\propto (\text{Mass})^{3/4}$
- Breathing, heart rate  $\propto (\text{Mass})^{1/4}$
- Optimal cruising speed (flight)  $\propto (\text{Mass})^{1/6}$

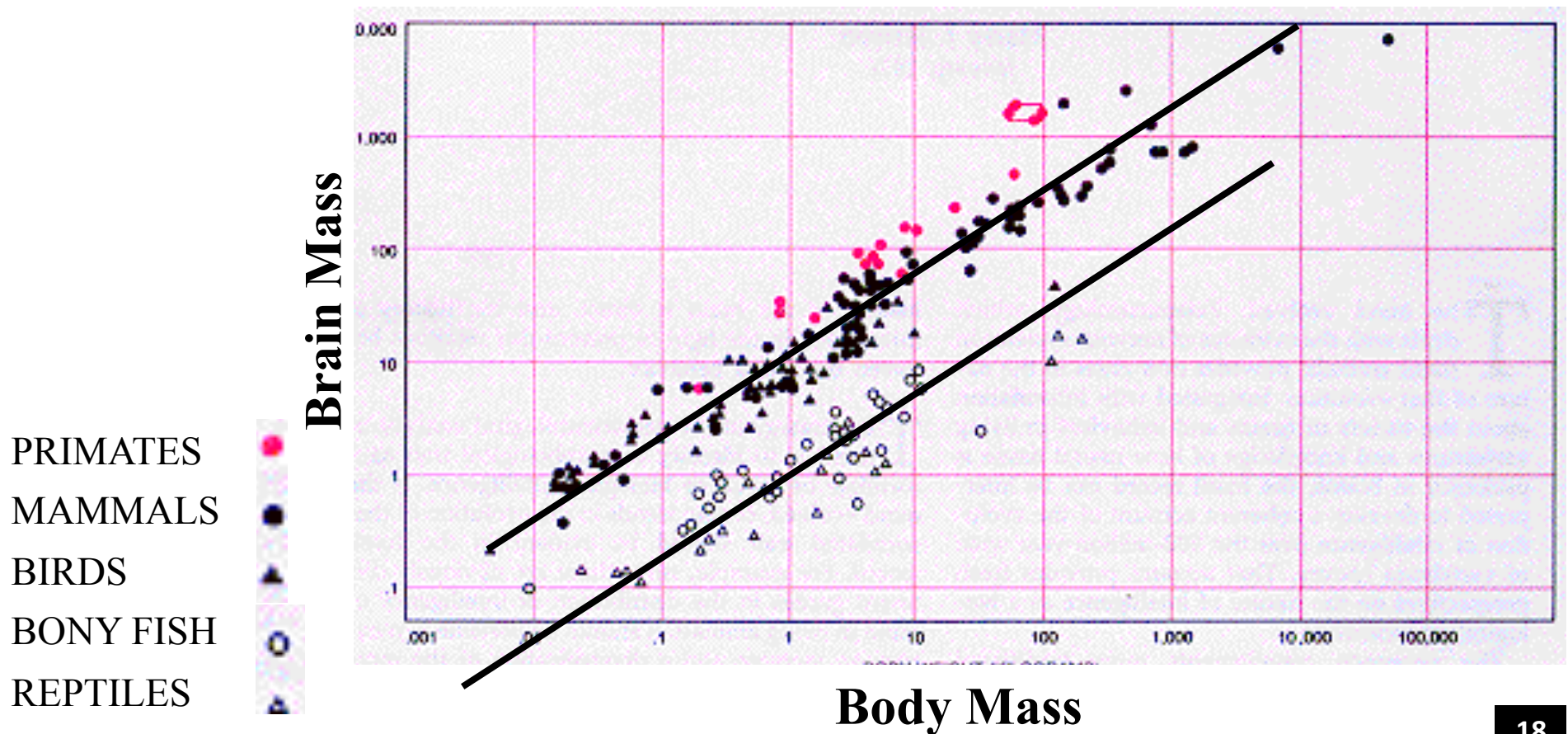
## **Societal implications**

- Density of gas stations vs. city size
- Types of employment, wages vs. city size

# What can we infer from these relationships?

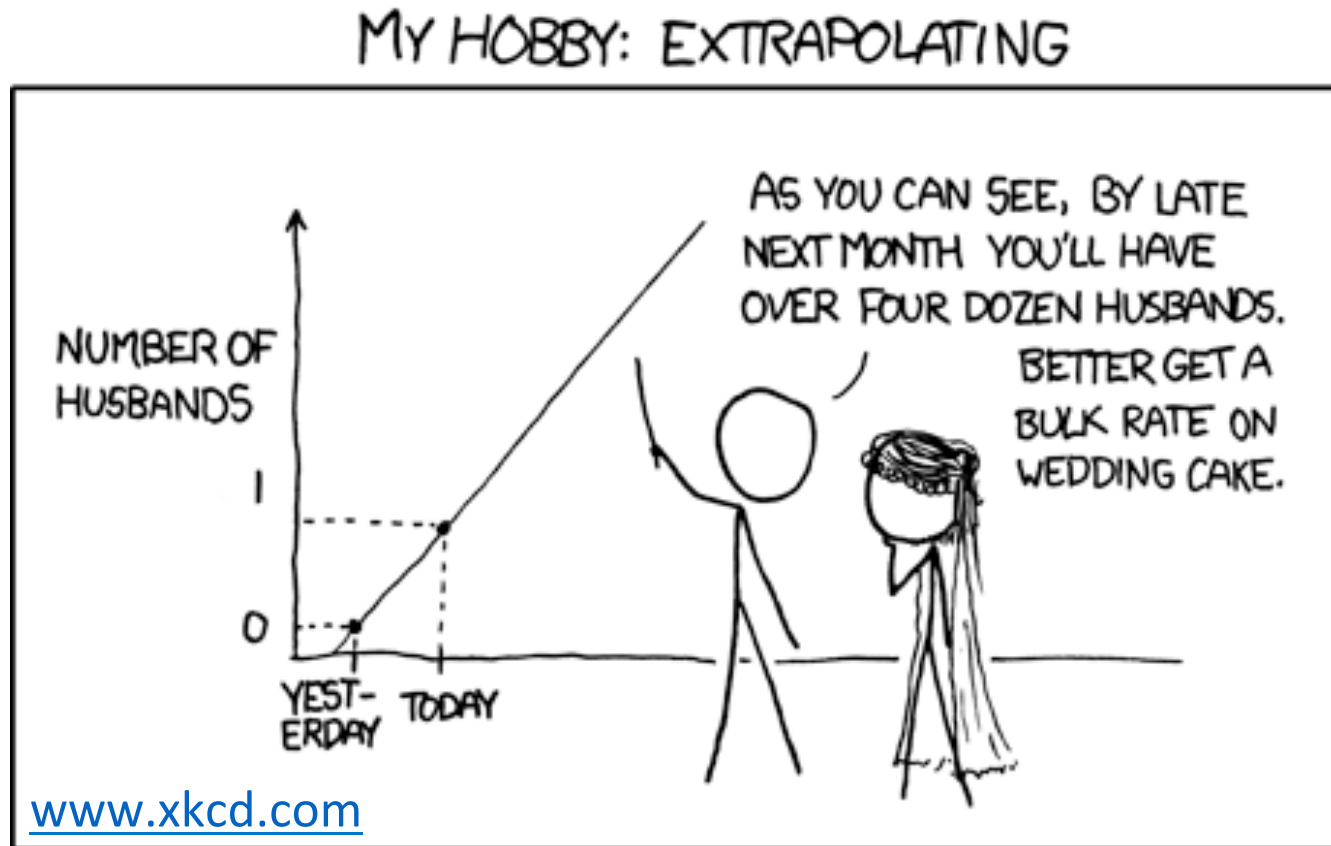
- Understanding how two quantities are connected helps us to understand the nature of the relationship!

## What can this tell us about brain mass and intelligence?



# Inferences using proportionality

- Of course, it's not enough to just have a proportionality; there's more to modeling than that!!

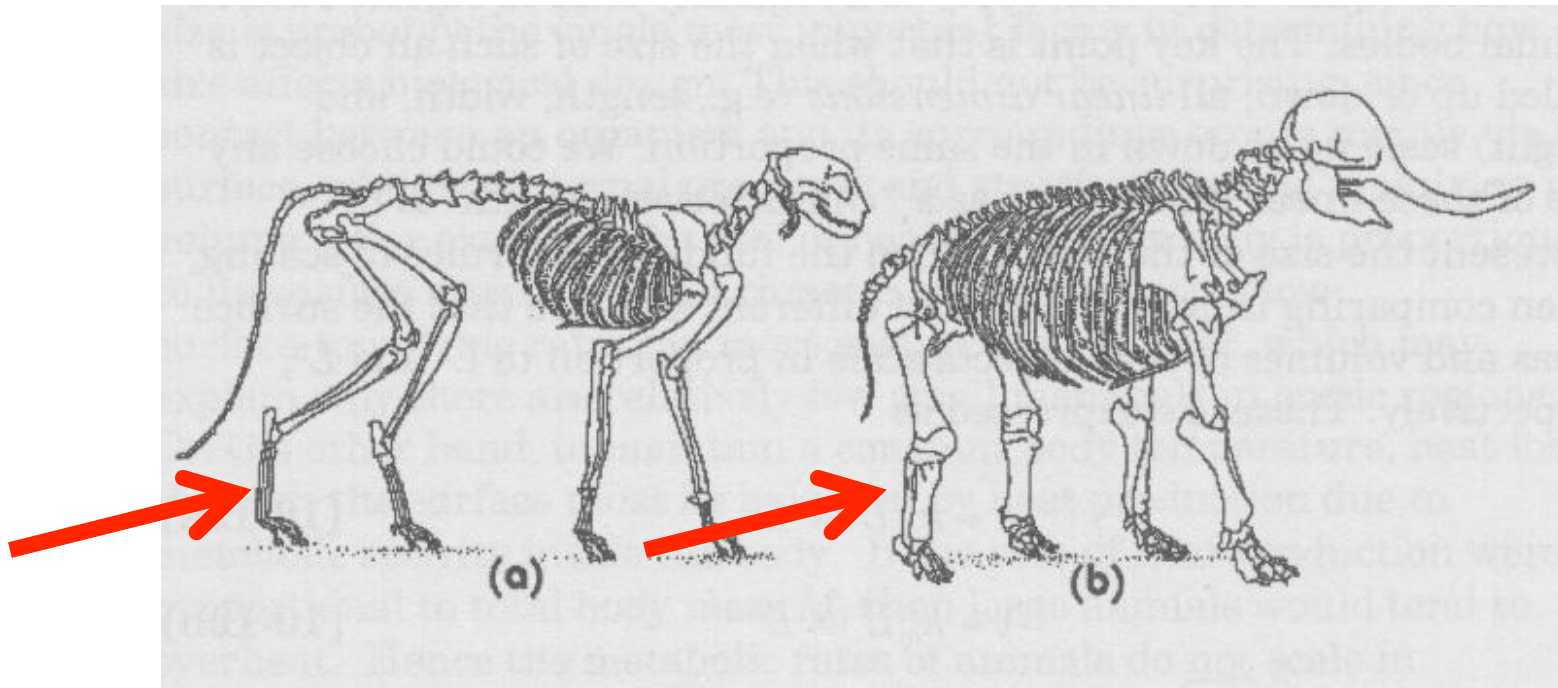


# How do other quantities vary with size?

- Start by defining a length scale,  $L$ .
- We know that:
  - Area  $\propto L^2$
  - Volume  $\propto L^3$
  - Mass?  $\propto \text{Volume} \propto L^3$
- Flow (heat, chemical, electrical)  $\propto L^2$
- Heat production  $\propto L^3$
- **What about strength?**

# Limitations on animal size, and mobility

- Skeleton of a house cat and an elephant



- What does this illustration tell you?

# Example: Upper limit to size

Could King Kong exist as shown in the movies?

Gorilla: 180 kg, 1.7 m tall, (eats ~25 kg food/day)

King Kong – 7x scaled up version



# Closing Remarks

## **Next class:**

- Finish T1M1 – Vector review
- Begin T1M2
  - Significant figures (T1M2)
  - Scientific notation
- New to vectors? (...or, it's been a while)
  - Check out the Vectors Primer Module in Avenue
- What's your comfort with vectors?
  - Check out the review notes