

Unit 4: Scale Factors & Similarity

4.2B Scale Diagrams

Scale Diagram: A proportional representation (enlargement or reduction) of an actual object or original image

Scale: comparison (ratio) between the diagram size and the actual size
 - often scale is written as 1: _____
 ★ diagram : actual

Ex. The scale diagram below uses a scale of 1: 14. What is the actual length & width? _____ : 1



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Length} \\ \frac{1}{14} &= \frac{5 \text{ cm}}{l} \\ l &= \frac{14 \cdot 5}{1} = \boxed{70 \text{ cm}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Width} \\ \frac{1}{14} &= \frac{1.5 \text{ cm}}{w} \\ w &= \frac{14 \cdot 1.5}{1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{w = 21 \text{ cm}}$$

Determining Scale Factor & Scale

Ex. An actual Canadian quarter has a diameter of 23.88 mm. The scale drawing shown is a reduction with diameter 1.4 cm.



$$\overleftrightarrow{1.4 \text{ cm} = 14 \text{ mm}}$$

a) Determine the scale factor to the nearest hundredth.

$$\text{scale factor} = \frac{\text{diagram}}{\text{actual}}$$

$$= \frac{14}{23.88} = 0.59$$

Scale factor

★ same units

b) Determine the scale (write as 1: _____).

Scale diagram : actual

$$\begin{array}{r} 14 : 23.88 \\ \div 14 \quad \div 14 \\ 1 : 1.71 \end{array}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{14}{23.88} &= \frac{1}{x} \\ x &= \frac{23.88(1)}{14} \\ x &= 1.71 \end{aligned}$$