

# Mass, volume, density

- **Mass of an object describes the amount of matter contained in it. Mass is denoted by  $m$ .**

Units of mass are kilograms (kg), grams (g), tons, pounds, ounces, etc.

- **Volume of an object tells us how much space does the object take up. Volume is denoted by  $V$ .**

Units of volume are liters(l), milliliters (ml), cubic meters ( $m^3$  ), gallons, etc.

- **Density is a property of a material: it tells us how much mass is contained in a given volume of the material. It tells us how tightly the matter is packed. Density is denoted by  $\rho$  (Greek letter “rho”).**

$$\text{Density} = \frac{\text{Mass}}{\text{Volume}} \quad \text{or} \quad \rho = \frac{m}{V}$$

# Homework 10

## Problem 1.

Find the density of an alloy that is made of 2 kg of copper and 1 kg of aluminum.

Density of copper is  $8900 \text{ kg/m}^3$ ; density of aluminum is  $2700 \text{ kg/m}^3$ . Assume that the volume of the alloy is equal to the combined volume of its components.

*Hint: find the volumes of 2 kg of copper and of 1 kg of aluminum first.*

## Problem 2.

The planet Earth's total mass can be measured and turns out to be about  $6 \cdot 10^{24}$  kilograms. The Earth is almost a perfect sphere with the radius approximately 6400 km (4000 miles). Find the average density of the Earth. Convert it to  $\text{kg/m}^3$  and compare to copper density from the last problem and to the density of water ( $1000 \text{ kg/m}^3$ ).

*Hint: Volume of a spherical body can be found with the formula  $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi R^3$  where R is the radius.*