Section 1.2: Cont'd

for quantitative variables:

discrete — can only assume finite or countable number of values

examples: – can only take on 4 values:
22.5, 28.3, 29.2, 35.0

– or could be the number of students enrolled in a course:
0, 1, 2, 3, …

(note: cannot always go halfway between two measurements)

continuous — can be any real number

examples: height, density, power

(Stats Canada website says, "Measurement of a continuous variable is always a discrete approximation")

note: what kind of variable is shoe size?

… 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, …   ← cannot have 8.349 for example

quantitative, discrete

Variable

qualitative   quantitative

discrete   continuous