

Significant Figures Rules

All non-zeros are significant.

All captive zeros are significant.

All trailing zeros AFTER a decimal point are significant.

Leading zeros are NEVER significant

Addition—Subtraction

The number of significant digits in the result is the same number of DECIMAL PLACES as in the measured quantity with the smaller number of decimal places.

Multiplication—Division

The number of significant digits in the result is the same as that in the quantity with the smallest number of significant figures.

Rounding

Use normal rounding rules

Conversion Factors

These are NOT measured quantities and are NOT used to determine number of significant digits in the answer

Counted Numbers

These have an infinite number of significant figures

Tutorials

Significant Figures

<http://science.widener.edu/svb/tutorial/sigfigures.html>

Scientific Notation

<http://science.widener.edu/svb/tutorial/scinotcsn7.html>

