



# Unit 03 Outcomes



## Define significant figures

Those digits in a measurement which show the degree of certainty or precision.

## Define the uncertain or doubtful digit in a measurement

The last digit on the right of a measured quantity is understood as an estimate.

## Determine the number of significant figures in a measured quantity

Begin with the first nonzero digit and end with the doubtful digit.

The location of the decimal point has nothing to do with significant figures.

### Nonzero digits



**78.391 km (5 figures)**    **422.8 gal (4 figures)**

# Convert measurements to scientific form to show the correct significant digits.

Re-write the quantity **400,000 mg**

to show 1 sig. fig.

$$4 \times 10^4 \text{ mg}$$

to show 2 sig. fig.

$$4.0 \times 10^4 \text{ mg}$$

to show 3 sig. fig.

$$4.00 \times 10^4 \text{ mg}$$

to show 4 sig. fig.

$$4.000 \times 10^4 \text{ mg}$$

Re-write the quantity **934,000,000,000 ps**

to show 3 sig. fig.

$$9.34 \times 10^{12} \text{ ps}$$

to show 4 sig. fig.

$$9.340 \times 10^{12} \text{ ps}$$

to show 5 sig. fig.

$$9.3400 \times 10^{12} \text{ ps}$$

to show 6 sig. fig.

$$9.34000 \times 10^{12} \text{ ps}$$



## Identify whether a zero in a measurement is or is not significant

Leading zeros - never

**0.000391 m (3 figures)**    **0.00255 g (3 figures)**

Captive zeros

**7,503 lbs (4 figures)**    **100,038 cm (6 figures)**

Trailing decimal point zeros

**14,000 kg (2 figures)**    **15.60 mL (4 figures)**    **160. mm (3 figures)**

**Round off the mathematical result to the proper number of significant digits.**

**If the first digit to be dropped is less than 5, leave the digit before it unchanged.**

**If the first digit to be dropped is 5 or more, increase the digit before it by 1.**



**Add or subtract measured quantities  
express the result in standard exponential form  
with the proper number of significant figures and correct unit label**

**Round off the answer to the first column that has a doubtful digit.**

$$\begin{array}{r} 2.22 \text{ cm} \\ 3.9 \text{ cm} \\ + \underline{8.9382 \text{ cm}} \\ 15.0582 \text{ cm} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} (15.1 \text{ cm}) \\ 1.51 \times 10^1 \text{ cm} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 15.85 \text{ g} \\ - \underline{9.4052 \text{ g}} \\ 6.4448 \text{ g} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} (6.44 \text{ g}) \\ 6.44 \times 10^0 \text{ g} \end{array}$$



**Multiply or divide measured quantities  
express the result in standard exponential form  
with the proper number of significant diigits & correct unit label**



## **Multiplication & Division**

**Round answer to the smallest number of sig. fig. in any factor**

$$4.62 \text{ m} \times 3.1 \text{ m} = 14.322 \text{ m}^2 \quad (14 \text{ m}^2 ; 1.4 \times 10^1 \text{ m}^2)$$

$$\frac{248.37 \text{ g}}{18.3 \text{ mL}} = 13.572131 \text{ g/mL} \quad (13.6 \text{ g/mL}; 1.36 \times 10^1 \text{ g/mL})$$



## Determine significant figures for non-measured numbers & defined conversion factors

exact (non-measured quantities) numbers & defined conversion factor

have an infinite number of significant figures  
(not used in determining # of significant digits)

Given any 2 of the following, calculate the third:  
mass; volume; density



$$\text{Density} = \frac{\text{Mass}}{\text{Volume}}$$



**Given a quantity expressed in a metric unit, express that quantity in an appropriate English unit and vice versa.**



### **The Process**

- 1. What is being asked?**
- 2. What do I know?**
- 3. Can I get from 2 → 1 ? (“per” expressions”)**
- 4. “Turn the crank” (Do the math)**

### **USE UNITS**

**Units wrong, most likely have wrong answer**

**Units can provide means to solution**



**1 inch  $\equiv$  2.54 cm**

**1 pound = 454 g**

**1 liter = 1.06 quarts**



## List the number of significant figures:

0.000000000001010 sec 4

267400 grams 4

121 apples  $\infty$

2.54 cm = 1 in  $\infty$

16.046 m 5

3,000 km 1

3,000. mg 4

0.000667 L 3

90.800 tons 5

35  $\infty$

35 mL 2

0.0500700 g 6

9.360 x 10<sup>4</sup> s 4

8,628,000 cm 4

499.00 mL 5

1 mL 1 cm  $\infty$



Round each of the following to 3 significant figures:

16.8498 L

16.8 L

5.63962 g

5.64 g

0.14992 L

0.150 L

861.652 kg

862 kg

$4.201 \times 10^4$  km

$4.20 \times 10^4$  km

$5.09819 \times 10^{-3}$  mm

$5.10 \times 10^{-3}$  mm

0.00318787 m

0.00319 m

0.09025091 cm<sup>3</sup>

0.0903 cm<sup>3</sup>



Mercury has a density of 13.6 g / mL. What volume will 300.0 g occupy?

$$300.0 \text{ g} \times \frac{1 \text{ mL}}{13.6 \text{ g}} = 22.1 \text{ mL}$$



Calculate the following:

$$\frac{345.67 \text{ g}}{2.23 \text{ mL}} = 155.009 \rightarrow 155 \text{ g/mL}$$



$$4.4546 \text{ m} \times 2.432 \text{ m} = 10.83336 \rightarrow 10.83 \text{ m}^2$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 12.945 \text{ g} \\ 1.01 \text{ g} \\ + 123.209 \text{ g} \\ \hline 137.164 \rightarrow 137.16 \text{ g} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 234.567 \text{ mL} \\ - 1.0 \text{ mL} \\ \hline 233.567 \rightarrow 233.6 \text{ mL} \end{array}$$

$$107.40 \text{ g} - 98.107.40 \text{ g} = 9.292 \text{ g} \rightarrow 9.29 \text{ g}$$

$$6.248 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m} + 9.342 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m} = 9.967 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}$$

$$85 \text{ mL} + 55.3 \text{ mL} = 140.3 \text{ mL} \rightarrow 140 \text{ mL}$$

$$8.0 \text{ g} \times 5.2 \text{ cm} = 41.6 \text{ g cm} \rightarrow 42 \text{ g cm}$$

