

Flipping Physics Lecture Notes: Introduction to Significant Figures with Examples

Significant Figures are a necessary part of any math based science. Significant Figures are the digits in your number that were actually measured plus one estimated digit.

Significant Figures Rules:

- 1) All nonzero digits are significant.
- 2) Zeros between significant digits are significant.
- 3) Zeros to the left of nonzero digits are not significant.
- 4) Zeroes at the end of a number are significant only if they are to the right of the decimal point.

Significant Figures Examples

Number	Significant Figures
70.2	3
0.045	2
70.0	3
4.7	2
100	1
706	3
400.0	4
0.002	1
0.0020	2
0.002047	4
1.0	2
104,020	5
1.20×10^3 (illustrating 1200 with 3 sig figs)	3
2.00×10^{-3} (illustrating 0.002 with 3 sig figs)	3