

Significant Digits (aka Significant Figures)

Significant digits are the meaningful digits in a measured quantity.

Digits that are always significant :

- 1) Non-zero digits Ex: 1, 2, 3, 4, etc...
- 2) zeroes between 2 sig figs

$209 = 3 \text{ sig. fig.}$ $290 = 2 \text{ sig. fig.}$

- 3) zeroes after a non-zero digit and to the right of a decimal pt.

0.2400	0.0024
4 s.f.	2 s.f.

Digits that are never significant :

- 1) zeroes that are place holders
- 0.039050 5 significant digits

- 2) Final zeroes in a number that does not have a decimal point.

$74,000$ - 2 s.f.
 $74,000.$ - 5 s.f.