

Significant Figures

All numbers except zero are always significant.

Ex. 455 **3SF**

Zeros sandwiched between non-zero digits are always significant. Ex. 5007 **4SF**

Zeros that come before all non-zero digits are never significant. Ex. 0.0036 **2 SF**

Zeros that come after nonzero digits:

Look for the decimal point

83000

83000.

83.000

decimal pt.

decimal pt.

2 SF

5 SF

5SF

Use the least precise decimal place (fewest number of decimal places) when adding and subtracting. EX. $32.145 + 7.33 = 39.475 =$ **39.48**

Always use the lowest number of significant figures when multiplying or dividing. Ex.

$(43,000)(0.00038974) = 16.75882 =$ **17**