

Rules for Significant Figures

1. A number is a <u>significant figure</u> if it is	Example:	Number of significant figures
a. not a zero	4.5 g	2
	122.35 kg	5
b. a zero between nonzero digits	205 m	3
	5.082 kg	4
c. a zero at the end of a decimal number	50. L	2
	25.0 °C	3
	16.00 g	4
d. any digit in the coefficient of a number written in scientific notation.	5.70 x 10 ⁻³ g	3
2. A zero is NOT a significant figure if it is	Example:	Number of significant figures
a. at the beginning of a decimal number	0.0004 lb	1
	0.075	2
b. used as a placeholder in a number without a decimal	850,000 m	2
	1,250,000 g	3

Significant Figures do not apply to Exact Numbers.