

Rules for determining significant figures involving zeros.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. All nonzero digits are significant. | Examples: <u>438</u> has 3
<u>26.42</u> has 4
<u>0.653</u> has 3 |
| 2. All zeros between two nonzero digits are significant. | <u>506</u> has 3
<u>10050</u> has 4
<u>900.43</u> has 5 |
| 3. Zeros to the right of a nonzero digit, but to the left of an understood decimal point, are not significant. If such zeros are known to have been measured, however, they are significant and should be specified as such by inserting a decimal point to the right of the zero. | <u>4850</u> has 3
<u>60</u> has 1
<u>60.</u> has 2
<u>4850.</u> has 4 |
| 4. In numbers less than one, zeros to the right of a decimal point that are to the left of the first non-zero digit are never significant. They are simply placeholders. | 0.06 has 1
0.00 <u>47</u> has 2
0.00 <u>5</u> has 1 |
| 5. In numbers less than 1, the zero to the left of the decimal is never significant. It is there to make sure the decimal point is not overlooked | 0. <u>8</u> has 1 |
| 6. All zeros to the right of a decimal point and to the right of a nonzero digit are significant. | <u>8.0</u> has 2
<u>16.40</u> has 4
<u>35.000</u> has 5 |