Rules for Significant Figures

1. All nonzero digits are significant

   438 has 3   26.42 has 4

2. All zeros between two nonzero digits are significant

   506 has 3   10050 has 4   900.43 has 5

Rules for Significant Figures (cont).

3. Zeros to the right of a nonzero digit, but to the left of an understood decimal point, are not significant.

   4850 has 3   60 has 1 60. has 2

Rules for Significant Figures (cont).

4. In numbers less that 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   0.0047 has 2

Rules for Significant Figures (cont).

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

    0.8 has 1

Rules for Significant Figures (cont).

6. All zeros to the right of a decimal point and to the right of a nonzero digit are significant.

   8.0 has 2   16.40 has 4

   35.000 has 5