

Sig Fig Rules

When
reporting
a meas.
quantity
only

- 1) all non-zero numbers
(ex: 1-9) are significant
- 2) captive zeros are significant
(ex: 105) (ex: 100.)
- 3) trailing zeros are significant
(ex: .100)
- 4) Place holder zeros are not
significant (ex: .015, 100)

Counted
numbers

have an infinite # of sig
figs.

Add/Subtract
*(Do out of
sc. not.)

- The answer can't be more
accurate than the measurements
being added or subtracted.
- Go by placement of the
decimal

ex:

$$\begin{array}{r} 35.61 \text{ cm} \\ + 2.1 \text{ cm} \\ \hline 37.7 \text{ cm} \end{array}$$

last place in
common

multiplication
Division

- answer depends on the # of sig figs in each factor
- round to the least amt.

ex: $(2.3) \cdot (3.72) = 8.6$
(2) (3) (2)

* round to 2 digits