

# Presentation 1.2

## Scientific Measurement

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# Scientific Measurement

- Qualitative Measurements –

- Observations that are recorded in a descriptive (nonnumerical) form.

- Quantitative Measurements –

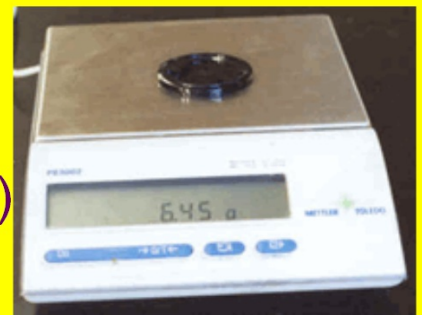
- Measurements that are recorded using numbers and units.



# Units of Measurement

- Quantity – Something that has magnitude or size.
- Unit –
  - The standard used to measure a quantity.
  - Examples?

- SI –
  - International System of units (metric)
- SI units



Quantity

Symbol

Unit

Abbreviation

Length

Mass

Time

Temperature

Amount of  
Substance

Electric Current

Luminous  
Intensity

I  
+  
m

I<sub>v</sub>  
n

T  
,

mole meter kilogram  
kelvin candela ampere  
second

cd m kg  
A K s  
mol

# SI Metric Prefixes

Prefix	Abbrev.	Multiplier	Meaning	Example
Giga-				
Mega-				
Kilo-				
(Base unit)				
<u>Deci-</u>				
<u>Centi-</u>				
<u>Milli-</u>				
Micro-				
<u>Nano-</u>				
Pico-				
<u>Femto-</u>				

# SI Metric Prefixes

Prefix	Abbrev.	Multiplier	Meaning	Example
Giga-	G	$10^9$	1 000 000 000	1 Giga meter (Gm) = $1 \times 10^9$ m
Mega-	M	$10^6$	1 000 000	1 Mega meter (Mm) = $1 \times 10^6$ m
Kilo-	k	$10^3$	1 000	1 kilo meter (km) = $1 \times 10^3$ m
(Base unit)		$10^0$	1	1 meter (m)
Deci-	d	$10^{-1}$	0.1	1 decimeter (dm) = 0.1 m
Centi-	c	$10^{-2}$	0.01	1 centimeter (cm) = 0.01 m
Milli-	m	$10^{-3}$	0.001	1 millimeter (mm) = 0.001 m
Micro-	$\mu$	$10^{-6}$	0.000 001	1 micrometer ( $\mu$ m) = $1 \times 10^{-6}$ m
Nano-	n	$10^{-9}$	0.000 000 001	1 nanometer (nm) = $1 \times 10^{-9}$ m
Pico-	p	$10^{-12}$	0.000 000 000 001	1 picometer (pm) = $1 \times 10^{-12}$ m
Femto-	f	$10^{-15}$	0.000 000 000 000 001	1 femtometer (fm) = $1 \times 10^{-15}$ m

# Scientific Notation

- A number between 1 and 10 multiplied by 10 raised to some power.

- If the power of 10 is positive, the number is greater than 10.

- If the power of 10 is negative, the number is less than 1.

- Examples – Write the following in scientific notation:

1. 24 900

4. 0.000 000 036 0

2. 0.000 56

5. 1 500 000 000 000

3. 375 000 000

6. 6.51



Write each of the following in standard notation:

1.  $5.07 \times 10^{-7}$

2.  $3.70 \times 10^4$



In a calculator,  $5.07 \times 10^{-7}$  would be entered as 5.07 EE (or EXP) -7.



# Significant Figures and Error

- Accuracy – Closeness of a measurement to the true value.
- Precision – Closeness of a series of measurements to one another. (alt. – the number of decimal places to which a measurement is read)



•% Error – A measure of accuracy:

$$\% \text{ error} = \frac{\text{experimental} - \text{theoretical}}{\text{theoretical}} \times 100$$

Example – If you measure the boiling point of ethanol to be 74.8°C, and the accepted boiling point is 78.4°C, what is your percent error?



•Significant Figures – A measure of precision of a single measurement.

– Discloses the number of digits that are actually part of the measurement (more sig figs mean more precision)

## What digits are significant?

–If it is only a placeholder, it is not significant.

1. All Non-Zero Digits are significant

2. All Zeros that come between nonzero digits are significant (ex: 4008)

3. Leading zeros are never significant (ex: 0.002)

4. Trailing zeros depend on decimal point:

–If there is a decimal point (written), trailing zeros are significant.

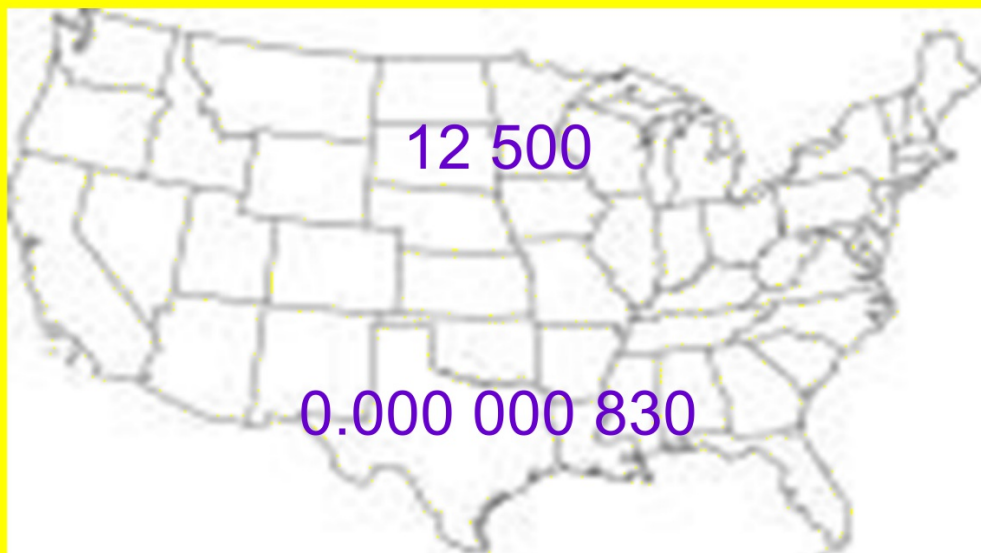
–If there is no decimal point, trailing zeros are only placeholders (not significant)

## Look for a Decimal Point



Moving from the proper side, skip all zeros until you get to the first non-zero digit. All remaining digits, including zeros, are significant.

- Scientific Notation – all digits are significant (eliminates ambiguity)
- ONLY APPLIES TO MEASUREMENTS – NOT COUNTING!!!



**Examples: How many significant figures are in each of the following?**

1. 52300 m
2. 0.000487 kg
3. 29.0400 s
4. 507 people
5. 230,050 cm
6. 45.600 A



**Examples: How many significant figures are in each of the following?**

1. 52300 m      3

2. 0.000487 kg      3

3. 29.0400 s      6

4. 507 people      ∞

5. 230,050 cm      5

6. 45.600 A      5

## Significant figures in calculations

- Multiplication and division: Round the answer to the number of significant figures in the measurement that has the least significant figures.

–Examples:

$$134.92 \text{ mL} \times 2.7 \text{ g/mL}$$

$$2334.88765 \text{ m} \div 35.1 \text{ s}$$



## Significant figures in calculations

• Multiplication and division: Round the answer to the number of significant figures in the measurement that has the least significant figures.

– Examples:

$$134.92 \text{ mL} \times 2.7 \text{ g/mL}$$

94 g

$$2334.88765 \text{ m} \div 35.1 \text{ s}$$

9.54 m/s

- Addition and Subtraction – Answer is rounded off to the decimal place where the least precise measurement ends.

- Example

$$\begin{array}{r} 13.462 \text{ g} \\ - 11.7 \text{ g} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

• Addition and Subtraction – Answer is rounded off to the decimal place where the least precise measurement ends.

• Example

$$\begin{array}{r} 13.462 \text{ g} \\ - 11.7 \text{ g} \\ \hline 1.8 \text{ g} \end{array}$$

**STOP!!!!**

**Program will crash  
if you advance!**



- C-1.1 - Apply established rules for significant digits, both in reading a scientific instrument and in calculating a derived quantity from measurement.
- C-1.3 - Use scientific instruments to record measurement data in appropriate metric units that reflect the precision and accuracy of each particular instrument.
- Identify fundamental SI (metric) base units.
- Identify and apply metric prefixes.
- Express numbers in standard and scientific notation.