

ACT'ng on Numbers - Labeling the digits in a number to determin # of Sig Figs  
Acting Rules of **Counting** Significant Figures (Sig Figs or SF)

1. **A** ALL non-zero digits in a number are significant.
2. **C** Captive zeros - zeros located between nonzero digits are significant.
3. **T** Trailing zeros - zero at the end of a number **having a decimal point** are significant
4. **ng** Leading zeros - zeros that serve only to locate the position of the decimal point. 'no good' Place holder preceding are NOT significant.

	# of Sig Figs
a. 800003	6 total
b. 1.21	
c. 149700 "assume"	
d. 14.000	5 total
e. 0.03995	
f. 9.999 x 10 <sup>0</sup>	.

Examples of ACT'ng :

800003                      14.000  
ACCCCA                      AATTT

See if you can ACT on these giving ACT labels:

14.000                      149700

0.3995                      9.999 x 10<sup>3</sup>

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a. 800003	6 total
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c. 149700 "assume"	
d. 14.000	
e. 0.03995	
f. 9.999 x 10 <sup>0</sup>	.

Examples of ACT!'ng :

800003                      14.000  
ACCCCA                      AATTT

See if you can ACT on these giving ACT labels:

14.000                      149700  
AATTT                      AAAA<sup>ngng</sup>

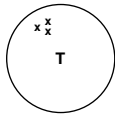
0.03995                      9.999 x 10<sup>3</sup>  
<sup>ngng</sup>AAAA                      AAAA    exponent is exactly

...and measurements will have to be made!!!!

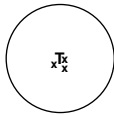
Measurements - a system or way of gathering numerical values—size, extent, quantity, dimension—using a measuring device.

- A. Accuracy: the degree to which a measured value is close to the true value.
- B. Precision: the degree to which a "set" of measured values agree with each other.

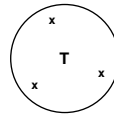
Compare the weighed average of the "x's" to the value "T" which represents the true value. Decide which of the measurement is accurate, precise, both accurate and precise or neither.



precise  
but  
inaccurate



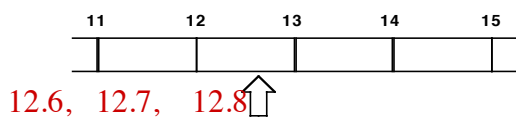
precise &  
accurate



**inaccurate** but by  
chance; the result  
of the average of  
the three x's  
will be accurate

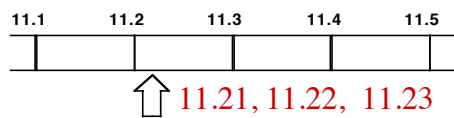
supplemental HO 19

## D. Measured Values & Significant Figures (with certainty):



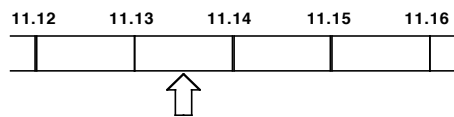
reading =  $12.7 \pm 0.1$

-----  
least reliable scale  
highest uncertainty



reading =  $11.22 \pm 0.01$

-----  
more reliable scale  
lower uncertainty



reading =  $11.135 \pm 0.001$

-----  
most reliable scale  
least uncertainty