## Measured Values and Significant Figures <br> Dr. Gergens - SD Mesa College

- Goals:
- Metric prefixes (k, c, m)
- Exponential notation ( $\mathrm{N} \cdot 10^{\mathrm{x}}$ )
- Handling "uncertainty in numbers"
- Significant Figures
- Measurements 1 in $=\ldots \mathrm{cm} ; 1 \mathrm{qt}=\ldots \mathrm{L} ; 1 \mathrm{lb}=\ldots \mathrm{g}$
- Dimensional Analysis
....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 weigthed 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

## A. Metric Prefixes

| PREFIX | SYMBOL | DECIMAL EQUIVALENT | POWER OF BASE 10 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| mega |  |  |  |
| kilo | 1 k | 1000 | $10^{3}$ or E 3 |
| deci | 1 |  | I |
| centi | ${ }_{1} \mathrm{c}$ | 0.01 | $\mathrm{c}=$ ? ? ? |
| milli | Im | 0.001 | 10-s or E-3 । |
| micro | ---- | ----- | ----- |
| nano |  | ly memor | these |
| $10=10^{1}=\mathrm{E} 1$ |  |  |  |
| $10^{1} \cdot 10^{1} \cdot 10^{1}=1000=\mathrm{E} 3$ |  |  |  |

$\frac{1}{10^{1}} \cdot \frac{1}{10^{1}} \cdot \frac{1}{10^{1}}=\frac{1}{1000}=0.001=\mathrm{E}-3$
supplemental HO 18

## B. Scientific (Exponential)

- Notation Form - a short hand device used for expressing very large numbers or very small numbers. Extra help is usually given in the back of your book in the appendix

N x $10^{x}$
$\mathrm{N}=$ a number between 1 and 10

8069 using scientific (exponential) notation
8069 can be written as $8.069 \times 10^{3}$ or 8.069 E 3

## A closer look at moving the decimal point

80.6.9. can be written as $8.069 \times 10^{3}$ or 8.069 E 3

Moving the decimal to the left affords a positive E value
$806.9 \times 10^{1} \quad 806.9$ E 1
$80.69 \times 10^{2} \quad 80.69$ E 2
$8.069 \times 10^{3} \quad 8.069 \mathrm{E} 3$
supplemental HO 18
C. Multiplication of Exponents

- $\left(\mathrm{M} \mathrm{x} 10^{\mathrm{m}}\right)\left(\mathrm{N} \times 10^{\mathrm{n}}\right)=(\mathrm{MN}) \times 10^{\mathrm{m}+\mathrm{n}}$
- $\left(5 \times 10^{5}\right)\left(9 \times 10^{8}\right)=(5) \cdot(9) \times 10^{5+8}$

$$
=45_{i} \times 10^{13} \text { or } 4.5 \times 10^{14}
$$

- $\left(5 \times 10^{5}\right)\left(9 \times 10^{-8}\right)=(5) \bullet(9) \times 10^{5-8}$

$$
=45 . \times 10^{-3} \text { or } 4.5 \times 10^{-2}
$$

## C. Measured Values And Significant Figures:


reading $=12.7 \pm 0.1$
12.6, 12.7, 12.8乌

reading $=11.135 \pm 0.001$
most reliable scale least uncertainty
highest uncertainty
reading $=11.22 \pm 0.01$
more reliable scale lower uncertainty
least reliable scale

How then do we go about citing degree of confidence in a measurement?

We will do this by describing measurements in terms of significant figures.

Thus we will need to memorize the rules for significant figures.

## Rules of Counting Significant Figures 8069 has a total of four significant figures

1. ALL non-zero digits in a number are significant.

8069 8, 6, 9 are significant
2. Captive zeros - zeros located between nonzero digits are significant.

80690 is significant
3. Trailing zeros - zero at the end of a number having a decimal point are significant
there are none
4. Leading zeros - zeros that serve only to locate the position of the decimal point. Place holder preceding are NOT significant.
there are none

## Rules of Counting Significant Figures

2.54 has a total of three significant figures

1. ALL non-zero digits in a number are significant.
2.54 the 2, 5, 4 are significant
2. Captive zeros - zeros located between nonzero digits are significant.
there are none
3. Trailing zeros - zero at the end of a number having a decimal point are significant
there are none
4. Leading zeros - zeros that serve only to locate the position of the decimal point. Place holder preceding are NOT significant.
there are none

## Rules of Counting Significant Figures

10.21 has a total of four significant figures

1. ALL non-zero digits in a number are significant.

$$
10.21 \quad 1,2,1 \text { are significant }
$$

2. Captive zeros - zeros located between nonzero digits are significant.

### 10.210 is significant

3. Trailing zeros - zero at the end of a number having a decimal point are significant
there are none
4. Leading zeros - zeros that serve only to locate the position of the decimal point. Place holder preceding are NOT significant.
there are none

5. ALL non-zero digits in a number are significant. 10000 the 1 is significant
6. Captive zeros - zeros located between nonzero digits are significant. there are none
7. Trailing zeros - zero at the end of a number having a decimal point are significant
None; the number doesn't have a decimal pt
8. Leading zeros - zeros that serve only to locate the position of the decimal point. Place holder preceding are NOT significant. None
supplemental HO 19

## Rules of Counting Significant Figures

$8.00 \times 10^{-3}$ has a total of three significant figures

1. ALL non-zero digits in a number are significant. $8.00 \times 10^{-3}$ the 8 is significant
2. Captive zeros - zeros located between nonzero digits are significant. there are none
3. Trailing zeros - zero at the end of a number having a decimal point are significant the two 0's after the decimal are significant
4. Leading zeros - zeros that serve only to locate the position of the decimal point. Place holder preceding are NOT significant.
None

## Rules of Counting Significant Figures

| 1 is definitely exact |  | 12 is exact as defined by |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 is definitely exact |  | this equivalence statement |

$1 \mathrm{in}=2.54 \mathrm{~cm}$
These are exact numbers. Exact numbers are not limited to a given number of sig figs.

Exact numbers have an infinite number of significant figures
12.000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
1.0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000

| Let's Check Our Work |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \# of Sig <br> Figs | exponential notation | round off to 3 sig figs |  |
| a. 800003 | 6 | $8.00003 \times 10^{5}$ | $8.00 \times 10^{5}$ |
| b. 1.21 | 3 | $1.21 \times 10^{0}$ | $1.21 \times 10^{0}$ |
| c. 149700 "assume' | 4 | $1.497 \times 10^{5}$ | $1.50 \times 10^{5}$ |
| d. 14.000 | 5 | $1.4000 \times 10^{1}$ | $1.40 \times 10^{1}$ |
| e. 0.03995 | 4 | $3.995 \times 10^{-2}$ | $4.00 \times 10^{-2}$ |
| f. $9.999 \times 10^{3}$ | 4 | $9.999 \times 10^{3}$ | $10.0 \times 10^{3}=1.00 \times 10^{4}$ |


| Let's Check Our Work |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - |  |  |  |
| measurement | exponential notation | fundamental unit | Sig Figs |
| a. 7070.0 mg | $7.0700 \times 10^{3} \mathrm{mg}$ | 7.0700 g | 5 |
| b. 10.21 nm | $1.021 \times 10^{1} \mathrm{~nm}$ | $1.021 \times 10^{-8} \mathrm{~m}$ | 4 |
| c. 1497.00 ds | $1.49700 \times 10^{3} \mathrm{ds}$ | $1.49700 \times 10^{2} \mathrm{~s}$ | 6 |
| d. 14.000 cL | $1.4000 \times 10^{1} \mathrm{cL}$ | $1.4000 \times 10^{-1} \mathrm{~L}$ | 5 |
| e. $0.03995 \mu \mathrm{~L}$ | $3.995 \times 10^{-2} \mu \mathrm{~L}$ | $3.995 \times 10^{-8} \mathrm{~L}$ | 4 |
| f. 0.0009999 Mg | $9.999 \times 10^{-4} \mathrm{Mg}$ | $9.999 \times 10^{2} \mathrm{~g}$ | 4 |



## Handling Sig Figs when doing math

When multiplying or dividing, the number of significant figures in the result cannot exceed the least known number of significant figures in the problem.


## Handling Sig Figs when doing math

For addition and substraction, the final answer should be rounded off to the first "common place"


For addition and substration - the limiting term in the measurement will be the smallest number of digits past the decimal place

supplemental HO 21

## Factor Label Method

The basic idea is that multiplying a quantity times a fraction (or several fractions) that equal one does not change the value of the quantity but may change the units that express the quantity.
Based on the following mathematical principles:

1. Multiplying any quantity by 1 does not change its value:

2. Dividing any quantity by itself is equal to 1.
$\frac{4}{4}=1 \quad \frac{3 \text { apples }}{3 \text { apples }}=1 \quad \frac{\mathrm{z} \mathrm{cm}}{\mathrm{Z} \mathrm{cm}}=1$
3. Any two quantities that are equal to one another, when made into a fraction give 1.

$$
4=4 \therefore 4 / 4=1 \quad 1 \text { foot }=12 \text { inches } \therefore \frac{1 \text { foot }}{12 \text { inches }}=1 \text { and } \frac{12 \text { inches }}{1 \text { foot }}=1
$$

## Writing metric equivalent statements:

1. Always make the metric prefix equal to the numerical value of the fundamental unit:

2. The above equivalent statements can lead to either of two conversion
factors:
$\frac{1 \mathrm{~kg}}{10^{3} \mathrm{~g}}$ or $\frac{10^{3} \mathrm{~g}}{1 \mathrm{~kg}} \quad \frac{1 \mathrm{mg}}{10^{-3} \mathrm{~g}}$ or $\frac{10^{-3} \mathrm{~g}}{1 \mathrm{mg}}$
3. Which conversion factor shall we use? The one that cancels the unwanted labels (units) and gives the desired label.
Example: Convert 50 grams to milligrams: $x \mathrm{~kg}=50 \mathrm{~g}$
$x \mathrm{~kg}=50 \mathrm{~g} \times \frac{1 \mathrm{~kg}}{10^{3} \mathrm{~g}}=5 \times 10^{-2} \mathrm{~kg} \quad$ NOT $\quad x \mathrm{~kg}=50 \mathrm{~g} \times \frac{10^{3} \mathrm{~g}}{1 \mathrm{~kg}}=5 \times 10^{4} \frac{\mathrm{~g}^{2}}{1 \mathrm{~kg}}$

## Charlie Brown Handơulemental Ho 22

- Applying sigfigs and metric conversion


## CARTOON CORNER

Discussion questions

1. The referee is really upset with the metric system. What length of race was he anticipating?
2. Complete the equivalent statement 1 mile $=1.6093$ kilometers
3. a. What is the distance of a $10-\mathrm{K}$ run in miles?
b. What is this distance in feet?

$$
\text { 10. } \mathrm{km} \times \frac{1 \mathrm{mile}}{1.6093 \mathrm{~km}}=6.2 \text { miles }
$$

4. If a runner is capable of running a five minute mile,
a. how many miles can he travel in one hour?
b. What is this speed in idiometers per hour?
$\frac{1 \text { mile }}{5 \min } \times \frac{60 \text { min }}{1 \text { hour }}=\frac{12 \text { miles }}{1 \text { hour }} \times$
IN THE BLEACHERS By Steve Mocre


"Wait, woitt! We might have a problem here . . blast this metric system!"
$\frac{1.6093 \mathrm{~km}}{1 \text { mile }}=19 \mathrm{~km}$


## supplemental HO 23 <br> Conversions

1. How many centimeters is equal to 45.7 mm? We could write this mathematically as, ????? $\mathrm{cm}=45.7 \mathrm{~mm}$

We begin by writing down what we know. We know that $1 \mathrm{~mm}=10^{-3} \mathrm{~m}$ and $1 \mathrm{~cm}=10^{-2} \mathrm{~m}$. $\quad 1 \mathrm{~cm}=10^{-2} \mathrm{~m}$
factor labels

Arrange the factor-label labels so units will cancel.
???? $\mathrm{cm}=45.7 \mathrm{~mm} \times \frac{10^{-3} \mathrm{~m}}{1 \mathrm{~mm}} \times \frac{1 \mathrm{~cm}}{10^{-2} \mathrm{~m}}=4.57 \mathrm{~cm}$



