

## COMBINATION OF ERRORS

### Sum or Difference

$$A = A \pm \Delta A$$

$$B = B \pm \Delta B$$

$$Z = A + B ; \text{ find error in } Z$$

given  $\Delta A, \Delta B$

$$\begin{aligned}Z \pm \Delta Z &= (A \pm \Delta A) + (B \pm \Delta B) \\ &= \cancel{A+B} (A+B) \pm (\Delta A) \\ &\quad \pm (\Delta B)\end{aligned}$$

$$\Delta Z = \Delta A + \Delta B$$

Subtraction  $Z = A - B$

$$\begin{aligned}Z \pm \Delta Z &= (A \pm \Delta A) - (B \pm \Delta B) \\ &= (A - B) \pm \Delta A \pm \Delta B\end{aligned}$$



$\pm \Delta A \pm \Delta B$   
→ maximum error

$$\Delta A + \Delta B$$

$$Z = A - B$$

$$\Delta Z = \Delta A + \Delta B$$

## Product or Quotient

$$Z = \frac{A}{B} \quad \text{or} \quad A \times B$$

$$Z = AB$$

$$Z \pm \Delta Z = (A \pm \Delta A)(B \pm \Delta B)$$

$$Z \pm \Delta Z = (AB) \pm \Delta A B \pm \Delta B A \pm \Delta A \Delta B$$

Divide by Z

$$1 \pm \frac{\Delta Z}{Z} = 1 \pm \frac{\Delta A}{A} \pm \frac{\Delta B}{B} \pm \frac{\Delta A \Delta B}{AB}$$

a)  $\pm \rightarrow +$

b)  $(\Delta A \Delta B) \rightarrow$  neglect  
product of 2 small quantities

$$\frac{\Delta Z}{Z} = \frac{\Delta A}{A} + \frac{\Delta B}{B}$$

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$$Z = \frac{A}{B}$$

$$\frac{\Delta Z}{Z} = \frac{\Delta A}{A} + \frac{\Delta B}{B}$$

$$Z = \frac{A^n}{B^m}$$

$$\frac{\Delta Z}{Z} = \pm \left( n \frac{\Delta A}{A} + m \frac{\Delta B}{B} \right)$$



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$$\frac{\Delta Z}{Z} = \pm \left( n \frac{\Delta A}{A} + m \frac{\Delta B}{B} \right)$$

$$\% \text{ error in } Z = n (\% \text{ error in } A) + m (\% \text{ error in } B)$$

$$H = I^2 R t$$

$I$  is current  
 $R$  is resistance

$t$  is time

$H \rightarrow$  Heat generated

Error in measurements of  $I$ ,  $R$  and  $t$   
are  $2\%$ ,  $3\%$  and  $1\%$ .

Find relative error in measurement of  $H$ ?

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$$H = I^2 R t$$

$I$  is current  
 $R$  is resistance

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$H \rightarrow$  Heat generated

Error in measurements of  $I$ ,  $R$  and  $t$   
are 2%, 3% and 1%.

Find relative error in measurement of  $H$ ?

$$\frac{\Delta H}{H} = 2 \frac{\Delta I}{I} + \frac{\Delta R}{R} + \frac{\Delta t}{t}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\Delta H}{H} \times 100\% &= 2 \frac{\Delta I}{I} \times 100\% + \frac{\Delta R}{R} \times 100\% \\ &\quad + \frac{\Delta t}{t} \times 100\% \\ &= 2 \times 2\% + 3\% + 1\% \\ &= 8\%\end{aligned}$$

error in  $\Delta H = (\text{in } \%) = \pm 8\%$ .

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## Significant figures

Whenever any measurement is reported the uncertainty in the measurement is in the last digit.

$$\text{Time period} = 1.62 \text{ s}$$

1 & 6 are reliable digits  
2  $\rightarrow$  uncertainty

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## Significant figures

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$$\text{Time period} = 1.62 \text{ s}$$

1 & 6 are reliable digits

2  $\rightarrow$  uncertainty

1.62 s  $\rightarrow$  correct with 3 significant figures

1.62  $\rightarrow$  3 significant digits

287.5 cm      4 significant digits

Significant digits indicate the precision of an instrument which depends on the least count.

Choice of different units should not affect the number of significant digits.

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$2.308 \text{ cm} \rightarrow 4 \text{ significant digits}$   
 $23.08 \text{ mm}$   
 $0.02308 \text{ m}$

### Rules

- 1) All non zero digits are significant
- 2) Zeros between 2 non zero digits are significant irrespective of decimal part.

3) If number is less than 1

0. --- ---

Zeros to the right of decimal point  
but to the left of 1<sup>st</sup> non zero digit  
are not significant.

0.00238      3 significant

0

4) If full number (no decimal point)  
trailing zeros are not significant

123 m  $\leftarrow$  3 significant digits

12300 cm

$\downarrow$  not be counted in  
significant digits



5) If number with decimal point

e.g. 3.500 ← # of sig. digits = 4

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e.g. 3.500 ← # of sig. digits = 4

Report the number in scientific notation powers of 10

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number expressed as

$$a \times 10^b \longleftarrow \begin{matrix} \text{exponent} \\ \text{+ve or -ve} \end{matrix}$$

a is between 1 and 10

**ORDER**

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number expressed as  
 $a \times 10^b$   $\leftarrow$  exponent  
+ve or -ve

a is between 1 and 10

### ORDER OF MAGNITUDE

express scientific notation

$a \times 10^b$  if  $1 \leq a \leq 5$

order of magnitude =  $10^b$

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ORDER OF MAGNITUDE

$a \times 10^b$  if  $1 \leq a \leq 5$

$\approx 10^b$  round it off to 1

$b$  is called order of magnitude.

$5 \leq a \leq 10 \rightarrow$  round off to the next digit

$10^{(b+1)}$   $\rightarrow$   $(b+1)$  is called the order of magnitude



$$1.28 \times 10^7 \text{ m}$$

order of mag  $\sim 10^7 \text{ m}$

Diameter of Hydrogen atom

$$1.06 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}$$

order of magnitude  $\sim 10^{-10} \text{ m}$



Formulas

Constants

for eg. Diameter = 2 × radius

↑  
exact

∞ significant

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## Rules for operations

Final result cannot be more accurate than the original measured values.

$$\text{eg. density} = \frac{\text{mass}}{\text{volume}} = \frac{4.237 \text{ gms}}{2.51 \text{ cm}^3}$$

$$\text{density} = 1.68804780876 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{cm}^3}$$

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## Multiplication or Division

Final result should retain as many significant figures as are there in original number with least significant digits.

$$m = 4.2379$$
$$V = 2.51 \text{ cm}^3$$

↑ 3

density → 3 sig. digits

Multiplication

Final result should retain as many significant figures as are there in original number with least significant digits.

$m = 4.2379$  (4 sig. digits)  
 $V = 2.51 \text{ cm}^3$  (3 sig. digits)

density  $\rightarrow$  3 sig. digits  
 $= 1.699 \text{ gm/cm}^3$

## ② Addition or Subtraction

Final result retain as many decimal places as one there in the number with least decimal places.

$$\begin{array}{r} 436.329 \\ 227.29 \\ 0.3019 \\ \hline 663.8219 \end{array}$$

$$663.89$$

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ROUNDING OFF  
obvious rules

2.746      3 significant figures

↑

2.75

↙

2.743      ← 2.74

if

Preceding digit is raised by 1  
if the digit to be dropped is  
bigger than 5

left unchanged if the digit to  
be dropped is less than 5.

2.745 ← 3 sig. digits

If the digit to be dropped is 5, then if the preceding digit

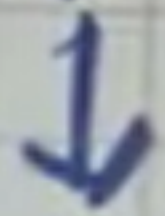
is even, drop 5. → 2.74

If the preceding digit is odd, add 1.

eg. 2.735 → 2.74

2.7351

up to 3 significant  
digits



2.74

51

2.7451

← 3 significant  
digits

2.75

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} L = 16.2 \text{ cm} \\ B = 10.1 \text{ cm} \end{array} \right\} \text{Area}$$
$$163.62 \text{ cm}^2$$

$$L = 16.2 \pm 0.1 \text{ cm}$$

$$B = 10.1 \pm 0.1 \text{ cm}$$

$$A = (16.2 \pm 0.1)(10.1 \pm 0.1) \text{ cm}^2$$





$$L = 16.2 \pm 0.1 \text{ cm}$$

$$\Delta L = 0.1 \text{ cm}$$

$$\frac{\Delta L}{L} = \frac{0.1}{16.2} \times 100 \% = 0.6 \%$$

$$\frac{\Delta B}{B} = \frac{0.1}{10.1} \times 100 \% = 1 \%$$

$$A = LB ; \quad \frac{\Delta A}{A} = \frac{\Delta L}{L} + \frac{\Delta B}{B}$$

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$$\left(\frac{\Delta A}{A}\right)\% = 0.6\% + 1\%$$
$$= 1.6\%$$

$$\Delta A = \frac{1.6}{100} \times A$$

$$A = 16.2 \text{ NO.1}$$

$$A = 163.62 \text{ cm}^2 \pm 1.6\%$$

$$\left(\frac{\Delta A}{A}\right)\% = 0.6\% + 1\%$$
$$= 1.6\%$$

$$\Delta A = \frac{1.6}{100} \times A$$

$$A = 16.2 \times 10.1$$

$$A = 163.62 \text{ cm}^2 \pm 1.6\%$$
$$= 164 \text{ cm}^2$$

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$$\left(\frac{\Delta A}{A}\right)\% = 0.6\% + 1\% \\ = 1.6\%$$

$$\Delta A = \frac{1.6}{100} \times A$$

$$A = 16.2 \text{ NO. 1}$$

$$A = 163.62 \text{ cm}^2 \pm 1.6\% \leftarrow 2.6 \text{ cm} \\ = 164 \text{ cm}^2 \pm 3 \text{ cm}^2$$

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## Relative error:

depends not only on the number of significant digits but also on the number.

$$1.029 \pm 0.019$$

$$\text{rel. error} = \frac{0.01}{1.02}$$

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$$9.899 \pm 0.01 \text{ g}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{relative error} &= \frac{0.01}{9.89} \times 100 \% \\ &= 0.1 \% \end{aligned}$$

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54:01 / 55:25





$$9.899 \pm 0.019$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{relative error} &= \frac{0.01}{9.89} \times 100 \% \\ &= 0.1 \% \end{aligned}$$

multiple step calculations

intermediate steps we retain 1  
extra digit

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