

Significant Figures

Rules for Counting Sig. Fig.

1. All non-zero digits are significant

✓✓✓
597 (3)

2. Zeros

a) zeros between non-zero digits are significant

Ex. 507 (3)

5007 (4)

b) leading zeros are not significant

Ex. 0.00004 (1)

c) Trailing zeros to the right of a number are significant **if the number has a decimal point**. If the number ends in zero and has no decimal point, we assume that the trailing zeros are not significant.

Ex. 480.0 (4 sig figs)

Ex. 4800 (2 sig figs)

How many significant figures in the following?

a) 38.4703 mL - 6 sig. figs

b) 0.0052 g - 2 sig. figs

c) 0.05700 s - 4 sig. figs

d) 6.19×10^8 years - 3 sig. figs

Significant Figures and Calculations

1. Multiplication and Division

The result of the operation is reported as having **as many significant figures as the measurement with the fewest significant figures**

$$\text{Ex. } \underset{4}{(6.221 \text{ cm})} \times \underset{2}{(5.2 \text{ cm})} = 32 \text{ cm}^2 \quad \begin{array}{c} 32.3492 \\ \text{---} \\ \uparrow \end{array}$$

2. Addition and Subtraction

The result of the operation is reported to the **same number of decimal places as that of the term with the least number of decimal places**

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Ex. } 20.4 \\ 1.322 \\ + 83 \end{array}$$

Measuring Matter

All forms of matter are normally measured by count, mass or volume.

Mole (mol) - SI unit for measuring the amount of a substance
A mole of any substance contains 6.02×10^{23} representative particles. (atoms, molecules)

6.02×10^{23} is referred to as **Avagadro's number**

Representative particles refers to the species present in a substance, usually atoms, molecules or formula units.

atom
Fe

molecule
O₂

molecule
NaCl

Ex. one mole of atoms = 6.02×10^{23} atoms

one mole of molecules = 6.02×10^{23} molecules

Converting Number of Particles to Moles

0.000002658

Ex. How many moles are found in 1.60×10^{18} atoms of silicon?

$$1.60 \times 10^{18} \text{ atoms Si} \times \frac{1 \text{ mol Si}}{6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ atoms Si}} = 2.66 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol Si}$$

$$0.00000266 \text{ mol Si}$$

$$\text{moles} = \text{representative particles} \times \frac{1 \text{ mole}}{6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ representative particles}}$$

$$\boxed{1.60} \boxed{\text{EXP}} \boxed{18} \boxed{\div} \boxed{6.02} \boxed{\text{EXP}} \boxed{23} \boxed{=} \\ \boxed{\text{EE}} \quad \quad \quad \boxed{\text{EE}}$$

$$1 \text{ hr} = 60 \text{ min}$$

$$2 \text{ hr} \times \frac{60 \text{ min}}{1 \text{ hr}} = 120 \text{ min}$$

$$4.4 \text{ hr} \times \frac{60 \text{ min}}{1 \text{ hr}} =$$

Converting Moles to Number of Particles

Ex. How many molecules are found in 3.40 mol of sugar?

$$3.40 \text{ mol } \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 \times \frac{6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ molecules } \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6}{1 \text{ mol } \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6} =$$

$$= 2.05 \times 10^{24} \text{ molecules } \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6$$

Ex. How many atoms are found in 4.17 mol of propane (C_3H_8)?

$$4.17 \text{ mol } \text{C}_3\text{H}_8 \times \frac{6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ molecules } \text{C}_3\text{H}_8}{1 \text{ mol } \text{C}_3\text{H}_8} \times \frac{11 \text{ atoms}}{1 \text{ molecules } \text{C}_3\text{H}_8}$$

$$= 2.76 \times 10^{25} \text{ atoms}$$

$$\text{representative particles} = \text{moles} \times \frac{6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ representative particles}}{1 \text{ mole}}$$

How many moles are in 2.14×10^{24} molecules of NO_2 ?

(3.55 mol)

How many atoms are in 8.08 moles of C_6H_{12} ?

(8.76×10^{25} atoms)