A given number may contain both significant and nonsignificant digits. The rules for determining which digits in a given number are significant are as follows.

RULE 1: All nonzero digits are significant.

Number	Significant Digits	Number of Significant Digits
487	4, 8, and 7	
65.211	6, 5, 2, 1, and 1	
12,345,678.54	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 5, and 4	
9,700	9 and 7	

RULE 2: Zeros in between nonzero digits are significant.

Number	Significant Digits	Number of Significant Digits
1,006	1, 0, 0, and 6	
2,309,005	2, 3, 0, 9, 0, 0, and 5	
51.0007	5, 1, 0, 0, 0, and 7	

RULE 3: Trailing zeros in a decimal are significant.

Number	Significant Digits	Number of Significant Digits
21.30	2, 1, 3, and 0	
798.00	7, 9, 8, 0, and 0	
40.0	4, 0, and 0	

Math Note

Trailing zeros are significant when there is a decimal point in the number.

RULE 4: **Zeros on the left of the first nonzero digit are NOT significant.**

Number	Significant Digits	Number of Significant Digits	Nonsignificant Digits
0.123	1, 2, and 3	3	
0.04	4	1	
0.060	6 and 0	2	
0.000385	3, 8, and 5	3	

RULE 5: **Trailing zeros in an integer may or may not be significant due to rounding.**

Number After Rounding	Rounded from 298	Significant Digits	Number of Significant Digits	Nonsignificant Digits
300	To the nearest 10	3 and 0	2	
300	To the nearest 100	3	1	

RULE 5 is applicable only wher rounding numbers.