

Multiplication and Division with Significant Figures

In operations involving multiplication, division and trigonometric functions, the answer must contain the same number of **significant figures** as the number with the fewest significant figures in the computation.

Ex:

$$2.60 \div 8.4 = 0.30952381 = 0.31$$

$$0.0025 \times 4227 \times 3.0 = 31.7025 = 32$$

$$101 \times 6 = 606 = 6 \times 10^2$$

$$(4.156 \times 10^3) \times (1.75 \times 10^2) = 7.273 \times 10^5 = 7.27 \times 10^5$$

$$\tan 60.5^\circ = 1.76749016..$$

$$= 1.77$$

Addition and subtraction: The result of an addition or subtraction must contain the same number of **decimal places** (not sig figs) as the number with the fewest decimal places in the calculation.

Ex:

$$12 + 3.6 = 15.6 = 16$$

$$4.75 + 9.1 = 13.85 = 13.9$$

$$26.88 - 12.379 = 14.501 = 14.50$$