# Significant Figures

(Pacific/Atlantic Method)

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# In words:

- Rule #1:  All non-zero digits are significant

- Rule #2:  Zeros in front of a number are <u>not</u> significant

- Rule #3:  Zeros between non-zero digits <u>are</u> significant

- Rule #4:  Zeros at the end of a number are significant if there is a decimal point in the number

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# The Atlantic/Pacific Rules for Determining Significant Figures

Look for the **P**resence of  a <u>decimal point</u>;

on the **P**acific side of the number start counting from the first non-zero number



Pacific Ocean

Atlantic Ocean

With the **A**bsence of a <u>decimal point</u>;

on the **A**tlantic side of a number start counting from the first non-zero number

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# For example,
## with a decimal point:

Pacific Ocean

**0.00<u>30</u>**

Decimal point **P**resent, count from first non-zero number on the **P**acific (& count to the Atlantic) side

So from the first non-zero number from the Pacific side, <u>3,</u> counting to the 'Atlantic', would be **<u>two</u>** significant figures

**<u>4</u>0507.060**

From the first non-zero number from the Pacific side, <u>4,</u> counting to the 'Atlantic', would be **<u>eight</u>** significant figures.

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For example,
without a decimal point:

**3**0000

Decimal point is **A**bsent, count from first non-zero number on the **A**tlantic to the 'Pacific' side

From the first non-zero digit from the Atlantic side, <u>3,</u> count to the 'Pacific', would be **one** significant figures

**1098070**

From the first non-zero digit from the Atlantic side, <u>7</u>, count to the 'Pacific', would be **six** significant figures.

Atlantic Ocean

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