

Physics with Calculus Notes

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Significant Figures

When multiplying or dividing, the result is as precise as the least precise input to the number of digits.

Example: $54.3 * 6.8991 = 374.62113$, truncated to 374 or rounded to 375.

When adding or subtracting, the result is as precise as the least precise input to the number of digits post decimal place.

Example: $10.65 + 3.0 = 13.65$, truncated to 13.6 or rounded to 13.7.

As a general rule (from the professor), round up down to the nearest even number, as always rounding up will accumulate more error.