

PHYSICS WEBSITE 2

Topic : Significant Figures (Part I)

Link | <https://barisciencelab.tech/Physics2.html>

2.1 FLIPPED CLASSROOM

Tutorial : TBA

Any measurement will have a certain number of significant figures associated with it that displays how precise it is. Sig Figs are important because they tell us how to round. So let's refresh our memory with rounding. Let's invite a student to assist us.

Question: How many students do you have in your school?

Answer: 2000

Question: How are you so sure? Did you estimate it?

Answer: It's actually 1950

Question: I think you estimate it.

Answer: 1860

Question: Really?

Answer : 1863

So we see that 1863 is most precise (whole truth) whereas 2000 (little closer to the truth) is least precise. All three, 2000, 1950 and 1860 are rounded versions. So rounding a number means making it less precise. Round 1863 to nearest 10, 100 and 1000 using the number line. Be sure to make the decision based on which round number is close to the original exact number i.e., 1863?

Question: Why would we be making a number less precise?