

QUICK REVIEW

Quick Review — Significant Figures and Measurement Uncertainty — Algebra-Based

Refresh the most important ideas, formulas, and problem-solving strategies for Significant Figures and Measurement Uncertainty in just a few minutes.

 TIME 5–10 minutes	 BEST FOR A rapid refresh	 FINISH WITH Key ideas refreshed
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After this quick review, you'll be able to...

quickly recall the essential concepts, formulas, and problem-solving strategies needed to move forward with confidence.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Work through the four stages in order. Write directly in the spaces provided, check your work in the Quick Answers section, and finish by choosing the next resource that matches your confidence.

Choose how you want to review: work through this guide, follow the online review, or watch the video review.

[Start the Review Online →](#)

[Watch the Video Review →](#)

YOU WILL NEED

Pencil or pen • Calculator if needed • Approximately 5–10 minutes

FR-02 • COURSE ALIGNMENT

Course Alignment

This Physics Sensei Topic Review is an independent learning resource. Use it to reinforce key concepts, prepare for homework, or review before a quiz or exam.

Related Unit Review: If you need to review the complete unit material, review [Units and Measurements here →](#)

RESOURCE: Physics Sensei Topic Review TOPIC ID: MEC-U01-T02 TOPIC: Significant Figures and Measurement Uncertainty PARENT UNIT: MEC-U01 — Units and Measurements COURSE LEVEL: Algebra-Based College Physics	BEST USED ✓ After learning the topic ✓ Before starting homework ✓ Before a quiz or exam
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FR-03 • YOUR REVIEW PLAN

Your Review Plan

Complete these four stages to quickly refresh the essential ideas and confirm you're ready to continue.

4 stages • Approximately 5–10 minutes

1 Quick Recall Refresh what you already know.	2 Essential Idea Review the most important concept.
3 Confidence Check Confirm you're ready to move on.	4 Next Step Continue your learning.

PRINTING TIP

For student copies, print double-sided and keep the Quick Answers section after the student activities so learners attempt each activity before checking their work.

FR-04 • STAGE 1 OF 4

Quick Recall

Let's quickly refresh what you already know. This short recall activity will bring the most important ideas back to mind before you review them.

QUICK RECALL

Recall Activity

A measured length is 5.24 ± 0.03 m. What does the ± 0.03 m represent, and how many significant figures are in 5.24?

Ready to refresh the essentials?

Great! Now review the most important idea you'll want to remember.

Review the Essential Idea →

FR-05 • STAGE 2 OF 4

Essential Idea

Take one last look at the most important concept from this topic. If you remember this idea, the rest will come back much more easily.

ESSENTIAL IDEA**Use Significant Figures and Uncertainty Consistently**

Significant figures indicate the precision carried by a measured or calculated value. For measured quantities, uncertainty gives a more explicit statement of the range supported by the data.

When a result is computed, round at the end so the reported digits are consistent with the least precise input or with the propagated uncertainty.

$$\text{Percent uncertainty} = (\text{absolute uncertainty} / \text{measured value}) \times 100\%$$

EXAMPLE For 50.0 ± 0.5 cm, the percent uncertainty is 1.0%. The uncertainty, not the calculator display, determines the meaningful precision.

SENSEI NOTE Keep guard digits during calculations and round only the final reported result.

Ready to check your memory?

You've refreshed the essential idea. Now see how much you remember before moving on.

Start the Confidence Check →

FR-06 • STAGE 3 OF 4

Confidence Check

You've refreshed the essential idea. Now answer this quick confidence check to confirm you're ready to move on.

CONFIDENCE CHECK

Compute Percent Uncertainty

Calculate and report the result with sensible precision.

A time is measured as 2.40 ± 0.06 s. What is the percent uncertainty?

Ready for your next step?

Great work! You've refreshed the essential idea. Now choose the resource that best matches what you'd like to do next.

Choose Your Next Step →

QUICK ANSWERS • CHECK AFTER ATTEMPTING

Quick Answers and Explanations

Use these concise answers to check your recall and confidence—not only your final response.

QUICK RECALL**Recall Activity**

The ± 0.03 m is the absolute measurement uncertainty. The central value 5.24 has three significant figures.

WHY IT WORKS The uncertainty quantifies precision directly, while the significant figures must be consistent with that precision.

CONFIDENCE CHECK**CONFIDENCE CHECK****Compute Percent Uncertainty**

The percent uncertainty is 2.5%.

WHY IT WORKS Divide the absolute uncertainty by the measured value and convert the ratio to a percentage.

READINESS GUIDE

1 correct: You're ready to continue. • 0 correct: Revisit the Essential Idea or choose more practice.

FR-07 • STAGE 4 OF 4

Next Step: Continue Learning

Great work! You've completed this quick review. Choose the next resource that best matches how confident you feel.

? I'm Still Unsure Review the essential idea again. Review Again →	🎯 I Need More Practice Continue with additional practice for this topic. Go to Practice →	✓ I'm Ready Continue to the next recommended resource. Continue →
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RECOMMENDED LINKS

Review this topic again →

Find additional practice →

Choose another type of physics help →

Continue reviewing with these companion resources.

Start the Review Online →

Watch the Video Review →

PHYSICS HELP THAT MAKES SENSE

A Physics Sensei review never ends at the last question. It always guides you toward the next useful step.

PhysicsSensei.com