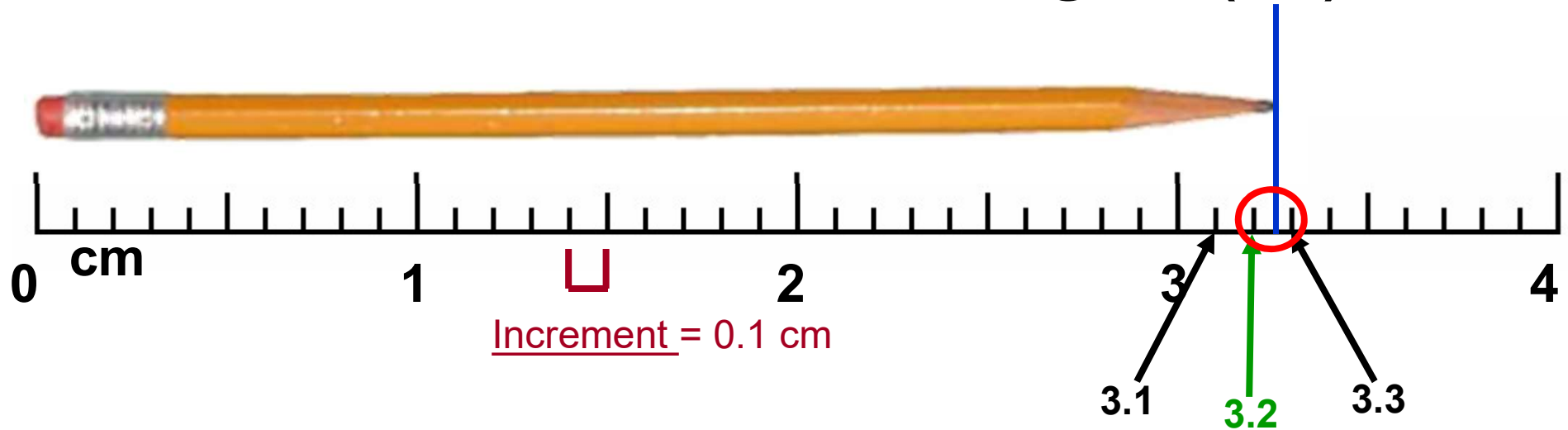


Measurement



Measurement: Length (m)



Measurement: **3.26** cm

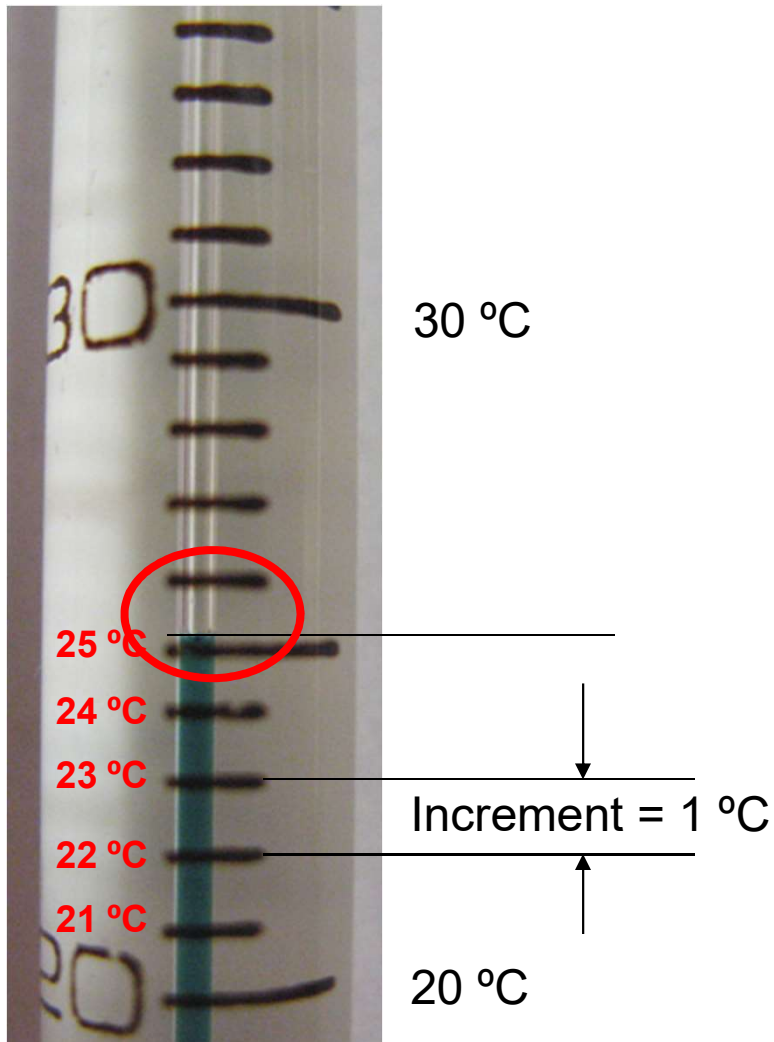
“certain”
digits

“uncertain”
digit
*estimation
required*

Uncertainty: +/- 0.01

3.25 cm ... 3.26 cm ... 3.27 cm 📢

Measurement: Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)



Measurement:

25.2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$

“certain” digits “uncertain” digit

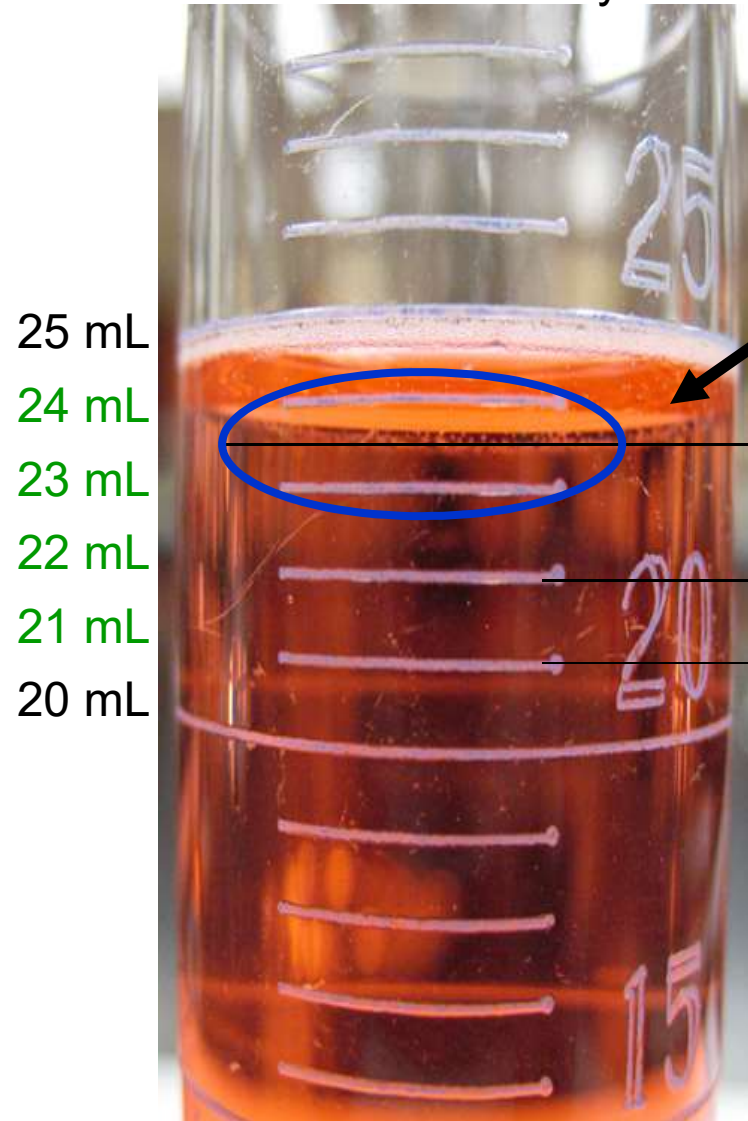
Uncertainty: $\pm 0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$

25.1 $^{\circ}\text{C}$... 25.2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$... 25.3 $^{\circ}\text{C}$



Measurement: Volume (L)

50 mL Graduated Cylinder



25 mL
24 mL
23 mL
22 mL
21 mL
20 mL

“Meniscus”

Measurement:

23.5 mL

“certain”
digits

“uncertain”
digit

Increment = 1 mL

Uncertainty: ± 0.1 mL

23.4 mL ... 23.5 mL ... 23.6 mL



Measurement: Mass (g)

Top Loading Balance



Measurement:

35.48 g

Uncertainty: +/- 0.01 g

35.47 g ...35.48 g... 35.49 g



Analytical Balance

Measurement:

28.8301 g

Uncertainty: +/- 0.0001 g

28.8300 g ...28.8301 g... 28.8302 g



Significant Figures (Sig. Figs.)

What are the digits in a measurement that *really matter*?



35.48 g
↑ ↑ ↑ ↑

4 Sig. Figs.



28.8301 g
↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑

6 Sig. Figs.

Yes,
even the **uncertain**
digit counts as a
sig. fig.!



Significant Figures: Other Examples

Measurement

12.5430 grams
↑↑ ↑↑↑↑
6 Sig. Figs.

When a **decimal point** is displayed, all **trailing zeros** count as sig. figs.

15.60036 grams
↑↑ ↑↑↑↑↑
7 Sig. Figs.

Captured zeros always count as significant figures

0.000145 grams
↑↑↑
3 Sig. Figs.

Leading zeros do NOT count as significant figures



Significant Figures: Other Examples

Measurement

0.01100 grams
↑↑↑↑

4 Sig. Figs.

When a **decimal point** is displayed, all **trailing zeros** count as sig. figs.

Leading zeros do NOT count as significant figures

1,200 grams
↑↑

2 Sig. Figs.

No Decimal Point Displayed!

1,200. grams
↑↑↑↑

4 Sig. Figs.

Decimal Point IS Displayed!



Significant Figures: Scientific Notation

Measurement

1200 grams

How would we write this
with 3 significant figures?

1200 grams
↑↑

2 Sig. Figs.

1200. grams
↑↑↑↑

4 Sig. Figs.

Scientific Notation

1.20 × 10³ grams
↑↑↑

3 Sig. Figs.

