

Name: _____

Date: _____

Learning Goal 2.4

I can convert numbers between standard form and scientific notation.

Many of the measurements scientists use are extremely big or extremely small. For example:

- Mass of Neutron

$0.000\ 000\ 000\ 000\ 000\ 000\ 000\ 000\ 674\ 927\ \text{kg}$

- Distance to the sun

$149\ 480\ 000\ 000\ \text{m}$

Scientists needed a way of communicating these numbers that is

- faster
- less likely to make mistakes

Scientific Notation

A way to write numbers that are too big or too small to write in decimal form

$$\text{M.} \dots \times 10^n$$

always 1 number \nearrow
before the decimal point.

Now,

- Mass of Neutron

$$1.674\ 927 \times 10^{-27} \ \text{kg}$$

- Distance to the sun

$$1.4948 \times 10^{11} \ \text{m}$$

Positive Exponent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> represents numbers bigger than 1 decimal moves to the left
Negative Exponent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> represents numbers smaller than 1 decimal moves to the right

Example Express the following numbers in scientific notation.

a. 1200 g = 1.2×10^3 g

b. 0.00657 m = 6.57×10^{-3} m

c. 5601 L = 5.601×10^3 L

d. 14 100 000 km = 1.41×10^7 km

e. 0.000 000 698 mg

$$= 6.98 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mg}$$

f. 12 million hours

$$\begin{aligned} &= 12,000,000 \text{ hours} \\ &= 1.2 \times 10^7 \text{ hours} \end{aligned}$$

g. The speed of light in a vacuum

299 793 458 m/s

$$= 2.99793458 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$$

h. Number of seconds in a day

86 400 s

$$= 8.64 \times 10^4 \text{ s}$$

i. Mean radius of the earth

6378 km

$$= 6.378 \times 10^3 \text{ km}$$

j. Radius of an argon atom

0.000 000 0098 m

$$= 9.8 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}$$

To undo scientific notation, or write a number given in scientific notation in standard notation

Positive Exponent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> number is bigger than shown moves the decimal to the right
Negative Exponent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> number is smaller than shown moves the decimal to the left

Example Write each number in standard notation.

a. 1.23×10^{-4} mg

$$= 0.000 123 \text{ mg}$$

b. 7.35×10^{-10} mL

$$= 0.000\ 000\ 000\ 735 \text{ mL}$$

c. 7.982×10^6 km

$$= 7 982 000 \text{ km}$$

d. 1.6325×10^{10} kg

$$= 16 325 000 000 \text{ kg}$$