Exercise 1.43

Indicate which of the following are exact numbers: (a) the mass of a 3- by 5-in. index card, (b) the number of ounces in a pound, (c) the volume of a cup of Seattle's Best coffee, (d) the number of inches in a mile, (e) the number of micro-seconds in a week, (f) the number of pages in this book.

Solution

- (a) the mass of a 3- by 5-in. index card Approximate
- (b) the number of ounces in a pound Exact
- (c) the volume of a cup of Seattle's Best coffee Approximate
- (d) the number of inches in a mile Exact
- (e) the number of micro-seconds in a week Approximate (there are approximately 24 hours in 1 day)
- (f) the number of pages in this book Exact

Measurements are involved with the approximate items, and they introduce error. The exact items can be calculated with exact conversion factors or counted (even if it takes a while).