Question 2

How many significant figures does each of the following numbers have?

- a. 290
- b. 2.90×10^4
- c. 0.0029
- d. 2.90

Solution

Leading zeros don't count as significant figures, but trailing zeros after the decimal point do count.

- a. Either 2 or 3 significant figures, depending whether the uncertainty lies in the tens place (9) or the ones place (0), respectively.
- b. 3 significant figures
- c. 2 significant figures
- d. 3 significant figures