

Why use Scientific Notation?

- make writing really large + really small numbers easier by "collecting" powers of 10 and reducing the number of zeroes we have to keep track of

What does it mean for
a number to increase by
a "power of 10"?

* you are multiplying that number
by 10 (ex. 2 ^{increase by a power of}
_{10 = 2 × 10 = 20})

What about if you increase the
number by three "powers of ten"?

* you are multiplying that
number by 10 three times
(or multiplying by 10^3)

What about if you decrease
a number by a "power of 10"?

* you are dividing that number
by 10 (or we can also say
we are multiplying
by 10^{-1})

how about decreasing
a number by four powers of 10?

* you are dividing by 10 four times
(or we can say we are
multiplying by 10^{-4})

How would you get from
 1×10^3 to 1×10^8 ?

- multiply by 10^5 !

How about from 1×10^{-2} to
 1×10^{-5} ? * multiply by
 10^{-3}

What about from 1×10^{-5}
to 1×10^{-2} ? * multiply by
 10^3

2

* increase by a power of 10...

$$2 \times 10^1 = 20$$

* increase by 4 powers of 10...

$$2 \cdot 10 \cdot 10 \cdot 10 \cdot 10 = 2 \times 10^4 = 20000$$

* decrease by a power of 10...

$$2 \div 10 = 2 \times 10^{-1} = .2$$

* decrease by 4 powers of 10...

$$2 \div 10 \text{ four times} = 2 \times 10^{-4} = .0002$$

$$2 \xrightarrow{\times 10^1} 20$$

$$2 \xrightarrow{\times 10^{-1}} .2$$

$$\frac{1 \times 10^{-5}}{\quad} \xleftarrow{\times 10^{-3}} \frac{1 \times 10^{-2}}{\quad}$$

$\times \underline{\underline{10^3}}$

$$1 \times 10^5 \xrightarrow{\times 10^3} 1 \times 10^8$$

$\xleftarrow{\times 10^{-3}}$