General Principle : Formatting is NOT Rounding

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Peter R. Douglass

Formatting Example

Look Carefully at the Formatting Example

- It *appears* to say that the sum of

    3.05

    2.02

    1.03

  is 6.11

- That is not mathematically correct!

- The next slide shows what is actually in each cell. (Control / ~)

Formatting Example with Control / ~
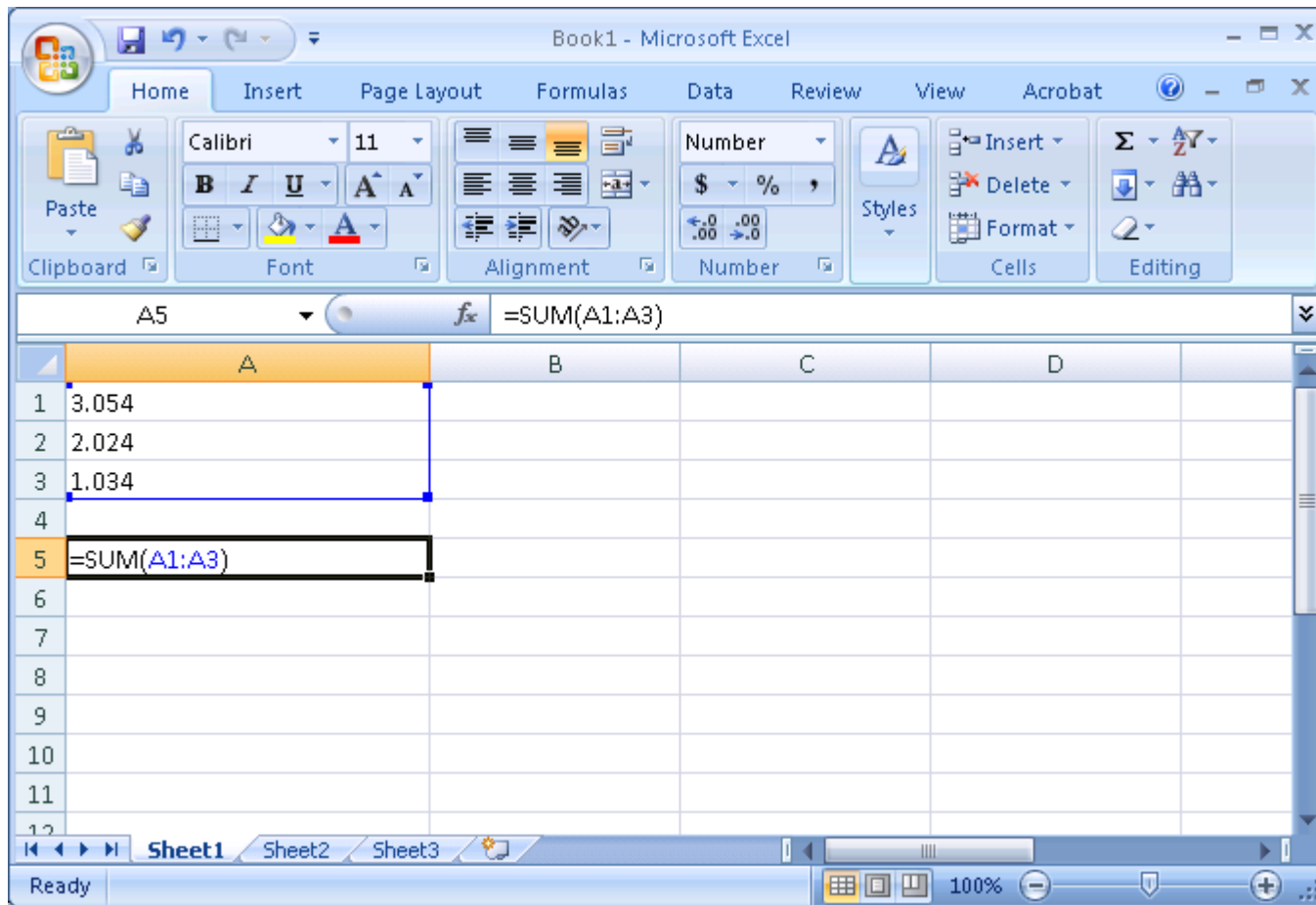
What happened?

- What happened is that the cells in column 'A' were formatted to show only 2 digits after the decimal point.

- However, the numbers in column 'A' actually had more than 2 digits after the decimal point. The last digits were "hidden".

- Hiding some of the digits can yield results that appear to be wrong.

Rounding Example

Rounding Example with Control / ~

Rounding Example

- The addition in column 'B' is now mathematically correct.

- The value that appears in cell B5 is in fact the sum of the numbers appearing in cells B1:B3

Warning!

- The values *displayed* by a computer application are often not the values that are *used* inside that application.

- If you need a value that has only a certain number of digits after the decimal place, you must *round* that value, not merely *format* it.