

APPENDIX III

Standard Scientific Abbreviations and Acronyms

Usually standard abbreviations follow a number (e.g. 10 kg or 5 m). An exception is species, which does not follow a number. A period is not used after the abbreviations (see exceptions below). Abbreviations are the same in the singular and the plural, except for species.

An acronym is a combination of letters formed from the initial letter(s) of each of the major parts of a compound term (e.g. DNA, HPLC). They are usually written entirely in capital letters and without a period.

Given below are a selection of the commonly encountered abbreviations and acronyms.

ampere	A
approximately	ca.
atomic absorption spectroscopy	AAS
biochemical oxygen demand	BOD
b.p., bp	boiling point
byte	B
calorie	cal
candela	cd
centimeter	cm
chemical oxygen demand	COD
counts per minute	cpm
Curie	Ci
cycles per second	cps
degree Celsius	°C
day	d
decibel	dB or db
EDTA	ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
GC	gas chromatography
GLC	gas liquid chromatography
gigabyte	GB
gram	g
hertz	Hz
hour	h
HPLC	high performance (or pressure) liquid chromatography

Kelvin	K
kilobase	kb
Kilobyte	kB
kilocalorie	kcal
kilogram	kg
kilohertz	kHz
kilometer	km
LC ₅₀	lethal concentration (at 50% level)
LD ₅₀	lethal dose (at 50% level)
liter	l
logarithm (base 10)	log
logarithm (base e)	ln
megabyte	MB
megahertz	MHz
meter	m
microgram	μg
microliter	μl
micrometer	μm
micron	μm
milliampere	mA
millicurie	mCi
milligram	mg
milliliter	ml
millimeter	mm
millimole	mmol
milirad	mR
millisecond	ms or msec
minute	min
molar, moles/litre	M
mole	mol
molecular weight	mol wt or MW
month	mo
nanogram	ng
nanometer	nm
number	no.
parts per billion	ppb
parts per million	ppm
picogram	pg

pounds per square inch	psi
rad	R
radian	rad
revolutions per minute	rpm
second	s
species (singular)	sp. (does not need to follow a number)
species (plural)	spp. (does not need to follow a number)
specific gravity	sp.gr.
standard atmosphere	atm
standard deviation	SD
TLC	Thin Layer Chromatography
unit	U
volts	V
volume	vol
volume per volume	v/v volume of solute divided by volume of solution, expressed as percent
watt	W
week	wk
weight	wt
weight per volume	w/v mass of solute divided by volume of solution, generally expressed as g/100 mL)
weight per weight	w/w mass of solute divided by mass of solution, expressed as percent
x-ray diffraction	XRD
x-ray fluorescence	XRF
year	y or yr

INDEX

A

- abstracting and indexing services 39, 40, 41
 - EBSCO 41, 48
 - international 41
 - SCOPUS 41
 - web of science 41
 - Wiley online library 41, 48

AGORA 41, 48, 178

AGRINET 38, 40

analytical balances 90

C

- catalogues for literature search
 - library, 37, 39
 - union, 37

centrifuges 90

chemical hazard 65, 71, 72, 74

clinical trial 11, 22, 27, 32

concentrations 104, 109, 119

- converting 114, 117

- molar, molarity 106 - 109, 112, 113, 132

- molality 106, 107, 109, 110

- normality 109, 110, 111

- units 114

covariate 30, 32

D

Derwent 43

dilution 101, 116 - 119

- geometric 118

- logarithmic 118

distillation apparatus 80, 81

dose-response 71, 136

E

EBSCO 41, 50, 55, 58, 60, 179

ethics 8, 9

- animal research 21-22

- authorship 11

- ethics review committee (ERC) 14, 17, 23

- human research 15, 17, 18-21

- information 59

- research 1, 9, 10, 15, 17

experimental design 1, 25, 26, 27, 30, 34
 case-control 34
 cohort 33, 34
 completely randomized 26, 30, 31
 cross sectional 33
 latin square 27, 28
 randomized complete block 27, 28, 30, 32
 split plot 29
experimental error 25-28, 30, 32, 34
 control of, 25, 26, 30

F

factorial experiments 28, 29
falsifiable 5-6
filtering 86-90
 acid hardened 87
 ash-less filter papers 87
 filter papers 86-87
 folding filter papers 87
 quantitative filtration 88, 89
 suction filtration 88

H

hazardous chemicals 65, 71, 72, 74
 allergens and embryotoxins 78
 classes 74-77
 classification (GHS) 72, 74
 labelling 74
heating apparatus 83
 block digester 85
 Bunsen burner 83
 electric ovens 84
 heating mantle 84
 hot plates 84
 microwave ovens 84
 muffle furnaces 84

HELLIS 41, 44

HINARI 42, 176, 178

homogeneous solution 104, 105

hypothesis 3 - 7, 25, 139, 172, 175
 formulate, 3 - 6
 predictions, 5-6
 testing, 3, 4, 5

J

JSTOR 42

L

local library gateways 39

M

Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) 72-74

medical index, Sri Lanka 41

N

national conference index 38

national library of Sri Lanka 38, 54, 176

national science library and resource centre 39, 41

P

parts per million 109, 111 - 114

percent composition 111, 113, 114

pH meter and electrode 92-93

measuring pH of a solution 93

Popper, Sir Karl 5

R

research grants database (NSF) 41

S

science index, Sri Lanka 40, 42

ScienceDirect 42

scientific method 1,3,4,18

SCOPUS 41, 43, 45, 48, 54, 55, 61

Solubility 105, 106

gases in liquids 107

ionic compounds 106

organic compounds 106

solutions 104

analytical 108

general purpose 108

preparation of analytical 108, 116

solvents 65-68, 94, 104-107

Sri Lanka journals online 42

Sri Lanka Standards Institute

database of Sri Lanka standards 43

patents database 43

stirring and mixing apparatus 85

magnetic Stirrer 86

mechanical Shaker 86

T

toxicity 71, 73, 77, 78

LD₅₀ 72

U

union catalogues 37

 national union catalogue (UCAT) 38, 39

 serials union catalogue 38

 union list of periodical database (UNILIST) 38

union list of medical journals 38

 postgraduate thesis 38

W

water purification 80

 deionized water, 80

 demineralized water 82

 distilled water 80-82

web portals 39

Web of science 41, 43, 48, 54, 55,61

weighing of a salt 91