

ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS, AND SYMBOLS

1. COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

b/c = because
b/w = between
cf = compare, in comparison to
cont. = continued
ch. = chapter
C19 = nineteenth century
diff = different
edu = education
et al. = and others
etc. (etcetera) = and the rest
e.g. = for example
info = information
i.e. = that is
max = maximum
min = minimum or minute
n/a = not applicable
no. or # = number
n.b. = note well, important
p = page (pp = pages)
para = paragraph
pov = point of view
Q = question
vs = versus
w/, w/o = with, without

2. ACRONYMS

CBC = Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
ASAP = as soon as possible
BBC = British Broadcasting Corporation
NASA = National Aeronautics and Space Administration
PIN = personal identification number
RADAR = radio detection and ranging

3. MAKING YOUR OWN ABBREVIATIONS USING THE FIRST FEW LETTERS OR SKIPPING VOWELS

anlys = analysis
ampltd = amplitude
asmg = assuming
cnst = constant
diff = different
dmpg = damping
dmnsls = dimensionless
dfn = deflection
dfnd = defined
dstrbg = disturbing
eftvns = effectiveness
frdm = freedom
frcg = forcing
gvs = gives
hrmc = harmonic
isltr = isolator
isltn = isolation
pltg = plotting
rsnc = resonance
rltnshp = relationship
smpl = simple
smpfd = simplified
stfns = stiffness
system = system
sgnft = significant
ths = this
trnsmsblty = transmissibility
thrtly = theoretically
valu = value
wth = with
whn = when
xprsd = expressed

4. COMMON SYMBOLS

=	equals/is equal to/is the same as
≠	is not equal to/is not the same as
≡	is equivalent to, identical to
∴	therefore, thus, so
∵	because, since, attribute to
+ or &	and, more, plus, positive
—	less, minus, negative
×	multiplied by, algebraic x
÷	divided by
≈	approximates, approximately equals
>	more than, greater than, increased, increasing
<	less than, reduced, decreasing
Δ	change
→	leads to, results in, approaches, results from, comes from
↗	rises, increases by
↘	falls, decreases by
	parallel to
∠	angle
⊥	perpendicular to
/	ratio, the ratio of

5. STEM-SPECIFIC SYMBOLS

Metric Units

Symbol	Unit	Type of Measurement
m	metre	length (distance)
g	gram	mass (weight)
L	litre	capacity (volume)
°C	degree Celcius	temperature

Metric Prefixes

Symbol	Prefix	Meaning
k	kilo	1000
h	hecto	100
da	deca	10
d	deci	1/10 or 0.1
c	centi	1/100 or 0.01
m	milli	1/1000 or 0.001