

Appendix 5. Units and conversion factors

The International System of Units (SI) is commonly required for reporting laboratory measurements in publications on soil chemical analysis and related sciences. Seven base SI units are given in Table App. 5.1. Prefixes used to indicate fractions or multiples of SI or alternative units are given in Table App. 5.2, while some comparisons with metric, 'traditional' and SI units are provided in Table App. 5.3. Conversion factors for some anions are summarised in Table App. 5.4.

Table App. 5.1. Seven base units and associated symbols (abbreviations).

Quantity	Unit	Symbol
Base		
Amount of substance	mole	mol [†]
Electric current	ampere	A
Length	metre	m
Luminous intensity	candella	cd
Mass	kilogram	kg
Time	second	sec
Thermodynamic temperature	kelvin	K

[†]M is commonly used as a symbol for mole throughout this book.

Table App. 5.2. Prefixes, their significations and symbols used in association with SI and other units.

Prefix	Fraction	Symbol
deci	10 ⁻¹	d
centi	10 ⁻²	c
milli	10 ⁻³	m
micro	10 ⁻⁶	μ
nano	10 ⁻⁹	n
pico	10 ⁻¹²	p
femto	10 ⁻¹⁵	f
atto	10 ⁻¹⁸	a

Prefix	Multiple	Symbol
deca	10	da
hecto	10 ²	h
kilo	10 ³	k
mega	10 ⁶	M
giga	10 ⁹	G
tera	10 ¹²	T
peta	10 ¹⁵	P
exa	10 ¹⁸	E