

2.4: Calculator skills

Using the Scientific Calculator

Please be sure to obtain a calculator that has an exponent button on it. It will either say "exp" or have an "ee" key indicating this function. This key represents the function of 10^x . You do not need to enter a 10 for an exponent when using this particular function. Read the steps below and practice on your calculator.

Use of Calculator

To input powers of ten:

1. Locate the ee or exp button on your calculator. Do not use the carrot (looks like the \wedge button).
2. Put the coefficient number in and then hit "ee" or "exp."
3. If you need to have a negative "exp," then locate the +/- button.
4. Lastly, input your power of ten. You do not need to put the actual number ten in for the exponent.

Table 2.4.3: Examples

Number	How to Input in a calculator
3.95×10^{15}	Put 3.95 in as the coefficient number. Hit the "ee" or "exp" button. Lastly, enter the 15 for the exponent. Your calculator should say $3.95e^{15}$.
9.26×10^{-4}	Put 9.26 in as the coefficient number. Hit the "ee" or "exp" button. Locate the small +/- button for negative (not minus function). Next, enter the number four. Your calculator should say $9.26e^{-4}$.

Suggested Calculators

This is an image of suggested calculators for Chem& 121. You will need a non-programmable, scientific calculator that does not have metric conversion functions. In this picture, you will see the correct way to input one of the numbers shown in the example above. Please take time to practice with your calculator before tests and quizzes.

Contributors and Attributions

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