Tables are condensed sets of information, which are very efficient in using space. However, the high density of information makes them very difficult to understand, and hence, detailed explanation is essential in the text.

Clever use of tables can provide important insight to the reader, and this could bring out several aspects that are otherwise not clear. A table of data may be replaced by a graph and the writer will have to make a choice based on the needs of the reader or the message.

Tables should have:
- A numbered caption which summarizes what is being presented.
- Column headings and columns of data
- Row headings and rows
- Individual cells of data (some blanks are allowed)
- Each datum should have a quantity, value and units (some are dimensionless)
- Footnotes are allowed to explain certain aspects of data (measured at 77 K, for example)
- Some cells may be combined or split for convenience or organization.

In describing a table in the text:
1. Always refer to the table with its assigned number. Tables should be numbered sequentially and presented in that order. A table may be referred multiple times in the text.
2. State the central message from the table and begin the description of the columns and rows. Discuss the relationships between the cells down the columns and across the rows.
3. State if a hypothesis is being tested, verified or proposed with the data presented.
4. Make special note of the units being used for the data.
5. Be sure to highlight important data points or cells.
6. Conclude the text with a summary sentence to remind the reader about the purpose of the table and use this as a transition sentence to the next para.

In-class assignment: Write a short description (200 words) of the Table provided.