Guidelines for scientific abstracts

Basic rule:
An abstract is a Concise but Complete, Clear and Correct summary of your measurements and results.

A scientific abstract must answer the following question:

- Why did you do the experiment? I.e. State the purpose of the experiment.
- What did you do? What did you measure and how did you extract your results? I.e. Indicate your methodology by summarizing what you did, without details.
- How did you do it? I.e. Describe the procedure, without details. This is less relevant for labs based on simulations.
- What were your results? I.e. Summarize your findings, give quantitative results and explain what they mean.
- How do your results compare with the theoretical predictions? I.e. Calculate the percent difference between your results and the expected values. Comment on possible sources of discrepancy IF you were not able to reduce the relative uncertainty.
- What is the bottom line? I.e. Draw the main conclusion(s).

Other considerations

- The abstract is a single paragraph, generally 5-7 sentences long, 150-250 words.
- Do not include figures, definitions, formulas.
- The abstract is be self-sufficient, i.e. do not use references to information in the main body, e.g. tables, graphs, etc.
- Use first person active voice, e.g. I (or we) measured…, etc.
- Use standard, written English language and scientific expression.
- Type your abstract.