



Standard Test Method for Determining Micropore Volume and Zeolite Area of a Catalyst¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4365; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of total surface area and mesopore area. From these results are calculated the zeolite area and micropore volume of a zeolite containing catalyst. The micropore volume is related to the percent zeolite in the catalyst. The zeolite area, a number related to the surface area within the zeolite pores, may also be calculated. Zeolite area, however, is difficult to interpret in physical terms because of the manner in which nitrogen molecules pack within the zeolite.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* For a specific precautionary statement, see [Note 3](#).

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[D3663 Test Method for Surface Area of Catalysts and Catalyst Carriers](#)

[D3906 Test Method for Determination of Relative X-ray Diffraction Intensities of Faujasite-Type Zeolite-Containing Materials](#)

[E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods](#)

[E456 Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics](#)

[E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method](#)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D32 on Catalysts and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D32.01 on Physical-Chemical Properties.

Current edition approved April 1, 2013. Published August 2013. Originally approved in 1984. Last previous edition approved in 2008 as D4365 – 95(2008). DOI: 10.1520/D4365-13.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *mesopore (matrix) area of a catalyst*—the area determined from the slope of the t-plot.

3.1.2 *micropore volume of the catalyst*—the pore volume in pores having radii less than 1 nm, usually associated with the zeolite portion of the catalyst, and determined from the intercept of the t-plot.

3.1.3 *surface area of a catalyst*—the total surface of the catalyst pores. It is expressed in square metres per gram.

3.1.4 *zeolite area of a catalyst*—the difference between total surface area and mesopore area.

3.2 Symbols:

P_{H_1}	= initial helium pressure, torr
P_{H_2}	= helium pressure after equilibration, torr
S_B	= slope of BET plot, 11.7
I_B	= intercept of BET plot, 11.7
S_t	= slope of t-plot, 11.13
I_t	= intercept of t-plot, 11.13
T_{H1}	= temperature of manifold at initial helium pressure, °C
T_{H2}	= temperature of manifold after equilibration, °C
$T_x'(i)$	= extra volume bulb temperature, °C
$T_x(i)$	= extra volume bulb temperature, K
$P_1(i)$	= initial N_2 pressure, torr
$T_1(i)$	= manifold temperature at initial N_2 pressure, K
$T_1'(i)$	= manifold temperature at initial N_2 pressure, °C
$P_2(i)$	= pressure after equilibration, torr
$T_2(i)$	= manifold temperature after equilibration, K
$T_2'(i)$	= manifold temperature after equilibration, °C
$P_0(i)$	= liquid nitrogen vapor pressure, torr
$T_s(i)$	= liquid nitrogen temperature, K
X	= relative pressure, P_2/P_0
V_d	= volume of manifold, cm^3
V_x	= extra volume bulb, cm^3
V_s	= effective void volume, cm^3
W_s	= weight of sample, g
W_t	= tare weight of sample tube, g
W_2	= weight of sample + tare weight of tube, g
V_{ds}	= volume of nitrogen in the dead-space, cm^3
V_1	= see 11.4.3

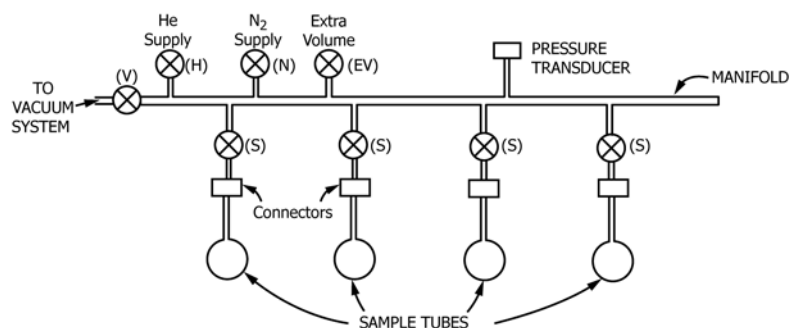


FIG. 1 Schematic Diagram of Surface Area Apparatus

V_2 = see 11.4.4
 V_t = see 11.4.5
 V_a = see 11.4.7
 V_m = see 11.8
 $BET(i)$ = see 11.4.8
 $t(i)$ = see 11.10

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The volume of nitrogen gas adsorbed by the catalyst at liquid nitrogen temperature is measured at various low-pressure levels by the catalyst sample at liquid nitrogen temperature. This is done by measuring pressure differentials resulting from introducing a fixed volume of nitrogen to the degassed catalyst in the test apparatus. This procedure is the same as Test Method D3663, that gives total surface area, but extends the pressure range to permit calculation of micropore volume and matrix surface area, by the t-plot method. Zeolite area is the difference between total area and matrix area.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This gas adsorption method complements the X-ray procedure of Test Method D3906. This test method will be useful to laboratories that do not have X-ray diffractometers. Each test method can be calibrated by use of an appropriate series of mechanical mixtures to provide what may be termed percent zeolite. If there is disorder in the zeolite, the adsorption method will yield higher values than the X-ray method. The reverse will be true if some zeolite pores (micropores) are blocked or filled.

6. Apparatus

6.1 A schematic diagram of the apparatus is shown in Fig. 1. It may be constructed of glass or of metal. It has the following features:

6.1.1 *Distribution or Dosing Manifold*, having a volume between 20 and 35 cm³, (V_d), known to the nearest 0.05 cm³. This volume is defined as the volume between the stopcocks or valves and includes the pressure gage. It is preferred that this volume be thermostatted.

6.1.2 *Vacuum System*, capable of attaining pressures below 10⁻⁴ torr (1 torr = 133.3 Pa). This will include a vacuum gage (not shown in Fig. 1). Access to the distribution manifold is through the valve V.

6.1.3 *Pressure Sensing Devices or Pressure Transducer*, capable of measurements to the nearest 0.1-torr sensitivity in the range from 0 to 1000 torr (1 torr = 133.3 Pa).

NOTE 1—See, for example, the article by Joy for a description of a constant-volume manometer.³

6.1.4 *Valve (H)*, from the helium supply to the distribution manifold.

6.1.5 *Valve (N)*, from the nitrogen supply to the distribution manifold.

6.1.6 The connection between the sample tube and the S valve can be a standard-taper glass joint, a glass-to-glass seal, or a compression fitting.

6.1.7 *Extra Volume (EV) Bulb*, if employed, may be attached through valve EV. Its volume (V_x) should be 100 to 150 cm³, known to the nearest 0.05 cm³. V_x includes the volume of the stopcock bore in the glass apparatus. It is preferred that this volume be held at the same temperature as that of the distribution manifold.

NOTE 2—Modern commercial instruments automatically adjust the amounts dosed in order to produce data points at user-selected target pressures. Hence, the use of an EV bulb is optional. Some instruments can analyze multiple samples simultaneously and may use sample tubes with volumes outside of the range specified in this test method.

6.2 *Sample Tubes*, with volumes from 5 cm³ to 25 cm³ depending on the application. Markings should be placed on the sample tubes about 30 to 50 mm below the connectors to indicate the desired liquid nitrogen level if automatic control of liquid nitrogen level is not available.

6.3 *Heating Mantles or Small Furnaces*.

6.4 *Dewar Flasks*.

6.5 *Laboratory Balance*, with 0.1 mg (10⁻⁷ kg) sensitivity.

6.6 *Thermometer or Thermocouple*, for measuring the temperature of the distribution manifold, $T_1'(i)$ or $T_2'(i)$, in degrees Celsius.

6.6.1 The manifold may be thermostatted at a particular temperature, a few degrees above ambient, to obviate the necessity of recording this temperature at each reading.

6.7 *Thermometer or Thermocouple*, for measuring the temperature of the liquid nitrogen bath $T_s(i)$ in kelvins from which

³ Joy, A. S., *Vacuum*, Vol 3, 1953, p. 254.