



BSI Standards Publication

Determination of particle density by sedimentation methods

Part 1: Isopycnic interpolation approach

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO 18747-1:2018.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee LBI/37, Particle characterization including sieving.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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© The British Standards Institution 2018
Published by BSI Standards Limited 2018

ISBN 978 0 580 89327 8

ICS 19.120

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This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 30 April 2018.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO
18747-1

First edition
2018-03-31

Determination of particle density by sedimentation methods —

Part 1: Isopycnic interpolation approach

*Détermination de la densité de particules par méthodes de
sédimentation —*

Partie 1: Approche par interpolation isopycnique



Reference number
ISO 18747-1:2018(E)
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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 24, *Particle characterization including sieving*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Particle characterization*.

A list of all parts in the ISO 18747 series can be found on the ISO website.

Introduction

Dispersions are widely used in industry and everyday life. There is a need to understand the density of dispersed particles or droplets, e.g. for physico-chemical calculations like kinematic viscosity of dispersions ([ISO 3105](#)), determination of particle size distribution by separation techniques[4][5][7], characterization of core/shell or capsule-like particles, determination of particle compressibility[10] or optimization of dispersion stability by density matching[11].

The density of a body is its mass divided by its volume. This is straightforward for the mass of a larger body or particle. However, experimental determination of the volume of a macroscopic body is difficult. The geometrical volume (length, width and thickness) and the volume relevant for the determination of density can differ due to surface irregularities, fractures, fissures and open and closed pores or the measuring techniques employed.

Density determination of micro-particles, in particular nanoparticles dispersed in a liquid, raises issues, not only for the determination of mass and volume due to the small size but also, and mainly, because of the boundary between the liquid and the particle, which is fuzzy. Molecules in the continuous phase are partially immobilized at the surface. Physico-chemical properties (e.g. viscosity, ion concentration) in the fuzzy coat differ from bulk. This is especially important for small microparticles and nanoparticles which are dispersed in a polymer or biological fluid[12]. The so-called corona can be interpreted as an integral part of the particle and increases the effective/apparent volume compared to the space occupied by the dry material. The thickness of this layer ranges between a few to tens of nanometres and the effective/apparent volume deviates increasingly from the “geometrical” volume, if the particles become smaller. As a consequence, density determination by traditional methods is affected.

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Determination of particle density by sedimentation methods —

Part 1: Isopycnic interpolation approach

1 Scope

This document specifies a method for the determination of the density of solid particles or liquid droplets (below referred to generically as “particles”) dispersed in a liquid. The method is based on the fact that a particle wholly immersed in fluid experiences buoyancy equal to the weight of the fluid displaced by this particle (Archimedean principle), and if its mass force matches the buoyant force, it stops gravitational or centrifugal settling/creaming and the particle remains suspended. This implies that the density of the particle equals the density of the liquid. In this document, particle density determination is conducted by analysing the direction of the migration movement of particles dispersed in liquids with densities that are lower and higher than particle density. All particles are of the same material composition.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

[ISO 14887:2000](#), *Sample preparation — Dispersing procedures for powders in liquids*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

dynamic viscosity

measure of the resistance of a fluid which is being deformed by shear stress

Note 1 to entry: Dynamic viscosity is calculated by shear stress divided by shear rate and determines the dynamics of an incompressible Newtonian fluid.

3.2

migration

directed particle movement (sedimentation or creaming/flotation) due to acting gravitational or centrifugal fields

Note 1 to entry: Sedimentation occurs when density of particles is larger than that of liquid density. Creaming/flotation occurs when density of particles is smaller than that of liquid density. In these two processes, particles move in opposite directions.

3.3 migration velocity

absolute value of sedimentation or creaming/flotation terminal velocity

Note 1 to entry: Velocity of creaming/flotation is indicated by a negative sign.

3.4 true particle density

ratio of particle mass to particle volume excluding all pores, closed or open, and surface fissures

3.5 skeletal density

ratio of the mass of discrete pieces of solid material to the sum of the volumes of the solid material in the pieces and closed (or blind) pores within the pieces

[SOURCE: ASTM D3766]

3.6 buoyant density

ratio of particle mass to particle volume including filled or closed pores as well as adjacent layers of liquid or other coating materials

4 Symbols

For the purposes of this document, the following symbols apply.

Quantity	Symbol	Unit	Derivative unit
Acceleration	a	m/s ²	
Angular velocity	ω	rad/s	
Dynamic viscosity	η	Pa·s	mPa·s
Force due to buoyancy	F_B	N	
Force due to gravity	F_G	N	
Liquid density	ρ_L	kg/m ³	
Particle density	ρ_P	kg/m ³	
Radius	r	m	mm
Rotational frequency	n	s ⁻¹	min ⁻¹
Standard acceleration due to gravity	g	m/s ²	
Temperature	ϑ	°C	
Time	t	s	
Velocity	v	m/s	
Velocity measurand	y		
Volume	V	m ³	
Wavelength	λ	m	nm

5 Basic principle of method

The Archimedean principle states that a particle wholly immersed in liquid experiences buoyancy equal to the weight of the fluid displaced by this particle. The balance of the weight forces of a particle due to gravity, F_G , and of buoyancy force, F_B , determines whether its net gravitational motion is upward, downward, or neither [[Formula \(1\)](#)].

$$F_G = \rho_P \cdot V \cdot g = F_B = \rho_L \cdot V \cdot g \quad (1)$$

where

- ρ_P is the density of the particle;
- V is the particle volume;
- g is the gravitational acceleration;
- ρ_L is the density of the liquid.

A particle stops migration if forces F_G and F_B are equal, and therefore the density of the particle shall equal the density of the liquid ($\rho_P - \rho_L = 0$). These considerations are applicable, independent of size or shape of the particle, as well as independent on dynamic viscosity of continuous phase. In the case of multicomponent dispersions, all particle species stay suspended only when the density of all particles is the same as the liquid density.

[Formula \(1\)](#) and the above considerations also hold for dispersed particles in a centrifugal field, where g shall be replaced by a centrifugal acceleration a [[Formula \(2\)](#)].

$$a = \omega^2 \cdot r = (2 \cdot \pi \cdot n)^2 \cdot r \quad (2)$$

where

- ω is the angular velocity of the rotor;
- r is the distance of the particle under consideration from the centre of revolution;
- n is the number of rotations per seconds of the rotor.

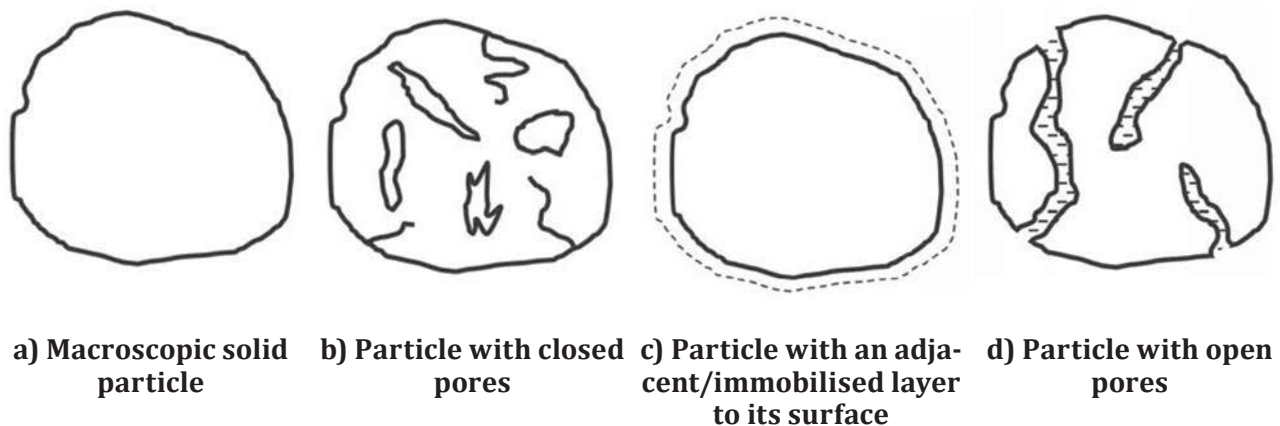


Figure 1 — General structures of particles regarding density determination [21]

According to [Formula \(1\)](#), density corresponds to the volume of displaced liquid. This equals the geometrical volume of a macroscopic solid particle [[Figure 1 a\)](#)]. It follows that determined density equals true solid particle density, which corresponds to the true material density. If the particle is made of different materials, true density reflects the (material) density and volume/mass fraction of each material.

In case of a particle with closed pores [[Figure 1 b\)](#)] or pores not filled with liquid of continuous phase, as well as with a surface layer [[Figure 1 c\)](#)], [Formula \(1\)](#) determines the buoyant density, ρ_B (also called