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HORIBA Instruments Particle Analysis

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### **Refractive Index and Laser Diffraction**

March 6, 2019



# What do we mean by RI?

Optical properties of particle different from surrounding medium Note that intensity and wavelength of light changes in particle (typical dispersants do not show significant absorption) Wavelength changes are described by real component Intensity changes are described by imaginary component





# Why Worry about Refractive Index?

Light scattering is an optical measurement. Under certain conditions, one must include behavior of light inside the particulate material.

For larger particles; i. e., above approx. 26 micrometers, Fraunhofer Diffraction may be adequate to describe particle size and refractive index is less important.

When particle diameter is of the same approximate size as the wavelength of light used to make the measurement, a complex theory known as Mie Scattering Theory must be invoked. Refractive index describes the behavior of light inside the particle.



### Mie vs. Fraunhofer

**Mie: 3 dimensional particle (sphere)** 



Fraunhofer: 2 dimensional particle (disc)





### **Fraunhofer Approximation**





### **Mie Theory**





# **Practical Application: Glass Beads**





# **Practical Application: CMP Slurry**





### **More Details on Refractive Index**

#### Refractive Index is defined by two components – REAL and IMAGINARY RI = n + ik

Where:

n = the real component, which is the ratio of the velocity of light in a vacuum to the velocity of light in the material

 $= c/v_p$ 

Vp = speed of light in particle (liquid, air)

k = the extinction coefficient of the material

 $= \sqrt{-1}$ 

# Example: typical soda-lime glass has a refractive index of 1.5, which means that in glass, light travels at 1 / 1.5 = 0.67 times the speed of light in a vacuum.



### **RI: Real Component**

### Real component can be determined from published tables or it can be measured using Snell's Law

 $\mathbf{n} \sin \theta = \mathbf{n}' \sin \theta'$ 

where:

- n = refractive index (RI) of first substance
  (usually air)
- $\theta$  = angle of incidence
- n' = refractive index of second substance
  (usually measured substance)
- $\theta$  '= angle of refraction (deviation from original direction



 For particles with HIGH REAL INDICES, the reported size depends less on the imaginary component. As size increases, formula simplifies to Fraunhofer and becomes weak function of total refractive index



### **RI: Imaginary Component**

The imaginary component (k) in the Mie equation is the <u>extinction coefficient</u> of the material, defined as the reduction of transmission of optical radiation caused by absorption and scattering of light



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### **RI: Imaginary Component**





# What do we mean by RI?

### Real component is change in wavelength Imaginary component is reduction in amplitude

n = 2-0.05i





### n is Wavelength Dependent



**Sellmeier equation** 

$$n^{2}(\lambda) = 1 + \frac{B_{1}\lambda^{2}}{\lambda^{2} - C_{1}} + \frac{B_{2}\lambda^{2}}{\lambda^{2} - C_{2}} + \frac{B_{3}\lambda^{2}}{\lambda^{2} - C_{3}},$$



# **Effect of RI: Imaginary Term**



### location of first peak shifts to smaller angle.



# **Effect of RI: Real Term**



#### It depends....



# **RI: Imaginary Component**

### For transparent particles use 0 for the imaginary component For slightly opaque materials use 0.01 or 0.1 For opaque materials use 1.0 or higher Values can exceed 1.0 (see below\*)

#### Complex Index of Refraction Look-up Utility

#### Instructions

Choose a material from the drop down menu, enter the incident wavelength, and click on "Calculate." The material's index of refraction and extinction coefficient will appear below.

#### Index of Refraction Explanation

The Index of Refraction of a material is the ratio of phase velocity of an electromagentic wave in free space to the phase velocity in the material. The index of refraction of two materials can be used to predict how light will pass from one medium to the other. The Extinction Coefficient is the imaginary part of the index of refraction.

These optical constants are calculated via linear interpolation on the optical constant values reported in the book <u>Handbook of Optical Constants of Solids</u> by Edward D. Palik The graphs and numerical data can be found on the <u>Tabulated Optical Constants</u> page.

Calculate

Material





Incident Wavelength:

650 (in nanometers)

#### \*http://www.ee.byu.edu/photonics/opticalconstants.phtml



### **Refractive Index**

**RI effects are <u>most</u> pronounced when:** 

- Particles are spherical
- Particles are transparent
- RI of particle is close to RI of fluid
- Particle size is close to wavelength of light source

**RI effects are <u>least</u> pronounced when:** 

- Particles are not spherical
- Particles are opaque
- RI of particle is much larger than RI of the fluid
- Particle size is much larger than wavelength of the light source



# **Relative Refractive Index**

#### **Legacy instruments and methods**

If n = 1.33 (water) and n' = 1.60 (particle), then <u>relative index is 1.60/1.33 = 1.203</u>

If particles are totally transparent, then k = 0

The selected KERNEL function would be 120-000rri

If n = 1.33 (water) and n' = 1.60 (particle), then relative index is 1.60/1.33 = 1.203 s above. However, if particles are <u>somewhat opaque</u>, then <u>k > 0</u>

The selected KERNEL function would be 120-020rri

If material is being analyzed DRY, then the relative index is as follows:

If n = 1.0 (air) and n' = 1.60 (particle), then relative index is 1.60/1.0 = 1.60

The selected KERNEL function would 160-000rri or 160-020rri depending on the degree of transparency of the particles.

In these last two cases, the KERNEL Functions represent the following:

KERNEL 160-000rri is <u>REAL Index = 1.60</u> and <u>IMAGINARY Index = 0.00</u> or

KERNEL 160-020rri is <u>REAL Index = 1.60</u> and <u>IMAGINARY Index = 0.20</u>





### **Effect of RI: Cement**



#### For SRM 114q\*, NIST uses 1.70 – 1.0i

\*NIST Special Publication 260-166, "Certification of SRM 114q: Part II https://www.nist.gov/sites/default/files/documents/srm/SP260-166.pdf



### **Starch Example**

#### **STARCH SAMPLE MODERATE IMAGINARY INDEX** $15.0_{f}$ n100 Cumulative % undersize Frequency % 0. 0.0<sup>4</sup> 1020 0.02 0.1 1.0 10.0100 Particle size / µm (reasonable value

INDEX = 1.22 - 0.1i

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for this material)



### **Starch Example**





### **Starch Example**





### **Practical Approach to Refractive Index**

**Check if RI selection matters for your sample** 

**OPAQUE PARTICLES..... If it is NOT transparent, non-zero imaginary component should be inserted.** 

NON-SPHERICAL PARTICLES.....If material is not perfectly spherical, non-zero imaginary component should be inserted.

VERY LARGE PARTICLES.....Particles that are larger than ~20 microns are influenced very little by refractive index of material. High, default real index and large imaginary component should be selected.

**IMAGINARY VALUE....The imaginary component is the Extinction Coefficient** (k) which is a direct function of the absorption coefficient (α). If the particles are completely transparent, the value approaches zero (0). If they are opaque, the value can be very large.

For LA-960 users: determine real component, vary imaginary component to minimize residual R value.



### **Measurement: Abbe Refractometer**

# Dissolve sample at different concentrations

# Plot concentration (partial molar volume) as a function of RI

# Extrapolate to infinite concentration







### **Measurement: Becke Lines**





### Bright line is called the *Becke line* and will always occur closest to the substance with a higher refractive index



### **Becke Line Test**

As you move *away* from the thin section (raising the objective or lowering the stage), the Becke Line appears to move *into the material with greater refractive index.* 



A grain that has greater refractive index than its surroundings will refract light inward like a crude lens.

A grain that has lower refractive index than its surroundings will refract light outward like a crude diverging lens.



### **Becke Line Test**

#### **Cargille Labs**

Services to the sciences since 1924

#### **Refractive Index (Matching) Liquids**

#### Also see our Specialized Optical Coupling Liquids

Cargille Refractive Index Liquids have become standard items in many laboratories as their applications have expanded from routine mineralogical identifications and quality control. New and broader uses in many more fields such as chemicals, engineering, medical, forensic, optics, instrumentation are continuously discovered. Many special requirements for specific applications have created a need for more technical data, new formulations, extended ranges, smaller increments and higher degrees of precision.

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McCrone Associates' team of scientists use state-of-the-art instrumentation to solve difficult and unique particle identification, materials characterization and analysis problems. Our extensive array of microscopy tools along with the knowledge, experience, technical skills and creative enthusiasm of our staff, provide an unequaled combination of analytical and problem solving capabilities.



#### **Price Schedule**

All Refractive Index Values are standardized at 5893 angstroms and 25°C. For Custom Made Liquids please fill in our **Optical Liquids Worksheet** All of the Refractive Index Liquid Sets are sold in 7.4cc bottles (1/4 fl oz)

#### COMBINED SETS: n<sub>D</sub> 1.400-1.700

The range of many minerals, most chemicals and virtually all biological materials are covered by the three Certified Series AA, A and B. These three Series are available as complete sets:

Cat. #		Price			
18001	RF-1Full Set; Intervals 0.002; 151 liquids	\$1,865.00			
18002	RF-1/2Half Set; Intervals 0.004; 76 liquids	1,025.00			
18005	RF-1/5Fifth Set; Intervals 0.01; 31 liquids	415.00			
Individual Series, fractions of Series or selected liquids in the Standard Group may also be purchased separately.					



### Info Source: Luxpop.com



At a wavelength of 405 nm (3.061 eV), the index of refraction of ZnO is n = 2.23, k = 0.010.

Note RI is dependent on wavelength of light. Can adjust RI for red & blue light, but only need to for small, absorbing particles.





### **Info Search: Google Search**

🖉 refractive index magnesium stearate - Google Search - Windows Internet Explorer	
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File Edit View Favorites Tools Help Links 🖉 Customize Links Google Index magnesium stearate 🔽 🖓 Search * 🖗 🌮 🕿 🥢 <table-cell-rows> 🏠 Bookmarks * All Check * 🎦 AutoFill * 🚳 *</table-cell-rows>	🎸 💽 refractive 💽 index 🔍 magnesium 🔍 stearate 🛛 🔌 🔹 🔾 Sign In 🔹
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Web Images Maps News Video Gmail more V	Sign in -
Google" refractive index magnesium stearate Search Preferences	
Web	Results 1 - 10 of about 7,550 for refractive index magnesium stearate. (0.23 seconds)
24 results stored on your computer - Hide - About	Sponsored Links Magnesium stearate Get the Answers You're Looking For. Magnesium stearate www.RightHealth.com/Nutrition
www.freepatentsonline.com/5594088.html - <u>Similar pages</u> by T Nagata - 1997 - <u>Cited by 1</u> - <u>Related articles</u> - <u>All 4 versions</u> <u>More results from www.freepatentsonline.com »</u> <u>STOCHEM - Specialty Chemical Distribution</u> <b>③</b> Size = 0.3 microns, pH = 7, Oil absorption = 43, refractive index = 1.56, Highly pulverized powder, Magnesium Stearate Modified, GE brightness = 87%, www.stochem.com/searchdb.asp?searchStr2=&supplier=511&page=2 - 17k - <u>Cached</u> - <u>Similar pages</u>	



### **What about Mixtures?**



Larsen, E.S., Berman, H., *The Microscopic Determination of the Non-Opaque Minerals, Second Edition*, United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey Bulletin 848, 1934, US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.



### **Mixtures**





### **Chi Square and R Parameter**

$$\chi^{2} = \sum \left\{ \frac{1}{\sigma_{i}^{2}} [y_{i} - y(x_{i})]^{2} \right\}$$
$$R = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left\{ \frac{1}{y_{(x_{i})}} |y_{i} - y(x_{i})| \right\}$$

y<sub>i</sub> The measured scattered light at each channel (i) of the detector.

 $y(x_i)$  The calculated scattered light at each channel (i) of the detector based on the chosen refractive index kernel and reported particle size distribution.

 $\sigma_i$  The standard deviation of the scattered light intensity at each channel (i) of

the detector. A larger  $\sigma_i$  indicates lower reliability of the signal on a given detector.

**N** The number of detectors used for the calculation



### **Using R Value for i**





### Using R Value for i

#### Real component = 1.57 via Becke line Vary imaginary component, minimize Chi square & R parameter





### **Automation by Method Expert**

#### Analytical conditions

Circulation	Pump Speed	
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Circulation Pump Speed

Particle Concentration

Particle Concentration

Ultrasonic Treatment

Ultrasonic Treatment

Measurement Duration

Measurement Duration

#### Calculation conditions

Real Refractive Index Wizard

Real Refractive Index Wizard

Imaginary Refractive Index Wizard Imaginary Refractive Index Wizard



### **Automated RI Computation**

#### **Real part study**

#### **Need to fix imaginary part**

#### Set up to 5 real parts

# Software will compute all RI and display R parameter variation with RI selection

• Select Active I	vernory Data Select	DataFile
tep 2: Choose RI for li	quid dispersant	<u>Step 3</u> : Input RI imaginary component for test —
.333	Open Li	ist 0
Step 4: Input RI real cor Fest Value 1: 1.5	nponent for test Test Value 4: 1.8	Step 5: Push "Execute" button. This wizard is temporarily closed,
est Value 2: 1.6	Test Value 5: 1.9	and the test sequence is executed.
		Execute Lest Sequence >> 1



# **Automated RI Computation**





# **Automated RI Computation**





# **Study on TiO<sub>2</sub>**

#### Look up real refractive index, use R parameter to find imaginary.





# **Effect of RI on R parameter**





# Effect of RI on measured $D_{50}$





# Effect of RI on measured $D_{10}$





# Effect of RI on measured D<sub>90</sub>





### **Results**





### **Results**

<b>Refractive index</b>	D10,	Difference	D50,	Difference	D90,	Difference
calculation	microns	from correct	microns	from correct	microns	from correct
approach		value		value		value
2.7 - 0.001i	0.30		0.42		0.80	
(correct value)						
2.6 - 0.001i	0.30	0%	0.45	7.1%	0.78	2.5%
Fraunhofer	0.41	37%	0.57	36%	0.81	1.2%
Minimize R	0.26	13%	0.37	12%	0.72	10%
parameter (3.25						
- 0.1i)						



# **5 micron TiO<sub>2</sub>, Effect of RI**





### **Mie and Fraunhofer are different**





### Recommendations

- Use the Mie model when evaluating laser diffraction data.
- Search for literature for real and imaginary refractive index values or measure your sample yourself.
- If literature values are not available, use the data to estimate values, it is better than guessing or using the Fraunhofer model.
- **Once you choose a refractive index value, stick with it.**



### Summary

Measure sample, recalculate w/different RI – see how important it is

Use one of the described approaches to determine the real component

**Recalculate using different imaginary component** 

Choose result that minimizes R parameter, but also check if result makes sense





### Thank you



