



Designation: E2161 – 23c

Standard Terminology Relating to Performance Validation in Thermal Analysis and Rheology¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E2161; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

1. Scope

1.1 Validation of methods and apparatus is requested or required for quality initiatives or where results may be used for legal purposes.

1.2 This standard provides terminology relating to validation performance of thermal analysis and rheology methods and instrumentation. Terms that are generally understood or defined adequately in other readily available sources are not included.

1.3 The terminology described in this standard is that of the validation process and may differ from that traditionally encountered in ASTM standards.

1.4 A definition is a single sentence with additional information included in a *Discussion*.

1.5 This terminology only includes those terms that are included in an ASTM standard or for which some action is under consideration. It is not intended as an all-inclusive listing of terms relating to performance validation.

1.6 Terminology commonly used in the study of precision and bias, in thermal analysis, rheology, and thermophysical properties may be found in Practice E177 and Terminologies E473 and E1142. Additional information on method validation may be found in the U.S. Pharmacopeia and National Formulary.²

1.7 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E37 on Thermal Measurements and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E37.03 on Nomenclature and Definitions.

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² Available from U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention (USP), 12601 Twinbrook Pkwy., Rockville, MD 20852-1790, <http://www.usp.org>.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:³

E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods

E473 Terminology Relating to Thermal Analysis and Rheology

E1142 Terminology Relating to Thermophysical Properties

3. Terminology

absolute measurement, n —an analytical measurement or result in which the measured variable(s) are evaluated using theoretical principles and fundamental physical constants, without using a reference material for calibration.

accuracy, n —the agreement between an experimentally determined value and the accepted reference value.

DISCUSSION—Accuracy is also known as bias in ASTM practice.

analyte, n —the specific component measured in an analysis.

baseline, n —the resultant analytical trace when no test specimen is present.

bias, n —a constant or systematic difference between the test results and an accepted reference value.

blank, n —the measured value obtained when a specific component is not present during the measurement.

bow, n —the maximum deviation between an actual instrument reading and the reading predicted by a straight line drawn between upper and lower calibration points, expressed as a percent of full scale.

calibration, n —the act or process of determining the relationship between a set of standard units of measurement and the output of an instrument or test method.

DISCUSSION—Calibration is intended to improve the reproducibility and bias (accuracy) of a measurement so that results are consistent with other measurements.

³ 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.

certificate, *n*—a formal document testifying to the truth of a matter (see also **certification**).

certification, *n*—process of issuing a formal document testifying to the truth of a matter.

DISCUSSION—Includes conditions (such as accreditation), materials (such as reference materials), processes (such as calibration), and the like.

certified reference material, *n*—a reference material lot, the property(ies) of which, determined by measurement is/are certified by an identified organization and found on an accompanying certificate.

DISCUSSION—Each certified value should be accompanied by an uncertainty at a stated level of confidence.

coefficient of determination, R^2 , *n*—a measure of how well a statistical model approximates the real data

DISCUSSION—Goodness-of-fit is a synonym for coefficient of determination.

DISCUSSION—The coefficient of determination equals the square of the correlation coefficient.

DISCUSSION— R^2 is the fraction of the variance explained by the correlation. In contrast, $1 - R^2$ is the fraction of the variance unexplained by the correlation. The value of the coefficient of determination varies from 0 (no correlation) to 1 (perfect correlation).

coefficient of variation, *n*—the standard deviation divided by the value of the parameter measured.

comparative measurement, *n*—an analytical measurement obtained by comparing a sample having an unknown quantity of a selected property with a sample having a known quantity of that property.

DISCUSSION—Comparative methods use calibration with a reference material(s) or analyte.

conformance, *n*—agreement of a product, process or service with specification requirements.

correlation coefficient, R , *n*—a statistical measure of the strength and direction of the linear relationship between two variables.

DISCUSSION—The strength of the correlation varies from 0 (no correlation) to ± 1 (perfect correlation). The sign indicates direction. A positive sign indicates that the two variables move in the same direction. A negative sign indicates the one variable decrease while the other increases.

DISCUSSION—The square of the correlation coefficient is known as the coefficient of determination.

detection limit, *n*—the minimum quantity of analyte that can be reliably detected but not necessarily quantified.

drift, *n*—the relatively slow change in baseline output due to instrument performance taken to be the maximum deviation between any two points within a specified time period.

evaluation, *n*—determination of whether a relevant result is cause to accept or to reject an apparatus, method, material, or process.

figure-of-merit, *n*—a performance characteristic of a method believed to be useful when deciding its applicability for a specific measurement situation.

DISCUSSION—Typical figures-of-merit include accuracy, repeatability, sensitivity, etc.

full-width at half-maximum (FWHM), *n*—the difference between the two extreme values of a peak of the independent variable at which the dependent variable is equal to half of its maximum value.

intercept, *n*—in linear or multiple linear regression, the expected dependent variable value when all independent variables are zero.

DISCUSSION—For example, in linear regression, when data is fit to the equation $Y = mX + b$, where Y is the dependent variable, X is the independent variable, m is the slope, then b is the intercept.

interlaboratory study, **ILS**, *n*—a study undertaken to provide between laboratory precision and accuracy information for a test method.

interlaboratory testing, *n*—evaluation of a test method in more than one laboratory by analyzing data obtained from one or more materials that are as homogeneous as practical.

intralaboratory study, *n*—a study undertaken to provide within laboratory precision and accuracy information for a test method.

linearity, *n*—the maximum deviation of output points from the “best fit” linear curve to the data excluding proven outliers expressed as a percentage of the full-scale computed output.

noise, *n*—the maximum amplitude, peak-to-peak, for all random variations.

noise, short term, *n*—is that with a frequency greater than six cycles per min (equivalent to a period of 10 seconds or less).

DISCUSSION—Short Term Noise determines the smallest signal detectable and limits the precision attainable in quantitation of low level measurements.

noise, long term, *n*—is that with a frequency between 0.6 and 6 cycles per min (equivalent to periods of 100 and 10 s).

DISCUSSION—Long Term Noise may be mistaken for the response of a test specimen.

pilot study, *n*—a small scale study, project, test, or experiment performed to evaluate some aspect of the experiment (such as feasibility, time, cost, adverse events) to improve upon the study design before performing a full-scale study.

DISCUSSION—A pilot study may be performed using approximate or estimated experimental parameters.

pooled, adj—in statistics, the mean of weighted variances.

precision, *n*—the degree of agreement among or between repeated measurements of the same property.

quantitation limit, *n*—the minimum amount that can be quantified with acceptable accuracy and precision.

readability, scale or meter, *n*—the smallest value difference that can be read from a meter, scale, or display.

DISCUSSION—For an analog measurement, readability is considered to be one-quarter ($1/4$) of a minor scale division.

reference material, *n*—a material or substance, the property for which is sufficiently homogeneous and well established