



Designation: **D2140–08 (Reapproved 2017) D2140–23**

## Standard Practice for Calculating Carbon-Type Composition of Insulating Oils of Petroleum Origin<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D2140; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This practice may be used to determine the carbon-type composition of mineral insulating oils by correlation with basic physical properties. For routine analytical purposes it eliminates the necessity for complex fractional separation and purification procedures. The practice is applicable to oils having average molecular weights from 200 to above 600, and 0 to 50 aromatic carbon atoms.

1.2 Carbon-type composition is expressed as percentage of aromatic carbons, percentage of naphthenic carbons, and percentage of paraffinic carbons. These values can be obtained from the correlation chart, Fig. 1, if both the viscosity-gravity constant (VGC) and refractivity intercept ( $r_i$ ) of the oil are known. Viscosity, density and relative density (specific gravity), and refractive index are the only experimental data required for use of this test method.

1.3 This practice is useful for determining the carbon-type composition of electrical insulating oils of the types commonly used in electric power transformers and transmission cables. It is primarily intended for use with new oils, either inhibited or uninhibited.

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

1.5 *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.*

1.6 *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.*

### 2. Referenced Documents

#### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>

- D129 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products (General High Pressure Decomposition Device Method) (Withdrawn 2023)<sup>3</sup>
- D445 Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids (and Calculation of Dynamic Viscosity)
- D923 Practices for Sampling Electrical Insulating Liquids

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D27 on Electrical Insulating Liquids and Gases and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D27.07 on Physical Test.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

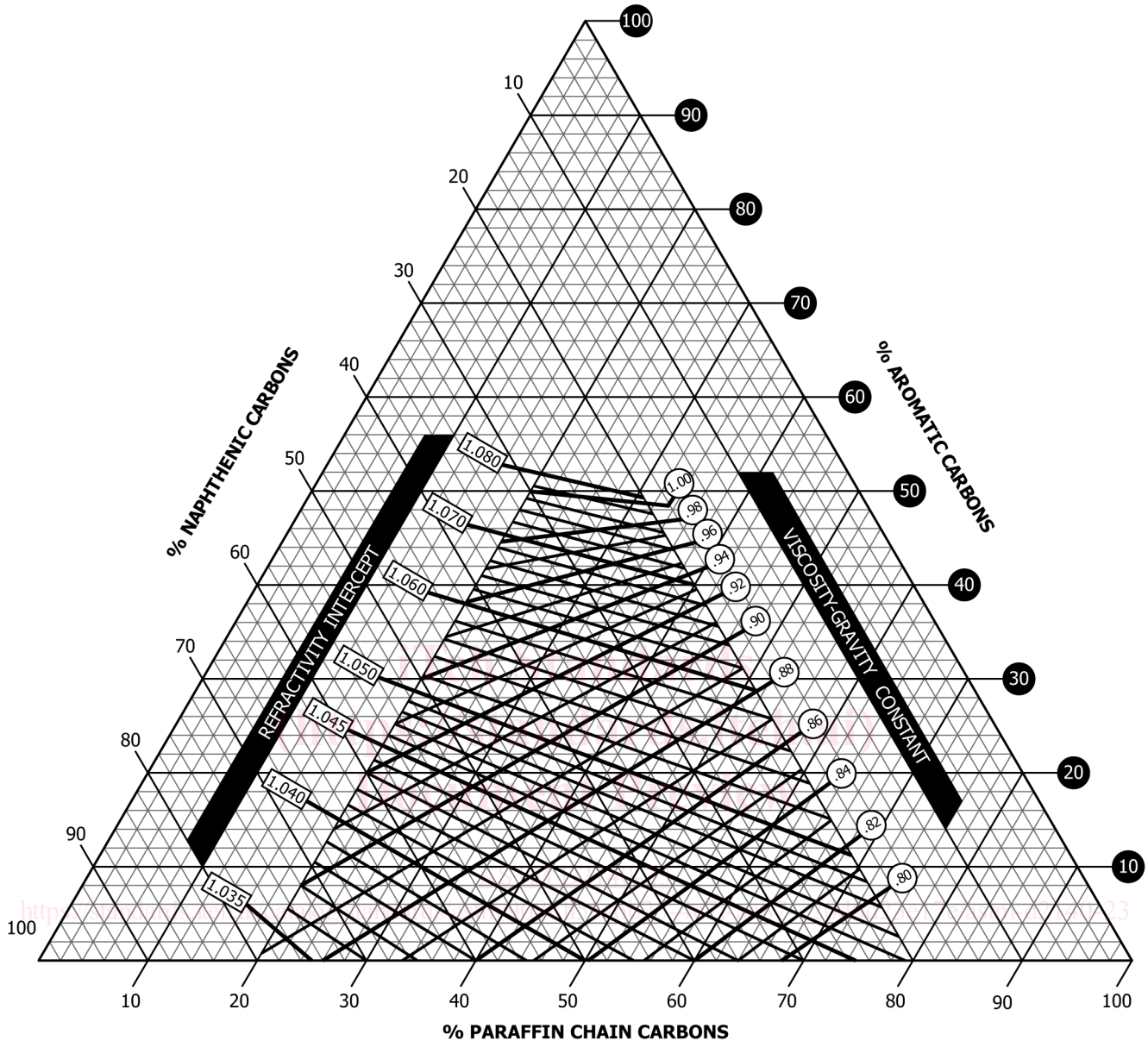


FIG. 1 Correlation Chart for Determining %  $C_A$ , %  $C_N$ , and %  $C_P$

[D1218 Test Method for Refractive Index and Refractive Dispersion of Hydrocarbon Liquids](#)

[D1481 Test Method for Density and Relative Density \(Specific Gravity\) of Viscous Materials by Lipkin Bicapillary Pycnometer \(Withdrawn 2023\)<sup>3</sup>](#)

[D2007 Test Method for Characteristic Groups in Rubber Extender and Processing Oils and Other Petroleum-Derived Oils by the Clay-Gel Absorption Chromatographic Method](#)

[D2501 Test Method for Calculation of Viscosity-Gravity Constant \(VGC\) of Petroleum Oils](#)

[D3238 Test Method for Calculation of Carbon Distribution and Structural Group Analysis of Petroleum Oils by the n-d-M Method](#)

[D4052 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, and API Gravity of Liquids by Digital Density Meter](#)

[D7042 Test Method for Dynamic Viscosity and Density of Liquids by Stabinger Viscometer \(and the Calculation of Kinematic Viscosity\)](#)

### 3. Terminology

#### 3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *percent of aromatic carbons (%  $C_A$ )*—, *n*—the weight percent of the total carbon atoms present in an oil that are combined in aromatic ring-type structures.