

Mettler/Paar DMA45 Densitometer Calibration and Density Measurements

Teng-Jui Lin

Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Washington

Surface and Colloid Science

Densitometer measures liquid densities

calibration

- Glass oscillator measures vibration period (direct) that relates to density (indirect)



Densitometer calibration constants require vibration period and reference density

- Calibration constants

$$A = \frac{\tau_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^2 - \tau_{\text{air}}^2}{\rho_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} - \rho_{\text{air}}}$$

τ - period ~ measure
 ρ - density \rightarrow standard

$$B = \tau_{\text{air}}^2 - A\rho_{\text{air}}$$

- Water density (ITS-90 correlation) ✓

$$\rho_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}(T) = A + BT + CT^2 + DT^3$$

- Air density ✓

wet

$$\rho_{\text{air}}(T) = \frac{P_{\text{air}}}{R_{\text{air}}T} + \frac{P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{R_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}T}$$

$$R_i = \frac{R}{\mathcal{M}_i}$$

dry air water
mass basis

- Water partial pressure (Relative humidity)

$$P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^* \text{RH}$$

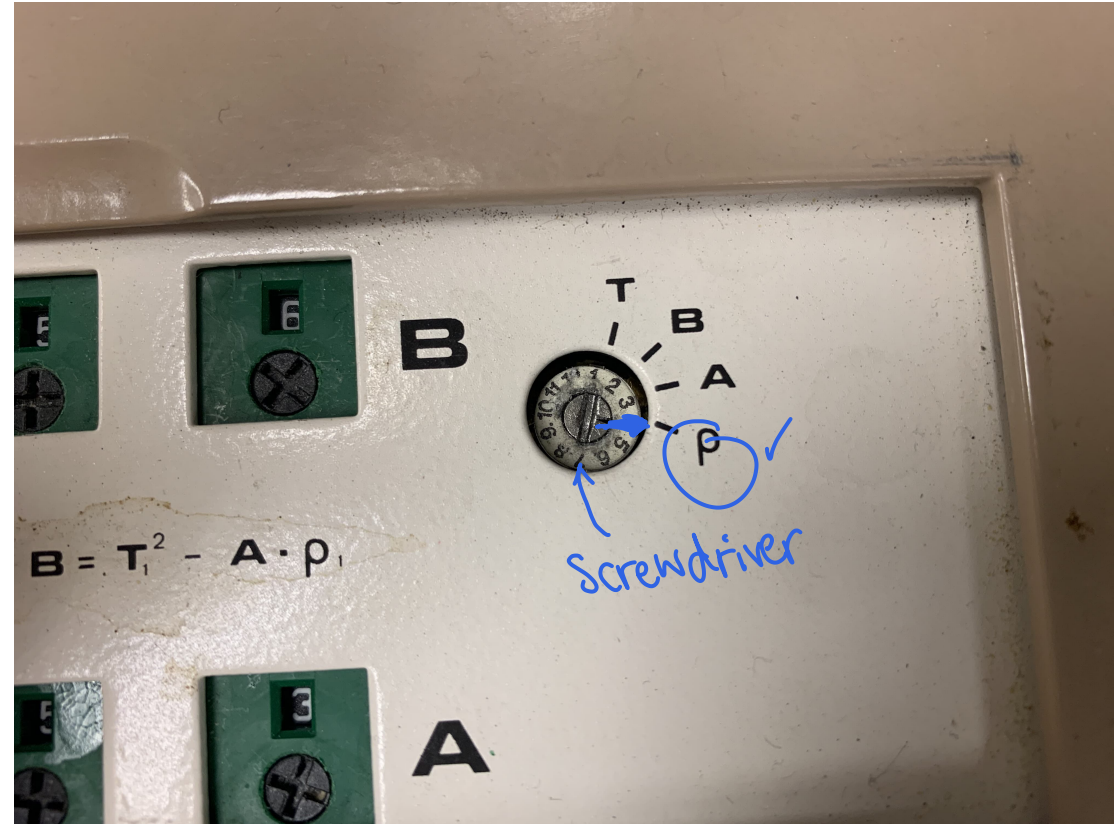
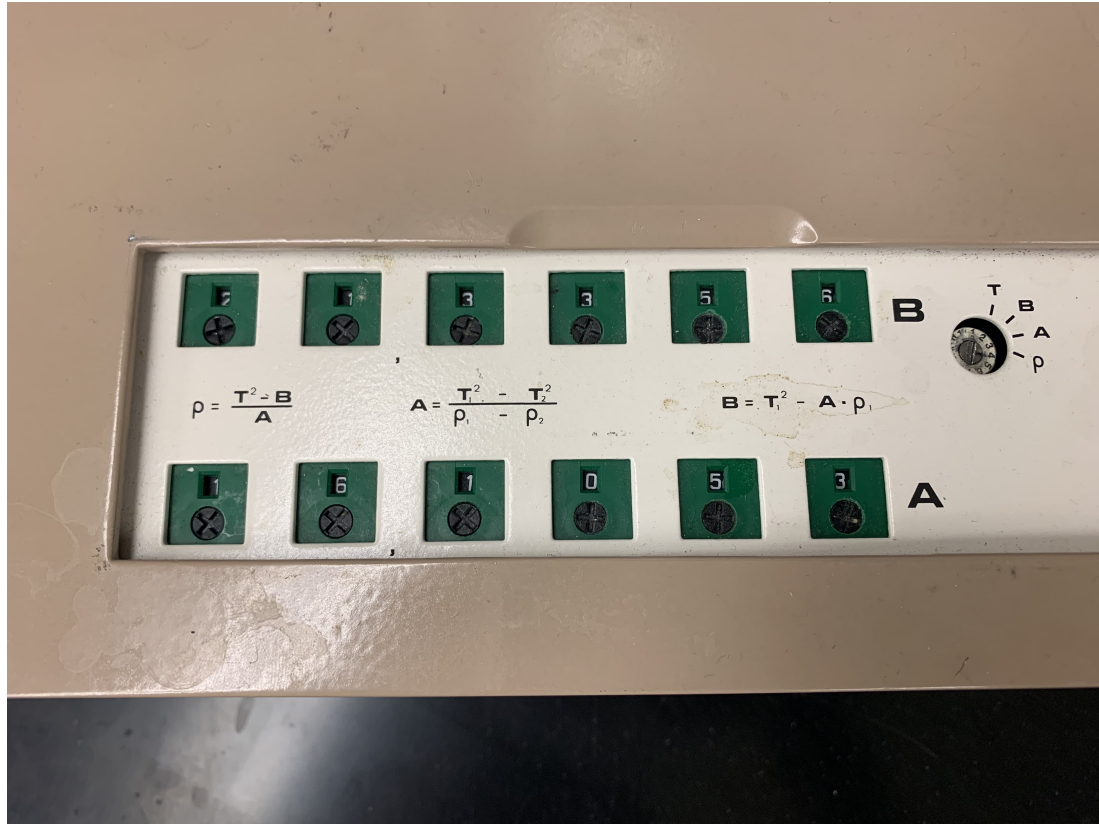
- Water saturation pressure (Antoine's equation)

$$P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^*(T) = \exp\left(A - \frac{B}{C + T}\right) \quad \checkmark$$

- Dry air partial pressure

$$P_{\text{air}} = P - P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$$

Top panel allows adjustment of calibration constants



1. Calibration

1. Use a screwdriver to switch densitometer to period mode (T)

Measure period of air for calibration constants

1. Calibration (cont.)
2. Turn on the densitometer
3. Turn on the light
4. Record the period of air when value stabilizes



Measure period of water for calibration constants

1. Calibration (cont.)
 5. Use a plastic syringe to draw >1 mL deionized water
 6. Remove all bubbles from the syringe
 7. Inject deionized water into the U-tube (avoid air bubbles!) fully, and leave the syringe on the side
 8. Record the period of water when value stabilizes or after 2 min



Calculate calibration constants using period of water and air

1. Calibration (cont.)
 9. Use the provided spreadsheet to calculate the calibration constants
 10. Record the calibration constants

Input the calibration constants into the densitometer and verify calibration

1. Calibration (cont.)
 11. Use a screwdriver to change the calibration constants on the densitometer
 12. **Calibration is now complete!**
2. Verify the calibration
 1. Use a screwdriver to switch densitometer to density mode (ρ)
 2. Read the density measurement of water and compare to literature
 3. Draw out the water, and remove the syringe
 4. Turn on the pump and put the airline in the U-tube until the U-tube is dry
 5. Read the density measurement of air and compare to literature

Measure density of unknown sample

3. Measure density for samples of interest

1. Follow the same procedure for getting samples into densitometer as calibration
2. Draw samples, avoid air bubbles, and inject into U-tube
3. Record density measurement when value stabilizes ✓
4. Draw out samples and rinse the U-tube with acetone ← avoid cross-contam.
5. Turn on the pump and put the airline in the U-tube until the U-tube is dry
6. Note: rinse the syringe with deionized water between samples ←

Shutting down the densitometer

4. Densitometer shutdown

1. When the U-tube is dry, turn off the pump
2. Turn off the light
3. Turn off the densitometer
4. Place back the calibration panel lid, screwdriver, and syringe

References

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- Richard Shelquist. (2023). Equations—Air Density and Density Altitude. https://wahiduddin.net/calc/density_altitude.htm