



Standard Practices for General Techniques of Ultraviolet-Visible Quantitative Analysis¹

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1. Scope

1.1 These practices are intended to provide general information on the techniques most often used in ultraviolet and visible quantitative analysis. The purpose is to render unnecessary the repetition of these descriptions of techniques in individual methods for quantitative analysis.

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

1.3 *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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

E131 Terminology Relating to Molecular Spectroscopy

E168 Practices for General Techniques of Infrared Quantitative Analysis

E275 Practice for Describing and Measuring Performance of Ultraviolet and Visible Spectrophotometers

E387 Test Method for Estimating Stray Radiant Power Ratio of Dispersive Spectrophotometers by the Opaque Filter Method

E925 Practice for Monitoring the Calibration of Ultraviolet-Visible Spectrophotometers whose Spectral Bandwidth does not Exceed 2 nm

E958 Practice for Estimation of the Spectral Bandwidth of Ultraviolet-Visible Spectrophotometers

¹ These practices are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E13 on Molecular Spectroscopy and Separation Science and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E13.01 on Ultra-Violet, Visible, and Luminescence Spectroscopy.

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² 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.

3. Summary of Practice

3.1 Quantitative ultraviolet and visible analyses are based upon the absorption law, known as Beer's law. The units of this law are defined in Terminology E131. Beer's law (Note 1) holds at a single wavelength and when applied to a single component sample it may be expressed in the following form (see Section 11):

$$A = abc \quad (1)$$

When applied to a mixture of n non-interacting components, it may be expressed as follows:

$$A = a_1bc_1 + a_2bc_2 + \dots + a_nbc_n \quad (2)$$

NOTE 1—Detailed discussion of the origin and validity of Beer's law may be found in the books and articles listed in the bibliography at the end of these practices.

3.2 This practice describes the application of Beer's law in typical spectrophotometric analytical applications. It also describes operating parameters that must be considered when using these techniques.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 These practices are a source of general information on the techniques of ultraviolet and visible quantitative analyses. They provide the user with background information that should help ensure the reliability of spectrophotometric measurements.

4.2 These practices are not intended as a substitute for a thorough understanding of any particular analytical method. It is the responsibility of the users to familiarize themselves with the critical details of a method and the proper operation of the available instrumentation.

5. Sample Preparation

5.1 Accurately weigh the specified amount of the sample (solid or liquid). Dissolve in the appropriate solvent and dilute to the specified volume in volumetric glassware of the required accuracy, ensuring that all appropriate temperature range tolerances are maintained. If needed, a dilution should be made with a calibrated pipet and volumetric flask, using adequate volumes for accuracy. With the availability of modern wide