Specific Gravity

Chapter 2.13

Table 2.4 Specific gravity of important minerals

Mineral	Specific gravity, G_s
Quartz	2.65
Kaolinite	2.6
Illite	2.8
Montmorillonite	2.65–2.80
Halloysite	2.0–2.55
Potassium feldspar	2.57
Sodium and calcium feldspar	2.62–2.76
Chlorite	2.6–2.9
Biotite	2.8–3.2
Muscovite	2.76–3.1
Hornblende	3.0–3.47
Limonite	3.6–4.0
Olivine	3.27–3.37

Designation: D854 – 14

Standard Test Methods for Specific Gravity of Soil Solids by Water Pycnometer[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D854; 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 (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 These test methods cover the determination of the specific gravity of soil solids that pass the 4.75-mm (No. 4) sieve, by means of a water pycnometer. When the soil contains particles larger than the 4.75-mm sieve, Test Method C127 shall be used for the soil solids retained on the 4.75-mm sieve and these test methods shall be used for the soil solids passing the 4.75-mm sieve.

1.1.1 Soil solids for these test methods do not include solids which can be altered by these methods, contaminated with a substance that prohibits the use of these methods, or are highly organic soil solids, such as fibrous matter which floats in water.

NOTE 1—The use of Test Method D5550 may be used to determine the specific gravity of soil solids having solids which readily dissolve in water or float in water, or where it is impracticable to use water.

1.2 Two methods for performing the specific gravity are provided. The method to be used shall be specified by the

increase or reduce significant digits of reported data to be commensurate with these considerations. It is beyond the scope of these test methods to consider significant digits used in analysis methods for engineering design.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The inch-pound units given in parentheses are mathematical conversions which are provided for information purposes only and are not considered 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.*

2. Referenced Documents

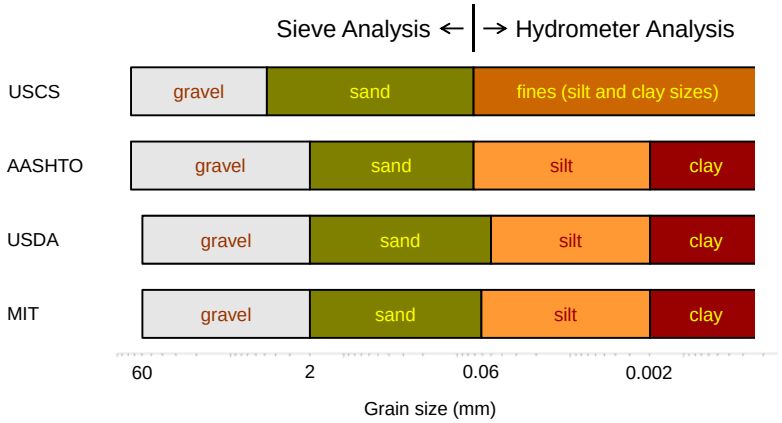
2.1 *ASTM Standards:*[2]

C127 Test Method for Density, Relative Density (Specific

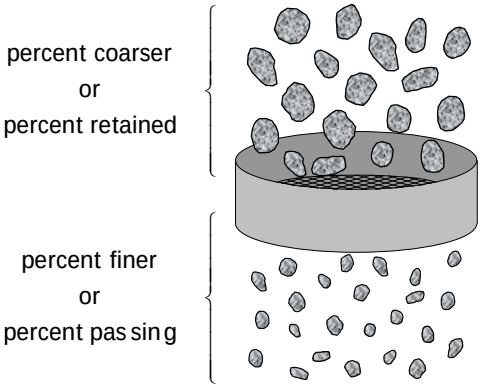
Mechanical Analysis

Chapter 2.14

Soil Particle Size



Sieve Analysis

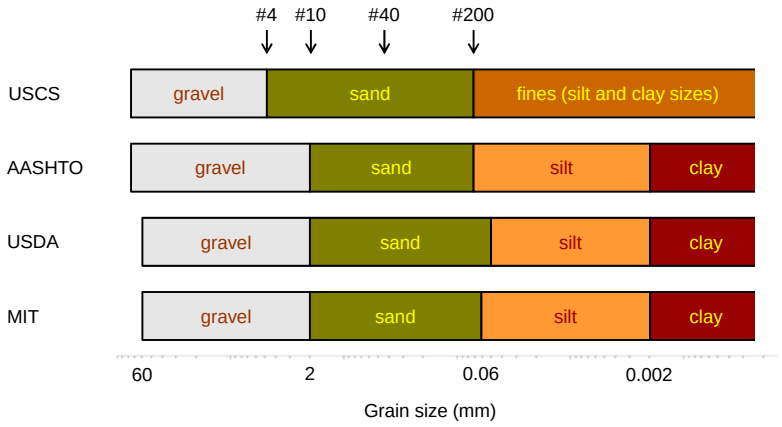


Percentages are calculated by mass

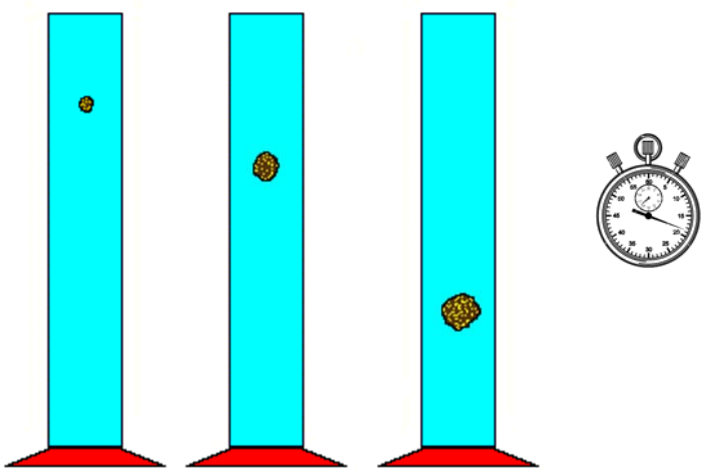
Table 2.5 U.S.—standard sieve sizes

Sieve no.	Opening (mm)
4	4.750
6	3.350
8	2.360
10	2.000
16	1.180
20	0.850
30	0.600
40	0.425
50	0.300
60	0.250
80	0.180
100	0.150
140	0.106
170	0.088
200	0.075
270	0.053

Soil Particle Size



Hydrometer Analysis



Hydrometer Analysis

$F_d = 3\pi\mu Dv$

v

μ = dynamic viscosity

$F_g = \frac{1}{6}\pi D^3(\rho_s - \rho_w)g$

Hydrometer Analysis

$$D(\text{mm}) = K\sqrt{\frac{L(\text{cm})}{t(\text{min})}}$$

$$K = \sqrt{\frac{30\eta}{(G_s - 1)}}$$

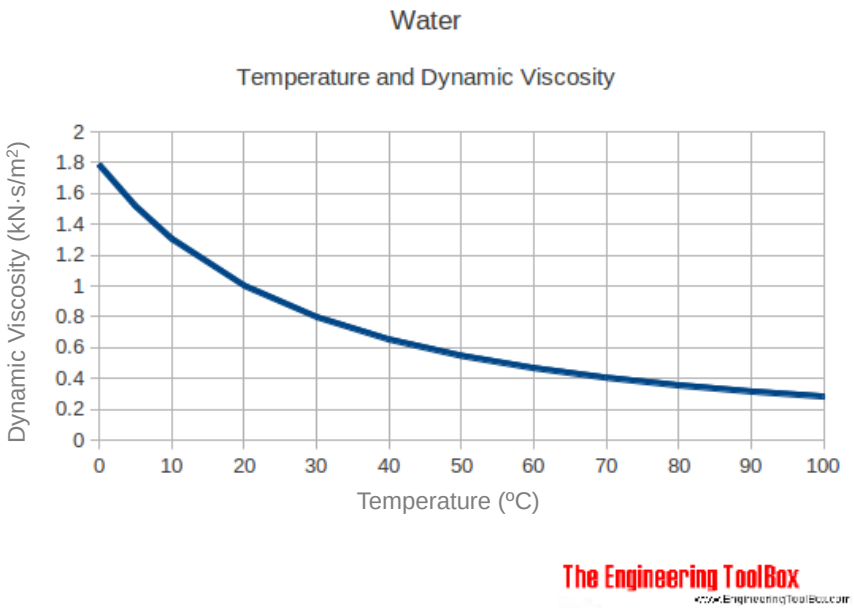


Table 2.6 Variation of K with G_s

Temperature (°C)	G_s						
	2.50	2.55	2.60	2.65	2.70	2.75	2.80
17	0.0149	0.0146	0.0144	0.0142	0.0140	0.0138	0.0136
18	0.0147	0.0144	0.0142	0.0140	0.0138	0.0136	0.0134
19	0.0145	0.0143	0.0140	0.0138	0.0136	0.0134	0.0132
20	0.0143	0.0141	0.0139	0.0137	0.0134	0.0133	0.0131
21	0.0141	0.0139	0.0137	0.0135	0.0133	0.0131	0.0129
22	0.0140	0.0137	0.0135	0.0133	0.0131	0.0129	0.0128
23	0.0138	0.0136	0.0134	0.0132	0.0130	0.0128	0.0126
24	0.0137	0.0134	0.0132	0.0130	0.0128	0.0126	0.0125
25	0.0135	0.0133	0.0131	0.0129	0.0127	0.0125	0.0123
26	0.0133	0.0131	0.0129	0.0127	0.0125	0.0124	0.0122
27	0.0132	0.0130	0.0128	0.0126	0.0124	0.0122	0.0120
28	0.0130	0.0128	0.0126	0.0124	0.0123	0.0121	0.0119
29	0.0129	0.0127	0.0125	0.0123	0.0121	0.0120	0.0118
30	0.0128	0.0126	0.0124	0.0122	0.0120	0.0118	0.0117

Hydrometer Analysis

50 g of soil

1000 ml of water

Sodium hexametaphosphate

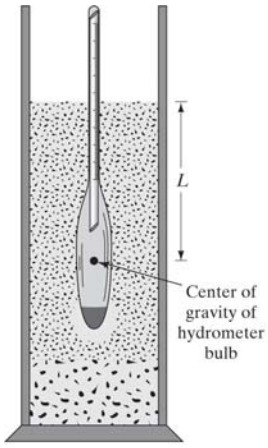


Figure 2.16 Definition of L in hydrometer test

Table 2.7 Variation of L with hydrometer reading—*ASTM* 152-*H* hydrometer

Hydrometer reading	L (cm)	Hydrometer reading	L (cm)
0	16.3	26	12.0
1	16.1	27	11.9
2	16.0	28	11.7
3	15.8	29	11.5
4	15.6	30	11.4
5	15.5	31	11.2
6	15.3	32	11.1
7	15.2	33	10.9
8	15.0	34	10.7
9	14.8	35	10.6
10	14.7	36	10.4
11	14.5	37	10.2
12	14.3	38	10.1
13	14.2	39	9.9
14	14.0	40	9.7
15	13.8	41	9.6
16	13.7	42	9.4
17	13.5	43	9.2
18	13.3	44	9.1
19	13.2	45	8.9
20	13.0	46	8.8
21	12.9	47	8.6
22	12.7	48	8.4
23	12.5	49	8.3
24	12.4	50	8.1
25	12.2	51	7.9

Grams of soil per liter of water

Gradation Curve

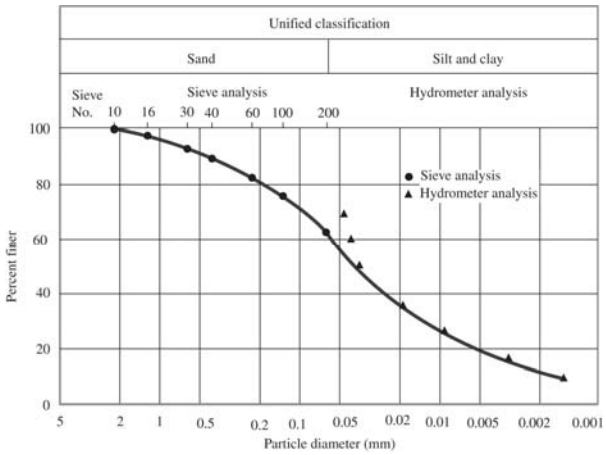
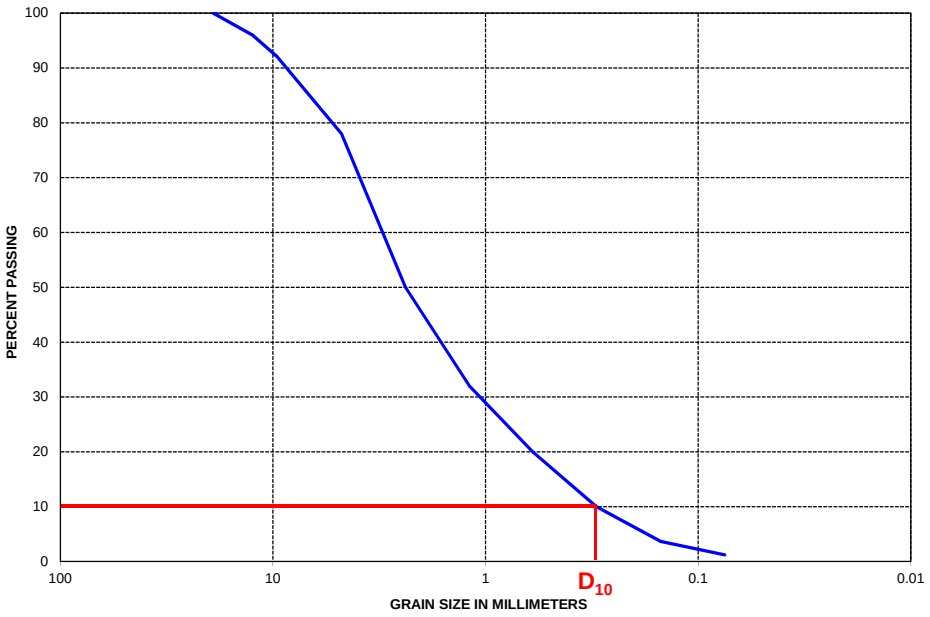


Figure 2.17 Particle-size distribution curve—sieve analysis and hydrometer analysis

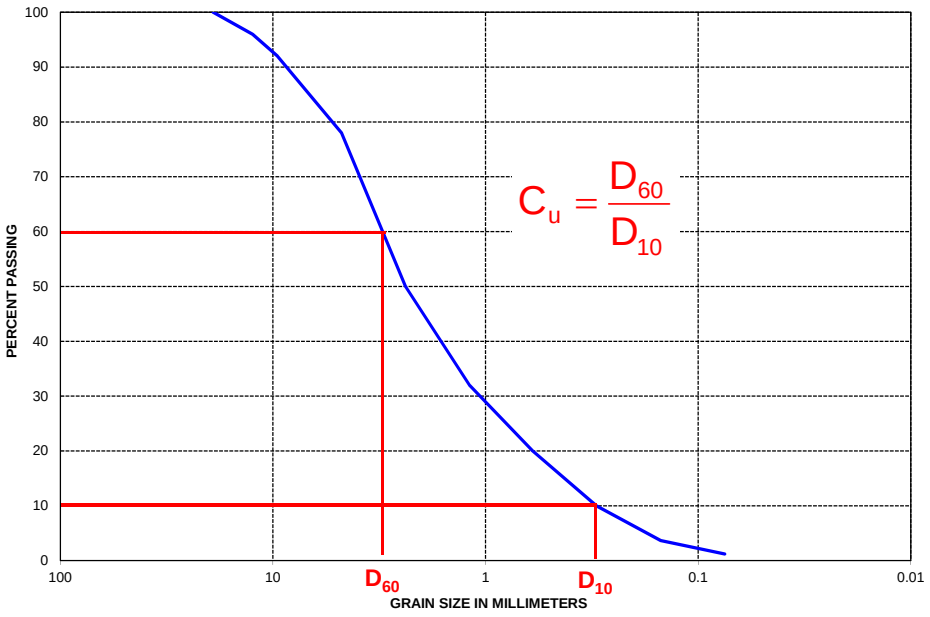
Effective Size
Uniformity Coefficient
Coefficient of Gradation

Chapter 2.15

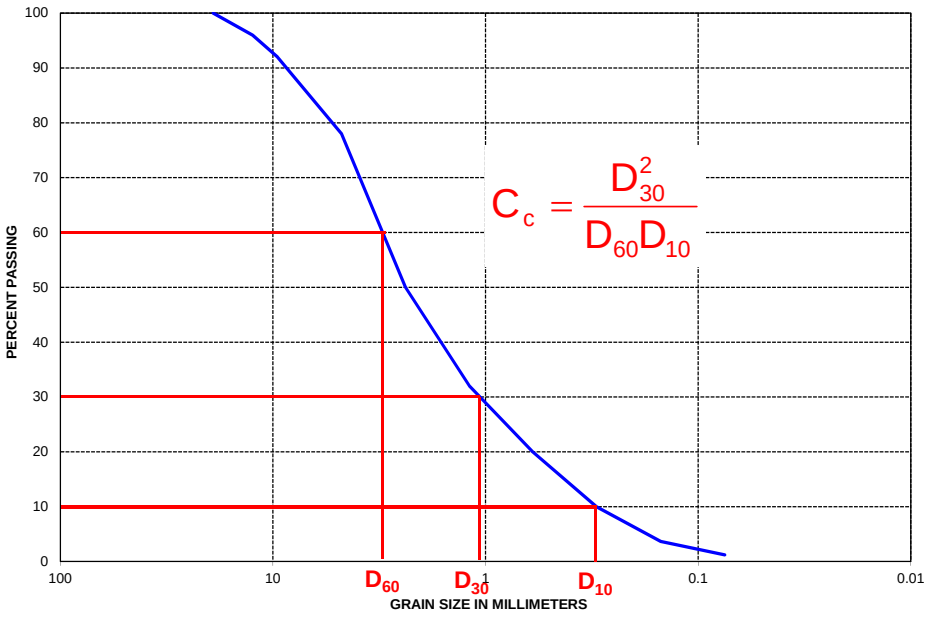
Effective Size



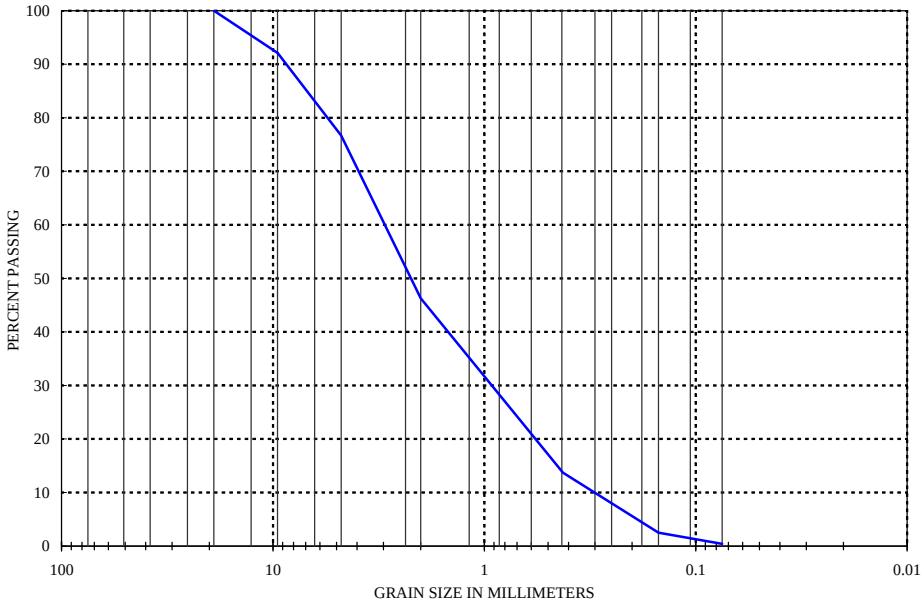
Uniformity Coefficient



Coefficient of Gradation



Example



Particle Shape

Chapter 2.16

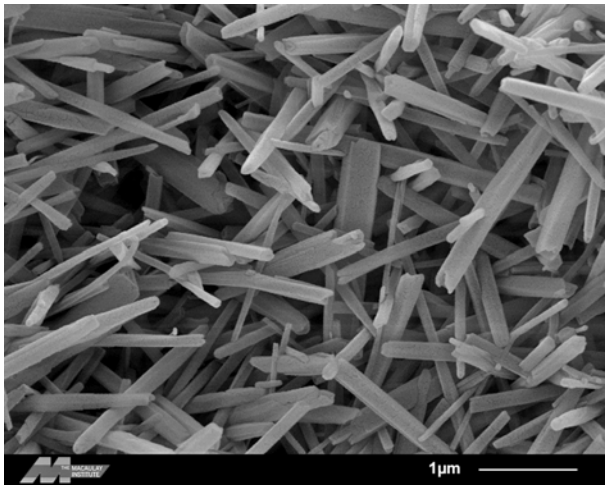
Particle Shape

Bulky

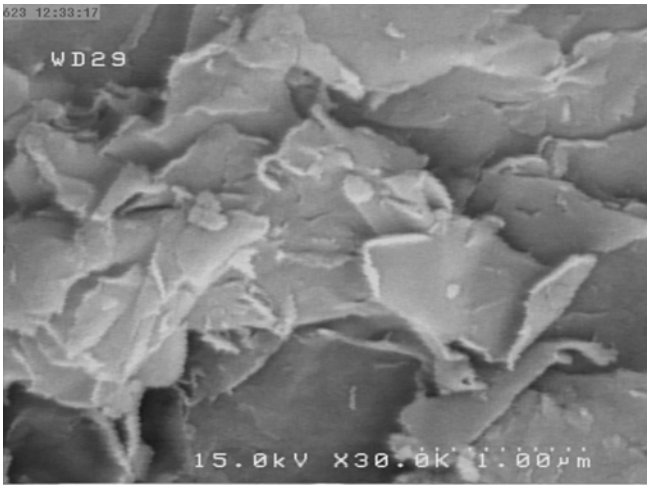
Flaky

Needle-shaped

Halloysite



Montmorillonite



Quartz Sand

Bulky Particles

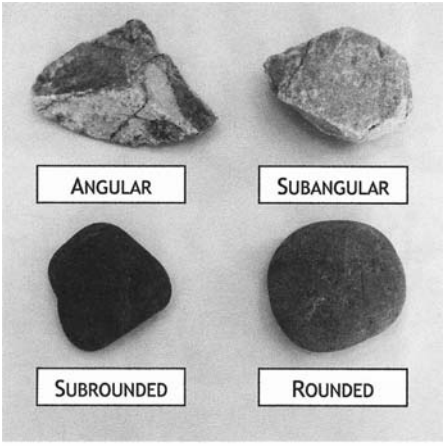


Figure 2.22 Shape of bulky particles