



Standard Practice for Preparing Coal Samples for Analysis¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D2013/D2013M; 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 This practice² covers the reduction and division of gross or divided samples, and the preparation of composite samples, up to and including the individual portions for laboratory analysis.

1.2 Reduction and division procedures are prescribed for coals of the following groups:

1.2.1 *Group A* includes coals that have been cleaned in all sizes.

1.2.2 *Group B* includes all other coals. Unknown coals are to be considered under Group B.

1.2.3 Group A allows smaller weight laboratory samples to be retained than Group B. These lower weights may be used for particular coals if they have been shown, by using the procedures of Annex A1.2, to give a sample preparation and analysis variance which is no more than 20 % of the total analysis variance.

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.

1.4 *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 This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D05 on Coal and Coke and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D05.23 on Sampling.

Current edition approved April 1, 2012. Published June 2012. Originally approved in 1962. Last previous edition approved in 2011 as D2013/D2013M – 11. DOI: 10.1520/D2013_D2013M-12.

² For more detailed explanation of this practice see Keller, G. E., "Determination of Quantities Needed in Coal Sample Preparation and Analysis," *Transactions*, Vol 232, 1965, pp. 218-226.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:³

D121 Terminology of Coal and Coke

D2234/D2234M Practice for Collection of a Gross Sample of Coal

D3174 Test Method for Ash in the Analysis Sample of Coal and Coke from Coal

D3302 Test Method for Total Moisture in Coal

D4749 Test Method for Performing the Sieve Analysis of Coal and Designating Coal Size

E11 Specification for Woven Wire Test Sieve Cloth and Test Sieves

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

E456 Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*—No terms are used which are specific to this practice. Many terms used in this practice may be found in Terminologies D121 and E456 and in Practice E177.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 Three processes of sample division and reduction are covered as follows:

4.1.1 *Procedure A*—Manual riffles are used for division of the sample and mechanical crushing equipment for the reduction of the sample.

4.1.2 *Procedure B*—Mechanical sample dividers are used for the division of the sample and mechanical crushing equipment for the reduction of the sample.

4.1.3 *Combined Procedure A and B*—The two procedures may be combined at any stage.

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.



5. Significance and Use

5.1 Other standards are used to collect the gross sample: Practice D2234/D2234M allows for one division of the gross sample before crushing. The mass and top size of the gross or divided sample collected by using these guides and practices are usually too large for chemical or physical testing. Practice D2013 provide instructions for reducing and dividing the gross or divided sample, by on-line or off-line processes, or both, to a top size and mass suitable to the performance of testing. Any bias in the gross or divided sample before adherence to this practice will remain in the final sample resulting from use of this practice. Therefore, carefully select the standard to be used to collect the gross sample.

5.2 Division and reduction of a sample may occur at more than one location. Most often, the sample is collected, reduced, and divided (one or more times) by use of a mechanical sampling system. The remaining sample may be further divided on-site to facilitate transporting it to the laboratory where further reduction and division likely occurs before analysis.

5.3 In places, this practice requires air drying the sample before subsequent reduction. Procedures for air drying and air-dry loss determination are provided in Test Method D3302.

5.4 Most often, samples are reduced and divided to an analysis sample. However, some tests may require a sample of different mass or top size. This procedure may be used to provide a sample of any mass and size consist from the gross or divided sample to, and including, the analysis sample.

5.5 This practice also specifies how to prepare composite samples, if required.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Crushers or Grinders*—Jaw, cone, or rotary crusher; hammer mill; roll; or other suitable crusher to reduce the sample to pass the sieve designated in 6.4. Hard steel or chilled iron plate with tamper, sledge, or hand bar may be used for preliminary crushing of any large lumps in the sample before feeding into the crusher. Crushers should be designed and operated in a manner to minimize the effect of induced air circulation and thus the potential for drying the coal.

6.1.1 *Pulverizer or Mill*—For final reduction of laboratory sample to the 250- μ m (No. 60) sieve size, the following equipment may be used:

6.1.2 *Hammer Mill*—Completely enclosed to avoid loss of dust or moisture.

6.1.3 *Porcelain-Jar Ball Mill*—This mill shall be approximately 230 mm [9.0 in.] in diameter and 250 mm [10.0 in.] in height with smooth, hard, well-rounded, flint pebbles, or equivalent, that do not increase ash content of the sample.

6.1.4 *Bucking Board (Chrome Steel) or Mortar (Agate or Equivalent) and Pestle*—Only for reducing the small fraction of sample, not passing a 250- μ m (No. 60) sieve after pulverization.

6.2 Sample Dividers:

6.2.1 *Mechanical*—A mechanical sample divider using a reciprocating or rotating cutter, a rotating hopper and spout, a rotating slotted cone, a reciprocating hopper and fixed cutter,

bucket cutter with either bottom dump or inverting discharge, slotted belt, rotary disk divider, mechanical stopped or moving belt sweeper, or other acceptable devices for dividing the sample. Typical mechanical sample dividers are shown in Fig. 1. These illustrate various designs, but other acceptable designs are available.

6.2.2 *Riffle*—A manual sample divider that splits the coal stream into two parts when it is directed through alternating slots. Riffle slots shall be at least three times the top size of the coal being divided and have an even number of alternating slots, in order to achieve similar mass delivered to each catch pan. Riffles shall be enclosed. The slope of the feed chutes and riffles shall be at least 60°.

6.2.2.1 *Large Riffle*—A manual sample divider with at least fourteen 12.7-mm ($\frac{1}{2}$ in.) to 25.4-mm (1 in.) divisions for dividing subsamples of coal passing 2.36 mm (No. 8), and 4.75 mm (No. 4) sieves. See Fig. 2.

6.2.2.2 *Small Riffle*—A manual sample divider with at least twenty-four 6.35-mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in.) to 9.52-mm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in.) divisions for dividing the subsamples of coal passing 250 μ m (No. 60). See Fig. 3.

6.2.2.3 *Feed Scoop*—A feed scoop or pan having straight sides and a width equal to the effective width of the riffle shall be used to feed the riffle.

6.2.2.4 *Feed Chute*—A feed chute shall be used as shown in Fig. 2. The minimum discharge opening of the feed chute shall be the same width as the riffle slot opening.

6.3 *Mixing Wheel*—One type of a mechanical device used for mixing the analysis sample. In this device, the samples are in closed containers attached to the rim of a wheel at an angle of 45° with the horizontal wheel shaft. The wheel provides space for a number of containers depending on its diameter and is turned slowly by a small motor and reduction gear. The wheel should be rotated at a speed so that the particles fall gently from top to bottom of the container, mixing the sample thoroughly. The container should be about half full and never more than two thirds full to obtain good mixing of the sample.

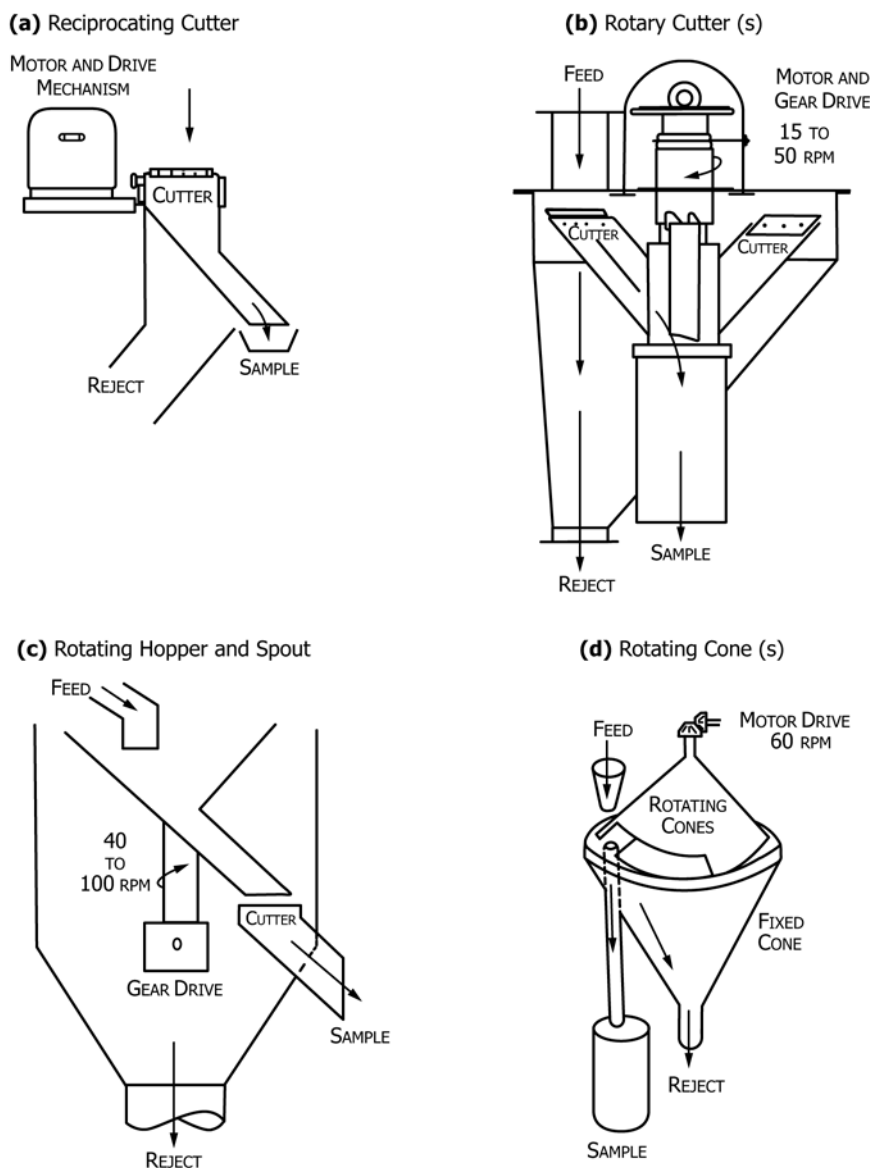
6.4 *Sieves*—A set of sieves whose dimensions are in accordance with Specification E11, of the following sizes, with cover and receiver:

No.	Size
4	4.75 mm
8	2.36 mm
20	850 μ m
60	250 μ m

6.5 *Laboratory Sample Containers*—Heavy vapor-impervious bags, properly sealed, or noncorroding cans such as those with an airtight top, friction top, or screwtop sealed with a rubber gasket and pressure-sensitive tape for use in storage and transport of the laboratory sample. Glass containers, sealed with rubber gaskets, may be used, but care must be taken to avoid breakage in transport.

7. Precautions

7.1 *General*—The preparation of the gross or divided sample, or the composite sample, shall be performed by, or under the direct supervision of, personnel knowledgeable of proper sample handling practices. Sample preparation should



(a) *Reciprocating Cutter*—Fig. 1(a) shows a section of a cutter which is moved across a stream of coal. At regular intervals, the cutter movement is reversed and a sample increment is collected on each trip through the coal stream.

(b) *Rotating Cutter*—Fig. 1(b) shows two cutters attached to a hollow, rotating shaft. Each cutter is designed to extract increments from the feed and to discharge these into the hollow shaft. One or more cutters may be used.

(c) *Rotating Hopper and Spout*—Fig. 1(c) shows the totaling hopper that receives the crushed sample and discharges it through a spout over one or more stationary cutters.

(d) *Rotating Cone*—A sampler developed by the British National Coal Board. Two slotted cones are locked together and rotated on a vertical shaft so that on each revolution the common slot operating intercepts the falling stream of coal and collects an increment.

FIG. 1 Mechanical Sample Dividers

be checked at intervals by the methods described in [Annex A1](#) or [Annex A2](#). It is necessary that the variance of sample division and analysis S_{da}^2 be not more than 20 % of the total variance of sampling, division, and analysis S_o^2 .

7.1.1 The sample preparation operations should be performed in an enclosed space, roofed, cool, and free from excessive air movements.

7.2 *Number of Tests*—Before preparing the gross or divided sample, or the composite sample, consider the number and nature of the analysis and tests to be performed. A separate moisture laboratory sample may be required, and portions may

be required for grindability and other tests. Also, a reserve sample may be desired in case a check analysis or test is required.

7.3 This practice specifies situations when air drying the sample is necessary during sample preparation. Test Method [D3302](#) specifies procedures for air drying and calculation of percent air dry loss.

7.3.1 Calculate and record air-dry loss determination each time air drying is performed.

7.3.2 In handling, reducing, and dividing the sample, all operations shall be done rapidly and in as few operations as

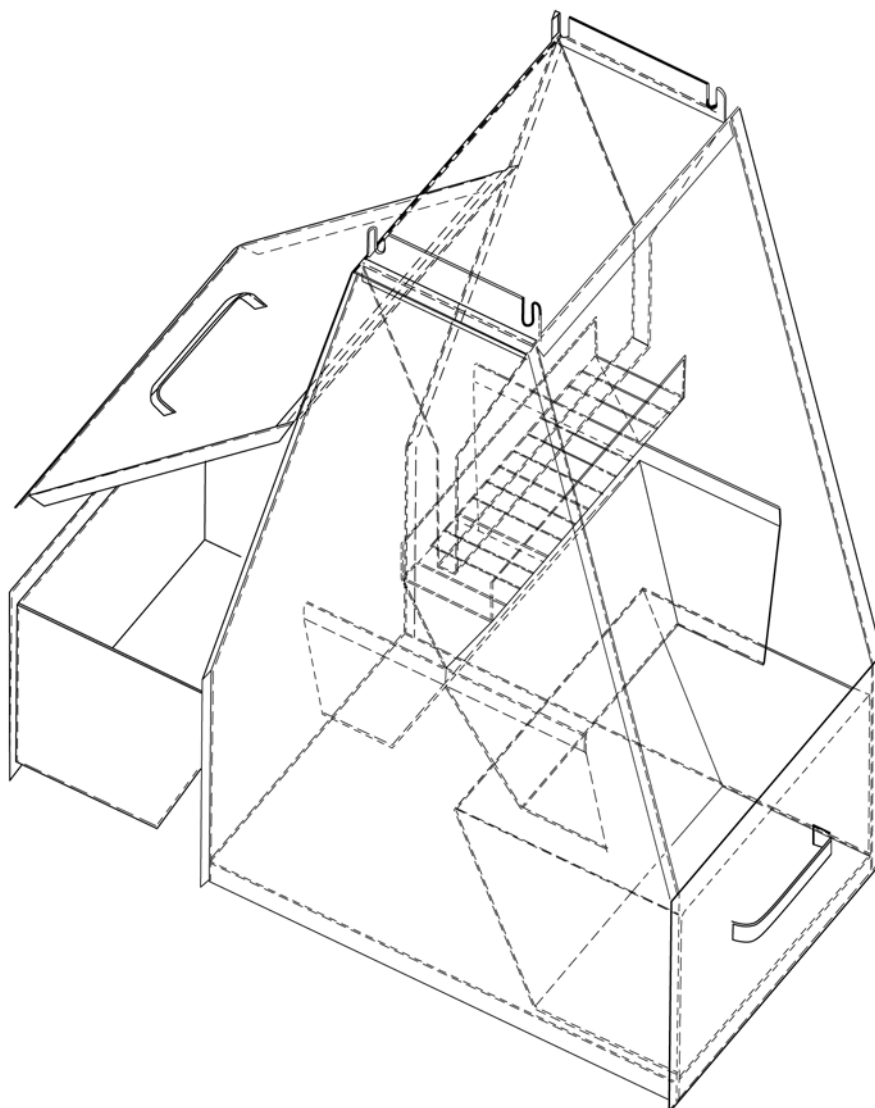


FIG. 2 Large Sample Divider (Riffle)

possible, since moisture loss depends on several factors other than total moisture content, such as time required for crushing, atmospheric temperature and humidity, and type of crushing equipment.

7.3.3 While awaiting preparation, the gross or divided sample shall be protected from moisture change as a result of exposure to rain, snow, wind, and sun on contact with absorbent materials.

7.3.4 Whenever subsamples are stored or transported, the containers and subsample shall be weighed and equilibrated to the new atmosphere by air drying, and the weight loss or gain shall be used in the calculation of moisture content.

7.4 Whenever a distinct change of humidity occurs during the course of preparation of an air-dried subsample, the subsample shall be weighed and its moisture equilibrated with the new atmosphere, and the loss or gain in mass shall be used in the calculation of moisture content.

8. Sieve Tests

8.1 The errors of sample division are sensitive to the top size, and therefore, it is important to make a periodic sieve test of the product of the sample crusher. Sieve tests shall be made and reported in accordance with Test Method [D4749](#).

9. Procedure

9.1 *Mass*—The minimum allowable mass of the sample at any stage depends on the top size, the variability of the constituent sought, and the degree of precision desired ([Table 1](#)).

9.2 *Reduction and Division* (See [Fig. 4](#) for flowchart):

9.2.1 It is permissible to air dry the sample before crushing. Samples may require air drying to feed properly through the reduction and dividing equipment. Sometimes there is an interest in determining the air-dry loss value before crushing. Air dry in accordance with Test Method [D3302](#).

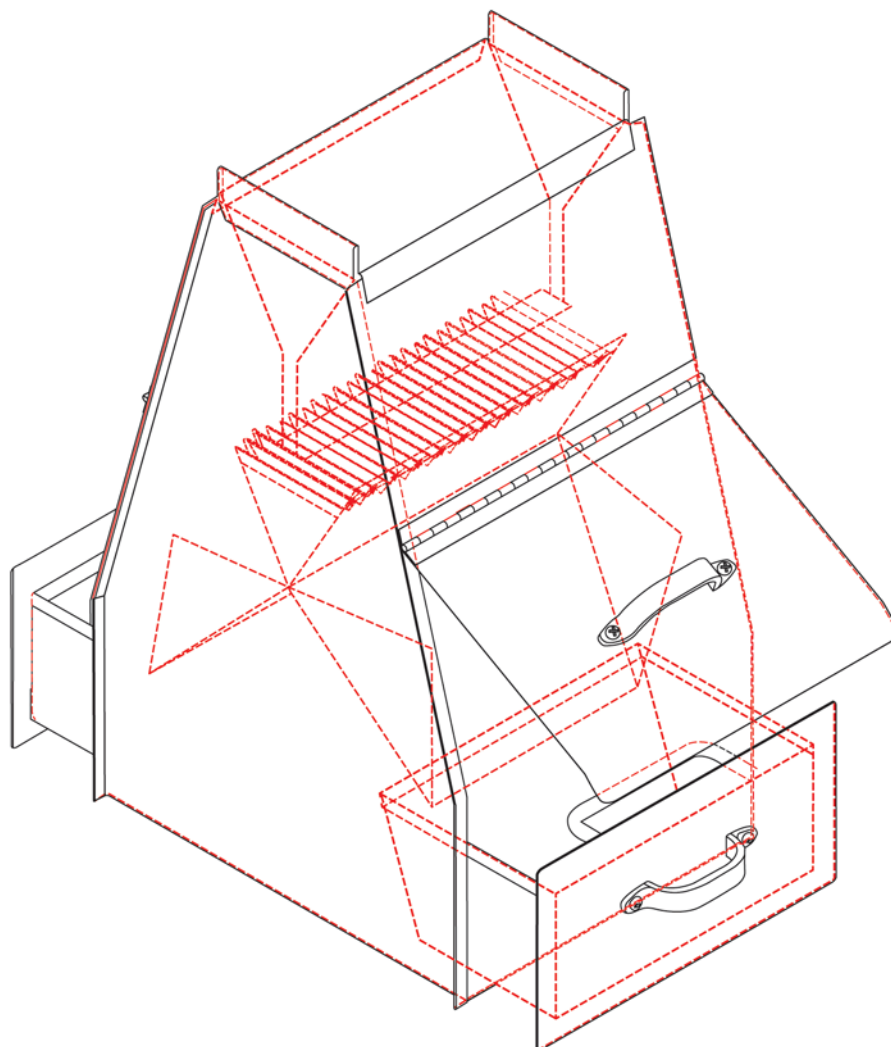


FIG. 3 Small Sample Divider (Riffle)

TABLE 1 Preparation of Laboratory Sample

Crush to pass at least 95 % through sieve	Divide to a minimum weight of, g ^A	
	Group A	Group B
4.75-mm (No. 4)	2000	4000
2.36-mm (No. 8)	500	1000
850 µm (No. 20)	250	500
250 µm (No. 60) (100 % through)	50	50

^A If a moisture sample is required, increase the quantity of No. 4 (4.75-mm) or No. 8 (2.36-mm) sieve subsample by 500 g.

9.2.2 In the reduction and division of gross or divided samples for which total moisture content is to be determined, the precautions in 7.3 and 7.4 must be followed.

9.2.3 Procedure A—Manual Riffing:

9.2.3.1 Reduce the gross or divided sample to a top size of 4.75-mm (No. 4) or 2.36-mm (No. 8) sieve taking precautions in accordance with Section 7.

9.2.3.2 Determine the number of passes required in the riffing operation from the total mass of the gross sample and the minimum permissible mass in accordance with Table 1.

9.2.3.3 Divide the crushed sample by using a large riffle. Riffles properly used will reduce sample variability but cannot eliminate it. A typical enclosed riffle is shown in Fig. 2 and described in 6.2.2. Pass the coal through the riffle from a feed scoop, feed bucket, or riffle pan having a lip or opening the full width of the riffle. When using any of the preceding containers to feed the riffle, spread the coal evenly in the container, raise the container, and hold it with its front edge resting on top of the feed chute, then slowly tilt it so that the coal flows in a uniform stream through the hopper straight down over the center of the riffle into all the slots, then into the riffle pans, one half of the sample being collected in each pan. Under no circumstances shovel the sample into the riffle or dribble into the riffle from a small-mouthed container. Do not allow the coal to build up in or above the riffle slots. If it does not flow freely through the slots, shake or vibrate the riffle to facilitate even flow.

9.2.3.4 If the initial crushing was only to 4.75-mm (No. 4) sieve size, reduce to 2.36-mm (No. 8) sieve size after dividing to no less than the quantity specified in Table 1 for a 4.75-mm (No. 4) sieve size.

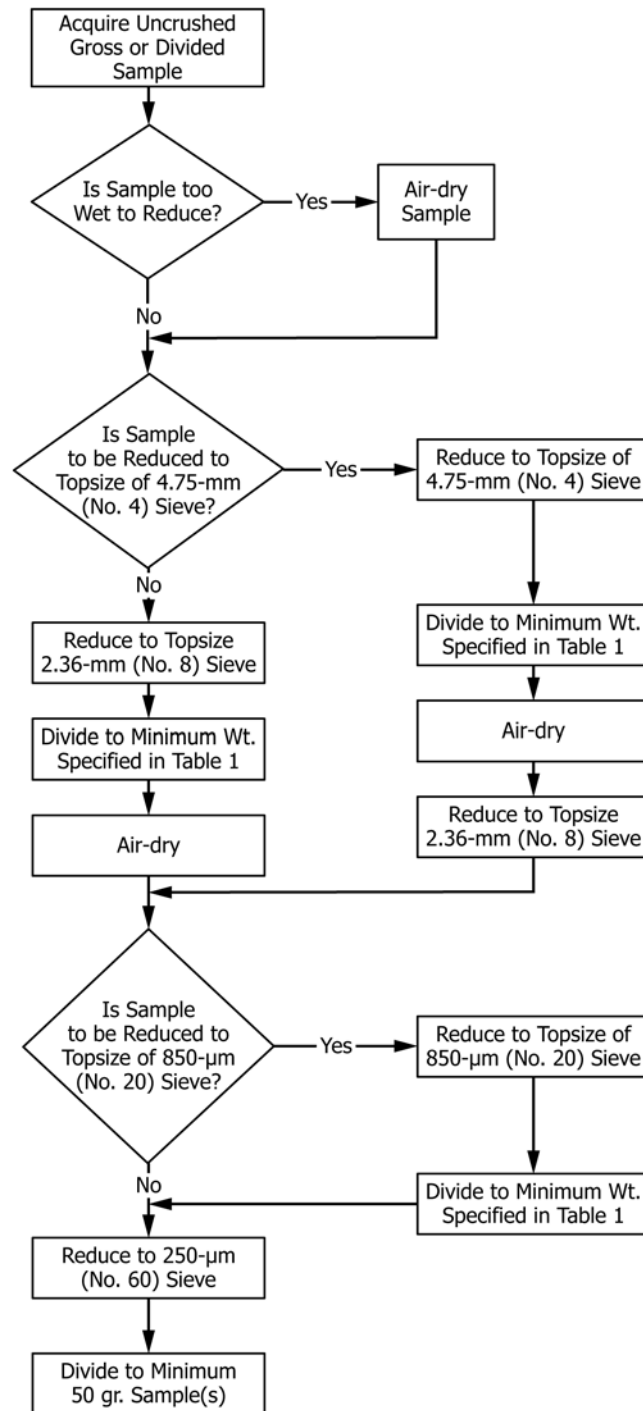


FIG. 4 Sample Preparation Flowchart

9.2.3.5 After reducing to 2.36-mm (No. 8) sieve size, divide the subsample by riffing to no less than the quantity specified in [Table 1](#) for a 2.36-mm sieve size.

9.2.3.6 With suitable pulverizing equipment (see [6.1](#)), reduce the 2.36-mm (No. 8) sieve size subsample to a 250-μm (No. 60) sieve size. Divide the ground subsample by riffing, using the small riffle (see [6.2.2](#)) until a minimum of 50 g is obtained. Quickly pass the subsample through a 250-μm (No. 60) sieve. Reduce the particles retained on the screen, on a

bucking board or mortar and pestle to pass the sieve, and add to what passed through the sieve and mix thoroughly. This is the analysis sample.

9.2.3.7 As an alternative to the procedure of [9.2.3.6](#), the 2.36-mm (No. 8) sieve size subsample may be reduced to pass 95 % through a 850-μm (No. 20) sieve. Divide this subsample by riffing with the small riffle to not less than the quantity specified in [Table 1](#), and then reduce to 250-μm (No. 60) sieve size in accordance with [9.2.3.6](#).



9.2.3.8 Thoroughly mix, preferably by mechanical means, the analysis sample, weighing not less than 50 g, before extracting portions for analysis (see 6.3).

9.2.4 Procedure B—Mechanical Division:

9.2.4.1 Reduce the gross or divided sample in stages and divide by suitable mechanical sample dividers (see 6.2.1) to quantities not less than those shown in Table 1.

9.2.4.2 Mechanical division of the sample consists of automatically collecting a large number of increments of the properly reduced sample. Distribute this large number of increments equally throughout the entire discharge from the sample crusher because crushers can introduce appreciable segregation. At each stage of division, take at least 60 increments.

NOTE 1—It is recommended that, in the case of mechanical division in which an increment is not thoroughly mixed with other increments before division, a portion of each increment be collected by the subsequent stage increment collection process.

9.2.4.3 Thoroughly mix the analysis sample, 100 % through 250- μ m (No. 60) sieve and weighing not less than 50 g, in accordance with 9.2.3.8 before extracting portions for analysis.

10. Preparation of Composite Samples to Represent Lot-Size (or Consignment-Size) Quantities of Coal

10.1 There are several issues to consider when deciding whether to make a physical composite of separate samples collected to represent different parts of the same lot (or consignment) See Note 2. When the analytical parameters of interest are additive (for example, proximate and ultimate analyses) the preferred method is to test the individual samples and perform a ton-weighted mathematical average to determine the result for the lot (or consignment). See Note 3. On the other hand, when the sought-after parameters are non-additive (for example, ash fusibility and Hardgrove grindability), analysis of a composite sample is the only way to achieve a meaningful test result. Another consideration is that since there are no provisions in this standard for dividing samples of top size larger than 250 μ m (No. 60) by means other than riffing or mechanically subsampling, the exact weights needed for preparation of composite samples containing larger particles are not attainable. Taking these and other issues into account leads to the requirement that preparation of composites be performed with strict adherence to the procedures which are described

below and are summarized in Table 2. The details pertaining to the preparation of composite samples must be agreed to by all concerned parties.

NOTE 2—As used in this standard, the term *represent* (together with its related forms) does not imply that samples satisfy a particular quantitative or statistical relationship to the coal that was sampled. The term is used within Practice D2013 in the sense of its broad dictionary definition, that is, to simply stand for or symbolize larger quantities of coal.

NOTE 3—As used in this standard, parameters which are additive are those having values that are not affected by interactions between the physical and chemical properties of the combined individual samples. Non-additive parameters are those for which such interactions may occur or those for which definitive information on interactions is not available.

10.2 If two or more samples have been collected by a single mechanical coal sampling system operated under constant settings resulting in a constant sampling ratio (see Practice D2234/D2234M), or by multiple sampling systems with identical sampling ratios, prepare the composite by directly combining all of the material from all samples. If it is desired to decrease the total weight of the composite, it is acceptable to combine equal percentages (for example, 75 % or 50 %) of each individual sample, all of which have been divided in the same manner and according to this standard. Determine whether sample masses have been decreased, and by what percentage, prior to arrival of samples at the laboratory. Account for that information when making the composite. The samples may be reduced in nominal top size (for example, to pass a 2.36 mm (No. 8) sieve) to facilitate the compositing process. Adhere to the minimum weights required in Table 1. Observe the precautions of Practice D2234/D2234M and Test Method D3302, as well as those found in this standard, to guard against unaccounted-for changes in moisture. It is advisable to mix the composite sample thoroughly, but without altering the moisture content, before reducing or dividing to smaller quantities.

10.3 If two or more samples have been collected by multiple mechanical coal sampling systems which do not have identical sampling ratios, or if manual sampling practices have been used, and only 250 μ m (No. 60) sieve size samples are required for analysis (such as for proximate, ultimate, ash fusibility, etc.) prepare the composite sample using the 250 μ m (No. 60) sieve size samples as follows.

TABLE 2 Preparation of Composite Samples

Source of Samples to be Combined	For Analysis of Additive Parameters		For Analysis of Non-additive Parameters	
	Required Nominal Top Size is 250 μ m (No. 60) Sieve Size	Required Nominal Top Size is Larger than 250 μ m (No. 60) Sieve Size	Required Nominal Top Size is 250 μ m (No. 60) Sieve Size	Required Nominal Top Size is Larger than 250 μ m (No. 60) Sieve Size
Single mechanical coal sampling system with a constant sampling ratio, or multiple sampling systems having identical sampling ratios	Test samples individually (preferred), or combine large particle-size samples directly per 10.2	Test samples individually (preferred), or combine large particle-size samples directly per 10.2	Combine large particle-size samples directly per 10.2	Combine large particle-size samples directly per 10.2
Multiple mechanical coal sampling systems which do not have identical sampling ratios, or manual sampling practices	Test samples individually (preferred), or combine minus 250 μ m (No. 60) sieve size samples per 10.3	Test samples individually (do not combine)	Combine minus 250 μ m (No. 60) sieve size samples per 10.3	Combine large particle-size samples using close-approximation procedure per 10.4



10.3.1 Determine the residual moisture content of each 250 µm (No. 60) sieve size sample according to Test Method D3173 or Test Method **D3302**. Designate the results $R_1, R_2, R_3 \dots R_n$.

10.3.2 Ascertain the mass of coal in the lot or sub-lot represented by each sample and designate these values $L_1, L_2, L_3 \dots L_n$. Add the individual lot or sub-lot masses to find the total sampled lot (or consignment) mass (L_{total}).

10.3.3 Select an approximate desired mass (M_c) for the composite sample.

10.3.4 Calculate, according to the following, the mass of each sample ($M_1, M_2, M_3 \dots M_n$) to be combined to make the composite sample.

$$M_1 = \frac{(M_c)(L_1)/(L_{total})}{(100 - R_1)/100} \quad (1)$$

10.3.5 Obtain the calculated mass of each sample to the nearest 0.0001 g and combine to form the composite sample. Mix by mechanical means before extracting portions for analysis.

10.3.6 Calculation of as-received basis data (see Test Method **D3302** and Practice D3180) from the as-analyzed basis data obtained by testing the composite sample requires the equivalent air-dry loss of the composite (ADL_c). Compute that value as shown below:

$$ADL_c = (ADL_1)(L_1/L_{total}) + (ADL_2)(L_2/L_{total}) \dots + (ADL_n)(L_n/L_{total}) \quad (2)$$

where:

ADL_1 = air-dry loss of first sample,
 ADL_2 = air-dry loss of second sample, and
 ADL_n = air-dry loss of n th sample.

10.4 If two or more samples have been collected by multiple mechanical coal sampling systems which do not have identical sampling ratios, or if manual sampling practices have been used, and particles larger than 250 µm (No. 60) sieve size are required for analysis of non-additive parameters (such as for Hardgrove grindability), prepare a close-approximation composite sample as follows.

10.4.1 Ascertain the mass of the sub-lot or lot represented by each sample and the total mass represented by all samples.

Calculate the percentage of the total sub-lot or lot which each sample represents. Select an approximate desired mass for the composite sample. Multiply the desired composite mass by the percentage of the total which each sample represents to find the exact number of grams which are desired for each sample to be used in making the composite.

10.4.2 Using a riffle, divide one sample to obtain approximately the number of grams for that sample as calculated above. Do not produce riffle portions which are smaller in mass than stated in **Table 1** of this standard. Select and combine the riffle portions which yield a close approximation of the desired mass. See **Note 4**. Repeat for all samples, then combine the riffled portions of the original samples to form the composite.

NOTE 4—It is highly unlikely that the exact number of grams needed for each sample can be obtained using a riffle while adhering to the requirements of **Table 1**. Do not add or delete particles without using a riffle in order to obtain the exact desired mass. The user must exercise judgment to assess when the riffled mass is sufficiently close to the desired mass so as to not materially affect the results of the test(s) for which the composite sample is being prepared.

10.4.3 Prepare and use close-approximation composites only when particles larger than 250 µm (No. 60) sieve size are required for analysis of non-additive parameters. Indicate on the laboratory report that data were obtained by testing a close-approximation composite, and that the results may therefore not fully reflect the properties of the originally sampled material.

10.5 **Table 2** presents a convenient summary of the constraints for preparation of composites depending on the source of samples, the required nominal top size for testing, and whether the anticipated analytical parameters are additive or non-additive.

11. Precision and Bias

11.1 The precision of sample preparation (and analysis) can be checked by **Annex A1** and **Annex A2**. Since this practice does not produce a numerical result, determination of bias is not applicable.

12. Keywords

12.1 coal; composite; division; reduction



ANNEXES

(Mandatory Information)

A1. METHOD OF CHECKING THE PRECISION OF SAMPLE PREPARATION AND ANALYSIS

A1.1. Scope

A1.1.1 This method covers procedures for checking precision of sample preparation and analysis of the various stages. The data obtained from tests using consistent sample preparation and analysis method are used to estimate the random errors in the various stages of sample division and analysis.

A1.1.2 Coals used in each series of tests should be of similar ash content.

A1.2. Procedure

A1.2.1 Reduce the gross sample to 95 % through 4.75-mm (No. 4) sieve and divide, using either riffles or mechanical sample dividers, into two equal parts.

A1.2.1.1 Many laboratories are crushing directly to 2.36-mm (No. 8) size instead of to No. 4; but for purpose of test it is usually best to use both No. 4 and 8 sizes since we can assume that crushing directly to No. 8 would give a variance no greater, and probably less, than crushing to No. 4 and then to No. 8. If, however, it is desired to crush directly to No. 8, follow the same procedure as if crushed to No. 4 and then to No. 8.

A1.2.2 Divide each subsample by riffing or mechanically to no less than weights as outlined in Table 1.

A1.2.2.1 Individual weights should not vary more than ± 20 % from the weights given in Table 1, and the average of all tests should be within ± 10 % of the weights.

A1.2.3 Reduce the 4.75-mm (No. 4) sieve laboratory sample 95 % through 2.36-mm (No. 8) sieve and divide, using either riffles or mechanical sample dividers, into two equal parts without discarding. Divide each subsample to no less than the minimum weights as outlined in Table 1.

A1.2.4 Reduce each part of the No. 8 subsample to 100 % through 250- μ m (No. 60) sieve and divide to no less than 50 g.

A1.2.5 Determine ash in accordance with Test Method D3174 in duplicate on each analysis sample.

A1.2.5.1 This test can be used for sulfur, Btu, or other determinations, instead of ash, if desired.

A1.2.5.2 If possible, the duplicate determinations should be made at different times and preferably by different analysts. The purpose of these tests is not to find out how accurate a laboratory can be, but to find out actual variances of preparation and analysis in the normal routine of a laboratory following a prescribed procedure.

A1.2.6 Treat three sets of ten samples each in the preceding manner.

A1.2.6.1 Make calculations on the first set of ten samples so that the variance for each of the stages may be checked and corrective action, if needed, may be taken.

A1.2.6.2 Continue this cycle of tests until three successive sets of ten samples are satisfactory.

A1.3. Calculation

A1.3.1 The analysis of variance is based upon the calculations of mean squared differences with the eight determinations for each sample taken in different combinations. Calculate the variances of these combinations: VP , the variance of the difference between duplicate analyses; VQ , the variance of the difference between the averages of duplicate analyses; and VR , the variance of the difference between the average of each four analyses, as follows:

$$VP = (1/4N) \sum [(X1 - X2)^2 + (X3 - X4)^2 + (Y1 - Y2)^2 + (Y3 - Y4)^2] \quad (A1.1)$$

where:

N = number of tests and
 $X1, X2, X3, X4, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4$ = individual ash determinations.

$$VQ = \left(\frac{1}{2N} \right) \sum \left[\left(\frac{X1+X2}{2} - \frac{X3+X4}{2} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{Y1+Y2}{2} - \frac{Y3+Y4}{2} \right)^2 \right] \quad (A1.2)$$

$$VR = (1/N) \sum \left[\left(\frac{X1+X2+X3+X4}{4} - \frac{Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4}{4} \right)^2 \right] \quad (A1.3)$$

A1.3.2 The variances can be resolved further in terms of variance caused by the first stage of sample preparation, $V1$; variance caused by the second stage of sample preparation, $V2$; and the variance of analysis, Va .

where:

$$\begin{aligned} Va &= \frac{1}{2} VP, \\ V2 &= \frac{1}{2} VQ - \frac{1}{4} VP, \text{ and} \\ V1 &= \frac{1}{2} VR - \frac{1}{4} VQ. \end{aligned}$$

A1.3.3 The total variance of sample preparation and analysis, S_{da}^2 , is given by the equation:

$$S_{da}^2 = Va + V2 + V1 \quad (A1.4)$$

A1.3.4 The calculations of the variances of sample preparation are illustrated in Table A1.1.

TABLE A1.1 Illustrations of the Calculation of the Variances^A of Sample Preparation at the Various Stages and Analysis

Test No.	X1	X2	Difference	Difference ²	X3	X4	Difference	Difference ²
1	12.13	12.10	0.03	0.0009	12.03	12.05	-0.02	0.0004
2	10.67	10.73	-0.06	0.0036	10.69	10.78	-0.09	0.0081
3	10.93	11.10	-0.17	0.0289	11.36	11.45	-0.09	0.0081
4	12.05	12.02	0.03	0.0009	12.17	12.23	-0.06	0.0036
5	12.74	12.70	0.04	0.0016	12.71	12.76	-0.05	0.0025
6	12.47	12.30	0.17	0.0289	12.21	12.14	0.07	0.0049
7	11.94	11.99	-0.05	0.0025	12.08	12.17	-0.09	0.0081
8	12.52	12.63	-0.11	0.0121	12.76	12.82	-0.06	0.0036
9	12.01	12.05	-0.04	0.0016	11.94	11.77	0.17	0.0289
10	10.96	10.88	0.08	0.0064	11.37	11.40	-0.03	0.0009
Total	118.42	118.50		0.0874	119.32	119.57		0.0691
Average	11.84	11.85			11.93	11.96		
Test No.	Y1	Y2	Difference	Difference ²	Y3	Y4	Difference	Difference ²
1	12.00	12.01	-0.01	0.0001	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.0000
2	10.53	10.65	-0.12	0.0144	10.60	10.62	-0.02	0.0004
3	11.37	11.47	-0.10	0.0100	11.22	11.35	-0.13	0.0169
4	12.13	12.10	0.03	0.0009	12.01	12.04	-0.03	0.0009
5	12.60	12.60	0.00	0.0000	12.51	12.40	0.11	0.0121
6	12.09	12.15	-0.06	0.0036	12.18	12.20	-0.02	0.0004
7	11.93	11.87	0.06	0.0036	11.71	11.73	-0.02	0.0004
8	12.57	12.57	0.00	0.0000	12.58	12.61	-0.03	0.0009
9	11.81	11.88	-0.07	0.0049	11.70	11.84	-0.14	0.0196
10	11.57	11.48	0.09	0.0081	11.54	11.36	0.18	0.0324
Total	118.60	118.78		0.0456	118.05	118.15		0.0840
Average	11.86	11.88			11.81	11.82		
Test No.	X(1 + 2)/2	X(3 + 4)/2	Difference	Difference ²	Y(1 + 2)/2	Y(3 + 4)/2	Difference	Difference ²
1	12.11	12.04	0.07	0.0056	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.0000
2	10.70	10.73	-0.03	0.0012	10.59	10.61	-0.02	0.0004
3	11.01	11.40	-0.39	0.1521	11.42	11.28	0.13	0.0182
4	12.03	12.20	-0.16	0.0272	12.11	12.02	0.09	0.0081
5	12.72	12.73	-0.01	0.0002	12.60	12.45	0.14	0.0210
6	12.38	12.17	0.21	0.0441	12.12	12.19	-0.07	0.0049
7	11.96	12.12	-0.16	0.0256	11.90	11.72	0.18	0.0324
8	12.57	12.79	-0.21	0.0462	12.57	12.59	-0.02	0.0006
9	12.03	11.85	0.17	0.0306	11.84	11.77	0.07	0.0056
10	10.92	11.38	-0.46	0.2162	11.52	11.45	0.07	0.0056
Total	118.46	119.44		0.5491	118.69	118.10		0.0969
Average	11.85	11.94			11.87	11.81		
Test No.	X(1 + 2 + 3 + 4)/4		Y(1 + 2 + 3 + 4)/4		Difference		Difference ²	
1	12.07		12.00		0.07		0.0056	
2	10.71		10.60		0.11		0.0138	
3	11.21		11.35		-0.04		0.0203	
4	12.11		12.07		0.04		0.0022	
5	12.72		12.52		0.20		0.0400	
6	12.28		12.15		0.12		0.0156	
7	12.04		11.81		0.23		0.0552	
8	12.68		12.58		0.10		0.100	
9	11.94		11.80		0.13		0.0182	
10	11.15		11.48		-0.33		0.1122	
Total	118.95		118.39				0.2932	
Average	11.90		11.84					

$$VP = \frac{1}{40} (0.0874 + 0.0691 + 0.0456 + 0.0840) = 0.0071$$

$$VQ = \frac{1}{20} (0.5491 + 0.0969) = 0.0323$$

$$VR = \frac{1}{10} (0.2932) = 0.0293$$

Then:

$$Va = \frac{1}{2} (0.0071) = 0.0035$$

$$V_2 = \frac{1}{2} (0.0323) - \frac{1}{4} (0.0071) = 0.0144$$

$$V_1 = \frac{1}{2} (0.0293) - \frac{1}{4} (0.0323) = 0.0066$$

$$S_{da}^2 = 0.0035 + 0.0144 + 0.0066 = 0.0245$$

^AThis table contains data taken from a computer printout with rounding errors that are not involved in the overall calculation. Data taken at intermediate steps are not consistent within limits of these rounding errors. Thus, the difference 0.07² shows a result of 0.0056 which is correct when all places are carried in the calculation.



A2. METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE OVERALL VARIANCE OF DIVISION AND ANALYSIS

A2.1. Scope

A2.1.1 Legitimate estimates of the variance of division and analysis, S_{da}^2 , can only be made using data obtained from tests that were run using consistent division and analysis methods. Coals used in these variance tests should be of similar ash content. Any gross change in the division and analysis methods or in the ash characteristics of the test coal will nullify the test results.

A2.2. Procedure

A2.2.1 The following four-step method uses the regular gross or divided samples obtained from normal sampling operations:

A2.2.1.1 Crush the gross sample to the same mesh as that normally obtained when preparing the gross sample for processing,

A2.2.1.2 Divide the sample into four equal parts, according to the normal routine laboratory procedure,

A2.2.1.3 Reduce the four subsamples to laboratory analysis samples, and

A2.2.1.4 Analyze each analysis sample for dry ash content.

A2.2.2 Calculate the variance of division and analysis for each gross or divided sample from the “within set sums of squares” for the replicate determinations as follows:

$$S_{da}^2 = [\sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2/4]/3$$

where:

S_{da}^2 = variance of division and analysis,

x^2 = sum of the squares of the four ash results, and

$(\sum x)^2$ = sum of the ash results, quantity squared.

A2.2.3 Make progressive checks as the work is carried out by using the data in groups of 5. In any group of 5 estimates of S_{da}^2 based on 4 subsamples for each estimate, the ratio of the largest estimate to the average of the group should not exceed 2.99, in 19 out of 20 cases. Investigate values in excess of this ratio before proceeding with the test. In addition, after completing 30 sets, by groups of 5, the ratio of the largest group average to the overall average should not exceed 1.88 in 19 cases out of 20. If these criteria are met, the variance of division and analysis may be taken as the overall average S_{da}^2 of the 30 sets of data. If these criteria are not met, follow the procedure described in Practice D2013 for the necessary information to improve techniques of division and analysis.

A2.2.4 *Example*—A complete example illustrating the procedure for determining the variance of division and analysis is given in [Table A2.1](#). In this example, gross sample No. 24, the highest individual ash sample in the group (19.28 % ash), has an unusually high variance of division and analysis. The behavior of samples 21 to 30 indicates that trouble can be expected when the ash exceeds 15 % (see [Table A2.1](#)).



TABLE A2.1 Determination of Variance of Division and Analysis—Use of Four Analysis Samples for Each Gross Sample

NOTE 1—Ten percent ash was subtracted from each of the ash results listed to simplify the calculations.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Gross Sample Number	Analysis Samples				Σx	Σx^2	$(\Sigma x)^2/4$	(6)–(7)	(8)/3 = S_{da}^2	Average Sets of 5 S_{da}^2	C_I^A	C_I^B
1	1.22	1.37	1.56	1.71	5.86	8.7230	8.5849	0.1381	0.0460		1.312925	
2	1.29	1.17	1.70	1.57	5.73	8.3879	8.2082	0.1797	0.0599		1.708181	
3	1.56	1.66	1.58	1.64	6.44	10.3752	10.3684	0.0068	0.0023		0.064648	
4	5.63	5.57	5.93	5.52	22.65	128.3571	128.2556	0.101475	0.033825		0.964729	
5	3.90	3.87	3.58	3.56	14.91	55.6769	55.5770	0.0999	0.0333		0.949518	
Average	...	...	...	...	11.118	...	...	...	...	0.035062	...	0.745372
6	0.64	0.42	0.80	0.73	2.59	1.7589	1.6770	0.0819	0.0273		1.12	
7	2.47	2.44	2.74	2.68	10.33	26.7445	26.6772	0.0673	0.022425		0.91912	
8	3.70	3.53	3.43	3.43	14.09	49.6807	49.6320	0.0487	0.0162		0.66	
9	3.59	3.73	4.13	3.80	15.25	58.2979	58.1406	0.1573	0.0524		2.15	
10	2.14	2.17	2.25	2.11	8.67	18.8031	18.7922	0.0109	0.0036		0.15	
Average	...	...	...	...	10.186	...	...	...	...	0.0244	...	0.52
11	5.71	5.61	5.61	5.71	22.64	128.1524	128.1424	0.0100	0.0033		0.09	
12	3.21	3.40	2.86	2.90	12.37	38.4537	38.2542	0.1995	0.0665		1.87	
13	4.99	4.80	5.51	4.93	20.23	102.6051	102.3132	0.2919	0.0973		2.74	
14	3.26	3.15	3.17	3.09	12.67	40.1471	40.1322	0.0149	0.0050		0.14	
15	3.48	3.65	3.59	3.53	14.25	50.7819	50.7656	0.0163	0.0054		0.15	
Average	...	...	...	...	16.432	...	...	...	...	0.0355	...	0.76
16	2.89	2.84	2.85	2.89	11.47	32.8923	32.8902	0.0021	0.0007		0.02	
17	2.35	2.48	2.90	2.71	10.44	27.4270	27.2484	0.1786	0.0595		1.86	
18	4.23	3.92	4.13	4.05	16.33	66.7187	66.6672	0.0515	0.0172		0.54	
19	5.46	5.13	5.13	5.38	21.10	111.3898	111.3025	0.0873	0.0291		0.91	
20	3.15	2.98	3.42	3.47	13.02	42.5402	42.3801	0.1601	0.0534		1.67	
Average	...	...	...	...	14.472	...	...	...	...	0.0320	...	0.679646
21	2.88	2.81	2.80	2.59	11.08	30.7386	30.6916	0.0470	0.0157		0.17	
22	4.94	4.32	4.40	4.39	18.05	81.6981	81.4506	0.247475	0.0824892		0.916778	
23	4.04	4.28	4.47	4.48	17.27	74.6913	74.5632	0.1281	0.0427		0.474457	
24	8.38	8.28	8.93	9.28	34.87	304.6461	303.9792	0.6669	0.2223		2.140456	
25	6.93	6.97	6.37	6.54	26.81	179.9543	179.6940	0.2603	0.0868		0.964196	
Average	...	...	...	...	21.616	...	...	...	...	0.08998	...	1.912874 ^C
26	4.52	4.27	3.66	4.07	16.52	68.6238	68.2276	0.3962	0.1321		2.02	
27	4.53	4.46	4.54	4.65	18.18	82.6466	82.6281	0.0185	0.0062		0.09	
28	2.18	2.42	2.45	2.31	9.36	21.9474	21.9024	0.0450	0.0150		0.23	
29	8.84	9.21	8.69	8.55	35.29	311.5883	311.3460	0.2423	0.0808		1.24	
30	5.03	4.73	5.47	5.11	20.34	103.7068	103.4289	0.2779	0.0926		1.42	
Average	...	...	...	...	19.938	...	...	...	...	0.0653	...	1.388736
Overall average	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.047039	...	...
S_{da}^2												

^A_C for individuals in subgroup. Divide individual S_{da}^2 values (Column 9) by average S_{da}^2 (Column 10). Results should be below 2.99 in 19 cases out of 20.^B_C for subgroup averages. Divide average S_{da}^2 (Column 10) by overall averages S_{da}^2 . Result should be below 1.88 in 19 cases out of 20.^CAbove limit of 1.88.

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