



Application Note AN-NIR-136

Analysis of fabric softeners and laundry perfumes with NIR spectroscopy

Determination of dry matter, pH, and viscosity in seconds

Fabric softeners and laundry perfumes (concentrated fragrances) are a category of personal care/laundry products used for their ability to make textiles softer, smoother, and more pleasantly scented after the washing cycle. A variety of raw materials is necessary to manufacture these products, and different analytical methods are often required before production can commence. Traditional analysis

requires time-consuming methods. This Application Note describes how viscosity, dry matter content, and pH level of fabric softeners and laundry perfumes are measured with near-infrared spectroscopy. Near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) is a fast, chemical-free analysis technique for quality control of fabric softeners and laundry perfumes without sample preparation.

EXPERIMENTAL EQUIPMENT

Fabric softener and laundry perfume samples were measured with an OMNIS NIR Analyzer Solid (Figure 1) in transflection mode (1000–2250 nm) using a 1 mm gap size reflector and 28 mm disposable vials.

Reference values of dry matter were measured by loss on drying, and pH and viscosity were determined with a pH meter and viscometer, respectively.

OMNIS Software was used for all data acquisition and prediction model development



Figure 1. OMNIS NIR Analyzer Solid with transflection vessel and large reflector

RESULT

The obtained NIR spectra (Figure 2) were used to create prediction models for quantification of dry matter, pH value, and viscosity. The quality of the prediction models was evaluated using correlation diagrams (Figures 3–5) which display

a very high correlation between the NIR prediction and the reference values. The respective figures of merit (FOM) display the expected precision of a prediction during routine analysis.

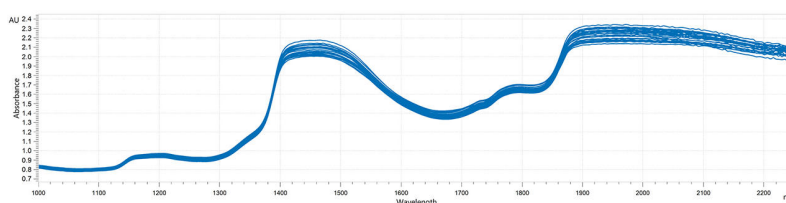


Figure 2. NIR spectra of fabric softeners and laundry perfumes analyzed on OMNIS NIR Analyzer Solid

Result pH in fabric softeners and laundry perfumes

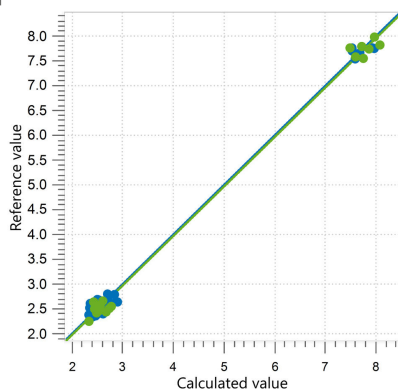


Figure 3. Correlation diagram and the respective FOMs for the prediction of pH value in fabric softeners and laundry perfumes using an OMNIS NIR Analyzer Solid. The correlation set is shown in blue, and the external validation set is in green.

R^2	SEC	SECV	SEP
0.997	0.11	0.14	0.15

Result dry matter in fabric softeners and laundry perfumes

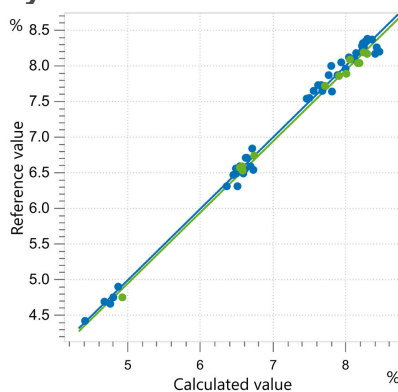


Figure 4. Correlation diagram and the respective FOMs for the prediction of dry matter in fabric softeners and laundry perfumes using an OMNIS NIR Analyzer Solid. The correlation set is shown in blue, and the external validation set is in green.

R^2	SEC (%)	SECV (%)	SEP (%)
0.995	0.09	0.10	0.09

Result viscosity in fabric softeners and laundry perfumes

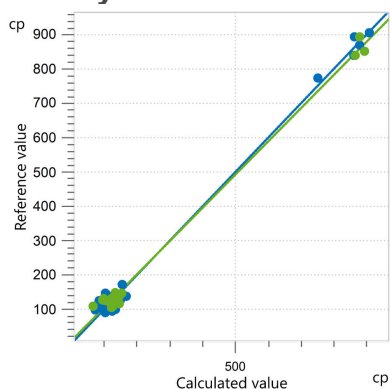


Figure 5. Correlation diagram and the respective FOMs for the prediction of viscosity in fabric softeners and laundry perfumes using an OMNIS NIR Analyzer Solid. The correlation set is shown in blue, and the external validation set is in green.

R^2	SEC (cp)	SECV (cp)	SEP (cp)
0.994	17.16	20.25	22.18

CONCLUSION

This Application Note shows the feasibility of the analysis of dry matter, pH, and viscosity in laundry perfumes and fabric softeners with near-infrared spectroscopy. Measurement of all three quality parameters can be conducted within seconds without using any chemicals.

NIRS can be used in several steps of the

production chain or during quality control of the final product, saving manufacturers time and money. Additionally, with NIRS only one technology is required, compared to the standard analytical techniques often used for these determinations (**Table 1**).

Table 1. Overview of standard methods used for the determination of different reference values in fabric softeners and laundry perfumes.

Parameter	Method	Time to result
Dry matter	Loss on drying	30 min
pH	pH meter	5 min
Viscosity	Viscometer	15 min (sample preparation + measurement)

CONTACT

瑞士万通中国
北京市海淀区上地东路1号
院1号楼7层702
100085 北京

marketing@metrohm.com.cn

CONFIGURATION



OMNIS NIR Analyzer Solid

适合固体和粘性样品的近红外光谱仪。

OMNIS NIR Analyzer 是一种按照瑞士质量标准开发和生产的近红外光谱 (NIRS) 解决方案,用于整个生产链的常规分析。使用新技术和嵌入先进 OMNIS Software 反应在该 NIR 光谱仪的速度、可操作性和灵活使用上。

OMNIS NIR Analyzer Solid 的优点概览:

- 在 10 秒以内测量固体和粘性样品
- 自动化多位置测量,即使在样品不均匀时,也能够获得可重现的结果
- 方便地嵌入自动系统,或者与其它分析技术(滴定)关联
- 支持大量样品容器



OMNIS NIR1 mm

对液体进行透射反射测量的缝隙量 1 mm(光路长度 2 mm)的反射器。

适用于 28 mm 反射的一次性样品瓶 (6.7402.140)。



28 mm

216 个可封闭的玻璃一次性样品瓶,直径为 28 mm,适用于分析反射中的固体。适用于以下分析仪:

- NIRS DS2500 Analyzer
- NIRS XDS RapidContent (Solid) Analyzer
- NIRS XDS MultiVial Analyzer
- NIRS XDS Masterlab Analyzer

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Quant Development

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