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Compressibility Factors of Natural Gas and Other Related Hydrocarbon Gases

by
K.E. Starling and J.L. Savidge



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PREFACE

This manual is based on research managed and sponsored by the Gas Research Institute (GRI) and the Groupe Europeen de Recherches Gazieres (GERG) in cooperation with A.G.A. The manual provides all of the technical information needed to compute compressibility factors, supercompressibility factors, and densities for natural gas and related gases. It supersedes the 1985 Version of A.G.A. Report Number 8 and conforms to International Standards Organization Document ISO 12213, Natural Gas -- Calculation of Compression Factors. This A.G.A. document includes FORTRAN computer programs and sample calculations which are optimized for efficient microprocessor and flow computer implementation. Supporting computer programs based on the methods in this manual can be obtained on diskette from the A.G.A.

This manual was updated in July 1994 for the purpose of: (1) correcting typographical errors identified in the November 1992 edition, (2) improving the computer programs, and (3) achieving computational consistency with GPA 2172-94 and the 1992 edition of A.G.A. Report No. 3, Part 3. No changes were made to the basic equations of state or to the parameters used to calculate the compressibility factor. Properties calculated from this document will be slightly different from the November 1992 version. The differences in the example calculations are caused by changes in the way the gas characterization parameters are obtained from input data. These changes help assure a high level of numerical consistency with other industry standards for flow computer computations. The effects of these changes, however, are expected to be less than 0.01% for typical natural gas found in transmission pipelines and less than 0.03% for typical production gas. This is well within the uncertainty of the experimental data. Therefore no change is required from the November 1992 revision to maintain the stated accuracy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document is the result of many years of effort. It is based on a large amount of related supporting materials which are the product of many dedicated individuals and organizations both domestically and internationally. The individuals and organizations listed below deserve the recognition and thanks of the gas industry for their significant contributions of time, skills and resources.

Foremost among the contributors are Mr. P. Hoglund of Washington Natural Gas and Dr. M. Jaeschke of Ruhrgas AG. Mr. Hoglund led A.G.A. in organizing and articulating the benefits of the R&D program. In addition, he actively promoted international cooperation which initiated A.G.A.'s participation in the International Standards Organization Technical Committee 193/Subcommittee 1. Paul's vision and efforts led to pivotal research interactions that substantially improved the quality of the methods presented in this document.

Dr. Jaeschke's research at Ruhrgas AG made an invaluable contribution to improving compressibility factor prediction through his extensive experimental work on the PVT behavior of natural gases. His initial efforts were in support of GERG virial equation of state research with Dr. J. Schouten. The experimental work was later expanded to help support needs identified at Ruhrgas and in the GRI wide-range equation of state research with Dr. K. Starling and Dr. R. Jacobsen. Dr. Jaeschke's efforts, and those of his coworkers, produced over ten thousand state-of-the-art measurements of the compressibility factor for a wide variety of natural gases, their constituents, and related mixtures. Their data are the predominant experimental basis for the high accuracy equations of state presented in this report.

GRI, A.G.A., and GERG contributed their financial, committee, and technical management. Gasunie, Ruhrgas, Gaz de France, and British Gas contributed to the development of the experimental compressibility factor database and the GERG research program which produced the GERG method. Individual contributions were made by Mr. J. Erickson and Ms. Lori Traweck of A.G.A. through their active support and patience and Dr. A. Smit (Gasunie) through his leadership as chairman of ISO TC 193/SC 1. Mr. J.P. Smith (Transco), Mr. M.L. Williams (Amoco), Mr. G. Givens (Consolidated Natural Gas) contributed through their leadership, advice, and participation as industry liaisons through the A.G.A. F_{pv} Committees. Dr. D. Embry (Phillips Petroleum), Mr. J. Stuart (Pacific Gas & Electric), Mr. P. LaNasa (private consultant), Dr. R. Teyssandier (Texaco) and Mr. R. Beaty (Amoco) contributed by providing valuable industry feedback during the preparation process of this report and provided ideas for the computer programs.

Lastly, the contributions made by the researchers, many students and support staff at the University of Oklahoma, University of Amsterdam, University of Idaho, Texas A&M, and National Institute of Standards and Technology are best represented by the exceptional quality of the results produced for the gas industry. Dr. K.E. Starling's, U. of Oklahoma, contribution helped to produce not only an exceptional equation of state (DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD) for natural gases, but significantly improved this document in ways which should facilitate its understanding and practical use. Dr. R. Jacobsen and coworkers at the University of Idaho provided an exceptional correlation development methodology and set of tools that helped substantially in developing the DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD. Dr. J.

Schouten and Dr. J. Michels of the U. of Amsterdam contributed creative research which produced the SGERG equation of state (GROSS CHARACTERIZATION METHOD). Dr. C. Fitz, U. of Oklahoma, and Mr. P. Clarke, U. of Idaho, contributed great personal effort to produce the DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD. Dr. K. Hall, Dr. J. Holste, Texas A&M U., and Dr. M. Haynes, N.I.S.T., contributed their skills to develop a state-of-the-art PVT Reference Database on natural gas mixtures. Dr. S. Beyerlein and Mr. E. Lemmon, U. of Idaho, made a number of significant technical contributions which improved both the quality of the final results of the research project and this A.G.A. report.

Dr. Jeffrey L. Savidge
Project Manager

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Scope	1
1.2 Background	1
1.3 Field of Application	2
1.3.1 Types of Properties	2
1.3.2 Types of Gases	2
1.3.3 Types of Conditions	3
1.4 Overview of Compressibility Factor Calculation Methods	4
1.4.1 DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD	5
1.4.2 GROSS CHARACTERIZATION METHOD	5
1.5 Uncertainty	6
1.5.1 DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD Uncertainty	7
1.5.2 GROSS CHARACTERIZATION METHOD Uncertainty	7
1.6 Recommendations	7
2 SYMBOLS	7
3 DEFINITIONS	8
4 GENERAL EQUATIONS	8
5 NATURAL GAS CHARACTERIZATION METHODS	10
6 REFERENCE CONDITIONS	11
6.1 Mass Density at Contract Reference Conditions	11
6.2 Supercompressibility Factor Reference Condition	11
6.3 Relative Density Reference Condition	12
6.4 Heating Value Reference Conditions	12
7 UNITS, CONVERSIONS, PRECISION AND ACCURACY	13
8 EQUATIONS FOR COMPRESSIBILITY FACTORS	15
8.1 DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD Equation of State	15
8.1.1 Nomenclature	15
8.1.2 DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD Equation of State for Compressibility Factor	16
8.1.3 DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD Equation of State for Pressure	21
8.2 GROSS CHARACTERIZATION METHOD Equation of State	27
8.2.1 Nomenclature	27
8.2.2 GROSS CHARACTERIZATION METHOD Equation of State for Compressibility Factor	28

8.2.3 Interaction Virial Coefficient Terms for Nitrogen and Carbon Dioxide	30
8.2.4 Interaction Virial Coefficient Terms for the Equivalent Hydrocarbon, CH	31
9 PROCEDURES FOR COMPUTATIONS OF COMPRESSIBILITY FACTORS	33
10 COMPUTER PROGRAMS FOR COMPUTATIONS OF COMPRESSIBILITY FACTORS, SUPERCOMPRESSIBILITY FACTORS, AND DENSITIES	33
10.1 Documentation for Computer Programs	34
10.2 Computer Program Code Listings	34
11 TABLES OF COMPUTED COMPRESSIBILITY FACTORS AND SUPERCOMPRESSIBILITY FACTORS	34
12 UNCERTAINTIES IN COMPUTED COMPRESSIBILITY FACTORS AND SUPERCOMPRESSIBILITY FACTORS	34
APPENDIX A - DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD	35
APPENDIX A.1 - NOMENCLATURE	37
APPENDIX A.2 - DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD COMPUTATION PROCEDURES	38
A.2.1 Computations of Compressibility Factors and Densities	38
A.2.2 Computations of Other Quantities	38
APPENDIX A.3 - DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD COMPUTER PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION	40
A.3.1 Scope	40
A.3.2 Summary Flow Diagram	40
A.3.3 Driver Block	40
A.3.4 Component Dependent Quantities Block	42
A.3.5 Composition Dependent Quantities Block	42
A.3.6 Temperature Dependent Quantities Block	42
A.3.7 Density Dependent Quantities Block	42
A.3.8 Descriptions of Functions and Subroutines	43
A.3.8.1 BLOCK DATA	43
A.3.8.2 Subroutine PARAMDL	43
A.3.8.3 Subroutine CHARDL	43
A.3.8.4 Subroutine B	44
A.3.8.5 Subroutine TEMP	44
A.3.8.6 Function Subprogram DDETAIL	44
A.3.8.7 Subroutine BRAKET	45
A.3.8.8 Function Subprogram PDETAIL	45
A.3.8.9 Function Subprogram ZDETAIL	46
A.3.9 Example Calculations	46

APPENDIX A.4 - DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD FORTRAN	
CODE LISTING	49
FUNCTION DDETAIL	50
FUNCTION PDETAIL	54
FUNCTION ZDETAIL	55
SUBROUTINE B	57
SUBROUTINE BRAKET	58
SUBROUTINE CHARDL	61
SUBROUTINE PARAMDL	65
SUBROUTINE TEMP	67
BLOCK DATA	69
APPENDIX A.5 - DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD COMPUTER	
PROGRAM CALCULATIONS	74
APPENDIX A.6 - DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD CALCULATION	
UNCERTAINTIES	76
A.6.1 Uncertainties in the DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD	
Computed Compressibility Factors	76
A.6.2 Uncertainties in DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD	
Computed Supercompressibility Factors	78
APPENDIX A.7 - DETAIL CHARACTERIZATION METHOD REFERENCES . . .	79
APPENDIX B - GROSS CHARACTERIZATION METHOD	81
APPENDIX B.1 - NOMENCLATURE	83
APPENDIX B.2 - GROSS CHARACTERIZATION METHOD COMPUTATION	
PROCEDURES	84
B.2.1 Determination of the Molar Gross Heating Value of the	
Equivalent Hydrocarbon (H_{CH})	84
B.2.2 METHOD 1. Input Parameters: Volumetric Gross Heating	
Value, Relative Density, Mole Fraction CO_2	84
B.2.3 METHOD 2. Input Parameters: Relative Density, Mole Fractions	
of N_2 and CO_2	87
B.2.4 SGERG Method Equation of State for Pressure	90
APPENDIX B.3 - GROSS CHARACTERIZATION METHOD COMPUTATION	
PROCEDURES	92
B.3.1 Computations of Compressibility Factors	92
B.3.2 Computations of Other Quantities	92
APPENDIX B.4 - GROSS CHARACTERIZATION METHOD COMPUTER	
PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION	93
B.4.1 Scope	93
B.4.2 Summary Flow Diagram	93
B.4.3 Driver Block	93
B.4.4 Component Dependent Quantities Block	93
B.4.5 Characterization Dependent Quantities Block	95
B.4.6 Temperature Dependent Quantities Block	95
B.4.7 Density Dependent Quantities Block	95
B.4.8 Descriptions of Functions and Subroutines	95
B.4.8.1 Subroutine CHARGS	95
B.4.8.2 Function DGROSS	96

B.4.8.3 Subroutine PARAMGS	96
B.4.8.4 Function PGROSS	96
B.4.8.5 Subroutine VIRGS	96
B.4.8.6 Function ZGROSS	96
B.4.9 Example Calculations	96
APPENDIX B.5 - GROSS CHARACTERIZATION METHOD FORTRAN	
CODE LISTING (GROSSXZ)	103
FUNCTION DGROSS	104
FUNCTION PGROSS	106
FUNCTION ZGROSS	107
SUBROUTINE CHARGS	108
SUBROUTINE PARAMGS	112
SUBROUTINE VIRGS	114
APPENDIX B.6 - GROSS CHARACTERIZATION METHOD COMPUTER	
PROGRAM CALCULATIONS	116
APPENDIX B.7 - GROSS CHARACTERIZATION METHOD CALCULATION	
UNCERTAINTIES	120
B.7.1 Uncertainties in Computed Compressibility Factors	120
B.7.2 Uncertainties in Computed Supercompressibility Factors	122
APPENDIX B.8 - GROSS CHARACTERIZATION METHOD REFERENCES ..	123
APPENDIX C - REFERENCE CONDITIONS AND CONVERSIONS FOR	
HEATING VALUE AND RELATIVE DENSITY	125
APPENDIX C.1 - NOMENCLATURE	127
APPENDIX C.2 - DISCUSSION OF REFERENCE AND STANDARD	
CONDITIONS	129
APPENDIX C.3 - DENSITY, COMPRESSIBILITY FACTOR AND	
SUPERCOMPRESSIBILITY FACTOR	130
C.3.1 Mass Density at Contract Reference Conditions	132
C.3.2 Supercompressibility Factor Reference Condition	132
C.3.3 Relative Density Reference Condition	133
APPENDIX C.4 - MOLAR HEATING VALUE FROM COMPOSITION	135
APPENDIX C.5 - VOLUMETRIC HEATING VALUE	142
APPENDIX C.6 - REFERENCES	143
APPENDIX D - UNIT CONVERSIONS	145
APPENDIX D.1 - UNIT CONVERSION PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION	147
APPENDIX D.2 - UNIT CONVERSION PROGRAM FORTRAN SOURCE	
CODE	151
APPENDIX D.3 - REFERENCES	156

APPENDIX E - UTILITY PROGRAM (AGA8PROG)	157
APPENDIX E.1 - UTILITY PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION	159
APPENDIX E.2 - UTILITY PROGRAM FORTRAN SOURCE CODE LISTING .	164
PROGRAM AGA8PROG	165
SUBROUTINE COMPST	168
SUBROUTINE CONFIG	169
SUBROUTINE INPUT	172
SUBROUTINE METHOD	173
SUBROUTINE OUTPUT	179
SUBROUTINE PROPS	180
SUBROUTINE SETUP	181
SUBROUTINE STATUS	183
SUBROUTINE TABLES	186
SUBROUTINE TABLES2	190
SUBROUTINE STATUS2	194
SUBROUTINE UNITSG	196
FUNCTION DCALC	199
FUNCTION PCALC	200
FUNCTION ZCALC	201
INDEX	203

COMPRESSIBILITY FACTORS FOR NATURAL GAS AND OTHER RELATED HYDROCARBON GASES

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope

This report presents detailed information for precise computations of compressibility factors and densities of natural gas and other hydrocarbon gases, calculation uncertainty estimations and FORTRAN computer program listings. Applications for computations of other properties are summarized but are beyond the scope of this report.

1.2 Background

Research in 1928 and 1929 under the direction of Mr. Howard S. Bean of the National Bureau of Standards provided the natural gas industry with its initial compressibility factor data covering pressures up to 600 psia (4 MPa). However, it was not until 1954 that extensive tables of natural gas supercompressibility factors were published, based on tests supervised by Professor Samuel R. Beitler of Ohio State University. The natural gas supercompressibility factor tables were extended and an equation of state was developed in 1956-1962 under the direction of Mr. R. H. Zimmerman of Ohio State University. The results of this project, designated PAR Project NX-19, appear in A.G.A.'s "Manual for Determination of Supercompressibility Factors for Natural Gas," published in 1962.

The research leading to the present report was initiated in 1981 under the sponsorship of GRI in close liaison with the A.G.A. Transmission Measurement Committee. This research, carried out under the direction of Professor Kenneth E. Starling of the University of Oklahoma, was aimed at extending capabilities for accurate computation of compressibility factors beyond the temperature, pressure and composition ranges of PAR Project NX-19. The results for pipeline quality natural gases, which were completed in 1984, provided the basis for the 1985 report.

The initial 1981-1984 research used data ranging in pressures up to approximately 900 psia (6 MPa) obtained from the literature and provided by GERG. However, the GERG data bank was extended considerably in the period 1985-1990. The new data showed that the original equation of state, developed in the period 1981-1984, needed to be improved. In addition, velocity of sound data obtained under GRI sponsorship during 1985-1989 showed calculation for rich gases were not sufficiently accurate for critical flow applications. The new equations of state presented in this revision include the most recent GRI and GERG compressibility factor data for natural gas mixtures. In addition, the revised method has applied an improved correlation methodology developed by researchers under the direction of Professor Richard T Jacobsen at the University of Idaho.