

The specific gravities of several different substances may be determined if desired during the course of a single experiment. The method is also especially convenient in determining the character of the plagioclase feldspar in rocks. For this purpose optical methods, such as a measurement of extinction angles, or of the mean refractive index, are perhaps more commonly employed, but the plagioclase in a rock being usually not all of the same composition there is always the danger that the fragments examined do not represent the principal feldspar present. By carrying out a specific gravity determination as described above, however, it is possible to arrive at a knowledge of the composition not only of the principal feldspar, but also of the most and lightest and most basic, heavy, varieties present.

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