



Standard Test Method for Coefficient of Friction, Yarn to Yarn¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3412/D3412M; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the measurement of frictional properties for both continuous filament and spun-staple yarns under boundary friction conditions.

1.2 This test method has been used with yarns having linear densities ranging from 1.5 to 400 tex, but may be used with yarns outside these ranges [15 to 3600 denier].

NOTE 1—For coefficient of friction, yarn to metal, see Test Method [D3108/D3108M](#).

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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles](#)

[D1776 Practice for Conditioning and Testing Textiles](#)

[D1907 Test Method for Linear Density of Yarn \(Yarn Number\) by the Skein Method](#)

[D2258 Practice for Sampling Yarn for Testing](#)

[D3108/D3108M Test Method for Coefficient of Friction, Yarn to Solid Material](#)

[D4849 Terminology Related to Yarns and Fibers](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 For all terminology relating to D13.58, Yarns and Fibers, refer to Terminology [D4849](#).

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D13](#) on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D13.58](#) on Yarns and Fibers.

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² 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.

3.2 For all other terminology related to textiles, refer to Terminology [D123](#).

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A length of yarn is moved at a known speed in contact with itself or similar yarn at a specified wrap angle. The input and output tensions are measured and the coefficient of friction calculated. Alternatively, apparatus may be used in which the ratio of input to output tension is measured allowing the coefficient of friction to be indicated directly.

4.2 Three optional procedures are included. Option 1 is based on the Twisted Strand Method, using a wrap angle of 15.71 rad [900°]. Option 2 is based on the Capstan Method, using a wrap angle of 3.14 radians [180°]. Option 3 is based on the Fixed Yarn-Body Capstan Method, using a wrap angle of 3.14 radians [180°].

NOTE 2—Editions of Test Method D3412/D3412M prior to the 1986 revision incorrectly stated the wrap angle for Option 1 to be 18.85 rad. This is incorrect, since 3 turns of the swivel pulley do not result in a wrap angle of 18.85 radians. This has now been corrected to 15.71 rad. This should be taken into account in comparing with earlier results.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method for testing yarn-to-yarn friction is being used, but is not recommended, for acceptance testing of commercial shipments since between-laboratory precision is known to be poor.

5.1.1 In some cases, the purchaser and supplier may have to test a commercial shipment of one or more specific materials by the best available method even though the method has not been recommended for acceptance testing of commercial shipments. In case of a dispute arising from differences in reported test results when using Test Method D3412/D3412M for acceptance testing of commercial shipments, the purchaser and the supplier should conduct comparative tests to determine if there is a statistical bias between their laboratories. Compete statistical assistance is recommended for the investigation of bias. As a minimum, the two parties should take a group of test specimens that are as homogeneous as possible and that are from a lot of material of the type in question. The test specimens should then be randomly assigned in equal numbers to each laboratory for testing. The average results from the two laboratories should be compared using Student's *t*-test for unpaired data and an acceptable probability level chosen by the

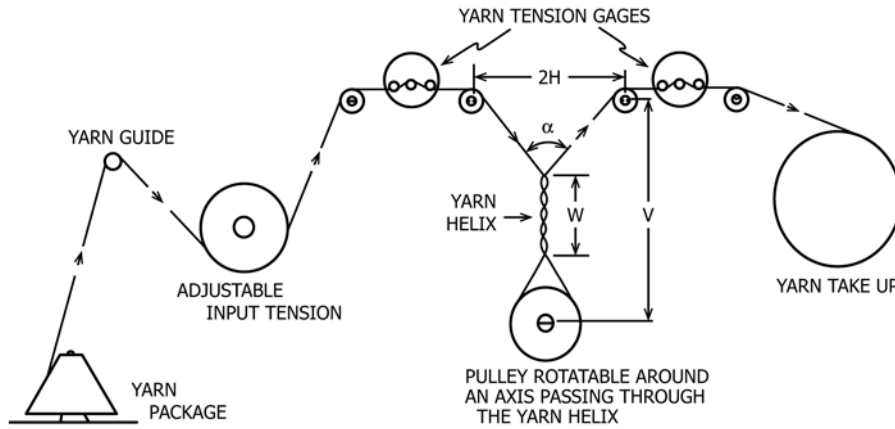


FIG. 1 Twisted Strand Yarn-to-Yarn Friction Apparatus—Twisted-Yarn Method

two parties before the testing is begun. If a bias is found, either its cause must be found and corrected or the purchaser and the supplier must agree to interpret future test results with consideration to the known bias.

5.2 This test method is intended for the determination of yarn-to-yarn boundary friction coefficients measured over a specified length of yarn.

5.3 The test method is useful for quality control, research, and the characterization of yarn boundary lubricants.

NOTE 3—Because the geometry of the yarns is different, Options 1 and 2 should not be expected to give the same numerical values on the same yarns.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Option 1 (Twisted Strand Method)*—A schematic diagram of the elements required for twisted strand friction measurement is shown in Fig. 1. The yarn is run over upper pulleys and under a lower pulley and is intertwisted between these pulleys. One end of the yarn (output) is taken up at a controlled rate. The other end of yarn (input) is maintained at a controlled tension. The number of intertwisting wraps, the apex angle between the input and output yarns, and the input and output tensions are precisely known or recorded. From these data the coefficient of yarn-on-yarn friction is calculated. The required elements are:

6.1.1 *Friction Testing Apparatus (Indirect)*³—Apparatus in which the input tension is measured, or controlled to a set value, the output tension is measured, and the coefficient of friction is calculated within or outside the apparatus.

6.1.1.1 *Yarn Input Tension Control*—A means of controlling the yarn input tension to the nearest 5% is required. A demand-feed apparatus tensioned with a fixed weight is suitable.

6.1.1.2 *Yarn Input Tension Measurement*—The yarn input tension is measured to within ± 1.0 mN [± 0.1 gf], using a suitable tension gauge producing an electrical signal. The signal is recorded as millinewtons [grams-force], or is used in

combination with the yarn output tension measured to calculate the coefficient of friction. If a demand-feed apparatus tensioned with a precise, known fixed mass is used, the yarn input tension need not be constantly measured and recorded.

6.1.1.3 *Yarn Output Tension Measurement*—Yarn output tension is measured to within ± 1.0 mN [± 0.1 gf], using a suitable tension gauge producing an electrical signal. The signal is recorded as millinewtons [grams-force], or is used in combination with the yarn input tension setting or measurement to calculate the coefficient of friction.

6.1.2 *Friction Testing Apparatus (Direct)*⁴—Apparatus in which the ratio of output to input tensions are compared directly and the coefficient of friction is indicated on a scale.

6.1.3 *Auxiliary Equipment (Indirect and Direct)*:

6.1.3.1 *Guide Pulley Arrangement*—The upper and lower pulleys shall be of the same diameter. The recommended pulley diameter ranges between 20 and 50 mm [0.8 and 2 in.]. The separation distance between the upper pulleys, $2H$, shall be 140 ± 5 mm [5.5 ± 0.25 in.]. The separation distance between the axis of the lower pulley and a line connecting the upper pulley axes, V , shall be 280 ± 5 mm [11 ± 0.25 in.]. All pulleys shall be in the same plane. The lower pulley may optionally be mounted so that it can be swiveled around an axis at right angles to its axis of rotation and then fixed in position in the same plane as the upper pulleys.

6.1.3.2 *Drive Unit*—The yarn takeup shall run between 0.1 and 200 mm/min [0.004 and 8 in./min].

6.2 *Option 2 (Capstan Method)*—A schematic diagram of the elements required for the Capstan Method is shown in Fig. 2. Suitable elements are:

6.2.1 *Cylinder*—A rotating mandrel of 50 ± 2 mm [2.0 \pm 0.1 in.] outside diameter.

6.2.2 *Drive Unit*—A mechanism designed to rotate the cylinder at a surface speed of 20 ± 1 mm/min [0.75 \pm 0.04 in./mm].

³ Equipment meeting these requirements may be obtained commercially from: Custom Scientific Instruments Inc, 13 Wing Drive, Cedar Knolls, NJ 07292, and Rothschild-Messinstruments, Traubstr 3, 8002 Zurich, Switzerland, represented in the U.S. by Lawson Hemphill Sales Inc, PO Drawer 6388, Spartanburg, SC 29304.

⁴ Equipment meeting these requirements may be obtained commercially from: Rothschild-Messinstruments, Traubstr 3, 8002 Zurich, Switzerland, represented in the U.S. by Lawson Hemphill Sales Inc, PO Drawer 6388, Spartanburg, SC 29304, and Shirley Developments Ltd, PO Box 6, Didsbury, Manchester M20 8SA, England, represented in the U.S. by Lawson Hemphill Sales Inc, PO Drawer 6388, Spartanburg, SC 29304.

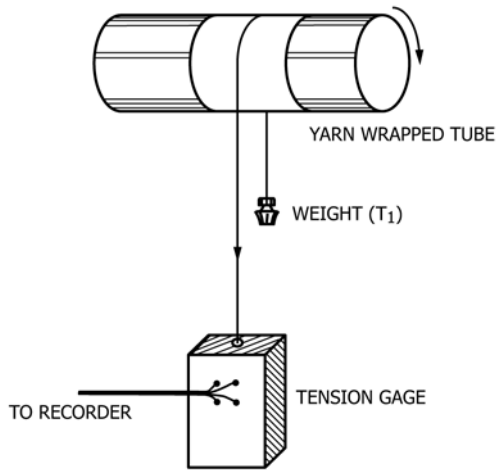


FIG. 2 Yarn-to-Yarn Friction Apparatus—Capstan Method

6.3.1 *Friction Testing Apparatus*—Apparatus in which the input tension is measured, or controlled to a set value, the output tension is measured, and the coefficient of friction is calculated within or outside the apparatus.

6.3.1.1 *Yarn Input Tension Measurement*—The yarn input tension is measured to within ± 1.0 mN [± 0.1 gf], using a suitable tension gauge producing an electrical signal. The signal is recorded as millinewtons or centinewtons (grams-force), or is used in combination with the yarn output tension measured to calculate the coefficient of friction. If a demand-fed apparatus tensioned with a precise, known fixed mass is used, the yarn input tension need not be constantly measured and recorded.

6.3.1.2 *Yarn Output Tension Measurement*—Yarn output tension is measured to within ± 1.0 mN [± 0.1 gf], using a suitable tension gauge producing an electrical signal. The signal is recorded as millinewtons or centinewtons, (grams-force), or is used in combination with the yarn input tension setting or measurement to calculate the coefficient of friction.

6.3.2 *Drive Unit*—The yarn takeup shall run between 0.1 and 200 mm/min [0.0039 and 7.9 in./min].

6.3.3 *Cylinder*—A fixed mandrel capable of fixing a bobbin of 50 ± 5 mm [2.0 ± 0.25 in.] outside diameter.

6.3.4 *Weights*—A set of weights or other device to preset the input tension.

7. Sampling

7.1 *Lot Sample*—As a lot sample for acceptance testing, take at random the number of shipping containers directed in an applicable material specification or other agreement between the purchaser and the supplier, such as an agreement to use Practice D2258. Consider shipping containers to be the primary sampling units.

NOTE 5—An adequate specification or other agreement between the purchaser and the supplier requires taking into account the variability between shipping units, between packages or ends within a shipping unit, and between specimens from a single package so as to provide a sampling plan with a meaningful producer’s risk, consumer’s risk, acceptable

6.2.3 *Winding Unit*—A device to wrap the yarn on the surface of the cylinder. A helix angle of 0.2 to 0.3 rad [10 to 15°] is needed to prevent burrowing by the hanging strand of yarn.

6.2.4 *Tension Gauge*—A suitable tension gauge, producing an electrical signal, to measure the yarn output tension which is recorded as millinewtons or after calculation as coefficient of friction.

6.2.5 *Weights*—A set of weights or other device to preset the input tension.

NOTE 4—Measured stick-slip differentials are greatly dependent on tension transducer spring constants, yarn modulus, and recorder frequency responses. If interlaboratory checks are required, the same type of tension transducer and recorder should be used and the distance between the transducer and the hanging weight to center line of the mandrel must be specified.

6.3 *Option 3 (Fixed Yarn-Body Capstan Method)*—A schematic diagram of the elements required for the Fixed Yarn Body Method is shown in Fig. 3. Suitable elements are:

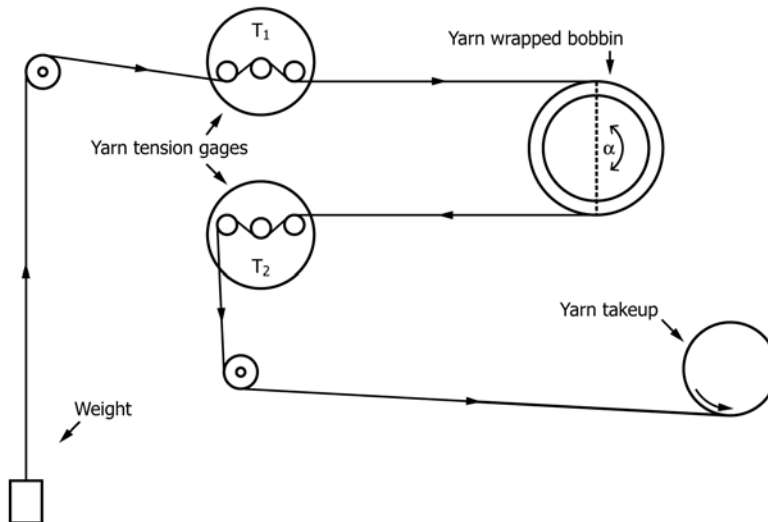


FIG. 3 Yarn-to-Yarn Friction Apparatus—Fixed Yarn-Body Capstan Method

quality level, and limiting quality level.

7.2 Laboratory Sample—As a laboratory sample for acceptance testing, take at random from each shipping unit in the lot sample the number of packages or ends directed in an applicable material specification or other agreement between the purchaser and the supplier such as an agreement to use Practice **D2258**. Preferably, the same number of packages should be taken from each shipping unit in the lot sample. If differing numbers of packages are to be taken from shipping units in the lot sample, determine at random which shipping units are to have each number of packages drawn.

7.3 Test Specimens—Test one specimen from each package in the laboratory sample.

8. Conditioning

8.1 Preparation of Test Packages—Remove sufficient yarn from the test packages to avoid testing non-representative layers. If in doubt, remove about 10 % of the length of yarn on the package.

8.2 The strand to be tested must have a uniform moisture content along its length. Atmospheric conditions must therefore be stable and the strand must be in equilibrium with the prevailing atmosphere. To satisfy this condition, testing should be carried out after thorough conditioning in the standard atmosphere for testing textiles.

8.3 Precondition and condition the specimens as directed in Practice **D1776**.

9. Procedure

9.1 Test all specimens in the standard atmosphere for testing as directed in Practice **D1776**.

9.2 Option 1 (Twisted Strand Method):

9.2.1 Calibrate the apparatus to the specified full scale reading. Check the freedom of the pulleys by running yarn through the apparatus to determine the difference between input and output tensions with no yarn friction. Designate this value as ΔT .

9.2.2 Feed the yarn through the apparatus. If the test apparatus is equipped with a rotating lower pulley, rotate the swivel pulley clockwise through three complete revolutions. Otherwise, remove the yarn from the lower pulley by placing it around fingers, rotate the hand to twist the yarn loop three complete revolutions, and then replace the yarn under the lower pulley. The first half revolution brings the input and output sections of the yarn into contact and corresponds to a wrap angle of zero. The additional two and one-half revolutions produces a wrap angle of 15.7 rad [900°].

9.2.3 Measure the length W of the intertwisted portion of yarn. Measure the distance between the upper pulley axes $2H$ and the distance between the lower pulley axis and a line connecting the upper pulley axes V , or use the predetermined values for these constants. Calculate the apex angle α formed between the input and output yarns using **Eq 1**:

$$\alpha = 2 \cdot \arctan\left(\frac{H}{V - W}\right) \quad (1)$$

where:

α = apex angle in rad,
 H = half length between the upper pulley axes in m [in.],
 V = distance between the lower pulley axis and a line connecting the upper pulley axes in m [in.], and
 W = length of intertwisted portion of the yarn in m [in.].

9.2.4 Place a mark on the input yarn immediately above its entry into the intertwisted region.

9.2.5 Adjust the input tension to 10.0 ± 0.5 mN/tex [0.1 gf/den] for yarns having linear densities ranging from 1.5 to 80 tex, or an input tension of 3.0 ± 0.15 mN/tex [0.03 gf/den] for yarns having linear densities ranging from 80 to 400 tex. If the yarn linear density is not known, determine as directed in Test Method **D1907** (Option I).

9.2.6 Start the yarn takeup drive unit. Adjust the takeup speed to between 0.1 and 200 mm/min [0.004 and 8 in./min].

9.2.7 After the mark (**9.2.4**) has passed completely through the intertwisted region and is on the output side above the interwrapped region, measure the coefficient of friction or the input and output tensions. Record the values until an additional 100 mm [4 in.] of yarn has passed out of the interwrapped region. If stick-slip is present, record ten consecutive maximum values.

9.3 Option 2 (Capstan Method):

9.3.1 Using an auxiliary pulley above the mandrel, calibrate the apparatus by dead weight.

9.3.2 Wrap enough yarn from the specimen onto the cylinder to cover the surface.

9.3.3 Transfer the yarn-wrapped cylinder to the friction apparatus and hang a single strand of the same yarn over the cylinder, as shown in **Fig. 2**. For spun-staple yarns, use a double strand to prevent the twist from backing out.

9.3.4 Adjust the free-hanging weight to provide an input tension of 10.0 ± 0.5 mN/tex [0.1 gf/den].

9.3.5 Measure and record the coefficient of friction or the output tension to the nearest 0.05 units.

9.4 Option 3 (Fixed Yarn-Body Capstan Method):

9.4.1 Using an auxiliary pulley above the mandrel, calibrate the apparatus by dead weight.

9.4.2 Wind enough yarn from the specimen with a tension of 11 ± 1 mN/tex onto a bobbin of 50 ± 5 mm [2.0 ± 0.25 in.] outside diameter to cover the surface.

9.4.3 Transfer the yarn-wrapped bobbin to the friction apparatus and hang a single strand of the same yarn over the bobbin, as shown in **Fig. 3**.

9.4.4 Adjust the free-hanging weight to provide an input tension of 10 ± 0.5 mN/tex [0.1 gf/den] for yarns having linear densities ranging from 1.5 to 80 tex, or an input tension of 3.0 ± 0.15 mN/tex [0.03 gf/den] for yarns having linear densities ranging from 80 to 400 tex.

9.4.5 Start the yarn takeup drive unit. Adjust the takeup speed to between 0.1 and 200 mm/min [0.004 and 8 in./min].

9.4.6 Measure and record the coefficient of friction or the output tension to the nearest 0.005 units at every desired speed step. Allow the yarn speed to stabilize after every speed change before recording the coefficient of friction or the output tension.

10. Calculation

10.1 *Stick-Slip Present*—Determine the mean tension by averaging ten consecutive stick-slip peaks. This value is then used to calculate the coefficient of friction, unless the apparatus is directly calibrated in coefficient of friction.

10.2 *Stick-Slip Not Present*—Determine the mean output tension forces or mean coefficient of friction.

10.3 *Adjustment of Tensions (Twisted Strand Method)*—If the pulley friction value ΔT , determined in 9.2.1, is greater than 5 % of the input tension, add half this value to the input tension and subtract half this value from the output tension. (These adjustments are reflected in Eq 2.)

10.4 *Average Coefficient of Friction (Twisted Strand Method)*—Calculate the average coefficient of friction, to the nearest 0.1 unit, unless it is recorded directly, using the formula in Eq 2:

$$\mu = \frac{\ln \frac{T_2 - \Delta T/2}{T_1 + \Delta T/2}}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot n_\alpha} \quad (2)$$

where:

- μ = coefficient of friction,
- T_1 = mean input tension,
- T_2 = mean output tension,
- ΔT = zero twist tension (9.2.1),
- n_α = number of wraps (2.5), and
- α = apex angle (Eq 1).

10.5 *Average Coefficient of Friction (Capstan Method)*—Calculate the average coefficient of friction, to the nearest 0.1 unit, unless it is recorded directly, using the formula in Eq 3.

10.6 *Average Coefficient of Friction (Fixed Yarn-Body Capstan Method)*—Calculate the average coefficient of friction for every speed step to the nearest 0.01 unit, unless it is recorded directly, using the formula in Eq 3:

$$\mu = \frac{\ln \left(\frac{T_2}{T_1} \right)}{\theta} \quad (3)$$

where:

- μ = coefficient of friction,
- T_1 = mean input tension,
- T_2 = mean output tension, and
- θ = wrap angle, 3.14 rad [180°].

11. Report

11.1 State that the specimens were tested as directed in Test Method D3412, Option 1 or Option 2. Describe the material(s) or product(s) sampled and the method of sampling used.

11.2 Report the following information:

11.2.1 Average coefficient of friction,

11.2.2 Whether stick-slip was present and, if so, the average peak-valley difference,

11.2.3 Yarn speed,

11.2.4 Wrap angle,

11.2.5 Yarn linear density,

11.2.6 Yarn input tension,

11.2.7 Yarn output tension,

11.2.8 For Option 1, whether Eq 2 or Eq 3 was used for the calculation.

NOTE 6—If the apparatus reads directly in coefficient of friction this should be stated and the yarn output tension omitted from the report.

12. Precision and Bias

12.1 *Interlaboratory Test Data*—An interlaboratory trial was run in 1969 in which randomly drawn samples of two yarns were tested in each of four laboratories using Procedure 1 and in each of two laboratories using Procedure 2. Each laboratory used one operator and tested two specimens of each yarn. The components of variance for yarn-to-yarn coefficient of friction were calculated to be:

	Procedure 1	Procedure 2
Single operator component	8.0	3.8 % of the average
Between-laboratory component	31.0	16.0 % of the average

12.2 *Precision*—For the components of variance reported in 12.1, two averages of observed values should be considered significantly different at the 95 % probability level if the difference equals or exceeds the critical differences listed below:

Number of observations in each average	Critical difference, % of grand average for the conditions noted ^{A, B}			
	Single operator precision Procedure		Between-laboratory precision Procedure	
	1	2	1	2
1	22	10.5	86	44
5	10	4.7	39	20
10	7	3.3	27	14

^A The critical differences were calculated using $t = 1.960$, which is based on infinite degrees of freedom.

^B To convert the values of the critical differences to units of measure, multiply the critical differences by the average of the two specific sets of data being compared and divide by 100.

NOTE 7—The tabulated values of the critical differences should be considered to be a general statement, particularly with respect to between-laboratory precision. Before a meaningful statement can be made about two specific laboratories, the amount of statistical bias, if any, between them must be established, with each comparison being based on recent data obtained on specimens randomly drawn from one sample of the material to be tested.

12.3 *Bias*—No justifiable statement can be made on the bias of Test Method D3412 for testing yarn-to-yarn coefficient of friction, since the value of the property cannot be established by an accepted referee method.

13. Keywords

13.1 coefficient of friction; yarns; yarn to yarn



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