
**Microbeam analysis — Electron
backscatter diffraction — Measurement
of average grain size**

*Analyse par microfaisceaux — Diffraction d'électrons rétrodiffusés —
Mesurage de la taille moyenne des grains*



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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Introduction

The mechanical and electromagnetic properties of engineering materials are strongly influenced by their crystal grain size and distribution. For example, strength, toughness and hardness are all important engineering properties that are strongly influenced by these parameters. Both bulk materials and thin films, even as narrow two-dimensional structures, are influenced by grain size. For this reason, it is important to have standard methods for its measurement with commonly used and agreed terminology. This International Standard describes procedures for measuring average grain size from maps of local orientation measurements using electron backscatter diffraction.

Microbeam analysis — Electron backscatter diffraction — Measurement of average grain size

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1 Scope

This International Standard describes procedures for measuring average grain size derived from a two-dimensional polished cross-section using electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD). This requires the measurement of orientation, misorientation and pattern quality factor as a function of position in the crystalline specimen^[1].

NOTE 1 While conventional methods for grain size determination using optical microscopy are well-established, EBSD methods offer a number of advantages over these techniques, including increased spatial resolution and quantitative description of the orientation of the grains.

NOTE 2 The method also lends itself to the measurement of the grain size of complex materials, for example those with a significant duplex content.

NOTE 3 The reader is warned to interpret the results with care when attempting to investigate specimens with high levels of deformation.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 16700, *Microbeam analysis — Scanning electron microscopy — Guidelines for calibrating image magnification*

ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*

ISO 21748, *Guidance for the use of repeatability, reproducibility and trueness estimates in measurement uncertainty estimation*

ISO 23833, *Microbeam analysis — Electron probe microanalysis (EPMA) — Vocabulary*

ISO 24173:2009, *Microbeam analysis — Guidelines for orientation measurement using electron backscatter diffraction*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply. The reader is also referred to ISO 24173 and ISO 23833 for additional terms and definitions.

3.1 Terminology associated with EBSD measurement of grain size

3.1.1 step size

distance between adjacent points from which individual EBSD patterns are acquired during collection of data for an EBSD map