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## Study on the Rheological Constants and Average Molecular Weight for Molasses

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## STUDY ON THE RHEOLOGICAL CONSTANTS AND AVERAGE MOLECULAR WEIGHT FOR MOLLASSES

Yoshio HIGA

### ABSTRACT

Molasses is one of the important products of the sugar industry in OKinawa. The rheological constants and average molecular weights have been obtained at 25°C for the molasses of several sugar plants of Okinawa, Taiwan, and the Phillippines as follows:

**Table 1**

Molasses	Viscosity (poise)	Molecular Weight (average)	Constant "n"
(1) HKB*	$5.21 \times 10^3$	16,300	1.61
(2) DTO	$6.15 \times 10^3$	18,000	1.62
(3) CBU	$11.3 \times 10^3$	49,900	1.83
(4) IMN	$8.41 \times 10^3$	23,200	2.51
(5) RTO	$18.5 \times 10^3$	43,600	1.59
(6) FPN	$22.3 \times 10^3$	49,200	1.93
(7) TWN	$28.1 \times 10^3$	59,200	2.91

(\*) The abbreviations are used as follows:

- HKB : Molasses from Hokubu Seitoh,
- DTO : Molasses from Daitoh Seitoh,
- CBU : Molasses from Chubu Seitoh,
- IMN : Molasses from Daiichi Seitoh of Itoman,
- RTo : Molasses from Ryukyu Seitoh,
- FPN : Molasses from the Philippines,
- TWN : Molasses from Taiwan.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

From the viewpoint of mechanical behavior, molasses is not like an ordinary Newtonian-liquid<sup>1)</sup> and rheological constants had not previously been determined.

This investigation has tried to determine the rheological constants and to determine the molecular weight of several specimen of molasses taken from a number of sugar sources, by means of a BL-type viscometer.

There are two cylinders, one is a stationary inner cylinder of radius  $R_1$ ; the other is a movable, outer cylinder of radius  $R_2$ . Both are sufficiently long so

that end effect may be neglected.

Sample of viscosity "e" fills the annular interspace. A torque "T" is applied to the outer cylinder.

Scale 1 ; 1

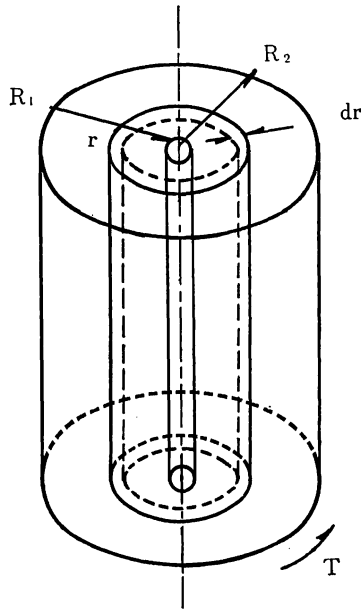


Fig. 1 Flow in cylinder, rotational viscometer.

In the steady state of flow, the torque  $T$  is supported at the surfaces of the cylinders by a force tangential to the surface and perpendicular to the axis of the cylinder.

On a surface of radius  $r$  and of unit length, the total tangential force is  $[T/Lr]$ , and the force per unit area is  $[T/L \cdot 2\pi r^2]$ .

Thus the sample at a distance  $r$  from the center is subject to a shear stress of  $[T/L \cdot 2\pi r^2]$ , which tends to turn each cylinder surface relative to the next. The gradient of angular velocity,  $dw/dr$ , will be given by the following equation<sup>ii)</sup> :

$$dw/dr = (1/re)S = (1/e)(T/L2\pi r^3) \quad (1)$$

The actual angular velocity of any layer  $r$  may be shown to be-

$$w(r) = \int_{R_1}^r \frac{dw}{dr} dr = \int_{R_1}^r (T/eL2\pi r^3) dr \quad (2)$$

Hence,

$$w(r) = \frac{T}{2eL} (1/2 R_1^2 - 1/2 r^2) \quad (3)$$

The angular velocity of the outermost layer,  $R_2$ , will be given as—

$$w(R_2) = \frac{T}{4eL} (1/R_1^2 - 1/R_2^2) \tag{4}$$

Thus, because there is a linear relation between the torque  $T$  and the resulting angular velocity  $w$  of the outer cylinder—

$$w = (1/e) K \cdot T \tag{5}$$

where  $K$  is a calibration constant for the instrument and is determined by the instrument.

$$K = 1/4L (1/R_1^2 - 1/R_2^2) \tag{6}$$

And, for the velocity distribution of the fluid which is a non-Newtonian liquid, the relationship between rate of shear and the slope of velocity is expressed as— iii).iv)

$$\text{Rate of shear} = - (du/dr) = (g_c t_w)^{n/e_p} \tag{7}$$

where  $u$  is velocity at radius  $r'$ ; therefore—  $(du/dr)$  is velocity slope at radius  $r'$ ,  $g_c$  is conversion factor and  $e_p$  is viscosity of pseudoplastic fluids with the following dimensions—

$$[e_p] = [Kg^{-n}, M^{-n}, Sec^{1-2n}] \tag{8}$$

Average velocity of pipe  $\bar{u}$  is obtained from the following equation;v)

$$\bar{u} = \frac{R}{(n+3)e_p} (g_c t_w)^n \tag{9}$$

then, 
$$8\bar{u}/g_c D_p = \frac{8R'}{g_c D_p (n+3)e_p} (g_c t_w)^n$$

$$= \frac{4g_c^{n-1}}{e_p (n+3)} (t_w)^n \tag{10}$$

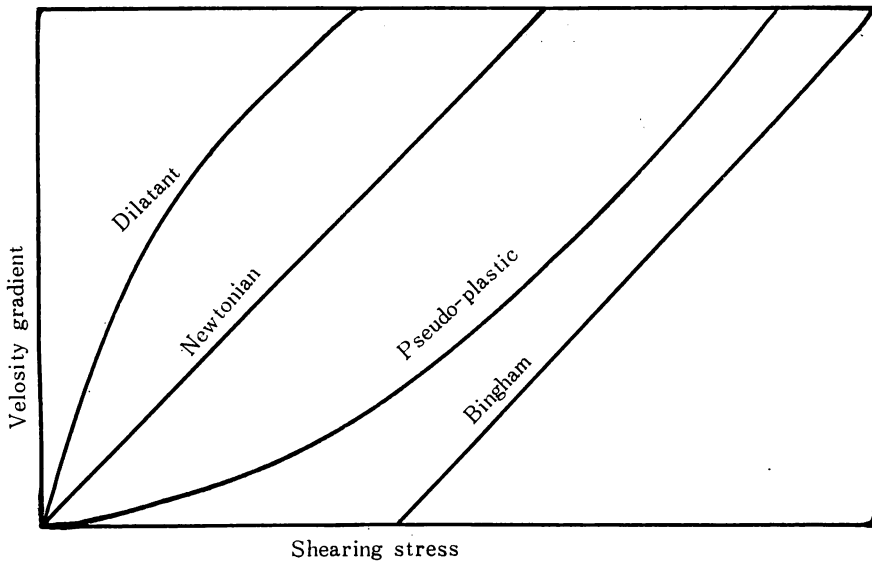


Fig. 2 Types of fluid behavior.

where,  $t_w$  : Shearing stress at pipe wall,  
 $D_p$  : Diameter of pipe,  
 $R'$  : Radius of pipe,  
 $n$  : Constant.

Several types of fluid behavior are shown in Fig.3;vi)

**2. EXPERIMENTS AND DATA:**

The following apparatus was set up for this experiments; special attention was paid to keep the temperature constant. From the equation (10),  $e_p$  was calculated from the following equation:

$$e_p = (g_c D_p / 8\bar{u}) (4g_c^{n-1} / n + 3) (t_w)_n \tag{11}$$

Both  $n$  and  $e_p$  were obtained.

Scale 1 : 1

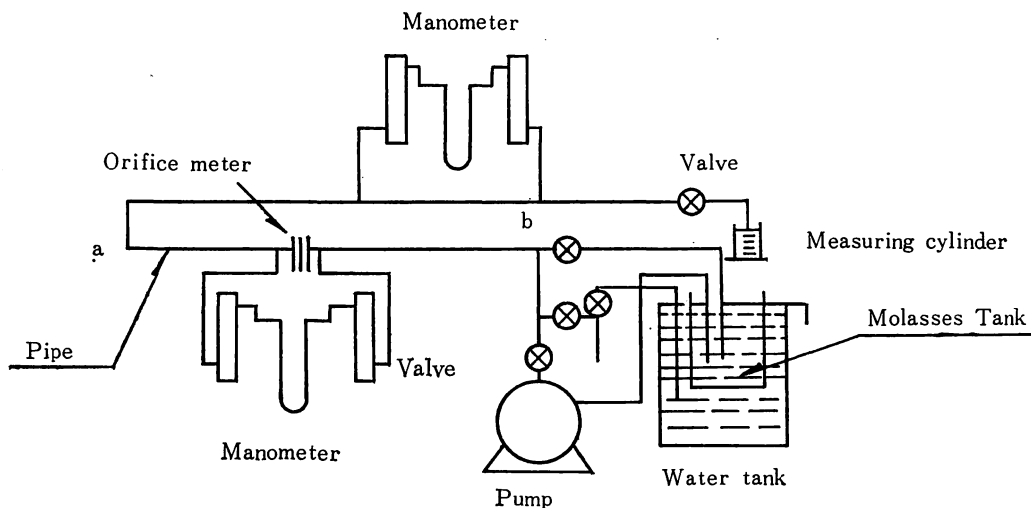


Fig. 3 Apparatus for experiment.

The shearing stress at the pipe wall,  $t_w$ , was obtained by calculation of the equation (12)-

$$t_w = 4p / (2j \times R') \tag{12}$$

where;

- P : pressure drop through the orifice meter
- j : distance on pipe from a to b in Eig. 3
- R' : radius of pipe
- $t_w$  : shearing stress at the pipe wall.

The ratio of orifice area to the sectional area of pipe is 0.524 in this

experiment.

[A] Relationship between temperature and viscosity of molasses. From 20°C to 40°C, viscosity of molasses from several factories was determined as shown in the following table:

Table 2

Temperature (°C)	HKB* x10 <sup>3</sup>	DTO x10 <sup>3</sup>	CBU x10 <sup>3</sup>	IMN x10 <sup>3</sup>	RTO x10 <sup>3</sup>	FPN x10 <sup>3</sup>	TWN x10 <sup>3</sup> (Poise)
20	6.92	8.73	17.8	15.1	33.5	39.4	51.7
21	6.48	8.40	16.2	13.2	29.0	35.3	45.8
22	6.08	7.52	14.7	11.8	25.2	31.1	38.5
23	5.72	6.98	13.1	10.5	23.2	27.5	35.7
24	5.38	6.60	12.2	9.35	20.8	25.2	31.2
25	5.21	6.15	11.3	8.41	18.5	22.3	28.1
26	4.93	5.88	10.4	7.73	17.2	20.1	24.8
27	4.60	5.42	9.55	6.82	15.3	18.5	22.6
28	4.42	5.19	8.90	6.20	14.1	16.5	20.3
29	4.19	4.98	8.18	5.83	12.9	15.5	18.5
30	4.00	4.65	7.65	5.21	11.8	14.2	16.8
31	3.87	4.50	7.41	5.04	11.3	13.7	16.2
32	3.64	4.25	6.78	4.40	10.2	11.9	13.9
33	3.52	4.13	6.57	4.27	9.87	11.1	12.5
34	3.38	3.82	5.91	3.85	8.53	10.0	11.8
35	3.28	3.72	5.74	3.74	8.27	9.72	10.4
36	3.13	3.45	5.33	3.21	7.40	8.65	8.92
37	3.04	3.35	5.17	3.13	7.20	8.42	8.70
38	2.90	3.25	4.70	2.85	6.51	8.22	8.75
39	2.82	2.68	4.58	2.78	6.35	7.00	8.23
40	2.75	3.00	4.12	2.52	5.83	6.45	7.31

(\*) In table 2, abbreviations are used as follows:

HKB : Molasses from Hokubu Seitoh

DTO : Molasses from Daitoh Seitoh

CBU : Molasses from Chuhbu Seitoh

IMN : Molasses from Daiichi Seitoh of Itoman

RTO : Molasses from Ryukyu Seitoh

FPN : Molasses from the Philippines

TWN : Molasses from Taiwan.

The relationship between temperature and viscosity is shown in Fig. 4.

To obtain the equation for each curve, table 2 was plotted on log-log paper:

The following equations were obtained:

$$(1) \text{ HKB : } \eta = 3.46 \times 10^5 \times \theta^{-1.31}$$

(13)

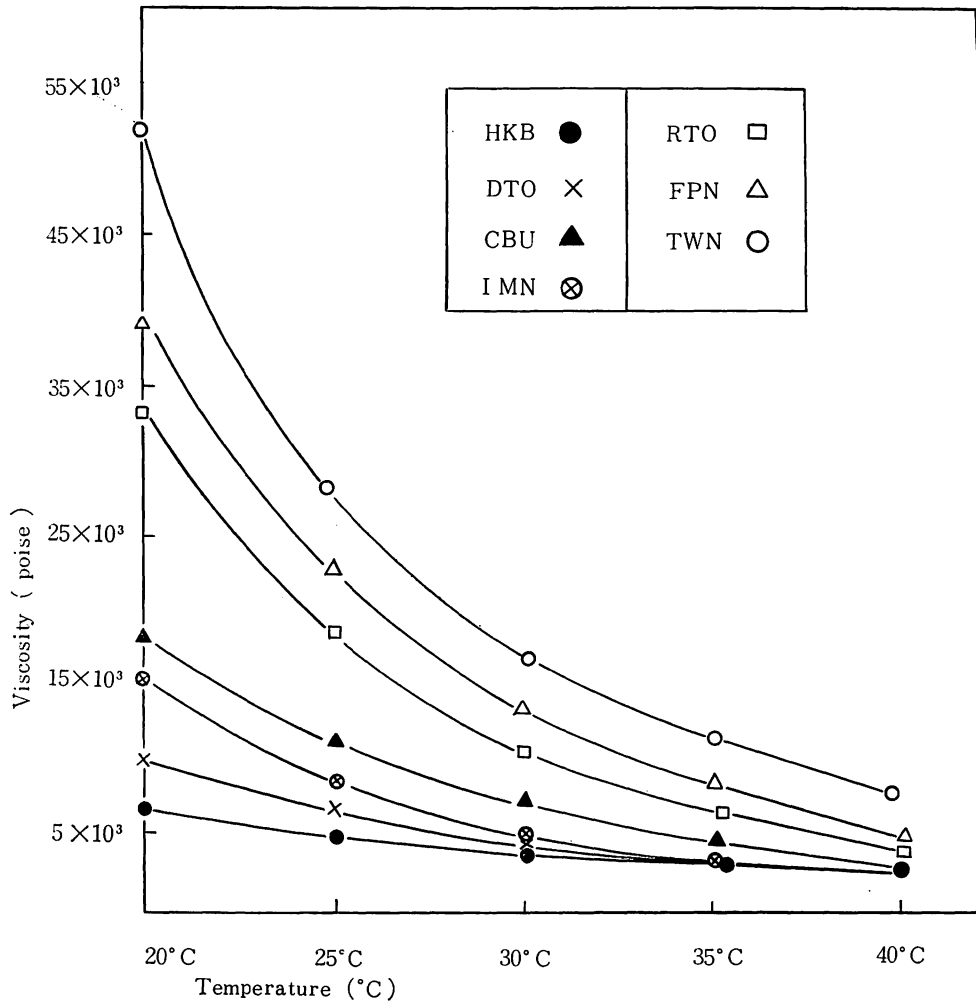


Fig. 4 The relationship between viscosity and temperature.

$$(2) \text{ DTO} : e = 7.28 \times 10^5 \times \theta^{-1.49} \quad (14)$$

$$(3) \text{ CBU} : e = 4.45 \times 10^5 \times \theta^{-2.51} \quad (15)$$

$$(4) \text{ IMN} : e = 1.19 \times 10^5 \times \theta^{-2.92} \quad (16)$$

$$(5) \text{ RTO} : e = 6.31 \times 10^7 \times \theta^{-2.52} \quad (17)$$

$$(5) \text{ FPN} : e = 8.59 \times 10^7 \times \theta^{-2.58} \quad (18)$$

$$(7) \text{ TWN} : e = 2.35 \times 10^8 \times \theta^{-2.82} \quad (19)$$

where,

$e$  : Viscosity

$\theta$  : Temperature.

[B] Average molecular weight of molasses and viscosity relationship were

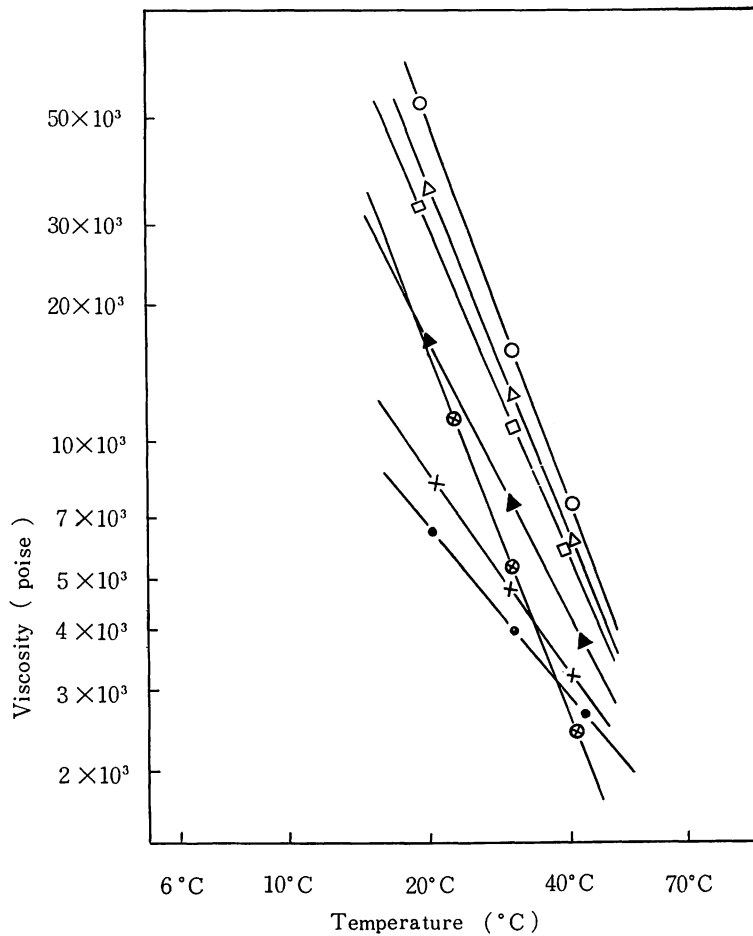


Fig. 5 The relationship between viscosity and temperature on log-log paper.

obtained by measuring osmotic pressure of molasses, as in the following table; (vii), (viii), (ix)

**Table 3**

Molasses	Viscosity (poise)	Average Molecular Weight
(1) HKB	$5.21 \times 10^3$	16,300
(2) DTO	$6.15 \times 10^3$	18,000
(3) CBU	$11.3 \times 10^3$	49,900
(4) IMN	$8.41 \times 10^3$	23,200
(5) RTO	$18.5 \times 10^3$	43,600
(6) FPN	$22.3 \times 10^3$	49,200
(7) TWN	$28.1 \times 10^3$	59,200

These results depend on the viscosity at temperature 25°C, and the relationship



is expressed in the following equation:

$$e = 0.66 \times M_{av}^{1.31} \quad (20)$$

where,

$e$  : Viscosity

$M_{av}$  : Average molecular weight.

[C] Determination of constant "n".

From the equation (1), the constant "n" may be determined. The relationship between  $(8\bar{u}/g_c D_p)$  and  $t_w$  was obtained as follows:

(1) **HKB**

$8\bar{u}/g_c D_p$	1.02	1.58	1.83	2.89	2.20	6.35
$t_w$	0.115	0.157	0.172	0.235	0.255	0.391
$8\bar{u}/g_c D_p$	10.1	17.1	22.3	37.9		
$t_w$	0.533	0.772	0.934	1.33		

(2) **DTO**

$8\bar{u}/g_c D_p$	1.68	2.49	3.45	5.80	8.25	10.5
$t_w$	0.320	0.341	0.446	0.599	0.721	0.833
$8\bar{u}/g_c D_p$	14.2	20.0	26.5	41.7		
$t_w$	0.955	11.2	13.3	16.8		

(3) **CBU**

$8\bar{u}/g_c D_p$	1.68	2.49	3.45	5.80	8.25	10.5
$t_w$	0.320	0.341	0.446	0.599	0.712	0.833
$8\bar{u}/g_c D_p$	14.2	20.0	26.5	41.7		
$t_w$	0.955	11.2	13.3	16.8		

(4) **IMN**

$8\bar{u}/g_c D_p$	1.23	1.85	2.85	4.23	5.26	7.33
$t_w$	0.340	0.354	0.485	0.573	0.641	0.750

$8\bar{u}/g_c D_p$	12.2	17.1	24.3	33.0
$t_w$	0.900	1.05	1.23	1.46

(5) **RTO**

$8\bar{u}/g_c D_p$	1.36	1.50	2.00	2.59	4.21	5.85
$t_w$	0.472	0.481	0.553	0.615	0.743	0.860

$8\bar{u}/g_c D_d$	8.53	23.9	31.2	40.2
$t_w$	1.01	1.59	1.79	1.95

(6) **FPN**

$8\bar{u}/g_c D_p$	1.37	2.38	3.35	4.81	7.23	10.1
$t_w$	0.601	0.644	0.734	0.835	1.01	1.15

$8\bar{u}/g_c D_p$	18.5	28.7	43.3	58.2
$t_w$	1.47	1.72	2.11	2.38

(7) **TWN**

$8\bar{u}/g_c D_p$	1.37	2.05	5.25	9.26	13.7	18.3
$t_w$	0.601	0.703	1.05	1.27	1.49	1.63

$8\bar{u}/g_c D_p$	24.0	33.4	42.1	49.8
$t_w$	1.79	2.04	2.23	2.88

The results are shown in Fig. 6, a shear diagram for molasses at 25°C.

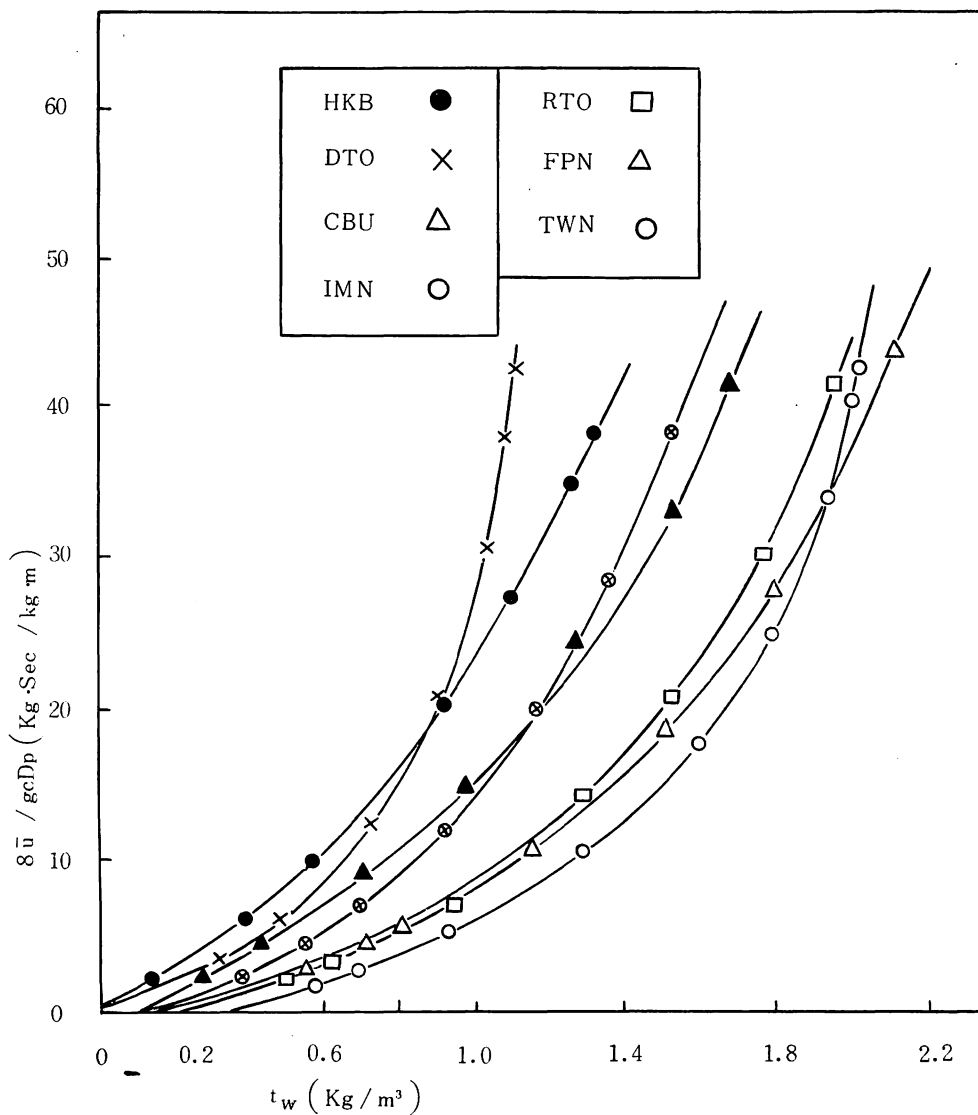


Fig. 6 Shear biagram for molasses at 25°C.

To obtain constant "n", these results can be plotted on log-log paper as follows:

The constant "n" is as follows:

- (1) HKB :  $n=1.61$
- (2) DTO :  $n=1.62$
- (3) CBU :  $n=1.83$
- (4) IMN :  $n=2.51$
- (5) RTO :  $n=1.59$
- (6) FPN :  $n=1.93$

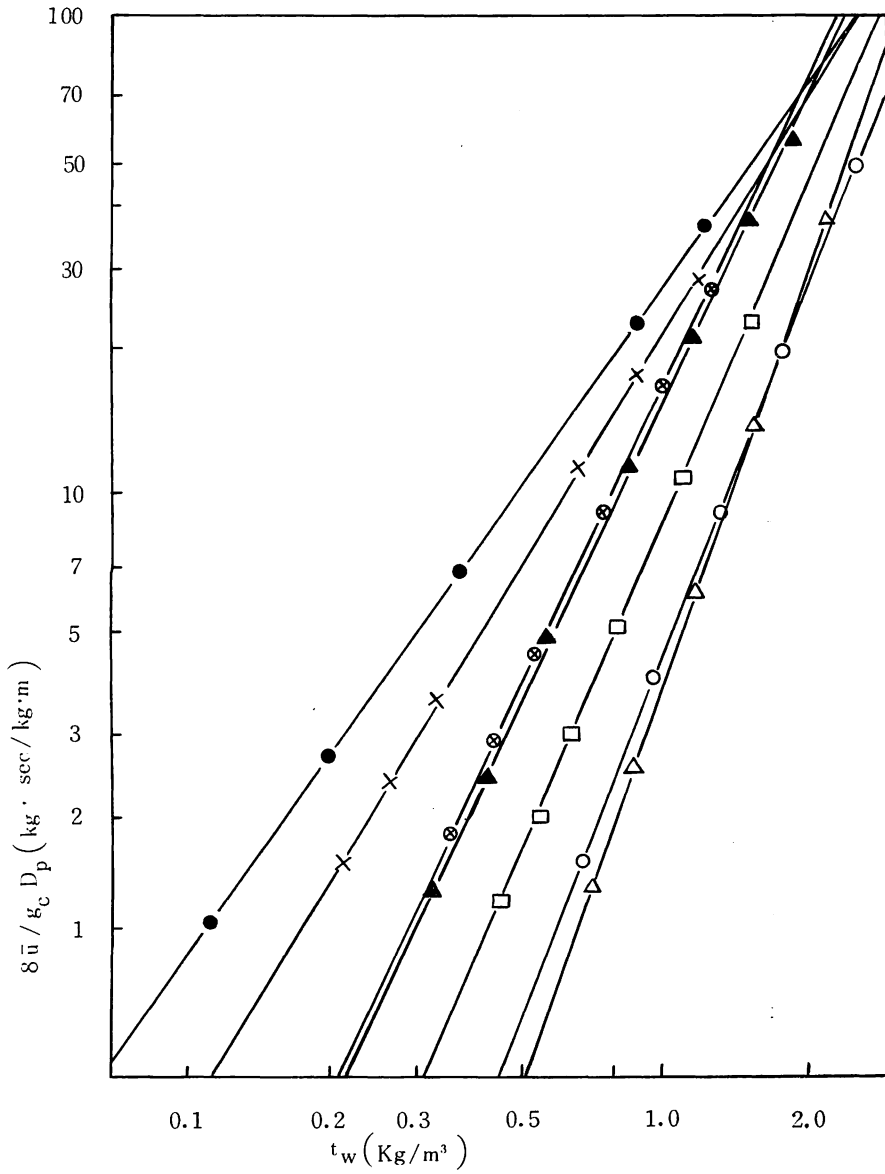


Fig. 7 Logarithmic plot of  $8\bar{u}/g_c D_p$  vs.  $t_w$

(7) TWN :  $n=2.91$

Then the equations for each line are:

(1) HKB :  $8\bar{u}/g_c D_p = 25.5 \times t_w^{1.61}$  (21)

(2) DTO :  $8\bar{u}/g_c D_p = 21.6 \times t_w^{1.62}$  (22)

(3) CBU :  $8\bar{u}/g_c D_p = 15.6 \times t_w^{1.83}$  (23)

(4) IMN :  $8\bar{u}/g_c D_p = 15.5 \times t_w^{2.51}$  (24)

$$(5) \text{ RTO} : 8\bar{u}/g_c D_p = 8.18 \times t_w^{1.59} \quad (25)$$

$$(6) \text{ FPN} : 8\bar{u}/g_c D_p = 7.21 \times t_w^{1.93} \quad (26)$$

$$(7) \text{ TWN} : 8\bar{u}/g_c D_p = 5.20 \times t_w^{2.91} \quad (27)$$

### 3. CONCLUSION

In this experiment, especially as shown in Fig. 6, for the fluid molasses, a pseudo-plastic material, viscosity and rheological constants were obtained.

[A] Relationship between temperature and viscosity:

$$(1) \text{ HKB} : e = 3.46 \times 10^5 \times \theta^{-1.31} \quad (13)$$

$$(2) \text{ DTO} : e = 7.28 \times 10^5 \times \theta^{-1.49} \quad (14)$$

$$(3) \text{ CBU} : e = 4.45 \times 10^7 \times \theta^{-2.51} \quad (15)$$

$$(4) \text{ IMN} : e = 1.19 \times 10^8 \times \theta^{-2.92} \quad (16)$$

$$(5) \text{ RTO} : e = 6.31 \times 10^7 \times \theta^{-2.52} \quad (17)$$

$$(6) \text{ FPN} : e = 8.59 \times 10^7 \times \theta^{-2.58} \quad (18)$$

$$(7) \text{ TWN} : e = 2.35 \times 10^8 \times \theta^{-2.82} \quad (19)$$

[B] Relationship between viscosity and average molecular weight at 25°C was obtained and is expressed in the following equation:

$$e = 0.77 \times M_{av}^{1.31} \quad (20)$$

[C] Constant "n".

$$(1) \text{ HKB} : n = 1.61$$

$$(2) \text{ DTO} : n = 1.62$$

$$(3) \text{ CBU} : n = 1.83$$

$$(4) \text{ IMN} : n = 2.51$$

$$(5) \text{ RTO} : n = 1.59$$

$$(6) \text{ FPN} : n = 1.93$$

$$(7) \text{ TWN} : n = 2.91$$

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