

Soxhlet Extractions

Lane C. Sander

National Institute of Standards and Technology,
Gaithersburg, MD 20899, USA

lane.sander@nist.gov

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1. Summary

Soxhlet extraction is one of several sample preparation methods that can be used to transfer targeted analytes from a sample matrix into a solvent, to permit subsequent analysis. With Soxhlet extraction, samples are repeatedly extracted with solvent regenerated by distillation through a periodic siphoning process. Because pure solvent is used for each extraction cycle, the removal of the analytes from the sample matrix is thermodynamically favored compared with simply soaking the sample with a single aliquot of solvent for the same period of time. This presentation will provide an introduction to the practice of soxhlet extractions, and will demonstrate the technique for a typical sample.¹

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