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separation number, SN

in chromatography

This expresses the number of peaks which can be resolved in a given part of the chromatogram between the peaks of two consecutive *n*-alkanes with z and $(z + 1)$ carbon atoms in their molecules:

$$\mathrm{SN} = \frac{t_{\mathrm{R}\,(z+1)} - t_{\mathrm{R}\,z}}{w_{\mathrm{h}\,z} + w_{\mathrm{h}\,(z+1)}} - 1$$

In the German literature the symbol TZ (trennzahl) is commonly used to express the separation number. As the separation number depends on the *n*-alkanes used for the calculation, they always must be specified with any given SN value.

Source:

PAC, 1993, *65*, 819 *(Nomenclature for chromatography (IUPAC Recommendations 1993))* on page 847

