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mass-to-charge ratio, $\frac{m}{z}$

in mass spectrometry

The abbreviation $\frac{m}{z}$ is used to denote the dimensionless quantity formed by dividing the mass number of an ion by its charge number. It has long been called the mass-to-charge ratio although m is not the ionic mass nor is z a multiple or the elementary (electronic) charge, e. The abbreviation $\frac{m}{e}$ is, therefore, not recommended. Thus, for example, for the ion ($C_7H_7^{2+}$) , $\frac{m}{z}$ equals 45.5.

Source:

PAC, 1991, *63*, 1541 *(Recommendations for nomenclature and symbolism for mass spectroscopy (including an appendix of terms used in vacuum technology). (Recommendations 1991))* on page 1544

