

Icing Hardness, by Cutting

TVT Texture Analyzer

The TVT Texture Analyzer (Figure 1) offers rapid and objective analysis for different products. The following parameters can be characterized for your product category:

- Hardness
- Consistency
- Stickiness

Both international standard methods as well as customer tailor-made profiles are available.



Figure 1: TVT Texture Analyzer

Scope

- Determination of hardness of icing by single cycle cutting test.

Method Description

The recording of the measurement data commences once the probe reaches the pre-set trigger force. The probe will then cut the sample to a pre-defined distance. After cutting, the probe returns to its starting position.

Calibration

Make sure the instrument is correct calibrated before the measurements. How to perform the calibration can be found in the User's Manual.

Load cell (recommended) 5 - 10 kg

Probe

Wire cutter, 90 mm frame, 0.4 mm wire (Figure 2)
Part number: 67.13.95



Figure 2: 67.13.95 (P-CW9004)

Profile settings

Setting Parameter

Single Cycle Compression

Sample height [mm]	25.0
Starting distance from sample [mm]	5.0
Compression [mm]	18.00
Initial speed [mm/s]	2.0
Test speed [mm/s]	2.0
Retract speed [mm/s]	10.0
Trigger force [g]	5
Data rate [pps]	200
Adhesiveness	Marked <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Sample preparation

Take the samples from their packaging just before testing and place under the probe, Figure 3. Work quickly, since contact with air dries out the product and increases the surface firmness. Storage and handling of the samples might influence the result and should thereby be kept constant.

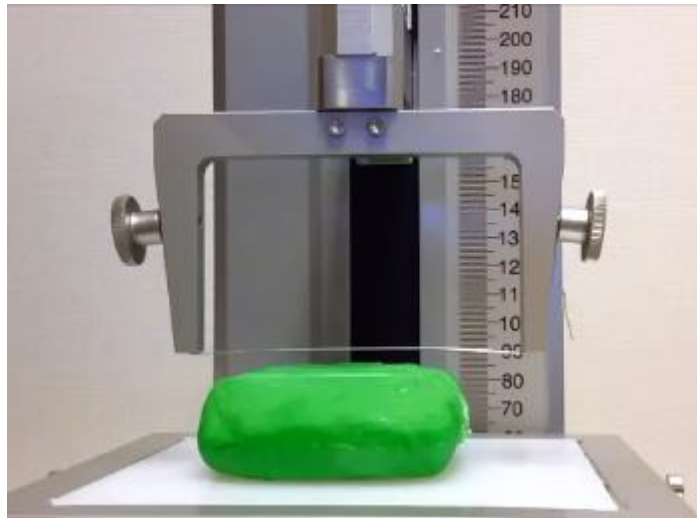


Figure 3: Sample set-up

Curve Description

In Figure 4 a typical Force-Distance curve is illustrated. Maximum peak⁺ force is here defined as the hardness of the sample (surface hardness), while the plateau force is defined as the hardness of the interior mass. The area⁺ is the total work of cutting. It is here clearly shown that the first 6.5 mm is a result of a dryer surface and outer layer region as compared to the rest of the product. In this graph, not only the maximum hardness and plateau hardness can be of interest but also peak distances and the stickiness.

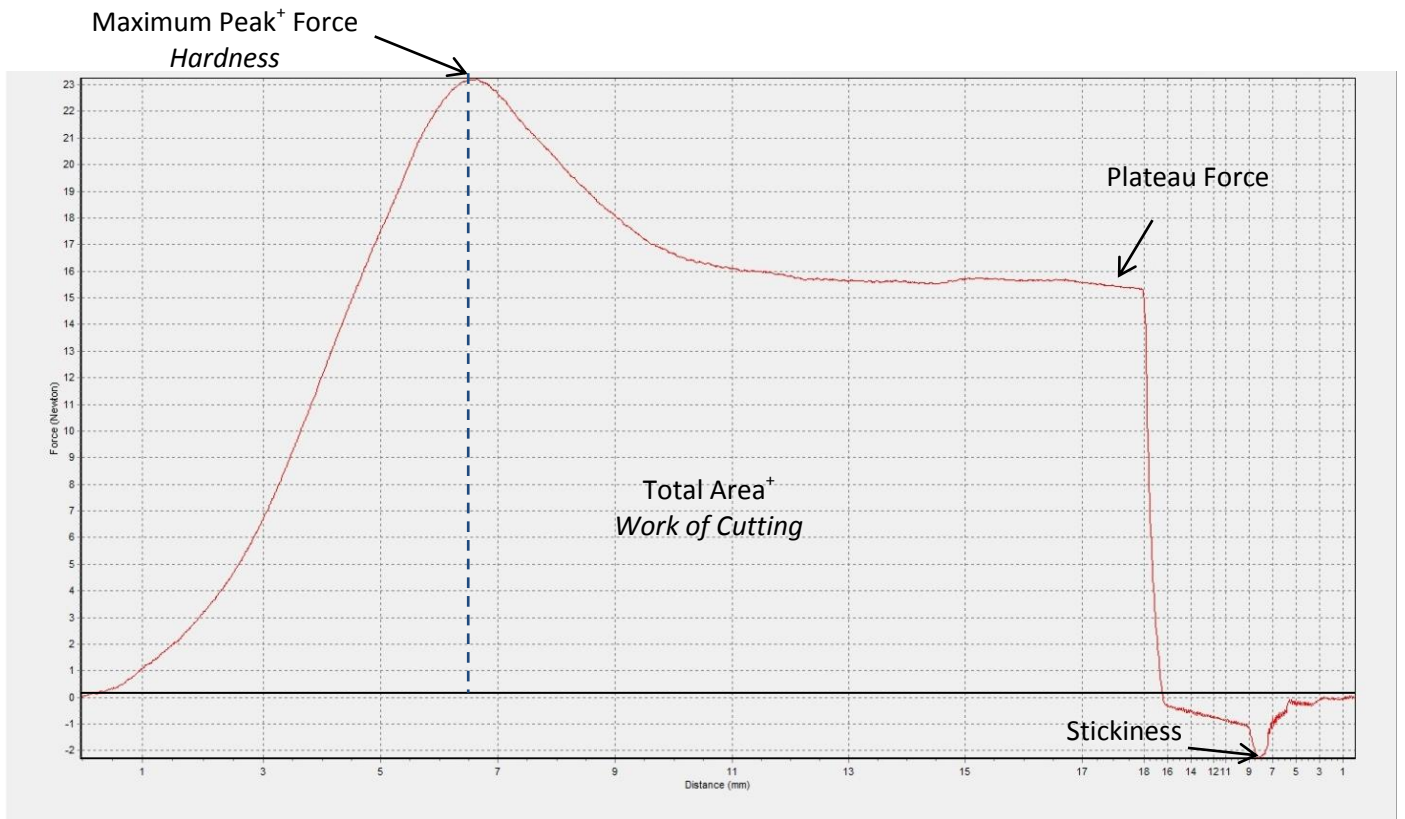


Figure 4: Cutting test of icing

Data Analysis

The maximum force required to cut through the sample to a certain distance is here defined as hardness and can be measured in the units [g] or [N]. Except raw data (force, time and distance) the program also directly provides calculated results such as *mean value* and *standard deviation*.