

### **peak widths (in chromatography)**

Peak-widths represent retention dimensions (time or volume) parallel to the baseline. If the baseline is not parallel to the axis representing time or volume, then the peak-widths are to be drawn parallel to this axis. Three peak-width values are commonly used in chromatography. Peak width at base ( $w_b$ ) is the segment of the peak base intercepted by the tangents drawn to the inflection points on either side of the peak. Peak width at half height ( $w_h$ ) is the length of the line parallel to the peak base at 50% of the peak height that terminates at the intersection with the two limbs of the peak. Peak width at inflection points ( $w_i$ ) is the length of the line drawn between the inflection points parallel to the peak base.

The peak-width at base may be called the 'base width'. However, the peak width at half height must never be called the 'half width' because that has a completely different meaning. Also, the symbol  $w_{1/2}$  should never be used instead of  $w_h$ .

1993, 65, 836; O.B. 101, 102