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Die Geschichte der Dämpfung an der Laboratoriumswaage Title

- Berichte zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte 20 (1997), Heft 2-3, pp. 235-251 In
- 17 pp., ill., 16.8 x 23.8 cm Size

Publisher Wiley-VCH Verlagsgesellschaft mbH

Place Weinheim

Year 1997

- **ISBN ISSN** 0170-6233
 - Abstract History of the Damping of Precision Balances. The handling of high precision laboratory balances designed during the 19th century was improved substantially by the addition of ancillary equipment, like rider weights and the application of new weighing techniques, like observation of the swinging pointer in front of a scale. Within the first decades of the present century the optical projection for the inclination range and mechanical counterbalancing was introduced, first for low weights and than for the whole scale range. Notably, fast acting damping of the balance beam oscillations allowed for direct readings of the weighing result and enabled combinations with other measuring techniques. Various damping methodes for engine vibrations and for instrument indications were already known at this time and could be adapted for the special requirements of balances. The present paper deals with the historical roots of damping, starting with simple methods of braking and calming down the movements of the balance, than with the development of damping devices for the laboratory balance, and it includes some neighbouring innovations.

Remarks