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## SEMI-QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF BULK CHONDRITIC MATERIAL USING X-RAY FLUORESCENCE SPECTROSCOPY

A. S. Simionovici<sup>1</sup>, A. Hubert<sup>1</sup>, G. Quitté<sup>2</sup>, L. Lemelle<sup>2</sup>, T. Ferroir<sup>2</sup>, V. A. Solé<sup>3</sup>, M. Haschke<sup>4</sup>, <sup>1</sup>LGCA, OSUG, BP 53, 38042 Grenoble, France. <sup>2</sup>LST, ENS-Lyon, 46 allée d'Italie, 69364 Lyon, France. <sup>3</sup>ESRF, BP 220, 38043 Grenoble, France, <sup>4</sup>Bruker Nano Microanalysis GmbH, Schwarzschildstrasse 12, D-12489, Berlin, Germany

**Introduction:** Synchrotron radiation X-ray fluorescence (SR-XRF) is a method of choice to analyze fragile, unique meteoritic samples, requiring no sample preparation. It is a non-destructive, multielemental, quantitative method, easily coupled to diffraction and speciation for a detailed sample characterization. The composition of samples thicker than a few microns is however difficult to obtain due to the high attenuation of the characteristic X-rays resulting in non-detection of low-Z elements ( $Z \leq 14$ ).

**Methodology:** We propose a new method of quantification by X-ray fluorescence of the low Z phases in minerals. Including these phases in the data processing allows us to improve the precision achieved on the quantification of *e.g.* volatile elements in chondrites [1-2]. Using fully polarized synchrotron beams for measuring mineral standards we have established a new relationship between the ratio of the Compton to Rayleigh scatterings and the average Z of these phases, relationship previously based on unpolarized X-rays [PhD, Berlin?]. In the present study, the non-detected effective Z is quantified by using the characteristic X-ray lines of the detected elements and the average Z of the low Z phase.

**Results:** We applied this method to the quantification of Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Cu and Zn concentrations in a fragment of the NWA 801 CR2 chondrite. The PyMCA X-ray fluorescence analysis software [4] was used for quantifying ASTIMEX mineral standards to calibrate our setup. We chose O and Si as the non-detected low Z elements, yielding the so-called "Oxycon" effective Z element. Doing so, we estimated concentrations of 200 ppm of Cu, 100 ppm of Zn and an overall concentration of 69% for Oxycon in our sample, much different from the concentrations before correction. The non-detected effective Z can be easily modified if later knowledge about the sample composition is obtained and the procedure can be repeated to obtain *e.g.* composition of carbonate or hydroxyl phases.

Our method helps quantifying undetected elements by X-ray fluorescence and improves the precision achieved on quantification of all other elements. The alternative to using our fast semi-quantitative method is to perform X-ray fluorescence tomography [5], the only elemental imaging method suited to study the bulk composition of grains a few hundred microns across.

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