High Speed Mapping Using Micro-XRF on SEM



Bruker Nano Analytics, Berlin, Germany Webinar, November 6th, 2019



07.11.2019

Presenters





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Overview



- Introduction / Presenters
- Introduction in SEM-XRF (XTrace)
- Differences between SEM-EDS / SEM-XRF examples
- Rapid Stage Technical Description
- Example Applications and Benefits
- Summary and Conclusion

Introduction in SEM-XRF At a glance



- Micro-XRF on an SEM with EDS analysis (SEM-XRF-EDS)
 - X-ray source will be adapted to an inclined SEM port
 - uses the same EDS detector (no extra detector required)
 - Same software package for EDS + XRF (ESPRIT 2.x)
- Non-destructive method for elemental analysis
 - Samples will be directly excited by photons
- Extended spectral range up to 40 keV
- Elemental range from Na to U
- Small spot analysis (35 µm X-ray spot)
- Low spectral background
- Information from within the sample
- Little or no sample preparation
- Quantification
 - standard less (based on fundamental parameters)
 - standard supported FP





SEM-XRF-EDS ESPRIT 2.x Software & spectra comparison





Analytical Parameters and Conditions SEM-XRF vs SEM-E-beam



Micro-XRF	Parameter	e-beam (SEM)
Ø: 15-30 µm Information depth: µm to mm; (depending on analysed element and matrix)	Analyzed Volume	Ø: few micrometers Information depth: µm; (depending primarily on electron energy)
Atomic number $Z \ge 11$ (sodium)	Detectable Elements	Atomic number $Z \ge 4$ (beryllium)
20 µg/g to 100%; (depending on analysed element)	Concentration Range	1000 µg/g to 100%;
Generated by scattered tube radiation on the sample into the detector (second order effect)	Spectral Background	Generated by continuous bremsstrahlung (first order effect)
Electrical Conductivity not required	Sample Preparation	Sample needs to be electrically conductive (commonly carbon-coated)
Minimal	Sample Stress	Heating due to absorbed electrons
Standard based or standardless	Quantification	Standard based or standardless
Spectral fitting (hierarchical)	Mineral Classification	Elemental concentration ranges (hierarchical)

Data updated from Haschke and Böhm (2017). Values presented in the table represent typical values and normal ranges of analysis, but are not limited to these values, and under specific circumstances values outside of those present may be preferable.

Introduction SEM-XRF (XTrace)



Terminology

For clarity and simplicity, analysis and data using a **MicroXRF on SEM (XTrace)** will be referred to as **SEM-XRF** whilst traditional data gathered from an e-beam source (W or FEG) will be referred to as **SEM-EDS**



Bruker SEM-XRF Hardware design

- Main components are an X-Ray tube with a focusing optic.
- Rhodium (Rh) is the commonly used tube material and does not overlap lines of typical analyte elements.
- Typically operates at 50 kV / 600 μA
- Tube radiation is captured by a polycapillary lens with large acceptance angle and focused onto the sample surface.



XTrace source with polycapillary optic

SEM image of a polycapillary structure. Inner diameter in the range of 2 μm



X-ray tube and optic schematics



Bruker SEM-XRF Installation of XTrace on a SEM



















- X-ray source is (mechanically) adjustable and X-ray beam must be aligned to the position of the electron beam on the sample
- Re-alignment is only required when SEM WD was changed

- Beam alignment can be done by using the glass sample which comes with the system
- If electrical nonconductive materials (glass, paper) are excited with both electrons and X-rays, the position of the X-ray beam can be seen as a dark point
- Final adjustment has to be performed with special sample structures (structures on wafer sample)







Rapid Stage for SEM's Introduction



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Element Distribution Measurements Rapid Stage



- Micro-XRF on SEM works with a fixed X-ray beam (X-ray beams cannot be raster as e-beams can).
- Consequently, elemental maps have to be acquired via stage movement.
- The Rapid Stage has been developed to enable high-speed mapping over large areas.
- It is mounted on top of an existing SEM stage, including stage adaption and sample holder.
- The Rapid Stage is controlled independently from the SEM stage and can operate up to a maximum travel speed of 4 mm/s.





Element Distribution Measurements Rapid Stage





Rapid Stage Integration in ESPRIT





11/7/2019

32 mm

Rapid Stage Dimensions

Stage itself (including x- and y linear positioners and basis plate): **27 mm** Including footplate: **32 mm** Without dovetail and sample holder \rightarrow SEM depending



27 mm



for Hitachi S3700N setup: 73 mm



Rapid Stage Installations



Jeol IT-500



Hitachi S 3700N



Jeol JSM 6490



Hitachi SU 3900



Rapid Stage performance Variable Parameter – Pixel, Speed



- Increased Stage Speed → Decreased Analytical time
- Increased Number of Pixel \rightarrow Increased Analytical time

Image size (aspect ratio 4:3)	Dwell time per pixel	Scan Speed	Scanning time
200 px	20 ms	1.2 mm / sec	~ 11 min
200 px	8 ms	3 mm / sec	~ 4.5 min
400 px	40 ms	0.6 mm / sec	~ 82 min
400 px	4 ms	6 mm / sec	~ 8 min

Parameter that influence the spatial resolution Cu on Si wafer sample (area: 2600 µm x 1950 µ)



100 px – 10 ms/ pixel 200 px – 40 ms/ pixel





200 px - 40 ms/ px 32° sample tilt



400 px - 400 ms/ px 35° sample tilt



Total map time: **75 sec**

Total map time: **20 min**

Total map time: **20 min**

Total map time: **13 h**

- Image looks pixelated Image looks better but due to the low number of pixels and short integration time
- Step size: 26 µm
- Statistics not that good due to low dwell - Step size: 13 µm time
- the small points cannot be resolved due to the elliptically shape of the X-ray spot
 - Statistics improved due to longer dwell time
- Sample was tilted towards to the X-ray optics
- Small (20 μm) structures can be resolved much better
- * image distorted due to horizontal map while sample is tilted
- Recommended conditions

- Oversampling yields only in minor improvements but results in lona acquisition times
- Step size: 6.5 µm

Rapid Stage Specification



Parameter	Description
Height	27 mm (without sample holder and SEM stage adaption)
Weight	300 g
Sample load	3 kg
Stage travel speed	4 mm /sec
Travel distance	50 mm
Vacuum resistance	10 ⁻⁷ mbar (higher vacuum resistance on request)
Resolution	< 1 nm

Examination of Heritage and Geological Materials Using Correlated Electron- and X-ray-Beam Microanalysis in the SEM Edward P. Vicenzi & Smithsonian Thomas Lam Museum Conservation Institute

Background

A Bruker XTrace micro-XRF has been mounted onto an Hitachi S3700N SEM. A Rh source and one of two polycapillary optics aligned to the electron raster image were used to form a ~15, or 30 µm x-ray beam. This spatial resolution is defined as the lateral spot size at Cu K_w. A Bruker 6160 SDD was used to collect x-rays and XRF results were computed using the fundamental parameters approach to micro-XRF [1]. The information depth of XRF data scales with the energy of the peak and can be much greater (up to 10s-100s µm) for high energy x-rays compared to the x-ray emission depths produced by the electron beam in the SEM [2]. The XRF method therefore serves as a non-destructive complement to near surface electron beam microanalysis with increased sensitivity for trace elements. Here cut steel beads used in tanned hide garments from Native American Plains tribes dating to the late 19th to early 20th centuries has been examined for their composition and corrosion products [3]. Additionally, a jade from the Bursa Province of Turkey has been used to illustrate the virutes of correlated multi-beam scanning.

Electron Beam Imaging with Correlated µXRF Spectrometry

Electron Beam Raster Induced X-ray Imagery



he surface sensitivity of e-beam is deal for determination of the corrosion pecies on cut steel beads. Oxygen rich weat represent poetfile, while Genriched areas are a combination of Auguneite (Cl substitution for OH in rfic oxyhydroxide) and localized



XRF Point Analysis: Major, minor & trace elements





 $5 \,\mathrm{mm}$

tage scan speeds

up to 4,000 µm/s

Trace element imaging

References: [1] M Handska, "Lebentry Marro X-Ray Flavenson Spectroscope" Springer (2014), 356 p. [2] M Handska & Bonton, in "Advances in Ionging and Ekstron Physics" 4f. Herbits (2017) p.1-66. [2] KB Raddings, "The samely Status" (and and bands "Historical Metallarge (1999) 12 (2):88-97. [4] The samely springer spectra for some spectra of the same of the same spectra of the same

Examples



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SEM-XRF (XTrace) Rapid Stage: Applications



Large Area Maps Overview

> Applications:

- Geological
- Environmental
- Mining
- Metallurgical
- Archaeological
- Industrial

Introduction SEM-XRF (XTrace)

Analytical challenge

- Analysis of Large Areas:
 - Thin Sections / Probe Sections
 - Rock Slabs
 - Soil / Grain Samples

Why use Micro-XRF?

- Better sensitivity for element detection (Z>20)
- Detection of high energy X-ray lines

Terminology

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Introduction SEM-XRF (XTrace)



Specialised Rapid Stage for SEM-XRF (XTrace)

Maximum Analytical Area of Specialised Rapid Stage: 50 mm x 50 mm

Larger areas possible in combination with SEM-Stage

SEM-XRF (XTrace)

The source X-ray beam that interacts with the sample is in a fixed position. Therefore, the source X-ray beam cannot be controlled to raster as a standard SEM e-beam. Consequently, all mapping is via stage control (that is Stage Movement).



Large Samples: Concrete Block: 61.8 mm x 74.4 mm

Such samples require a combination of the Specialised high speed stage + SEM Stage. The sample is analysed in 4 maps which are mosaiced at the completion of the analysis.

Image Extension: 14 x 22





Photograph of the sample



X-Ray Intensity Map





Large Samples: Concrete Block: 61.8 mm x 74.4 mm

Such samples require a combination of the Specialised high speed stage + SEM Stage. The sample is analysed in 4 maps which are mosaiced at the completion of the analysis.

Image Extension: 14 x 22 ND: 12 mm



Photograph of the sample



X-Ray Intensity Map





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Image Extension: 14 x 22





Photograph of the sample



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Photograph of the sample



X-Ray Intensity Map



Geological Applications: Exotic-Cu Deposits



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Geological Applications: Exotic-Cu Deposits





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Geological Applications: Exotic-Cu Deposits



- Exotic-Cu deposits often form in the vicinity of the parental porphyry system due to the lateral migration of Cu-bearing fluids.
- Mineralisation in this type of deposit comprises different species of copper minerals and mineraloids broadly defined as green-copper (*cobre-verde*) and black-copper (*cobre-negro*) ores.
- The analysis and subsequent definition of Cu-bearing minerals from exotic-Cu deposits is extremely complex due to the fine scaled textures and compositional variation.
- This is particularly true for so-called "black-copper" minerals. both Cu-wad and Cu-pitch, specifically related to the Mn concentrations, as well as numerous minor and trace elements such as: Mg, Al, Fe, Si, P, Ca, P, Cl, Co and S.

Geological Applications: Exotic-Cu Deposits – Rock Sample



$Cu_{2-x}(Al, Fe^{3+})_{x}H_{2-x}[Si_{2}O_{5}](OH)_{4*}nH_{2}O$ Chrysocola



Geological Application: Exotic Cu Deposits



Large Area Map Sample Size: Polished Section: 45 x 30 mm

Sample from El Tesoro, Chile. Clearly Defined Elemental and Mineralogical Phases Can identify the presence of trace elements, in this case, Cobalt (Co), Manganese (Mn), Strontium (Sr)

Analytical Parameters:

Tube Voltage: Rh at 50 kV Anode Current: 600 µA Pixel Spacing: 25 µm Analytical Time: 101 mins





Top: Elemental Maps; Bottom Left: Mixed Elemental Map; Bottom, Right: X-Ray Intensity Map.



Exotic-Cu Deposits: Elemental Mapping: Benefits of SEM-XRF



 Identify the presence of trace elements, e.g, Cobalt (Co) at 6.93 keV



Identify high energy X-ray lines, e.g Strontium (Sr) at 14.14 keV




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Exotic-Cu Deposits: Mineral Phases

Unassigned

The results can be processed to determine various mineral phases and their area percentages and compositions within the sample, in this case, the various Cu phases.



- P1: Chrysocolla
- P2: Atacamite
- P3: Cu-Mn Wad
- P4: Carbonate







Exotic-Cu Deposits: Elemental Mapping - Comparison





Geological Applications: Nitrate Deposits – Rock Sample



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Nitrate Deposits Differentiation of Nitrates





Chilean operations of caliche exploitation in Northern Chile (Atacama Desert) and their annual production Northern Chile:

Most people know this region for Cu production, which is also the largest Cu resource in the world.

In addition, because of its unique climate in the Atacama desert (hyper-arid), formed Nitrates and associated minerals:

- Iodates
- Chromates
- Sulphates

Largest Iodine resource in world, associated with nitrates.



Detection of O and N:

Important for the identification and definition of minerals of interest

Important Minerals Groups: Salts, Nitrates, Iodates

Nitratine	NaNO ₃
Halite	NaCl
Niter	KNO ₃
Langbeinite	$K_2Mg_2(SO4)_3$
Loeweite	Na ₁₂ Mg ₇ (SO ₄) _{13.15} H ₂ O
Darapskite	Na ₃ (NO ₃)(SO ₄).H ₂ O
Ulexite	NaCaB ₅ O _{9.8} H ₂ O

















Detection of trace and high energy elements: Se, Br, Sr, Zr





Detection of trace and high energy elements: Se, Br, Sr, Zr



Environmental Applications: Toxic Elements - Soil Sample and Rock Sample



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Analysis of Soil Samples: Large Area Maps





Analysis of Soil Samples: Large Area Maps





After Maximum Pixel Spectra determines presence of Trace elements.

Detailed investigation confirms presence of both Pb and As

Analysis of Soil Bedrock: Large Area Maps



Polished Sections:

Standard Size: 45 x 30 mm Such samples can be completely analysed using the Specialised high speed stage only. *Example: Soil Sample from Korea*

Analytical Parameters:

Tube Voltage: Rh at 50 kV Anode Current: 600 uA Pixel Spacing: 25 um Analytical Time: 755 mins



Top: Elemental Maps; Bottom Left: Mixed Elemental Map; Bottom, Right: X-Ray Intensity Map.



Analysis of Soil: Large Area Maps

Large Samples

Loose Soil Sample: 40 mm circle Such samples can be completely analysed using the Specialised high speed stage only. *Example: Soil Sample from Korea*

Analytical Parameters:

Tube Voltage: Rh at 50 kV Anode Current: 600 uA Pixel Spacing: 50 um Analytical Time: 605 mins

Top: Right: SEM Image and Left: Mixed Elemental Map Bottom: Right: SEM Image and Left: Arsenic (As) Elemental Map

Analytical Parameters:

Tube Voltage: Rh at 50 kV Anode Current: 600 uA Pixel Spacing: 25 um Analytical Time: 26 mins







Analysis of Soil: Variable Parameters - Speed Analytical Parameters: Tube Voltage: Rh at 50 kV Anode Current: 600 uA Pixel Spacing: 20 um





Top: SEM Image Bottom: SEM Image zoom Right: Arsenic (As) Elemental Map





Analysis of Soil: Variable Parameters - Pixel

Analytical Parameters:

Tube Voltage: Rh at 50 kV Anode Current: 600 uA Pixel Spacing: 20 um





Top: SEM Image Bottom: SEM Image zoom Right: Arsenic (As) Elemental Map



Increased Pixel Size (micrometers) Scan Speed 600 400 200 100



Mining and Exploration Applications: Epithermal Gold – Rock Sample



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Epithermal Gold-bearing rock sample from Karangahake, New Zealand





Epithermal Gold-bearing rock sample from Karangahake, New Zealand





Sulphide Mineralogy:

Banded Textures





Select various areas within the map to confirm composition and sulphide mineralogy.

The sulphide mineralogy is: pyrite, sphalerite, chalcopyrite, and galena.





Search for Elements and Minerals of interest. Use "Maximum Pixel Spectrum" to identify elements not obvious in the "Total Map Spectrum".

Trace Mineral Phases and High Energy X-Ray Element Lines









BSE Image Magnification: 50X, 100X, 200X, 300X

Position: Kar-SF1

Minerals of interest: Electrum Acanthite Tetrahedrite







Mineral	Formula	Point(s)	Minor elements
Acanthite	Ag ₂ S	12	Sb, Se, Cu, As
Electrum	AuAg	13	
Tetrahedrite	$(Cu,Ag)_{10}(Zn,Fe)_2(As,Sb)_4S_{13}$	14, 15, 16, 18	Ag
Chalcopyrite	CuFeS ₂	17	
Pyrite	FeS ₂	4	





Metallurgical Applications: Sphalerite – Mineral Samples



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Metallurgical Applications: Sphalerite







High Energy X-Ray Element Lines:

S, As, Fe, Zn, Sn, Cu, Cd, Pb

Metallurgical Applications: Sphalerite



Trace Mineral Phases

High Energy X-Ray Element Lines:

S, As, Fe, Zn, Sn, Cu, Cd, Pb







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Mantle Eclogite:

Clinopyroxene

Garnet

Metasomatic Interaction

Industrial Applications: Steel



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Industrial Applications: Steel







Different Steel Types and impurities and reaction surfaces

Archaeological Applications: Ancient Ceramic Fragments



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Analysis of Ceramics: Large Area Maps





Top Row: SEM, Na, Mg; Second Row: Al, Si, K; Third Row: Ca, Ti, Cr; Bottom Row: Mn, Fe, F1

Ceramic Samples from Northern Chile

Identify different mineral phases – probable different source material


Quantification: Point Analysis – Garnet



Major and trace elements

Element	Unit	90 sec	120 sec	180 sec
SiO2	(%)	39.04	39.17	39.20
TiO2	(%)	0.28	0.28	0.29
AI2O3	(%)	22.23	21.97	21.87
Cr2O3	(%)	0.11	0.11	0.11
FeO	(%)	21.16	21.05	21.02
MnO	(%)	0.49	0.48	0.48
MgO	(%)	12.29	12.57	12.63
CaO	(%)	4.35	4.31	4.33
Ni	(ppm)	26	18	28
Cu	(ppm)	3	5	4
Zn	(ppm)	173	143	150
Ga	(ppm)	7	0	28
Ge	(ppm)	17	22	17
As	(ppm)	28	28	28
Rb	(ppm)	41	69	59
Sr	(ppm)	28	0	28
Y	(ppm)	2	28	3
Zr	(ppm)	157	157	171
Nb	(ppm)	1	28	0



Workflow SEM-XRF (XTrace)

SEM-EDS Major Element Map: Sulphur (S)







Summary and Conclusions: SEM-XRF (XTrace)



- The analysis of samples in mircometer (µm) scale on a standard SEM.
- Able to perform large area maps on a variety of samples.
- Sample Preparation Minimal:
 - No carbon-coating
 - No polishing
 - Directly into the SEM
- Able to detect and resolve minor and trace elements at levels better than a (e-beam) SEM-EDS.
- Identification of high energy X-Ray lines that can not be identified by SEM-EDS.
- Can work in combination with SEM e-beam
 - Commonly Low-KV due to charging and sample interaction

Acknowledgements



John Gurney

Jeff Mauk

Marina Vargas

Monserrat Barraza

Manuel Inostroza

Felipe Aguilera

Sebastian Sola

Edward P.Vicenzi

Thomas Lam











Questions and Answers



Are There Any Questions?

Please type in the questions you might have in the Q&A box and press *Send*. More Information



For more information, please contact us:

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