Chapter 10 - Nuclear Based Analytical Methods

Radiograp	hy				
	NDT	X-ray radiography			
	NDT	Neutron radiography			
X-Ray Meth	nods				
	XRD	X-ray diffraction			
	XRC	X-ray crystallography			
	XRF	X-ray fluorescence			
	EXAFS	Extended X-ray Absorption Fine Structure			
ATTA GALA	XANES	X-ray Absorption Near-Edge Structure			
Electron M	ethods				
LICCUON	AFS	Auger Electron Spectroscopy			
Sales In	ESCA	Electron Spectroscopy for Chemical Analysis			
	LEED	Low Energy Electron Diffraction			
	XPS	X-ray Photoemission Spectroscopy			
Neutron Methods					
	NAA	Neutron Activation Analysis (INAA, PGNAA, RNAA, FNAA)			
	NS	Neutron Scattering			
Mass Spectral Methods					
	AMS	Accelerator Mass Spectroscopy			
	ICP-MS	Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry			
Sec. and	FTICR-MS	Fourier Transform Ion Cyclotron Resonance Mass Spectrometry			
	SIMS	Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry			
Charged Particle Methods					
an stated	APXS	Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometry			
Za Sole	PIXE	Proton Induced X-ray Emission			
	RBS	Rutherford Back Scattering			

The Electromagnetic Spectrum



Industrial Radionuclide Uses

Liquid level measurements Thickness measurements Corrosion measurements Mass flow measurements Leak detection **Chemical process measurements** distillation efficiency solvent entrainment



Nuclear Thickness Gauges

Radiation	Source	t1/2	Application
α	U or Ra	Long	Thickness control in manufacturing paper, aluminum; ≤ 60 g/m ²
Soft β	¹⁴⁷ Pm (0.2 MeV)	2.6 y	Thickness control; $\leq 400 \text{ g/m}^2$
β, soft γ	²⁰⁴ Tl (0.8 MeV)	3.8 y	Thickness: 1-10 mm steel, 3-50 mm glass; 8-100 kg/m ²
Hard B	¹⁴⁴ Ce (3 MeV)	0.78 y	Thickness ≤1 mm steel; ≤ 10 kg/m ²
X	¹⁰⁹ Cd (88 keV)	1.24 y	Detection of S-content in hydrocarbons
n , γ	RaBe, ¹³⁷ Cs	30 y	Moisture-density meter for civil engineering and agriculture
γ	⁶⁰ Co (1.3 MeV)	5.3 y	4 MBq source for backscatter on ≤ 20 mm steel, 0.4 - 40 GBq for remote level indication
Soft y	¹⁹² Ir (0.3 MeV)	74 d	400 GBq, 26 kg: ≤ 40 mm steel radiography
Medium γ	¹³⁷ Cs (0.7 MeV)	30 y	400GBq, 45kg: ≤ 70 mm steel pipeline inspection
Hard y	⁶⁰ Co (1.3 MeV)	5.3 y	10 TBq, 900 kg: ≤ 180 mm steel radiography



Radiography - NDT

Non-destructive Testing









Industrial Radiography



weld integrity measurements (in the field)



corrosion measurements (in the field)

Homeland Security Radiography







Neutron Radiography





X-Ray Diffraction



Moon rock



micrograph of polished thin section showing many mineral constituents

Need to more than just gross chemical composition.

What are the constituents of the rock? (gives information about how rock was formed and what its geochemical history has been.)

Analyze minerals by using Bragg's Law of Diffraction

 $n\lambda = 2dxsin(\Theta)$









X-Ray Diffractometer



X-Ray Powder Diffraction









X-Ray Line Spectra









X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry





PORTABLE XRF ANALYZERS



EDXRF and the Gold Ibex from Akrotiri, Greece

A gold ibex that was recently found at Akrotiri was analyzed using x-ray fluorescence techniques (XRF). Other artifacts were also analyzed, ranging from pottery to wall paintings and daggers.

The gold ibex was perhaps the most unique object analyzed in that it is the only artifact made of precious metals found at Akrotiri. All other precious objects were removed from the site by Thera inhabitants before the eruption that devastated the island and buried the settlement beneath meters of ash. It is also of note because it comes from an important public building which was in close proximity to the famous Xeste 3 building where the rituals for the young boys and girls of the local elite class took place. The fact that the ibex was found *in-situ* makes its importance even greater since this object is stylistically unique and it could be considered even as fake in the international art market.

Unique of its kind, it was discovered in mint condition, inside a wooden box inside a clay chest (larnax), next to a large pile of horns, mainly of goats. Excavation of the find-spot is still in progress and it is therefore too early to draw conclusions about the figurine's significance (I would say that it was offered as a gift from someone coming from the East or that it is a sacrificial object related to worship or other rituals). The figure is hollow and was cast by the "lost wax" method. The legs, neck, and tail of the animal were soldered on after the removal of the inside core. In the finishing process the figure was hammered, as deduced from the tool-marks."





Two spectra taken from the Gold lbex are shown above. The Goat_1 spectrum was taken from just above the front left leg. This position is free of visual contaminants and considered to be the base spectrum. The Goat_4 spectrum is from the braze/weld of the tail. It shows an increase in the amount of copper.





ADVANCED LIGHT SOURCES



ADVANCED LIGHT SOURCES



XANES

peaks and shoulders in the rising edge: about electronic configuration, bonds, and symmetry position of the edge: oxidation state of the absorber EXAFS

type of back-scattering atoms surrounding the central atom number of back-scattering atoms distance of back-scattering atoms to the central atom disorder of back-scattering atoms




EXTENDED X-RAY ABSORPTION FINE STRUCTURE (EXAFS)

EXAFS spectra are a plot of the value of the absorption coefficient of a material against energy over a 500 - 1000 eV range (including an absorption edge near the start of the spectrum).
Through careful analysis of the oscillating part of the spectrum after the edge, information relating to the coordination environment of a central excited atom can

be obtained.









Surface Analysis Techniques

- **AES** Auger Electron Spectroscopy
- **EDX** Energy Dispersive X-ray Analysis
- **ESCA** Electron Spectroscopy for Chemical Analysis
- **EXAFS** Extended X-ray Absorption Fine Structure
- **LEED** Low Energy Electron Diffraction
- **PIXE** Proton Induced X-Ray Emission
- **RBS** Rutherford Back Scattering
- **SIMS** Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry
- **XANES** X-ray Absorption Near-Edge Structure
- **XPS** X-ray Photoemission Spectroscopy





Electron Microprobe



Electron Microprobe

MgO







0.90



0.93







Auger Electron Spectroscopy



Competing paths for energy dissipation in titanium as an example.

LMM Auger electron energy is ~423.2 eV $E_{Auger} = E_{L2} - E_{M4} - E_{M3}$ 461.5 - 3.7 - 34.6 = 423.2

X-ray photon energy is ~457.8 eV

 $E_{hv} = E_{L2} - E_{M4}$ 461.5 - 3.7 = 457.8

X-ray analytical volume increases with electron beam energy and decreases for materials with higher atomic numbers.



Auger Electron Spectroscopy



Easily characterized

Metals, semiconductors, thin films

Difficult to impossible

Glasses/ceramics, polymers Some composites Biological materials (bone, hair, etc.)

Requirements

Vacuum-compatible, conducting, semiconductor, or thin film on conducting substrate

Sputter depth profiling routinely used



Auger Electron Spectroscopy





- ESCA analysis involves only the top 20-50Å of the sample, making it an extremely surface sensitive technique
- ESCA spectra can also provide information about an element's chemical environment or oxidation state. The chemical environment of an atom affects the strength with which electrons are bound to it. Atoms associated with different chemical environments produce peaks with slightly different binding energies which is referred to as chemical shift
 - Distinct chemical states which are close in energy can be deconvoluted using peak fitting programs to give percent composition of each state.

- incident radiation is a monochromatic X-ray beam
- core electrons are emitted by the sample according to the photoelectric effect
- emitted electrons have a kinetic energy equal to the Xray energy less the binding energy of the electron and the work function of the instrument
- detected kinetic energies of the electrons are converted to binding energies, thereby enabling element identification
- energy spectra are reported as binding energy vs. intensity
- using sensitivity factors, peak intensities can provide quantitative elemental surface compositions







XPS Spectrum



oxidation of pyrite, FeS₂, surface

Neutron Activation Analysis

- Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis (INAA) is a method of identifying and measuring trace quantities of elements in many types of materials.
- Sixty-seven common elements become radioactive when exposed to the neutron flux in the reactor, and subsequently emit radiation that is characteristic for each element and permits identification. More than fifty of the sixty-seven elements can be identified and measured quite readily.
- The technique is particularly useful for analyzing geological and environmental samples and for analyzing industrial samples to maintain quality control.
- The sensitivity and accuracy of the technique, the variety of materials that can be analyzed, the large number of elements that can be detected, and its essentially non-destructive nature make neutron activation analysis an outstanding analytical tool.



Neutron Activation Analysis

The counts recorded during a count time t_c, following an irradiation time t_{irr}, and wait time t_w, is:

$$C = \frac{mEN_A\sigma_n\phi\Psi}{1.128A\lambda f} \left[1 - e^{-\lambda t_{irr}}\right] \left[e^{-\lambda t_w}\right] \left[1 - e^{-\lambda t_c}\right]$$

where:

- Ψ = the overall efficiency of the detector set-up, including effects of geometry, detector response, and self-shielding.
- m = mass of the irradiated element, g
- **E** = abundance of the isotope of interest
- **N**_A = Avogadro's number, atoms/g atom
- σ_n = neutron absorption cross-section of the irradiated species, cm²
- A = Atomic mass of the irradiated element, AMU
- ϕ = thermal neutron flux, neutrons/cm²/s
- **f** = branching ratio for the gamma-ray of interest
- λ = decay constant of the radioisotope produced, sec
- **1.128** = correction for a Maxwellian distribution of neutrons

The expression clearly indicates the activity of the irradiated material generated by the thermal neutron flux at the location of the irradiation, corrected for decay before and during counting.





Neutron Activation Analysis

Sensitivity (nanograms)	Elements
0.001	Dy, Eu
0.001 - 0.010	In, Lu, Mn
0.010 - 0.100	Au, Ho, Ir, Re, Sm, W
0.100 – 1	Ag, Ar, As, Br, Cl, Co, Cs, Cu, Er, Ga, Hf, I, La, Sb, Sc, Se, Ta, Tb, Th, Tm, U, V, Yb
1 – 10	Al, Ba, Cd, Ce, Cr, Hg, Kr, Gd, Ge, Mo, Na, Nd, Ni, Os, Pd, Rb, Rh, Ru, Sr, Te, Zn, Zr
10 - 100	Bi, Ca, K, Mg, P, Pt, Si, Sn, Ti, Tl, Xe, Y
100 - 1000	F, Fe, Nb, Ne
10000	Pb, S

Applications of Neutron Activation Analysis

Anthropology **New Mexican Pottery Bronze Age pottery in Hungary Aztec Pottery** Archeology **Texcoco Fabric marked pottery Persian Coins Abila pottery** trade patterns **Chemical Engineering** fuel cells automotive catalysts Chemistry Silicate Glass studies Geology **Gold Followers** Palaeo-oceanic Environments Magma Systems **Graduate Research Deep Crystal Growth Ocean Sediments Discrimination Diagrams K**-bentonites

Other Graduate Research relationship between porphyry and epithermal deposits Looking at two mass extinctions origin of volcanic and plutonic rocks **Tourmaline Nuclear Engineering Material studies** high accuracy calibration of germanium detectors **Environmental Research Florida Everglades Industrial Applications** elements in glass and base materials composition of polyethylene plastics analyzing metals and halogens analysis services

Neutron Activation Analysis of Pottery





Neutron Activation Analysis of Olmec Pottery

Research Articles

Olmec Pottery Production and Export in Ancient Mexico Determined Through Elemental Analysis

Jeffrey P. Blomster,^{1*} Hector Neff,² Michael D. Glascock³

The first Mesoamerican civilization, the Gulf Coast Olmec, is associated with hierarchical society, monumental art, and an internally consistent ideology, expressed in a distinct style and salient iconography. Whether the Olmec style arose in just one area or emerged from interactions among scattered contemporaneous societies remains controversial. Using elemental analysis, we determined the regional clay sources of 725 archaeological ceramic samples from across Mesoamerica. Exported Olmec-style ceramics originated from the San Lorenzo region of the Gulf Coast, supporting Olmec priority in the creation and spread of the first unified style and iconographic system in Mesoamerica.

¹ Department of Anthropology, George Washington University, Washington, DC 20052, USA.

- ² Department of Anthropology, California State University, Long Beach, CA 90840, USA.
- ³ Research Reactor Center, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211, USA.



J. P. Blomster et al., Science 307, 1068 -1072 (2005)



Neutron Activation Analysis of Olmec Pottery










Location of contraband in FNSA measurements

Rotate and translate package across collimated beam.





Proposed system for the detection of illicit drugs in **incoming airline luggage**.

FNSA could be used as the first stage of a two-stage screening system. The second stage is manual inspection by customs officials.

Neutrons scattered out of the beam by a passing suitcase are detected in arrays of neutron detectors placed at forward and backward angles.



Multi-stage interrogation protocol for explosives in outgoing luggage



FNSA could be used as the **second-stage** of a second phase of a two-stage screening system, in order to provide **corroborative evidence** via an **independent** and more sensitive screening



http://www.phy.uct.ac.za/people/buffler/FNSA.pdf



Laser Ablation - ICP - MS



otolith from an anadroumous charr — the high Sr in year 5 probably marks the first marine excursion

http://www.umanitoba.ca/geoscience/faculty/halden/enviro.html

SIMS - Secondary Ion Mass Spectroscopy





SIMS - Sampling Depth





SIMS - Advantages

The advantages Time-of-Flight SIMS analysis are:

- Surface sensitivity
- Chemical compound identification
- Elemental and chemical mapping
- Trace element sensitivity (ppm or ppb, in some cases)
- Retrospective analysis
- Analysis of insulating and conducting samples
- Depth profiling
- Nominal sample damage
- Color output







rock containing pyrite, FeS₂; gold, Au; and bornite, Cu₅FeS₄



SIMS image of gold in FeS₂, pyrite







PIXE – Aerogel Comet Mission





The primary objective of the Stardust mission is to capture both cometary samples and interstellar dust. When the Stardust Spacecraft encounters the Comet Wild 2, the impact velocity of the particles will be up to 6 times the speed of a rifle bullet. Although the captured particles will each be smaller than a grain of sand, high-speed capture could alter their shape and chemical composition - or even vaporize them entirely.



Stardust fire and ice: Livermore scientists were able to determine that this tiny mineral is osbornite using X-ray fluorescence maps (above) and backscattered electron images (below). Osbornite forms much closer to the sun than where Comet Wild 2 formed on the outskirts of Neptune



Materials identification

 Artistic or archaeological object

- Renaissance drawings
- Antique jewels
- Antique statuette
- Antique papyrus
- Medieval miniatures
- Painted steles

Material of interest

- Metal points
- Gemstones
- Gemstones
- Inks and pigments
- Pigments
- Pigments

http://epaper.kek.jp/e02/TALKS/FRYGB001.pdf

Materials identification by means of PIXE : nature of inks and pigments on manuscripts

- Micro-beam in PIXE mode with low beam current (50pA) well adapted :
 - very fragile material
 - need of good lateral resolution
 - easy quantitative measurements
 - easy discrimination between materials





Provenance studies using PIXE analysis of trace elements

- Trace element content currently used as a fingerprint in archaeology
- Comparison with geological materials
- Statistical processing of data
- Fields of application
 - Stones: obsidian, flint
 - Gemstones
 - Ceramics





Provenance of statuette rubies



28

APXS - Alpha Particle X-Ray Spectroscopy

Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer works by exposing Mars materials to energetic alpha particles and x-rays from a radioactive ²⁴⁴Cm source, and then measuring the energy spectra of backscattered alphas and emitted-x rays.



APXS - Alpha Particle X-Ray Spectroscopy



for low energy γ-ray emission (Eγ < 50 keV), photon emission and absorption are recoiless (no phonons are created are destroyed)

- ➤ emission width is then governed by lifetime uncertainty ($\Delta E \Delta t \ge \hbar$)
- > for $\Delta t \approx 100 \times 10^{-9}$ sec, $\Delta E \approx 1 \times 10^{-9}$ eV
- use Doppler shift to vary Εγ

$$\mathbf{E}_{\gamma} = \mathbf{E}_{\gamma}^{0} \left(1 - \frac{\mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{c}} \cos \Theta \right)$$

> typical values: $v \approx 1 \text{ cm/sec}$ $\Delta E \approx 10^{-6} \text{ eV}$ $f \approx 100 \text{ MHz}$









Mössbauer Spectroscopy on Mars





Eagle Crater Exit Samples: Hematite to Basalt

Microscopic Imager Picture of Punaluu Moessbauer Target





Mössbauer Spectroscopy on Mars





Hematite (α -Fe₂O₃) deposits are mostly sedimentary in origin, They are found throughout the world and are the most important iron ore in the world today. Goethite (α -FeOOH) is a common iron mineral. It often forms by weathering of other iron-rich minerals, thus is a common component of soils.



Magnetite (Fe₃O₄) is a naturally occurring metallic mineral that is occasionally found in sufficient quantities to be an ore of iron.



Limonite is a mixture of hydrated iron oxides, primarily goethite.

Chapter 10 - Glossary

Advanced Light Sources Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometry (AXPS) Auger Electron Spectroscopy **Electron Microprobe** Electron Spectroscopy for Chemical Analysis (ESCA) electron-beam curing electron-beam sterilization **Energy Dispersive X-ray Analysis** Extended X-ray Absorption Fine Structure (EXAFS) fast neutron activation analysis fill level gauge food irradiation industrial CT scanning industrial radiography instrumental neutron activation analysis K-edge, L-edge laser ablation Moseley's Law Mössbauer Spectroscopy

neutron absorption non-destructive testing (NDT) portable XRF analyzers prompt gamma neutron activation analysis Proton Induced X-Ray Emission (PIXE) radiochemical neutron activation analysis radiography Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (SIMS) Synchrotron thickness gauges Time-of-Flight SIMS (TOF-SIMS) X-ray Absorption Near Edge Structure (XANES) X-Ray Crystallography **X-Ray diffractometer** X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry (XRF) X-Ray line spectrum X-Ray Photoemission Spectroscopy (XPS) X-Ray Powder Diffraction (XRD) X-Ray tubes