Microanalysis of Cl, Br and I in apatite, scapolite and silicate glasses by LA-ICP-MS

JOHN CAULFIELD1, EMMA TOMLINSON1, MICHAEL A.W. MARKS2, DAVID CHEW1, CORA MCKENNA1 AND TERESA UBIDE3

1Department of Geology, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland (*corresponding author: caulfiJo@tcd.ie)
2Universität Tübingen, FB Geowissenschaften, Wilhelmstrasse 56, D-72074 Tübingen, Germany
3School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, The University of Queensland, Brisbane QLD 4072, Australia

The distribution of the halogens in geological systems is important as they trace the transport of volatiles. We present a new LA-ICP-MS method for the determination of Cl, Br and I in apatite, scapolite and silicate glasses. The technique offers rapid, spatially resolved data acquisition using widely available instrumentation and the data reduction software Iolite. Protocols were developed using five well known apatite occurrences [1], three gem quality scapolites [2], MPI-DING glasses and two USGS doped basaltic glasses. Cross-calibration of selected samples was achieved using combustion ion chromatography (CIC). Results are compared with available data obtained using LA-ICP-MS, SIMS, EMPA, TXRF, INAA and the Noble Gas method to offer insights into sample homogeneity and recommendations for analytical ‘best practice’.

Halogen data were acquired using a Teledyne Photon Machines Analyte G2 193 nm Excimer laser ablation system coupled to a Thermo Scientific iCAP Qc ICP-MS. The sampled material was transported via an Aerosol Rapid Introduction System (ARIS). Ablation parameters comprise a 50 Hz repetition rate, 2.75 J cm⁻² laser energy, 30 – 85 µm square spots and 20 s acquisition time. Extended analyte dwell times of up to 250 ms were employed to improve sensitivity and signal stability. A duty cycle of 1 s was achieved though a restricted analyte list ([³⁵Cl, [³⁷Br, [⁸¹Br, [¹²⁷I, [³⁹K, [³²S, [⁴³Ca]), with external standardisation using matrix matched materials.

Limits of detection are on the order of 400 µg/g Cl, 10 µg/g Br and 500 ng/g I. We demonstrate the capability of the method through the determination of halogen concentrations in glassy ol-hosted melt inclusions and in apatite crystals in sub-volcanic lamprophyre.