Simplified technique for ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr measurement in limestones by

MC-ICP-MS

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Analytical procedure and preliminary results

A simplified methodology is proposed for the ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr isotope ratio measurements in presence of Rb and a Ca-rich matix composition. The method is based on an on-line cation exchange chromatography separation coupled to MC-ICP-MS detection using HNO₃ as mobile phase. Under this conditions Ca, Sr and Rb elute sequentially obtaining a chromatogram in under 20 minutes (Figure 1a.b.). Multiple linear regression is applied to the Sr peak for data processing.

This technique is being employed to correlate late cretaceus limestones from French medieval monuments and quarries. Preliminary results (Figure 1c.) in dedomolitized limestone (55% CaO, 400-550 ppm Sr and 1-2 ppm Rb) tie in with the ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr curve proposed by McArthur *et al.* [1], stratigraphic, petrographic and geochemical analysis.



Fig1 a,b.Chromatographic separation of Ca, Sr and Rb. c. ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr isotopes ratios of samples CAU-4 and CAU-6 from Caumont quarry

[1] McArthur et al. (1993) Geol. Soc. London Spec.Publ 70,195-209.