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The use of a scanning X-ray microprobe for simultaneous XRF/XRD studies of fly-ash particles

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Abstract

With the opening of the first really "third generation" synchrotrons source in Grenoble, in fall 1994, x-ray sources of unprecedented brilliance's and qualities became available to the scientific community. Different x-ray analytical technique could now be applied on a level that was "out of imagination" only a decade ago. Here we present some preliminary results from an experiment where different analytical techniques have been applied on a μ m level carried out at the most powerful synchrotrons microbeam available in the world right now, the bl1 at ESRF. This beamline can now provide pm-sized x-ray beams with a flux density up to 10¹⁰ photons/ μ m² at an energy of 13 keV and with a bandwidth of 10-⁴($\partial E/E$).

In this experiment x-ray diffraction and x-ray fluorescence has been combined in order to obtain a precise and comprehensive micro-analytical description of μ -sized fly-ash particles. These types of particles are heavily inhomogeneous with a very irregular shape which makes them inaccessible to conventional micro analysis. The experiment was done in a scanning mode and 2D images of different analytical information were reconstructed from the data recorded during the scan.

The major features and limitations of this micro-analytical technique will be outlined and different examples on how the analytical information can be used for generating 2D images of the sample will be demonstrated and discussed.

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