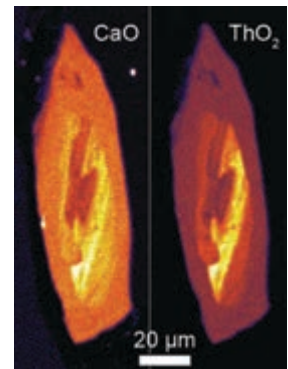


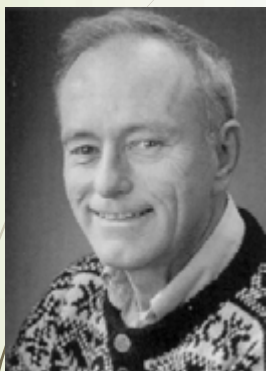
U-Th-Pb_{total} dating of REE-phosphate by electron microprobe: review and progress



Julien M. Allaz¹
Michael J. Jercinovic²
Michael L. Williams²

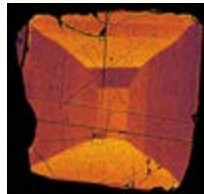
¹ ETH Zürich (Switzerland)
² University of Massachusetts, Amherst (USA)

In memory of Prof. Peter Robinson



1932 (NH, USA)
2019 (Trondheim, Norway)

PR-88



Wendell syncline intrusive

Monazite age consistency standard (Ca,Th,REE)(Si,P)O₄

RT-87

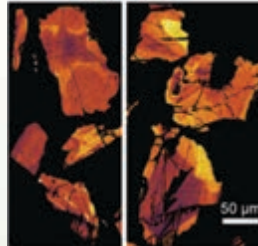


Figure 1. Generalized geological map of the central and north parts of Norway for map compilation after Rønneberg (1973), Adak and et al. (1994), and north-northern part after Tucker (1990). (Note: map diagrams: AD - Adak intrusions; NNS - Northern Norwegian Subprovince; NSZ - Northern Scandinavian Subprovince; TW-G-P - Western Gneiss Region; FZ - Fongen area; KZ - Kola diagonal line province).



Tucker et al. (1990)
Proterozoic evolution and age-province boundaries in the central part of the Western Gneiss Region, Norway: Results of U-Pb dating of accessory minerals from Trondheimsfjord to Geiranger

Outline

1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

1. Introduction to REE-phosphate (Monazite & Xenotime)
2. Electron microprobe U-Th-Pb_{total} dating technique
3. Analytical considerations
 - Monazite and Xenotime identification
 - Characterization: element mapping
 - Challenges for quantitative analysis
 - Choice of spectrometer
 - Background acquisition
 - Peak interference correction
 - Beam damage
 - etc.
4. Applications
 - Archean aluminous quartzite (Montana)
 - Upper Granite Gorge (Grand Canyon, Arizona)
 - Challenge: Young monazite with low actinide content

What are monazite & xenotime?

1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

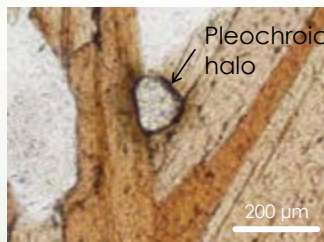
- **Monazite** = light rare-earth element (REE) phosphate (monoclinic structure).
- **Xenotime** = Heavy REE-phosphate + Y (tetragonal structure).
- Common substitutions:
 - **REE** substitution light REE³⁺ ⇔ heavy REE³⁺
 - **Cheralite** substitution 2 REE³⁺ ⇔ Ca²⁺ + (U,Th)⁴⁺
 - **Huttonite/Coffinite** subst. REE³⁺ + P⁵⁺ ⇔ Si⁴⁺ + (U,Th)⁴⁺
 - **Gasperite/Chernovite** subst. P⁵⁺ ⇔ As⁵⁺
 - **Sulfate** substitution REE³⁺ + P⁵⁺ ⇔ M²⁺ + S⁶⁺ (M = Ca, Sr...)



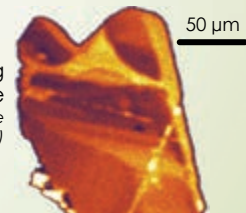
Monazite-(Ce) in pegmatite
Tveit, Norway.
Photo mindat.org

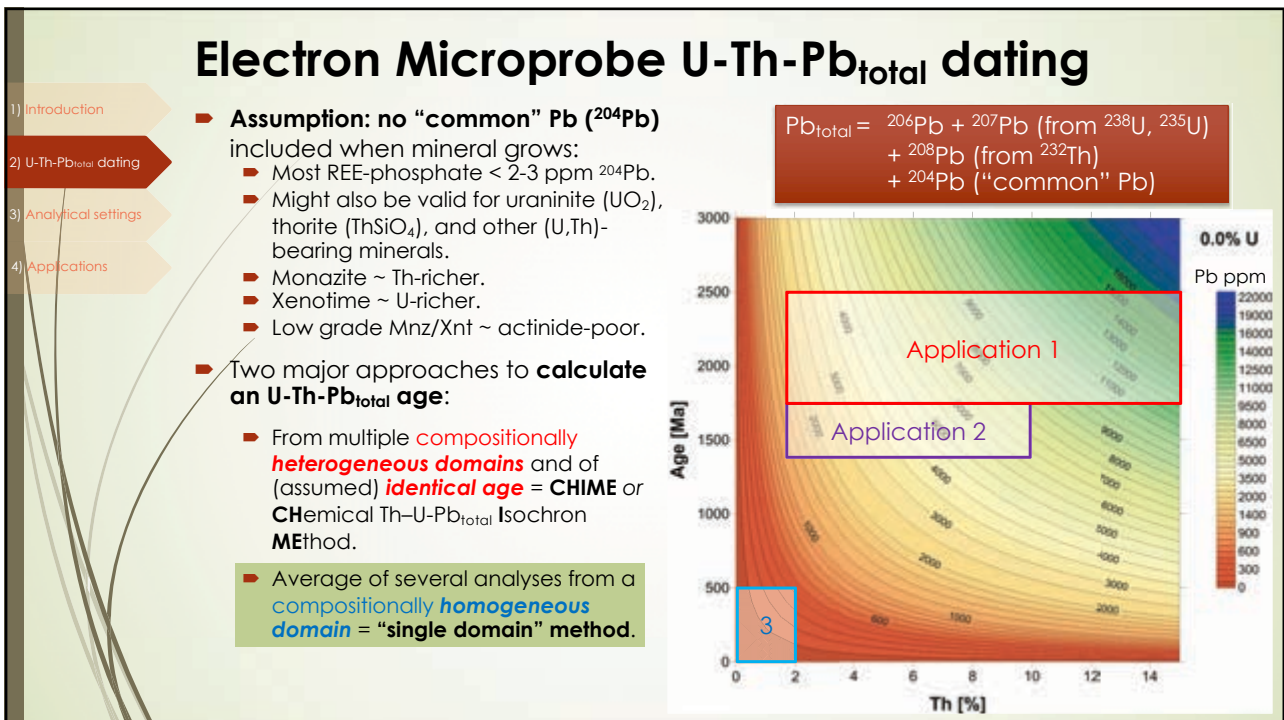
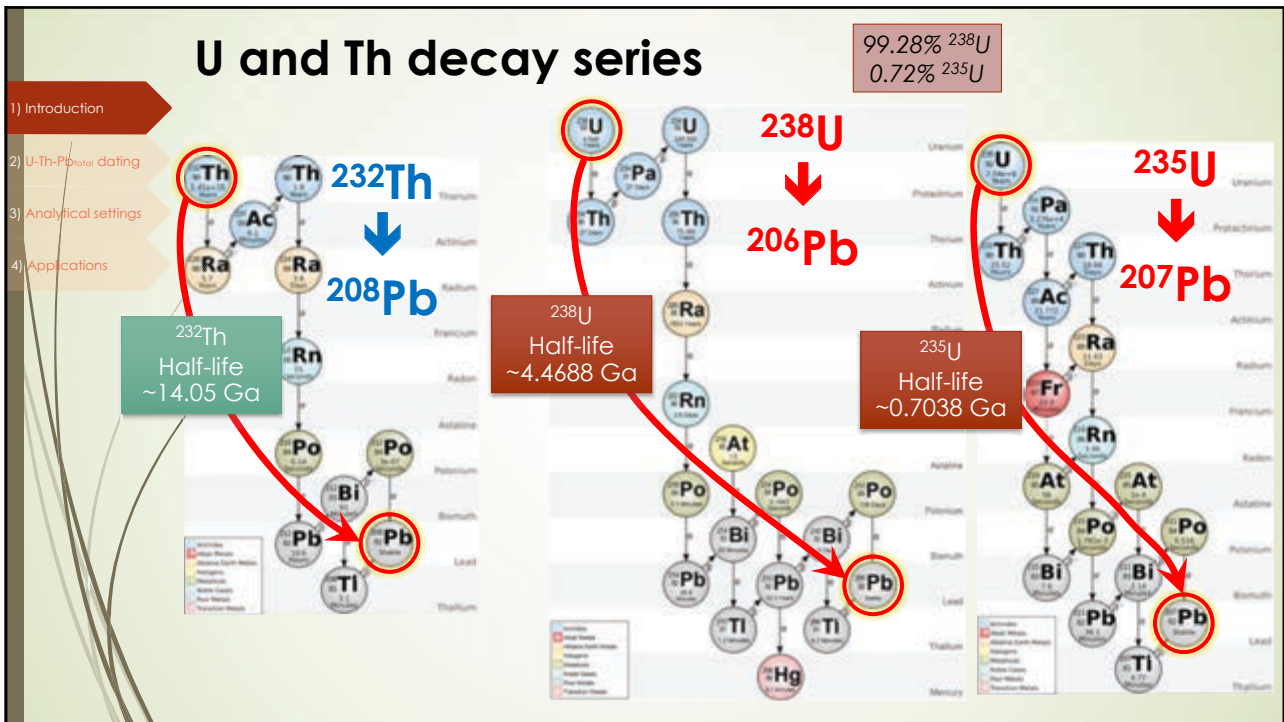


Monazite in biotite schist
Photo Smith College (MA)



Th-zoning in monazite
(Athabasca Granulite Terrane, Canada)





U-Th-Pb_{total} age equations – Single domain

1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

- Age calculated assuming the measured Pb comes only from decay of U and Th.
- “Single domain” means that **one compositionally homogeneous domain** in a grain is analyzed, and an age is calculated by averaging ~5 to 8 analyses.
- Parslow et al. (1985), Bowles (1990):** First age obtained in uraninite & monazite based on total Pb, Th, U measurement, followed by **Montel et al. (1994, 1996):**

- 208Pb from 232Th
- 206Pb from 238U
- 207Pb from 235U
- 204Pb = common lead ~ 2-3 ppm
Assumed to be 0 (zero)
- U, Th, and Pb in ppm or wt-%
- t = time (in years)
- λ^{xxx} = decay constant

$$Pb = \left[\frac{Th}{232} (e^{\lambda^{232} * t} - 1) \right] * 208$$

$$+ \left[\frac{U}{238} 0.9928 (e^{\lambda^{238} * t} - 1) \right] * 206$$

$$+ \left[\frac{U}{235} 0.0072 (e^{\lambda^{235} * t} - 1) \right] * 207$$

$$+ {}^{204}Pb \approx 0$$

Story of the technique; see Montel et al. (2018), Chemical Geology 484

U-Th-Pb_{total} age equations – CHIME

1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

- Suzuki & Adachi (1991):** PbO content vs. ThO₂* of various monazite compositions; the slope is function of the age T:

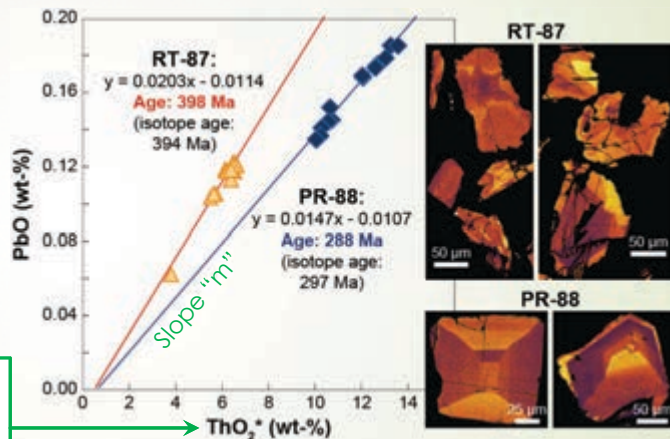
$$T = \frac{1}{\lambda^{232}} \ln \left(1 + m * \frac{W_{ThO_2^*}}{W_{PbO}} \right)$$

Analysed domains **MUST** be of the same (assumed) age otherwise = age mixture & meaningless age!



Calculation of ThO₂* = ThO₂ + equivalent ThO₂ from UO₂:

$$ThO_2^* = ThO_2 + \left(\frac{UO_2 * W_{ThO_2^*}}{W_{UO_2} * (e^{\lambda^{232} * t} - 1)} \right) * \left(\frac{e^{\lambda^{235} * t} + 137.88 * e^{\lambda^{238} * t}}{138.88} - 1 \right)$$



For U-rich minerals (xenotime, uraninite, ± zircon...), use UO₂* = UO₂ + equivalent UO₂ from ThO₂.

Story of the technique; see Montel et al. (2018), Chemical Geology 484

Analytical considerations

1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

- **Focus on the single-domain technique (Montel et al.).** Nonetheless, all analytical considerations presented here are valid for the CHIME, too!

STEP BY STEP...

- **Thin section preparation:** fine polishing, carbon coating (> 20 nm) OR (preferred) dual aluminum (15-20 nm) + carbon* (5-10 nm) coating.
- **Identification of accessory phases:** Full thin section element mapping by WDS.
- **Element mapping of individual grains:** ~10-20 grains, identify homogeneous domains.
- **Quantification of the element maps.**
- *Optional: Ultra-high resolution element mapping to obtain an **age map** (>10-12 hours per grain).*
- **Complete quantitative analysis** with special care on U, Th, Pb measurement.
- **Data interpretation.**

* Carbon overcoating helps preventing oxidation of Al

Full thin-section element mapping

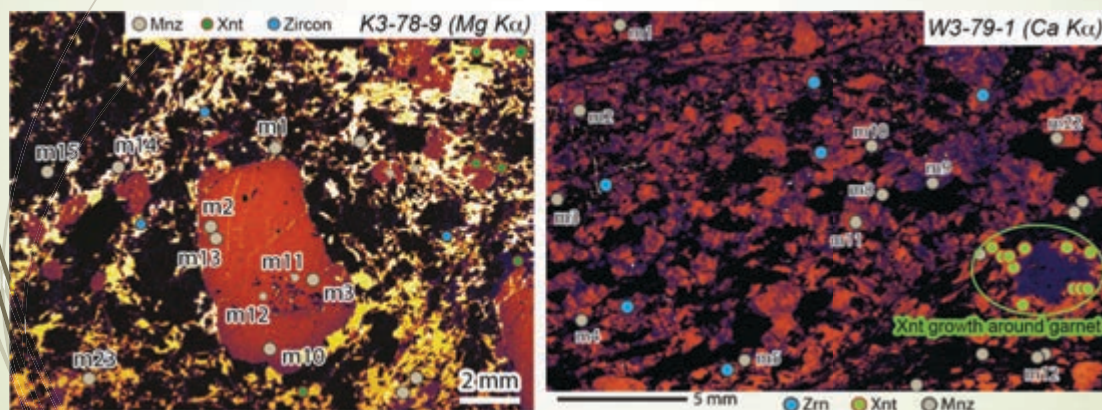
1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

- **WDS stage mapping** of **Ce/La L α (Mnz)**, **Y L α (Xnt)**, **Ca/P K α (Ap)**, **Zr L α (Zrn)** + one major element + BSE image. Overlay all element maps and highlight the accessory phases.
- **Identify 10-20 grains of interest** (structural considerations, shape of grains, location with regards to other minerals, heterogeneities at sample level, etc.)
- **Conditions:** 15 keV, >200 nA, 20-30 μ m step & beam size, ~20-30 msec per step, Σ 4-5 h.



Single-grain element mapping

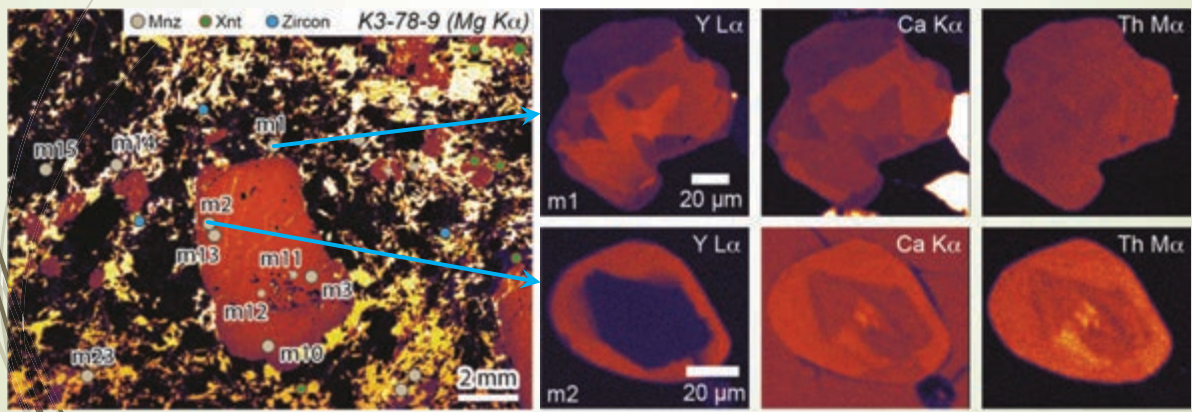
1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

- **WDS beam mapping** of U Mβ, Th Mα, Y Lα, Ca Kα, Si Kα to reveal major compositional zoning and to identify homogeneous domains.
- To ease comparison, **treat each group of element maps similarly** (same intensity level, brightness, and contrast adjustments).
- **Conditions for monazite mapping:** 15 keV, >200 nA, beam mapping, 0.5 μm step size, focused beam (~0.7 μm w/ LaB₆), 20-30 msec dwell time, Σ ~5-10 min per grain.



Single-grain element mapping – QUANTITATIVE

1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

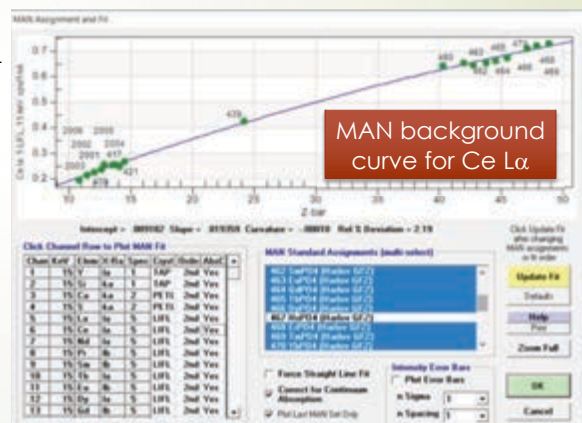
4) Applications

- Element maps of U, Th, Y, Ca and Si are **quantified** to **ease comparison** of grains within a sample and between samples, and to obtain an **approximate actinide content**.
- Quantification run through **CalImage** (ProbeSoftware, Inc.):
 - Full ZAF or φ(ρz) **matrix correction** on each pixel;
 - **Interference correction** (Th Mγ on U Mβ);
 - Background correction from a standard-calibrated bkg curve using the **Mean Atomic Number (MAN) background correction** (Donovan & Tingle, 1996).

Basic principle: Bkg intensity of a specific element is proportional to the average atomic number (Z-bar).

Background curve is obtained by measuring a specific element in 5 or more standards of different average atomic number (Z-bar).

Standard used must be free of that element, and without any peak interference at the X-ray line position.



Single-grain element mapping – *QUANTITATIVE*

1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

- Element maps of U, Th, Y, Ca and Si are **quantified** to **ease comparison** of grains within a sample and between samples, and to obtain an **approximate actinide content**.
- Quantification run through **Calcmage** (ProbeSoftware, Inc.):
 - Full ZAF or $\phi(\rho z)$ **matrix correction** on each pixel;
 - **Interference correction** (Th M γ on U M β);
 - Background correction obtained from a standard-calibrated bkg curve using the **Mean Atomic Number (MAN) background correction** (Donovan & Tingle, 1996).
- For accurate quantification, ALL elements must be measured. **BUT... We only have U, Th, Y, Ca, and Si maps, and we are missing the major elements (P, REE).**
- **Accuracy test considering various assumptions:**
 - Treat maps with **only the acquired element** (no constrained element);
 - **Gd- or Ce-rich monazite** with fixed P₂O₅ content (30 wt%) and Gd₂O₃ or Ce₂O₃ by difference;
 - Ce-rich monazite with **lower P₂O₅ content** (25 wt%);
 - **Average monazite composition:** 30 wt% P₂O₅, 13% La₂O₃, 3% Pr₂O₃, 11% Nd₂O₃, Ce₂O₃ by difference.

Single-grain element mapping – *QUANTITATIVE*

1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

On each pixel...

- Full matrix correction;
- Background correction;
- Interference correction (here Th M γ on U M β).

Quantitative maps (in oxide wt-%)

SiO₂

Y₂O₃

UO₂

CaO

ThO₂

SiO₂ wt%

Y₂O₃ wt%

UO₂, CaO wt%

ThO₂ wt%

Original maps

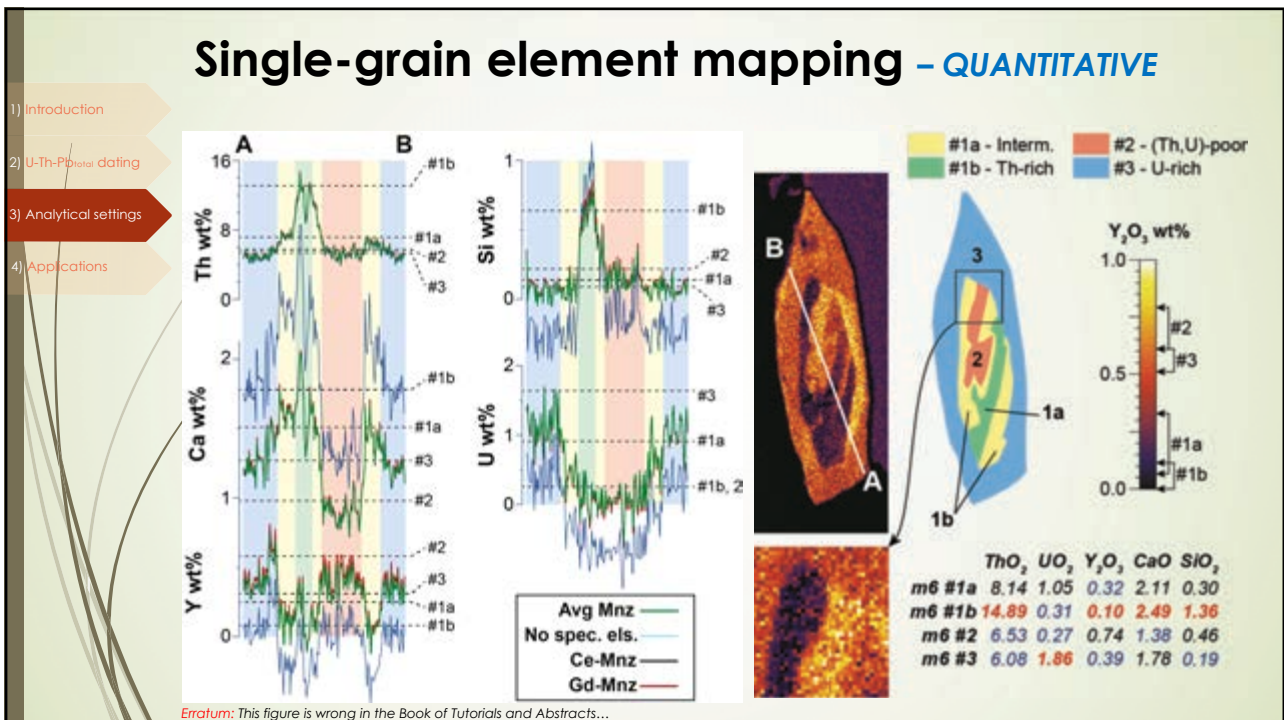
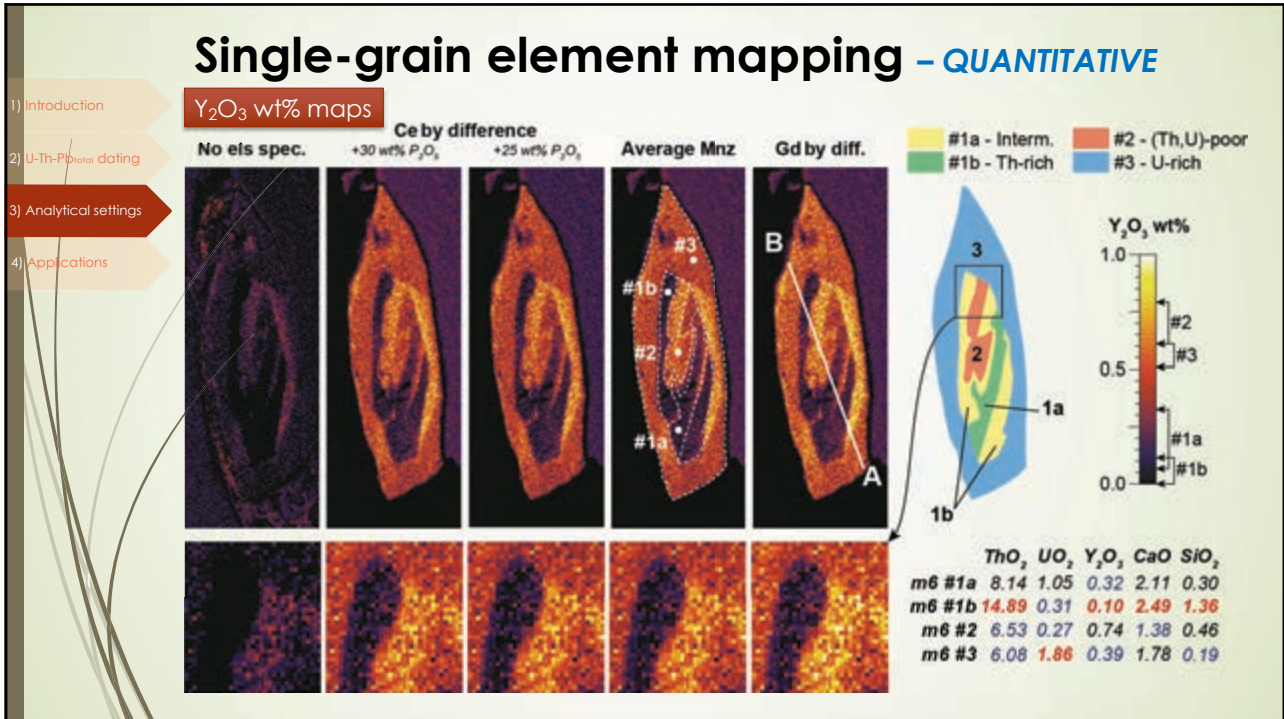
Si K α

Y L α

U M β

Ca K α

Th M α



Preparation of U-Th-Pb + REE-analysis setup

1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

- **Trace element analysis:** low Pb content (and sometimes also low U, low Th).
 - **High current** analysis (>100-200 nA).
 - **Optimum acceleration voltage** for optimum **spatial resolution** (15 keV, ~1 μm diameter sphere; submicron analysis possible at 6-10 keV), optimized **X-ray production**, and **minimum beam damage effect**.
 - **Long counting time** (> 5-10 min on peak) for **high-precision** (>1%) analysis.
 - **Choice of spectrometer:** Maximize count rate & peak-to-background ratio for **high sensitivity**: normal or large area monochromator, H-type spectrometer, P-10 or Xe-sealed detector, etc.
 - **Measure major elements first** to prevent beam damage effect.
 - **Combined EDS-WDS analysis** for major elements (e.g., in Mnz: P ± major REEs [?]).
 - *Alternative option (not discussed here): combined analysis with (1) low and (2) high beam current analysis for major and minor/trace elements (e.g., 20 nA, and then 200 nA).*
- **Very important considerations...**
 - **Background correction** (as peak-to-background ratio approaches one);
 - **Potential beam damage** (Al-coating is preferred);
 - **Peak interference(s)** (especially on U and Pb, but also on REE!).

Choice of spectrometer

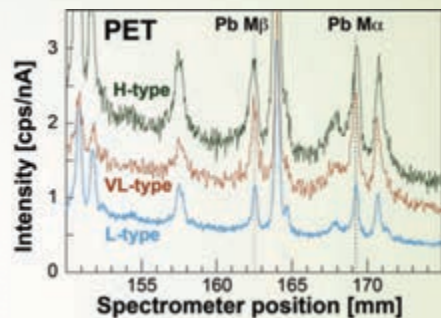
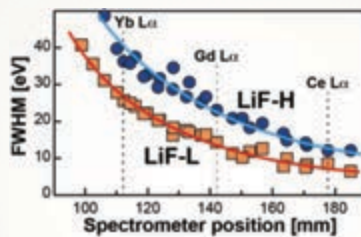
1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

- **Superiority of large (L) or very large (VL) monochromator:** higher count rate (2-3x for L, 4-6x for VL) and excellent spectral resolution.
- **H-type spectrometer** (100mm Rowland) yields excellent count rate but poorer spectral resolution.



Standard	X-ray	keV	Net peak [cps/nA]						Peak-to-background ratio					
			J-type		L-type		H-type		J-type		L-type		H-type	
			Ar, LP	Xe	Xe	Ar, HP	Xe	Ar, HP	Ar, LP	Xe	Xe	Ar, HP	Xe	Ar, HP
Pyromorph.	Pb M α	2.35	61.1	66.5	141.2	145.1	239.3	266.4	27.0	124.9	195.7	242.9	116.1	179.8
ThO ₂	Th M α	3.00	72.5	151.6	397.1	-	563.1	-	15.9	82.1	153.7	-	-	78.3
UO ₂	U M β	3.34	69.3	166.4	336.5	280.4	636.0	420.2	11.4	80.2	83.1	63.0	74.5	56.7
LaPO ₄	La L α	4.65	-	22.2	62.2	88.7	91.8	-	-	101.1	137.8	106.6	78.3	-
NdPO ₄	Nd L α	5.23	-	37.1	98.9	121.0	137.0	-	-	104.2	125.7	100.2	75.7	-
TbPO ₄	Tb L α	6.27	-	54.3	144.7	164.3	172.6	-	-	70.3	82.2	63.0	48.4	-
DyPO ₄	Dy L α	6.49	-	57.0	184.1	168.1	177.2	-	-	61.4	73.2	61.5	42.2	-
HoPO ₄	Ho L β	7.52	-	36.1	114.0	89.5	98.8	-	-	26.8	25.7	21.5	16.7	-

Background acquisition

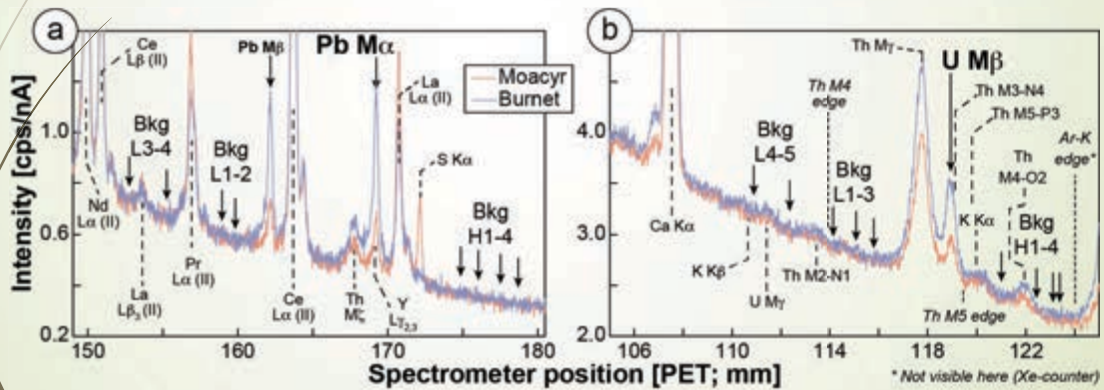
1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

- Complex spectrum especially around Pb M-lines with multiple potential **peak & background interferences**.
- Analysis of **background-only on first analysis point**, and **then peak-only analysis** to minimize beam damage effect (abnormal increase of background intensity).
- Precise and accurate background correction is extremely important** for trace element acquisition → **Multipoint background acquisition**.



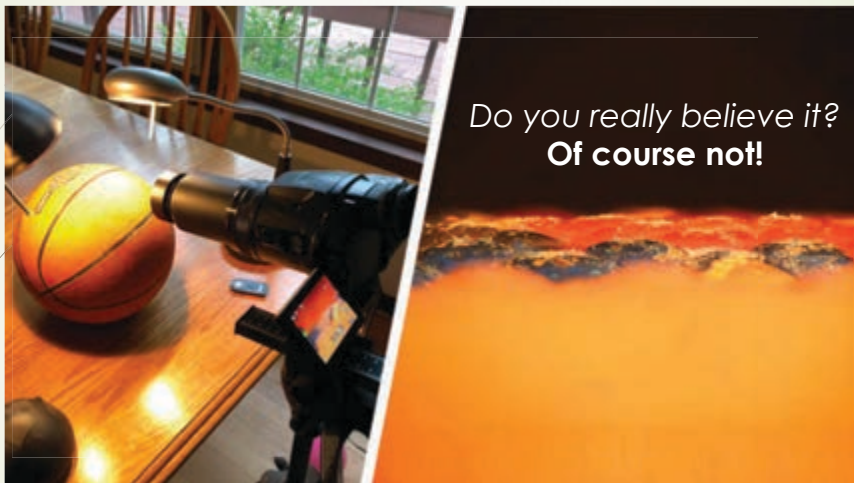
Flat Earth! Flatness is a matter of scale...

1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications



So why would you assume your X-ray background is **linear**?

Background acquisition – Multipoint Background

- 1) Introduction
- 2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating
- 3) Analytical settings
- 4) Applications

- **Multipoint background acquisition** allows to...
 - Accurately constrain the **background curvature**;
 - Minimize the risk of **background interference** (bkg can be removed during post-processing).

pb ma cps: Spe
52014.3 53262.0 54509.8 55751.5 57005.2 58253.0 59500.7 60748.4 61996.2 63243.9 64491.6
Spectrometer Position

Learn more about the multipoint background technique in [Allaz et al. \(2019\) Microscopy & Microanalysis](#)

Background acquisition – Multipoint Background

- 1) Introduction
- 2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating
- 3) Analytical settings
- 4) Applications

- **Technique validated by...**
 - Blank test correction;
 - Comparison of EPMA monazite age with isotopic ages in multiple age consistency standards.

Moacyr (506 Ma)
MOM3 (482 Ma)
RT-87 (394 Ma)
PR-88 (297 Ma)

Th-Pb or Pb-Pb age isotopic methods
Total U-Th-Pb age by EMP [Ga]

Blue: ²⁰⁸Pb/²³²Th age
Red: ²⁰⁷Pb/²⁰⁶Pb age

Learn more about the multipoint background technique in [Allaz et al. \(2019\) Microscopy & Microanalysis](#)

Beam damage

1) Introduction

High beam current + focused beam + long counting time = **high electron dose!**

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

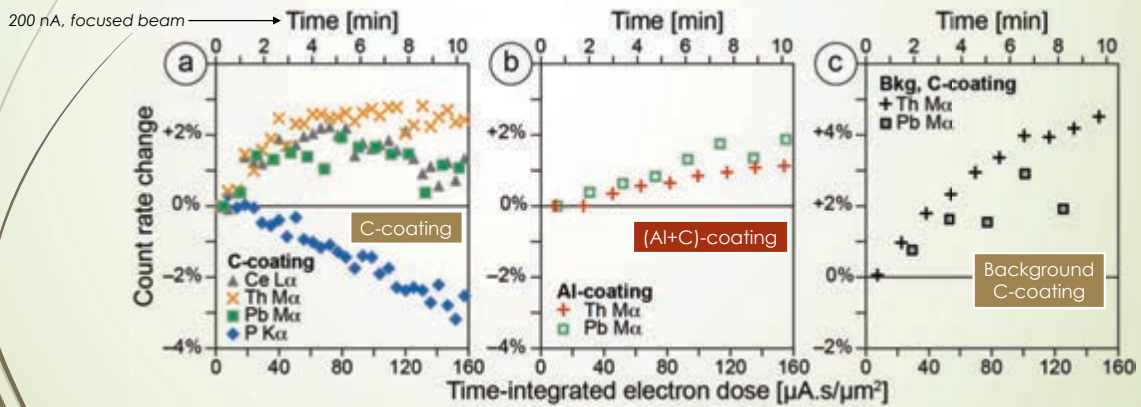
Beam damage almost unavoidable.

3) Analytical settings

P must be analyzed first, along with major elements. **Solution = EDS!**
P analyzed by EDS + test in progress for major REE (Ce, La, Nd, Sm).

4) Applications

Beam damage effect on elements analysed later not fully evaluated...



Beam damage – U, Th, and Pb analyses

1) Introduction

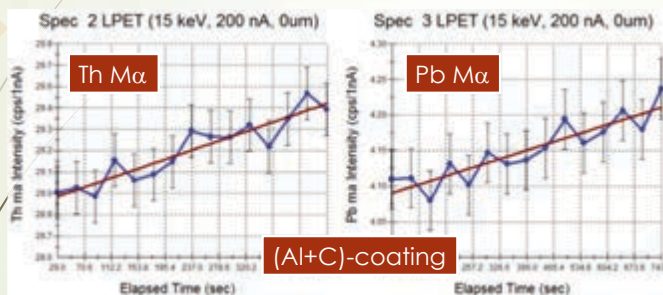
MUST analyze U, Th, and Pb first to enable time dependent intensity correction (TDI)
 → beam damage effect is compensated for in these elements.

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

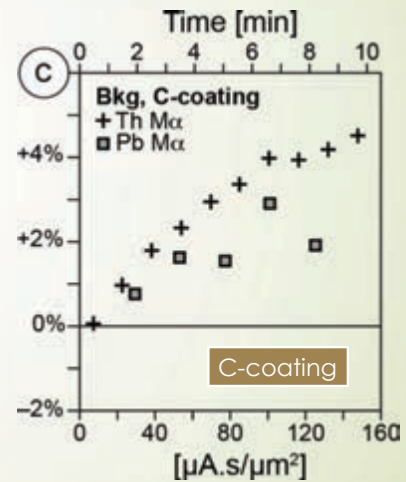
Background-only analysis on a separate point within a homogeneous domain
 → minimizes risk of increasing background intensity due to beam damage.

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications



Element	U	Th	Pb	Age [Ma]
Wt-% no TDI	0.086%	10.59%	1.15%	2241
Wt-% w/ TDI	0.084%	10.45%	1.13%	2226
TDI correction	-1.7%	-1.3%	-2.0%	-0.7%



Peak interference correction – Pb and U

1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

- **Age accuracy** strongly depends on Pb-measurement (most of the time) and U or Th (sometimes) → **accurate peak interference correction must be applied.**
- **Use Donovan et al. (1993) peak interference correction** routine in Probe for EPMA: peak interference correction included within the ZAF correction (double-iteration).
- Major interferences on **Pb M α** :
 - **Th M ζ** ;
 - **Y L $\gamma_{2,3}$** : **WARNING, peak shift** ($50 \cdot 10^{-5} \sin\theta$ in monazite compared to xenotime [YPO₄]);
 - **La L α (II)**: Usually small (**PHA in differential mode**) but important when La-content is high.
- For xenotime, prefer **Pb M β** to avoid strong interference from Y L $\gamma_{2,3}$ on Pb M α .
- Major interferences on **U M β** :
 - **Th M γ** : most important correction;
 - **Sm L $\beta_{2,15}$ (II)**: often minor and insignificant;
 - **K K α** : not present in Mnz or Xnt, but secondary fluorescence effect potentially important;
 - Problem of **absorption edges from Th** in Th-rich grains (background problem...).

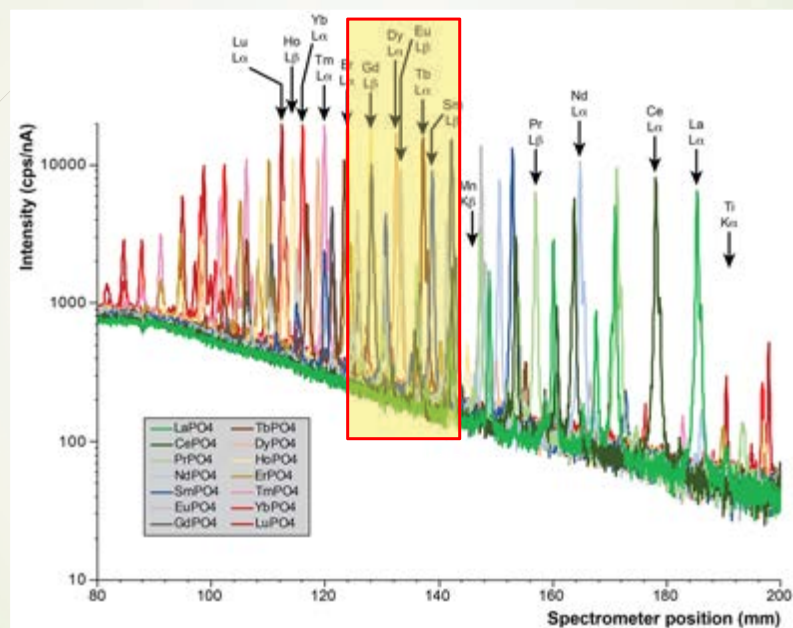
Peak interference correction – REE

1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications



Peak interference correction – REE, example Gd

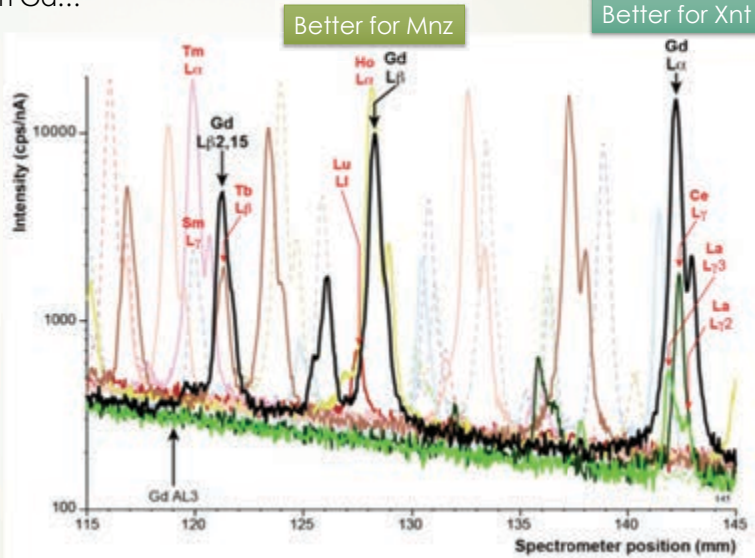
- 1) Introduction
- 2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating
- 3) Analytical settings
- 4) Applications

➤ **Many interferences on REE!!!** Some element X-ray lines cannot be found "interference-free", example with Gd...

Gd L α : suitable for xenotime, not for monazite due to strong interference with Ce L γ & La L $\gamma_{2,3}$

Gd L β : suitable for monazite (lower count rate), not for xenotime due to strong interference from Ho L α .

Gd L $\beta_{2,15}$: less interferences (Tm L α , Tb L β), but ~30% intensity of L α ...



All major peak interferences...

- 1) Introduction
- 2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating
- 3) Analytical settings
- 4) Applications

Approximate interference % (no matrix correction), using average & max values for Mnz/Xnt composition (from literature).

Approximate % interference correction:

$$\%interference \approx \frac{I_{interf}^A / C_{interf}^B}{I_{std}^A / C_{std}^A} * \frac{C_{unk}^B}{C_{unk}^A}$$

Element Xtal	Interfering element	Interference cps/nA	Approx. % interf. corr.			
			Mnz avg	Mnz max	Xnt avg	Xnt max
Y L α TAP	Sr L β_1	4.60	0.2%	9.2%	No data for	
Sr L α TAP	Si K β + sat.	2.98	0.8%	6.0%	Sr in Xnt	
Si K α TAP	Nd L α (III)	0.62	1.2%	3.3%	<0.1%	0.3%
As L α TAP	Tb M β	7.85	<0.1%	0.4%	4.9%	8.4%
	Dy M α	5.67	0.3%	2.1%	27.5%	39.7%
	Sm M γ	1.70	0.4%	2.1%	0.8%	2.9%
Th M α PET	No significant interference					
Ca K α PET	No significant interference					
S K α PET	No significant interference					
U M β PET	K K α	7.40	Variable (fluorescence)			
	Th M γ	2.10	7.7%	42.5%	0.5%	11.1%
	Sm L $\beta_{2,15}$ (II)	0.17	0.3%	1.2%	0.1%	0.2%
K K β PET	U M γ	4.10	Variable (fluorescence)			
	Tm L α (II)	6.70	Variable (fluorescence)			
	Ca K α	0.55	Variable (fluorescence)			
Pb M α PET	Y L $\gamma_{2,3}$	0.51	2.1%	12.0%	Prefer Pb M β	
	Th M γ	0.22	3.2%	17.8%	0.3%	6.0%
	La L α (II)	0.04	1.9%	3.9%	<0.1%	<0.1%
P K α PET	Y L β	0.26	<0.1%	<0.1%	0.2%	0.2%

For xenotime only
 Pb M β PET Ce L α (II) Not determined (insignificant in Xnt)

Element Xtal	Interfering element	Interference cps/nA	Approx. % interf. corr.			
			Mnz avg	Mnz max	Xnt avg	Xnt max
La L α LIF	Nd L β	0.18	0.2%	0.6%	0.8%	2.8%
Ce L α LIF	No significant interference					
Nd L α LIF	Ce L β	0.45	1.2%	1.6%	0.4%	1.1%
	La L β_1	0.36	0.5%	1.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Pr L β LIF	No significant interference					
Sm L β LIF	Tb L α	0.60	<0.1%	0.2%	1.0%	1.7%
Tb L α LIF	Sm L β	0.56	1.2%	3.3%	0.1%	0.8%
Eu L β LIF	Dy L α	17.90	23.0%	141%	Prefer Eu L α	
Dy L α LIF	No significant interference					
Er L α LIF	Tb L β	12.30	5.2%	14.6%	1.8%	3.1%
	Gd L β LIF	126.50	6.1%	14.8%	Prefer Gd L α	
Tm L α LIF	Sm L β_2	0.23	0.2%	0.9%	<0.1%	0.1%
	Sm L γ	20.30	116%	542%	2.5%	8.7%
	Dy L β	1.73	2.3%	13.9%	2.1%	3.0%
Yb L α LIF	Gd L $\beta_{2,15}$	0.65	2.8%	8.1%	0.5%	1.3%
	Tb L $\beta_{2,15}$	0.95	0.7%	2.0%	0.2%	0.3%
	Dy L $\beta_{2,8}$	0.88	2.1%	13.2%	1.1%	1.6%
Ho L β LIF	Sm L γ_2	0.50	5.3%	24.7%	<0.1%	0.2%
	Yb L α,n	0.41	0.3%	1.4%	0.4%	1.9%
	Dy L $\beta_{2,15}$	0.24	0.3%	2.5%	0.2%	0.6%

For xenotime only
 Eu L α LIF Pr L $\beta_{2,15}$ -Ce L γ_2 , La L γ Not determined (insignificant in Xnt)
 Gd L β LIF Nd L $\beta_{2,15}$ -La L $\gamma_{2,3}$

Example of an analytical setup (Mnz & Xnt)

1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

Sr and As rarely present in significant quantities

U, Th, and Pb analysed first & on dedicated spectrometers.

K not present in Mnz, but interferes with U (secondary fluorescence problem)

Complete set of REE analysis (can be simplified, e.g., by removing some HREE when analysing Mnz)

P analysed by EDS

SP	EL	Line	Xtal	Peak [mm]	Peak [$10^5 \cdot \sin\theta$]	Recommended standard	Time [s]	Bkg Peak	Bkg Type	Major and minor peak interferences (see Table 7)	
1	Y	L α	TAP	69.70	24890	YPO ₄	180	-	MAN	Sr L β	(1)
1	Sr ^{**}	L α	TAP	74.77	26705	Strontianite	180	-	MAN	Si K β + satellite peaks	
1	Si	K α	TAP	77.10	27535	Microcline	180	-	MAN	Nd L α (III)	
1	As ^{**}	K α	TAP	105.36	37630	As-pyrite, GaAs	180	-	MAN	Tb M β ; Dy M α ; Sm M γ	
2	Th	M α	L-PET	132.44	47300	CaTh(PO ₄) ₂ , ThO ₂	550	50 ^{##}	MPB	-	
2	Ca	K α	L-PET	107.50	38395	Apatite	60	-	MAN	-	
2	S	K α	L-PET	172.09	61460	Sulfate or sulfide	60	-	MAN	-	
3	U	M β	L-PET	119.04	42470	UO ₂	600	50 ^{##}	MPB	K K α ; Th M γ ; Sm L β_2 (II)	
3	K	K β	L-PET	110.64	39515	K-feldspar	100	-	MAN	U M γ ; Tm L α (II); Ca K α	
4	Pb	M α	L-PET	169.24	60445	Pyromorphite	700	50 ^{##}	MPB	Y L $\gamma_{2,3}$; Th M ζ ; La L α (II)	(2)
5	La ^{**}	L α	L-LIF	185.38	66205	LaPO ₄	30	-	MAN	Nd L γ	(3)
5	Ce	L α	L-LIF	178.12	63615	CePO ₄	30	-	MAN	-	(3)
5	Nd	L α	L-LIF	164.82	58864	NdPO ₄	30	-	MAN	Ce L β ; La L β_6	(3)
5	Pr ^{**}	L β	L-LIF	157.08	56100	PrPO ₄	30	-	MAN	-	(3)
5	Sm	L β	L-LIF	138.97	49630	SmPO ₄	30	-	MAN	Tb L α	(3)
5	Tb [*]	L α	L-LIF	137.41	49075	TbPO ₄	60	-	MAN	Sm L β	
5	Eu	L β	L-LIF	133.58	47705	EuPO ₄	60	-	MAN	Dy L α	(4)
5	Dy	L α	L-LIF	132.66	47380	DyPO ₄	60	-	MAN	-	
5	Er [*]	L α	L-LIF	123.98	44280	ErPO ₄	60	-	MAN	Tb L β	
5	Gd	L β	L-LIF	128.32	45830	GdPO ₄	60	-	MAN	Ho L α ; Sm L β_2	(4)
5	Tm [*]	L α	L-LIF	119.96	42845	TmPO ₄	60	-	MAN	Sm L γ ; Dy L β ; Gd L $\beta_{9,10}$	(5)
5	Yb	L α	L-LIF	116.13	41475	YbPO ₄	60	-	MAN	Tb L $\beta_{2,15}$; Dy L $\beta_{5,6}$; Sm L γ_2	
5	Ho [*]	L β	L-LIF	114.40	40855	HoPO ₄	60	-	MAN	Yb L α, n ; Dy L $\beta_{2,15}$	
5	Lu [*]	L α	L-LIF	112.62	40220	LuPO ₄	60	-	MAN	Ho L $\beta_{3,6}$; Dy L $\beta_{2,15}$; Eu L γ	
-	P	K α	EDS	2.01 keV		CePO ₄	300	-	EDS	Y L β	(6)

Application 1: Archean aluminous quartzite (MT, USA)

1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

- "Simple" case of old samples with "a lot" of Pb (> 7000 ppm).
- One sample analyzed so far (preliminary data).
- Quantitative element maps.
- First attempt at combined EDS-WDS analysis including some REE.

Application 2: Upper Granite Gorge (Grand Canyon, AZ)

- Complexly zoned monazite, multiple ages, yet still a high Pb-amount (> 1000 ppm).
- Relationship between major minerals & monazite growth.
- Sensitivity of the method: can distinguish ages better than $\pm 1\%$ of the age.

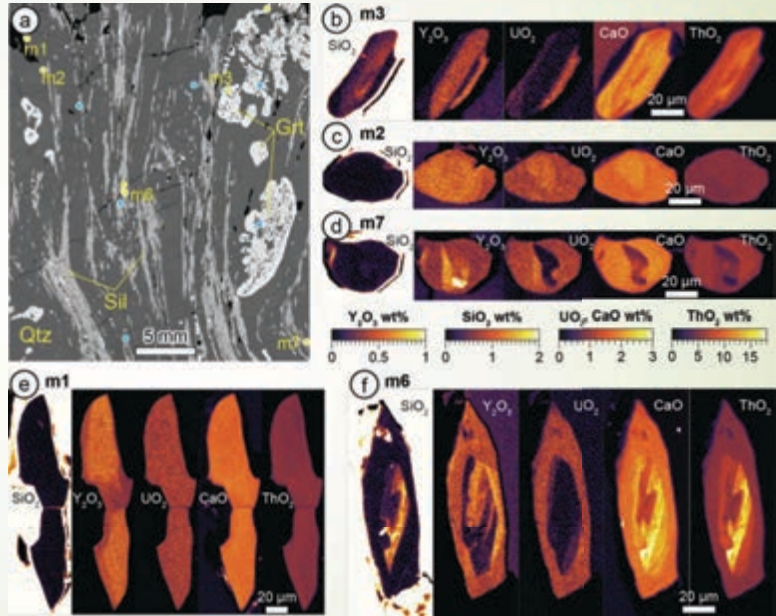
Application 3: Detrital and low-grade monazite (upstate NY)

- Detrital monazite in sandstone (provenance study).
- Low-grade metamorphic or hydrothermal overgrowth, very low Pb content (~100 ppm).

Application 1: Archean aluminous quartzite (MT, USA)

- 1) Introduction
- 2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating
- 3) Analytical settings
- 4) Applications

- Quantified element maps.
- Monazite-poor sample.
- Recognize **similar compositional domains** between grains (e.g., U-rich rim, Y-rich and U-poor core, etc.).
- At least **two major events** identified:
 - U-poor core: 2.42 Ga = maximum deposition time age.
 - U-rich rim: 1.72-1.73 Ga = Big Sky orogeny, metamorphism.



Application 1: Archean aluminous quartzite (MT, USA)

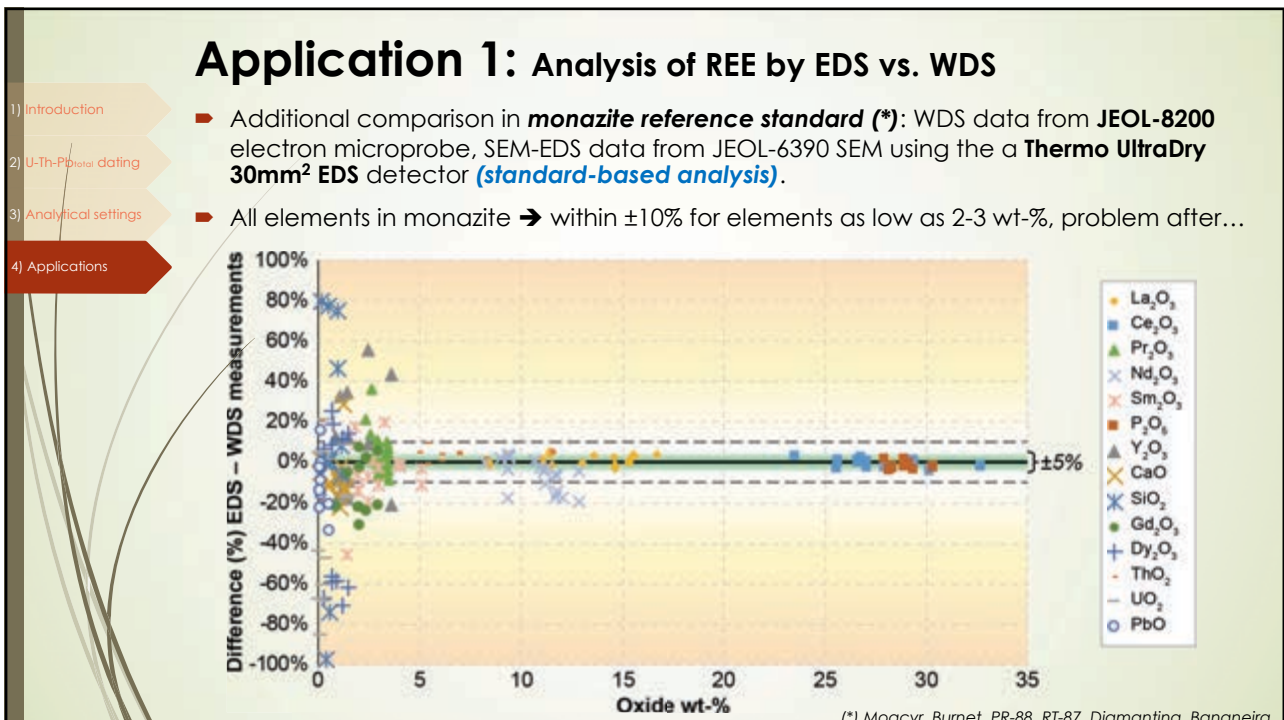
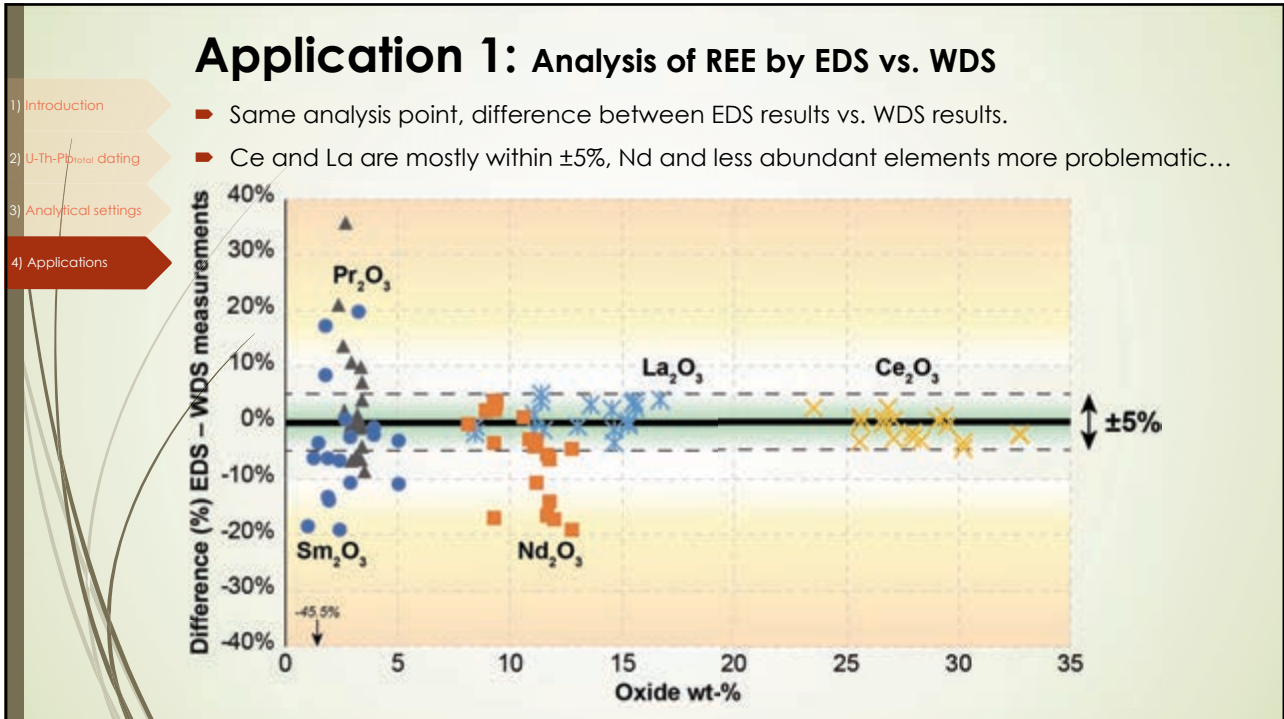
- 1) Introduction
- 2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating
- 3) Analytical settings
- 4) Applications

- Complete analysis of U, Th, Pb, P, REE, Si, Ca... (without S, As, Sr).
- Data comparison: (a) **shared background** (= multipoint bkg applied to multiple X-ray lines), (b) **MAN** correction, (c) **EDS** (major REE only).
- Best results with shared backgrounds (less negative values), very similar MAN results.

WDS vs. EDS

		Burnet	Moacyr	AA09-34B				
		Age ref. standard	Age ref. standard	m6 #1a	m7 core	m6 #3	m7 rim	m2 all
La ₂ O ₃	Shared	9.27	14.56	13.01	16.67	15.54	15.58	15.49
	EDS	9.6	14.9	14.0	17.3	16.1	16.0	16.0
	Diff.	3.5%	2.4%	3.2%	4.0%	3.8%	2.8%	3.5%
Ce ₂ O ₃	Shared	29.38	29.05	23.55	29.46	26.84	26.67	26.65
	EDS	29.7	29.1	24.2	29.3	27.5	26.5	26.8
	Diff.	1.1%	0.2%	2.6%	-0.6%	2.5%	-0.5%	0.7%
Pr ₂ O ₃	Shared	3.54	3.23	2.37	2.94	2.67	2.60	2.65
	EDS	3.2	3.3	2.9	2.9	3.6	3.0	2.7
	Diff.	-8.7%	1.5%	20.9%	-0.1%	35.8%	13.6%	2.1%
Nd ₂ O ₃	Shared	9.44	11.14	8.19	10.66	9.40	8.99	9.35
	EDS	9.8	10.6	8.2	10.8	9.6	9.2	9.7
	Diff.	3.4%	-4.5%	-0.5%	1.0%	2.1%	1.9%	3.7%
Sm ₂ O ₃	Shared	3.30	1.87	1.09	1.84	1.46	1.33	1.56
	EDS	3.9	2.2	0.9	2.0	0.8	1.2	1.5
	Diff.	19.5%	17.1%	-18.7%	8.2%	-45.5%	-6.5%	-3.7%

		Burnet	Moacyr	AA09-34B				
		Age ref. standard	Age ref. standard	m6 Core #1a	m7 Core	m6 Rim #3	m7 Rim #2	m2 All grain
P ₂ O ₅	EDS	27.45	28.35	28.22	30.18	30.01	28.56	28.93
SiO ₂	MAN	1.38	1.07	1.28	0.11	0.18	0.36	0.09
CaO	MAN	0.85	0.48	2.43	0.86	1.74	1.89	1.84
Y ₂ O ₃	MAN	0.50	1.22	0.11	0.94	0.38	0.26	0.45
La ₂ O ₃	Shared	9.27	14.56	13.01	16.67	15.54	15.58	15.49
La ₂ O ₃	MAN	9.6	14.9	14.0	17.3	16.1	16.0	16.0
La ₂ O ₃	EDS	9.6	14.9	14.0	17.3	16.1	16.0	16.0
Ce ₂ O ₃	Shared	29.38	29.05	23.55	29.46	26.84	26.67	26.65
Ce ₂ O ₃	MAN	29.38	29.05	23.55	29.46	26.84	26.67	26.65
Ce ₂ O ₃	EDS	29.38	29.05	23.55	29.46	26.84	26.67	26.65
Pr ₂ O ₃	Shared	3.54	3.23	2.37	2.94	2.67	2.60	2.65
Pr ₂ O ₃	MAN	3.54	3.23	2.37	2.94	2.67	2.60	2.65
Pr ₂ O ₃	EDS	3.2	3.3	2.9	2.9	3.6	3.0	2.7
Nd ₂ O ₃	Shared	9.44	11.14	8.19	10.66	9.40	8.99	9.35
Nd ₂ O ₃	MAN	9.44	11.14	8.19	10.66	9.40	8.99	9.35
Nd ₂ O ₃	EDS	9.8	10.6	8.2	10.8	9.6	9.2	9.7
Sm ₂ O ₃	Shared	3.30	1.87	1.09	1.84	1.46	1.33	1.56
Sm ₂ O ₃	MAN	3.30	1.87	1.09	1.84	1.46	1.33	1.56
Sm ₂ O ₃	EDS	3.9	2.2	0.9	2.0	0.8	1.2	1.5
Eu ₂ O ₃	Shared	-0.00	-0.03	0.09	0.18	0.24	0.22	0.23
Eu ₂ O ₃	MAN	-0.00	-0.03	0.09	0.18	0.24	0.22	0.23
Eu ₂ O ₃	EDS	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.23	0.28	0.33	0.30
Gd ₂ O ₃	Shared	1.40	0.85	0.88	1.36	1.06	0.93	1.20
Gd ₂ O ₃	MAN	1.40	0.85	0.88	1.41	1.02	0.85	1.10
Gd ₂ O ₃	EDS	1.40	0.85	0.88	1.41	1.02	0.85	1.10
Th ₂ O ₃	Shared	0.26	0.08	0.02	0.14	0.02	0.03	0.09
Th ₂ O ₃	MAN	0.26	0.08	0.02	0.14	0.02	0.03	0.09
Th ₂ O ₃	EDS	0.26	0.08	0.02	0.14	0.02	0.03	0.09
UO ₂	Shared	0.94	0.24	0.12	0.44	0.18	0.16	0.24
UO ₂	MAN	0.94	0.24	0.12	0.44	0.18	0.16	0.24
UO ₂	EDS	0.93	0.23	0.09	0.43	0.17	0.13	0.23
Ho ₂ O ₃	Shared	0.09	0.03	0.04	0.07	0.01	0.00	0.02
Ho ₂ O ₃	MAN	0.01	-0.01	-0.07	0.00	-0.04	-0.04	-0.04
Ho ₂ O ₃	EDS	0.13	0.05	0.01	0.06	0.03	0.02	0.02
Er ₂ O ₃	Shared	0.09	0.03	-0.04	0.03	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02
Er ₂ O ₃	MAN	0.09	0.03	-0.04	0.03	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02
Er ₂ O ₃	EDS	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01
Tm ₂ O ₃	Shared	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01
Tm ₂ O ₃	MAN	0.01	0.00	-0.03	0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01
Tm ₂ O ₃	EDS	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01
Yb ₂ O ₃	Shared	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Yb ₂ O ₃	MAN	0.01	0.01	-0.05	-0.01	-0.02	-0.04	-0.03
Yb ₂ O ₃	EDS	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
ThO ₂	MPB	0.93	6.59	15.16	2.49	6.15	7.05	5.93
UO ₂	MPB	0.29	0.12	0.32	0.86	1.88	1.71	2.07
PbO	MPB	0.51	0.18	1.79	0.66	0.98	1.01	1.04



Application 2: Upper Granite Gorge (Grand Canyon, AZ)

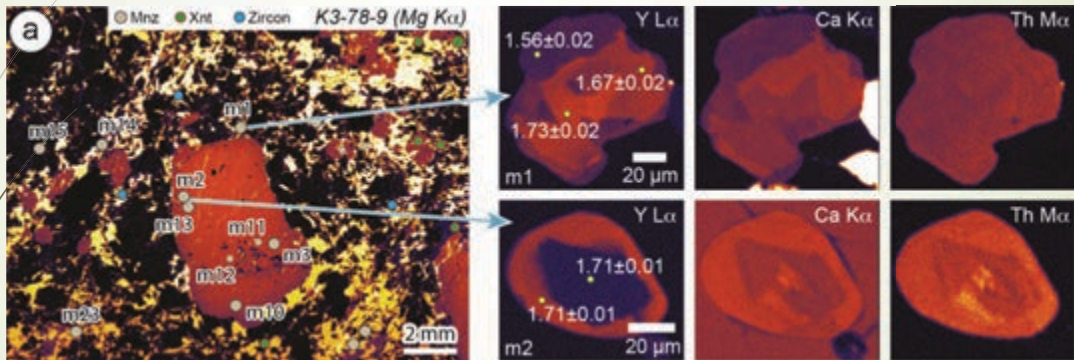
1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

- Samples from high-amphibolite to granulite facies.
- Example of key-relationship between major rock-forming minerals and age / monazite compositional domains.



Application 2: Upper Granite Gorge (Grand Canyon, AZ)

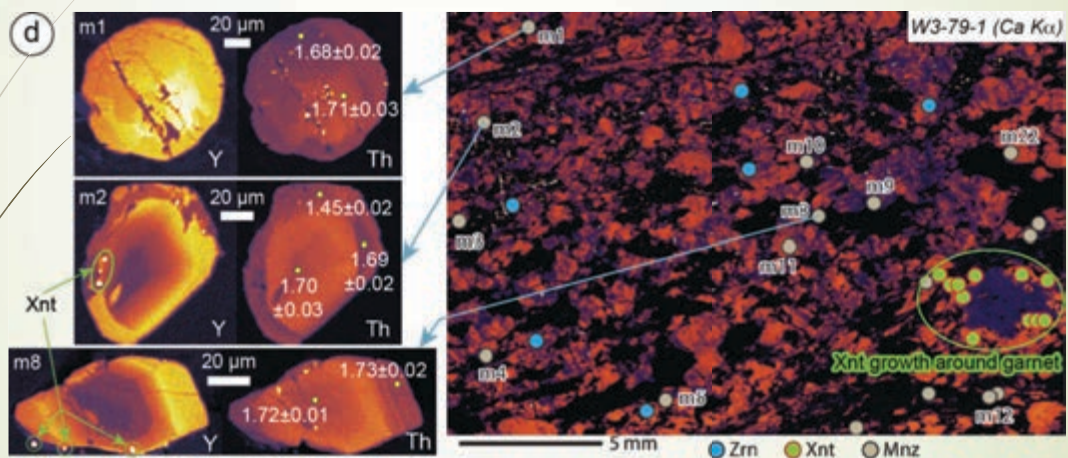
1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

- One sample shows a clearly distinct growth pattern between core & rim.
- Clear growth of xenotime after garnet resorption (based on structure observation).



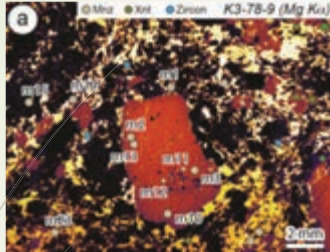
Application 2: Upper Granite Gorge (Grand Canyon, AZ)

1) Introduction

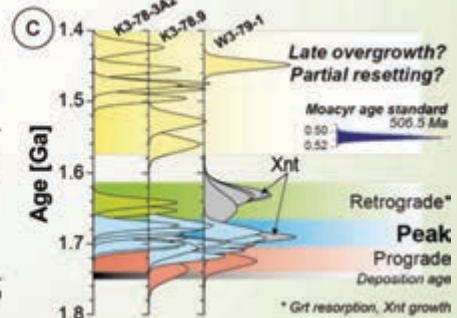
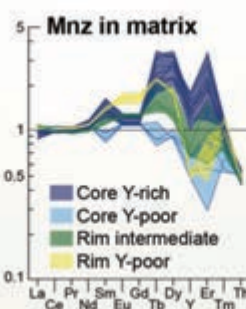
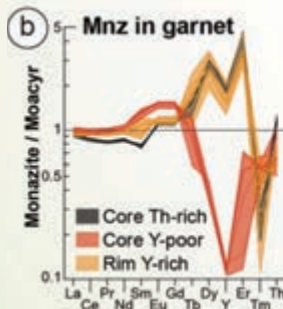
2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications



- Distinct composition for monazite included in garnet. All record an old age 1.73 to 1.71 Ga = **prograde stage**.
- Matrix monazite ~1.69 Ga = **peak of metamorphism**.
- Clear **retrograde** event identified in several samples, and correlated with xenotime growth (garnet resorption).
- "Enigmatic" age** from ~1.55 to 1.42 Ga (late overgrowth or partial resetting?).



Application 3: Young monazite, low (U,Th)-content

1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb_{total} dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

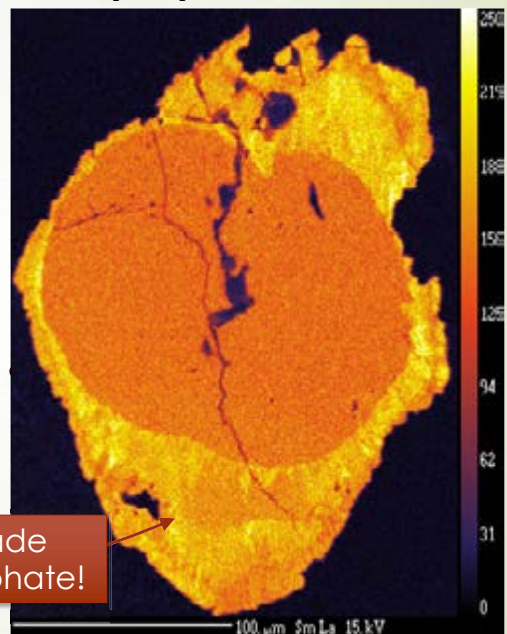
- Monazite (and xenotime) mostly dated in medium- to high-grade metamorphic or magmatic samples.
- REE-phosphate stable at low T, BUT... (U,Th)-poor.**

PT-stability (Spear & Pyle, 2010)

Occurrence of low-grade REE-phosphate in claystone, marl, metacherts and sandstone:
 Burnotte et al., 1989;
 Cabella et al., 2001;
 Evans et al., 2002;
 Storm & Spear, 2002;
 Rasmussen & Muhling, 2007;
 Rasmussen et al., 2007;
 Mahan et al., 2010.

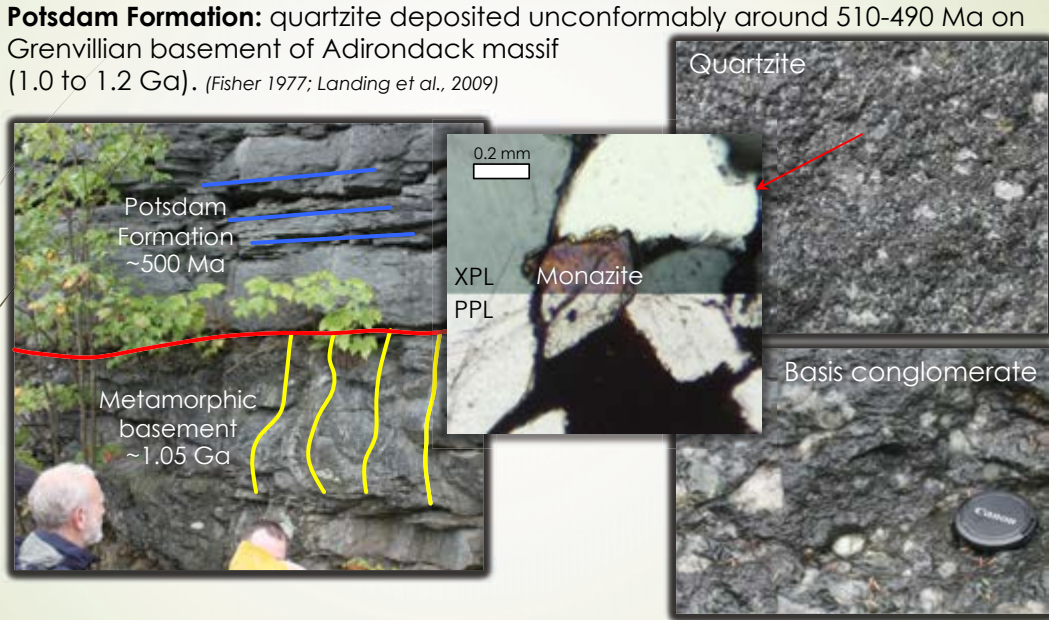


Low grade REE-phosphate!



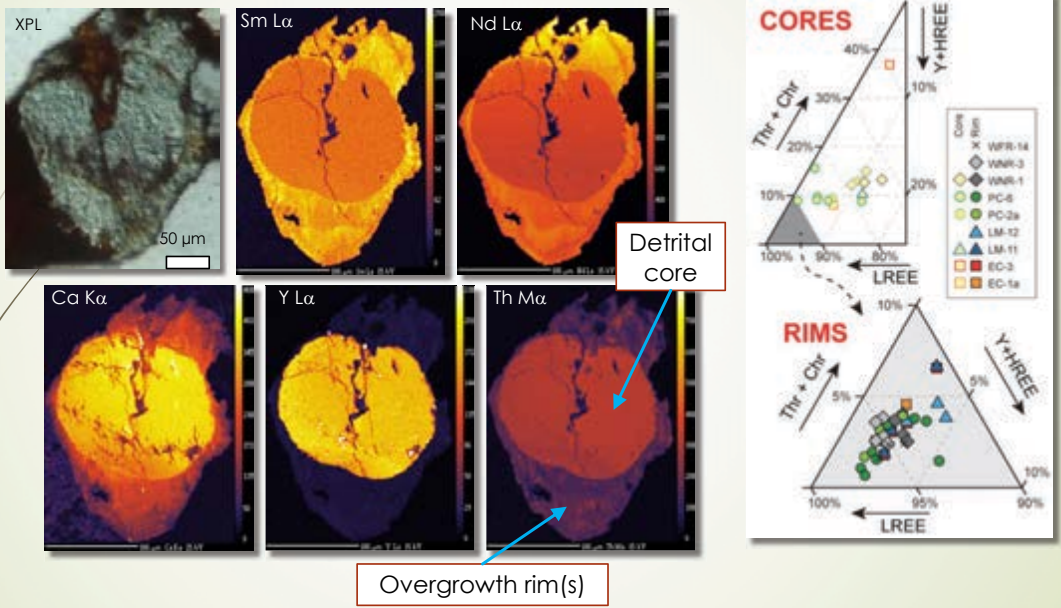
Application 3: Young monazite, low (U,Th) content

- 1) Introduction
- 2) U-Th-Pb dating
- 3) Analytical settings
- 4) Applications



Application 3: Young monazite, low (U,Th) content

- 1) Introduction
- 2) U-Th-Pb dating
- 3) Analytical settings
- 4) Applications

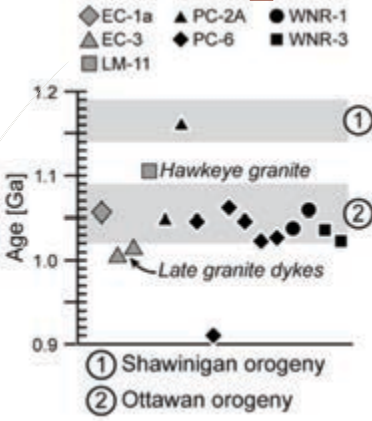


Application 3: Young monazite, low (U,Th) content

- 1) Introduction
- 2) U-Th-Pb dating
- 3) Analytical settings
- 4) Applications

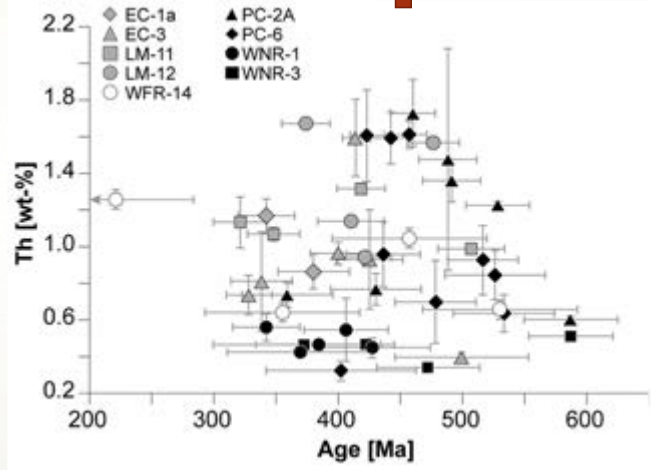
Similar to zircon, monazite can be used for provenance study (e.g., Hietpas et al. 2010)

Detrital cores



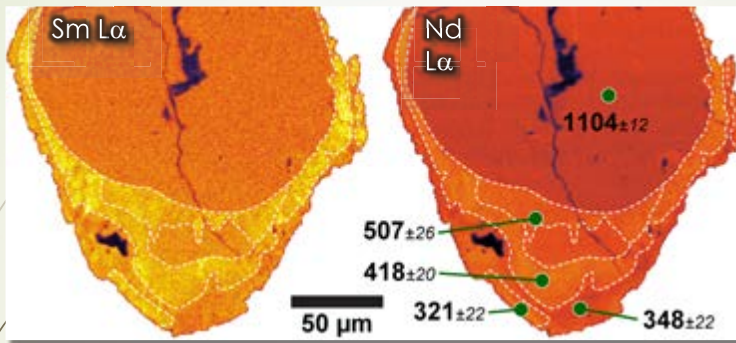
Authigenic rims

?????



Application 3: Young monazite, low (U,Th) content

- 1) Introduction
- 2) U-Th-Pb dating
- 3) Analytical settings
- 4) Applications



- 0) Detrital Mnz
- 1) Deposition (diagenesis)
- 2) Salinic orogeny?
- 3) Neo-Acadian orogeny?
- 4) Alleghenian orogeny?

2σ error

Average chemistry of some key elements (a.p.f.u.)

	Core	Rim 1	Rim 2	Rim 3	Rim 4
Ca	0.045	0.022	0.017	0.009	0.006
La	0.149	0.192	0.168	0.217	0.171
Ce	0.386	0.442	0.438	0.440	0.437
Nd	0.185	0.208	0.229	0.197	0.229
Sm	0.041	0.048	0.057	0.048	0.057

Component %

LREE	79.6	95.9	95.8	96.6	96.8
HREE+Y	10.0	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.9
Chr+Thr	10.5	3.3	3.2	2.4	2.3

More info: Allaz et al. (2013) American Mineralogist 98

Application 3: Young monazite, low (U,Th) content

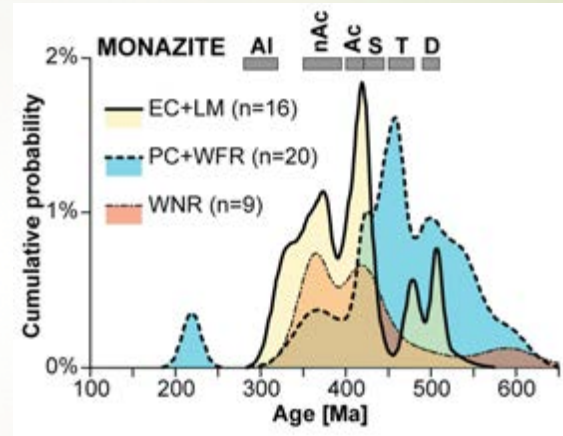
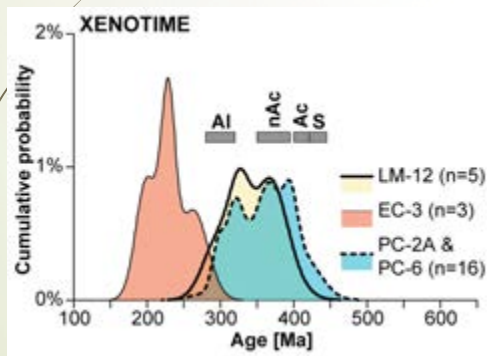
1) Introduction

2) U-Th-Pb dating

3) Analytical settings

4) Applications

- Each homogeneous domain = one Gaussian probability curve
- Curves cumulated for each area:
 - EC+LM = North
 - PC+WFR = East
 - WNR = South (borehole)

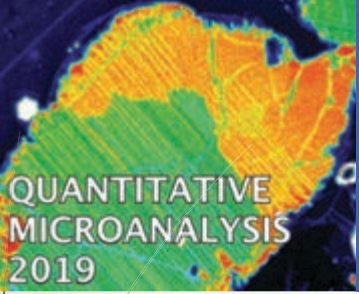


D: Deposition time, diagenesis
 T: Taconic orogeny
 S: Salinic orogeny
 Ac: Acadian orogeny
 nAc: Neo-Acadian orogeny
 AI: Alleghenian orogeny

More info: Allaz et al. (2013)
American Mineralogist 98

Conclusions

- Electron microprobe dating of monazite and xenotime offers...
 - High spatial resolution;**
 - Excellent age accuracy and precision** (better than $\pm 1\%$ for old / actinide-rich samples);
 - Limitations** arise for too-young monazite (<50-200 Ma) and when actinide-content is low;
 - Complete composition** of the monazite to help with data interpretation;
 - In situ technique** → can relate the growth of a monazite domain to other minerals.
- Need to pay attention to...
 - Background correction** (multipoint background acquisition);
 - Peak interferences;**
 - Problem of **beam damage**; (Al+C)-coating is preferred.
- Element maps** can be quantified, even without mapping for all major elements.
- Combined EDS-WDS is the future:** analyse major elements on EDS and reserve the power of WDS for the minor/trace elements, or for elements with strong peak overlaps.
- During the EMAS week, Moacyr gained ~55 ppq of Pb → Sometimes it's good to age, it makes the analysis easier!




microanalysis skills

Improve your

**QUANTITATIVE
MICROANALYSIS
2019**


QMA 2019

MAS Topical Conference
Quantitative Microanalysis
June 24-27, 2019
University of Minnesota, MN



MAS
Microanalysis Society

Abstract for **POSTER** still accepted
(deadline June 1st)



<https://the-mas.org/events/topical-conferences/qma-2019/>



Register NOW!

Learn from the experts

- User group meetings
- Tutorials on quantitative EPMA and SEM microanalysis
- WDS & EDS
- Quantitative microanalysis using combined WDS and EDS
- Quantitative mapping
- Correction algorithms
- FE-EPMA and FE-SEM microanalysis, low energy X-ray
- Quality control for microanalysis
- Standard reference materials
- Practical microanalysis for novice
- Problem solving & experts discussion
- Laboratory demonstrations

