

ISO 19463:2018 (E)

Microbeam analysis — Electron probe microanalyser (EPMA) — Guidelines for performing quality assurance procedures

Contents

| | |
|-----------|---|
| | Foreword |
| | Introduction |
| 1 | Scope |
| 2 | Normative references |
| 3 | Terms and definitions |
| 4 | General principles of electron probe microanalyser quality assurance (EPMA QA) |
| 4.1 | Objective |
| 4.2 | Selection of challenge materials |
| 4.2.1 | General |
| 4.2.2 | General characteristics of analysed materials |
| 4.2.3 | Specific characteristics of challenge materials |
| 4.3 | QA measurement parameters |
| 4.3.1 | General |
| 4.3.2 | Laboratory environment preparation |
| 4.3.3 | Instrument parameters |
| 4.3.3.1 | General |
| 4.3.3.2 | Accelerating voltage |
| 4.3.3.3 | Probe current |
| 4.3.3.4 | Spectrometer and diffracting crystal selection |
| 4.3.3.5 | Peak and background energy selection |
| 4.3.3.6 | Selecting the analysis positions on the challenge material and the reference material |
| 4.3.3.7 | Selecting the optimum X-ray counting times |
| 4.3.3.7.1 | General |
| 4.3.3.7.2 | Peak counting time |
| 4.3.3.7.3 | Background counting time |
| 4.4 | Data acquisition |
| 4.5 | Frequency of QA diagnostic testing |
| 5 | Test report |
| 6 | Data analysis and performance tracking |
| 6.1 | General |
| 6.2 | Quantitative analysis of the challenge material |
| 6.3 | Calculation of means and standard deviations |
| 6.4 | Statistical tests performed on data |
| 6.4.1 | General |
| 6.4.2 | Normality test |
| 6.4.3 | Variance test |
| Annex A | (informative) Examples of challenge materials and reference materials for EPMA WDS QA |
| A.1 | Selected challenge materials and reference materials |
| Annex B | (informative) Distinguishing specimen preparation effects from instrument malfunction |
| B.1 | Specimen preparation |
| B.1.1 | Correct specimen preparation for optimal EPMA analysis |
| B.1.2 | Elemental composition total is below 100 % |
| B.1.2.1 | General |
| B.1.2.2 | Deviation from unity at the instrument's uncertainty specification |

- B.1.2.2.1 Rough specimen
- B.1.2.2.2 Tilted specimen with respect to standard
- B.1.2.2.3 Crystalline specimen
- B.1.2.3 Deviation from unity above the instrument uncertainty specification
- B.1.2.3.1 General
- B.1.2.3.2 Subsurface voids
- B.1.2.3.3 Porous specimen
- B.1.2.3.4 Contaminated specimen
- B.1.2.3.5 Edge effects
- B.1.3 Total elemental composition is above 100 % (within manufacturer's specification for reproducibility or uncertainty)
- B.1.3.1 Rough specimen
- B.1.3.2 Tilted specimen with respect to standard
- B.1.4 Total elemental composition is 100 % (uncertainties are higher than instrumental uncertainty)
- B.1.4.1 Compositionally heterogeneous specimens
- B.1.4.2 Multi-phase specimens
- B.1.4.3 Variations of composition within a single phase
- B.1.5 Summary

Annex C (informative) Graphical rendering of data and control charting

- C.1 Introduction
- C.2 Electron beam current tracking
- C.3 Control charting
- C.3.1 General
- C.3.2 Univariate and multivariate mean and standard deviation (\bar{x} and R) plots
- C.3.3 Quartile ("box-and-whisker") plots
- C.3.4 Density ("bean") plots

Annex D (informative) Failure modes indicated by test results

- D.1 Introduction
- D.2 Electron emitter malfunction
- D.2.1 General
- D.2.2 Electrostatic discharge
- D.2.3 Drift instability
- D.2.4 Emission noise instability
- D.3 Diffracting crystal failure
- D.3.1 General
- D.3.2 Fractured diffracting crystal
- D.3.3 Contaminated diffracting crystal
- D.4 Detector failure
- D.4.1 General
- D.4.2 Contaminated detector
- D.4.2.1 General
- D.4.2.2 Detector window or surface contamination
- D.4.2.3 Internal contamination
- D.4.3 Charging detector window
- D.5 X-ray energy analyser (Rowland circle) motion failure
- D.5.1 General
- D.5.2 Failure to drive correctly to a peak or background energy
- D.5.3 Failure of backlash compensation at a peak energy
- D.6 Alignment failures
- D.6.1 General
- D.6.2 Electron beam alignment
- D.6.3 Spectrometer alignment
- D.6.4 Diffracting crystal alignment
- D.7 Diffracting crystal exchange failure