

EPFL  LABORATORY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

X-ray Powder Diffraction Basics, Rietveld refinement and applications

Dr. Diana Londono-Zuluaga
diana.londonozuluaga@epfl.ch

École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne

LC³ Doctoral School - EPFL, 22th November 2021

1

EPFL  LABORATORY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

Time Line

- 1665: Diffraction effects observed by Francesco Maria Grimaldi
- 1868: X-rays Discovered by German Scientist Röntgen
- 1912: Discovery of X-ray Diffraction by Crystals: von Laue
- 1912: Bragg's Discovery
- 1928: 1st XRD studies on cement (Hansen & Brownmiller)
- 1969: Rietveld method for neutron diffraction (Hugo Rietveld)
- 1977: Rietveld method for XRD (Cox, Young & Thomas)
- 1987: 1st Rietveld quantification analysis (Hill & Howard)
- 1993: 1st Rietveld quantification analysis on cement (Taylor & Aldridge)
- 2006: Quantification of phases with PONKCS (Scarlett & Madsen)
- 2014: PONCKS method on cement (Ruben Snelling)

2

2

EPFL  LABORATORY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

Outline

- What is powder diffraction? Basics of XRD
- Crystallographic review
- General uses
- Basic anatomy of the diffractometer
- What does the diffraction pattern really show?
- Sample preparation & data collection
- XRD softwares and databases
- General phase identification
- Rietveld refinement
- Practical examples

3

3

EPFL  LABORATORY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

I.- Introduction: What are X-rays?

Penetrates Earth's atmosphere? Y N Y N

Radiation type	Radio	Microwave	Infrared	Visible	Ultraviolet	X-ray	Gamma ray
Wavelength (m)	10 ³	10 ⁻²	10 ⁻⁵	0.5×10 ⁻⁶	10 ⁻⁸	10 ⁻¹⁰	10 ⁻¹²
Approximate scale							
Frequency (Hz)	10 ⁴	10 ⁸	10 ¹²	10 ¹⁵	10 ¹⁶	10 ¹⁸	10 ²⁰
Temperature of bodies emitting the wavelength		1 K	100 K	10,000 K	10,000,000 K		

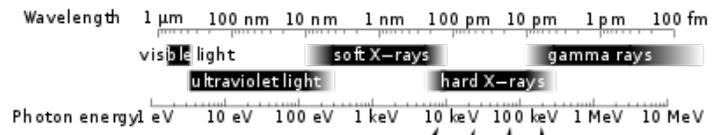
Source: XDS 2018 "XRPD and Rietveld" UNAL-Colombia course

4

4

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

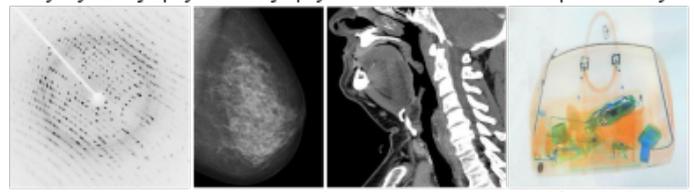
I.- Introduction: What are X-rays?



Wavelength: 1 μm, 100 nm, 10 nm, 1 nm, 100 pm, 10 pm, 1 pm, 100 fm
 Photon energy: 10 eV, 100 eV, 1 keV, 10 keV, 100 keV, 1 MeV, 10 MeV

Regions: visible light, ultraviolet light, soft X-rays, hard X-rays, gamma rays

Applications: X-ray crystallography, Mammography, Medical CT, Airport security



Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X-ray/>

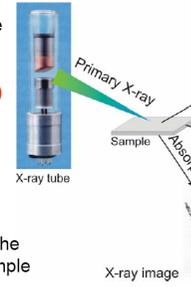
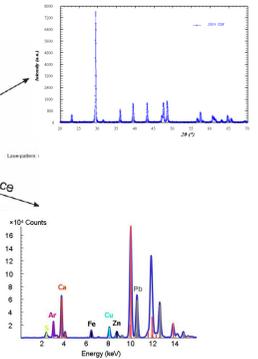
5

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

Interaction of X-rays with matter

Primary X-rays from an X-ray tube strike a sample

- can be scattered by the sample and produce scattered X-rays
 → X-ray diffractometry (XRD)
- can be absorbed and produce secondary X-rays
 → X-ray spectrometry (XRF)
- can be absorbed according to the order of the elements of the sample
 → X-ray imaging

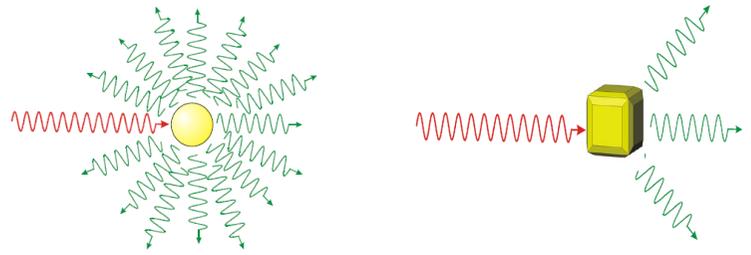



Source: XDS 2016 "XRPD and Rietveld" course

6

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

X-Ray Scattering



Single Particle: Scattering from a single yellow sphere.

Single Crystal: Scattering from a yellow rectangular crystal.

Source: XDS 2016 "XRPD and Rietveld" course

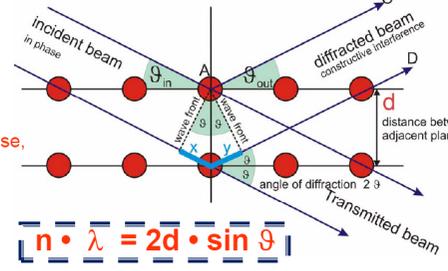
7

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

Geometry of diffraction: BRAGG's Law

Scattering at the points of a set of planes

- a single beam of X-rays strikes a set of planes at an angle θ_{in}
- diffracted waves C and D are scattered from adjacent planes



Diffracted waves are in phase, when the path difference $x + y = n \cdot \lambda = \text{multiple of the wavelength}$

$n \cdot \lambda = 2d \cdot \sin \theta$

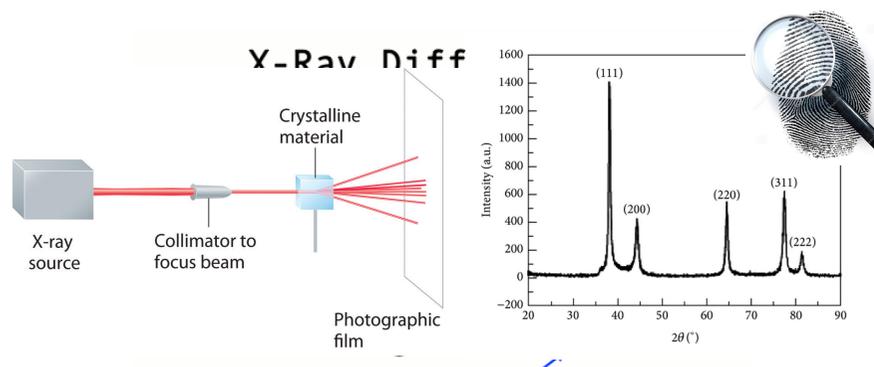


Source: XDS 2016 "XRPD and Rietveld" course

8

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

X-Ray Diff



1

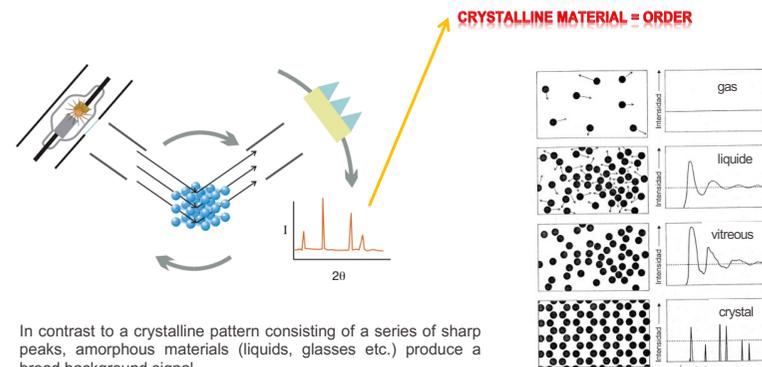
Atoms in a crystal

Taken from: https://chem.libretexts.org/LibreTexts/Howard_University/General_Chemistry%3A_An_Atoms_First_Approach/Unit_5%3A_State_of_Matter/Chapter_12%3A_Solids/Chapter_12.03%3A_Structure_of_Simple_Binary_Compounds

10

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

CRYSTALLINE MATERIAL = ORDER



In contrast to a crystalline pattern consisting of a series of sharp peaks, amorphous materials (liquids, glasses etc.) produce a broad background signal

Source: XDS 2016 "XRPD and Rietveld" course

11

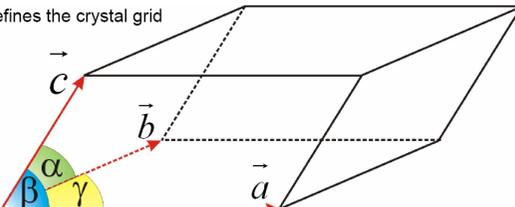
EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

Metrics of crystals

Metrics is defined by the parameters of the unit cell

- unit vectors (axes) $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$
- angles α, β, γ

→ metrics defines the crystal grid



Source: XDS 2016 "XRPD and Rietveld" course

12

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

Crystal systems



Crystal family	Crystal system	Centering (types)	Laue group	Point group classes	SGN	No. of SOECs	Prototype material(s)
Cubic	Cubic	<i>P, F, I</i>	<i>C</i> _I	432, $\bar{4}3m$, $\frac{2}{3}\frac{2}{3}\frac{2}{3}$	207-230	3	C, Al, CsCl ✓ 7 crystal systems
			<i>C</i> _{II}	23, $\frac{2}{3}\frac{2}{3}\frac{2}{3}$	195-206		
Hexagonal	Hexagonal	<i>P</i>	<i>H</i> _I	622, $6mm$, $\bar{6}2m$, $\frac{6}{6}\frac{2}{6}\frac{2}{6}$	177-194	5	Ti, TiB ₂ ✓ 14 Bravais lattices
			<i>H</i> _{II}	6, $\bar{6}$, $\frac{6}{6}$	168-176		
	Trigonal	<i>P, R</i>	<i>R</i> _I	32, $\bar{3}m$, $\bar{3}2$	149-167	6	Al ₂ O ₃ ✓ 230 Space groups
Tetragonal	Tetragonal	<i>P, I</i>	<i>T</i> _I	422, $4mm$, $\bar{4}2m$, $\frac{4}{4}\frac{2}{4}\frac{2}{4}$	89-142	6	MgF ₂
			<i>T</i> _{II}	4, $\bar{4}$, $\frac{4}{4}$	75-88	7	CaMoO ₄
Orthorhombic	Orthorhombic	<i>P, C, F, I</i>	<i>O</i>	222, $mm2$, $\frac{2}{2}\frac{2}{2}\frac{2}{2}$	16-74	9	TiSi ₂
Monoclinic	Monoclinic	<i>P, C</i>	<i>M</i>	m , 2 , $\frac{2}{m}$	3-15	13	ZrO ₂
Triclinic	Triclinic	<i>P</i>	<i>N</i>	1, $\bar{1}$	1 and 2	21	TiSi ₂

Monoclinic $a \neq b \neq c$
 $\alpha = \gamma = 90^\circ \neq \beta$

Triclinic $a \neq b \neq c$
 $\alpha \neq \beta \neq \gamma \neq 90^\circ$

13

EPFL  

Miller indices (hkl) represent a set of lattice planes

- with same orientation in space
- with distance d between adjacent planes

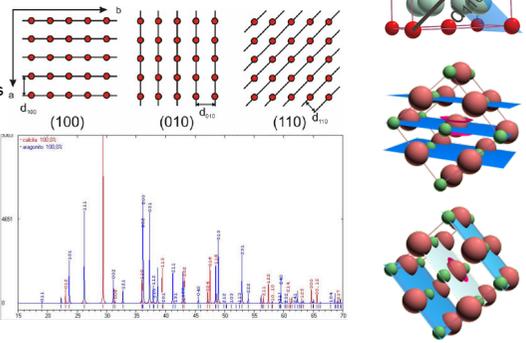
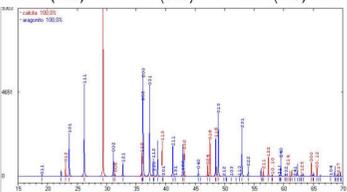
orientation (hkl) and distance d of every set of planes are determined by the metrics of a crystal

every crystal phase in a multiphase system has an own set of (hkl) planes

From measuring $d_{(hkl)}$

- determine the phases in a multicomponent system
- determine precisely the cell constants of any phase

projection on the plane a-b

Sources: XDS 2016 "XRPD and Rietveld" course
Images from Basics of X-Ray Powder Diffraction, Presentation by Scott Speakman, MIT CMSE

14

14

EPFL  

Cubic: $\frac{1}{d^2} = \frac{h^2 + k^2 + l^2}{a^2}$

Tetragonal: $\frac{1}{d^2} = \frac{h^2 + k^2}{a^2} + \frac{l^2}{c^2}$

Hexagonal: $\frac{1}{d^2} = \frac{4}{3} \left(\frac{h^2 + hk + k^2}{a^2} \right) + \frac{l^2}{c^2}$

Rhombohedral: $\frac{1}{d^2} = \frac{(h^2 + k^2 + l^2) \sin^2 \alpha + 2(hk + kl + hl)(\cos^2 \alpha - \cos \alpha)}{a^2(1 - 3 \cos^2 \alpha + 2 \cos^3 \alpha)}$

Orthorhombic: $\frac{1}{d^2} = \frac{h^2}{a^2} + \frac{k^2}{b^2} + \frac{l^2}{c^2}$

Monoclinic: $\frac{1}{d^2} = \frac{1}{\sin^2 \beta} \left(\frac{h^2}{a^2} + \frac{k^2 \sin^2 \beta}{b^2} + \frac{l^2}{c^2} - \frac{2hl \cos \beta}{ac} \right)$

Triclinic: $\frac{1}{d^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (S_{11}h^2 + S_{22}k^2 + S_{33}l^2 + 2S_{12}hk + 2S_{23}kl + 2S_{13}hl)$ where

$S_{11} = b^2c^2 \sin^2 \alpha$
 $S_{22} = a^2c^2 \sin^2 \beta$
 $S_{33} = a^2b^2 \sin^2 \gamma$
 $S_{12} = abc^2(\cos \alpha \cos \beta - \cos \gamma)$
 $S_{23} = a^2bc(\cos \beta \cos \gamma - \cos \alpha)$
 $S_{13} = ab^2c(\cos \gamma \cos \alpha - \cos \beta)$

$n\lambda = 2d \sin \theta$

$2\theta = 2 \cdot \arcsin \left(\frac{\lambda}{2 \cdot d_{hkl}} \right)$

15

15

EPFL  

General uses of X-ray powder diffraction

- # 1 Identification of crystalline compounds (using known database). (Based on I_{hkl} and d_{hkl})
- # 2 Determination of the unit cell parameters. (Based on d_{hkl})
- # 3 Determination of the crystal structure (atomic parameters). (Based on I_{hkl} and d_{hkl})
- # 4 Quantitative phase analysis (sample purity). (Based on I_{hkl})
- # 5 Determination of the microstructure of the phase. (Based on the shape-'FWHM' of the I_{hkl}) (average microparticle size and shape, microstrains, residual stress, etc.)
- # 6 XRPD can be coupled to thermal variation (thermodiffractometry):
Uses for: phase transitions, chemical reactions, melting/crystallization, thermal expansion, ...
- # 7 XRPD can be coupled to pressure variation:
Uses for: phase transitions, equation of state determination, ...

16

16

EPFL  

Main uses of RQPA for OPC materials

- Clinkers**
 - Modifications in the kiln
 - Use of alternative mineraliser/flux agents
 - Addition of (industrial) wastes to the raw meals
 - Impact of the change of raw materials
 - Laboratory quality control
 - On-line control of production
- Cements**
 - Analysis of blended cements
 - Alteration during storing
 - Mineralogy of sulfates
- Hydration products**
 - Single phases (modelling)
 - Hydration of OPCs
 - Influence of w/b ratio, T & P
 - Role of superplasticizers
 - Durability
 - Hydration of blended cements
 - Binary (f.i. OPC + FA)
 - Special cements
 - Ternary (f.i. OPC + FA + CC or OPC + BFS + FA)

RQPA gives useful information for cements (The answer will depend on the problem)

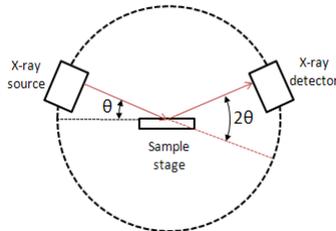
Modified from: Aranda & De la Torre 2012. Rev. Min. Geo.

17

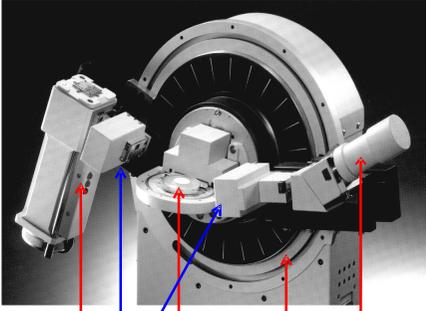
17

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

I.- Introduction: Basic anatomy of the diffractometer



Basic scheme of a powder diffractometer



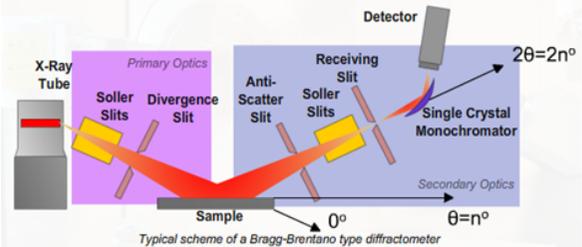
X-ray tube Optics Sample Goniometer Detector

18

18

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

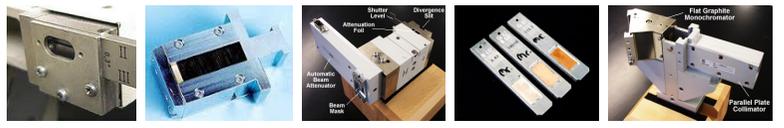
I.- Introduction: Basic anatomy of the diffractometer



Typical scheme of a Bragg-Brentano type diffractometer

OPTICS:

- ✓ Slits and masks
- ✓ Soller
- ✓ Mirrors and monochromators
- ✓ Filters
- ✓ Beam attenuators

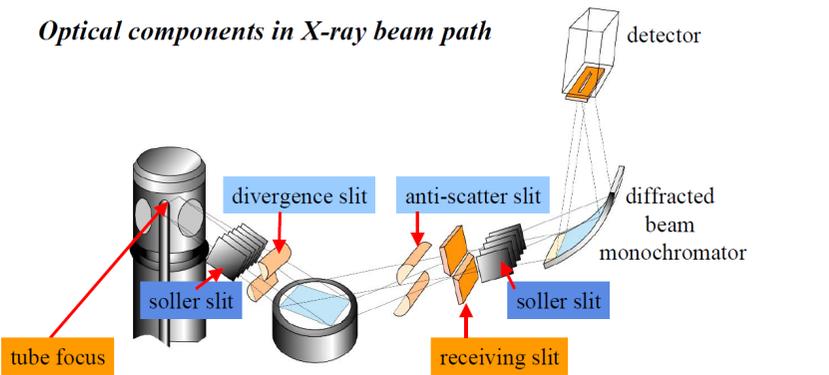


19

19

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

Optical components in X-ray beam path

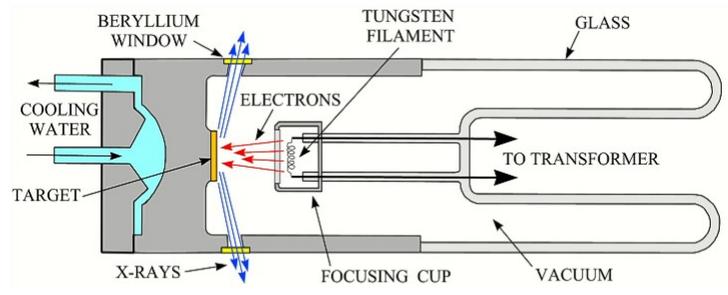


20

20

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

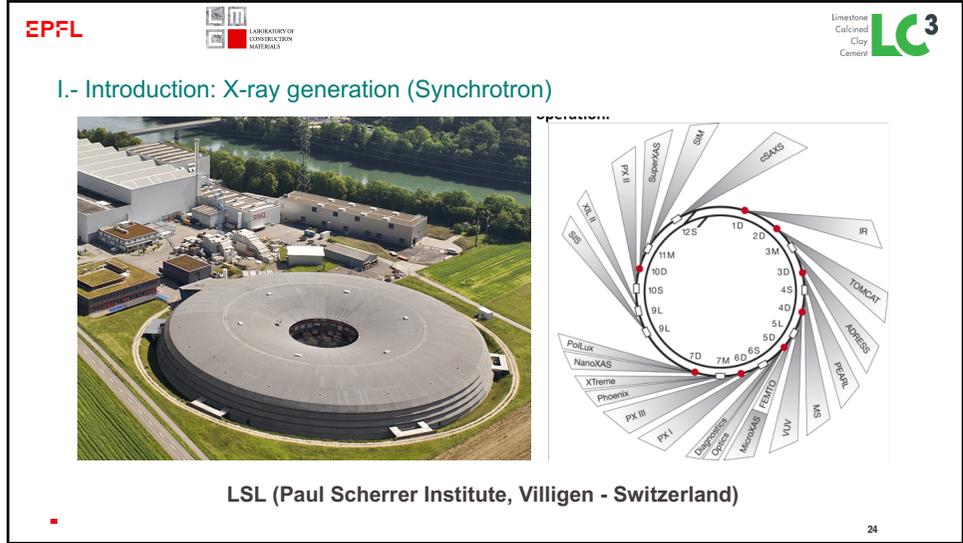
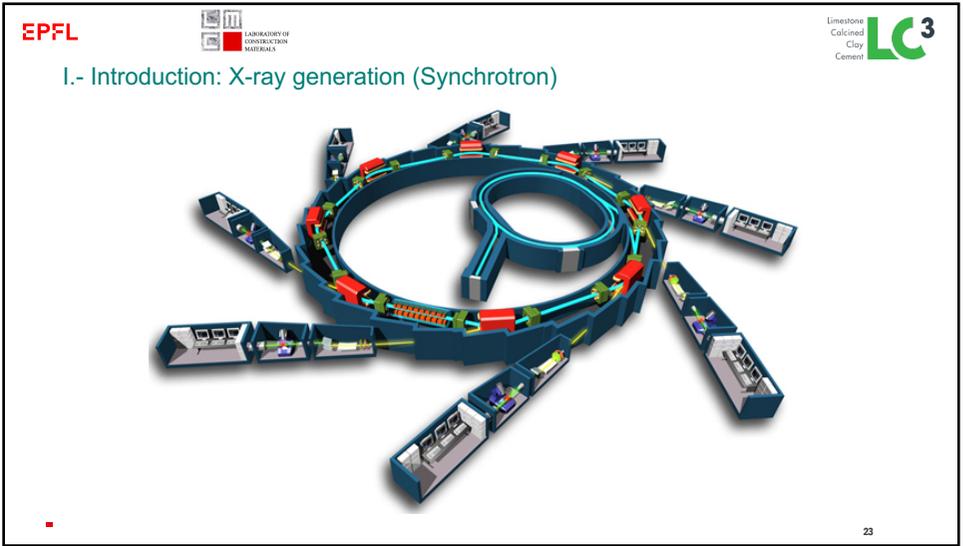
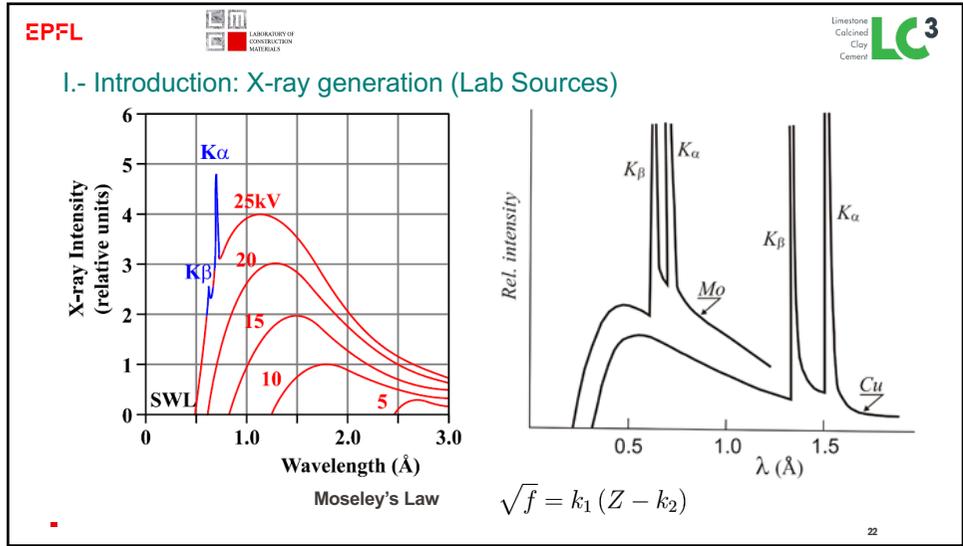
I.- Introduction: X-ray generation



Target elements: Cr, Fe, Co, Cu, Mo, Ag

21

21



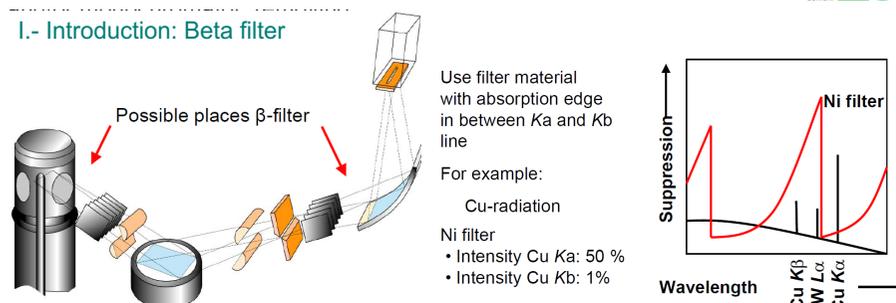
EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

I.- Introduction: Beta filter

Possible places β -filter

Use filter material with absorption edge in between $K\alpha$ and $K\beta$ line

For example:
Cu-radiation
Ni filter
• Intensity Cu $K\alpha$: 50 %
• Intensity Cu $K\beta$: 1%



Suppression

Wavelength

$K\beta$ $K\alpha$ $K\beta$ $K\alpha$

K beta filter

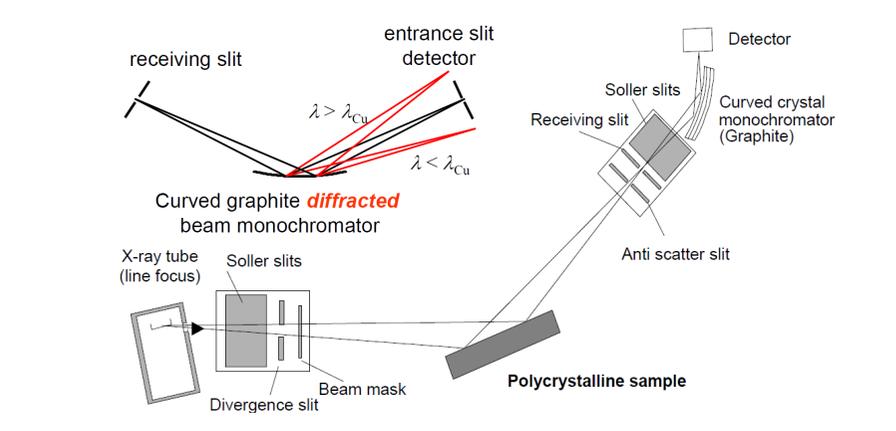
Element	Symbol	β -filter	Thickness μm	$K\beta$ reduction	$K\alpha$ reduction
Chromium	Cr	V	13	98	45
Cobalt	Co	Fe	16	99	51
Copper	Cu	Ni	20	99	58
Molybdenum	Mo	Zr	75	97	54

26

26

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

I.- Introduction: Diffracted beam monochromator



receiving slit

entrance slit

detector

$\lambda > \lambda_{Cu}$

$\lambda < \lambda_{Cu}$

Soller slits

Receiving slit

Curved crystal monochromator (Graphite)

Anti scatter slit

Curved graphite **diffracted** beam monochromator

X-ray tube (line focus)

Soller slits

Beam mask

Polycrystalline sample

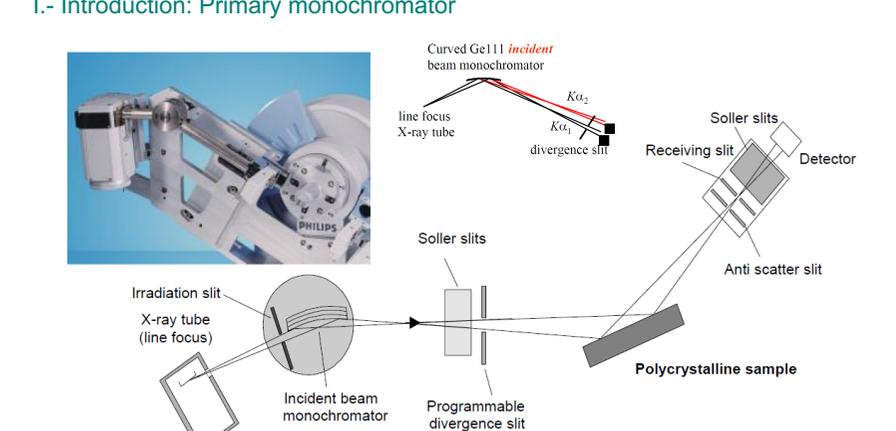
Divergence slit

27

27

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

I.- Introduction: Primary monochromator



Curved Ge111 **incident** beam monochromator

line focus X-ray tube

$K\alpha_2$

$K\alpha_1$

divergence slit

Soller slits

Receiving slit

Detector

Soller slits

Anti scatter slit

Polycrystalline sample

Irradiation slit

X-ray tube (line focus)

Incident beam monochromator

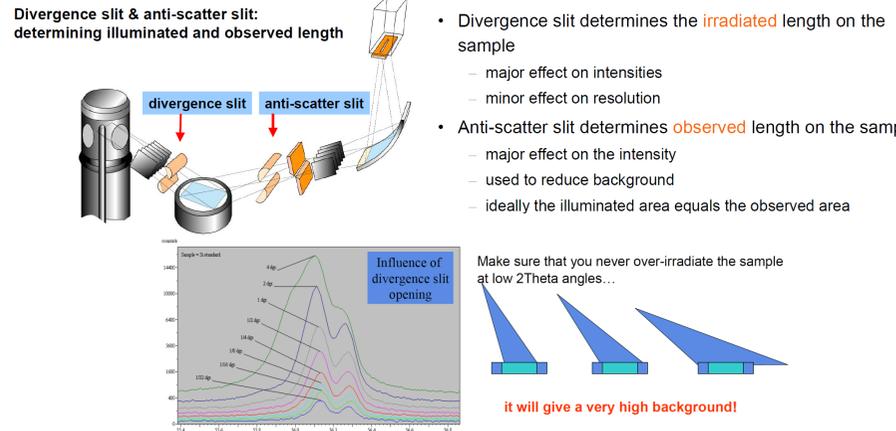
Programmable divergence slit

28

28

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

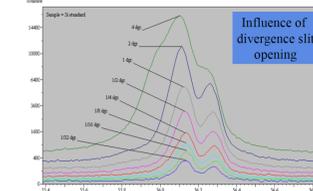
Divergence slit & anti-scatter slit: determining illuminated and observed length



divergence slit

anti-scatter slit

- Divergence slit determines the **irradiated** length on the sample
 - major effect on intensities
 - minor effect on resolution
- Anti-scatter slit determines **observed** length on the sample
 - major effect on the intensity
 - used to reduce background
 - ideally the illuminated area equals the observed area



Influence of divergence slit opening

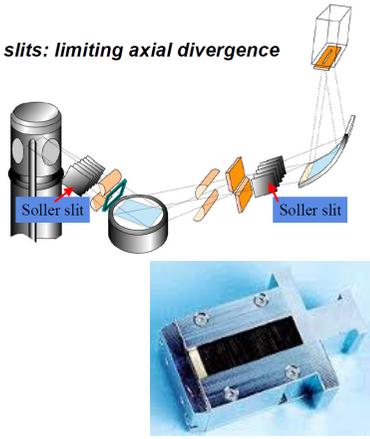
Make sure that you never over-irradiate the sample at low 2θ angles...
it will give a very high background!

29

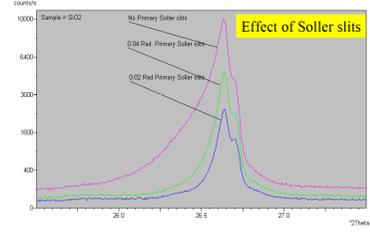
29

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

Soller slits: limiting axial divergence



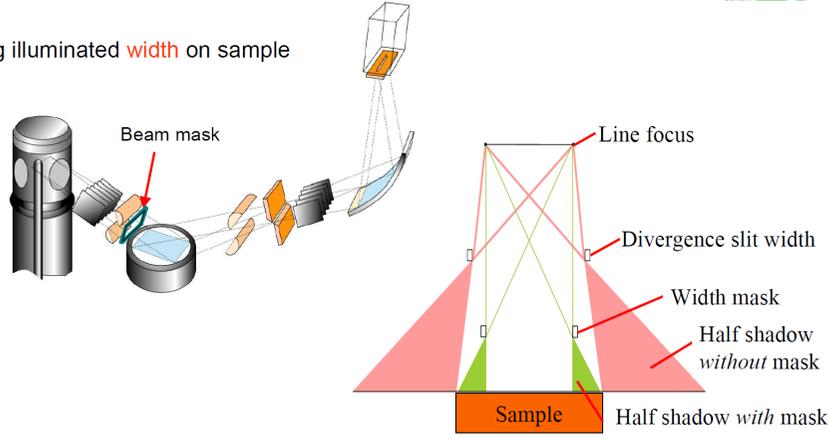
- Soller slits consist of large numbers of parallel plates in plane of diffraction.
- Soller slits limit the spread of the incident and diffracted X-ray beam out of the plane of diffraction: 0.01, 0.02.
- It is good practice to place similar Soller slits in the incident and diffracted beam.



30

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

limiting illuminated width on sample

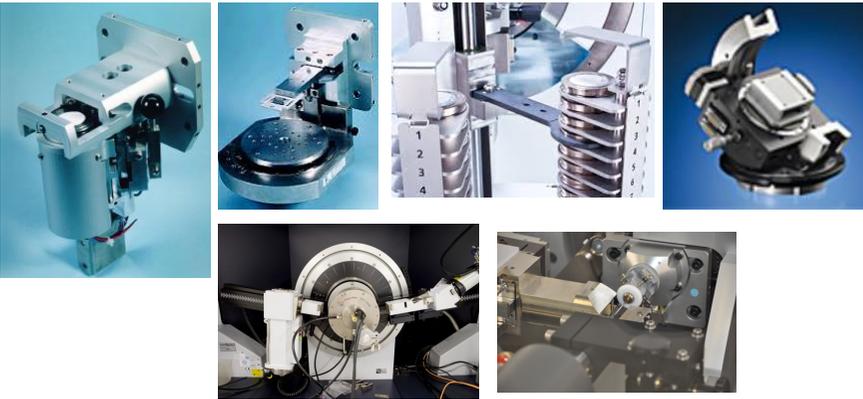


Labels in diagram: Beam mask, Line focus, Divergence slit width, Width mask, Half shadow without mask, Half shadow with mask, Sample.

31

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

I.- Introduction: Sample stages



32

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

Types of detectors

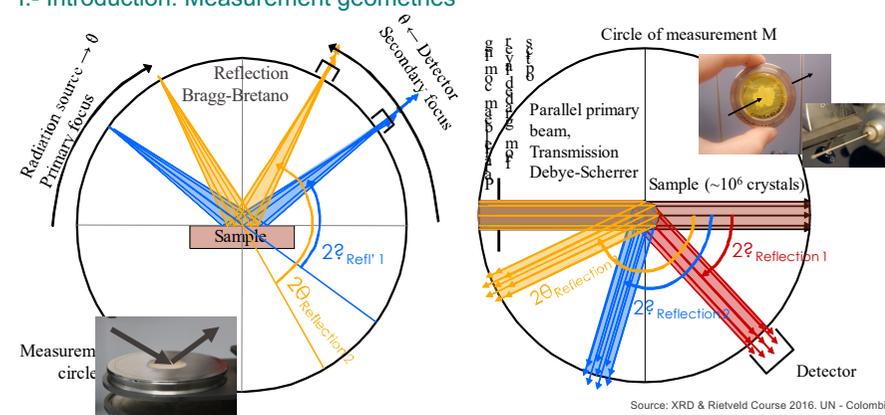
- Point Detector
 - Scintillation detectors
 - Gas filled detectors
- Linear detector



33

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

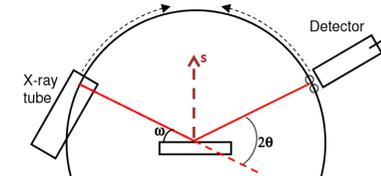
I.- Introduction: Measurement geometries



Source: XRD & Rietveld Course 2016. UN - Colombia

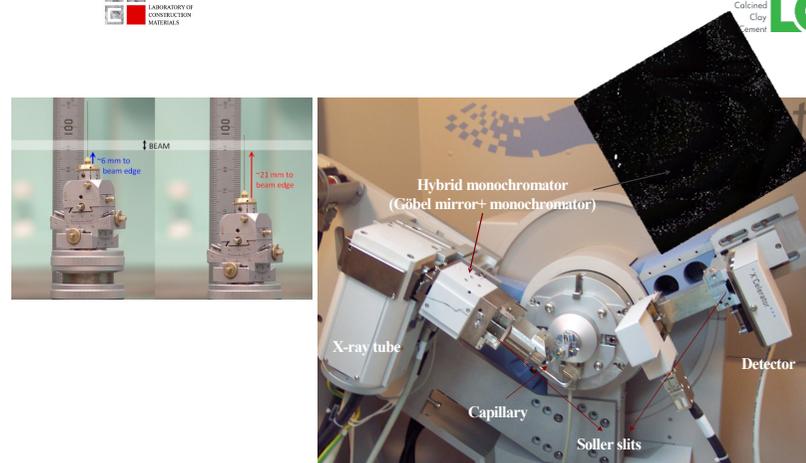
34

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

35

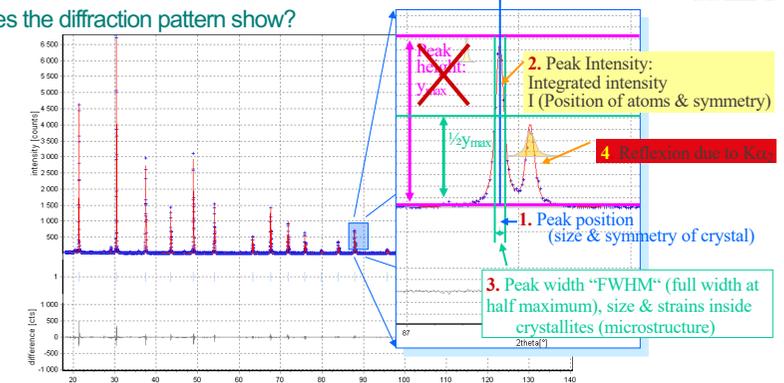
EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 



36

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

What does the diffraction pattern show?



Bragg's equation for λ_1 and λ_2 contributing to the radiation:

$$\frac{\lambda_1}{d_{hkl}} = 2 \cdot d_{hkl} \cdot \sin \theta_1 \Rightarrow \theta_1 = \arcsin\left(\frac{\lambda_1}{2 \cdot d_{hkl}}\right) \Rightarrow 2\theta_1 = 2 \cdot \arcsin\left(\frac{\lambda_2}{2 \cdot d_{hkl}}\right) + 2 \cdot \arcsin\left(\frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2} \cdot \sin \theta_1\right)$$

37

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

Peak intensity

$$I_{p,hkl} = S_p \cdot (Lp) \cdot A \cdot [P_{p,hkl} \cdot |F_{p,hkl}|^2]$$

Scale Factor $\rightarrow S_p$
 Lorentz-Polarization factor $\rightarrow (Lp)$
 Absorption factor $\rightarrow A$
 Texture Factor (PO) $\rightarrow P_{p,hkl}$
 Structure Factor $\rightarrow |F_{p,hkl}|^2$

38

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

Peak intensity

- F_{hkl} = structure factor. Sum over all atoms j of the unit cell
- Per atom: Coordinates x_j, y_j, z_j and isotropic displacement parameter B_j

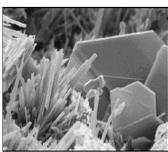
$$F_{hkl} = \sum_{j=1}^{N_{at}} f_j \cdot e^{i\theta_j} \cdot T_j$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{N_{at}} \left(c + \sum_{m=1}^4 a_m \cdot e^{-i \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\lambda}} \right) \cdot e^{-2\pi i (hx_j + ky_j + lz_j)} \cdot e^{-B_j \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\lambda^2}}$$

Scattering factor: Phase factor: displacement factor

$$P_{hkl} = \left(PO_p^2 \cdot \cos^2 \alpha_{hkl} + \frac{\sin^2 \alpha_{hkl}}{PO_p} \right)^{-3/2}$$

Platy/Sheets crystallite: $PO_p < 1$
Needle shaped crystallite: $PO_p > 1$
No texture: $PO_p = 1$, all $P_{hkl} = 1$
 \rightarrow fig. spherical



Source: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/infrastructure/pavements/pccp/04150/chapt14.cfm>

39

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 



Early Decisions

Sample \rightarrow Instrument \rightarrow Data Collection

- Early decisions:
 - What are the sample properties?
 - What data quality is necessary?
 - What instrument and measurement parameters to use?

40

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

"Although the physical nature of a specimen from which the X-ray powder-diffraction data are collected is seemingly simple, sample preparation and data collection are generally the source of most of the serious problems with accurate X-ray diffraction analysis"

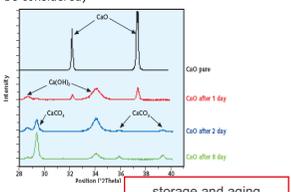
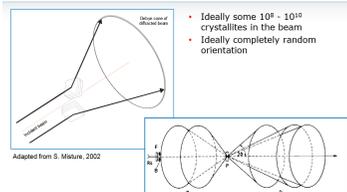
Minimize systematic sample related effects!
This is as important as the optimization minimization of the instrument configuration!

- Avoid persisting with poor data (if possible)
 - Find a better sample
 - Re-prepare or remake the sample
 - Change instrument or instrument setup
 - Improve data collection parameters
- Don't rely on any software corrections!
 - Variable slits conversion
 - Preferred orientation corrections
 - Microabsorption corrections (worst!)
 - ...

41

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

- What is the form of the sample?
 - "Powder Diffraction" is more aptly named "Polycrystalline Diffraction"
 - Samples can be powder, sintered pellets, coatings on substrates, engine blocks, ...
- What is in your sample?
 - Inorganics often better collected in reflection, organics often better collected in transmission
 - Organics are poor scatterers at high angles
 - Fluorescence can cause problems in data quality
- How much sample is there?
 - Small quantities suggest capillary geometry (but absorption needs to be considered)

Adapted from S. Misure, 2002

- Ideally some $10^6 - 10^{10}$ crystallites in the beam
- Ideally completely random orientation

42

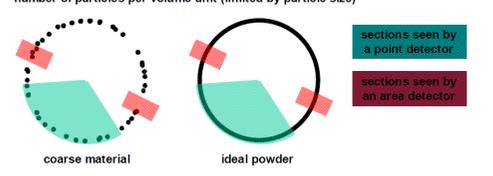
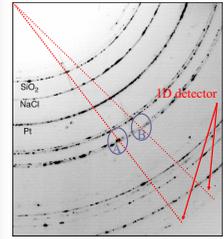
42

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

- Too small number of scattering particles / coarse grains (spotiness)

Impact of crystallite statistics on the diffraction signal depends on:

- sample volume contributing to diffraction (limited by the primary slit system, sample holder, absorption)
- section of the diffraction rings seen by the detector (limited by Soller slits, receiving slit, detector area)
- number of particles per volume unit (limited by particle size)

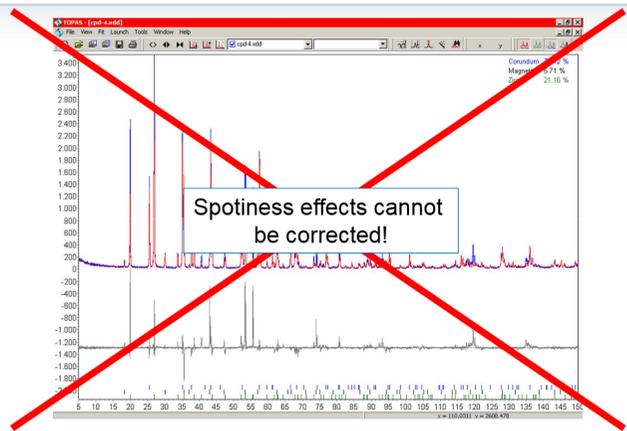



- only the particle size may be optimized by sample preparation
- ideal case: "infinite number of crystallites" = continuous cones of diffraction

43

43

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 



Spotiness effects cannot be corrected!

44

44

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

What we want to get

- mean particle size below $5 \mu\text{m}$, optimum 1-3 μm
- narrow particle size distribution, no amorphization, no "rocks-in-the-dust"
- no additional disorder (e.g. by shifting of layers)
- no contamination (e.g. by grinding elements)
- no loss of material (e.g. by dusting or dissolution)
- no phase transformation (e.g. by dissolution-precipitation, hydration-dehydration...)
- no phase separation (e.g. by hardness, density, primary particle size, electrostatic...)

Homogenization

- is necessary for admixing of any standards as well as to overcome the (unavoidable) separation processes during grinding, sieving, and sedimentation
- should be applied with minimum energy
- can also be used for destroying of aggregates
- should be done immediately before filling the sample



45

45

EPFL  **Limestone Calcined Clay Cement LC3**

Milling

- If a sample is not homogenous or not representative, any further efforts (for phase quantification in general) are unnecessary.
- The maximum grinding energy has to be adapted to the most sensitive phase.
- Some overmuch large grains are better than any destroyed phase(s).
- Working in closed containers to avoid loss of material by dusting, checking for losses by sedimentation, dissolution, electrostatic adhesion...
- Quick working for minimum contact with dissolution agents and air to avoid any phase alteration.
- Samples should not be exposed any enhanced temperature.
- Note (or keep in mind) what treatments and changes your sample was exposed between sampling and XRD measurement.

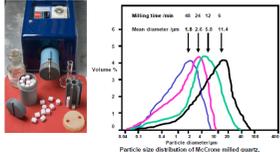
Hand grinding in agate mortar

- easy, but strenuous
- allows a stepwise sieving of < 20 µm, very mild
- resulting powder is mostly too coarse for high absorbing materials
- danger of loss by dusting



McCrone micronising mill

- wet grinding (in water or alcohol) produces optimum grain distribution
- crushing the starting material < 0.4 mm is necessary
- danger of contamination by grinding elements (corundum, quartz, ZrO_2)
- dissolution and/or alteration by the grinding liquid (water, ethanol, hexane...)
- filtering or drying of the slurry and additional homogenisation is necessary

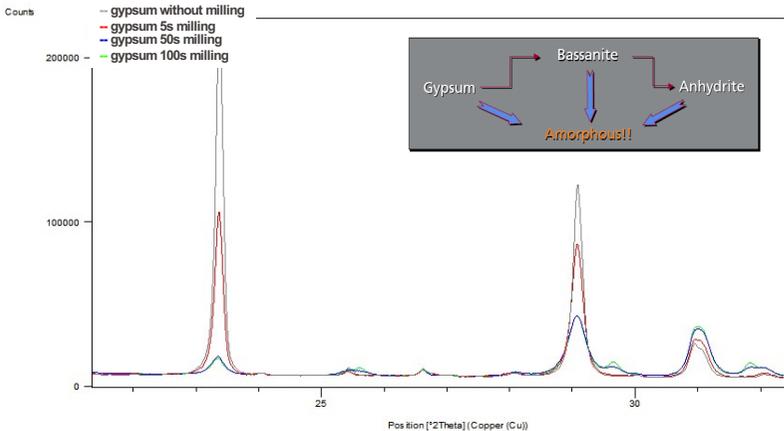


Particle size distribution of McCrone milled quartz, from Hillel (2005)

46

46

EPFL  **Limestone Calcined Clay Cement LC3**

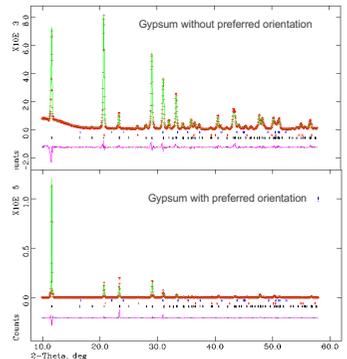
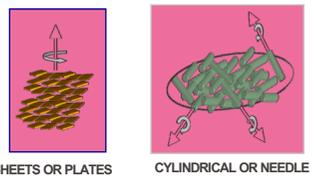


47

47

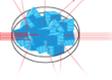
EPFL  **Limestone Calcined Clay Cement LC3**

Preferred Orientation

The grains in a powder should be randomly oriented:

- Front loading
 - Sample prone to preferred orientation
- Back loading
 - Better, but not effective on preferred orientation in all cases; consider using sandpaper to create a rough sample surface
- Use of capillary techniques
 - Most effective but potential absorption issues
 - No automation (sample preparation)
- Sample motion
 - Motion should be 90° to the diffraction vector
 - No effect on preferred orientation in reflection geometry!
 - May slightly improve particle statistics; no improvements if large grains are present



48

48

EPFL  **Limestone Calcined Clay Cement LC3**

Front-loading (standard holders, very popular)

- powder pressed using a glass slide: very easy, but extreme PO
- powder roughened by emery paper: not so much PO, but badly reproducible and depending of the properties of the powder
- surface roughened by a razor blade: as above, plus high roughness
- sprinkling/sieving some powder on the surface: good randomness, but errors in sample height, high roughness, sometimes phase separation
- possible to do with any kind of aggregates, perfect randomness possible



49

49

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

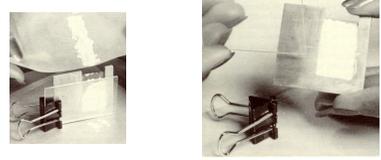
Back-loading (special Philips/Panalytical equipment)

- easy to do, but extreme PO
- no chance to use for unstable aggregates like freeze-dried clays



Side-loading (with special side-opened holders, but also for standard holders)

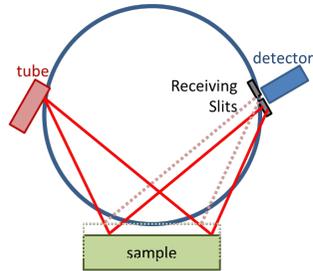
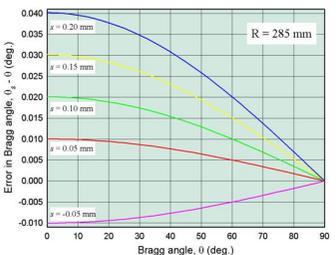
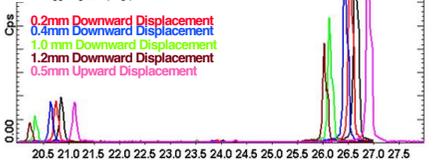
- with normal powder: relatively easy, reproducible, acceptable PO
- with irregular aggregates: perfect randomness possible



50

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

Sample displacement

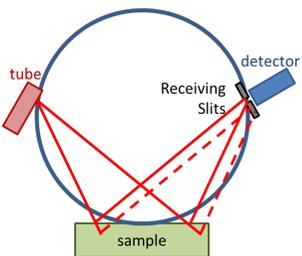




51

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

⊗ Absorption effects:

- ◆ Light elements, transparency effect:
 $t = (3.45 \sin \theta_{max}) / \mu_{eff}$
 ↓
 Transmission geometry (Debye-Scherrer)
- ◆ Heavy elements: so much absorption
 ↓
 Reflexion geometry (Bragg-Brentano)



⊗ Particle size:

- Intensities variation due to insufficient number diffracting crystallites
- Intensities variation, extinction effects: not applicable if $t < 10 \mu m$
- Intensities variation, Micro-Absorption effect

52

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

Microabsorption effect:

$$\mu_j = \rho_j \sum_k \mu_k^* X_k$$

ρ_j : densidad cristalográfica de la fase j
 μ_k^* : mass absorption coefficient of the k element in the j phase
 X_k : percentage (expressed as per-unit)

$$\text{Average absorption coefficient } \mu = \sum_j^n v_j \mu_j$$

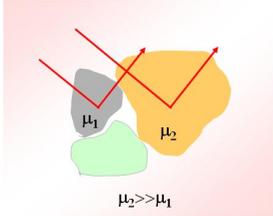
V_j = volume of each phase forming the mixture of n phases and $\sum_j^n v_j = 1$

53

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

Micro-Absorption takes place in those samples with phases with different absorption coefficients between them and between the average absorption coefficient of the mixture

- Overestimation of the compound with small μ and particle size
- Underestimation of the compound with large μ and particle size



BRINDLEY CORRECTION

MILLING  **LOOK** 

- contamination
- amorphisation

54

54

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**



Early Decisions

Sample → Instrument → Data Collection

- Early decisions:
 - What are the sample properties?
 - What data quality is necessary?
 - What instrument and measurement parameters to use?

55

55

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

The choice of the optimum instrument configuration must consider the aim of the experiment as well as specific sample properties

optimization:

- low diffraction background
- maximum resolution of peaks

- Slits, mask
- Soller
- Mirrors and monochromators
- Filter

compromise between measurement time and data quality

56

56

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

Data collection for an appropriate pattern

PARAMETERS TO CONSIDER (check list):

- 1.- Radiation source and geometry (Start and end angle)
- 2.- Step size
- 3.- Counting time
- 4.- Sample preparation



"Although the physical nature of a specimen from which the X-ray powder-diffraction data are collected is seemingly simple, sample preparation and data collection are generally the source of most of the serious problems with accurate X-ray diffraction analysis"

57

57

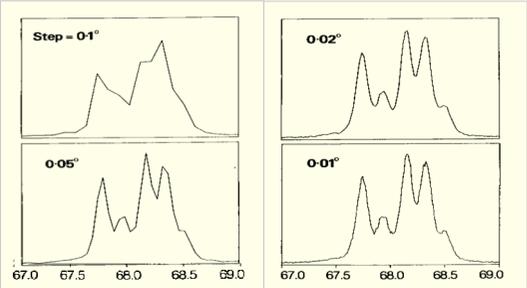
EPFL  

Step size

Select step width such that you have about 3-5 steps per FWHM referring to instrumental resolution

If FWHM=0.3° ⇒ step size- 0.03°usually <0.02° for quality data

Source: XDS 2016 "XRPD and Rietveld" course



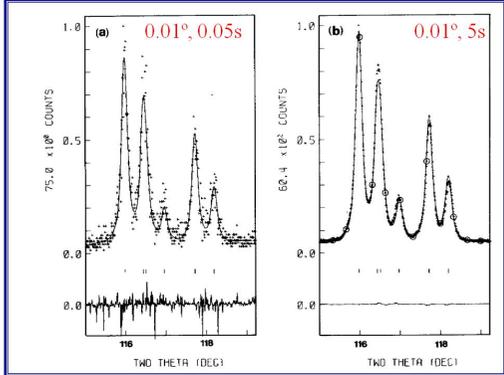
58

58

EPFL  

Counting time

5000-20000 counts, main peak



THE KEY WORD IS:
COMPROMISE



Source: XDS 2016 "XRPD and Rietveld" course

59

59

EPFL  

Sample preparation for data collation

Cementitious Sample

Anhydrous

In-situ

Ex-situ

Sample preparation is key for attaining reliable results

- Particle statistics (Homogeneity and powder fineness)
- Preferred orientation

60

60

EPFL  

Identification Software

- FREE: Search-match, MAUD, MATCH ...
- Commercial: Highscore Plus (Malver-PANalytical), Diffrac.EVA suite (Bruker), MDI Jade



MATCH!
Phase Identification from Powder Diffraction

61

61

EPFL LABORATORY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS Limestone Calcined Clay Cement LC³

Crystallographic pattern databases

PDF-2 Release 2014 PDF-4+ 2014 Web PDF-4+ 2014 PDF-4+ 2014 PDF-4+ Minerals 2015 PDF-4+ Organics 2015

Reference Patterns (1: 01-076-0704)

Name and formula

Reference code: 01-076-0704
 Molecular weight: 77.084
 CAS name: Silicon Oxide
 Empirical formula: SiO₂
 Chemical formula: SiO₂

Crystallographic parameters

Crystal system: Hexagonal
 Space group: P6₃/mmc
 Space group number: 192
 a (Å): 4.1540
 b (Å): 4.1540
 c (Å): 8.4090
 Alpha (°): 90.0000
 Beta (°): 90.0000
 Gamma (°): 120.0000

Calculated density (g/cm³): 2.64
Volume of cell (Å³): 3.460

Subst. and Quality

Subst.: Inorganic
 Mineral: Alloy, metal or intermetallic
 ICSD Name: Coloured (C)

Comments

Sample source: Specimen from Elyria, Novara, Italy
 Additional notes: See PDF 01-076-1010
 ICSD collection code: P63
 Treatment: P63
 Class ID: P63
 P63 ref.: P63
 Anal. ref.: WVKC.c.a.

References

Primary reference: Colubelli/Acta Cryst. 1974, P63, 2000
 Secondary reference: Gualtieri A.F., J. Appl. Crystallogr. 33 (2000)

Link Pattern

Peak list

No.	h	k	l	d (Å)	2Theta (deg)	I (%)
1	1	0	0	4.23738	20.848	21.9
2	0	1	1	3.24842	26.624	100.0
3	1	1	0	2.45800	36.527	6.5
4	1	0	2	2.28283	39.443	6.3
5	1	1	1	2.23778	40.269	2.9
6	2	0	0	2.13869	42.430	4.4
7	2	0	1	1.98082	45.770	2.7
8	1	1	2	1.81899	50.109	9.9
9	0	0	3	1.80300	50.584	0.3
10	0	2	2	1.67271	54.840	3.0
11	0	1	3	1.66025	55.287	1.3
12	2	1	0	1.60914	57.203	0.2
13	1	2	1	1.54234	59.925	6.4
14	1	1	3	1.45382	63.990	1.2
15	3	0	0	1.43833	65.749	0.3
16	1	2	2	1.38287	67.701	3.7
17	2	0	3	1.37581	68.096	4.5
18	0	3	1	1.37297	68.273	4.9
19	1	0	4	1.28880	73.409	1.3
20	3	0	2	1.25663	75.612	1.6
21	2	2	0	1.22900	77.624	0.8
22	2	1	3	1.20054	79.827	1.8
23	2	2	1	1.19845	79.994	1.1
24	1	1	4	1.18479	81.107	1.4
25	3	1	0	1.18079	81.440	1.7
26	1	3	1	1.15362	83.783	0.9
27	2	0	4	1.14142	84.887	0.2

ICDD INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR DIFFRACTION DATA

PDF-4+ 2014 Designed for phase identification and quantitative analysis

62

EPFL LABORATORY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS Limestone Calcined Clay Cement LC³

Crystallographic pattern databases

ICSD American Mineralogical Crystal Structure Database

Crystallography Open Database

Open access collection of crystal structures of organic, inorganic, metal-organic compounds and minerals, excluding biopolymers.

At data on this site has been placed in the public domain by the contributors.

ICDD Advisory Board thanks The Research Council of Lithuania, for their financial support of the publication "Crystallography Open Database (COD): an open access repository of crystal structures and patterns for world's researchers".

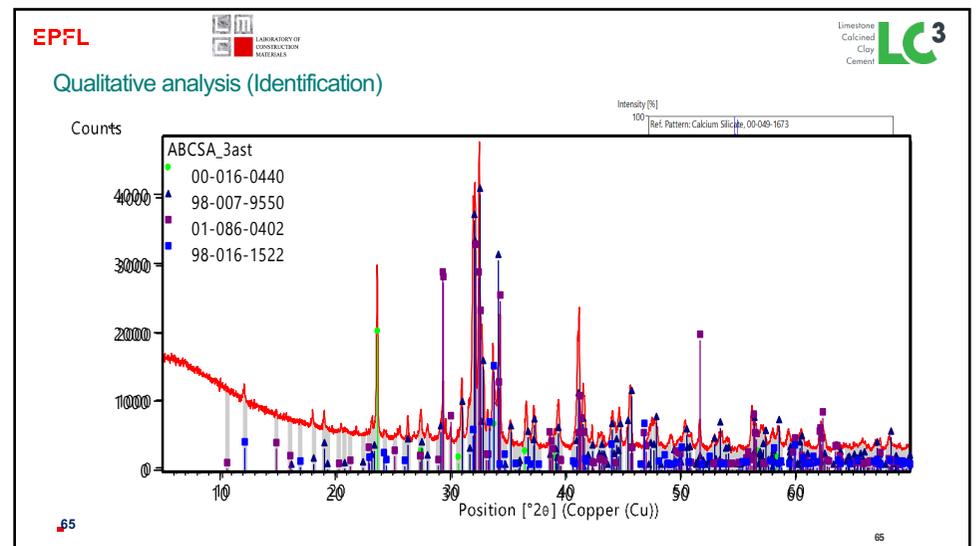
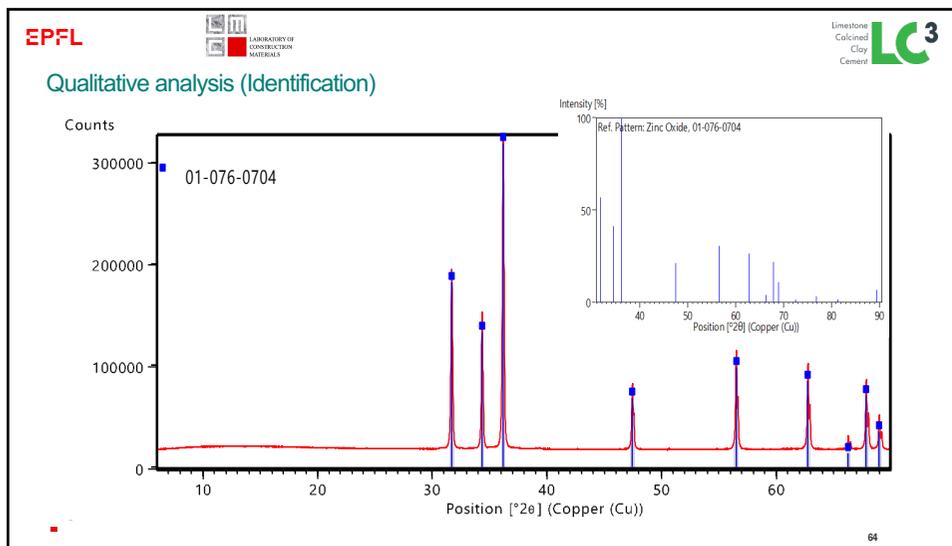
We thank Crystallography Open Database (COD) for their financial support of the publication "Crystallography Open Database (COD): an open access repository of crystal structures and patterns for world's researchers".

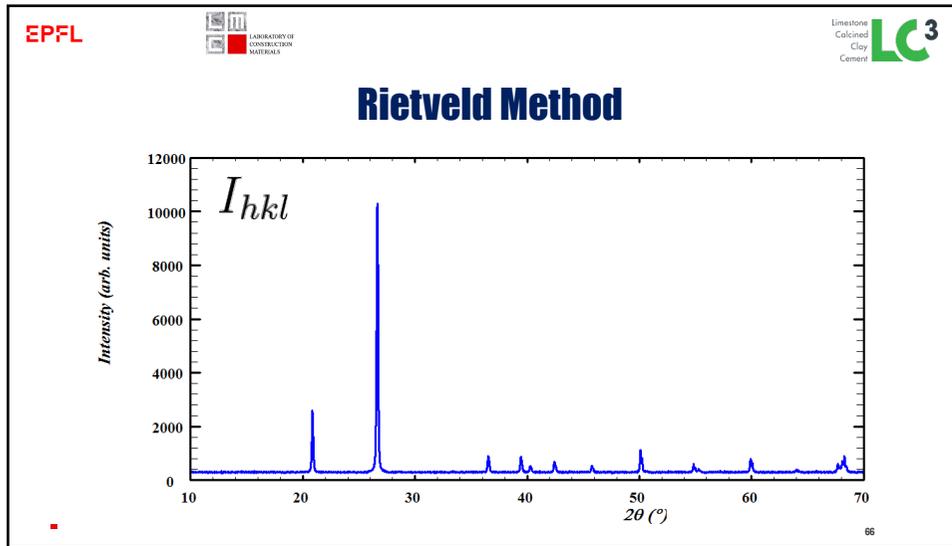
Crystallography Open Database (COD) is an open access repository of crystal structures and patterns for world's researchers.

Currently there are 211824 entries in the COD. Last updated structure: 12/20/21 at 12:28:00 UTC

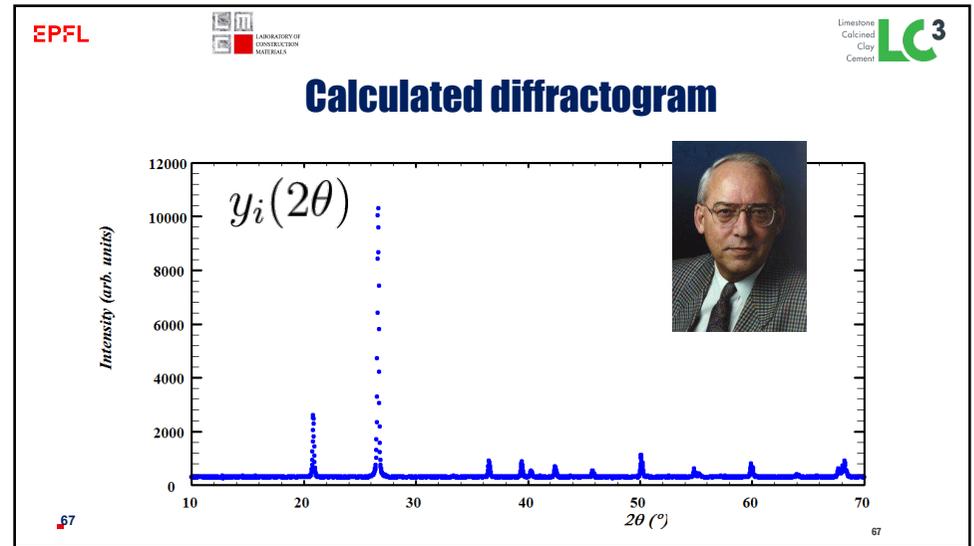
CIF4 Donators

63





66



67

Rietveld Method: Basic equations

$$S_y = \sum_i w_i (y_i(obs) - y_i(calc))^2$$

$$y_i(calc) = \sum_{j=1}^n S_j \sum_{k=1}^m Lp_k m_k |F_{k,j}|^2 G_j(2\theta_i - 2\theta_{k,j}) A_j P_{k,j} + B k g_i$$

Scale factor $\rightarrow S_j$
 Lorentz-polarization factor $\rightarrow Lp_k$
 Multiplicity $\rightarrow m_k$
 Structure factor $\rightarrow F_{k,j}$
 Preferred orientation correction $\rightarrow G_j$
 Absorption correction $\rightarrow A_j$
 Peak profile function $\rightarrow P_{k,j}$
 Background $\rightarrow B k g_i$

68

Scale factor

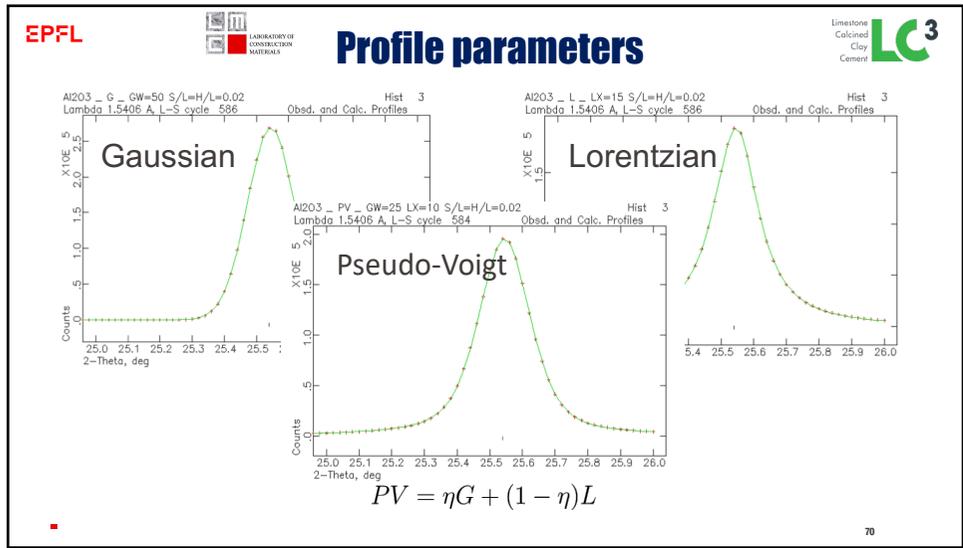
$$S_\alpha = K_e \frac{W_\alpha}{\rho_\alpha V_\alpha^2 \mu_m} = K_e \frac{W_\alpha}{(ZMV)_\alpha \mu_m}$$

To eliminate K_e , it is necessary a restriction:
 The sum of W 's must be 100%

$$W_\alpha = \frac{S_\alpha (ZMV)_\alpha}{\sum_{j=1}^n S_j (ZMV)_j}$$

The Rietveld method has to be regarded as SEMI-QUANTITATIVE

69



70

Profile parameters

Gaussian (Cagliotti equation):

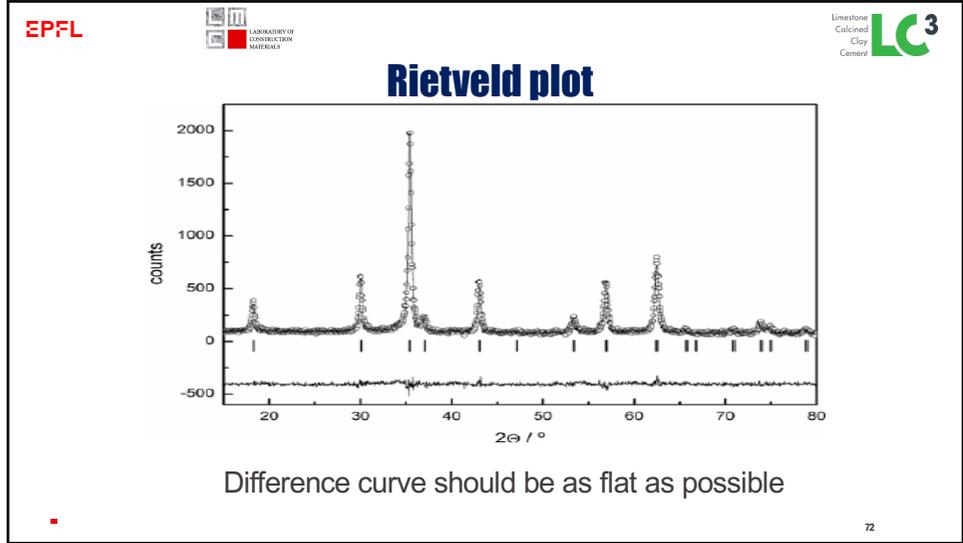
$$FWHM^2 = U \tan^2 \theta + V \tan \theta + W + \frac{P}{\cos^2 \theta}$$

Lorentzian:

$$FWHM^2 = X \tan \theta + \frac{Y}{\cos \theta}$$

NOTE: Some programs use the same FWHM for both profile functions!

71



72

Agreement indices

$$R_{wp} = 100 \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i (y_i(obs) - y_i(calc))^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i y_i^2(obs)}}$$

$$R_{exp} = 100 \sqrt{\frac{N - P + C}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i y_i^2(obs)}}$$

$$R_p = 100 \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n |y_i(obs) - y_i(calc)|}{\sum_{i=1}^n |y_i(obs)|}$$

$$R_f = 100 \frac{\sum_{hkl} |F_{hkl}(obs) - F_{hkl}(calc)|}{\sum_{hkl} |F_{hkl}(obs)|}$$

$$R_b = 100 \frac{\sum_{hkl} |I_{hkl}(obs) - I_{hkl}(calc)|}{\sum_{hkl} |I_{hkl}(obs)|}$$

$$GoF = \chi^2 = \left(\frac{R_{wp}}{R_{exp}} \right)^2$$

These values should be as low as possible, but...
...this is **NOT** the aim of the method!!

73

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

Usual refinement parameters

- **Zero Shift or Sample displacement**
 - Sample displacement
- **Background**
 - Using a polynomial, lineal or chebyshev model
- **Scaling**
 - Phase fraction
- **Unit cell - ρV^2**
 - Adjust of the lattice parameters
- **Profile**
 - Modify the peak shape to model your sample
 - Strain, crystal size, etc
- **Preferred Orientation (PO), asymmetry, microabsorption, atom position, occupancies, etc...**

74

74

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

Quantification of Non-diffracting materials (ACn)

- **Internal Standard**
By the addition of a well known crystalline material in a specific amount.
- **External Standard**
By a comparison between a well known crystalline material measured (separately) at the same conditions of the sample.
- **Partial Or No Known Crystal Structure (PONKCS) Method**
By previous individual amorphous phase calibration as an "standard phase". Different amorphous phases can be quantified separately.

75

75

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

Internal standard

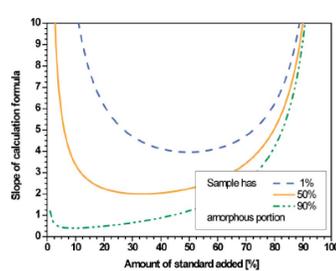
Select a standard

- ✓ Similar particle size of the test sample
- ✓ Mass absorption coefficient (MAC) similar to the test sample

$$ACn, \% = \frac{1 - W_s / R_s}{100 - W_s} \times 10^4$$

Amount of standard

Depends on the amorphous amount that it can be theoretically determined (Westphal et al 2009)



76

76

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement 

External standard

- #.- **Avoid complications** from mixing an internal standard with the sample.
- #.- Useful for reflection geometry diffractometer (Bragg-Brentano).
- #.- Consists in determine the diffractometer constant, $K_e (=G)$, with an appropriate standard.
- #.- The mass attenuation coefficient of the sample is needed, μ_s . This must be independently determined, for example by X-ray fluorescence spectrometry.

DRAWBACK

- #.- Any change on diffractometer configuration/conditions, force you check again the set-up.
- #.- All the time, requires the **recording of two patterns** in identical diffractometer configuration/condition.

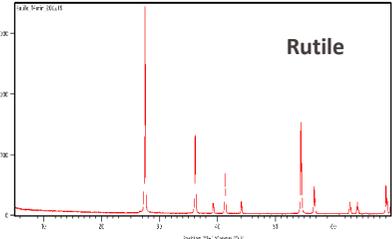
77

77

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC³**

External standard

Primary Standard



Rutile

Diffractometer constant
 Basics for external standard method
 If a standard *s* (e.g. Rutile) was tested
 Then K_e is known:

$$K_e = \frac{S_s (ZMV)_s \mu_s}{W_s}$$

$$W_\alpha = \frac{S_\alpha (ZMV)_\alpha \mu_m}{K_e} \rightarrow ACn = 100 - \sum_{j=1}^n W_j$$

78

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC³**

PONCKS Method

➤ Calibration of a phase of unknown structure:
 Mix of the amorphous phase α and a standard (weight fractions known)

$$W_\alpha = W_s \frac{S_\alpha \rho_\alpha V_\alpha^2}{S_s \rho_s V_s^2}$$

↓

Peak phase calibration factor $\rho_\alpha V_\alpha^2 = \frac{W_\alpha S_s \rho_s V_s^2}{W_s S_\alpha}$

In unknown mixes the refined amorphous phase scale factor can then be recalculated into a weight fraction

79

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC³**

Practical examples

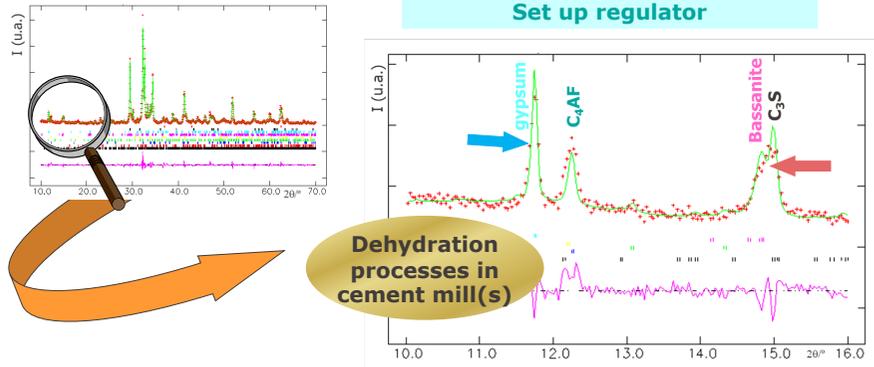
- 1. Ordinary Portland cement (anhydrous)
- 2. Hydrated cement paste
 - General refinement approach
 - Renormalization of results
- 3. Hydrated blended cement pastes
 - 3a: Anhydrous blended cements
 - 3b: Hydrated LC³ cement paste
 - 3c: Hydrated slag cement paste
- 4. In-situ hydration studies
 - 4a: Dopant effect on C₃S hydration
 - 4b: PSD on hydration of C₃S/C₃A
- Summary

80

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC³**

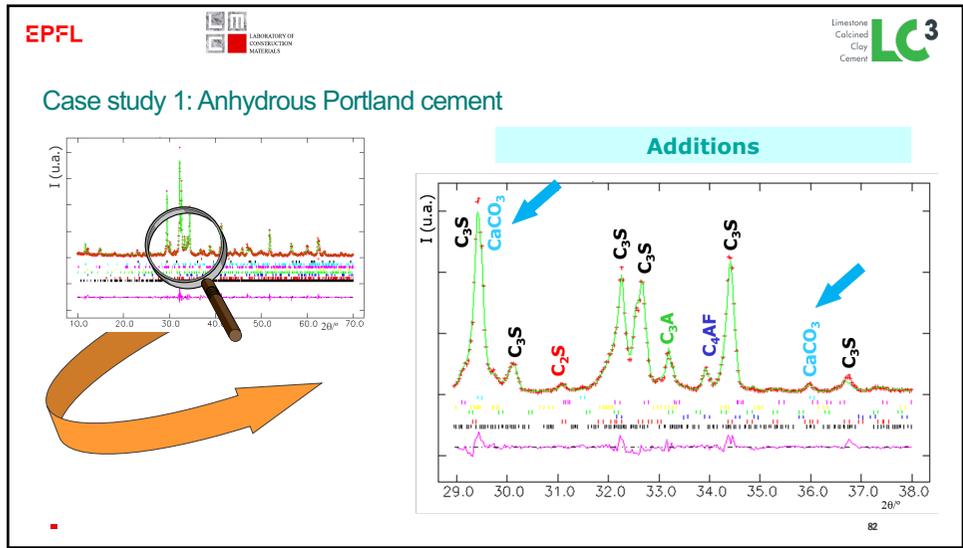
Case study 1: Anhydrous Portland cement

Set up regulator

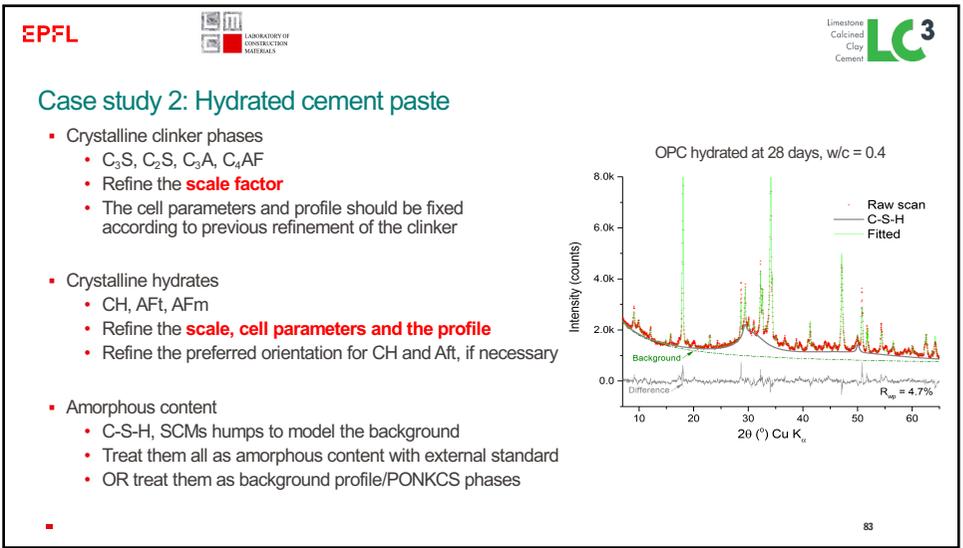


Dehydration processes in cement mill(s)

81



82



83

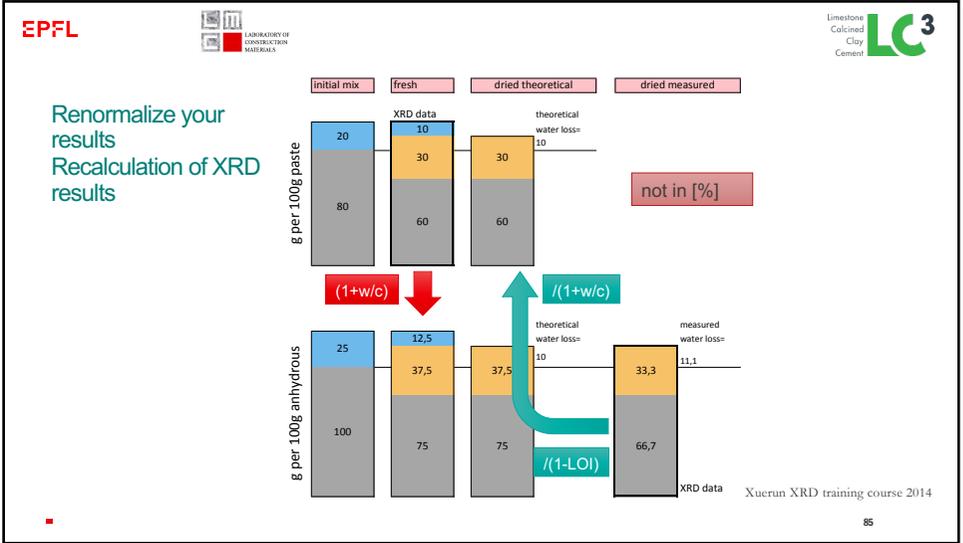
EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

Normalize your results

- We should normalize the results to paste, anhydrous or clinker according to your case.
 - If you are going to compare the results with TGA, normalized to anhydrous
 - ...
- One should be aware of the weight percentage you are looking at
 - Clinker
 - Without water, anhydrous
 - Fresh hydrates
 - With water, based on paste
 - Dried hydrates
 - The free water is removed, but the bind water should be taken into account

84

84



85

EPFL  **Limestone Calcined Clay Cement LC3**

Renormalize your results Recalculation formulas

- fresh specimen (disc):
 - per 100g paste $m = m_{XRD}$
 - per 100g anhydrous $m = m_{XRD} \cdot (1 + w/c)$
- dried specimen (powder):
 - per 100g paste $m = m_{XRD} \cdot (1 + H_2O_{bound}) / (1 + w/c)$
 - per 100g anhydrous $m = m_{XRD} \cdot (1 + H_2O_{bound})$
- dried specimen (powder):
 - per 100g paste $m = m_{XRD} / [(1 - H_2O_{bound}) / (1 + w/c)]$
 - per 100g anhydrous $m = m_{XRD} / (1 - H_2O_{bound})$

H_2O_{bound} on ignited basis

H_2O_{bound} on dried basis

86

86

EPFL  **Limestone Calcined Clay Cement LC3**

PC hydrates	Content (g/ 100g fresh paste)					DoH (%)
Ages (d)	Clinker	CH	Aft	Free water(TG)	Total Am.	Clinker
0	62.5	0	TG	0	28.6	0
1	29.2	8.4	10.7	7.7	17.4	53.3
3	23.7	10.9	12.3	10.2	15.7	62.1
28	16.3	13.5	14.3	6.8	13.3	73.9

- Portlandite (CH) and ettringite (AFt) content
- Degree of hydration (DoH) for clinker
 - Hydration of the clinker phases
 - Thermodynamic modeling (GEMS)
 - Mass balance calculations using BSE-EDS
 - Other modeling

87

87

EPFL  **Limestone Calcined Clay Cement LC3**

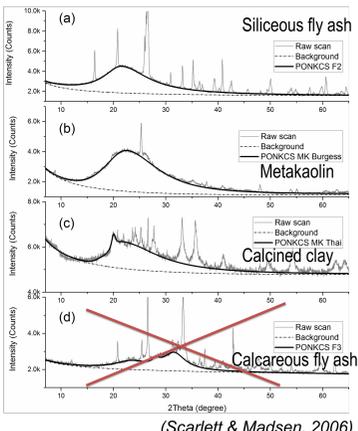
Case 3: Hydrated blended cement pastes

- Characteristic humps of amorphous materials
 - E.g., Siliceous fly ash, metakaolin, calcined clay, C-S-H
 - Raw materials needed to characterize the amorphous humps
 - The calibration and the treatment of the background is the key
 - The fitted amorphous humps from raw materials can be employed to model the humps as background in unknow samples
- PONKCS method
(Partial Or No Known Crystal Structure)
 - For quantification of specific amorphous phases
 - For amorphous phases with characteristic 'hump', $\rho_{\alpha} V_{\alpha}^2$ is unknown (no cell, no crystal structure), but it can be calibrated experimentally and then used for quantification:

$$\rho_{ponkcs} V_{ponkcs}^2 = (K_e W_{ponkcs}) / (H_m S_{ponkcs})$$

$$W_{\alpha} = \frac{S_{\alpha} (\rho V^2)_{\alpha} H_m}{K_e}$$

(Scarlett & Madsen, 2006)



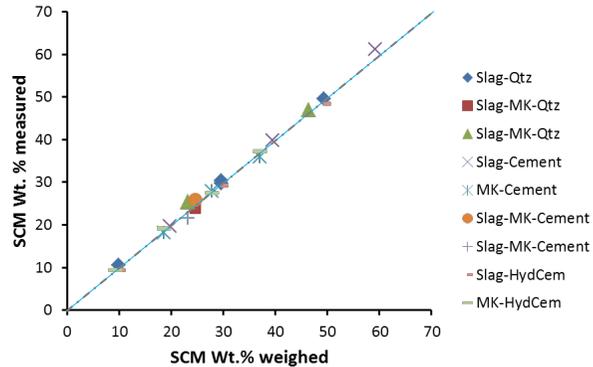
88

88

EPFL  **Limestone Calcined Clay Cement LC3**

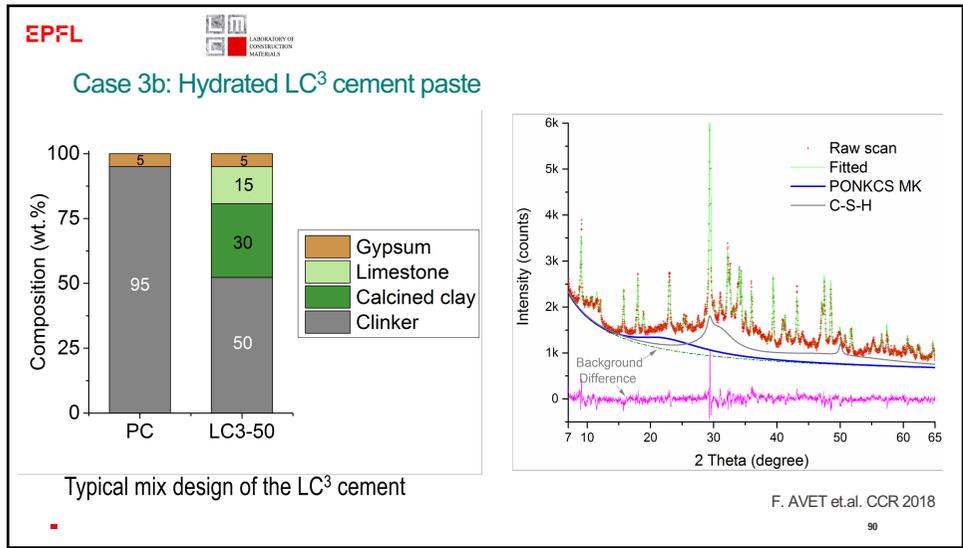
Case 3a: Anhydrous blended cements

- PONKCS applied to blended cements – model mixes (Snellings et al., 2014)

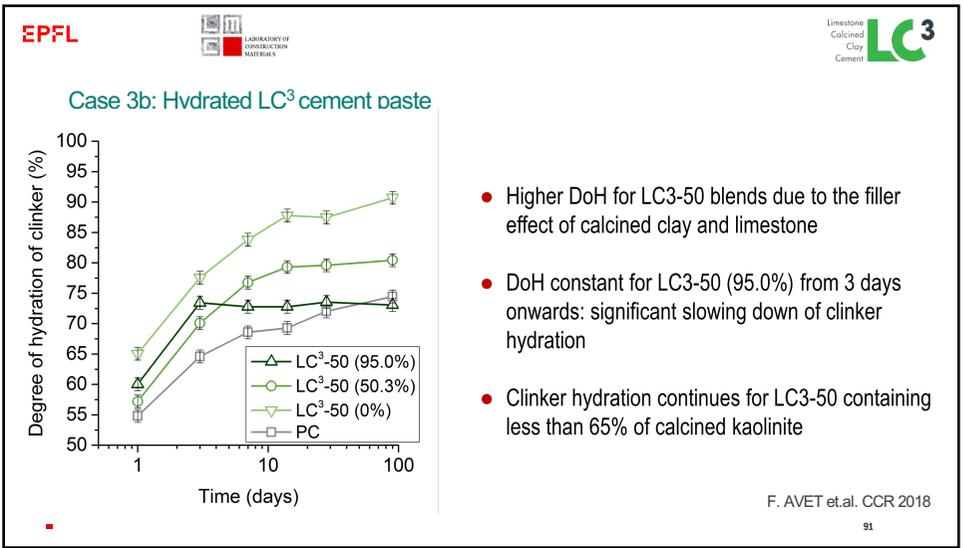


89

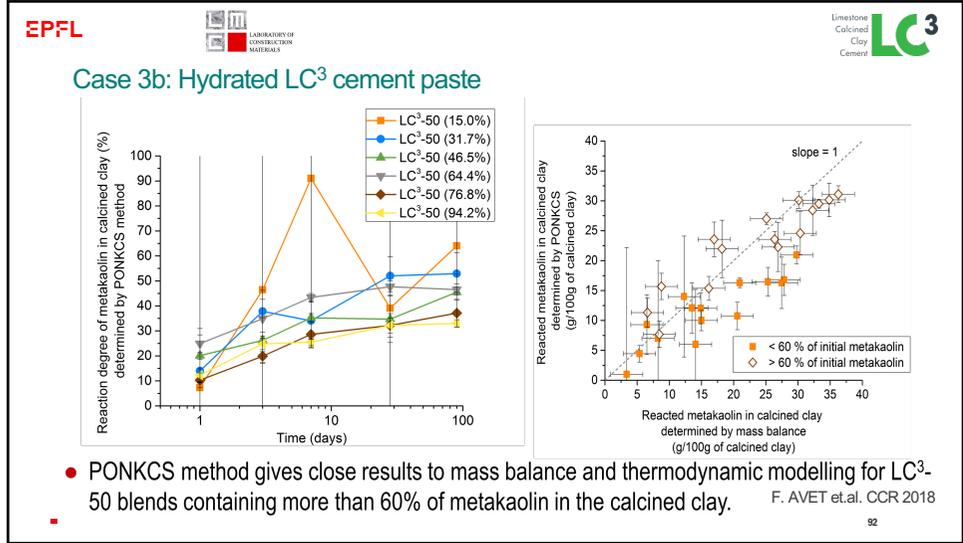
89



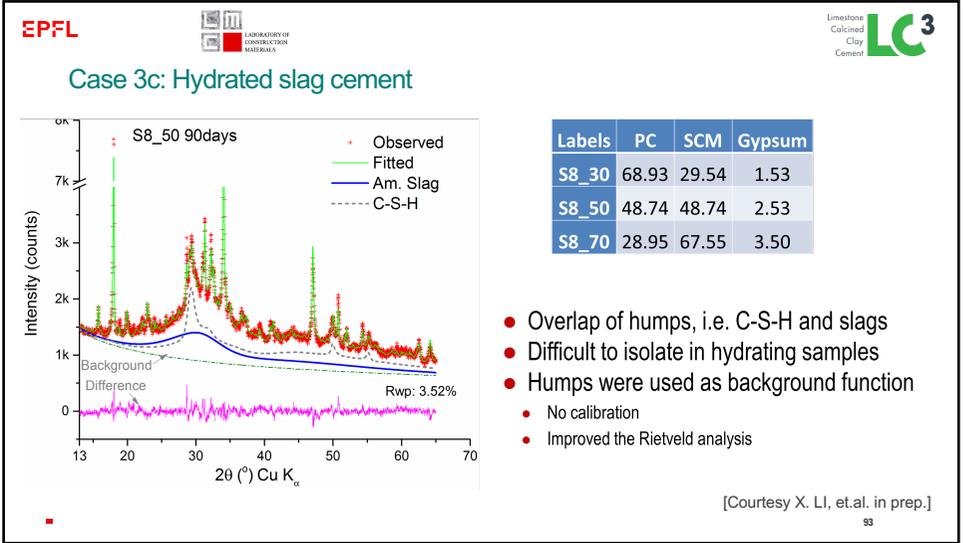
90



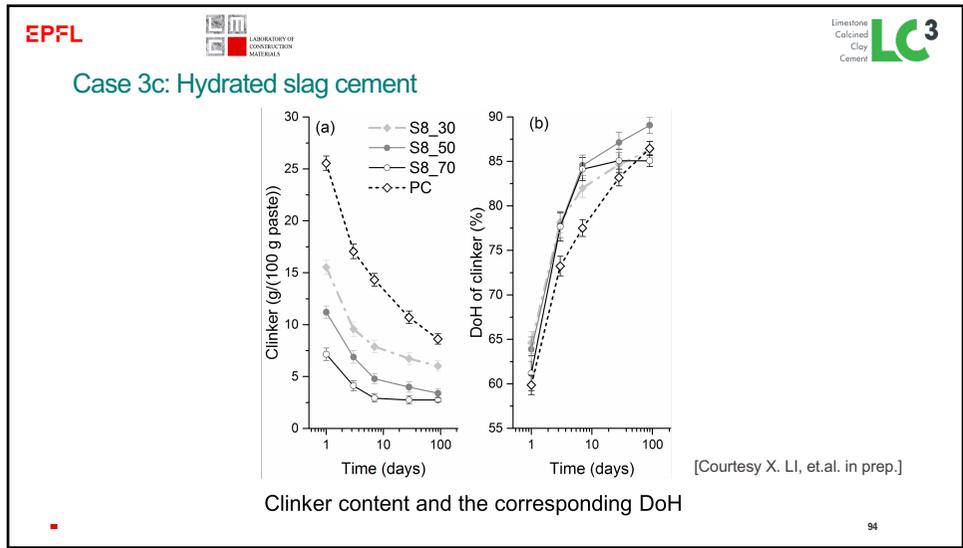
91



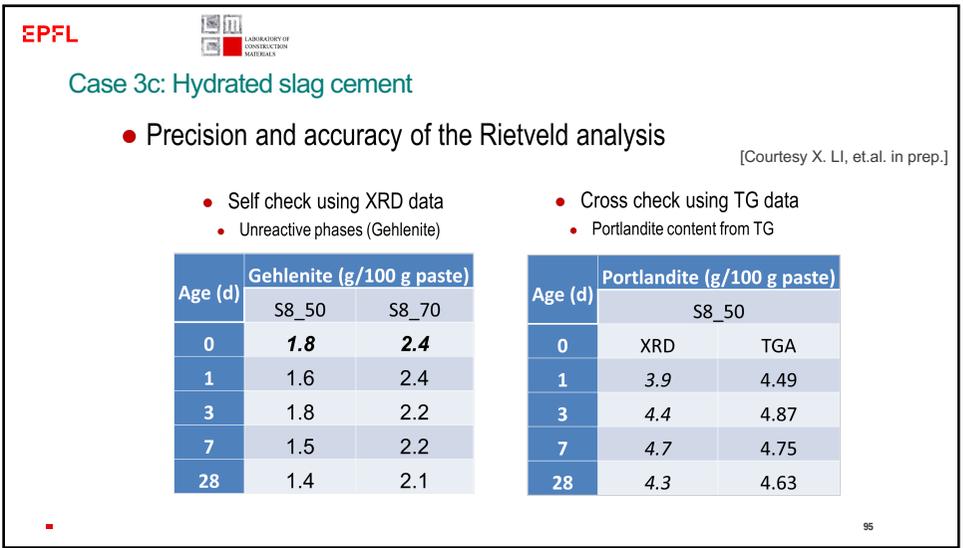
92



93



94



95

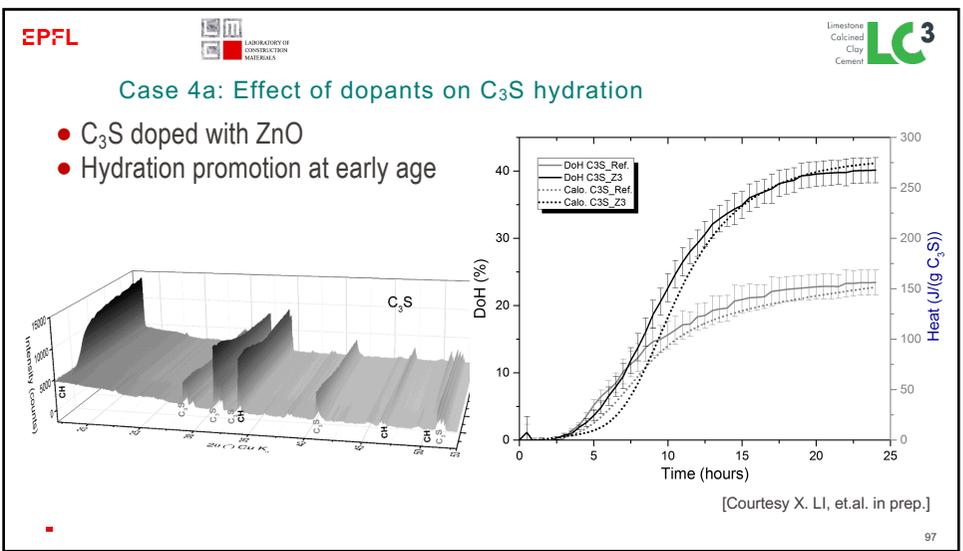
EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC3**

4. In-situ hydration

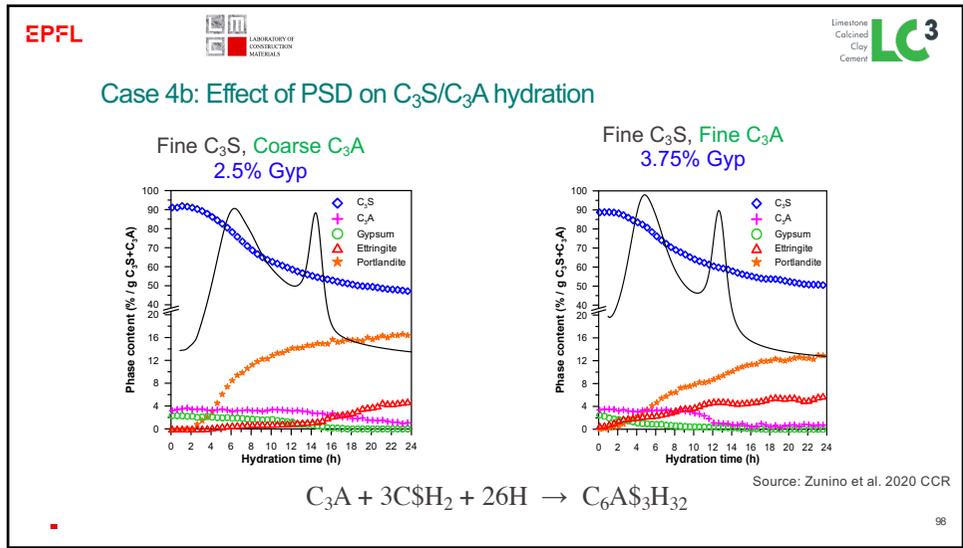
- Laboratory X-ray diffraction
- Kapton© film is used to cover the fresh paste after casting
 - Maintain the moisture of the sample (~1 day)
 - Introduce error (Preferred orientation of CH and AFt)
 - Results can be used semi-quantitatively
- XRD patterns are recorded continuously
- Sample temperature is controlled
 - Inside XRD can be hot during measurement
 - Hydration kinetics is highly temperature dependent



96



97



98

EPFL  Limestone Calcined Clay Cement **LC³**

Summary RQPA

	Samples	Phases interested	Method	Ease of use	Precision
Anhydrous	Cement/clinker	Clinker	Rietveld	++	++
	SCMs	Crystalline and amorphous	Rietveld-Internal/external	+	+
	Blended cement	Crystalline and amorphous	Rietveld-PONKCS	-	+
Hydrated	Cement hydrates	Clinker, crystalline hydrates	Rietveld External/internal	+	+
		C-S-H	Rietveld-PONKCS	-	-
	SCM-blended cement hydrates	Clinker, crystalline hydrates	Rietveld-External	+	+
		Amorphous SCM	Rietveld-PONKCS	-	-
Special cases	In-situ hydration	Clinker, crystalline hydrates	Rietveld External/internal	-	-
	Minor hydrates	Monocarbonate, Hem carbonate, Monosulfate, etc.	Qualitatively	+++	

99



100