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# 硼同位素分析测试技术研究进展

冯林秀<sup>1,2</sup>,李正辉<sup>1\*</sup>,曹秋香<sup>2</sup>,田世洪<sup>1,2</sup>,黄文夏<sup>2</sup>,王田<sup>2</sup> (1.东华理工大学,核资源与环境国家重点实验室,江西南昌 330013; 2.东华理工大学地球科学学院,江西南昌 330013)

摘要:硼(B)是一个质量较轻的流体活动性元素。它有 2 个稳定同位素:<sup>10</sup>B 和<sup>11</sup>B,两者之间相对质量差 较大,导致自然界显著的硼同位素分馏。因此,硼同位素作为强有力的非传统稳定同位素示踪工具,在化学、 环境、生物、地球及行星科学等研究领域具有广泛的应用。近二十年来,国内外硼同位素分析测试技术不断 改进并取得了诸多重要进展。然而,获取高质量硼同位素数据,在样品消解、分离纯化以及质谱测试三个主 要环节中仍然存在很多挑战。因为硼具有易挥发性及其在不同 pH 值环境中因配位不同导致同位素分馏, 样品消解和分离纯化对硼同位素准确测量有很大影响。样品消解法主要有高温水解法、酸溶法、碱熔法和灰 化法,其中酸溶法与碱熔法是最常用的方法。分离纯化法主要包括离子交换法、硼酸甲酯蒸馏法和微升华 法。这些样品前处理方法各有利弊。质谱测试方法主要有两类:一类是溶液法,即热电离质谱法(TIMS)或 多接收电感耦合等离子体质谱法(MC-ICP-MS);另一类是微区原位分析法,即二次离子质谱法(SIMS)或激 光剥蚀法(LA)-MC-ICP-MS。不同的测试方法对样品前处理要求不同:溶液法要求去除基质;微区原位分 析法要求样品与标样的成分匹配。这些测试方法也存在不同技术挑战:TIMS 分析过程中容易产生同位素分 馏。而 SIMS 和 LA-MC-ICP-MS 分析过程中存在缺少标准样品、样品表面污染、低含量样品精度有限及高 含量样品重现性差等问题。基于 MC-ICP-MS 测量低含量样品中硼同位素的独特优势,本文深入探讨了基 体效应、记忆效应和质量歧视效应三方面的现存挑战,通过梳理文献和数据对比,在总结现有硼同位素地球 化学研究方法的基础上提出一些分析测试技术发展方向的建议。

关键词: 硼同位素; 非传统稳定同位素; 消解; 纯化; TIMS; MC-ICP-MS; SIMS

要点:

- (1) 硅酸盐样品消解有两种常用方法:酸溶法和碱熔法。酸溶法本底低,但是容易引起硼同位素分馏。碱熔 法本底高,本底可以校正,但是需要昂贵的坩埚。
- (2)分离纯化硼主要有两种方法:离子交换法和微升华法。离子交换法可高效、准确提纯硼,但是会有基体效应。微升华法不会产生基体效应,但是该方法很难建立,操作不当容易造成硼同位素分馏。
- (3) MC-ICP-MS 是目前最常用和准确测定硼同位素的方法,但是面临着三方面挑战:基体效应、记忆效应、 质量歧视效应。

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- 第一作者:冯林秀,硕士研究生,主要从事同位素地球化学研究。E-mail: 13734035074@163.com。
- 通信作者:李正辉,博士,讲师,主要从事非传统稳定同位素研究。E-mail: zhunjingying@163.com。

硼(B)的原子序数为5,是自然界较轻的非金属 元素。硼有2个稳定同位素<sup>10</sup>B和<sup>11</sup>B,丰度分别为 19.9%和80.1%。硼同位素组成的表达方式:δ<sup>11</sup>B=  $[(^{11}B/^{10}B)_{#a}/(^{11}B/^{10}B)_{#a}-1]\times1000\%$ 。其中,标 准为美国国家标准局(NIST)的SRM951硼酸标样, 其推荐<sup>11</sup>B/<sup>10</sup>B比值为4.04362±0.00137<sup>[11]</sup>。不同 地质储库δ<sup>11</sup>B的变化范围为-70‰~+75‰ (图1)<sup>[2-6]</sup>。因此,硼同位素已广泛应用于化学、环 境、生物、地球及行星科学等研究领域,例如星云形 成过程和宇宙事件<sup>[7]</sup>、地表风化过程<sup>[7-13]</sup>、壳幔演 化和板块俯冲作用过程<sup>[7,14-25]</sup>、古气候和古海洋的 重建<sup>[26-34]</sup>、成矿作用和矿床成因研究<sup>[35-39]</sup>、地下水 和环境地球化学研究<sup>[40-45]</sup>。

目前,硼同位素分析方法主要有两类:一类是溶 液整体分析法,分为正热电离质谱法(P-TIMS)、

负热电离质谱法(N-TIMS)及多接收电感耦合等离 子体质谱法(MC-ICP-MS);另一类是微区原位分 析法,分为二次离子质谱法(SIMS)和激光剥蚀多接 收电感耦合等离子体质谱法(LA-MC-ICP-MS)。 获取高精度的硼同位素数据还面临着巨大的挑战: ①TIMS分析过程中容易产生较大幅度、难以校正的 同位素分馏。需要将硼转化成分子量较大的化合物 才能通过热电离质谱进行测量;②MC-ICP-MS测 试通过标样-样品交叉法(SSB)进行校正。但样品 需要溶解,且样品基体需要通过柱化学方法去除。 由于硼在酸性介质中易挥发,使得样品前处理流程 存在硼损失而不能保证回收率,而且还使得超净实 验室面临普遍存在的硼污染。MC-ICP-MS还存在 着严重的记忆效应<sup>[46]</sup>;③SIMS以及LA-MC-ICP-MS分析的挑战来自于:(a)缺少基体匹配的标准样



据 Marschall 等<sup>[2]</sup>; Xiao 等<sup>[3]</sup>; Gaillardet 等<sup>[4]</sup>; 李银川等<sup>[5]</sup>; DeHoog 等<sup>[6]</sup>修改。

#### 图 1 不同地质储库的硼同位素组成

Fig. 1 Boron isotopic composition of various geological reservoirs. Modified after Marschall, et al<sup>[2]</sup>; Xiao, et al<sup>[3]</sup>; Gaillardet, et al<sup>[4]</sup>; Li, et al<sup>[5]</sup>; De Hoog, et al<sup>[6]</sup>.

品;(b)样品表面污染;(c)低含量样品测定精度有限,而高含量样品重现性差<sup>[47]</sup>。

吕苑苑等<sup>[48]</sup>对硼同位素分析方法进行了阶段 性总结。近年来,硼同位素分析测试技术在不断改 进并取得重要进展(图 2),特别是微升华法提纯硼 及高精度 MC-ICP-MS 测定硼同位素<sup>[46-47]</sup>。本文 在前人工作基础上,综述了样品消解、分离纯化和质 谱测定三个主要环节的技术进展及其存在的问题, 并对提纯硼的离子交换法、微升华法和目前主流的 高精度 MC-ICP-MS 法测定硼同位素存在的基体效 应、记忆效应、质量歧视效应三个主要挑战及相应的 改进技术进行了详细介绍,在此基础上提出一些分 析测试技术发展方向。



据 Marschall 等<sup>[49]</sup>(SIMS); Fietzke 等<sup>[50]</sup>(LA-MC-ICP-MS); Foster 等<sup>[51]</sup>, Ni 等<sup>[52]</sup>(TE-NTIMS); Misra 等<sup>[53]</sup>(ICP-MS); Hemming 等<sup>[54]</sup>, Kasemann 等<sup>[55]</sup>(N-TIMS); Foster 等<sup>[56]</sup>(MC-ICP-MS); He 等<sup>[57]</sup>, Trotter 等<sup>[58]</sup>(P-TIMS)修改。

- 图 2 硼同位素的分析测试方法总结(样品量和测试精度, 95%置信度)
- Fig. 2 Summary of sample amounts and reported precision (at 95% confidence) in the commonly used techniques for boron isotope analysis. Modified after Marschall, et al<sup>[49]</sup>(SIMS); Fietzke, et al<sup>[50]</sup>(LA-MC-ICP-MS); Foster, et al<sup>[51]</sup> and Ni, et al<sup>[52]</sup>(TE NTIMS); Misra, et al<sup>[53]</sup>(ICP-MS); Hemming, et al<sup>[54]</sup> and Kasemann, et al<sup>[55]</sup>(N-TIMS); Foster, et al<sup>[56]</sup>(MC-ICP-MS); He, et al<sup>[57]</sup> and Trotter, et al<sup>[58]</sup>(P-TIMS).

## 1 样品消解和分离纯化方法

固体样品首先需要溶解,然后从溶液基体中提 纯硼,以减少基体效应、同质异位素干扰并增强电离 作用<sup>[46,59]</sup>。

### 1.1 样品消解方法

样品消解方法主要有4种:高温水解法、酸溶法、碱熔法和灰化法,其中酸溶法与碱熔法是最常用的方法。本文总结了这些方法所用的试剂以及实验条件等方面细节。

#### 1.1.1 高温水解法

高温水解法应用于富硼样品的消解,其原理是 利用硼的挥发性将硼提取到流经熔融样品上方的蒸 汽流中<sup>[60-61]</sup>。具体操作是:将粉末或碎片状样品放 在一石英管中的铂舟中,再将石英管置入高温炉,在 1400℃温度下通过水蒸气,样品中硼将会被水蒸汽 提取<sup>[60]</sup>。如果样品中含有较高浓度的挥发性组分 如硫,就需要对冷凝物进一步纯化,因为挥发性组分 有时会对后续测试产生影响。

高温水解法提取的时间取决于样品类型和用量。在1400℃条件下,1h 能提取 0.10g 合成玻璃中超过 98%的硼,而提取 7.0g 海洋玄武岩中的硼需要 8h<sup>[60]</sup>。因此,高温水解法很耗时间,适合于富硼的样品(如:电气石)。而大多数铝硅酸盐矿物硼含量低于 50µg/g,质谱测定需要 1~10µg 硼,所以需要处理几克样品。因为处理起来很耗时,而且用的试剂量太大,工序繁杂势必增加污染,水解过程中产生 Na、Cl 和 Si 等杂质,这些杂质会干扰硼的离子化进程,因而高温水解法不适用于处理低硼含量样品<sup>[62]</sup>。

#### 1.1.2 酸溶法

酸溶法即用酸溶解固体样品,是分析实验中最常用的方法。常用的酸有盐酸、硝酸、氢氟酸、高氯酸。不同样品需要不同类型的酸。例如,碳酸盐样品用硝酸或盐酸。硅酸盐样品使用高纯度的氢氟酸和硝酸。对于特别难熔或富含有机物的固体样品则可考虑用高氯酸溶解。硼在酸性介质溶液中易挥发,可能导致溶液中硼的丢失,加入甘露醇以形成稳定的硼-甘露醇复合物来抑制硼的挥发,从而降低硼同位素分馏<sup>[63-64]</sup>。在使用热电离同位素质谱(TIMS)测定δ<sup>11</sup>B值时,NO<sub>3</sub> 会产生 CNO<sup>-</sup>,形成同质异位素干扰<sup>[65-66]</sup>,所以使用 TIMS 方法测定硼同位素组成时需要避免使用硝酸。

#### 1.1.3 碱熔法

碱熔法是将样品与碱性熔剂按照一定比例混合 在高温下发生熔融的方法<sup>[8,67-70]</sup>。使用熔剂有: K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>、Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>、NaOH、KOH、Na<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>。在使用 Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>或K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>作熔剂时,熔剂与样品的质量比 为2:1~7:1<sup>[67]</sup>或5:1<sup>[68]</sup>,熔样温度在1000℃左 右(Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> 熔点为 850℃, K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> 熔点为 891℃), 样 品消解时使用铂坩埚。采用 NaOH 或 KOH 作熔剂 时, 熔剂与样品的质量比为 5:1, 而且熔样温度较 低, 仅需 500℃, 但是 NaOH 和 KOH 对铂坩埚有侵 蚀作用, 以它们作熔剂时, 应避免使用铂坩埚。采用 Na<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 作熔剂时, 样品与熔剂的质量比为 1:4, 熔样 温度在 490℃, 使用玻璃碳坩埚<sup>[71]</sup>。主要消解方法 详见表 1。

#### 表1 地质样品硼同位素测定的主要消解方法

Table 1 The main digestion methods for boron isotope determination in geological samples

	酸的种类		样品类型	参考文献	
酸溶法	HCl		碳酸盐	Wei 等 <sup>[26]</sup> , Foster 等 <sup>[56]</sup> , Wei 等 <sup>[72]</sup>	
	HNO <sub>3</sub>		碳酸盐	Marschall 等 <sup>[47]</sup> , Buisson 筌 <sup>[73]</sup>	
	HF		硅酸盐	Makishima 等 <sup>[74]</sup> , Wei 等 <sup>[75]</sup> ,	
	111		HT HX III	Krolikowska-Ciaglo 等 <sup>[76]</sup>	
	$HF+HNO_3$		硅酸盐	Wei 等 <sup>[75]</sup>	
	HF+HCl		硅酸盐	Nakamura 等 <sup>[63]</sup> ,Pi 等 <sup>[77]</sup>	
	样品消解 熔剂	坩埚类型	熔样温度 (℃)	参考文献	
	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	铂钇坩埚	1000	Tonarini 等 <sup>[68]</sup>	
碱熔法	$K_2CO_3$	铂金坩埚	950	晏雄等[78]	
	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	铂坩埚	900	Musashi 等 <sup>[67]</sup> , Bhushan 等 <sup>[79]</sup>	
	$Na_2CO_3 + K_2CO_3$	铂坩埚	850	王刚等[80]	
	NaOH	镍坩埚	500	Musashi 等 <sup>[67]</sup>	
	$Na_2O_2$	玻璃碳坩埚	490	Cai 等 <sup>[71]</sup>	

目前,碱熔法在消解岩石样品方面,应用最为广 泛。其优点是快速处理数量较多的样品,缺点是样品 量大、本底较高、温度较高、铂坩埚价格昂贵、高纯的 助熔剂很难制备<sup>[62]</sup>,主要适用于各种(铝)硅酸盐岩 石和含硼的铝硅酸盐矿物(电气石)的消解、熔融。

1.1.4 灰化法

灰化法主要用于消解植物样品,常采用干灰化 法、湿灰化法和微波消解法。

干灰化法是将生物样品置于坩埚里,放入马弗 炉中进行灰化,最后将灰分用酸溶解<sup>[81-82]</sup>。坩埚材 质为石英或铂坩埚,马弗炉升温到 200℃保持 10min,重复三次,600℃保持 2h<sup>[83]</sup>。干灰化法能够 定量移除有机质,未使用试剂,能避免引起硼空白以 及同质异位素干扰<sup>[84]</sup>。湿灰化法则是将硝酸、盐酸 或高氯酸等强酸与植物样品混合置于消解容器内进 行加热、消解样品<sup>[85]</sup>。湿灰化法应避免使用含硼量 较高的消解容器,以保持全过程低空白。微波消解法 将植物样品与硝酸、盐酸溶液混合,放入聚四氟乙烯 (PFA)微波消解罐中,属于内部加热方式,能使样品 迅速升温受热均匀,要求控制好内部温度、压力和功 率<sup>[86-88]</sup>。微波消解法的优势是效率高且酸的用量 少,能有效地避免样品的交叉污染和引入硼的本底。

#### 1.2 硼的分离纯化方法

在进行硼同位素测试前,需要对样品进行硼分 离纯化,将硼与杂质元素分离,避免杂质元素对硼同 位素测试产生影响,同时也可以使质谱仪保持良好 的稳定状态。目前,硼的分离纯化方法有三种:硼酸 甲酯蒸馏法、离子交换法和微升华法。硼酸甲酯蒸 馏法是利用硼酸甲酯的挥发性将硼从更难熔的相中 分离出来的方法,吕苑苑等<sup>[48]</sup>对该方法作了详细介 绍。目前,离子交换法是硼分离纯化最有效的方法, 而微升华法是高效、简单分离提纯硼的方法。因此, 以下对这两种方法进行详细介绍,总结和对比了硼 分离纯化的化学流程。

1.2.1 离子交换法

离子交换法主要有混合树脂法<sup>[62]</sup>、硼特效树脂 法<sup>[63,68,89-92]</sup>、混合树脂–硼特效树脂相结合的两步 法<sup>[80,75]</sup>以及阴离子树脂法<sup>[75]</sup>。

(1)混合树脂法

混合树脂法是将阴离子树脂与阳离子树脂混 合,来实现硼的分离纯化<sup>[62]</sup>。肖应凯等<sup>[93]</sup>使用上 海正一号强酸性阳离子交换树脂(6mol/L 盐酸再 生)和德国产 Ion Exchange II 型弱碱性阴离子交换 树脂(10% NaHCO<sub>3</sub> 再生),采用动态和静态交换相 结合的方法分离硼,其回收率达到 98%以上。最初 的阴阳离子交换树脂只能一次性使用,Wang 等<sup>[94]</sup> 改进了树脂的使用方法,使用后的混合树脂可用网 筛筛分后再生,达到了可再生使用的目的。

氢氟酸消解岩石样品,会引入少量主要阳离子杂质。因此,Nakamura 等<sup>[63]</sup>使用阳离子树脂 AG50W-X12和阴离子树脂AG1-X14来去除样品 中阴阳杂质离子,硼回收率也可以达到~100%。这 种方法的优点是试剂用量小,速度快,树脂可以反复 使用;缺点是由于硼在酸性介质中具有很大的挥发 性,所以每个步骤都需要小心谨慎,以避免硼组分丢 失。碱熔法用 K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> 作为助熔剂,引入了大量的钾 离子,可用阳离子交换树脂 AG50W-X12 除去<sup>[70]</sup>。 (2)硼特效树脂法

Amberlite IRA 743 树脂是当今最常用的硼特效 树脂<sup>[95-96]</sup>,由疏水性苯乙烯骨架和叔胺基团组成, 能从碱性溶液中强烈地吸附硼酸根阴离子<sup>[97-100]</sup>。 该树脂广泛应用于各种样品中硼纯化分离过 程<sup>[59,101-102]</sup>。它可单独使用<sup>[102-104]</sup>,可与阳离子交换 树脂 AG50W-X8<sup>[8,68,70,81,105-106]</sup>或者 AG50W-X12 联 合使用<sup>[69,87]</sup>,也可与混合树脂<sup>[77-78]</sup>联合使用,还可 与其他分离方法(微升华法)联合使用<sup>[8]</sup>。

Amberlite IRA 743 硼特效树脂是一种阴离子树 脂,能从碱性溶液中吸附硼。由酸溶法前处理的样品 产生 Ca<sup>2+</sup>、Fe<sup>3+</sup>、Mg<sup>2+</sup>、Al<sup>3+</sup>等金属阳离子,它们在碱性 条件下,会与 OH<sup>-</sup>结合,形成能够强烈吸附硼的氢氧 化物沉淀<sup>[78,107-108]</sup>,造成硼的损失以及不容忽略的硼 同位素分馏。可以采用两步或者三步离子法避免沉 淀产生<sup>[75,107]</sup>。或者加入适量 EDTA-2Na 饱和溶液, 再将样品溶液调成碱性,能有效地抑制沉淀产生<sup>[78]</sup>。

从 Amberlite IRA 743 硼特效树脂中定量洗脱硼, 通常使用 0.1~0.5mol/L 硝酸。洗脱所有硼所需的 硝酸体积取决于其摩尔浓度、树脂筛孔尺寸、柱体积 和柱几何形状。由于硼在酸性溶液中具有挥发性,通 常避免使用干燥步骤进一步浓缩洗脱液。因此,离子 交换柱要进行优化设计,保证柱子可以用足够低量的 硝酸回收硼,从而使最终硼浓度不会被稀释到超过质 谱精确测量所需的浓度<sup>[56,98]</sup>。

离子交换树脂含有机质,进行离子交换法可能 将树脂中的有机物引入纯化样品。有机质的存在对 于后期 TIMS 测定会产生干扰<sup>[45]</sup>,对于 MC-ICP-MS 测定则无影响。

(3) 阴离子树脂法

Wei 等<sup>[72]</sup>开发了使用 Bio-Rad AG MP-1 强阴 离子交换树脂的单柱流程,用于分离经过酸溶解的 样品。具体做法是:200~400 目的 0.6g AG MP-1 树脂加入到 Eichrom 公司生产的 10mL 聚丙烯分离 柱中。树脂首先用 5mL 的 Milli-Q 水清洗 3 次,然 后用 3mL 的 24mol/L 氢氟酸清洗 4 次,之后用 3mL Milli-Q 水清洗 4 次,最后再用 2mL 3mol/L 氢氟酸 水清洗 1 次,就可以用于硼的离子交换纯化<sup>[72,109]</sup>。 该方法能有效地分离纯化硼,去除基体元素,降低 MC-ICP-MS 测定过程中的基体效应。然而,在化 学过程中需要大量氢氟酸(浓度 24mol/L,每个样品 约 24mL),操作危险、繁琐。

1.2.2 微升华法

**2001**年, Gaillardet 等<sup>[110]</sup>受到 Birck 等<sup>[111]</sup>分离 纯化 Os 的方法启发,首次设计了一套微升华硼的装

置和方法。微升华法的依据是在酸性条件下,溶液中 的硼主要以 H<sub>3</sub>BO<sub>3</sub> 形式存在,在加热条件下硼易挥 发。具体操作为:将少量待分析的含硼溶液放入 5mL Savillex # 24 号锥形烧杯的盖子中,将烧杯倒置,用铝 箔纸包裹好后放置在电热板上进行加热(约为 70~ 80℃,持续 12h)。利用酸性条件下硼挥发特性,使硼 元素蒸发到上方尖端处,而其他元素继续留在盖子 上。等样品蒸发完毕,自然状态下冷却杯子,然后将 上方尖端处蒸发冷凝后的液体取出,待测。

(1) 微升华实验

为了高效地纯化分离硼,避免硼同位素分馏和 损失,学者们对微升华法实验条件作了相应尝试。 就微升华装置的加热温度、持续时间而言,最初 Gaillardet 等<sup>[110]</sup> 推荐在 70℃下,将微升华装置加热 12~14h。Wang 等<sup>[112]</sup>将微升华法实验温度提高到 98℃,他们认为自制电炉上有热量损失,且使用涂层 石墨架代替铝箔。Misra 等<sup>[53]</sup>将实验温度调整为 95℃,持续加热15~18h。Roux 等<sup>[87]</sup>尝试将温度控 制在110℃,将微升华装置放置在电热板上加热3h。 Raitzsch 等<sup>[113]</sup>则在 100℃下,将微升华装置在电热 板上加热 24h。Xiao 等<sup>[81]</sup>在 90℃温度下加热 12h, 或110℃下加热4h。最初微升华装置使用电热板加 热,难以保证样品均匀加热。为确保样品均匀加热, 改进为孔或消解块[112,114]。初始的微升华装置能够 处理的最大样品体积仅为 0.05mL<sup>[80,112]</sup>,后期经过 改造,可以扩大到 0.5mL<sup>[87]</sup>、1mL<sup>[115]</sup>。针对是否加 入甘露醇以避免硼损失问题, Gaillardet 等<sup>[110]</sup>结果 表明,在60~65℃下,缓慢蒸发10~12h,可实现硼完 全回收,没有观察到硼同位素分馏和硼损失,并认为 甘露醇的加入对于这种条件下微升华过程是不必要 的。如果将干燥的残余物加热超过 1h 或者将更高 的温度用于硼溶液升华,则观察到硼的损失,这种条 件下有必要添加甘露醇以形成非挥发性硼酯的固体 基体来避免硼损失<sup>[90]</sup>。

微升华法可以单独使用,也可以与离子交换法 结合使用。微升华法已应用于处理富含有机质溶 液<sup>[110]</sup>、岩石<sup>[77]</sup>、碳酸盐<sup>[53,112]</sup>、河水<sup>[98]</sup>、地下水、海 水<sup>[53,110,116]</sup>、珊瑚和有孔虫<sup>[116-117]</sup>、植物<sup>[81,87]</sup>等类型 的样品<sup>[77,112,116]</sup>。

与离子交换法一样,如果硼回收不完全,可能会发生硼同位素分馏<sup>[52,109,111]</sup>。碳酸盐样品的回收率可以通过分析装载在盖子上物质的 B/Ca 比率以及最终馏出物和残余物的硼浓度来确定<sup>[53,110,112]</sup>(图 3)。

(2) 微升华法的优缺点

微升华法的优势是高效去除基体、操作简单、过 程空白低(图4)、高通量和定量回收以及劳动强度

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a—"微升华"技术提纯硼,据 Birck 等<sup>[111]</sup>、Wang 等<sup>[112]</sup>、Pi 等<sup>[77]</sup>; b—0.5mL 微升华装置,据 Roux 等<sup>[87]</sup>; c—3mL 圆柱形容器装置,据肖军等<sup>[118]</sup> 修改; d—0.5mL 双层装置,据 Wang 等<sup>[115]</sup>修改; e—1mL 双瓶装置,据 Wang 等<sup>[115]</sup>修改; f—均匀受热装置,据 Liu 等<sup>[116]</sup>修改。 图 3 微升华实验装置图

Fig. 3 Devices designed and applied for boron microsublimation. a—"microsublimation" technology purifies boron; b-0. 5mL microsublimation devices; c—3mL cylindrical container devices; d—0. 5mL double-layer device; e—1mL two-bottle device; f—uniform heating and cooling device. Modified after Birck, et al<sup>[111]</sup>; Wang, et al<sup>[112]</sup>; Pi, et al<sup>[77]</sup>; Roux, et al<sup>[87]</sup>; Xiao, et al<sup>[118]</sup>; Wang, et al<sup>[115]</sup>; Liu, et al<sup>[116]</sup>.

成本低<sup>[119]</sup>。微升华法可以避免通过离子交换法将 有机残留物引入纯化样品。缺点是目前最多只能蒸 发 1mL 样品<sup>[115]</sup>。再多则会超过上方尖型处的容

量,使样品会继续反流到盖子中,达不到分离的效 果。其对容器的密封性要求严格,若密闭不严,部分 硼蒸发缺失会造成同位素分馏,甚至硼完全损



据 Buisson 等<sup>[73]</sup>修改。

- 图 4 离子交换法和微升华法分离纯化硼的过程空白污染 对比图
- Fig. 4 Comparisons of boron procedural blank contamination between ion exchange chromatography and micro – sublimation. Modified after Buisson, et al<sup>[73]</sup>.

失<sup>[53,110,112]</sup>。由于测试的时候一般要求最后样品硼 浓度在 100µg/L,需要 3mL,因此,要求原始样品硼 浓度要高于 3µg/mL。但自然界液体样品,主要是 河水、井水、雨水,其硼浓度多是 ng/g 级的,因此微 升华法只适合高硼浓度样品。

微升华与离子交换法的化学流程对比见表 2。

## 2 质谱测定技术

硼同位素质谱测定技术主要有 TIMS、MC-ICP-MS、SIMS 和 LA-MC-ICP-MS。其中,前两者上机 测试样品为溶液,后两者则是固体样品。本文在样 品分离纯化、样品量和分析精度方面对以上 4 种质 谱技术进行了详细的总结和概括。

### 2.1 TIMS

TIMS 是较为传统的测定方法,可分为 P-TIMS 和 N-TIMS。P - TIMS 法检测离子为 Na<sub>2</sub>BO<sup>+</sup><sub>2</sub>、 Rb<sub>2</sub>BO<sup>+</sup><sub>2</sub>、Cs<sub>2</sub>BO<sup>+</sup><sub>2</sub> 正离子,优点是方法成熟、稳定且 精度高,但要求样品纯度高,所需硼量较大。而 N-TIMS 法,硼同位素则以 BO<sup>-</sup><sub>2</sub> 负离子形式测定,优 点是不需要从样品基体中化学分离硼元素。

### 2.1.1 P-TIMS

P-TIMS 常采用 Na<sub>2</sub>BO<sup>+</sup><sub>2</sub>、Rb<sub>2</sub>BO<sup>+</sup><sub>2</sub> 或 Cs<sub>2</sub>BO<sup>+</sup><sub>2</sub> 作 为检测离子测定样品中硼同位素的组成,该方法最 先适用于高精度地质样品的硼同位素分析<sup>[120]</sup>。最 初检测离子是 Na<sub>2</sub>BO<sup>+</sup><sub>2</sub>,由于该离子的质量数较低 (Na<sub>2</sub><sup>10</sup>BO<sup>+</sup><sub>2</sub>和 Na<sub>2</sub><sup>11</sup>BO<sup>+</sup><sub>2</sub>质量数分别为88和89),相 对质量差较大,同位素分馏现象比较明显,所以精度 较低,仅为±2‰<sup>[121]</sup>。为了获取好的精度,Spivack 等<sup>[60]</sup>改用测定质量数大的 Cs<sub>2</sub>BO<sup>+</sup><sub>3</sub>离子(Cs<sub>2</sub><sup>10</sup>BO<sup>+</sup><sub>3</sub>

### 表 2 硼分离纯化的化学流程对比

Table 2 Comparison of chemistric purification procedure of horon

分离纯 化方法	第1步	第2步 第3步		参考文献
		吕苑苑 <sup>[103]</sup>		
	硼特效树脂	AG50W-X8 阳离子树脂	-	Tonarini 等 <sup>[68]</sup>
	硼特效树脂	上海正一号阳离子 树脂和德国产弱碱 性阴离子交换树脂	-	王刚等[80]
离子 交换法	Dowex 50W-X8 阳离子树脂+ Ion exchange II 阴离子树脂	硼特效树脂	Dowex 50W-X8 阳离子树脂+ Ion exchange Ⅱ 阴离子树脂	Wei 等 <sup>[72]</sup>
	AG50W-X8 阳离子树脂	硼特效树脂	Ion-exchanger Ⅱ与 AG50W-X8 组成的 阴阳离子混合树脂	张艳灵等 <sup>[107]</sup>
	AG50W-X12 阳离子树脂	硼特效树脂	-	Roux 等 <sup>[69]</sup>
	AG50W-X8 阳离子树脂	硼特效树脂	-	Liu 等 <sup>[106]</sup>
	微升华	-	-	Pi 等 <sup>[77]</sup> , He 等 <sup>[117]</sup>
	硼特效树脂	阳离子树脂 AG50W-X8	微升华	Chetelat 等 <sup>[70]</sup> , Lemarchand 等 <sup>[8]</sup>
微升 化注	AG50W-X12 阳离子树脂		-	Roux 等 <sup>[87]</sup>
ŦΔ	阳离子树脂 AG50W-X8	微升华	-	Roux 等 <sup>[69]</sup>

质量数为 308, Cs<sub>2</sub><sup>11</sup>BO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> 质量数为 309)。大的分子 质量数降低由仪器引起的同位素分馏,该方法精度 提高到约为±0.25‰(95%的置信度<sup>[117]</sup>)。早期 P-TIMS 法的样品量相对较大(5000ng<sup>[60]</sup>),这是由 于这些重的碱-硼酸盐多原子离子产率相对较低, 质量数为308和309的空间间隔紧密,需要采用动 态峰跳扫模式。后来人们在样品量和精度方面作了 一系列改进。1988 年 Xiao 等[122] 采用 Cs, BO; 离子 方法实现了硼同位素组成的高精度测定,首次在涂 样过程中使用石墨悬浮液,石墨的存在使 Cs,BO; 离子发射的灵敏度增加了100倍,能在数小时内获 得稳定离子流,没有观察到明显同位素分馏,对 NBS SRM951 硼酸<sup>11</sup>B/<sup>10</sup>B 比值测定精度达到 0.004%。 Nakano 等<sup>[123]</sup>进一步提高了<sup>11</sup>B/<sup>10</sup>B 比值测定精度, 并减少了所需样品量,因此对于小至 20ng 硼的样品 量[57,124],实现比值精度为0.032%(在95%的置信 度下)。这些最新的方法为使用 P-TIMS 获得小样 品的准确数据提供了可能性。目前,用 P-TIMS 进

行硼的质谱测定,对于前处理纯化分离的要求高。 通常用到的前处理包括离子交换、溶剂萃取以及微 升华等<sup>[118]</sup>。常用 Cs<sub>2</sub>BO<sup>+</sup>2 离子作为检测离子,测试 精度高,约为±0.1‰~0.4‰,被认为是测定硼同位 素组成的最精确的方法。

#### **2.1.2** N-TIMS

N-TIMS 法测量硼是 1983 年由 Zeininger 和 Heumann<sup>[125]</sup>开发的。该方法通过测定负离子 BO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> (<sup>10</sup>B<sup>16</sup>O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>和<sup>11</sup>B<sup>16</sup>O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>质量数分别为 42 和 43)实现对 硼同位素的测定。当使用金属离子(La<sup>3+</sup>、Na<sup>+</sup>、Cs<sup>+</sup>、 Ca<sup>2+</sup>、Ba<sup>2+</sup>)的硝酸盐或氢氧化物作为发射剂时,具 有非常高的离子产率。N-TIMS 灵敏度极高,可以 测定硼含量为 1ng 甚至更少(150pg)的样品,分析精 度为 0.4‰~0.7‰<sup>[126-130]</sup>。该方法对样品的前处理 要求不高,海水、高盐卤水、地下水和碳酸钙等天然 物质可以不经纯化过程而直接进行测试<sup>[59,126,131]</sup>。

然而,该方法的不足之处主要有仪器引起的质 量分馏较大以及同质异位素<sup>17</sup>0和 CNO<sup>-</sup>干 扰。<sup>10</sup>B<sup>17</sup>O<sup>16</sup>O<sup>-</sup>的质量数为43,会对<sup>11</sup>B<sup>16</sup>O<sup>16</sup>O<sup>-</sup>的离子 峰形成干扰,使测定值比实际值偏大,需要进行氧的 校正。丰度较大的<sup>12</sup>C<sup>14</sup>N<sup>16</sup>O<sup>-</sup>的质量数为42,会 与<sup>10</sup>B<sup>16</sup>O<sup>16</sup>O<sup>-</sup>的离子峰重叠, 使测得的<sup>11</sup>B/<sup>10</sup>B 比值 偏小<sup>[132]</sup>。实验室常用高纯双氧水来消解 CNO 混合 物及其他有机物[133]。使用二次离子倍增器得到 m/z=26(CN<sup>-</sup>)的信号来检测 CNO<sup>-</sup>的干扰。精确校 正仪器引起的质量分馏方法有.①使用线性回归来 校正与电离相关的随时间变化的分馏[127]:该方法 的质量分馏呈明显的时间相关性。②采用全蒸发 (TE)技术,由于采用随时间对各离子流积分的方 式,因此可被认为最大程度地消除了质量歧视[134]。 用全蒸发-负热电离质谱法(TE-NTIMS),整个样品 被电离,并且<sup>11</sup>B/<sup>10</sup>B 比率由总<sup>11</sup>B 测量值/总<sup>10</sup>B 测 量值确定<sup>[51,116]</sup>。Liu 等<sup>[116]</sup>利用 TE-TIMS 测定了内 部珊瑚标样的 $\delta^{11}$ B值,仅用了1ng样品,精度为 ±1.17‰。③在测定过程中严格地控制灯丝温度, 特别是在灯丝预热和数据采集期间,会减少仪器质 量分馏程度,并提高分析的精度[55]。另外,未分离 干净的杂质元素(如 Fe、Si、C)会对硼的离子化形成 干扰<sup>[59]</sup>。当 N-TIMS 法用于分析碳酸盐硼同位素 时准确度较差,其测定结果与 MC-ICP-MS 测定结 果相比存在 0.5‰~2.7‰的偏差,这种偏差可能与 样品基体相关[55-56,130]。

2.2 MC-ICP-MS

MC-ICP-MS 方法可以用来直接测试柱化学分

离出来的硼溶液的<sup>11</sup>B/<sup>10</sup>B 比值,该分析方法具有灵 敏度高、精度较高和时间消耗较少、样品引入测试仪 器相对较简单等优点。更重要的是,该方法不会受 到有机物质的同位素干扰,从而使得样品化学前处 理过程更容易。但是 MC-ICP-MS 测定硼同位素过 程中仍然存在基体效应、记忆效应、质量歧视效应三 个主要问题。

### 2.2.1 基体效应

MC-ICP-MS 在测定硼同位素过程中主要存在 两种干扰:光谱干扰和非光谱干扰<sup>[98]</sup>。光谱干扰即 以氩气为载气时,存在40Ar4+对10B的干扰[135-136]。 非光谱干扰为质量大的基体元素对质量小的硼元素 产生抑制效应<sup>[137]</sup>。Chen 等<sup>[138]</sup>指出,不同类型和 浓度的酸(盐酸、硝酸、氢氟酸)作为载体对硼同位 素 MC-ICP-MS 测试没有显著的影响。但是,样品 中杂质的成分和浓度会带来非光谱干扰。学者们研 究了各种元素(钙、镁、硅、钠)的基体效应[77,135] (图5)。其中随着 Ca<sup>2+</sup>离子浓度的增加, NIST SRM951标样溶液的硼同位素比值有逐步降低的趋 势[135],但是也有研究发现了相反的趋势(吕苑苑 等<sup>[103]</sup>,见图 6)。为了去除这些基体效应对硼同位 素测量的影响,大部分研究除了采用硼特效树脂分 离之外,还需要进行阳离子树脂分离。Cai 等<sup>[71]</sup>采 用的过氧化钠碱熔法在这个问题上有一定的优势, 因为在强碱性环境下大部分阳离子以氢氧化物形式 沉淀,这样可以通过离心的方式与硼富集的上清液 分离。所以,Cai 等<sup>[71]</sup> 仅需要使用硼特效树脂实现 一步分离纯化硼。为了确定洗脱液中的 Na 和 Si 对 硼同位素 ICP-MS 的测量没有影响,他们测量了洗



据 Guerrot 等<sup>[135]</sup>、Pi 等<sup>[77]</sup>修改。

## 图 5 硼同位素掺杂实验

Fig. 5 Matrix – artifacts may have occurred during the doping experiments on boron isotopic measurements by MC–ICP
 –MS. Modified after Guerrot, et al<sup>[135]</sup> and Pi, et al<sup>[77]</sup>.

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据吕苑苑等[103]修改。

#### 图 6 Ca<sup>2+</sup>离子基体效应实验

Fig. 6 Matrix effect experiments of  $Ca^{2+}$ . Modified after Lyu, et  $al^{[103]}$ .

脱液中 Na 和 Si 的含量。通常,洗脱液中的钠硼比 (Na/B)小于 5,这意味着对于 50ng/g 的硼溶液,Na 的含量高达 0.25μg/g。多项研究表明,Na 对硼同 位素测量没有明显的基体效应<sup>[102,139]</sup>。所以,碱熔 法引入的钠不会影响硼同位素比值的测量。在不进 行额外稀释的情况下,从流纹岩(JR-2)到黏土 (B-8)等地质标样的洗脱液产生的硅硼比(Si/B) 高达 12,这意味着在 50ng/g 硼中含有高达 0.6μg/g Si。但是,掺杂 4μg/g Si 的 951 标准样品与纯 951 标准样品在 Nu Plasma MC-ICP-MS 上测量出来的 硼同位素比值没有偏差,这意味着至少对于 Nu Plasma MC-ICP-MS,可以在 ICP-MS 上准确测量使 用碱熔纯化样品的硼同位素比值<sup>[72]</sup>。

Aggarwal 等<sup>[62]</sup>指出,溶液中的硅会影响到硼的 离子化,硅应当被彻底分离。但是对于硅酸盐(岩 石、矿物)样品,硼、硅属于对角线元素,地球化学性 质相似,两元素难以彻底分离<sup>[72]</sup>,见图 7a。硅浓度 为1.4µg/g时,测定结果偏差较大,反映了较高含量 的硅 会 导 致 硼 同 位 素 测 定 不 稳 定<sup>[48]</sup>。标 样 NIST SRM951 测试结果表明,当硅硼比(Si/B)=1:10 时,实验结果没有影响。当硅硼比大于 2.0:1.0 时,相较真值高~+2‰,当硅硼比低时,有负的偏 移<sup>[72]</sup>,见图 7b。目前,学者们较少研究硅组分影响 硼同位素测定的问题,需要进一步开展研究进行深 入讨论。因此,有必要开发更有效的硼化学分离技 术来克服基体效应。

### 2.2.2 记忆效应

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利用 MC-ICP-MS 系统进行硼同位素测试过程 中存在严重的记忆效应。硼记忆效应产生的原因尚 不清楚,有待于进一步研究,包括:来自雾室中样品



据 Wei 等<sup>[140]</sup>修改。

### 图 7 B/Si 分离以及 Si 的基体效应

Fig. 7 B/Si separation and Si matrix effect. Modified after Wei, et  $al^{[140]}$ .

的附着<sup>[141-142]</sup>;来自仪器进样系统表面硼酸盐的吸 附<sup>[143]</sup>;仪器管路系统内硼的累积<sup>[144]</sup>。目前主要有 5种解决硼记忆效应的方法(表3)。第一种方法是 使用不同的清洗溶液,如硝酸、氢氟酸、氨水、甘露 醇、Triton 100、EDTA、水和 NaF<sup>[102]</sup>,见图 8。第二种 方法是直接进样,硼不在雾化室残留而直接进入仪 器<sup>[145-146]</sup>。第三种方法是雾化器通入氨水,通过抑 制硼的信号来消除硼的干扰<sup>[104,146,148]</sup>。第四种方法 是改造了抗氢氟酸组件,利用低浓度氢氟酸淋 洗<sup>[75]</sup>。第五种方法是空白扣除法<sup>[71]</sup>。此外,消除 硼的记忆效应,还需要考虑清洗次数和清洗时间 问题。

上述解决硼记忆效应的每种方法各有优缺点。如:第二种直接进样法,直接进样雾化器的费用比较 昂贵,而且直接进样雾化器应用于 MC-ICP-MS 时 会影响等离子体的稳定性,常导致等离子体熄 灭<sup>[48]</sup>。第三种雾化器通入氨水法,在 MC-ICP-MS 的应用效果并不理想<sup>[48]</sup>,仪器测定的数据需要进行



据 He 等<sup>[102]</sup>修改。

#### 图 8 NaF 清洗测试时<sup>11</sup>B 信号强度的变化

Fig. 8 The <sup>11</sup>B signal intensity during time using NaF rinse solution. The <sup>11</sup>B signal was recorded using different rinse solution after injecting a 60ng/g boron solution for 2min. Modified after He, et al<sup>[102]</sup>.

#### 表 3 消除硼记忆效应的方法

Table 3 Methods of eliminating boron memory effect

方法序号	使用方法	参考文献
第一种	使用不同的清洗液(硝酸、氨水、 甘露醇、Triton 100、EDTA、 NaF、氢氟酸等)	He 等 <sup>[102]</sup>
第二种	直接进样	Louvat 等 <sup>[145-146]</sup>
第三种	雾化器通入氨水	Foster 等 <sup>[104]</sup> ; Zhang 等 <sup>[147]</sup>
第四种	改造了抗氢氟酸的组件, 利用低浓度氢氟酸淋洗	Wei 等 <sup>[75]</sup>
第五种	空白扣除	Cai 等 <sup>[71]</sup>

校正。因此,大部分研究采用空白扣除的方法来进 行数据校正,如 Wei 等<sup>[72]</sup>采用的零峰值空白校正 (On-peak Zero Blank):(<sup>11</sup>B/<sup>10</sup>B)<sub>sample</sub> = (<sup>11</sup>B<sub>measured</sub> -<sup>11</sup>B<sub>blank</sub>)/(<sup>10</sup>B<sub>measured</sub>-<sup>10</sup>B<sub>blank</sub>)。但是各个实验室测 量空白的方式有所不同。其中,Cai 等<sup>[71]</sup>详细地阐 述了空白测试的顺序:60s 水清洗—硝酸测量本 底—951标准溶液测量—60s 水清洗—硝酸测量本 底—4品测量—60s 水清洗—硝酸测量本底—951 标准溶液测量。数据表明,该流程可以迅速有效地 降低 ICP-MS 上硼的本底,并有效地解决硼记忆效 应带来的数据偏差,详见 Cai 等<sup>[71]</sup>原文中的图 3 和 图 4。

## 2.2.3 质量歧视效应

质量歧视效应一般认为是因为 MC-ICP-MS 中空间电荷效应产生的。与较轻的同位素相比,这种效

应导致较重的同位素优先被提取和传输,因此,较轻同位素相对于较重的同位素比值存在偏差<sup>[149]</sup>。质量歧视效应主要与所测定离子的质量数有关,测定的离子质量数越小,质量歧视效应的影响越大。对于轻质量数硼同位素,质量歧视效应明显,在15%/amu~40%/amu<sup>[150]</sup>(图9)。MC-ICP-MS测定过程中的歧视效应采用标样-样品交叉法(SSB)校正<sup>[72,104]</sup>,以最大程度地降低同位素质量歧视效应<sup>[72]</sup>。



据 Rehkämper 等<sup>[150]</sup>修改。

图 9 不同 MC-ICP-MS 测量的质量歧视与原子质量的 关系图

Fig. 9 Plot of mass bias per amu ( in %) vs. atomic mass for various elements measured by different MC – ICP – MS instruments. Modified after Rehkämper, et al<sup>[150]</sup>.

#### 2.3 SIMS

SIMS 分析硼同位素,用一次离子束(常用 O<sup>-</sup>或 Cs<sup>+</sup>或 Ga<sup>-</sup>)照射样品表面,使其溅射出二次离子 (<sup>11</sup>B<sup>+</sup>和<sup>10</sup>B<sup>+</sup>)并引入质量分析器,按照质荷比进行 质谱分析<sup>[151]</sup>。SIMS 硼同位素分析早期是使用小型 Cameca IMS f-SIMS 系列,如 Chaussidon 等<sup>[152]</sup>用 IMS 3f SIMS 测量了地球玄武岩和陨石球粒 中<sup>11</sup>B/<sup>10</sup>B。目前更多地使用大型的 Cameca IMS 1270、1280 SIMS,这类仪器具有高空间分辨率、稳定 性和灵敏度,因此可以测定低硼样品中的硼同位素 比值。如 Kasemann 等<sup>[55]</sup>和 Blamart 等<sup>[153]</sup>采用 Cameca IMS 1270 测定了深海文石珊瑚、双壳类、有 孔虫和参考玻璃的硼同位素, Marschall 等<sup>[49]</sup>采用 IMS 1280 SIMS 测定了硅酸盐玻璃硼同位素。

SIMS 的突出优势在于具有高的空间分辨率。 一次离子束束斑大小为 5~100µm。单点总分析时 间为 10~30min,剥蚀深度为 0.1~5µm。小体积的 样品溅射使 SIMS 成为解决空间异质性的理想方 法,例如有孔虫和珊瑚骨骼<sup>[153-154]</sup>、熔体包裹体<sup>[155]</sup>。 小的分析体积也意味着 SIMS 同位素分析所需的硼 质量非常小,比其他方法低几个数量级(图 2)。 SIMS 对于高浓度样品(≥20µg/g B),分析精度通常 在 0.4‰和 1.0‰(2SE)之间<sup>[49,156-157]</sup>;对于低浓度 样品,分析精度更加低<sup>[158]</sup>。对含 1µg/g 硼的样品, SIMS 分析精度为精确为 3‰<sup>[49]</sup>。对于低浓度样品 分析,仪器不稳定或样品表面污染都可能引起分析 精度的偏差<sup>[47]</sup>。表面污染是 SIMS 硼分析中的一个 挑战,已采取多种措施来减少和量化表面污染,如: 避免使用含硼润滑剂和抛光材料;用无硼去离子水 在超声波中清洗样品架;用足够的预溅射时间来去 除表面污染物<sup>[152,159-160]</sup>。量化任何残留污染物的 最佳方法是分析含有≤1ng/g 硼的石英玻璃 Herasil -102<sup>[160]</sup>。

SIMS 分析硼同位素时,质量分辨设置约为1200  $(10\%峰高时的 m/\Delta m), 确保消除主要干扰(<sup>9</sup>BeH<sup>+</sup>)$  $\pi^{30}Si^{3+}$ 对<sup>10</sup>B<sup>+</sup>的干扰;<sup>10</sup>BH<sup>+</sup>对<sup>11</sup>B<sup>+</sup>的干扰)。SIMS 仪器质量分馏通常在2%~6%之间[152],采用的是外 标法校正仪器质量分馏。用于校正仪器质量分馏的 参考物质有 MPI-DING 岩石玻璃标准<sup>[161]</sup>。在硼同 位素测定中广泛使用的 61X 系列 NIST 玻璃(例如 SRM610、SRM612),会产生与所有自然成分的玻璃 相差 2‰~4‰的分馏,不适合作为 SIMS 分析硼同 位素的外标<sup>[162-163]</sup>。对于碳酸盐的分析,无机方解 石标准和多孔珊瑚样品被用于质量分馏校正[55]。 多数学者认为 SIMS 原位硼同位素分析的基体效应 不显著或者可以忽略,如硼酸溶液、海水、硅酸盐玻 璃和电气石的基体效应小于 1.6‰<sup>[151]</sup>。各种电气 石成分之间基体效应较小(<2‰)或可忽 略<sup>[156-157,164-165]</sup>。然而,最近 McGregor 等<sup>[166]</sup>利用 Cameca IMS-4f SIMS 仪器测定硼同位素的研究表 明硼柱晶石的基体效应为4‰~5‰,取决于其铁 含量。

硼同位素古环境指标研究中,需要测试精度和 准确度为0.2%~0.4%,因此目前,SIMS 还不能应 用于该领域中。但是,使用大型 SIMS 仪器分析天 然火山玻璃等固体岩石样品时可以达到1%~2%的 精度和准确度,满足了地幔地球化学应用要求<sup>[49]</sup>。

#### 2.4 LA-MC-ICP-MS

LA-MC-ICP-MS 是激光剥蚀系统(LA)对固体

样品微区采样后,产生的气溶胶传输至 MC-ICP-MS 的同位素分析方法<sup>[167]</sup>。在溶液法 MC-ICP-MS 首次应用于硼同位素分析后不久<sup>[168]</sup>,LA-MC-ICP -MS 用于原位测定  $\delta^{11}B^{[169]}$ 。LA-MC-ICP-MS 进 样系统非常灵活,可以分析各种样品大小和类型,并 且相对快速(每 2~5min 测量 1 个样品)。目前,利 用 LA-MC-ICP-MS 已经开展了富硼硅酸盐矿物电 气石<sup>[170-172]</sup>、少量含硼白云母<sup>[173-175]</sup>、碳酸盐<sup>[50]</sup>等固 体样品的硼同位素微区原位测试研究。最近,中国 地质大学(武汉)团队开发了适用于液体样品的 LA-MC-ICP-MS 硼同位素分析技术<sup>[176]</sup>。

样品表面形态并不影响该方法的精确测定,因 此无需对样品进行高度抛光[177]。但是,该方法存 在空白污染问题,需要在分析前清洁样品表面<sup>[50]</sup>. 采用样品-标样交叉法(SSB)对质量歧视进行校正。 该方法假定,整个分析过程中外部标准的分馏与样 品相同,即利用仪器对样品测定前后两个标样的质 量歧视因子平均值进行校正[50,170]。硼同位素微区 分析标样有 NIST SRM610 玻璃、NIST SRM612、 IAEA B4 电气石。测定的样品是否必须使用相同基 体组成的标样,还存在争议:部分学者认为没有必 要<sup>[50,170]</sup>:而部分学者则认为如果 NIST 玻璃标样作 为分析 CaCO, 基体的样品-标样交叉法,则需要 >2‰的校正<sup>[177]</sup>。虽然 LA-MC-ICP-MS 的样品/束 斑尺寸仍然大于 SIMS,其准确度和精度低于溶液 法,但是因具有原位、实时、快速分析、高空间分辨 率、高灵敏度的优势使其分析成为一种有吸引力的 技术。表4概括了硼同位素质谱测定技术中,样品 分离纯化、样品量和分析精度。

## 3 结语与展望

硼同位素是一种在化学、环境、生物、地球及行 星科学等研究领域有广泛应用的非传统稳定同位素 示踪工具。早在 20 世纪 80 年代非传统稳定同位素 兴起之前,中国肖应凯领导的团队已在盐湖化学、海 洋科学等方面开展了硼同位素研究。二十余年以 后,尽管各大院校都在开展硼同位素的研究,迄今为 止,无论是化学纯化处理还是质谱测量方面,高精度 δ<sup>11</sup>B 的测定均较具挑战性。这是因为硼元素在大多 酸性介质中易挥发,而且同时会发生很大幅度的同 位素分馏。

#### 表 4 砌同位素分析测试方法对比

Table 4 Comparison of boron isotope determination methods

硼同位素分析测试方法	样品分离纯化	样品量 (ng)	δ <sup>11</sup> B 值测定精度 (‰)	参考文献
正热电离质谱法 (P-TIMS)	阳和阴离子交换树脂 (硼特效树脂)	20~1000	0.1~0.3	Spivack \$\\$^{[60]}\$, Trotter \$\\$^{[58]}\$, He \$\$^{[57]}\$
负热电离质谱法 (N-TIMS)	无/阳和阴离子 交换树脂 (硼特效树脂)	1~10	0.3~1.0	Hemming $\mathfrak{F}^{[54]}$ , Kasemann $\mathfrak{F}^{[55]}$ , Foster $\mathfrak{F}^{[56]}$ , Clarkson $\mathfrak{F}^{[129]}$
全蒸发-负热电离质谱法 (TE-NTIMS)	_	0. 3~1	1~2	Foster 等 <sup>[51]</sup> , Ni 等 <sup>[52]</sup> , Liu 等 <sup>[116]</sup>
高分辨率电感耦合等离子体质谱法 (HR-ICP-MS)	微升华或阳和/或 阴离子交换树脂 (硼特效树脂)	3~5	0.5~0.7	Misra 等 <sup>[53]</sup>
多接收电感耦合等离子体质谱法 (MC-ICP-MS)	微升华或阳和/或 阴离子交换树脂 (硼特效树脂)	5~50	0.2~0.3	Foster 等 <sup>[104]</sup> , Louvat 等 <sup>[145]</sup> , Foster 等 <sup>[56]</sup> , Zhu 等 <sup>[147]</sup>
激光剥蚀电感耦合等离子体质谱法	-	0.8	<1	le Roux 等 <sup>[169]</sup>
(LA-MC-ICP-MS)		0.1~0.3	0.5~1.75	Fietzke 等 <sup>[50]</sup> , Thil1 等 <sup>[177]</sup>
二次离子质谱法 (SIMS)	-	0.001~0.00001	0.5~3	Chaussidon 等 <sup>[152]</sup> , Kasemann 等 <sup>[55]</sup> , Liu 等 <sup>[116]</sup> , Marschall 等 <sup>[49]</sup>

本文总结了近二十年来国内外学者在硼同位素 样品前处理、分离富集以及仪器测定方法的进展,其 中包括不同类型样品(碳酸盐、硅酸盐、水样、植物) 的消解、分离纯化和质谱测定方法。通过实验数据 的总结和比较,我们发现,化学前处理是精确测定硼 同位素以及元素含量的关键。尤其是硼含量低的固 体样品(如硅酸盐)在不同的化学前处理流程(如碱 熔法)中依然存在硼丢失和基体离子残存的突出问 题。因此,建立低硼含量固体样品硼元素分析测试 技术是将来的重点发展方向。目前,MC-ICP-MS 既适用于溶液法也适用于微区原位法,是硼同位素 分析的主流方法。但是,MC-ICP-MS 存在的基体 效应、记忆效应和质量歧视效应问题仍然需要进一 步的实验和理论研究。

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# A Review on the Development of Boron Isotope Analytical Techniques

FENG Linxiu<sup>1,2</sup>, LI Zhenghui<sup>1\*</sup>, CAO Qiuxiang<sup>2</sup>, TIAN Shihong<sup>1,2</sup>, HUANG Wenxia<sup>2</sup>, WANG Tian<sup>2</sup>

- State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Resources and Environment, East China University of Technology, Nanchang 330013, China;
- 2. School of Earth Sciences, East China University of Technology, Nanchang 330013, China)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- (1) Two digestion methods have been applied for silicate sample dissolution regarding boron (B), including acid dissolution, and alkali fusion. Acid dissolution has low blank levels but could cause B isotope fractionation. Alkali fusion has higher blank levels that can be corrected but require expensive crucibles.
- (2) Two principal methods currently used to purify B are ion exchange and microsublimation. The ion exchange method is efficient and produces accurate results but could have matrix effects. The microsublimation method is difficult to set up and could cause B isotope fractionation if done incorrectly, but it has no matrix effect.
- (3) MC-ICP-MS is the most versatile and precise method for B isotopic analysis, which has the challenges of matrix effect, memory effect, and mass bias.



**ABSTRACT**: Boron (B) is a light and fluid-mobile element. It has two stable isotopes: <sup>10</sup>B and <sup>11</sup>B. The two isotopes fractionate significantly in nature due their relatively large mass difference. Therefore, B isotopes are one of the non-traditional stable isotope tracers, which have been used in the research areas of chemistry, environmental, bioscience, earth and planetary sciences. In the last twenty years, the analytical methods of B isotopes have been continuously improved and many important advances have been made. However, there are still some challenges to obtaining high-quality B isotope data. The techniques of B isotope analysis are quite different among laboratories, which arise principally from three stages: sample digestion, purification, mass spectrometry.

Because B is volatile and isotopic fractionation may be induced by different coordination in different pH environments, sample digestion, and purification have a great impact on the high-precision measurement of B isotopes. Four digestion methods have been applied for extracting B from samples, including pyro-hydrolysis, acid dissolution, alkali fusion, and ashing. Pyro-hydrolysis requiring large volumes of water is time-consuming. Acid dissolution is one of the most popular techniques due to the small volumes of reagents needed and hence lower levels of contamination. Samples are dissolved with different acids such as hydrochloric, nitric, hydrofluoric, and perchloric. Painstaking attention is required with hydrofluoric acid since BF<sub>3</sub> is highly volatile and easily lost in nature. Suitable amounts of mannitol are added during acid dissolution to form a stable boron-mannitol complex to prevent the loss of B and avoid B isotope fractionation.

Alternatively, alkali fusion is a dissolution method for solid rock samples. High purity fluxing agent is needed, such as  $K_2CO_3$ ,  $Na_2CO_3$ , NaOH, NaOH, and  $Na_2O_2$ . As all the B would be present as borate in the resulting alkaline solution, alkali fusion eliminates the risk of B isotope fractionation due to evaporation. The advantage of this method is that it is rapid and relatively large numbers of samples can be processed. The ashing is mainly used to digest plant samples. Ashing was chosen for plant sample decomposition because ashing removes the organics and avoids the use of reagents carrying a B blank or generating isobaric interferences.

Once a sample is dissolved, it is necessary to purify B before analysis. There are two principal methods currently in use, which are ion exchange and microsublimation. The ion exchange techniques can be divided into those involved in using B-specific resin Amberlite IRA 743 and those using cation (AG50W-X8/AG50W-X12) or anion (Bio-Rad AG MP-1) cation exchange resins. Microsublimation is an effective and simple method to purify B. It is used to purify B from organic-enriched solutions. Microsublimation appears advantageous in terms of matrix removal efficiency and low procedural blank, however the technical challenges involved are also great.

There are two main types of B isotope analytical methods; in-situ and solution methods. Solution methods analyse B ratios using thermal ionization mass spectrometry (TIMS) method or multiple collector inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (MC-ICP-MS). The in-situ method, uses secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS) method or laser ablation multiple collector inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (LA-MC-ICP-MS) to measure samples with high B concentration. The accurate and precise determination of the B isotope composition is still a difficult task. For solution methods, the difficulty arises principally from the near ubiquitous level of B contamination in most standard clean laboratories, the light mass of the element, the occurrence of only two stable isotopes, and the large mass difference between them. For in-situ approaches, the difficulty arises principally from a lack of reference materials, surface contamination, limited precision in low - concentration samples, and limitations in reproducibility in high-concentration samples. On the whole, MC-ICP-MS is the dominant method for B isotopic analysis, which is still has the challenges of matrix effect, memory effect, and mass bias.

The relevant techniques inherent to the three stages of B isotope analysis are summarized and the advantages and disadvantages of the different techniques are discussed. The aim of the work contained in this paper is to further promote the progress and development of domestic and foreign scholars in the research of B isotope geochemistry.

KEY WORDS: boron isotope; non-traditional stable isotope; digestion; purification; TIMS; MC-ICP-MS; SIMS