

2.10. SPECIMEN PREPARATION

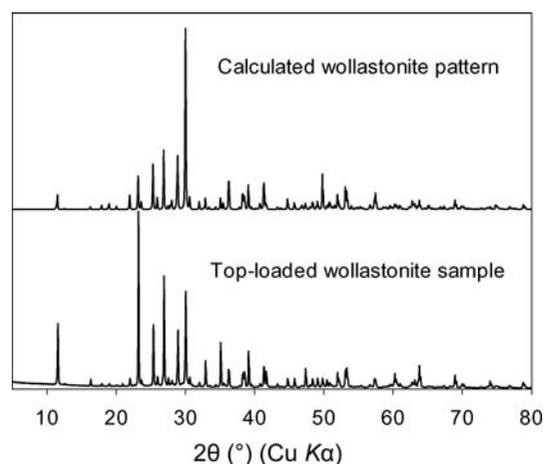


Figure 2.10.26

Effect of preferential orientation on data from top-loaded wollastonite compared with the calculated pattern from the literature wollastonite-1A structure (Ohashi, 1984).

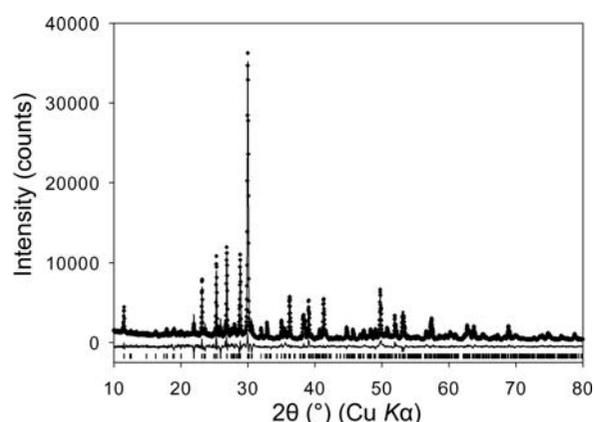


Figure 2.10.27

Rietveld refinement fit to the literature wollastonite-1A structure (Ohashi, 1984) with data from a 0.3 mm capillary with no orientation corrections.

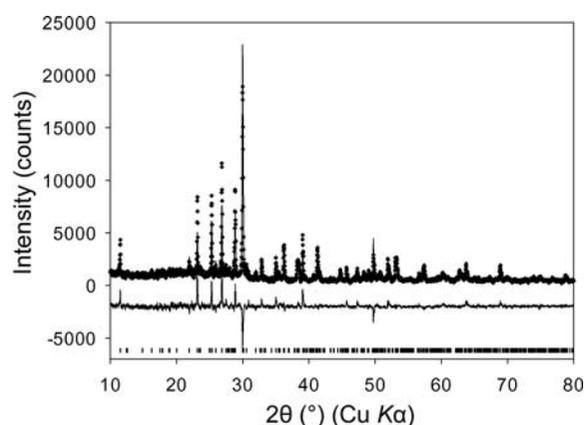


Figure 2.10.28

Rietveld refinement fit to the literature wollastonite-1A structure (Ohashi, 1984) with data from a 0.2 mm capillary with no orientation corrections.

intact while filling the capillary (Fig. 2.10.23). Fig. 2.10.24 gives a summary of the effectiveness of the different sample-preparation techniques for this particular mica sample in terms of the ratio of the integrated intensities of the 001 and 200 reflections. The spray-dried sample with careful top loading can produce a pattern practically equivalent to the capillary data set.

Plates are not the only problematic morphology. Needle-shaped crystallites such as those exhibited by wollastonite (Fig.

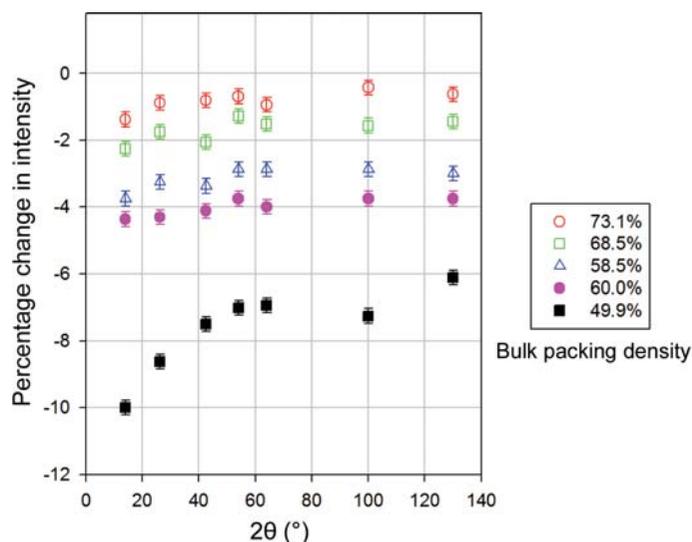


Figure 2.10.29

The effect of surface roughness on the intensity compared to that of a bulk copper specimen. Data from Suortti *et al.* (1972).

2.10.25) and some organic compounds can also show significant problems when top-loaded. In fact, lath-like crystallites such as wollastonite can orient in two directions at the same time, so the behaviour can be more complicated than that of materials with plate-like morphology (see Figs 2.10.26, 2.10.27 and 2.10.28).

2.10.1.3. Absorption (surface roughness), microabsorption and extinction

Absorption, microabsorption and extinction effects all alter peak intensities, although particularly low absorption (*e.g.* from organics) can give rise to sample transparency in reflection geometry (as discussed in the section on the choice of sample mounting), where a peak shift and change in profiles can occur. Microabsorption and extinction solely affect the peak intensities.

Microabsorption (also known as absorption contrast) and extinction are effects that complicate quantitative phase analysis. They are both still related to size – particles in the case of microabsorption and crystallites in the case of extinction.

2.10.1.3.1. Absorption (surface roughness)

Absorption is an obvious issue when using capillaries in transmission (a convenient calculator is available on the 11-BM web site, <http://11bm.xray.aps.anl.gov>), but absorption can also affect data obtained in reflection using Bragg–Brentano geometry through the mechanism commonly described as ‘surface roughness’. In essence, the increasing packing density with depth leads to lower intensities at low diffraction angles, leading to anomalously low or negative displacement parameters (much as absorption does in capillaries). There are two components to the effect (Fig. 2.10.29, Suortti, 1972). The constant decrease in intensity is generally incorporated into the refined scale factor. The angle-dependent portion becomes more significant as the packing density is reduced.

The effect is greatest with strongly absorbing materials analysed in reflection geometry, so care should be taken to produce a sample with a smooth surface and uniform density where possible. An example is provided by the patterns (Fig. 2.10.30) of a commercial cobalt silicate (which turned out to consist of a mixture of phases). A pattern from a slurry deposited on a zero-background cell – a technique useful for small samples, but which produces a rough surface – yielded significantly lower