

High-precision strontium isotope analysis of geological samples by thermal ionisation mass spectrometry

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2	Ionisation Mass Spectroscopy
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32 <u>Abstract</u>

We present a method for the efficient separation of Sr from geological materials followed by high-precision measurement of Sr isotopes by thermal ionisation mass spectrometry (TIMS). These analyses focus on high-precision measurements of the low abundance isotope ⁸⁴Sr (0.56%), which is of high interest for cosmochemical applications. The robust dataset obtained through the analysis of a range of basalts and anorthosites sheds light on a number of issues regarding Sr isotopic analyses. Specifically, concerns that analytical artefacts may produce a spurious signal on ⁸⁴Sr have been investigated. The external reproducibility, based on replicate measurements of the basalt standard BCR-2, for ϵ^{84} Sr is \pm 0.36 (2SD), and is \pm 0.51 (2SD) for repeated analyses of NIST SRM-987. In contrast with the static measurements of previous work (Moynier et al., 2012; Paton et al., 2013; Brennecka et al., 2013), our dynamic data reveal no ⁸⁴Sr variations in terrestrial rocks or standard material. The dataset indicates that, by the analytical procedure employed, ⁸⁴Sr variations in extra-terrestrial material larger than $\sim 0.5\varepsilon$ are resolvable.

59 Keywords: TIMS, strontium isotopes, dynamic measurements

60 1. Introduction

Strontium has four stable isotopes: ⁸⁴Sr, ⁸⁶Sr, ⁸⁷Sr, and ⁸⁸Sr. The isotope ⁸⁷Sr varies due to 61 ingrowth from the decay of 87 Rb ($t_{1/2}$ =48 Ga) and provides an important chronometer for 62 63 geological processes that fractionate Rb from Sr (Goldschmidt, 1937; Hahn and Walling, 1938; Hahn et al., 1943; Papanastassiou and Wasserburg, 1969; McCulloch, 1994; Hans 64 et al., 2013a; Villa et al., 2015). As well as chronological applications, Sr isotopic data are 65 versatile tracers for geological and archaeological provenance studies, such as 66 investigating historical continental weathering and ocean circulation (e.g., Frank, 2000) 67 and forensic tracing of human and animal migration (e.g., Beard and Johnson, 2000). For 68 these reasons, Sr isotopes are widely applied in the fields of cosmochemistry, mantle 69 geochemistry, palaeoceanography, and archaeology. In particular, the ⁸⁷Rb-⁸⁷Sr 70 71 chronometer has proved to be a key tool in dating the volatile element depletion of rocky 72 planets and asteroids (e.g., Papanastassiou and Wasserburg, 1969; McCulloch, 1994).

Rubidium, a moderately volatile element, is more volatile than Sr (50 % condensation 73 74 temperatures: Rb=800 K, Sr=1464 K (Lodders, 2003)), which led to the preferential loss of Rb over Sr during condensation and evaporation processes in the nascent solar system 75 and subsequent fractionation of Rb/Sr ratios. In materials that were highly depleted in 76 77 volatiles, extensive Rb loss led to minimal ⁸⁷Sr ingrowth. Accordingly, the timing of fractionation can be gauged by (i) directly measuring the ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratio for samples 78 devoid of Rb, which yields the initial ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratio at the time the sample formed or (ii) 79 measuring the ⁸⁷Rb/⁸⁶Sr and ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios in the material of interest to determine the 80 initial ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratio using the isochron approach. The slope of a ⁸⁷Rb-⁸⁷Sr isochron 81 82 provides the time information, while the y-axis intercept provides the initial ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratio of the reservoir from which the sample originated. This initial ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratio is 83 important because it provides the root ratio for model age calculations. 84

Calcium-aluminium-rich inclusions (CAIs) in primitive meteorites are the oldest material
identified in the solar system (e.g., Bouvier and Wadhwa, 2010). They have highly
refractory compositions and incorporated little Rb during their formation, which led to
minimal ⁸⁷Sr ingrowth. Consequently, CAIs provide an estimate for the initial Sr isotopic
composition of the solar system (e.g., Gray et al., 1973; Hans et al., 2013a). The initial

⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratio of CAIs represent a baseline for ⁸⁷Sr evolution and calculations of model 90 ages for volatile depletion in the inner solar system. Calcium-aluminium-rich inclusions, 91 92 however, exhibit nucleosynthetic Sr isotopic variations that have been attributed to excesses in the p-process isotope ⁸⁴Sr (Moynier et al., 2012; Paton et al., 2013; Brennecka 93 et al., 2013). This nucleosynthetic variation is significant for the interpretation of 94 ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios. Due to analytical issues concerning the correction of instrumental mass 95 bias, it is not possible to accurately identify the anomalous Sr isotope using Sr isotopic 96 data and traditional approaches alone. Because ⁸⁷Sr contains an unknown radiogenic 97 component from ⁸⁷Rb decay, it cannot be used to correct for mass-bias effects. Therefore, 98 ⁸⁶Sr and ⁸⁸Sr are used for mass-bias correction. Because of this, ⁸⁴Sr variations could in 99 fact be due to variation in ⁸⁸Sr or ⁸⁶Sr propagating through the mass-bias correction and 100 101 cause an apparent effect on ⁸⁴Sr (equation 1). Identifying the exact location of the 102 variation (⁸⁴Sr or ⁸⁸Sr) is of tangible importance, as it may significantly alter our picture of early solar system volatile element evolution during planet formation. Nucleosynthetic 103 ⁸⁸Sr excesses require an upward correction to measured ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios in CAIs (e.g., 104 Hans et al., 2013a) and, consequentially, an earlier age for volatile depletion (*i.e.*, Rb loss) 105 by several Ma. These factors highlight the importance of a well-tested, reproducible 106 107 method to measure Sr isotopes at high accuracy and precision.

In previous studies, Sr isotopic analyses of terrestrial rocks by thermal ionisation mass 108 spectrometry (TIMS) yielded different results for dynamic and static acquisition modes. 109 110 Despite the fact that all studies were performed on Thermo Scientific Triton TIMS instruments, static measurements of BCR-2 and BHVO-2 displayed a consistent negative 111 offset in ε⁸⁴Sr, relative to the NIST SRM 987 Sr standard (Moynier et al., 2012; Paton et 112 113 al., 2013; Brennecka et al., 2013), whereas dynamic analyses did not display an offset (Hans et al., 2013a; Yobregat et al., 2017). Here, we address this discrepancy with far-114 reaching implications for cosmochemistry. We collected an extensive dataset for selected 115 terrestrial samples using both dynamic and static methods. Our samples included a range 116 of terrestrial rocks (BCR-2, BHVO-2, AGV-2, AN-G, and several anorthosites) to test our 117 methods for high-precision Sr isotopic measurements for a variety of matrix 118 compositions. We evaluated pre-existing analytical procedures (Hans et al., 2013a) and 119 adapted the method to improve the low yields for anorthitic sample matrices. We 120 reproduced the consistent offset from the NIST SRM 987 Sr standard for static analyses 121 and demonstrate that the offset is not observed when using a dynamic routine. We also 122

show that instrumental mass-dependent fractionation does not cause the observed offsetbetween static and dynamic values.

125

126 **2. Sample Preparation**

127 *2.1. Reagents and materials*

Hydrochloric and nitric acids were purified twice in Teflon stills, hydrofluoric acid once. Boric acid was prepared by the addition of 99.995% pure Puratronic boric crystals (BH₃O₃) to 3.5M HNO₃ to achieve a molarity of 0.45. Reagent grade H₂O₂ and Milli-Q grade (18.2 Ω) water (MQ) were used throughout this study.

132 2.2. Selected samples and sample digestion

The NIST SRM 987 Sr standard, four rock standards (the basalts BCR-2 and BHVO-2, the 133 andesite AGV-2, and the anorthosite AN-G), two anorthite separates (AN-1 and AN-2) 134 from anorthosites (from Sierra Nevada (California) and Adamello (Italy), respectively), 135 and one additional whole rock anorthosite (JL-27; from Rum, Scotland) were measured 136 in this study. The whole rock samples were crushed either with a hydraulic press or 137 sizeable hammer and powdered with an agate pestle and mortar. For AN-1 and AN-2, 138 anorthite separates were obtained by crushing, followed by magnetic separation and 139 hand picking under an optical microscope. The anorthosite rock standard AN-G was 140 chosen as a proxy for calcium-aluminium-rich inclusions because of their similar, Ca-rich 141 sample matrices. 142

For each sample, 30 mg of powder were digested in 15 ml Savillex® vials at 100°C overnight using a mixture of 0.3 ml HF and 0.1 ml HNO₃. The sample mass was limited to 30 mg to prevent overloading the column. The samples were dried at 120°C and redissolved in 1 ml of concentrated HNO₃ and dried. This HNO₃ dry down was repeated and was followed by fluxing in 1 ml concentrated HCl overnight. Finally, the samples were dried and redissolved in 2.5 M HCl. If necessary, samples were placed in an ultra-sonic bath before loading onto the ion exchange column.

150 **3. Ion Exchange Column Chemistry**

A two-stage procedure for the separation of Sr from the sample matrix was used and 151 152 follows the procedure of Hans et al. (2013a) (Table 1). A Teflon column (resin reservoir dimensions: 18 cm length, 5 mm inner diameter) was loaded with 3.7 ml of BioRad® 153 cation resin AG50W-X8 (200-400 mesh). The resin was cleaned and preconditioned with 154 10 ml MQ followed by 20 ml 2.5M HCl. The sample was loaded in 1 ml 2.5M HCl and matrix 155 elements were eluted with 17 ml 2.5M HCl before eluting Sr in 9 ml 2.5M HCl. The resin 156 was then cleaned with 20 ml 6M HCl and reused up to 4 times. The sample elution was 157 dried at 70°C overnight and then redissolved in 0.5 ml of concentrated HNO₃. This was 158 dried to a very small drop and 1 ml of 3M HNO₃ was added for loading onto the second 159 160 column.

In order to further purify Sr, the Sr elution from the first column was passed through a Sr 161 spec resin in a Teflon shrink-wrap column (resin reservoir dimensions: 25 mm length, 3 162 mm inner diameter). The column was filled with 0.2 ml resin, which was cleaned and 163 preconditioned with 4 ml MQ, 4 ml 0.05M HNO₃ and 4 ml 3M HNO₃. After the sample was 164 loaded, matrix elements were eluted with 4 ml 3M HNO₃. Strontium was eluted in 3 ml 165 0.05M HNO₃. The resin was not reused. The Sr fraction was dried at 120°C, re-dissolved 166 in 1 ml concentrated HNO₃, and fluxed at 100°C for one hour. The sample was left to cool 167 and a few drops of H_2O_2 were added to destroy organics. Subsequently, the sample was 168 dried at 80°C. A few drops of 6M HCl were added and dried down again. Yields were >90% 169 and blanks were typically a few hundred picograms. The amount of Sr in the samples 170 171 ranged from 2 - 11 µg and, therefore, no blank correction was necessary. A total of nine full procedural blanks were measured over the course of three years. 172

173 *3.1. AN-G and boric acid*

For the AN-G rock standard, an additional step was added to the dissolution procedure. 174 This included boric acid to prevent the formation of fluorides (Greenwood and Earnshaw, 175 1997; Yokoyama et al., 1999) and keep Sr in solution, following the procedure outlined 176 by Connelly et al. (2006). After sample digestion, the samples were dried and then fluxed 177 in concentrated HNO₃ for 24 hours, after which a mixture of 1 ml 0.45 M boric acid in 3.5 178 M HNO₃ and 1 ml concentrated HCl was added and fluxed for 24 hours. Samples were 179 dried and fluxed in 6 M HCl for 24 hours. Samples were then dried and re-dissolved in 1 180 ml 2.5 M HCl for loading on the cation column. Because boric acid may affect the 181 behaviour of elements on the resin, and therefore the Sr elution curve, a column 182

calibration was carried out. This resulted in the Sr elution being extended to a total of 14ml, now including 5 ml of the matrix elution (Table 1).

185 4. Mass Spectrometry

186 *4.1. Filament loading and measurement procedure*

187 All measurements were performed on a Triton Multicollector Thermal Ionisation Mass Spectrometer (TIMS) at ETH Zürich. The purified Sr was taken up in 10 – 20 µL of 6M HCl 188 and left to dissolve for an hour. This volume was varied to achieve 1 µL loads that 189 190 contained ~ 500ng Sr, depending on the Sr content of the sample. One μ L of the dissolved sample was combined with 1 µL Ta phosphate activator solution and mixed using a 191 syringe and capillary tubing. The 2 µL solution was then loaded onto the center of a Re 192 filament, which was then glowed to a dull-red for a few seconds until the deposit turned 193 white. Prior to loading, filaments were outgassed at 4 A for two hours and 4.5 A for thirty 194 195 minutes. All filament loads contained roughly the same amount of Sr, whether the sample material is BCR-2, NIST 987 or other. Processing 30 mg of BCR-2 results in sufficient Sr 196 $(\sim 10.4 \,\mu g)$ for 20 filament loads. 197

The filaments were heated to 3500 mA (~1,500°C) over two hours. Autofocusing and 198 zoom optics were used to obtain flat and well-centred peaks. Masses from 84 – 88 amu 199 were measured with 20V on the ⁸⁸Sr signal. The electronic baseline was measured for 30s 200 prior to each block of measurements and subtracted from all signal intensities. Amplifier 201 rotation was used after every block (20 integrations) to average differences in relative 202 amplifier gains. A two-line acquisition scheme (dynamic protocol) was employed in order 203 204 to cancel out variations in Faraday cup efficiencies. One integration lasted 8.4 seconds. In order for the signal to decay to background levels between lines, delays of 4 seconds and 205 8 seconds were used after lines 1 and 2, respectively. These delays are sufficient that the 206 signal decays to a level in the Faraday cups at which it does not affect the measurement 207 of isotopes on the following line (Hans et al., 2013b). One two-line integration lasted ~30 208 209 seconds and one total sample measurement lasted up to 5 and a half hours. Generally, 15-30 blocks of 20 integrations were obtained during this time and a 2 sigma outlier 210 rejection was applied. Levels of ⁸⁵Rb, monitored for interference correction, were 211 negligible due to the efficient chemical separation procedure and the fact that remaining 212 213 Rb in the filament load evaporates at a lower temperature than that at which Sr isotopes are measured. Sample measurements were interspersed with NIST SRM 987 Sr standard 214

analyses. Sr intensities of standards and samples were corrected for gain, baseline and interferences online. The calculation of static and dynamic ratios was performed offline after measurement following equations (Eq.1 and Eq.2) detailed below. The data are presented as ε^{84} Sr, which is defined as the deviation from the average 84 Sr/ 86 Sr ratio of the NIST SRM 987 standard of each analytical session expressed in parts per ten thousand (ε^{84} Sr = [(84 Sr/ 86 Sr)_{sample}/(84 Sr/ 86 Sr)_{standard}-1] x 10⁴).

221

222 4.2. Calculation of static ratios

Two different measurement routines (static and dynamic) were investigated as they have been shown to produce dissimilar results (Hans et al., 2013a,b; Yobregat et al., 2017). For static measurements, the signal intensity of ^{84,86,88}Sr (and ⁸⁵Rb) were analysed simultaneously and instrumental mass bias was corrected using the exponential law and $\begin{pmatrix} \frac{88}{8}Sr}{86}r \end{pmatrix}_{True} = 8.3752$ (Thirlwall, 1991). Given the cup configuration (Table 2), the static ratio, $\begin{pmatrix} \frac{84}{8}Sr}{86}r \end{pmatrix}_{Static 1}$, from acquisition line 1 can be written as:

229
$$\left(\frac{^{84}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Static 1}} = \left(\frac{^{84}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Meas 1}} \times \left(\frac{m_{84}}{m_{86}}\right)^{\text{f}} \text{ with } f = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{\left(\frac{^{88}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{True}}}{\left(\frac{^{88}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Meas 1}}\right)}{\ln\left(\frac{m_{88}}{m_{86}}\right)}$$
(Eq. 1)

230

Where m₈₄, m₈₆, and m₈₈ are the atomic masses of isotopes ⁸⁴Sr, ⁸⁶Sr, and ⁸⁸Sr, respectively. $\binom{^{84}Sr}{^{86}Sr}_{Meas 1}$ and $\binom{^{88}Sr}{^{86}Sr}_{Meas 1}$ are the ratios measured on acquisition line 1. Since the measured Sr ion-beam intensities are function of faraday collector efficiencies and amplifier gains, we can write:

235
$$\left(\frac{^{84}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Meas 1}} = \frac{I^{84}\text{Sr}_{\text{Meas 1}}}{I^{86}\text{Sr}_{\text{Meas 1}}} = \frac{I^{84}\text{Sr}_{1} \times \text{C}_{\text{L1}} \times \text{G}_{\text{L1}}}{I^{86}\text{Sr}_{1} \times \text{C}_{\text{H1}} \times \text{G}_{\text{H1}}}$$

236 and
$$\left(\frac{{}^{88}\text{Sr}}{{}^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Meas 1}} = \frac{I^{88}\text{Sr}_{\text{Meas 1}}}{I^{86}\text{Sr}_{\text{Meas 1}}} = \frac{I^{88}\text{Sr}_{1} \times C_{\text{H3}} \times G_{\text{H3}}}{I^{86}\text{Sr}_{1} \times C_{\text{H1}} \times G_{\text{H1}}}$$

where I^{84} Sr ₁, I^{86} Sr ₁, and I^{88} Sr ₁ are the "true" intensities of the different Sr isotope beams on acquisition lines 1; C_{L1} , C_{H1} , and C_{H3} are the efficiencies of the faraday collectors L1, H1, and H3 that change with time depending on instrument use; G_{L1} , G_{H1} , and G_{H3} are the gains of the amplifiers to which the faraday collectors L1, H1, and H3 are attached.Using this notation, (Eq.1) can be re-written as follows:

$$242 \quad \left(\frac{{}^{84}\text{Sr}}{{}^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Static 1}} = \frac{I^{84}\text{Sr}_{1} \times \text{C}_{\text{L1}} \times \text{G}_{\text{L1}}}{I^{86}\text{Sr}_{1} \times \text{C}_{\text{H1}} \times \text{G}_{\text{H1}}} \times \exp\left(\frac{\ln\left(\frac{\left(\frac{88\text{Sr}}{86\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{True}}}{\frac{1}{86}\text{Sr}_{1} \times \text{C}_{\text{H3}} \times \text{G}_{\text{H3}}}\right)}{\ln\left(\frac{m_{88}}{m_{86}}\right)} \times \ln\left(\frac{m_{84}}{m_{86}}\right)\right)$$

243
$$\Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{{}^{84}\text{Sr}}{{}^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Static 1}} = \frac{I^{84}\text{Sr}_{1} \times \text{C}_{\text{L1}} \times \text{G}_{\text{L1}}}{I^{86}\text{Sr}_{1} \times \text{C}_{\text{H1}} \times \text{G}_{\text{H1}}} \times \left(\frac{\left(\frac{{}^{88}\text{Sr}}{{}^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{True}}}{\frac{I^{88}\text{Sr}_{1} \times \text{C}_{\text{H3}} \times \text{G}_{\text{H3}}}{I^{86}\text{Sr}_{1} \times \text{C}_{\text{H1}} \times \text{G}_{\text{H1}}}}\right)^{\phi} \text{ with } \phi = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{m_{84}}{m_{86}}\right)}{\ln\left(\frac{m_{88}}{m_{86}}\right)}$$

$$244 \qquad \Longleftrightarrow \left(\frac{{}^{84}\mathrm{Sr}}{{}^{86}\mathrm{Sr}}\right)_{\mathrm{Static}\ 1} = \frac{\mathrm{I}^{84}\mathrm{Sr}_{\ 1}}{\mathrm{I}^{86}\mathrm{Sr}_{\ 1}} \times \left(\frac{{}^{88}\mathrm{Sr}}{{}^{86}\mathrm{Sr}}\right)_{\mathrm{True}}^{\varphi} \times \left(\frac{\mathrm{I}^{88}\mathrm{Sr}_{\ 1}}{\mathrm{I}^{86}\mathrm{Sr}_{\ 1}}\right)^{-\varphi} \times \left(\frac{\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{L1}} \times \mathrm{G}_{\mathrm{L1}}}{\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{H1}} \times \mathrm{G}_{\mathrm{H1}}}\right) \times \left(\frac{\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{H3}} \times \mathrm{G}_{\mathrm{H3}}}{\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{H1}} \times \mathrm{G}_{\mathrm{H1}}}\right)^{-\varphi}$$

Using m_{84} = 83.91319; m_{86} = 85.90926 and m_{88} = 87.905612 (Wang et al., 2012), ϕ is 245 equal to -1.02337, hence the static ratio scales to $\sim \frac{C_{L1} \times G_{L1} \times C_{H3} \times G_{H3}}{(C_{H1} \times G_{H1})^2}$. Assuming that the 246 amplifier gains are properly calibrated and do not vary during a run (i.e. $G_{H1} = G_{L1} = G_{H3} =$ 247 1), a simple sensitivity test shows that if faraday collector L1 deteriorates faster than 248 faraday collectors H1 and H3 so that $\frac{C_{L1}}{C_{H1}} = 0.999900$ and $\frac{C_{H3}}{C_{H1}} = 1$, then the static $\binom{^{84}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}$ ratio 249 will be shifted by -100 ppm (see Garçon et al., 2018 for more details on the calculation). 250 Long-term accuracy and precision of static ratios should thus degrade slowly through 251 time as collector performance deteriorates. 252

253

254 4.3. Calculation of dynamic ratios

A two-line dynamic acquisition scheme was also used for the determination of ⁸⁴Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios. Varying the magnet settings enabled the measurement of Sr isotopes in different faraday cups from line 1 to line 2 (Table 2). Dynamic ratios are calculated assuming that Sr mass fractionation follows an exponential law during the run. The dynamic ⁸⁴Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratio, $\left(\frac{^{84}Sr}{^{86}Sr}\right)_{Dyn 1}$, is obtained by combining the ⁸⁴Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratio measured on line 1, $\left(\frac{^{84}Sr}{^{86}Sr}\right)_{Meas 1}$, with the ⁸⁸Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratio measured on line 2, $\left(\frac{^{88}Sr}{^{86}Sr}\right)_{Meas 2}$, to minimize the 261 relative difference of efficiencies and amplifier gains between Faraday collectors L1 and

262 H1. This gives:

263
$$\left(\frac{^{84}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Dyn 1}} = \left(\frac{^{84}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Meas 1}} \times \left(\frac{m_{84}}{m_{86}}\right)^{\text{f}} \text{ with } f = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{\left(\frac{^{88}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{True}}}{\left(\frac{^{88}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Meas 2}}\right)}{\ln\left(\frac{m_{88}}{m_{86}}\right)}$$

264
$$\Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{^{84}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Dyn 1}} = \left(\frac{^{84}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Meas 1}} \times \left(\frac{^{88}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{True}}^{\phi} \times \left(\frac{^{88}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Meas 2}}^{-\phi} \quad (\text{Eq. 2})$$

265 With ion-beam intensities, this gives:

266
$$\left(\frac{^{84}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{Dyn 1}} = \frac{l^{84}\text{Sr}_{1}}{l^{86}\text{Sr}_{1}} \times \left(\frac{^{88}\text{Sr}}{^{86}\text{Sr}}\right)_{\text{True}}^{\phi} \times \left(\frac{l^{88}\text{Sr}_{2}}{l^{86}\text{Sr}_{2}}\right)^{-\phi} \times \left(\frac{C_{\text{L1}} \times G_{\text{L1}}}{C_{\text{H1}} \times G_{\text{H1}}}\right)^{1+\phi}$$

Because φ is ~ -1, faraday cup efficiencies and amplifier gains (*i.e.*, $\frac{C_{L1} \times G_{L1}}{C_{H1} \times G_{H1}}$) almost divide 267 out in the dynamic calculation of $\binom{^{84}Sr}{^{86}Sr}$, hence dynamic ratios are much less sensitive to 268 faraday collector deteriorations and changes in amplifier gains than static ratios. Using 269 the same sensitivity test as above for the static ratio, that is assuming that $G_{H1} = G_{L1} = 1$ 270 and the faraday collectors degraded such that $\frac{C_{L1}}{C_{H1}} = 0.999900$, one can show that the 271 dynamic ratio will only be shifted by +2.3 ppm (Garçon et al, 2018). In other words, the 272 calculation of dynamic ratios mathematically cancels out ~97.7% of the component of 273 imprecision and inaccuracy arising from collector inefficiencies and amplifier gain drift 274 during measurement. This is the reason why the long-term precision and accuracy of 275 dynamic ratios is, in general, much better than that of static ratios. 276

277

278 5. Results and Discussion

279 5.1. Precision and accuracy of standard measurements

The long-term static average of ⁸⁴Sr/⁸⁶Sr for the NIST SRM 987 Sr standard is 0.056495 ± 0.000003, (2SD; n=52). The data are in good agreement with those reported by other groups (Table 3; Andreasen and Sharma, 2007; Moynier et al., 2012; Hans et al., 2013a; Brennecka et al., 2013; Yobregat et al., 2017). The slight differences in absolute ratios for standards between this study and others do not affect the data comparison between the studies because epsilon values are calculated relative to the standards for each analytical session. Furthermore, our long-term dynamic average of 84 Sr/ 86 Sr for the NIST SRM 987 Sr standard is 0.056497 ± 0.000003 is more accurate as it is not dependent on Faraday cup deterioration. Repeat measurements of the NIST SRM 987 Sr standard that was processed through ion chromatography define a dynamic value of ϵ^{84} Sr -0.08 ± 0.19 (2SE; n = 5, Table 4) and is thus zero within uncertainty. This demonstrates that the chemical separation procedure does not affect the Sr isotopic composition of samples.

292 5.2. Precision and accuracy of sample measurements

For data acquired in dynamic mode, the terrestrial rocks define an average ε^{84} Sr value of 293 -0.04 ± 0.09 (2SE), which is within uncertainty of 0, as defined by the NIST SRM 987 Sr 294 standard (Table 4; supplementary material Table A1). In contrast, for static acquisition, 295 the mean of all terrestrial rocks is resolved from 0, an ε^{84} Sr value of -0.15 ± 0.09 (2SE). 296 297 These averages are based on 27 separate samples measured over two years. The data broadly agree with those in the literature within uncertainty and reproduce the negative 298 offset observed in terrestrial material for ε^{84} Sr when measured in static mode (Table 4). 299 300 This offset is not observed in dynamic mode (Fig. 1 and 2).

For BCR-2 and BHVO-2 in particular, our static measurements also confirm the previously 301 reported negative offsets in ε⁸⁴Sr (Table 4, Andreasen and Sharma, 2007; Paton et al., 302 2013; Brennecka et al., 2013). However, the average ε^{84} Sr values for dynamic 303 measurements of BCR-2 (-0.12 ± 0.11) and BHVO-2 (0.04 ± 0.24) do not display a resolved 304 negative offset (Fig. 1 and 2). Terrestrial Sr is not expected to show non-mass dependent 305 variations in 84 Sr/ 86 Sr ratios. Thus, the absence of ϵ^{84} Sr deficits for dynamic 306 measurements is consistent with expectations. This indicates that, for ⁸⁴Sr, dynamic 307 measurements are more accurate than static ones, consistent with dynamic data for ϵ^{84} Sr 308 reported by Hans et al. (2013a) and Yobregat et al. (2017). The external reproducibility 309 (2SD) on ε^{84} Sr, based on 10 replicate analyses of BCR-2, is 0.36 and is similar to the long-310 311 term reproducibility of SRM-987 (\pm 0.51). The values above demonstrate the high degree of accuracy and precision of the measurements. 312

313

314 5.3. Dynamic vs. static data acquisition

Static measurements have the advantage of time efficiency and good internal precision. 315 316 However, a static routine fails to account for changes in individual cup efficiencies over time. Dynamic acquisition mode overcomes this problem (e.g., Hans et al., 2013a; Roth et 317 al., 2013). The discrepancy between dynamic and static measurements, with dynamic 318 analyses yielding values closer to zero (Hans et al., 2013a,b; Yobregat et al., 2017) is 319 reproduced in this study (Fig. 2). For example, the static line 1 results for BCR-2 are 320 characterised by a negative average ε^{84} Sr value of -0.20 ± 0.15 (2SE), which is within 321 uncertainty of the range of -0.10 to -0.18 reported by other studies using only a static 322 routine (Andreasen and Sharma, 2007; Brennecka et al., 2013; Paton et al., 2013). Static 323 line 2 results also display a negative offset of slightly smaller magnitude than line 1. This 324 unusual signature in terrestrial material has been attributed to possible contamination 325 of the NIST SRM Sr standard SRM 987 during production or nuclear field shift effects 326 (Moynier et al., 2012; Fujii et al., 2009). 327

Dynamic analyses, however, yield ϵ^{84} Sr data that do not show resolved negative shifts, 328 which indicates that the shift may be of analytical origin. Possible explanations include: 329 (i) varying faraday cup efficiencies that are cancelled out by the dynamic routine, (ii) 330 rapid changes in mass fractionation between magnet settings that lead to inaccurate mass 331 bias correction for the dynamic data, (iii) insufficient settling of the amplifiers between 332 magnet jumps from one line to the next (signal decay), (iv) matrix effects that lead to 333 erroneous mass bias correction, (v) interferences, or (vi) ion beam truncation. 334

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5.3.1. Faraday cup efficiency

Changes in faraday collector efficiencies depend on instrument use and the amount of 337 ions collected in the cups through their life. Because previous studies reported similar 338 negative ϵ^{84} Sr values for static data but likely did not use their instrument the same way, 339 the static-dynamic offset is unlikely to be due to problems with varying cup efficiencies 340 through time. Moreover, there is no obvious reason for the collector efficiencies to be 341 342 different between standards and samples, as required to explain the static-dynamic offset between terrestrial samples and the NIST SRM Sr standard. 343

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5.3.2. Rapid changes in instrumental mass bias

Roth et al. (2014) reported that fast rates of isotopic fractionation during dynamic 346 347 measurements of Nd isotopic ratios by TIMS can introduce an analytical bias. If the rate of instrumental mass-dependent isotopic fractionation is fast relative to the time 348 between measurement lines, the isotopic ratio used for internal normalisation can be 349 unsuitable. Consequently, Nd isotopic anomalies relative to terrestrial values reported by 350 Upadhyay et al. (2009) were suggested to be analytical artefacts (Roth et al., 2014). This 351 effect might also be significant for dynamic measurements of ⁸⁴Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios by TIMS. 352 Fractionation of ⁸⁸Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios between lines one and two could cause line two ⁸⁸Sr/⁸⁶Sr 353 ratios (measured 8 seconds after line 1) to be unsuitable for the mass bias correction of 354 line one ⁸⁴Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios. Given the collector configuration (Table 2), it is expected that 355 the normal fractionation of Sr through the run (i.e. ⁸⁸Sr/⁸⁶Sr increase through time) would 356 bias the dynamic ⁸⁴Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratio towards higher than true value for high fractionation 357 rate. In their study, Yobregat et al. (2017) argued that the average fractionation rate of 358 their runs was too low to account for the observed dynamic-static offset, therefore ruling 359 out the possibility of significantly shifting the dynamic ⁸⁴Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios with this process. 360 Our runs have, on average, higher fractionation rates than Yobregat et al. (2017), but like 361 them, we do not believe that the instrumental fractionation of Sr in between acquisition 362 lines is responsible for the measured static-dynamic offset in ϵ^{84} Sr values. The detailed 363 analyses of several of our runs revealed no obvious correlation between the mean 364 fractionation rate of the runs and the resulting dynamic ⁸⁴Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios. Moreover, one 365 of our BCR-2 run displays a reverse fractionation trend (run with a negative mean 366 fractionation rate), which should theoretically results in a dynamic ε^{84} Sr value lower than 367 the true value. Nevertheless, this particular run still returns a less negative dynamic ϵ^{84} Sr 368 value ($_{dvnamic}$ = -0.13 ± 0.29 (2SE)) than the static value from line one (ϵ^{84} Sr_{static line 1} = -0.29 369 ± 0.25 (2SE)). Therefore, instrumental fractionation of ⁸⁸Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios between line 1 and 370 line 2 likely does not cause the observed offset between static and dynamic ε^{84} Sr values. 371

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373 5.3.3. Settling time of the amplifiers

This issue has been tested by Hans et al. (2013a,b) on the same Triton multicollector thermal ionisation mass spectrometer (TIMS) at ETH Zürich that was used for our study. These authors showed that remnant signal is not an issue because it decays to background levels within the delay times used during the measurement routine (*i.e.* 4 and
8 seconds after lines one and two, respectively).

379 5.3.4. Matrix effects

The offsets may be caused because the exponential law used for mass bias correction may 380 381 not accurately describe Sr isotopic fractionation in detail. Since the offset is observed for rock samples and not for the processed NIST SRM 987 Sr standard (Fig. 1, Table 4), the 382 problem may be due to matrix element(s) from the rock samples that were left behind 383 after ion exchange chemistry. We did not observe significant levels of Ca, Mg, or Al in the 384 sample solution after the separation of Sr. Thus, the static offset would require an as yet 385 unrecognised matrix effect and for the dynamic routine to be more robust against such 386 matrix effects. 387

388 5.3.5. Interferences

Matrix elements present in the analysed solution could also introduce isobaric 389 interferences on Sr isotopes (e.g., ⁶⁸Zn¹⁶O on ⁸⁴Sr). This scenario would require that the 390 same amount of interfering element is always left in the sample solution and that the 391 dynamic routine fortuitously corrects for this offset. This is rather unlikely because 392 393 different studies (Andreasen and Sharma, 2007; Moynier et al., 2012; Hans et al., 2013a; Brennecka et al., 2013; Yobregat et al., 2017) observed similar negative offsets despite 394 using different Sr purification protocols. In general, the amount and composition of any 395 remaining matrix depends on the ion exchange chemistry protocol and would not be 396 constant across the above studies. 397

398 5.3.6. Ion beam truncation

399 Yobregat et al. (2017) proposed that truncation of the ⁸⁸Sr ion beam was responsible for the difference in ϵ^{84} Sr values measured in static mode versus those measured in dynamic 400 mode and that these effects depend on the location of the ⁸⁸Sr beam relative to the axial 401 cup (*i.e.*, H3 vs. H1 on lines 1 and 2, respectively); the farther away the ⁸⁸Sr beam is from 402 the axial cup, the more prone it is to truncation. Yobregat et al. (2017) also observed a 403 constant, and large difference in the mean mass fractionation factors (f) between rock 404 405 samples and SRM 987 and showed that such a large difference, combined with beam truncation, could lead to an apparent offset of 25 ppm in ε^{84} Sr values. However, this 406 hypothesis is not able to explain why their static line 2 values show larger ε^{84} Sr effects 407

than those from static line 1 because the ⁸⁸Sr beam is collected closer to the axial cup on
line 2. Thus, truncation of the ⁸⁸Sr beam does not provide an internally consistent
explanation for the difference between static and dynamic results in their dataset.

In addition, beam truncation can explain the difference between static and dynamic 411 results only if the mean mass fractionation factors observed for analyses of rock samples 412 compared to those for SRM 987 are distinct. Yobregat et al. (2017) observed a significant 413 difference (*i.e.*, 0.3), whereas we observed a difference of only 0.004. Moreover, t-tests 414 performed on our data confirm that there is no significant difference between mass 415 fractionation factors obtained from terrestrial rock analyses compared to those from 416 SRM 987 for either static line 1 (t = 0.21) or static line 2 (t = 0.24). Nevertheless, our 417 analyses show a systematic offset in ε^{84} Sr static values for terrestrial samples. Therefore, 418 we conclude that truncation of the ⁸⁸Sr ion beam is an unlikely explanation for the 419 difference between ϵ^{84} Sr values measured in static mode versus those measured in 420 dynamic mode observed in our study. 421

422 In summary, it cannot be excluded that dynamic acquisition may produce erroneous Sr compositions that cause the analysed samples to overlap with the NIST SRM 987 Sr 423 isotopic standard by coincidence. However, we consider this scenario unlikely. Our data 424 confirm that dynamic analyses consistently produce ε^{84} Sr values for terrestrial rock and 425 mineral samples that are indistinguishable within uncertainty from SRM 987, whereas 426 427 static analyses show reproducible negative offsets. While the origin of the offsets observed using a static routine needs further investigation, the consistency of the 428 dynamic data strongly suggests that the acquisition of high precision ε^{84} Sr data requires 429 430 a dynamic routine to obtain accurate results.

431 **6. Conclusions**

An extensive dataset collected over more than two years confirms that our analytical procedure provides precise and accurate Sr isotopic measurements. Separation of Sr is achieved by ion exchange chromatography and isotopic compositions are measured by TIMS. Data for terrestrial rocks acquired in dynamic mode display ε^{84} Sr values within uncertainty of 0. The discrepancy between static and dynamic acquisition schemes reported by Hans et al. (2013a) and Yobregat et al. (2017) is confirmed, and the dynamic mode is found to be more accurate. Previously reported deficits for ε^{84} Sr in terrestrial material (Andreasen and Sharma, 2007; Moynier et al., 2012; Brennecka et al., 2013;
Paton et al., 2013) were reproduced in this study and are best understood as analytical
artefacts caused by data acquisition in static mode. Looking to the future, Sr isotopic
measurements for a similar range of terrestrial rocks by inductively coupled plasma mass
spectrometry (ICP-MS) would provide a means of testing if the deficit is unique to TIMS
measurements carried out in static mode, which then may provide insight into the origin
of the artefacts.

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- 564 **Tables and Figures**

Table 1	
Ion chromate	graphy protocol for Sr separation

Step	Volume (ml)	Solution	
Cation column: 3.7 ml BioRad cation resin A	GW-X8 (200-400 mesh)		
Cleaning	10	MQ	
Preconditioning	20	2.5 M HCl	
Load sample	1	2.5 M HCl	
Elute matrix	17	2.5 M HCl	
Elute Sr	9	2.5 M HCl	
Cleaning	20	6 M HCl	
Sr spec column: 0.2 ml Sr-spec resin (50-100) μm)		
Cleaning	4	MQ	
Cleaning	4	0.05 M HNO3	
Preconditioning	4	3 M HNO ₃	
Load sample	1	3 M HNO ₃	
Elute matrix	4	3 M HNO ₃	
Elute Sr	3	0.05 M HNO3	

569 Table 2

Faraday Cup configuration for TIMS measurements.

Cup	L3	L2	L1	СС	H1	H2	H3
Line 1	-	-	⁸⁴ Sr	⁸⁵ Rb	⁸⁶ Sr	⁸⁷ Sr	⁸⁸ Sr
Line 2	⁸⁴ Sr	⁸⁵ Rb	⁸⁶ Sr	⁸⁷ Sr	⁸⁸ Sr	-	-

The boxes indicate the overlaps exploited for the dynamic analyses. The ${}^{88}Sr/{}^{86}Sr$ ratio from line 2 is used for the mass bias correction of the ${}^{84}Sr/{}^{86}Sr$ ratio from line 1.

Table 3

The Sr isotopic composition for NIST SRM-987.

	⁸⁴ Sr/ ⁸⁶ Sr	2SD	Mode n
This study*	0.056497	0.000003	Dynamic 574
Hans et al. (2013a)*	0.056495	0.000003	Dynamic 30
Yobregat et al. (2017)	0.056492	0.000001	Dynamic 35
Brennecka et al. (2013)	0.056493	0.000003	Static 576
Moynier et al. (2012) (Tokyo Tech)	0.056492	0.000002	Static 53
Andreasen and Sharma (2007)	0.056494	0.000002	Static 57 ¹ /2

*Both studies used the same Triton TIMS instrument at ETH Zürich.

Table 4

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Table 4 The ε^{84} Sr values for BCR-2, BHVO-2, and BSE acquired in static (line 1) and dynamic 579 modes.

	Static ₁ ε ⁸⁴ Sr	2SD	2SE	n
SRM 987 (column processed, this	-0.06	0.39	0.17	580
study)	0100	0107	0117	
BCR-2				581
This study	-0.20	0.46	0.15	10
Hans et al. (2013b)	-0.32	0.26	0.11	582
Brennecka et al. (2013)	-0.10	0.50	0.25	4
Andreasen and Sharma (2007)	-0.16	0.45	0.17	583
Paton et al. (2013)	-0.18	0.30	0.10	10
BHVO-2				584
This study	-0.13	0.35	0.14	6
Hans et al. (2013b)	-0.16	0.30	0.17	58 5
Yobregat et al. (2017)	-0.07	0.31	0.10	9
Moynier et al. (2012)	-0.18	0.31	0.22	580
Paton et al. (2013)	-0.25	0.22	0.06	16
BSE				587
This study	-0.15	0.45	0.09	27
Hans et al. (2013b)	-0.25	0.26	0.07	58 6 4
Yobregat et al. (2017)	-0.14	0.41	0.10	17
Moynier et al. (2012) (TT)	-0.29	0.20	0.08	589
Paton et al. (2013)	-0.22	0.26	0.05	26
	Dynamic ε ⁸⁴ Sr	2SD	2SE	59 0
SRM 987 (column processed, this study)	-0.08	0.43	0.19	5
BCR-2 This study	-0.12	0.36	0 1 1	591 10
Hans et al. $(2013a)$	0.04	0.09	0.04	5
BHV0-2				592
This study	0.04	0.60	0.24	6
Hans et al. (2013a)	0.04	0.31	0.18	593
Yobregat et al. (2017)	-0.07	0.31	0.10	50%
BSE				594
This study	-0.04	0.49	0.09	_ 28
Hans et al. (2013a)	0.02	0.24	0.07	595 14
Yobregat et al. (2017)	-0.03	0.29	0.07	17
				- 396



Fig. 1. Strontium isotopic data for terrestrial samples acquired in dynamic and static (line 1) modes. The ε^{84} Sr values were calculated relative to the NIST SRM 987 Sr isotopic standard. The grey lines are ± 49 ppm (dynamic) and ± 45 ppm (static) (2SD for all rocks). The dashed lines represent the average ε^{84} Sr values of all rocks: -0.04 (dynamic) and -0.15 (static).

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Fig. 2. Mean ε^{84} Sr values for BCR-2 (n=10), BHVO-2 (n=6), and all anorthosites (AN-G, JL-27, AN-1, AN-2; n=10) for dynamic (filled symbols) and static line 1 (open symbols) data acquisition modes. Error bars are 2SE. The black dashed line (dynamic) and gray dashed line (static) are the averages of all terrestrial samples analyzed (n=27).