

WEBINAR SERIES 2021

# Elemental Analysis in the Food Industry

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Adrian Fiege and Frank Portala  
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# From raw material to final product: Typical XRF application in the Food Industry



» **Frank Portala, Product Manager XRF,  
Karlsruhe, Germany**

Chemical Engineer (Dipl. FH)

2012 Product Management Bruker AXS

Product Management XRF

Karlsruhe, Germany



» **Adrian Fiege, Product Manager XRF,  
Karlsruhe, Germany**

PhD, Geoscience

2019 Product Management Bruker AXS

Product Management XRF

Karlsruhe, Germany

# From raw material to final product: Typical XRF application in the Food Industry

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When to use Standardless Solutions?

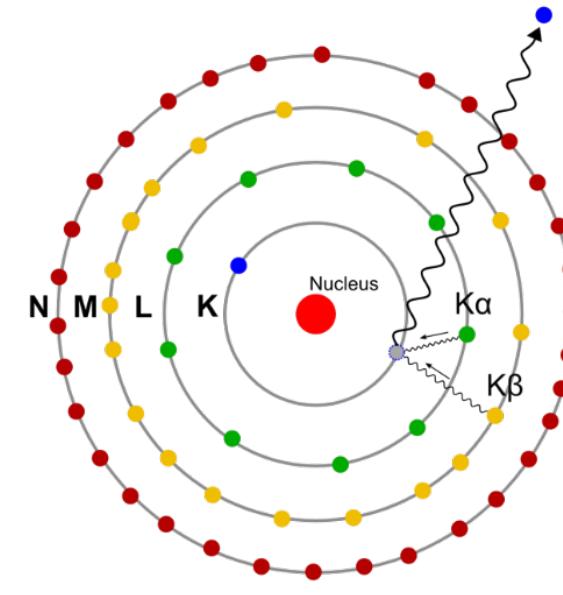
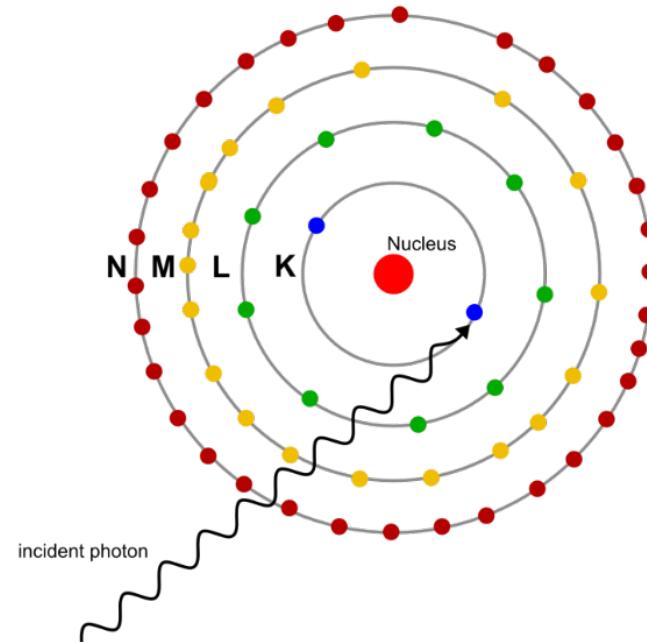
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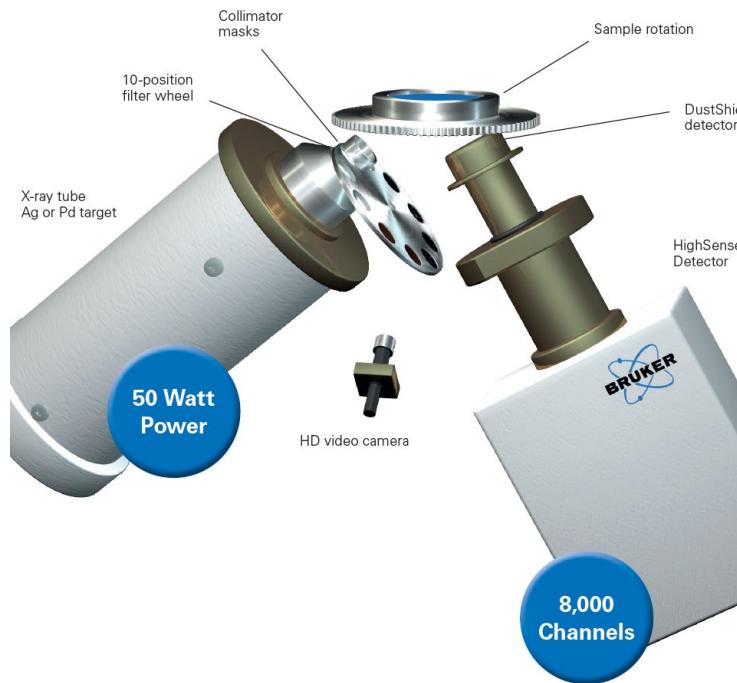
# X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) Analysis Principle – Photoelectric Effect



- Sample excited with an X-ray beam causing fluorescence
- Electron ejected from an inner shell of its atom
- Electron from a shell farther out falls into the vacancy
- Energy difference is emitted as an X-ray photon
- Discrete energy or wavelength is characteristic for the emitting element / transition
- Intensity of characteristic radiation is proportional to concentration of the element in the sample

# Energy-dispersive XRF (EDXRF) Wavelength-dispersive XRF (WDXRF)

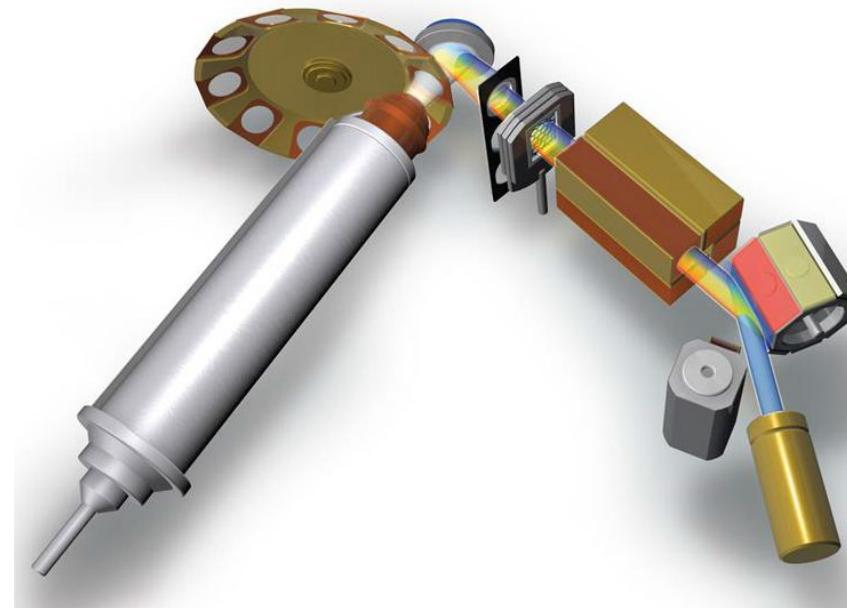
## EDXRF



Direct or Polarized excitation

- Detects intensity & energy

## WDXRF



Benchtop (400 W) or floor standing (up to 4 kW)

- Detects intensity at a given wavelength

# X-ray Fluorescence Analysis (XRF)

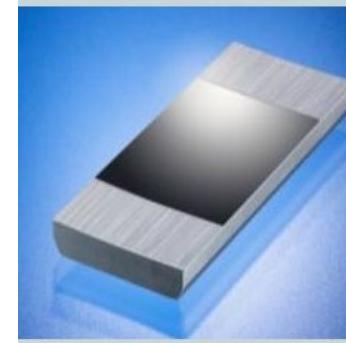
## The Comparison of Energy and Wavelength Dispersive Spectrometers

### EDXRF

- Mechanical simplicity
- Cheaper
- Sensitivities: down to the ppm level
- Records the entire spectrum
- Easy operation
- Smaller, "can be brought to the sample"

### WDXRF

- High precision mechanics
- Higher capital
- Precision: <0.05%
- Higher resolution
- Sensitivities: down to the ppm level, but roughly one to two orders more sensitive
- Records the counts at a given wavelength
- Very fast analysis
- Highest sample throughput



# Energy-dispersive XRF (EDXRF)

# Wavelength-dispersive XRF (WDXRF)

Elemental Ranges:

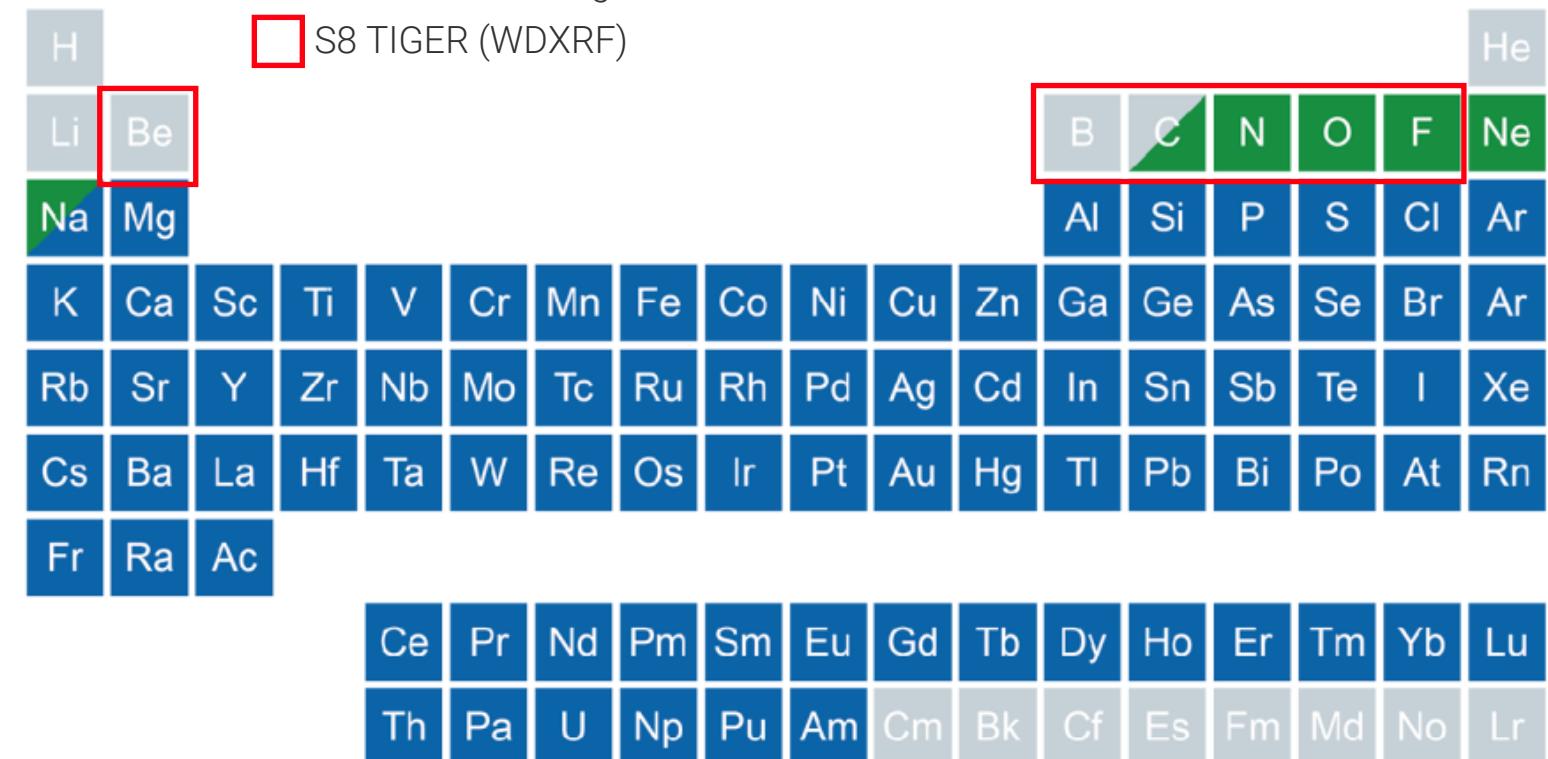
EDXRF: (C) F to Am

- Food/Feed: Na to U

WDXRF: (B) Be to Am

- Food/Feed: F to U

- S2 PUMA (EDXRF)
- S2 PUMA with HighSense XP
- S8 TIGER (WDXRF)



The periodic table illustrates the elemental ranges for EDXRF and WDXRF. The table is color-coded based on the detector used for each element:

- EDXRF (S2 PUMA):** Elements from Carbon (C) to Americium (Am) are highlighted in blue.
- EDXRF (S2 PUMA with HighSense XP):** Elements from Boron (B) to Fluorine (F) are highlighted in green.
- WDXRF (S8 TIGER):** Elements from Boron (B) to Americium (Am) are highlighted in red.

Legend:

- S2 PUMA (EDXRF) = Blue
- S2 PUMA with HighSense XP = Green
- S8 TIGER (WDXRF) = Red

# Sample Types

XRF can be used for all sample types and applications

- Solids, liquids, powders, pressed pellets, fused beads, bulk

A selection of atmosphere modes ensures optimal performance – even for light elements

- Vacuum, helium, air, nitrogen



# Reasons for Elemental Analysis in Feed & Food

- Legal regulations and recommendations
  - *Standards of Identity* specify type and amount of ingredients of certain foods
  - *Nutritional Labels* state e.g., contained Ca and Fe, and may inform about nutrient content claims ("low sodium")
  - *Food Inspection* ensures food stuffs meeting the appropriate laws and regulations

<b>Nutrition Facts</b>			
Serving Size 1 cup (228g) Servings per Container 2			
<b>Amount Per Serving</b>			
Calories	280	Calories from Fat 120	
		% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 13g		20%	
Saturated Fat 5g		25%	
Trans Fat 2g			
Cholesterol 2mg		10%	
Sodium 660mg		28%	
Total Carbohydrate 31g		10%	
Dietary Fiber 3g		0%	
Sugars 5g			
Protein 5g			
Vitamin A 4%	:	Vitamin C 2%	
Calcium 15%	:	Iron 4%	
*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000-calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.			
	Calories: 2,000	2,500	
Total Fat	Less than	65g	80g
Sat Fat	Less than	20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Fiber		25g	30g
<b>Calories per gram:</b>			
Fat 9	•	Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4	

# Reasons for Elemental Analysis in Food

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- Food safety
  - Avoid toxic chemicals (e.g. Ni, Pb), foreign material (e.g. metal, plastic particles)
- Quality control
  - Characterization of raw materials
  - Monitoring food during processing
  - Analysis of the final product
- Research & development
  - Constant need for optimization: healthier, cheaper, longer lasting etc.



# Examples for Elemental Analysis in Food & Animal Feed

## Dairy production

- Animal feed / feed supplement quality control

Ensure the correct contents and ratio of Ca, P, Mg, Na, K, Cl and S



- Critical for the lactation cycle and, thus, for high quantity and quality milk

- Monitor Urine and Milk

- Analyze Ca, P, Mg, Na, K, and Cl.

- Monitor the healthy of the cow and the feedback to changes in diet

- Use the speed of XRF to drive immediate actions at the farms



# Examples for Elemental Analysis in Feed & Food

## Agriculture

- **Soil:** Analyze nutrients and toxic elements in soils from major (Al, Si) to minor (Na, Mg, K, P) to trace element (As, Pb) levels
  - Use results to determine actions such as the selection of the right type and amount of fertilizer
- **Fertilizer quality and production control**
  - Precise analysis of major active components (P, K, Mg) and trace elements (Zn)
  - Monitor toxic components such as As, Cd, and U



# Examples for Elemental Analysis in Feed & Food

## Food

- **Milk powder:** Fe fortification, Ca and Mg monitoring
- **Salty Food/Snacks:** Cl / Cl<sub>2</sub> compliance for salt labeling requirements (NaCl, KCl or CaCl<sub>2</sub>)
- **Rice and grains:** Fe fortification or trace process metal contamination?
- **Bakeries:** TiO<sub>2</sub> as product brightener
- **Chocolate:** Toxic trace elements (Pb, Al)



## Pet Food

- Ash content (Na, Mg, K, and Ca oxides) as regulatory requirement, nutritional additives (e.g., Mn, Fe, Zn)

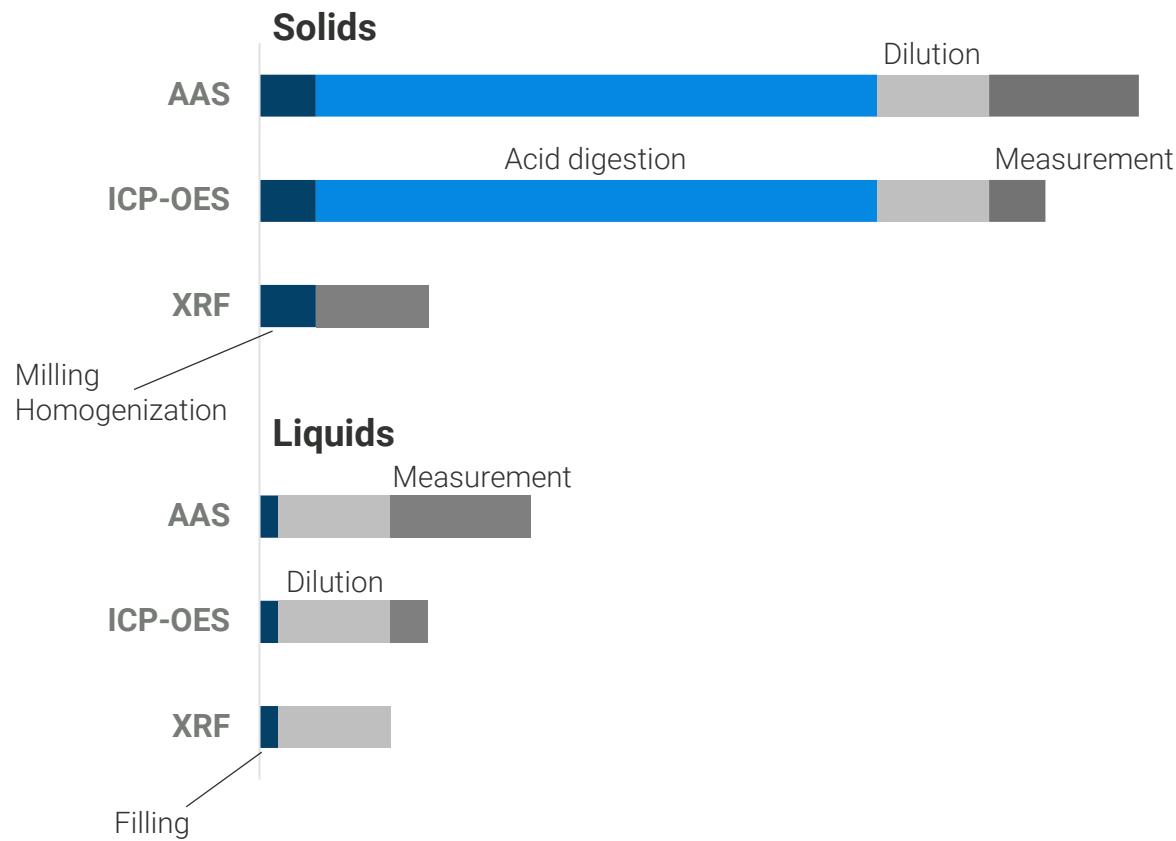


# Advantages of XRF

## Time-to-Result: XRF vs. ICP-OES

- Effective quality and process control requires the shortest time-to-result possible
- This is the time needed from sampling to the final quantitative result
- Any advantage results in:
  - Higher sample throughput
  - Stable industrial processes due to immediate feedback
  - Constantly high product quality

### Time-to-Result



# Advantages of XRF

## Cost of Ownership: XRF vs. AAS and ICP

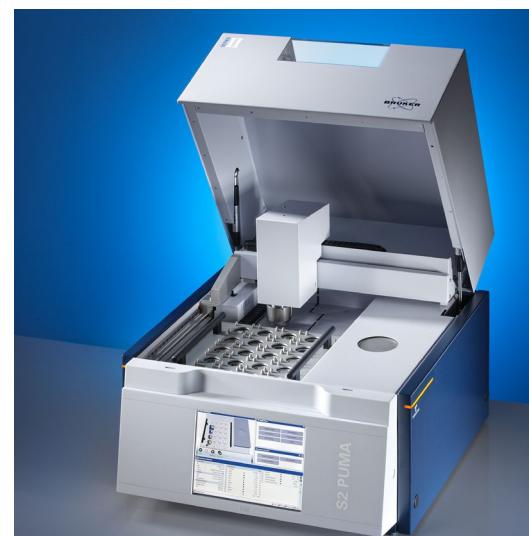
The investment for the analytical instrument is only one part of the total cost of ownership.

Expenses for laboratory equipment, labour and consumables add to that cost.

### ICP/AAS

- Use of expensive accessories (AAS: graphite tubes)
- Consumption of noble gases (ICP: Argon)
- Need for hazardous chemicals (compliance with high-level safety regulations)
- Complicated sample preparation equipment (training and time)

- S2 PUMA Series 2 EDXRF Spectrometer:
  - No hazardous consumables
  - No highly trained lab-technician needed
  - No gas or very little gas consumption (Helium for volatile liquids)



ELEMENTAL ANALYSIS IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY

# Food & Animal Feed Application Examples

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# Process Control in Edible Oil Refineries

- In edible oil **refinery process**, ease of use and immediate feedback of results is more important
- Time-consuming ICP-OES analysis is a disadvantage
- Clear **advantage of XRF** for process control
- P is one of the key elements for proper **process control**
- Phospholipids do have a **negative impact** at some process steps and on the **final product**, e.g. on shelf lifetime
- Total P is measured to monitor the phospholipids removal



# Used Cooking Oil (UCO) and Biofuels

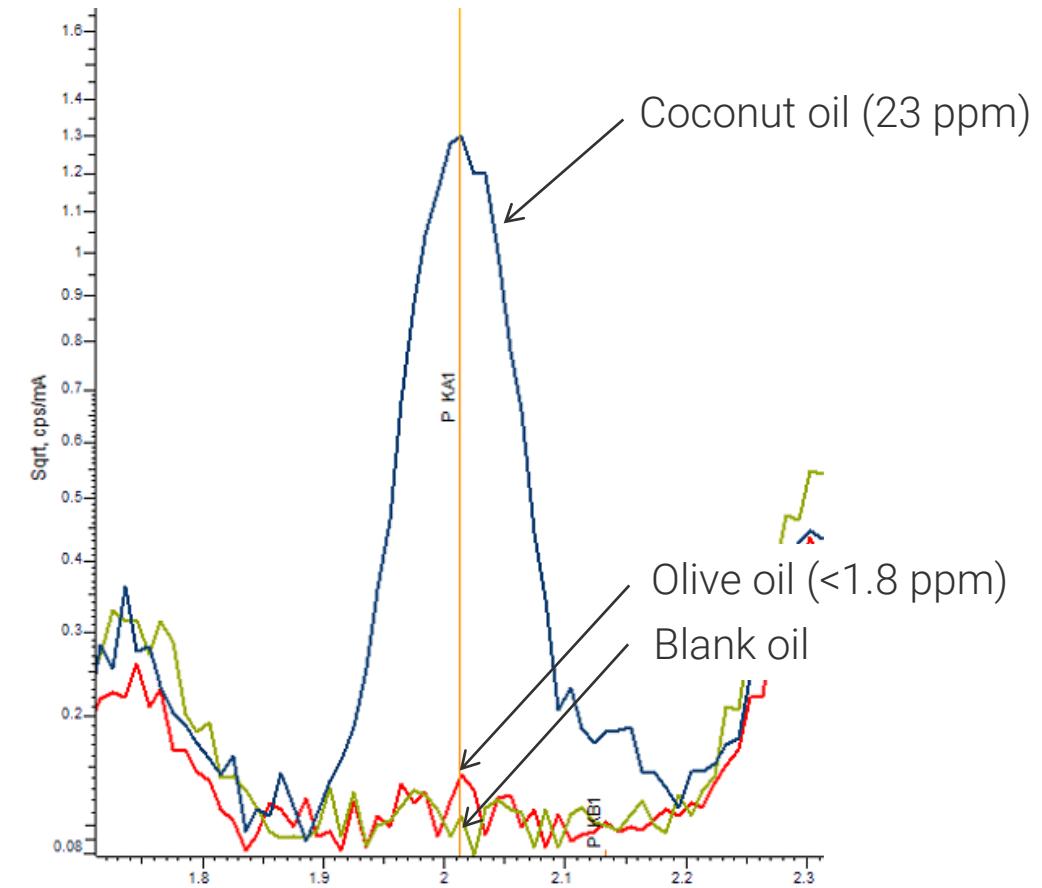
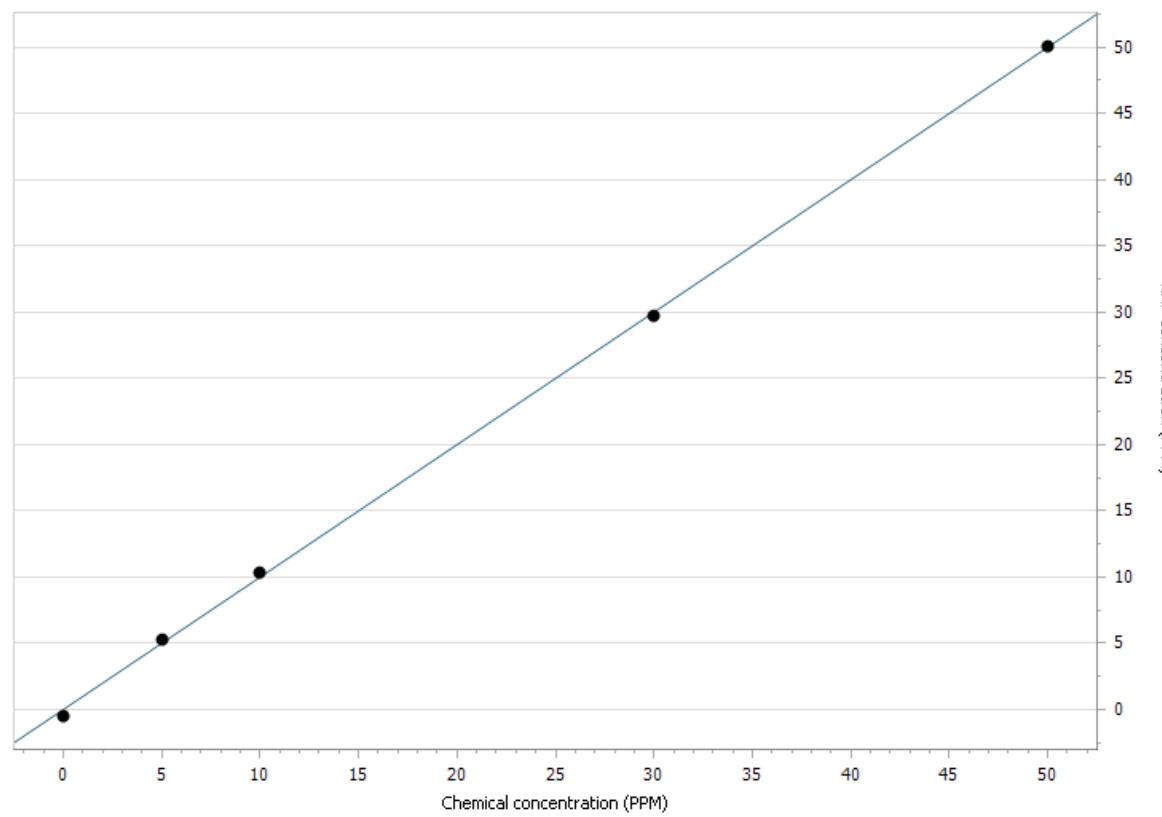
- Cooking oil used in fast-food chains and restaurants is usually recycled
- Later the UCO is used to produce other products, quite often for biofuels production
- In biofuels, elements such as P, S and Cl must not exceed certain limits
- For fast and easy process control in biofuels refineries
- **Fast time-to-result** analysis when truck or vessel is waiting for its approval in a biofuel refinery



# P in Cooking Oil

## S2 POLAR

- Lower concentration range (0 - 50 ppm) of P calibration (LLD: 0.4 ppm)

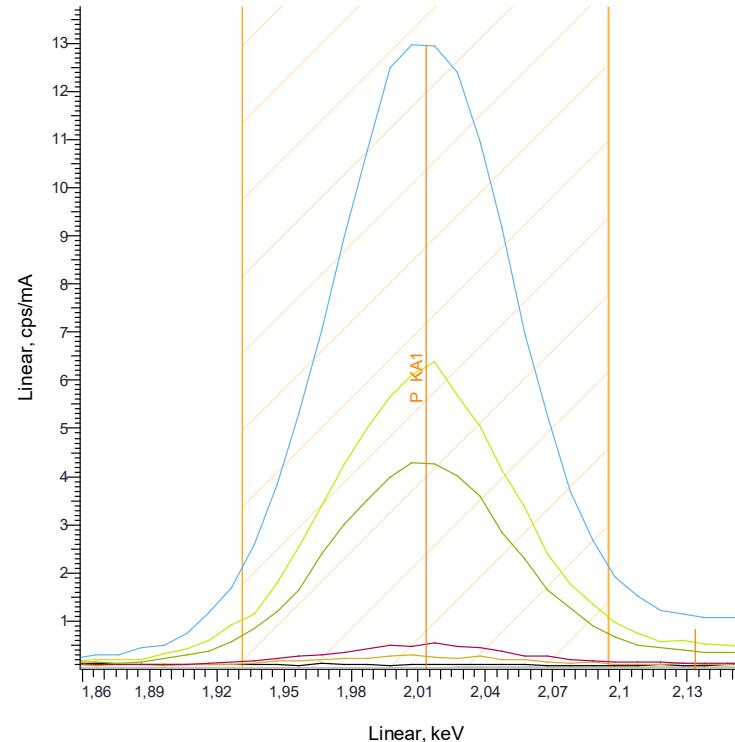


# P in Edible Oil - Repeatability

## S2 POLAR

- 10 ppm QC sample - Excellent repeatability for such low P concentrations
- Simple and straight forward, without extensive sample preparation
- LLD: 0.4 ppm P (300 s, with SampleCare™ cup)

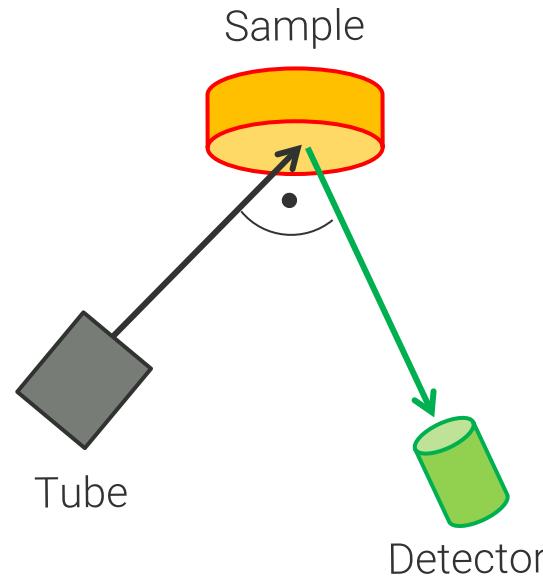
Measurement #	P [ppm]
1	10.4
2	10.4
3	10.2
4	10.2
5	10.2
6	10.4
7	10.2
8	10.2
9	10.1
10	10.3
Average	10.22
Abs. Std Dev.	0.11
Re. Std. Dev.	1.10%



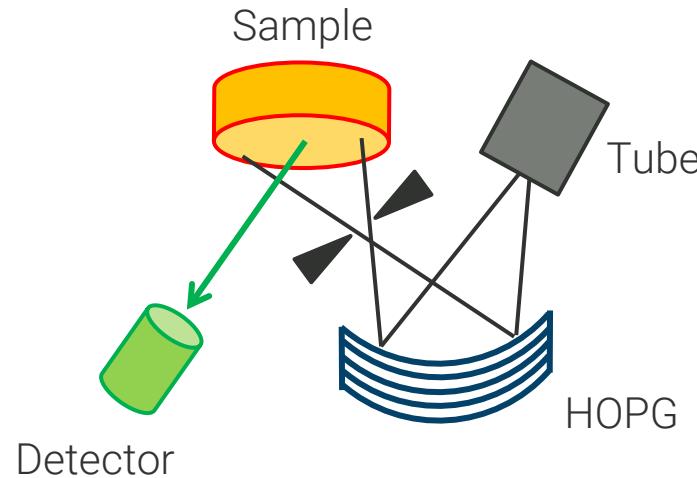
# EDXRF Excitation Techniques

## Direct Excitation vs. Polarized Excitation

S2 PUMA



S2 POLAR



### Direct excitation:

- Leads to very high intensity
- But also to higher background intensity

### Polarized excitation:

- Reduced background due to polarization
- Improved signal to background ratio (better LLD)

# Edible Oils and Biofuels

## S2 POLAR

- For fast and easy process control
- For fast, incoming crude oil or raw material analysis
- At edible oil refineries
- At biofuel refineries
- Quick and simple sample preparation, much faster than ICP-OES
- Reliable results within minutes
- P, S and Cl are the most important elements, others of interest are K, Ca, Fe, Ni, and Cu
- The S2 POLAR offers excellent analytical performance and fast, reliable results within minutes.



# Quality Control of Maize Kernel

- Use of Maize / Corn: Food (vegetable, corn flakes, flour, ... ), starch, animal feed (corn silage), biofuels
- Analytical questions:
  - Macro and micro mineral contents and ratios (e.g., for dedicated animal feed diet)
  - Contaminant & safety (e.g., heavy metals)
  - Contents of P, Cl, and S (biofuel production)



# Quality Control of Maize Kernel S2 PUMA Series 2

- Calibration with 23 secondary reference materials (measured by ICP)
- Covering 9 elements with concentrations ranging from few ppm up to ~ 1 wt% (Mg, P, S, Cl, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Zn)
- Selected preparation: Pressed powder pellets with wax



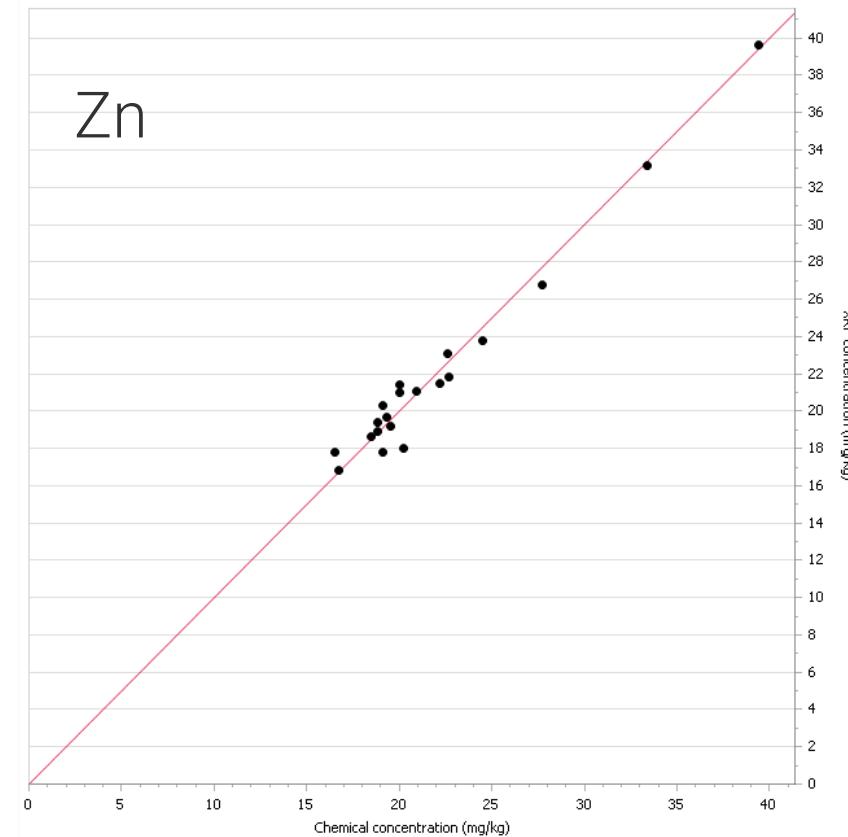
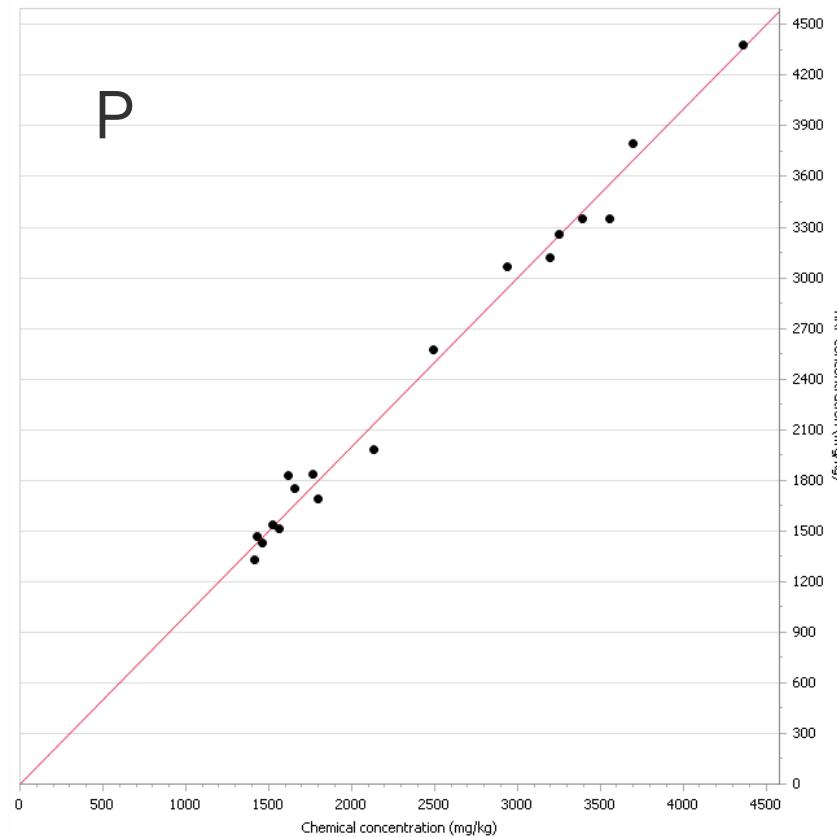
# Quality Control of Maize Kernel

## S2 PUMA Series 2

- Exemplary line P KA1 and Zn KA1

Line	P KA1
Conditions	20 kV, auto. current, no filter
Concentration range	1412 – 4363 mg/kg
Std. dev.	105 mg/kg
R <sup>2</sup>	0.9881

Line	Zn KA1
Conditions	40 kV, auto current, 500 µm Al-Filter
Concentration range	15 – 40 mg/kg
Std. dev.	1.9 mg/kg
R <sup>2</sup>	0.9731



# Quality Control of Maize Kernel

## S2 PUMA Series 2

- Excellent precision and accuracy for macro and micro minerals.

	Mg (mg/kg)	P (mg/kg)	S (mg/kg)	Cl (mg/kg)	K (mg/kg)	Ca (mg/kg)	Mn (mg/kg)	Fe (mg/kg)	Zn (mg/kg)
ICP	1140	3254	1152	380	3232	43	6	15.4	20.9
<b>S2 PUMA</b>	<b>1207</b>	<b>3279</b>	<b>1149</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>3295</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>21.0</b>
SD	13	13	8	4	17	3	0.7	0.7	0.1
rel. SD (%)	1.07	0.40	0.74	1.02	0.52	5.00	12.42	4.00	0.39
<b>Abs. diff.</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>

# How to make Food? How to best analyze raw material quality?

- Three sample preparation strategies
  - 1. Loose powder or grains
    - Benefit: Fastest and easiest sample preparation
    - Challenges: Matrix sensitive, grain size effects, heterogeneities.
  - 2. Pressed powder pellet
    - Benefit: Simple, quick and reproducible sample preparation
    - Challenges: Matrix sensitive → for high accuracy samples should be grouped
  - 3. Fused glass bead
    - Benefit: Global calibration for many materials possible
    - Challenges: More sophisticated sample preparation



# Standardless analysis with EDXRF and WDXRF

## Great choice for Raw Material ID and Verification

SMART-QUANT is set up to work in full Fundamental Parameter (FP) mode – this means no calibrations necessary!

Excellent for raw material testing and whenever special samples outside the analytical routing need to be measured.

- F to Am (FP) / Na to Am (WD)
- ppm to 100%
- Air, Helium, Vacuum
- 30 and 50 kV



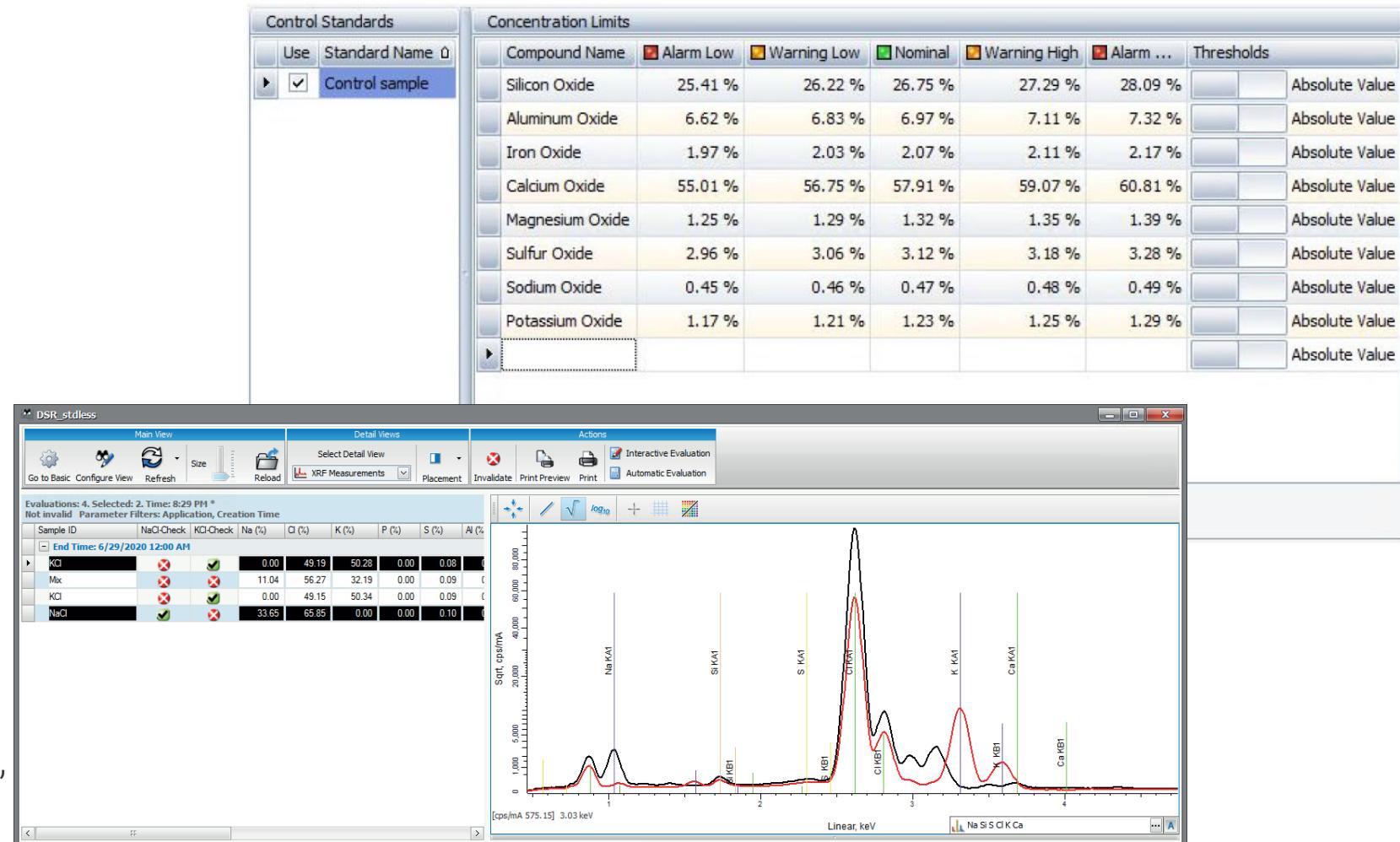
SMART-QUANT: Push-button solution for quick and reliable analysis of unknown samples



S6 JAGUAR: Full WDXRF performance in a benchtop unit

# Raw Material ID and Quantification Setting Control Limits

- Setup color-coded control limits for allow a quick decision during production, e.g.:
  - Nominal** → all good
  - Warning** → production can continue but a closer look or re-analysis may be needed
  - Alarm** → immediate production stop
- Example: Cl / Cl<sub>2</sub> compliance for salt labeling requirements (NaCl, KCl or CaCl<sub>2</sub>)

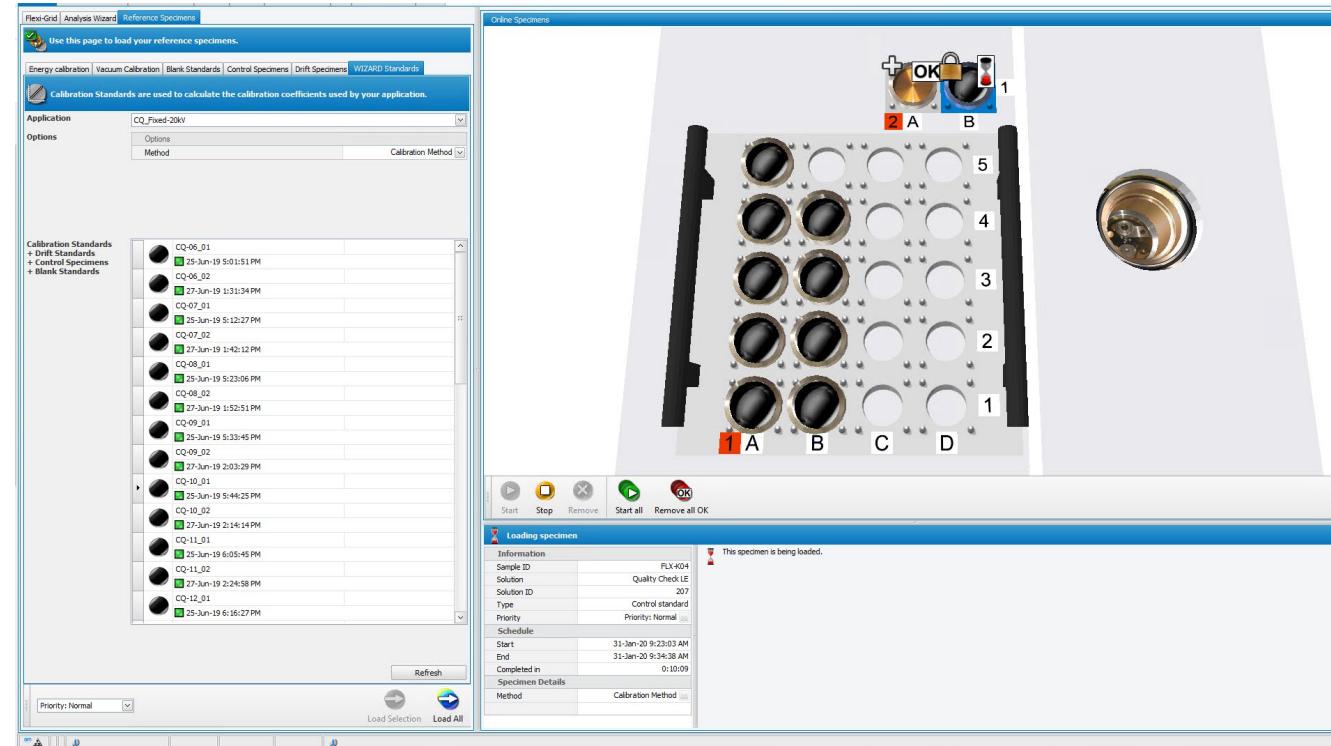


# Routine operation made easy Thanks to SPECTRA.ELEMENTS

Faster. Smarter. Easier.

Easier to use

- Quick learning with new User Interface
- Hints provide help when needed
- WIZARD: the proven tree-structure guide you through the calibration process
- LOADER: Intuitive interface for routine operation
- RESULT MANAGER: Access all your data quickly and get extended reporting



The LOADER: load / unload samples; adjust priorities; start / stop your measurements; view your results.

# Quality Control of Infant Formula

## S2 PUMA Series 2

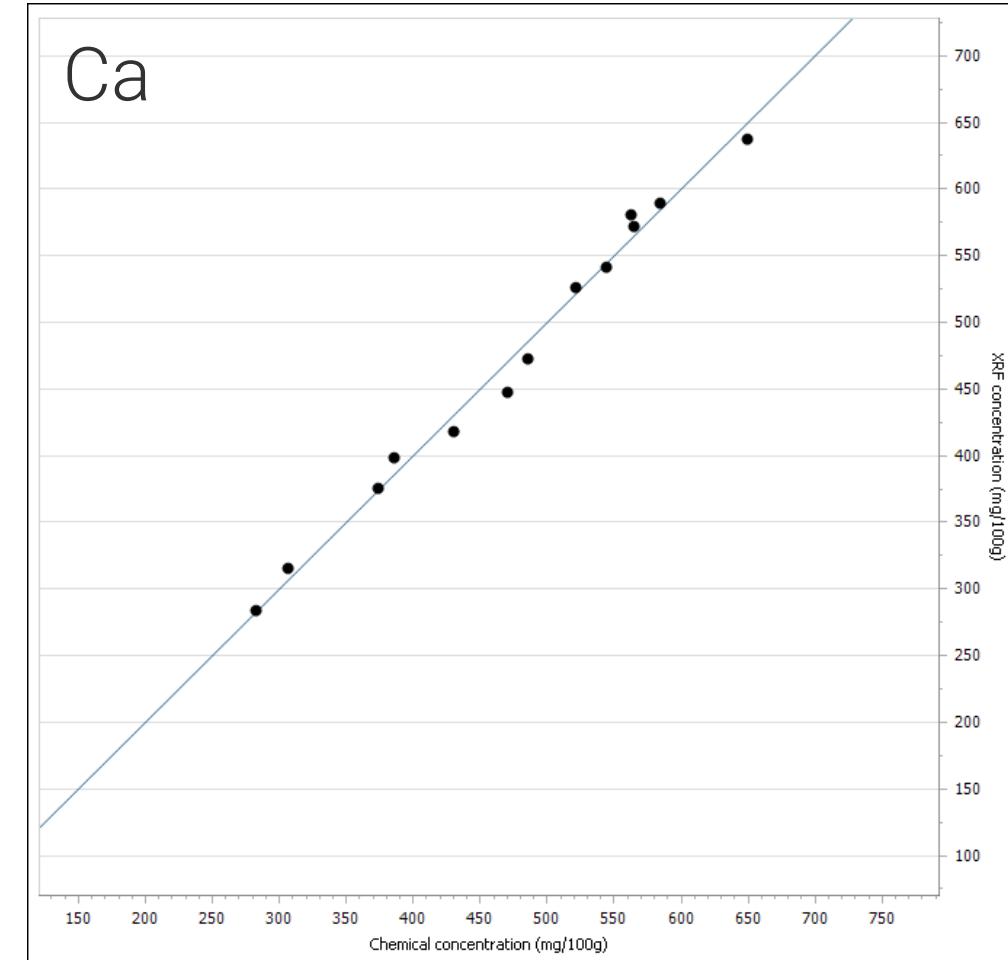
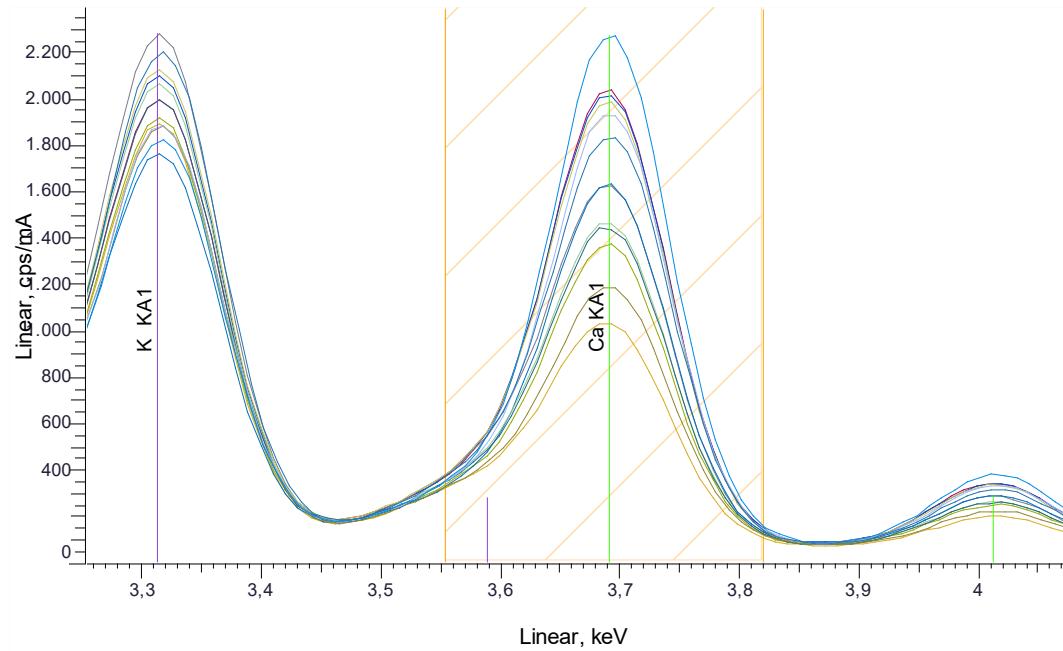
- Milk powder is essential for baby nutrition and the accurate control especially of vital elements is critical
- Since milk powder is the only food source over a long period of time, children's health strongly depends on the correct concentration of Na, Mg, P, K, Ca and Fe.
- Additional elements needs monitoring since they could possibly contaminate the milk powder such as Cl, e.g., from ion exchange resins.
- EDXRF and benchtop WDXRF are optimal solutions for quick and reliable raw material ID, process monitoring and quality control



# Quality Control of Infant Formula

## S2 PUMA Series 2

- Milk powder measured as pressed pellets
- Elements covered:  
Na, Mg, P, Cl, K, Ca, Fe
- ~ 5 min per sample



# Quality Control of Infant Formula

## S2 PUMA Series 2

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- Excellent precision!
- Low detection limits, even for light elements  
(~7.5 mg/100g Na, ~3.0 mg/100g Mg)

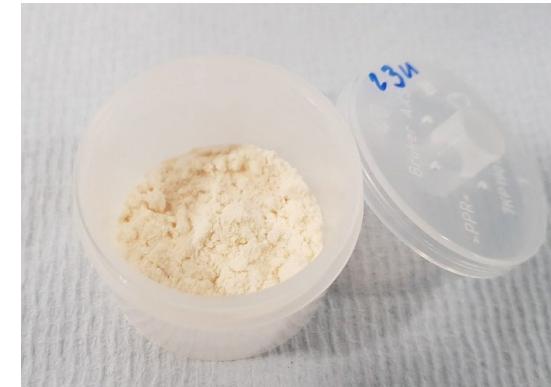
Element [mg/100 g]	Na	Mg	P	Cl	K	Ca	Fe
Average	240	61	257	418	597	381	4.86
Std.Dev.	2.5	1.4	0.8	0.8	4.5	2.1	0.05
Rel.Std.Dev (%)	1.04	2.34	0.33	0.20	0.75	0.55	1.06

# Ash content in milk components

## S2 PUMA Series 2

Gravimetric ash determination is very time consuming (ashing at 550°C), while the measurement on a S2 PUMA Series 2 takes **only a few minutes**

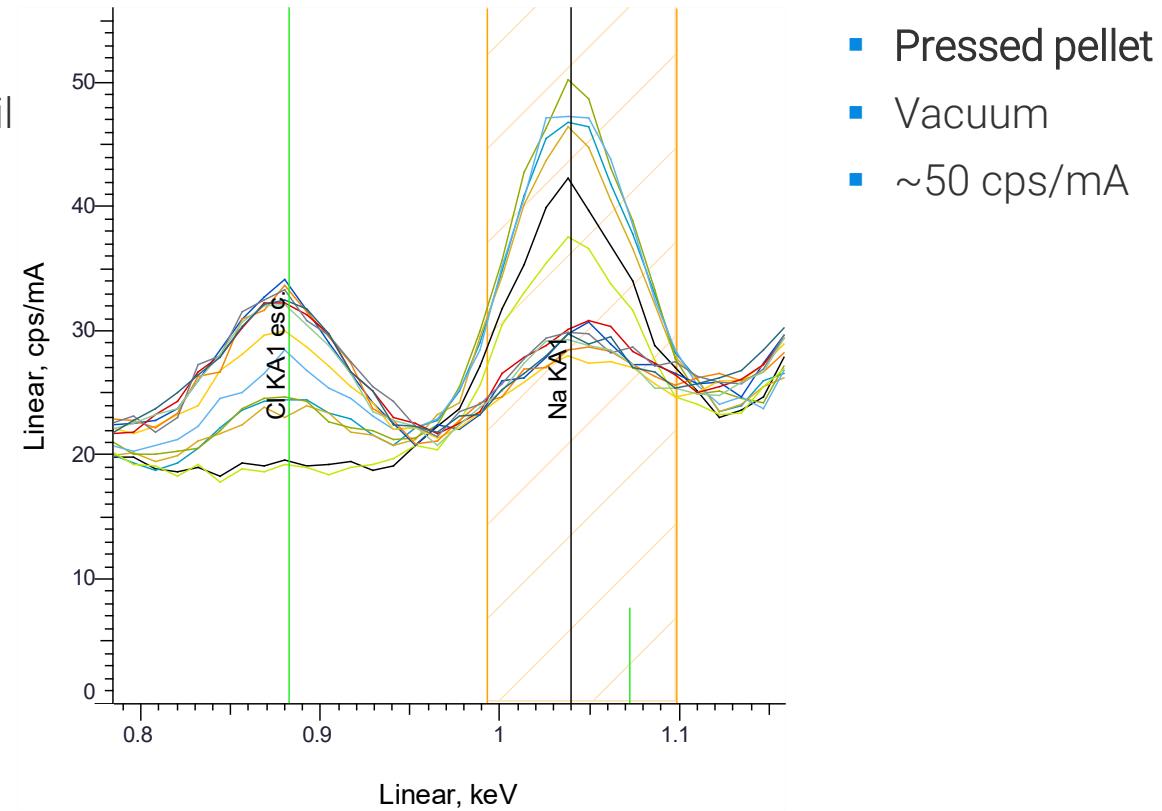
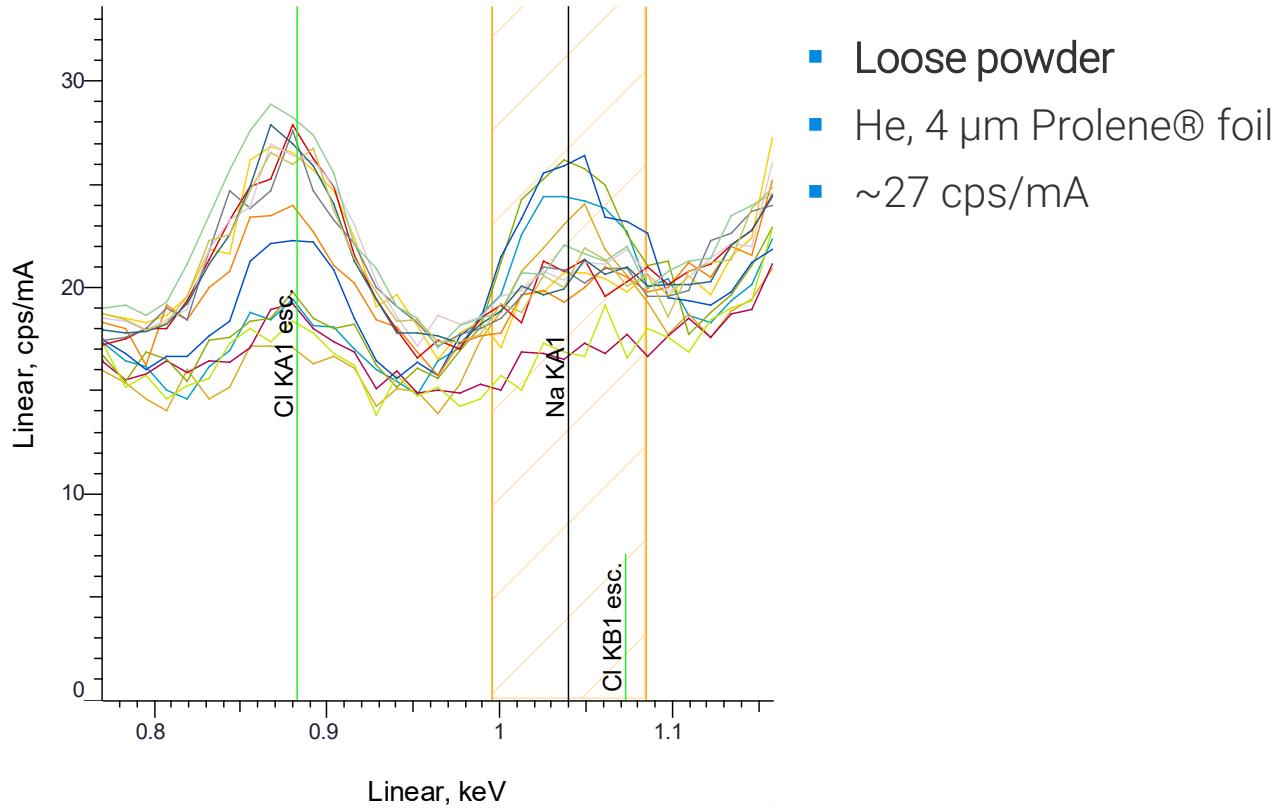
- Calibration with 8 secondary reference materials (ICP, titration, gravimetric)
- Components tested: Lactose, milk protein, whey protein, milk-calcium
- Covering up to 9 elements with concentrations ranging from few ppm (e.g., Fe, Zn) up to couple wt% (e.g. Ca, P) (Na, Mg, P, Cl, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Zn)
- **Preparation test:** Pressed pellets (no wax) and loose powder



# Ash content in milk components

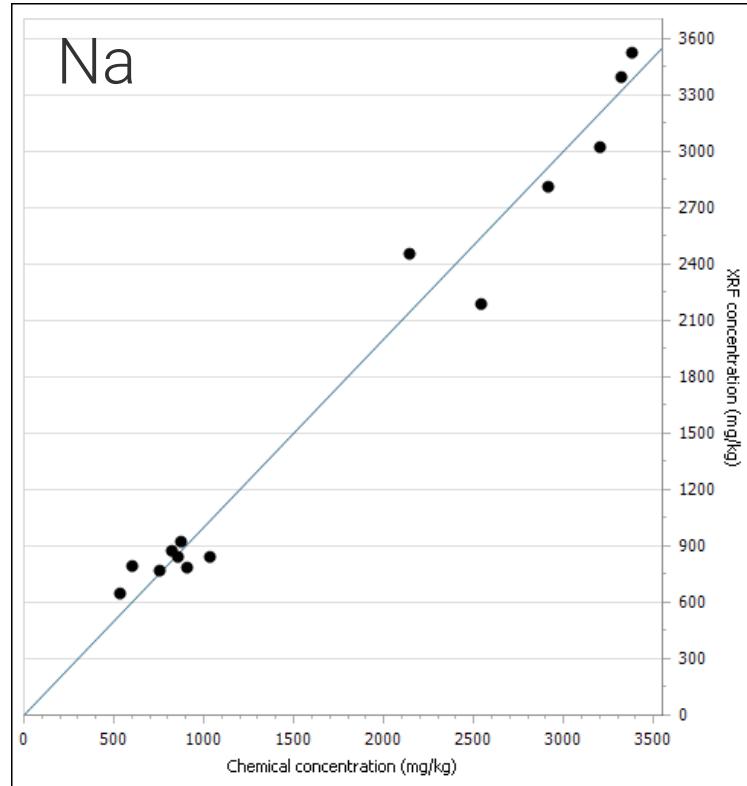
## S2 PUMA Series 2

- Milk protein sample preparation test

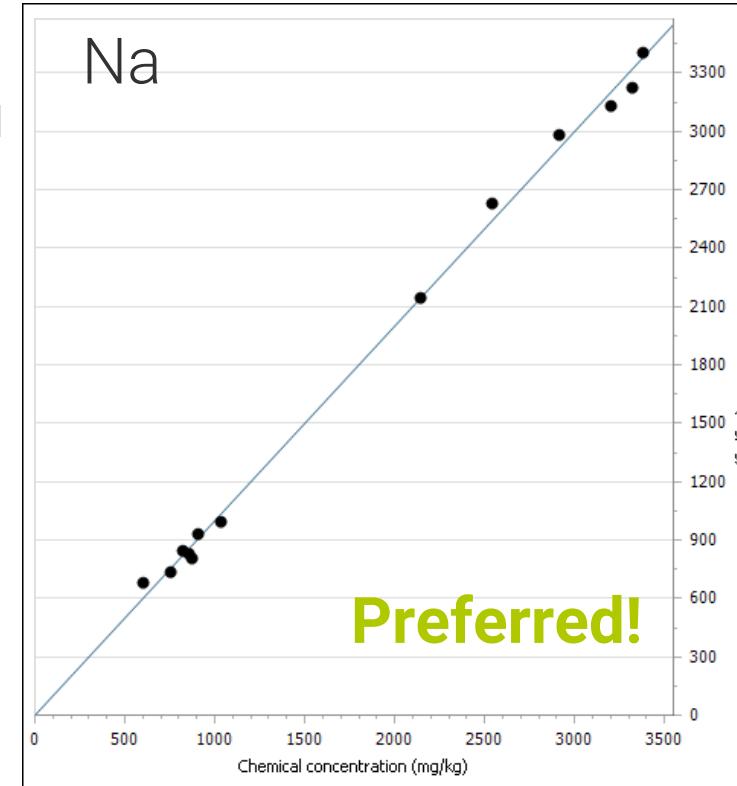


# Ash content in milk components S2 PUMA Series 2

## ■ Milk protein sample preparation test



- Loose powder
- He, 4 µm Prolene® foil
- ~27 cps/mA



Preferred!

- Pressed pellet
- Vacuum
- ~50 cps/mA

# Bruker provides tailor-made XRF Solution for your applications

## S2 PUMA Series 2

### State-of-the-art Software and Hardware

- Powerful 50 W X-Ray Tube
- HighSense™ Technology
- SampleCare™ Technology
- SPECTRA.ELEMENTS
- And more...

### Ready for all sample types, sizes and throughput requirements

- Single, Carousel, Mapping-Stage, XY-Autochanger, XY-Automation

Various options to ensure optimal performance

- Light element configuration
- Vacuum, He, N<sub>2</sub>, and Air mode
- Detector profiling
- TouchControl™
- Sample Rotation
- SMART-QUANT FP
- QUANT Solutions
- 21 CFR Part 11 compliance
- IQ-OQ Documentation
- And more ....

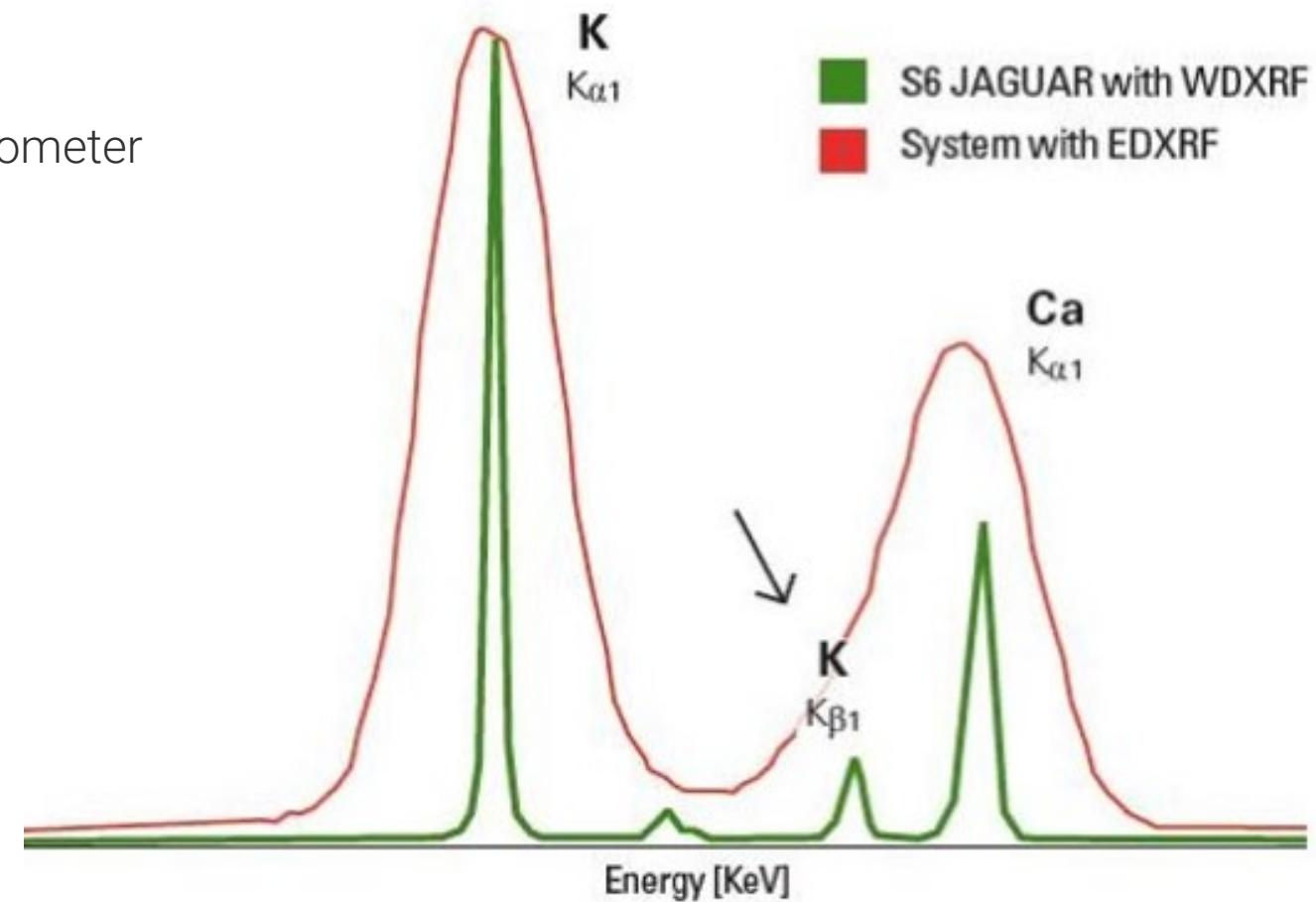


# Enhance the Performance for Light and Trace Elements

## S6 JAGUAR: Benchtop WDXRF

### HighSense Goniometer: High Resolution

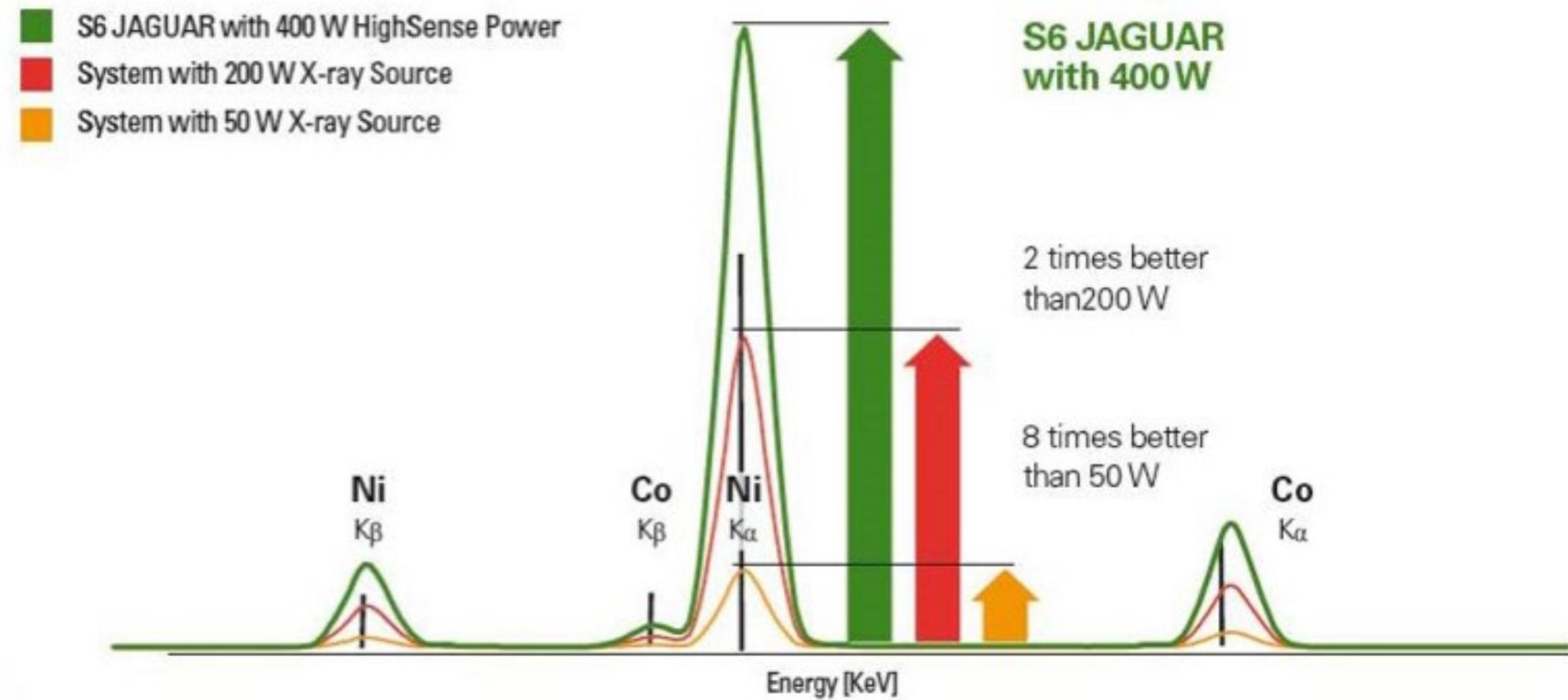
- The S6 JAGUAR with WDXRF HighSense Goniometer excels
- ED based systems in resolution and analytical precision



# Enhance the Performance for Light and Trace Elements

## HighSense™: Full 400 W excitation power

S6 JAGUAR is twice as powerful as a 200 W system  
and 8 times more powerful than a 50 W system



# Enhance the Performance for Light and Trace Elements

## HighSense™ Goniometer: Impressive versatility



- 400 W excitation
  - 20 – 50 kV
  - 1 – 17 mA
- Optimal settings for every single element at full power
- 5 position beam filter (optional) for improved peak-to-background ratio
- 4 sample masks (optional for different sample sizes)
- Vacuum seal for low-cost-of-operation
- Up to 4 analyzer crystals for the entire element range and specific demands
- Flow counter and HighSense XE detector for 2 Mcps countrates for high calibration ranges

# Food Analysis

## What are the challenges?

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Requirements for forage and feed analysis

Many elements:

- Na, Mg, Si, P, S, Cl, K, Ca, Mn, Fe, Cu, Zn, Se, Mo, ...

Wide range of concentrations:

- Low ppm to several wt%

Minimal sample preparation:

- Loose powder, 7 g of material placed in liquid cup with Prolene® thin film 4 µm

Several calibrations for different matrices

- Typically using large sets of reference materials and secondary standards which may be not very stable



# What is Forage?

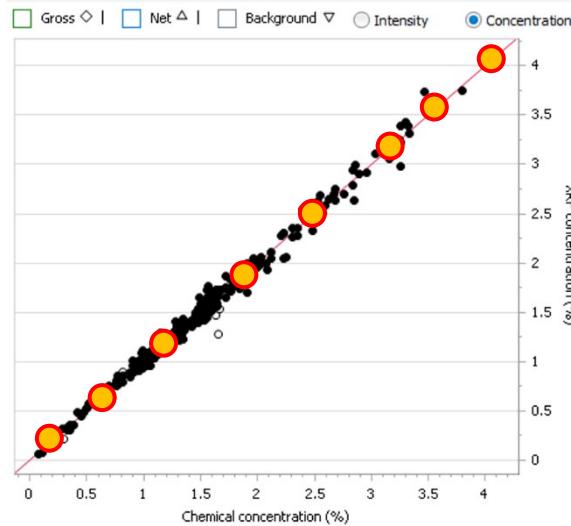
## How to prepare it for analysis?

- Plant based material (mainly leaves and grasses) eaten by grazing livestock
  - Includes hay and silage
- Often used as the 'base' of animal feed for livestock animals
  - Can be mixed with premix / additives to give a particular nutrition content
- Preparation should include some form of homogenization
  - Special mills (e.g. WC ring mill) reduce the grain size and provide a homogeneous sample within minutes



# Forage Analysis

## S2 PUMA Series 2

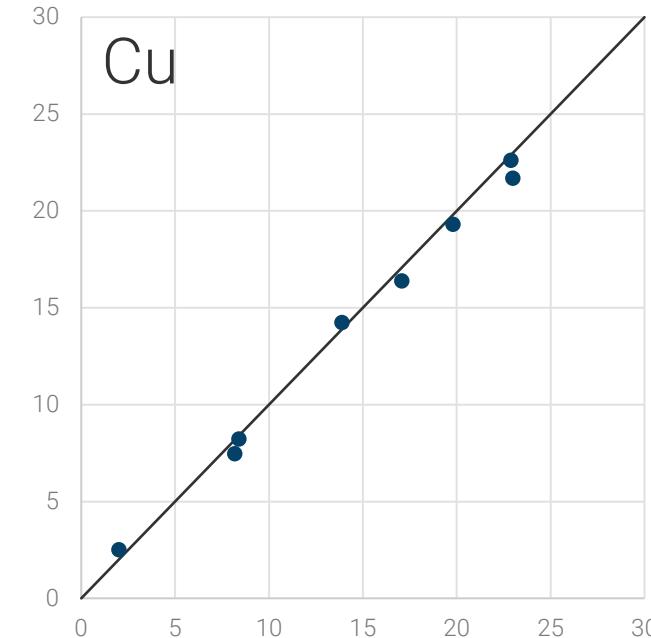
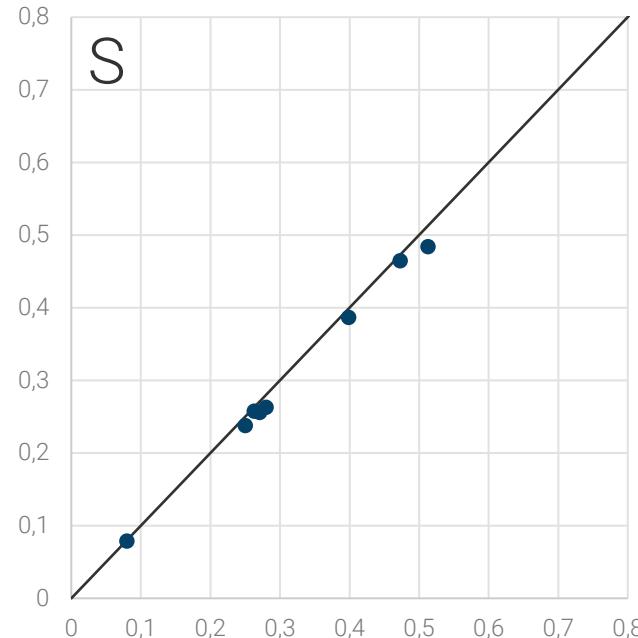
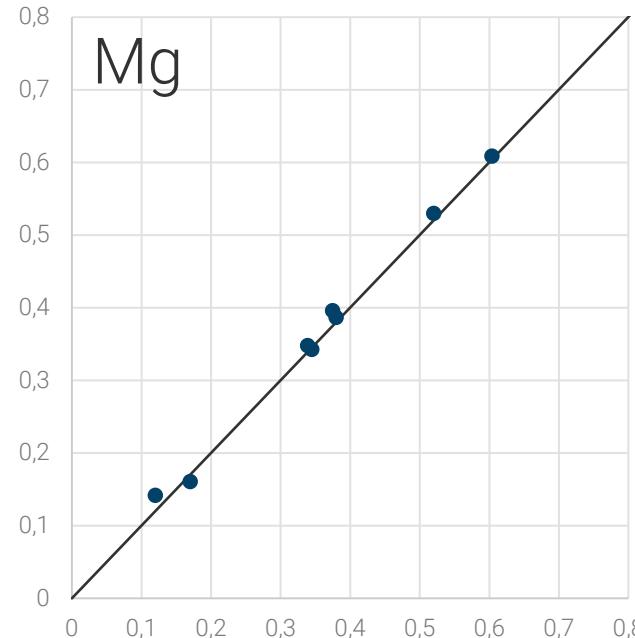


### FORAGE QUANT transfer kit

- To transfer customer “forage” solution from central lab to plant
- 8 synthetic glass standards
- 1 drift correction standard
- USB Stick containing all method files

	Compositional Ranges [wt%]
Na	0 – 1.06
Mg	0.07 – 0.75
Si	0.16 – 4.75
P	0.06 – 0.74
S	0.06 – 0.56
Cl	0.04 – 2.67
K	0.11 – 6.07
Ca	0.01 – 2.65
Mn	3.9 – 288.6 ppm
Fe	20.9 – 2853.1 ppm
Cu	1.2 – 38.7 ppm
Zn	6.5 – 150.4 ppm
Se	0 – 586.5 ppm
Mo	0 – 27.7 ppm

# Forage Analysis S2 PUMA Series 2



Exemplary results of a Forage solution transfer:

- Excellent correlation between Master (central lab) and Client (plant) ensuring lab-to-lab comparability

A photograph of various food ingredients and tools on a rustic surface. In the foreground, there are several stalks of golden wheat. To the left, a round loaf of bread with a mix of seeds is visible. Next to it is a small glass bottle filled with a yellow liquid, likely oil. In the center, there is a large glass jar with a handle, possibly containing flour or sugar. To the right, a large glass bowl is filled with a white, granular substance, likely flour. A wooden rolling pin lies horizontally across the bottom right. A wooden spoon rests on the surface in the lower center. A whisk is partially visible in the background on the right. The background is a dark, solid color.

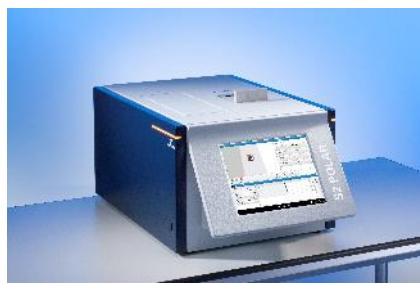
ELEMENTAL ANALYSIS IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY

# Summary

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## Summary

# XRF: An excellent technique for Food elemental analysis



- XRF is used for a wide range of applications in the food industry:
  - Macro and micro nutrition, toxic traces, foreign particles, raw material ID, quality control, process control, and more
- Key benefits of XRF: Wide range of elements and concentrations, simple sample preparation, ease-of-use, low operation costs, high accuracy & precision, high throughput.
- Bruker offers a full portfolio of laboratory equipment for food and feed applications:
  - **S2 PUMA Series 2** is the ideal choice for many food and feed applications – including milk powder, forage/feed premix, etc.
  - **S2 POLAR** is used for traces in liquids (e.g., P, Cl, S)
  - **S6 JAGUAR** is used for very low trace element contents (<10 ppm) and for (low) F



# Perfect Team-Work for Food Applications

## FT-NIR & XRF combine speed with performance

### FT-NIR for Organics

#### Composition analysis of ingredients and finished feeds

- Moisture, Fat, Protein, Fiber, Ash, NDF, ADF, and other parameters

#### Conformity testing

- Check for product conformity and uniformity
- Screening of organic contaminants

#### Material ID for ingredients and premixes

- Identification of pure materials
- Verification of components in solid, semi-solid and liquid ingredients



Grinding



NIR & XRF: Powder Analysis

### XRF for Inorganics

#### Mineral nutrients composition

- Ingredients, premixes, and finished formulations, e.g. Na, Ca and P in feed, ash content

#### Premixes and additives

- Material ID
- Fe, Zn, and Co analysis

#### Contaminants

- Toxic metals taken up by plant in local soils e.g., As, Cd, and Pb
- Detection of fraud

#### Foreign Body Analysis

- Analyzing foreign materials in production



# Any Questions?

Learn more about 'Pharma & Cosmetics'

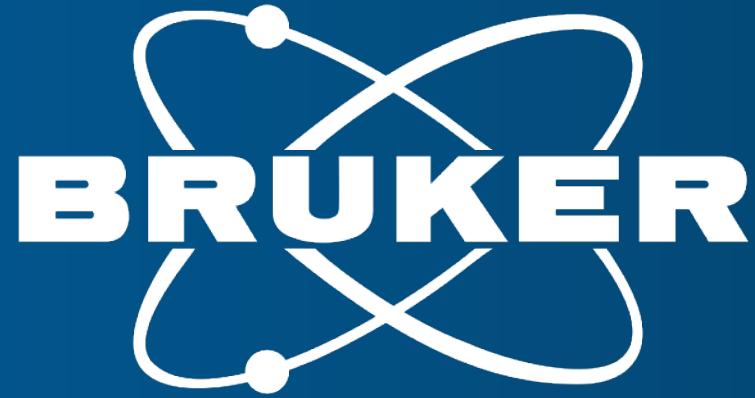
In our 13.10.2021 webinar – Sign Up Now!



# Thank you!

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Kai Behrens, Frank Portala, Adrian Fiege



Innovation with Integrity