

Independent Component Analysis classification for ChemCam remote sensing data. A. Cousin¹, O. Forni¹, S. Maurice¹, J. Lasue², O. Gasnault¹, R. Wiens² and the ChemCam team, ¹Institut de Recherche en Astrophysique et Planétologie, Toulouse (agnes.cousin@cesr.fr), ²Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico.

Introduction: ChemCam is part of the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) rover payload which is scheduled for launch in December 2011. This instrument uses the Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) technique to investigate the geochemistry of the Martian surface [1,2]. ChemCam is composed of two parts: the Body Unit (located in the rover) including three spectrometers and their electronics, and the Mast Unit (on top of the mast) including the laser, telescope, Remote Micro Imager (RMI) and their electronics. ChemCam performs an active small-footprint (0.2-0.6 mm dia.) chemical analysis by remote sensing: the LIBS technique creates a plasma of ablated material in electronically excited states, and then analyses the plasma light with its spectrometers to obtain emission spectra. The Flight Model (FM) underwent rigorous calibrations before to delivery, with a wide range of samples and conditions [3]. The calibration datasets are necessary also to understand how ChemCam is able to classify rocks using multivariate analysis such as Independent Component Analysis (ICA). The objectives of this study are (1) to classify a set of spectra obtained at 3 m comparing several parameters in the ICA model, (2) to understand if sample distance plays a role in the classification of the rocks.

Samples and data acquisition: This study reports on a set of 14 standards used during the ChemCam calibration in Thermal Vacuum Chamber. Samples consist in a wide range of basalts and andesites, one dolomite, oil-rich shale, graphite, and one Mars sedimentary simulant from the on-board calibration target [1,2]. These samples were placed at 1.5, 3, 5 and 7 m distances, and under a simulated Martian atmosphere (7 Torr of CO₂). For more details about the samples see [3]. The ChemCam FM was placed in a chamber at -45°C and 7 Torr. 200 spectra per sample were acquired (50 shots per burst, at 4 locations). The 3 meter data were averaged by groups of 10 in order to have 20 spectra per target, which allows a good sampling. Each spectrum is corrected for noise and a continuum has been subtracted. Finally, all spectra have been calibrated for channels to wavelengths.

Methodology: In LIBS technique, multivariate analysis is an efficient tool to classify the samples. The ICA technique was chosen because of its capability to classify very similar rocks better than the PCA (Principal Component Analysis) technique [4-5]. This method derives from the Blind Source Separation (BSS) technique. The ICA method is a decomposition of a vector in linear independent components. For more details

about ICA, see [6, 7]. Since with the ICA method, the optimal number of components is not known, we need to try several components to find the best model. We use the Joint Approximate Diagonalization of Eigenmatrices method (JADE) algorithm which is an orthogonal ICA method [8-9]. We use also a Jackknife test to classify each spectrum [10]: this method is used to estimate the bias of the prediction by deleting one spectrum from the total data set, and to recalculate the prediction from the remaining data. At the end, the assignment to a group is performed by computing the minimum distance between the spectra to be classified and all the clusters issued of the data set. This distance is computed using the Mahalanobis distance, which takes into account the covariance among the variables [5].

Results: Results presented here consist of the JADE model and Jackknife test performed using data obtained at 3 meters, and comparing several parameters for the model. Then 1.5 meter data are classified also using this ICA model.

3 m data : Before looking at the number of components to choose and their spectral significance, we tried to freeze several parameters such as the normalization and the size of the input signal. First, we make an ICA model using the entire spectra (all of the 6144 channels for the 280 groups of spectra), and we compare the results thus obtained to classify each spectrum, with and without normalization. This normalization was performed by dividing each spectrum by its standard deviation. Secondly, we made an ICA model with the same data, but using only the most important lines for each spectrum. To perform this, we take into account only signal greater than the median of the averaged spectra. In this case, instead of 6144 channels there are only 3071 channels for each of 280 spectra. We then compared the results for the Jackknife test with and without normalization.

Figure 1 shows that the best results are obtained using all the channels of the spectra: the rate of 100% well-classified spectra is reached with fewer components (7 or 5 components depending if there is a normalization or not, respectively) than using only the most important lines. Therefore we decided to continue this study using the entire signal of each spectrum, and with no normalization. All of the five components have a spectral significance, and each corresponds to one or several elemental compositions namely Ca, Ti, Fe or Mg. The last component is associated to the lithium and identifies the Mars sedimentary simulant targets (in which Li was used in a binder).

