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Chemical projectile target interaction in hypervelocity cratering experiments (MEMIN research group)

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This study addresses fundamental topics in impact cratering: (i) projectile partitioning into ejecta, and inter-element fractionation of meteoritic (ii) elements during projectile - target interaction. The objective of this work is to investigate the influence of impact energy, water-saturation and target porosity on (i) and (ii). This presentation is focussed on hypervelocity impact experiments carried out with Cr-V-Co-Mo-W-rich steel projectiles and SiO2rich targets. Detailed geochemical analyses of highly shocked ejecta fragments show distinct element fractionation processes between co-existing target and projectile melts; due to differing siderophile and lithophile properties of the projectile tracer elements. Various impact energies (~7600 J and ~800 J) as well as different water-saturation of the target (~0 % and ~50 %) yield no effect on the general geochemical processes. However, experiments with almost non-porous target (quartzite) show different features of projectile-target interaction compared to highly porous targets.

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