

SEARCHING FOR TRACES OF DIFFERENTIATION IN THE MAIN ASTEROID BELT WITH GAIA

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🚳 ASTEROIDS AND METEORITES 🚳

Gaia DR3 spectral dataset

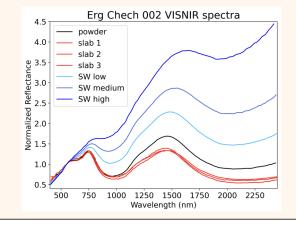
- Dataset of **60 518 reflectance spectra** in the visible wavelength range ([374,1034] nm) of Solar System small bodies.

- **Spectroscopy**: useful tool to probe the surface of asteroids and to deduce information about their formation and evolution processes.

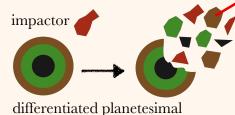
Erg Chech 002

- Oldest andesite meteorite of the Solar System
- Crystallization age: 4.565 My

- Formed in the crust of an early accreted and differentiated planetesimal: comes from a partially differentiated body



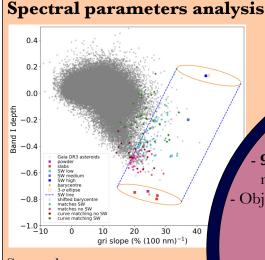
Differentiation processes



"Missing mantle problem": no clear evidence of differentiation in the main asteroid belt so far.

Search for traces of asteroids differentiation in the main asteroid belt, using Gaia DR3 visible asteroids spectra: search for analogues of the meteorite Erg Chech 002 (EC002).





matching

Curve

Normalised Reflectance

51 asteroids match the samples spectra: 0.08% of the dataset

RESULTS

91 asteroids match the space-weathered modelled spectra: 0.15 % of the dataset Objects mostly located in the inner main belt

0.30 0.20 - χ^2 coefficient to find asteroids with a visible spectrum the most similar to the spectra of the meteorite.

Wavelength (nm)

EC 002 powder EC 002 slabs

⋘CONCLUSIONS

- The asteroids matching EC002 are extremely rare:

the traces of the crusts of early formed planetesimals disappeared?

The visible part of the spectrum alone is not diagnostic of an andesitic composition: we obtained telescope time to aquire **near-infrared spectra** of the asteroids with the IRTF to confirm or rule-out the matches found.

Spectral parameters:

- depth of the band around 1 micron (Band I depth)
- slope between 468.6 and **748 nm** (gri slope)

We measured these parameters for every meteorite sample spectra and modelled spectra. We compared these parameters to those of Gaia DR3

DPAC: analysis of Gaia DR3 asteroids spectra and **improvements** of processing methods to prepare **Gaia DR4**.

0.05





