

Magnetic studies on Apollo 15 and 16 lunar samples

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Abstract:

The magnetic properties of lunar samples are almost exclusively due to rather pure metallic iron. The mare basalt contains about 0.06 wt.% Fe, the soils 0.5-0.6 wt.%, and the breccias 0.3-1.0 wt.%. Most of the additional iron in the soils and breccias is believed to be the result of reduction processes operating on the lunar surface.

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The Apollo 15, 16 and 17 missions returned a total of nine containers of sealed lunar material, representing 3.7 pounds (1.7 kilograms) out of their much larger hauls of exposed moon rocks. Only three sealed samples remain unopened today, one from each mission. (The six other samples were opened in the 1970s.) Six of the nine selected teams will look at 73001, an approximately 1.8-pound (809-gram) sample that was collected and placed into a vacuum-sealed tube by Apollo 17 astronauts Harrison Schmitt and Gene Cernan in 1972. The sample is still encased in a "drive tube" that was pound Later, on Apollo 15, 16 and 17, scoops with an an adjustable angle between the handle and the scoop mouth were used in place of the rigid scoops. All four. scoops were made to be used with an extensor, handle. Little documentation about the Lunar Environment Sample Container was discovered in this study. One LESC was packed into Apollo Lunar Sample Return Container # 1008 for Apollo 12. The 467 g weight given above was from the packing list for that ALSRC.