

relative preconcentration (in trace analysis)

An operation (process) as a result of which the ratio of concentration or amounts of microcomponents and main macrocomponents increases. This is a particular example of a separation, but at greatly differing concentrations of components. The ratio of the masses of the initial and final samples is not of great importance. Frequently, the main purpose of relative *pre-concentration* is the replacement of a matrix unsuitable for analysis by a suitable medium. In some cases, it is difficult to trace a boundary between the absolute and the relative preconcentrations as, for example, in preconcentration by zone melting.

1979, 51, 1197