



EPIXS ile $Hf_{0.5}Mo_{0.5}NbTiZrCr_x$ ($X=0,1,0.3,0.5$) Refrakter Yüksek Entropili Alařımların Radyasyon Zırhlama Potansiyelleri

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Geliř tarihi: 11/01/2023

Kabul tarihi: 11/07/2023

Özet: W, Zr, Nb, Ti, Mo, Ta, Hf gibi refrakter alařım elementlerinin oluřturduđu refrakter yüksek entropili alařımlar, savunma, havacılık ve nükleer enerji üretim endüstrileri gibi alanlarda yaygın olarak tercih edilmektedir. İyi mekanik özellikler, yüksek sıcaklıklarda korozyon ve oksidasyon direnci nedeniyle refrakter yüksek entropili alařımlar süper alařımlar yerine aday olarak kabul edilebilir. Bu çalışmanın amacı, EpiXS yazılımını kullanarak refrakter yüksek entropili alařımların $Hf_{0.5}Mo_{0.5}NbTiZrCr_x$ 'in ($x=0.1,0.3,0.5$) kütle zayıflatma katsayıları, yarı kalınlık, ortalama serbest yol, etkin atom numarası ve yığılma faktörleri gibi radyasyon zayıflatma parametrelerini hesaplamaktır. Elde edilen deđerlerin tutarlılıđını görmek için, iyi bilinen bir kod olan XCom ile alařımların kütle zayıflatma katsayıları da hesaplanmıřtır. Cr miktarındaki artışın alařımların zırhlama kabiliyetini azalttıđı sonucuna varılmıřtır.

Anahtar Sözcükler: *Radyasyon zırhlama parametreleri, RHEA, radyasyon zırhlama,*

Radiation Shielding Potentials of $Hf_{0.5}Mo_{0.5}NbTiZrCr_x$ ($X=0.1,0.3,0.5$) Refractory High Entropy Alloys by EPIXS

Abstract: Refractory high entropy alloys formed by refractory alloying elements, such as W, Zr, Nb, Ti, Mo, Ta, Hf are widely preferred in areas such as the defense, aerospace, and nuclear power generation industries. Due to the good mechanical properties, corrosion and oxidation resistance at high temperatures, refractory high entropy alloys can be considered as candidates instead of super alloys. The objective of this study was to calculate the radiation attenuation parameters such as mass attenuation coefficients, half value layer, mean free path, effective atomic number and buildup factors of the refractory high entropy alloys, $Hf_{0.5}Mo_{0.5}NbTiZrCr_x$ ($x=0.1,0.3,0.5$) by using EpiXS software. The mass attenuation coefficients of the alloys were also calculated by XCom, a well-known code, to see the consistency of the obtained values. It was concluded that the increase in the amount of Cr decreases the shielding ability of the alloys.

Keywords: *Radiation attenuation parameters, RHEAs, radiation shielding.*

1. Introduction

Refractory high entropy alloy (RHEA) is one of the subgroups of high entropy alloys (HEAs) and it has been firstly reported by Senkov et al. (2010). RHEAs are based on nine refractory elements, Mo, Nb, Ta, W, V, Hf, Zr, Ti and Cr, with high melting point (Senkov et al., 2010; Miracle and Senkov, 2017; Senkov et al., 2018; Chang et al., 2018; Yurchenko et al., 2018; Gorr et al. 2017). This type HEAs have wide application areas such as aerospace industry, the nuclear industry, the chemical process industry, and next generation nuclear reactors due to their excellent oxidation and corrosion resistance, mechanical properties and wear behavior even at high temperatures (Senkov et al. 2018; Ye et al. 2016; Dam and Shaba, 2016; Kareer et al. 2019; Ayrenk, 2020). It is significant to improve light weighted and

high strength materials against hard environmental conditions for aerospace industry. Lighter refractory elements (Zr, Nb, Ti, Mo etc.) can be used instead of heavy refractory elements such as tungsten, hafnium and tantalum to produce RHEAs (Li et al., 2022). Chromium (Cr) is one of the lighter refractory elements. The existence of Cr element can reduce the density, increase the high temperature strength and creep resistance, and improve the oxidation resistance and hot-corrosion resistance at high temperatures (Gao et al., 2021).

Shielding has become an important and necessary issue as a result of the increase in radiation applications. This issue makes the investigation of the radiation protection properties of several materials the subject of many studies (Eid et al. 2022; Zeyad et al. 2022; Aygun and Aygun, 2022a; Aygun and Aygun 2022b; Sayyed et al. 2020). Chemical compositions and mechanical properties of RHEAs were widely investigated previously (Senkov et al., 2018; Chang et al., 2018; Yurchenko et al., 2018; Gorr et al. 2017; Senkov et al. 2011; Yao et al. 2017; Han et al. 2018). In the present paper, our aim is to obtain the photon attenuation parameters such as mass attenuation coefficients (MAC), half value layers (HVL), mean free paths (MFP), effective atomic numbers (Z_{eff}), exposure and energy absorption buildup factors (EBF and EABF) of $Hf_{0.5}Mo_{0.5}NbTiZrCr_x$ ($x=0.1,0.3,0.5$) RHEAs. For the aim of studying the radiation protection abilities of the alloys, recently developed program EpiXS (Hila et al. 2021) in the energy range 1 keV-1 GeV was used.

2. Materials and Methods

EpiXS, the windows-based application code, is one of the recently developed user-friendly programs and is based on EPICS2017 of ENDF/B-VIII and EPDL97 of ENDF/B-VI.8. The code was produced for dosimetry, photon attenuation, and shielding determination in a broad energy range 1 keV–1 GeV. It is also possible to calculate some of the parameters (HVL, MAC, Z_{eff} , N_{eff} , MFP) without the knowledge of the sample density by EpiXS code (Hila et al. 2021).

In the study, the chemical compositions of the alloys were taken from the literature (Gao et al. 2021) and are given in Table 1. Density (ρ_{mix}) of alloys is determined by the rule of mixture as follows (Xiang et al. 2019):

$$\rho_{mix} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n c_i A_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{c_i A_i}{\rho_i}} \quad (1)$$

ρ_i , c_i and A_i are density, atomic fraction and atomic weight of element i_{th} , respectively.

The MAC corresponds to the interaction possibility between the mass per unit area of a material and photons can be obtained by the Beer–Lambert as given in Eq. 2:

$$I = I_0 e^{-\mu t} \quad (2)$$

We can obtain MAC for any compound as follows (Jackson and Hawkes, 1981);

$$\mu/\rho = \sum_i w_i (\mu/\rho)_i \quad (3)$$

where w_i and $(\mu/\rho)_i$ are the weight fraction and the MAC of the i_{th} constituent element, respectively.

HVL is the thickness which decreases the incident radiation by one half, and MFP is the average distance between two interactions of photons. HVL and MFP are obtained by the following formulas,

$$HVL = \frac{\ln(2)}{\mu} \quad (4)$$

$$MFP = \frac{1}{\mu} \quad (5)$$

The number of atoms which define a material containing more than one element at a given energy value is called effective atomic number (Z_{eff}) and can be calculated by Eq. 6 where σ_e is the electronic cross section as given by Eq. 7 (Manohara and Hanagodimath, 2007). σ_T is the total atomic cross section. f_i , $(\sigma_T)_i$ and Z_i in Eq. 7 are the mole fraction, atomic cross section and atomic number of

the i^{th} element, respectively. An interpolation given in Eq. 8 can be also used for the determination of Z_{eff} . σ_1 and σ_2 are the elemental cross sections of two elements Z_1 and Z_2 .

$$Z_{eff} = \sigma_T / \sigma_e \quad (6)$$

$$\sigma_e = \sum \frac{f_i}{Z_i} (\sigma_T)_i \quad (7)$$

$$Z_{eff} = \frac{Z_1(\log \sigma_2 - \log \sigma_T) + Z_2(\log \sigma_T - \log \sigma_1)}{\log \sigma_2 - \log \sigma_1} \quad (8)$$

The EBF is a kind of buildup factor representing the quantity of exposure relative to air while the EABF is the other type of buildup factor for which the interested quantity is the absorbed or deposited energy in the material (Kurudirek and Kurucu, 2020). EBF and EABF can be obtained by the given equations below (Harima et al. 1986; Harima, 1993). The geometric progression (G-P) fitting parameters for the alloys are determined by using fitting parameters (ANSI/ANS, 1991) in Eq. 10. Equivalent atomic number (Z_{eq}) is an energy-dependent parameter describing the properties of the investigated materials in terms of their equivalent elements. Buildup factors can be obtained using Eq. 11 or 12 by determining $K(E, x)$ in Eq. 13.

$$Z_{eq} = \frac{Z_1(\log R_2 - \log R) + Z_2(\log R - \log R_1)}{\log R_2 - \log R_1} \quad (9)$$

$$F = \frac{F_1(\log Z_2 - \log Z_{eq}) + F_2(\log Z_{eq} - \log Z_1)}{\log Z_2 - \log Z_1} \quad (10)$$

$$B(E, x) = 1 + \frac{(b-1)(K^x - 1)}{(K-1)} \quad \text{for } K \neq 1 \quad (11)$$

$$B(E, x) = 1 + (b-1)x \quad \text{for } K = 1 \quad (12)$$

$$K(E, x) = cx^a + d \frac{\tanh\left(\frac{x}{x_k} - 2\right) - \tanh(-2)}{1 - \tanh(-2)} \quad \text{for } x \leq 40 \text{ mfp} \quad (13)$$

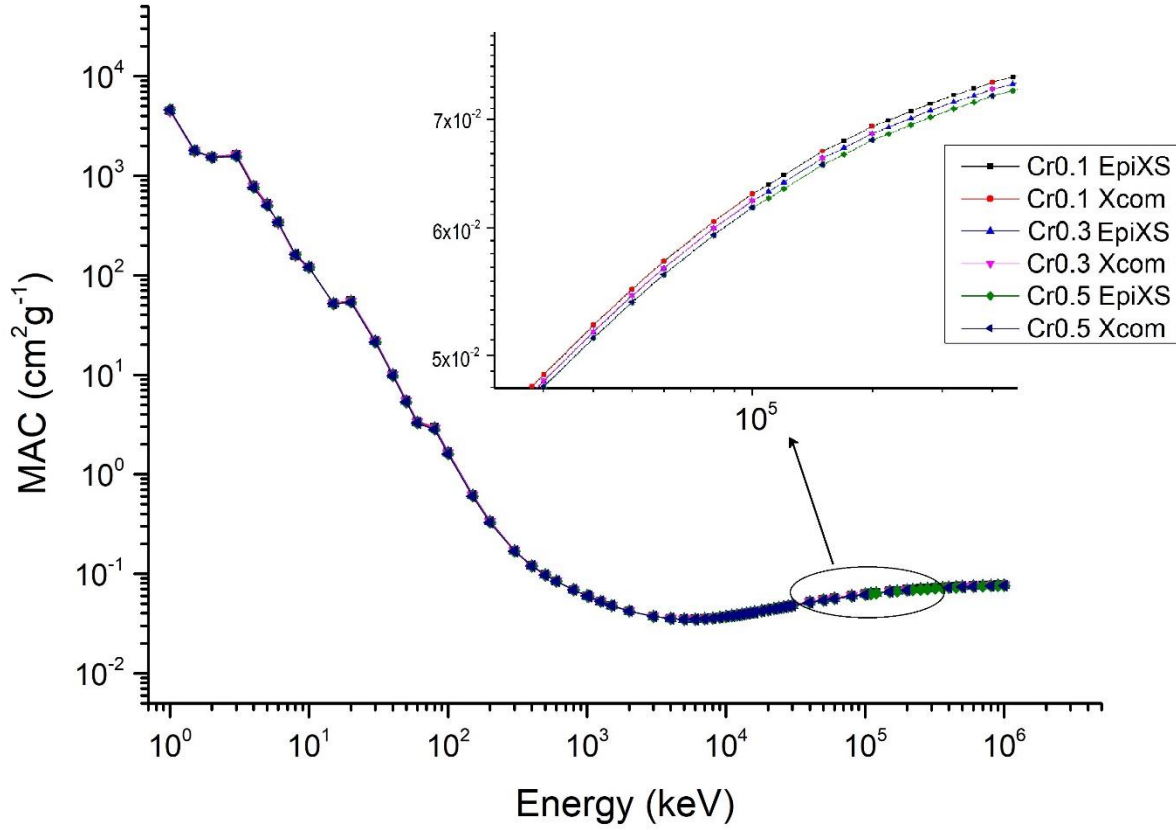
The ratio (R) of Compton partial mass attenuation coefficient to total mass attenuation coefficient should be defined for the material at a specific energy. The R_1 and R_2 values indicate the $(\mu m)_{\text{Compton}} / (\mu m)_{\text{total}}$ ratios of these two adjacent elements, which have Z_1 and Z_2 atomic numbers. F is G-P fitting parameters (a, b, c, d, X_K coefficients) of the studied material, while F_1 and F_2 are the values of G-P fitting parameters identical with the Z_1 and Z_2 atomic numbers at a certain energy, respectively. E and x demonstrate primary photon energy and penetration depth, respectively. The combination of K (E, x) with x allows one to perform the photon dose multiplication and determine the shape of the spectrum.

3. Results and Discussion

The chemical compositions of RHEAs taken from literature are given in Table 1 (Gao et al. 2021) and based on the knowledge of the alloys, the radiation-matter interaction parameters were determined. Variations of the calculated MAC values versus photon energies (1keV-1GeV) are given in Fig. 1. At low (1-100keV), mid (100keV-5MeV) and high (>5 MeV) energies, MAC values decreased sharply with increasing energy, slightly changed and increased with increasing energy where the photoelectric, Compton scattering and pair production processes are dominant, respectively. The MAC values of the RHEAs were also determined by Xcom (Berger and Hubbell, 1987) in order to investigate the agreement of the obtained MAC results by EpiXS. A good conformity is observed between the EpiXS and Xcom results (Fig. 1). The MAC values of the alloys and previously studied super alloys for some energy values are given in Table 2.

Table 1. Elemental concentrations and densities of RHEAs.

RHEAs	Mo	Nb	Hf	Zr	Ti	Cr	Density
Cr _{0.1} Hf _{0.5} Mo _{0.5} NbTiZr	12.81	24.81	23.84	24.36	12.79	1.39	8.73
Cr _{0.3} Hf _{0.5} Mo _{0.5} NbTiZr	12.47	24.14	23.19	23.71	12.44	4.05	8.70
Cr _{0.5} Hf _{0.5} Mo _{0.5} NbTiZr	12.14	23.51	22.58	23.08	12.11	6.58	8.675

**Fig. 1.** Changes of MAC values of the RHEAs calculated by EpiXS and Xcom.**Table 2.** MAC values of the studied alloys and previously studied samples.

Energy (MeV)	Cr0.1	Cr0.3	Cr0.5	Inc617 (Aygun and Aygun, 2022b)	Inc800HT (Aygun and Aygun, 2022b)	In625 (Sayed et al. 2020)	In718 (Sayed et al. 2020)	WI- (Sayed et al. 2020)
1.50x10 ⁻²	52.05	51.87	51.71	59.14	60.60	65.70	59.00	66.24
3.00 x10 ⁻²	22.02	21.61	21.21	10.83	8.763	9.549	10.41	9.830
5.00 x10 ⁻²	5.535	5.428	5.326	2.626	2.101	2.287	2.51	2.412
8.00 x10 ⁻¹	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.067	0.068
1.00 x10 ⁰	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.060
3.00 x10 ⁰	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.036	0.037	0.037	0.036
5.00 x10 ⁰	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032
8.00 x10 ⁰	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.031	0.030	0.031	0.031	0.031
1.00 x10 ¹	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.031	0.030	0.031	0.031	0.031

The HVL and MFP are the important parameters for determining shielding capabilities of the samples. Changing of HVL and MFP values versus photon energies determined by EpiXS are given in Fig. 2. Lower HVL and MFP values are preferred to have better shielding property. According to the obtained results, HVL and MFP values of the alloy with Cr_{0.1} are lower than those of others. Alloy with Cr_{0.5} has the highest values of HVL and MFP. Therefore, it can be stated that Cr_{0.1}Hf_{0.5}Mo_{0.5}NbTiZr has higher shielding ability than other studied alloys.

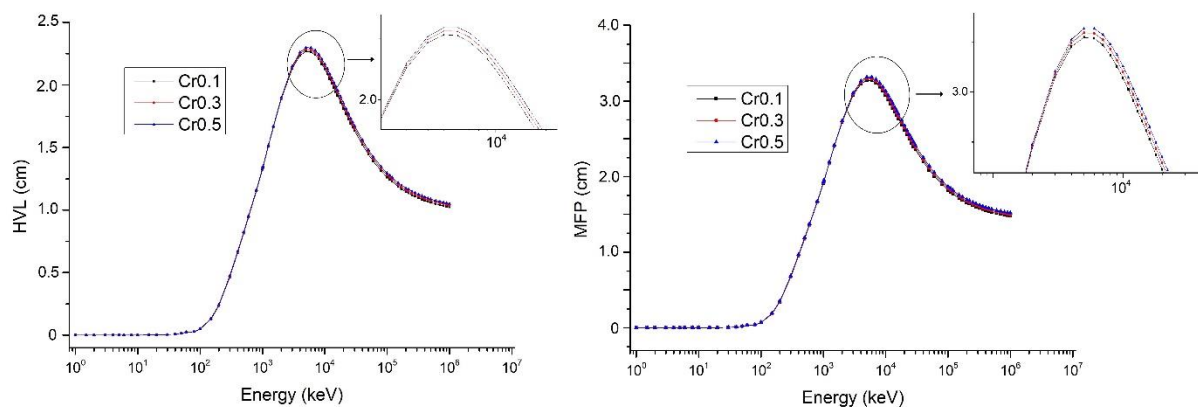


Fig. 2. Variations of HVL and MFP values of the studied alloys versus photon energies by EpiXS.

Z_{eff} variations versus photon energies obtained by the code are given in Fig. 3. K-absorption edge of Zr with 0.018 MeV is observed for Z_{eff} as seen in Fig. 3 (Abdullah et al. 2010). Z_{eff} values at around 0.019 and 0.02 MeV can be due to K-absorption edges of Nb and Mo, respectively (Sayed et al. 2020). K-absorption edge of Hf with 0.065 MeV is also observed for Z_{eff} (Ostadossein et al. 2022). Approximately same values were obtained for Z_{eff} parameter because of the same contents of the RHE alloys. Due to the existence of Hf, and Mo (higher atomic number), Z_{eff} values of the alloys are higher compared with the previously reported alloys.

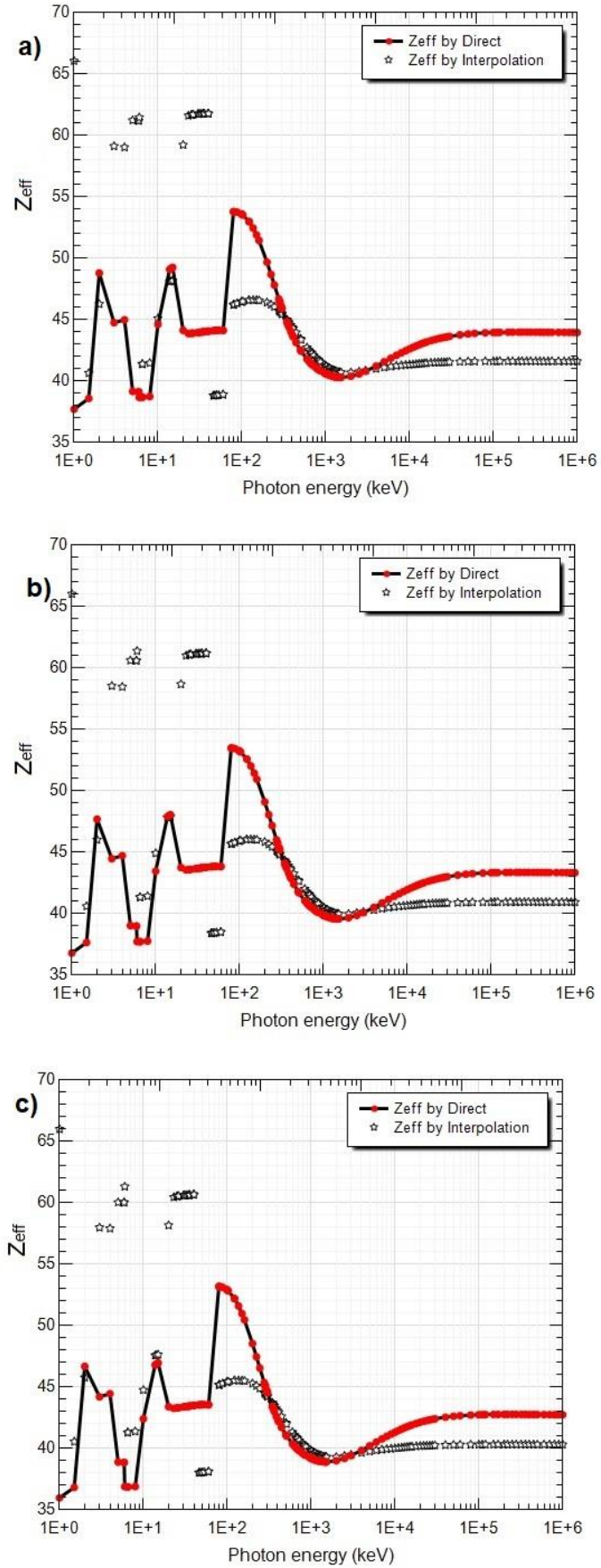


Fig. 3. Z_{eff} values of Cr0.1 (a) Cr0.3 (b) and Cr0.5 (c) alloys by EpiXS.

EABF and EBF of the studied alloys were determined for 1,2,5,10,20,30 and 40 mfp penetration depths by EpiXS. The dependences of EABF and EBF versus incident photon energies are shown in Figs. 4-5. Photoelectric effect causes the absorption of low-energy photons and so buildup factor values are small at low photon energies. Compton scattering in mid-energy region causes an increase in photon accumulation due to the large number of scattered photons and build up factors are maximum at these energies. Since the dominant process at high energies is Pair production, a strong photon absorption is observed and as a result, the buildup factors decrease at high energies (Sayyed et al. 2020; Aygun and Aygun, 2022a-c). The lowest photon cluster is observed for Cr_{0.1} RHEA and so Compton scattering effect is observed for Cr_{0.1} at least. The maximum seen at ≈ 0.065 MeV can be due to K-absorption edge of Hf as mentioned above for Z_{eff} (Ostadossein et al. 2022).

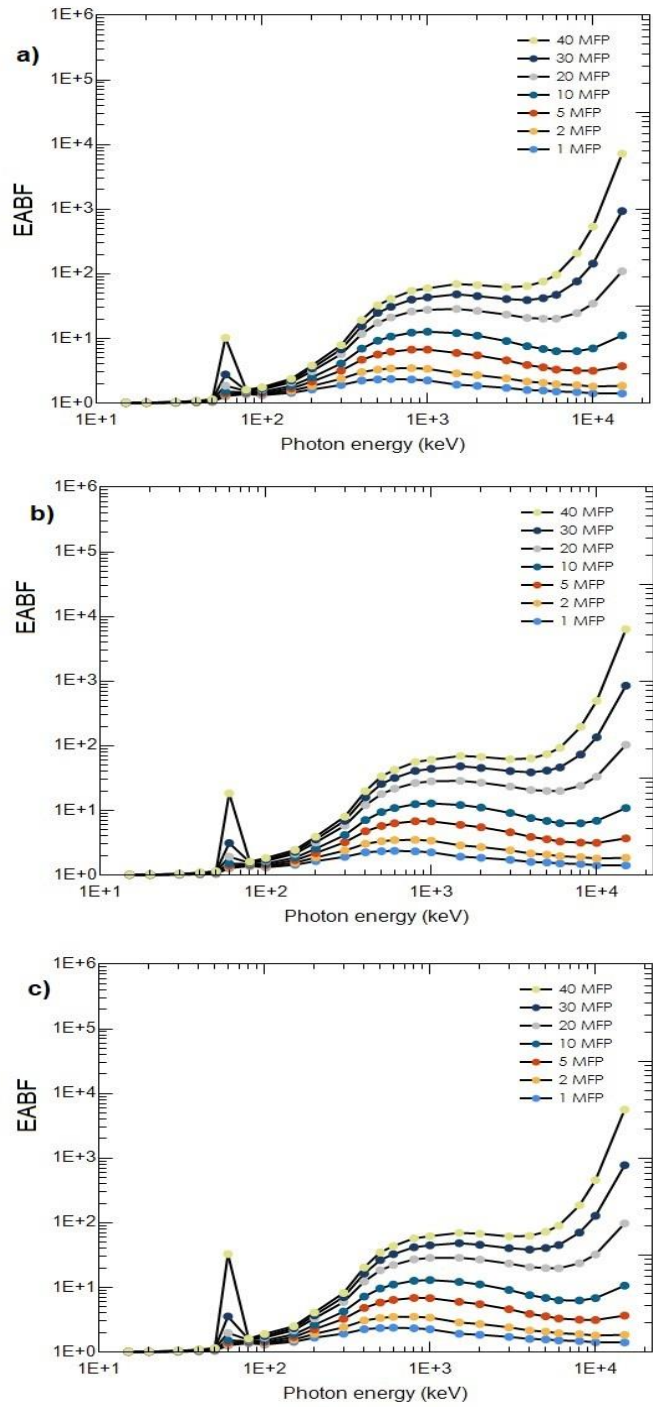


Fig. 4. EABF of Cr0.1 (a) Cr0.3 (b) and Cr0.5 (c) alloys by EpiXS.

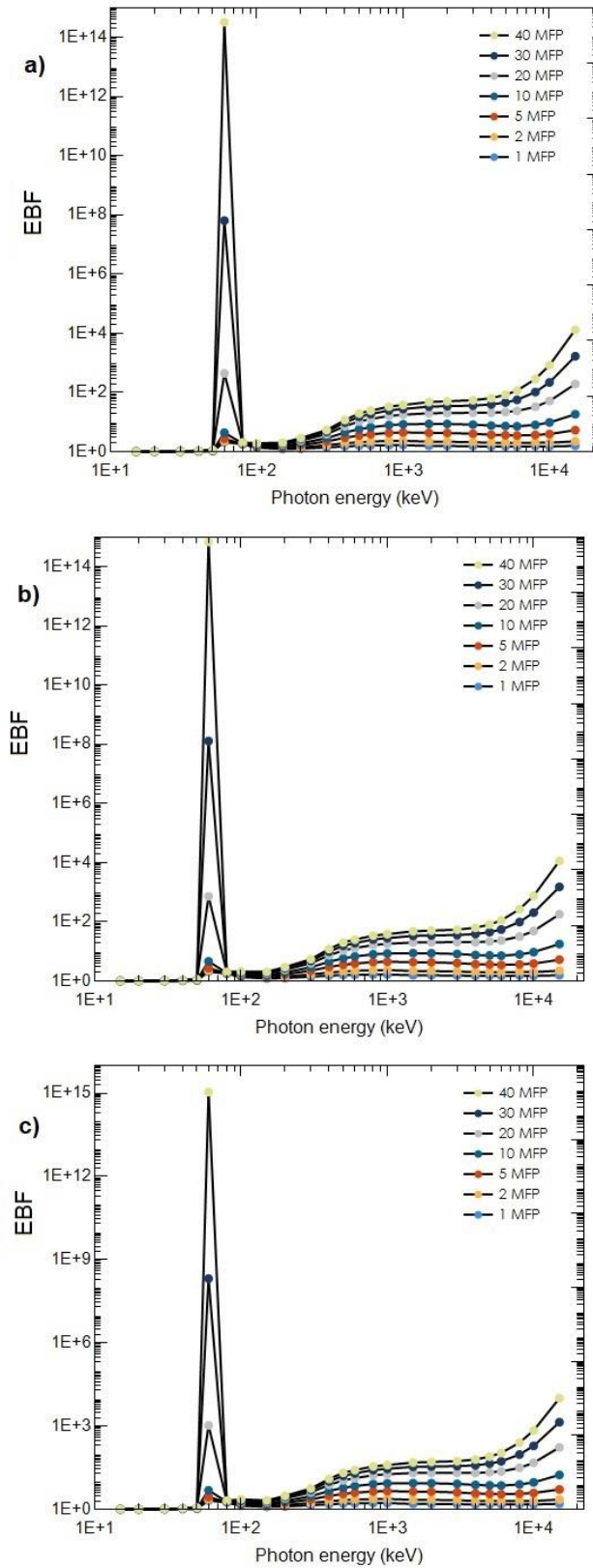


Fig. 5. EBF of Cr0.1 (a) Cr0.3 (b) and Cr0.5 (c) alloys by EpiXS.

Z_{eq} is an effective parameter on determination of energy absorption calculation and absorbed dose. While all partial photon interactions are effective for the determination of Z_{eff} , Z_{eq} is calculated

only by Compton scattering (Aygun et al. 2021). The calculated Z_{eq} of the samples are given in Fig. 6. It was obtained that Z_{eq} values of Cr0.1 are higher than those of the alloys.

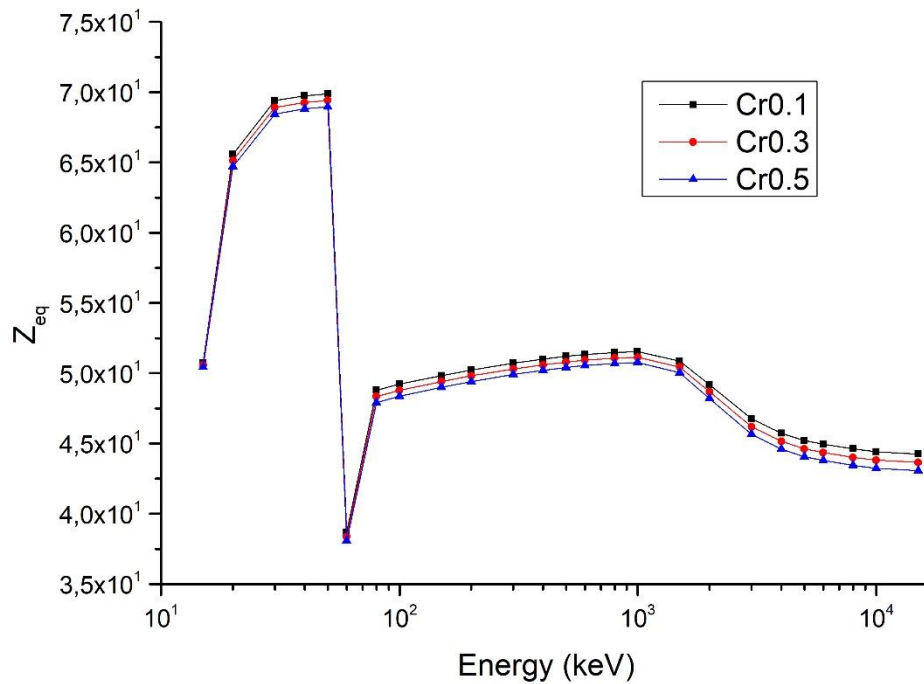


Fig. 6. Z_{eq} values of the studied RHEAs by EpiXS.

4. Conclusions

In the study, photon-matter interaction parameters of RHEAs were determined by EpiXS code in the range of 1 keV-100 GeV in order to determine how the increase in Cr concentration affects the shielding potential of the RHEAs. MAC was also determined by using Xcom and it was found that the obtained results are in good agreement. It was observed that Cr0.1 shows highest shielding capability than the others. It can be noted that increasing value of Cr concentration decreases the radiation shielding ability of the sample. This may be because of the decreasing amount of Hf and other contents (higher atomic numbers) of the alloy or density factor. Lastly, it is important to say that the studied RHEAs can be evaluated as new type shielding materials with their superior features.

Acknowledgement

The abstract text was published at the 2nd International Rahva Technical and Social Researches Congress.

Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

Authors Contribution

The authors declared that they contributed equally to the article.

Financial

This research did not receive any grants from any funding institution/industry

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