

ALUMINUM-MAGNESIUM ISOTOPE SYSTEMATICS IN WARK-LOVERING RIMS.

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Introduction: Wark-Lovering (WL) rims represent the final high temperature stage of formation of Ca-Al-rich inclusions (CAIs). The timing, location, and mode of formation of WL rims are not certain. However, O isotopic heterogeneity within some WL rims provides evidence that CAIs migrated between near-solar and planetary nebular regions [1-3]. It is of great interest to obtain coordinated O isotopic compositions and Al-Mg systematics of WL rims and their host CAIs to constrain the dynamics and nebular lifetimes of early solar system condensates. Here we report an Al-Mg isotopic imaging study of the fine grained minerals within the core, mantle and rim of a coarse-grained Type B CAI having heterogeneous O isotopic compositions.

Sample and methods: The CAI named Big Guy is a 1200 μm x 750 μm fragment of a large Type B1 inclusion from the reduced CV3 Vigarano. It is composed of a grossmanite core and thick, zoned melilite mantle, partially surrounded by a WL rim. The WL rim sequence has a base layer of hibonite+spinel+perovskite, followed by layers of gehlenite, anorthite, zoned pyroxene, and lastly, forsterite. A partial accretionary rim contains fine-grained forsterite, minor metal and several micro-CAIs. Its petrography, major element chemistry, and O isotopic heterogeneity have been reported recently [4].

We obtained Mg isotopic images of major mineral phases in the CAI interior and of the WL rim with the JSC NanoSIMS 50L. Isotopic images of ^{24,25,26}Mg, ²⁷Al, ²⁸Si, ⁴⁰Ca and ⁵⁶Fe were acquired in multi-detection mode using seven electron multipliers. Images ranged in size from 3-15 μm . San Carlos olivine, Madagascar hibonite, a terrestrial spinel and two terrestrial melilites were analyzed to evaluate instrumental mass bias.

Results and discussion: The WL rim hibonite and melilite contain resolvable ²⁶Mg excesses that are consistent with canonical initial ²⁶Al/²⁷Al, within error. Anorthite reveals no evidence of excess ²⁶Mg even at ²⁷Al/²⁴Mg ratios >300. This is consistent with late formation of anorthite, after rim hibonite and melilite. Melilite in the mantle of the CAI also reveals resolvable ²⁶Mg excesses consistent with canonical initial ²⁶Al/²⁷Al. Stable Mg isotope results reveal no resolvable mass dependent fractionation of Mg in the WL rim relative to terrestrial standards, consistent with [5]. However, isotopically heavy ^{25,26}Mg was found in the grossmanite core and melilite mantle of the CAI.

Conclusion: The combined Mg and O [4] isotope analyses suggest a complex heating history of the CAI. This included formation/alteration of the core CAI via evaporation under conditions suitable for Mg isotope fractionation and interaction with a planetary-like O isotope reservoir. WL rim formation occurred at a later time in an environment with solar-like O isotopes and conditions which precluded significant Mg isotope fractionation.

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