

U-Pb and Pb-Pb DATING OF THE APATITE FROM IAB IRON METEORITES.

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Introduction: The IAB is a non-magmatic group of iron meteorites that has been classified into several sub-groups based on the trace element chemistry of metal. They include the main group (MG), multiple 'low-Au low-Ni' (sLL), 'low-Au medium Ni' (sLM), 'low-Au high-Ni' (sLH), sHL and SHH, and several grouplets and ungrouped samples [1]. The isotopic study indicates that high-Au sub-groups (sHL and sHH) may derive from a distinct parent body [2]. This is consistent with the appearance of silicate inclusions, which are mostly related to low-Au subgroups. The metal-silicate separation age was estimated at 6.0 ± 0.8 Ma according to $\epsilon^{182}\text{W}$ data [5], whereas catastrophic impact and re-assembly of parent body [3-4] appeared at 10-14 Ma after the formation of CAI [5]. Here we provide additional evidence for early formation of silicate-bearing IAB irons based on U-Pb dating of apatite from silicate-bearing inclusions.

Samples and Methods: The isotope ratios were measured in Copiapo (IAB-MG), NWA 6369 (sLL), Udei Station, Woodbine, Maslyanino (intermediate between sLL and sLM) and the anomalous meteorite Sombrerete. For all meteorites, from 3 to 10 grains of apatite or crystallized phosphate melt (Sombrerete) were studied. All samples were mounted into epoxy, polished, baked at $\sim 100^\circ\text{C}$ for 1-2 days and kept in the SIMS vessel at $< 5 \times 10^{-9}$ Torr for another 2-3 days before analyses. ^{238}U - ^{206}Pb and ^{207}Pb - ^{206}Pb datings were obtained on a NanoSIMS 50 instrument at the AORI, University of Tokyo. Apatite from the alkaline rocks (Ontario, Canada) aged 1155 ± 5 Ma was used as a standard. Other analytical methods were explained in the previous works [6].

Results and Discussion: All studied apatites have rather low concentrations of U = 0.5-2.0 ppm. This made it difficult to obtain data with minimal measurement error. The obtained data for all meteorites quite densely fall on the isochronous age 4563 ± 29 Ma. However, without taking into account several points that deviate from the narrow trend, the age is 4532 ± 24 Ma (Fig.1). The data for anomalous meteorite Sombrerete are consistent with the IAB isochron.

Comparison with the Hf-W data for iron metal meteorites of the IAB group [2] shows that the formation of silicates probably was not much broken in time with the formation of metal. Most of the data for metal intersect in the region of 3-6 million years [2,5] after the formation of CAI (4568 Ma).

The obtained data are consistent with estimations

of the early event during the formation of IAB parent body (e.g., based on I-Xe chronology 4558-4563 Ma [8]) and is older than some Ar-Ar ages (~ 4320 Ma) [8], which may correspond to later metamorphism, when Pb-Pb system was not reset.

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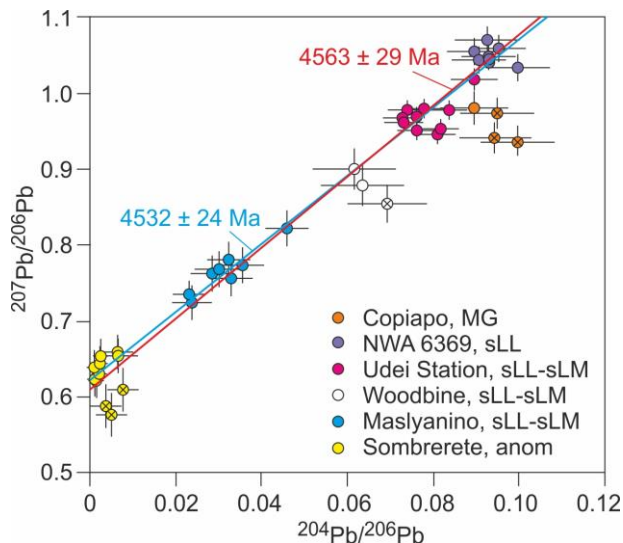


Fig. 1. Correlations between Pb/Pb ratios for apatites from IAB iron meteorites and Sombrerete. Solid lines are regressions constrained using IsoplotR [7]. Red – for all samples. Blue – without crossed samples.