Variations in initial ²⁶Al/²⁷Al ratios among fine-grained CAIs in the reduced CV chondrites

*Noriyuki Kawasaki¹, Changkun Park², Naoya Sakamoto¹, Hisayoshi Yurimoto^{1,3}

1. Hokkaido University, 2. KOPRI, 3. ISAS/JAXA

Ca-Al-rich inclusions (CAIs) are oldest solids formed in the Solar System [1] and composed of high-temperature condensates from a solar-composition gas [2]. Most of CAIs are thought to have contained detectable amounts of live ²⁶Al, a short-lived radionuclide with a half-life of ~0.7 Myr, at their formation [3]. Recent high-precision ²⁶Al-²⁶Mg mineral isochron studies using secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS) revealed detailed distributions of initial ²⁶Al/²⁷Al values, (²⁶Al/²⁷Al)_o, for individual CAIs in the reduced CV chondrites [e.g., 4–9]; coarse-grained, igneous CAIs and fluffy Type A CAIs show similar variations in $({}^{26}AI/{}^{27}AI)_0$ respectively, which range from ~5.2 to ~4.2 ×10⁻⁵. In this study, we obtained new ²⁶Al-²⁶Mg mineral isochrons of five fine-grained, spinel-rich CAIs (FGIs) from the reduced CV chondrites Efremovka, Vigarano and TIL 07007 by in situ measurements using a SIMS instrument (CAMECA ims-1280HR installed at Hokkaido University). Since FGIs are likely to be condensates from a solar nebular gas, ²⁶Al-²⁶Mg mineral isochrons of them enable a more systematic comparison of (²⁶Al/²⁷ Al), between CAIs formed by condensation and by melt crystallization than has previously been achieved. The obtained ${}^{26}\text{Al}-{}^{26}\text{Mg}$ mineral isochrons for five FGIs give $({}^{26}\text{Al}/{}^{27}\text{Al})_0$ of (5.19 ±0.17) ×10⁻⁵, (5.00 ± $(0.17) \times 10^{-5}$, $(4.53 \pm 0.18) \times 10^{-5}$, $(4.43 \pm 0.31) \times 10^{-5}$, and $(3.35 \pm 0.21) \times 10^{-5}$. The $({}^{26}\text{AI}/{}^{27}\text{AI})_0$ for two FGIs are essentially identical to the whole-rock CAI value of $({}^{26}AI/{}^{27}AI)_0 \approx 5.2 \times 10^{-5}$ [10, 11], while those for other three FGIs are clearly lower than the whole-rock CAI value. The range of (²⁶AI/²⁷AI)₀ values for the FGIs, from (5.19 ±0.17) to (3.35 ±0.21) ×10⁻⁵, corresponds to a formation age spread of 0.44 ±0.07 Myr. These variations are slightly larger than those for igneous CAIs ranging from 5.2 to 4.2×10^{-5} [5, 6]. Our data imply that CAI condensation events continued for, at least, ~0.4 Myr at the very beginning of our Solar System, if ²⁶Al was distributed homogeneously in the forming region. Alternatively, the observed variations would also raise a possibility of heterogeneous distributions of ²⁶Al in the forming region, corresponding to a range over, at least, $3.4 \times 10^{-5} < (^{26}\text{Al}/^{27}\text{Al})_0 < 5.2 \times 10^{-5}$.

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