

Protosolar cloud collapse and redistribution of ^{26}Al

F.C. Pignatale^{1,2}, E. Jacquet², M. Chaussidon¹, **S. Charnoz**¹

¹Université de Paris, Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris, CNRS, 1 rue Jussieu, F-75005 Paris, France

²Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Institut de Minéralogie, Physique des Matériaux et de Cosmochimie, Département Origines et Evolution, UMR 7590, CP52, 57 rue Cuvier, 75005, Paris, France (pignatale@ipgp.fr)

Abstract

The short-lived radionuclide ^{26}Al is used to determine the relative age of formation of Ca-Al-rich inclusions (CAIs) and other chondrite components. The use of Al-Mg systematic as a chronometer implies its homogeneity in the disk that originated the Solar System. The presence of ^{26}Al -poor CAIs (FUN) and timescales of formation of CAIs suggests instead that the Solar System parent cloud was possibly zoned in ^{26}Al . We investigate different ^{26}Al -distributions in the collapsing protosolar cloud and how they are incorporated in the forming disk. We find that a distribution where ^{26}Al sharply increases close to the center of the cloud and essentially remained constant outward matches the observed trends in chondrites. This would warrant the use of the ^{26}Al - ^{26}Mg chronometer from the formation of canonical CAIs onward, to chondrules and chondrite accretion.

1. Introduction

Ca-Al-rich inclusions (CAIs), chondrules and matrix in individual chondrites are diverse in thermal history and isotopic compositions [1]. Isotopic analysis, in particular Al-Mg systematics, suggests a short interval of formation for CAIs, in the order of ~ 150 kyr, from precursor condensates that may have formed in an even shorter interval of time [2-4]. The retrieved timescales are comparable with those of the collapse of a cloud to a protoplanetary disk [5] and suggest that the oldest chondrite components formed during that epoch. Following the work of [6,7], [8] studied the distribution and thermal alteration of dust (of different chemical compositions) during their transport from the collapsing cloud to the forming disk, and found extensive evaporation of infalling matter recondensing in condensates, many of which were advected toward the outer disk and mixed with unprocessed dust, in agreement with the compositional gradient for major families of chondrites [1] and the old age of CAIs. However, the

widely used Al-Mg chronology [4] is predicated on the uniformity of the $^{26}\text{Al}/^{27}\text{Al}$ ratio, which is called into question by apparently old yet ^{26}Al -poor CAIs such as FUN CAIs [9]. This suggests that the parental cloud was itself heterogeneous in ^{26}Al , hence the importance of investigating the distribution of different reservoirs of ^{26}Al within the cloud and the transport and incorporation of ^{26}Al in the Solar System solids that populate the forming disk.

2. Method

We [10] use the model presented in [8], and study how different ^{26}Al -distributions within the collapsing cloud are redistributed in different refractory dust components (CAIs and bulk material) in the forming disk. In terms of the $^{26}\text{Al}/^{27}\text{Al}$ ratio, we consider both a monotonic zoning (with a plateau) and a spike profile, both reaching a maximum around $t = 80$ kyr consistent with the timescale of CAI production [8]. Our 1D disk model includes several processes such as gas and dust condensation/evaporation, dust growth/fragmentation, radiative and viscous heating, dead zone and cloud infall in the form of a source term [8].

3. Results and Conclusions

We find that CAIs essentially inherit the $^{26}\text{Al}/^{27}\text{Al}$ ratio of the matter infalling at the time of their formation, so that variations of $^{26}\text{Al}/^{27}\text{Al}$ among FUN and normal CAIs can be accounted for, without requiring any supercanonical reservoir anywhere. The prevalence of a canonical ratio among normal CAIs, the fact that bulk chondrites show a near-canonical $^{26}\text{Al}/^{27}\text{Al}$ ratio, and the ^{26}Al level required for the differentiation of the first planetesimals suggest a scenario where ^{26}Al sharply rose relatively close to the center of the protosolar cloud and essentially remained at a high level outward (rather than having decreased since). As the ^{26}Al abundance would be relatively homogeneous after cessation of

infall, this would warrant the use of the ^{26}Al - ^{26}Mg chronometer from the formation of normal CAIs onward, to chondrules and chondrite accretion.

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