Calcium and Ti isotopic anomalies of refractory inclusions in carbonaceous chondrites

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Refractory inclusions whose compositions are rich in refractory elements (e.g. Ca and Al) are found in primitive chondrites. It is considered that they formed by high temperature processes that occurred in the early solar nebula. Refractory inclusions have some characteristic isotopic compositions such as the O isotopic anomaly and the 26Mg-excess that is caused by a decay of 26Al. Furthermore, it is known that some refractory inclusions have mass-independent isotopic anomalies in 48Ca and 50Ti, which are the most neutron-rich isotopes of Ca and Ti. These isotopic anomalies are considered as the evidence for the existence of isotopic heterogeneity in the early solar nebula.

Isotopic anomalies observed in refractory inclusions are considered as important clues to understand the origin of precursor materials and their formation processes in the early solar nebula. Hence, it is important to understand isotopic characteristics of refractory inclusions. It was previously pointed out that refractory inclusions with large isotopic anomalies in 48Ca and 50Ti tended to show a small initial 26Al/27Al ratio. However, details of the characteristics of isotopic anomalies in 48Ca and 50Ti are not well known. The correlation between isotopic anomalies in 48Ca and 50Ti and the O isotopic anomaly is not well known, also. The aim of this work is to clarify the correlation among isotopic anomalies of different elements. In this work, O, Mg, Ca and Ti isotopes of refractory inclusions from Murchison (CM2) and Kainsaz (CO3) were measured with an ion microprobe at the University of Tokyo. The correlations of isotopic anomalies of refractory inclusions are discussed based on newly obtained data. Isotopic data of previous works are also included.

Refractory inclusions that have large isotopic anomalies of 48Ca and 50Ti (larger than 10 permil) show small initial 26Al/27Al ratios (less than 1.0e-5). This is consistent with results of previous works and this suggests that isotopic anomalies of 48Ca and 50Ti and the 26Al come from different precursors. Isotopic anomalies of 48Ca and 50Ti tend to show a linear correlation. Calcium and Ti isotopic compositions of all measured inclusions, which have various elemental Ca/Ti ratios, are distributed along this linear trend. This cannot be simply interpreted as a mixing trend between two different components such as solar material and presolar grains. This linear trend presumably suggests the macro-scale isotopic heterogeneity in the early solar nebula.

No significant correlation between the O isotopic anomaly and isotopic anomalies of 48Ca and 50Ti is observed. Oxygen isotopic compositions of refractory inclusions that have significant Ca and Ti isotopic anomalies are similar to those of normal refractory inclusions that do not have significant Ca and Ti isotopic anomalies.