Computational Science for Environmental Geochemistry

*Hiroshi Sakuma[1]

1.National Institute for Materials Science

Computational science has provided powerful methods for chemistry, physics, biology, and geoscience with the development of computational facilities and methods. Here we discuss atomic-scale simulations in computational science including *ab initio* calculations and molecular simulations using force fields. These atomic-scale simulations have developed in different way depending on research fields such as band calculations for understanding conductivity and magnetism of solids in physics, molecular orbital methods for reproducing weak molecular interactions and chemical reactions in chemistry, and molecular simulations for revealing the stable structure of large protein molecules in biology. A direction of computational science in geochemistry is the development of methods applicable to elevated temperature, pressure, and multi-component systems. In this presentation, we discuss perspectives of computational science for developing environmental geochemistry.

Keywords: ab initio calculation, Molecular simulation, Free energy, pH, Fluid, Solid-liquid interface

Determination of absolute $^3He/^4He$ ratio of He Standard of Japan

*Kenji Mishima[1], Hirochika Sumino[2], Takahito Yamada[3], Sei Ieki[3], Naoki Nagakura[3], Hidetoshi Otono[4]

1.KEK, 2.Dept. of Basic Science, University of Tokyo-Komaba, 3.Grad. School of Sci., University of Tokyo, 4.RCAPP, Kyushu University

$^3He/^4He$ ratios in terrestrial samples vary more than three orders of magnitude, because primordial helium with $^3He/^4He$ of (1.4-4.6) x 10^{-4} has been diluted by addition of radiogenic ^4He produced by decay of U- and Th-series elements in different degrees depending on $^3He/(U+Th)$ ratio of each reservoir. This feature makes $^3He/^4He$ ratio a powerful tracer in geochemistry and cosmochemistry. Though atmospheric helium with $^3He/^4He$ ratio of 1.4 x 10^{-6} is used to calibrate $^3He/^4He$ measurement with a noble gas mass spectrometer, relatively low concentration and $^3He/^4He$ ratio of the atmospheric helium cause many difficulties to use it as a working standard for daily measurements. Thus noble gas laboratories often use their own working standards prepared from a natural gas sample with high $^3He/^4He$ ratio or by mixing of isotopically pure ^3He and ^4He. "He Standard of Japan" (HESJ) is one of the latter originally prepared by four noble gas laboratories in Japan [1] and now distributed worldwide as an interlaboratory standard [1,2]. However, $^3He/^4He$ ratio of HESJ was determined by comparison with that of atmospheric helium, i.e., absolute $^3He/^4He$ ratio has not been determined yet and the accuracy of the value still rely on the early determinations of absolute $^3He/^4He$ ratio of atmospheric helium [3].

As long as $^3He/^4He$ ratio is used to compare relative contributions of primordial and radiogenic in each geochemical reservoir, absolute $^3He/^4He$ value of atmospheric helium or HESJ is less important. However, it is a critical issue in some applications of helium isotopes, such as tritium-^3He dating and an experimental project to measure the neutron lifetime with total uncertainty of 1 sec (0.1%) using pulsed neutron source at J-PARC [4].

A neutron decays into a proton, an electron, and an anti-neutrino with a lifetime of 880.3 ±1.1 sec [5]. The lifetime is an important constant in the Big Bang nucleosynthesis (BBN) that controls amounts of primordial elements in our universe. In this experiment, the incident neutron flux is measured by counting $^3He(n,p)^3H$ reaction in a time projection chamber detector filled with ^3He, ^4He and CO_2. To determine neutron lifetime with uncertainty less than 0.1%, ^3He number density in the detector must be accurately known with even smaller uncertainty. As a part of this experiment, we are developing a gas handling system to control ^3He number density with uncertainty of 0.1%. The ^3He gas is mixed with research grade He in a vessel with measuring pressures of these gases precisely using a calibrated piezoresistive transducer.

We fabricated control samples of known $^3He/^4He$ ratio using the gas handling system and measured the ratio using a sector type single focusing noble gas mass spectrometer with double collector system [6] at Dept. of Basic Sci., the Univ. of Tokyo by referring to HESJ. The results will contribute to determine the absolute $^3He/^4He$ value of HESJ, and that of atmospheric helium also [6].

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Keywords: Isotope ratio analysis, 3He/4He ratio, Mass spectrometry, Big bang nucleosynthesis, Neutron beta decay

A new high-precision method for determining stable chlorine isotopes using UV-LA-MC-ICP-MS

*Chiaki Toyama[1], Jun-Ichi Kimura[1], Qing CHANG[1], Bogdan S. Vaglarov[1], Junichiro Kuroda[1]

1.Department of Solid Earth Geochemistry, JAMSTEC

Chorine is the dominant anion in many geological fluids and one of the main volatile components on Earth. It has high partition coefficients in aqueous fluid (Bureau et al. 2000) and is enriched in seawater, pore fluid and sediment, but depleted in the mantle. Chlorine has two stable isotopes: ^{35}Cl and ^{37}Cl. The isotope ratios of ^{37}Cl/^{35}Cl are usually expressed by δ-notation relative to Standard Mean Ocean Chloride (SMOC) as
δ^{37}Cl = [(^{37}Cl/ ^{35}Cl)sample / (^{37}Cl/ ^{35}Cl)SMOC −1] x1000. (Eggenkamp 2014)
Their large relative mass difference suggests that these isotopes should fractionate during reactions between aqueous chloride solutions and solid phases in which Cl is at least partly covalently bound. Taken together, the δ^{37}Cl also may provide a good tracer of subducted materials into the mantle. Measurement of chlorine isotope ratios has been performed by the gas source isotope ratio mass spectrometry (IRMS) (Kaufmann et al., 1984), the positive and negative thermal ionization mass spectrometry (P-TIMS / N-TIMS) (Xiao and Zhang 1992; Desaulniers et al., 1986) and the inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICPMS) (Fietzke et al., 2008).
We report a new rapid high-precision determination method of chlorine isotope ratios in halite and AgCl pellet formed from seawater and igneous rock samples. Use of a 266 nm ultra violet-femtosecond laser ablation (UV-FsLA) provided quantitative sampling of halite and AgCl, and enabled precise determination of ^{37}Cl/^{35}Cl isotope ratios (δ^{37}Cl) coupled with a multiple Faraday collector-inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (MFC-ICPMS). We used $^{36}Ar^+/^{38}Ar^+$ as an external standard for the mass bias corrections between $^{39}K^+$–$^{41}K^+$, $^{36}Ar^1H^+$–$^{38}Ar^1H^+$–$^{40}Ar^1H^+$, and $^{35}Cl^+$–$^{37}Cl^+$ with isobaric overlap corrections between K^+, ArH^+, and Cl^+ ions. Sulfur ($^{36}S^+$) isobar on $^{36}Ar^+$ was indirectly monitored and corrected by a baseline modelling using $^{36}Ar^+/^{38}Ar^+$ measurement. Those combined to accomplish an accurate and high-precision measurement of $^{37}Cl^+/^{35}Cl^+$ ratios. Using the new analytical protocol, δ^{37}Cl in the natural halite samples were analyzed by direct laser ablation. The δ^{37}Cl in igneous rocks were analyzed by AgCl powder pellets produced after pyrohydrolysis separation and co-precipitation of the separated Cl with silver. The external reproducibility of δ^{37}Cl measurement was ±0.2 ‰2SD (2-standard deviation) for halite and ±0.3 ‰2SD for AgCl rivaling to the gas source isotope ratio mass spectrometry. The new analytical protocol enabled a precise and rapid δ^{37}Cl analysis of igneous rock samples from AgCl with as small as 4 μg chlorine. This is also the first report analyzing a high-precision δ^{37}Cl *in situ* from halite of the same amount of chlorine.

Keywords: stable chlorine isotopes, UV-LA-MC-ICP-MS

Development of rapid and precise dating method: Applying on chronology in Jack Hills

*Hideyuki Obayashi[1], Shuhei Sakata[2], Shinji Yamamoto[3], Yukio Isozaki[2], Kentaro Hattori[1], Takafumi Hirata[1]

1.Kyoto University, 2.The University of Tokyo, 3.Yokohama National University

Most of the global events, such as formation of magma ocean, core-mantle segregation, crust formation, and/or chemical evolution of atmosphere, could be completed within the first 0.5 Byr of the Earth History, so called Hadean Eon. Despite the great importance of the Hadean Eon, no petrographic record can be found for this stage, and only geochemical information can be derived from small minerals such as zircons or other accessory minerals within zircons (e.g., apatite, muscovite, or biotite). For geochemical studies for Hadean Eon, many pioneering studies have been made based on the isotope geochemistry on zircons collected from Jack Hills and Mt. Narryer, Western Australia. It is widely recognized that zircons collected from these area have been thought one of the most principal clues for Hadean studies. Moreover, further detailed studies have been carried out from small inclusions in zircon crystals. Zircons from Jack Hills contain various mineral inclusions such as muscovite, quartz, biotite, apatite and so on, and about two-thirds of them are muscovite and quartz, probably due to secondary replacement of primary apatite (Hopkins *et al.*, 2008, Rasmussen *et al.*, 2011). Recently, biogenic carbon, as graphite inclusion, was recovered from 4.1 Ga zircon, but an abundance of carbon-bearing Jack Hills zircons of only about 1-in-10,000 (Bell *et al.*, 2015). In addition, the percentage of Hadean zircons to detrital zircons in Jack Hills was as small as 7% (Holden *et al.*, 2009). For these reasons, large number of age data for zircon grains must be defined to derive reliable and objective information concerning the Hadean history of the Earth. To overcome this, we have developed new analytical technique to define precise age data from combination of U-Pb (Pb-Pb) dating method with high sample throughput.
We have developed rapid and precise dating technique for zircons using laser ablation ICP-mass spectrometer (LA-ICP-MS), equipped with two Daly ion collectors (Nu Plasma IID, Wrexham, UK). Laser ablation instrument used in this study was ESI NWR193 laser ablation system (New Wave Research, Oregon, USA). Combination of multiple collector-ICPMS system and ArF Excimer laser ablation system enables us to measure Pb-Pb age for the sample within 10 second/spot, and uncertainties in the resulting Pb-Pb age data can be minimized by the multiple-collector system setup. Based on the age determination system using LA-MC-ICPMS technique, we just started to measure Pb-Pb age data from 180 grains of zircons within an hour . In this presentation, difference in the resulting age histogram for the zircons collected from Jack Hills will be discussed, and detailed observation for various inclusions in the Hadean zircons will be demonstrated in this talk.

Keywords: Hadean, Jack Hills, LA-ICP-MS, MC-ICP-MS, zircon, mineral inclusion

^{147}Sm-^{143}Nd and ^{146}Sm-^{142}Nd chronology of basaltic eucrites

*Saya Kagami[1], Tetsuya Yokoyama[1], Tomohiro Usui[1]

1.Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Tokyo Institute of Technology

Eucrites are interpreted to have originated from the asteroid 4-Vesta’s crust. They are petrographically classified into basaltic and cumulate eucrites. Determination of precise ages for eucrites will constrain the period of igneous activity and the following thermal metamorphism of Vesta and may further provide insights into its differentiation and thermal history. Sm-Nd dating is one of the most suitable approaches for investigating the crust crystallization age. The Sm-Nd systematics has two chronometers: the long-lived ^{147}Sm-^{143}Nd ($T_{1/2}$ = 1.06×10^{11} y) and the short-lived ^{146}Sm-^{142}Nd ($T_{1/2}$ = 1.03×10^{8} y [1]) systematics. Bouvier et al. [2] revealed that the variation of Sm/Nd ratios for basaltic eucrites were several times smaller than the entire range of Sm/Nd ratios for all eucrites, making it difficult for obtaining the precise Sm-Nd whole-rock isochron age for basaltic eucrites alone.

In this study, we determine the ^{147}Sm-^{143}Nd and ^{146}Sm-^{142}Nd ages for bulk rocks of basaltic eucrites, (NWA 7188, Juvinas, NWA 5229, Nuevo Laredo and Agoult). The samples were decomposed with HF, $HClO_4$ and HNO_3. After the sample digestion, ~10% of the solution was removed and mixed with the ^{149}Sm- and ^{145}Nd-enriched spikes. The spiked solution was passed through TRU Resin (Eichrom) for separating REEs from the matrix elements. We measured the ^{145}Nd/^{146}Nd and ^{147}Sm/^{149}Sm ratios in the sample separated for determining the Sm/Nd ratios by ID-ICP-MS (X-series Ⅱ, Thermo) [3]. The remainder of the sample solution was used for highly precise Nd isotope analysis. The Nd was separated by a three-step column chemistry procedure; 1) major elements were removed by passing through a cation exchange resin, 2) Ce was removed using Ln Resin (Eichrom) by oxidizing Ce^{3+} into Ce^{4+} using $KBrO_3$ [4,5], and 3) Nd was separated from Sm using Ln Resin [3]. We achieved Ce/Nd = ~1.2×10^{-5} and Sm/Nd = ~5.2×10^{-6} with >92% Nd recovery. The ^{142}Nd/^{144}Nd and ^{143}Nd/^{144}Nd ratios were analyzed by TIMS at Tokyo Tech (TRITON plus) with the dynamic multicollection method [6].

The whole-rock isochron ages of five basaltic eucrites yielded the ^{146}Sm-^{142}Nd and ^{147}Sm-^{143}Nd ages of $4565\ ^{+41}_{-58}$ Ma and 4529 ±260 Ma, respectively. Although the error of the isochron is relatively large, the whole-rock ^{146}Sm-^{142}Nd age of basaltic eucrites is indistinguishable from that of cumulate eucrites obtained previously ($4556\ ^{+30}_{-37}$ Ma). This implies that the whole-rock Sm-Nd isochron ages for basaltic and cumulate eucrites most likely represent the timing of global differentiation of the silicate part of Vesta. It is important to note that the timing of global silicate differentiation is nearly contemporaneous to the timing of metal-silicate segregation in the eucrite parent body deduced from the age obtained by the ^{182}Hf-^{182}W systematics [7]. The result supports an idea that eucrites formed by equilibrium and fractional crystallization of silicate part of the parent body immediately after a magma ocean.

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Keywords: basaltic eucrites, Sm-Nd chronology, whole-rock isochron, Vesta

Nucleosynthetic Strontium isotope variability in Allende CAIs

*Kunihiro Myojo[1], Tetsuya Yokoyama[1], Shigeyuki Wakaki[2], naoji sugiura

1.Department of Earth and Planetary Science, Tokyo Institute of Technology , 2.Kochi Institute for Core Sample Research, JAMSTEC

Calcium and aluminum rich inclusions (CAIs) are composed of refractory mineral such as melilite, spinel or pyroxene and thought to be the first condensates in the early solar system. Most CAIs possess a variety of nucleosynthetic isotope anomalies for heavy elements. Brennecka et al. [1] reported that Sr, Mo, Ba, Nd and Sm isotope composition in CAIs were uniform, yet distinct from the solar system average compositions. However, most of previous studies analyzed "bulk" CAIs without detailed mineral description. CAIs are composed of various mineral assemblages depending on the environment and/or the timing of individual CAI formation. The difference of mineral assemblages can be observed even within a single CAI. Therefore, it is important to determine the isotope compositions of heavy elements not only for different types of CAIs, but also of multiple spots within a single CAI with detailed mineral description.

In this study, we performed *in-situ* measurements of ^{84}Sr/^{86}Sr ratios in two Allende CAIs using TIMS (Triton-plus, Tokyo Tech) coupled with a micro milling system (Geomill 326, Izumo) together with detailed mineral descriptions using SEM-EDS (JSM-5310, Univ. of Tokyo and Hitachi 3400, Tokyo Tech). Three specimens of the Allende meteorite were sliced into two respective slabs of which one sides were used for mineralogical analysis and the other sides were used for Sr isotope analysis. We selected three relatively large CAI grains; a cm-size fluffy type A (FTA) CAI, a type B CAI and a fine-grained spinel-rich (FS) inclusion. Using the micro-milling system, we sampled 8 spots from the FTA CAI, 3 spots from type B and 3 spots from the FS inclusion for the analysis of ^{84}Sr/^{86}Sr ratios. Samples were decomposed in a pressure digestion system (Digestec DAB-2, Berghof) with HF and HNO_3. Sr separation for high precision isotope measurement was achieved by column chemistry with extraction chromatographic resin (Sr spec, Eichrom).

The mean m^{84}Sr values (10^6 relative deviations from NIST 987) were 175 ppm for FTA, 129 ppm for type B and 56 ppm for the FS inclusion, respectively. Notably, one spot from the FTA CAI showed the greatest m^{84}Sr value (273 ±21 ppm) compared to those of CAIs ever reported. Assuming that FTA CAI predates type B CAI and the FS inclusion, our results would imply that the extent of Sr isotope anomaly in the CAI-forming region was large and heterogeneous at the earlier stage, which subsequently shifted towards low and relatively homogeneous m^{84}Sr values when type B CAI and FS inclusion formed. The isotopic shift was most likely caused by the effective mixing of nebular dusts including p- and/or r-process-enriched carries (i.e., high m^{84}Sr) and isotopically normal grains.

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Keywords: CAI, Isotope

Development of highly precise molybdenum isotop analysis by negative thermal ionization mass spectrometry (N-TIMS) for the study of isotope anomalies in bulk meteorites

*Yuichiro Nagai[1], Tetsuya Yokoyama[1]

1.Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Tokyo Institute of Technology

Molybdenum is one of promising elements to investigate physical or chemical processes in various fields, including cosmochemistry. Improvements of techniques utilizing state-of-the-art mass spectrometry instruments over the last 15 years made it possible for detecting marginal mass-independent Mo isotopic fractionations (isotope anomalies) observed in extraterrestrial samples. The Mo isotope anomalies for various meteorites provide strong constrains on studies concerning environmental sciences, stellar nucleosynthesis, and the origin and evolution of the Solar System. For example, Mo isotope anomalies in bulk aliquot of meteorites indicated that the anomalies were originated from the heterogeneous distribution of presolar materials in the early Solar System [1]. However, previous studies predominantly focused on carbonaceous chondrites and iron meteorites; otherwise data for the other non-carbonaceous meteorites are limited because the degree of Mo isotope anomalies for these meteorites are only marginal and nearly equal to the analytical uncertainties of standard materials. Here we developed a new, highly precise, and accurate Mo isotope analysis by thermal ionization mass spectrometry in negative ionization mode (N-TIMS) for the study of Mo isotope anomalies in non-carbonaceous meteorites.

A Mo standard solution for atomic absorption spectrometry (Kanto Chem.) was used as an in-house standard. Iron meteorites (Tambo Quemado (IIIAB), Henbury (IIIAB), and Alibion (IVA)) were leached in 6 M HCl and digested with 16 M HNO_3–12 M HCl. After recovering solutions including Mo, the samples were dissolved in 0.4M HCl-0.5M HF to separate Mo by employing the anion exchange resin (Eichrom AG1-X8) through HCl-HF and HF-HNO_3 media [2]. Molybdenum isotopes (MoO^-) were measured by negative-TIMS using TRITON *plus* (Thermo-Fisher Scientific) installed at Tokyo Tech. The instrument was equipped with 9 Faraday cups with 10^{11} Ωamplifiers. Approximately 3 μg of Mo was loaded on a zone-refined Re filament together with $La(NO_3)_3$ as an activator (La/Mo ~5). The results were obtained by averaging 360 ratios collected in the static multicollection mode.

For achieving highly precise Mo isotope analysis, it is important to determe the oxygen isotopic composition of MoO_3 ions in each measurement by monitoring masses 149 ($^{100}Mo^{16}O_2{}^{17}O$) and 150 ($^{100}Mo^{16}O_2{}^{18}O$) ions and to use the data for correcting for the O isotope interferences. After correcting the O isotopic interference and performing mass-dependent fractionation during the TIMS measurement, the acquired Mo isotopic ratios yielded the following reproducibilities (2SD; n = 21): 47, 16, 10, 13, and 33 ppm for $^{92}Mo/^{96}Mo$, $^{94}Mo/^{96}Mo$, $^{95}Mo/^{96}Mo$, $^{97}Mo/^{96}Mo$,and $^{100}Mo/^{96}Mo$, respectively. The reproducibilities have been improved by 1.3–2.7 times compared tothose obtained in previous studies using multi-collector inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (MC-ICP-MS).The accuracy of our technique was confirmed by measuring Mo isotopic compositions for two iron meteorites, i.e., Henbury (IIIAB) and Albion (IVA). Molybdenum isotope anoamlies for these meteorites are consistent with those obtained in the previous study [1]. Moreover, we determined positive Mo isotope anomalies for a new iron meteorite, Tambo Quemado (IIIAB). Our N-TIMS technique can be applied to the studies of nucleosynthetic isotope anomalies in extraterrestrial materials as well as mass-dependent Mo isotopic shift in environmental samples.

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Keywords: meteorite, TIMS, molybdenum

Investigetion of atmospheric mercury isotopic compositions: technical development and applications

*Akane Yamakawa[1], Katsutoshi Moriya[2], Jun Yoshinaga[2], Yuanzhu Li[2], Hitoshi CHIBA[3], Katsuyuki Yamashita[3], Atsushi Matsuki[4]

1.National Institute for Environmental Studies, 2.The University of Tokyo, 3.Okayama University, 4.Kanazawa University

Mercury (Hg) is a toxic heavy metal, which exists in various chemical forms in the environmental system. In the atmosphere, Hg exists in three forms ($Hg^0_{(g)}$, gaseous elemental Hg (GEM); $Hg^{2+}_{(g)}$, gaseous oxidized Hg compounds; and $Hg_{(p)}$, particulate/aerosol bound Hg). $Hg^0_{(g)}$ is the dominant species of atmospheric Hg, accounting for >95% of the total Hg in the atmosphere. Because $Hg^0_{(g)}$ is highly volatile and has limited solubility in water, it cannot be easily removed by wet or dry deposition processes. Therefore, the residence time of $Hg^0_{(g)}$ in the atmosphere is relatively long (0.5 to 1 years), which allows long-range transport from mercury emission source(s). Conversely, $Hg^{+2}_{(g)}$ and $Hg_{(p)}$ are effectively removed from the atmosphere through wet and dry depositions. Because $Hg^0_{(g)}$ deposit upon oxidation to $Hg^{2+}_{(g)}$ far from its emission source(s), deposition on local/regional scales represents a combination of multiple sources of Hg (global, regional, or local; natural or anthropogenic).

Over the last decade, the development of analytical methods of highly precise Hg isotopic measurements demonstrated mass dependent fractionation (MDF) and mass independent fractionation (MIF) of Hg isotopes in environmental samples. MDF of Hg isotopes occur during various natural and industrial Hg transformations. MIF of Hg isotopes is observed during abiotic reduction, photochemical and non-photochemical, and physical and chemical processes. Such processes lead to differences in the Hg isotopic composition of different emission sources, both natural and anthropogenic, and atmospheric processes (i.e., transportation, oxidation/reduction, deposition, and reemission). Therefore, Hg isotopic compositions could be used as a tracer of the sources and processes of atmospheric Hg. In this study, we aimed to develop the methods of collection and pretreatment for isotopic measurement of $Hg^0_{(g)}$, and then isotopic composition of $Hg^0_{(g)}$ was investigated for various regions in Japan.

To identify potential mercury sources, air mass back trajectories were calculated for each sample using the NOAA HYSPLIT model. We divided the back trajectory patterns observed in the results into three groups of air masses predominantly derived from (1) a marine source derived from the Pacific Ocean, (2) coastal and land sources that probably contain anthropogenic mercury emitted from urban-industrial regions, and (3) continental sources associated with northwesterly flow at higher altitude (>1500 m) and long-range transportation. Although multiple sources were possibly impacted during the 24 hr ambient sampling, we were able to observe a correlation between the back-trajectory types and Hg isotopic composition.

Keywords: Mercury isotopes, MC-ICP-MS, atmospheric mercury

$\Delta^{14}C$ variability obtained from high-resolution radiocarbon measurements in coral skeletons from the western Pacific

*Shoko Hirabayashi[1,2], Yusuke Yokoyama[1,2], Atsushi Suzuki[3], Yosuke Miyairi[1], Takahiro AZE[1]

1.Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, The University of Tokyo, 2.Graduate School of Science, The University of Tokyo, 3.Geological Survey of Japan, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)

Corals skeletons consistent with calcium carbonate and are widely used as archives of paleoenvironments such as sea surface temperature reconstruction. Radiocarbon (^{14}C) in coral skeletons is used as a tracer of ocean circulation because corals take dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) of seawater in their skeletons. Sample size requirement for conventional ^{14}C measurement, however, need more than 10 mg of $CaCO_3$ (1 mgC), which prevent us to establish a history of high-resolution seawater properties.

In this study, we established a new ^{14}C analytical method, which requires smaller amount of carbonate samples using the accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) at the Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, The University of Tokyo (YS-AMS). Coral skeletons along the Kuroshio trajectory were used to understand the variations of Kuroshio, which were compared with published radiocarbon ratio ($\Delta^{14}C$) data in the western Pacific.

Our results showed that $\Delta^{14}C$ in Luzon, Ishigaki and Kikai Is, along Kuroshio current, were similar after 1950 (Post-bomb period). Before 1950 (Pre-Bomb period), our data showed that $\Delta^{14}C$ in 1940s were different from $\Delta^{14}C$ in 1900s previously reported by Yoneda et al. (2007). It is suggested that sea surface $\Delta^{14}C$ fluctuates during a short period of time in the western Pacific. This variability would influence significantly to the calibration of local marine reservoir effects when calibrating ^{14}C ages to calendar ages.

Keywords: Radiocarbon, Δ14C variability, ΔR, coral, sea surface water

Freshwater eel conservation and Geochemistry

*kenzo kaifu[1], Kotaro Shirai[2]

1.Chuo University, 2.Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, The University of Tokyo

The Japanese eel, *Anguilla japonica*, have continued to decrease since the 1970’s and appear to have reached a historically critical situation in recent years. Finally, this commercially important species was listed as endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Serious decline of the Japanese eel population requires feasible countermeasures for conservation and sustainable use.

The Japanese eels have been intensively stocked by the national government and fisheries cooperatives for the purpose of stock enhancement in various areas of Japan. The primary method of this is to release small yellow eels from eel farms into rivers and lakes. This stocking practice has been conducted for more than 100 years without being validated its effectiveness to enhance eel stock, while fish stocking includes several kinds of risks such as disturbances of distribution range, disturbances of genetic structures, and spreading diseases and parasites. A method to discriminate naturally recruited wild eels from stocked ones is undoubtedly important, however, no technics had been developed to our knowledge.

Because Japanese eel is a panmictic fish species consisting of a single spawning population, wild and stocked individuals cannot be discriminated genetically. Geochemistry, however, has opened up a possibility to discriminate eels of different origins recently. Oxygen and carbon stable isotope ratios of otolith (calcium carbonate crystal in the fish inner ear) basically depends on the source of environmental water. According to quadratic discriminant analysis based on otolith oxygen and carbon stable isotope ratios, 98.6% of 420 Japanese eels (106 wild and 314 cultured eels) were successfully discriminated into wild and cultured individuals.

Same as the Japanese eels, 8 of 13 freshwater eel species assessed are categorized as threatened or near threatened in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The discrimination method shown above can be applied on these species such as European eel that intensively stocked under Eel Management Plans. Through otolith stable isotope analysis, geochemistry sheds light upon depletion of freshwater eel populations.

Keywords: eel, otolith, stable isotope

Application of FTICR-MS analysis to soil organic matter

*Kosuke Ikeya[1,3], Rachel L. Sleighter[2], Patrick G. Hatcher[2], Akira Watanabe[3]

1.National Institute for Agro Environmental Sciences, 2.Old Dominion University, 3.Nagoya University

Fourier transform ion cyclotron resonance mass spectrometry (FTICR-MS) has an ultrahigh resolution which makes it possible that respective organic molecules detected are accurately assigned to a molecular formula. Soil organic matter plays important roles associated with crop productivity and carbon sequestration. However, the chemical structure is still unknown. We applied this technique to some humic and fulvic acids that were chemically extracted and separated from some typical soils in Japan.

Materials and methods

Humic acids (HAs) were prepared from ten Japanese soils to cover varying degrees of humification and fulvic acids (FAs) were prepared from four Japanese and one Chinese soils according to NAGOYA method or IHSS method. The degree of humification of HAs was evaluated with the absorbance at 600 nm per mg C mL^{-1} (A_{600}/C) and the ratio of absorbances at 400 and 600 nm on a logarithmic scale [$\log(A_{400}/A_{600})$]. Based on these two variables, HAs were classified into four types: Rp < P < B < A, with the degree of humificaiton increasing in this order. The FTICR-MS was performed according to Sleighter and Hatcher (2008). The molecular formulas assigned were examined using the van Krevelen diagram, double bond equivalent (DBE), and Kendrick mass defect (KMD) analysis that focusing on condensed aromatic structure.

Results

1) The number of molecular formulas in the condensed aromatic region increased from Type Rp (124-374) HAs to Type A HAs (751-1008). The sum of the peak magnitudes of the condensed aromatic components increased with increasing degree of humification.

2) The largest DBE values tended to be larger in the order: Type A (33) > Type B (30) > Type P (27) > Type Rp (25) HAs.

3) The KMD analysis indicated that potential structures of condensed aromatic components having 2-10 rings could occur in the soil HAs. The largest number of the rings increased in the order: Types Rp and P (7) < Type B (9) < Type A (10) HAs.

4) The KMD analysis indicated that potential structures of condensed aromatic components having up to 7 rings could occur in the five FAs.

Keywords: soil organic matter, mass spectrometry

Stereochemical feedback with “an achiral amino acid precursor” and “a chiral amino acid”: Experimental verifications

*Yoshinori Takano[1]

1.Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC)

To our best knowledge, the one-handedness of terrestrial amino acids and sugars is essential to the formation, structure, and function of biopolymers and is a defining molecular trait of life on the Earth. Since the time of Pasteur, the development of specific chirality in terrestrial biomolecules has remained one of the most important issues with regard to organic chemical evolution, astrochemistry, and the early Earth chemistry. Numerous hypotheses regarding the origins of homochirality have been presented, from both biogenic and abiogenic processes (e.g., Bonner, 1991; Meierhenrich, 2008). According to the former, life initially was based on achiral molecules and/or racemates and the use of specific enantiomers came about through evolution, whereas the latter theories propose that a tendency toward homochirality was inherent in prebiotic chemical evolution. When we simply imagine a coin toss chemical reaction, prebiotic enantiomers are equally racemic outcomes as 50.0 : 50.0, likewise two sides of a coin. Among these racemic reactions (e.g., the typical nucleophilic substitution reaction), enantiomer-specific isotopic analysis (ESIA) showed infinitely homogeneous components for each enantiomer (Takano et al., 2010). D, L-alpha-alanine (C3 carbon frame; potentially, including D, L-alpha-alanine precursors: Takano et al., 2007) is most abundant chiral amino acid in prebiotic chemistry, except of glycine (C2). For further information of molecular-specific homochiral verification, here we developed a stereochemical feedback reaction with an “achiral amino acid precursor “and “a chiral amino acid trigger”, resulting unique and large enantiomeric excesses in the reaction products. Here, we discuss the reaction mechanism focusing on an amino acid precursor formula and a transition state inducing optically active amino acids. This research was supported in part by a grant for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas (No. 25108001; A. Kouchi & H. Yurimoto) from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS).

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