Rb-Sr systematics of the ungrouped achondrites

E.A. KRESTIANINOV^{1*} AND Y.AMELIN¹

¹Research School of Earth Sciences, The Australian National University (<u>*evgenii.krestianinov@anu.edu.au</u>)

Initial Sr chronometry was proposed by [1] and based on different condensation temperature of Rb (\approx 800K) and Sr (\approx 1465K) [2]. It allows estimating the time of separation of the low-Rb/Sr achondrite precursors from high-Rb/Sr solar nebula [3] by comparing initial ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr of CAIs [4] and achondrites.

We analysed Rb-Sr system of eight achondrites: Ibitira, Asuka 881394, NWA 11119, eucrite NWA 8661, NWA 6704, NWA 4587, NWA 7325, and ureilite ALM-A. Two plagioclase fractions from each meteorite (for NWA 4587 whole-rock fractions) were ultrasonically cleaned, then one was leached in cold 0.5M HNO₃ and hot 6M HCL with dissolution in the mixture of HF and HNO₃, while the second fraction was dissolved without acid leaching. Sr was separated using cation exchange chromatography with Sr Spec resin and measured by three-line multidynamic method on the Triton Plus at RSES, ANU.

For our set of achondrites, we have got following initial 87 Sr/ 86 Sr ratios: 0.698961±0.000016 for Ibitira, 0.698972±0.000008 for Asuka 881394, 0.698934±0.000026 for NWA 11119, 0.699004±0.000004 for NWA 7325, 0.698982±0.000011 for NWA 8661, 0.698995±0.000025 for NWA 6704, and 0.6990242±0.0000076 for NWA 4587. ALM-A has high measured 87 Sr/ 86 Sr of 0.703521±0.000007 and therefore gives an imprecise initial value of 0.699050±0.000118.

Our results show that, while the initial ${}^{87}Sr/{}^{86}Sr$ ratios of other achondrites are higher than the CAI value [4], and are apparently suitable for evaluation of the accretion timing, the initial ${}^{87}Sr/{}^{86}Sr$ ratios of Ibitira and Asuka 881394 are indistinguishable from the CAIs value, and NWA 11119 has the lowest initial ${}^{87}Sr/{}^{86}Sr$ measured in achondrites so far that is ~0.6 ε -units below the CAI value. These data and recent findings of CAIs with variable initial ${}^{87}Sr/{}^{86}Sr$ ratios [5] suggest heterogeneous distribution of ${}^{87}Sr/{}^{86}Sr$ in the solar nebula and complicate age determination with the initial ${}^{87}Sr/{}^{86}Sr$ chronometry.

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