Excess ¹⁸²W preserved in Archean crust from the Yilgarn Craton, Western Australia

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Almost a decade on from its first discovery [1], it is now well documented that several Archean terranes preserve excesses in radiogenic ¹⁸²W relative to the modern upper mantle. Owing to the 8.9 Ma half life of the parental isotope ¹⁸²Hf, such variability requires the formation of reservoirs with distinct ¹⁸²W compositions within ~50 Ma of solar system history. That some of the oldest preserved terrestrial material and the modern mantle are distinct requires the admixture of at least two of these disparate components over Earth's history. Two obvious questions arise; (a) what were these reservoirs?, and (b) how long did it take for them to mix?

The answers to (a) remain controversial, but variably cite a role for early silicate differentiation [2], the addition of extra-terrestrial material [1], or admixture of material from the core [3]. We instead focus on the latter question, specifically trying to find a transition from Archean-like ¹⁸²W excesses to modern mantle compositions in a single craton. We chose the Narryer Terrane of the Yilgarn Craton, Western Australia, as it preserves material ranging from the Eoarchean to Neoarchean, and contains both mafic and felsic lithologies.

We have measured W concentrations and isotopic compositions of a range of lithologies including TTG gneisses, leucogabbros, and granites. Tungsten concentrations range from 2 to 3200 ppb, with some granulite facies TTG gneisses having the lowest concentrations, suggesting secondary mobility of W in the terrane. TTG gneisses at ~3700, ~3500, and ~3300 Ma preserve ca. 10 ppm ¹⁸²W excesses, along with ~3740 Ma gabbroic remnants from the Manfred Complex. Younger ~2650 Ma granites also contain similar excesses, but may be influenced by the incorporation of older crust [4]. To see whether more juvenile input to the craton in the late Archean is also anomalous for W, further mafic lithologies are being investigated.

[1] Willbold M. *et al* (2011) *Nature* 473 (195-198). [2] Touboul M. *et al* (2012) *Science* 335 (1065-1069). [3] Rizo H. *et al* (2019) Geochem Persp. Let 11 (6-11). [4] Kemp A. *et al* (2010) *EPSL* 296 (45-56).