

Using LREE Minerals to Reassess the Nd Isotopic Record of the Early Earth

DA WANG^{1*}, RICHARD W. CARLSON¹, STEVEN B. SHIREY¹, JEFFREY D. VERVOORT²

^{1*} Earth and Planets Laboratory, Carnegie Institution for Science, Washington DC, USA
(dwang@carnegiescience.edu)

² Earth Sciences, School of the Environment, Washington State University, Pullman WA, USA

The decoupling of bulk-rock Sm-Nd isotopic data and the zircon Lu-Hf records has been documented in several Eoarchean terranes worldwide, such as the Acasta Gneiss complex, the West Greenland and the Kaapvaal cratons. Recent studies have suggested that post-crystallization high-grade tectonothermal events may have re-opened the Sm-Nd isotope system and resulted in complicated bulk-rock initial ϵ_{Nd} values. In order to test how the Sm-Nd mobility potentially affects the current bulk-rock Nd isotopic record of the early Earth, here we present new *in-situ* LREE mineral Sm-Nd and zircon Lu-Hf isotopic data from a suite of TTGs in the Ancient Gneiss complex, eastern Kaapvaal craton. Zircons from these rocks give U-Pb ages between ~ 3.5 and ~ 3.3 Ga, with initial ϵ_{Hf} values ranging from +2 to +1 at their respective crystallization ages. In contrast, these rocks yield apatite-allanite-titanite Sm-Nd isochron ages of $\sim 3.3 - 3.2$ Ga, which are generally younger than their crystallization ages as established by the zircons. This is likely a result of post-crystallization Sm-Nd redistribution during cratonization ~ 3.2 Ga (Schoene et al., 2009). Magmatic titanite from one of these samples yields identical U-Pb and Sm-Nd isochron ages of ~ 3.3 Ga. However, the initial ϵ_{Nd} values of these titanites are between -3 and -1 at ~ 3.3 Ga, contrasting with the zircon's positive initial Hf isotopic record.