

Probing the cerium stable isotopic dynamics of terrestrial and extraterrestrial rocks

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Probing the cerium stable isotopic dynamics of terrestrial and extraterrestrial rocks

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The systematics of REE and their radiogenic isotopes are among the main sources of information about the age, origin and formation of terrestrial and extraterrestrial rocks and their parent bodies [1]. Cerium is the most abundant REE. It has four main stable isotopes and the focus so far has been on ¹³⁸Ce, a β -decay product of ¹³⁸La [2]. Despite their higher abundance, very little data exist on the distribution of stable ^{140,142}Ce (calculated as ¹⁴² δ Ce) in the solar system [3-5].

This study aims to (i) investigate the relationship between Ce elemental abundance with ¹⁴² δ Ce, (ii) characterize the effects of magmatic petrogenesis and thermal metamorphism on ¹⁴² δ Ce, and (iii) report the ¹⁴² δ Ce composition of the inner solar nebula, based on the analysis of terrestrial rocks and ordinary and enstatite chondrites.

Analytical methodology is described in [6]. ¹⁴² δ Ce data of terrestrial igneous reference materials show a relatively homogenous composition between different materials. This indicates lack of magmatic fractionation and/or Ce concentration effects on ¹⁴² δ Ce composition. On the other hand, REE ore samples tend to show slightly lighter average ¹⁴² δ Ce composition than the common igneous rocks and will require more scrutiny.

Our selected chondritic meteorites cover a range of solar nebula conditions, from highly reduced EH to highly oxidized LL, and encompassing all petrologic types from 3 to 6. Our ¹⁴² δ Ce data show a relatively homogeneous composition between the average value of chondrites and terrestrial igneous samples, except some having lighter or heavier ¹⁴² δ Ce compositions without any relationship with their chemical or petrologic types. These observations imply lack of ^{140,142}Ce fractionation during thermal metamorphism, fO_2 difference, and between these chondrites and analysed terrestrial samples.

References: [1] DePaolo (1998) *Neodymium Isotopic Geochemistry*, 261pp. [2] Bellot+ (2015) *GCA* 168, 261-279. [3] Nakada+ (2013) *GCA*, 103, 49-62. [4] Nakada+ (2016) *GCA*,