Origin of the volatile elements of primitive achondrites and iron meteorites revealed by zinc isotope anomalies

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Based on the isotopic anomalies of non-volatile elements such as Ti, Cr, Mo, and Ru, Solar System materials have been classified into two reservoirs: non-carbonaceous (NC) and carbonaceous (CC) [1,2]. Recently, isotopic anomalies of a moderately volatile element, Zn, have also been identified. Researchers have discovered that CC and NC chondrites form two distinct reservoirs [3,4], with CC having a positive ε^{66} Zn and NC having a negative ε^{66} Zn compared to the Earth (ε^{66} Zn=0). Here, ε^{66} Zn is the per ten thousand deviation of the 66 Zn/ 64 Zn ratio normalized to the 68 Zn/ 64 Zn ratio of 0.3856. These anomalies have been used to uncover the origin of the volatile elements of the Earth.

In this study, we report the mass-independent (as well as massdependent) Zn isotopic composition of primitive achondrites, iron meteorites, mesosiderites, and pallasites to evaluate the origin (CC vs NC) of their moderately volatile elements. Ungrouped primitive achondrites NWA6901 and NWA4587 have positive ε^{66} Zn, consistent with their affinity to CR chondrites as suggested by oxygen isotopes [5,6]. On the other hand, the acapulcoite, winonaite, brachinite, eucrite, diogenite and main group pallasite studied here have negative ε^{66} Zn, suggesting that these groups have volatile elements accreted from the NC reservoir.

In addition, we show that IID iron meteorites display positive ϵ^{66} Zn, indicating that their volatile elements originate from the CC reservoir, while IAB, IIIAB, IIE irons, and mesosiderites are derived from the NC reservoir, with negative ϵ^{66} Zn. Overall, our study contributes to a better understanding of the origin of the volatile elements in different types of meteorites and sheds light on the formation and evolution of the Solar System.

[1] Trinquier, Birk & Allegre (2007), *The Astrophysical Journal* 655(2), 1179-1185.

[2] Trinquier et al. (2009), Science 324(5925), 374-376.

[3] Savage, Moynier & Boyet (2022), Icarus, 115172.

[4] Steller et al. (2022), *Icarus* 386, 115171.

[5] Sanborn, Yin & Irving (2014), LPS XLV, 2032.