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Origin of low-Ca pyroxene in amoeboid olivine aggregates: Evidence from oxygen isotopic compositions

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Abstract—Amoeboid olivine aggregates (AOAs) in primitive carbonaceous chondrites consist of forsterite (Fa_{<2}), Fe,Ni-metal, spinel, Al-diopside, anorthite, and rare gehlenitic melilite (Åk_{<15}). ~10% of AOAs contain low-Ca pyroxene (Fs_{1–3}Wo_{1–5}) that is in corrosion relationship with forsterite and is found in three major textural occurrences: (i) thin (<15 μm) discontinuous layers around forsterite grains or along forsterite grain boundaries in AOA peripheries; (ii) 5–10-μm-thick haloes and subhedral grains around Fe,Ni-metal nodules in AOA peripheries, and (iii) shells of variable thickness (up to 70 μm), commonly with abundant tiny (3–5 μm) inclusions of Fe,Ni-metal grains, around AOAs. AOAs with the low-Ca pyroxene shells are compact and contain euhedral grains of Al-diopside surrounded by anorthite, suggesting small (10%–20%) degree of melting. AOAs with other textural occurrences of low-Ca pyroxene are rather porous. Forsterite grains in AOAs with low-Ca pyroxene have generally ¹⁶O-rich isotopic compositions (Δ¹⁷O < -20‰). Low-Ca pyroxenes of the textural occurrences (i) and (ii) are ¹⁶O-enriched (Δ¹⁷O < -20‰), whereas those of (iii) are ¹⁶O-depleted (Δ¹⁷O = -6‰ to -4‰). One of the extensively melted (>50%) objects is texturally and mineralogically intermediate between AOAs and Al-rich chondrules. It consists of euhedral forsterite grains, pigeonite, augite, anorthitic mesostasis, abundant anhedral spinel grains, and minor Fe,Ni-metal; it is surrounded by a coarse-grained igneous rim largely composed of low-Ca pyroxene with abundant Fe,Ni-metal-sulfide nodules. The mineralogical observations suggest that only spinel grains in this igneous object were not melted. The spinel is ¹⁶O-rich (Δ¹⁷O ~ -22‰), whereas the neighboring plagioclase mesostasis is ¹⁶O-depleted (Δ¹⁷O ~ -11‰).

We conclude that AOAs are aggregates of solar nebular condensates (forsterite, Fe,Ni-metal, and CAIs composed of Al-diopside, anorthite, spinel, and ±melilite) formed in an ¹⁶O-rich gaseous reservoir, probably CAI-forming region(s). Solid or incipiently melted forsterite in some AOAs reacted with gaseous SiO in the same nebular region to form low-Ca pyroxene. Some other AOAs appear to have accreted ¹⁶O-poor pyroxene-normative dust and experienced varying degrees of melting, most likely in chondrule-forming region(s). The most extensively melted AOAs experienced oxygen isotope exchange with ¹⁶O-poor nebular gas and may have been transformed into chondrules. The original ¹⁶O-rich signature of the precursor materials of such chondrules is preserved only in incompletely melted grains. Copyright © 2005 Elsevier Ltd

1. INTRODUCTION

Amoeboid olivine aggregates in primitive (unmetamorphosed and unaltered) carbonaceous chondrites consist of forsteritic olivine (Fa_{<2}), Fe,Ni-metal, and a refractory component (fine-grained minerals, either assembled into individual CAIs or interspersed with forsterite grains) composed of Al-diopside, spinel, ±anorthite, and ±melilite; secondary iron- and alkali-rich minerals, commonly observed in the oxidized CV chondrites (Grossman and Steele, 1976; McSween, 1977; Cohen et al., 1983; Kornacki and Wood, 1984a,b; Hashimoto and Grossman, 1987) and metamorphosed CO chondrites (e.g., Chizmadia et al., 2002), are absent (Komatsu et al., 2001; Itoh et al., 2002; Krot et al., 2004a,b,c). Approximately 10% of more than 500 AOAs studied by Krot et al. (2004a) in the CR, CV, CM, CO, CH, CB, and ungrouped carbonaceous chondrites Acfer 094, Adelaide,

and Lewis Cliff (LEW) 85332 contain low-Ca pyroxene replacing forsterite. Three major textural occurrences of low-Ca pyroxene in AOAs were identified: (i) thin (<15 μm) discontinuous layers around forsterite grains or along forsterite grain boundaries in AOA peripheries; (ii) 5–10-μm-thick haloes and subhedral grains around Fe,Ni-metal nodules in AOA peripheries, and (iii) shells of variable thickness (up to 70 μm), commonly with abundant tiny (3–5 μm) inclusions of Fe,Ni-metal grains, around AOAs. Some of the AOAs with low-Ca pyroxene (px-AOAs) appear to have experienced varying degrees of melting. In the most extensively melted AOAs, classified as AOA/chondrule-like objects, only spinel grains appear to have escaped melting.

Based on these observations, Krot et al. (2004a) concluded that the first two occurrences of low-Ca pyroxene formed by reaction between forsterite and gaseous SiO, possibly in CAI-forming region(s). The low-Ca pyroxene shells around AOAs might have formed by direct gas-solid condensation from fractionated (Mg/Si ratio < solar) nebular gas or by accretion of pyroxene-normative dust around AOAs followed by subse-

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Table 1. Electron microprobe analyses of low-Ca pyroxenes, sub-Ca pyroxenes, and olivines in AOAs and in an AOA-like object in carbonaceous chondrites.^a

Chondrite AOA # ox/mineral	Acfer 094			PCA91082			NWA 1180		Murchison		Leoville			
	105 px	105 ol	24 px	24 ol	35 px	35 ol	10 px	10 ol	32 px	32 ol	1 px	1 cpx	1 ol	1 ol
SiO ₂	55.9	42.3	59.4	42.3	57.5	42.5	58.11	42.3	56.7	42.8	57.3	55.6	42.4	41.9
TiO ₂	0.22	0.12	<0.09	0.12	0.17	<0.09	0.27	<0.09	0.52	<0.09	0.66	0.67	<0.09	0.12
Al ₂ O ₃	0.25	0.04	0.58	0.16	2.0	0.05	0.38	0.05	1.1	<0.03	1.6	1.7	<0.03	<0.03
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.30	0.25	0.27	0.17	0.84	0.52	0.19	0.19	0.67	0.44	0.56	0.62	0.12	0.17
FeO	0.78	0.39	0.81	0.35	1.8	1.2	1.0	0.81	1.6	1.3	0.57	0.96	0.89	2.5
MnO	<0.07	0.09	0.09	<0.07	0.37	0.32	<0.07	0.16	0.29	0.57	0.07	0.12	0.09	0.12
MgO	38.7	57.1	39.6	56.5	35.6	56.2	39.7	57.2	38.3	56.6	38.4	32.2	56.9	55.9
CaO	0.74	0.10	0.60	0.19	2.6	0.22	0.82	0.10	2.4	0.19	0.76	7.4	0.17	0.17
Na ₂ O	<0.06	<0.06	<0.06	<0.06	<0.06	<0.06	<0.06	<0.06	<0.06	<0.06	<0.06	<0.06	<0.06	<0.06
K ₂ O	<0.04	<0.04	<0.04	<0.04	<0.04	<0.04	<0.04	<0.04	<0.04	<0.04	<0.04	<0.04	<0.04	<0.04
total	96.9	100.5	101.4	99.9	100.9	101.0	100.6	100.9	101.5	101.8	99.9	99.3	100.6	100.9
Fa, mol%	—	0.4	—	0.4	—	1.1	—	0.8	—	1.2	—	—	0.9	2.4
Fs, mol%	1.1	—	1.1	—	2.7	—	1.4	—	2.2	—	0.8	1.4	—	—
Wo, mol%	1.3	—	1.1	—	4.9	—	1.4	—	4.2	—	1.4	13.9	—	—

^a ox = oxide (wt%); ol = olivine; px = low-Ca pyroxene; cpx = sub-Ca pyroxene.

quent melting, possibly during chondrule formation. Because CAIs in most carbonaceous chondrites originated in an ¹⁶O-rich gaseous reservoir (Aléon et al., 2002a; Krot et al., 2002a), whereas chondrules appear to have formed in the presence of ¹⁶O-poor gas (e.g., Leshin et al., 2000), this hypothesis can be tested by studying O-isotopic compositions of low-Ca pyroxenes in AOAs. If low-Ca pyroxenes originated in chondrule-forming region(s), they are expected to be systematically ¹⁶O-depleted relative to forsterite.

Here, we report O-isotopic compositions of five px-AOAs and one AOA/Al-rich chondrule-like object described in detail by Krot et al. (2004a), and discuss their significance for understanding the origins of low-Ca pyroxene in AOAs and possible implications for chondrule formation.

2. SAMPLES AND ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES

Polished sections of Acfer 094, Adelaide, and LEW85332 and meteorites from the CR, CB, CH, CM, CV, and CO groups were X-ray mapped in Ca, Al, Mg, Si, Cr, Ni, Mn, Ti, and Na K α with resolution of 5–10 μ m (2 μ m for individual AOAs) with a Cameca SX50 electron microprobe, and in Ca, Al, Mg, Si and Fe K α with 0.3 μ m probe steps with a JEOL 5310LV scanning electron microscope (SEM) + Oxford LINK ISIS energy dispersive electron microprobe system. The identified AOAs were studied in backscattered electron (BSE) mode with a JEOL 5900LV SEM. Mineral compositions were determined with the Cameca SX50 electron microprobe using 15 KeV accelerating voltage, 10–20 nA (for silicates) and 30 nA (for metal) current, a focused (~1–2 μ m) beam, and well-characterized silicate, oxide, and metal standards. For each element, counting times on both peak and background were 30 s (10 s for Na and K; Na and K were analyzed first). Matrix corrections were applied using a PAP software routine. The element detection limits for silicates are (in wt%) SiO₂, Al₂O₃, MgO, 0.03; TiO₂, CaO, K₂O, 0.04; Na₂O, Cr₂O₃, 0.06; MnO, 0.07; FeO, 0.08.

Five AOAs showing the range of textural occurrences of low-Ca pyroxene identified previously (Krot et al., 2004a) were selected for O-isotopic analysis. The AOAs are from two CR chondrites [Pecora Escarpment (PCA) 91082 and Northwest Africa (NWA) 1180], an unclassified carbonaceous chondrite (Acfer 094) and a CM chondrite (Murchison). The two CR chondrites and Acfer 094 have undergone minimal, if any, aqueous alteration or thermal metamorphism. In contrast, Murchison has experienced some aqueous alteration under low-temperature conditions; however, the Murchison AOA analyzed in this

study is similar in texture and elemental composition to AOAs from the unaltered meteorites.

In situ O-isotopic analyses were collected using a modified Cameca ims-1270 ion microprobe at Tokyo Institute of Technology (TiTech). A primary ion beam of mass filtered Cs⁺ ions accelerated to 20 keV was used to excavate shallow pits of ~3 \times 5 μ m across, which, due to small sizes (typically <10 μ m) of low-Ca pyroxene in AOAs, was critical in this study. The primary current was adjusted for each measurement to obtain a count rate of ¹⁶O⁻ ions of ~3.5 to 4 \times 10⁵ cps. Each measurement consisted of 60 cycles, of 40 s each and ~10–20 min presputtering to remove the carbon coating. A normal-incident electron gun was used for charge compensation of analyzed areas. Negative secondary ions from the ¹⁶O tail, ¹⁶O, ¹⁷O, ¹⁶OH, and ¹⁸O were analyzed at a mass resolution power of ~6000, sufficient to completely separate ¹⁶OH interference on ¹⁷O. Secondary ions were detected by an electron multiplier in pulse counting mode, and analyses were corrected for dead time. Instrumental mass fractionation was corrected using San Carlos olivine as a standard. Results are reported in per mil deviations from the standard mean ocean water (SMOW) using delta notation where $\delta^{17,18}\text{O} = [(^{17,18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O})_{\text{sample}} / (^{17,18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O})_{\text{SMOW}} - 1] \times 1000$ (Table 1; Fig. 5). ¹⁶O excesses are reported in $\Delta^{17}\text{O} = \delta^{17}\text{O} - 0.52 \times \delta^{18}\text{O}$ (deviation from the terrestrial mass fractionation line of slope 0.52). Precision of individual measurements (1 σ) is ~1.7‰ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and ~2.5‰ for $\delta^{17}\text{O}$. Before and after oxygen isotopic measurements, each AOA analyzed was examined in back-scattered and secondary electron images to verify the locations of the sputtered craters and the mineralogy of the phases analyzed. Low-Ca pyroxene-bearing regions in AOAs analyzed for O-isotopic compositions before and after ion microprobe measurements are illustrated in Figures 1–4. Because of the small grain sizes, we failed to obtain clean spot analysis of O-isotopic composition of low-Ca pyroxene in AOA Acfer 094 #105. To resolve this problem, this AOA has been studied with the high precision isotope imaging (isotopography) by a TiTech isotope microscope system (Cameca ims-1270 + SCAPS) (Yurimoto et al., 2003). Spatial resolution of the isotopography is ~2 μ m with precision of ~5‰ (1 σ). Other experimental conditions were similar to those of Yurimoto et al. (2003) and Kunihiro et al. (2004).

3. RESULTS

The mineralogy and petrology of AOAs with and without low-Ca pyroxene in carbonaceous chondrites are characterized in detail in Krot et al. (2004a). Here, we briefly describe only the px-AOAs analyzed for O-isotopic compositions.

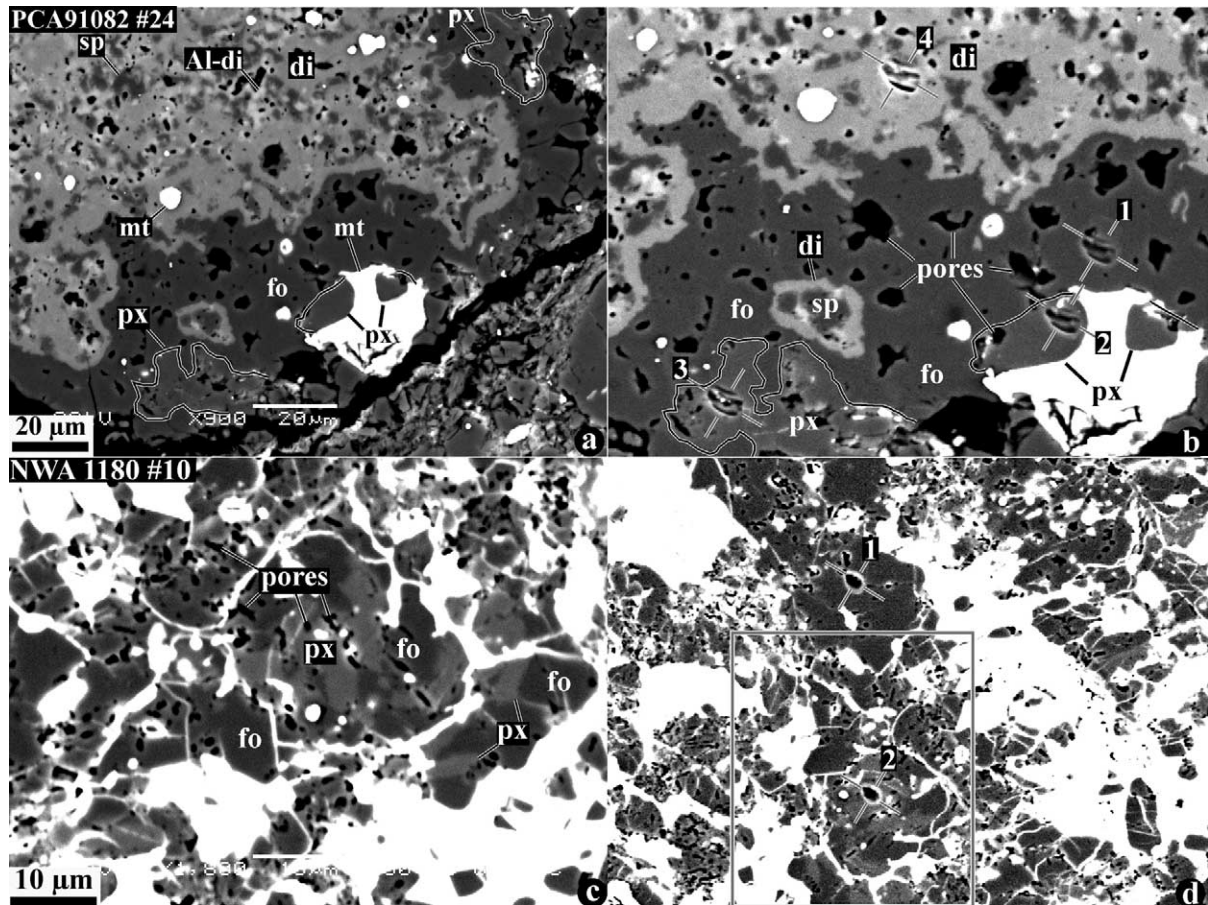


Fig. 1. BSE images of AOA #24 (a, b) and AOA #10 (c, d) in the CR carbonaceous chondrites PCA91082 and NWA 1180, respectively. (a, b) AOA #24 contains abundant CAIs surrounded by forsterite (fo); both components contain rounded inclusions of Fe,Ni-metal (mt) and preserved some porosity. The CAIs largely consist of Al-diopside (di) and spinel (sp); anorthite (an) and melilite (absent in the field of view) are minor. Low-Ca pyroxene (px; outlined in (a) and (b)) replaces forsterite along grain boundaries and around Fe,Ni-metal nodules; it also occurs as subhedral grains intergrown with Fe,Ni-metal. (c, d) AOA #10 is a porous aggregate of forsterite, CAIs (absent in the field of view) composed of anorthite and Al-diopside, and Fe,Ni-metal grains. Low-Ca pyroxene replaces forsterite along grain boundaries and around Fe,Ni-metal nodules in the peripheral portion of the AOA. Region outlined in (d) corresponds to an area shown in (c); images in (c) and (d) are rotated relative to one another. Images “a, b” and “c, d” were taken before and after ion probe analyses respectively. Ion probe spots are labeled in (b) and (d); numbers correspond to spot numbers listed in Table 2.

3.1. Amoeboid Olivine Aggregates with ^{16}O -Enriched Low-Ca Pyroxene

AOA #24 in PCA91082 (Fig. 1a,b) is an irregularly shaped object containing ~ 50 vol% of CAIs surrounded by a relatively porous aggregate of forsterite ($\text{Fa}_{0.5}$, Table 1) grains; both components contain rounded inclusions of Fe,Ni-metal. The CAIs largely consist of Al-diopside and anhedral spinel grains; anorthite and melilite (Åk_{13}) are rare. Melilite is preferentially concentrated in the central part of the AOA, whereas anorthite is mainly present in its outer portion. Low-Ca pyroxene ($\text{Fs}_{1.6}\text{Wo}_{0.9}$; Table 1) replaces forsterite along grain boundaries and around Fe,Ni-metal nodules; it also occurs as subhedral grains intergrown with Fe,Ni-metal. Forsterite, Al-diopside, and low-Ca pyroxene intergrown with Fe,Ni-metal (spot 3, Fig. 1b) are similarly ^{16}O -enriched ($\Delta^{17}\text{O} \sim -28\text{‰}$ to -24‰). Low-Ca pyroxene replacing forsterite along grain boundaries and containing abundant pores (spot 2, Fig. 1b) is ^{16}O -depleted

($\Delta^{17}\text{O} \sim -13\text{‰}$), possibly due to submicron-sized inclusions of secondary minerals in pores (Table 2; Fig. 5).

AOA #10 in NWA 1180 (Fig. 1c,d) is an irregularly shaped, porous object consisting of subhedral forsterite grains ($\text{Fa}_{0.8}$, Table 1), rounded Fe,Ni-metal nodules and CAIs largely composed of anorthite and minor Al-diopside. In the outer portion of AOA, forsterite along grain boundaries and around Fe,Ni-metal nodules is replaced by low-Ca pyroxene ($\text{Fs}_{1.4}\text{Wo}_{1.4}$; Table 1). Forsterite and low-Ca pyroxene are similarly ^{16}O -enriched ($\Delta^{17}\text{O} \sim -25\text{‰}$ to -22‰) (Table 2; Fig. 5).

AOA #105 in Acfer 094 (Fig. 2) is an irregularly shaped, relatively porous object composed of forsterite ($\text{Fa}_{0.4}$, Table 1), rare Fe,Ni-metal grains, and numerous irregularly shaped Al-diopside-anorthite inclusions, which are uniformly distributed in central portion of the AOA and nearly absent in its rather compact outer portion. Al-diopside tends to form a layer between anorthite and forsterite. Low-Ca pyroxene ($\text{Fs}_{0.6}\text{Wo}_{0.7}$, Table 1) occurs as a 5–15 μm discontinuous layer replacing

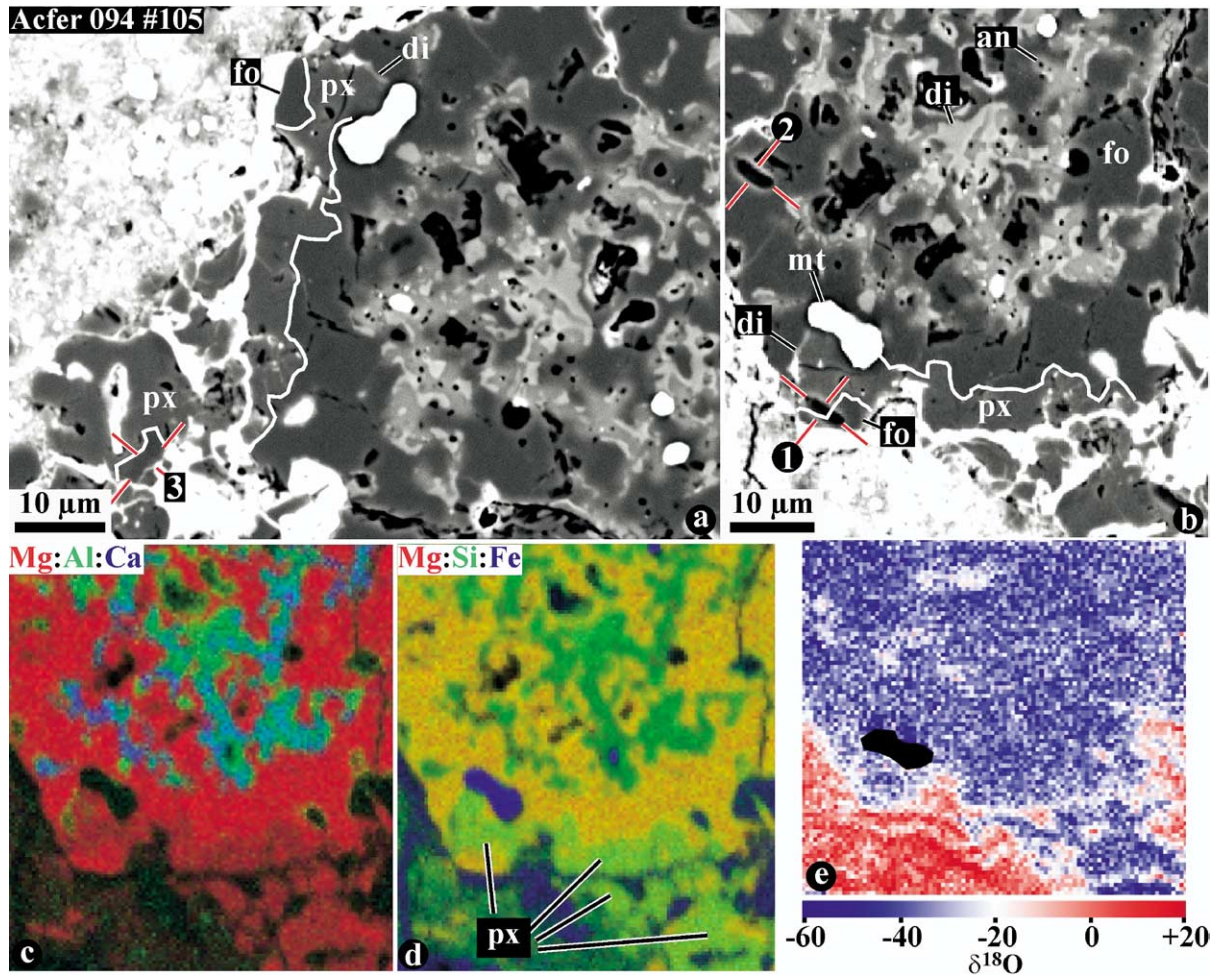


Fig. 2. BSE images (a, b), combined X-ray elemental maps (c) in Mg (red), Ca (green), and Al $K\alpha$ (blue), and (d) in Mg (red), Si (green), and Fe $K\alpha$ (blue), and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ map (e) of AOA #105 in the ungrouped carbonaceous chondrite Acfer 094. The AOA consists of forsterite, rare Fe,Ni-metal grains, and numerous irregularly shaped Al-diopside-anorthite inclusions, which are uniformly distributed in the central part of the AOA and nearly absent in its outer part. Fe,Ni-metal grains are preferentially concentrated in forsterite. Low-Ca pyroxene (outlined in (a)) replaces forsterite in the outermost portion of the AOA. Images in (a) and (b) are rotated relative to one another. Ion probe spots are labeled in (a) and (b); numbers correspond to spot numbers listed in Table 2. Forsterite, anorthite, Al-diopside, and low-Ca pyroxene are similarly ^{16}O -enriched.

forsterite in the outermost portion of AOA. Although we failed to obtain a clean spot analysis of O-isotopic composition of low-Ca pyroxene, the ^{16}O -rich composition of forsterite \pm low-Ca pyroxene ($\Delta^{17}\text{O} \sim -24\text{‰}$ to -30‰) (Table 2; Fig. 5) together with the relatively uniform distribution of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in the AOA obtained by isotopography (Fig. 2) suggest that low-Ca pyroxene, anorthite and Al-diopside are similarly ^{16}O -enriched.

The PCA91082 #24 and Acfer 094 #105 AOAs appear to have experienced small degrees of melting; the NWA 1180 #10 AOA shows no evidence for melting (Krot et al., 2004a).

3.2. Amoeboid Olivine Aggregates with ^{16}O -Depleted Low-Ca Pyroxene

AOA #35 in PCA91082 (Fig. 3) is an irregularly shaped, compact object composed of Cr-rich forsterite (Fa_{11} ; Cr_2O_3 , 0.84 wt%, Table 1), Fe,Ni-metal nodules, and numerous irreg-

ularly shaped Al-diopside-anorthite \pm spinel inclusions. Al-diopside occurs as tiny subhedral grains in anorthite (Fig. 9 in Krot et al., 2004a), suggesting that it may have crystallized from melt. The AOA is mineralogically zoned: its core is poor in Fe,Ni-metal and contains abundant CAIs. The mantle contains abundant Fe,Ni-metal nodules and only a few CAIs. The outermost portion consists of low-Ca pyroxenes (Fs_3Wo_5 , Table 1) with abundant, tiny inclusions of Fe,Ni-metal. Forsterite grains are ^{16}O -rich ($\Delta^{17}\text{O} \sim -21\text{‰}$), whereas low-Ca pyroxene corroding forsterite is ^{16}O -poor ($\Delta^{17}\text{O} \sim -4\text{‰}$) (Table 2; Fig. 5).

AOA #32 in the CM chondrite Murchison is a fragmented, compact object consisting of forsterite (Fa_{11} , Table 1), rare sulfide nodules, and abundant irregularly shaped anorthite-Al-diopside inclusions (Fig. 4). The Al-diopside occurs as euhedral and subhedral inclusions in anorthite, suggesting crystallization from melt. Forsterite in the outermost portion of the AOA is corroded by Al-bearing low-Ca pyroxene (Fs_2Wo_4 ; 1

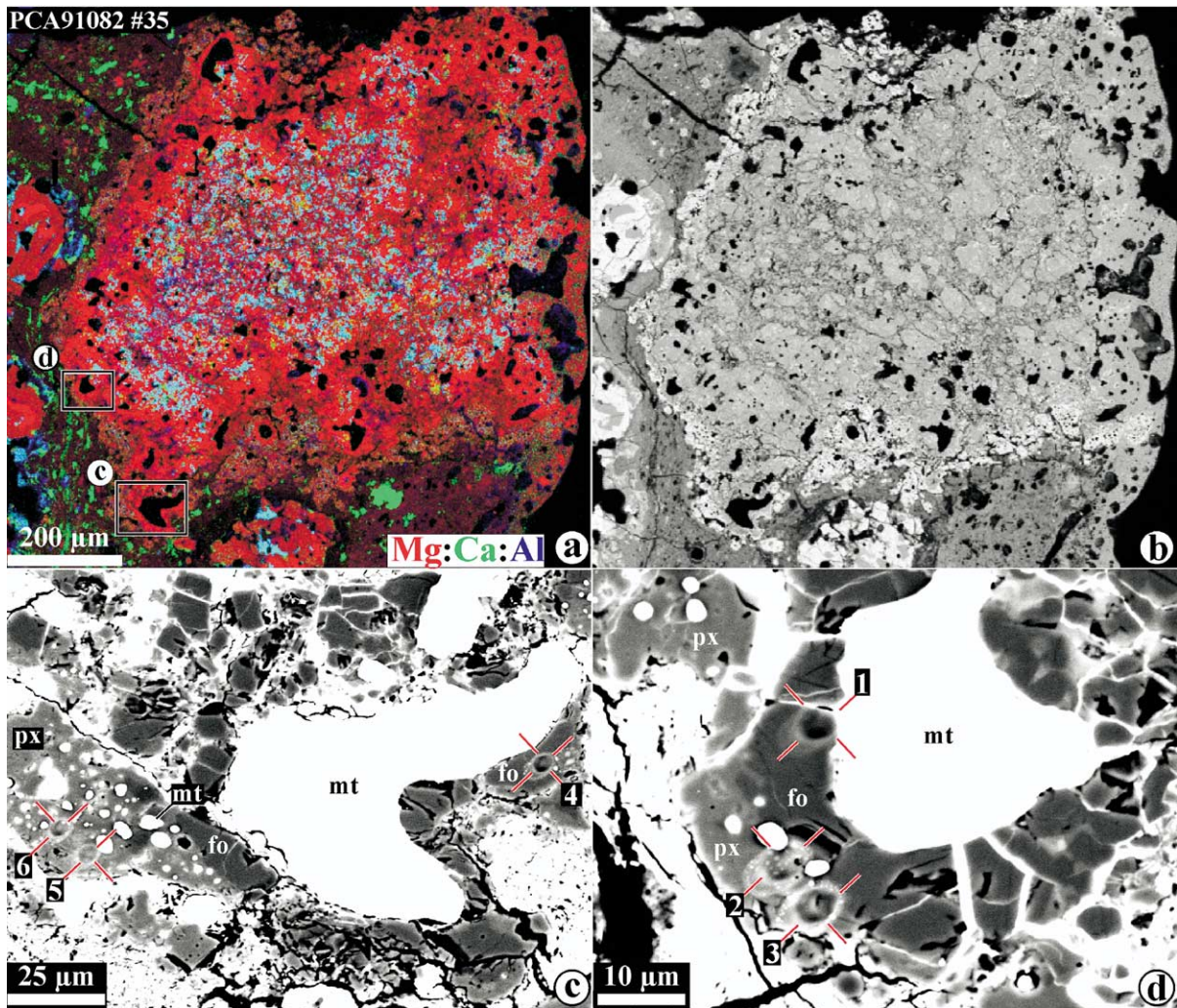


Fig. 3. Combined X-ray elemental map in Mg (red), Ca (green), and Al $K\alpha$ (blue) (a), elemental map Si $K\alpha$ (b), and BSE images (c, d) of AOA #35 in the CR chondrite PCA91082. The AOA consists of forsterite (red in (a)), anorthite+Al-diopside (bluish and greenish in (a)), and Fe,Ni-metal (black in (a, b)), and is mineralogically zoned. Its core is enriched in Al-diopside and anorthite and depleted in Fe,Ni-metal relative to the mantle zone. AOA is surrounded by a continuous layer of low-Ca pyroxene (white in (b)) with abundant, tiny inclusions of Fe,Ni-metal. The pyroxene replaces forsterite. Regions outlined in (a) are shown in detail in (c, d). Ion probe spots labeled in (c, d); numbers correspond to spot numbers listed in Table 2.

wt% Al_2O_3 , Table 1) with abundant, tiny inclusions of Fe,Ni-metal. In some places, low-Ca pyroxene is in direct contact with anorthite that may explain high Al-content in the former. Low-Ca pyroxene also forms a thin layer around an opaque nodule. Forsterite is ^{16}O -enriched, but shows some variations in O-isotopic compositions ($\Delta^{17}O \sim -25\text{‰}$ to -16‰); the low-Ca pyroxene layer around AOA is ^{16}O -poor ($\Delta^{17}O \sim -6\text{‰}$) (Table 2; Fig. 5). The low-Ca pyroxene layer around the sulfide nodule is too thin for ion microprobe analysis.

The PCA91082 #35 and Murchison #32 AOAs experienced small degrees ($\sim 10\%$ – 20%) of melting, which is however larger than those of AOAs with ^{16}O -enriched low-Ca pyroxene.

3.3. AOA/Chondrule-like Object

AOA/chondrule-like object #1 from the reduced CV chondrite Leoville (Fig. EA1, Electronic Annex) consists of subhe-

dral and euhedral forsterite grains ($Fa_{0.9-2.4}$, Table 1), abundant spinel grains, anorthitic mesostasis ($An_{95.9 \pm 2.7}$), and igneous zoned pyroxenes ranging in compositions from pigeonite (Fs_1Wo_5) to augite (Fs_1Wo_{40}). It is surrounded by an igneous rim largely composed of low-Ca pyroxene and Fe,Ni-metal nodules. Spinel is ^{16}O -rich ($\Delta^{17}O \sim -22\text{‰}$); the neighboring anorthite is ^{16}O -depleted ($\Delta^{17}O \sim -11\text{‰}$) (Table 2; Fig. 5).

4. DISCUSSION

Oxygen isotopic measurements of px-AOAs revealed the existence of ^{16}O -enriched and ^{16}O -depleted low-Ca pyroxenes, whereas forsterite is typically ^{16}O -rich (the only exception is slightly ^{16}O -depleted composition of olivine in spot 1 in the Murchison AOA #32) (Fig. 5). It is generally accepted that forsterite in AOAs formed by gas-solid condensation (e.g., Grossman and Steele, 1976; Komatsu et al.,

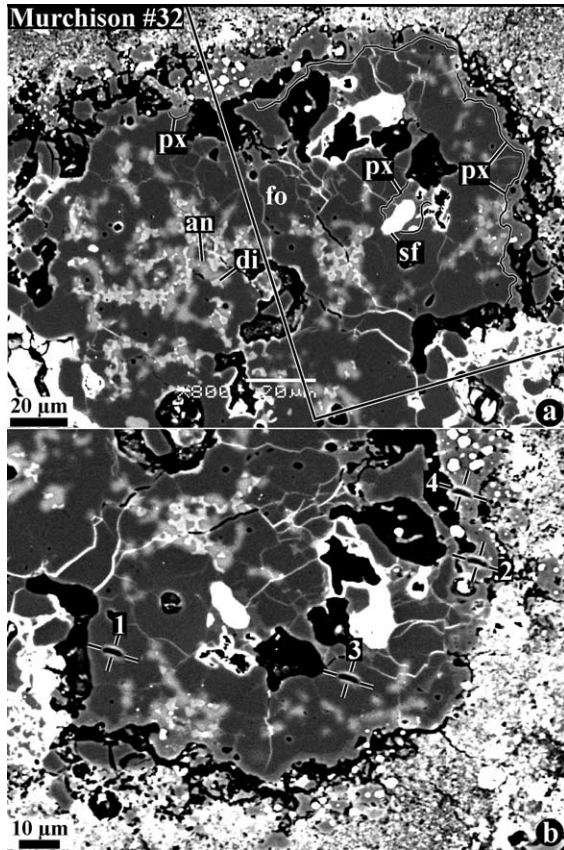
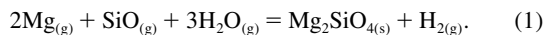


Fig. 4. BSE images of AOA #32 in the CM carbonaceous chondrite Murchison. The AOA consists of forsterite, anorthite, Al-diopside, Fe,Ni-metal and low-Ca pyroxene. Al-diopside occurs as subhedral grains in anorthite, suggesting crystallization from melt. Forsterite in the outermost portion of the AOA is corroded by low-Ca pyroxene (outlined). Region outlined in (a) is shown in (b). Images (a) and (b) were taken before and after ion probe analyses, respectively. Ion probe spots are labeled in (b) correspond to spot numbers listed in Table 2.

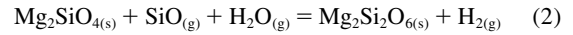
2001; Chizmadia et al., 2002; Itoh et al., 2002; Krot et al., 2004a):



The condensation origin of forsterite together with its ^{16}O -rich compositions suggests that forsterite condensed from an ^{16}O -rich gas. Variations in O-isotopic composition of olivine in AOA #32, together with petrographic evidence of its melting (Fig. 4), are probably due to incomplete oxygen isotope exchange during melting in an ^{16}O -poor gaseous reservoir. Alternatively, the ^{16}O -depleted analysis of olivine may be contaminated by submicron-sized inclusions of secondary phases below the polished surface of AOA.

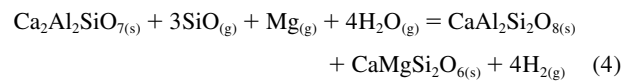
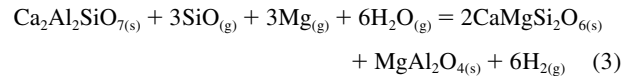
Among three textural occurrences of low-Ca pyroxene reported by Krot et al. (2004a), the thin discontinuous layers around forsterite grains or along forsterite grain boundaries as well as the haloes and subhedral grains around Fe,Ni-metal nodules in AOA peripheries (Figs. 1, 2) have ^{16}O -rich compositions. The porous textures of the AOA containing ^{16}O -rich low-Ca pyroxene and the miner-

alogical observations indicating that these low-Ca pyroxenes formed by a reaction between forsterite and gaseous SiO^1 :

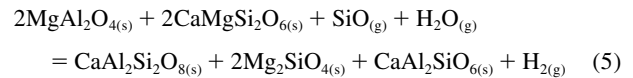


suggest that ^{16}O -rich low-Ca pyroxenes formed in the same, ^{16}O -rich gaseous reservoir as forsterite of their host AOA, but at lower temperatures.

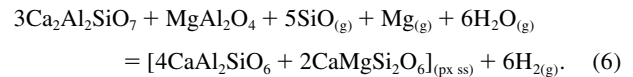
Based on the mineralogical studies of AOA and a thermodynamic analysis, Krot et al. (2004c) inferred other condensation reactions recorded by CAIs in AOA, which must have occurred at higher temperatures, before condensation of forsterite and low-Ca pyroxene. These include replacement of melilite by Al-diopside, spinel, and anorthite:



replacement of spinel by Al-diopside and anorthite



and enrichment of diopside in Al



These observations and the ^{16}O -rich compositions of spinel, anorthite, and Al-diopside in AOA from primitive carbonaceous chondrites (e.g., Hiyagon and Hashimoto, 1999a,b; Krot et al., 2001; Aléon et al., 2002a; Itoh et al., 2002; Fagan et al., 2004; this study) suggest that these reactions also occurred in the ^{16}O -rich gaseous reservoir. During these series of reactions small amounts of melts in the host AOA may have existed as well. Based on these observations and the ^{16}O -rich isotopic compositions of the more refractory solar nebula condensates, such as corundum, hibonite, grossite, spinel, and melilite (e.g., Aléon et al., 2002a,b; Simon et al., 2002; Huss et al., 2003), we infer that the ^{16}O -rich gaseous reservoir (Krot et al., 2002a) was dominant through out the entire condensation temperature range recorded by CAIs and AOA (i.e., from corundum to low-Ca pyroxene). Whether this reservoir was localized (e.g., McKeegan et al., 1998; Scott and Krot, 2001) or occupied initially the entire inner solar nebula (Yurimoto and Kuramoto, 2002; Kobayashi et al., 2003; Clayton, 2004; Lyons and Young, 2004; Krot et al., 2005) remains unknown.

Low-Ca pyroxenes with ^{16}O -poor compositions are observed as shells of variable thickness, commonly with abundant, tiny inclusions of Fe,Ni-metal grains, around AOA having compact textures (Figs. 3, 4). This textural occurrence of low-Ca pyroxene suggests that the ^{16}O -poor low-Ca pyroxenes formed by melting of the pyroxene-normative dust deposited on the

¹ Krot et al. (2003a) considered another reaction for the origin of low-Ca pyroxene around Fe,Ni-metal nodules, $\text{Mg}_2\text{SiO}_4 + \text{Si}_{(\text{in FeNi})} + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}_{(g)} = \text{Mg}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_6 + 2\text{H}_{2(g)}$, but concluded that it was unimportant.

Table 2. Ion microprobe analyses of oxygen isotopic compositions of individual minerals in AOAs and AOA/chondrule-like objects.^a

Chondrite	Class	Object	No.	Mineral	Spot no.	$\delta^{17}\text{O}$	1σ	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	1σ	$\Delta^{17}\text{O}$	1σ
PCA91082	CR	AOA	35	fo	1	-41.8	2.6	-37.1	1.9	-22.4	2.8
PCA91082	CR	AOA	35	fo	4	-39.5	1.9	-36.1	1.4	-20.7	2.1
PCA91082	CR	AOA	35	px	2	-1.4	2.9	3.9	1.6	-3.5	3.0
PCA91082	CR	AOA	35	px	3	-1.1	2.8	5.3	1.8	-3.9	2.9
PCA91082	CR	AOA	35	px	5	-0.8	2.2	5.6	1.8	-3.7	2.4
PCA91082	CR	AOA	35	px	6	-1.9	2.0	5.8	1.4	-4.9	2.1
PCA91082	CR	AOA	24	fo	1	-44.9	2.6	-41.0	2.1	-23.6	2.8
PCA91082	CR	AOA	24	px	2	-50.8	2.8	-44.2	2.2	-27.8	3.0
PCA91082	CR	AOA	24	px	3	-34.0	3.4	-40.0	3.0	-13.3	3.8
PCA91082	CR	AOA	24	di	4	-49.9	3.5	-43.9	2.9	-27.1	3.8
NWA 1180	CR	AOA	10	fo	1	-52.8	2.8	-53.7	2.2	-24.8	3.1
NWA 1180	CR	AOA	10	px	2	-51.3	2.7	-56.7	1.5	-21.8	2.9
Acfer 094	ungr.	AOA	105	fo + px	1	-49.1	2.6	-48.4	2.3	-24.0	2.9
Acfer 094	ungr.	AOA	105	fo	2	-56.4	2.4	-50.0	1.8	-30.4	2.6
Acfer 094	ungr.	AOA	105	fo	3	-51.0	2.5	-50.5	1.7	-24.7	2.7
Murchison	CM	AOA	32	fo	1	-34.1	3.9	-35.3	3.6	-15.7	4.3
Murchison	CM	AOA	32	fo	3	-50.9	3.3	-49.8	1.9	-25.0	3.4
Murchison	CM	AOA	32	px + fo	2	-24.5	2.8	-22.4	2.2	-12.9	3.0
Murchison	CM	AOA	32	px	4	-10.4	3.0	-7.5	2.5	-6.5	3.2
Leoville	CV	AOA/chd	1	sp	1	-47.9	2.5	-50.5	1.6	-21.7	2.6
Leoville	CV	AOA/chd	1	pl	2	-12.2	3.2	-2.1	3.0	-11.1	3.6

^a di = Al-diopside; fo = forsterite; pl = anorthitic plagioclase; px = low-Ca pyroxene; sp = spinel; class = classification.

surface of the host AOAs. This is supported by the presence of subhedral and euhedral grains of Al-diopside in anorthite in the AOAs #35 and #32 and by the direct contact between low-Ca pyroxene shell and anorthite in the latter (Figs. 3, 4). An igneous origin of the ¹⁶O-poor low-Ca pyroxenes could also explain the high contents of the refractory lithophile elements, such as CaO, Al₂O₃ and TiO₂, in the pyroxenes (Table 1); these elements are not expected to be in the gaseous phase at the condensation temperatures of low-Ca pyroxene. In addition, these pyroxenes have higher FeO contents (Fs₂₋₃) than those in forsterites (Fa₋₁) of their host AOAs, suggesting formation at different redox conditions. Possible formation mechanisms of the pyroxene-normative dust are discussed below.

Direct condensation of low-Ca pyroxene [i.e., Mg_(g) + SiO(g) + 2H₂O_(g) = MgSiO₃ + 2H_{2(g)}] is not predicted from a gas of solar composition under equilibrium conditions (Yoneda and Grossman, 1995; Petaev and Wood, 1998; Ebel and Grossman, 2000; Ebel et al., 2003), but could have occurred from a fractionated (Mg/Si < solar) gas. Such gas could have been produced by an isolation of forsterite from the cooling nebular gas (Petaev and Wood, 1998; Ebel et al., 2003) or by repeated evaporation-recondensation processes due to higher volatility of Si compared to Mg (Nagahara and Ozawa, 2003). The existence of fractionated nebular gas in chondrule-forming region(s) has been inferred to explain (i) the chemical compositions of Fe,Ni-metal in the matrix and chondrule rims in CR chondrites (Connolly et al., 2001), (ii) the layered structures (olivine-rich core → pyroxene-rich mantle → silica-rich igneous rim) of Type I chondrules in CR chondrites (Krot et al., 2000), (iii) the complementary compositions of the CR chondrules and matrices (Palme and Klerner, 2000), and (iv) the origin of pyroxene-rich and olivine-rich chondrules in ordinary

chondrites (Tachibana et al., 2003). Finally, it is generally accepted that an ¹⁶O-poor gaseous reservoir existed in chondrule-forming region(s) (e.g., Leshin et al., 2000; Krot et al., 2005).

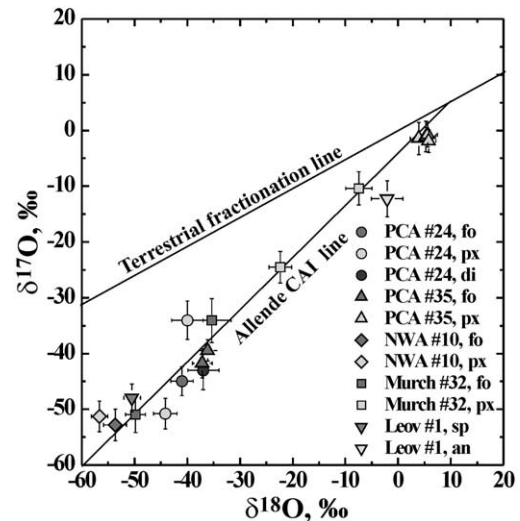


Fig. 5. Oxygen isotopic compositions of AOAs with low-Ca pyroxene and AOA/Al-rich chondrule-like object in the PCA91082 (PCA), NWA 1180 (NWA), Murchison (Murch) and Leoville (Leov) chondrites (error bars are 1σ). Terrestrial fractionation line and Allende CAI line are shown for reference. Forsterite grains in AOAs are ¹⁶O-rich; low-Ca pyroxenes show ¹⁶O-rich and ¹⁶O-poor compositions. Spinel in the Leoville AOA/chondrule-like object is ¹⁶O-rich; anorthitic plagioclase is ¹⁶O-poor. an = anorthitic plagioclase; di = Al-diopside; fo = forsterite; px = low-Ca pyroxene; sp = spinel.

Based on these observations, we infer that ^{16}O -poor low-Ca pyroxenes in AOAs probably formed in chondrule-forming region(s). If this interpretation is correct, it implies at least some of the AOAs formed before chondrules and were subsequently thermally processed together with chondrules. This interpretation is consistent with the presence of the ^{16}O -rich, relict forsterite grains in magnesian chondrules (e.g., Itoh et al., 2002; Jones, 2002; Choi et al., 2003; Jones et al., 2004) and their igneous rims (Nagashima et al., 2003), and of the ^{16}O -rich ferrous olivine in Type II chondrule (Yurimoto and Wasson, 2002). It is also supported by the AOA/chondrule-like object in Leoville, which, underwent substantial melting and yet preserved some textural and mineralogical resemblance to AOAs (Krot et al., 2004a) and its original ^{16}O -rich signature in the unmelted spinel grains (Table 2; Figs. 5, EA1). The ^{16}O -depleted compositions of igneous plagioclase in this object suggest that the melting probably accompanied by O-isotopic exchange. Oxygen isotopic exchange during melting of ^{16}O -rich precursors has been previously inferred for some CAIs in CV and CR chondrites (Yurimoto et al., 1998; Aléon et al., 2002), although no connection to chondrule formation has been proposed. The latter has been recently suggested based on a correlated study of oxygen and ^{26}Al - ^{26}Mg isotopic systematics of igneous CAIs in CR chondrites (Hutcheon et al., 2004; Krot et al., 2005).

Based on the mineralogy and bulk chemistry of AOAs and magnesian chondrules, it was concluded that chondrules cannot be produced from AOAs by an igneous fractionation; addition of silica-rich material enriched in moderately volatile elements, such as Mn, Cr, and Na, to AOAs is required (e.g., Komatsu et al., 2001; Krot and Keil, 2002; Krot et al., 2002b, 2004a,b; MacPherson and Huss, 2005). The presence of AOAs with ^{16}O -depleted low-Ca pyroxene shells and AOA/chondrule-like objects provides the evidence for transformation of refractory inclusions into chondrules, which must have been accompanied by O-isotopic exchange between melted ^{16}O -rich precursor materials and ^{16}O -poor gaseous reservoir.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Amoeboid olivine aggregates (AOAs) in primitive carbonaceous chondrites consist of forsterite ($\text{Fa}_{<2}$), Fe,Ni-metal, spinel, Al-diopside, anorthite, and rare gehlenitic melilite ($\text{Äk}_{<15}$). $\sim 10\%$ of AOAs contain low-Ca pyroxene ($\text{Fs}_{1-3}\text{Wo}_{1-5}$) that is in corrosion relationship with forsterite and is found in three major textural occurrences: (i) thin ($<15\ \mu\text{m}$) discontinuous layers around forsterite grains or along forsterite grain boundaries in AOA peripheries; (ii) 5–10- μm -thick haloes and subhedral grains around Fe,Ni-metal nodules in AOA peripheries, and (iii) shells of variable thickness (up to 70 μm), commonly with abundant tiny (3–5 μm) inclusions of Fe,Ni-metal grains, around AOAs. AOAs with the low-Ca pyroxene shells are compact and appear to have experienced small (10%–20%) degree of melting. AOAs with other textural occurrences of low-Ca pyroxene are rather porous. Forsterite grains in AOAs with low-Ca pyroxene have typically ^{16}O -rich isotopic compositions ($\Delta^{17}\text{O} < -20\text{‰}$). Low-Ca pyroxenes of textural occurrences (i) and (ii) are similarly ^{16}O -enriched, whereas those of (iii) are ^{16}O -depleted ($\Delta^{17}\text{O} \sim -6\text{‰}$ to -4‰).

We conclude that AOAs are aggregates of solar nebular

condensates that originated in an ^{16}O -rich gaseous reservoir, probably the CAI-forming region(s). Forsterites in some AOAs reacted with gaseous SiO in the same nebular region to form low-Ca pyroxene. Some other AOAs appear to have accreted ^{16}O -poor pyroxene-normative dust and experienced varying degrees of melting, most likely in chondrule-forming region(s). (Krot et al., 2003c; Grossman et al. 1979; Krot et al., 2004c; Imae et al., 1993)

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ELECTRONIC ANNEX

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at [10.1016/j.gca.2004.06.046](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.gca.2004.06.046).