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High-precision triple oxygen isotope analyses of small sample sizes – Proof of concept with modern S-type cosmic spherules

Zahnow*, F., Pack, A., Stracke, T., Hasse, T., *University of Göttingen, Goldschmidtstraße 1, 37077 Göttingen, <u>fabian.zahnow@uni-goettingen.de</u>.

Laser fluorination triple oxygen isotope analyses of small, nanomole samples offers a wide spectrum of applications. We have established a continuous-flow setup for isotope ratio mass spectrometry of samples as small as 25 nmol O2 (~2 µg sample material) with an analytical uncertainty in $\Delta^{,17}O$ better than ± 0.05 ‰, which is precise compared to modern ion microprobe techniques that have an uncertainty in Δ^{17} O greater than $\pm 0.7 \%$ [1]. We present new triple oxygen isotope data from modern S-type cosmic spherules of a rooftop collection in Berlin. The spherules have diameters between 218 and 240 µm and a masses between 11 and 22 µg. The isotopic distribution of the spherules indicates an origin from a variety of carbonaceous and ordinary chondrite parent bodies [1].

[1] Cordier, C. & Folco, L. (2014) GCA 146, 18-26.

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