

Washington University in St. Louis

What presolar grains tell us about stellar nucleosynthesis

Ernst Zinner Washington University St. Louis, MO

WE-Heraeus Summer School on Nuclear Astrophysics in the Cosmos

## **Our Stellar Origins: Some History**

Observation of regularities in the abundance of the chemical elements in the Solar System

Harkins W. D. (1917) Am. Chem. Soc. 39, 856
Russell H. N. (1929) *Ap. J.* 70,11
Suess H. E. and Urey H. C. (1956). *Rev. Mod. Phys.* 28, 53-74.
Cameron A. G. W. (1973) *Space Sci. Rev.* 15, 121-146.
Anders E. and Ebihara M. (1982) *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* 46, 2363-2380.
Anders E. and Grevesse N. (1989) *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* 53, 197-214.



Abundance patterns reflect nuclear properties

## Production of the Elements

Bethe H. A. (1939) No elements heavier than <sup>4</sup>He can be built up in ordinary stars.
Hoyle F. (1946, 1954) Stellar production of <sup>12</sup>C in Red Giant

cores. Speculates on stellar synthesis of elements up to Fe.
Alpher R., Bethe H. A & Gamow G.- αβγ (1948) Nucleosynthesis in the early universe (Big Bang NS).
Fermi E. & Turkevich T. (1950) Only elements up to Li can be synthesized in the early universe.
Merrill P. W. (1952) Detection of unstable Tc in the spectra from S stars is evidence for stellar nucleosynthesis.
Burbidge G. & M., Fowler W. & Hoyle F. B<sup>2</sup>FH (1957) and Cameron (1957) propose 8 processes in stars to produce

the elements.



B<sup>2</sup>FH proposed 8 different nucleosynthetic processes. What stars produce and eject elements into the interstellar medium?

Asymptotic Giant Branch (AGB) stars

Type II (core-collapse) Supernovae



# What is an AGB star?

Evolution of a 1M<sub>☉</sub> star in the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram.

### Schematic Structure of an AGB star



## Planetary Nebulae



# Helix Nebula



# Cat Eye Nebula



Structure of a massive star (mass > 10  $M_{\odot}$ ) before explosion as a supernova.

## Supernova Remnants

# Cassiopeia A





1680 3.4 kpc





Data for checking nucleosynthesis theory Cosmic abundances of the elements An average of many stellar sources Astronomical observations Limited to certain stars. Isotopic data only for few elements

**Stardust from primitive meteorites** 

# The Allende meteorite, 4.6 Gyrs old, contains stardust



#### Supernova

#### **Molecular Cloud**

Presolar Grains

Protoplanetary Disk

AGB Star

Asteroids and Comets

Meteorites and Interplanetary Dust Particles

Cartoon by Larry Nittler

In the last 20 years a new source of information on isotopic abundances in stars has become available in the form of stardust preserved in primitive meteorites.

Grains from Red Giants or supernovae were included into the molecular cloud that collapsed into our Solar System.

Some of these grains are preserved in primitive meteorites, from which they can be extracted and studied in detail in the laboratory.





## Some History

Isotopically anomalous noble gases were found in meteorites in late 60s.

Ne-E(L):  ${}^{20}$ Ne/ ${}^{22}$ Ne < 0.01 (Solar  ${}^{20}$ Ne/ ${}^{22}$ Ne = 9.8) close to pure  ${}^{22}$ Ne (Black & Pepin)

The huge isotopic anomalies in noble gases could be best explained by nucleosynthesis in stars, not by processes occurring in the solar system.
Stardust hidden in meteorites?

Effort to isolate carriers of anomalous noble gases
 (Edward Anders, Roy S. Lewis and their coworkers)

Difficulities

Abundances of the carriers are low ( <0.01%). They are small (a few µm or less).

Anomalous noble gases served as tracers to isolate these minerals.

"Burn the haystack to find a needle" (Edward Anders)





Many chemical and physical separation steps are necessary to "burn the haystack" and isolate presolar graphite and SiC grains.





Different layers of "graphite" grains of different densities in Na-polytungstate liquid. There is a density gradient in the liquid.



## Presolar Grains Stardust

Types: Silicon Carbide, Graphite, Oxides, Silicates

Size: 1  $\mu$ m = 1/1000 mm

Mass: Picogram

One grains contains 10 billion atoms

They are older than the Solar System

How do we know the grains are stardust?

We measure their isotopic compositions and they are completely different from those of Solar System material.

## **ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES**

# 1. "Bulk Analysis" (large number of grains)

#### **TIMS and Gas Mass Spectrometry**

Noble Gases, Sr, Ba, Nd, Sm Separation by grain size, step-wise heating and/or combustion

Can measure trace elements but obtain only averages

#### 2. Single Grain Analysis (SIMS, RIMS and Gas MS)

Find tremendous variations from grain to grain Correlation on grain by grain basis: **Stellar Histories** of individual grains

Can identify and study **Rare Subpopulations** of grains

Locate New Types of circumstellar grains

*Disadvantage:* Limited amount of sample restricts analysis to major and minor elements



## Schematic of the SIMS instrument











Isobaric isotopes (e.g., <sup>94</sup>Zr and <sup>94</sup>Mo) cannot be separated in the mass spectrometer. RIMS makes analysis of only one element possible.



## Schematic of a Resonance Ionization Mass Spectrometer (RIMS).



Irradiation with well-tuned laser light ionizes only a given element.



Deposit of 0.5  $\mu$ m spinel grains on a gold foil for NanoSIMS analysis.



Analysis of well-separated grains.



Another example of individual grain isotopic analysis in the NanoSIMS. Shown is an SEM image after ion probe analysis.



Effects of sputtering by the primary ion beam.


NanoSIMS analysis of an ultratome section of a presolar graphite grain.



Isotopic ratio image of <sup>16</sup>O/<sup>18</sup>O inside a presolar graphite grain. The grain has a large <sup>18</sup>O excess. The solar ratio is 500.



Isotopic anomalies in presolar grains are orders of magnitude larger than variations in solar system materials.



Graphite

 $^{25}Mg/^{24}Mg$ : ×3 solar

 $^{26}Mg/^{24}Mg$ : ×288 solar

Excess <sup>26</sup>Mg: <sup>26</sup>Mg from neutron capture is negligible;the decay of <sup>26</sup>Al still dominates.

# In some grains Mg is dominated by radiogenic <sup>26</sup>Mg.

"Extinct" isotopes

<sup>26</sup>Al (T<sub>1/2</sub> = 7.3 × 10<sup>5</sup>a) ⇒ <sup>26</sup>Mg <sup>41</sup>Ca (T<sub>1/2</sub> = 1.0 × 10<sup>5</sup>a) ⇒ <sup>41</sup>K <sup>44</sup>Ti (T<sub>1/2</sub> = 60a) ⇒ <sup>44</sup>Ca

Since meteorites formed  $4.5 \times 10^9$  years ago and presolar grains, which are extracted from meteorites, are older than meteorites,

<sup>26</sup>Al, <sup>41</sup>Ca and <sup>44</sup>Ti can be inferred from their daughter isotopes (<sup>26</sup>Mg, <sup>41</sup>K, <sup>44</sup>Ca).



Another example that isotopic anomalies in presolar grains are much larger than those in SS materials.

Figure 2





Deposit of small matrix grains from the primitive meteorite Acfer 094 for isotopic imaging to detect anomalous grains.



## $\delta^{17}O/16O$







#### 1920-1750-1500-1250-1000-750-250-250--250--500--750--1000-

### 10x10 µm

# <sup>24</sup>Mg<sup>16</sup>O



5-













Signatures of Hydrogen and Helium burning are shown by presolar oxide and graphite grains.

# Grains from AGB stars



SiC grains come from different stellar sources







The distribution of carbon isotopic ratios in graphite grains is different from those of mainstream and SN SiC grains, indicating distinct stellar sources.



Also the inferred <sup>26</sup>Al/<sup>27</sup>Al ratios are greatly different between X (SN) grains and other grains.







A M Davis, U Chicago



There is very good agreement between SiC data and AGB models.



Abundance enhancements of s-process elements are another piece of evidence for an AGB origin of most SiC grains.



Two important pieces of information on s-process obtained from grains.

- <sup>96</sup>Zr is extremely depleted, implying that the <sup>22</sup>Ne neutron source is not activated and grains do not come from intermediate mass stars.
- The Ba isotopic ratios indicate that the "<sup>13</sup>C-pocket" is within the standard pocket within a factor of less than two.



A M Davis, U Chicago



Different types of presolar SiC grains are defined by their C, N, and Si isotopic ratios.

The <sup>29,30</sup>Si excesses in presolar SiC grains are a problem. Whereas the isotopic ratios of C, N, and the heavy elements (Sr, Zr, Mo, etc.) in SiC from AGB stars are completely dominated by stellar nucleosynthesis, the elements Si and Ti carry the signatures of both Galactic evolution (original compositions of the parent stars) and AGB nucleosynthesis (neutron capture).



Mainstream, Y and Z grains are believed to have originated in Crich AGB stars of varying metallicities.



- 1. Dredge-up of <sup>12</sup>C turns the star into a C-star and increases the <sup>12</sup>C/<sup>13</sup>C ratio
- 2. n capture on Si increases the <sup>30</sup>Si/<sup>28</sup>Si ratio



Deconvolve the Si isotopic composition of a given grain into a Galactic component  $\delta^{29}$ Si<sub>init</sub> and an AGB component  $\Delta^{30}$ Si.







Models of AGB stars predict Si isotopic shifts for different masses, metallicities and mass loss. The Guber et al. cross sections account better for the isotopic ratios of the Z grains.



As expected, the data show a correlation between the Galactic component  $\delta^{29}Si_{init}$ and the ABG component  $\Delta^{30}$ Si. Models with the Guber cross sections give a better fit to the data.




The grains'  $\Delta^{30}$ Si values and the models can be used to infer the metallicity Z of each grain. Thus it is possible to determine  $\delta^{29}$ Si<sub>init</sub> as function of Z, i.e., the Galactic evolution of the Si isotopic ratios. The grain data indicate that Si ratios rise much faster than predicted by SNII-based GCE models.





## Ti isotopic ratios in SiC are correlated with the Si ratios.







Mainstream, Y and Z grains are believed to have originated in Crich AGB stars of varying metallicities.



Models of AGB stars predict Si isotopic shifts for different masses, metallicities and mass loss. The Guber et al. cross sections account better for the isotopic ratios of the Z grains.



As expected, the data show a correlation between the Galactic component  $\delta^{29}Si_{init}$ and the ABG component  $\Delta^{30}$ Si. Models with the Guber cross sections give a better fit to the data.



For all lowmetallicity models, required to explain the Si shifts, the  $^{12}C/^{13}C$  ratios are much higher than these ratios are in grains.



Model compositions of a 5  $M_{\odot}$  star after H exhaustion in the core. After the 1st dredge-up the surface is enriched in <sup>13</sup>C.





For all lowmetallicity models, required to explain the Si shifts, the  $^{12}C/^{13}C$  ratios are much higher than these ratios are in grains.



Nittler et al. (1997) distinguished four groups of O-rich presolar grains. The O isotopic ratios of group 1 grains can be explained by first dredge-up, but not those of group 2 grains.



The 1st dredge-up also enriches the surface in <sup>17</sup>O and depletes it in <sup>18</sup>O.





If it is assumed that cool bottom processing occurs also during the AGB phase, low enough <sup>12</sup>C/<sup>13</sup>C ratios can be achieved to reproduce the Z grain data.

 $^{2}C/^{13}C$ 



While he  ${}^{12}C/{}^{13}C$ ratio increases from mainstream to Y grains, Z grains have smaller <sup>12</sup>C/<sup>13</sup>C ratios, in contrast to theoretical models. Extra mixing (Cool **Bottom Processing**) has been invoked as an explanation.



Nittler et al. (1997) distinguished four groups of O-rich presolar grains. The O isotopic ratios of group 1 grains can be explained by first dredge-up, but not those of group 2 grains.



In AGB stars, <sup>26</sup>Al/  $^{27}$ Al ratios > 4x10<sup>-3</sup> and <sup>18</sup>O/<sup>16</sup>O ratios  $< 10^{-3}$  cannot be explained by "normal" shell H burning and "cool bottom processing" has been invoked to explain these ratios.



Cool bottom processing is an assumed mixing process in which material from the convective envelope is circulated to hot regions close to the H-burning shell. Nollett et al. (2003) developed a parametric theory. They introduced two parameters, the circulation rate dM/dt and the maximum temperature T<sub>p</sub> reached by the circulating material.



dM/dt mostly affects the destruction of  ${}^{18}$ O (and the production of  ${}^{13}$ C from  ${}^{12}$ C), the maximum temperature T<sub>p</sub> reached by the circulating material affects the production of  ${}^{26}$ Al.





Upper limits of <sup>26</sup>Al/<sup>27</sup>Al ratios in SiC grains from AGB stars generally agree with model predictions of shell H burning. In contrast, <sup>26</sup>Al/<sup>27</sup>Al ratios in oxide grains are much higher. Cool bottom processing at high temperature apparently does not occur in the parent stars of SiC grains, although low-temperature CBP accounts for <sup>12</sup>C/<sup>13</sup>C ratios in Z grains.

Does CBP prevent AGB stars from becoming carbon stars?



# Grains from Supernovae



#### Schematic Structure of 15M<sub>☉</sub> Star Before Explosion (Meyer et al., 1995)



Si isotopes show the signatures of O burning.





grain

thus they are considered to be Stellar Fossils.

# Bonanza Grain



 ${}^{12}C/{}^{13}C = 190$  ${}^{14}N/{}^{15}N = 28$  $\delta^{29}Si/{}^{28}Si = -282$  $\delta^{30}Si/{}^{28}Si = -442$  ${}^{26}Al/{}^{27}Al = 0.6-0.9$ 

<sup>44</sup>Ca excess is associated with a Ti-rich subgrain, thus it originates from the decay of <sup>44</sup>Ti ( $T_{1/2} = 60$  yrs).



#### r process

No evidence for the r-process has been found to date in presolar grains. SiC grains from SNIIe show an isotopic pattern in Mo that can be explained by a short intense neutron burst.





SiC X grains from SNIIe show an isotopic pattern in Mo that can be explained by a short intense neutron burst.



# p process γ process

A SiC grain of type A+B  $({}^{12}C/{}^{13}C=4.5)$ has excesses in the p-process isotopes  ${}^{92}Mo, {}^{94}Mo, {}^{96}Ru,$ and  ${}^{98}Ru$ . Large excesses are predicted for inner zones of Type II SNe (model fits).

Savina et al., 2007



## The initial presence of <sup>41</sup>Ca (from <sup>41</sup>K excesses) is evidence for a SN origin.



X grains have (mostly) <sup>12</sup>C excesses and <sup>15</sup>N excesses.



Also the inferred <sup>26</sup>Al/<sup>27</sup>Al ratios are greatly different between X (SN) grains and other grains.



Compare grain data with SN models.



The He/N and He/C zones are the only zones with C>O. <sup>28</sup>Si, <sup>44</sup>Ti, and <sup>49</sup>V are produced in the inner Si/S and O/Si zones.


Can cover the N and C ratios of X grains but need the <sup>15</sup>N spike. The 15 and 20 M<sub>☉</sub> SN models by Limongi and Chieffi don't have <sup>15</sup>N excesses anywhere in the star.



The C and Al isotopic ratios in X grains cannot be explained by SN mixing models.



The <sup>12</sup>C/<sup>13</sup>C ratio is high in the He/C zone and low in the He/N zone. The <sup>26</sup>Al/<sup>27</sup>Al ratio behaves in the opposite way.



The most interesting cases are when grain data do NOT agree with theoretical models. The Si isotopic ratios of X grains are another example.





A He/N-He/C mix has <sup>29</sup>Si and <sup>30</sup>Si excesses.



Hoppe et al. proposed a contribution from the O/Ne zone to explain the composition of a grain with an <sup>29</sup>Si excess and <sup>30</sup>Si deficit.



The O/Si zone is rich in <sup>30</sup>Si and has much more Si than the O/Ne zone.



X grains also have large <sup>49</sup>Ti excesses, possibly from the decay of <sup>49</sup>V ( $T_{1/2} = 336d$ ).



The He/N and He/C zones are the only zones with C>O. <sup>28</sup>Si, <sup>44</sup>Ti, and <sup>49</sup>V are produced in the inner Si/S and O/Si zones.



 $^{44}$ Ti/ $^{48}$ Ti ratios are higher in X2 grains and there is a correlation with  $\delta^{29}$ Si/ $^{28}$ Si.

#### 2500 2500 X1 X2 2000 2000 1500 1500 **049Ti/48Ti (%0)** 000 000 849Ti/48Ti (%o) 1000 500 0 0 -500 -500 -1000 <del>| . .</del> -500 -1000 -500 500 1000 1500 -250 -1000 2000 250 0 500 Ó δ46Ti/48Ti (%o) δ47Ti/48Ti (‰)

<sup>46</sup>Ti and <sup>49</sup>Ti also show some deficits.



Mix He/N-He/C mix (with <sup>12</sup>C/<sup>13</sup>C=100) with different layers from Si/S and O/Si zones.



Large <sup>49</sup>Ti excesses from n-capture are in the He/C and O/C zones.



In the He/N-He/C mix with  ${}^{12}C/{}^{13}C=100,$  $\delta^{49}Ti/{}^{48}Ti=522.$ 



A few X2 grains with large <sup>44</sup>Ti/<sup>48</sup>Ti ratios show <sup>46</sup>Ti deficits, indicating contributions from the inner Si/S zone. There is no indication for contributions from the outer Si/S and the O/Si zone. A similar conclusion has been made from Fe isotopic ratios in X grains.



Deficits in <sup>49</sup>Ti and <sup>46</sup>Ti can be achieved by mixing with the Ni core.







SN mixes show the same sign of the correlation between <sup>44</sup>Ti/<sup>48</sup>Ti and <sup>29</sup>Si/<sup>28</sup>Si. X2 grains data lie outside of the region spanned by mixing curves and require contributions from the Ni core.

# ANOTHER CHALLENGE





No significant <sup>54</sup>Fe excesses are seen in X grains, although the Si/S zone has a very high <sup>54</sup>Fe abundance.





AB grains have low <sup>12</sup>C/<sup>13</sup>C ratios.



The distribution of the Si isotopic ratios of AB grains is the same as that of mainstream grains.



From Lodders and Fegley (1998)

## **CARBON STARS**

- J and R stars as well as CH giants have low <sup>12</sup>C/<sup>13</sup>C ratios
- 2) CH giants seem to be excluded because they have low metallicities
- J stars have solar abundances of s-process elements, R stars have hs/Fe>solar. J(N) stars have circumstellar dust shells (with SiC) whereas R stars don't
- J-type carbon stars are the most likely parent stars of A+B grains

Born-again AGB stars (Sakurai's object) have also low  $^{12}C/^{13}C$  ratios but are expected to show the signature of the s-process.





Group 1: RG or AGB stars (1st DUP). Group 2: stars with CBP Group 3: low metallicity stars, SNe? Group 4: high metallicity; SNe

















# Presolar Silicate Grains

















#### Presolar Silicates

- newest major addition to presolar grain inventory
- found in most primitive extraterrestrial materials
- large variations in reported abundances:

   highest in primitive IDPs: ≥375 ppm
   (e.g., Messenger et al., 2003; Floss et al., 2006; Busemann et al., 2009)
   -variable in primitive meteorites: up to 220 ppm
   (e.g., Nguyen et al., 2008; Floss and Stadermann, 2009; Vollmer et al., 2009)
- fragile nature of presolar silicates: opportunity to investigate effects of secondary processing



### What We Can Learn from Presolar Silicates

- how they formed
  - conditions for grain formation
  - chemical reactions in molecular clouds
  - stellar and galactic evolution
  - nucleosynthesis
- how they evolved
  - processing in interstellar medium (ISM), nebula, or on parent bodies (aqueous alteration, metamorphism)
  - provides information about conditions in these environments
  - terrestrial alteration



data from Presolar Grain Database (presolar.wustl.edu/~pgd)








## Fe-rich Presolar Silicates

- Mg-rich silicates expected
  - equilibrium condensation theory: forsterite, enstatite (Lodders and Fegley, 1999; Ferrarotti and Gail, 2001)
  - astronomical observations: <10% Fe in crystalline silicates (Demyk et al., 2000); mg# >90 in amorphous grains (Min et al., 2007)
- origin of Fe enrichments seen in presolar silicates
  - primary signature vs secondary alteration?
- few Fe isotopic measurements: Acfer 094
  - two presolar silicates with non-solar <sup>54</sup>Fe/<sup>56</sup>Fe (Mostefaoui & Hoppe, 2004; Vollmer et al., 2010)
  - grains with solar Fe: difficult measurements; large errors (Bose et al., 2010; Vollmer et al., 2010)







Graphite grains come in different vegetable types. Some of them are huge and provide a lot of material for detailed elemental and isotopic analysis.

10 µm

## Morphological types of presolar graphites











The distribution of carbon isotopic ratios in graphite grains is different from those of mainstream and SN SiC grains, indicating distinct stellar sources.



## Murchison graphite grains

The isotopic compositions of graphite grains depend on their density.



Low-density graphite grains show larger <sup>15</sup>N excesses than high-density grains. The normal N isotopic ratios in many grains cannot be indigenous but indicate isotopic equilibration.



Low-density graphite grains show larger <sup>18</sup>O excesses than high-density grains. The normal O isotopic ratios in many grains cannot be indigenous but indicate isotopic equilibration.





Low-density graphite grains resemble X grains also in their inferred <sup>26</sup>Al/<sup>27</sup>Al ratios. There are only few measurements for high-density grains and grains with high ratios have been

Low-density graphite grains are characterized by <sup>15</sup>N, <sup>18</sup>O, and <sup>28</sup>Si excesses (some have <sup>29</sup>Si and <sup>30</sup>Si excesses), and high inferred <sup>26</sup>Al/<sup>27</sup>Al ratios. Some also show evidence for the initial presence of short-lived <sup>41</sup>Ca and <sup>44</sup>Ti and have <sup>49</sup>Ti excesses (possibly from the decay of shortlived <sup>49</sup>V). All these signatures indicate an origin in Type II SNe.

The most diagnostic isotopic signatures of high-density graphite grains are high <sup>12</sup>C/<sup>13</sup>C ratios and large <sup>30</sup>Si excesses. They point to an origin in low-metallicity AGB stars.



Models for lowmetallicity stars give large <sup>30</sup>Si excesses, but the  ${}^{12}C/{}^{13}C$ ratios of the models are too high for large <sup>30</sup>Si values.



High <sup>12</sup>C/<sup>13</sup>C ratios imply high C/O ratios, conditions favoring the formation of graphite instead of SiC.



Evidence for an AGB star origin of high-density graphite grains comes from internal TiC grains that are highly enriched in the s-process elements Zr, Mo and Ru.