

9/29/17

Page 1 of 35

1 *A Manuscript Celebrating the Centennial of the American Mineralogist*

2

3 **The Third Isotope of the Third Element on the Third Planet**

4 **Revision 1, 27-September-2017**

5 by

6 Douglas Rumble

7 [drumble@carnegiescience.edu](mailto:drumble@carnegiescience.edu)

8 Geophysical Laboratory, 5251 Broad Branch Rd., NW, Washington, DC, 20015

9

10 **Abstract**

11

12 The third isotope of the third element,  $^{17}\text{O}$ , records indispensable information on  
13 the origin and operation of Earth, the third planet. The measured uniformity in  
14 fractionation of  $^{16}\text{O}$ ,  $^{17}\text{O}$  and  $^{18}\text{O}$  in rocks and minerals over the whole of geologic time,  
15 from Hadean to Recent, records the existence of a global magma ocean prior to the  
16 formation of continents. New techniques of high-resolution mass spectroscopy and of  
17 femtosecond X-ray diffraction are leading towards a deep understanding of the origin of  
18 kinetic isotope fractionation effects during metabolism. Analysis for the rare molecule  
19  $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ , distinguished by the substitution of two heavy isotopes, in combination with data  
20 on  $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ , provides an insight into the mechanism whereby plants produce oxygen.  
21 Given the skills of American Mineralogist readers in three-dimensional visualization of  
22 complex crystalline and molecular structures and the talents of biogeochemical  
23 colleagues in measuring isotope fractionation by organisms in nature, there is every

9/29/17

Page 2 of 35

24 reason to expect extraordinary advances in understanding the cycling of life's elements, H,  
25 C, N, O, and S between the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere.

26

27

### Introduction

28

29 Oxygen, the third most abundant element in the Solar System, after hydrogen and  
30 helium, occupies most of the volume of silicate and oxide minerals in Earth's crust and  
31 mantle. Investigations of the atomic structure of minerals published in *America*  
32 *Mineralogist* use techniques of X-ray diffraction and transmission electron microscopy to  
33 locate the positions of oxygen atoms in relation to other chemical elements composing a  
34 crystal. That oxygen dominates the volume in minerals is obscured, however, by the  
35 conventional representation of atomic structures by coordination polyhedra. Oxygen is  
36 consigned to the corners of polyhedra enclosing silicon, aluminum, iron and other  
37 elements. The volume occupied by each oxygen atom in relation to its nearest neighbors  
38 in a crystal structure is difficult to visualize in the mind's eye from textbook  
39 representations. Oxygen is visible as "bumps" in electron density maps made in the  
40 analysis of the atomic structure of minerals with X-ray diffraction, but, because of its  
41 lower capacity to scatter X-rays, oxygen does not appear to fill space to the same extent  
42 as implied by its atomic radius in coordination polyhedra. Do mineralogical studies  
43 inadvertently downplay the importance of oxygen? Has oxygen been relegated to a  
44 supporting role as a bit-player merely serving to maintain electrical neutrality and  
45 minimize mutual repulsion between cations in minerals? Acknowledging decades of  
46 success by mineralogists in seeking to understand atomic structures in minerals, is there

9/29/17

Page 3 of 35

47 more to be learned about minerals' formation processes from oxygen? In what follows, I  
48 would like to celebrate the central significance of oxygen's third isotope in understanding  
49 Earth.

50

51 The third isotope of oxygen,  $^{17}\text{O}$ , is quite rare in rocks and minerals, amounting to  
52 barely 0.04% of total oxygen with the balance made up by  $^{16}\text{O}$ , 99.75% and  $^{18}\text{O}$ , 0.21%.  
53 The third isotope of oxygen was ignored for decades by stable isotope geochemists  
54 because it was thought to trail behind the more abundant  $^{18}\text{O}$  with values of  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$   
55 approximately 1/2 that of measured  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  owing to the dependence of isotopic  
56 fractionation on mass differences. According to this view, nothing could be learned from  
57 measuring  $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$  that could not be discovered by measuring the more abundant  $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ .  
58 There was little interest in measuring  $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$  until the discovery of non-mass dependent  
59 fractionations in meteorites (Clayton et al. 1973). Elements with three or more stable  
60 isotopes, like oxygen's  $^{16}\text{O}$ ,  $^{17}\text{O}$ , and  $^{18}\text{O}$ , afford deeper insights into Earth's origin and  
61 evolution because measurement of two, or more, isotope ratios of an element illuminates  
62 the contrasting controls of reaction-specific fractionation vs. initial composition.  
63 Measuring multiple isotope ratios of a multi-isotope element requires patience, care, and  
64 a rigorous technique. The single-substituted isotopologue,  $^{16}\text{O}^{17}\text{O}$ , is  $10^{-4}$  less abundant  
65 than the predominant  $^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$  yet measurements are made routinely with a precision in  
66  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  of 0.1 ‰, or better. Measurement of  $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$  and  $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$  in minerals requires high  
67 mass-resolution ion microprobes or specialized mass spectrometers with the use of  
68 hazardous chemicals such as fluorine in sample preparation: little more than a dozen labs

9/29/17

Page 4 of 35

69 around the globe are currently active in analysis. Despite these difficulties, the third  
70 isotope is crucially decisive in geochemical, atmospheric, and cosmochemical research.

71

72 The measurement of elements with two stable isotopes in Earth studies is widely  
73 applied. Ratios of D/H record rainfall from the equator to poles. Variations in  $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$   
74 distinguish inorganically precipitated from photosynthetic carbon. Nitrogen isotope ratios,  
75  $^{15}\text{N}/^{14}\text{N}$ , trace food consumption from plants to grazers to predators. Insights gained from  
76 these isotopes are unquestionably significant but their analysis inevitably offers a limited,  
77 "one-dimensional" mapping of origins vs. processes. Ambiguity in understanding arises  
78 because ranges of characteristic ratios are not unique. Different carbon fixation  
79 mechanisms in plants, for example, produce overlapping  $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$  ratios. The meteoric  
80 water cycle can be tracked by either of the ratios D/H or  $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$  but definitive  
81 conclusions are achieved when both sets of isotopes are measured: two "one-  
82 dimensional" discriminants gain clarity when both are used together "two-dimensionally".  
83 Measuring the abundances of the three stable oxygen isotopes and their isotopologues  
84 adds "multi-dimensionality" to geochemical investigations.

85

86 Doubly substituted molecules such as  $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  are even less abundant than single-  
87 substituted ones, only  $10^{-6}$  relative to  $^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ . While more difficult to analyze,  
88 measurement of two "clumped" oxygen isotopologue ratios such as  $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$  and  
89  $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$  leads to understanding the competition between equilibrium isotopic  
90 exchange vs. irreversible kinetic isotope fractionation. Equilibrium isotope exchange is  
91 driven by small differences in zero point energies between doubly-substituted molecules

9/29/17

Page 5 of 35

92 (Eiler and Schauble, 2004). Kinetic isotope fractionations arise from a variety of causes:  
93 of current interest are isotope fractionations controlled by the atomic topography of  
94 catalytic enzymes secreted by living organisms.

95

96 The determinative role played by  $^{17}\text{O}$  in understanding Earth will be illustrated in  
97 this review by discussing two examples, one involving the singly-substituted  
98 isotopologues  $^{17}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$  and  $^{18}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$  the other concerning the doubly-substituted  
99 isotopologues  $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  and  $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ . The first example traces  $^{17}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$  and  $^{18}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$  back in  
100 time for 4.3 billion years to a molten globe recovering from the shock of a giant impact.  
101 The second example considers the distinctive behaviors of  $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  and  $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  during  
102 photosynthesis as it is occurring presently.

103

### 104 **The Third Isotope And Early Earth History**

105

106 Earth's record of O-isotope fractionation has remained remarkably the same over  
107 the entirety of its geological history. Ocean island basalts (OIB) less than 1 million years  
108 in age overlap the  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values of a detrital zircon crystal 4,374 (+/- 6) million  
109 years old (Fig. 1; Valley et al. 2014; Starkey et al. 2016). Analyses of some 650 rocks  
110 and minerals define a linear trend passing through the compositions of the OIB's and the  
111 Hadean zircon (Fig. 1). Values of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vary over 24 ‰, those of  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  over 12 ‰  
112 encompassing the known ranges for analyzed igneous and metamorphic rocks. The  
113 samples are representative of isotope fractionation effects taking place between multiple  
114 minerals or between minerals and magmas over temperatures of approximately 400 to

9/29/17

Page 6 of 35

115 1200 °C. To fully appreciate the data plotted in Fig. 1 it is worth asking: Are there other  
116 geochemical parameters maintaining such invariant behavior over 4 billion years? How is  
117 such a consistent behavior achieved?

118

119 To answer these questions I turn to a comparison of the behavior of oxygen and  
120 other light elements with three or more stable isotopes. The elements O, Mg, Si, make up  
121 important rock-forming silicate minerals in Earth's crust and mantle. Sulfur is the  
122 essential ingredient of ore-bearing sulfide minerals. Isotopes of the light elements O, Mg,  
123 Si, and S are more strongly fractionated by processes such as magmatic differentiation or  
124 weathering than elements of higher atomic weight. The magnitude of isotopic  
125 fractionation for these elements depends not only on mass differences between isotopes  
126 but also on the mineral structures into which they are substituted as well as temperature  
127 (Schauble 2004). Numerous studies seek to correlate their fractionation patterns with  
128 specific chemical and mechanical processes thus providing much data for comparisons.

129

### 130 *Sulfur*

131 Sulfur consists of the stable isotopes  $^{32}\text{S}$  (94.93%),  $^{33}\text{S}$  (0.76 %),  $^{34}\text{S}$  (4.29 %), and  
132  $^{36}\text{S}$  (0.02%). Hulston and Thode (1965) sought evidence to distinguish stellar  
133 nucleosynthetic effects from terrestrial chemical processes by analyzing sulfur isotopes in  
134 meteorites and terrestrial samples. They predicted that injections of isotopically  
135 heterogeneous material of stellar origin into the solar nebula would introduce offset  
136 trends or mixing lines distinct from the pattern of Fig. 1. If linear plots of  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  vs  $\delta^{33}\text{S}$   
137 and of  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  vs  $\delta^{36}\text{S}$  were found, however, resembling the linear trend of Fig. 1, this would

9/29/17

Page 7 of 35

138 indicate equilibrium and kinetic fractionation effects taking place during terrestrial  
139 chemical processes such as magmatic differentiation and crystallization. Analyses of both  
140 terrestrial and meteorite samples fell on the same trend with  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  (x-axis) vs  $\delta^{33}\text{S}$   
141 showing a slope of approximately 0.5 and  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  (x-axis) vs  $\delta^{36}\text{S}$  a slope of 1.9. These are  
142 the effects predicted theoretically for equilibrium or kinetic isotope fractionation during  
143 chemical reactions as the slopes correspond to the mass differences  $(^{33}\text{S} - ^{32}\text{S})/(^{34}\text{S} - ^{32}\text{S})$   
144  $= 1/2$  and  $(^{36}\text{S} - ^{32}\text{S})/(^{34}\text{S} - ^{32}\text{S}) = 2$ . Linear trends in co-varying isotope ratios such as  
145 those of Fig. 1 are, accordingly, termed mass-dependent fractionation (see reviews: Bao  
146 et al. 2016; Dauphas and Schauble, 2016). Mass-independent (or non-mass dependent)  
147 fractionation data in plots of  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  vs  $\delta^{33}\text{S}$  would define trends independent of the mass  
148 differences between isotopes. Hulston and Thode concluded that there was no evidence  
149 of sulfur isotope heterogeneities in solar system samples due to stellar nucleosynthesis.  
150 With improvements in analytical techniques since the work of Hulston and Thode,  
151 meteorites are now known to have anomalies in  $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$  ranging over 0.25‰ (where  $\Delta^{33}\text{S} =$   
152  $\delta^{33}\text{S} - 1000((\delta^{34}\text{S}/1000 + 1)^{0.515} - 1)$ , Labidi et al. 2017).

153

154 Subsequent research on terrestrial Archean rocks and minerals found large  
155 departures from the mass-dependent trends of Hulston and Thode (1965). Farquhar et al.  
156 (2000) analyzed sedimentary samples 2.5 billion years or older discovering both positive  
157 and negative deviations in  $^{33}\text{S}$  and  $^{36}\text{S}$  spanning some 10‰ in  $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$  ( $\Delta^{33}\text{S} =$   
158  $\delta^{33}\text{S} - 1000((\delta^{34}\text{S}/1000 + 1)^{0.515} - 1)$ ). Mass-independent fractionation of sulfur isotopes in  
159 ancient rocks is caused by photolysis of volcanic  $\text{SO}_2$  by solar UV photons. If oxygen had  
160 been present in the Archean atmosphere, the formation of ozone would have shielded  $\text{SO}_2$

9/29/17

Page 8 of 35

161 from photolysis. Mass-independent fractionation of sulfur isotopes demonstrates the  
162 presence of an oxygen-free atmosphere.

### 163 ***Magnesium***

164 Magnesium stable isotopes,  $^{24}\text{Mg}$  (79%),  $^{25}\text{Mg}$  (10%), and  $^{26}\text{Mg}$  (11%), measured  
165 in terrestrial samples resemble the behavior of oxygen isotopes. Values of  $\delta^{26}\text{Mg}$  (x-axis)  
166 plotted vs.  $\delta^{25}\text{Mg}$  lie along a linear trend with a slope of approximately 1/2, given by the  
167 ratio of mass differences  $(^{25}\text{Mg} - ^{24}\text{Mg}) / (^{26}\text{Mg} - ^{24}\text{Mg})$  (see review Teng, 2017).  
168 Magnesium isotopes in primitive meteorites do not follow a mass dependent trend,  
169 however. The short-lived radioactive isotope  $^{26}\text{Al}$  produced during supernovae and  
170 injected into the solar nebula decays to  $^{26}\text{Mg}$  with a half-life of  $7 \times 10^5$  years. The decay  
171 of  $^{26}\text{Al}$  leaves a residue of excess  $^{26}\text{Mg}$  in meteorites dating from the earliest history of  
172 the solar system provided that the ancient stones have not been processed by subsequent  
173 planetary events (see review Young and Galy, 2004).

174

### 175 ***Silicon***

176 Silicon has three stable isotopes,  $^{28}\text{Si}$  (92.2%),  $^{29}\text{Si}$  (4.7%), and  $^{30}\text{Si}$  (3.1%). Plots  
177 of  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$  (x-axis) vs.  $\delta^{29}\text{Si}$  analytical data for terrestrial samples define a linear array with  
178 slope approximately = 1/2 (see review, Poitrasson 2017). Analyses of both chondritic and  
179 achondritic meteorites show no deviations from the mass dependent linear fractionation  
180 trend of terrestrial samples (Pringle et al. 2013).

181

182

### 183 **Oxygen**

9/29/17

Page 9 of 35

184           Given the univariant behavior of oxygen isotope data in Fig. 1, it is not surprising  
185 that early geochemical research focused on measuring  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , alone. If  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  values follow  
186 the mass-dependent rule of Fig. 1, there is no need to measure the variable because its  
187 value can be calculated from an analysis for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , ie  $\delta^{17}\text{O} = 0.52 * \delta^{18}\text{O}$  (approximately).  
188 Neglecting  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  analysis became untenable, however, when large deviations in oxygen  
189 isotope compositions from the plot of fig. 1 were found in meteorites (Clayton et al.  
190 1973). The linear trend of terrestrial rocks and minerals shown in Fig. 1 was recognized  
191 at this time and adopted as the "TFL", the terrestrial fractionation line, to serve as a  
192 benchmark for reporting meteorite anomalies. The metric  $\Delta^{17}\text{O} = 0.52 * \delta^{17}\text{O} - \delta^{18}\text{O}$  was  
193 chosen for reporting deviations from the TFL. Positive values of  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$  identify samples  
194 plotting above the TFL, negative values those plotting below the TFL. Subsequent  
195 systematic surveys of meteorite samples found different petrographic classes of  
196 meteorites to plot along linear arrays as in Fig. 1 but offset from one another (Clayton  
197 and Mayeda, 1983). The eucrites, now associated with the asteroid 4 Vesta (Drake 1981),  
198 with negative  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ , traced a mass dependent trend 0.3 ‰ below the TFL (Figure 2B).  
199 Triple oxygen isotope analyses of shergottite, nakhlite, and chassignite meteorites, now  
200 known to have Mars as their parent body (Bogard et al. 1984), plotted 0.3 ‰ above the  
201 TFL. It was suggested by Clayton and Mayeda (1983) that each of the groups of  
202 meteorites whose  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  values plot on a mass-dependent fractionation line  
203 originated on separate planetary bodies and underwent magmatic differentiation on those  
204 bodies before being hurled into earth-crossing orbits by impacting meteorites. As many  
205 as 110 separate parent bodies are now known based on O-isotope analyses of meteorites

9/29/17

Page 10 of 35

206 (Greenwood et al. 2016). Oxygen isotopes in primitive meteorites unprocessed by  
207 planetary chemistry and in the solar wind are fractionated mass independently with plots  
208 of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vs  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  lying on a linear trend with slope of 1. The O-isotope heterogeneity of  
209 the solar system ranges over 250 ‰ in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and 100 ‰ in  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$  (McKeegan et al. 2011;  
210 Sakamoto et al. 2007). Oxygen's isotopic heterogeneity predates the oldest solid objects  
211 in the solar system, the calcium-aluminum inclusions of primitive meteorites. Mass  
212 independent fractionation in the solar nebula was caused by ultra-violet photodissociation  
213 of CO molecules in molecular clouds during ignition of the Sun (Lyons and Young,  
214 2005).

215

216 Mass-independent oxygen isotope anomalies are produced on Earth when  
217 atmospheric oxygen is photolyzed by solar UV photons. The resulting ozone is  
218 anomalously enriched in both  $^{17}\text{O}$  and  $^{18}\text{O}$  relative to  $^{16}\text{O}$  (Mauersberger et al. 2003;  
219 Thiemens 2006). Apart from its role in shielding Earth from UV radiation, ozone's  
220 isotopic anomalies are valued as tracers of interactions between the atmosphere and  
221 Earth's surface mineralogy. The  $^{17}\text{O}$  and  $^{18}\text{O}$  enrichments in ozone are transferred to  
222 sulfate, nitrate, and perchlorate anions by atmospheric reactions. These anomalies  
223 accumulate in aerosols, falling to the surface, where they react with wind-blown sea salt  
224 or calcite dust. The minerals so formed, anhydrite,  $\text{CaSO}_4$ , or soda niter,  $\text{NaNO}_3$ , are  
225 water soluble but persist in arid desert regions. The  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$  anomalies of these minerals are  
226 positive and range over ten's of per mil (Bao et al. 2000; Michalski et al. 2003). The  
227 atmospheric anomalies, although large in magnitude, do not effect Earth's bulk crust and  
228 mantle composition because they are ephemeral and easily diluted by rainfall.

9/29/17

Page 11 of 35

229 ***Comparison of O-, S-, Mg- and Si-isotopes***

230

231 Oxygen shares a characteristic feature with other rock-forming elements having 3  
232 or more isotopes: mass dependent fractionation. The isotopes of O, S, Mg, and Si in  
233 terrestrial rocks and minerals plot on linear trends following the predictions of Huston  
234 and Thode (1965) for isotope fractionation during equilibrium or kinetically controlled  
235 chemical processes such as magmatic differentiation, metamorphism, diagenesis, surface  
236 weathering, or the metabolism of living organisms. Oxygen and sulfur isotopes share a  
237 vulnerability to mass independent fractionation in Earth's atmosphere by reactions  
238 induced by solar UV photolysis (Bao et al. 2000; Farquhar et al. 2000). Magnesium  
239 isotopes in primitive meteorites show small enrichments in  $^{26}\text{Mg}$  owing to the decay of  
240 short-lived radioactive  $^{26}\text{Al}$  in the very early history of the solar system. The reservoirs  
241 sequestering these anomalies are of limited extent relative to Earth's crust and mantle.

242

243 Now let me return to Fig. 1 for it is the 4 billion-year-old terrestrial fractionation  
244 of oxygen isotopes that remains the focus of the present discussion. The foregoing  
245 comparisons demonstrate the prevalence of mass dependent fractionation in rock-forming  
246 elements that have three or more elements, at least in those that are not vulnerable to UV  
247 photodissociation. Planetary processes such as magmatic differentiation and  
248 crystallization are effective in driving isotope distributions towards equilibrium, mass  
249 dependent fractionations. Oxygen stands apart from S, Mg, and Si, however in the large  
250 range in its isotopic heterogeneity in the solar system. The solar system was  
251 homogeneous in Mg, Si and S isotopes prior to planetary accretion. It was heterogeneous

9/29/17

Page 12 of 35

252 in oxygen isotopes. If Earth were built up of accreting planetesimals with as wide a  
253 heterogeneity in O-isotopes as is presently measured in meteorites and if there had been  
254 no mixing process to homogenize the aggregate, a single linear trend as in Fig. 1 would  
255 not be observed. In its place, a plot of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vs.  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  would show a myriad of mutually  
256 parallel mass dependent fractionation lines each recording localized isotopic equilibration  
257 or domains failing to equilibrate retaining the primordial slope 1 line of the nebula. Fig.  
258 2a,b shows what Earth might have looked like at an early stage in its history, prior to  
259 homogenization.

260

261 The meteorite NWA 5232 records both early global melting on the eucrite parent  
262 body but also subsequent disruption by colliding carbonaceous chondrites. The meteorite  
263 consists of gray eucrite fragments decorated with exotic, angular clasts of black CM  
264 carbonaceous chondrites (Fig. 2A; van Dronghen et al. 2016). The black clasts are easily  
265 visible, up to several millimeters in diameter, and embedded in a groundmass of  
266 brecciated eucrite (Fig. 2A). The oxygen isotopic compositions of the CM chondrite  
267 clasts lie far below the TFL and scatter along a trend with a slope of approximately 1.0 on  
268 a  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vs.  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  plot (Fig. 2B). Spot analyses of eucritic breccia fragments plot along a  
269 mass dependent fractionation line with slope of approximately 0.52 located 0.26 ‰  
270 below the TFL (Fig. 2B). The distinction between the O-isotope relationships of a  
271 globally homogenized vs. a heterogeneous planetary body is clearly seen by comparing  
272 Figs. 1 and 2. Oxygen isotope compositions of NWA 5232 do not lie along a single mass  
273 dependent fractionation trend derived from a homogeneous parent body. Some 650 O-  
274 isotope analyses of Earth's rocks and minerals, in contrast, define a single line as is

9/29/17

Page 13 of 35

275 expected from the homogenization of a parent body by melting. Robert et al. (1992)  
276 concluded that Earth had become a well-mixed body by 3.5 billion years. Rumble et al.  
277 (2013) and Valley et al. (2014) measured mass dependent fractionation lines in Hadean  
278 and Archean rocks and argued that Earth experienced an episode of O-isotope  
279 homogenization caused by global melting prior to 4.35 billion years.

280

281 Readers should evaluate these conclusions by considering alternative views.  
282 Javoy et al (2010) have proposed that Earth was built up from parent bodies closely  
283 similar in O-isotopes to the present terrestrial composition. If their hypothesis is correct,  
284 no homogenization is required. Dauphas (2017) reviewed evidence for the accretion of  
285 Earth from enstatite chondrites and aubrites. Fitoussi et al. (2016) considered Earth to  
286 have been assembled from a mixture of meteorite types including chondrites as well as  
287 differentiated achondrites. The question of proto-Earth's heterogeneity or homogeneity  
288 remains open.

289

290 The most probable cause of Earth's oxygen isotope homogenization is global  
291 melting generated by a series of impacts during accretion, prior to 4.3 billion years. A  
292 giant, Moon-forming impact would have provided ample energy to melt both proto-Earth  
293 and its impactor (Cuk and Stewart, 2012; Canup, 2012). Convection in impact-generated  
294 silicate magmas combined with simultaneous isotope exchange between liquid and  
295 impact-generated vapor would mix and homogenize oxygen isotopes in a mere 1000  
296 years (Pahlevan and Stephenson, 2007).

297

9/29/17

Page 14 of 35

298           The third isotope of oxygen,  $^{17}\text{O}$ , long recognized by cosmochemists as an  
299 indispensable means of distinguishing between extraterrestrial parent bodies of meteorites,  
300 now plays an important role in understanding Earth's earliest history. The remarkable  
301 consistency of a linear trend in plots of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vs.  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  for Earth's rocks and minerals over  
302 most of Earth history (Fig. 1) is caused by (1) a tendency towards isotopic equilibration  
303 resulting in mass dependent fractionation; and (2) an episode of oxygen isotopic  
304 homogenization prior to 4.3 billion years. Measurements of  $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ , from rocks ranging  
305 in age from as old as 4.3 billion years to less than 1 million years, give permissive  
306 evidence of homogenization during a Hadean magma ocean.

307

### 308                                   **The Third Isotope of Oxygen and Photosynthesis**

309

310           The fossilization of plants creates fascinating mineralogy with faithful  
311 preservation of the forms of leaves and cell walls. Plant fossils from Jurassic blue-schist,  
312 lawsonite-bearing rocks of New Zealand offer worthy objects of study for mineralogists  
313 as evidence of ancient photosynthesis (Galvez et al. 2012). Fossil evidence of  
314 photosynthesis is rare, however in the ancient geological record. Deformation and  
315 metamorphism effectively erase plant fossils in older rocks.

316

317           Isotopic fossils, however, such as distinctive isotopic compositions diagnostic of  
318 photosynthesis, may afford a more durable record in ancient Earth. Biomarkers or  
319 isotopic proxies of photosynthesis must first be validated by study of modern processes  
320 before application in a search for the history of photosynthesis. Please bear in mind that

9/29/17

Page 15 of 35

321 every weathered sulfide mineral, every soil horizon, every plant, shell, bone, tooth, and  
322 fleshy part of the biosphere that interacted with the atmosphere contains oxygen produced  
323 by photosynthesis. Given the distinctive isotopic signatures discussed below, each  
324 weathering rind, each fossil carries a potential record of the evolution of photosynthesis.  
325 An important challenge for mineralogists is discerning the most favorable mineralogical  
326 archives in which geological atmospheric and biological history can be read. This  
327 centennial review is written in hopes of recruiting new colleagues in the search for  
328 geological records of "soft" processes poorly recorded in Earth's history. An inspiring  
329 example of what is needed is the discovery of anomalous fractionations of the four stable  
330 isotopes of sulfur isotope in Archean sulfide and sulfate minerals demonstrating Earth's  
331 ancient, oxygen-free atmosphere, (Farquhar et al. 2000). A record of ozone produced by  
332 photolysis of oxygen by ultraviolet light was found in the non-mass dependent  
333 fractionation of three oxygen isotopes in sulfate minerals as old as the Tertiary (Bao et al.  
334 2000). Searching the geological record for isotopic evidence of ephemeral atmospheric  
335 and biological processes, such as photosynthesis, will be amply repaid by gaining deeper  
336 insights into the history of life on Earth.

337

338       Plants produce oxygen from the water in which they grow by photosynthesis.  
339 Photosynthesis does not achieve oxygen isotope exchange equilibrium between substrate  
340 H<sub>2</sub>O and O<sub>2</sub>: The isotopic composition of photosynthetic O<sub>2</sub> approaches that of the H<sub>2</sub>O  
341 from which it is derived (Guy, Fogel, & Berry, 1983). Given that mid- to high-latitude  
342 meteoric water has a negative  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , photosynthesis produces O<sub>2</sub> depleted in  $^{16}\text{O}^{17}\text{O}$  and  
343  $^{16}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ . Plant respiration, preferentially consuming  $^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ , in contrast, enriches residual

9/29/17

Page 16 of 35

344 O<sub>2</sub> in <sup>16</sup>O<sup>17</sup>O and <sup>16</sup>O<sup>18</sup>O, reversing the photosynthetic trend. Successive measurements of  
345 oxygen isotope compositions in the atmosphere of a closed terrarium experiment show  
346 steady depletions in <sup>18</sup>O/<sup>16</sup>O as long as light is available to drive photosynthesis,  
347 approaching the <sup>18</sup>O/<sup>16</sup>O of substrate water. Once the lights are turned off, however,  
348 <sup>18</sup>O/<sup>16</sup>O ratios begin to rise in terrarium O<sub>2</sub> as it is consumed by dark respiration. The  
349 same effects are seen in <sup>17</sup>O/<sup>16</sup>O for analyses of oxygen in closed terrariums (Fig. 3,  
350 plotted from Luz & Barkan, 2005). The ramifications of these effects are profound.  
351 Atmospheric O<sub>2</sub> is not in isotopic exchange equilibrium with seawater, a condition  
352 termed the "Dole Effect", after its discoverer (Dole, 1952). The current steady state  
353 composition of the atmosphere, δ<sup>18</sup>O<sub>VSMOW</sub> = +23‰, is a balance between the tendency  
354 of photosynthesis to drag down its <sup>18</sup>O/<sup>16</sup>O towards that of meteoric or sea water vs.  
355 enrichment in <sup>18</sup>O/<sup>16</sup>O by both plant and animal respiration (Bender et al. 1994; Luz &  
356 Barkan, 2005; Young et al. 2015)

357

### 358 *Double-substituted Isotopologues and Photosynthesis*

359

360 The third isotope of oxygen, <sup>17</sup>O, substitutes not only in oxygen molecules like  
361 <sup>16</sup>O<sup>17</sup>O but also in the molecules <sup>17</sup>O<sup>17</sup>O and <sup>17</sup>O<sup>18</sup>O. The latter two molecules are termed  
362 "doubly-substituted" or "clumped" because two rare, heavy isotopes are present in each.  
363 The investigation of isotopically doubly-substituted molecules was pioneered by Eiler &  
364 Schauble (2004) and Wang, Schauble & Eiler (2004). These authors presented original  
365 data on the clumped isotopologue <sup>13</sup>C<sup>18</sup>O<sup>16</sup>O in the atmosphere. It was predicted that  
366 analysis of doubly-substituted isotopologues in gases, liquids, and solids would reveal

9/29/17

Page 17 of 35

367 distinctive fractionation patterns, both equilibrium and kinetic, with great potential for  
368 understanding processes in nature such as carbonate diagenesis, diffusion, gravitational  
369 settling, metabolism, and photochemistry. Their prediction has been borne out by a  
370 cornucopia of fascinating research results. In this brief review, research on  $^{17}\text{O}$   
371 substituted in  $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  (and also  $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ , lacking in  $^{17}\text{O}$ ) will be discussed, emphasizing the  
372 advantages of measuring two doubly-substituted isotopologues in the same gas species  
373 (Yeung et al. 2015; 2016)

374

375 The abundances of the doubly-substituted isotopologues,  $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  and  $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  in  $\text{O}_2$   
376 gas, are expressed as  $\Delta_{35}$  (in ‰) =  $[(^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O})_{\text{measured}}/(^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O})_{\text{stochastic}}]-$   
377  $1]*1000$ , and  $\Delta_{36}$  (in ‰) =  $[(^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O})_{\text{measured}}/(^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O})_{\text{stochastic}}]-1]*1000$   
378 (Yeung et al. 2012). Because  $^{17}\text{O}^{17}\text{O}$  is 10 times less abundant than  $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ , and  
379 correspondingly more difficult to measure, it will not be considered further. The ratios  
380  $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$  ( $^{35}\text{R}$ ) and  $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$  ( $^{36}\text{R}$ ) are measured in an unknown sample  
381 relative to a calibrated  $\text{O}_2$  reference gas as well as the single-substituted ratios  
382  $^{16}\text{O}^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$  ( $^{33}\text{R}$ ) and  $^{16}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$  ( $^{34}\text{R}$ ) using conventional reference-unknown-  
383 reference comparison in a dual inlet, multi-collector gas source mass spectrometer.  
384 Single-substituted ratios are used to estimate the bulk oxygen isotopic composition of  
385 each unknown from which its stochastic isotopologue distribution is calculated. The  
386 calculated stochastic  $^{35}\text{R}$  and  $^{36}\text{R}$  values are then used to calculate  $\Delta_{35}$  and  $\Delta_{36}$ . Note,  
387 especially, that the  $^{35}\text{R}_{\text{stochastic}}$  and  $^{36}\text{R}_{\text{stochastic}}$  values refer to the unknown, not to the  
388 reference gas.

389

9/29/17

Page 18 of 35

390 Please consider a comparison between analytical reporting conventions for single-  
391 substituted and doubly-substituted isotopologues. For  $^{16}\text{O}^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$  and  $^{16}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ ,  
392 data are reported as  $\delta^{17}\text{O}_{\text{VSMOW}}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{VSMOW}}$  in relation to the composition of an  
393 internationally recognized calibration of seawater, "VSMOW", ie "Vienna Standard  
394 Mean Ocean Water". For  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ , analytical data is reported in relation to the Terrestrial  
395 Fractionation Line, TFL (Fig. 1). The calibrated reference is distinct from the unknown  
396 under investigation. Doubly-substituted isotopologues  $\Delta_{35}$  and  $\Delta_{36}$ , however, are reported  
397 in relation to a self-referencing calibration, the stochastic distribution calculated uniquely  
398 for each bulk  $^{16}\text{O}$ - $^{17}\text{O}$ - $^{18}\text{O}$  composition of  $\text{O}_2$ . It is well to keep in mind that a quantitative  
399 enumeration of the distribution of isotopologues in a specific gas is necessarily self-  
400 referencing because each gas isotopic bulk composition has its own unique stochastic  
401 distribution. While the use of a calculated stochastic reference unique for each unknown  
402 sample as a benchmark for isotopic enrichments and depletions may be unfamiliar, the  
403 convention is also used to describe the distribution of  $^{16}\text{O}$ - $^{17}\text{O}$ - $^{18}\text{O}$  in ozone isotopologues  
404 (Mauersberger et al. 1999).

405

406 To gain deeper understanding of doubly-substituted isotopologues it is helpful to  
407 consider the ordering and disordering of stronger and weaker bonds between heavier and  
408 lighter isotopes in molecules. Readers of the *American Mineralogist* are familiar with  
409 order-disorder distributions of chemical elements on sites in crystalline phases. Cation  
410 exchange reactions between sites within minerals are analogous to isotope exchange  
411 reactions between gas molecules in that they are both driven by changes in temperature  
412 without necessarily changing bulk chemical or isotopic compositions. In crystals, heating

9/29/17

Page 19 of 35

413 to just below melting stimulates thermal vibrations of atoms and may lead to elemental  
414 exchange between crystallographically defined sites. An ordered low temperature  
415 distribution of atoms arranged on sites to minimize potential energy may give way to a  
416 random distribution upon heating. Consider the distribution of Al and Si on the  
417 tetrahedral sites of potassium feldspar. High temperature sanidine found in rhyolites has a  
418 randomized, stochastic distribution of Al and Si; its tetrahedral sites are indistinguishable  
419 chemically from one another. Orthoclase from granite of lower crystallization  
420 temperature, however, features non-stochastic Al/Si ratios ordered on distinct tetrahedral  
421 sites (Thompson, 1969, Fig. 3, p. 359). The comparison must not be carried too far: for  
422 potassium feldspar, the energy associated with ordering includes elastic contributions  
423 from substituting the larger Al for Si (e.g. Carpenter 2000) as well as the avoidance of Al  
424 substitution in adjacent tetrahedra (Lowenstein 1954). There are no such constraints in  
425 isotope exchange reactions between gas molecules because different isotopes of the same  
426 element have the same size and same configuration of electrons. The order-disorder  
427 behavior of isotopes is therefore expected to follow the Bragg-Williams model (Bragg  
428 and Williams, 1934) for order-disorder in alloys that only considers the energetic  
429 contributions of nearest-neighbor interactions and does not include the long-range effects  
430 found in minerals such as feldspars.

431

432 Order-disorder in oxygen gas is controlled by the increasing bond strength of the  
433 six isotopologues, in order  $^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ ,  $^{16}\text{O}^{17}\text{O}$ ,  $^{16}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $^{17}\text{O}^{17}\text{O}$ ,  $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ , and  $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ , from  
434 weakest to strongest bonding. Isotopic exchange between isotopologues minimizes the  
435 potential energy of the molecular aggregate. The distribution for a given bulk  $^{16}\text{O}$ - $^{17}\text{O}$ -

9/29/17

Page 20 of 35

436  $^{18}\text{O}$  composition is determined by temperature or, in the event equilibrium is not achieved,  
437 by reaction kinetics. An additional factor in determining the abundances of doubly-  
438 substituted isotopologues has been found: the nature of the reservoir or reservoirs from  
439 which isotopes are drawn to form molecules. Combinatorial statistics may have a strong  
440 effect on isotopically-substituted molecules (Yeung et al. 2015; Yeung 2016; Rockmann  
441 et al. 2016). An example of combinatorial effects in photosynthetic  $\text{O}_2$  is given below.

442

443 A calculated equilibrium curve for  $\Delta_{35}$  vs.  $\Delta_{36}$  in  $\text{O}_2$  gas, contoured in  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , shows  
444  $\Delta_i$  values decreasing with increasing temperature to a value of zero, fully stochastic, at  
445  $1000^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Fig. 4, heavy black line with T  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  labels; after Wang et al. 2004). The  
446 temperature dependence comes about because the ordered distribution of doubly-  
447 substituted molecule at low temperature achieved by substituting heavier isotopes is  
448 gradually overtaken by thermal agitation as  $\text{O}_2$  gas is heated. Values of  $\Delta_{35}$  and  $\Delta_{36}$  are  
449 independent of pressure because the molecular volumes of the oxygen isotopologues are  
450 closely similar. Gases of any bulk composition in  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  follow the same curve  
451 because the stochastic reference frame is always calculated in respect to the bulk  
452 composition of each gas sample. Every unknown gas is referred to itself, to its own  
453 stochastic isotopologue distribution, when calculating  $\Delta_{35}$  and  $\Delta_{36}$ . The quantities  $\Delta_{35}$  and  
454  $\Delta_{36}$  are thus quite advantageous in their potential for gas phase thermometry: they are  
455 "universally" applicable to all  $\text{O}_2$  samples provided the bulk  $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$  and  $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$  ratios of  
456 a gas sample remain unchanged throughout the sample's thermal history. This same  
457 advantage, however gives rise to a vulnerability in that any process that changes the bulk  
458 composition of a gas, with or without changing the number and distribution of its

9/29/17

Page 21 of 35

459 clumped isotopologues, will change the calculated stochastic distribution and,  
460 consequently, change  $\Delta_{35}$  or  $\Delta_{36}$ . Consider the mixing at room temperature of two O<sub>2</sub>  
461 gases differing in bulk composition and having equilibrated at different temperatures.  
462 Isotope exchange reactions are sluggish at room temperature so mixing the two gases  
463 produces a gas with the same number and distribution of clumped isotopologues, but with  
464 a different bulk composition. The sample's calculated values of  $^{35}R_{\text{stochastic}}$  and  
465  $^{36}R_{\text{stochastic}}$  will be changed and  $\Delta_{35}$  and  $\Delta_{36}$  will be altered. The resulting mixture will no  
466 longer provide accurate geothermometry as signaled by its failure to plot on the  
467 equilibrium curve of Fig. 4 (cf. Young et al. 2016, Fig. 12, p. 9).

468

469 The geothermometric potential of measuring O<sub>2</sub> isotopologues suggests  
470 applications in atmospheric chemical and physical investigations. To fully exploit these  
471 research opportunities, however, requires experimental verification that isotopic  
472 exchange equilibria has been achieved between O<sub>2</sub> isotopologues. Measuring two doubly-  
473 substituted isotopologues from the same gas sample provides a two-stage verification of  
474 equilibration. If one of the isotopologues were prevented from equilibrating by an  
475 irreversible reaction in the experiment, then  $\Delta_{35}$  and  $\Delta_{36}$  would no longer plot on the  
476 equilibrium curve. Laboratory investigations of isotope exchange reactions in O<sub>2</sub> gas  
477 during electrolysis with a Tesla coil and photolysis with ultraviolet irradiation shows that  
478 catalysis by O(<sup>3</sup>P) + O<sub>2</sub> isotope exchange tends towards equilibration at controlled  
479 temperatures (Fig. 5; Yeung et al. 2016; Yeung et al. 2014; Yeung and Young 2012).  
480 Analysis of atmospheric O<sub>2</sub> demonstrates persistent values of  $\Delta_{36} = 1.96 \pm 0.07 \text{ ‰}$  and  
481  $\Delta_{35} = 1.0 \pm 1.0 \text{ ‰}$  lying on the equilibrium curve (Fig. 5; Yeung et al. 2016).

9/29/17

Page 22 of 35

482

483           Photosynthesis, in contrast to the isotope equilibrium of atmospheric reactions  
484 catalyzed by  $O(^3P) + O_2$ , does not achieve isotopic equilibrium, neither in single-  
485 substituted nor in doubly-substituted isotopologues (compare Fig. 5; Fig. 6). Oxygen  
486 produced by photosynthesis in the light departs increasingly from equilibrium  
487 distributions of  $^{17}O^{18}O$  and  $^{18}O^{18}O$ . Over the course of a year's time, abundances of  
488 doubly-substituted molecules decrease continually towards stochastic values, in some  
489 cases reaching negative, "anti-clumping", values (Fig. 6). In contrast, abundances of  
490  $^{17}O^{18}O$  and  $^{18}O^{18}O$  in residual  $O_2$  increase during plant respiration, returning towards  
491 equilibrium, in a dark, closed terrarium.

492

493           Please take a second look at Figure 6. That a closed photosynthetic system  
494 operating at room temperature produces oxygen with  $\Delta_{35}$  and  $\Delta_{36}$  distributions surpassing  
495 those of equilibrium at 1000 °C is quite surprising. How is such an anomalous result to be  
496 explained? It is known that plants take up substrate water, split two  $H_2O$  molecules to  
497 obtain  $4H^+$  for their metabolism, and discard unwanted oxygen as  $O_2$ . The protein  
498 Photosystem II is responsible for converting  $H_2O$  to hydrogen ions and  $O_2$ . Suppose the  
499 two waters split by Photosystem II do not have equal  $^{18}O/^{16}O$  and  $^{17}O/^{16}O$ . The  
500 combinatorial formulas used in calculating stochastic distributions customarily assume  
501 that  $^{16}O$ ,  $^{17}O$ , and  $^{18}O$  isotopes are drawn randomly from a homogeneous reservoir of  
502 oxygen isotopes. Yeung et al. (2015) realized, however, that drawing isotopes randomly  
503 from two reservoirs, that is, two  $H_2O$  sites, differing in  $^{17}O/^{16}O$  and  $^{18}O/^{16}O$ , requires a  
504 different combinatorial formula. Using a corrected formula gives negative values for  $\Delta_{35}$

9/29/17

Page 23 of 35

505 and  $\Delta_{36}$  like those measured:  $\Delta_{36}$  (photosynthesis) =  $\{[\alpha_A\alpha_B/0.25(\alpha_A+\alpha_B)^2]-1\}$ , where  $\alpha_A$   
506 and  $\alpha_B$  denote two separate water reservoirs, A and B with  $\alpha_A = [({}^{18}\text{O}/{}^{16}\text{O}_{\text{bound}}$   
507  $\text{water})/({}^{18}\text{O}/{}^{16}\text{O}_{\text{substrate water}})]$  not equal to  $\alpha_B$  (Yeung 2016; Roeckmann et al. 2016).

508

509 The results on photosynthesis are important because they suggest the atomic  
510 structure of Photosystem II, the enzyme responsible for  $\text{O}_2$  production, may directly  
511 control the isotopic composition of photosynthetic oxygen. The two water sites may only  
512 have different  ${}^{18}\text{O}/{}^{16}\text{O}$  if their atomic coordination environments are different. If all the  
513 water molecules are coordinated to identical atomic nearest neighbors there would be no  
514 energetic advantage in substituting more or less  ${}^{18}\text{O}$ . If, however, waters are coordinated  
515 differently, it would be possible, in principle, to stabilize Photosystem II by substituting  
516 different  ${}^{18}\text{O}/{}^{16}\text{O}$  in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  sites (Fig. 7). Femtosecond x-ray diffraction of the oxygen  
517 evolving complex (OEC) embedded in Photosystem II shows four  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  molecules, two  
518 (W1 & W2) coordinated to Mn (Mn4A) and two (W3 & W4) coordinated to Ca atoms  
519 (Fig.7; Suga et al. 2015 Fig. 1d, p. 100). Each pair of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  sites is coordinated to  
520 different cations, Ca and Mn. The coordination of pairs of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  molecules to different  
521 cations satisfies the requirement for each pair to have different  ${}^{18}\text{O}/{}^{16}\text{O}$ . The hypothesis of  
522 Yeung et al. (2015) on the existence of at least two different  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  reservoirs in  
523 Photosystem II is thus confirmed.

524

525 I dare say that I'm not the only person to be shocked at the precise and delicate  
526 control exerted by atom scale enzymatic catalysis on the doubly-substituted isotope  
527 distributions of  $\text{O}_2$  produced by photosynthesis. The OEC, a miniscule but powerful

9/29/17

Page 24 of 35

528 cluster of 5 cations, 5 oxygens and 4 waters is embedded in a protein weighing in at 7  
529 kilodaltons! And consider this: if only one of the two isotopologues,  $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  or  $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ ,  
530 had been measured, the correspondence between atomic structure and isotope effects  
531 would not have been established definitively.

532

533 **In Defense of the Determination of Molecular & Crystal Structures in**  
534 **Understanding Isotope Fractionations**

535

536 The first paragraph of this review was written to pique the interest of readers of  
537 the *American Mineralogist*, if not to provoke them. There, crystal structural analysis of  
538 oxygen in minerals was discounted to shift attention to the third isotope of oxygen. But, if  
539 you have read this far, you will be gratified to have learned that determining the positions  
540 of oxygen atoms in molecular structures plays a definitive role in understanding the  
541 mechanisms of the photosynthetic production of oxygen with its irreversible isotope  
542 fractionation effects described above.

543

544 **The Value of the Third Isotope of Oxygen**

545

546 Oxygen-17, the third isotope of the third element, more than repays in information  
547 gained the effort expended in its measurement. Measurement of the ratios  $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$  and  
548  $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$  distinguishes initial compositions from fractionation effects, revealing mass-  
549 dependent fractionation. Analyses of  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  in rocks spanning almost the entire  
550 history of Earth reveal that the silicate portion of the crust and accessible mantle were

9/29/17

Page 25 of 35

551 derived from a reservoir that was homogeneous in its oxygen isotope composition prior  
552 to 4.3 Ga.

553

554 The measurement of clumped isotopologues provides additional parameters useful  
555 in understanding isotopic exchange equilibrium, reaction mechanisms, and kinetics. The  
556 third isotope,  $^{17}\text{O}$ , plays an essential role in providing a measurable clumped molecule,  
557  $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ , to accompany analysis for the more abundant  $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ . It is quite important to  
558 recognize that measuring two (or more) clumped isotopologues in the same gas species  
559 serves two purposes: (1) Data on two isotopologues furnishes a criterion for validating  
560 estimates of temperature of formation of gas samples by direct observation of whether or  
561 not isotope exchange equilibrium is achieved. (2) The same data provide an isotopic  
562 fingerprint of the kinetic isotope effects expressed during the operation of irreversible  
563 reactions or processes.

564

565

### **Future Perspectives**

566

567 Structural analysis of minerals by x-ray diffraction is a notable triumph for the  
568 mineralogical community. Our cousins in the structural biology community are  
569 crystallizing proteins to achieve diffraction with femtosecond bursts of X-rays from free  
570 electron lasers too brief to destroy delicate organic crystals. Isotope geochemists for the  
571 first time are able to measure the subtle effects recorded by doubly-substituted  
572 isotopologues. It may seem improbable that these subtle effects are archived over  
573 geological time. I would like to encourage a partnership in the search for durable isotopic

9/29/17

Page 26 of 35

574 fingerprints of atmospheric and biological processes poorly preserved in the geologic  
575 record. Mineralogists and petrologists, isotope geochemists, biogeochemists, structural  
576 biologists and biochemists, all have talents needed to understand the geological history of  
577 photosynthesis.

578

579

### **Acknowledgements**

580

581 I would like to thank George Cody, Acting Director of the Geophysical  
582 Laboratory, for support in writing this article. Jesse Ausebel, Robert Hazen and Craig  
583 Schiffries of the Deep Carbon Observatory, David Lambert (NSF), Nick Woodward  
584 (DOE), and J. A. Rudnick (UCLA) provided critical funding for building Panorama, a  
585 high-resolution mass spectrometer for the measurement of clumped isotopologues. P. A.  
586 Freedman, M. Mills, D. Rousell, and P. Li, Nu Instruments Ltd., designed, built, installed,  
587 and support Panorama. I am especially grateful to Weifu Guo, WHOI, who gave  
588 excellent lessons in clumped isotope geochemistry during his post-doctoral tenure at the  
589 Geophysical Laboratory. Colleagues Xiahong Feng and Mukul Sharma in the Department  
590 of Earth Sciences, Dartmouth College, provided excellent discussions and exceptional  
591 facilities for the writing of this article. R. J. Angel provided essential advice on  
592 comparing bond ordering in gas molecules to cation ordering in aluminosilicate minerals.  
593 Thanks to John B. Brady, John M. Ferry, Weifu Guo, and Dan Hummer who reviewed  
594 the article informally. The text was improved by the editorial comments of J. Farquhar  
595 and F. Zhen.

596

9/29/17

Page 27 of 35

597

598

## References

599

600 Bao, H., Thiemens, M., Farquhar, J., Campbell, D., Lee, C., Heine, K., and Loope, D.

601 (2000) Anomalous  $^{17}\text{O}$  compositions in massive sulphate deposits on the Earth,

602 Nature, 406, 176-178.

603 Bao, H., Cao, X., and Hayles, J. A. (2016) Triple Oxygen Isotopes: Fundamental

604 Relationships and Applications, Annual Reviews Earth Planetary Science, 44,

605 463-492.

606 Bender, M., Aowers, T., and Labeyrie, L. (1994) The Dole effect and its variations during

607 the last 130,000 years as measured in the Vostok ice core: Global Biogeochemical

608 Cycles, 8, 363-376.

609 Bogard, D., Nyquist, L. E., and Johnson, P. (1984) Noble gas contents of shergottites and

610 implications for the Martian origin of SNC meteorites, Geochimica

611 Cosmochimica Acta, 48, 1723-1739.

612 Bragg, W. L., and Williams, E. J. (1934) The effect of thermal agitation on atomic

613 arrangement in alloys., Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series A,

614 145, 699-730.

615 Canup, R. M. (2012) Forming a Moon with an Earth-like Composition via a Giant Impact,

616 Science, 338, 1052-1055.

617 Carpenter, M. (2000) Strain and elasticity at structural phase transitions in minerals:

618 Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry, 39, 35-64.

619 Clayton, R., Grossman, L., and Mayeda, T. (1973) A component of primitive nuclear

9/29/17

Page 28 of 35

- 620 composition in carbonaceous meteorites, *Science*, 182, 485-488.
- 621 Clayton, R., and Mayeda, T. (1983) Oxygen isotopes in eucrites, shergottites, nakhlites,  
622 and chassignites: *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 62, 1-6.
- 623 Cuk, M., and Stewart, S. T. (2012) Making the Moon from a Fast-Spinning Earth: A  
624 Giant Impact Followed by Resonant Despinning, *Science*, 338, 1047-1052.
- 625 Dauphas, N., and Schauble, E. A. (2016) Mass Fractionation Laws, Mass-Independent  
626 Effects, and Isotopic Anomalies, *Annual Reviews Earth Planetary Science*, 44,  
627 709-783.
- 628 Dauphas, N. (2017) The isotopic nature of the Earth's accreting material through time,  
629 *Nature*, 541, 521-524.
- 630 Dole, M. (1952) The Chemistry of the Isotopes of Oxygen, *Chemical Reviews*, 51, 263-  
631 300.
- 632 Drake, M. J. (2001) The eucrite/Vesta story, *Meteoritics and Planetary Science*, 36, 501-  
633 513.
- 634 Eiler, J., and Schauble, E. (2004) (OCO)-O-18-C-13-O-16 in Earth's atmosphere:  
635 *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 68, 4767-4777.
- 636 Farquhar, J., Bao, H., and Thiemens, M. (2000) Atmospheric Influence of Earth's Earliest  
637 Sulfur Cycle *Science*, 289, 756-758.
- 638 Fitoussi, C., Bourdon, B., and Wang, X., 2016, The building blocks of Earth and Mars: A  
639 close genetic link, *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 434, 51-160.
- 640
- 641 Galvez, M. E., Beyssac, O., Benzerara, K., Bernard, S., Menguy, N., Cox, S. C., Martinez,  
642 I., Johnston, M. R., and Brown, G. E. (2012) Morphological preservation of

9/29/17

Page 29 of 35

- 643 carbonaceous plant fossils in blueschist metamorphic rocks from New Zealand,  
644 *Geobiology*, 10, 118-129.
- 645 Greenwood, R., Franchi, I., Jambon, A., and Buchanan, P. (2005) Widespread magma  
646 oceans on asteroidal bodies in the early Solar System: *Nature*, 435, 916-918.
- 647 Greenwood, R. C., Burbine, T. H., Miller, M. F., and Franchi, I. A. (2017) Melting and  
648 differentiation of early-formed asteroids: The perspective from high precision  
649 oxygen isotope studies, *Chemie der Erde - Geochemistry*, 77, 1-43.
- 650 Guy, R., Fogel, M., and Berry, J. (1993) Photosynthetic fractionation of the stable  
651 isotopes of oxygen and carbon: *Plant Physiology*, 101, 37-47.
- 652 Hulston, J., and Thode, H. (1965) Variations in the S33, S34, and S36 contents of  
653 meteorites and their relation to chemical and nuclear effects, *Journal of*  
654 *Geophysical Research*, 70, 3475-3484.
- 655 Javoy, M., Kaminski, E., Guyot, F., Andraut, D., Sanloup, C., Moreira, M., Labrosse, S.,  
656 Jambon, A., Agrinier, P., Davaille, A., and Jaupart, C. (2010) The chemical  
657 composition of the Earth: Enstatite chondrite models, *Earth and Planetary Science*  
658 *Letters*, 293, 259-268.
- 659 Labidi, J., Farquhar, J., Alexander, C. M. O. D., Eldridge, D. L., and Oduro, H. (2017)  
660 Mass independent sulfur isotope signatures in CMs: Implications for sulfur  
661 chemistry in the early solar system, *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 196, 326-  
662 350.
- 663 Lowenstein, W. (1954) The distribution of aluminum in the tetrahedra of silicates and  
664 aluminates: *American Mineralogist*, 39, 92-96.
- 665 Luz, B., and Barkan, E. (2005) The isotopic ratios O-17/O-16 and O-18/O-16 in

9/29/17

Page 30 of 35

- 666           molecular oxygen and their significance in biogeochemistry: *Geochimica et*  
667           *Cosmochimica Acta*, 69, 1099-1110.
- 668 Lyons, J., and Young, E. (2005) CO self-shielding as the origin of oxygen isotope  
669           anomalies in the early solar nebula: *Nature*, 435, 317-320.
- 670 Masago, H., Rumble, D., Ernst, W., Parkinson, C., and Maruyama, S. (2003) Low delta  
671           O-18 eclogites from the Kokchetav massif, northern Kazakhstan: *Journal of*  
672           *Metamorphic Geology*, 21, 579-587.
- 673 Mauersberger, K. (1999) Ozone Isotope Enrichment: Isotopomer-Specific Rate  
674           Coefficients, *Science*, 283, 370-372.
- 675 Mauersberger, K., Krankowsky, D., and Janssen, C. (2003) Oxygen isotope processes  
676           and transfer reactions, *Space Science Reviews*, 106, 265-279.
- 677 McKeegan, K. D., Kallio, A. P. A., Heber, V. S., Jarzebinski, G., Mao, P. H., Coath, C.  
678           D., Kunihiro, T., Wiens, R. C., Nordholt, J. E., Moses, R. W., Reisenfeld, D. B.,  
679           Jurewicz, A. J. G., and Burnett, D. S. (2011) The Oxygen Isotopic Composition of  
680           the Sun Inferred from Captured Solar Wind, *Science*, 332, 1528-1532.
- 681 Michalski, G., Scott, Z., Kabling, M., and Thiemens, M. (2003) First measurements and  
682           modeling of Delta O-17 in atmospheric nitrate: *Geophysical Research Letters*, 30,  
683           1870.
- 684 Pahlevan, K., and Stevenson, D. J. (2007) Equilibration in the aftermath of the lunar-  
685           forming giant impact: *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 262, 438-449.
- 686 Poitrasson, F. (2017) Silicon Isotope Geochemistry, *Reviews in Mineralogy &*  
687           *Geochemistry*, 82, 289-344.
- 688 Pringle, E. A., Savage, P. S., Jackson, M. G., Barrat, J.-A., and Moynier, F. (2013) Si

9/29/17

Page 31 of 35

- 689 isotope homogeneity of the solar nebula, *Astrophysical Journal*, 779, 123-127.
- 690 Robert, F., Rejouchichel, A., and Javoy, M. (1992) Oxygen isotopic homogeneity of the  
691 Earth - new evidence: *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 108, 1-9.
- 692 Rumble, D., and Yui, T. (1998) The Qinglongshan oxygen and hydrogen isotope  
693 anomaly near Donghai in Jiangsu Province, China: *Geochimica et Cosmochimica*  
694 *Acta*, 62, 3307-3321.
- 695 Rumble, D., Bowring, S., Iizuka, T., Komiya, T., Lepland, A., Rosing, M. T., and Ueno,  
696 Y. (2013) The oxygen isotope composition of earth's oldest rocks and evidence of  
697 a terrestrial magma ocean, *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, 14, 1929-  
698 1939.
- 699 Sakamoto, N., Seto, Y., Itoh, S., Kuramoto, K., Fujino, K., Nagashima, K., Krot, A. N.,  
700 and Yurimoto, H. (2007) Remnants of the early solar system water enriched in  
701 heavy oxygen isotopes: *Science*, 317, 231-233.
- 702 Schauble, E. (2004) Applying stable isotope fractionation theory to new systems:  
703 *Reviews of Mineral Geochemistry*, 55, 65-111.
- 704 Starkey, N. A., Jackson, C. R. M., Greenwood, R. C., Parman, S., Franchi, I. A., Jackson,  
705 M., Fitton, J. G., Stuart, F. M., Kurz, M., and Larsen, L. M. (2016) Triple oxygen  
706 isotopic composition of the high- $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$  mantle, *Geochimica et Cosmochimica*  
707 *Acta*, 176, 227-238.
- 708 Suga, M., Akita, F., Hirata, K., Ueno, G., Murakami, H., Nakajima, Y., Shimizu, T.,  
709 Yamashita, K., Yamamoto, M., Ago, H., and Shen, J.-R. (2015) Native structure  
710 of photosystem II at 1.95 Å resolution viewed by femtosecond X-ray pulses,  
711 *Nature*, 517, 99-103.

9/29/17

Page 32 of 35

- 712 Teng, F.-Z. (2017) Magnesium Isotope Geochemistry, *Reviews in Mineralogy and*  
713 *Geochemistry*, 82, 219-287.
- 714 Thiemens, M. H. (2006) History and applications of mass-independent isotope effects,  
715 *Annual Reviews of Earth and Planetary Sciences*, 34, 217-262.
- 716 Thompson jr., J. B. (1969) Chemical Reactions in Crystals, *American Mineralogist*, 54,  
717 341-375.
- 718 Valley, J. W., Cavosie, A. J., Ushikubo, T., Reinhard, D. A., Lawrence, D. F., Larson, D.  
719 J., Clifton, P. H., Kelly, T. F., Wilde, S. A., Moser, D. E., and Spicuzza, M. J.  
720 (2014) Hadean age for a post-magma-ocean zircon confirmed by atom-probe  
721 tomography, *Nature Geoscience*, 7, 219-223.
- 722 Van Drongelen, K. D., Rumble, D., and Tait, K. T. (2016) Petrology and oxygen isotopic  
723 compositions of clasts in HED polymict breccia NWA 5232, *Meteoritics and*  
724 *Planetary Science*, 1-17.
- 725 Wang, Z., Schauble, E., and Eiler, J. (2004) Equilibrium thermodynamics of multiply  
726 substituted isotopologues of molecular gases: *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*,  
727 68, 4779-4797.
- 728 Yeung, L. Y., Young, E. D., and Schauble, E. A. (2012) Measurements of  $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  and  
729  $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  in the atmosphere and the role of isotope-exchange reactions, *Journal of*  
730 *Geophysical Research*, 117, D18306.
- 731 Yeung, L. Y., Ash, J. L., and Young, E. D. (2015) Biological signatures in clumped  
732 isotopes of  $\text{O}_2$ , *Science*, 348, 431-434.
- 733 Yeung, L. Y., Ash, J. L., and Young, E. D. (2014) Rapid photochemical equilibration of  
734 isotope bond ordering in  $\text{O}_2$ , *Journal of Geophysical Research*, 119, 10552-10566.

9/29/17

Page 33 of 35

- 735 Yeung, L. Y., Murray, L. T., Ash, J. L., Young, E. D., Boering, K. A., Atlas, E. L.,  
736 Schaufli, S. M., Lueb, R. A., Langenfelds, R. L., Krummel, P. B., Steele, L. P.,  
737 and Eastham, S. D. (2016) Isotopic ordering in atmospheric O<sub>2</sub> as a tracer of  
738 ozone photochemistry and the tropical atmosphere, *Journal of Geophysical*  
739 *Research: Atmospheres*, 121, 1-19.
- 740 Young, E. D., Yeung, L. Y., and Kohl, I. E. (2014) On the 17O budget of atmospheric O<sub>2</sub>,  
741 *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 135, 102-125.
- 742 Young, E., and Galy, A., (2004) The isotope geochemistry and cosmochemistry of  
743 magnesium: *Reviews of Mineralogy and Geochemistry*, 55, 197-230.
- 744 Young, E., Galy, A., and Nagahara, H. (2002) Kinetic and equilibrium mass-dependent  
745 isotope fractionation laws in nature and their geochemical and cosmochemical  
746 significance: *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 66, 1095-1104.
- 747 Young, E., Rumble, D., Freedman, P., and Mills, M. (2016) A large-radius high-mass-  
748 resolution multiple-collector isotope ratio mass spectrometer for analysis of rare  
749 isotopologues of O<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and other gases, *International Journal of Mass*  
750 *Spectrometry*, 401, 1-10.
- 751
- 752
- 753
- 754
- 755

9/29/17

Page 34 of 35

756

### Figure Captions

757 **Figure 1:** Plot of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vs.  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  showing Terrestrial Mass Fractionation Line (TFL) with  
758 VSMOW as reference. The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vs.  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  values of planetary bodies such as Mars and 4 Vesta lie  
759 on mass fractionation lines parallel to the TFL but offset above it (Mars) or below (4 Vesta, see  
760 Figure 2B). Data: <sup>1</sup>Rumble & Yui, 1998; <sup>2</sup>Masago et al. 2003; <sup>3</sup>Rumble et al. 2013; <sup>4</sup>Valley et al.  
761 2014; <sup>5</sup>Starkey et al. 2016. Uncertainties in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  &  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  are approximately 0.1 ‰, smaller than  
762 the plot symbols.

763

764 **Figure 2:** (A - left): Photograph of cut slab of meteorite NWA 5232 with  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$  values of  
765 spot analyses of CM chondrite clasts (black) and eucrite breccia fragments (gray) (van Drongelen  
766 et al. 2016). (B - right)  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vs  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  plot of analyses of NWA 5232. The heavy black line is the  
767 TFL of Figure 1. Compare scattered distribution of data to linear array of Fig. 1. Uncertainties in  
768  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  &  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  are approximately 0.1 ‰ and in  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ , 0.05 ‰.

769

770 **Figure 3:** Plot of variations in  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , and  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$  vs. time in atmosphere of closed  
771 terrarium containing living *Philodendron*, soil, micro-organisms, and water. Note  
772 distinctive variations in  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  in the light and in the dark (data replotted from  
773 Luz and Barkan, 2005).

774

775 **Figure 4:** Plot of equilibrium curve for  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  ( $\Delta_{33}$ ) vs  $\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  ( $\Delta_{36}$ ) contoured in T °C (after  
776 Wang et al. 2004). The two isotopologues are assumed to coexist in isotope exchange equilibrium  
777 in the same sample of O<sub>2</sub> gas.

778

9/29/17

Page 35 of 35

779 **Figure 5:** Plot of  $\Delta_{35}$  ( $=\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ ) vs.  $\Delta_{36}$  ( $=\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ ) for samples of  $\text{O}_2$  gas subjected to  
780 photolysis and  $\text{O}(^3\text{P}) + \text{O}_2$  catalysis. The plotted results demonstrate a tendency towards isotope  
781 exchange equilibrium (Yeung et al. 2016). Uncertainties are 0.07‰ for  $\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  and 0.1‰ for  
782  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ .

783

784 **Figure 6:** Plot of  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  vs  $\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  for oxygen produced during photosynthesis in the light and  
785 residual  $\text{O}_2$  remaining after plant respiration in the dark (Yeung et al. 2015, supplementary). The  
786 values of  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  vs  $\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  decrease as long as photosynthesis in the light continues. Once the  
787 light is extinguished, residual oxygen increases in  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  vs  $\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ . Equilibrium curve  
788 contoured in T °C (Wang et al. 2004). Uncertainties are 0.17‰ for  $\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  and 0.3‰ for  
789  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ .

790

791 **Figure 7:** Perspective drawing of the Oxygen Evolving Complex (OEC) embedded in the protein  
792 Photosystem II. The OEC consists of 1 Ca, 4 Mn, 5 O atoms and 4  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  molecules. The Ca atom  
793 and 3 of the four Mn lie at opposite corners of a distorted cube, separated by oxygens O1, O2, and  
794 O3. A fourth Mn (Mn4A) dangles to one side of the cuboid coordinated to it by oxygens O4 and  
795 O5. Two  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , W1 and W2, are coordinated to the dangling Mn and two to Ca, W3 and W4.  
796 (Fig. 1d copied from Suga et al. 2015)

797

9/29/17

Page 36 of 35

798

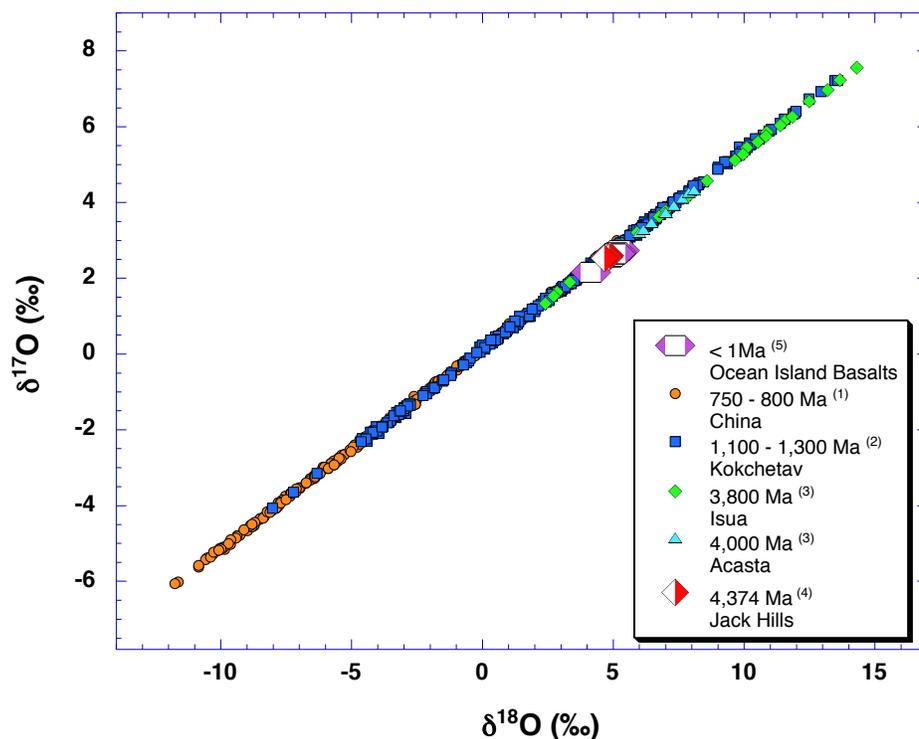
## Figures

799

800

801

### A 4.3-billion-year record of O-isotope fractionation on Earth



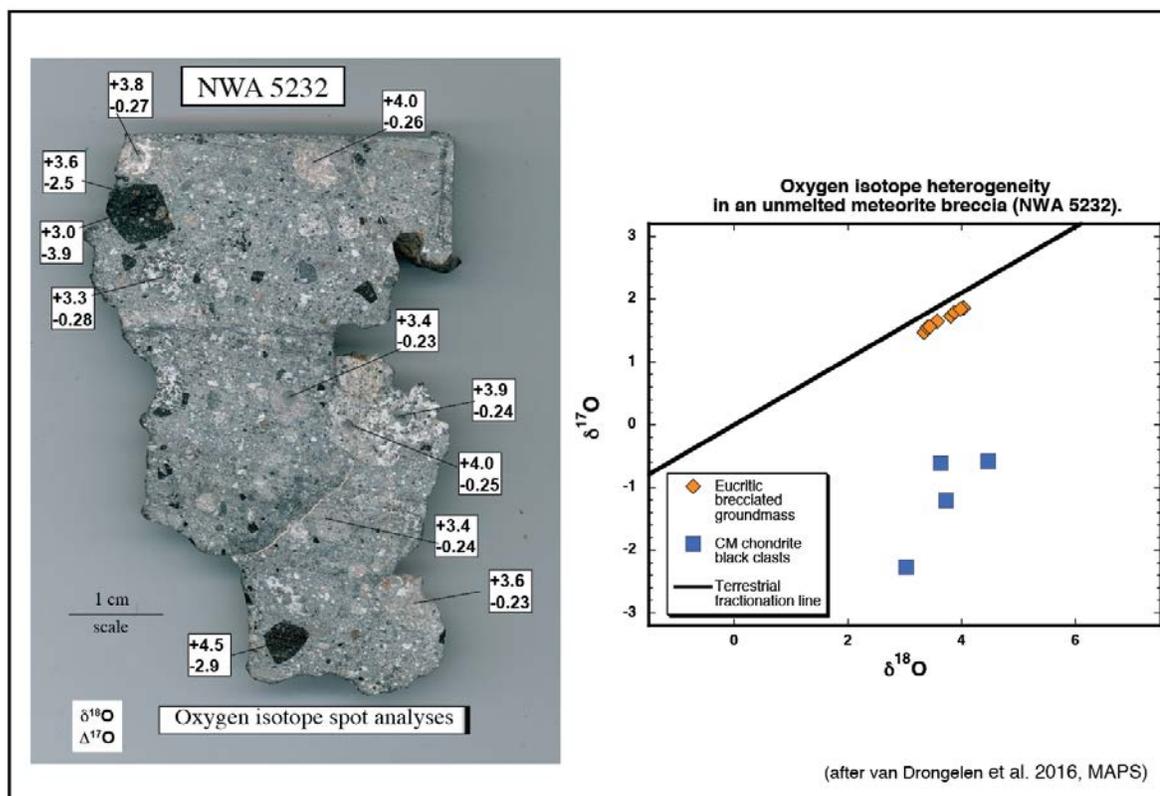
802

803 **Figure 1:** Plot of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vs.  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  showing Terrestrial Mass Fractionation Line (TFL) with  
804 VSMOW as reference. The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vs.  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  values of planetary bodies such as Mars and 4 Vesta lie  
805 on mass fractionation lines parallel to the TFL but offset above it (Mars) or below (4 Vesta, see  
806 Figure 2B). Data: <sup>1</sup>Rumble & Yui, 1998; <sup>2</sup>Masago et al. 2003; <sup>3</sup>Rumble et al. 2013; <sup>4</sup>Valley et al.  
807 2014; <sup>5</sup>Starkey et al. 2016. Uncertainties in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  &  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  are approximately 0.1 ‰, smaller than  
808 the plot symbols.

809

9/29/17

Page 37 of 35



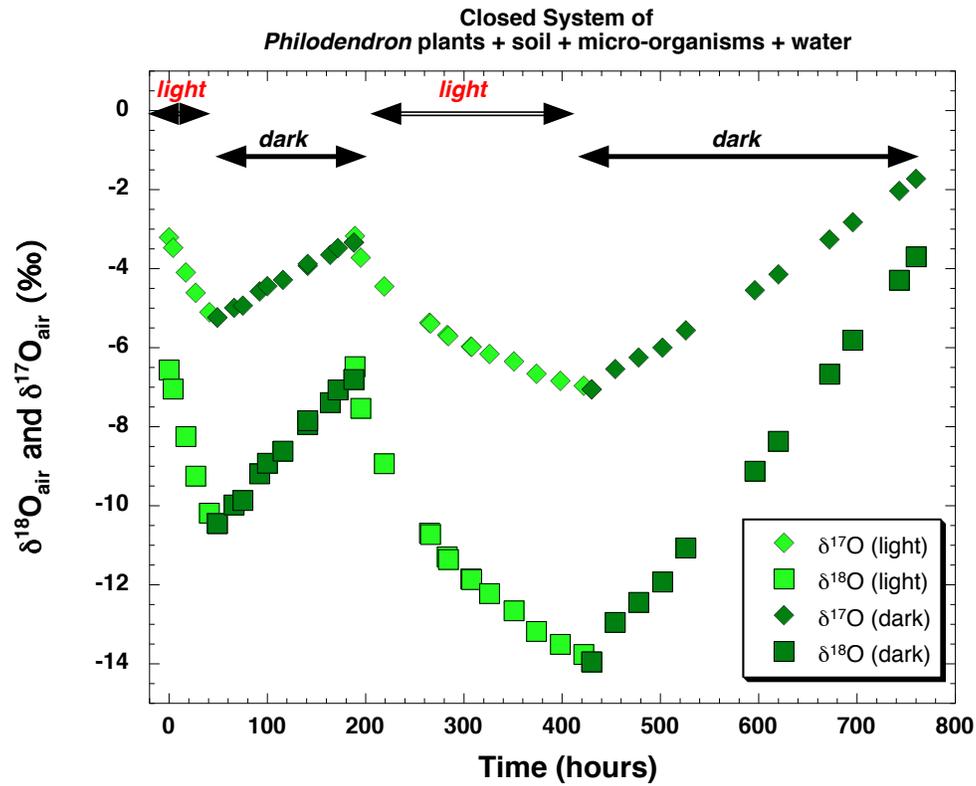
810

811 **Figure 2:** (A - left): Photograph of cut slab of meteorite NWA 5232 with  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$  values of  
812 spot analyses of CM chondrite clasts (black) and euclitic breccia fragments (gray) (van Drongelen  
813 et al. 2016). (B - right)  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vs  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  plot of analyses of NWA 5232. The heavy black line is the  
814 TFL of Figure 1. Compare scattered distribution of data to linear array of Fig. 1. Uncertainties in  
815  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  &  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  are approximately 0.1 ‰ and in  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ , 0.05 ‰.

9/29/17

Page 38 of 35

Changes in Terrarium O<sub>2</sub> in the light (O<sub>2</sub> produced) and in the dark (O<sub>2</sub> consumed)



816

817 **Figure 3:** Plot of variations in  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , and  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$  vs. time in atmosphere of closed  
818 terrarium containing living *Philodendron*, soil, micro-organisms, and water. Note  
819 distinctive variations in  $\delta^{17}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  in the light and in the dark (data replotted from  
820 Luz and Barkan, 2005).

821

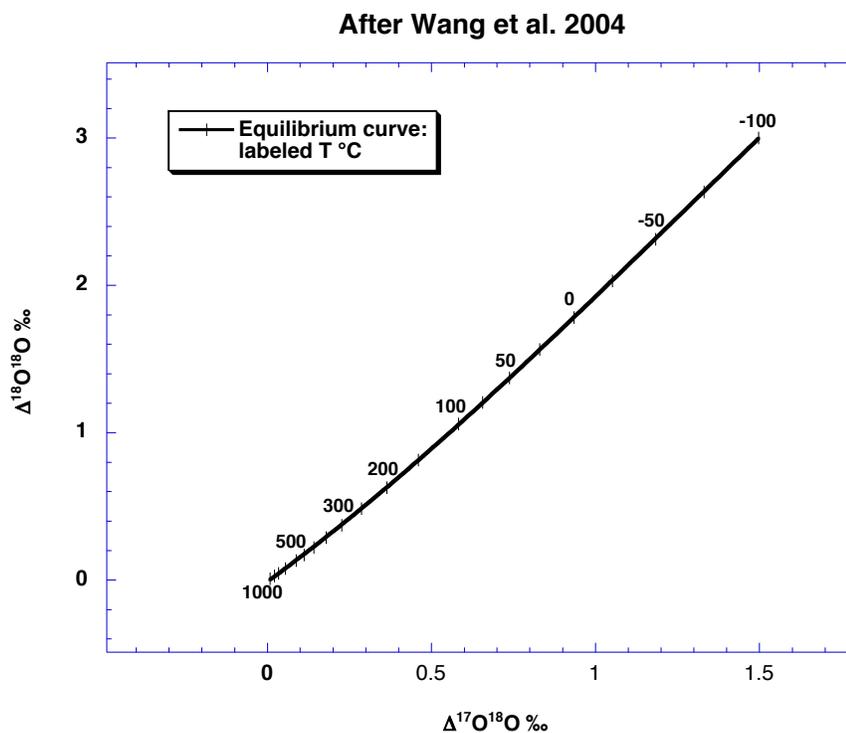
822

823

824

9/29/17

Page 39 of 35



825

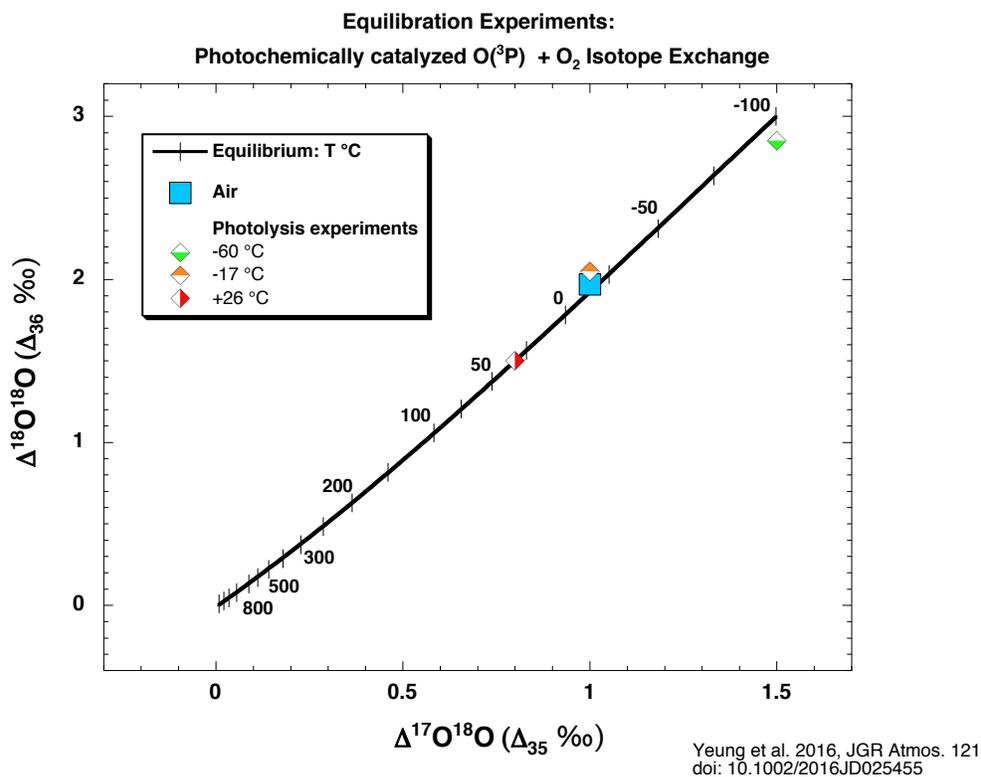
---

826 **Figure 4:** Plot of equilibrium curve for  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  ( $\Delta_{35}$ ) vs  $\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  ( $\Delta_{36}$ ) contoured in T °C (after  
827 Wang et al. 2004). The two isotopologues are assumed to coexist in isotope exchange equilibrium  
828 in the same sample of O<sub>2</sub> gas.

829

9/29/17

Page 40 of 35



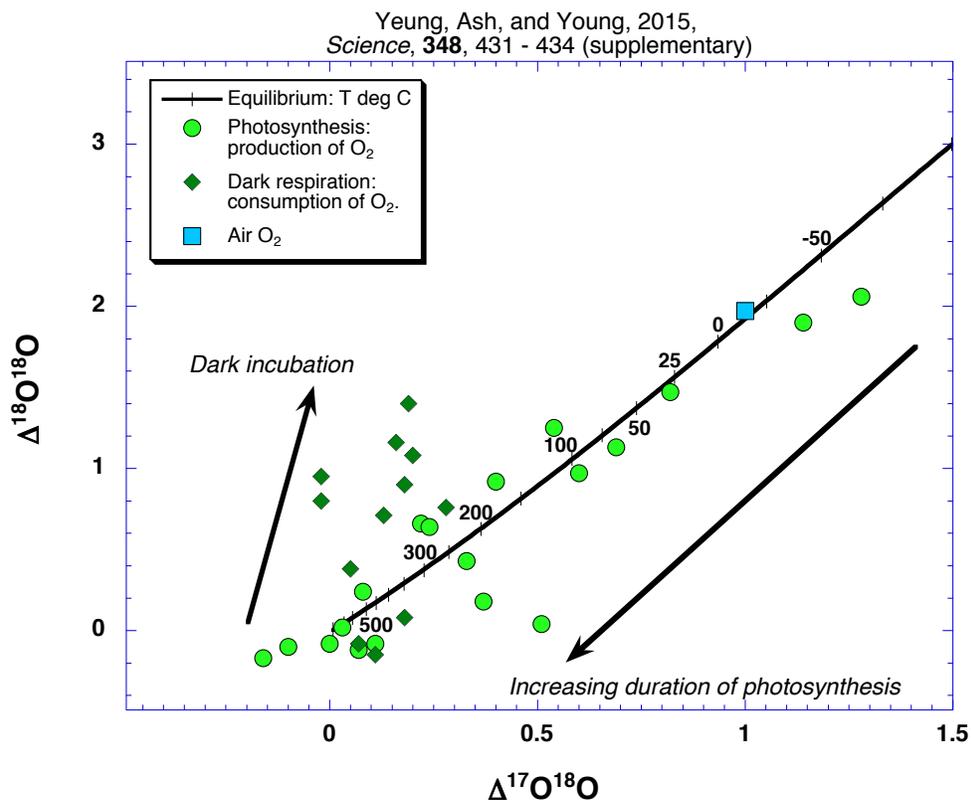
830

831 **Figure 5:** Plot of  $\Delta_{35}$  ( $=\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ ) vs.  $\Delta_{36}$  ( $=\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ ) for samples of O<sub>2</sub> gas subjected to  
832 photolysis and O(<sup>3</sup>P) + O<sub>2</sub> catalysis. The plotted results demonstrate a tendency towards isotope  
833 exchange equilibrium (Yeung et al. 2016). Uncertainties are 0.07‰ for  $\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  and 0.1‰ for  
834  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ .

835

9/29/17

Page 41 of 35

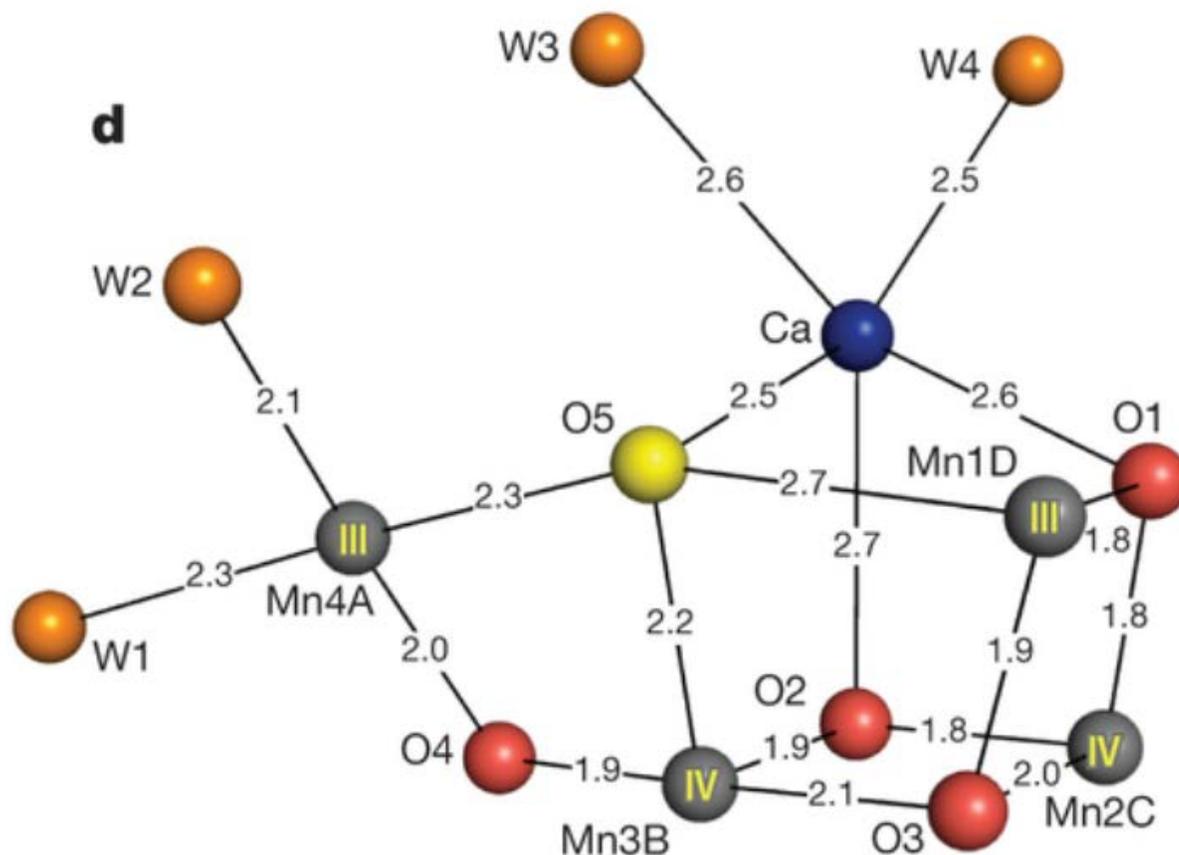


836

837 **Figure 6:** Plot of  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  vs  $\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  for oxygen produced during photosynthesis in the light and  
838 residual  $\text{O}_2$  remaining after plant respiration in the dark (Yeung et al. 2015, supplementary). The  
839 values of  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  vs  $\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  decrease as long as photosynthesis in the light continues. Once the  
840 light is extinguished, residual oxygen increases in  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  vs  $\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ . Equilibrium curve  
841 contoured in T °C (Wang et al. 2004). Uncertainties are 0.17‰ for  $\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$  and 0.3‰ for  
842  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ .

9/29/17

Page 42 of 35



843  
844

845

846 **Figure 7:** Perspective drawing of the Oxygen Evolving Complex (OEC) embedded in the protein  
847 Photosystem II. The OEC consists of 1 Ca, 4 Mn, 5 O atoms and 4 H<sub>2</sub>O molecules. The Ca atom  
848 and 3 of the four Mn lie at opposite corners of a distorted cube, separated by oxygens O1, O2, and  
849 O3. A fourth Mn (Mn4A) dangles to one side of the cuboid coordinated to it by oxygens O4 and  
850 O5. Two H<sub>2</sub>O, W1 and W2, are coordinated to the dangling Mn and two to Ca, W3 and W4.

851 (Fig. 1d copied from Suga et al. 2015)

852