THE MINERALOGY, PETROGRAPHY, MAGNESIUM AND OXYGEN ISOTOPIC COMPOSITIONS OF A WOLLASTONITE-BEARING FUN CAI FROM THE CV CHONDRITE NWA 779. K. Thrane1*, K. Nagashima2, A. N. Krot3 and M. Bizzarro2. 1Geological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. 2Hawai’i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology, University of Hawai’i at Manoa, USA. *kthrane@geol.ku.dk

Introduction: Calcium-aluminum-rich inclusions (CAIs) with Fractionation and Unknown Nuclear isotope anomalies (FUN CAIs [1]) are very rare objects reported exclusively in CV carbonaceous chondrites. These include the Allende CAIs CI [2,3], EK1-4-1 [4], HAl [5], CG-14 [6], DH88, B7F6, DH10, and HBZ [7], and the Vigarano CAI 1623-5 [8]. FUN CAIs are characterized by large mass-dependent fractionation effects in Mg, Si and O, relatively large nucleosynthetic anomalies in several elements (e.g., Ca, Ti, Si, Sr, Ba, Nd, Sm), and low inferred abundance of 26Al. These observations are often interpreted as evidence for formation of FUN CAIs by thermal processing of pre-solar dust aggregates [5] prior to injection and homogenization of 26Al in the solar nebula [9]. If this is correct, FUN CAIs can potentially provide important constraints on the age of the Solar System, composition of the primordial dust in the solar nebula and the earliest stages of its thermal processing.

Most FUN CAIs were discovered and extensively studied 20-30 years ago. These studies consumed most materials of FUN CAIs. To identify new FUN CAIs in CV chondrites suitable for Pb-Pb isotope dating and detailed mineralogical and in situ isotope measurements, we initiated a systematic search for coarse-grained igneous CAIs with large mass-dependence fractionation effects in Mg in polished slabs of CV chondrites using multi-collector inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (MC-ICP-MS) and in polished sections using in situ measurements by secondary ionization mass spectrometry (SIMS). Here we report the mineralogy, petrography, magnesium and oxygen isotopic compositions of a newly identified FUN CAI from the CV chondrite NWA 779, named KT-1. This is the first wollastonite-bearing Type B FUN CAI.

Analytical Techniques: A centimeter size piece of NWA 779 (CV3) containing the exposed FUN CAI was mounted in epoxy and polished. The CAI was studied using optical and scanning electron microscopy (SEM), electron probe microanalysis and SIMS. The sample was mapped in Ca, Al, Mg, Ti, Na, Si, and Cl Kα X-rays with a Cameca SX-50 electron microprobe and studied in backscattered electron mode with the JEOL 5900LV SEM/EDS.

Mg isotopic compositions were measured by both MC-ICPMS and SIMS. The MC-ICPMS analyses was conducted with the aim of getting a sample representative of the bulk inclusion. A hole of ~500 µm in diameter was drilled out (Fig. 1a), corresponding to approximately ca. 0.1 mg of powder. The sample was digested and the Mg was purified by ion exchange chemistry and the Al/Mg and the Mg isotopes were measured by the Axiom MC-ICPMS at the University of Copenhagen following procedures outlined in [10]. Mg isotopes were also measured in situ with the Cameca 1280 SIMS at University of Hawai’i. A 100–150 pA O+ primary ion beam was focused to ~1-5 µm. The mass-resolving power was set to ~3800, sufficient to separately identify hydrides and doubly charged 48Ca+. Mg isotopes were measured with a monocollector EM. Terrestrial and synthetic standards were used to correct for instrumental mass fractionation (IMF). An exponential mass fractionation law with exponent = 0.514 [11] was used for calculation of excess/deficit of 26Mg.

O-isotopic compositions were measured with the Cameca 1280 SIMS at University of Hawai’i in multicollector mode. A focused Cs+ primary beam of 1.8 nA was used to presputter regions of 25×25 µm². The raster size was then reduced and oxygen isotopes were measured from the ~10×10 µm² central region. The 16O and 18O ion beams were measured at MRP ~2000 using Faraday cups of multicollector; whereas 17O was measured using EM in monocollector mode at MRP ~5500. IMF effects were corrected by analyzing San Carlos olivine, Burana spinel, and Cr-augite. Melilite and wollastonite compositions, for which standards were lacking, were corrected by assuming their IMF are similar to those of San Carlos olivine and augite, respectively. Uncertainties ~1.5‰ in δ18O and δ17O were estimated from overall standard data obtained during two sessions.

Mineralogy and Petrography: KT-1 is 2.5 mm in diameter and consists of chemically-zoned, coarse-grained melilite and fassaite (in wt%, TiO2, 2-11; Al2O3, 19-26) poikilitically enclosing euhedral spinel grains, which are heterogeneously distributed in the CAI (Figs. 1a,b). The coarse melilites are zoned from Åk17 in the core to Åk44 in the rim; no difference in the composition of the melilites from the interior of the CAI towards the edge is observed. Two interstitial regions between coarse-grained melilite and fassaite consist of fine-grained melilite, anorthite, wollastonite, and Al-diopside, which may represent last crystallizing melt. The inferred crystallization sequence of the CAI is sp+mel→sp+mel+fas→wo+di+mel+an. A region of relatively fine-grained fassaite and melilite occurs near the wollastonite-diopside-melilite-anorthite domain (Fig. 1c), possibly indicating some re-melting of the CAI.

Magnesium isotopic composition: The MC-ICPMS analyses representing the “bulk” sample yielded a δ26Mg* deficit of ~0.41 ± 0.02‰ and a δ25Mg of 39.73 ± 0.01‰ (n=6). Individual grains of melilite, spinel, wollastonite and fassaite were analysed in situ by SIMS and have a relatively small range of mass fractionation with δ25Mg varying from ~36‰ to ~41‰ (Fig. 2). The degree of fractionation among spinel, melilite, fassaite, and wollastonite is generally consistent with their inferred crystallization sequence, with fassaite being the most fractionated mineral. No clear excess/deficit of δ26Mg* were identified in KT-1 by SIMS measurements.

Oxygen isotopic composition: The spinel analyses and most of the analyses of coarse-grained fassaite plot along a mass-dependent fractionation line parallel to the Terrestrial Fractionation (TF) line (Fig. 3). The data for fine-grained fassaite, wollastonite and some of the coarse-grained fassaites define a line extending from the mass-dependent fractionation line towards the TF line. The melilite data plot slightly to the right of this line, near its intersection with the TF line.

Discussion: The coarse-grained texture and chemical zoning of coarse melilite and fassaite indicate relatively slow crystallization of the CAI melt. The observed range in O-isotopic compositions of spinel and coarse-grained fassaites defining a mass-dependent fractionation trend must
have resulted from evaporation of such a crystallizing melt. Conversely, the interstitial pockets of fine-grained material composed of wollastonite, diopside, melilite and anorthite appears to represent fast crystallizing residual melt. The spinifex-like texture of the wollastonite-bearing pockets suggest quenching from a melt at 1000-1100°C, possibly as a result of incomplete re-melting during transient heating event(s). Fine-grained fassaite-melilite intergrowths occur near one of the pockets and may also have formed during this melting episode. The latter event appears to have occurred in 16O-poor gaseous reservoir and resulted in incomplete O-isotopic exchange in the melted minerals (fine-grained fassaite, wollastonite, and melilite) defining an exchange line. We note that O-isotopic compositions of melilite throughout the CAI are slightly displaced relative this line, suggesting additional isotopic exchange, possibly during fluid-assisted thermal metamorphism on the CV parent asteroid [12]. The Mg data infer that the evolution in oxygen from 16O-rich to 16O-poor took place before 26Al was injected and homogeneously distributed into the solar nebula.

Fig. 1. Combined elemental map in Mg (red), Ca (green) and Al Kα (blue) X-rays (a) and elemental map in Ti Kα of KT-1 (b). Region outlined in (a) is shown in detail in (c). (c) BSE image of the wollastonite (wol) – diopside (di) – anorthite (an) – melilite (mel) region and region composed of fine-grained fassaite (fas) and melilite.

Fig. 2. Mg isotopic compositions in individual minerals in the KT-1. Solid curve is a mass fractionation curve with a mass fractionation exponent of 0.514 [10].

Fig. 3. O-isotopic compositions of individual minerals in KT-1. fas = fassaite; mel = melilite; sp = spinel; wol = wollastonite. TFL = terrestrial fractionation line. EL = exchange line defined by compositions of fassaite only. Red line is mass-dependent fractionation line defined for several Allende FUN CAIs [13].