WATER CONTENT, CHLORINE AND HYDROGEN ISOTOPE COMPOSITIONS OF LUNAR APATITE.
Y. Wang1,2, Y. Guan2, W. Hsu1, and J. M. Eiler2. 1Purple Mountain Observatory, Nanjing, China. E-mail: y_wang@pmo.ac.cn. 2GPS, Caltech, Pasadena, CA 91125.

Introduction: The Moon has been thought to have a bulk planetary water content < 1 ppb [1]. Recent ion microprobe analyses have shown that lunar samples contain up to 7000 ± 1000 ppm OH- (reported as equivalent H2O) in apatite and 4-46 ppm in igneous glass [2-6]. These studies suggest that the mantle sources of at least some lunar magmas contain from 64 ppb to 200 ppm [4-6]. Sharp et al. [6] report an apparently contradictory observation — that 37Cl values of lunar samples vary from -1 to 24‰, with an upper extreme they argue demands devolatilization of anhydrous melts. We examine this issue further through measurements of water content, δ37Cl, and δD of apatite from lunar meteorites MIL 05035, NWA 2977, and Dhofar 458.

Results: Nine apatite grains were examined with the Cameca NanoSIMS 50L and 7f Geo at Caltech. Apatite grains from two basaltic meteorites (MIL 05035 and NWA 2977) yielded δ37Cl values from 3.8 ± 3.1 (2σ) to 26.2 ± 1.8 ‰ and water contents from 1100 ± 120 to 5200 ± 280 ppm, comparable with those previously reported for lunar apatite [4-7]. One apatite grain from a feldspathic breccia (Dhofar 458) has extremely high δ37Cl of 67.2 ± 2.0 to 81.1 ± 2.0 ‰, and a relatively low water content averaging 240 ± 40 ppm. δD of apatite varies from -110 ± 30 ‰ in NWA 2977 to 400 ± 80 ‰ in MIL 05035, and to 510 ± 130 ‰ in Dhofar 458, showing no correlation with water content or δ37Cl.

Discussion: Our study shows that lunar apatite exhibits a large range of δ37Cl even in individual crystals that contain significant amounts of water. These findings appear to be inconsistent with the interpretations of Cl isotope data presented in Sharp et al. [6]. We suggest our observations for lunar basalts might be explained if the major volatile species responsible for degassing of Cl from lunar magmas are metal chlorides, which could account for the large fractionation of Cl isotopes [7]. Uncorrelated δD and δ37Cl values of apatite indicate that the fractionations of H and Cl isotopes were decoupled in the lunar samples we examined. The high δ37Cl values of the apatite in Dhofar 458 are exceptional compared to our and previous data for apatites in basaltic rocks. We suggest such extreme values in this impact breccia reflect sampling a reservoir of extremely heavy Cl isotopes on the lunar surface, possibly produced by repeated 35Cl loss during multiple shock events or gardening processes.


This work was supported by Chinese National and Jiangsu NSF (41003026, BK2011891), and the minor planet foundation.