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Evolution of the Ca isotopic composition of the mantle

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Abstract

Calcium stable isotopes are mainly fractionated during low-temperature geochemical processes and have, therefore, the potential to trace weathering and incorporation of recycled carbonated material in the mantle. However, behavior of Ca isotopes during mantle processes over Earth's history is not well understood. In this study, we present Ca isotopic compositions of 27 spinifex-textured and olivine cumulate komatiites ranging in age from 2.41 to 3.55 Ga. The Ca isotopic composition of all spinifex textured komatiites analyzed is similar, with an average $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca} = 0.92 \pm 0.16\text{‰}$ (n=7; 2SD) (permil deviation of the $^{44}\text{Ca}/^{40}\text{Ca}$ ratio from SRM915a). This value is identical, within error, to the previous estimates of the composition of the mantle. In contrast, olivine cumulates from the Weltevreden Formation in the Barberton Greenstone Belt are isotopically heavier compared to the rest of the komatiites studied. While igneous processes and sea-floor alteration unlikely account for this Ca isotopic signature, crystallization of an early crust from a global magma ocean is a possibility, in agreement with previously obtained O, Os, Nd, Hf isotopic data and trace elements systematics.

1. Introduction

As a refractory element ($T_c=1517^\circ\text{ K}$, Lodders, 2003), Ca abundance and isotopic composition are not affected by volatility processes that may have occurred during the early stages of Earth's formation and evolution, in contrast to more volatile elements, such as Ga (Kato and Moynier, 2017) or even Si and Mg (Pringle et al. 2014; Hin et al., 2017). As a lithophile element, Ca is not segregated into the core and, therefore, its abundance and isotopic composition in the Bulk Silicate Earth (BSE) should be representative of the bulk Earth. On the other hand, Ca isotopes fractionate during mantle processes (e.g., Huang et al. 2010, Kang et al. 2016; 2017). This was first illustrated by up to $\sim 0.2\text{‰}$ differences between

the Ca isotopic composition (reported as $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$, the permil deviation of the $^{44}\text{Ca}/^{40}\text{Ca}$ ratio in a sample from that of the SRM915a standard) of peridotites and basalts, which is related to either partial melting or fractional crystallization (e.g., Amini et al., 2009; Huang et al., 2010;; Kang et al., 2016; Amsellem et al., 2017; Kang et al., 2017; Valdes et al., 2019). Furthermore, Ca isotopes are highly fractionated under low temperature surface processes; in particular, Ca is $\sim 0.5\text{‰}$ enriched in lighter isotopes in marine carbonates compared to basalts (e.g., Gussone et al., 2005; Skulan et al., 1997; Skulan and DePaolo, 1999; Farkaš et al., 2011; Fantle and Tipper, 2013; Schmitt et al., 2003; De La Rocha and DePaolo, 2000). Calcium isotopes can, therefore, be used as tracers of carbonate contamination in the source of magmatic rocks (e.g., Huang et al., 2011). However, these applications are limited by the poor knowledge of the Ca isotopic composition of the modern terrestrial mantle and its evolution through time due to recycling of subducted material, formation of the crust and/or chemical exchange with the sub-lithospheric mantle. Furthermore, the composition of the bulk silicate Earth (BSE) is central to inter-planetary comparisons (e.g., Simon and DePaolo, 2010, Valdes et al., 2014, Amsellem et al., 2017; Huang and Jacobsen, 2017).

The Ca isotopic composition of the BSE has been first estimated by Simon and DePaolo (2010) and Huang et al. (2010) and, more recently, revisited by Kang et al. (2017). Huang et al. (2010) measured the Ca isotopic composition of clinopyroxene and orthopyroxene in two different mantle peridotites and, using the proportion of each mineral in the mantle, estimated the BSE value to be $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca} = 1.05 \pm 0.04\text{‰}$. Simon and DePaolo (2010) and more recently Simon et al. (2017), suggested that the similarity of measured peridotites, basaltic rocks, and extraterrestrial samples reflect the BSE composition, which after a $\sim 0.1\text{‰}$ correction to account for excess ^{40}Ca in the SRM915a standard (see Simon et al., 2009; Mills et al., 2018) return(s?) a $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ of $0.88 \pm 0.07\text{‰}$ (2sd). Kang et al. (2017) focused their study on a large suite of peridotites xenoliths, both fertile and metasomatized.

70 Their estimate is slightly lighter than the one from Huang et al. (2010), with the $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$
71 value of $0.94 \pm 0.05\%$.

72 The goal of the present study is to obtain new information on the behavior of Ca
73 isotopes during high temperature processes and to test whether the Ca isotopic composition
74 of the BSE varies through time via analyzing komatiites of various ages. Komatiites are
75 ultramafic volcanic rocks with $>18\%$ MgO. Most komatiites are Archean in age, although
76 there are rare occurrences in the Proterozoic (e.g., Hanski et al., 2004) and even Phanerozoic
77 (Echeverria, 1980). Nisbet et al. (1993) used komatiites to trace the evolution of the thermal
78 regime of the mantle through time. The origin of komatiites is generally related to anhydrous
79 partial melting in hot mantle plumes (e.g., Campbell, 1989; Arndt et al., 2008), but alternative
80 scenarios also exist (e.g., hydrous melting in subduction zones, Grove and Parman, 2004).
81 Since komatiites are formed by 30 to 50% partial melting (Herzberg 1992), and Ca is an
82 incompatible element, it is enriched in the melt relative to the mantle residue. The almost
83 quantitative extraction of Ca, together with the fact that the melting occurred at high
84 temperatures, implies that Ca isotopic composition of komatiites is likely representative of
85 their mantle source. Therefore, komatiites are very useful for studies of the evolution of Ca
86 isotopic composition of the mantle through time, as was also previously shown for Ga, Sr,
87 Mg, Fe, Mo, Ti, Zn and Ni (Kato et al., 2017; Amsellem et al., 2018; Dauphas et al., 2010;
88 Greber et al., 2015; 2017; Sossi et al., 2018; Gall et al., 2017).

89 Here, we present the Ca isotopic composition of 27 komatiites ranging in age from
90 2.41 Ga to 3.55 Ga from South Africa, Fennoscandia, and Canada. We show that the Ca
91 isotopic composition of most komatiites overlap within error with the estimates of the
92 present-day BSE ($0.94 \pm 0.05\%$, Kang et al. 2017 and $1.05 \pm 0.04\%$, Huang et al. 2010).
93 However, some samples show departure from this average with both light (down to $0.64 \pm$
94 0.03%) and heavy ($1.54 \pm 0.09\%$) Ca isotopic compositions. In particular, the olivine

cumulates from the Weltevreden formation in the Barberton Greenstone Belt and one cumulate sample from the Boston Creek in the Abitibi Greenstone Belt are enriched in the heavy Ca isotopes compared to the rest of the komatiites. We explore here the different processes that could produce these variations. The enrichment in the heavier Ca isotopes of the Weltevreden komatiites is suggested to originate from crystallization of an early terrestrial magma ocean, as was previously proposed for these komatiites by Puchtel et al. (2013; 2014) and Byerly et al. (2017).

2. Samples and Methods

2.1. Samples

A total of 27 komatiites (olivine and pyroxene spinifex-textured and olivine cumulates) were analyzed for Ca isotopic composition (Table 1). The komatiite samples from the Victoria's lava lake in the Vetreny Belt and the Kostomuksha Greenstone Belt in Fennoscandia, the Barberton Greenstone Belt (including the Komati and Weltevreden Formations and Schapenburg Greenstone Remnant) in South Africa, the Belingwe Greenstone Belt in Zimbabwe, and the Abitibi Greenstone Belt (the Boston Creek Flow) in Canada have previously been studied for trace element and HSE abundances and Pt-Re-Os, $^{142,143}\text{Nd}$, ^{182}W isotope systematics by Puchtel et al. (2016a,b; 2013; 2014; 1998; 2001; 2005; 2018). All samples studied come from variably differentiated lava flows, with the spinifex-textured upper part and the olivine cumulate lower part. They all show features of seafloor alteration and/or metamorphic grade from prehnite-pumpellyite facies (Vetreny Belt, Boston Creek, Weltevreden) to greenschist-amphibolite facies (Schapenburg, Kostomuksha and Komati). In some of the komatiites (Schapenburg, Kostomuksha, Boston Creek), most olivines have been altered to serpentine, chlorite and/or magnetite and some of the pyroxenes have been altered to tremolite and chlorite. Vetreny Belt komatiites have assimilated up to

4% crustal rocks (Puchtel et al., 1996; 2016a). The komatiites studied here are classified as both Al-depleted/enriched (Schapenburg, Komati, Weltevreden, Kostomuksha, Boston Creek) and Al-undepleted (Belingwe, Vetreny). Olivine cumulate samples present an average composition of olivine between 30% to 50% for Kostomuksha, 50% for Belingwe and 60% for Barberton (Puchtel and Humayun, 2005; Puchtel et al., 2009b; Puchtel et al., 2013).

2.2. Analytical techniques

Between 15 to 30 mg of sample powder was digested in a HNO₃/HF mixture (1:3) on a hot plate at 120 °C for 48 h. When dried down, 2 mL of 6N HCl were added to the sample residues to destroy any fluoride phases. Calcium was separated from the matrix using DGA extraction chromatography resin and Sr-selective extraction chromatographic resin following the protocol described in Valdes et al. (2014) and Amsellem et al. (2017). Calcium was first eluted with Sr using 1.8 mL of DGA resin in concentrated HNO₃ and was afterwards eluted on 200 µL of 20-50 µm of Sr-selective extraction chromatographic resin in 3N HNO₃ to separate it from Sr. Final Ca cuts were dried down and redissolved in 0.1 N HNO₃ for mass spectrometric analysis.

The Ca isotopic composition was measured using a *ThermoFischer* Netpune multi-collector inductively-coupled plasma mass-spectrometer (MC-ICPMS) at the Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris. Samples were introduced with a desolvating Apex nebulizer at an aspiration rate of 50 µL×min⁻¹. Each analysis included 20 cycles with an integration time of 8.389 s. The intensity of the ion beams on the masses 42, 43 and 44 were measured and ⁴²Ca/⁴⁴Ca and ⁴³Ca/⁴⁴Ca ratios were calculated. Measurements were run in high resolution slit mode with a mass resolution of R~6350. Calcium isotopic variations are defined here in per mil units and using the ⁴⁴Ca/⁴⁰Ca ratio: $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca} = (((^{44}\text{Ca}/^{40}\text{Ca})_{\text{sample}}/({^{44}\text{Ca}/^{40}\text{Ca}})_{\text{standard}})-1) \times 1000$ to facilitate comparison with literature data by converting the results using the mass-dependent fractionation law: $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca} = -1.974 \times \delta^{42/44}\text{Ca}$ after making sure that the data were

mass-dependent. The standard bracketing method (with NIST SRM 915b as the standard) was used for correcting for mass-fractionation during the analysis. The Ca isotopic composition was re-normalized to SRM 915a using the isotopic composition of SRM 915a relative to SRM 915b from Valdes et al. (2014) of -0.71‰ for $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$. The analytical uncertainty was calculated from repeated measurements of the same solutions and is defined as the 2SE to be 0.05‰ .

3. Results

Calcium isotopic compositions of komatiites from this study are reported in Table 1 and presented in Figure 1. The $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ values range from $0.64 \pm 0.03 \text{‰}$ to $1.54 \pm 0.09 \text{‰}$ averaging $1.03 \pm 0.46 \text{‰}$ (2SD n=27). These values overlap with previously reported data for two 89 Ma Gorgona Island komatiites ($\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca} = 0.77 \pm 0.06\text{‰}$ and $0.61 \pm 0.06\text{‰}$) and two 3.5 Ga komatiites from the Onverwacht Group in South Africa ($\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca} = 1.03 \pm 0.05\text{‰}$ and $0.98 \pm 0.04\text{‰}$) (Amini et al., 2009). The $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ values obtained in this study are also similar to those in peridotites (ranging from ~ 0.9 to ~ 1.2 , Amini et al., 2009; Kang et al., 2016; 2017; Amsellem et al., 2017; Zhao et al., 2017) as well as to most igneous rocks (~ 0.9 , e.g., Amini et al., 2009; Simon and DePaolo, 2010; Valdes et al., 2014; Amsellem et al., 2017; Simon et al., 2017).

The Ca isotopic compositions of the spinifex-textured samples are less scattered than those of the olivine cumulate komatiites, and cluster around the BSE estimate ($\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca} = 0.92 \pm 0.16 \text{‰}$, 2SD n=7). In contrast, the 5 olivine cumulates from the Weltevreden Formation and Boston Creek are enriched in the heavier Ca isotopes ($\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ ranges from $1.33 \pm 0.05\text{‰}$ to $1.54 \pm 0.09\text{‰}$), whereas one Kostomuksha olivine cumulate is depleted in the heavier isotopes ($\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca} = 0.64 \pm 0.03\text{‰}$).

4. Discussion

4.1 The evolution of the $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ of the bulk silicate Earth through time

On average, irrespective of ages and locations, spinifex-textured komatiites have isotopic compositions (from $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca} = 0.83 \pm 0.03\text{‰}$ to $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca} = 1.06 \pm 0.05\text{‰}$) similar to the estimates for the BSE's ($0.88 \pm 0.07\text{‰}$, $1.05 \pm 0.04\text{‰}$ and $0.94 \pm 0.05\text{‰}$) based on the data for peridotites (Simon and DePaolo, 2010; Huang et al., 2010 and Kang et al., 2017). Since spinifex-textured komatiites crystallized relatively quickly and experienced little fractionation after emplacement (Donaldson, 1976), they are usually taken as the next best samples (with the chilled margin samples being the best) to represent the composition of the emplaced komatiite lava. Hence, among the samples analyzed, the spinifex-textured komatiites are expected to best represent the Ca isotopic composition of the mantle. The variability observed in the olivine cumulates will be discussed in a different section.

Komatiites formed via high degrees of partial melting, and Ca, as an incompatible element, was mostly incorporated into the melt, limiting the effect of isotopic fractionation during melt extraction. Hence, komatiites are reliable samples of Ca isotopic composition of the Archean mantle. Since spinifex-textured komatiites represent nearly the original liquid composition, in order to estimate the Ca isotopic composition of the BSE, only spinifex-textured komatiites were used. As such, 7 komatiite samples were chosen including the 2.72 Ga Boston Creek, 2.82 Ga Kostomuksha, and the 3.55 Ga Schapenburg komatiites. These komatiites do not show any resolvable Ca isotopic variations with emplacement age, ranging from $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca} = 0.83 \pm 0.03\text{‰}$ to $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca} = 1.06 \pm 0.05\text{‰}$, implying that the extraction of the continental crust from the mantle over the 800 Ma of Earth's history did not have an effect on the Ca isotopic composition of the komatiites sources.

When averaged together, these samples yield a mean $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ value of $0.92 \pm 0.16\text{‰}$ (2SD n=7) which is indistinguishable from the estimated composition of the BSE ($0.88 \pm$

0.07‰, $1.05 \pm 0.04\text{‰}$ and $0.94 \pm 0.05\text{‰}$, Simon and DePaolo, 2010; Huang et al. 2010 and Kang et al. 2017, respectively).

4.2 Effects of crustal assimilation and post-emplacement isotopic fractionation on the Ca isotopic composition of the komatiites

Assimilation of crustal material has been shown to have occurred in some komatiites (e.g., Cattell, 1987; Arndt and Jenner, 1986) and this could have potentially modified the Ca isotopic composition of the original melt. However, some crustal rocks (granites: $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca} = \sim 0.8\text{‰}$, Gussone et al., 2016) have slightly lighter Ca isotopic composition compared to peridotites and most of the komatiites studied, as well as lower Ca abundances ($< 2\text{ wt\%}$, e.g., Marshall and DePaolo, 1989). As such, crustal contamination would have shifted Ca isotopic composition of the komatiites in the opposite direction, and, therefore, cannot be responsible for their heavier Ca isotopic composition. Moreover, mass-balance calculations indicate that, in order to account for the lightest Ca isotopic composition of the komatiites ($\sim 0.8\text{‰}$, Table 1), more than 50% crustal material (granites) needs to be assimilated by the komatiitic parental magma, which is not observed in any of the komatiites studied based on trace element and isotopic data. The effect on Ca isotopes of a post-emplacement crustal assimilation through a mixture of basalts and sediments is more difficult to estimate regarding the variability of $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ in sediments, depending on the location and the type of sediments. However, the degree of contamination via this process is unlikely to exceed 10% (Huppert et al., 1984). In any way, the only komatiites in this study that were shown to have undergone ca. 4% crustal assimilation, the Vetreny Belt komatiites (Puchtel et al., 1996; 2016a), show a range of $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ from $0.89 \pm 0.06\text{‰}$ to $1.06 \pm 0.11\text{‰}$, which overlaps with that for the fertile peridotites from Kang et al. (2017). Therefore, we conclude that there is

little to no evidence that crustal assimilation affected the Ca isotopic composition of the parental komatiitic magmas.

Post-magmatic alteration is another process that may have modified the primary Ca isotopic composition of the komatiites (e.g., John et al., 2012; Hindshaw et al., 2013; Jacobson et al., 2015). Among the samples studied here, komatiites from the Schapenburg and Munro Township localities show evidence of CaO loss during serpentinization (Puchtel et al., 2009a; 2009b). Both the Komati and Weltevreden formations of the Barberton Greenstone Belt have undergone seafloor alteration and CaO was affected by secondary processes (Puchtel et al., 2013). Furthermore, Puchtel et al. (1998) showed that in the Kostomuksha komatiites, CaO was mobile during alteration and preferentially removed from the samples with high modal olivine contents (corresponding to the cumulate samples). This is consistent with the negative correlation between CaO content and loss on ignition (LOI) observed in some komatiites (Boschi et al., 2008). Albitization of plagioclase during serpentinization results in the incorporation of Na in the calcic plagioclase of the crust and the removal of Ca from the plagioclase to the fluid.

Serpentinization has been suggested to result in a decrease in the $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ (John et al., 2012) and this process may explain the composition of the isotopically light Kostomuksha sample (see Figure 1). Figure 2 presents the Ca isotopic composition and the CaO abundance of the komatiites relative to their LOI determined previously (Puchtel et al., 1998; 2013; 2016a; 2016b and 2018). In the komatiite samples with up to 6% LOI, CaO concentration and Ca isotopic composition are constant, whereas in samples with LOI > 6%, CaO concentrations generally decrease, while the $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ of the Kostomuksha samples decreases and the $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ of the 5 early Archean olivine cumulates from the Weltevreden and Boston Creek localities increases. Therefore, the light Ca isotopic composition of the Kostomuksha komatiite sample 94100 (LOI = 10.1%) is likely related to serpentinization. On the other

hand, the heavy Ca isotope composition of the Weltevreden and Boston Creek olivine cumulates cannot be explained by serpentinization (John et al., 2012). It is more likely to be related to another process (e.g., differences in the source compositions, partial melting, accumulation of isotopically heavy olivine, etc., see below).

Another way to monitor the effect of alteration is to use the ratio of Ca over an immobile element during alteration processes, such as Zr. CaO/Zr ratio does not correlate with $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ (Figure 3), indicating that the heavy Ca isotopic compositions of the Weltevreden and Boston Creek komatiites are not due to secondary processes alone. The Ca content in komatiites is dominated by the amount of interstitial liquid and products of its crystallization (e.g., pyroxene and plagioclase). In the Weltevreden cumulates, olivine grains ($\text{CaO} \sim 0.24\%$) are surrounded by interstitial magmatic pyroxene, mostly augite ($\text{CaO} \sim 10\%$). In all komatiites, the Ca content strongly correlates with the Zr content (Figure 4) implying that the Ca content reflects igneous processes, assimilation or source effects and not secondary alteration as Zr is insoluble in aqueous fluids.

4.3 Primordial magma ocean processes recorded in the heavy Ca isotopic composition of the Weltevreden komatiites?

The olivine cumulate samples of the Weltevreden Formation from the Barberton Greenstone Belt have the heaviest Ca isotopic composition of all komatiites studied, averaging $1.47 \pm 0.11\%$. These heavy signatures were observed for dunites (Amini et al., 2009; Huang et al., 2010) and wehrlites (Ionov et al., 2018) which are likely due to their petrology with a low content of Ca. The dunite and wehrlite present the highest content of olivine in peridotites thus, this isotopic signature could rather be related to equilibrium isotopic fractionation between olivine and melt as olivine is enriched in the heavier isotopes of Ca ($\sim 1.16\%$) compared to clinopyroxenes ($\sim 0.9\%$); $\Delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{ol-cpx}} \approx 0.3\%$ (Kang et al.,

2016). Huang et al. (2019) have estimated the fractionation factor between forsterite (the main liquidus mineral in komatiites) and diopside (the main Ca-bearing mineral phase in komatiites) to be up to 0.9‰ at 1000K. However, the fractionation factor decreases considerably with the temperature and komatiitic magmas can reach liquidus temperatures of up to 1600 °C (e.g., Puchtel et al., 2013). The difference of ~0.5‰ between olivine cumulate and olivine spinifex might thus be difficult to reconcile with fractional crystallization. Moreover, there is no correlation between the olivine content in the cumulates with their Ca isotopic composition. This is consistent with the absence of fractionation during differentiation observed in Kilauea Iki Lava lake samples (Zhang et al., 2018) and in the homogeneity in different type of mantle rocks (Chen et al., 2019). In addition, the enrichment of the heavier isotopes is not systematic for all cumulates, since Weltevreden komatiites are the only ones enriched in the heavier Ca isotopes.

Weltevreden komatiites might be unique and would have been generated under different conditions compared to other komatiites. This is illustrated by the olivines from the Weltevreden formation samples that are enriched in the lighter O isotopes compared to other komatiites and other volcanic rocks (Byerly et al., 2017). These authors show that the low $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ reflect that of the mantle source of these komatiites that was affected by fractionation of mineral phases stable under the magma ocean conditions, during transition from silicate to metal oxide phases, as oxygen isotope composition can be modified by up to 1.5‰ during this type of fractionation (Zheng, 1997).

The Weltevreden komatiite source shows highly positive initial ϵ_{Hf} and near-zero initial ϵ_{Nd} value which plot off the Nd-Hf terrestrial evolution array (Puchtel et al., 2013). To explain this decoupling, an early depleted reservoir that was isolated from a primordial magma ocean was suggested by these authors; this reservoir was characterized by Hf-Nd relationships different from those of the upper mantle. In addition, the initial $\epsilon^{186}\text{Os}$ and

294 $\gamma^{187}\text{Os}$ values of these komatiites defined a different evolution trend from chondritic paths,
295 implying an early isolation of deep mantle domains (Puchtel et al., 2014). These domains are
296 thought to represent the early products of crystallization of a magma ocean located at the
297 bottom of the lower mantle (Abe, 1997) and were likely derived from the residual liquid
298 separated during crystallization of the magma ocean, with Mg- and Ca-perovskites as
299 fractionating phases suggested by melting experiments (e.g., Ito et al., 2004; Wood et al.,
300 2000; Ringwood et al., 1970). Fractionation of light Ca isotopes in Ca-perovskite vs.
301 pyroxene is consistent with these observations. Under equilibrium conditions, phases with the
302 shortest Ca-O bond (i.e. lower coordination number) tend to be enriched in the heavier Ca
303 isotopes (Huang et al., 2010). Calcium in Ca-perovskite has the highest coordination number
304 (CN=12) compared to other Ca-bearing minerals (CN<10; Smyth and Bish, 1988 and Sowrey
305 et al., 2004). Cumulate should, therefore, be enriched in lighter Ca isotopes leading to the
306 residual liquid with heavier Ca isotopic composition, which is indeed observed in the
307 Weltevreden komatiites. If the heavy Ca isotopic composition of the Weltevreden komatiites
308 is due to mantle heterogeneity following magma ocean crystallization, the question is why
309 the Komati komatiites are not isotopically heavy as well. A possibility would be that they do
310 not sample the same source, as suggested by ϵHf data, which reflect the difference of Ca
311 isotopic composition (Figure 5). As Komati samples are older than the Weltevreden
312 komatiites, the residual liquid representing the source of Weltevreden komatiites would
313 record a longer history of crystallization producing an isotopically heavier source. This is
314 consistent with the estimates for the proportions of Ca- and Mg-perovskite that crystallized to
315 form the mantle domains that later gave rise to the Komati and Weltevreden komatiites (30%
316 and 40% crystallization, respectively). To estimate the evolution of Ca isotopic composition
317 of the residual liquid representing the sources for the Barberton komatiites from the
318 crystallization of the magma ocean, we use a Rayleigh distillation equation.

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$$\delta\text{Ca}_{\text{melt}} = (\delta\text{Ca}_{\text{initial melt}} + 1000)f^{(\alpha-1)} - 1000$$

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Conclusions

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Where f represents the fraction of Ca remaining in the melt and α represents the isotopic fractionation factor between the crystals and the melt. We consider 5 different values of α representing a fractionation between the crystals and the melt ranging from 0.1‰ to 0.5‰ which would be expected in equilibrium fractionation due to their different coordination number. The $\delta\text{Ca}_{\text{initial melt}}$ is set to be 1‰. The results of the modeling are shown in Figure 6. In order to explain the data for the Weltevreden and Komati komatiites, between 10% and 50% of the Ca remains in the melt for the former and between 50% and 90% for the latter. Considering the silicate perovskite melt partitioning of Ca, which is estimated to be between $D_{\text{Capv-melt}} = 3$ and 4 under the lower mantle conditions (Corgne et al., 2005), and using the crystallization fractionation law, we predict a difference of at least 10% in the degree of crystallization between the source of Komati and Weltevreden komatiites where the source of Weltevreden komatiites would have been affected by more crystallization, consistent with the results from Puchtel et al. (2013). Furthermore, during perovskite partitioning in a magma, Nb/Ta and Zr/Hf ratios are expected to correlate because of the difference of compatibility of these elements in perovskite (Chakhmouradian et al., 2013). This is observed for Barberton komatiites (Figure 7a) and the Ca isotopic composition correlates with Nb/Ta (Figure 7b). These results can explain the variability in Ca isotopic composition between the Komati and Weltevreden komatiites and suggest that the residual liquid of the source of the latter was more affected by crystallization.

The Ca isotopic composition of 27 spinifex-textured and cumulate komatiites from around the globe, ranging in age between 2.41 and 3.48 Ga, has been analyzed. The spinifex-textured komatiites have similar isotopic compositions averaging at $0.92 \pm 0.16\text{‰}$,

indistinguishable from the previous estimates for the BSE composition derived from peridotites (Huang et al., 2010; Kang et al., 2017). Furthermore, the Ca isotopic composition of the Archean mantle has been shown to have been identical to that of the modern mantle.

Olivine cumulate komatiites from the 3.26 Ga Weltevreden Formation of the Barberton Greenstone Belt are strongly enriched in the heavier Ca isotopes compared to the other komatiites studied. When considered together with the available O, Os, Nd, and Hf isotopic data for these rocks (Byerly et al., 2017; Puchtel et al., 2013, 2014), magma ocean processes appear to be the most likely mechanism to explain the Ca isotopic composition of these komatiites.

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566 Figures

567 Figure 1

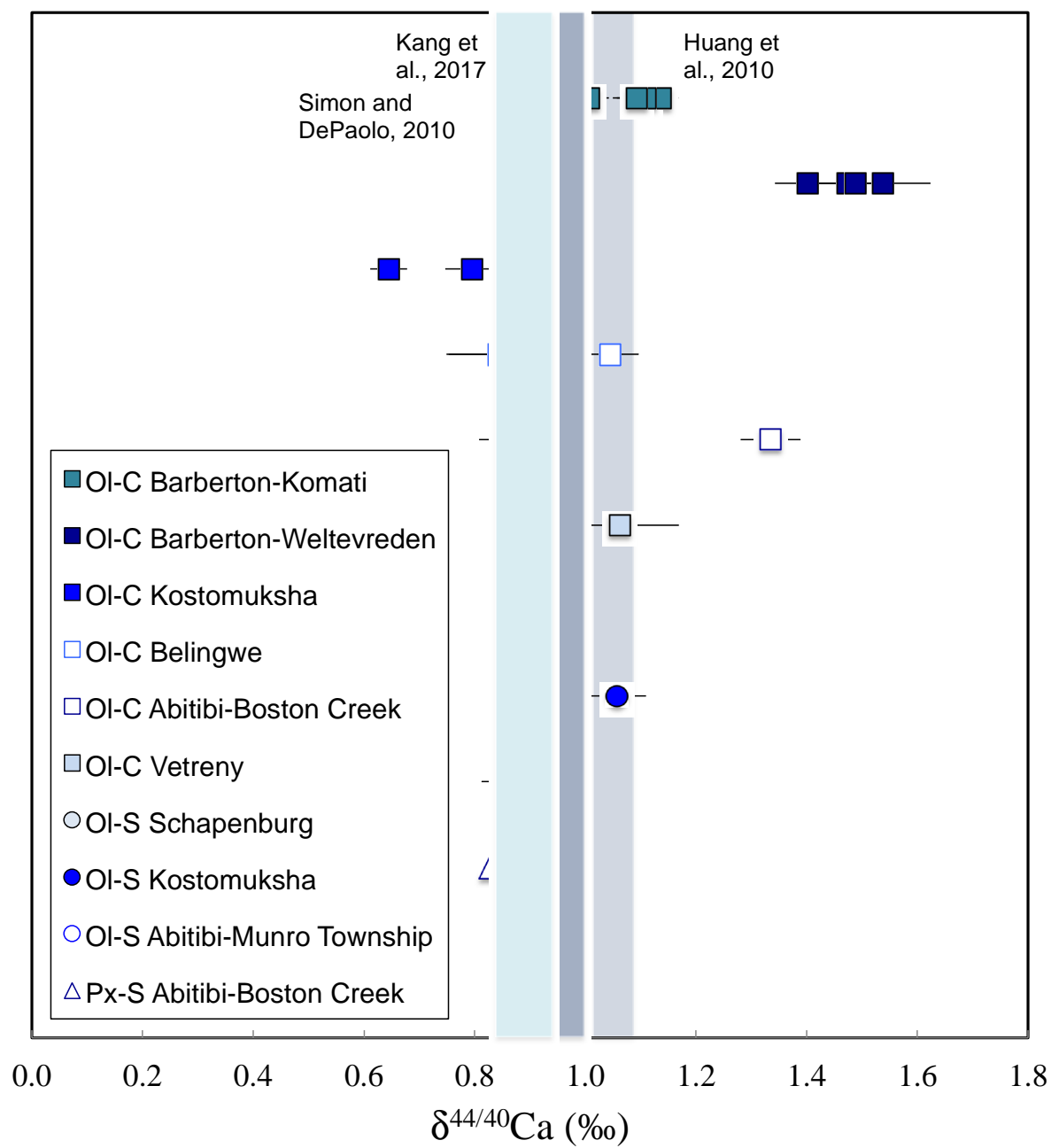


Figure 2a

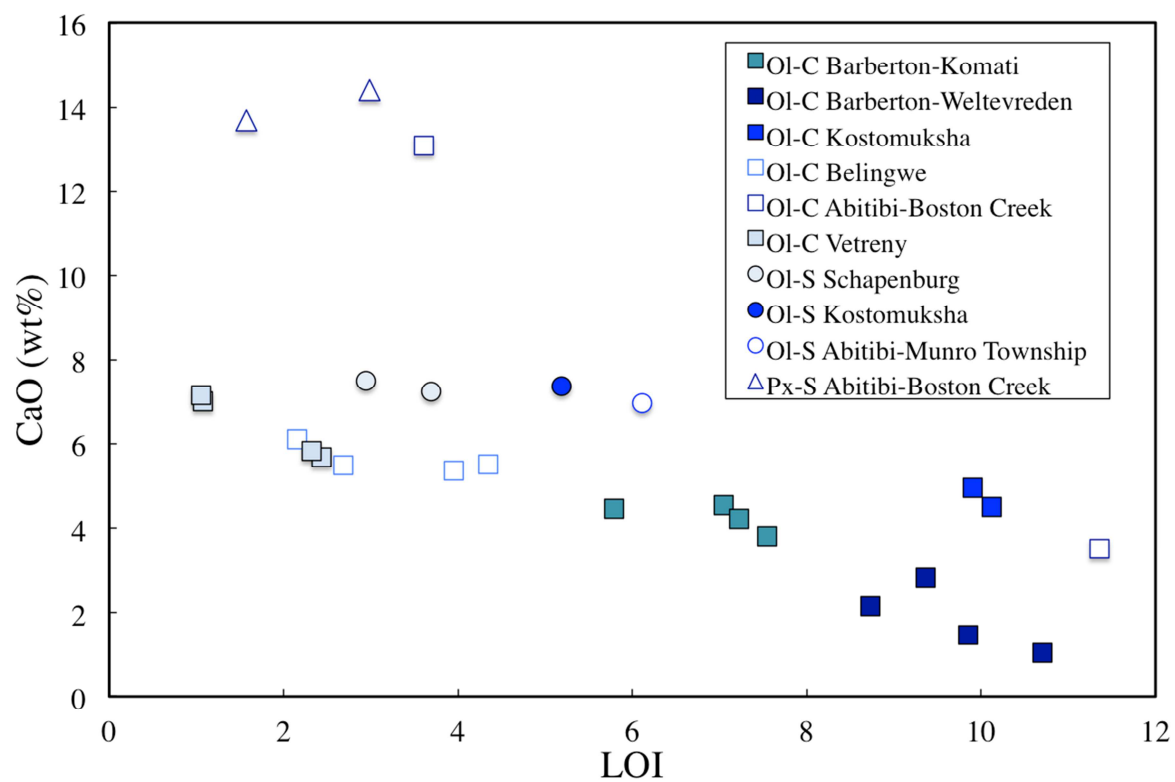
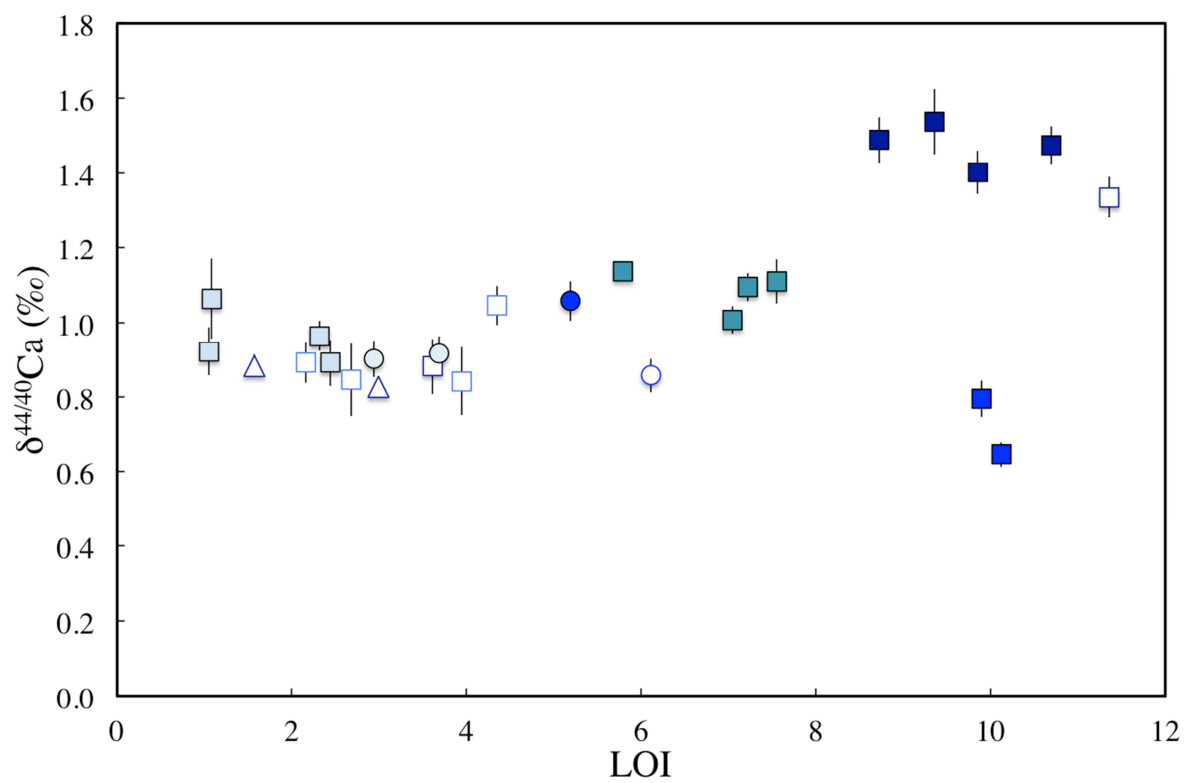
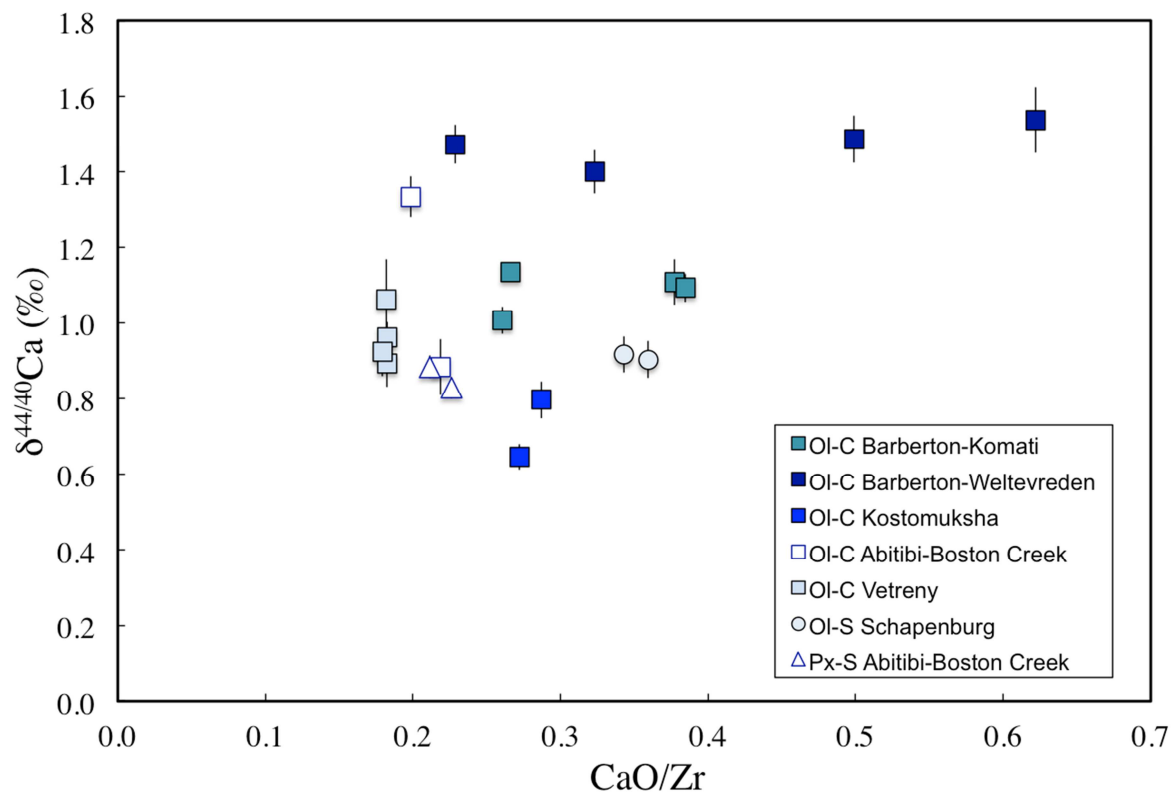


Figure 2b



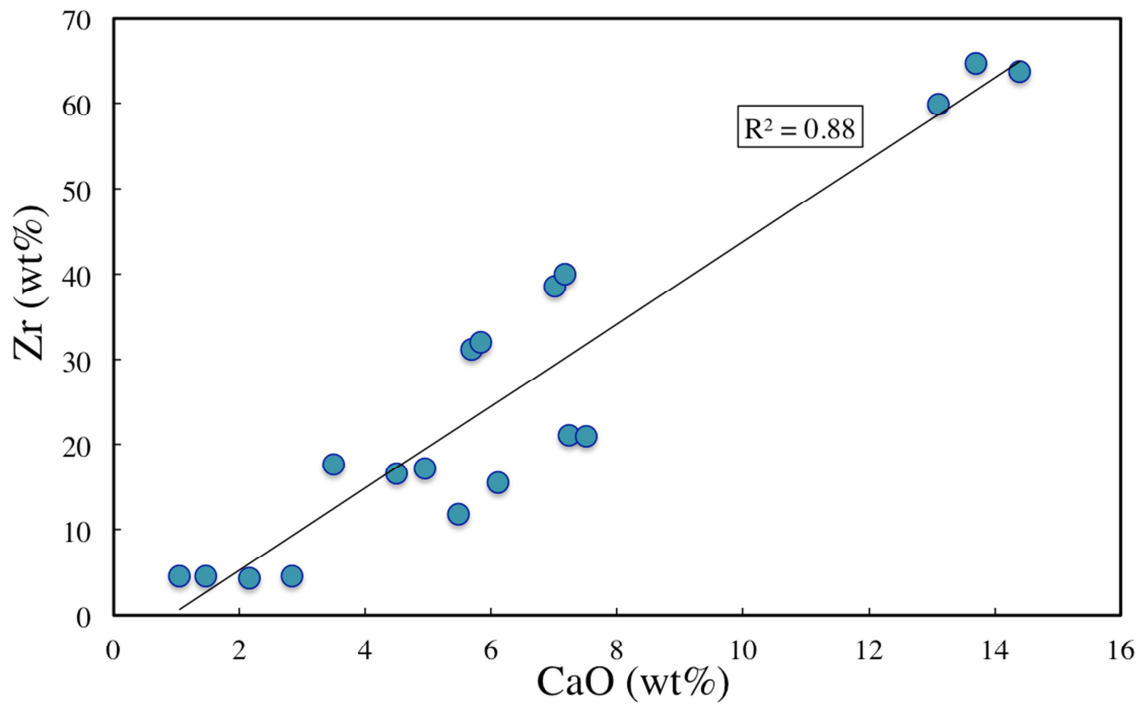
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575 Figure 3



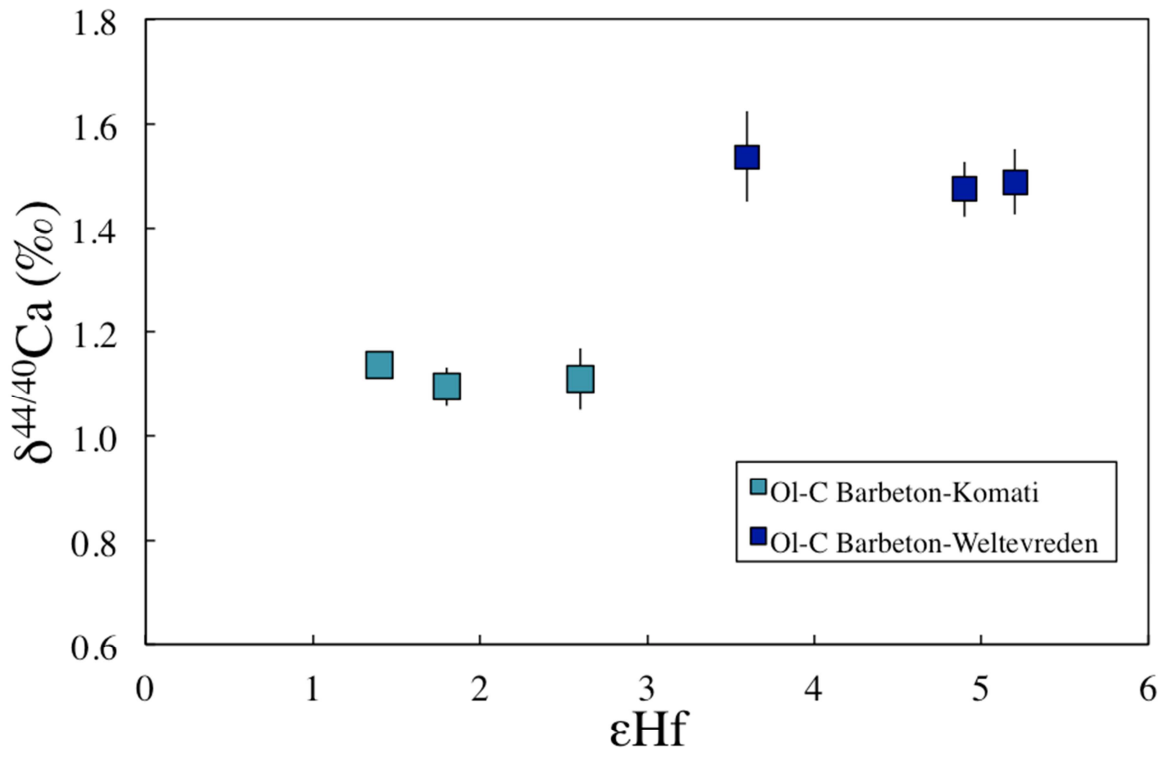
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577 Figure 4



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579 Figure 5



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581 Figure 6

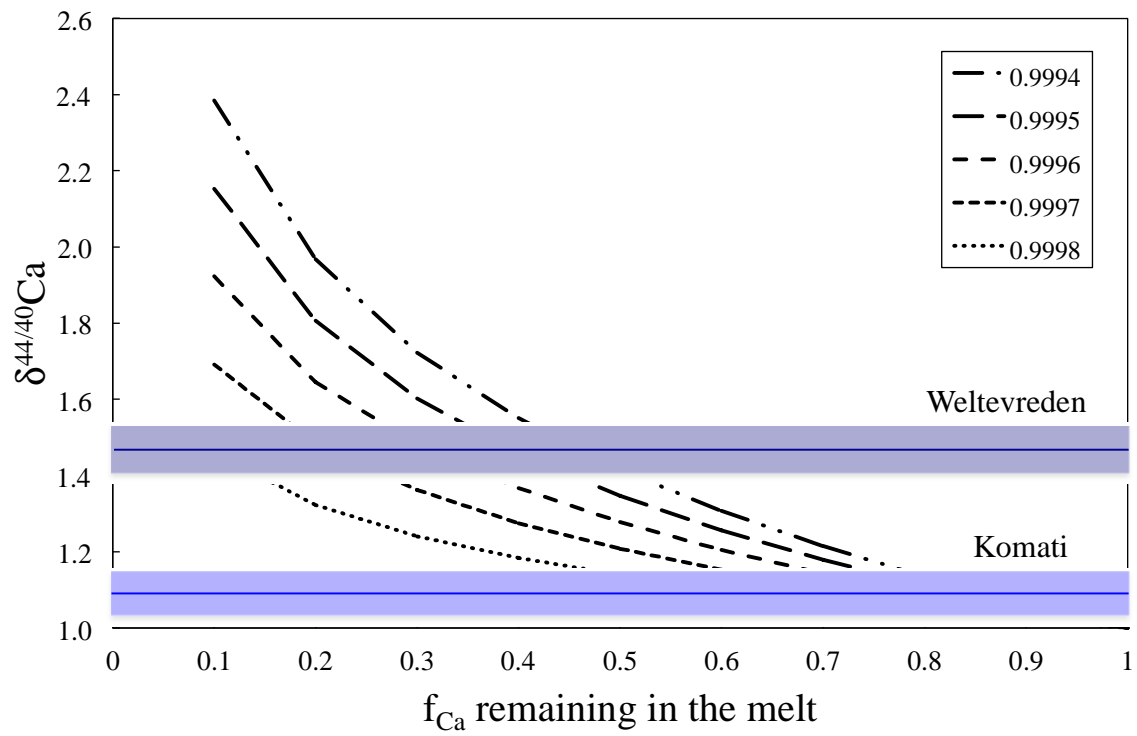


Figure 6a

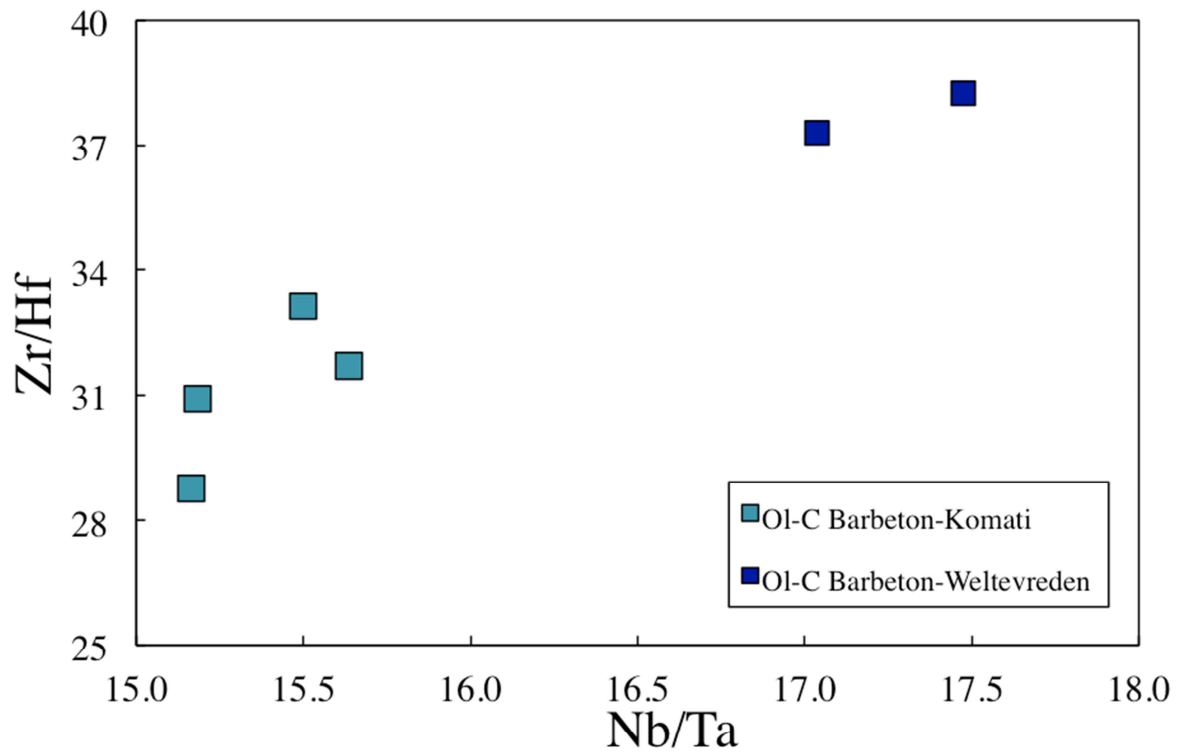


Figure 6b

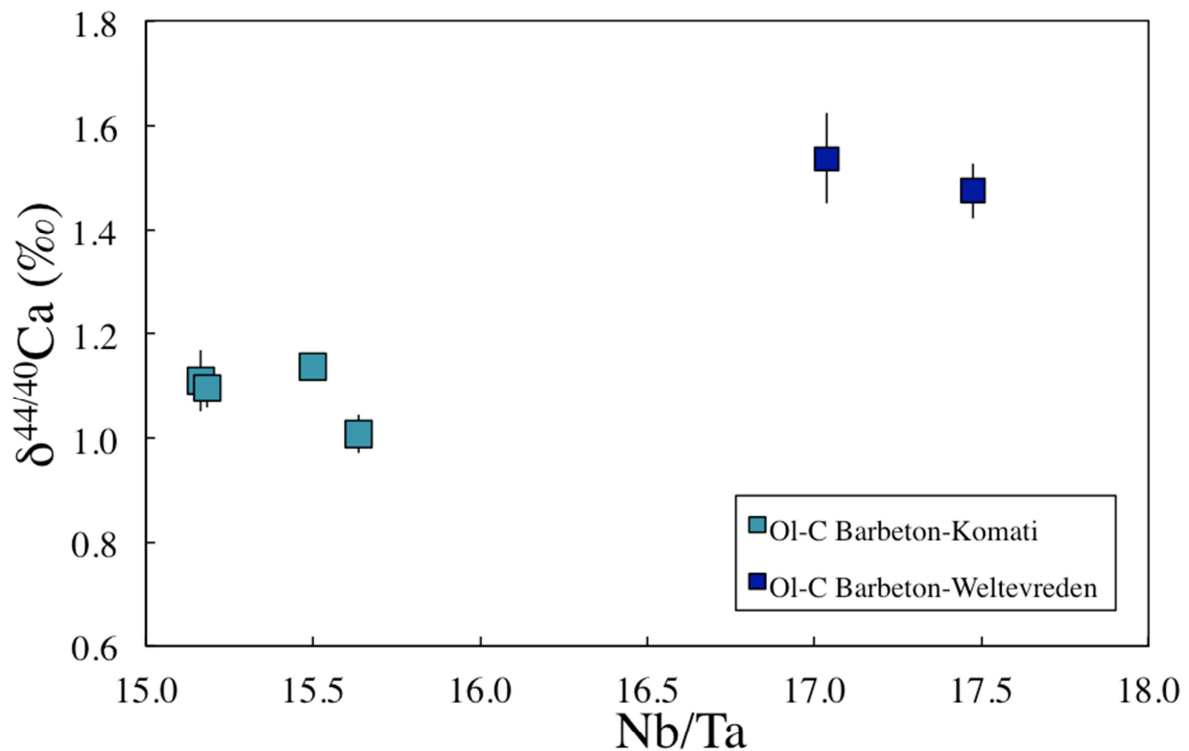


Figure captions

Figure 1: Calcium isotopic composition of olivine cumulate (square symbols, Ol-C) and olivine and pyroxene spinifex (circle symbols, Ol-S; triangle symbols, Px-S) textures of komatiites in the study sorted by age with Bartberton the oldest and Vetreny the youngest. The shaded areas represent three estimates of the BSE.

Figure 2: a) Calcium isotopic composition and b) CaO content of komatiites relative to their loss of ignition (LOI data from Puchtel et al., 1998; 2013; 2016a; 2016b and 2018).

Figure 3: Calcium isotopic composition of komatiites relative to CaO/Zr ratio (CaO and Zr data from Puchtel et al., 1998; 2013; 2016a; 2016b and 2018).

Figure 4: Zr content of komatiites relative to their CaO content (data from Puchtel et al., 1998; 2013; 2016a; 2016b and 2018).

Figure 5: Calcium isotopic composition of Barberton komatiites relative to their ϵ_{Hf} (data from Puchtel et al., 2013).

Figure 6: A Rayleigh distillation model for the evolution of $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ in the residual liquid during the removal of Ca by crystallization. Five different curves represent the different fractionation factor.

Figure 7a: Nb/Ta of Barberton komatiites relative to their Zr/Hf. The trend reflects fractionation due to perovskite partitioning. Weltevreden komatiites are more exposed to the partitioning than the Komati ones.

Figure 7b: Calcium isotopic composition of Barberton komatiites relative to their Nb/Ta ratio confirming Ca fractionation during perovskite crystallization.

Table 1 - Calcium isotopic composition of komatiites relative to SRM915b and renormalized to SRM915a.

Sample	Location	Texture	Age (Gy)	$\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}^2$	2se ¹	n ³
BV03	Komati Fm Barberton Greenstone Belt	Ol-cumulate	3.48	1.14	0.02	4
BV10	Komati Fm Barberton Greenstone Belt	Ol-cumulate	3.48	1.01	0.04	4
BV13	Komati Fm Barberton Greenstone Belt	Ol-cumulate	3.48	1.11	0.06	4
BV15	Komati Fm Barberton Greenstone Belt	Ol-cumulate	3.48	1.09	0.04	4
501-1	Weltevreden Fm Barberton Greenstone Belt	Ol-cumulate	3.26	1.47	0.05	4
501-8	Weltevreden Fm Barberton Greenstone Belt	Ol-cumulate	3.26	1.40	0.06	4
564-2	Weltevreden Fm Barberton Greenstone Belt	Ol-cumulate	3.26	1.49	0.06	4
12-6	Weltevreden Fm Barberton Greenstone Belt	Ol-cumulate	3.26	1.54	0.09	4
94100	Kostomuksha Greenstone Belt	Ol-cumulate	2.82	0.64	0.03	7
94126	Kostomuksha Greenstone Belt	Ol-cumulate	2.82	0.80	0.05	6
TN 17	Belingwe Greenstone Belt	Ol-cumulate	2.7	0.84	0.09	4
TN 18	Belingwe Greenstone Belt	Ol-cumulate	2.7	1.04	0.05	4
TN 19	Belingwe Greenstone Belt	Ol-cumulate	2.7	0.85	0.10	5
ZV 10	Belingwe Greenstone Belt	Ol-cumulate	2.7	0.89	0.05	4
		Ol-Px				
BC06	Boston Creek Abitibi Greenstone Belt	cumulate	2.7	0.88	0.07	7
BC08	Boston Creek Abitibi Greenstone Belt	Ol-cumulate	2.7	1.33	0.05	7
01001	Vetreny Belt Victoria lava lake	Ol-cumulate	2.41	0.89	0.06	4
01104	Vetreny Belt Victoria lava lake	Ol-cumulate	2.41	1.06	0.11	3
01105	Vetreny Belt Victoria lava lake	Ol-cumulate	2.41	0.96	0.04	3
01106	Vetreny Belt Victoria lava lake	Ol-cumulate	2.41	0.92	0.06	7
SCH						
2.6	Schapenburg, South Africa	Ol-spinifex	3.55	0.92	0.05	6
SCH						
3.6	Schapenburg, South Africa	Ol-spinifex	3.55	0.90	0.05	7
9497	Kostomuksha Greenstone Belt	Ol-spinifex	2.82	1.06	0.05	7
PH08	Abitibi Greenstone Belt Munro Twonship	-	2.7	1.01	0.04	7
PH28	Abitibi Greenstone Belt Munro Twonship	Ol-spinifex	2.7	0.86	0.05	5
BC02	Boston Creek Abitibi Greenstone Belt	Px-spinifex	2.7	0.83	0.03	6
BC03	Boston Creek Abitibi Greenstone Belt	Px-spinifex	2.7	0.88	0.03	7

¹ 2se= 2 x standard deviation / \sqrt{n}

² The Ca isotope ratios are normalized relative to SRM 915A

³ n= number of measurements