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# Origin and abundances of volatiles on Mars from the zinc isotopic composition of Martian meteorites

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**Abstract** (218 words)

Volatile elements are key to understanding the accretion and differentiation processes that formed the terrestrial planets. Relative to the solar photosphere or carbonaceous Ivuna-type (CI) chondrites, the terrestrial planets are depleted in moderately volatile elements (MVEs), with the Earth being more depleted in MVEs than Mars. Mass-dependent and mass-independent stable isotope variations of MVEs, such as Zn, can be used to determine the origin of volatile depletion on Mars. Here we present Zn isotopic compositions of ten Martian meteorites, spanning the major petrologic groups, and show that the Zn isotope composition of the Martian mantle, representative of the Bulk Silicate Mars (BSM), has a  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  (per mille deviation of the  $^{66}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn}$  from the JMC-Lyon standard) of  $+0.50 \pm 0.18$ . This is distinctly heavier than that of the Earth ( $+0.16 \pm 0.06$  ‰). The BSM Zn isotope composition could partly reflect fractionation during volatile loss by evaporation consistent with the isotopic composition of other volatile elements (e.g., K). The mass-independent Zn isotopic composition of Mars,  $\epsilon^{66}\text{Zn}$  (per 10,000 deviation of the  $^{66}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn}$  from the terrestrial standard JMC-Lyon, normalized to  $^{68}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn}$ ) is intermediate between carbonaceous chondrites (CC) and non-carbonaceous chondrites (NC), but with stronger affinity to the NC compared to that of the Earth. Therefore, planets further from the Sun are not necessarily made from a higher fraction of CC-like material.

## 32           **1. Introduction**

33           Barring a sample return mission to Mars, Martian meteorites are the sole tangible records  
34 of its crust available for laboratory investigation. These samples provide insights into the  
35 composition of Mars, as well as the processes that led to its accretion and differentiation (e.g.,  
36 McSween, 1994; Nyquist et al., 2001; Treiman et al., 2000; Halliday et al., 2001; McSween et al.,  
37 2009; Taylor, 2013; Tait and Day, 2018; Udry et al., 2020; Paquet et al., 2021; Tian et al., 2021).  
38 Volatile elements play an essential role in the evolution of planetary bodies. However, the timing,  
39 budget, nature and extent of volatile-depletion in planetary bodies during the earliest stages of  
40 solar system evolution remain poorly constrained. The terrestrial planets are depleted in  
41 moderately volatile elements (MVEs) relative to the Sun or CI-chondrites, (e.g., Anders and Owen,  
42 1977; Dreibus and Wänke, 1987; Palme and O'Neill, 2014; Khan et al., 2022). Recent work on K  
43 isotopes showed that Martian meteorites have systematically heavier K isotopic compositions than  
44 the Bulk Silicate Earth (BSE), suggesting that volatile depletion proceeded to a greater extent,  
45 producing stronger K isotope fractionation by evaporation relative to their potential precursor  
46 materials (Tian et al., 2021). However, this interpretation contrasts with the observation that the  
47 abundances of volatile elements, such as Zn, Rb and K, are higher in the estimated composition of  
48 the Martian mantle than in the BSE (Yoshizaki and McDonough, 2020; Khan et al, 2022).

49  
50           Zinc is an ideal element to investigate volatile delivery and loss during planetary accretion  
51 (Day and Moynier, 2014) because it is lithophile and moderately volatile (with a half-condensation  
52 temperature ( $T_c$ ) of 704 K), more so than K ( $T_c = 993$  K) under solar nebula conditions (Wood et  
53 al., 2019). Wood et al. (2014) showed Zn also exhibits chalcophile behavior to some extent,  
54 resulting in Zn partitioning into metal slightly increasing with the S content in the metal. Recent

55 studies suggested that the Martian core may be richer in S than that of the Earth, with ~10 wt.% of  
56 S (e.g., Wang et al., 2016; Steenstra and van Westrenen, 2018; Yoshizaki and McDonough, 2020;  
57 Khan et al. 2022). For 10 wt.% of S in the metal, the partition coefficient for Zn is  $0.06 \times D_{\text{Fe}}$   
58 (Wood et al., 2014), or  $D_{\text{Zn}} \sim 0.06$  for  $D_{\text{Fe}} \sim 10$  (Righter and Drake, 1999) – value that decreases  
59 with increasing pressure (Mann et al., 2009). Limited to negligible Zn isotope fractionation is  
60 expected due to metal-silicate and sulfide-silicate partitioning (Bridgestock et al., 2014; Mahan et  
61 al., 2017; Xia et al. 2019) with respect to the temperatures required for the formation of the Martian  
62 core (~2300 K; e.g., Righter and Drake, 1996; Rai and van Westrenen, 2013), independently of  
63 the S content of the experiments. Thus, it is reasonable to assume that the Bulk Mars and the Bulk  
64 Silicate Mars have nearly identical Zn isotopic composition. Furthermore, Zn exhibits limited  
65 isotope fractionation (<0.1 ‰ per atomic mass unit) during igneous processes on Earth, namely  
66 partial melting and fractional crystallization (e.g., Chen et al., 2013; Sossi et al., 2018). In  
67 terrestrial and chondritic samples, variations of  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  (the per mille deviation of the  $^{66}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn}$  ratio  
68 from the JMC-Lyon standard) larger than 1‰ have been observed mostly in association with  
69 volatility-related processes (e.g., Moynier et al., 2006, 2009, 2011; Kamber and Schoenberg, 2020;  
70 Mathur et al., 2021). Thus, Zn isotopic fractionation, combined with variations in Zn abundances  
71 in igneous rocks from various differentiated planetary bodies, such as the Earth, the Moon or Mars,  
72 can reveal significant differences in volatile depletion and recondensation events for these bodies.

73

74 Previous Zn isotopic data for Martian meteorites show a range of  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  from +0.13 to  
75 +0.35‰, defining a mean value ( $+0.25 \pm 0.11$  ‰, 2SD n=11; Paniello et al., 2012) that is not  
76 resolvable from the isotopic composition of the BSE ( $+0.16 \pm 0.06$  ‰ to  $+0.20 \pm 0.03$  ‰; McCoy-  
77 West et al., 2018; Sossi et al., 2018; Doucet et al., 2020; Fang et al. 2022) within error. Thus, it is

78 necessary to re-evaluate the Zn isotopic composition of Mars, to test whether the hypothesis that  
79 volatile depletion and associated isotopic fractionation should be more pronounced on smaller  
80 bodies, based on K isotopes (Tian et al., 2021), also holds for Zn. To better estimate the Zn isotopic  
81 composition of the Bulk Silicate Mars (BSM), we present new high precision Zn isotope data for  
82 ten Martian meteorites that represent the major petrologic types. Combined with previous  
83 measurements, this new dataset allows assessment of the Zn isotope composition of the Martian  
84 mantle. After accounting for the effects of shallow-level crystallization and partial melting, it is  
85 possible to derive a  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  value for the BSM. We interpret these data in terms of the accretion-  
86 and differentiation history of Mars.

87

88 In addition, nucleosynthetic anomalies provide essential information to identify the origin  
89 of the material accreted to planetary bodies, as well as early Solar System conditions and processes  
90 (e.g., Clayton and Mayeda, 1996; Trinquier et al., 2007, 2009; Burkhardt et al., 2021; Savage et  
91 al., 2022; Steller et al., 2022; Martins et al., 2023). Zinc isotopic anomalies, defined as  $\varepsilon^{66}\text{Zn}$   
92 (deviation in parts per 10,000 of the  $^{66}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn}$  from the terrestrial standard JMC-Lyon, normalized  
93 to  $^{68}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn}$ ), exhibit a difference between non-carbonaceous chondrite (NC) and carbonaceous  
94 chondrite (CC) material (Savage et al. 2022; Steller et al. 2022; Paquet et al., 2022), as also  
95 observed in more refractory elements (Trinquier et al., 2007, 2009; Budde et al., 2016; Kruijer et  
96 al., 2017; Nanne et al., 2019). The recognition that these meteorite groups define two distinct  
97 isotopic populations permits the origin of volatile elements on Earth to be quantified, because  
98 Earth has a mass-independent Zn isotopic composition intermediate between CC and NC material  
99 (Savage et al., 2022; Steller et al., 2022; Paquet et al., 2022). Such modeling based on Zn  
100 nucleosynthetic anomalies indicates that  $\sim 30\%$  of Earth's Zn budget originates from carbonaceous

101 chondrites, which can be explained by the accretion of ~5 to 12% by mass of CI/Ryugu-like or  
102 CV-like material, respectively (Savage et al., 2022; Steller et al., 2022; Paquet et al., 2022), with  
103 the remainder coming from NC material. Because the different elements used to define the NC-  
104 CC dichotomy record different stages of a planet's accretion history owing to their different  
105 siderophilicities and volatilities (e.g., Dauphas, 2017), the information contained in Zn anomalies  
106 differs from that in other elements. Following the same approach, we use the mass-independent  
107 Zn isotopic composition of Mars to better understand the provenance of volatile elements on Mars.

108

## 109 **2. Samples and methods**

### 110 *2.1 Petrological characteristics*

111 Martian meteorites are the only samples currently available from Mars and are traditionally  
112 divided into three main groups: shergottites, nakhlites and chassignites, collectively termed SNCs.  
113 They are igneous rocks and have mafic to ultramafic compositions (~4 to 30 wt.% MgO; e.g., Udry  
114 et al., 2020 and references therein). Shergottites, broadly basaltic rocks derived from partial  
115 melting of distinct regions of the Martian mantle, are the most abundant class of Martian meteorites  
116 (~89% of the total collection by number; Udry et al., 2020). Shergottites are usually divided into  
117 three petrographically defined groups (basaltic, olivine-phyric and poikilitic [ultramafic  
118 cumulates]) but also into three geochemical groups based on their incompatible trace element  
119 abundances and lithophile isotope ratios (enriched, intermediate and depleted; Borg and Draper,  
120 2003). Nakhlites and chassignites are cumulates: nakhlites are clinopyroxenites to olivine-  
121 clinopyroxenites that comprise cumulus olivine and pyroxene with minor glass, plagioclase,  
122 phosphate minerals, fayalite-rich olivine in the mesostasis, titanomagnetite, and sulfides, whereas  
123 chassignites are dunites and contain cumulus olivine with chromite inclusions and interstitial  
124 plagioclase, orthopyroxene, phosphate and sulfide minerals (e.g., Treiman, 2005; Udry et al.,

125 2020). Nakhrites and chassignites have similar crystallization (~1.3 Ga) and ejection (~11 Ma)  
126 ages, which suggests that they likely originate from the same location on Mars (Nyquist et al.,  
127 2001; Cohen et al., 2017; Udry and Day, 2018).

128

## 129 *2.2 Zinc purification and measurements*

130 Zinc isotopic compositions were measured in ten Martian meteorites, including seven  
131 shergottites (depleted: Allan Hills [ALHA] 77005, Dar al Gani [DaG] 476, Elephant Moraine  
132 [EETA] 79001, Tissint; enriched: Larkman Nunatak [LAR] 06319, Roberts Massif [RBT] 04262,  
133 Zagami), two nakhrites (Miller Range [MIL] 0346, MIL090032) and one orthopyroxenite (ALH  
134 84001).

135

136 For each sample, ~100 mg of homogenized powder was dissolved using a mixture of  
137 concentrated HNO<sub>3</sub>/HF and heated at 130°C in PTFE beakers. Following evaporation of the  
138 HNO<sub>3</sub>/HF, samples were subsequently treated with 6 mol.L<sup>-1</sup> HCl and heated again to dissolve  
139 remaining fluoride complexes. Samples were then evaporated to dryness. Chemical purification  
140 was conducted for some samples at the Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris and for others at the  
141 Australian National University, Canberra. In Paris, the analytical methodology followed that  
142 described by van Kooten and Moynier (2019), while in Canberra it followed the procedure  
143 described in Sossi et al. (2015). The Zn isotope compositions were then measured using a Thermo  
144 Scientific Neptune Plus Multi-Collector Inductively-Coupled-Plasma Mass Spectrometer (MC-  
145 ICP-MS) at either IPGP or at ANU, following the methods described in van Kooten and Moynier  
146 (2019) and Sossi et al. (2015), respectively.

147

148 Zinc isotope compositions are reported in **Table 1**, as the deviation in parts per 1000 from  
 149 the terrestrial standard JMC-Lyon:

$$150 \quad \delta^x\text{Zn} = \left[ \frac{\left(\frac{x\text{Zn}}{64\text{Zn}}\right)_{\text{Sample}}}{\left(\frac{x\text{Zn}}{64\text{Zn}}\right)_{\text{JMC-Lyon}}} - 1 \right] \times 10^3 \quad (1)$$

151 where x=66 or 68. Uncertainties are given as the 2 times standard deviation (2SD) of replicate  
 152 measurements. Standard reference powders were analyzed together with the SNCs, yielding values  
 153 of  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn} = \pm 0.29 \pm 0.01$  (2SE, n=4; IPGP) and  $+0.28 \pm 0.03$  (2SE, n=2; ANU) for BHVO-2 and  
 154  $+0.21 \pm 0.04$  (2SE, n=2; ANU) for Allende, respectively, which are consistent with recommended  
 155 literature values (Moynier et al., 2017). The external reproducibility was therefore better than 0.04  
 156 on the  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  value.

157  
 158 Zinc isotope measurements were also corrected for mass-dependent fractionation using the  
 159 exponential law (Russel et al., 1978), with the internal normalizing ratio of  $^{68}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn}$  of 0.3856  
 160 (Rosman, 1972). Zinc isotopic anomalies represent the deviation from the mass-dependent  
 161 fractionation line (**Figure S1**) and are quantified using the epsilon notation, which corresponds to  
 162 the deviation in parts per 10,000 from the terrestrial standard JMC-Lyon, as follows:

$$163 \quad \varepsilon^{66}\text{Zn}_c = \left[ \frac{\left(\frac{66\text{Zn}}{64\text{Zn}}\right)_{\text{Sample}}}{\left(\frac{66\text{Zn}}{64\text{Zn}}\right)_{\text{JMC-Lyon}}} - 1 \right] \times 10^4 \quad (2)$$

164 where c is the normalizing ratio  $^{68}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn}$ .

165

### 166 **3. Results**

167 All Martian meteorites fall slightly above the mass-dependent fractionation line in a  $\delta^{68}\text{Zn}$   
 168 versus  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  plot (**Figure S1**), which is consistent with previous studies on Mars (e.g., Paniello et

169 al., 2012). Martian meteorites span a range of  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  from  $+0.18 \pm 0.02$  (Tissint) to  $+0.52 \pm 0.02$   
170 (ALHA 77005), with an average value of  $+0.36 \pm 0.08$  (**Figure 1, Table 1**). Five of the Martian  
171 meteorites analyzed in Paniello et al. (2012) are also presented herein (**Figure 2**). It is worth noting  
172 that data from this study tend to exhibit slightly higher  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  values than those from Paniello et al.  
173 (2012), which could be attributed to heterogeneities in the measured Martian meteorites.

174

175 Nakhlites, enriched and depleted shergottites are, on average, indistinguishable within  
176 uncertainty ( $+0.36 \pm 0.00$  ‰ [n=2, 2SE],  $+0.36 \pm 0.07$  ‰ [n=3, 2SE] and  $+0.35 \pm 0.12$  ‰ [n=4,  
177 2SE], respectively). This assertion is confirmed by a two-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test that  
178 returned D values of 0.29 (depleted vs. enriched shergottites), 0.71 (depleted shergottites vs.  
179 nakhlites) and 0.71 (enriched shergottites vs. nakhlites), where D is the maximum absolute value  
180 of the difference between the cumulative distribution functions for the different groups of Martian  
181 meteorites (Miller and Miller, 2018). For a confidence level of  $\alpha = 0.05$ , the D values need to be  
182 greater than  $D_{\text{criteria}} = \sqrt{-\ln(\alpha/2)/2} \times \sqrt{(n_1 + n_2)/n_1/n_2} = 0.67$ , where  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are the  
183 numbers of samples in each population.

184

185 The Martian samples with the lowest  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  values tend to exhibit lower MgO contents  
186 (**Figure 2a**), opposite to what is observed for terrestrial basalts (Sossi et al., 2018), however there  
187 is no correlation with their Zn abundances (**Figure 2b**). Our study also provides evidence for the  
188 first mass-independent Zn isotope variations ( $\epsilon^{66}\text{Zn}$ ) in Martian meteorites (**Figure 4**), ranging  
189 from -0.25 to +0.07, except for one MIL 03346 replicate (+0.42) (**Table 1**), with an average value  
190 for Mars of  $-0.07 \pm 0.08$  (2SE, n = 10).

191

## 192 4. Discussion

193 As demonstrated above, Martian meteorites exhibit a range of  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  values. These variations  
194 may arise from terrestrial late-stage and alteration processes, magmatic differentiation, volatile  
195 depletion processes prior or during accretion, and core formation on Mars. In the following  
196 discussion, we will address the potential contribution of these different processes to the Zn isotopic  
197 compositions of the Martian meteorites individually.

198

### 199 *4.1 Potential disturbance of Zn during late-stage processes*

200 All Martian meteorites considered in this study were recovered from hot (Sahara) or cold  
201 (Antarctica) deserts, and therefore may have undergone terrestrial alteration and weathering,  
202 potentially perturbing the Zn isotope compositions in these rocks from their primary igneous  
203 values. Such alteration processes can affect refractory lithophile isotope compositions by the  
204 formation of secondary minerals in hot desert environments (e.g., Crozaz et al., 2003; Symes et  
205 al., 2008), or remobilized lanthanides, mostly in the presence of phosphates, due to prolonged ice  
206 exposure in cold desert environments (e.g., Crozaz et al., 2003). Even though isotopic disturbances  
207 have been observed in Antarctic and hot desert meteorites, initial  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios for most samples  
208 investigated here show little variation relative to the 4.5 Ga line (e.g., Tait and Day, 2018),  
209 supporting the hypothesis that these Martian meteorites underwent limited terrestrial alteration. In  
210 terrestrial rocks, Zn is mostly hosted in silicates (olivine, orthopyroxene) and oxides (ilmenite,  
211 spinel) (e.g., Le Roux et al., 2011; Fang et al., 2022), and is mobile only when the minerals are  
212 heavily altered (Debret et al. 2021), which is not the case here. Moreover, normalizing Zn  
213 abundances to another element, such as Fe, that behaves similarly during petrogenetic processes,  
214 provided it is predominantly ferrous (e.g., Le Roux et al., 2010; Davis et al., 2013), represents a  
215 test of the degree to which the original magmatic abundances of Zn are preserved. Thus, if

216 undisturbed, Martian meteorites owing to the relatively reduced  $fO_2$  ( $\sim$ IW; Wadhwa, 2001) under  
217 which they crystallized, should lie on olivine- and/or pyroxene control lines producing near  
218 constant Zn/Fe ratios. Samples that experienced secondary weathering/alteration should then  
219 diverge from the constant Zn/Fe value. All Martian meteorites have comparable Zn/Fe ratios,  
220 ranging between  $2.6 \times 10^{-4}$  and  $5.1 \times 10^{-4}$ , even though they are not representative of a single  
221 differentiation suite, with the exception of ALH 84001 which plots off the array ( $7.3 \times 10^{-4}$ , **Table**  
222 **1**). ALH 84001 is an orthopyroxenite that preserves evidence of interaction with aqueous fluids  
223 while on Mars in the form of microscopic carbonate disks (Thomas-Keprta et al., 2009). Despite  
224 this, its  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  is  $+0.31 \pm 0.01$  and is consistent with the other Martian samples. Thus, the Zn isotope  
225 composition of the Martian meteorites can be regarded as reflecting the primary signature of  
226 magma from which they derived.

227

#### 228 *4.2 Zinc fractionation during magmatic processes*

229 Magmatic processes such as partial melting and fractional crystallization have been shown  
230 to fractionate Zn isotopes in terrestrial environments (e.g., McCoy-West et al. 2018). Strikingly,  
231 the array defined by Martian magmas in MgO -  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  space is a mirror image of that expressed in  
232 terrestrial basalts or komatiites (e.g., Chen et al., 2013; Sossi et al., 2018), with decreasing  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$   
233 with decreasing MgO (**Figure 2a**). This behavior was also noted by Paniello et al. (2012), but the  
234 precision of Zn isotopic data was not sufficient to define a trend.

235

236 Mineral proportions in shergottites are similar to those in terrestrial basalts, with olivine  
237 constituting 7 – 29 % of olivine-phyric shergottites and 35 – 60 % of poikilitic shergottites (Bridges  
238 and Warren, 2006; Sarbadhikari et al., 2009). The bulk of the remainder of the minerals is  
239 comprised of pyroxenes (largely pigeonite), in which  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  are also octahedrally

240 coordinated (Cameron et al., 1973). Therefore, as in terrestrial basalts, the Zn budget of the solid  
241 phases is dominated by ferromagnesian silicates. Since  $^{VI}\text{Zn}^{2+}$  is the prevailing bonding  
242 environment owing to its substitution for  $^{VI}\text{Fe}^{2+}$  in these phases, hypotheses for differences in the  
243 terrestrial and Martian arrays must appeal to changes in melt composition.

244

245         In natural terrestrial silicate melts, Zn is expected to occur in tetrahedral coordination,  
246 owing to its lack of octahedral site preference energy, and by analogy with Zn-bearing minerals  
247 and in aluminosilicate glasses (e.g., Neumann, 1949; Dumas and Petiau, 1986). However, the  
248 distinctive feature of Martian magmas is their high  $\text{FeO}_t$  contents, which acts predominantly as a  
249 network modifier, as Fe is almost exclusively  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  (Righter et al., 2013). For primary Martian  
250 magmas, such as EETA 79001A (Filiberto and Dasgupta, 2011), NBO/T is  $\sim 2$ , which is higher  
251 than typical terrestrial magmas (up to  $\sim 1$ ), but similar to komatiites. Increasing proportions of  
252 network modifiers tend to increase the coordination number, such that a higher proportion of Zn  
253 would be expected to be in VI-fold coordination in such melts. This behavior is corroborated by  
254 the tendency for other divalent first-row transition metals, such as Co and Ni, to exist in octahedral  
255 complexes in more basic compositions (e.g., Farges et al., 2001). However, while this shift will  
256 reduce isotopic fractionation between the two phases, the melt becoming enriched in heavy  
257 isotopes in terrestrial melts (Sossi et al., 2018), it is unknown whether it would reverse the trend  
258 to the extent observed for Martian magmas.

259

260         Since shergottites and nakhlites/chassignites are likely not cogenetic magmas (Wadhwa,  
261 2001; Borg and Draper, 2003; Bridges and Warren, 2006), their chemical and isotopic signatures  
262 could also derive from differences in their source composition. However, given the degree of

263 homogeneity shown for the Zn isotopic composition of terrestrial rocks (e.g., Sossi et al., 2018),  
264 this is unlikely. Another possibility is that a fraction of the Zn is hosted in oxides (e.g., spinel), in  
265 which it exists in IV-fold co-ordination (O'Neill and Navrotsky, 1983) and should therefore  
266 concentrate the heavier isotopes, though this would also be the case on Earth. Volatile loss of Zn  
267 during magma emplacement is also precluded (Toutain et al., 2008) because it would result in the  
268 preferential loss of the lighter isotopes of Zn, causing  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  to increase towards lower MgO  
269 contents, which is the opposite of what is observed for Martian meteorites (**Figure 2**). Additional  
270 experiments on Zn isotope fractionation in igneous systems are required to understand the drivers  
271 of Zn isotope variations in natural rocks, and in particular the role of its co-ordination environment,  
272 both in minerals and melts.

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274

#### *4.3 Zinc composition of the Bulk Silicate Mars*

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The high Fe content of Bulk Silicate Mars as calculated from the SNC suite is consistent with spectral data of the Martian surface, which reveals similarly enriched FeO contents relative to Earth's mantle or its basaltic crust (Taylor et al., 2006; McSween et al., 2009; Khan et al., 2022). This observation is true for other divalent cations, including  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ , where Mg/Fe and Mn/Fe ratios of shergottites and in-situ measurements of Martian samples fall on liquid lines of descent (e.g., McSween et al., 2009). Such similarity arises from the near-absence of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  in the Martian mantle (e.g., Richter et al., 2013), and suggests that  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  behaves analogously to Fe during magmatic differentiation. Their concordance increases the likelihood that the concentrations, and potentially isotopic compositions of Zn in the SNCs are reflections of that of the Martian mantle. Therefore, although the sample size is small, the SNCs span a broad range of MgO contents that allow for the characterization of trends likely controlled by igneous processes (**Figure 2a**). The fact that these appear to be preserved also supports closed-system transport of the meteorites to

287 Earth with respect to Zn. Extrapolation of the shergottite array (with the exception of Tissint which  
288 plots within the BSE range) to the MgO content of the Martian mantle of  $32.81 \pm 0.22$  wt.% (Khan  
289 et al., 2022) yields a  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn} = +0.50 \pm 0.18$ , distinctly heavier than that of the Earth (from  $+0.16 \pm$   
290  $0.06$  ‰ to  $+0.20 \pm 0.03$  ‰; McCoy-West et al., 2018; Sossi et al., 2018; Doucet et al., 2020; Fang  
291 et al., 2022). Alternatively, using the average of the shergottites results in a value of  $+0.38 \pm 0.05$   
292 ‰ (2SE,  $n = 6$ ), which lies within uncertainty of our reported estimate based on the  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn} - \text{MgO}$   
293 correlation ( $R^2 = 0.65$ , excluding Tissint). Thus, for the following discussion we report our initial  
294 estimate of  $+0.50 \pm 0.18$  ‰ for the BSM.

295

#### 296 *4.4 Behavior of Zn and other moderately volatile elements during accretion of* 297 *Mars*

298 In  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn} - \text{Zn/Mg}$  space, the Earth's estimate plots at the intersection of 1) the carbonaceous  
299 chondrites trend following the equation  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn} = 0.363 \log(\text{Zn/Mg}) + 1.40$  (Luck et al., 2005; Pringle  
300 et al., 2017; Sossi et al., 2018) and 2) the path of fractionation induced by evaporation or  
301 condensation, for a fractionation factor between liquid/solid and gas yielding the composition of  
302 the Moon (Sossi et al., 2018). The Earth's composition is interpreted as having been derived from  
303 the accretion of material that experienced chemical and isotopic fractionation in the solar nebula,  
304 similar to that experienced by carbonaceous chondrites but extended to more volatile-depleted  
305 extremes. Our estimate of the bulk Zn/Mg ratio of Mars,  $3.34 \times 10^{-4}$  (MgO =  $32.81 \pm 0.22$  wt.%,  
306  $\text{Zn}_{\text{mantle}} = 65.9 \pm 8.5$  ppm), would result in a composition of  $+0.14$  ‰, similar to that of the Earth  
307 (**Figure 3**), were Mars to have also inherited the majority of its Zn from carbonaceous chondrite-  
308 like components. However, with an estimated composition of  $+0.50 \pm 0.18$  ‰ for the BSM, the  
309  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  of Mars is greater than that defined by the carbonaceous chondrite array.

310 Accounting for a similar proportion of the total Zn residing in the Martian core (which  
311 corresponds to a mass fraction of 25%, with a higher S content; e.g., Khan et al., 2022) that in the  
312 Earth's core (Sossi et al., 2018), we obtain  $Zn_{\text{bulk}} = 99.8$  ppm. Assuming that no Mg partitioned  
313 into the core (e.g., Ringwood and Hibberson, 1991), the Zn/Mg ratio of Mars is  $5.05 \times 10^{-4}$ .  
314 Notably, Zn isotopic fractionation at pressure and temperature conditions relevant for the  
315 formation of the Martian core is negligible (Brigstock et al., 2014; Mahan et al., 2017). Thus, it  
316 would require  $[Zn] = 651$  ppm for Mars to plot on the carbonaceous chondrite array, corresponding  
317 to a partition coefficient of  $D_{Zn} \sim 45$ , which is not compatible with experimental data (e.g., Wood  
318 et al., 2014). Alternatively, we obtain  $[Zn] = 305$  ppm and  $D_{Zn} \sim 19$  if we consider a  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  of  
319  $+0.38$ .

320

321 However, the average of SNC meteorites indicates that Bulk Silicate Mars exhibits a  $\epsilon^{66}\text{Zn}$   
322 value ( $-0.08 \pm 0.07$ , 2SE,  $n = 10$ ) intermediate between that of ordinary and carbonaceous  
323 chondrites (non-carbonaceous (ordinary + enstatite) chondrites:  $-0.20 \pm 0.04$ , 2SE,  $n = 20$ ;  
324 carbonaceous chondrites:  $+0.31 \pm 0.05$ , 2SE,  $n = 22$ , and Ryugu asteroid materials:  $+0.33 \pm 0.03$ ,  
325  $n=4$  [Savage et al., 2022; Steller et al., 2022; Paquet et al., 2022]), similar within error to that of  
326 the Earth ( $+0.015 \pm 0.075$ , 2SE [Savage et al., 2022];  $-0.07 \pm 0.013$ , 2SE [Steller et al., 2022]),  
327 but closer to that of the NC endmember (**Figure 4**). Because there are no known terrestrial  
328 processes which can mass-independently fractionate Zn isotopes, the intermediate  $\epsilon^{66}\text{Zn}$  of Mars  
329 between carbonaceous chondrites and ordinary chondrites suggests a potential mixing between  
330 these two reservoirs to explain Mars' isotopic compositions, which is consistent with other  
331 nucleosynthetic anomalies such as in Ti, Cr, O, Ca or Fe (e.g., Clayton and Mayeda, 1996;  
332 Trinquier et al., 2007, 2009; Schiller et al., 2018, 2020). Moreover, since the mass independent

333 isotope composition of Zn indicates it was largely inherited from an NC-like reservoir on Mars,  
334 rather than from CCs, there is no reason to expect that bulk Mars lies on the CC array, strongly  
335 arguing against significant quantities of Zn in the Martian core. Using the  $\epsilon^{66}\text{Zn}$  values from Mars,  
336 carbonaceous and ordinary chondrites, together with their Zn abundances (see **Table 2** for details),  
337 we calculated the proportions of CC and NC required to reproduce Mars'  $\epsilon^{66}\text{Zn}$ , which yields to  
338 the following proportions: 4 % Ryugu-like material + 96 % NC (6 % CI + 94 % NC, or 14 % CV  
339 + 86 % NC), representing ~22 % of Mars' Zn delivered by outer solar system material, which is  
340 slightly lower than the estimation for the Earth's (~30 %; Savage et al., 2022; Steller et al., 2022;  
341 Paquet et al., 2022). This observation contrasts with the notion that planets further from the Sun  
342 should have higher contribution from outer Solar System (e.g., Ryugu-like or CC-like) materials.

343

344 It is then possible to estimate the  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  and Zn/Mg of such a mixture (assuming the Mg  
345 content of Mars, ~19.8 wt.% [Khan et al., 2022], is not affected by evaporation), and calculate the  
346 isotopic fractionation induced by evaporation, assuming a Rayleigh evaporation law and a  
347 fractionation factor  $\Delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{liq-vap}}$ . The scenario modeled by Sossi et al. (2018) used  $\Delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{liq-vap}} = 1\text{‰}$   
348 to account for the composition of the Moon derived from the Earth (**Figure 3**). We consider two  
349 endmembers: the first in which all the non-carbonaceous chondrites are ordinary chondrites (OC),  
350 and the second in which all the non-carbonaceous chondrites are enstatite chondrites (EH).  
351 Elemental abundances for OC and EH are from Lodders and Fegley (1998) and average  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  for  
352 OC is from Paniello (2013, PhD thesis Washington University Saint Louis) and Creech and  
353 Moynier (2019), and average  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  for EH is from Moynier et al. (2011), respectively (Table 2).  
354 In this scenario, the isotopic fractionation induced by ~20-25 % evaporation (with  $\Delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{liq-vap}} =$   
355 1‰) from a mixture of 4 % Ryugu-like material (or from 6 % of CI to 14 % of CV) and 96 % OC

356 (94 % and 86 %, for CI and CV, respectively) reproduces both the Zn mass-dependent and -  
357 independent BSM composition (**Figure 3**). Starting compositions calculated from a mixture of  
358 outer Solar System material and EH are too enriched in Zn to reproduce the BSM. These values  
359 are consistent with previous studies which argued in favor of 9 to 18 % of carbonaceous chondrite-  
360 like material based on Cr anomalies and  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$  (Warren, 2011), and up to 36 % of CI-like material  
361 based on  $\mu^{48}\text{Ca}$  anomalies (Schiller et al., 2018) to account for Mars' composition.

362

363 Assuming that equilibrium isotope fractionation between liquid and vapor prevailed  
364 ( $\Delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{liq-vap}} = \frac{(+0.31 \times 10^6)}{T^2}$ , where  $T$  is in K; Ducher et al., 2016), then the temperature required  
365 to achieve a  $^{66}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn}$  fractionation factor of 1‰, consistent with the Zn/Mg and  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$   
366 composition of Mars, is constrained between 557 and 704 K. At such low temperatures, it is  
367 difficult to engender significant isotope fractionation in the condensed phase during vapor loss  
368 from a Mars-mass planet because the temperatures are well below the solidi of the silicate minerals  
369 that comprise the Martian mantle, meaning mass transport is not sufficiently rapid to cause global  
370 Zn depletion. Therefore, should equilibrium isotope fractionation during evaporation be  
371 responsible for its Zn isotopic composition, then this would have had to have occurred on small  
372 (e.g., cm-sized) precursor grains from which gas-solid separation is facilitated. Curiously, the  
373 temperatures calculated above bracket the 50 % condensation temperature of Zn from the solar  
374 nebula at  $10^{-4}$  bar ( $\sim 700$  K; Wood et al. 2019). Equilibrium isotope fractionation factors at higher  
375 temperatures are not able to reproduce the combined Zn/Mg ratio and isotopic composition for the  
376 BSM by evaporation in a CC-like precursor or during Mars' history (**Figure 5**). A more accurate  
377 picture of the Zn isotope composition of Mars is precluded due to the spread of Zn isotope values  
378 in OCs, ranging from -1.31 ‰ to + 1.75 ‰ (**Figure 3**). Nevertheless, the general conclusion holds

379 that, should the Zn isotope composition of the BSM have been subsequently modified by  
380 equilibrium evaporation, then it must have occurred at low temperatures that could only have  
381 existed in the solar nebula. Alternatively, evaporation did not proceed under equilibrium  
382 conditions, but was rather kinetic in nature to induce larger isotopic fractionation, with a  $\Delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{liq-vap}}$   
383 factor  $\sim 1$  ‰ that reflected the local evaporation environment. It is worth noting that the  
384 maximum effect on  $\epsilon^{66}\text{Zn}$  expected for a fractionation (kinetic or under equilibrium) of 0.5‰ is  
385  $\sim 0.1\epsilon$ , which is within the error of the estimate of the BSM composition. Because Mars'  $\epsilon^{66}\text{Zn}$  is  
386 close to that of NC, it is also possible that Mars' isotopic signature is inherited from its precursors  
387 (mainly OC) from the solar nebula, obviating the need for the addition of CC material.

388

389         The apparent isotope differences between CC and NC meteorites, which was first identified  
390 for O and Cr isotopes (Clayton and Mayeda, 1996; Trinquier et al., 2007), and later with Ti, Ni,  
391 Mo and also Zn anomalies (Trinquier et al., 2009; Warren, 2011; Budde et al., 2016; Kruijter et al.,  
392 2017; Nanne et al., 2019; Burkhardt et al., 2021; Savage et al., 2022; Steller et al., 2022), has been  
393 ascribed to the spatial location at which these meteorite groups formed, separated by a physical  
394 barrier that prevented their mixing over their formation timescales, 1 – 4 Myr after CAI (Kruijter  
395 et al. 2017). In this model, the CCs are presumed to have formed in the outer Solar System (i.e.,  
396 beyond the orbit of Jupiter) while NCs are derived from the inner Solar System. Physical accretion  
397 models for the terrestrial planets, in the context of N-body simulations, both in the Grand Tack-  
398 (Jacobson and Morbidelli, 2014) and standard models (Wetherill et al. 1994) indicate that planets  
399 that formed further from the Sun should, on average, contain higher fractions of outer Solar System  
400 materials (e.g., Wetherill, 1994; Cuzzi and Zahnle, 2004; Rubie et al. 2015; Sossi et al. 2022),  
401 though the Grand Tack model results in a more random distribution of material in the inner disk

402 from different heliocentric distances than does the standard model. Although Mars has a  
403 marginally higher Zn content than the Earth, that the Zn isotope composition of Mars contains a  
404 higher fraction of nominally inner Solar System OC-like material than the Earth suggests that the  
405 dichotomy of CC- vs. NC-material may not exclusively relate to their location in the protoplanetary  
406 disk. In addition, masses and orbits of terrestrial planets, including Mars, are also consistent with  
407 pebble accretion onto protoplanets accreted around Mars' orbit and then migrated to their final  
408 position while growing (e.g., Johansen et al., 2021); Mars' isotopic composition closer to the NC  
409 than is the Earth could indicate an earlier growth termination for Mars (as indicated in its Hf-W  
410 age of 9 Myr compared to ~30 Myr for the Earth; Dauphas and Pourmand, 2011; Kleine and  
411 Walker 2017). Mars therefore may not have accreted pebbles of CI composition that drifted later  
412 towards the inner part of the protoplanetary disk (e.g., Schiller et al., 2018). In future, isotopic data  
413 for other volatile systems with more than 3 isotopes, such as Cd or Te, should be acquired to further  
414 investigate the volatile accretion history of Mars by combining mass-dependent isotopic  
415 fractionation and nucleosynthetic anomalies to better understand the nature and distribution of  
416 volatile-bearing material in the early Solar System.

417

## 418 **5. Conclusions**

419 We measured the Zn isotopic composition of ten Martian meteorites from the main petrologic  
420 groups to investigate the origin of volatile depletion on Mars. Extrapolating the shergottite array  
421 to a MgO value representative of the Martian mantle, our new dataset allows assessment of its Zn  
422 isotope composition, representative of the BSM (bulk silicate Mars) ( $\delta^{66}\text{Zn} = +0.50 \pm 0.18$ ), which  
423 is shown to be distinctly heavier than that of the Earth. This composition can be extended to that  
424 of the Bulk Mars insofar as negligible Zn isotope fractionation is observed between metal and  
425 silicate at pressure and temperature conditions relevant for Martian core segregation. The BSM

426 plots above the carbonaceous chondrite array defined in a  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  vs  $\log(\text{Zn}/\text{Mg})$  plot, arguing in  
427 favor of isotopic fractionation during volatile loss by evaporation/condensation, or the provenance  
428 of Zn from largely OC-like precursors. The mass-dependent and mass-independent Zn isotope  
429 compositions of Mars provide new constraints on the origin of volatile elements, suggesting that  
430 between ~4 to 6 % of outer Solar System material (Ryugu-like or CI-like, respectively) were  
431 delivered to Mars to account for its Zn budget.

432

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442

443

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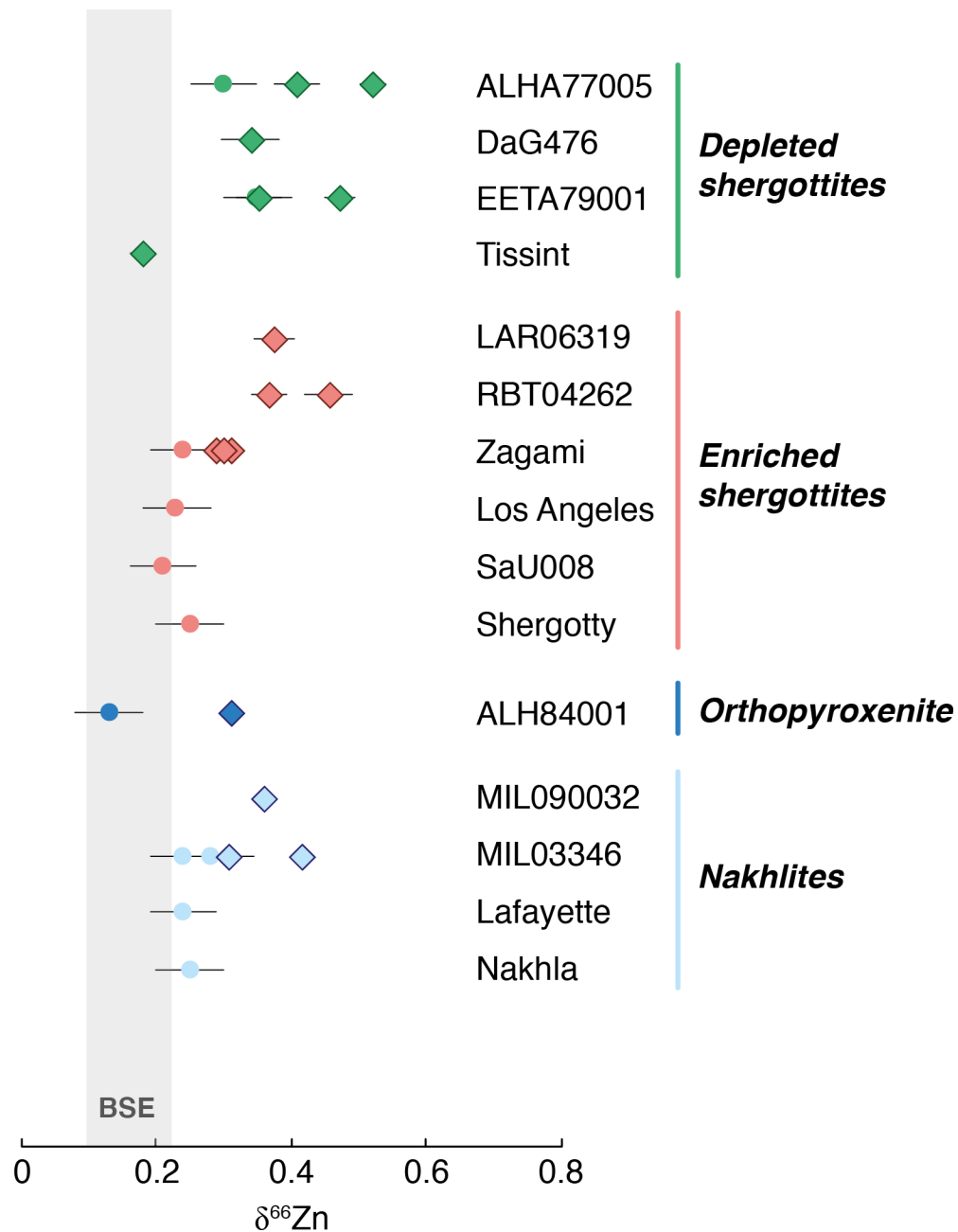
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685 **Table captions**

686 Table 1. Zinc stable isotope and major element compositions of Martian meteorites.

687 Table 2. Mixing models.

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689 **Figures and figure captions**

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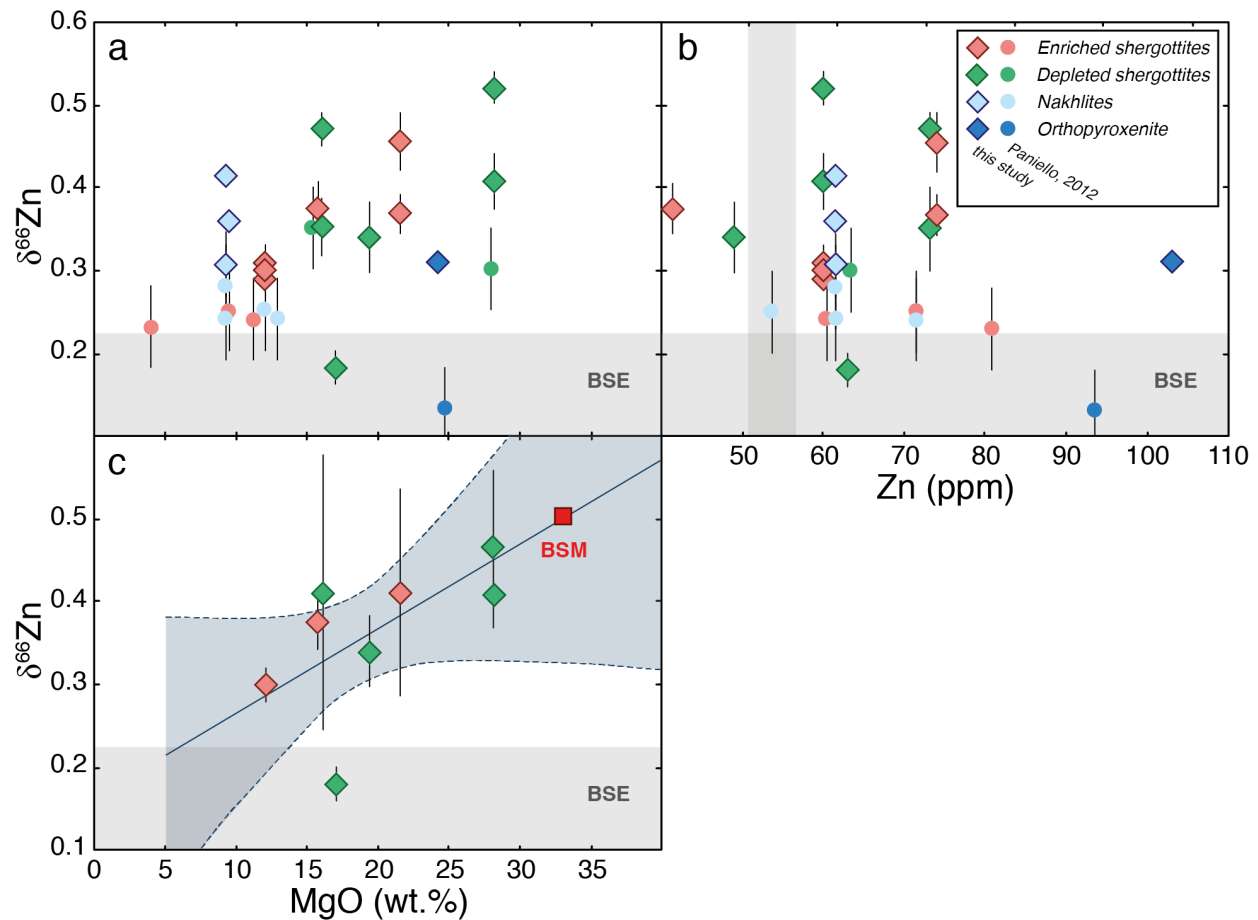
691 **Figure 1.** Zinc isotope composition for all Martian samples. Bulk Silicate Earth (BSE – gray

692 field) from Sossi et al. (2018). Diamonds: this study; circles: Paniello et al., (2012). Error bars:

693 2SD.

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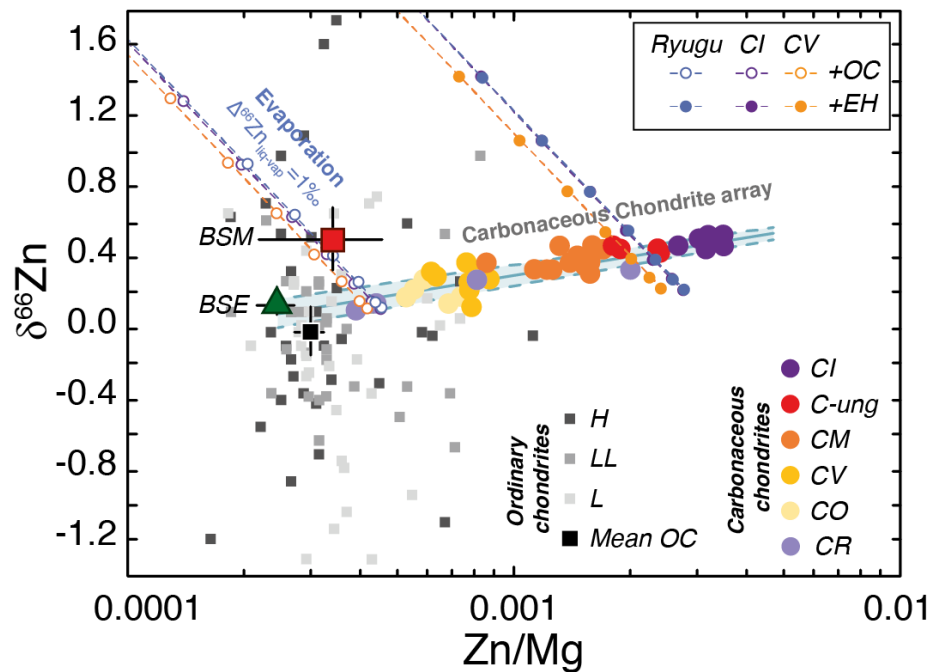
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697 **Figure 2.**  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  as a function of the (a) MgO content (wt.%) and (b) Zn content (ppm) for all  
 698 Martian meteorites (diamonds: this study). (c) Average  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  for each Martian meteorite as a  
 699 function of the MgO content (wt.%) for the shergottites from this study. Literature data (circles)  
 700 are from Paniello et al. (2012) for Zn isotopes and elemental compositions; MgO content from  
 701 Tait and Day, 2018). Bulk Silicate Earth composition range for  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  (gray field) from Sossi et al.  
 702 (2018). The solid line in (c) is the linear regression of the dataset ( $R^2=0.65$  excluding Tissint), and  
 703 the dashed lines represent the 95% confidence error envelope. BSM is the Bulk Silicate Mars  
 704 estimate. Error bars: 2SD.

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706

707 **Figure 3.** Zinc isotope compositions of planetary materials (modified from Sossi et al. (2018)).

708 Literature data for the Zn isotope and elemental compositions from: carbonaceous chondrites

709 (Luck et al., 2005; Pringle et al., 2017; Mahan et al., 2018; Paquet et al., 2022), CR (Mahan et al.,

710 2018) and ordinary chondrites (Paniello, 2013, PhD thesis Washington University Saint Louis;

711 Creech and Moynier, 2019); see SourceData table for Mg contents. Bulk Silicate Earth

712 composition from Palme and O'Neill (2014) and Sossi et al., (2018); carbonaceous chondrite

713 array from Sossi et al. (2018). The dashed lines represent the fraction of Zn evaporated from a

714 starting composition deriving from mixing between carbonaceous (4 % Ryugu-like material, 6 %

715 CI or 14 % CV) and non-carbonaceous materials (96 %, 94 % or 86 %, respectively) (fractionation

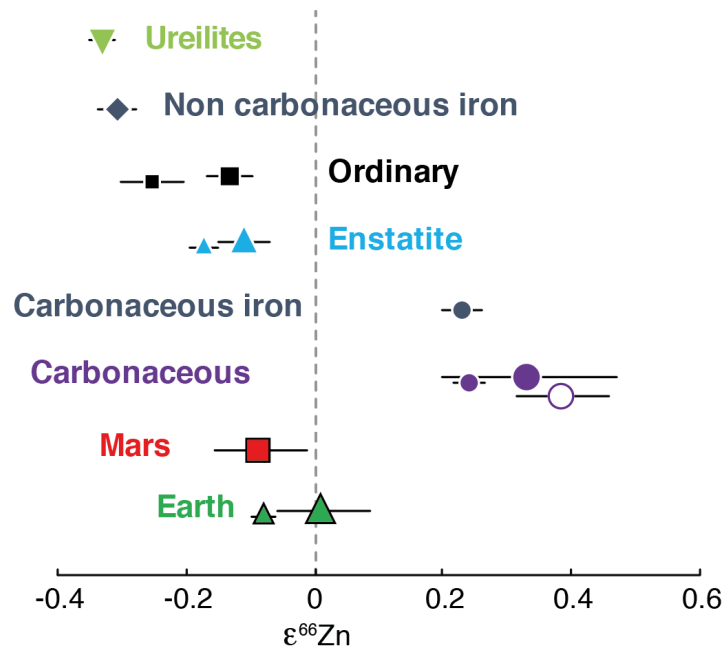
716 factor of  $\Delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{liq-vap}} = +1$  ‰, with a 5% increment step (see Table 2 and text for details)). The

717 Bulk Silicate Mars plots away from the carbonaceous chondrite array. The error for the BSM

718 estimate represents the 95 % confidence interval for  $\text{MgO} = 32.8$  wt.% (Khan et al., 2022) derived

719 from the linear regression in Figure 2c.

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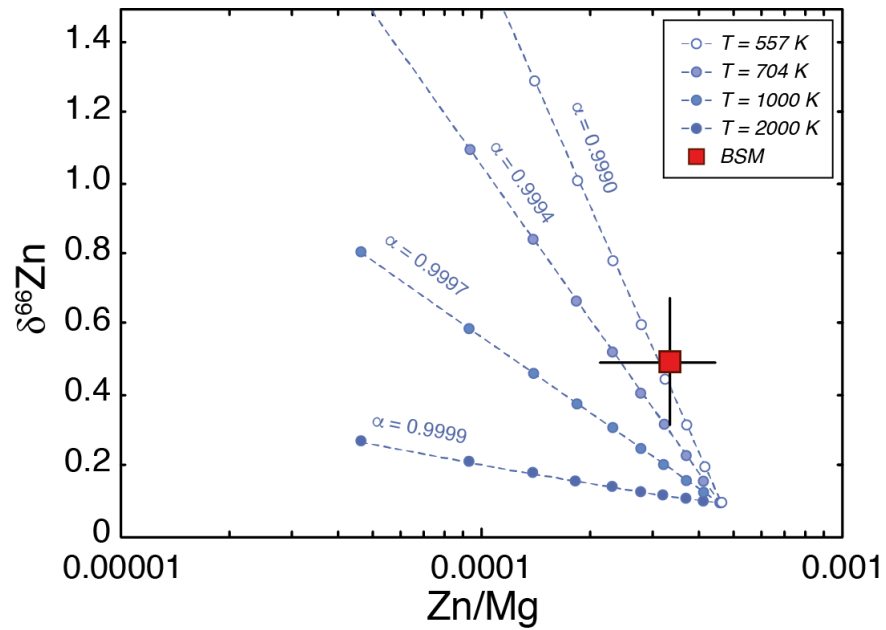
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722 **Figure 4.** Variations of  $\epsilon^{66}\text{Zn}$  among different groups of meteorites, Mars (this study) and the  
 723 Earth. Literature data for carbonaceous chondrites (Savage et al., 2022 (large symbols); Steller  
 724 et al., 2022 (small symbols); Paquet et al., 2022 (open circle)), ordinary and enstatite chondrites,  
 725 carbonaceous and non-carbonaceous iron meteorites and ureilites (Savage et al., 2022; Steller et  
 726 al., 2022). Bulk Silicate Earth value for  $\epsilon^{66}\text{Zn}$  is  $+0.015 \pm 0.075$  (2SE; Savage et al., 2022) and  
 727  $-0.07 \pm 0.013$  (2SE; Steller et al., 2022). Error bars are 2SE.

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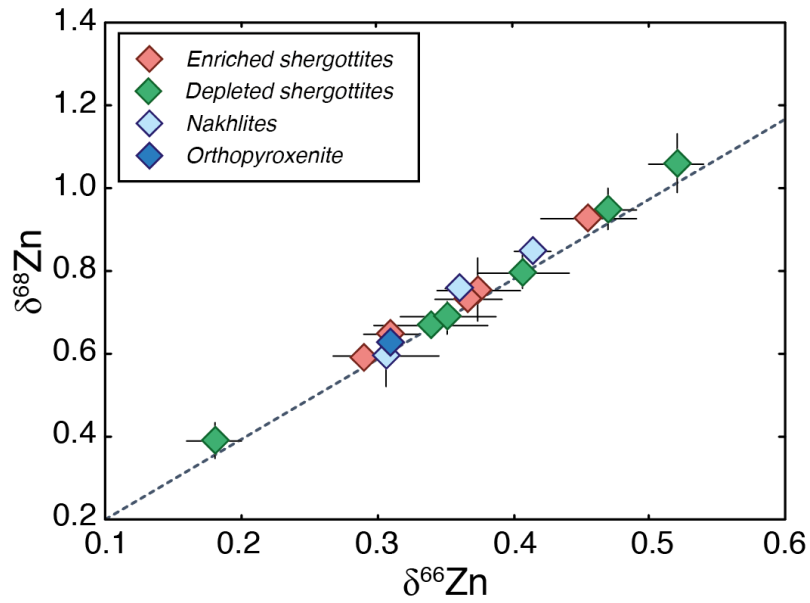
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732 **Figure 5.** Equilibrium evaporation trajectories for different isotope fractionation factors  $\alpha$ ,  
 733 which depend on the temperature  $T$  (in K). The starting point for the models was based upon the  
 734 assumption that the original building blocks of Mars had 96 % OC and 4 % Ryugu-like material  
 735 contribution.

736 **Supplementary figures and figure captions**

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739

740 **Figure S1.**  $\delta^{68}\text{Zn}$  versus  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  for Martian meteorites. All samples fall slightly above the mass-

741 dependent fractionation line. Analytical errors (2SD) are reported. Green: depleted shergottites;

742 red: enriched shergottites; light blue: nakhrites; dark blue: orthopyroxenite.

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