

Jochen Hoefs

Stable Isotope Geochemistry

Seventh Edition

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Jochen Hoefs
Abt. Isotopengeologie
Geowissenschaftliches Zentrum der
Universität Göttingen
Göttingen
Germany

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Preface

Studies in stable isotope geochemistry have been since its beginning a strong and vital branch of earth sciences, but in the past decade, growth has occurred at an ever-increasing pace as a consequence of major advances in mass spectrometry, in micro-analytical techniques, and in calculating equilibrium isotope fractionations using *ab initio* methods. In specific, the application of multicollector-ICP-mass spectrometry now enables investigations of stable isotope compositions with adequate precisions for a wide range of transition and heavy elements that could not be measured before. Precise ion-microprobe measurements on the micrometer scale allow the detection of isotope heterogeneities in individual minerals. Analysis of multiple rare isotopes of elements permit the detection and distinction of mass-dependent and mass-independent processes. These major advances in analytical tools make substantial major revisions and extensions of the last edition necessary.

The structure of the book has been retained. New topics are presented that range from the isotope composition of plants to the isotope composition of the earth's core. The first part gives a general introduction to the theoretical and experimental principles. In the second part, natural isotope variations and fractionation processes of 30 elements are discussed. By adding 25 “non-traditional” elements, including Sr and U, this part has been substantially enlarged, although the backbone of this chapter is still the classic elements H, C, O, N and S. Conclusions from the newly added elements rely sometimes on a very limited data base; future studies have to strengthen some of the inferences.

As in earlier editions, the third part discusses natural variations of isotope compositions in the context of the classic geochemical “spheres”. New findings from non-traditional isotope systems have been incorporated. A very long list of references with many new citations enables a quick access to the exponentially growing recent literature. Nevertheless, I have neglected a number of recent references, because the citation list encompasses already about 30 % of the book.

Again, I have tried to provide a contemporary overview of the entire field of stable isotope geochemistry. I hope I am presenting a well-balanced discussion, although I am fully aware of omissions and shortcomings.

Michael Böttcher is thanked for reviewing the manuscript, Klaus Simon has been of great help during the preparation of the manuscript.

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1.1 General Characteristics of Isotopes

Isotopes are atoms whose nuclei contain the same number of protons but a different number of neutrons. The term “isotopes” is derived from Greek (meaning equal places) and indicates that isotopes occupy the same position in the periodic table.

It is convenient to denote isotopes in the form ${}^m_n\text{E}$, where the super-script “m” denotes the mass number (i.e., sum of the number of protons and neutrons in the nucleus) and the subscript “n” denotes the atomic number of an element E. For example, ${}^{12}_6\text{C}$ is the isotope of carbon which has six protons and six neutrons in its nucleus. The atomic weight of each naturally occurring element is the average of the weights contributed by its various isotopes.

Isotopes can be divided into two fundamental kinds, stable and unstable (radioactive) species. The number of stable isotopes is about 300; whilst over 1200 unstable ones have been discovered so far. The term “stable” is relative, depending on the detection limits of radioactive decay times. In the range of atomic numbers from 1 (H) to 83 (Bi), stable nuclides of all masses except 5 and 8 are known. Only 21 elements are pure elements, in the sense that they have only one stable isotope. All other elements are mixtures of at least two isotopes. The relative abundance of different isotopes of an element may vary substantially. In copper, for example, ${}^{63}\text{Cu}$ accounts for 69 % and ${}^{65}\text{Cu}$ for 31 % of all copper nuclei. For the light elements, however, one isotope is predominant, the others being present only in trace amounts.

The stability of nuclides is characterized by several important rules, two of which are briefly discussed here. The first is the so-called symmetry rule, which states that in a stable nuclide with low atomic number, the number of protons is approximately equal to the number of neutrons, or the neutron-to-proton ratio, N/Z , is approximately equal to unity. In stable nuclei with more than 20 protons or neutrons, the N/Z ratio is always greater than unity, with a maximum value of about 1.5 for the heaviest stable nuclei. The electrostatic Coulomb repulsion of the positively charged protons grows rapidly with increasing Z . To maintain the

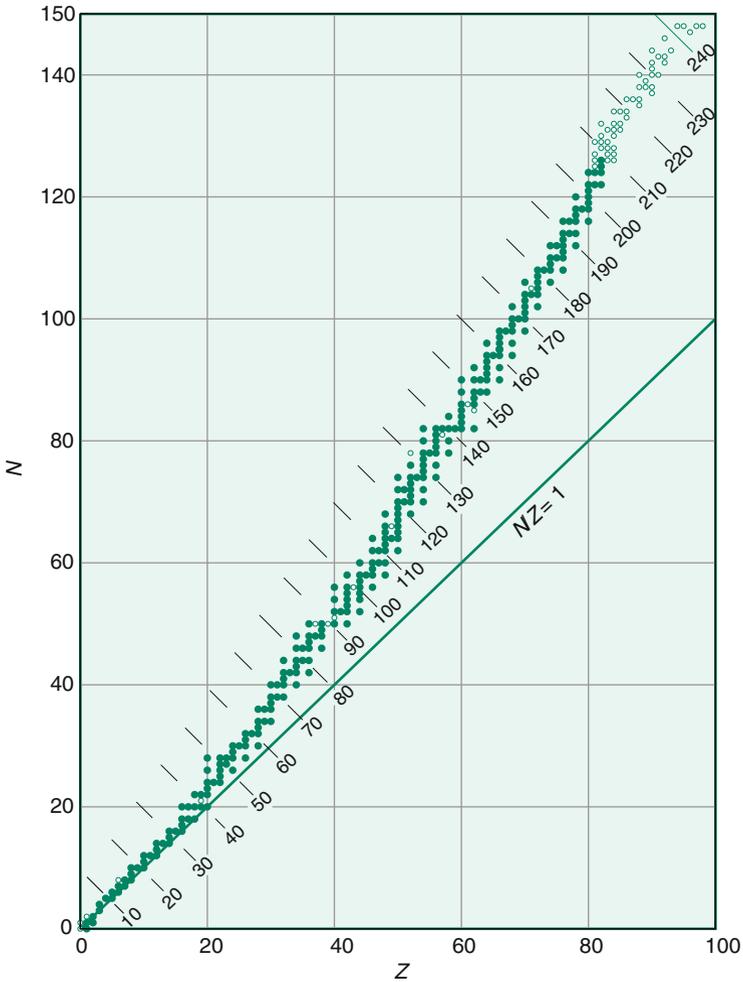


Fig. 1.1 Plot of number of protons (Z) and number of neutrons (N) in stable (filled circles) and unstable (open circles) nuclides (Fig. 1.1, 6th edition, p. 2)

stability in the nuclei more neutrons (which are electrically neutral) than protons are incorporated into the nucleus (see Fig. 1.1).

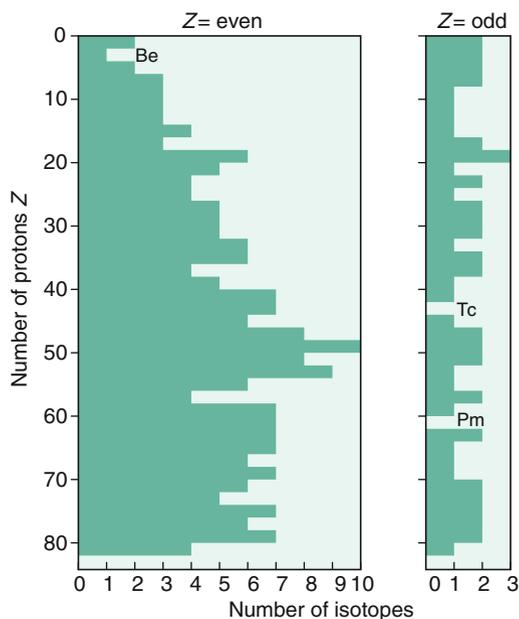
The second rule is the so-called “Oddo-Harkins” rule, which states that nuclides of even atomic numbers are more abundant than those with odd numbers. As shown in Table 1.1, the most common of the four possible combinations is even-even, the least common odd-odd.

The same relationship is demonstrated in Fig. 1.2, which shows that there are more stable isotopes with even than with odd proton numbers.

Table 1.1 Types of atomic nuclei and their frequency of occurrence

Z–N combination	Number of stable nuclides
Even–even	160
even–odd	50
Odd–even 50	56
Odd–odd	5

Fig. 1.2 Number of stable isotopes of elements with even and odd number of protons (radioactive isotopes with half-lives greater than 10^9 years are included) (Fig. 1.2, 6th edition, p. 3)



Radioactive isotopes can be classified as being either artificial or natural. Only the latter are of interest in geology, because they are the basis for radiometric dating methods. Radioactive decay processes are spontaneous nuclear reactions and may be characterized by the radiation emitted, i.e. α , β and/or γ -emission. Decay processes may also involve electron capture.

Radioactive decay is one process that produces variations in isotope abundance. A second cause of differences in isotope abundance is isotope fractionation caused by small chemical and physical differences between the isotopes of an element. It is exclusively this important process that will be discussed in the following chapters.

1.2 Isotope Effects

Differences in chemical and physical properties arising from variations in atomic mass of an element are called “isotope effects”. It is well known that the electronic structure of an element essentially determines its chemical behaviour, whereas the

Table 1.2 Characteristic physical properties of H_2^{16}O , D_2^{16}O , and H_2^{18}O

Property	H_2^{16}O	D_2^{16}O	H_2^{18}O
Density (20 °C, in g cm^{-3})	0.997	1.1051	1.1106
Temperature of greatest density (°C)	3.98	11.24	4.30
Melting point (760 Torr, in °C)	0.00	3.81	0.28
Boiling point (760 Torr, in °C)	100.00	101.42	100.14
Vapor pressure (at 100 °C, in Torr)	760.00	721.60	
Viscosity (at 20 °C, in centipoise)	1.002	1.247	1.056

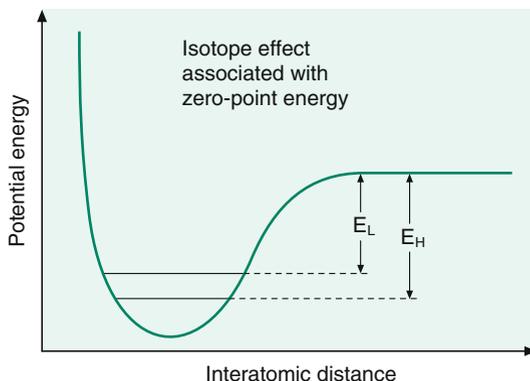
nucleus is more or less responsible for its physical properties. Because all isotopes of a given element contain the same number and arrangement of electrons, a far-reaching similarity in chemical behaviour is the logical consequence. But this similarity is not unlimited; certain differences exist in physicochemical properties due to mass differences. The replacement of any atom in a molecule by one of its isotopes produces a very small change in chemical behaviour. The addition of one neutron can, for instance, depress the rate of chemical reaction considerably. Furthermore, it leads, for example, to a shift of the lines in the Raman and IR spectra. Such mass differences are most pronounced among the lightest elements. For example, some differences in physicochemical properties of H_2^{16}O , D_2^{16}O , H_2^{18}O are listed in Table 1.2. To summarize, the properties of molecules differing only in isotopic substitution are qualitatively the same, but quantitatively different.

Differences in the chemical properties of the isotopes of H, C, N, O, S, and other elements have been calculated by the methods of statistical mechanics and also determined experimentally. These differences can lead to considerable separation of the isotopes during chemical reactions.

The theory of isotope effects and a related isotope fractionation mechanism will be discussed very briefly. For a more detailed introduction to the theoretical background, see Bigeleisen and Mayer (1947), Urey (1947), Melander (1960), Bigeleisen (1965), Richet et al. (1977), O'Neil (1986), Criss (1999), Chacko et al. (2001), Schauble (2004) and others.

Differences in the physicochemical properties of isotopes arise as a result of quantum mechanical effects. Figure 1.3 shows schematically the energy of a diatomic molecule as a function of the distance between the two atoms. According to the quantum theory, the energy of a molecule is restricted to certain discrete energy levels. The lowest level is not at the minimum of the energy curve, but above it by an amount $1/2 h\nu$, where h is Planck's constant and ν is the frequency with which the atoms in the molecule vibrate with respect to one another. Thus, even in the ground state at a temperature of absolute zero, the vibrating molecule would possess a certain zero point energy above the minimum of the potential energy curve of the molecule. It vibrates with its fundamental frequency, which depends on the mass of the isotopes. In this context, it is important to note that vibrational motions dominate chemical isotope effects; rotational and translational motions either have no effect on isotope separations or are subordinate. Therefore, molecules of the same

Fig. 1.3 Schematic potential energy *curve* for the interaction of two atoms in a stable molecule or between two molecules in a liquid or solid (after Bigeleisen 1965) (Fig. 1.3, 6th edition, p. 5)



chemical formula that have different isotopic species will have different zero-point energies: the molecule of the heavy isotope will have a lower zero-point energy than the molecule of the light isotope, because it has a lower vibrational frequency. This is shown schematically in Fig. 1.3, where the upper horizontal line (E_L) represents the dissociation energy of the light molecule and the lower line (E_H), that of the heavy one. E_L is actually not a line, but an energy interval between the zero-point energy level and the “continuous” level. This means that the bonds formed by the light isotope are weaker than bonds involving the heavy isotope. Thus, during a chemical reaction, molecules bearing the light isotope will, in general, react slightly more readily than those with the heavy isotope.

1.3 Isotope Fractionation Processes

The partitioning of isotopes between two substances or two phases of the same substance with different isotope ratios is called “isotope fractionation”. The main phenomena producing isotope fractionations are

1. isotope exchange reactions (equilibrium isotope distribution),
2. kinetic processes, which depend primarily on differences in reaction rates of isotopic molecules

1.3.1 Isotope Exchange

Isotope exchange includes processes with very different physico-chemical mechanisms. Here, the term “isotope exchange” is used for all situations in which there is no net reaction, but in which the isotope distribution changes between different chemical substances, between different phases, or between individual molecules.

Isotope exchange reactions are a special case of general chemical equilibrium and can be written



where the subscripts indicate that species A and B contain either the light or heavy isotope 1 or 2, respectively. For this reaction the equilibrium constant is expressed by

$$K = \frac{\left(\frac{A_2}{A_1}\right)^a}{\left(\frac{B_2}{B_1}\right)^b} \quad (1.2)$$

where the terms in parentheses may be, for example, the molar ratios of any species. Using the methods of statistical mechanics, the isotopic equilibrium constant may be expressed in terms of the partition functions Q of the various species

$$k = \frac{\left(\frac{Q_{A_2}}{Q_{A_1}}\right)}{\left(\frac{Q_{B_2}}{Q_{B_1}}\right)} \quad (1.3)$$

Thus, the equilibrium constant then is simply the quotient of two partition function ratios, one for the two isotopic species of A, the other for B.

The partition function is defined by

$$Q = \sum_i (g_i \exp(-E_i/kT)) \quad (1.4)$$

where the summation is over all the allowed energy levels, E_i , of the molecules and g_i is the degeneracy or statistical weight of the i th level [of E_i], k is the Boltzmann constant and T is the temperature. Urey (1947) has shown that for the purpose of calculating partition function ratios of isotopic molecules, it is very convenient to introduce, for any chemical species, the ratio of its partition function to that of the corresponding isolated atom, which is called the reduced partition function. This reduced partition function ratio can be manipulated in exactly the same way as the normal partition function ratio. The partition function of a molecule can be separated into factors corresponding to each type of energy: translation, rotation, and vibration

$$Q_2/Q_1 = (Q_2/Q_1)_{\text{trans}} \times (Q_2/Q_1)_{\text{rot}} \times (Q_2/Q_1)_{\text{vib}} \quad (1.5)$$

The difference of the translation and rotation energy is more or less the same among the compounds appearing at the left and right hand side of the exchange reaction equation, except for hydrogen, where rotation must be taken into account. This leaves differences in vibrational energy as the predominant source of isotope effects. The vibrational energy term can be separated into two components. The first is related to the zero-point energy difference and accounts for most of the variation

with temperature. The second term represents the contributions of all the other bound states and is not very different from unity. The complications which may occur relative to this simple model are mainly that the oscillator is not perfectly harmonic, so an “anharmonic” correction has to be added.

For geologic purposes the dependence of the equilibrium constant K on temperature is the most important property (Eq. 1.4). In principle, isotope fractionation factors for isotope exchange reactions are also slightly pressure-dependent because isotopic substitution makes a minute change in the molar volume of solids and liquids. Experimental studies up to 20 kbar by Clayton et al. (1975) have shown that the pressure dependence for oxygen is, however, less than the limit of analytical detection. Thus, as far as it is known today, the pressure dependence seems with the exception of hydrogen to be of no importance for crustal and upper mantle environments (but see Polyakov and Kharlashina 1994).

Isotope fractionations tend to become zero at very high temperatures. However, isotope fractionations do not decrease to zero monotonically with increasing temperatures. At higher temperatures, fractionations may change sign (called crossover) and may increase in magnitude, but they must approach zero at very high temperatures. Such crossover phenomena are due to the complex manner by which thermal excitation of the vibration of atoms contributes to an isotope effect (Stern et al. 1968).

For ideal gas reactions, there are two temperature regions where the behavior of the equilibrium constant is simple: at low temperatures (generally much below room temperature) the natural logarithm of K ($\ln K$) follows $\sim 1/T$ where T is the absolute temperature and at high temperatures the approximation becomes $\ln K \sim 1/T^2$

The temperature ranges at which these simple behaviors are approximated depend on the vibrational frequencies of the molecules involved in the reaction. For the calculation of a partition function ratio for a pair of isotopic molecules, the vibrational frequencies of each molecule must be known. When solid materials are considered, the evaluation of partition function ratios becomes even more complicated, because it is necessary to consider not only the independent internal vibrations of each molecule, but also the lattice vibrations.

1.3.1.1 Fractionation Factor (α)

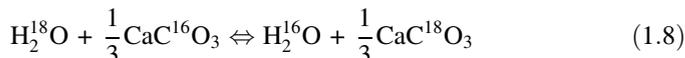
For isotope exchange reactions in geochemistry, the equilibrium constant K is often replaced by the fractionation factor α . The fractionation factor is defined as the ratio of the numbers of any two isotopes in one chemical compound A divided by the corresponding ratio for another chemical compound B:

$$\alpha_{A-B} = \frac{R_A}{R_B} \quad (1.6)$$

If the isotopes are randomly distributed over all possible positions in the compounds A and B, then α is related to the equilibrium constant K by

$$\alpha = K^{1/n} \quad (1.7)$$

where “n” is the number of atoms exchanged. For simplicity, isotope exchange reactions are written such that only one atom is exchanged. In these cases, the equilibrium constant is identical to the fractionation factor. For example, the fractionation factor for the exchange of ^{18}O and ^{16}O between water and CaCO_3 is expressed as follows:



with the fractionation factor $\alpha_{\text{CaCO}_3-\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ defined as:

$$\alpha_{\text{CaCO}_3-\text{H}_2\text{O}} = \frac{\left(\frac{^{18}\text{O}}{^{16}\text{O}}\right)_{\text{CaCO}_3}}{\left(\frac{^{18}\text{O}}{^{16}\text{O}}\right)_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}} = 1.031 \text{ at } 25^\circ\text{C} \quad (1.9a)$$

It has become common practice in recent years to replace the fractionation factor α by the ε -value (or isotope enrichment factor) which is defined as

$$\varepsilon = \alpha - 1 \quad (1.9b)$$

because $\varepsilon \times 1000$ approximates the fractionation in parts per thousand, similar to the δ -value (see below).

1.3.1.2 The Delta Value (δ)

In isotope geochemistry, it is common practice to express isotopic composition in terms of “delta”-(δ) values. For two compounds “A” and “B” whose isotopic compositions have been measured in the laboratory by conventional mass spectrometry:

$$\delta_A = \left(\frac{R_A}{R_{St}} - 1\right) \cdot 10^3(\text{‰}) \quad (1.10)$$

and

$$\delta_B = \left(\frac{R_B}{R_{St}} - 1\right) \cdot 10^3(\text{‰}) \quad (1.11)$$

where R_A and R_B are the respective isotope ratio measurements for the two compounds and R_{St} is the defined isotope ratio of a standard sample.

Table 1.3 Comparison between δ , α , and $10^3 \ln \alpha_{A-B}$

δ_A	δ_B	Δ_{A-B}	α_{A-B}	$10^3 \ln \alpha_{A-B}$
1.00	0	1.00	1.001	1.00
5.00	0	5.00	1.005	4.99
10.00	0	10.00	1.01	9.95
15.00	0	15.00	1.015	14.98
20.00	0	20.00	1.02	19.80
10.00	5.00	5.00	1.00498	4.96
20.00	15.00	5.00	1.00493	4.91
30.00	15.00	15.00	1.01478	14.67
30.00	20.00	10.00	1.00980	9.76
30.00	10.00	20.00	1.01980	19.61

For the two compounds A and B, the δ -values and fractionation factor α are related by:

$$\delta_A - \delta_B = \Delta_{A-B} \approx 10^3 \ln \alpha_{A-B} \quad (1.12)$$

Table 1.3 illustrates the closeness of the approximation. Considering experimental uncertainties in isotope ratio determinations (typically ≥ 0.1 ‰), these approximations are excellent for differences in δ -values of less than about 10 and for δ -values that are relatively small in magnitude.

1.3.1.3 Evaporation-Condensation Processes

Of special interest in stable isotope geochemistry are evaporation-condensation processes, because differences in the vapor pressures of isotopic compounds lead to significant isotope fractionations. For example, from the vapor pressure data for water given in Table 1.2, it is evident that the lighter molecular species are preferentially enriched in the vapor phase, the extent depending upon the temperature. Such an isotopic separation process can be treated theoretically in terms of fractional distillation or condensation under equilibrium conditions as is expressed by the Rayleigh (1896) equation. For a condensation process this equation is

$$\frac{R_V}{R_{V_0}} = f^{\alpha-1} \quad (1.13)$$

where “ R_{V_0} ” is the isotope ratio of the initial bulk composition and “ R_V ” is the instantaneous ratio of the remaining vapour (v); “ f ” is the fraction of the residual vapour, and the fractionation factor α is given by R_l/R_V (l = liquid). Similarly, the instantaneous isotope ratio of the condensate (R_l) leaving the vapour is given by

$$\frac{R_l}{R_{V_0}} = \alpha f^{\alpha-1} \quad (1.14)$$

and the average isotope ratio of the separated and accumulated condensate (R_1) at any time of condensation is expressed by

$$\frac{\bar{R}_1}{R_{v_0}} = \frac{1 - f^\alpha}{1 - f} \quad (1.15)$$

For a distillation process the instantaneous isotope ratios of the remaining liquid and the vapor leaving the liquid are given by

$$\frac{R_l}{R_{l_0}} = f^{(\frac{1}{\alpha}-1)} \quad (1.16)$$

and

$$\frac{\bar{R}_v}{R_{l_0}} = \frac{1}{\alpha} f^{(\frac{1}{\alpha}-1)} \quad (1.17)$$

The average isotope ratio of the separated and accumulated vapor is expressed by

$$\frac{\bar{R}_v}{R_{l_0}} = \frac{1 - f^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}}{1 - f} \quad (f = \text{fraction of residual liquid}) \quad (1.18)$$

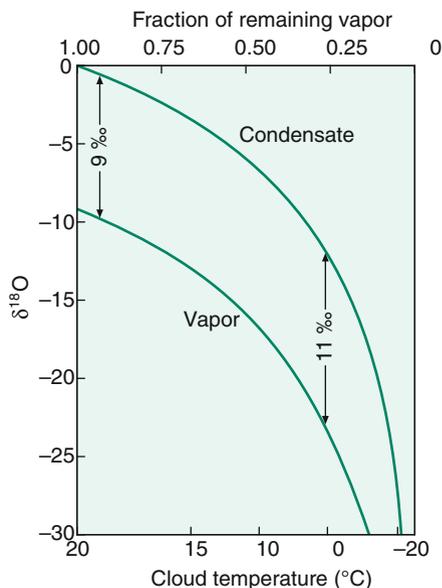
Any isotope fractionation occurring in such a way that the products are isolated from the reactants immediately after formation will show a characteristic trend in isotopic composition. As condensation or distillation proceeds the residual vapor or liquid will become progressively depleted or enriched with respect to the heavy isotope. A natural example is the fractionation between oxygen isotopes in the water vapor of a cloud and the raindrops released from the cloud. The resulting decrease of the $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratio in the residual vapor and the instantaneous isotopic composition of the raindrops released from the cloud are shown in Fig. 1.4 as a function of the fraction of vapor remaining in the cloud.

1.3.2 Kinetic Effects

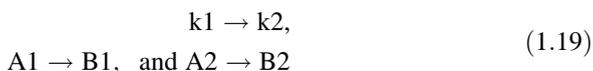
The second main phenomena producing fractionations are kinetic isotope effects, which are associated with incomplete and unidirectional processes like evaporation, dissociation reactions, biologically mediated reactions, and diffusion. The latter process is of special significance for geological purposes, which warrants separate treatment (1.3.3.). A kinetic isotope effect also occurs when the rate of a chemical reaction is sensitive to atomic mass at a particular position in one of the reacting species.

The theory of kinetic isotope fractionations has been discussed by Bigeleisen and Wolfsberg (1958), Melander (1960), and Melander and Saunders (1980). Knowledge of kinetic isotope effects is very important, because it can provide unique informations about details of reaction pathways.

Fig. 1.4 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in a cloud vapor and condensate plotted as a function of a fraction of remaining vapour in a cloud for a Rayleigh process. The temperature of the cloud is shown on the lower axis. The increase in fractionation with decreasing temperature is taken into account (after Dansgaard 1964) (Fig. 1.4, 6th edition, p. 10)



Quantitatively, many observed deviations from simple equilibrium processes can be interpreted as consequences of the various isotopic components having different rates of reaction. Isotope measurements taken during unidirectional chemical reactions always show a preferential enrichment of the lighter isotope in the reaction products. The isotope fractionation introduced during the course of a unidirectional reaction may be considered in terms of the ratio of rate constants for the isotopic substances. Thus, for two competing isotopic reactions



the ratio of rate constants for the reaction of light and heavy isotope species k_1 / k_2 , as in the case of equilibrium constants, is expressed in terms of two partition function ratios, one for the two reactant isotopic species, and one for the two isotopic species of the activated complex or transition state A^X :

$$\frac{k_1}{k_2} = \left[\frac{Q_{(A_2)}^*}{Q_{(A_1)}^*} \right] / \left[\frac{Q_{(A_2^X)}^*}{Q_{(A_1^X)}^*} \right] \frac{v_1}{v_2} \quad (1.20)$$

The factor v_1/v_2 in the expression is a mass term ratio for the two isotopic species. The determination of the ratio of rate constants is, therefore, principally the same as the determination of an equilibrium constant, although the calculations are not so precise because of the need for detailed knowledge of the transition state. The term “transition state” refers to the molecular configuration that is most difficult

to attain along the path between the reactants and the products. This theory follows the concept that a chemical reaction proceeds from some initial state to a final configuration by a continuous change, and that there is some critical intermediate configuration called the activated species or transition state. There are a small number of activated molecules in equilibrium with the reacting species and the rate of reaction is controlled by the rate of decomposition of these activated species.

1.3.3 Mass-Dependent and Mass-Independent Isotope Effects

1.3.3.1 Mass Dependent Effects

At thermodynamic equilibrium isotope distributions are strictly governed by relative mass differences among different isotopes of an element. Mass dependent relationships hold for many kinetic processes as well. Thus it has been a common belief that for most natural reactions isotope effects arise solely because of isotopic mass differences. This means that for an element with more than two isotopes, such as oxygen or sulfur, the enrichment of ^{18}O relative to ^{16}O or ^{34}S relative to ^{32}S is expected to be approximately twice as large as the enrichment of ^{17}O relative to ^{16}O or as the enrichment of ^{33}S relative to ^{32}S . Therefore, for many years interest in measuring more than one isotope ratio of a specific element was limited. Recent analytical improvements of multiple isotope elements have demonstrated, however, that different mass-dependent processes (e.g. diffusion, metabolism, high-temperature equilibrium processes) can deviate by a few percent and follow slightly different mass-dependent fractionation laws (Young et al. 2002; Miller 2002; Farquhar et al. 2003). These very small differences are measurable and have been documented for oxygen (Luz et al. 1999), for magnesium (Young et al. 2002), for sulfur (Farquhar et al. 2003) and for mercury (Blum 2011). As shown by Young et al. (2002) mass dependent fractionation laws for three or more isotopes are different for equilibrium and kinetic processes, the latter having shallower slopes than those produced by equilibrium exchange.

It is common practice to describe mass dependent isotope fractionation processes by a single linear curve on a three-isotope-plot (Matsuhisa et al. 1978). The resulting straight lines are referred to as terrestrial mass fractionation lines and deviations from it are used as indicating non-mass dependent isotope effects. The three-isotope plot is based on the approximation of a power law function to linear format. To describe how far a sample plots off the mass dependent fractionation line, a new term has been defined: $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$, $\Delta^{25}\text{Mg}$, $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ etc. Several definitions of Δ have been introduced in the literature, that have been discussed by Assonov and Brenninkmeijer (2005). The simplest definition is given by:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta^{17}\text{O} &= \delta^{17}\text{O} - \lambda\delta^{18}\text{O} \\ \Delta^{25}\text{Mg} &= \delta^{25}\text{Mg} - \lambda\delta^{26}\text{Mg} \text{ or} \\ \Delta^{33}\text{S} &= \delta^{33}\text{S} - \lambda\delta^{34}\text{S},\end{aligned}$$

where λ is the main parameter that characterizes the mass-dependent fractionation. The value of the coefficient λ depends on the molecular mass, which for oxygen may range from 0.53 for atomic oxygen to 0.500 for species with high molecular weight. Recent progress in high-precision measurement of isotope ratios allows to distinguish λ -values in the third decimal, which has obscured the difference between mass-dependent and mass-independent fractionations at small Δ -values (Farquhar et al. 2003).

1.3.3.2 Mass Independent Effects

A few processes in nature do not follow the above mass-dependent fractionations. Deviations from mass-dependent fractionations were first observed for oxygen in meteorites (Clayton et al. 1973) and in ozone (Thiemens and Heidenreich 1983) and for sulfur in sulfides older than 2.45 Ga (Farquhar et al. 2000). These Mass Independent Fractionations (MIF) describe relationships that violate the mass-dependent rules $\delta^{17}\text{O} \approx 0.5 \delta^{18}\text{O}$ or $\delta^{33}\text{S} \approx 0.5 \delta^{34}\text{S}$ and produce isotopic compositions with nonzero $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ and $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$.

A number of experimental and theoretical studies have focused on the causes of mass-independent fractionation effects, but as summarized by Thiemens (1999) the mechanism for mass independent fractionations remains uncertain. The best studied reaction is the formation of ozone in the stratosphere. Mauersberger et al. (1999) demonstrated experimentally that it is not the symmetry of a molecule that determines the magnitude of ^{17}O enrichment, but it is the difference in the geometry of the molecule. Gao and Marcus (2001) presented an advanced model, which has led to a better understanding of non-mass dependent isotope effects.

Mass-independent isotopic fractionations are widespread in the earth's atmosphere and have been observed in O_3 , CO_2 , N_2O and CO , which are all linked to reactions involving stratospheric ozone (Thiemens 1999). For oxygen this is a characteristic marker in the atmosphere (see Sect. 3.9). These processes probably also play a role in the atmosphere of Mars and in the presolar nebula (Thiemens 1999). The discovery of chemically produced mass-independent oxygen isotope composition in ozone opened the view to investigate multi-isotope fractionation in other natural systems as summarized by Thiemens et al. (2012).

Oxygen isotope measurements in meteorites by Clayton et al. (1973) (Sect. 3.1) first demonstrated that the effect is of significance in the formation of the solar system. There are numerous terrestrial solid reservoirs where mass independent isotope variations have been observed. For instance, Farquhar et al. (2000c) and Bao et al. (2000) reported mass-independent oxygen isotope fractionations in terrestrial sulfates. A positive ^{17}O -excess in sulfate has been found to be almost ubiquitous in desert environments (Bao et al. 2001).

Significant mass independent sulfur isotope fractionations have been reported first by Farquhar et al. (2000c) in sulfides older than 2.4 Ga, whereas these fractionations do not occur in measurable amounts in sulfides younger than 2.4 Ga (see Fig. 2.24). Smaller, but clearly resolvable MIFs have been measured in volcanic aerosol sulfates in polar ice (Baroni et al. 2007). Photolysis of SO_2 to sulfuric acid is thought to be the source reaction for these sulfur MIFs. These findings indicate that non-mass dependent isotope fractionations are more abundant than originally thought and constitute a novel form of isotopic fingerprint.

1.3.4 Nuclear Volume and Magnetic Isotope Effects

1.3.4.1 Nuclear Volume Effects

For heavy elements, mass-independent isotope fractionations are considered to be due to nuclear volume fractionations (Fujii et al. 2009). Bigeleisen (1996), Schauble (2007, 2013), Estrade et al. (2009), and others demonstrated that isotope variations of very heavy elements (i.e. Hg, U) are driven by differences in nuclear volumes and shapes which affect the electronic structure of atoms and molecules. Nuclear volume fractionations may be estimated using first principles quantum mechanical calculations (Schauble 2007). The magnitude of nuclear volume fractionations is very small for the light elements, but increases with nuclear weight.

The binding energy between electrons and nuclei depend on the distribution of protons inside the nucleus. Nuclear volume increases with the number of neutrons, but the increase caused by an odd isotope is slightly smaller than for an isotope with an even number (Bigeleisen 1996). Thus, nuclear volume effects are expected to generate odd-even isotope fractionation patterns (Schauble 2007; Fujii et al. 2009).

1.3.4.2 Magnetic Isotope Effects

In contrast to nuclear volume effects that select isotopes due to their different masses, magnetic isotope effects separate isotopes by spin and magnetic moment (Bucharenko 2001; Epov et al. 2011). The magnetic isotope effect separates isotopes with and without unpaired nuclear spin due to coupling between nuclear spin and electronic spin. Thus magnetic isotope effects distinguish between isotopes with odd and even numbers.

1.3.5 Multiply Substituted Isotopologues

In stable isotope geochemistry generally bulk isotopic compositions of natural samples are given (e.g. $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$...). In measured gases, bulk compositions depend only on abundances of molecules containing one rare isotope (e.g. $^{13}\text{C}^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ or $^{12}\text{C}^{18}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$). However, there also exist in very low concentration, molecules having more than one rare isotope such as $^{13}\text{C}^{18}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ or $^{12}\text{C}^{18}\text{O}^{17}\text{O}$. These so-called isotopologues are molecules that differ from one another only in

Table 1.4 Stochastic abundances of CO₂ isotopologues (Eiler 2007)

Mass	Isotopologue	Relative abundance
44	¹² C ¹⁶ O ₂	98.40 %
45	¹³ C ¹⁶ O ₂	1.11 %
	¹² C ¹⁷ O ¹⁶ O	748 ppm
46	¹² C ¹⁸ O ¹⁶ O	0.040 %
	¹³ C ¹⁷ O ¹⁶ O	8.4 ppm
	¹² C ¹⁷ O ₂	0.142 ppm
47	¹³ C ¹⁸ O ¹⁶ O	44.4 ppm
	¹² C ¹⁷ O ¹⁸ O	1.50 ppm
	¹³ C ¹⁷ O ₂	1.60 ppb
48	¹² C ¹⁸ O ₂	3.96 ppm
	¹³ C ¹⁷ O ¹⁸ O	16.8 ppb
49	¹³ C ¹⁸ O ₂	44.5 ppb

isotopic composition. Table 1.4 gives the stochastic abundances of isotopologues of CO₂.

Already Urey (1947) and Bigeleisen and Mayer (1947) recognized that multiply substituted isotopologues have unique thermodynamic properties different from singly substituted isotopologues of the same molecule. Natural distributions of multiply substituted isotopologues can thus provide unique constraints on geological, geochemical and cosmochemical processes (Wang et al. 2004).

“Normal” gas-source mass spectrometers do not allow meaningful abundance measurements of these very rare species. However, if some demands on high abundance sensitivity, high precision and high mass resolving power are met, John Eiler and his group (e.g. Eiler and Schauble 2004; Affek and Eiler 2006; Eiler 2007) have reported precise (< 0.1 ‰) measurements of CO₂ with mass 47 (Δ_{47} -values) with an especially modified, but normal gas-source mass-spectrometer. The Δ_{47} -values are defined as ‰ differences between the measured abundance of all molecules with mass 47 relative to the abundance of 47 expected for the stochastic distribution. Huntington et al. (2009) described the technical details of the method and discussed potential errors and precisions. The main limitation of the analytical method for its wide application is the need for a relatively large amount (5–10 mg) of pure sample necessary for a precise measurement.

This new technique is termed “clumped isotope geochemistry” (Eiler 2007) because the respective species are produced by clumping two rare isotopes together. “Clumping” results in a statistical overabundance of multiply substituted isotopologues relative to a purely random distribution of all isotopes. Deviations from stochastic distributions are generally within 1 ‰ and may result from all processes of isotope fractionation observed in nature. Thus, processes that lead to isotope fractionations of bulk compositions also lead to fractionations of multiply substituted isotopologues (Eiler 2007). So far the most used application is a carbonate thermometer based on isotope exchange reactions inside the carbonate group, where

the equilibrium constant does not depend on the isotopic composition of parental water.

Schauble et al. (2006) calculated an ~ 0.4 ‰ excess of $^{13}\text{C}^{18}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ groups in carbonate groups at room temperature relative to what would be expected in a stochastic mixture of carbonate isotopologues with the same bulk $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$, $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratios. The excess amount of $^{13}\text{C}^{18}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ decreases with increasing temperature (Ghosh et al. 2006). Figure 1.5 shows an empirical calibration of the clumped isotope thermometer as summarized by Wacker et al. (2014).

The advantage of this thermometer is the potential to determine formation temperatures of carbonates without knowing the isotope composition of the fluid. The latter can be deduced from a combination with the major isotope ratios.

Although clumped isotope thermometry has already made important strides from its infancy, clumped isotope measurements are still restricted to a few laboratories around the world. Thus far the clumped isotope technique has been contributing to palaeoclimatology, (temperatures of foraminifera and other marine organisms, Tripathi et al. 2010 and others), to estimate temperatures of paleosol carbonates (Quade et al. 2011), of speleothems (Affek et al. 2008), and to constrain the diagenetic history of calcite (Huntington et al. 2010) and of dolomite.

Tripathi et al. (2010) presented a global dataset for foraminifera and coccoliths and demonstrated that the clumped isotope thermometer is applicable as a temperature proxy. In the case of speleothems and surface corals, however, calculated

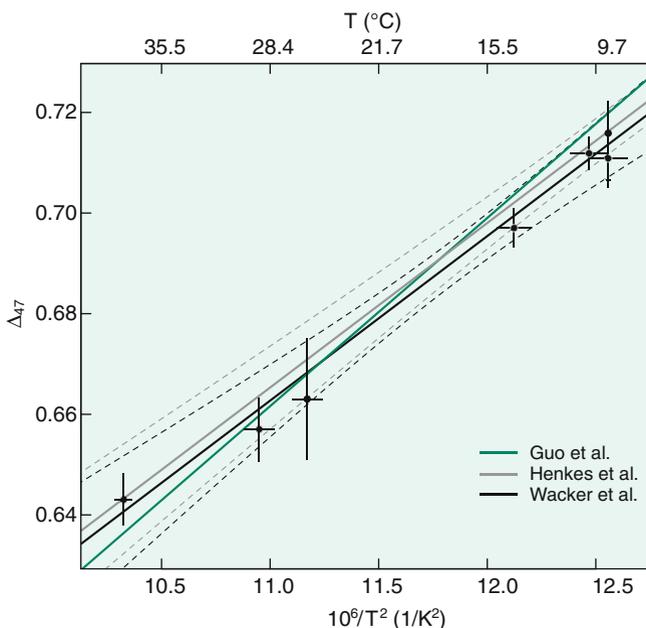


Fig. 1.5 Empirical calibrations of the clumped isotope thermometer (after Wacker et al. 2014)

clumped temperatures markedly differ from known temperatures (Saenger et al. 2012; Eiler et al. 2014). For speleothems, derived clumped temperatures are significantly higher than known growth temperatures. Deviations for corals may depend on growth rates, implying the impact of kinetic effects on clumped isotope signals.

By analyzing ^{13}C – ^{18}O bonds in the carbonate component of apatite of vertebrates, Eagle et al. (2010) showed that it is possible to deduce body temperatures of extinct vertebrates.

The clumped isotope geothermometer may be applicable in the 50–300 °C range (Passey and Henkes 2012), relevant to processes such as dolomitization (Ferry et al. 2011) and burial diagenesis (Huntington et al. 2011). Dennis and Schrag (2010) have used carbonatites to test the isotope integrity of the clumped isotope composition over long timescales and concluded reordering of C- and O-atoms is sufficiently slow to enable the use of clumped paleothermometry on timescales of 10^8 years. Henkes et al. (2014) argued that calcites being exposed to temperatures of about 100 °C for 10^6 – 10^8 years will not be affected by solid state C–O reordering.

The key question in using clumped temperatures of deeply buried carbonates is the closure temperature for isotopic redistribution by lattice diffusion. Studies of marbles and carbonatites indicate closure temperatures in the order of 200 °C for calcite and somewhat higher for dolomite (Dennis and Schrag 2010; Ferry et al. 2011).

Methane is another gas, in which clumped isotopes have been investigated (Stolper et al. 2014). Besides the 3 most abundant isotopologues, $^{12}\text{CH}_4$, $^{13}\text{CH}_4$ and $^{12}\text{CH}_3\text{D}$, there are 7 more isotopologues with the heaviest mass 21 for $^{13}\text{CD}_4$. In a first attempt Stolper et al. (2014) presented data for the isotologues $^{13}\text{CH}_3\text{D}$ and $^{12}\text{CH}_2\text{D}_2$ which for equilibrated systems can be used as a geothermometer. Clumped isotopes yield consistent temperatures of formation for low-temperature biogenic and high-temperature thermogenic methane.

1.3.5.1 Position or Site-Specific Isotope Fractionations

Site-specific isotope fractionations describe differences between the isotope composition of a site in a molecule and the isotope composition it would have if the molecule had randomly distributed isotopes (Galimov 2006; Eiler 2013). Examples are the distribution of ^{15}N in the central position and the terminal position in N_2O . Nitrifying bacteria enrich ^{15}N in the central position, whereas N_2O from denitrifying bacteria and other natural sources of N_2O do not show site-specific fractionations.

Other characteristic site-specific fractionations are ^{13}C and D fractionations occurring during the synthesis of organic molecules. Abelson and Hoering (1961) were the first to analyse the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value of isolated amino acids separately and showed that the terminal carboxyl groups on most amino acids were significantly enriched in ^{13}C relative to other C positions. Blair et al. (1985) demonstrated that in acetate (CH_3COOH), the methyl group (CH_3) and the carboxyl group (COOH)

differ by up to 20 % in ^{13}C . It can be expected that with further advances in analytical techniques many more applications of site-specific isotope fractionations will arise.

1.3.6 Diffusion

Ordinary diffusion can cause significant isotope fractionations. In general, light isotopes are more mobile and hence diffusion can lead to a separation of light from heavy isotopes. For gases, the ratio of diffusion coefficients is equivalent to the inverse square root of their masses. Consider the isotopic molecules of carbon in CO_2 with masses $^{12}\text{C}^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{13}\text{C}^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ having molecular weights of 44 and 45. Solving the expression equating the kinetic energies ($1/2 m v^2$) of both species, the ratio of velocities is equivalent to the square root of 45/44 or 1.01. That is regardless of temperature, the average velocity of $^{12}\text{C}^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ molecules is about 1 % higher than the average velocity of $^{13}\text{C}^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ molecules in the same system. This isotope effect, however, is more or less limited to ideal gases, where collisions between molecules are infrequent and intermolecular forces negligible. The carbon isotope fractionation of soil- CO_2 due to diffusional movement, for instance, has been estimated to be around 4 % (Cerling 1984; Hesterberg and Siegenthaler 1991).

Distinctly different from ordinary diffusion is the process of thermal diffusion where a temperature gradient results in a mass transport. The greater the mass difference the more pronounced is the tendency of the two species to separate by thermal diffusion. A natural example of thermal diffusion has been presented by Severinghaus et al. (1996) who observed a small isotope depletion of ^{15}N and ^{18}O in air from a sand dune relative to the free atmosphere. This observation is contrary to the expectation that heavier isotopes in unsaturated zones of soils would be enriched by gravitational settling. Such thermally driven diffusional isotope effects have also been described in air bubbles from ice cores (Severinghaus et al. 1998; Severinghaus and Brook 1999; Grachiev and Severinghaus 2003).

In solutions and solids the relationships are much more complicated than in gases. The term “solid state diffusion” generally includes volume diffusion and diffusion mechanisms where the atoms move along paths of easy diffusion such as grain boundaries and surfaces. Diffusive-penetration experiments indicate a marked enhancement of diffusion rates along grain boundaries which are orders of magnitude faster than for volume diffusion. Thus, grain boundaries can act as pathways of rapid exchange. Volume diffusion is driven by the random temperature dependent motion of an element or isotope within a crystal lattice, and it depends on the presence of point defects, such as vacancies or interstitial atoms within the lattice.

The flux F of elements or isotopes diffusing through a medium is proportional to the concentration gradient (dc/dx) such that:

$$F = -D(dc/dx) \quad (\text{Fick, s first law}) \quad (1.21)$$

where “D” represents the diffusion coefficient, and the minus sign denotes that the concentration gradient has a negative slope, i.e. elements or isotopes move from points of high concentration towards points of low concentration. The diffusion coefficient “D” varies with temperature according to the Arrhenius relation

$$D = D_0 e^{(-E_a/RT)} \quad (1.22)$$

where “D₀” is a temperature-independent factor, “E_a” is the activation energy, “R” is the gas constant and T is in Kelvins.

In recent years there have been several attempts to determine diffusion coefficients, mostly utilizing Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (SIMS), where isotope compositions have been measured as a function of depth below a crystal surface after exposing the crystal to solutions or gases greatly enriched in the heavy isotopic species.

A plot of the logarithm of the diffusion coefficient versus reciprocal temperature yields a linear relationship over a significant range of temperature for most minerals. Such an Arrhenius plot for various minerals is shown in Fig. 1.6, which illustrates the variability in diffusion coefficients for different minerals. The practical application of this fact is that the different minerals in a rock will exchange oxygen at different rates and become closed systems to isotopic exchange at different temperatures. As a rock cools from the peak of a thermal event, the magnitude of isotope fractionations between exchanging minerals will increase. The rate at which the coexisting minerals can approach equilibrium at the lower temperature is limited by the volume diffusion rates of the respective minerals.

Several models for diffusive transport in and among minerals have been discussed in the literature, one is the “Fast Grain Boundary/FGB) model” of Eiler et al. (1992, 1993). The FGB model considers the effects of diffusion between non-adjacent grains and shows that, when mass balance terms are included, closure temperatures become a strong function of both the modal abundances of constituent minerals and the differences in diffusion coefficients among all coexisting minerals.

Surprisingly large fractionations by chemical and thermal diffusion at very high temperatures have been reported by Richter et al. (1999, 2003, 2007, 2009) and others observing large isotope variations of Mg, Ca, Fe, Si and O in silicate melts subjected to thermal gradients. Diffusion experiments between molten basalt and rhyolite also demonstrated considerable isotope fractionations of Li, Ca and Ge (the latter used as a Si analogue). Especially for Li, diffusion processes occurring at high temperatures seem to be of first order importance (see p. 56). Thus the notion that isotope fractionations above 1000 °C appear to be negligible has to be reconsidered, although the physical mechanisms are not clear.

Dominguez et al. (2011) presented a model of diffusion in solid phases that explains both thermal and mass transport in silicate melts. Thermal and chemical mass transport rely on the same diffusion mechanism. The model in conjunction

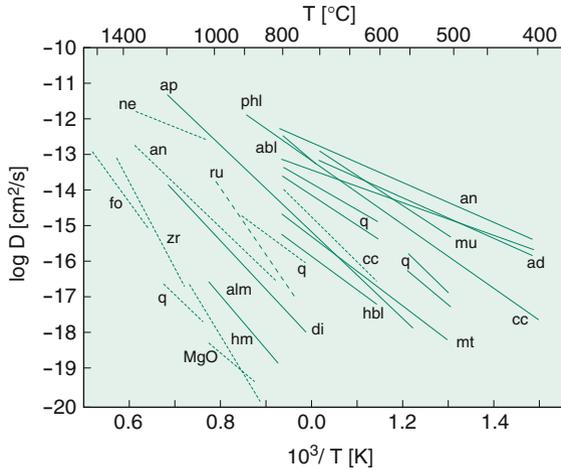


Fig. 1.6 Arrhenius plot of diffusion coefficients versus reciprocal temperatures for various minerals. Data from phases reacted under *wet conditions* are given as *solid lines*, whereas *dry conditions* are represented by *dashed lines*. Note that the rates for dry systems are generally lower and have higher activation energies (steeper slopes) (after Cole and Chakraborty 2011) (Fig. 1.5 6th edition, p. 17)

with measured isotope ratios in zoned minerals can be also used to reconstruct cooling histories.

Diffusion of dissolved species was also used as a process to explain the precipitation-rate dependence of isotope fractionation of earth alkaline elements during low-temperature carbonate formation (Fietzke and Eisenhauer 2006).

1.3.7 Other Factors Influencing Isotopic Fractionations

(a) Pressure

It is commonly assumed that temperature is the main variable determining the isotopic fractionation and that the effect of pressure is negligible, because molar volumes do not change with isotopic substitution. This assumption is generally fulfilled, except for hydrogen. Driesner (1997), Horita et al. (1999, 2002) and Polyakov et al. (2006) have shown, however, that for isotope exchange reactions involving water, changes of pressure can influence isotope fractionations. Driesner (1997) calculated hydrogen isotope fractionations between epidote and water and observed at 400 °C a change from -90‰ at 1 bar to -30‰ at 4000 bars. Horita et al. (1999, 2002) presented experimental evidence for a pressure effect in the system brucite ($\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$)—water. Theoretical calculations indicate that pressure effects largely result on water rather than effects on brucite. Thus it is likely that D/H fractionations of any hydrous

mineral is subject to similar pressure effects (Horita et al. 2002). These pressure effects have to be taken into account when calculating the hydrogen isotope composition of the fluid from the mineral composition.

(b) Chemical composition

Qualitatively, the isotopic composition of a mineral depends to a very high degree upon the nature of the chemical bonds within the mineral and to a smaller degree upon the atomic mass of the respective elements. In general, bonds to ions with a high ionic potential and small size are associated with high vibrational frequencies and have a tendency to incorporate preferentially the heavy isotope. This relationship can be demonstrated by considering the bonding of oxygen to the small highly charged Si^{4+} ion compared to the relatively large Fe^{2+} ion of the common rock-forming minerals. In natural mineral assemblages: quartz is the most ^{18}O -rich mineral and magnetite is the most ^{18}O -deficient given equilibration in the system. Furthermore, carbonates are always enriched in ^{18}O relative to most other mineral groups because oxygen is bonded to the small, highly charged C^{4+} ion. The mass of the divalent cation is of secondary importance to the C–O bonding. However, the mass effect is apparent in ^{34}S distributions among sulfides, where, for example, ZnS always concentrates ^{34}S relative to coexisting PbS.

Compositional effects in silicates are complex and difficult to deduce, because of the very diverse substitution mechanisms in silicate minerals (Kohn and Valley 1988). The largest fractionation effect is clearly related to the NaSi=CaAl substitution in plagioclases which is due to the higher Si to Al ratio of albite and the greater bond strength of the Si–O bond relative to the Al–O bond. In pyroxenes, the jadeite ($\text{NaAlSi}_2\text{O}_6$)—diopside ($\text{CaMgSi}_2\text{O}_6$) substitution also involves Al, but Al in this case replaces an octahedral rather than tetrahedral site. Chacko et al. (2001) estimate that at high temperatures the Al-substitution in pyroxenes is about 0.4 ‰ per mole Al substitution in the tetrahedral site. The other very common substitutions, the Fe–Mg and the Ca–Mg substitutions, do not generate any significant difference in oxygen isotope fractionation (Chacko et al. 2001).

(c) Crystal structure

Structural effects are secondary in importance to those arising from the primary chemical bonding: the heavy isotope being concentrated in the more closely-packed or well-ordered structures. The ^{18}O and D fractionations between ice and liquid water arise mainly from differences in the degree of hydrogen bonding (order). A relatively large isotope effect associated with structure is observed between graphite and diamond (Bottinga 1969). With a modified increment method, Zheng (1993a) has calculated this structural effect for the SiO_2 and Al_2SiO_5 polymorphs and demonstrated that ^{18}O will be enriched in the high-pressure forms. In this connection it should be mentioned, however, that Sharp (1995) by analyzing natural Al_2SiO_5 minerals observed no differences for kyanite versus sillimanite. Other examples of structural effects on isotope fractionations are carbonate minerals (Zheng and Böttcher 2015).

(d) Sorption

The term “sorption” is used to indicate the uptake of dissolved species by solids irrespective of the mechanism. Isotope fractionations during sorption depend on mineral surface chemistry and on compositions of the solution. During physical sorption, when the element in question is not structurally incorporated, isotope fractionations should be small, whereas during chemical sorption, when the element is incorporated by stronger bonds, isotope fractionations are larger.

Considering the large range of possible sorbents (oxide/hydroxides, phyllosilicates, biologic surfaces etc.), knowledge of isotope fractionations on solid/water interfaces are of crucial importance to understand the isotope geochemistry of metals. Experimental determinations on the fractionation of metal isotopes during absorption onto metal oxide phases have been presented by a number of studies (i.e. Teutsch et al. 2005; Gelibert et al. 2006, and others). Most studies show small (less than 1 ‰) isotope fractionations as metal ions are removed from solution onto oxide surfaces, except Mo where absorption on oxides causes about 2 ‰ fractionation in $^{98}\text{Mo}/^{95}\text{Mo}$ ratios. Generally, elements that are present as cations in a solution (Fe, Cu, Zn) exhibit enrichment of the heavier isotope on the surface of solids, which is consistent with shorter metal-oxide bonds and lower coordination numbers for the metal at the surface relative to the aqueous ion. Thus the heavier isotope should concentrate in the species in which it is most strongly bound, for example, enrichment of absorbed tetrahedral metal with shorter metal-oxygen bonds compared to octahedral metal in solution.

Metal cations in solution that form soluble oxyanions such as Ge, Se, Mo, and U enrich the lighter isotope on Fe/Mn oxide surfaces. The molecular mechanism responsible for the sign and size of metal isotope fractionation between solids and aqueous phases remain poorly understood. Wasylenki et al. (2011) postulated that largest isotope effects occur when a trace solution species with different coordination than the major solution species absorb. Kashiwabara et al. (2011) argued similarly by stating that small isotope fractionations are associated with little changes in local structures during absorption.

1.3.8 Isotope Geothermometers

Isotope thermometry has become well established since the classic paper of Urey (1947) on the thermodynamic properties of isotopic substances. The partitioning of two stable isotopes of an element between two mineral phases can be viewed as a special case of element partitioning between two minerals. The most important difference between the two exchange reactions is the pressure-insensitivity of isotope partitioning due to the negligible ΔV of reaction for isotope exchange. This represents a considerable advantage relative to the numerous types of other geothermometers, all of which exhibit a pressure dependence.

The necessary condition to apply an isotope geothermometer is isotope equilibrium, which is most readily achieved at high temperatures, where isotope geothermometers are, however, less sensitive than at low temperatures. Isotope exchange equilibrium should be established during reactions whose products are in **chemical** and **mineralogical** equilibrium. Demonstration that the minerals in a rock are in oxygen isotope equilibrium is strong evidence that the rock is in chemical equilibrium. To break Al–O and Si–O bonds and allow re-arrangement towards oxygen isotope equilibrium needs sufficient energy to effect chemical equilibrium as well.

Theoretical studies show that the fractionation factor α for isotope exchange between minerals is a linear function of $1/T^2$, where “T” is temperature in degrees Kelvin. Bottinga and Javoy (1973) demonstrated that O-isotopic fractionation between anhydrous mineral pairs can be expressed in terms of a relationship of the form:

$$1000 \ln \alpha = A/T^2 + B/T + C,$$

One drawback to isotope thermometry in slowly cooled metamorphic and magmatic rocks is that, temperature estimates are often significantly lower than those from other geothermometers. This results from isotopic resetting associated with retrograde isotope exchange between coexisting phases or with transient fluids. During cooling in closed systems, volume diffusion may be the principal mechanism by which isotope exchange occurs between coexisting minerals.

Gilotti (1986) proposed a model in which experimentally-derived diffusion data can be used in conjunction with measured isotope ratios to explain disequilibrium isotope fractionations in slowly-cooled, closed-system mineral assemblages. This approach describes diffusional exchange between a mineral and an infinite reservoir whose bulk isotopic composition is constant during exchange. However, mass balance requires that loss or gain of an isotope from one mineral must be balanced by a change in the other minerals still subject to isotopic exchange. Numerical modeling by Eiler et al. (1992) has shown that closed-system exchange depends not only on modal proportions of all of the minerals in a rock, but also on oxygen diffusivity in minerals, grain size, grain shape and cooling rate. As shown by Kohn and Valley (1998) there is an important water fugacity dependence as well. In the presence of fluids further complications may arise because isotope exchange may also occur by solution-reprecipitation or chemical reaction rather than solely by diffusion.

Three different methods have been used to determine the equilibrium fractionations for isotope exchange reactions:

- (a) theoretical calculations
- (b) experimental determinations in the laboratory, and
- (c) empirical or semi-empirical calibrations.

Method (c) is based on the idea that the calculated “formation temperature” of a rock (calculated from other geothermometers) serves as a calibration to the

measured isotopic fractionations, assuming that all minerals were at equilibrium. However, because there is evidence that equilibrium is not always attained or retained in nature, such empirical calibrations should be regarded with caution.

Nevertheless, rigorous applications of equilibrium criteria to rock-type and the minerals investigated can provide important information on mineral fractionations (Kohn and Valley 1998; Sharp 1995; Kitchen and Valley 1995).

(A). Theoretical calculations

Calculations of equilibrium isotope fractionation factors have been particularly successful for gases. Richet et al. (1977) calculated the partition function ratios for a large number of gaseous molecules. They demonstrated that the main source of error in the calculation is the uncertainty in the vibrational molecular constants.

The theory developed for perfect gases could be extended to solids if the partition functions of crystals could be expressed in terms of a set of vibrational frequencies that correspond to its various fundamental modes of vibration (O'Neil 1986). By estimating thermodynamic properties from elastic, structural and spectroscopic data, Kieffer (1982) and subsequently Clayton and Kieffer (1991) calculated oxygen isotope partition function ratios and from these calculations derived a set of fractionation factors for silicate minerals. The calculations have no inherent temperature limitations and can be applied to any phase for which adequate spectroscopic and mechanical data are available. They are, however, limited in accuracy as a consequence of the approximations needed to carry out the calculations and the limited accuracy of the spectroscopic data.

Isotope fractionations in solids depend on the nature of the bonds between atoms of an element and the nearest atoms in the crystal structure (O'Neil 1986). The correlation between bond strength and oxygen isotope fractionation was investigated by Schütze (1980), who developed an “increment” method for predicting oxygen isotope fractionations in silicate minerals. Richter and Hoernes (1988) applied this method to the calculation of oxygen isotope fractionations between silicate minerals and water. Zheng (1991, 1993 b, c) extended the increment method by using parameters of crystal chemistry with no empirical factor. The fractionation factors calculated using these methods over the temperature range 0–1200 °C are in relatively good agreement with experimental calibrations.

Ongoing advances in computer capacity and new development of software, have opened the possibility to calculate equilibrium isotope fractionations using first principles (or ab initio) methods on the base of density functional theory (Meheut et al. 2007; Schauble et al. 2009; Schauble 2011; Kowalski and Jahn 2011; Kowalski et al. 2013 and others). Calculations of equilibrium isotope fractionations can be carried out for fluids and solids at high P and T conditions with a reasonable precision (i.e. Kowalski and Jahn 2011; Kowalski et al. 2013). Although different approaches have been used in these

calculations, all methods require knowledge of the vibrational spectrum of a system.

(B) Experimental calibrations

In general, experimental calibrations of isotope geothermometers have been performed between 250 and 800 °C. The upper temperature limit is usually determined by the stability of the mineral being studied or by limitations of the experimental apparatus, whereas the lower temperature limit is determined by the decreasing rate of exchange.

Various experimental approaches have been used to determine fractionation factors. The three most common techniques are described below.

(a) Two-direction approach

This method is analogous to reversing reactions in experimental petrology and is the only method by which the attainment of equilibrium can be convincingly demonstrated. Equilibrium fractionations are achieved by starting on opposite sides of the equilibrium distribution.

(b) Partial-exchange technique

The partial exchange technique is used when rates of isotopic exchange are relatively low and is based on the assumption that the rates of isotope exchange for companion exchange experiments are identical. Experimental runs have to be the same in every respect except in the isotopic compositions of the starting materials. Rates of isotope exchange reactions in heterogeneous systems are relatively high at first (surface control) and then become progressively lower with time (diffusion control). Four sets of experiments are shown in Fig. 1.7 for the CO₂—graphite system (after Scheele and Hoefs 1992). Northrop and Clayton (1966) presented a set of equations to describe the kinetics of isotope exchange reactions and developed a general equation for the partial exchange technique. At low degrees of exchange the fractionations determined by the partial exchange technique are often larger than the equilibrium fractionations (O'Neil 1986).

(c) Three-isotope method

This method, introduced by Matsuhisa et al. (1978) and later modified by Matthews et al. (1983), uses the measurement of both ¹⁷O/¹⁶O and ¹⁸O/¹⁶O fractionations in a single experiment that has gone to equilibrium. The initial ¹⁸O/¹⁶O fractionation for the mineral—fluid system is selected to be close to the assumed equilibrium, while the initial ¹⁷O/¹⁶O fractionation is chosen to be very different from the equilibrium value. In this way the change in the ¹⁷O/¹⁶O fractionations monitor the extent of isotopic exchange and the ¹⁸O/¹⁶O fractionations reflect the equilibrium value. Figure 1.8 gives a schematic diagram of the three-isotope exchange method.

Most of the published data on mineral fractionations have been determined by exchange of single minerals with water. This approach is limited by two

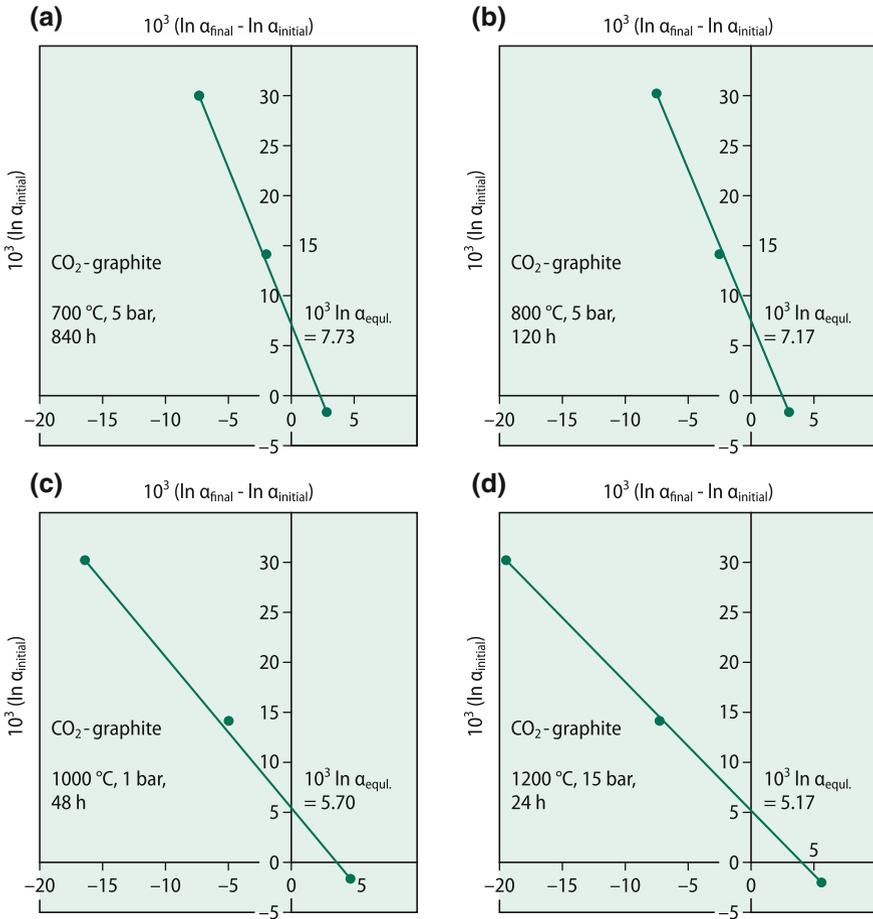


Fig. 1.7 CO₂-graphite partial exchange experiments in a Northrop and Clayton plot at 700, 800, 1000 and 1200 °C. The connecting line in experiment at 1200 °C has a plain slope and defines the intercept more precisely than the experiment at 700 °C (after Scheele and Hoefs 1992) (Fig. 1.6, 6th edition, p. 22)

factors: (i) many minerals are unstable, melt, or dissolve in the presence of water and (ii) the temperature dependence of the fractionation factor for aqueous systems is complicated as a consequence of the high vibrational frequencies of the water molecule. An alternative approach to the experimental determination of isotope fractionation between minerals was first employed by Clayton et al. (1989) and Chiba et al. (1989) who demonstrated that both limitations can be avoided by using CaCO₃, instead of H₂O, as the common exchange medium. These studies showed that most common silicates undergo rapid oxygen isotope exchange with CaCO₃ at temperatures above 600 °C and pressures of 15 kbars.

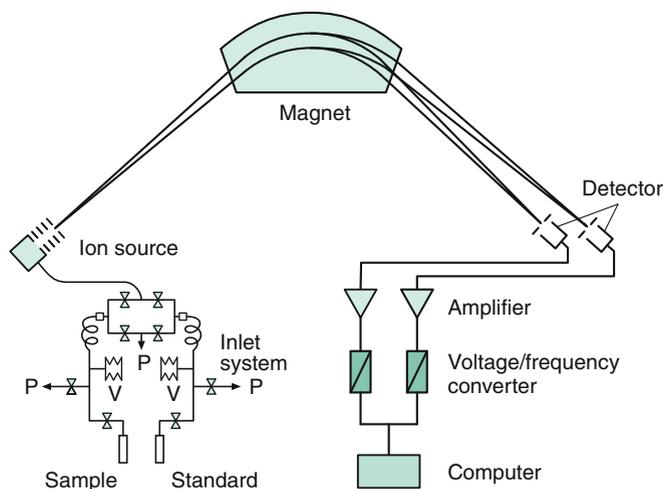


Fig. 1.9 Schematic representation of a gas-source mass spectrometer for stable isotope measurements during the 1960s and 70s. P denotes pumping system, V denotes a variable volume (Fig. 1.8 6th edition, p. 24)

In principle, a mass spectrometer may be divided into four different central constituent parts: (1) the inlet system, (2) the ion source, (3) the mass analyzer, and (4) the ion detector (see Fig. 1.9).

1. Special arrangements for the *inlet system* include a changeover valve. This allows rapid, consecutive analysis between two gas samples (sample and standard gas) within a couple of seconds. The two gases are fed from reservoirs by capillaries of around 0.1 mm in diameter and about 1 m in length. While one gas flows to the ion source the other flows to a waste pump so that flow through the capillaries remains uninterrupted. To avoid a mass discrimination, isotope abundance measurements of gaseous substances are carried out utilizing viscous gas flow. During viscous gas flow, the free path length of molecules is small, molecule collisions are frequent (causing the gas to be well mixed), and no mass separation takes place. At the end of the viscous-flow inlet system, there is a “leak”, a constriction in the flow line. The smallest amount of sample that can be analyzed with high precision using the dual inlet system is limited by the maintenance of viscous flow conditions. This is generally in the order of 15–20 mbar (Brand 2002). When trying to reduce sample size, it is necessary to concentrate the gas into a small volume in front of the capillary.
2. The *ion source* is that part of the mass spectrometer where ions are formed, accelerated, and focused into a narrow beam. In the ion source, the gas flow is always molecular. Ions of gaseous samples are most reliably produced by electron bombardment. A beam of electrons is emitted by a heated filament, usually tungsten or rhenium, and is accelerated by electrostatic potentials to an

energy between 50 and 150 eV before entering the ionization chamber, which maximizes the efficiency of single ionization. Following ionization any charged molecule can be further fragmented into several pieces depending on the energy the ion has acquired, producing a mass spectrum of a specific compound.

To increase the ionization probability, a homogeneous weak magnetic field is used to keep the electrons on a spiral path. At the end of the ionization chamber, electrons are collected in a positively charged trap, where the electron current is measured and kept constant by the emission regulator circuitry.

The ionized molecules are drawn out of the electron beam by action of an electric field, subsequently accelerated by up to several kV and their path shaped into a beam which passes through an exit slit into the analyzer. Thus, the positive ions entering the magnetic field are essentially monoenergetic, i.e., they will possess the same kinetic energy, given by the equation:

$$1/2Mv^2 = eV. \quad (1.24)$$

The efficiency of the ionization process determines the sensitivity of the mass spectrometer which generally is on the order of 1000–2000 molecules per ion (Brand 2002).

3. The *mass analyzer* separates the ion beams emerging from the ion source according to their m/e (mass/charge) ratios. As the ion beam passes through the magnetic field, the ions are deflected into circular paths, the radii of which are proportional to the square root of m/e . Thus, the ions are separated into beams, each characterized by a particular value of m/e .

In 1940, Nier introduced the sector magnetic analyzer. In this type of analyzer, deflection takes place in a wedge-shaped magnetic field. The ion beam enters and leaves the field at right angles to the boundary, so the deflection angle is equal to the wedge angle, for instance, 60° . The sector instrument has the advantage of its source and detector being comparatively free from the mass-discriminating influence of the analyzer field.

4. After passing through the magnetic field, the separated ions are collected in *ion detectors*, where the input is converted into an electrical impulse, which is then fed into an amplifier. The use of multiple detectors to simultaneously integrate the ion currents was introduced by Nier et al. (1947). The advantage of the simultaneous measurement with two separate amplifiers is that relative fluctuations of the ion currents as a function of time are the same for all m/e beams. Each detector channel is fitted with a high ohmic resistor appropriate for the mean natural abundance of the ion current of interest.

Modern isotope ratio mass spectrometers have at least three Faraday collectors, which are positioned along the focal plane of the mass spectrometer. Because the spacing between adjacent peaks changes with mass and because the scale is not linear, each set of isotopes often requires its own set of Faraday cups.

1.4.1 Continuous Flow—Isotope Ratio Monitoring Mass Spectrometers

Between the early 1950s, when the dual viscous flow mass spectrometer was introduced by A. Nier, until the mid 80s only minor modifications have been made on the hardware of commercial mass spectrometers. Special efforts had been undertaken to reduce the sample size for isotope measurements. This has led to a modification of the classic dual inlet technique to the continuous-flow isotope ratio monitoring mass spectrometer in which the gas to be analyzed is a trace gas in a stream of carrier gas which achieves viscous flow conditions. Today the majority of gas mass spectrometers is sold with the continuous flow system instead of the dual inlet system.

The classical off-line procedures for sample preparations are time consuming and analytical precision depends on the skill of the investigator. With on-line techniques using a combination of an elemental analyzer directly coupled to the mass spectrometer many problems of the off-line preparation can be overcome and minimized. Differences in both techniques are summarized in Table 1.5.

This new generation of mass-spectrometers is often combined with chromatographic techniques. The sample size required for an isotope measurement has been drastically reduced to the nano–or even picomolar range (Merritt and Hayes 1994). Important features of the GC-IRMS technique are (Brand 2002):

- i. ion currents are measured in the order in which molecules emerge from a GC column without significant capability of modifying their intensity relative to the reference gas. Chromatography separates not only different chemical species, but also the different isotope species, which means that the isotope composition of a compound varies across the peak of the chemical species after elution. Therefore, each peak must be integrated over its entire width to obtain the true isotope ratio

Table 1.5 Differences between the offline and online techniques

Offline method (dual inlet)	Online method (continuous flow)
Offline sample preparation	Online sample preparation
Offline purification of gases	Purification of gases by GC column
Large sample size (mg)	Small sample size (micrograms)
Direct inlet of sample gas	Sample gas inlet via carrier gas
Pressure adjust of both gases	No pressure adjust, linearity and stability of the system are necessary conditions
Sample/standard changes (>6 times)	One peak per sample
δ -value calculated from statistical mean	δ -value calculated by peak integration and reference gas
System calibration on a monthly basis	System calibration on a daily basis and during the run
Little problems with homogeneity of sample	Problems with homogeneity of sample

- ii. the time for measurement of the isotope signals is restricted by the width of the chromatographic peak. For sharply defined peaks this can mean less than 5s.
- iii. absolute sensitivity is much more important than with the dual inlet system. Because sample sizes required for chromatography are significantly smaller, it is often important to use a significantly large set of samples in order to obtain a statistically sound data base.

Standardization has to be accomplished through the use of an added internal standard whose isotopic composition has been determined using conventional techniques.

The development of this technique has proceeded along several independent paths with two principal lines being elemental analyzer-IRMS and capillary gas chromatography-IRMS. In elemental analyzers, samples are combusted to CO_2 , N_2 , SO_2 and H_2O , which are either chemically trapped or separated on GC columns. There are two types of elemental analyzer: for carbon, nitrogen and sulfur, the sample is combusted in an oxygen containing atmosphere, for hydrogen and oxygen, the sample undergoes high temperature thermal conversion. The advantages of these techniques are an automated preparation with low costs per sample and a large sample through-put at comparable or even better precisions. Figure 1.10 shows a schematic diagram of an elemental analyser-IRMS.

1.4.2 General Remarks on Sample Preparation Methods for Gases

Isotopic differences between samples to be measured are often extremely small. Therefore, great care has to be taken to avoid any isotope fractionation during chemical or physical treatment of the sample. The quality of a stable isotope

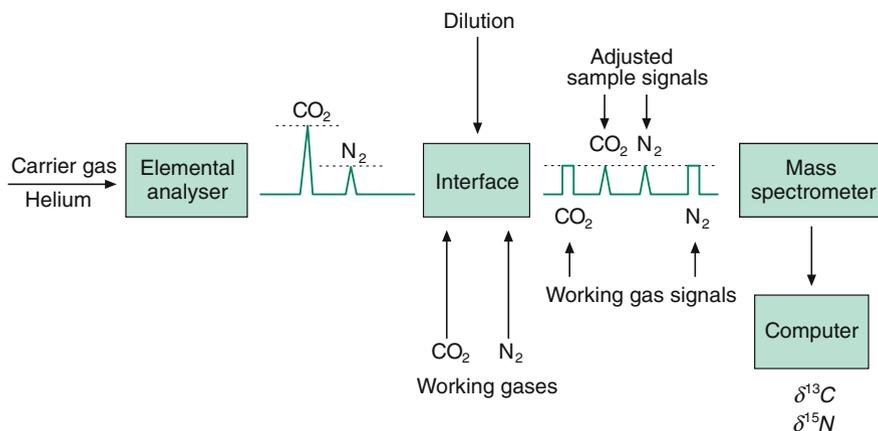


Fig. 1.10 Schematic diagram of an elemental analyser-isotope ratio-mass spectrometer for the determination of carbon and nitrogen isotopes

analysis is determined by the purity of the gas prepared from the sample, quantitative yield, blank and memory effects.

To convert geologic samples to a suitable form for analysis, many different chemical preparation techniques must be used. These techniques all have one general feature in common: any preparation procedure providing a yield of less than 100 % may produce a reaction product that is isotopically different from the original specimen because the different isotopic species have different reaction rates.

A quantitative yield of a pure gas is usually necessary for the mass spectrometric measurement in order to prevent not only isotope fractionation during sample preparation, but also interference in the mass spectrometer. Contamination with gases having the same molecular masses and having similar physical properties may be a serious problem. This is especially critical with CO₂ and N₂O, (Craig and Keeling 1963), and N₂ and CO. When CO₂ is used, interference by hydrocarbons and a CS⁺ ion may also pose a problem.

Contamination may result from incomplete evacuation of the vacuum system and/or from degassing of the sample. The system blank should be normally less than 1 % of the amount of gas prepared from a sample for analysis. For very small sample sizes, the blank may ultimately limit the analysis. Memory effects result from samples that have previously been analyzed. They will become noticeable when samples having widely different isotopic compositions are analyzed consecutively.

How gases are transferred, distilled, or otherwise processed in vacuum lines is briefly discussed under the different elements. A more detailed description can be found in the recently published “Handbook of stable isotope analytical techniques” edited by de Groot (2004).

All errors due to chemical preparation limit the overall precision of an isotope ratio measurement to usually 0.1–0.2 ‰, while modern mass spectrometer instrumentation enables a precision better than 0.02 ‰ for light elements other than hydrogen. Larger uncertainties are expected when elements present in a sample at very low concentration are extracted by chemical methods (e.g., carbon and sulfur from igneous rocks).

Commercial combustion elemental analyzers perform a “flash combustion” converting samples to CO₂, H₂O, N₂ and SO₂ simultaneously. These different gases are then chemically trapped, converted or separated on GC columns and measured in a continuous flow mass-spectrometer. This technique allows the determination of several isotope ratios from the same component, increasing the possibilities of isotope fingerprinting of organic and inorganic compounds containing isotopes of more than one element of interest. Because of very high combustion temperatures, the quantitative conversion of the sample material is guaranteed.

By coupling chromatographic techniques with isotope ratio mass spectrometers mixtures of organic compounds can be analysed separately (compound-specific stable isotope analysis). This method has been first introduced for carbon by Matthews and Hayes (1978) and later modified for the separate analysis of hydrogen, nitrogen, chlorine and oxygen compounds. A recent review of the technique has been published by Elsner et al. (2012).

1.5 Standards

The accuracy with which *absolute* isotope abundances can be measured is substantially poorer than the precision with which *relative* differences in isotope abundances between two samples can be determined. Nevertheless, the determination of absolute isotope ratios is very important, because these numbers form the basis for the calculation of the relative differences, the δ -values. Table 1.6 summarizes absolute isotope ratios of primary standards used by the international stable isotope community.

To compare isotope data from different laboratories an internationally accepted set of standards is necessary. Irregularities and problems concerning standards have been evaluated by Friedman and O'Neil (1977), Gonfiantini (1978, 1984), Coplen et al. (1983), Coplen (1996) and Coplen et al. (2006). The accepted unit of isotope ratio measurements is the delta value (δ) given in per mil (‰). The δ -value is defined as

$$\delta \text{ in } \text{‰} = \frac{R_{(\text{Sample})} - R_{(\text{Standard})}}{R_{(\text{Standard})}} \cdot 1000 \quad (1.25)$$

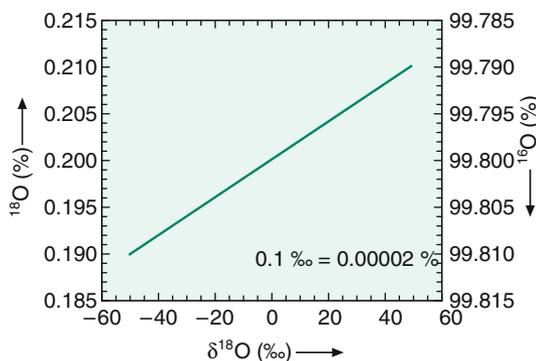
where “R” represents the measured isotope ratio. If $\delta_A > \delta_B$, it is convenient to speak of A being enriched in the rare or “heavy” isotope compared to B. Unfortunately, not all of the δ -values cited in the literature are given relative to a single universal standard, so that often several standards of one element are in use. To convert δ -values from one standard to another, the following equation may be used

$$\delta_{X-A} = \left[\left(\frac{\delta_{B-A}}{10^3} + 1 \right) \left(\frac{\delta_{X-B}}{10^3} + 1 \right) - 1 \right] \cdot 10^3 \quad (1.26)$$

Table 1.6 Absolute isotope ratios of international standards (After Hayes 1983)

Standard	Ratio source	Accepted value ($\times 10^6$) (with 95 % confidence interval)	
SMOW	D/H	155.76 \pm 0.10	Hagemann et al. (1970)
	$^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$	2,005.20 \pm 0.43	Baertschi (1976)
	$^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$	373 \pm 15	Nier (1950) by Hayes (1983)
PDB	$^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$	11,237.2 \pm 2.9	Craig (1957)
	$^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$	2 067.1 \pm 2.1	
	$^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$	379 \pm 15	
Air nitrogen	$^{15}\text{N}/^{14}\text{N}$	3,676.5 \pm 8.1	Junk and Svec (1958)
Canyon Diablo Troilite (CDT)	$^{34}\text{S}/^{32}\text{S}$	45,004.5 \pm 9.3	Jensen and Nakai (1962)

Fig. 1.11 Relationship between ^{18}O (^{16}O) content in per cent and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in per mill (Fig. 1.9, 6th edition, p. 28)



where X represents the sample, A and B different standards.

For different elements a convenient “working standard” is used in each laboratory. However, all values measured relative to the respective “working standard” are reported in the literature relative to a universal standard.

As an example for the relationship between the content of an isotope in % and the δ -value in ‰, Fig. 1.11 demonstrates that large changes in the δ -value only involve very small changes in the heavy isotope content (in this case the ^{18}O content). An ideal standard used worldwide as the “zero-point” on a δ -scale should satisfy the following requirements:

1. be homogeneous in composition,
2. be available in relatively large amounts,
3. be easy to handle for chemical preparation and isotopic measurement, and
4. have an isotope ratio near the middle of the natural range of variation.

Among the reference samples now used, relatively few meet all of these requirements. For instance, the situation for the SMOW standard is rather confusing. The SMOW standard was originally a hypothetical water sample with an isotopic composition very similar to average untreated ocean water (Craig 1961), but being defined in terms of a water sample distributed by the National Bureau of Standards (NBS-1). Later, the IAEA distributed a distilled water sample named V-SMOW (Vienna-SMOW) which is very close to but not identical in isotope composition to the original SMOW standard. The worldwide standards now in general use are given in Table 1.7.

The problems related to standards are discussed by an IAEA advisory group, which meet from time to time. As a result of these meetings the quality and availability of the existing standards and the need of new standards have been discussed and agreed on.

A further advancement comes from interlaboratory comparison of two standards having different isotopic composition that can be used for a normalization procedure correcting for all proportional errors due to mass spectrometry and to sample preparation. Ideally, the two standard samples should have isotope ratios as

Table 1.7 Worldwide standards in use for the isotopic composition of hydrogen, boron, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, silicon, sulfur, chlorine and of selected metals (Möller et al. 2012)

Element	Standard	Standard
H	Standard Mean Ocean Water	V-SMOW
B	Boric acid (NBS)	SRM 951
C	Belemnite from the Cretaceous, Peedee formation, South Carolina	V-PDB
N	Air nitrogen	N ₂ (atm.)
O	Standard Mean Ocean Water	V-SMOW
Si	Quartz sand	NBS-28
S	Troilite (FeS) from the Canyon Diablo iron meteorite	V-CDT
Cl	Seawater chloride	SMOC
Mg		DSM-3 NIST SRM 980
Ca		NIST SRM 915a
Cr		NIST SRM 979
Fe		IRMM-014
Cu		NIST SRM 976
Zn		JMC3-0749
Mo		NIST 3134
Tl		NIST SRM 997
U		NIST SRM 950a

different as possible, but still within the range of natural variations. There are, however, some problems connected with data normalization, which are still under debate. For example, the CO₂ equilibration of waters and the acid extraction of CO₂ from carbonates are indirect analytical procedures, involving temperature-dependent fractionation factors (whose values are not beyond experimental uncertainties) with respect to the original samples and which might be reevaluated on the normalized scale.

For metal isotopes, standards generally come from two institutions: the Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM) in Belgium and from the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) in the USA. IRMM and NIST mostly supply standard materials in the form of a purified metal or a salt that are easy to dissolve. Some laboratories use natural samples as standards, which has the advantage that samples and standards have to follow the same chemical purification steps. So far, for some elements, there is no consensus on one worldwide used standard, which complicates direct comparison of datasets. Vogl and Pritzkow (2010) have listed currently available reference materials that will be presented under the specific elements.

Table 1.8 summarizes which gases are used for mass-spectrometric analysis of the various elements.

Table 1.8 Gases most commonly used in isotope ratio in mass spectrometry

Element	Gas
H	H ₂
C	CO ₂ , CO
N	N ₂ , N ₂ O
O	CO ₂ , CO, O ₂
S	SO ₂ , SF ₆
Si	SiF ₄

1.6 Microanalytical Techniques

In recent years microanalytical techniques, which permit relatively precise isotopic determinations on a variety of samples that are orders of magnitude smaller than those used in conventional techniques, have become increasingly important. Different approaches have been used in this connection, which generally reveal greater isotope heterogeneity than conventional analytical approaches. As a rule of thumb: the smaller the scale of measurement the larger the sample heterogeneity.

Figure 1.12 demonstrates the improvement in analytical techniques involving lasers and ion microprobes and the enormous reduction in sample sizes. There is of course a reduction in precision with decreasing sample sizes, which is fortunately surprisingly small.

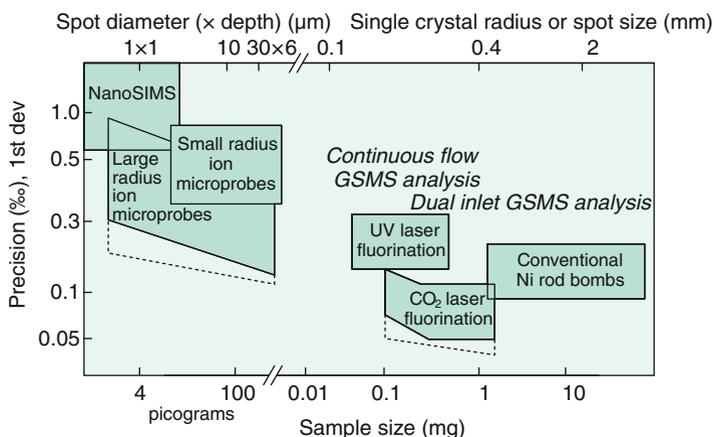


Fig. 1.12 Precision of various oxygen isotope methods as a function of sample weight or size (from Bindeman 2008)

1.6.1 Laser Microprobe

Laser assisted extraction is based on the fact that the energy of the laser beam is absorbed efficiently by a number of natural substances of interest. The absorption characteristics depends on the structure, composition, and crystallinity of the sample. High-energy, finely-focussed laser beams have been used for some years for Ar isotope analysis, the first well-documented preparation techniques with CO₂ and Nd:YAG laser systems for stable isotope determinations have been described by Crowe et al. (1990), Kelley and Fallick (1990) and Sharp (1990). Their results show that sub-milligram quantities of mineral can be analyzed for oxygen, sulfur and carbon. In order to achieve precise and accurate measurements, the samples have to be evaporated completely because steep thermal gradients during laser heating induce isotopic fractionations (Elsenheimer and Valley 1992). The thermal effects of CO₂ and Nd-YAG laser assisted preparation techniques require that sample sections be cut into small pieces before total evaporation. The spatial resolution of this technique is limited to about 500 μm.

Thermal effects can be overcome by vaporizing samples with ultraviolet (UV) KrF and ArF lasers, thus making possible in situ oxygen isotope analysis of silicates (Wiechert and Hoefs 1995; Fiebig et al. 1999; Wiechert et al. 2002).

1.6.2 Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (SIMS)

Two different types of SIMS are generally used: the Cameca f-series and the SHRIMP (Sensitive High mass Resolution Ion MicroProbe) series (Valley and Graham 1993; Valley et al. 1998; McKibben and Riciputi 1998). Analysis in the ionmicroprobe is accomplished by sputtering a sample surface using a finely focused primary ion beam producing secondary ions which are extracted and analyzed in the secondary mass spectrometer. The main advantages of this technique are its high sensitivity, high spatial resolution and its small sample size. Sputter pits for a typical 30 min SIMS analyses have a diameter of 10–30 μm and a depth of 1–6 μm, a spatial resolution that is an order of magnitude better than laser techniques. Disadvantages are that the sputtering process produces a large variety of molecular secondary ions along with atomic ions which interfere with the atomic ions of interest and that the ionization efficiencies of different elements vary by many orders of magnitude and strongly depend on the chemical composition of the sample. This “matrix” effect is one of the major problems of quantitative analysis. The two instruments (Cameca and SHRIMP) have technical features, such as high resolving power and energy filtering, which help to overcome the problems of the presence of molecular isobaric interferences and the matrix dependence of secondary ion yields.

Fitzsimons et al. (2000) and Kita et al. (2010) and others have reviewed the factors that influence the precision of SIMS stable isotope data. The latest version of ion microprobe is the Cameca-IMS-1280 type, allowing further reduction in sample

and spot size may achieve at the 10 μm scale precise precisions for O, S and Fe isotope ratios at the $\leq 0.3\%$ level (Huberty et al. 2010; Kita et al. 2010)

In some minerals like magnetite, hematite, sphalerite and galena the authors recognized analytical artefacts related to crystal orientation effects.

1.6.3 Multicollector-ICP-Mass Spectrometry

Advances in TIMS-techniques and the introduction of multiple collector-ICP-MS (MC-ICP-MS) techniques have enabled the research on natural variations of a wide range of transition and heavy metal systems for the first time which so far could not have been measured with the necessary precision. The technique combines the strength of the ICP technique (high ionization efficiency for nearly all elements) with the high precision of thermal ion source mass-spectrometry equipped with an array of Faraday collectors (Becker 2005; Vanhaecke et al. 2009). The ICP source allows the analysis of samples introduced either as a solution or as an aerosol produced by laser ablation.

Accuracy and precision of MC-ICP-MS mainly depends on 2 factors: (i) quantitative removal of molecular interferences. All MC-ICP-MS instruments need Ar as the plasma support gas in a similar manner to that commonly used in conventional ICP-MS. Mass interferences are thus an inherent feature of this technique, which have to be circumvented by using desolvating nebulisers and other techniques, (ii) corrections for isobaric elemental interferences and for instrumental mass bias depending on the purity and the matrix of the sample. The uptake of elements from solution and ionisation in a plasma allows correction for instrument-dependent mass fractionations by addition of external spikes or the comparison of standards with samples under identical operating conditions.

1.7 Stable Isotope Variations of Metal Elements

Maréchal et al. (1999) and Zhu et al. (2000) first described techniques for the determination of Cu- and Zn-isotope ratios. Observed variations at low temperatures are on the order of several ‰, much more than originally expected on the basis of the relatively small mass differences among isotopes of heavier elements. The magnitude of fractionations depends on several factors such as the participation of redox reactions and biologically mediated reactions.

Equilibrium fractionations of metal isotopes depend primarily on vibration frequencies. As a complete set of frequencies is generally not available, advances in computer capacity have allowed to calculate vibrational frequencies of simple molecules and crystalline compounds using first-principles electronic structure theory, which have the advantage that isotope effects can be calculated self-consistent and errors cancel out when calculating isotope frequency shifts (Schauble et al. 2009). Another advantage of first principles vibrational models is

that output data can be compared with measured data and thus can test the accuracy of the model (e.g. Polyakov et al. 2007). First calculations applying equilibrium fractionations derived by ab initio methods have been published by Blanchard et al. (2009) for Fe and by Rustad et al. (2010) for Mg and Ca.

Although equilibrium fractionations have been documented for some transition metal (i.e. Fe), they should be small and may be overwhelmed by kinetic fractionations in low-temperature and biological systems (Schauble 2004). Kinetic fractionations have been observed for instance during diffusive mass transfer for elements like Li, Mg and Fe, which in the case of Li can be large and which occur on spatial scales from μm to m. Kinetic isotope fractionations are also observed during the precipitation of solid metal compounds (i.e. carbonates), opposite to equilibrium isotope fractionation which depend on bond energies (Hofmann et al. 2013).

Of special importance are redox reactions, either inorganic or microbially mediated. Like the light elements C and S, the reduced species of the metal is generally isotopically lighter than the oxidized species. Thus the isotope composition of redox sensitive metals may help to understand redox systematics in the environment.

Another important fractionation mechanism for metal isotopes is sorption of metals on particle surfaces. The direction and magnitude of isotope fractionation is, however, highly metal specific. For example, sorption of isotopically light Mo on Fe–Mn oxides can be regarded as the most important fractionation mechanism of Mo (Wasylenki et al. 2008). In contrast Fe (II) sorbed on goethite particles is isotopically heavy compared to dissolved Fe (II) (Beard et al. 2010). For Cr, a negligible isotope fractionation is reported (Ellis et al. 2004).

Coordination numbers of metals in liquids and solids are an additional parameter governing isotope fractionations. Schauble (2004) pointed out that differences in coordination numbers among coexisting phases control isotope fractionation of cations. The lighter isotope preferentially occupies the higher coordinated site. As an example, hematite is isotopically lighter than magnetite, because hematite is in octahedral coordination, whereas magnetite is in octahedral and tetrahedral coordination. Thus differences in isotope composition of lithophile elements such as Fe, Mg, Ca and Li are likely to reflect changes in coordination numbers.

Another characteristic feature of metal isotopes is their fractionation in plants and animals that can be used to understand transport mechanism. Generally, heavy metal isotopes are depleted in plants relatively to the soil in which they grew. Weiss et al. (2005) first showed that plants are generally depleted in heavy metal isotopes compared to their growth solution and that shoots of plants are isotopically lighter than roots.

The uptake and transformation of metals within the organisms can lead to further characteristic isotope fractionations that depend on the specific metal, its chemical speciation and on the type of organisms. Metal isotope fractionations induced by physiological processes in the human body have great potential to be used in medical research. First applications have used Ca isotopes in urine as an indicator of Ca metabolism (Skulan et al. 2007; Heuser and Eisenhauer 2009) and Fe isotopes in human blood (Walczyk and von Blanckenburg 2002).

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The foundations of stable isotope geochemistry were laid in 1947 by Urey's classic paper on the thermodynamic properties of isotopic substances and by Nier's development of the ratio mass spectrometer. Before discussing details of the naturally occurring variations in stable isotope ratios, it is useful to describe some generalities that are pertinent to the field of non-radiogenic isotope geochemistry as a whole.

1. Isotope fractionation is pronounced when the mass differences between the isotopes of a specific element are large relative to the mass of the element. Therefore, isotope fractionations are especially large for the light elements. Recent developments in analytical techniques have opened the possibility to detect small variations in elements with much higher mass numbers. The heaviest element for which natural variations have been reported is uranium.
2. All elements that form solid, liquid, and gaseous compounds stable over a wide temperature range are likely to have variations in isotopic composition. Generally, the heavy isotope is concentrated in the solid phase in which it is more tightly bound. Heavier isotopes tend to concentrate in molecules in which they are present in the highest oxidation state.
3. Mass balance effects can cause isotope fractionations because modal proportions of substances can change during a chemical reaction. They are especially important for elements in situations where these coexist in molecules of reduced and oxidized compounds. Conservation of mass in an n component system can be described by

$$\delta_{(\text{system})} = \sum x_i \delta_i \quad (2.1)$$

where " x_i " is the mole fraction of the element in question for each of n phases within the system.

4. Isotopic variations in most biological systems are mostly caused by kinetic effects. During biological reactions (e.g. photosynthesis, bacterial processes) the lighter isotope is very often enriched in the reaction product relative to the

substrate. Most of the fractionations in biological reactions generally take place during the so-called rate determining step, which is the slowest step. It commonly involves a large reservoir, where the material actually used is small compared to the size of the reservoir.

2.1 Hydrogen

Until 1931 it was assumed that hydrogen consists of only one isotope. Urey et al. (1932) detected the presence of a second stable isotope, which was called deuterium. (In addition to these two stable isotopes there is a third naturally occurring but radioactive isotope, ^3H , tritium, with a half-life of approximately 12.5 years.) Rosman and Taylor (1998) gave the following average abundances of the stable hydrogen isotopes:

$$\begin{aligned} {}^1\text{H}: & 99.9885\% \\ {}^2\text{D}: & 0.0115\% \end{aligned}$$

The isotope geochemistry of hydrogen is particularly interesting, for two reasons:

- (1) Hydrogen is omnipresent in terrestrial environments occurring in different oxidation states in the forms of H_2O , H_3O^+ , OH^- , H_2 and CH_4 , even at great depths within the Earth. Therefore, hydrogen is envisaged to play a major role, directly or indirectly, in a wide variety of naturally occurring geological processes.
- (2) Hydrogen has by far the largest mass difference relative to the mass of the element between its two stable isotopes. Consequently hydrogen exhibits the largest variations in stable isotope ratios of all elements.

The ranges of hydrogen isotope compositions of some geologically important reservoirs are given in Fig. 2.1. It is noteworthy that all rocks on Earth have somewhat similar hydrogen isotope compositions, which is a characteristic feature of hydrogen, but not of the other elements. The reason for this overlap in isotope composition for rocks is likely due to the enormous amounts of water that have been cycled through the outer shell of the Earth.

2.1.1 Methods

Determination of the D/H ratio of water is performed on H_2 -gas. There are two different preparation techniques: (i) equilibration of milliliter-sized samples with gaseous hydrogen gas, followed by mass-spectrometric measurement and back calculation of the D/H of the equilibrated H_2 (Horita 1988). Due to the very large fractionation factor (0.2625 at 25 °C) the measured H_2 is very much depleted in D, which complicates the mass-spectrometric measurement. (ii) water is converted to

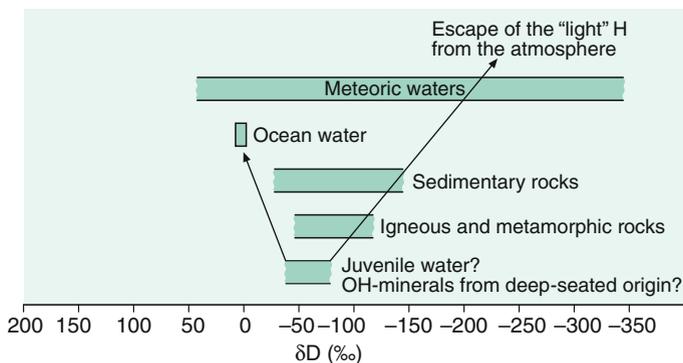


Fig. 2.1 δD variation ranges of geologically important reservoirs (Fig. 2.1, 6th edition, p. 37)

hydrogen by passage over hot metals (uranium: Bigeleisen et al. 1952; Friedman 1953 and Godfrey 1962, zinc: Coleman et al. 1982, chromium: Gehre et al. 1996). This is still the classic method and commonly used.

A difficulty in measuring D/H isotope ratios is that, along with the H_2^+ and HD^+ formation in the ion source, H_3^+ is produced as a by-product of ion-molecule collisions. Therefore, a H_3^+ correction has to be made. The amount of H_3^+ formed is directly proportional to the number of H_2 molecules and H^+ ions. Generally the H_3^+ current measured for hydrogen from ocean water is on the order of 16 % of the total mass 3. The relevant procedures for correction have been evaluated by Brand (2002).

Analytical uncertainty for hydrogen isotope measurements is usually in the range ± 0.5 to ± 3 ‰ depending on different sample materials, preparation techniques and laboratories.

Burgoyne and Hayes (1998) and Sessions et al. (1999) introduced the continuous flow technique for the D/H measurement of individual organic compounds. Quantitative conversion to H_2 is achieved at high temperatures (>1400 °C). The precise measurement of D/H ratios in a He carrier poses a number of analytical problems, related to the tailing from the abundant $^4He^+$ onto the minor HD^+ peak as well as on reactions occurring in the ion source that produce H_3^+ ; these problems have been overcome, however, and precise D/H measurements of individual organic compounds are possible.

An alternative to mass-spectrometry represents the direct measurement of D/H, $^{17}O/^{16}O$ and $^{18}O/^{16}O$ isotope compositions of water vapour by laser absorption spectroscopy, also called Cavity Ring-Down Spectroscopy (CRDS) (Kerstel et al. 2002; Brand et al. 2009a, b; Schmidt et al. 2010 and others). The CRDS technique is fast and easy in operation and allows the direct analysis of water vapour with high precisions comparable to the classic continuous flow techniques (Brand et al. 2009a, b).

Table 2.1 Hydrogen isotope standards

Standards	Description	δ -value
V-SMOW	Vienna standard mean	0
	Ocean water	
GISP	Greenland ice sheet	
	Precipitation	-189.9
V-SLAP	Vienna standard light	
	Antarctic precipitation	-428
NBS-30	Biotite	65

2.1.2 Standards

There is a range of standards for hydrogen isotopes. The primary reference standard, the zero point of the δ -scale, is V-SMOW, which is virtually identical in isotopic composition with the earlier defined SMOW, being a hypothetical water sample originally defined by Craig (1961b).

V-SMOW has a D/H ratio that is higher than most natural samples on Earth, thus δ D-values in the literature are generally negative. The other standards, listed in Table 2.1, are generally used to verify the accuracy of sample preparation and mass spectrometry.

2.1.3 Fractionation Processes

2.1.3.1 Water Fractionations

The most effective processes in the generation of hydrogen isotope variations in the terrestrial environment are phase transitions of water between vapor, liquid, and ice through evaporation/precipitation and/or boiling/condensation in the atmosphere, at the Earth's surface, and in the upper part of the crust. Differences in H-isotopic composition arise due to vapor pressure differences of water and, to a smaller degree, to differences in freezing points. Because the vapor pressure of HDO is slightly lower than that of H₂O, the concentration of D is lower in the vapor than in the liquid phase. In a simple, but elegant experiment Ingraham and Criss (1998) have monitored the effect of vapor pressure on the rate of isotope exchange between water and vapor, which is shown in Fig. 2.1. Two beakers with isotopically differing waters were juxtaposed in a sealed box to monitor the exchange process at different temperatures (in this case 21 and 52 °C). As shown in Fig. 2.1 in the 52 °C experiment the isotopic composition of the water changes rapidly and nearly reaches equilibrium in only 27 days.

Horita and Wesolowski (1994) have summarized experimental results for the hydrogen isotope fractionation between liquid water and water vapor in the temperature range 0–350 °C (see Fig. 2.2). Hydrogen isotope fractionations decrease rapidly with increasing temperatures and become zero at 220–230 °C. Above the

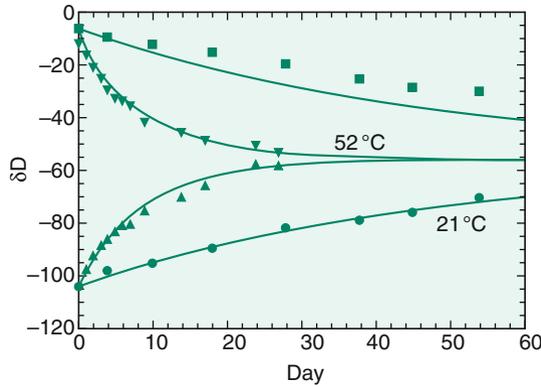


Fig. 2.2 δD -values versus time for two beakers that have equal surface areas and equal volumes undergoing isotopic exchange in sealed systems. In both experiments at 21 and 52 °C isotope ratios progress toward an average value of -56 ‰ via exchange with ambient vapour: *solid curves* are calculated, *points* are experimental data (after Criss 1999) (Fig. 2.2, 6th edition, p. 39)

crossover temperature, water vapor is more enriched in deuterium than liquid water. Fractionations again approach zero at the critical temperature of water (Fig. 2.2).

From experiments, Lehmann and Siegenthaler (1991) determined the equilibrium H-isotope fractionation between ice and water to be $+21.2$ ‰. Under natural conditions, however, ice will not necessarily be formed in isotopic equilibrium with the bulk water, depending mainly on the freezing rate.

In all processes concerning the evaporation and condensation of water, hydrogen isotopes are fractionated in a similar fashion to those of oxygen isotopes, albeit with a different magnitude, because a corresponding difference in vapor pressures exists between H_2O and HDO in one case and $H_2^{16}O$ and $H_2^{18}O$ in the other.

Therefore, the hydrogen and oxygen isotope distributions are correlated for meteoric waters. Craig (1961a) first defined the generalized relationship:

$$\delta D = 8\delta^{18}O + 10,$$

which describes the interdependence of H- and O-isotope ratios in meteoric waters on a global scale.

This relationship, shown in Fig. 2.3, is described in the literature as the “Global Meteoric Water Line (GMWL)”.

Neither the numerical coefficient 8 nor the constant 10, also called the deuterium excess d , are constant in nature. Both may vary depending on the conditions of evaporation, vapor transport and precipitation and, as a result, offer insight into climatic processes. The deuterium excess d is a valuable tool to derive information on relative humidities (see discussion on p. 242).

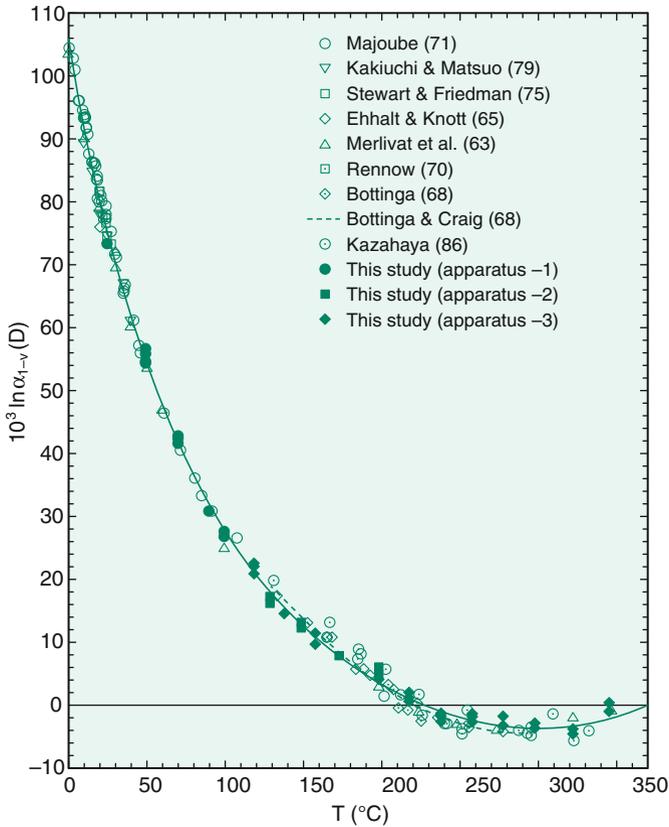


Fig. 2.3 Experimentally determined fractionation factors between liquid water and water vapour from 1 to 350 °C (after Horita and Wesolowski 1994) (Fig. 2.3, 6th edition, p. 39)

2.1.3.2 Equilibrium Reactions

D/H fractionations among gases are extraordinarily large, as calculated by Bottinga (1969) and Richet et al. (1977) and plotted in Fig. 2.4. Even in magmatic systems, fractionation factors are sufficiently large to affect the δD -value of dissolved water in melts during degassing of H_2 , H_2S or CH_4 . The oxidation of H_2 or CH_4 to H_2O and CO_2 may also have an effect on the isotopic composition of water dissolved in melts due to the large fractionation factors (Fig. 2.5).

With respect to mineral-water systems, different experimental studies obtained widely different results for the common hydrous minerals with respect to the absolute magnitude and the temperature dependence of D/H fractionations (Suzuoki and Epstein 1976; Graham et al. 1980; Vennemann and O’Neil 1996; Saccocia et al. 2009). Suzuoki and Epstein (1976) first demonstrated the importance of the chemical composition of the octahedral sites in crystal lattices to the mineral H-isotope composition. Subsequently, isotope exchange experiments by Graham

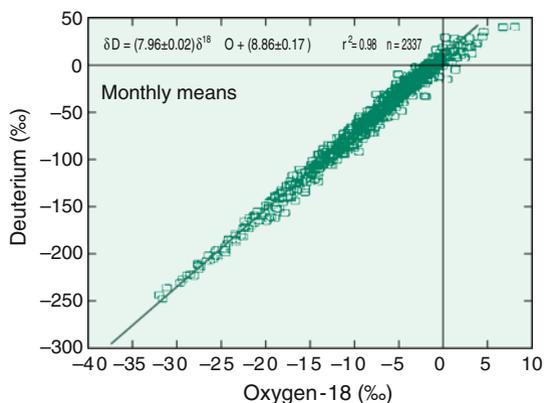
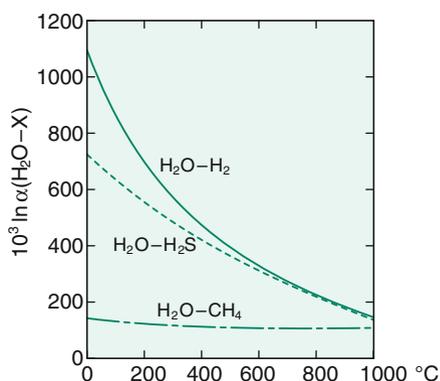


Fig. 2.4 Global relationship between monthly means of δD and $\delta^{18}O$ in precipitation, derived for all stations of the IAEA global network. *Line* indicates the global Meteoric Water Line (MWL) (after Rozanski et al. 1993) (Fig. 2.4, 6th edition, p. 40)

Fig. 2.5 D/H fractionations between H_2O-H_2 , H_2O-H_2S and H_2O-CH_4 (from calculated data of Richet et al. 1977) (Fig. 2.5, 6th edition, p. 41)



et al. (1980, 1984) suggested that the chemical composition of sites other than the octahedral sites can also affect hydrogen isotope compositions. These authors postulate a qualitative relationship between hydrogen-bond distances and hydrogen isotope fractionations: the shorter the hydrogen bond, the more depleted the mineral is in deuterium.

On the basis of theoretical calculations, Driesner (1997) proposed that many of the discrepancies between the experimental studies were due to pressure differences at which the experiments were carried out. Thus for hydrogen, pressure is a variable that must be taken into account in fluid-bearing systems. Later, Horita et al. (1999) presented experimental evidence for a pressure effect between brucite and water.

Chacko et al. (1999) developed an alternative method for the experimental determination of hydrogen isotope fractionation factors. Instead of using powdered minerals as starting materials, these authors carried out exchange experiments with

large single crystals and then analyzed the exchanged rims with the ion probe. Although the precision of the analytical data is less than that for conventional bulk techniques, the advantage of this technique is that it allows the determination of fractionation factors in experiments in which isotopic exchange occurs by a diffusional process rather than by a combination of diffusion and recrystallization.

In summary, as discussed by Vennemann and O'Neil (1996), discrepancies between published experimental calibrations in individual mineral-water systems are difficult to resolve, which limits the application of D/H fractionations in mineral-water systems to estimate δD -values of coexisting fluids. As shown by Méheut et al. (2010) first-principles calculations of D/H fractionations may reproduce experimental calculations within a range of about 15 ‰. These authors also demonstrated that internal fractionations between inner-surface and inner hydroxyl groups may be large and even opposite in sign.

2.1.3.3 Fractionations During Biosynthesis

Water is the ultimate source of hydrogen in all naturally organic compounds produced by photosynthesis. Thus D/H ratios in organic matter contain information about climate (see Sect. 3.11). During biosynthetic hydrogen conversion of water to organic matter, large H-isotope fractionations with δD -values between -400 and $+200$ ‰ have been observed (Sachse et al. 2012).

δD -variations in individual compounds within a single plant or organism can be related to differences in biosynthesis. Accurate isotope fractionation factors among organic molecules and water are difficult to be determined, although tremendous progress has been achieved through the introduction of the compound specific hydrogen isotope analysis (Sessions et al. 1999; Sauer et al. 2001; Schimmelmann et al. 2006), which allows the δD analysis of individual biochemical compound. Further details are discussed in Sect. 3.10.1.2.

Using a combination of experimental calibration and theoretical calculation Wang et al. (2009a, b) estimated equilibrium factors for various H positions in molecules such as alkanes, ketones, carboxyl acids and alcohols. By summing over individual H positions, equilibrium fractionations relative to water are -90 to -70 ‰ for n-alkanes and about -100 ‰ for pristane and phytane. Wang et al. (2013a, b) extended his approach to cyclic compounds and observed total equilibrium fractionations of -100 to -65 ‰ for typical cyclic paraffins being similar to linear hydrocarbons. These numbers, however, are very different to typical biosynthetic fractionations that are between -300 and -150 ‰ due to kinetic isotope fractionations.

The biosynthesis of lipids as one of the most common group of organic material involves complex enzymatic reactions in which hydrogen may be added, removed or exchanged, all potentially leading to H isotope fractionations. Lipids with the smallest D depletion relative to water are n-alkyl lipids. Isoprenoid lipids show depletions by 200–250 ‰ and phytol and related compounds have the largest D-depletion.

2.1.3.4 Other Fractionations

In salt solutions, isotopic fractionations can occur between water in the “hydration sphere” and free water (Truesdell 1974). The effects of dissolved salts on hydrogen isotope activity ratios in salt solutions can be qualitatively interpreted in terms of interactions between ions and water molecules, which appear to be primarily related to their charge and radius. Hydrogen isotope activity ratios of all salt solutions studied so far are appreciably higher than H-isotope composition ratios. As shown by Horita et al. (1993), the D/H ratio of water vapor in isotope equilibrium with a solution increases as salt is added to the solution. Magnitudes of the hydrogen isotope effects are in the order $\text{CaCl}_2 > \text{MgCl}_2 > \text{MgSO}_4 > \text{KCl} \sim \text{NaCl} > \text{NaSO}_4$ at the same molality.

Isotope effects of this kind are relevant for an understanding of the isotope composition of clay minerals and absorption of water on mineral surfaces. The tendency for clays and shales to act as semipermeable membranes is well known. This effect is also known as “ultrafiltration”. Coplen and Hanshaw (1973) postulated that hydrogen isotope fractionations may occur during ultrafiltration in such a way that the residual water is enriched in deuterium due to its preferential adsorption on the clay minerals and its lower diffusivity.

2.2 Lithium

Lithium has two stable isotopes with the following abundances (Rosman and Taylor 1998):

$${}^6\text{Li} \quad 7.59 \%$$

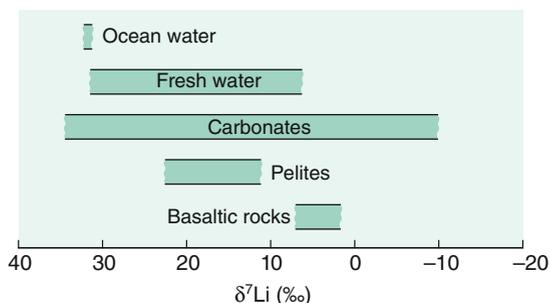
$${}^7\text{Li} \quad 92.41 \%$$

Lithium is one of the rare elements where the lighter isotope is less abundant than the heavier one. In order to be consistent with the other isotope systems lithium isotope ratios are reported as $\delta^7\text{Li}$ -values.

The large relative mass difference between ${}^6\text{Li}$ and ${}^7\text{Li}$ of about 16 % is a favorable condition for their fractionation in nature. Taylor and Urey (1938) found a change of 25 % in the Li-isotope ratio when Li-solutions percolate through a zeolite column. Thus, fractionation of Li-isotopes might be expected in geochemical settings in which cation exchange processes are involved. Li is only present in the +1 valence state, so redox reactions do not influence its isotope composition. A recent review about natural Li isotope variations has been given by Burton and Vigier (2011).

Lithium isotope geochemistry is characterized by a difference close to 30 ‰ between ocean water ($\delta^7\text{Li} +31 \text{ ‰}$) and bulk silicate earth with a $\delta^7\text{Li}$ -value of 3.2 ‰ (Seitz et al. 2007). In this respect lithium isotope geochemistry is very similar to that of boron (see p. 59). The isotopic difference between the mantle and the ocean

Fig. 2.6 Lithium isotope variations in major geological reservoirs (Fig. 2.6, 6th edition, p. 43)



can be used as a powerful tracer to constrain water/rock interactions (Tomaszak 2004). Figure 2.6 gives an overview of Li-isotope variations in major geological reservoirs.

2.2.1 Methods

Early workers had to struggle with serious lithium fractionation effects during mass spectrometric analysis. Li isotopes have been analysed with TIMS (James and Palmer 2000) and ion microprobe (Kasemann et al. 2005a, b). Most workers use the multicollector sector ICP-MS technique first described by Tomascak et al. (1999), modified by Millot et al. (2004) and Jeffcoate et al. (2004). In order to avoid interferences and matrix effects, Li has to be separated from the rest of the sample. During elution, a 100 % yield is necessary, even a small loss of Li may shift the $\delta^7\text{Li}$ value by several ‰.

Unfortunately, there are no internationally accepted Li isotope values for rocks or waters. James and Palmer (2000) have determined nine international rock standards ranging from basalt to shale relative to the so-called NIST L-SVEC standard. In addition, Jeffcoate et al. (2004) and Gao and Casey (2011) presented $\delta^7\text{Li}$ values for other reference materials.

2.2.2 Diffusion

Li isotope variations have been interpreted—like other isotope systems—in terms of isotope equilibrium between minerals and fluids, however, the analysis of natural samples and experimental studies have shown that Li isotope variations may be very often kinetically controlled due to the large differences in ^6Li and ^7Li diffusivities that may far exceed Li isotope variations produced by equilibrium processes. Diffusive Li isotope fractionation has been reported to occur on a meter to micrometer scale during cooling processes (Lundstrom et al. 2005; Teng et al. 2006; Jeffcoate et al. 2007; Parkinson et al. 2007). In silicate minerals ^6Li diffuses 3 % faster than ^7Li , consistent with experiments by Richter et al. (2003). Dohmen

et al. (2010) measured Li diffusion rates in olivine and observed a complex diffusion behaviour, that can be described by a model that partitions Li between two sites: an octahedral and an interstitial site. Published Li isotope data indicate that the interstitial mechanism is unlikely to be the dominant system (Seitz et al. 2004; Jeffcoate et al. 2007).

In summary, diffusion at magmatic temperatures is a very effective mechanism for generating large variations in $^7\text{Li}/^6\text{Li}$ ratios (Lundstrom et al. 2005; Teng et al. 2006; Rudnick and Ionov 2007). Although diffusion profiles will relax with time, the existence of sharp $\delta^7\text{Li}$ -profiles suggest diffusional Li isotope fractionation over short timescales (days to a few months) and therefore diffusion profiles in mantle minerals may be used as geospeedometers (Parkinson et al. 2007). At the same time diffusion may obliterate primary mantle signatures.

2.2.3 Magmatic Rocks

High temperature equilibrium Li isotope fractionations have been investigated experimentally (Wunder et al. 2006, 2007) and theoretically (Kowalski and Jahn 2011). Calculated fractionation factors between staurolite, spodumene, mica and aqueous fluids are in good agreement with experimentally derived fractionation factors.

Mantle-derived basalts have a relatively uniform composition with $\delta^7\text{Li}$ values of 4 ± 2 ‰ (Tomaszak 2004; Elliott et al. 2004), close to undepleted upper mantle (Jeffcoate et al. 2007). The $\delta^7\text{Li}$ range for MORB is relatively narrow, but larger than for mantle peridotites. On the other hand, some peridotites have a wide range in $\delta^7\text{Li}$ values from values as low as -17 ‰ (Nishio et al. 2004) to values as high as $+10$ ‰ (Brooker et al. 2004). This large range might be explained by diffusion controlled Li exchange.

Mantle minerals show a typical order of ^7Li enrichment: olivines and orthopyroxenes have \pm the same isotope composition, whereas clinopyroxenes are enriched in ^7Li and more variable. Olivines generally keep the mantle signatures whereas clinopyroxenes are more sensitive to metasomatic overprint leading to isotope variations, which can be explained by diffusion processes that may affect clinopyroxenes during melt migration (Parkinson et al. 2007).

Because Li isotopes may be used as a tracer to identify the existence of recycled material in the mantle, systematic studies of arc lavas have been undertaken (Moriguti and Nakamura 1998; Tomascak et al. 2000; Leeman et al. 2004 and others). However, most arc lavas have $\delta^7\text{Li}$ values that are indistinguishable from those of MORB. Thus Li seems to be decoupled from other fluid mobile elements, because Li can partition into the Mg-silicates, pyroxene, olivine (Tomascak et al. 2002).

Granites of various origin display an average $\delta^7\text{Li}$ value slightly lighter than the mantle (Teng et al. 2004, 2009). Considering the small Li isotope fractionation at high temperature during igneous differentiation processes (Tomaszak 2004),

pristine continental crust should not be too different in Li isotope composition from the mantle. Because this is not the case, the isotopically light crust must have been modified by secondary processes, such as weathering, hydrothermal alteration and prograde metamorphism (Teng et al. 2007a, b).

Li isotope distribution through the oceanic crust reflects the varying conditions of seawater alteration with depth (Chan et al. 2002; Gao et al. 2012). At low temperatures, altered volcanic rocks have heavier Li isotope compositions than MORB whereas at higher temperatures in deeper parts of the oceanic crust $\delta^7\text{Li}$ -values become similar to MORB. Gao et al. (2012) concluded that the Li isotope pattern in drilled oceanic sections reflects variations in water/rock ratios in combination with increasing downhole temperatures.

During fluid-rock interaction, Li as a fluid-mobile element will enrich in aqueous fluids. It might therefore be expected that $\delta^7\text{Li}$ enriched seawater incorporated into altered oceanic crust should be removed during subduction zone metamorphism. Continuous dehydration of pelagic sediments and altered oceanic crust results in ^7Li -depleted rocks and in ^7Li enriched fluids. A subducting slab therefore should introduce large amounts of ^7Li into the mantle wedge. To quantitatively understand this process Li isotope fractionation factors between minerals and coexisting fluids must be known (Wunder et al. 2006, 2007).

2.2.4 Weathering

Li is relatively mobile during weathering. The best evidence for Li isotope fractionation during weathering is the systematic ^7Li enrichment of natural waters relative to their source rocks (Burton and Vigier 2011). During weathering ^7Li is preferentially mobilized, whereas ^6Li becomes enriched in the weathering residue. The range of $\delta^7\text{Li}$ values in river waters can be quite large (from +6 to +33 ‰, Huh et al. 1998, 2004). The major control of Li isotopic composition is the balance between primary mineral dissolution and secondary mineral formation, where ^6Li is preferentially taken up by the solid, driving the fluid to heavy values (Wimpenny et al. 2010). The magnitude of fractionation seems to depend on the extent of weathering: large Li isotope fractionations seem to occur during superficial weathering while little fractionation is observed during prolonged weathering in stable environments (Millot et al. 2010a, b). Rudnick et al. (2004) have demonstrated that Li isotope fractionation correlates directly with the degree of weathering leading to very light $\delta^7\text{Li}$ -values in soils.

Preferential weathering of primary minerals does not generate significant Li isotope fractionations. Wimpenny et al. (2010) demonstrated that dissolution of basaltic glass and olivine does not result in measurable Li isotope fractionation. Secondary mineral formation and adsorption on mineral surfaces are regarded to be the major process responsible for the high $\delta^7\text{Li}$ values in waters. Considerable Li isotope fractionations, for instance, have been observed during chemical sorption of

Li on the surface of gibbsite (Pistiner and Henderson 2003) or on clay minerals (Zhang et al. 1998; Millot et al. 2010a, b).

2.2.5 Ocean Water

Lithium is a conservative element in the ocean with a residence time of about one million year. Its isotope composition ($\delta^7\text{Li}$: 31 ‰) is maintained by inputs of dissolved Li from rivers (average $\delta^7\text{Li}$ +23 ‰, Huh et al. 1998) and high-temperature hydrothermal fluids at ocean ridges at one hand and low temperature removal of Li into oceanic basalts and marine sediments at the other. Precipitation of carbonates does not play a major role due to the low Li-concentrations of carbonates. This fractionation pattern explains, why the Li isotope composition of seawater is heavier than its primary sources (continental weathering: 23 ‰; Huh et al. 1998) and high-temperature hydrothermal fluids (6–10 ‰, Chan et al. 1993).

In this connection it is interesting to note that ocean water is not the major Li supplier in rainwater (Millot et al. 2010a, b). Rainwater has low Li concentrations, but very variable Li isotope compositions. High $\delta^7\text{Li}$ values have been explained by anthropogenic contamination from fertilizers in agriculture (Millot et al. 2010a, b).

Any variance in Li sources and sinks during geologic history should cause secular variations in the isotope composition of oceanic Li. And indeed Misra and Froelich (2012) reconstructed the Li isotope composition of ocean water for the last 68 Ma and observed an 9 ‰ increase from the Paleocene to the present requiring changes in continental weathering and/or low temperature ocean crust alteration (see p. 268). By extending this approach, Wanner et al. (2014) presented a model that revealed a close relationship between $\delta^7\text{Li}$ and CO_2 consumption by silicate weathering.

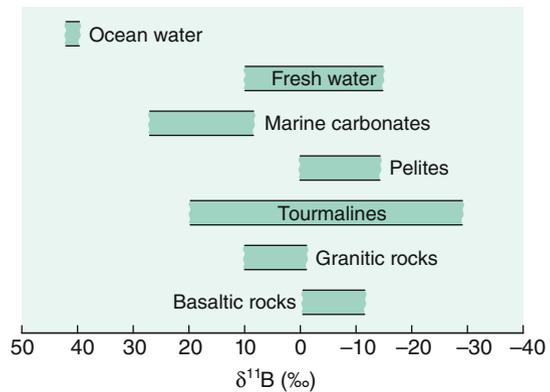
2.3 Boron

Boron has two stable isotopes with the following abundances (Rosman and Taylor 1998).

^{10}B	19.9 ‰
^{11}B	80.1 ‰

The large mass difference between ^{10}B and ^{11}B and large chemical isotope effects between different species (Bigeleisen 1965) make boron a very promising element to study for isotope variations. The utility of boron isotopes as a geochemical tracer stems from the high mobility of boron during high- and low-temperature fluid-related processes, showing a strong affinity for silicate melts

Fig. 2.7 Boron isotope variations in geologically important reservoirs (Fig. 2.7, 6th edition, p. 45)



and aqueous fluids. B is preferentially hosted in phyllosilicates; common mantle and crustal minerals except tourmaline have low B concentrations.

Boron isotope geochemistry is characterized by distinct isotope signatures:

- (i) strong enrichment of ¹¹B in seawater (+39.6 ‰, Foster et al. 2010).
- (ii) depletion of ¹¹B in the continental crust and marine sediments
- (iii) slight depletion of ¹¹B in the upper mantle (Chaussidon and Marty 1995)

The lowest δ¹¹B-values of around -70 ‰ have been observed for certain coals (Williams and Hervig 2004), whereas the most enriched ¹¹B-reservoir has been found in brines from Australia and Israel (Dead Sea) which have δ¹¹B-values of up to 60 ‰ (Vengosh et al. 1991a, b). A very characteristic feature of boron geochemistry is the isotopic composition of ocean water with a constant δ¹¹B-value of 39.6 ‰ (Foster et al. 2010), which is about 50 ‰ heavier than the average continental crust of -10 ± 2 ‰ (Chaussidon and Albarede 1992). Isotope variations of boron in some geological reservoirs are shown in Fig. 2.7.

2.3.1 Methods

In recent years 3 different methods have been used for boron isotope analysis: (i) thermal ionisation mass-spectrometry (TIMS), either with positively charged (P-TIMS) or negatively charged (N-TIMS) ions, (ii) multi-collector-ICP mass spectrometry and (iii) secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS).

- (i) Two different methods have been developed for TIMS. The positive thermal ionization technique uses Na₂BO₂⁺ ions (McMullen et al. 1961). Subsequently, Spivack and Edmond (1986) modified this technique by using Cs₂BO₂⁺ ions (measurement of the masses 308 and 309). The substitution of ¹³³Cs for ²³Na increases the molecular mass and reduces the relative mass

difference of its isotopic species, which limits the thermally induced mass dependent isotopic fractionation. This latter method has a precision of about ± 0.25 ‰, which is better by a factor of 10 than the Na_2BO_2^+ method. In negative ion mode (N-TIMS), boron isotopes are analysed as BO_2^- (masses 42 and 43). N-TIMS has the advantage that no chemical separation of boron from the sample matrix is required.

- (ii) Lecuyer et al. (2002) first described the use of MC-ICP-MS for B isotopic measurements of waters, carbonates, phosphates and silicates with an external reproducibility of ± 0.3 ‰, improvement in reproducibility has been achieved by Guerrot et al. (2011) and Louvat et al. (2011). Le Roux et al. (2004) introduced an in situ laser ablation ICP-MS method at the nanogram level. The amount of boron measured are two orders of magnitude lower than P-TIMS and acid solution ICP-MS methods.
- (iii) Chaussidon and Albarede (1992), performed boron isotope determinations with an ion-microprobe having an analytical uncertainty of about ± 2 ‰. Significant improvements with SIMS analysis have been described by Rollion and Erez (2010).

As analytical techniques have been consistently improved in recent years, the number of boron isotope studies has increased rapidly. $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ -values are generally given relative NBS boric acid SRM 951, which is prepared from a Searles Lake borax. This standard has a $^{11}\text{B}/^{10}\text{B}$ ratio of 4.04558 (Palmer and Slack 1989).

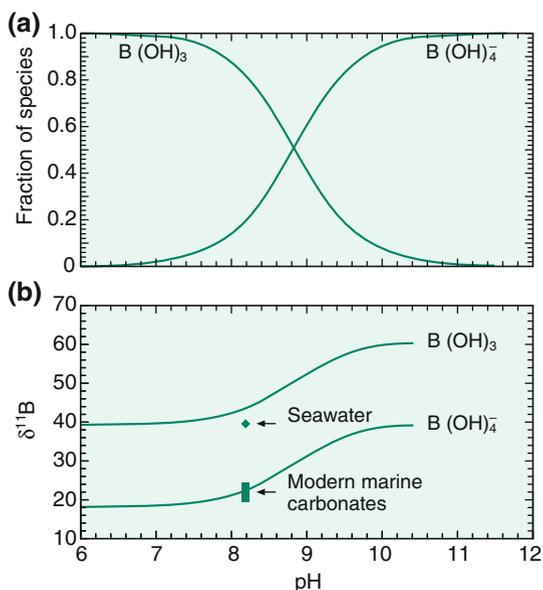
2.3.2 Isotope Fractionation Mechanism

(a) pH dependence of isotope fractionations

Boron is generally bound to oxygen or hydroxyl groups in either triangular (e.g., BO_3) or tetrahedral (e.g., $\text{B}(\text{OH})_4^-$) coordination. The dominant isotope fractionation process occurs in aqueous systems via an equilibrium exchange process between boric acid ($\text{B}(\text{OH})_3$) and coexisting borate anion ($\text{B}(\text{OH})_4^-$). At low pH-values trigonal $\text{B}(\text{OH})_3$ predominates, at high pH-values tetrahedral $\text{B}(\text{OH})_4^-$ is the primary anion. The pH-dependence of the two boron species and their related isotope fractionation is shown in Fig. 2.8 (after Hemming and Hanson 1992). The pH dependence has been used reconstructing past ocean pH-values by measuring the boron isotope composition of carbonates e.g. foraminifera. This relies on the fact that mainly the charged species $\text{B}(\text{OH})_4^-$ is incorporated into carbonate minerals with small to insignificant fractionations (Hemming and Hanson 1992; Sanyal et al. 2000). In corals, Rollion-Bard et al. (2011), however, observed both coordination species in the coral microstructure.

Because of the inability to quantitatively separate the two species in solution, a theoretically calculated fractionation factor of about 1.0194 at 25 °C has been widely used for p_{H} estimates (Kakihana et al. 1977). As recently shown by Zeebe

Fig. 2.8 **a** Distribution of aqueous boron species versus pH; **b** $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ of the two dominant species $\text{B}(\text{OH})_3$ and $\text{B}(\text{OH})_4^-$ versus pH (after Hemming and Hanson 1992)



(2005) and Klochko et al. (2006), the equilibrium fractionation factor appears to be significantly larger than the theoretical value of Kakihana et al. (1977) used in paleo-pH studies. Klochko et al. (2006), for instance, reported a fractionation factor of 1.0272. Furthermore, it has to be assumed that no “vital effect” occurs during incorporation of borate into the carbonate lattice or the species-specific fractionation effect is known and can be corrected for.

This approach has been not only used to indirectly estimate the seawater pH from $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ of foraminifera, but to estimate from the pH proxy the past atmospheric CO_2 concentrations (i.e. Pearson and Palmer 1999, 2000; Pagani et al. 2005). An increase in atmospheric CO_2 results in increased dissolved CO_2 in ocean water, which in turn causes a reduction in oceanic pH , well known as ocean acidification. A note of caution was presented by Lemarchand et al. (2000), who suggested that boron isotope variations in foraminifera depend at least in part on variations in the supply of riverine boron to the ocean during the geologic past. And indeed the boron isotope composition of rivers can be extremely variable (Rose et al. 2000; Lemarchand et al. 2002).

(b) Adsorption

Significant isotope fractionations may occur when aqueous boric acid adsorbs on solid surfaces, as shown by Lemarchand et al. (2005) and others. Boron isotopic compositions are controlled by ion exchange rates at the mineral/water interface. The extent of B isotope fractionation depends on B aqueous speciation and on the structure of surface complexes. High values of B isotope fractionation are observed

at low pH, lower values are observed at high pH, which is due to the change in coordination from trigonal to tetrahedral.

2.3.3 Fractionations at High Temperatures

Experimental studies of boron isotope fractionation between hydrous fluids, melts and minerals have shown that ^{11}B preferentially partitions into the fluid relative to minerals or melts (Palmer et al. 1987; Williams et al. 2001; Wunder et al. 2005; Liebscher et al. 2005), ranging from about 33 ‰ for fluid-clay (Palmer et al. 1987), to about 6 ‰ for fluid-muscovite at 700 °C (Wunder et al. 2005) and to a few ‰ for fluid-melt above 1000 °C (Hervig et al. 2002). The main fractionation effect seems to be due to the change from trigonal boron in neutral pH hydrous fluid to tetrahedrally coordinated boron in most rock forming minerals.

At high temperatures, B isotope fractionations during crystal fractionation and melting are small. Boron like lithium are useful tracers for mass transfer in subduction zones. Both elements are mobilized by fluids and melts and display considerable isotope fractionation during dehydration reactions. Concentrations of B are low in mantle derived materials, whereas they are high in sediments and altered oceanic crust. Any input of fluid and melt from the subducting slab into the overlying mantle has a strong impact on the isotope composition of the mantle wedge and on magmas generated there. Recycled marine boron, for instance, may lead to an enrichment of ^{11}B in sources for arc volcanic rocks (Tonarini et al. 2011).

2.3.4 Tourmaline

Tourmaline is the most abundant reservoir of boron in metamorphic and magmatic rocks. Tourmaline is stable over a very large p-T range and forms where crustal rocks interact with fluids or melts. Thus, its isotope composition provides a record of fluids and melts from which it crystallized. Swihart and Moore (1989), Palmer and Slack (1989), Slack et al. (1993), Smith and Yardley (1996) and Jiang and Palmer (1998) analyzed tourmaline from various geological settings and observed a large range in $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ -values which reflects the different origins of boron and its high mobility during fluid related processes.

Boron isotope compositions of tourmalines vary from about +30 ‰ to values below -20 ‰ (Marschall and Jiang 2011). High $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ -values can be related to seawater, whereas low $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ -values are either derived from nonmarine evaporites or produced by interaction between rocks and fluids during metamorphic dehydration. Tourmalines in most granites and pegmatites show $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ -values around -10 ‰ close to the average composition of the continental crust (Marschall and Jiang 2011).

Since volume diffusion of B isotopes is insignificant in tourmalines (Nakano and Nakamura 2001), isotopic heterogeneities of zoned tourmalines should be preserved up to at least 600 °C. By using the SIMS method, Marschall et al. (2008) demonstrated that boron isotopes in zoned tourmalines, indeed, may reflect different stages of tourmaline growth. Besides, the large chemical variability of tourmaline can be used as a fingerprint for a large number of other isotope systems including O, H, Si, Mg and Li (Marschall and Jiang 2011).

2.3.5 Tracer for Anthropogenic Pollution

Boron is widely used in industry; most commonly in the form of sodium perborate as an oxidative bleaching agent in cleaning products. The abundant use results in boron accumulation in waste effluents. Borate minerals and synthetic borate products are characterized by a narrow range in $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ -values that are distinctly different from boron isotope values in unpolluted groundwater (Vengosh et al. 1994; Barth 1998). Thus, boron isotopes may identify or even quantify contamination of surface waters.

Although the concentration of B in rain water is low, improved analytical techniques have allowed the determination of very precise B isotope data (Chetelat et al. 2009; Millot et al. 2010a, b). $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ values in rain show a large variation depending on the sampling site (coastal vs. inland). Near coastal stations reflect the marine origin of boron, variably influenced by evaporation-condensation fractionation processes. For inland stations, crustal, anthropogenic and biogenic boron sources have to be included.

2.4 Carbon

Carbon occurs in a wide variety of compounds on Earth, from reduced organic compounds in the biosphere to oxidized inorganic compounds like CO_2 and carbonates. The broad spectrum of carbon-bearing compounds involved in low- and high-temperature geological settings can be assessed on the basis of carbon isotope fractionations.

Carbon has two stable isotopes (Rosman and Taylor 1998)

$$^{12}\text{C} = 98.93 \text{ \% (reference mass for atomic weight scale)}$$

$$^{13}\text{C} = 1.07 \text{ \%}$$

The naturally occurring variations in carbon isotope composition are greater than 120 ‰, neglecting extraterrestrial materials. Heavy carbonates with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values $> +20 \text{ ‰}$ and light methane of $< -100 \text{ ‰}$ have been reported in the literature.

Table 2.2 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values of NBS-reference samples relative to V-PDB

NBS-18	Carbonatite	-5.00
NBS-19	Marble	+1.95
NBS-20	Limestone	-1.06
NBS-21	Graphite	-28.10
NBS-22	Oil	-30.03

2.4.1 Analytical Methods

The gases used in $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ measurements are CO_2 or CO obtained during pyrolysis. For CO_2 the following preparation methods exist:

- Carbonates are reacted with 100 % phosphoric acid at temperatures between 20 and 90 °C (depending on the type of carbonate) to liberate CO_2 (see also “oxygen”).
- Organic compounds are generally oxidized at high temperatures (850–1000 °C) in a stream of oxygen or by an oxidizing agent like CuO . For the analysis of individual compounds in complex organic mixtures, a gas chromatography—combustion—isotope ratio mass-spectrometry (GC-C-IRMS) system is used, first described by Matthews and Hayes (1978). This device can measure individual carbon compounds in mixtures of sub-nanogram samples with a precision of better than ± 0.5 ‰.

2.4.1.1 Standards

As the commonly used international reference standard PDB has been exhausted for several decades, there is a need for introducing new standards. Even though several different standards are in use today, the international standard the δ -values are referred to remains to be the V-PDB-standard (Table 2.2).

2.4.2 Fractionation Processes

The two main terrestrial carbon reservoirs, organic matter and sedimentary carbonates, have distinctly different isotopic characteristics because of the operation of two different reaction mechanisms:

- Isotope equilibrium exchange reactions within the inorganic carbon system “atmospheric CO_2 —dissolved bicarbonate—solid carbonate” lead to an enrichment of ^{13}C in carbonates.
- Kinetic isotope effects during photosynthesis concentrate the light isotope ^{12}C in the synthesized organic material.

2.4.2.1 Carbonate System

The inorganic carbonate system is comprised of multiple chemical species linked by a series of equilibria:



The carbonate (CO_3^{2-}) ion can combine with divalent cations to form solid minerals, calcite and aragonite being the most common



An isotope fractionation is associated with each of these equilibria, the ^{13}C -differences between the species depend only on temperature, although the relative abundances of the species are strongly dependent on pH. Several authors have reported isotope fractionation factors for the system dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC)—gaseous CO_2 (Vogel et al. 1970; Mook et al. 1974; Zhang et al. 1995). The major problem in the experimental determination of the fractionation factor is the separation of the dissolved carbon phases ($\text{CO}_{2(\text{aq})}$, HCO_3^- , CO_3^-) because isotope equilibrium among these phases is reached within seconds. The generally accepted carbon isotope equilibrium values between calcium carbonate and dissolved bicarbonate are derived from inorganic precipitate data of Rubinson and Clayton (1969), Emrich et al. (1970), and Turner (1982). What is often not adequately recognized is the fact that systematic C-isotope differences exist between calcite and aragonite. Rubinson and Clayton (1969) and Romanek et al. (1992) found calcite and aragonite to be 0.9 and 2.7 ‰ enriched in ^{13}C relative to bicarbonate at 25 °C. Another complicating factor is that shell carbonate—precipitated by marine organisms—is frequently not in isotopic equilibrium with the ambient dissolved bicarbonate. Such so-called “vital” effects can be as large as a few permil (see discussion on p. 307).

Carbon isotope fractionations under equilibrium conditions are important not only at low-temperature, but also at high temperatures within the system carbonate, CO_2 , graphite, and CH_4 . Of these, the calcite-graphite fractionation has become a useful geothermometer (e.g., Valley and O’Neil 1981; Scheele and Hoefs 1992; Kitchen and Valley 1995) (see discussion on p. 339).

Figure 2.9 summarizes carbon isotope fractionations between various geologic materials and gaseous CO_2 (after Chacko et al. 2001).

2.4.2.2 Organic Carbon System

Early reviews by O’Leary (1981) and Farquhar et al. (1989) have provided the biochemical background of carbon isotope fractionations during photosynthesis,

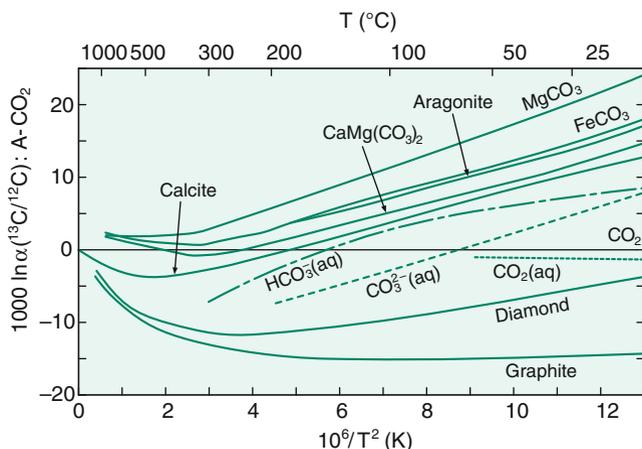


Fig. 2.9 Carbon isotope fractionation between various geologic compounds and CO_2 (after Chacko et al. 2001) (Fig. 2.9, 6th edition, p. 50)

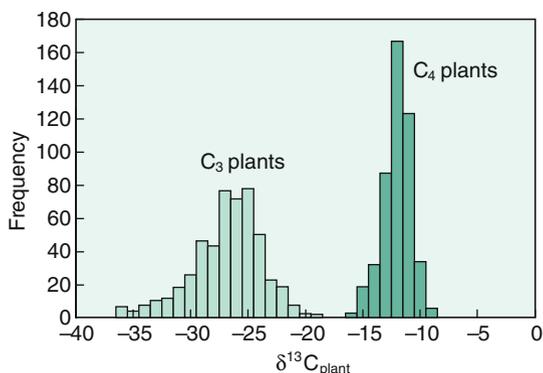
with more recent accounts by Hayes (2001), Freeman (2001) and Galimov (2006). The main isotope-discriminating steps during biological carbon fixation are (i) the uptake and intracellular diffusion of CO_2 and (ii) the biosynthesis of cellular components. Such a two-step model was first proposed by Park and Epstein (1960):



From this simplified scheme, it follows that the diffusional process is reversible, whereas the enzymatic carbon fixation is irreversible. The two-step model of carbon fixation clearly suggests that isotope fractionation is dependent on the partial pressure of CO_2 of the system. With an unlimited amount of CO_2 available to a plant, the enzymatic fractionation will determine the isotopic difference between the inorganic carbon source and the final bioproduct. Under these conditions, ^{13}C fractionations may vary from -17 to -40 ‰ (O’Leary 1981). When the concentration of CO_2 is the limiting factor, the diffusion of CO_2 into the plant is the slow step in the reaction and carbon isotope fractionation of the plant decreases.

Atmospheric CO_2 first moves through the stomata, dissolves into leaf water and enters the outer layer of photosynthetic cells, the mesophyll cell. Mesophyll CO_2 is directly converted by the enzyme ribulose biphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase (“Rubisco”) to a 6 carbon molecule, that is then cleaved into 2 molecules of phosphoglycerate (PGA), each with 3 carbon atoms (plants using this photosynthetic pathway are therefore called C_3 plants). Most PGA is recycled to make ribulose biphosphate, but some is used to make carbohydrates. Free exchange between external and mesophyll CO_2 makes the carbon fixation process less efficient, which causes the observed large ^{13}C -depletions of C_3 plants.

Fig. 2.10 Histogram of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values of C_3 and C_4 plants (after Cerling and Harris 1999) (Fig. 2.10, eth edition, p. 52)



C_4 plants incorporate CO_2 by the carboxylation of phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP) via the enzyme PEP carboxylase to make the molecule oxaloacetate which has 4 carbon atoms (hence C_4). The carboxylation product is transported from the outer layer of mesophyll cells to the inner layer of bundle sheath cells, which are able to concentrate CO_2 , so that most of the CO_2 is fixed with relatively little carbon fractionation.

In conclusion, the main controls on carbon fractionation in plants are the action of a particular enzyme and the “leakiness” of cells. Because mesophyll cells are permeable and bundle sheath cells are less permeable, C_3 versus C_4 plants have ^{13}C -depletions of -18‰ versus -4‰ relative to atmospheric CO_2 (see Fig. 2.10).

The final carbon isotope composition of naturally synthesized organic matter depends on a complex set of parameters. (i) the ^{13}C -content of the carbon source, (ii) isotope effects associated with the assimilation of carbon, (iii) isotope effects associated with metabolism and biosynthesis and (iv) cellular carbon budgets (Hayes 1993, 2001).

Even more complex is C-isotope fractionation in aquatic plants. Factors that control the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of phytoplankton include temperature, availability of $\text{CO}_{2(\text{aq})}$, light intensity, nutrient availability, pH and physiological factors such as cell size and growth rate (Laws et al. 1995, 1997; Bidigare et al. 1997; Popp et al. 1998 and others). In particular the relationship between C-isotope composition of phytoplankton and concentration of oceanic dissolved CO_2 has been subject of considerable debate because of its potential as a palaeo- CO_2 barometer (see discussion p. 278).

Since the pioneering work of Park and Epstein (1960) and Abelson and Hoering (1961), it is well known that ^{13}C is not uniformly distributed among the total organic matter of plant material, but varies between carbohydrates, proteins and lipids. The latter class of compounds is considerably depleted in ^{13}C relative to the other products of biosynthesis. Although the causes of these ^{13}C -differences are not entirely clear, kinetic isotope effects seem to be more plausible (De Niro and Epstein 1977; Monson and Hayes 1982) than thermodynamic equilibrium effects (Galimov 1985a, 2006). The latter author argued that ^{13}C -concentrations at

individual carbon positions within organic molecules are principally controlled by structural factors. Approximate calculations suggested that reduced C–H bonded positions are systematically depleted in ^{13}C , while oxidized C–O bonded positions are enriched in ^{13}C . Many of the observed relationships are qualitatively consistent with that concept. However, it is difficult to identify any general mechanism by which thermodynamic factors should be able to control chemical equilibrium within a complex organic structure. Experimental evidence presented by Monson and Hayes (1982) suggests that kinetic effects will be dominant in most biological systems.

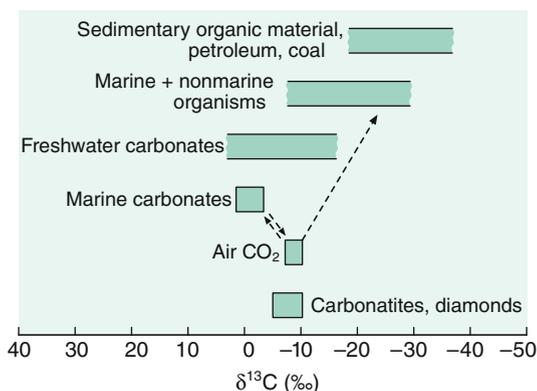
2.4.2.3 Interactions Between Carbonate-Carbon and Organic Carbon

Variations in ^{13}C content of some important carbon compounds are schematically demonstrated in Fig. 2.11: The two most important carbon reservoirs on Earth, marine carbonates and the biogenic organic matter, are characterized by very different isotopic compositions: the carbonates being isotopically heavy with a mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value around 0 ‰ and organic matter being isotopically light with a mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value around –25 ‰. For these two sedimentary carbon reservoirs an isotope mass balance must exist such that:

$$\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{input}} = f_{\text{org}} \delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}} + (1 - f_{\text{org}}) \delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{carb}} \quad (2.6)$$

If δ_{input} , δ_{org} , δ_{carb} can be determined for a specific geologic time, f_{org} can be calculated, where f_{org} is the fraction of organic carbon entering the sediments. It should be noted that f_{org} is defined in terms of the global mass balance and is independent of biological productivity referring to the burial rather than the synthesis of organic material. That means that large f_{org} values might be a result of high productivity and average levels of preservation of organic material or of low levels of productivity and high levels of preservation.

Fig. 2.11 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values of important geological reservoirs (Fig. 2.11, 6th edition, p. 53)



The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value for the input carbon cannot be measured precisely but can be estimated with a high degree of certainty. As will be shown later, mantle carbon has an isotopic composition around -5‰ and estimates of the global average isotope composition for crustal carbon also fall in that range. Assigning -5‰ to $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -input, a modern value for f_{org} is calculated as 0.2 or expressed as the ratio of $C_{\text{org}}/C_{\text{carb}} = 20/80$. As will be shown later (Chap. 3.7.2) f_{org} has obviously changed during specific periods of the Earth's history (e.g. Hayes et al. 1999). With each molecule of organic carbon being buried, a mole of oxygen is released to the atmosphere. Hence, knowledge of f_{org} is of great value in reconstructing the crustal redox budget.

2.5 Nitrogen

More than 99 % of the known nitrogen on or near the Earth's surface is present as atmospheric N_2 or as dissolved N_2 in the ocean. Only a minor amount is combined with other elements, mainly C, O, and H. Nevertheless, this small part plays a decisive role in the biological realm. Since nitrogen occurs in various oxidation states and in gaseous, dissolved, and solid forms (N_2 , NO_3^- , NO_2^- , NH_3 , NH_4^+), it is a highly suitable element for the search of natural variations in its isotopic composition. Schoenheimer and Rittenberg (1939) were the first to report nitrogen isotopic variations in biological materials. Today, the range of reported $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values covers 100 ‰, from about -50 to $+50$ ‰. However, most δ -values fall within the much narrower spread from -10 to $+20$ ‰, as described in more recent reviews of the exogenic nitrogen cycle by Heaton (1986), Owens (1987), Peterson and Fry (1987) and Kendall (1998).

Nitrogen consists of two stable isotopes, ^{14}N and ^{15}N . Atmospheric nitrogen, given by Rosman and Taylor (1998) has the following composition:

^{14}N : 99.63 %

^{15}N : 0.37 %.

2.5.1 Analytical Methods

N_2 is used for $^{15}\text{N}/^{14}\text{N}$ isotope ratio measurements, the standard is atmospheric N_2 . Various preparation procedures have been described for the different nitrogen compounds (Bremner and Keeney 1966; Owens 1987; Velensky et al. 1989; Kendall and Grim 1990, and others). In the early days of nitrogen isotope investigations, the extraction and combustion techniques potentially involved chemical treatments that could have introduced isotopic fractionations. More recently, simplified techniques for combustion have come into routine use, so that a precision of 0.1–0.2 ‰ for $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ determinations can be achieved. Organic nitrogen-compounds

are combusted to CO_2 , H_2O and N_2 in an elemental analyzer. The cryogenically purified N_2 is trapped on molecular sieves for analysis.

More recently methods have been described that are based on the isotope analysis of N_2O . Measurements of bulk $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values yield qualitative rather quantitative information on the nitrogen cycle, special techniques are necessary for a separate analysis of nitrate and nitrite in samples containing both species. Sigman et al. (2001) measured N_2O generated by denitrifying bacteria lacking N_2O reductase. McIlvin and Altabet (2005) introduced an alternative approach of the bacteria method. Nitrate is first reduced with a Cd catalyst to nitrite followed by sodium azide treatment to reduce nitrite to N_2O . This method allows sequential analysis of nitrate and nitrite, but azide is toxic and has to be handled with great care.

Compound-specific analysis of amino acids has been described by McClelland and Montoya (2002) studying 16 amino acids in planktonic consumers and their food sources. Some amino acids, like glutamate and aspartate, show ^{15}N -enrichments with increased trophic level, while others like phenylamine, serine and threonine record the N-isotope composition of the system in which organism exist. ^{15}N differences between the two groups can be attributed to differences in metabolic pathways.

Even different preparation techniques have been used for nitrogen in mantle derived samples with N-concentrations being too low to be analysed by conventional techniques. For these samples, static mass spectrometry, in which the gas is left under static conditions in the ion source, a method developed for noble gas analysis and adopted for nitrogen, has been used. As an alternative, Bebout et al. (2007) described a continuous flow technique for nanomole quantities of nitrogen.

2.5.2 Biological Nitrogen Isotope Fractionations

To understand the processes leading to the nitrogen isotope distribution in the geological environment, a short discussion of the biological nitrogen cycle is required. Atmospheric nitrogen, the most abundant form of nitrogen, is the least reactive species of nitrogen. It can, however, be converted to “fixed” nitrogen by bacteria and algae, which, in turn, can be used by biota for degradation to simple nitrogen compounds such as ammonium and nitrate. Thus, microorganisms are responsible for all major conversions in the biological nitrogen cycle, which generally is divided into fixation, nitrification, and denitrification. Other bacteria return nitrogen to the atmosphere as N_2 .

The term *fixation* is used for processes that convert unreactive atmospheric N_2 into reactive nitrogen such as ammonium, usually involving bacteria. Fixation commonly produces organic materials with $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values slightly less than 0 ‰ ranging from -3 to $+1$ (Fogel and Cifuentes 1993) and occurs in the roots of plants by many bacteria. The large amount of energy needed to break the molecular

nitrogen bond makes nitrogen fixation a very inefficient process with little associated N-isotope fractionation.

Nitrification is a multi-step oxidation process mediated by several different autotrophic organisms. Nitrate is not the only product of nitrification, different reactions produce various nitrogen oxides as intermediate species. Nitrification can be described as two partial oxidation reactions, each of which proceeds separately: oxidation by Nitrosomas ($\text{NH}_4 \rightarrow \text{NO}_2^-$) followed by oxidation by Nitrobacter ($\text{NO}_2^- \rightarrow \text{NO}_3^-$). Because the oxidation of nitrite to nitrate is generally rapid, most of the N-isotope fractionations is caused by the slow oxidation of ammonium by Nitrosomas. However, as shown by Casciotti (2009) the second oxidation step from nitrite to nitrate is accompanied by an inverse kinetic isotope fractionation, such that nitrite becomes progressively depleted in ^{15}N as the oxidation reaction proceeds.

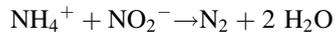
Denitrification (reduction of more oxidized forms to more reduced forms of nitrogen) is a multi-step process with various nitrogen oxides as intermediate compounds resulting from biologically mediated reduction of nitrate. Denitrification takes place in poorly aerated soil and in suboxic water bodies, especially in oxygen minimum zones of the ocean. There is debate about the relative contributions of denitrification in sediments versus in the ocean. Denitrification supposedly balances the natural fixation of nitrogen, if it did not occur, then atmospheric nitrogen would be exhausted in less than 100 million years. Denitrification causes the $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values of the residual nitrate to increase exponentially as nitrate concentrations decrease. Experimental investigations have demonstrated that fractionation factors may change from 10 to 30 ‰, with the largest values obtained under lowest reduction rates. Nitrogen isotope fractionations during denitrification in the ocean involves a greater fractionation than in sediments. Table 2.3, which gives a summary of observed N-isotope fractionations.

Noteworthy is the inverse kinetic fractionation during nitrite oxidation, which is different from all other microbial processes in which N-isotope fractionation is involved. Casciotti (2009) argued that the inverse fractionation effect is due to reverse reaction at the enzyme level.

Table 2.3 Nitrogen isotope fractionations for microbial cultures (after Casciotti 2009)

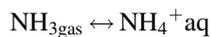
N_2 fixation	$\text{N}_2 \rightarrow \text{N}_{\text{org}}$	-2 to +2 ‰
NH_4^+ assimilation	$\text{NH}_4^+ \rightarrow \text{N}_{\text{org}}$	+14 to +27 ‰
NH_4^+ oxidation (nitrification)	$\text{NH}_4^+ \rightarrow \text{NO}_2^-$	+14 to 38 ‰
Nitrite oxidation (nitrification)	$\text{NO}_2^- \rightarrow \text{NO}_3^-$	-12.8 ‰
Nitrate reduction (denitrification)	$\text{NO}_3^- \rightarrow \text{NO}_2^-$	+13 to +30 ‰
Nitrite reduction (denitrification)	$\text{NO}_2^- \rightarrow \text{NO}$	+5 to +10 ‰
Nitrous oxide reduction (denitrification)	$\text{N}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{N}_2$	+4 to +13 ‰
Nitrate reduction (nitrate assimilation)	$\text{NO}_3^- \rightarrow \text{NO}_2^-$	+5 to +10

One very important recent finding in the nitrogen cycle is the discovery of anaerobic ammonium oxidation, briefly called anammox, a dissimilatory process involving the reaction of ammonia with nitrite



which first has been demonstrated using sediment incubations (Thamdrup and Dalsgaard 2002) and later shown to be the major N-loss process in oxygen minimum zone waters.

So far, only kinetic isotope effects have been considered, but isotopic fractionations associated with equilibrium exchange reactions have been demonstrated for the common inorganic nitrogen compounds (Letolle 1980). Of special importance in this respect is the ammonia volatilization reaction:



for which isotope fractionation factors of 1.025–1.035 have been determined (Kirshenbaum et al. 1947; Mariotti et al. 1981). Experimental data by Nitzsche and Stiehl (1984) indicate fractionation factors of 1.0143 at 250 °C and of 1.0126 at 350 °C. During the solution of atmospheric N₂ in ocean water, a very small ¹⁵N-enrichment of about 0.1 ‰ occurs (Benson and Parker 1961).

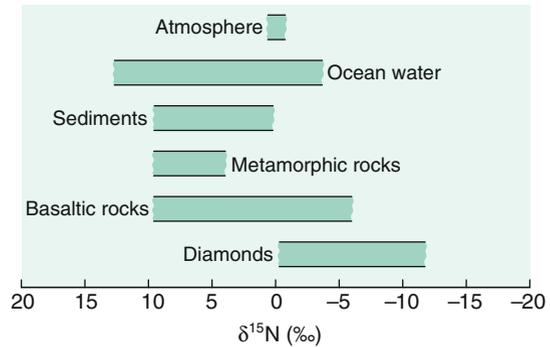
2.5.3 Nitrogen Isotope Distribution in the Earth

Nitrogen is generally regarded as a volatile element with chemical similarities to noble gases. Common belief restricts the dominant nitrogen reservoir to the atmosphere, which is true, if only the earth's surface is considered. Budget estimates of N for the earth as a whole indicate, however, that the dominant reservoir is in the mantle. The average content and speciation of nitrogen in the mantle is poorly constrained. Estimates for average concentrations vary between 0.3 and 36 ppm (Busigny and Bebout 2013).

Mantle nitrogen extracted from MORB glasses (Marty and Humbert 1997; Marty and Zimmermann 1999) and from diamonds (Javoy et al. 1986; Cartigny et al. 1997, 2005; Cartigny and Marty 2013) has an average δ¹⁵N-value of around –5 ‰ with considerable scatter. Nitrogen isotope values extracted from peridotite xenoliths and mineral separates show large variations with phlogopites being depleted and clinopyroxene and olivine being enriched in ¹⁵N (Yokochi et al. 2009). Positive δ¹⁵N values measured in some MORB samples may reflect the occurrence of subducted nitrogen.

In the crust, during metamorphism of sediments, there is a significant loss of ammonium during devolatilisation, which is associated with a nitrogen fractionation, leaving behind ¹⁵N residues (Haendel et al. 1986; Bebout and Fogel 1992; Jia 2006; Plessen et al. 2010). Thus high-grade metamorphic rocks and granites are relatively enriched in ¹⁵N and typically have δ¹⁵N-values between 8 and 10 ‰.

Fig. 2.12 $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values of important geological reservoirs (Fig. 2.12, 6th edition, p. 57)



Sadofsky and Bebout (2000) have examined the nitrogen isotope fractionation among coexisting micas, but could not find any characteristic difference between biotite and white mica.

In summary, nitrogen in sediments and crustal rocks exhibits positive $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values around 6 ‰, whereas in mantle-derived rocks $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values are around -5 ‰.

Figure 2.12 gives an overview about the nitrogen isotope variations in some important reservoirs.

2.5.4 Nitrogen in the Ocean

Nitrogen isotope studies may evaluate the source and fate of nitrogen in the ocean. Nitrogen in the ocean is present in different redox states (nitrate, nitrite, ammonium). Biological processes in the water column may transform one nitrogen compound to the other which is associated with N-isotope fractionations. Nitrogen fixation is regarded as the dominant process for primary production that causes little N isotope fractionation. Thus, nitrogen produced by this process should have a $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -value close to zero. However, average oceanic $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ is close to 5 ‰ as measured in nitrate, the N-isotope enrichment resulting from denitrification. Denitrification occurring in oxygen depleted zones preferentially reduces ^{14}N , the remaining nitrate thus becomes progressively enriched in ^{15}N . Upwelling of such ^{15}N enriched water masses causes the production of relatively ^{15}N -rich phytoplankton particles that sink to the seafloor. The nitrogen isotope composition of sedimentary organic material, thus, can serve as an indicator of water column nitrogen reactions and of nutrient dynamics (e.g. Farrell et al. 1995).

Nitrogen isotopes in particulate organic nitrogen depends on (i) the isotopic composition of dissolved nitrate, and on (ii) isotope fractionation that occurs during nitrogen uptake by phytoplankton. In the photic zone phytoplankton preferentially incorporates ^{14}N , which results in a corresponding ^{15}N -enrichment in the residual nitrate. The N-isotope composition of settling organic detritus, thus varies

depending on the extent of nitrogen utilization: low ^{15}N contents indicate low relative utilisation, high ^{15}N contents indicate a high utilization.

Denitrification is believed to be enhanced in interglacial times compared to glacial times. Ganeshram et al. (2000) showed that $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ values during interglacials are about 2–3 ‰ heavier than $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ values during glacial times. This relationship has been used as a recorder of paleoproductivity.

Nitrogen isotopes in marine sediments, thus, may reflect nutrient cycles of ancient oceans. However, diagenetic reactions on the seafloor and deeper in the sediments may alter the primary nitrogen isotope signal. Nevertheless, Tesdall et al. (2013) argue that although diagenetic effects have to be taken into account, diagenesis is a secondary effect and therefore bulk sedimentary nitrogen isotope records from the seafloor and subseafloor sediments monitor past changes of the marine nitrogen cycle. They presented a global database of more than 2300 bulk sediment $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ measurements and demonstrated that $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values range from 2.5 to 16.6 ‰ with a mean value of 6.7 ‰ which is higher than the average 5 ‰ of nitrate in the ocean (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/pubs/nicopp/nicopp.html>).

For long, denitrification was believed to be the only mechanism that reduces nitrate to N_2 , however, as found more recently the anaerobic oxidation of ammonia, called anammox reaction, is another mechanism in which bacteria use ammonium to convert nitrite to N_2 . Brunner et al. (2013) demonstrated that N isotope fractionation associated with the anammox reaction fall in the same range as denitrification. They further showed that anammox may be responsible for the large fractionations between nitrate and nitrite in oxygen minimum zones.

In sediments, with increasing thermal degradation of the organic matter, ammonium (NH_4) is liberated which can replace potassium in clay minerals. The nitrogen in the crystal lattice of clay minerals and micas, thus, is derived from decomposing organic matter reflecting the N-isotope composition of organic matter (Scholten 1991; Williams et al. 1995).

2.5.5 Anthropogenic Nitrogen Sources

The nitrogen cycle has been influenced considerably by human activities including agriculture and fossil fuel burning, adding reactive nitrogen to the environment on a local and a global scale. As demonstrated by Hastings et al. (2009, 2013), nitrogen isotopes of reactive nitrogen can be used to trace its origin. For example, Hastings et al. (2009) analysed N isotopes in a 100 m long ice core and observed a decrease from pre-industrial $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values of +11 ‰ to present day values of –1 ‰. Other studies have shown that fertilizer, animal wastes or sewage are the main sources of nitrate pollution in the hydrosphere. Under favorable conditions, these N-bearing compounds can be isotopically distinguished from each other (Heaton 1986). Anthropogenic fertilizers have $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values in the range –4 to +4 ‰ reflecting their

atmospheric source, whereas animal waste typically has $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values $>5\%$. Soil-derived nitrate and fertilizer nitrate commonly have overlapping $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values. In another example, Redling et al. (2013) documented foliar uptake and fertilization effects of car nitrogen oxides on vegetation.

2.6 Oxygen

Oxygen is the most abundant element on Earth. It occurs in gaseous, liquid and solid compounds, most of which are thermally stable over large temperature ranges. These facts make oxygen one of the most interesting elements in isotope geochemistry.

Oxygen has three stable isotopes with the following abundances (Rosman and Taylor 1998)

^{16}O : 99.757 %

^{17}O : 0.038 %

^{18}O : 0.205 %

Because of the higher abundance and the greater mass difference, the $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratio is normally determined, which may vary in natural samples by about 10 % or in absolute numbers from about 1 : 475 to 1 : 525. More recently, with improved analytical techniques, the precise measurement of the $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratio also became of interest (see p. 85).

2.6.1 Analytical Methods

CO_2 is the gas generally used for mass-spectrometric analysis. CO and O_2 have also been used in high temperature conversion of organic material and in laser probe preparation techniques. A wide variety of methods have been described to liberate oxygen from the various oxygen-containing compounds.

2.6.1.1 Water

The $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratio of water is usually determined by equilibration of a small amount of CO_2 with a surplus of water at a constant temperature. For this technique, the exact value of the fractionation for the $\text{CO}_2/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ equilibrium at a given temperature is of crucial importance. A number of authors have experimentally determined this fractionation at 25 °C with variable results. A value of 1.0412 was proposed at the 1985 IAEA Consultants Group Meeting to be the best estimate.

It is also possible to quantitatively convert all water oxygen directly to CO_2 by reaction with guanidine hydrochloride (Dugan et al. 1985) which has the advantage

that it is not necessary to assume a value for the H₂O–CO₂ isotope fractionation in order to obtain the ¹⁸O/¹⁶O ratio. Sharp et al. (2001) described a technique reducing H₂O by reaction with glassy carbon at 1450 °C. O’Neil and Epstein (1966) first described the reduction of water with Br₃F. For the precise measurement of ¹⁷O and ¹⁸O the method later was modified using CoF₃ (Baker et al. 2002; Barkan and Luz 2005).

As mentioned under Sect. 2.1.1, an alternative method to mass spectrometry is the direct determination of oxygen isotope ratios by laser absorption spectroscopy (Brand et al. 2009a, b and others).

2.6.1.2 Carbonates

The standard procedure for the isotope analysis of carbonates is the reaction with 100 % phosphoric acid at 25 °C first described by McCrea (1950). The following reaction equation:



where Me is a divalent cation, shows that only two-thirds of the carbonate oxygen present in the product CO₂ is liberated, which carries a significant isotope effect being on the order of 10 ‰, but varies up to a few ‰ depending on the cation, the reaction temperature and the preparation procedure. The so-called acid fractionation factor must be precisely known to obtain the oxygen isotope ratio of the carbonate. This can be done by measuring the δ¹⁸O-value of the carbonate by fluorination with BrF₅, first described by Sharma and Clayton (1965).

Experimental details of the phosphoric acid method vary significantly among different laboratories. The two most common varieties are the “sealed vessel” and the “acid bath” methods. In the latter method the CO₂ generated is continuously removed, while in the former it is not. Swart et al. (1991) demonstrated that the two methods exhibit a systematic ¹⁸O difference between 0.2 and 0.4 ‰ over the temperature range 25 to 90 °C. Of these the “acid-bath” method probably provides the more accurate results. A further modification of this technique is referred to as the “individual acid bath”, in which contaminations from the acid delivery system are minimized. Wachter and Hayes (1985) demonstrated that careful attention must be given to the phosphoric acid. In their experiments best results were obtained by using a 105 % phosphoric acid and a reaction temperature of 75 °C. This high reaction temperature should not be used when attempting to discriminate between mineralogically distinct carbonates by means of differential carbonate reaction rates.

Because some carbonates like magnesite or siderite react very sluggishly at 25 °C, higher reaction temperatures are necessary to extract CO₂ from these minerals. Reaction temperatures have varied up to 90 or even 150 °C (Rosenbaum and Sheppard 1986; Böttcher 1996), but there still exist considerable differences in the fractionation factors determined by various workers. Crowley (2010) showed that for minerals of the CaCO₃–MgCO₃ group the oxygen isotope composition of CO₂ is a linear function of the reciprocal of reaction temperature. Deviations from this

Table 2.4 Acid fractionation factors for various carbonates determined at 25 °C (modified after Kim et al. 2007)

Mineral	α	References
Calcite	10.30	Kim et al. (2007)
Aragonite	10.63	Kim et al. (2007)
	11.14	Gilg et al. (2007)
Dolomite	11.75	Rosenbaum and Sheppard (1986)
Magnesite	10.79 (50 °C)	Das Sharma et al. (2002)
Siderite	11.63	Carothers et al. (1988)
Witherite	10.57	Kim and O'Neil (1997)

relationship may be attributed to structural state and differences in chemical composition.

Another uncertainty exists for fractionations between aragonite and calcite. Different workers have reported fractionations from negative to positive. Nevertheless there seems to be a general agreement that the fractionation factor for aragonite is about 0.6 ‰ higher than for calcite (Tarutani et al. 1969; Kim and O'Neil 1997), although Grossman and Ku (1986) have reported a value of up to 1.2 ‰. The dolomite-calcite fractionation may vary depending on specific composition (Land 1980). Table 2.4 reports acid fractionation factors for various carbonates.

2.6.1.3 Silicates

Oxygen in silicates and oxides is usually liberated through fluorination with F₂, BrF₅ or ClF₃ in nickel-tubes at 500 to 650 °C (Taylor and Epstein 1962; Clayton and Mayeda 1963; and Borthwick and Harmon 1982) or by heating with a laser (Sharp 1990). Decomposition by carbon reduction at 1000–2000 °C may be suitable for quartz and iron oxides but not for all silicates (Clayton and Epstein 1958). The oxygen is converted to CO₂ over heated graphite or diamond. For an analysis of the three isotope (¹⁶O, ¹⁷O, ¹⁸O) O₂ has to be the analyte gas. Care must be taken to ensure quantitative oxygen yields, which can be a problem in the case of highly refractive minerals like olivine and garnet. Low yields may result in anomalous ¹⁸O/¹⁶O ratios, high yields are often due to excess moisture in the vacuum extraction line.

Today, infrared-laser fluorination, first described by Sharp (1990), most commonly is used for mineral analysis. Alternatively, UV lasers have been used by Wiechert and Hoefs (1995) and Wiechert et al. (2002). A precise SIMS method with a reproducibility of 0.3 ‰ from 15 μm mineral spots has been described by Kita et al. (2009).

2.6.1.4 Phosphates

Phosphates are first dissolved, then precipitated as silver phosphate (Crowson et al. 1991). Ag₃PO₄ is preferred because it is non-hygroscopic and can be precipitated rapidly without numerous chemical purification steps (O'Neil et al. 1994). This

Ag_3PO_4 is then fluorinated (Crowson et al. 1991), reduced with C either in a furnace (O'Neil et al. 1994) or with a laser (Wenzel et al. 2000) or pyrolyzed (Vennemann et al. 2002). Because PO_4 does not exchange oxygen with water at room temperature (Kolodny et al. 1983), the isotopic composition of the Ag_3PO_4 is that of the PO_4 component of the natural phosphate. As summarized by Vennemann et al. (2002) conventional fluorination remains the most precise and accurate analytical technique for Ag_3PO_4 . Laser techniques on bulk materials have also been attempted (Cerling and Sharp 1996; Kohn et al. 1996; Wenzel et al. 2000), but because fossil phosphates invariably contain diagenetic contaminants, chemical processing and analysis of a specific component (CO_3 or PO_4) is ordinarily performed.

2.6.1.5 Sulfates

Sulfates are precipitated as BaSO_4 , and then reduced with carbon at 1000 °C to produce CO_2 and CO. The CO is either measured directly or converted to CO_2 by electrical discharge between platinum electrodes (Longinelli and Craig 1967). Total pyrolysis by continuous flow methods has made the analysis of sulfate oxygen more precise and less time-consuming than the off-line methods. Bao and Thiemens (2000) have used a CO_2 -laser fluorination system to liberate oxygen from barium sulfate.

2.6.1.6 Nitrates

Oxygen isotopes in nitrate may be measured by high-temperature combustion with graphite (Revesz et al. 1997). Since this method is labour-intensive, Sigman et al. (2001) used cultured denitrifying bacteria for the reduction of nitrate. In the analyzed N_2O only one of six oxygen atoms present in the initial nitrate will be measured, therefore potential oxygen isotope fractionations must be adequately taken into account (Casciotti et al. 2002).

2.6.2 Standards

Two different δ -scales are in use: $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{(\text{VSMOW})}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{(\text{VPDB})}$, because of two different categories of users, who have traditionally been engaged in O-isotope studies. The VPDB scale is used in low-temperature studies of carbonate. The original PDB standard was prepared from a Cretaceous belemnite from the Pee Dee Formation and was the laboratory working standard used at the University of Chicago in the early 1950s when the paleotemperature scale was developed. The original supply of this standard has long been exhausted, therefore secondary standards have been introduced (see Table 2.5), whose isotopic compositions have been calibrated relative to PDB. All other oxygen isotope analyses (waters, silicates, phosphates, sulfates, high-temperature carbonates) are given relative to SMOW.

Table 2.5 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of commonly used O-isotope standards (data for sulfate and nitrate are from Brand et al. 2009a, b)

Standard	Material	VPDB scale	VSMOW scale
NBS-19	Marble	-2.20	
NBS-20	Limestone	-4.14	
NBS-18	Carbonatite	-23.00	
NBS-28	Quartz		9.60
NBS-30	Biotite		5.10
GISP	Water		-24.75
SLAP	Water		-55.50
NBS-127	Ba sulfate		8.59
USGS 35	Na nitrate		56.81

The conversion equations of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{(\text{VPDB})}$ versus $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{(\text{VSMOW})}$ and vice versa (Coplen et al. 1983) are:

$$\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{VSMOW}) = 1.03091 \delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{PDB}) + 30.91$$

and

$$\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{VPDB}) = 0.97002 \delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{VSMOW}) - 29.98$$

Table 2.5 gives the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of commonly used oxygen isotope standards on both scales.

2.6.3 Fractionation Processes

Out of the numerous possibilities to fractionate oxygen isotopes in nature, the following are of special significance.

2.6.3.1 Fractionation of Water

Knowledge of the oxygen isotope fractionation between liquid water and water vapor is essential for the interpretation of the isotope composition of different water types. Fractionation factors experimentally determined in the temperature range from 0 to 350 °C have been summarized by Horita and Wesolowski (1994). This is shown in Fig. 2.13.

Addition of salts to water also affects isotope fractionations. The presence of ionic salts in solution changes the local structure of water around dissolved ions. Taube (1954) first demonstrated that the $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratio of CO_2 equilibrated with pure H_2O decreased upon the addition of MgCl_2 , AlCl_3 and HCl , remained more or less unchanged for NaCl , and increased upon the addition of CaCl_2 . The changes vary roughly linearly with the molality of the solute (see Fig. 2.14).

To explain this different fractionation behavior, Taube (1954) postulated different isotope effects between the isotopic properties of water in the hydration

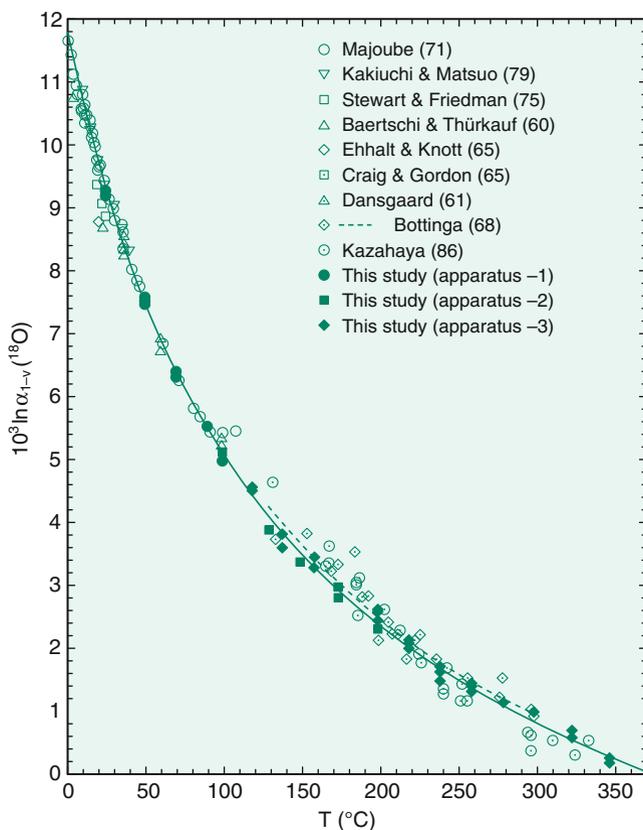


Fig. 2.13 Oxygen isotope fractionation factors between liquid water and water vapour in the temperature range 0–350 °C (after Horita and Wesolowski 1994) (Fig. 2.13, 6th edition p. 62)

sphere of the cation and the remaining bulk water. The hydration sphere is highly ordered, whereas the outer layer is poorly ordered. The relative sizes of the two layers are dependent upon the magnitude of the electric field around the dissolved ions. The strength of the interaction between the dissolved ion and water molecules is also dependent upon the atomic mass of the atom to which the ion is bonded. O’Neil and Truesdell (1991) have introduced the concept of “structure-making” and “structure-breaking” solutes: structure makers yield more positive isotope fractionations relative to pure water whereas structure breakers produce negative isotope fractionations. Any solute that results in a positive isotope fractionation is one that causes the solution to be more structured as is the case for ice structure, when compared to solutes that lead to less structured forms, in which cation–H₂O bonds are weaker than H₂O–H₂O bonds.

As already treated in Sect. 2.1, isotope fractionations, the hydration of ions may play a significant role in hydrothermal solutions and volcanic vapors (Driesner and

Fig. 2.14 Oxygen isotope fractionation between pure water and solutions of various ions (after O'Neil and Truesdell 1991) (Fig. 2.14, 6th edition, p. 63)

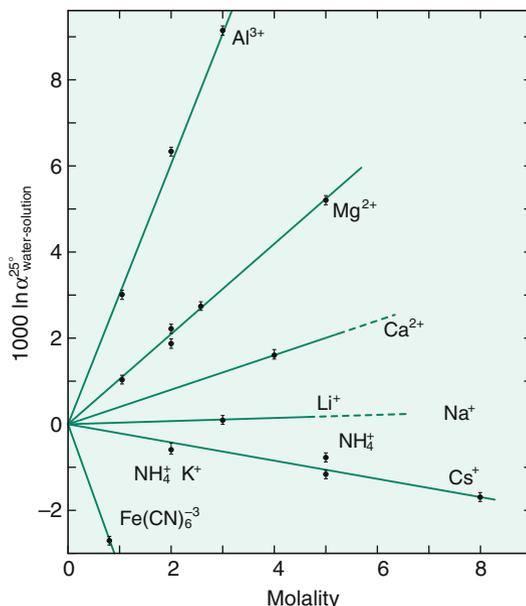


Table 2.6 Experimentally determined oxygen isotope fractionation factors relative to water for the aqueous system $\text{CO}_2\text{--H}_2\text{O}$ between 5 and 40 °C according to $10^3 \ln \alpha = A(10^6/T^{-2}) + B$ (Beck et al. 2005)

	A	B
HCO_3^{-}	2.59	1.89
CO_3^{2-}	2.39	-2.70
$\text{CO}_{2(\text{aq})}$	2.52	12.12

Seward 2000). Such isotope salt effects may change the oxygen isotope fractionation between water and other phases by several permil.

2.6.3.2 $\text{CO}_2\text{--H}_2\text{O}$ System

Of equal importance is the oxygen isotope fractionation in the $\text{CO}_2\text{--H}_2\text{O}$ system. Early work concentrated on the oxygen isotope partitioning between gaseous CO_2 and water (Brenninkmeijer et al. 1983). In more recent work by Usdowski et al. (1991), Beck et al. (2005) and Zeebe (2007), it has been demonstrated that the oxygen isotope composition of the individual carbonate species are isotopically different, which is consistent with experimental work of McCrea (1950) and Usdowski and Hoefs (1993). Table 2.6 summarizes the equations for the temperature dependence between 5 and 40 °C (Beck et al. 2005).

The oxygen isotope fractionation ($1000 \ln \alpha$) between aqueous CO_2 and water at 25 °C is 41.6, dropping to 24.7 at high pH values when CO_3^{2-} is the dominant species (see Fig. 2.15). The pH dependence of the oxygen isotope composition in

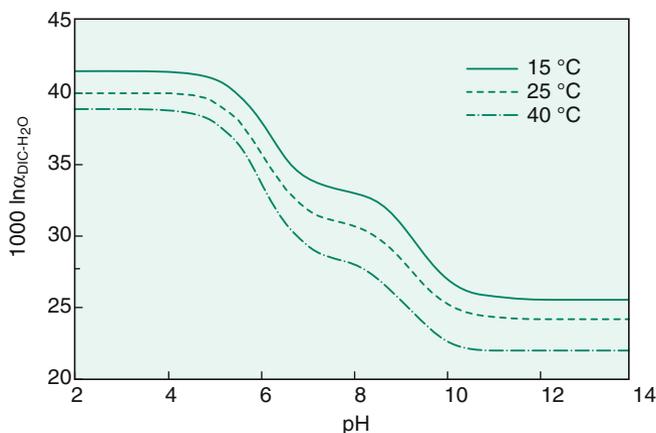


Fig. 2.15 Oxygen isotope fractionations between dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) and water as function of pH and temperatures (after Beck et al. 2005) (Fig. 2.15, 6th edition, p. 64)

the carbonate-water system has important implications in the derivation of oxygen isotope temperatures.

2.6.3.3 Mineral Fractionations

The oxygen isotope composition of a rock depends on the ^{18}O contents of the constituent minerals and the mineral proportions. Garlick (1966) and Taylor (1968) arranged coexisting minerals according to their relative tendencies to concentrate ^{18}O . The list given in Table 2.7 has been augmented by data from Kohn et al. (1998a, b, c).

This order of decreasing ^{18}O -contents has been explained in terms of the bond-type and strength in the crystal structure. Semi-empirical bond-type calculations have been developed by Garlick (1966) and Savin and Lee (1988) by

Table 2.7 Sequence of minerals in the order (bottom to top) of their increasing tendency to concentrate ^{18}O

Quartz
Dolomite
K-feldspar, albite
Calcite
Na-rich plagioclase
Ca-rich plagioclase
Muscovite, paragonite, kyanite, glaucophane
Orthopyroxene, biotite
Clinopyroxene, hornblende, garnet, zircon
Olivine
Ilmenite
Magnetite, hematite

assuming that oxygen in a chemical bond has similar isotopic behavior regardless of the mineral in which the bond is located. This approach is useful for estimating fractionation factors. The accuracy of this approach is limited due to the assumption that the isotope fractionation depends only upon the atoms to which oxygen is bonded and not upon the structure of the mineral, which is not strictly true. Kohn and Valley (1998a, b) determined empirically the effects of cation substitutions in complex minerals such as amphiboles and garnets spanning a large range in chemical compositions. Although isotope effects of cation exchange are generally less than 1 ‰ at $T > 500$ °C, they increase considerably at lower temperatures. Thus; use of amphiboles and garnets for thermometry requires exact knowledge of chemical compositions.

On the basis of these systematic tendencies of ^{18}O enrichment found in nature, significant temperature information can be obtained up to temperatures of 1000 °C, and even higher, if calibration curves can be worked out for the various mineral pairs. The published literature contains many calibrations of oxygen isotope geothermometers, most are determined by laboratory experiments, although some are based on theoretical calculations.

Although much effort has been directed toward the experimental determination of oxygen isotope fractionation factors in mineral—water systems, the use of water as an oxygen isotope exchange medium has several disadvantages. Some minerals become unstable in contact with water at elevated temperatures and pressures, leading to melting, breakdown and hydration reactions. Incongruent solubility and ill-defined quench products may introduce additional uncertainties. Most of the disadvantages of water can be circumvented by using calcite as an exchange medium (Clayton et al. 1989; Chiba et al. 1989). Mineral-mineral fractionations—determined by these authors (Table 2.8)—give internally consistent geothermometric information that generally is in accord with independent estimates, such as the theoretical calibrations of Kieffer (1982).

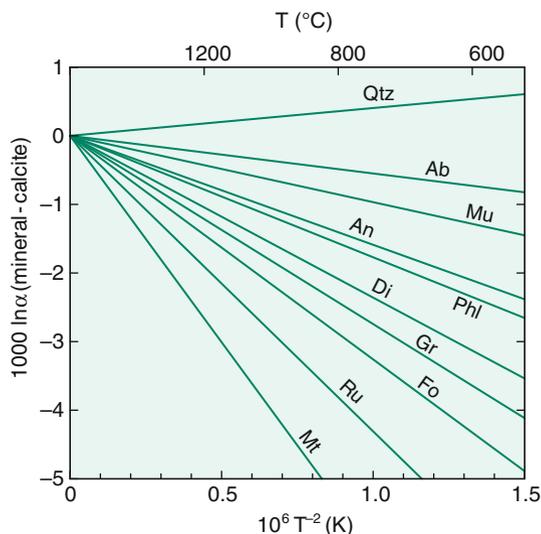
A more recent summary has been given by Chacko et al. (2001) (see Fig. 2.16).

Many isotopic fractionations between low-temperature minerals and water have been estimated by assuming that their temperature of formation and the isotopic composition of the water in which they formed (for example, ocean water) are well known. This is sometimes the only approach available in cases in which the rates of isotope exchange reactions are slow and in which minerals cannot be synthesized in the laboratory at appropriate temperatures.

Table 2.8 Coefficients A for silicate—pair fractionations ($1000 \ln \alpha_{X-Y} = A/T^2$) 10^6 (after Chiba et al. 1989)

	Cc	Ab	An	Di	Fo	Mt
Qtz	0.38	0.94	1.99	2.75	3.67	6.29
Cc		0.56	1.61	2.37	3.29	5.91
Ab			1.05	1.81	2.73	5.35
An				0.76	1.68	4.30
Di					0.92	3.54
Fo						2.62

Fig. 2.16 Oxygen isotope fractionations between various minerals and calcite (after Chacko et al. 2001) (Fig. 2.16, 6th edition, p. 66)



2.6.4 Triple Oxygen Isotope Compositions

Measurements of $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratios potentially expand the utility of $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ studies, the latter being hampered by difficulties to differentiate between temperature and water composition. Since the natural oxygen isotope ratio of $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ is close to one half of the $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratio, in the past it was generally assumed that there was no need to measure the rare ^{17}O . However, with improvements in analytical techniques, it became clear that the precise measurement of ^{17}O contents may give additional informations on fractionation processes in the earth's reservoirs. In a diagram $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ versus $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values; all terrestrial rocks and minerals plot on a line with a coefficient $\lambda 0.52\times$ which was called the Terrestrial Fractionation Line (TFL). Deviations from the TFL reference line are given as $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ and are termed oxygen isotope anomalies. The coefficient λ differs for equilibrium and kinetic fractionation processes and varies between 0.509 which is the lower limit for kinetic fractionations and 0.530 which is the equilibrium high temperature limit (Young et al. 2002).

For water, for instance, the triple oxygen isotope composition is characterized by an equilibrium fractionation exponent λ between liquid water and water vapour of 0.529 compared to a value of 0.518 for diffusion of water vapour. The global meteoric water line has a slope of 0.528 (Luz and Barkan 2010) (analogous to a slope of 8 of the $\delta\text{D}-\delta^{18}\text{O}$ meteoric water line). For rocks and minerals the slope λ is between 0.524 and 0.526 (Miller et al. 1999; Rumble et al. 2007) and for meteoric waters the slope is 0.528 (Luz and Barkan 2010).

With further analytical improvements, Pack and Herwartz (2014) demonstrated that the concept of a single TFL is invalid and that different reservoirs on Earth are characterized by individual mass fractionation lines with individual slopes and intercepts. Similar conclusions have been reached by Levin et al. (2014) and Passey et al. (2014).

2.6.5 Fluid-Rock Interactions

Oxygen isotope ratio analysis provides a powerful tool for the study of water/rock interaction. The geochemical effect of such an interaction between water and rock or mineral is a shift of the oxygen isotope ratios of the rock and/or the water away from their initial values, given that their compositions are not in equilibrium.

Detailed studies of the kinetics and mechanisms of oxygen isotope exchange between minerals and fluids show that there are three possible exchange mechanisms (Matthews et al. 1983a, b; Gilotti 1985).

- (1) Solution-precipitation. During a solution-precipitation process, larger grains grow at the expense of smaller grains. Smaller grains dissolve and recrystallize on the surface of larger grains which decreases the overall surface area and lowers the total free energy of the system. Isotopic exchange with the fluid occurs while material is in solution.
- (2) Chemical reaction. The chemical activity of one component of both fluid and solid is so different in the two phases that a chemical reaction occurs. The breakdown of a finite portion of the original crystal and the formation of new crystals is implied. The new crystals would form at or near isotopic equilibrium with the fluid.
- (3) Diffusion. During a diffusion process isotopic exchange takes place at the interface between the crystal and the fluid with little or no change in morphology of the reactant grains. The driving force is the random thermal motion of the atoms within a concentration or activity gradient.

In the presence of a fluid phase coupled dissolution—reprecipitation is known to be a much more effective process than diffusion. This has been first demonstrated experimentally by O’Neil and Taylor (1967) and later re-emphasized by Cole (2000) and Fiebig and Hoefs (2002).

The first attempts to quantify isotope exchange processes between water and rocks were made by Sheppard et al. (1971) and Taylor (1974). By using a simple closed-system material balance equation these authors were able to calculate cumulative fluid/rock ratios.

$$W/R = \frac{\delta_{\text{rock}_f} - \delta_{\text{rock}_i}}{\delta_{\text{H}_2\text{O}_i} - (\delta_{\text{rock}_f} - \Delta)}, \quad (2.7)$$

where $\Delta = \delta_{\text{rock}_f} - \delta_{\text{H}_2\text{O}_f}$

The equation requires adequate knowledge of both the initial (i) and final (f) isotopic states of the system and describes the interaction of one finite volume of rock with a fluid. The utility of such “zero-dimensional” equations has been questioned by Baumgartner and Rumble (1988), Blattner and Lassey (1989), Nabelek (1991), Bowman et al. (1994) and others. Only under special conditions do one-box models yield information on the amount of fluid that actually flowed through the rocks. If the rock and the infiltrating fluid were not far out of isotopic

equilibrium, then the calculated fluid/rock ratios rapidly approach infinity. Therefore, the equations are sensitive only to small fluid/rock ratios. Nevertheless, the equations can constrain fluid sources. More sophisticated one-dimensional models like the chromatographic or continuum mechanics models (i.e. Baumgartner and Rumble 1988) are physically more plausible and can describe how the isotopic composition of the rock and of the fluid change with time and space. The mathematical models are complex and are based on partial differential equations that must be solved numerically. Examples of fluid-rock interactions in contact metamorphic environments have been presented by Nabelek and Labotka (1993), Bowman et al. (1994) and application to contrasting lithologies by Bickle and Baker (1990) and Cartwright and Valley (1991).

Criss et al. (1987) and Gregory et al. (1989) developed a theoretical framework that describes the kinetics of oxygen isotope exchange between minerals and coexisting fluids. Figure 2.17 shows characteristic patterns in δ - δ plots for some hydrothermally altered granitic and gabbroic rocks. The $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ arrays displayed on Fig. 2.17 cut across the 45° equilibrium lines at a steep angle as a result of the much faster oxygen isotope exchange of feldspar compared to that of quartz and pyroxene. If a low- ^{18}O fluid such as meteoric or ocean water is involved in the exchange process, the slopes of the disequilibrium arrays can be regarded as “isochrons” where, with continued exchange through time the slopes become less

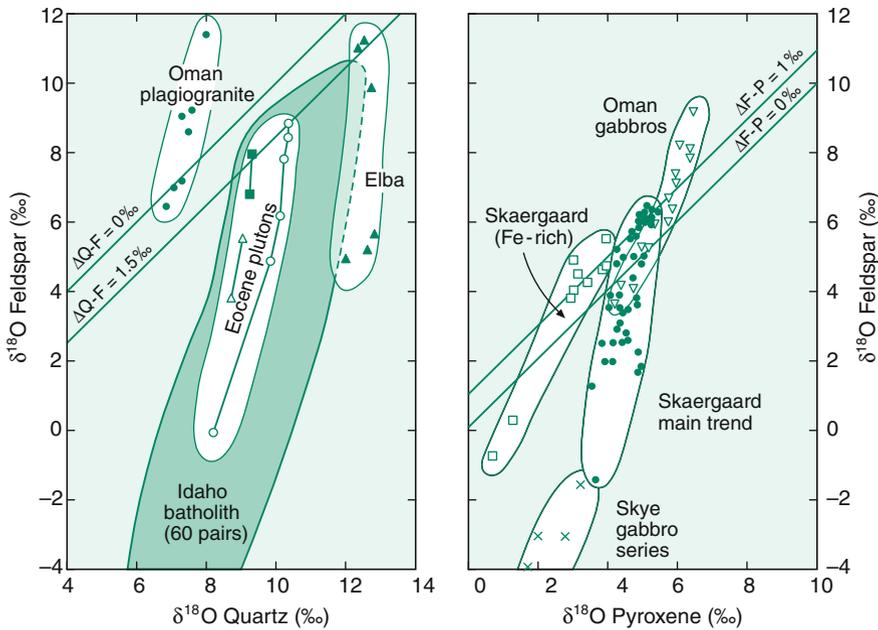
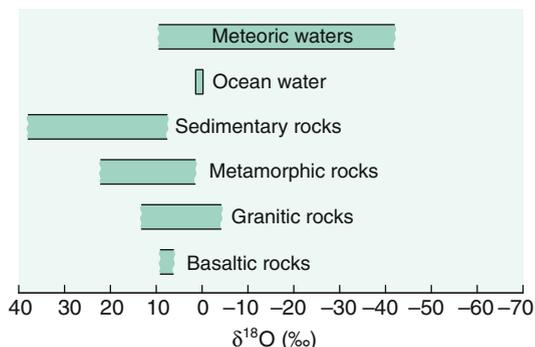


Fig. 2.17 $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{(\text{feldspar})}$ versus $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{(\text{quartz})}$ and versus $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{(\text{pyroxene})}$ plots of disequilibrium mineral pair arrays in granitic and gabbroic rocks. The arrays indicate open-system conditions from circulation of hydrothermal meteoric fluids (after Gregory et al. 1989) (Fig. 2.17, 6th edition, p. 68)

Fig. 2.18 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of important geological reservoirs (Fig. 2.18, 6th edition, p. 68)



steep and approach the 45° equilibrium line. These “times” represent the duration of a particular hydrothermal event.

Figure 2.18 summarizes the naturally observed oxygen isotope variations in important geological reservoirs.

2.7 Magnesium

The oxidation state of magnesium in natural compounds always is two, thus it might be expected that the natural range of Mg isotope composition is comparably small. On the other hand, Mg is incorporated during growth of biogenic CaCO_3 and plays an essential role during photosynthesis indicating that biological fractionations may play an important role for Mg isotopes.

Magnesium is composed of three isotopes (Rosman and Taylor 1998)

^{24}Mg 78.99 %

^{25}Mg 10.00 %

^{26}Mg 11.01 %

Early investigations on Mg isotope variations have been limited by an uncertainty of 1–2 ‰. Catanzaro and Murphy (1966) for instance concluded that terrestrial Mg isotope variations are restricted to a few ‰. The introduction of multicollector-inductively coupled-plasma mass spectrometry (MC-ICP-MS) increased the precision by one order of magnitude and has initiated a new search of natural isotope variations (Galy et al. 2001, 2002). Factors affecting the accuracy of Mg isotopes measured by MC-ICP-MS have been summarized by Teng and Yang (2013). $\delta^{25}\text{Mg}$ and $\delta^{26}\text{Mg}$ values are reported relative to the DSM-3 standard (Galy et al. 2003; Oeser et al. 2014; Teng et al. 2014). Teng et al. (2014) published Mg isotope compositions for 24 reference materials, the long-term reproducibility for $\delta^{25}\text{Mg}$ was 0.05 ‰ and for $\delta^{26}\text{Mg}$ 0.07 ‰. One of the advantages of the

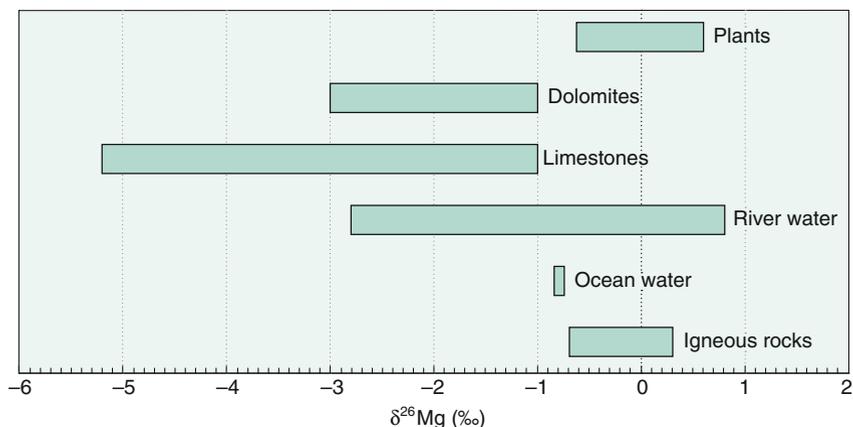


Fig. 2.19 $\delta^{26}\text{Mg}$ values of important geological reservoirs

MC-ICPMS technique is the ability to measure $^{25}\text{Mg}/^{24}\text{Mg}$ and $^{26}\text{Mg}/^{24}\text{Mg}$ ratios independently many times smaller than the magnitude of the natural variations. The relationship between $^{25}\text{Mg}/^{24}\text{Mg}$ and $^{26}\text{Mg}/^{24}\text{Mg}$ ratios is diagnostic of kinetic versus equilibrium fractionations: for equilibrium processes the slope on a three-isotope diagram should be close to 0.521, for kinetic processes the slope should be 0.511 (Young and Galy 2004).

Figure 2.19 summarizes the natural $\delta^{26}\text{Mg}$ isotope variations relative to DSM-3.

2.7.1 High-Temperature Fractionations

Calculations by Schauble (2011) yield systematic ^{26}Mg isotope fractionations among silicates, carbonates and oxides in the order magnesite, dolomite, forsterite, orthoenstatite, diopside, periclase and spinel. Fractionations correlate with coordination numbers, tetrahedral sites tend to have higher $^{26}\text{Mg}/^{24}\text{Mg}$ ratios than octahedral sites: thus, pyrope in which Mg is in eightfold coordination is depleted in heavy Mg isotopes relative to pyroxenes and olivine, in which Mg is in sixfold coordination. Experimentally determined equilibrium isotope fractionations between spinel, forsterite and magnesite by Macris et al. (2013) are consistent with the postulated dependence on coordination numbers. In the temperature range from 600 to 800 °C, Mg isotope fractionations between spinel and forsterite vary from 1.3 to 0.86 ‰ indicating isotope equilibrium. It is still unclear whether small intermineral fractionations among olivine and pyroxenes in mantle rocks represent equilibrium conditions or are products of melt-rock interactions (Xiao et al. 2013). Studies by Teng et al. (2007), Wiechert and Halliday (2007), Young et al. (2009), Handler et al. (2009) and Bourdon et al. (2010) have demonstrated slight differences between basalts and peridotite. Mineral Mg isotope fractionations among

olivine and pyroxene are very small (Handler et al. 2009; Wiechert and Halliday 2007; Yang et al. 2009; Liu et al. 2011), clinopyroxene and phlogopite are more variable and slightly heavier than olivine suggesting that inter-mineral fractionations are controlled by Mg–O bond strengths (Liu et al. 2011). Furthermore, as pointed out by Young et al. (2015), the effects of mineral chemistry are crucial to understand high-temperature mineral Mg isotope distributions.

The Mg isotope composition of the Moon and chondrites are indistinguishable from Earth, suggesting a homogenous Mg-isotope distribution in the solar system and no Mg isotope fractionation during the Moon-forming event (Sedaghatpour et al. 2013). In contrast to the mantle, the upper and lower continental crust is heterogeneous in Mg isotope composition and on average slightly heavier than the mantle (Shen et al. 2009; Li et al. 2010; Liu et al. 2010a, b; Teng et al. 2013). Li et al. (2010) concluded that compared to granites, sediments are heavier and more variable. Such larger variations may result from chemical weathering during which light isotopes are lost to the hydrosphere, leaving ^{26}Mg enriched sedimentary rocks.

Clastic sediments are generally enriched in heavy Mg isotopes with $\delta^{26}\text{Mg}$ values up to 0.92 ‰ (Li et al. 2010). During subduction, clastic sediments generally retain their Mg isotope composition (Li et al. 2014), thus recycling of clastic sediments will introduce Mg enriched in heavy isotopes into the mantle. Carbonates on the hand are significantly depleted in heavy Mg isotopes. Light isotope values in basalts from the North China Craton have been interpreted to indicate recycling of carbonates derived from oceanic crust (Yang et al. 2012a, b).

2.7.2 Fractionations During Weathering

The behaviour of Mg isotopes during weathering is rather complex (Wimpenny et al. 2010; Huang et al. 2012). Mg is soluble and mobile during weathering potentially inducing small fractionations during dissolution and precipitation of minerals. Wimpenny et al. (2010) and Huang et al. (2012) observed that light Mg isotopes are preferentially released during dissolution of basalt leading to enriched residues. Ryu et al. (2011), however, reported little fractionation during dissolution of granite. The different behaviour of Mg isotopes during weathering may reflect crystallographic differences of Mg-sites in minerals.

Compared to dissolution, the behaviour of Mg isotopes during secondary formation of Mg minerals may be even more complex (Huang et al. 2012). Soil and clays are generally heavier than their parent rocks (Tipper et al. 2006a, b, 2010; Opfergelt et al. 2012; Pogge von Strandmann et al. 2014) suggesting that heavy Mg isotopes are preferentially incorporated into the structure of clay minerals or absorbed in soils.

The complex behaviour of Mg during weathering results in large Mg isotope variations of river waters. As summarized by Li et al. (2012) $\delta^{26}\text{Mg}$ values range from -3.80 to $+0.75$ ‰ reflecting differences of catchment lithologies particularly in the proportions of carbonate to silicate rocks. Tipper et al. (2006a) on the other hand observed a total variation in ^{26}Mg of 2.5 ‰ and concluded that the lithology

in the drainage area is of limited significance, instead the major part of the variability has to be attributed to fractionations in the weathering environment.

2.7.3 Ocean Water

The dominant Mg source to the ocean is riverine input, major sinks are removal by hydrothermal fluids, dolomite formation and low-temperature clay formation during alteration of the oceanic crust. The average $\delta^{26}\text{Mg}$ -value of riverine input is -1.09 ‰ (Tipper et al. 2006b).

Because of its relatively long mean residence time, ocean water has a constant isotope composition of -0.80 ‰ that is slightly heavier than average river water resulting from Mg uptake into silicate minerals during weathering. Mg removal from seawater by hydrothermal interaction with the oceanic crust forming smectites and at higher temperatures chlorite does not cause a measurable Mg isotope fractionation. Dolomitisation, however, affects the ocean water, driving seawater to heavier values.

By analyzing pore waters from a large range of oceanographic settings, Higgins and Schrag (2010) demonstrated, that although Mg concentrations in pore waters are very similar in many deep-sea sediments, profiles of $\delta^{26}\text{Mg}$ values are very different, which is best explained by precipitation of Mg-minerals in sediments or underlying crust.

2.7.4 Carbonates

Dolomite is one of the major Mg carbonate that forms under specific environmental conditions. Geske et al. (2015) reported Mg isotope compositions of dolomite from various environments having a total range from -2.49 to -0.45 ‰ and argued that Mg isotope ratios are affected by a variety of factors, making the application of Mg isotopes as a proxy for their depositional and diagenetic environment problematic. On the hand, as observed by Azmy et al. (2013), early diagenetic dolomite inherits its isotope signature from precursor carbonates and diagenetic fluids. Later formed diagenetic dolomite phases may be slightly enriched in ^{26}Mg suggesting that temperature is not the decisive factor, but instead the Mg-isotope composition of the diagenetic fluid.

Mg is present in CaCO_3 in the form of high Mg calcite (4 to ≈ 30 mol%), as low Mg calcite (≤ 4 mol%) and to a minor extent as aragonite (≤ 0.6 mol%). Marine organisms produce a wide range of $\delta^{26}\text{Mg}$ values from -5 to -1 ‰ that are species dependent (Hippler et al. 2009; Li et al. 2012). Since the extent of Mg substitution in CaCO_3 is temperature dependant, Mg/Ca ratios are used as a thermometer for oceanic temperatures. The Mg/Ca temperature dependence, however, does not play

a major play in determining Mg isotope ratios, the observed variability can instead be attributed to mineralogy (Hippler et al. 2009). Mg isotope fractionations between carbonates and water follows the sequence aragonite < dolomite < magnesite < calcite (Saenger and Wang 2014).

Vital effects in low-Mg calcite organisms exhibit no clear temperature dependence affecting the Mg isotope composition (Wang et al. 2013a, b). Most recent benthic and planktonic foraminifera show nearly identical $\delta^{26}\text{Mg}$ ratios (Pogge von Strandmann 2008), making them suitable for investigating past isotopic variations of ocean water. Pogge von Strandmann et al. (2014) measured Mg isotopes from single-species planktonic foraminifera of the past 40 Ma and concluded that seawater Mg has changed from $\delta^{26}\text{Mg}$ of -0.83‰ at present to 0‰ at 15 Ma.

2.7.4.1 Cave Carbonates

Evidence for near equilibrium fractionation has been presented for low-Mg calcite speleothems (Galy et al. 2002). Mg isotope fractionation between speleothems and associated drip waters give a characteristic difference between both phases, which might indicate near equilibrium conditions. Buhl et al. (2007) argued that isotope equilibrium alone cannot explain the Mg isotope data from speleothems. Immenhauser et al. (2010) presented a complete data set of Mg isotopes on solid and liquid phases from a cave. They demonstrated that Mg isotope fractionations depend on a complex interplay of solution residence times, precipitation rates and adsorption effects.

2.7.5 Plants

Magnesium is an essential plant nutrient that is central to photosynthesis. Black et al. (2008) investigated the Mg isotope distribution in wheat and observed a slight enrichment of the whole plant in ^{25}Mg and ^{26}Mg relative to the nutrient solution. These results have been confirmed by Boulou-Bi et al. (2010). Most of the plant Mg is bound in leaves, but the decisive process for the enrichment of ^{26}Mg occurs at the root level. From roots to leaves or shoots a slight ^{26}Mg depletion is observed (Boulou-Bi et al. 2010).

Mg plays a fundamental role in the formation of chlorophyll, in which it is the central ion. The biological process linked to the incorporation of Mg into the chlorophyll molecule induces Mg isotope fractionation, the sign and size of isotope fractionations depend on species and environmental conditions (Black et al. 2006; Ra and Kitagawa 2007; Ra 2010). Ra (2010) observed a 2.4‰ ^{26}Mg variation in phytoplankton from different regions in the northwestern Pacific and related them to different growth rates and phytoplankton heterogeneities.

2.8 Silicon

Silicon has three stable isotopes with the following abundances (Rosman and Taylor 1998):

$$^{28}\text{Si} \quad 92.23 \%$$

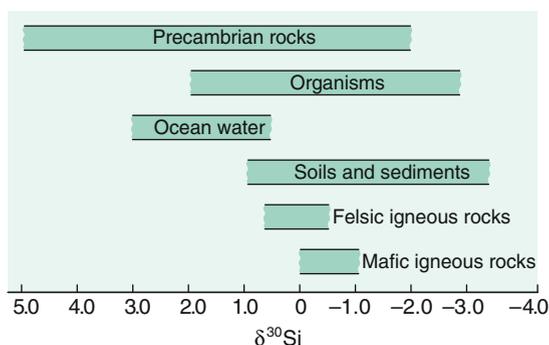
$$^{29}\text{Si} \quad 4.68 \%$$

$$^{30}\text{Si} \quad 3.09 \%$$

Because of its high abundance on Earth, silicon is a very interesting element to be investigated for isotope variations. However, because there is no redox reaction, silicon is always bound to oxygen, relatively small isotope fractionations are to be expected in nature. Early investigations by Douthitt (1982) and more recent ones by Ding (1996) observed a total range of $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ values in the order of 6 ‰. This range has extended to about 12 ‰ with the lowest $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ value of -5.7 ‰ in siliceous cements (Basile-Doelsch et al. 2005) and the highest of $+6.1$ ‰ for rice grains (Ding et al. 2006).

Silicon isotope ratios have been generally measured by fluorination (Douthitt 1982; Ding 1996). However, the method is time consuming and potentially hazardous, therefore, more recently MC-ICP-MS techniques have been introduced (Cardinal et al. 2003; Engstrom 2006). Chmeleff et al. (2008) have shown that a UV-femtosecond laser ablation system coupled with MC-ICP-MS gives $\delta^{29}\text{Si}$ - and $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ -values with very high precision. Determinations with SIMS have been carried out by Robert and Chaussidon (2006), Heck et al. (2011) and others. Independent of the method used, the standard generally is NBS-28 quartz. Figure 2.20 summarizes the naturally occurring silicon isotope variations.

Fig. 2.20 $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ -values of important geological reservoirs



2.8.1 High-Temperature Fractionations

A number of studies have estimated the $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ -value of the bulk silicate earth as to be -0.29‰ (Fitoussi et al. 2009; Savage et al. 2010, 2014; Armytage et al. 2011; Zambardi et al. 2013). This value is identical with the Moon, but isotopically heavier than all types of meteorites. The difference is best explained by Si fractionation during earth's core formation. High pressure, high temperature experiments by Shahar et al. (2009) indicated a 2‰ fractionation between metal and silicate melts (see discussion on p. 211). Similar findings have been reported by Ziegler et al. (2010) by measuring silicon isotope fractionations between Si in metal and silicates in enstatite achondrites. Using a continuous accretion model, the Si isotope fractionation can be used to constrain the amount of Si that entered the Earth's core (Chakrabarti and Jacobsen 2010; Zambardi et al. 2013). Estimated percentages vary somewhat depending on model assumptions, but generally are between 6 and 12 %. However, as demonstrated by Huang et al. (2014), Si isotope fractionations decrease with increasing pressure, thus silicon isotope fractionations obtained experimentally at relatively low pressures may not be applicable to the high pressure conditions of core formation.

Huang et al. (2014) furthermore showed that equilibrium isotope fractionations among mantle minerals are negligible, but may become significant between minerals with different Si coordination numbers, such as Mg-perovskite in 6-coordination and olivine in 4-coordination.

No differences in Si isotope composition are observed between ultramafic rocks and basalts indicating no isotope fractionation during partial melting (Savage et al. 2014). As shown on rocks from the Hekla volcano, Iceland, magmatic differentiation may cause Si isotope fractionation (Savage et al. 2011). $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ -values become progressively enriched with increasing SiO_2 contents.

Felsic rocks and minerals exhibit small, but systematic ^{30}Si variations increasing with the silicon contents of igneous rocks and minerals. The order of ^{30}Si enrichment in minerals is quartz, feldspar, muscovite and biotite, which is consistent with the order of ^{18}O enrichment. Thus felsic igneous rocks are slightly heavier than mafic igneous rocks.

2.8.2 Cherts

Silicon isotope ratios of quartzites and sandstones are in the range of felsic magmatic and metamorphic rocks reflecting their detrital derivation (Andre et al. 2006). In contrast, microcrystalline quartz from silcretes and clay minerals formed by weathering processes incorporate preferentially light Si isotopes relative to igneous minerals. A wide range of $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ values from -0.8 to $+5.0\text{‰}$ have been reported for Precambrian cherts (Robert and Chaussidon 2006), much larger than for Phanerozoic cherts. These authors observed a positive correlation of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ with $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ values, which they interpreted as reflecting temperature changes in the ocean from about 70 °C

3.5 Ga to about 20 °C 0.8 Ga years ago. In contrast, cherts within BIFs exhibit largely negative $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ -values from -2.5 to -0.5 ‰ (Andre et al. 2006; Van den Boorn et al. 2010; Steinhöfel et al. 2010) reflecting different sources of silica. These authors argued that variations in $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ are best explained by mixing between hydrothermal fluids and seawater. Lamina-scale Si isotope heterogeneity within individual chert layers up to 2.2 ‰ may reflect the dynamics of hydrothermal systems.

2.8.3 Chemical Weathering and Mineral Precipitation

Considerable Si isotope fractionation takes place during chemical weathering (Ziegler et al. 2005; Basile-Doelsch et al. 2005; Georg et al. 2006; Cardinal et al. 2010; Opfergelt et al. 2012; Pogge von Strandmann et al. 2014). During dissolution of primary silicate minerals, silicon partitions in about equal proportions into the dissolved phase that is isotopically enriched and into solid secondary phases that are isotopically depleted (Ziegler et al. 2005a, b; Georg et al. 2007). Oelze et al. (2014) demonstrated that preferential adsorption of ^{28}Si on Al-hydroxides may be the cause for the light isotope signature of clay minerals.

Soil-clay mineral formation is, thus, responsible for high $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ values of continental surface waters and ocean water. For the Yangtze river, Ding et al. (2004) measured a $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ range from 0.7 to 3.4 ‰, whereas the suspended matter has a more constant composition from 0 to -0.7 ‰. For the Congo, Cardinal et al. (2010) measured low $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ values close to zero ‰ for small tributaries rich in organic carbon (“black water”) and high $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ values close to 1 ‰ in large tributaries.

Georg et al. (2009) presented $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ values of dissolved Si in groundwaters. Of special interest is the observation that $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ decreases by about 2 ‰ along the groundwater flow path of 100 km deciphering complex Si-cycling, weathering and diagenetic reactions. Thus weathering processes can be regarded as one of the main fractionation mechanism separating silicon isotopes into an isotopically heavy dissolved phase and an isotopically light residue.

2.8.4 Fractionations in Ocean Water

Silicic acid is an important nutrient in the ocean that is required for the growth of mainly diatoms and radiolaria. Silicon incorporation into siliceous organisms is associated with Si isotope fractionation, because ^{28}Si is preferentially removed as the organisms form biogenic silica (de la Rocha et al. 1998, 2003, 2006; Reynolds et al. 2006; Hendry et al. 2010; Egan et al. 2012).

De la Rocha et al. (1997, 1998) observed a 1 ‰ fractionation between dissolved and biogenic silica during opal formation by marine diatoms that does not vary with temperature, at least not among the three species of diatoms investigated by de la Rocha. Varela et al. (2004) observed depletions in ^{30}Si between 1.1 and 1.9 ‰ independent of temperature, pCO_2 or species. Recent culture experiments on polar diatom species by Sutton et al. (2013), however, yielded species dependent

fractionation with silicon isotope values from -0.5 to -2.1 ‰. An increase in opal formation by diatoms results in more positive $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ -values, whereas a decrease results in more negative δ -values. In this manner variations in ^{30}Si contents of diatoms may provide information on changes of oceanic silicon cycling (De la Rocha et al. 1998).

In early studies it was assumed that dissolution of diatoms—the majority of biogenic silica produced in surface water dissolves before the particles have reached the ocean floor—does not fractionate Si isotopes. However, as shown by Demarest et al. (2009) dissolved silicon is ca 0.55 ‰ depleted in ^{30}Si relative to biogenic SiO_2 . Thus dissolution acts in the opposite sense to production and reduces the net silicon fractionation considerably.

Diatoms as surface dwellers give a surface water signal only. Sponges, however, can be found throughout the water column. The $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ of sponges is thus a potential proxy to quantify changes in oceanic Si concentrations (Hendry et al. 2010; Wille et al. 2010). As shown by these authors ^{30}Si fractionations during biosilification of sponges depends on silica concentrations in sea water with larger ^{30}Si depletions as silica concentrations increase. Thus, $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ values of fossil silicified sponges may be used as a proxy for the reconstruction of palaeo Si-concentrations during the past (Hendry et al. 2010; Wille et al. 2010).

2.8.5 Plants

Silicon is an important element for vascular plants favouring growth. Silicon is taken up by terrestrial plants from soil solution, transported into the xylem and deposited as hydrated amorphous silica to form phytoliths that are restored to the soil by decomposition of plant material. Already Douthitt (1982) noted that Si uptake by plants leads to Si isotope fractionation. Plants preferentially incorporate the light Si isotopes; Si concentrations and $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ -values increase from soil and roots through the stem and leaves. $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ values range from 1.3 to 6.1 ‰ (Ding et al. 2005, 2008) with large interplant fractionations of 3.5 ‰ between low values in roots and high values in leaves and corn.

2.9 Sulfur

Sulfur has four stable isotopes with the following abundances (De Laeter et al. 2003).

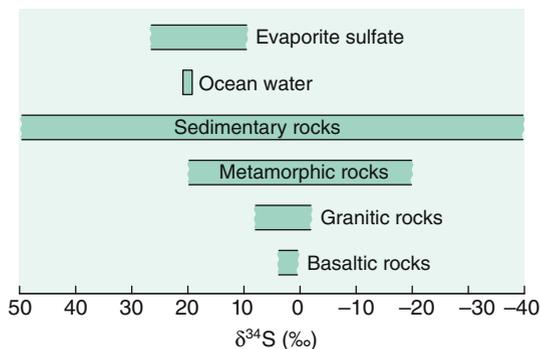
^{32}S : 95.04 ‰

^{33}S : 0.75 ‰

^{34}S : 4.20 ‰

^{36}S : 0.01 ‰

Fig. 2.21 $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of important geological reservoirs (Fig. 2.20, 6th edition, p. 72)



Sulfur is present in nearly all natural environments. It may be a major component in ore deposits, where sulfur is the dominant nonmetal, and as sulfates in evaporites. It occurs as a minor component in igneous and metamorphic rocks, throughout the biosphere in organic substances, in marine waters and sediments as both sulfide and sulfate. These occurrences cover the whole temperature range of geological interest. Thus, it is quite clear that sulfur is of special interest in stable isotope geochemistry.

Thode et al. (1949) and Trofimov (1949) were the first to observe wide variations in the abundances of sulfur isotopes. Variations on the order of 180 ‰ have been documented with the “heaviest” sulfates having $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of greater than +120 ‰ (Hoefs, unpublished results), and the “lightest” sulfides having $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of around -65 ‰. Some of the naturally occurring S-isotope variations are summarized in Fig. 2.21. Reviews of the isotope geochemistry of sulfur have been published by Rye and Ohmoto (1974), Nielsen (1979), Ohmoto and Rye (1979), Ohmoto (1986), Ohmoto and Goldhaber (1997), Seal et al. (2000), Canfield (2001a) and Seal (2006).

For many years the reference standard commonly referred to is sulfur from troilite of the Canyon Diablo iron meteorite (CDT). As Beaudoin et al. (1994) have pointed out, the original CDT is not homogeneous and may display variations in ^{34}S up to 0.4 ‰. Therefore a new reference scale, Vienna-CDT (V-CDT) has been introduced by an advisory committee of IAEA in 1993, recommending an artificially prepared Ag_2S (IAEA-S-1) with a $\delta^{34}\text{S}_{\text{VCDT}}$ of -0.3 ‰ as the new international standard reference material.

2.9.1 Methods

The gas conventionally used for gas-source mass-spectrometric measurement is SO_2 . The introduction of on-line combustion methods (Gieseemann et al. 1994) has reduced multistep off-line preparations to one single preparation step, namely the combustion in an elemental analyzer. Sample preparations have become less

dependent on possibly fractionating wet-chemical extraction steps and less time-consuming, thereby reducing minimum sample gas to less than 1 mg.

Puchelt et al. (1971) and Rees (1978) first described a method using SF₆ instead of SO₂ which has some distinct advantages: it has no mass spectrometer memory effect and because fluorine is monoisotopic, no corrections of the raw data of measured isotope ratios are necessary. Comparison of δ³⁴S-values obtained using the conventional SO₂ and the laser SF₆ technique has raised serious questions about the reliability of the SO₂ correction for oxygen isobaric interferences (Beaudoin and Taylor 1994). Therefore the SF₆ technique has been revitalized (Hu et al. 2003), demonstrating that SF₆ is an ideal gas for measuring ³³S/³²S, ³⁴S/³²S and ³⁶S/³²S ratios.

Microanalytical techniques such as laser microprobe (Kelley and Fallick 1990; Crowe et al. 1990; Hu et al. 2003; Ono et al. 2006) and ion microprobe (Chaussidon et al. 1987, 1989; Eldridge et al. 1988, 1993; Kozdon et al. 2010) have become promising tools for determining sulfur isotope ratios.

More recently the use of MC-ICP-MS techniques has been described by Craddock et al. (2008) and Paris et al. (2013). Amrani et al. (2009) developed a MC-ICP-MS method for the analysis of individual sulfur organic compounds. Due to low detection limits, sample sizes are orders of magnitude smaller than for SO₂ and SF₆. MC-ICP-MS requires no chemical pretreatment and allows for simultaneous collection of the individual 4 sulfur isotopes.

2.9.2 Fractionation Mechanisms

Two types of fractionation mechanisms are responsible for the naturally occurring sulfur isotope variations:

- (a) Kinetic isotope effects during microbial processes. Micro-organisms have long been known to fractionate isotopes during their sulfur metabolism, particularly during dissimilatory sulfate reduction, which produces the largest fractionations in the sulfur cycle,
- (b) Various chemical exchange reactions between both sulfate and sulfides and the different sulfides themselves.

2.9.2.1 Equilibrium Reactions

There have been a number of theoretical and experimental determinations of sulfur isotope fractionations between coexisting sulfide phases as a function of temperature. Theoretical studies of fractionations among sulfides have been undertaken by Sakai (1968) and Bachinski (1969), who reported reduced partition function ratios and bond strengths of sulfide minerals and described the relationship of these parameters to isotope fractionation. In a manner similar to that for oxygen in silicates, there is a relative ordering of ³⁴S-enrichment among coexisting sulfide minerals (Table 2.9). Considering the three most common sulfides (pyrite,

Table 2.9 Equilibrium isotope fractionation factors of sulfides with respect to H₂S

Mineral	Chemical composition	A
Pyrite	FeS ₂	0.40
Sphalerite	ZnS	0.10
Pyrrhotite	FeS	0.10
Chalcopyrite	CuFeS ₂	-0.05
Covellite	CuS	-0.40
Galena	PbS	-0.63
Chalcosite	Cu ₂ S	-0.75
Argentite	Ag ₂ S	-0.80

The temperature dependence is given by A/T^2 (after Ohmoto and Rye 1979)

sphalerite and galena) under conditions of isotope equilibrium, pyrite is always the most ³⁴S enriched mineral and galena the most ³⁴S depleted, sphalerite displays an intermediate enrichment in ³⁴S.

The experimental determinations of sulfur isotope fractionations between various sulfides do not exhibit good agreement. The most suitable mineral pair for temperature determination is the sphalerite—galena pair. Rye (1974) has argued that the Czamanske and Rye (1974) fractionation curve gives the best agreement with filling temperatures of fluid inclusions over the temperature range from 370 to 125 °C. By contrast, pyrite—galena pairs do not appear to be suitable for a temperature determination, because pyrite tends to precipitate over larger intervals of ore deposition than galena, implying that these two minerals may frequently not be contemporaneous. The equilibrium isotope fractionations for other sulfide pairs are generally so small that they are not useful as geothermometers. Ohmoto and Rye (1979) critically examined the available experimental data and presented a summary of what they believe to be the best S-isotope fractionation data. These S-isotope fractionations relative to H₂S are shown in Fig. 2.22.

Sulfur isotope temperatures from ore deposits often have been controversial; one of the reasons are strong ³⁴S zonations in sulfide minerals that have been observed by laser probe and ion probe measurements (McKibben and Riciputi 1998).

2.9.2.2 Dissimilatory Sulfate Reduction

Dissimilatory sulfate reduction is conducted by a large group of organisms (over 100 species are known so far, Canfield 2001a), that gain energy for their growth by reducing sulfate while oxidizing organic carbon (or H₂). Sulfate reducers are widely distributed in anoxic environments. They can tolerate temperatures from -1.5 to over 100 °C and salinities from fresh water to brines.

Since the early work with living cultures (Harrison and Thode 1957a, b; Kaplan and Rittenberg 1964) it is well known that sulfate reducing bacteria produce ³²S-depleted sulfide. Despite decades of intense research the factors that determine the magnitude of sulfur isotope fractionation during bacterial sulfate reduction are

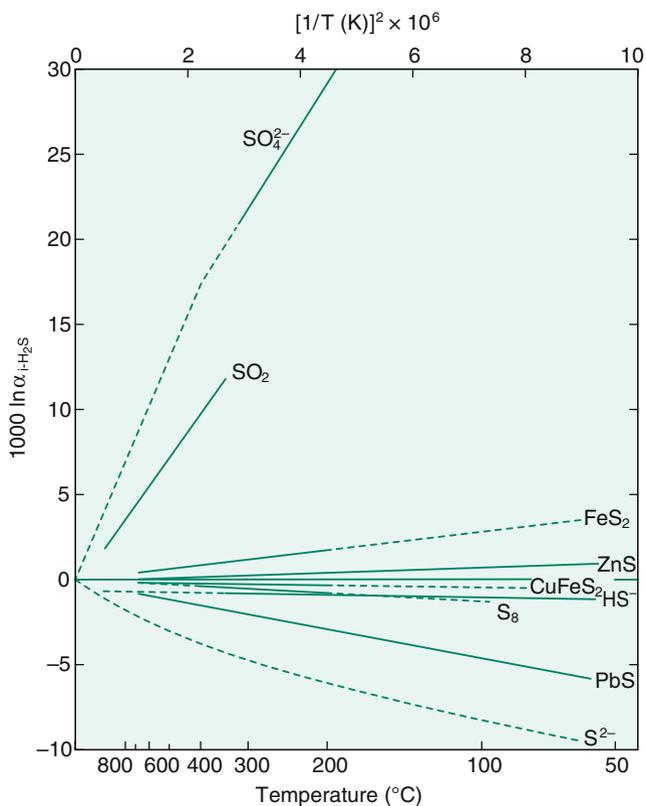


Fig. 2.22 Equilibrium fractionations among sulfur compounds relative to H_2S (solid lines experimentally determined, dashed lines extrapolated or theoretically calculated (after Ohmoto and Rye 1979) (Fig. 2.22, 6th edition, p. 78)

still under debate. The magnitude of isotope fractionation depends on the rate of sulfate reduction with the highest fractionation at low rates and the lowest fractionation at high rates. Kaplan and Rittenberg (1964) and Habicht and Canfield (1997) suggested that fractionations depend on the specific rate ($\text{cell}^{-1} \text{time}^{-1}$) and not so much on absolute rates ($\text{volume}^{-1} \text{time}^{-1}$). What is clear, however, is that the rates of sulfate reduction are controlled by the availability of dissolved organic compounds. One parameter which remains unclear is sulfate concentration. While for instance Boudreau and Westrich (1984) argued that the concentration of sulfate becomes important at rather low concentrations (less than 15 % of the seawater value), Canfield (2001b) observed no influence of isotope fractionations on sulfate concentrations for natural populations. Another parameter, that has been assumed to be important is temperature insofar as it regulates in natural populations the sulfate-reducing community (Kaplan and Rittenberg 1964; Brüchert et al. 2001). Furthermore differences in fractionation with temperature relate to differences in the

specific temperature response to internal enzyme kinetics as well as cellular properties and corresponding exchange rates of sulfate in and out of the cell of mesophilic sulfate reducing bacteria. Considering different types (including thermophilic) of sulfate-reducers, Canfield et al. (2006), however, found in contrast to earlier belief high fractionations in the low and high temperature range, but lowest fractionations in the intermediate temperature range.

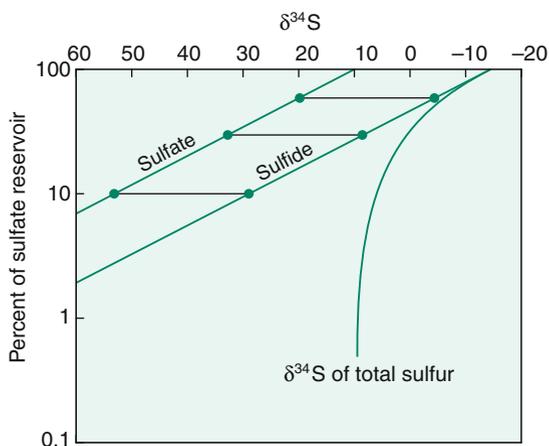
The reaction chain during anaerobic sulfate reduction has been described in detail by Goldhaber and Kaplan (1974). In general, the rate-limiting step is the breaking of the first S–O bond, namely the reduction of sulfate to sulfite. Early laboratory studies with pure cultures of mesophilic sulfate reducing bacteria produced sulfide depleted in ^{34}S by 4 up to 47 ‰ (Harrison and Thode 1957a, b; Kaplan and Rittenberg 1964; Kemp and Thode 1968; McCready et al. 1974; McCready 1975; Bolliger et al. 2001) and for decades this maximum value was considered to be a possible limit for the microbial dissimilatory process (e.g. Canfield and Teske 1996). More recently, sulfur isotope fractionations have been determined from incubations with sediments containing natural populations covering a wide spectrum of environments (from rapidly metabolizing microbial mats to slowly metabolizing coastal sediments; Habicht and Canfield 1997, 2001; Canfield 2001a). Sim et al. (2011) found that the type of organic electron donor is essential in controlling the magnitude of sulfur isotope fractionations of pure culture sulfate reducing bacteria, with complex substrates leading to sulfur isotope discrimination exceeding 47 ‰.

Naturally occurring sulfides in sediments and euxinic waters are commonly depleted in ^{34}S by up to 70 ‰ (Jørgensen et al. 2004), covering the range of experiments with sulfate reducing bacteria (Sim et al. 2011). Recent studies have demonstrated that natural populations are able to fractionate S-isotopes by up to more than 70 ‰ under *in situ* conditions (Wortmann et al. 2001; Rudnicki et al. 2001; Canfield et al. 2010).

In marine sediments typically 90 % of the sulfide produced during sulfate reduction is reoxidized (Canfield and Teske 1996). The pathways of sulfide oxidation are poorly known, but include biological and abiological oxidation to sulfate, elemental sulfur and other intermediate compounds (Fry et al. 1988). Reoxidation of sulfide often occurs via compounds in which sulfur has intermediate oxidation states (sulfite, thiosulfate, elemental sulfur, polythionates) that do not accumulate, but are readily transformed and can be anaerobically disproportionated by bacteria. Therefore, Canfield and Thamdrup (1994) suggested that through a repeated cycle of sulfide oxidation to sulfur intermediates like elemental sulfur and subsequent disproportionation, bacteria can additionally generate ^{34}S depletions that may add on the isotopic composition of marine sulfides.

Another factor that is of great importance for the preserved sulfur isotope signatures of natural sulfides is whether sulfate reduction took place in a system open or closed with respect to dissolved sulfate. An “open” system has an infinite reservoir of sulfate in which continuous removal from the source produces no detectable loss of material. Typical examples are the Black Sea and local oceanic deeps. In such cases, H_2S is extremely depleted in ^{34}S while consumption and

Fig. 2.23 Rayleigh plot for sulfur isotope fractionations during reduction of sulfate in a closed system. Assumed fractionation factor 1.025, assumed composition of initial sulfate: +10 ‰) (Fig. 2.21, 6th edition, p. 75)



change in ^{34}S remain negligible for the sulfate (Neretin et al. 2003). In a “closed” system, the preferential loss of the lighter isotope from the reservoir has a feedback on the isotopic composition of the unreacted source material. The changes in the ^{34}S -content of residual sulfate and of the H_2S are modeled in Fig. 2.23, which shows that $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of the residual sulfate steadily increase with sulfate consumption (a linear relationship on the log-normal plot). The curve for the derivative H_2S is parallel to the sulfate curve at a distance which depends on the magnitude of the fractionation factor. As shown in Fig. 2.23, H_2S may become isotopically heavier than the original sulfate when about 2/3 of the reservoir has been consumed. The $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -curve for “total” sulfide asymptotically approaches the initial value of the original sulfate. It should be noted, however, that apparent “closed-system” behavior of covarying sulfate and sulfide $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values might be also explained by “open-system” differential diffusion of the different sulfur isotope species (Jørgensen et al. 2004).

Finally it should be mentioned that sulfate is labeled with two biogeochemical isotope systems, sulfur and oxygen. Coupled isotope fractionations of both sulfur and oxygen isotopes have been investigated in experiments (Mizutani and Rafter 1973; Böttcher et al. 2001) and in naturally occurring sediments and aquifers (Fritz et al. 1989; Böttcher et al. 1989; Ku et al. 1999; Aharon and Fu 2000; Wortmann et al. 2001). Böttcher et al. (1998) and Brunner et al. (2005) argued that a characteristic $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ - $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ fractionation slope does not exist, but that the isotope covariations depend on cell-specific sulfate reduction rates and associated oxygen isotope exchange rates with cellular water. Despite the extremely slow oxygen isotope exchange of sulfate with ambient water, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in sulfate obviously depend on the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of water via an exchange of sulfite with water. Böttcher et al. (1998) and Antler et al. (2013) demonstrated how the fractionation slopes depend on the net sulfate reduction rate: higher rates result in a lower slope meaning that sulfur

isotopes increase faster relative to oxygen isotopes. The critical parameter for the evolution of oxygen and sulfur isotopes in sulfate is the relative difference in rates of sulfate reduction and of intracellular sulfite oxidation.

Recently, Bao (2015) has discussed the triple oxygen isotope composition of sedimentary sulfates, demonstrating that sulfate carries direct signals of ancient atmospheric O₂ and O₃.

2.9.2.3 Thermochemical Reduction of Sulfate

In contrast to bacterial reduction, thermochemical sulfate reduction is an abiotic process with sulfate being reduced to sulfide under the influence of heat rather than bacteria (Trudinger et al. 1985; Krouse et al. 1988). The crucial question, which has been the subject of a controversial debate, is whether thermochemical sulfate reduction can proceed at temperatures as low as about 100 °C, just above the limit of microbiological reduction (Trudinger et al. 1985). There is increasing evidence from natural occurrences that the reduction of aqueous sulfates by organic compounds can occur at temperatures as low as 100 °C, given enough time for the reduction to proceed (Krouse et al. 1988; Machel et al. 1995). S isotope fractionations during thermochemical reduction generally should be smaller than during bacterial sulfate reduction, although experiments by Kiyosu and Krouse (1990) have indicated S-isotope fractionations of 10–20 ‰ in the temperature range of 200–100 °C.

To summarize, bacterial sulfate reduction is characterized by large and heterogeneous ³⁴S-depletions over very small spatial scales, whereas thermogenic sulfate reduction leads to smaller and “more homogeneous” ³⁴S-depletions.

2.9.3 Quadruple Sulfur Isotopes

With respect to quadruple S isotope investigations, a distinction has to be made between large mass-independent S isotope fractionations observed in Archean sulfides and sulfates (Farquhar et al. 2000 and following papers) and much smaller mass-dependent S fractionations being characteristic for biosynthetic pathways. (Farquhar et al. 2003; Johnston 2011; Johnston et al. 2005; Ono et al. 2006, 2007). For long it was thought $\delta^{33}\text{S}$ and $\delta^{36}\text{S}$ values carry no additional information, because sulfur isotope fractionations follow strictly mass-dependent fractionation laws. By studying all sulfur isotopes with very high precision, it was demonstrated that bacterial sulfate reduction follows a mass-dependent relationship that is slightly different from that expected by equilibrium fractionations. On plots $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ versus $\delta^{34}\text{S}$, mixing of two sulfur reservoirs is non-linear in these coordinates (Young et al. 2002). As a result samples with the same $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -value can have different $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ and $\Delta^{36}\text{S}$ values. This opens the possibility to distinguish between different fractionation mechanisms and biosynthetic pathways, even when $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ fractionations are identical (Ono et al. 2006, 2007). Bacterial sulfate reduction shows slightly different fractionation relationships compared to sulfur disproportionation reactions. For

instance, multiple S-isotope measurements of 1.8 Ga sulfates indicate the earliest initiation of microbial S disproportionation (Johnston et al. 2005). In another example, Canfield et al. (2010) demonstrated that S-isotope systematics in an euxinic lake in Switzerland clearly favour microbial reduction as the only reduction pathway. Thus multiple sulfur isotope analyses have great potential in identifying the presence or absence of specific metabolisms in modern environment or may represent a proxy when a particular sulfur metabolism develops in the geologic record.

Large independent S isotope fractionations observed in Archean sulfides and sulfates are a distinctive feature of sedimentary rocks older than 2.4 Ga. It is generally agreed that they indicate the near absence of O_2 and the presence of a reducing gas (likely CH_4 and/or H_2) in the Archean atmosphere. The geologic record of $\Delta^{33}S$ is shown in Fig. 2.24, which is characterized by time dependent magnitudes and signs of MIF-S indicating a temporal structure: ≤ 4 ‰ $\Delta^{33}S$ anomalies in early Archean sulfides, even smaller variations in the mid Archean and very large (≈ 12 ‰) variations in late Archean (see Fig. 2.24). The record of large magnitude $\Delta^{33}S$ values for sulfides terminates abruptly at approximately 2.4 Ga. Besides $\Delta^{33}S$, $\Delta^{36}S$ records also have received a great deal of attention, demonstrating that $\Delta^{36}S$ is preferentially negative down to values lower than -8 ‰.

Experiments that have verified the large $\Delta^{33}S$ and $\Delta^{36}S$ values in the Archean geologic record involve gaseous SO_2 (Farquhar et al. 2000; Claire et al. 2014). The specific chemical reaction that produced the effect observed in Archean samples is unknown, but gas phase reactions involving SO_2 are likely candidates. Farquhar and Wing (2003) and others demonstrated that photolysis of atmospheric SO_2 produces mass-independent S isotope fractionations, if atmospheric O_2 concentrations are very

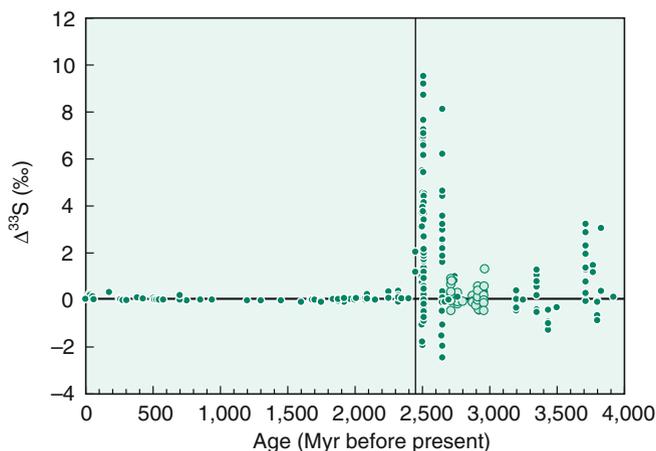


Fig. 2.24 Compilation of $\Delta^{33}S$ versus age for rock samples. Note large $\Delta^{33}S$ before 2.45 Ga, indicated by vertical line, small but measurable $\Delta^{33}S$ after 2.45 Ga (Farquhar et al. 2007) (Fig. 3.29, 6th edition, p. 167)

low. The majority of $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ and $\Delta^{36}\text{S}$ values scatter around zero, but displays greater variability when $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ and $\Delta^{36}\text{S}$ are large. Farquhar et al. (2007) and Halevy et al. (2010) attributed these variations to changes in the composition and oxidation state of volcanic sulfur gases. $\Delta^{33}\text{S}/\Delta^{36}\text{S}$ ratios in Archean samples and in products of laboratory photochemical experiments yield characteristic slopes which may be used as fingerprints (Farquhar et al. 2013).

2.10 Chlorine

Chlorine has two stable isotopes with the following abundances (Coplen et al. 2002):

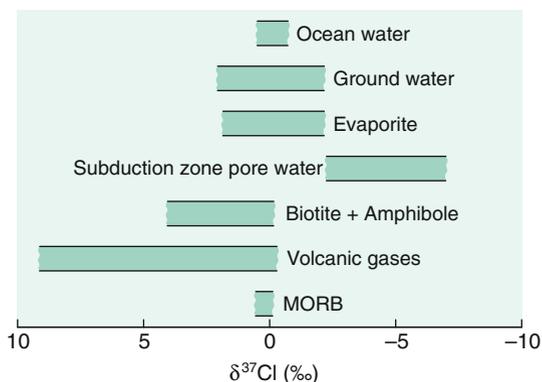
^{35}Cl	75.78 %
^{37}Cl	24.22 %

Natural isotope variations in chlorine isotope ratios might be expected due to the mass difference between ^{35}Cl and ^{37}Cl as well as to variations in coordination of chlorine in the vapor, aqueous and solid phases. Schauble et al. (2003) calculated equilibrium fractionation factors for some geochemically important species. They showed that the magnitude of fractionations systematically varies with the oxidation state of Cl, but also depends on the oxidation state of elements to which Cl is bound with larger fractionations for 2+ cations than for 1+ cations. Chlorine in silicates appears to be enriched compared to coexisting brines; organic molecules are enriched relative to dissolved Cl^- .

2.10.1 Methods

Measurements of Cl-isotope abundances have been made by different techniques. The first measurements by Hoering and Parker (1961) used gaseous chlorine in the form of HCl. The 81 samples measured exhibited no significant variations relative to the standard ocean chloride. In the early eighties a new technique has been developed by Kaufmann et al. (1984), that uses methylchloride (CH_3Cl). The chloride-containing sample is precipitated as AgCl, reacted with excess methyl iodide, and separated by gas chromatography. The total analytical precision reported is near ± 0.1 % (Long et al. 1993; Eggenkamp 1994; Sharp et al. 2007). The technique requires relatively large quantities of chlorine (>1 mg), which precludes the analysis of materials with low chlorine concentrations. Magenheim et al. (1994) described a method involving the thermal ionization of Cs_2Cl^+ , which, as argued by Sharp et al. (2007), is very sensitive to analytical artefacts and therefore might lead to erroneous results. In any case both methods are laborintensive and rely on offline chemical conversion reactions. Recent attempts use continuous flow mass-spectrometry (Shouakar-Stash et al. 2005) or use MC-ICPMS techniques (Van Acker et al. 2006).

Fig. 2.25 $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ values of important geological reservoirs



δ -values are generally given relative to seawater chloride termed SMOC (Standard Mean Ocean Chloride). Knowledge about chlorine isotope geochemistry has been summarized in a recent book by Eggenkamp (2014). A summary of the observed natural chlorine isotope variations is presented in Fig. 2.25. Ransom et al. (1995) gave a natural variation range in chlorine isotope composition of about 15 ‰ with subduction zone pore waters having $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ values as low as -8 ‰ whereas minerals in which Cl substitutes OH have $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ values as high as 7 ‰.

2.10.2 Hydrosphere

Chloride (Cl^-) is the major anion in surface- and mantle-derived fluids. It is the most abundant anion in ocean water and in hydrothermal solutions and is the dominant metal complexing agent in ore forming environments (Banks et al. 2000). Despite its variable occurrence, chlorine isotope variations in natural waters commonly are small and close to the chlorine isotope composition of the ocean. This is also true for chlorine from fluid inclusions in hydrothermal minerals which indicate no significant differences between different types of ore deposits such as Mississippi-Valley and Porphyry Copper type deposits (Eastoe et al. 1989; Eastoe and Gilbert 1992).

Relatively large isotopic differences have been found in slow flowing ground-water, where Cl-isotope fractionation is attributed to a diffusion process (Kaufmann et al. 1984; Desaulniers et al. 1986; Kaufmann et al. 1986). Desaulniers et al. (1986) for instance investigated a ground water system, in which chloride diffused upward from saline into fresh water deposits by demonstrating that ^{35}Cl moved about 1.2 ‰ faster than ^{37}Cl .

Cl isotope fractionations between salt minerals and brine have been determined by Eggenkamp et al. (1995), Eastoe et al. (1999, 2007). Halites are enriched by 0.3 ‰ relative to the brine, whereas potassium and magnesium chloride show more or less no fractionation relative to the brine. ^{37}Cl depletions detected in some pore waters have been attributed to processes such as ion filtration, alteration and dehydration

reactions and clay mineral formation (Long et al. 1993; Eggenkamp 1994; Eastoe et al. 2001; Hesse et al. 2006). A pronounced downward depletion of -4‰ in pore waters has been presented by Hesse et al. (2006). Even lower $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ -values have been reported in pore waters from subduction-zone environments (Ransom et al. 1995; Spivack et al. 2002). The downward depletion trend might be explained by mixing of shallow ocean water with a deep low ^{37}Cl fluid of unknown origin.

2.10.3 Mantle-Derived Rocks

Controversial results have been reported for chlorine isotopes in mantle-derived rocks. According to Magenheimer et al. (1995) $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ -values for MORB glasses show a surprisingly large range. By questioning the findings of Magenheimer et al. (1995), Sharp et al. (2007) argued that the mantle and the crust have very similar isotopic composition. A possible explanation for this apparent discrepancy might be related to analytical artifacts of the TIMS technique (Sharp et al. 2007). Bonifacie et al. (2008) also observed small Cl-isotope variations only in mantle derived rocks. They demonstrated that $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ values correlate with chlorine concentrations: Cl-poor basalts have low $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ values representing the composition of uncontaminated mantle derived magmas, whereas Cl-rich basalts are enriched in ^{37}Cl being contaminated by ocean water. In contrast to MORB, John et al. (2010) observed with the SIMS technique larger $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ variations in OIB glasses which they interpreted as being due to subducting sediments that have developed high $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ -values by expelling ^{37}Cl depleted pore fluids.

Barnes et al. (2009) have investigated the serpentinization process in the oceanic lithosphere and interpreted chlorine isotope data to reflect a record of multiple fluid events. Slightly positive $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ -values represent typical seawater-hydration conditions under low temperature conditions, negative $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ -values result from interaction with porefluids from overlying sediments.

Volcanic gases and associated hydrothermal waters have a large range in $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ -values from -2 to $+12\text{‰}$ (Barnes et al. 2006). To evaluate chlorine isotope fractionations in volcanic systems, HCl liquid-vapor experiments performed by Sharp (2006) yield large isotope fractionations of dilute HCl at 100 °C . ^{37}Cl enrichments in fumaroles seem to be due to isotope fractionations between Cl^- in aquatic solution and HCl gas.

Very interesting results have been reported by Sharp et al. (2010) on lunar basalts showing a very large range in $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ -values from -1 to $+24\text{‰}$ that have been interpreted to reflect conditions or processes on Moon that do not exist on Earth.

2.10.4 Applications in the Environment

Chlorine isotope studies have been performed to understand the environmental chemistry of anthropogenic organic compounds, such as chlorinated organic solvents or biphenyls. The primary goal of such studies is to identify and quantify

sources and biodegradation processes in the environment. To do this successfully, chlorine isotope values should differ among compounds and manufacturers and indeed the range of reported $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ -values is from about -5 to $+6$ ‰ with distinct signatures from different suppliers (van Warmerdam et al. 1995; Jendrzewski et al. 2001).

Perchlorate is another anthropogenic compound, which may contaminate surface and ground waters. The widespread occurrence of perchlorate in the environment makes it necessary to distinguish between a synthetic or a natural origin (Böhlke et al. 2005). The occurrence of natural perchlorate is limited to extremely dry environments, such as the Atacama desert. Synthetic perchlorate is produced by electrolyte oxidation reactions, whereas natural perchlorate is formed by photochemical reactions involving atmospheric ozone. Böhlke et al. (2005) showed that natural perchlorate have the lowest $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ -values on Earth, whereas synthetic perchlorate has more “normal” $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ -values. During microbial reduction of perchlorate, large kinetic isotope effects have been observed by Sturchio et al. (2003) and Ader et al. (2008), which may document in situ bioremediation.

2.11 Calcium

Calcium has six stable isotopes in the mass range of 40–48 with the following abundances (Taylor and Rosman 1998).

^{40}Ca :	96.94 %
^{42}Ca :	0.647 %
^{43}Ca :	0.135 %
^{44}Ca :	2.08 %
^{46}Ca :	0.004 %
^{48}Ca :	0.187 %

Calcium plays an essential role in biological processes such as the calcification of organisms, and the formation of bones. Its wide natural distribution and the large relative mass difference suggest a large isotope fractionation, which may be caused by mass-dependent fractionations and by radiogenic growth (radioactive decay of ^{40}K to ^{40}Ca , half life of about 1.3 Ga). Felsic Archean rocks with high K/Ca ratios, thus, should show a relative enrichment of ^{40}Ca and, indeed, as demonstrated by Caro et al. (2010), Archean K-rich, Ca-poor rocks show enlarged $^{44}\text{Ca}/^{40}\text{Ca}$ variations.

2.11.1 Analytical Techniques

Early studies on natural Ca isotope variations found no differences or ambiguous results. By using a double-spike technique and by using a mass-dependent law for

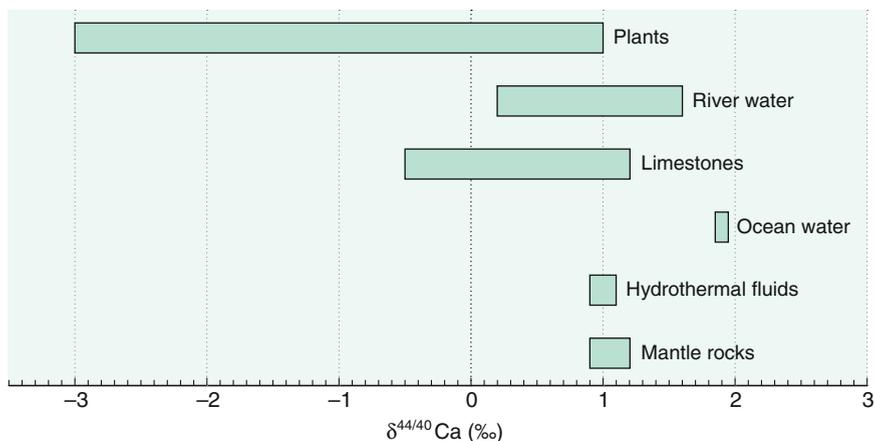


Fig. 2.26 $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ -values of important geological reservoirs

correction of instrumental mass fractionation, Russell et al. (1978) were the first to demonstrate that differences in the $^{44}\text{Ca}/^{40}\text{Ca}$ ratio are clearly resolvable to a level of 0.5 ‰. More recent investigations by Skulan et al. (1997) and by Zhu and MacDougall (1998), also using the TIMS technique, have improved the precision to about 0.1–0.15 ‰.

MC-ICP-MS techniques have been described by Halicz et al. (1999) using a “hot plasma” and by Fietzke et al. (2004) using a “cool plasma”. SIMS techniques with high spatial resolution and uncertainties of about 0.3 ‰ have been developed by Rollion-Bard et al. (2007) and Kasemann et al. (2008).

Comparing data obtained with different methods and from different laboratories, complications may arise from the use of different δ -values, either $\delta^{44/40}$ or $\delta^{44/42}$, and from the use of different standards. By initiating a laboratory exchange of internal standards, Eisenhauer et al. (2004) have suggested to use NIST SRM 915a as international standard. As the original SRM 915a is not any more available, SRM 915a has been replaced by SRM 915b which is 0.72 ‰ heavier than SRM 915a (Heuser and Eisenhauer 2008). In the following all data are given as $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ -values. As shown in reviews by DePaolo (2004), Nielsen et al. (2011a, b, c) and Fantle and Tipper (2014), the natural variation range in $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ -values is about 5 ‰. Figure 2.26 shows natural Ca-isotope variations of important geological reservoirs.

2.11.2 High Temperature Fractionations

Calcium as a lithophile element does not partition into planetary cores, therefore Ca isotopes may reveal genetic links between Earth and meteorites. According to Simon and de Paolo, (2010) and Valdes et al. (2014), Earth, Moon, Mars and differentiated asteroids are indistinguishable from ordinary chondrites, whereas

enstatite chondrites are slightly enriched in heavier Ca isotopes and carbonaceous chondrites are variably depleted in heavier Ca isotopes. Ca isotopes, thus suggest that ordinary chondrites are representative for the material that formed the terrestrial planets.

Huang et al. (2010) and Chen et al. (2014) analysed a suite of terrestrial mantle xenoliths, ocean island basalts, komatiites and carbonatites. Mantle xenoliths vary by about 0.5 ‰ indicating that the mantle is heterogeneous in Ca isotope composition. Ocean island basalts are on average 0.2 ‰ lighter than mantle xenoliths suggesting Ca isotope fractionation during partial melting. During fractional crystallization very limited Ca isotope fractionation seems to occur.

Huang et al. (2010) measured the Ca isotope composition of coexisting clinopyroxene and orthopyroxene in mantle peridotites. $\delta^{44}\text{Ca}$ -values of orthopyroxene are about 0.5 ‰ heavier than clinopyroxene. First principles calculations by Feng et al. (2014) reached very similar conclusions. Combined with data from low-temperature Ca-minerals, Huang et al. (2010) inferred that inter-mineral fractionations are controlled by Ca–O bond strengths. Thus, the Ca-mineral with a shorter Ca–O bond yields a heavier $\delta^{44}\text{Ca}$ -value. Furthermore, these authors estimated that the upper mantle has an average Ca isotope composition slightly higher than the average for basalts. In Hawaiian tholeiites, Huang et al. (2011) observed a 0.3 ‰ variation in $^{44}\text{Ca}/^{40}\text{Ca}$ ratios, which they attributed to recycling of carbonates into the mantle. Besides inter-mineral equilibrium fractionations, high temperature diffusion processes may also affect Ca-isotope fractionations (Richter et al. 2003).

2.11.3 Weathering

Chemical weathering of silicates controls long-term atmospheric CO_2 concentrations coupling the cycles of carbon and calcium. Dissolution of silicates and carbonates does not strongly fractionate Ca isotopes (Fantle and Tipper 2014). Ca ions released during dissolution may be taken up by vegetation, may precipitate as secondary minerals or can be absorbed by clays, oxyhydroxides and humic acids. As shown by Ockert et al. (2013), the absorption of Ca^{2+} on clay minerals favors light Ca isotopes over heavy ones. The largest Ca isotope fractionation in the weathering environment, however, is the uptake by plants.

Ca isotope analysis of rivers represents another approach to identify weathering processes (Tipper et al. 2008, 2010; Fantle and Tipper 2014). From an extensive data compilation, Fantle and Tipper (2014) concluded that the average Ca isotope value of carbonates is 0.60 ‰, whereas average river water has a value of 0.88 ‰ and silicates a value of 0.94 ‰. Since most of the Ca in river water originates from the the dissolution of carbonates and not from silicates, the Ca isotope difference between carbonates and rivers remain unexplained.

2.11.4 Fractionations During Carbonate Precipitation

Calcium carbonates that precipitate from aqueous solutions do not form at isotope equilibrium (DePaolo 2011). Marine carbonates are isotopically depleted in ^{44}Ca relative to seawater (Skulan et al. 1997; Zhu and MacDougall 1998). Experiments on inorganic precipitation of calcite and aragonite (Marriott et al. 2004; Gussone et al. 2003) have demonstrated that Ca isotope fractionation correlates with temperature with an offset of aragonite of about -0.5‰ relative to calcite. During biogenic precipitation, the Ca isotope composition of shells depend on the chemistry of the solution, in which the organisms live and on the process by which Ca is precipitated (Griffith et al. 2008a, b, c). Calcification processes differ among different types of organisms: foraminifera precipitate carbonate in vacuoles from pH-modified seawater, corals pump seawater through various tissues to the site of precipitation. Each step in these processes may cause differences in Ca isotope fractionation.

The magnitude of Ca isotope fractionation during biogenic carbonate precipitation as well as the mechanism—either isotope equilibrium or kinetic effects—remain a matter of debate. Studies by Nägler et al. (2000), Gussone et al. (2005) and Hippler et al. (2006) reported temperature dependent Ca isotope fractionations precipitated in natural environments or under cultured laboratory conditions with a slope of about $0.02\text{‰}/^{\circ}\text{C}$. Temperature dependent fractionations, however, have not been found in all shell secreting organisms (Lemarchand et al. 2004; Sime et al. 2005). Sime et al. (2005) analyzed 12 species of foraminifera and found negligible temperature dependence for all 12 species. These contradictory results indicate a complex physiological control on Ca uptake by calcifying organisms (Eisenhauer et al. 2009).

In the case of dolomite, Holmden (2009) observed a 0.6‰ difference between dolomite and its precursor limestone. Gypsum also preferentially incorporates light Ca compared to dissolved Ca (Harouaka et al. 2014).

2.11.5 Variations with Geologic Time

Zhu and MacDougall (1998) have made the first attempt to investigate the global Ca cycle. They found a homogeneous isotope composition of the ocean, but distinct isotope differences of the sources and sinks and suggested that the ocean is not in steady state. The marine Ca-cycle is characterized by inputs from hydrothermal fluids at oceanic ridge systems and from dissolved Ca delivered by continental weathering and by output through CaCO_3 precipitation, the latter causing the main Ca isotope fractionation. Dissolution of silicate and carbonate rocks during weathering does not strongly fractionate Ca isotopes (Hindshaw et al. 2011). Ca dissolved in rivers shows a very narrow range in Ca isotope composition that is close to the average Ca isotope composition of limestones (Tipper et al. 2010). Hydrothermal solutions to the ocean at ocean ridges are about 1‰ depleted in $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ values relative to seawater (Amini et al. 2008).

Since the first study of Zhu and MacDougall (1998), several studies have investigated secular changes in the Ca isotope composition of the ocean: De La Rocha and de Paolo (2000b), Fantle and de Paolo (2005) and Fantle (2010) for the Neogene, Steuber and Buhl (2006) for the Cretaceous; Farkas et al. (2007) for the late Mesozoic; and Kasemann et al. (2005a, b) for the Neoproterozoic. Model simulations of the Ca cycle by Farkas et al. (2007) indicated that the observed Ca isotope variations can be produced by variable Ca input fluxes to the oceans. Maximum measured temporal variations in selected age periods are around 1 ‰ in $^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ isotope ratios (see also p. 268 about ocean water history).

High resolution records with 0.3 ‰ excursions for the Permian-Triassic boundary from southern China have been reported by Payne et al. (2010) and by Hinojosa et al. (2012). Shifts in isotope composition could be due to changes in mineralogy (i.e. calcite/aragonite) or to a change in ocean pH-values. By comparing $\delta^{44}\text{Ca}$ -values of conodont apatite with coexisting carbonates, Hinojosa et al. (2012) found a comparable shift in apatite, which argues against a shift in mineralogy, but favors an episode of ocean acidification.

In this context, it is interesting to note, that Griffith et al. (2008a, b, c, 2011) proposed that pelagic barite, containing about 400 ppm Ca, might be an additional recorder of Ca seawater isotope composition through time showing an offset of about 2 ‰ from seawater.

2.11.6 Ca in Plants, Animals and Humans

Vegetation shows the widest range in Ca isotope values, which is larger than variations caused by carbonate precipitation. Studies on higher plants by Page et al. (2008), Wiegand et al. (2005) and Holmden and Belanger (2010) demonstrated systematic Ca isotope fractionations between roots, stemwood and leaves: fine roots yield the lowest $\delta^{44}\text{Ca}$ -values, stemwood are intermediate and leaves have the highest δ -values. Overall variation in ^{44}Ca values from bottom to top in trees is about 0.8 ‰ (Cenki-Tok et al. 2009; Holmden and Belanger 2010). The magnitude of Ca isotope fractionation depends on species and on season (Hindshaw et al. 2013). The preferential uptake of light Ca-isotopes into plants results in an enrichment of Ca in soil solutions. Thus vegetation controls the Ca isotope composition of soil pools (Cenki-Tok et al. 2009).

Experiments under controlled plant growth conditions allow the identification of 3 different Ca isotope fractionation steps (Cobert et al. 2011; Schmitt et al. 2013): (i) preferential ^{40}Ca uptake in the roots, (ii) preferential adsorption of ^{40}Ca on the cell walls during transfer from the roots to the leaves, (iii) additional ^{40}Ca fractionation in the storage organs, which seems to be controlled by the physiology of the plant.

Ca isotope measurements of diet, soft tissues and bone show that bone is considerably lighter than soft tissue and diet. As much as 4 ‰ variation in $^{44}\text{Ca}/^{40}\text{Ca}$ ratios is observed in single organisms (Skulan and DePaolo 1999). Ca isotopes of

bone apatite in animals suggest that Ca isotope composition gets increasingly light as trophic levels increases. Reynard et al. (2010) reported Ca isotope data of modern and archaeological animal and human bones. Sheep at the same location show higher Ca isotope ratios in females than in males which is attributed to lactation by females. Reynard et al. (2010) further demonstrated that human bones are lighter than the local fauna.

2.12 Vanadium

Vanadium has two stable isotopes

^{50}V	0.24 %
^{51}V	99.76 %

Since vanadium exists in four valence states (2^+ , 3^+ , 4^+ , 5^+), it is highly sensitive to reduction-oxidation reactions potentially inducing isotope fractionations.

Nielsen et al. (2011a, b, c) and Prytulak et al. (2011) described a precise MC-ICP-MS technique and reported a $\delta^{51}\text{V}$ isotope variation of 1.2 ‰ for various reference samples. Nielsen et al. (2014) demonstrated that V in the silicate earth is 0.8 ‰ enriched relative to carbonaceous and ordinary chondrites. Although the cause for the enrichment is unknown, Nielsen et al. (2014) postulated that bulk Earth cannot be entirely reconstructed by mixing chondritic meteorites in various proportions. Prytulak et al. (2013) observed a 1 ‰ variation in mafic and ultramafic rocks. Secondary alteration reactions do not appear to induce V isotope fractionations, therefore, V isotopes have the potential to indicate the oxidation state of ancient mantle.

V is enriched in organic matter, especially in crude oils. The analysis of V isotopes in crude oils potentially should be an interesting tool for petroleum geologists. Future vanadium isotope studies certainly will give a more detailed picture of V isotope fractionations.

2.13 Chromium

Chromium has 4 stable isotopes with the following abundances (Rosman and Taylor 1998)

^{50}Cr	4.35 %
^{52}Cr	83.79 %
^{53}Cr	9.50 %
^{54}Cr	2.36 %

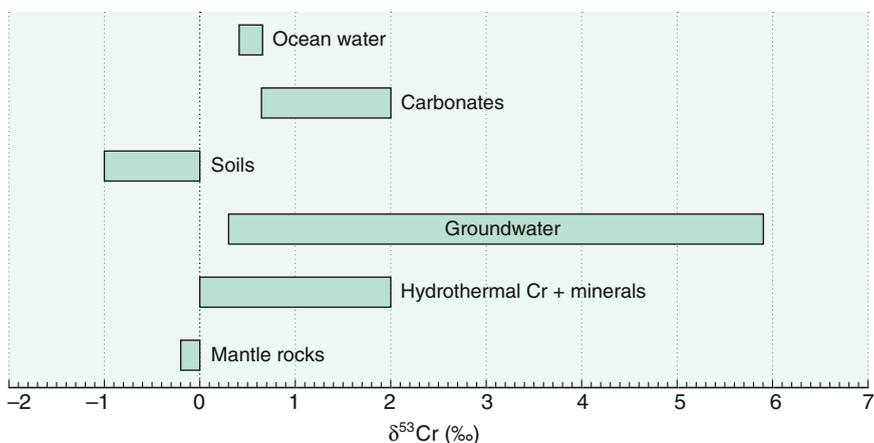


Fig. 2.27 $\delta^{53}\text{Cr}$ -values of important geological reservoirs

Chromium exists in two oxidation states, Cr(III) as a cation Cr^{3+} , and Cr(VI), as an oxyanion (CrO_4^{2-} or HCrO_4^-) having different chemical behaviors: Cr^{3+} is the dominant form in most minerals and in water under reducing conditions, whereas Cr(VI) is stable under oxidizing conditions. Cr(VI) in chromate is highly soluble, mobile and toxic, whereas trivalent chromium, existing as a cation, is largely insoluble and immobile. These properties make Cr isotope investigations very suitable to detect and quantify redox changes in different geochemical reservoirs.

Equilibrium isotope fractionations between Cr(VI) and Cr(III) have been estimated by Schauble et al. (2004), who predicted Cr isotope fractionations $>1\%$ between Cr species with different oxidation states. At 0°C , Cr isotope fractionations between CrO_4^{2-} and $\text{Cr}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{3+}$ complexes have been calculated to be 7% with chromate being enriched in ^{53}Cr . However, since isotope equilibration between Cr(VI) and Cr(III) species at low temperatures is slow (Zink et al. 2010), it appears that isotope disequilibrium between Cr-species is common and, therefore, natural Cr isotope fractionations probably are kinetically controlled. Cr isotope variations are measured generally with MC-ICP-MS techniques (Halicz et al. 2008a, b; Schoenberg et al. 2008), $\delta^{53/52}\text{Cr}$ -values are given relative to the NIST SRM 979 standard. Figure 2.27 summarizes average Cr-isotope compositions in important reservoirs.

2.13.1 Mantle Rocks

Mantle xenoliths and ultramafic cumulates have, as first shown by Schoenberg et al. (2008), a $\delta^{53}\text{Cr}$ -value of -0.12% relative to the certified Cr standard NIST SRM 979 being 0.4% heavier than various chondritic meteorites (Moynier et al. 2011). The enrichment of the Earth relative to meteorites may be explained by preferential

partitioning of light Cr isotopes into the Earth's core, leaving the mantle enriched in ^{53}Cr . For mantle derived chromites, Farkas et al. (2013) observed a mean $\delta^{53}\text{Cr}$ -value of 0.08 ‰, slightly heavier than for mantle xenoliths possibly suggesting slight Cr fractionations during partial melting. Hydrothermal chromates (crocoites) are considerably enriched with ^{53}Cr contents of up to 2 ‰. During serpentinization of ultramafic rocks, ^{53}Cr will become enriched (Farkas et al. 2013). Thus, oxidative secondary aqueous alteration of ultramafic rocks shifts the primary mantle composition towards heavier ^{53}Cr -values.

2.13.2 Low-Temperature Fractionations

During weathering, oxidation of Cr(III) leads to a ^{53}Cr enrichment in the resulting Cr(VI), leaving soils depleted in ^{53}Cr . Thus, river and ocean water is enriched in heavy Cr-isotopes relative to mantle and crustal rocks indicating Cr isotope fractionation during weathering and transport to the ocean (Bonnand et al. 2013; Frei et al. 2014). Coastal waters are heavier than open ocean waters possibly reflecting in situ reduction of Cr(VI) to Cr(III).

Carbonates encompass the range of Cr-isotopes in seawater (Bonnand et al. 2013). Cr isotopes in marine carbonates, thus, may be a sensitive tracer of weathering of the continental crust as well as of variations of hydrothermal input (Frei et al. 2011).

Frei et al. (2009) used Cr-isotopes to deduce the oxygenation history of the Earth's hydro- and atmosphere. They suggested that the Great Oxidation Event did not lead to a unidirectional increase of oxygen, but instead is better characterized by punctuated fine-scale fluctuations. This view was challenged by Konhauser et al. (2011) arguing that Cr was largely immobile on land till the GOE, but was solubilized in the period that followed. Frei and Polat (2013) interpreted Cr isotope fractionations in 2.0 Ga soils as indicating oxidative weathering on land.

2.13.3 Anthropogenic Cr in the Environment

Extensive industrial use of hexavalent chromate has led to a widespread Cr contamination of soils and groundwater. Reduction of Cr(VI) to Cr(III) may proceed by a variety of abiogenic and microbial processes. All reduction mechanisms induce Cr isotope fractionations with the lighter isotope enriched in the product (Dossing et al. 2011; Sikora et al. 2008). Kitchen et al. (2012) determined experimentally Cr isotope fractionations for Cr-reduction by dissolved Fe(II) up to 4.2 ‰.

Since isotope fractionation during Cr(VI) reduction is little affected by adsorption (Ellis et al. 2004), $^{53}\text{Cr}/^{52}\text{Cr}$ ratios in soils and groundwaters can be used as an indicator of Cr(VI) reduction and pollution. Groundwaters have $\delta^{53}\text{Cr}$ -values ranging from 0.3 to 5.9 ‰ (Ellis et al. 2002, 2004; Berna et al. 2010 and Zink et al. 2010; Izbicki et al. 2012). These authors observed an increase up to 6 ‰ in

$^{53}\text{Cr}/^{52}\text{Cr}$ ratios during the reduction of chromate. In experiments with *Shewanella*, Sikora et al. (2008) observed a Cr isotope fractionation of about 4 ‰ during dissimilatory Cr(VI) reduction. There are other genera of anaerobic and aerobic bacteria that produce comparable isotope fractionations during Cr(VI) reduction (Han et al. 2012). These findings can be applied to quantify Cr(VI) reduction at sites undergoing active remediation.

2.14 Iron

Iron has 4 stable isotopes with the following abundances (Beard and Johnson 1999)

^{54}Fe	5.84 %
^{56}Fe	91.76 %
^{57}Fe	2.12 %
^{58}Fe	0.28 %

Iron is the third most abundant element on Earth that participates in a wide range of biotically- and abiotically-controlled redox processes in low- and high-temperature environments. Iron has a variety of important bonding partners and ligands, forming sulfide, oxide and silicate minerals as well as complexes with water. As is well known, bacteria can use Fe during both dissimilatory and assimilatory redox processes. Because of its high abundance and its important role in high and low temperature processes, isotope studies of iron have received the most attention of the transition elements. Since the first investigations on Fe isotope variations by Beard and Johnson (1999), the number of studies on Fe isotope variations has increased exponentially. Reviews on Fe-isotope geochemistry have been given by Anbar (2004a, b), Beard and Johnson (2004), Johnson and Beard (1999), Dauphas and Rouxel (2006) and Anbar and Rouxel (2007). Figure 2.28 summarizes Fe-isotope variations in important geological reservoirs.

2.14.1 Analytical Methods

By using the double-spike SIMS technique, Johnson and Beard (1999) described an analytical procedure with very good precision. Nevertheless, with the introduction of MC-ICP-MS techniques and their ability to measure Fe isotope ratios with little drift, most researchers have concentrated on MC-ICP-MS (Weyer and Schwieters 2003; Arnold et al. 2004a, b; Schoenberg and von Blanckenburg 2005; Dauphas et al. 2009; Craddock and Dauphas 2010; Millet et al. 2012). Fe isotope analysis is highly challenging, because of interferences from $^{40}\text{Ar}^{14}\text{N}^+$, $^{40}\text{Ar}^{16}\text{O}^+$ and $^{40}\text{Ar}^{16}\text{OH}^+$ at masses 54, 56 and 57 respectively. Nevertheless δ -values can be measured routinely with a precision of ± 0.05 ‰ or better (Craddock and Dauphas 2010).

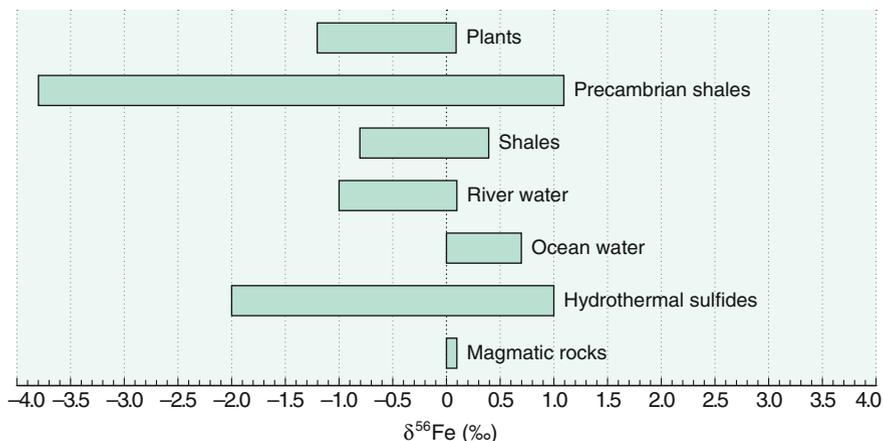


Fig. 2.28 $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ -values of important geological reservoirs

Literature data have been presented either in the form of $^{57}\text{Fe}/^{54}\text{Fe}$ or as $^{56}\text{Fe}/^{54}\text{Fe}$ ratios. In the following all data are given as $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values. $\delta^{57}\text{Fe}$ values would be 1.5 times greater than $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values, because only mass-dependent fractionations are expected. Fe isotope ratios are generally reported relative to the IRMM-14 standard, an ultra-pure synthetic Fe metal, or are given to the average composition of various rock types (Beard et al. 2003; Craddock and Dauphas 2010; He et al. 2015). Relative to IRMM-14, igneous rocks have an average composition of $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ of 0.09 ‰. The maximum range in $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ -values is more than 5 ‰, with low values for sedimentary pyrite and high values in iron oxides from banded iron formations.

2.14.2 Isotope Equilibrium Studies

Equilibrium Fe isotope fractionations for mineral-mineral and mineral-fluid systems have been determined by 3 different approaches: (i) calculations of β -factors based on density functional theory (DFT) (Schauble et al. 2001; Anbar et al. 2005; Blanchard et al. 2009; Rustad and Dixon 2009; Rustad et al. 2010) and (ii) calculations based on Mössbauer spectroscopy and inelastic nuclear resonant X-ray scattering measurements (Polyakov 2007; Polyakov and Soultanov 2011; Dauphas et al. 2012) and (iii) isotope exchange experiments (Skulan et al. 2002; Welch et al. 2003; Shahar et al. 2008; Beard et al. 2010; Saunier et al. 2011; Wu et al. 2011; Friedrich et al. 2014).

Fe isotope fractionations obtained from density functional theory (Blanchard et al. 2009) and from Mossbauer or Inelastic Nuclear Resonant X-ray scattering spectroscopic data (Polyakov et al. 2007; Polyakov and Soultanov 2011) exhibit significant discrepancies. Large discrepancies also exist between calculated and

experimentally determined fractionation factors, especially for mineral-fluid systems. Rustad et al. (2010) achieved better agreement by considering the second hydration shell of Fe dissolved complexes. In a multi direction 3-isotope experimental approach for the $\text{Fe}^{2+}_{\text{aq}}$ —magnetite system, Frierdrich et al. (2014) achieved good agreement with calculated Fe fractionations of Rustad et al. (2010).

First experimental studies at magmatic temperatures, conducted by Schüßler et al. (2007) for equilibrium isotope fractionations between iron sulfide (pyrrhotite) and silicate melt and by Shahar et al. (2008) for fayalite and magnetite demonstrate that Fe isotope fractionations are relatively large at magmatic temperatures and potentially can be used as a geothermometer. Under equilibrium conditions common igneous and metamorphic Fe-minerals should show an order of ^{56}Fe depletion from hematite to magnetite to olivine/pyroxene to ilmenite. For instance, at 800 °C Fe isotope fractionation between magnetite-ilmenite should be around 0.5 ‰ becoming larger with decreasing temperatures. Thus, the pair magnetite-ilmenite potentially may be used as a geothermometer.

Mechanism governing Fe isotope fractionation include precipitation of Fe bearing minerals (Skulan et al. 2002; Butler et al. 2005), isotope exchange between different ligand species (Hill and Schauble 2008; Dideriksen et al. 2008; Wiederhold et al. 2006) and adsorption of dissolved Fe(II) to Fe(III) surfaces (Icopini et al. 2004; Crosby et al. 2007; Jang et al. 2008). Changes in bond partners and/or coordination number also have an effect on isotope fractionation (Hill et al. 2009, 2010), implying that Fe isotope compositions reflect both the redox state and the solution chemistry.

Theoretical calculations and experimental determinations show that Fe(III) bearing phases tend to be enriched in heavy Fe isotopes compared to Fe(II) bearing phases. The largest Fe isotope fractionations have been attributed to redox effects (Johnson et al. 2008). For example, Fe isotope fractionations between Fe(II) and Fe(III) species at 25 °C yield a 2.5–3 ‰ ^{54}Fe depletion in the Fe(II) species. As discussed by Crosby et al. (2005), Fe isotope fractionation results from isotope exchange between Fe(II) and Fe(III) at oxide surfaces explaining why Fe isotope fractionations are very similar for microbial dissimilatory Fe(III) reduction, microbial Fe(II) oxidation and equilibrium between dissolved Fe(II) and Fe(III) species in abiotic systems. This hampers the assertion of Fe isotopes as biosignatures.

2.14.3 Meteorites

Carbonaceous and ordinary chondrites have a uniform bulk Fe isotope composition close to zero ‰ (Craddock and Dauphas 2010; Wang et al. 2013b), whereas the individual Fe components in meteorites are isotopically variable. Chondrules display the largest variation, metals and sulphides show smaller variations (Needham et al. 2009). As shown by Williams et al. (2006) Fe isotope differences between

metal and troilite are in the range of 0.5 ‰—the metal phase being heavier than the sulfide phase troilite, potentially reflecting equilibrium fractionations.

Fe isotopes in meteorites have been used to investigate processes associated with core formation. Iron meteorites are considered to represent remnants of metallic cores of differentiated planetary bodies. Whether core formation fractionates Fe isotopes or not is a matter of debate. Poitrasson et al. (2009) and Hin et al. (2012) experimentally determined no Fe isotope fractionation between Fe–Ni alloy and silicate liquid at temperatures up to 2000 °C.

For the Moon, the bulk iron isotope composition is not well constrained. As shown by Liu et al. (2010a, b), low Ti-basalts have $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values that are 0.1 ‰ lower than high Ti basalts, possibly reflecting differences in mantle sources.

2.14.4 Igneous Rocks

Early studies demonstrated that all terrestrial igneous rocks have homogeneous Fe isotope compositions (Beard and Johnson 1999, 2004). Later studies suggested that igneous processes such as partial melting and crystal fractionation may lead to measurable Fe isotope variations. Weyer et al. (2005) and Weyer and Ionov (2007) found that the Fe isotope composition in mantle peridotites is about 0.1 ‰ lighter than in basalts. Because Fe^{3+} is more incompatible than Fe^{2+} during partial melting and given the fact that Fe^{3+} has higher $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values than Fe^{2+} , liquids should become enriched relative to the solid residue. Dauphas et al. (2009) presented a quantitative model that relates the iron isotope composition of basalts to the degree of partial melting.

Small Fe isotope variations between MORB and OIB have been reported by Teng et al. (2013) that can be explained by fractional crystallization of OIBs. Teng et al. (2008) demonstrated that Fe isotopes fractionate during magmatic differentiation on whole-rock and on crystal scales. They observed that iron in basalts becomes isotopically heavier as more olivine crystallizes, implying that differences in the redox state of Fe play a decisive role. Zoned olivine crystals yield ^{56}Fe isotope fractionations of up to 1.6 ‰, which they interpreted as being due to diffusion between olivines and evolving melt (Teng et al. 2011).

Metasomatism and/or metamorphic/hydrothermal alterations are additional processes that can modify the Fe isotope composition of mantle material (Williams et al. 2005; Weyer and Ionov 2007; Dziony et al. 2014).

In granitic rocks $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values are generally positively correlated with SiO_2 contents (Poitrasson and Freyrier 2005; Heimann et al. 2008). These authors suggested that exsolution of fluids has removed light Fe isotopes causing the enrichment of SiO_2 -rich granitoids. Telus et al. (2012) argued that exsolution alone cannot explain the high $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values in all granitoids, instead fractional crystallization seems to be the major cause of ^{56}Fe enrichment.

2.14.5 Sediments

Marine sediments reflect the average Fe isotope composition of the continental crust, deviations from the mean value are due to biogeochemical processes in the sediments. Under low-temperature conditions the observed natural Fe isotope variations of around 5 ‰ have been attributed to a large number of processes, which can be divided into inorganic reactions and into processes initiated by micro-organisms. Up to 1 ‰ fractionation can result from precipitation of Fe-containing minerals (oxides, carbonates, sulfides) (Anbar and Rouxel 2007). Larger Fe isotope fractionations occur during biogeochemical redox processes, which include dissimilatory Fe(III) reduction (Beard et al. 1999; Icopini et al. 2004; Crosby et al. 2007), anaerobic photosynthetic Fe(II) oxidation (Croal et al. 2004), abiotic Fe (II) oxidation (Bullen et al. 2001) and sorption of aqueous Fe(II) on Fe (III) hydroxides (Balci et al. 2006). Controversy exists whether iron isotope variations observed are controlled by kinetic or equilibrium factors and/or by abiological or microbiological fractionations. This complicates the ability to use iron isotopes to identify microbiological processing in the rock record (Balci et al. 2006). As argued by Johnson et al. (2008) microbiological reduction of Fe³⁺ produces much larger quantities of iron with distinct $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values than abiological processes. Thus a number of studies have interpreted negative $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values in sediments to reflect dissimilatory iron reduction (DIR) (e.g. Bergquist and Boyle 2006; Severmann et al. 2006, 2008, 2010; Teutsch et al. 2009). Coupled Fe and S isotope intergrain variations in pyrite have been used as a proxy for microbial dissimilatory Fe(III) and sulfate reduction (Archer and Vance 2006).

During weathering, Fe is dissolved by ligands and/or bacteria. Fe isotope fractionation may occur during Fe mobilization by Fe reduction or ligand-promoted dissolution or during immobilization of Fe oxy/hydroxides (Fantle and de Paolo 2005; Yesavage et al. 2012 and others). $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values of bulk and HCl-extractable Fe become isotopically lighter as the extent of weathering proceeds; exchangeable Fe is more depleted in ⁵⁶Fe than Fe in ironhydroxides.

In summary, negative $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ -values in sedimentary rocks may reflect ancient DIR (Yamaguchi et al. 2005; Johnson et al. 2008), other studies have, however, favored abiological processes for the occurrence of negative Fe isotope values (Rouxel et al. 2005; Anbar and Rouxel 2007; Guilbaud et al. 2011). Especially large iron isotope fractionations have been found in Proterozoic and Archean banded iron formations (BIFs) and shales (Rouxel et al. 2005; Yamaguchi et al. 2005). In particular BIFs have been used to reconstruct Fe cycling through Archean oceans and the rise of O₂ (atm) during the Proterozoic (see discussion under Sect. 3.8.4 and Fig. 3.30). The pattern shown in Fig. 3.30 distinguishes three stages of Fe isotope evolution, which might reflect redox changes in the Fe cycle (Rouxel et al. 2005). Interplays of the Fe-cycle with the C- and S-record might reflect changing microbial metabolisms during the Earth's history (Johnson et al. 2008).

2.14.6 Ocean and River Water

Dissolved and particulate iron in water occur not only in two oxidation states but in a wide range of chemical species that interact by adsorption/desorption, precipitation/dissolution processes. All these processes potentially fractionate Fe isotopes that may modify the iron isotope composition of waters.

Iron in the ocean is an important micronutrient; the growth of phytoplankton is often limited by low Fe concentrations. Because of its very low concentration, the Fe isotope composition of ocean water is not easily determined. Radic et al. (2011) and John and Adkins (2012) were among the first presenting dissolved and particulate Fe isotope data in depth profiles from the Pacific and Atlantic. Water profiles characterized by positive $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values mainly reflect the continental input with slight transformations in the water column. John and Adkins (2012) demonstrated that dissolved iron in the upper 1500 m is homogeneous with $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values between 0.30 and 0.45 ‰, whereas in the deeper ocean $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ -values increase to 0.70 ‰.

Rivers rich in clastic suspended detrital material, like the white waters of the Amazon have a Fe isotope composition close to the continental crust (Poitrasson et al. 2014). Rivers rich in organic material contain a large portion in dissolved Fe form and are depleted in heavy Fe isotopes with significant annual variations (Dos Santos Pinheiro et al. 2014).

Fluids in diagenetic systems are variable in Fe isotope composition with a preferential depletion in ^{56}Fe (Severmann et al. 2006) reflecting the interaction of Fe^{3+} with Fe^{2+} during bacterial iron and sulfate reduction. Processes dominated by sulfate reduction produce high $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values in porewaters, whereas the opposite occurs when dissimilatory iron reduction is the major pathway (Severmann et al. 2006). Fe isotope compositions of pore fluids may reflect the extent of Fe recycling during early diagenesis (Homoky et al. 2011). Fe(II) in pore waters, formed by bacterial Fe(III) reduction, may be reoxidized during sediment suspension events. The resulting fine grained isotopically light FeOOH may be transported back to the deep ocean, a process that has been termed “benthic iron shuttle” (Severmann et al. 2008).

2.14.7 Plants

Although sufficient supply of Fe is essential for all living organisms, iron is one of the most limiting nutrients, because iron in soils exists predominantly in the nearly insoluble Fe (III) form. Therefore, higher plants developed different strategies to make iron available. Guelke and von Blanckenburg (2007) presented evidence that Fe isotope signatures in plants reflect two different strategies that plants have developed to incorporate Fe from the soil. Group I plants induce chemical reactions in the rhizosphere and reduce iron before uptake by incorporating light isotopes in the roots with further depletion during transport to leaves and seeds. Group II plants

transport Fe(III) complexes into plant roots via a specific membrane transport system that do not fractionate Fe relative to Fe in soils (Guelke et al. 2010; Guelke-Stelling and von Blanckenburg 2012). As shown by Kiczka et al. (2010) Fe isotopes may fractionate during remobilization of Fe from old into new plant tissues which may change the Fe isotope composition of leaves and flowers over the season.

2.15 Nickel

Nickel can occur in oxidation states from 4+ to 0, but the 2+ state is essentially the only natural oxidation state. Thus, redox controlled reactions do not play an important role, but instead chemical precipitation, adsorption in aqueous systems and crystallization of Ni-sulfides in magmatic systems might induce fractionations. Since nickel is a bioessential trace element, playing vital roles in enzymes, biological processes also might cause isotope fractionations.

Ni has five stable isotopes

^{58}Ni	68.08
^{60}Ni	26.22
^{61}Ni	1.14
^{62}Ni	3.63
^{64}Ni	0.93

Ni isotopes generally are reported as $\delta^{60/58}\text{Ni}$ values, Gueguen et al. (2013) described an analytical procedure for Ni isotope determinations and determined Ni isotope ratios for various geological reference materials.

2.15.1 Meteorites and Mantle Derived Rocks

The amount of published Ni isotope data is small. First measurements by Cameron et al. (2009) indicated that Ni isotope variations in the mantle and the continental crust are negligible. More recently, Gueguen et al. (2013) and Hofmann et al. (2014) reported Ni isotope fractionations up to 1 ‰ among komatiites and associated Ni-sulfide mineralisations, the latter being depleted in heavy Ni isotopes.

In the metal phase of meteorites, Ni isotopes fractionate between kamacite (Fe-rich phase) and taenite (Ni rich phase), the former being isotopically heavier than the latter (Cook et al. 2007). To investigate potential Ni isotope fractionation between core and mantle, Lazar et al. (2012) determined Ni isotope fractionations between Ni metal and Ni talc silicate. Since the metal has been found to be enriched in the light Ni isotopes, they suggested that Ni isotope fractionations might have occurred during Earth's core segregation.

2.15.2 Water and Organisms

Large fractionations have been observed in the ocean and in organisms. Fujii et al. (2011) investigated theoretically and experimentally Ni isotopes fractionations between inorganic Ni-species and organic ligands and observed Ni isotope fractionations up to 2.5 ‰ controlled by organic ligands.

Dissolved Ni compounds in rivers vary by about 1 ‰ (Cameron and Vance 2014), and are heavier than average continental rocks. Ni dissolved in the ocean has a mean $\delta^{60}\text{Ni}$ -value of 1.44 ‰ (Cameron and Vance 2014) being heavier than riverine Ni. No Ni isotope difference between surface and deep ocean water has been observed.

Gall et al. (2013) observed Ni isotope enrichment of Fe/Mn crusts relative to continental crust and concluded that weathering is accompanied by Ni isotope fractionation resulting in rivers and oceans being isotopically heavy. A depth profile through a sediment core displays large Ni isotope fractionations which might indicate variations in ocean water composition. In another example, Porter et al. (2014) reported Ni isotope variations between 0.15 and 2.5 ‰ in sediments rich in organic carbon. They argued that variable Ni isotope values are controlled by differences in oceanic sources.

Ni plays an essential role in the metabolism of methanogenic archaea. Biological uptake during methanogenic growth produces substantial Ni isotope fractionations resulting in isotopically light cells and heavy residual media (Cameron et al. 2009). As postulated by these authors biological fractionations of Ni may provide a tracer for elucidating the nature of early life.

2.16 Copper

Copper occurs in two oxidation states, Cu^+ and Cu^{++} and rarely in the form of elemental copper. The major Cu-containing minerals are sulfides (chalcopyrite, bornite, chalcocite and others), and, under oxidizing conditions, secondary copper minerals in the form of oxides and carbonates. Cu(I) is the common form in sulfide minerals, whereas Cu(II) is dominant in aqueous solution. Copper is a nutrient element, although toxic for all aquatic photosynthetic microorganisms. Copper may form a great variety of complexes with very different coordinations such as square, trigonal and tetragonal complexes. These properties are ideal prerequisites for relatively large isotope fractionations.

Copper has two stable isotopes

^{63}Cu 69.1 %

^{65}Cu 30.9 %.

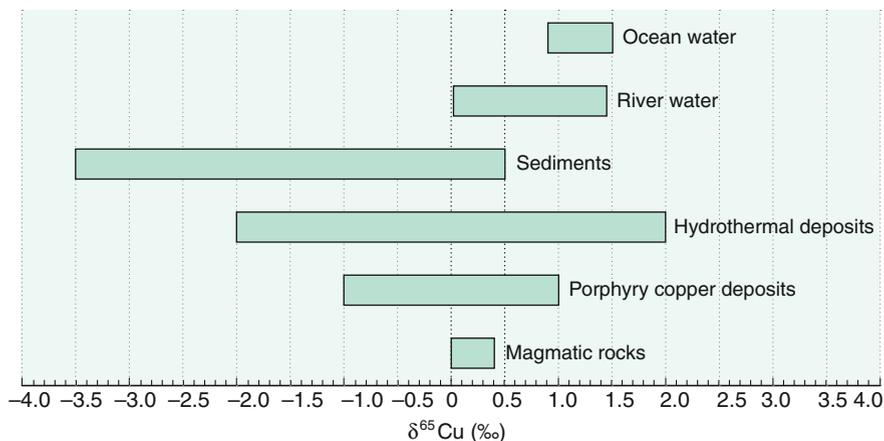


Fig. 2.29 $\delta^{65}\text{Cu}$ -values of important geological reservoirs

Early work of Shields et al. (1965) using the TIMS technique has indicated a total variation of ~ 12 ‰ with the largest variations in low temperature secondary minerals. Later studies using laser-ICP-MS techniques, by Maréchal et al. (1999), Maréchal and Albarede (2002), Zhu et al. (2002), Ruiz et al. (2002), observed a variation range of nearly 10 ‰, which is larger than for Fe. Most samples so far analysed, however, vary between $\delta^{65}\text{Cu}$ values from +2 to -2 ‰ (see Fig. 2.29). The commonly used Cu standard NIST SRM 976 is no longer available, new certified reference materials are ERM-AE633 and ERM-AE647 (Möller et al. 2012).

2.16.1 Low-Temperature Fractionations

Low-temperature processes are the major source of Cu isotope variations; the main processes are: (i) variation of redox conditions, (ii) adsorption on mineral surfaces and organic matter (Pokrovsky et al. 2008; Balistrieri et al. 2008), (iii) inorganic and organic complexation to ligands (Pokrovsky et al. 2008), (iv) biological fractionation by plants and micro-organisms (Weinstein et al. 2011).

Experimental investigations have demonstrated that redox reactions between Cu (I) and Cu(II) species are the principal process that fractionates Cu isotopes (Ehrlich et al. 2004; Zhu et al. 2002). During precipitation of copper without redox change the heavier Cu isotope is preferentially incorporated, however, during Cu(II) reduction precipitated Cu(I) species are 3–5 ‰ lighter than dissolved Cu(II) species. Pokrovsky et al. (2008) observed experimentally a change in sign of Cu isotope fractionations during adsorption from aqueous solutions depending on the kind of surface, either organic or inorganic: on biological cell surfaces a depletion of ^{65}Cu , whereas on hydroxide surfaces an enrichment of ^{65}Cu is observed. In

contrast to abiotic reactions, bacteria preferentially incorporate the lighter Cu isotope into their cells, regardless of experimental conditions (Navarette et al. 2011).

During oxidative weathering of copper rich sulphides, soils become isotopically depleted in ^{65}Cu while porewaters are isotopically enriched (Mathur et al. 2012). Cu isotopes in rivers and seawater indicate that particle-bound Cu are isotopically lighter than dissolved Cu species (Vance et al. 2008). Dissolved Cu in ocean water is heavier than the dissolved riverine input which may be caused by scavenging of light Cu to particulate material, preferentially to Fe–Mn oxides (Vance et al. 2008; Little et al. 2014).

2.16.2 Variations in Ore Deposits

Cu isotopic fractionations at magmatic temperatures appear to be negligible. By analysing native copper grains and whole rock copper in peridotite, Ikehata and Hirata (2012) reported Cu isotope values close to zero ‰ with no differences between Cu metal grains and whole rock copper; thus the Cu isotope composition of mantle and crust appear to be close to zero ‰ (Li et al. 2009a, b).

Various types of Cu-ore deposits have been investigated (Larson et al. 2003; Rouxel et al. 2004a, b; Mathur et al. 2005, 2010; Markl et al. 2006; Li et al. 2010). Early studies showed very limited Cu-isotope variations at high temperatures, but later studies by Maher and Larson (2007) and Li et al. (2010) demonstrated that variations of up to 4 ‰ may occur in porphyry copper deposits. Individual deposits show characteristic Cu isotope zonations that may be caused by fractionations between sulfide, brine and vapour during copper precipitation.

The magnitude of isotope fractionation in copper sulfides increases with secondary alteration and reworking processes (i.e. Markl et al. 2006). Thus copper isotope ratios may be used to decipher details of natural redox processes, but hardly can be used as reliable fingerprints for the source of copper because the variation caused by redox processes within a single deposit is usually much larger than the inter-deposit variation. Experiments by Maher et al. (2011) indicated that the magnitude of Cu-isotope fractionation depend on the pH of the mineralizing fluid and the partitioning of Cu between vapor and liquid. This means that Cu isotope fractionation depend on the physico-chemical conditions during Cu-precipitation. Heavier isotope compositions in supergene Cu minerals and a lighter isotope signature in the leach cap and oxidation zone of an ore deposit can be used as a tool for exploration.

On sites contaminated by acid mine drainage, Borrok et al. (2008) and Kimball et al. (2009) demonstrated systematic copper isotope fractionations between ore minerals and stream water that may be used for ore-prospecting.

2.16.3 Variations in Plants

Copper is an essential micronutrient for plant growth. Cu isotopes may be used to elucidate Cu uptake. Studies by Weinstein et al. (2011), Jouvin et al. (2012) and Ryan et al. (2013) demonstrated that different uptake strategies lead to different Cu isotope fractionations in plants. Tomatoe and oat grown under controlled solution cultures yield Cu isotope fractionations which support previous findings for Fe uptake in strategy 1 and 2 plants (Ryan et al. 2013). Tomatoes preferentially fractionate light ^{63}Cu by about 1 ‰, which is attributed to Cu reduction whereas oat shows minimal Cu fractionation suggesting that Cu uptake and transport is not redox selective.

2.17 Zinc

Zinc has 5 stable isotopes of mass 64, 66, 67, 68 and 70 with the following abundances:

^{64}Zn	48.63 %
^{66}Zn	27.90 %
^{67}Zn	4.10 %
^{68}Zn	18.75 %
^{70}Zn	0.62 %

The JMC-Lyon standard has been the commonly used Zn isotope standard in the past, which however is not longer available. Möller et al. (2012) calibrated IRMM-3702 as the new certified Zn standard, which has a $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$ -value of 0.29 ‰ relative to the JMC-Lyon standard. In Fig. 2.30 natural Zn isotope variations given as $^{66}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn}$ ratios are summarized.

The main processes fractionating zinc isotopes are (i) evaporation-condensation processes in which the vapor phase is depleted in the heavier isotopes relative to the solid phase and (ii) sorption processes (Cloquet et al. 2008). Zn isotope fractionation during sorption on Fe hydroxides has been determined by Juillot et al. (2008), Zn-sorption on organic matter has been investigated by Jouvin et al. (2009). The magnitude of isotope fractionation depends on the structure of Zn-complexes on the surface of the solid.

In water, Zn isotope fractionation depends on the ligands present, especially on dissolved phosphate and carbonate. Ab initio calculations of Zn isotope fractionations between aqueous sulfide, chloride and carbonate species by Black et al. (2011) and Fujii et al. (2011) indicate that Zn sulfide complexes are isotopically depleted in heavy Zn isotopes relative to Zn^{2+} and Zn chlorides, whereas carbonates are more enriched than chlorides.

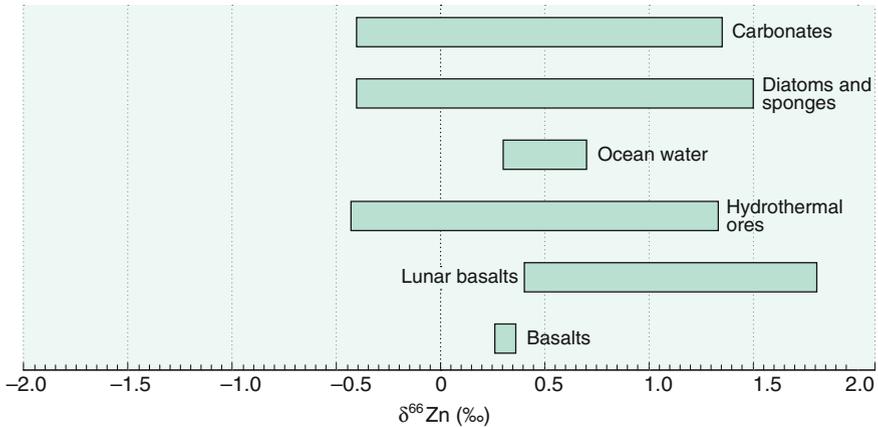


Fig. 2.30 $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$ -values of important geological reservoirs

2.17.1 Fractionations During Evaporation

Evaporation-condensation processes may cause large fractionations in meteorites (Luck et al. 2005; Wombacher et al. 2008); Paniello et al. (2012) postulated that loss of volatiles in lunar magmatic rocks has led to an enrichment of heavy Zn isotopes on the Moon relative to Earth.

Significant amounts of Zn may be emitted by degassing from volcanoes. Fumarolic gases and condensates from the Merapi volcano have a relatively large range in Zn isotope compositions. Gaseous Zn samples are enriched in lighter Zn isotopes whereas condensates are enriched in the heavier isotopes (Toutain et al. 2008).

2.17.2 Variations in Mantle Derived Rocks

Early measurements of the $^{66}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn}$ ratio in mantle—and crustal derived rocks yielded a small variation of about 1 ‰ (Maréchal et al. 1999, 2000; Maréchal and Albarede 2002). One of the main reasons for this small variability appears to be that Zn in natural environments does not participate in redox reactions. It occurs as Zn^{2+} , except, in rare cases, as $\text{Zn}(0)$ metal which is an anthropogenic contaminant.

Recent measurements by Chen et al. (2013a, b) indicate small Zn isotope variations induced by high-temperature igneous processes. By studying two chemically diverse suites of volcanic rocks from Hawaii and Iceland, Chen et al. (2013a, b) concluded that the Earth's mantle is homogeneous in Zn isotope composition and that the bulk silicate earth has a $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$ -value of 0.28 ‰. Kilauea basalts show small, but systematic Zn isotope enrichment with increasing degree of differentiation.

2.17.3 Ore Deposits

By analyzing sphalerites from ore deposits, Mason et al. (2005), Wilkinson et al. (2005), Kelley et al. (2009), Gagnevin et al. (2012) and Zhou et al. (2014) observed Zn isotope variations of about 1.5 ‰. These studies indicate that early precipitated sphalerites have higher ^{64}Zn -values than late precipitates. The variations have been related to kinetic fractionations during rapid sphalerite precipitation. Gagnevin et al. (2012) explained relatively large Zn-isotope variations at the millimetre scale by mixing of hot hydrothermal fluids with cool brines containing bacterial sulfide. John et al. (2008) reported relatively large Zn isotope fractionation in hydrothermal vent fluids. Low-temperature fluids have heavier $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$ -values than high temperature fluids. Cooling of vent fluids leads to precipitation of isotopically light sphalerite causing enrichments of the fluid.

2.17.4 Variations in the Ocean

Zinc is an essential micronutrient for phytoplankton, its concentration is controlled by phytoplankton uptake and remineralization. Light Zn isotopes are preferentially incorporated into phytoplankton organic matter, leaving residual Zn in surface water enriched in Zn isotopes (John et al. 2007; Andersen et al. 2011; Hendry and Andersen 2013). Surface waters have a lighter $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$ signature than deep waters suggesting that absorption of Zn on particle carries heavy Zn out of surface waters (John et al. 2007a). Thus, biological usage and adsorption onto particles are likely to cause isotope fractionations (Gelabert et al. 2006).

In a depth profile of the upper 400 m of Pacific seawater, Bermin et al. (2006) observed small isotope variations which they interpreted as being due to biological recycling. The bulk isotope composition of dissolved Zn in the ocean below 1000 m is around 0.5 ‰, which is heavier than the input from river water (Little et al. 2014; Balistrieri et al. 2008; Chen et al. 2008; Borrok et al. 2009).

Variations of Zn isotopes in marine carbonates have been interpreted to reflect changes in nutrient availability (Pichat et al. 2003; Kunzmann et al. 2013).

2.17.5 Anthropogenic Contamination

Due to anthropogenic activities, many environmental systems are polluted with zinc. The potential of using zinc isotopes to trace Zn contaminations and atmospheric transport was demonstrated by Cloquet et al. (2008), Sonke et al. (2008), Chen et al. (2008) and Weiss et al. (2007). John et al. (2007) measured the Zn isotope composition of various man-made Zn products. They showed that the range of $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$ values of industrial products is smaller than of Zn ores indicating Zn isotope homogenization during processing and ore purification.

Chen et al. (2008) measured Zn isotope variations along a transect of the Seine. Variations along the river transect showed an increase in Zn concentrations with

highest values in the region of Paris. Less polluted waters have higher $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$ -values than polluted ones. Roof leaching in the Paris area is a major Zn source.

By analyzing peat profiles, Weiss et al. (2007) concluded that Zn isotopes have the potential to identify atmospheric sources such as zinc derived from mining and smelting. Biogeochemical processes within peat profiles, however, may complicate the interpretation of the record.

2.17.6 Variations in Plants

Zinc is a vital element for most organisms, it plays an essential role in various biochemical processes. The largest variation of Zn isotopes have been found in land plants (Viers et al. 2007; Weiss et al. 2005). As shown by Moynier et al. (2008) and Viers et al. (2007), Zn isotopes fractionate during incorporation of Zn into roots and during transport within plants. The size of the fractionation is species dependent (Viers et al. 2007) and may depend on the height of the plant. The mechanisms of Zn isotope fractionations are not well understood, but may depend on surface absorption, solution speciation and membrane-controlled uptake.

2.18 Germanium

Because of nearly identical ionic radii, Ge may replace Si in minerals and thus may show isotope fractionation behaviour similar to silicon. However, Ge is generally associated to sulfides where it may substitute Zn and Cu at concentrations of more than 1000 ppm, whereas the average concentrations in the earth's crust is around 1 ppm.

Ge has 5 stable isotopes with the following abundances (Rosman and Taylor 1998):

^{70}Ge	20.84 %
^{72}Ge	27.54 %
^{73}Ge	7.73 %
^{74}Ge	36.28 %
^{76}Ge	7.61 %

Early investigations using the TIMS method had an uncertainty of several ‰. Over the past few years advances have been made with the MC-ICP-MS technique with a long term external reproducibility of 0.2–0.4 ‰ (Rouxel et al. 2006; Siebert et al. 2006a). Even better reproducibility has been performed by Luais (2012).

Li et al. (2009a, b) and Li and Liu (2010) estimated isotope fractionation factors among Ge-bearing phases and predicted that sulfides will be depleted in heavy Ge isotopes relative to Ge-oxides. Based on a few measurements of basalts and granites

Rouxel et al. (2006) concluded that the bulk silicate earth has a homogeneous isotope composition. However, chemical sediments like sponges and authigenic glauconites are enriched in $\delta^{74}\text{Ge}$ by about 2 ‰. This suggests that Ge in seawater—similar to silicon—is isotopically enriched in ^{74}Ge relative to the bulk earth. Ge isotopes thus might offer new insights into the biogeochemistry of the present and past ocean, but more data are needed.

Relatively high Ge concentrations have been reported in coal seams. Qi et al. (2011) observed $\delta^{74}\text{Ge}$ variations of more than 7 ‰ in coals and their combustion products. They showed that coal combustion fractionates Ge isotopes, with soot being more depleted in ^{74}Ge than slags.

2.19 Selenium

Selenium is an essential trace element for animals and humans having a narrow concentration range between sufficiency and toxicity (Schilling et al. 2011). It occurs in four oxidation states that differ in their nutritional and toxic behaviour. Selenium to some extent is chemically similar to sulfur, therefore, one might expect relatively large fractionations of selenium isotopes in nature. Six stable selenium isotopes are known with the following abundances (Coplen et al. 2002)

^{74}Se	0.89 %
^{76}Se	9.37 %
^{77}Se	7.63 %
^{78}Se	23.77 %
^{80}Se	49.61 %
^{82}Se	8.73 %

In general $^{82}\text{Se}/^{76}\text{Se}$ ratios have been measured. Because of the 7 ‰ mass difference between ^{76}Se and ^{82}Se and numerous microbial and inorganic Se redox transformations, interest in selenium isotope studies has grown in recent years.

An early study by Krouse and Thode (1962), using SeF_6 gas, required relatively large quantities of Se, limiting the applications of selenium isotopes. Johnson et al. (1999) developed a double-spike solid-source technique that corrects for fractionations during sample preparation and mass spectrometry, yielding an overall reproducibility of ± 0.2 ‰. This technique brings sample requirements down to submicrogram levels. Even lower Se amounts (10 ng) are required for measurements with the MC-ICP-MS technique (Rouxel et al. 2002) using a commercial Se solution as standard. Carignan and Wen (2007) published $\delta^{82}\text{Se}$ -values relative to the NIST SRM 3149 standard. Figure 2.31 summarizes Se isotope variations in specific reservoirs.

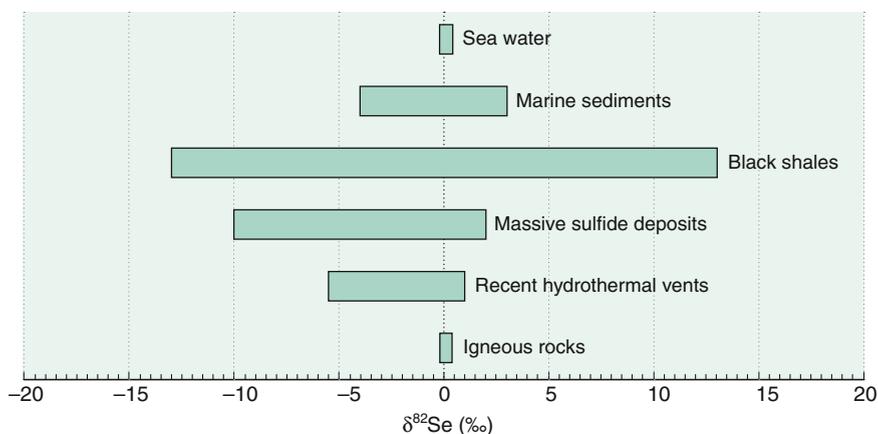


Fig. 2.31 $\delta^{82}\text{Se}$ -values of important geological reservoirs

2.19.1 Fractionation Processes

Selenium oxyanions can be reduced by certain microbes. Reduction proceeds in 3 steps with Se(IV) and Se(0) species as stable intermediates (Johnson 2004). Se isotope fractionation experiments by Herbel et al. (2000) indicate about 5 ‰ fractionations during reduction of selenate to selenite. Little or no fractionation has been observed during selenite sorption, oxidation of reduced Se in soils, or Se volatilization by algae.

Johnson and Bullen (2003) investigated Se isotope fractionations induced by inorganic reduction of selenate by Fe(II)-Fe(III) hydroxide sulfate (“green rust”). The overall fractionation is 7.4 ‰, which is larger than during bacterial selenate reduction. This indicates that the magnitude of Se isotope fractionations depends on the specific reaction mechanism. Mitchell et al. (2013) determined Se isotope fractionations during sorption to iron oxides and to iron sulfides: fractionations to iron oxides are generally very small, whereas fractionations to sulfides are much larger.

2.19.2 Natural Variations

Mantle-derived rocks have a $\delta^{82}\text{Se}$ composition close to zero. Rouxel et al. (2002) measured several igneous rocks and a few iron meteorites, which all lie within 0.6 ‰ of the NIST-SRM 3149 standard. Selenium may become enriched in recent hydrothermal vent sulfides, in which Se may be derived from leaching of igneous rocks or of Se-rich organic sediments. Layton-Matthews et al. (2013) reported a wide range of $\delta^{82}\text{Se}$ values in ancient seafloor hydrothermal deposits. Very negative values are probably due to Se loss from carbonaceous shales during hydrothermal activity.

Although Se and S share similar geochemical behaviour; in the oceanic environment, Se behaves different to S, where it exists as Se VI and Se IV oxyanions

and—most important—as dissolved organic Se. Mitchell et al. (2012) observed in marine shales with low organic carbon content a small range in $\delta^{82}\text{Se}$ values, whereas in black shales with high Se concentrations larger Se isotope variations occur (Wen and Carigman 2011). In a profile of very Se-rich carbonaceous shales, Zhu et al. (2014) observed a range in $^{82/76}\text{Se}$ -values from -14.2 to $+11.4$ ‰, suggesting multiple cycles of oxidation and reduction.

2.20 Bromine

Bromine has two stable isotopes with nearly equal abundances (Berglund and Wieser 2011).

$$^{79}\text{Br} \quad 50.69 \%$$
$$^{81}\text{Br} \quad 49.31 \%$$

The most common natural form of bromine is the bromide anion (Br^-). Although higher oxidation states of bromine exist in nature, little is known about the Br isotope composition of bromine oxyanions.

Eggenkamp and Coleman (2000) measured Br isotope values in the form of gaseous CH_3Br . Xiao et al. (1993) used positive thermal ionization mass spectrometry for the measurement of Cs_2Br^+ . Bromine in organic compounds have been analysed with MC-ICP-MS techniques (Hitzfeld et al. 2011; Holmstrand et al. 2010). The standard in use is SMOB (Standard Mean Ocean Bromine).

Bromide concentrations in most geological settings are too low for a precise isotope measurement, a notable exception are sedimentary formation waters. Although no direct Br isotope measurements of salt minerals are known, indirect evidence from porewaters suggest that evaporites have $\delta^{81}\text{Br}$ -values between 0.5 and 1.0 ‰ (Eggenkamp 2014).

Of special interest are high bromine concentrations in very saline deep groundwaters from old crystalline shields. Shouakar-Stash et al. (2007) and Stotler et al. (2010), observed very large Br-isotope variations from -0.80 to $+3.35$ ‰ that do not indicate a simple marine origin, but favor complex water/rock interactions.

Another interesting aspect of bromine isotope geochemistry is that of all brominated organic compounds in the stratosphere, methyl bromide is the most important contributor to stratospheric ozone depletion. CH_3Br may originate from natural and anthropogenic sources. Horst et al. (2013) determined the Br isotope composition of methyl bromide at two locations in Sweden. Subarctic samples in northern Sweden were more negative than samples in the Stockholm area. The CH_3Br concentration in northern Sweden was 2–3 times lower than in the Stockholm area, possibly indicating industrial contamination of the latter area. CH_3Br emissions from plants are about 2 ‰ depleted in ^{81}Br relative to bromine in the plant (Horst et al. 2014).

2.21 Strontium

Sr has 4 stable isotopes.

^{84}Sr	0.56 %
^{86}Sr	9.86 %
^{87}Sr	7.00 %
^{88}Sr	82.58 %

In the past, isotopes of Sr mainly have been used as a geochronometer. Due to radioactive decay of ^{87}Rb to ^{87}Sr , the $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratio of a sample together with the Rb/Sr concentration ratio carries geochronologic information. Conventional $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ measurements by thermal ionisation mass-spectrometry (TIMS) use the $^{88}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratio for internal instrumental mass fractionations. Normalization to a fixed $^{88}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratio assumes that this ratio is constant for natural samples. However, as shown by Fietzke and Eisenhauer (2006), this is not the case. MC-ICP-MS and double spike TIMS methods document $^{88}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ variations in terrestrial and meteoritic samples (Fietzke and Eisenhauer 2006; Krabbenhöft et al. 2009; Neymark et al. 2014). Figure 2.32 demonstrates the range of natural variations of $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$ -values relative to the SrCO_3 standard SRM987.

2.21.1 Silicates

Earth, Mars and Moon have indistinguishable bulk Sr isotope compositions, exceptions are some carbonaceous chondrites being depleted in heavy Sr isotopes (Moynier et al. 2010). The bulk Earth has a $\delta^{88}\text{Sr}$ -value of 0.27 ‰. With respect to magmatic rocks, first measurements by Halicz et al. (2008a, b) and Charlier et al.

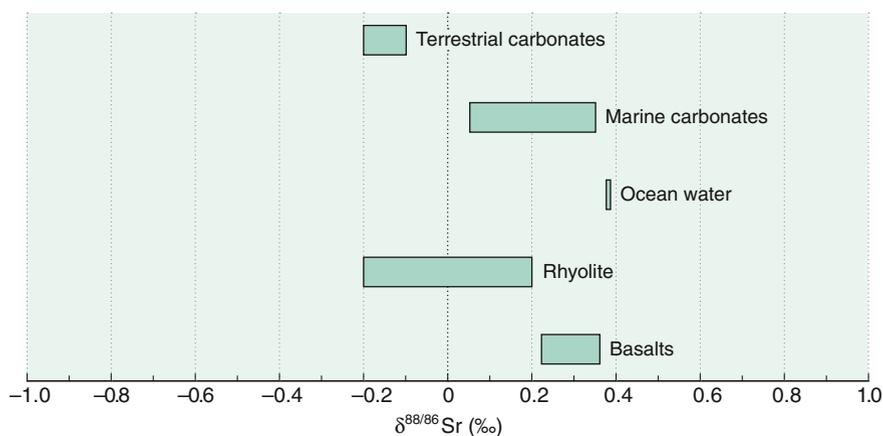


Fig. 2.32 $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$ -values of important geological reservoirs

(2012) indicated that basaltic rocks have a rather uniform value of +0.3 ‰ whereas more evolved rocks—andesites to rhyolites—have lighter values from −0.2 to +0.2 ‰. Charlier et al. (2012) interpreted the observed Sr isotope variations as resulting from isotope fractionations during fractional crystallization in which ^{88}Sr becomes enriched in plagioclase and K-feldspar.

2.21.2 Carbonates

One of the main Sr isotope fractionation processes is the preferential uptake of lighter Sr isotopes during carbonate precipitation. Sr isotope fractionations during inorganic precipitation of calcite depend primarily on precipitation rates resulting in larger fractionations at higher rates (Böhm et al. 2012). Carbonate precipitating organisms generally fractionate $^{88}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios by 0.1–0.2 ‰ relative to ocean water; the magnitude of Sr isotope fractionation is species dependent. Larger depletions in heavy isotopes have been observed in planktonic foraminifera (Böhm et al. 2012; Stevenson et al. 2014). For tropical corals, Fietzke and Eisenhauer (2006) and Rüggeburg et al. (2008) used $^{88}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios to reconstruct oceanic surface temperatures. For cold-water corals, however, Raddatz et al. (2013) observed no temperature dependence, instead Sr isotope ratios reflect sea water composition with an offset of −0.2 ‰.

Knowledge of the magnitude of Sr fractionations during carbonate precipitation opens the possibility to quantify the output carbonate flux from the ocean (Krabbenhöft et al. 2010), which is not possible on the basis of $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios because ocean water and carbonates are very similar in $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios.

By analysing biogenic fossil carbonates, mostly brachiopods, Vollstädt et al. (2014) concluded that seawater throughout the Phanerozoic has varied in $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$ values by 0.25–0.60 ‰, which they interpreted to result from varying amounts of buried carbonates.

In contrast to marine carbonates, terrestrial carbonates, i.e. speleothems, display negative $^{88}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios from −0.1 to −0.2 ‰ (Halicz et al. 2008a, b).

2.21.3 Rivers and Plants

By analysing Sr dissolved in rivers, the behaviour of $^{88/86}\text{Sr}$ during weathering has been investigated (Krabbenhöft et al. 2010; de Souza et al. 2010; Wei et al. 2013). Krabbenhöft et al. (2010) demonstrated that large rivers are quite variable in $\delta^{88}\text{Sr}$. De Souza et al. (2010) concluded that Sr released during weathering of silicate rocks does not indicate any Sr-isotope fractionation. By analyzing a river from South China, large seasonal Sr-isotope differences depend on the amount of precipitation (Wei et al. 2013).

Plants are isotopically lighter by 0.2–0.5 ‰ than corresponding soils (De Souza et al. 2010). $\delta^{88}\text{Sr}$ values of foliar tissues (leaves, flowers) are isotopically depleted relative to roots and stem which is opposite to the trend observed for Ca isotopes (Wiegand et al. 2005; Page et al. 2008).

2.22 Molybdenum

Mo consists of 7 stable isotopes that have the following abundances:

^{92}Mo	15.86 %
^{94}Mo	9.12 %
^{95}Mo	15.70 %
^{96}Mo	16.50 %
^{97}Mo	9.45 %
^{98}Mo	23.75 %
^{100}Mo	9.62 %

Either $^{97}\text{Mo}/^{95}\text{Mo}$ or $^{98}\text{Mo}/^{95}\text{Mo}$ ratios have been reported in the literature. Therefore care has to be taken when comparing Mo isotope values. Mo isotope data, given in the following as $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ values, are generally reported relative to internal laboratory standards calibrated against ocean water (Mean Ocean Molybdenum (MOMo), Barling et al. 2001; Siebert et al. 2003). More recently, Nägler et al. (2014) proposed that NIST SRM 3134 should be accepted as international standard with a $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ value of +0.25 ‰ relative to MOMo.

What makes Mo particular interesting, is its use as a potential proxy for the redox history of the oceans and the atmosphere (Barling et al. 2001; Siebert et al. 2003; Wille et al. 2007; Dahl et al. 2010a, b; Herrmann et al. 2012; Scott and Lyons 2012 besides others). Figure 2.33 summarizes natural Mo isotope variations.

2.22.1 Molybdenites

Limited data from igneous and clastic sedimentary rocks show very small isotope variations (Siebert et al. 2003). Larger variations have been found in molybdenites (MoS_2), an accessory mineral in many magmatic rocks (Hannah et al. 2007; Mathur et al. 2010a, b). According to Mathur et al. (2010a, b) Mo isotope variations depend on the type of ore deposit; molybdenites from porphyry coppers have lighter Mo isotope composition relative to other ore deposits. Greber et al. (2011) observed isotope variations of 1.35 ‰ in a single molybdenite deposit which is larger than the overall Mo isotope variation in igneous rocks. By analysing molybdenites from the well-known porphyry copper deposit of Questa, New Mexico, Greber et al. (2014) subdivided three stages during which Mo isotope fractionations may occur, all lead to molybdenites being heavier than the magmatic source. This implies that Mo isotope compositions of molybdenites are not necessarily representative of the average isotope composition of igneous rocks.

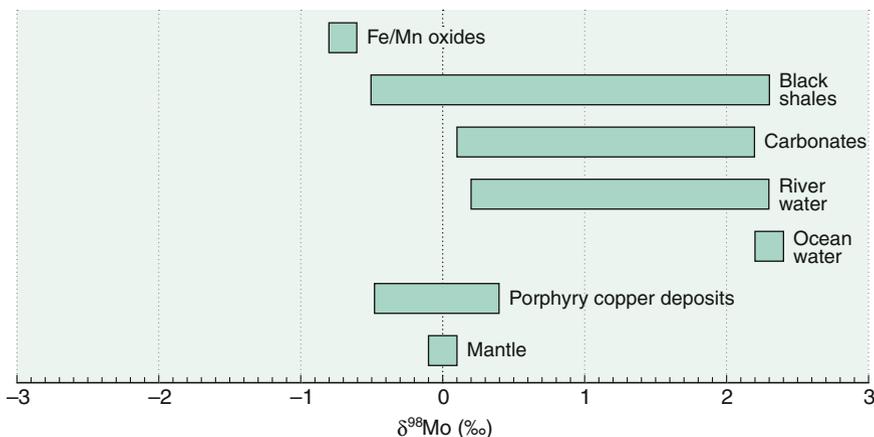


Fig. 2.33 $\delta^{98/95}\text{Mo}$ -values of important geological reservoirs

2.22.2 Sediments

Marine sediments show a large range in isotope composition (Siebert et al. 2006a, b; Poulson et al. 2006). As summarized by Poulson Brucker et al. (2009) Mo in sediments originates from 3 different sources:

- (1) A small riverine fraction. The isotope composition of Mo input from rivers has been investigated by Archer and Vance (2008) and Neubert et al. (2011). They found a large range of $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ values from 0.2 to 2.3 ‰ that are heavier than the average continental crust. Along streams no significant modification of Mo isotope signatures is observed (Neubert et al. 2011). Thus catchment lithology probably controls the delivery of Mo to the ocean. Pearce et al. (2010), on the other hand, argued that Mo isotope differences might be explained by retention of light Mo isotopes in soils.
- (2) Mo associated with biological material that is delivered to the seafloor. The relationship between organic matter and Mo is complex, because Mo is not only incorporated into cells, but is also absorbed to organic material in the water column (Poulson Brucker et al. 2009; Kowalski et al. 2013). As demonstrated by Kowalski et al. (2013), Mo isotope fractionations in tidal systems of the North Sea are caused by biological activity. Zerkle et al. (2011) reported cyanobacterial assimilation of Mo that produce considerable isotope fractionations comparable to those in sedimentary organic matter.
- (3) Mo absorbed to Fe/Mn oxides under oxic conditions and Mo bounded through complexation with sulfides under anoxic conditions. Absorbed Mo has a light composition ($\delta^{98}\text{Mo} -0.7$ ‰) being 3 ‰ depleted relative to seawater (Barling et al. 2001; Siebert et al. 2003, Anbar 2004b; Anbar and Rouxel 2007 and others). In euxinic waters, i.e. below 400 m in the Black Sea, molybdate is converted to MoS_4^{2-} that is completely removed to the sediment thus resulting

in a sediment isotope signature of seawater (Neubert et al. 2008; Nägler et al. 2011). Black shales in general formed in an anoxic environment have a Mo isotope composition nearly identical to ocean water (Barling et al. 2001; Arnold et al. 2004a, b; Nägler et al. 2005). In suboxic and weakly euxinic waters, the removal of Mo is not quantitative leading to isotope fractionations that are superimposed by effects associated with particle scavenging yielding Mo-isotope values intermediate between Fe–Mn crusts and euxinic black shales (McManus et al. 2002, 2006; Nägler et al. 2005; Poulson et al. 2006; Siebert et al. 2003, 2006b). Thus, the Mo isotope composition of black shales only reflects the seawater composition when a critical sulfidity is reached.

2.22.3 Palaeoredox Proxy

Because of its long residence time, Mo in ocean water has a uniform isotope composition with a $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ value of 2.3 ‰ (Anbar 2004b; Anbar and Rouxel 2007). The Mo isotope composition of ancient oceans has been inferred from black shales assuming that the C-org rich sediments accumulated in euxinic settings (Gordon et al. 2009). However, not all black shales represent euxinic conditions. In recent Black Sea sediments, incomplete removal of Mo from seawater may lead to a Mo isotope depletion of ^{98}Mo in anoxic sediments (Neubert et al. 2008). Therefore when reconstructing paleoenvironments it is important to distinguish between euxinic and non-euxinic black shales.

Nevertheless, variations in the Mo isotope compositions of black shales, have been used as a palaeoredox proxy showing changes of reducing marine conditions throughout periods of Earth's history (Arnold et al. 2004a, b; Siebert et al. 2005; Wille et al. 2007; Pearce et al. 2008; Gordon et al. 2009; Dahl et al. 2010a, b, 2011). In a compilation of Mo-isotope values from black shales, Dahl et al. (2010a, b) postulated two episodes of global ocean oxygenation: the emergence of the Ediacaran fauna at around 550 Ma, and the diversification of vascular plants at around 400 Ma. However, as shown by Gordon et al. (2009) the reconstruction of the Mo isotope composition of ancient oceans from organic rich-shales requires independent evidence of local euxinia.

2.22.4 Carbonates

As an alternative tool for the reconstruction of past ocean chemistry, Voegelin et al. (2009, 2010) analyzed the Mo isotopic composition of carbonates. They observed a large spread in $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ -values of biogenic carbonates, which they attributed to vital effects. In contrast inorganic carbonates closely approach modern ocean Mo-values and are not controlled by local redox conditions. Voegelin et al. (2009) concluded that the Mo-isotopic composition of inorganic carbonates may be used to characterize the Mo isotopic composition of past oceanic water masses.

2.23 Cadmium

Cadmium has 8 stable isotopes:

^{106}Cd	1.25 %
^{108}Cd	0.89
^{110}Cd	12.49
^{111}Cd	12.80
^{112}Cd	24.13
^{113}Cd	12.22
^{114}Cd	28.73
^{116}Cd	7.49

Either $^{114}\text{Cd}/^{110}\text{Cd}$ or $^{112}\text{Cd}/^{110}\text{Cd}$ ratios have been reported in the literature, analytical techniques are MC-ICP-MS or double-spike TIMS (Schmitt et al. 2009). Comparing datasets from different laboratories is difficult, because no generally agreed standard exists. Different laboratories have used different commercially available Cd-solutions. Recently, Rehkämper et al. (2011) and Abouchami et al. (2013) suggested NIST SRM 3108 as certified reference material. δ -values reported here are $^{114/110}\text{Cd}$ ratios given relative to SRM 3108 (see Fig. 2.34). A recent review of Cd isotope variations has been published by Rehkämper et al. (2011).

Cd isotope variations are generated mainly by two fractionation processes: (i) partial evaporation/condensation processes in planetary objects and during refining of ore minerals, and (ii) biological utilization of Cd in the oceanic water column. Rocks and minerals show rather constant Cd isotope compositions

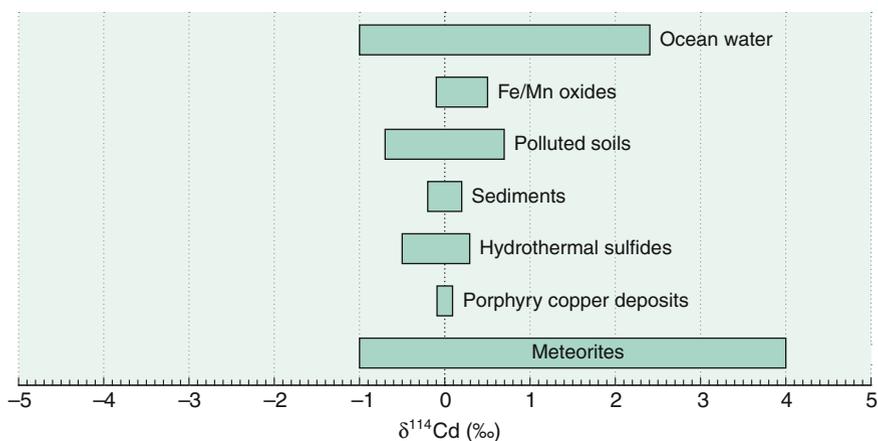


Fig. 2.34 $\delta^{114/110}\text{Cd}$ -values of important geological reservoirs

(Wombacher et al. 2003, 2008). Schmitt et al. (2009) observed in basalts and loess very small differences, suggesting small Cd isotope differences in mantle and crustal rocks.

2.23.1 Extraterrestrial Materials

Cd isotope variations in extraterrestrial material may be caused by kinetic fractionations during evaporation/condensation processes. Carbonaceous chondrites have relative constant Cd isotope compositions (Rehkämper et al. 2011). In contrast, ordinary chondrites and many enstatite chondrites show very large Cd isotope variations with a range in $\delta^{114}\text{Cd}$ values from -8 to $+16$ ‰ (Wombacher et al. 2008). The large range of Cd isotopes in ordinary chondrites obviously results from evaporation/condensation processes, which has been supported by experiments evaporating Cd in vacuo (Wombacher et al. 2004).

The Moon seems to have the same Cd isotope composition as the Earth. Lunar soils are enriched in heavy Cd isotopes, indicating kinetically controlled cadmium loss from the soils.

2.23.2 Marine Environment

Rivers are thought to be the most important source of marine Cd. Rivers in Siberia, analyzed by Lambelet et al. (2013), show a Cd isotope composition close to the continental crust implying that weathering does not produce a measurable Cd isotope fractionation.

Cd in the ocean is a micronutrient, its distribution resembles that of phosphate. Large Cd isotope variations are observed in oceanic surface waters, the most ^{114}Cd enriched values, up to 4 ‰, correlate with waters most depleted in Cd concentration. Rather uniform $\delta^{114}\text{Cd}$ values of 0.3 ‰ were determined for waters below 1000 m water depth (Lacan et al. 2006; Rippberger et al. 2007; Horner et al. 2010; Abouchami et al. 2011; Yang et al. 2012a, b; Gault-Ringold et al. 2012; Xue et al. 2013).

Phytoplankton in surface waters preferentially incorporates isotopically light Cd making the surface ocean isotopically heavy. On the other hand, Yang et al. (2012a, b) observed no net biological fractionation between phytoplankton and ocean water, and suggested that mixing of different water masses might be an important process. Abouchami et al. (2011) observed distinct Cd isotope boundaries in southern Ocean water masses, thereby tracing surface ocean circulation regimes.

Carbonates precipitated from ocean water show very little Cd isotope fractionation and therefore might be used as a tracer for the Cd isotope composition of oceans in the past (Horner et al. 2011). Schmitt et al. (2009) and Horner et al. (2010) reported Cd isotopes for Fe–Mn crusts and demonstrated that nearly all samples were indistinguishable from oceanic deep waters. Thus, Fe–Mn crusts

might potentially be used as a proxy of ancient deep-water Cd isotope composition (Wasylenki et al. 2014).

2.23.3 Pollution Indicator

Soils sampled near ore refineries may be enriched in Cd concentration exhibiting characteristic δ -values (Cloquet et al. 2006). Since Cd isotopes fractionate during evaporation, measurable Cd isotope fractionations should occur during coal burning and sulfide smelting and refining, and indeed, Shiel et al. (2010) observed a 1 ‰ fractionation in $\delta^{114}\text{Cd}$ values during smelting of Zn and Pb ores. Thus, Cd isotope ratios can be used to identify their anthropogenic origin.

2.24 Tin

Tin has 10 stable isotopes, more than any other element, covering the mass range from 112 to 124.

^{112}Sn	0.97
^{114}Sn	0.66
^{115}Sn	0.34
^{116}Sn	14.54
^{117}Sn	7.68
^{118}Sn	24.22
^{119}Sn	8.59
^{120}Sn	32.58
^{122}Sn	4.63
^{124}Sn	5.79

Tin has two oxidation states, Sn(II) and Sn(IV). Cassiterite (SnO_2) is the major tin mineral, but tin also occurs in complex sulfide minerals. Organotin compounds are used in industry, most prominently in the production of polyvinyl chloride as heat and light stabilizer. Due to their widespread use, large amounts of organotin compounds have entered the environment.

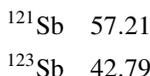
Early studies using TIMS could not detect measurable Sn isotope fractionations due to the high ionization potential of Sn. However, with the introduction of MC-ICP-MS, precise Sn isotope measurements become possible (Clayton et al. 2002; Haustein et al. 2010; Yamazaki et al. 2013). These authors demonstrated that cassiterites from ore deposits in Europe and Asia exhibit relatively large Sn isotope

variations. Haustein et al. (2010) used Sn isotope signatures in cassiterites for the provenance of ancient tin.

Polyakov et al. (2005) concluded from synchrotron radiation experiments that large tin isotope fractionations should be found between tin compounds of different oxidation states. Investigating Sn isotope fractionations during methylation reactions, Malinovskiy et al. (2009) demonstrated that under irradiation of UV light, synthesis and decomposition of methyltin is accompanied by mass-dependent and mass-independent tin isotope fractionations. In summary, although the data base is poor, future Sn isotope studies appear to be promising.

2.25 Antimony

Antimony has two stable isotopes with high abundances



In nature, antimony occurs mainly as sulfide, particularly as stibnite, Sb_2S_3 ; oxides are far less common, although the main industrial use is as Sb_2O_3 . Antimony is moderately volatile and occurs in two oxidation states, Sb(V) and Sb(III).

The most extensive study about Sb isotope variations has been presented by Rouxel et al. (2003) using a MC-ICP-MS technique. More recently, modified MC-ICP techniques have been published by Tanimizu et al. (2011) and Lobo et al. (2013).

By analysing water samples and a suite of sedimentary and magmatic rocks including hydrothermal sulfides from deep-sea vents, Rouxel et al. (2003) observed a total range in $^{123}\text{Sb}/^{121}\text{Sb}$ ratios of 1.6 ‰ with the largest variations occurring in hydrothermal sulfides. Redox changes from Sb being reduced in vent fluids to oxidized Sb in seawater may cause the Sb fractionations, which have been confirmed experimentally during the reduction of Sb(V) to Sb(III).

An interesting aspect of Sb isotope geochemistry is its potential use of provenancing ancient pre-Roman and Roman glass. Sb had been added to obtain colour and opacity in glass. Lobo et al. (2013) demonstrated that different Sb sources had been used for glass production in the Roman era.

2.26 Tellurium

Tellurium occurs in nature in four oxidation states: as two oxyanions, tellurate and tellurite, and in two reduced forms, as native tellurium and as metal telluride. As a chalcophile element, tellurium might show similar behaviour in isotope fractionation with sulfur.

Tellurium has 8 stable isotopes with the following abundances

^{120}Te	0.10 %
^{122}Te	2.60
^{123}Te	0.91
^{124}Te	4.82
^{125}Te	7.14
^{126}Te	19.0
^{128}Te	31.6
^{130}Te	33.7

By measuring $^{130/122}\text{Te}$ ratios in gaseous TeF_6 , Smithers and Krouse (1968) first demonstrated that inorganic and microbiological reductions of tellurite to elemental tellurium causes isotope fractionations with depletions in the heavy isotope in the reaction product. Due to considerable memory effects and other chemical disadvantages, the method has been abandoned. Fehr et al. (2004) introduced a MC-ICP-MS method for tellurium. They found no differences in isotope composition between meteorites and terrestrial tellurides. By measuring $^{130}\text{Te}/^{125}\text{Te}$ ratios with a modified MC-ICP-MS technique, Fornadel et al. (2014) demonstrated that tellurides and native tellurium in ore deposits reveal isotope differences up to 1.64 ‰ with significant variations within individual deposits.

2.27 Barium

Barium consists of 7 naturally occurring isotopes:

^{130}Ba	0.11
^{132}Ba	0.10
^{134}Ba	2.42
^{135}Ba	6.59
^{136}Ba	7.85
^{137}Ba	11.23
^{138}Ba	71.70

Since barium belongs to the earth alkaline elements, its chemical and isotopic behaviour should be closely related to Ca and Sr isotopes. Barium in nature occurs as discrete minerals such as barite and witherite (BaCO_3), but also may substitute potassium in common minerals, especially feldspars. In the ocean, Ba shows a nutrient-type behaviour being associated with organic matter. The wide occurrence

of Ba in low- and high-temperature environments makes Ba an interesting element to look for isotope variations.

Early studies on Ba isotopes concentrated on meteorites (Eugster et al. 1969). More recently, by measuring $^{137}\text{Ba}/^{134}\text{Ba}$ ratios with a MC-ICP-MS technique, von Allmen et al. (2010), Böttcher et al. (2012) and Pretet et al. (2015) reported that Ba minerals and standards vary by up to 0.5 ‰. Distinct differences in Ba-isotope compositions have been reported for barites of different origins (von Allemen et al. 2010).

Besides biological reactions, mineral precipitation and sorption-desorption processes may induce Ba isotope fractionations. Pretet et al. (2015) demonstrated that during inorganic and organic precipitation of carbonates light Ba isotopes are preferentially incorporated, similar to Ca and Sr isotopes. Corals from different oceanic localities show considerable Ba isotope variations which may suggest a heterogeneous Ba isotope composition of seawater. Future Ba isotope measurements may provide a better understanding of the biogeochemical Ba cycle.

2.28 Mercury

Mercury has seven stable isotopes with the following abundances (Rosman and Taylor 1998)

^{196}Hg	0.15
^{198}Hg	9.97
^{199}Hg	16.87
^{200}Hg	23.10
^{201}Hg	13.18
^{202}Hg	29.86
^{204}Hg	6.87

Due to the relative uniform isotope abundances in the mass range ^{198}Hg to ^{204}Hg , several possibilities exist for the measurement of Hg isotope ratios; in most studies δ -values are given as $^{202}\text{Hg}/^{198}\text{Hg}$ ratios. Since the first description of a precise MC-ICP-MS technique (Lauretta et al. 2001), the number of Hg-isotope studies has grown exponentially. Reviews have been presented by Bergquist and Blum (2009), Yin et al. (2010), Blum (2011) and Blum et al. (2014). The large interest in Hg isotopes relies on two factors: (i) due to its ability to be transported over long distances in the atmosphere, mercury is a global pollutant and (ii) large mass independent isotope fractionations have been observed besides mass-dependent fractionations (Sonke 2011 and others).

The biogeochemical cycle of Hg is complex including different redox states and various chemical speciations affecting its mobility and toxicity. Mercury can exist as stable HgS (cinnabar) and in the form of Hg–S complexes, in methylated form (methylmercury) and in gaseous and aerosol phases in the atmosphere. Emissions are dominated by anthropogenic activity (coal combustion), but inputs from volcanic and hydrothermal emissions are also significant. Atmospheric Hg can be converted into methylmercury by bacteria that may accumulate in aquatic food webs potentially causing severe health problems.

Large $\delta^{202/198}\text{Hg}$ -isotope fractionations have been observed in natural samples (Bergquist and Blum 2009 and others), far larger than anticipated. The natural Hg isotope variation encompasses 7 ‰, from $\delta^{202}\text{Hg}$ –4.5 to +2.5 ‰ relative to NIST 3133 (Zambardi et al. 2009).

Bucharenko (2001) and Schauble (2007) demonstrated that isotope variations are controlled by nuclear volume and magnetic shift isotope effects being negligible for the light elements.

2.28.1 MDF and MIF Fractionation Processes

Most equilibrium and kinetic processes for Hg are mass dependent fractionations (MDF), i.e. Hg reacting during microbial transformations (Kritee et al. 2007, 2009); as for other elements, MDF depend on the type of organism, temperature, growth rate etc. On the other hand, experiments during abiotic photoreduction show MDF and mass independent fractionations, MIF, that have been observed for the odd isotopes ^{199}Hg and ^{201}Hg (Bergquist and Blum 2009). Experiments identified photoreduction of aquatic inorganic Hg^{2+} and photodegradation of monomethylmercury as MIF inducing reactions (Sonke 2011).

The magnitude of the observed MIF due to the nuclear volume effect is generally small. As predicted by Bucharenko et al. (2004) and Schauble (2007) and confirmed in experiments by Zheng and Hintelmann (2010), nuclear volume effects have been reported for the Hg liquid-vapor transition (Estrade et al. 2009; Ghosh et al. 2013), in which a small enrichment of the odd over the even isotopes takes place (Sonke and Blum 2013) (<0.2 ‰ for $\Delta^{199}\text{Hg}$ and $\Delta^{201}\text{Hg}$) resulting in $\Delta^{199}\text{Hg}/\Delta^{201}\text{Hg}$ ratios of 1.5–2 (Estrade et al. 2009; Zheng and Hintelmann 2010). Larger MIFs have been observed during photochemical reduction of Hg (Bergquist and Blum 2009), in which magnetic isotope effects are the major fractionation process. The largest positive MIF of Hg isotopes (odd mass excess) probably is caused by photochemical degradation of methylmercury in water, which is transferred to the biosphere, in specific to fish (Bergquist and Blum 2009; Blum and Bergquist 2007, 2009). The largest negative MIF (odd mass deficit) is caused by photochemical reduction of inorganic Hg.

MIF reactions may yield a characteristic signature insofar that only odd isotopes (^{199}Hg , ^{201}Hg) deviate significantly from MDF. The ratio $\Delta^{199}\text{Hg}/\Delta^{201}\text{Hg}$ seems to be diagnostic of the process causing the MIF (Bergquist and Blum 2009). Recent

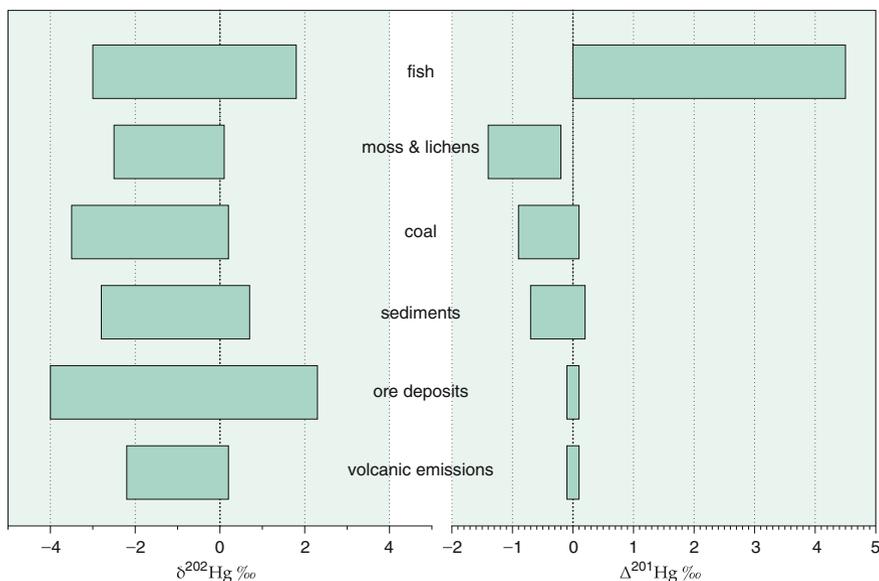


Fig. 2.35 $\delta^{202/198}\text{Hg}$ and $\Delta^{201}\text{Hg}$ values of important geological reservoirs

studies of atmospheric Hg samples show, however, that even isotopes of Hg may also show small non-mass dependent fractionations (Chen et al. 2012; Rolison et al. 2013). The mechanism for the even isotope mass independent fractionations remain, however, unclear.

For the calculation of odd and even numbered MIF values, Blum and Bergquist (2007) gave the following definitions.

$$\Delta^{199}\text{Hg} = \delta^{199}\text{Hg} - (\delta^{202}\text{Hg} \times 0.2520)$$

$$\Delta^{200}\text{Hg} = \delta^{200}\text{Hg} - (\delta^{202}\text{Hg} \times 0.5024)$$

$$\Delta^{201}\text{Hg} = \delta^{201}\text{Hg} - (\delta^{202}\text{Hg} \times 0.7520)$$

$$\Delta^{204}\text{Hg} = \delta^{204}\text{Hg} - (\delta^{202}\text{Hg} \times 1.4930)$$

Figure 2.35 summarizes MDF and MIF Hg isotope variations in important reservoirs (modified from Bergquist and Blum 2009).

2.28.2 Variations in Rocks

Hg has two common oxidation states: Hg(0) exists primarily in gaseous form and Hg(II) exists as highly particle-reactive gaseous, aqueous and solid species. Dissolved Hg(II) has affinities for sulfides and organic matter.

Isotope variations of mercury in common magmatic rocks are very small. A larger range does occur in Hg ore deposits and in hydrothermal springs (Smith

et al. 2008). Smith et al. (2008) postulated that boiling of hydrothermal fluids and separation of a Hg-bearing vapour phase are responsible for the observed isotope variations. Sherman et al. (2009) investigated the Guaymas and Yellowstone hydrothermal systems. They reported considerable isotope fractionations, in the Guaymas system solely being mass-dependent, whereas at Yellowstone small mass-independent fractionations occur which may be due to the presence of light facilitating photochemical reactions.

Sapropels—sediments deposited during periods of high primary productivity—may record the Hg isotopic composition of the ocean by quantitative sequestration of Hg by organic matter. Sapropels from the Mediterranean gave $\delta^{202}\text{Hg}$ values from -1.0 to -0.6 ‰ (Gehrke et al. 2009).

Mosses and lichens are passive filters of atmospheric particulates, which may monitor atmospheric Hg emissions. Carignan et al. (2009) demonstrated that they are characterized by negative MIF. Snow samples also may be regarded as good collectors of atmospheric Hg particulates (Sherman et al. 2010).

2.28.3 Environmental Pollutant

The geochemical cycle of mercury is characterized by atmospheric transport over long distances. Mercury exists in 3 species in the atmosphere: (i) elemental Hg (Hg^0) having a residence time of about 1 year in the atmosphere, (ii) divalent reactive gaseous Hg^{2+} and (iii) Hg bound to particles. These species are linked together by abundant oxidation and reduction processes. Hg^0 comprises more than 90 % of total atmospheric Hg and is relatively stable allowing large scale mixing, whereas the other two species are much more reactive and deposit readily.

Besides natural inputs from volcanic and hydrothermal emissions, anthropogenic sources dominate Hg emissions with coal combustion being the largest contributor. Because elementary Hg is extremely volatile, mercury easily exchanges between water and air and between land and air, resulting in global dispersion.

Hg MDF and MIF signatures in moss, peat, coal and soils demonstrate that a large part of the Hg surface reservoir has been affected by anthropogenic activities offering the possibility to use Hg isotopes as a fingerprint (Sonke 2011) and to quantify the relative contributions of Hg deposition from local, regional and global sources. As suggested by Kritee et al. (2007, 2009), Hg isotopes may distinguish between different sources of mercury emissions based on the magnitude of isotope fractionations. Sonke et al. (2010) investigated mercury pollution from two European metal refineries and showed that heavy Hg isotopes are preferentially retained in slag residues. Ma et al. (2013) investigated Hg emissions from a heavy metal smelter in Manitoba. Hg isotope variations observed in sediment cores can be explained by mixing of a natural endmember ($\delta^{202}\text{Hg} -2.4$ ‰) and an anthropogenic endmember emitted from the smelter ($\delta^{202}\text{Hg} -0.9$). Sediment cores 5 and 73 km away from the smelter reveal decreasing Hg concentrations and characteristic shifts in Hg isotope values. Even at the distance of 73 km 70 % of the Hg in the sediments originated from the smelter. In comparable studies, Stetson et al. (2009)

and Yin et al. (2013) have reached similar conclusions by investigating Hg pollution and Hg isotope fractionation in the vicinity of Ag, Au and Hg mines.

At the global scale, anthropogenic emissions are dominated by coal fired power plants. Biswas et al. (2008) demonstrated that coal deposits in the United States, China and Kazakhstan have characteristic Hg isotope values that can be used to discriminate among Hg sources. $\delta^{202}\text{Hg}$ in coal vary by 3 ‰ and $\Delta^{201}\text{Hg}$ by 0.9 ‰. Combining the two variables may result in a characteristic fingerprint for coal deposits.

2.29 Thallium

The geochemical behaviour of thallium is largely controlled by its large ionic radius, which makes it highly incompatible during magmatic processes. Tl exists in two valence states as Tl^+ and Tl^{3+} . Because of its high redox potential, the oxidized form is uncommon in natural environments, but seems to play an important role during adsorption processes. Furthermore Tl is a highly volatile element favoring kinetic fractionations during degassing processes.

Thallium has two stable isotopes with masses 203 and 205.

^{203}Tl	29.52
^{205}Tl	70.48

The small relative mass difference between the two Tl isotopes predicts little Tl isotope fractionations. However, the so far observed Tl isotope variation is larger than 3 ‰ (Rehkämper et al. 2002; Nielsen et al. 2006). Responsible for the large variation are Tl isotope fractionations between seawater and Fe–Mn oxyhydroxides and fractionations during low temperature alterations of the oceanic crust.

The generally used standard is NIST 997 Tl metal. It is important to note that Tl isotope ratios are generally given in the ϵ -notation (variations in parts per 10,000), in the following Tl isotope ratios are given, however, as δ -values. A recent review about the Tl isotope geochemistry has been published by Nielsen and Rehkämper (2011). Figure 2.36 summarizes natural Tl isotope variations

2.29.1 Igneous Rocks

During magmatic processes (crystal fractionation, crustal assimilation etc.) little fractionations seem to occur. Nielsen et al. (2005, 2006, 2007) demonstrated that the continental crust does not differ from the mantle. By analysing igneous rocks in the vicinity of porphyry copper deposits, Baker et al. (2010) reported a variation range of about 0.6 ‰ due to hydrothermal alteration processes.

Because Tl is a volatile trace element, it becomes enriched in volcanic condensates. As shown by Baker et al. (2009) gaseous volcanic emissions are more variable in Tl isotope composition than igneous rocks, but have a mean value being indistinguishable from the estimated mantle composition. The larger variability may

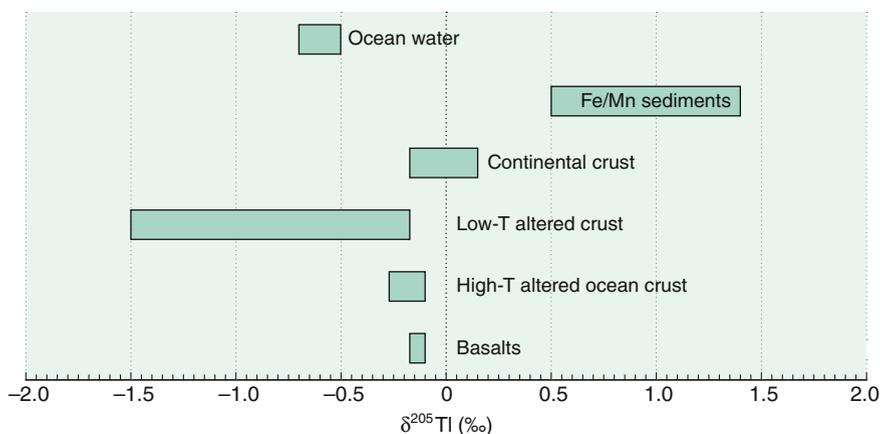


Fig. 2.36 $\delta^{205}\text{Tl}$ -values of important geological reservoirs

result from partial evaporation during mantle degassing. As indicated in late magmatic/hydrothermal veins, Hettmann et al. (2014) demonstrated that fluids released during degassing are enriched in ^{205}Tl .

Since most geochemical reservoirs except Fe–Mn marine sediments and low temperature seawater altered basalts are more or less invariant in Tl isotope composition, admixing of small amounts of Fe–Mn sediments or low-temperature altered oceanic crust into the mantle should induce small Tl isotope fractionations in mantle derived rocks (Nielsen et al. 2006, 2007). Thus, Tl isotopes may have potential to distinguish between different admixtures to arc lavas. Lavas from the Mariana arc, however, overlap with MORB basalts in Tl isotope composition (Prytulak et al. 2013a, b); thus, no external input can be detected.

2.29.2 Fractionations in the Ocean

No significant Tl isotope fractionations occur during weathering. Dissolved and particulate components in river water do not differ from those of the continental crust (Nielsen et al. 2005). The oceans, however, are depleted in ^{203}Tl compared to the continental crust. A systematic 2 ‰ difference between Fe–Mn crusts enriched in ^{205}Tl and seawater has been observed by Rehkämper et al. (2002), which seems to be due to a fractionation effect during adsorption of Tl onto Fe–Mn particles (Rehkämper et al. 2004).

Variations of Tl concentrations and isotope compositions of seawater over time may depend on different rates of Tl removal via scavenging on Fe–Mn oxyhydroxides and via uptake during low temperature alteration of oceanic crust (Nielsen et al. 2009, 2011a, b, c). Nielsen et al. (2009) observed that growth layers of two Fe–Mn crusts from the Pacific Ocean show a systematic change Tl isotope

composition with age, which they explained by time-dependent changes in Tl-isotope composition of seawater. Low Tl isotope ratios during the age range between 55 and 45 Ma might be explained by a fourfold increase of Fe–Mn oxide precipitation compared to present day.

The potential to use Tl isotopes as a paleoredox proxy has been shown by Nielsen et al. (2011a, b, c). Early diagenetic pyrite deposited in an oxic water column display Tl isotope ratios heavier than seawater, whereas pyrite deposited under euxinic conditions have a Tl isotope composition close to seawater, due to reduced precipitation of Fe/Mn oxides in a sulfidic water column.

2.30 Uranium

Natural uranium is mainly composed of two long-lived radioactive isotopes:

$$\begin{array}{ll} {}^{235}\text{U} & 0.72\% \\ {}^{238}\text{U} & 99.27\% \end{array}$$

In the past uranium isotopes have been widely used as a chronological tool. Present day isotope fractionation between ${}^{235}\text{U}$ and ${}^{238}\text{U}$ has been considered to be insignificant. The ratio ${}^{238}\text{U}/{}^{235}\text{U}$ has been assumed to be a constant with a value of 137.88. However, precise measurements by Hiess et al. (2012) on a suite of uranium-bearing minerals commonly used for U-Pb geochronology, e.g. zircons, exhibit isotope variations in $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ values larger than 5 ‰.

Uranium exists in two oxidation states having different solubilities. Under oxidizing conditions, U is typically present as soluble hexavalent uranyl ion UO_2^{2+} , under reducing conditions U occurs in the tetravalent state, forming relatively insoluble complexes. These properties favor natural isotope variations. Fractionations occur due to mass-independent nuclear volume fractionations, resulting from the differences in nuclear size and shape (Schauble 2007; Abe et al. 2008). Schauble (2007) showed that as a function of oxidation state enriched $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ values occur in reduced species, opposite to fractionations generally observed.

Using MC-ICP-MS techniques, Stirling et al. (2007), Weyer et al. (2008), Bopp et al. (2009), Montoya-Pino et al. (2010) reported $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ variations of more than 1 ‰ in various rock types (see Fig. 2.37). Several standards are in use, δ -values measured with a precision better than 0.1 ‰ are given relative to the SRM 950a standard.

2.30.1 Fractionation Processes

Uranium isotope fractionations mainly are attributed to biogenic or abiogenic reduction of U(VI) to U(IV). Basu et al. (2014) determined experimentally uranium isotope fractionations of up to 1 ‰ during microbial U(VI) reduction. Diverse

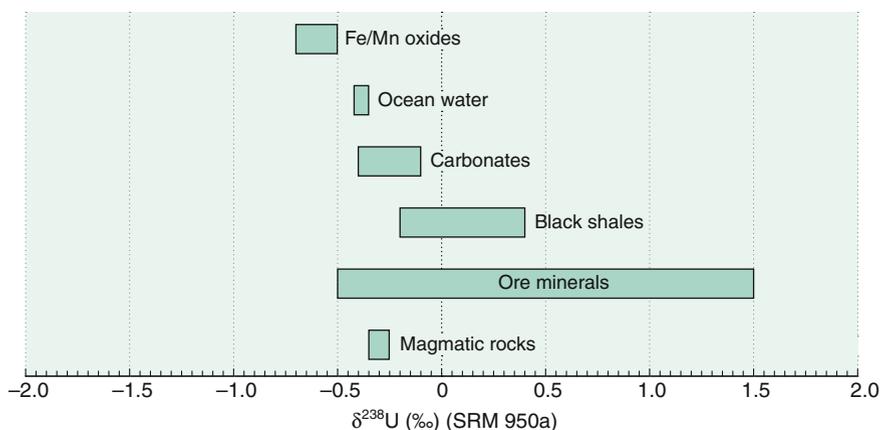


Fig. 2.37 $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ -values of important geological reservoirs

microorganisms are capable of reducing U(VI) to U(IV) inducing isotope fractionations that is opposite in direction observed during reduction of nitrate, sulphate and chromate: ^{238}U preferentially partitions into U(IV) phases, whereas ^{235}U is enriched in U(VI) phases. Thus, heavy $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ values are observed for black shales, which contain the reduced form of U, and light isotope values are observed for Fe/Mn oxides.

Another process causing significant U isotope fractionation occurs between seawater and Fe–Mn oxides. Brennacka et al. (2013) postulated that U fractionation is due to coordination changes during absorption. As the redox change of U does not change during absorption, a difference in the coordination environment between dissolved and absorbed U is obviously responsible for the isotope fractionation.

2.30.2 Characteristic U Signatures

Uranium in the ocean occurs mainly in the soluble U(VI) form with a $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ -value of -0.4‰ (Weyer et al. 2008). Under oxic conditions U may be removed through adsorption on Fe/Mn oxides depleted in ^{238}U , shifting oceanic U to heavier values. Under anoxic conditions, sediments enrich ^{238}U shifting ocean water to lighter U isotope values.

The potential of uranium isotopes as a paleo-redox tracer has been investigated by Montoya-Pino et al. (2010), Brennecke et al. (2011), Kendall et al. (2013) and Noordmann et al. (2015). Montoya-Pino et al. (2010) demonstrated that U isotope variations in black shales can be used to quantify the extent of marine anoxia. Black shales from the Cretaceous (Oceanic Anoxic Event 2) are systematically lighter in ^{238}U than modern Black Sea shales which corresponds to a threefold increase of oceanic anoxia relative to the present ocean.

Measurements by Stirling et al. (2007) and Weyer et al. (2008) on recent and fossil corals suggested that carbonates might record the isotope composition of seawater of the geologic past. On the other hand, as argued by Romaniello et al. (2013), $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ values of ancient carbonates, affected by diagenetic processes, may be enriched in ^{238}U due to U accumulation under anoxic pore water conditions.

Large differences of nearly 2 ‰ have been observed between uranium ores formed at low and at high temperatures (Bopp et al. 2009; Uvarova et al. 2015; Murphy et al. 2014): magmatic ores vary from -0.7 to -0.3 ‰ whereas sandstone-type low temperature ores have $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ -values around $+0.4$ ‰. Isotope variations seem to be controlled by the isotope composition of the U source and the efficiency of U reduction. Up to 5 ‰ fractionations have been observed in U mineralised sediment—groundwater systems (Murphy et al. 2014). ^{238}U preferentially enriches in the sediment, leading to depletions in the groundwater.

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3.1 Extraterrestrial Materials

Extraterrestrial materials consist of samples from the moon, Mars and a variety of smaller bodies such as asteroids and comets. These planetary samples have been used to deduce the evolution of our solar system. A major difference between extraterrestrial and terrestrial materials is the existence of primordial isotopic heterogeneities in the early solar system. These heterogeneities are not observed on Earth, because they have become obliterated during high-temperature processes over geologic time. Nevertheless, isotopes have been used as a genetic link between meteorites and the Earth (i.e. Clayton 2004). Small differences in isotope composition between the Earth and meteorite groups may identify the type of meteorites that are representative of precursor material that formed the early Earth (Simon and de Paolo 2010; Valdes et al. 2014).

Heterogeneities in isotope composition indicate incomplete mixing of distinct presolar materials during formation of the solar system. Such isotope anomalies have been documented on all scales, from microscopic zoning in meteoritic minerals to bulk asteroids. The most extreme examples, however, have been documented from minute presolar grains extracted from primitive meteorites and measured with the ion microprobe. The abundance of presolar grains in meteorites is at the level of tens of ppm; the bulk isotope composition of meteorites remains more or less unaffected. These high-temperature grains of silicon carbide, graphite, diamond etc. have been formed by condensation in cooling gases and show isotope variations that may vary by several orders of magnitude, too large to be explained by chemical or physical fractionation, but pointing to nuclear reactions. They have acquired their isotope characteristics before the solar system has been formed. The implications of these variations for models of stellar formation have been summarized by Zinner (1998), Hoppe and Zinner (2000), Clayton and Nittler (2004) and others.

3.1.1 Chondrites

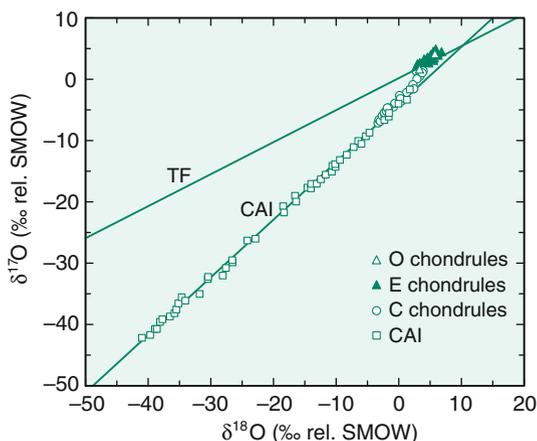
Primitive meteorites of chondritic composition are stony undifferentiated bodies that have formed from the primitive solar material during the formation of the solar system. Chondritic meteorites can be divided into different classes on the basis of their volatile contents and of their total iron content distributed between Fe in silicates and Fe in metal.

Most chondrites have experienced a complex history, which includes primary formation processes and secondary processes that include thermal metamorphism and aqueous alteration. It is generally very difficult to distinguish between the effects of primary and secondary processes on the basis of isotope composition.

3.1.1.1 Oxygen

It is generally agreed that variations in the oxygen isotope composition within the solar system result from mixing of two distinct reservoirs: an ^{16}O -rich and an ^{17}O , ^{18}O -rich reservoir relative to Earth. The first observation, that clearly demonstrated isotopic inhomogeneities in the early solar system, was made by Clayton et al. (1973a). Previously, it had been thought that in a plot of $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ versus $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$, all physical and chemical processes must produce mass-dependent O-isotope fractionations yielding a straight line with a slope of 0.52. This line has been called the “Terrestrial Fractionation Line”. Figure 3.1 shows that O-isotope data from terrestrial and lunar samples fall along the predicted mass-dependent fractionation line. Bulk meteorites, the Moon and Mars lie within a few ‰ above or below the terrestrial fractionation line. However, selected anhydrous high-temperature minerals in carbonaceous chondrites, do not fall along the chemical fractionation trend, but instead define another trend with a slope of 1. The first evidence for oxygen isotope anomalies was found in Ca–Al-rich refractory inclusions (CAI) in the Allende carbonaceous chondrite, which are composed predominantly of melilite, pyroxene, and spinel.

Fig. 3.1 ^{17}O versus ^{18}O isotopic composition of Ca–Al rich inclusions (CAI) from chondrites (Clayton 1993) (Fig. 3.1, 6th edition, p. 95)



The carbonaceous chondrites display the widest range in oxygen isotope composition of any meteorite group (Clayton and Mayeda 1999). The evolution of these meteorites can be interpreted as a progression of interactions between dust and gas components in the solar nebula followed by solid/fluid interactions within parent bodies. Young et al. (1999) have shown that reactions between rock and water inside a carbonaceous chondrite parent body could have produced groups of different carbonaceous chondrite types having different paragenesis of secondary minerals. The analysis of the isotope compositions of phyllosilicates, carbonates etc. provide evidence under which conditions aqueous alteration took place. Clumped isotope temperatures between 20 and 70 °C allow the reconstruction of aqueous alterations in carbonaceous chondrites (Guo and Eiler 2007).

Yurimoto et al. (2008) have summarized the oxygen isotope composition of the chondrite components (refractory inclusions, chondrules and matrix) and concluded that O isotope variations within a chondrite are typically larger than O isotope variations among bulk chondrites. The question remains as to where, when, and how the isotopic anomalies were originally produced (Thiemens 1988). Even without full understanding of the causes of isotope variations in meteorites, oxygen isotopes are very useful in classifying meteorites and in relating meteorites to their precursor asteroids and planets (Clayton 2004). Oxygen isotope signatures have confirmed that eucrites, diogenites, howardites and mesosiderites originate from one single parent body probably derived from the asteroid 4 Vesta, as shergottites, nakhlites and chassignites come from another parent body (Clayton and Mayeda 1996). The main group of pallasites represent intermixed core-mantle material from a single disrupted asteroid with no equivalent known (Greenwood et al. 2006).

In the past it had been assumed that the oxygen isotope composition of the Sun is the same as that of the Earth. This view has changed with the suggestion of Clayton (2002) that the Sun and the initial composition of the solar system is ^{16}O rich. By assuming the O-isotope composition of the Sun is reflected in the composition of the solar wind. McKeegan et al. (2011) measured the solar wind collected during the Genesis Discovery mission, which indeed is highly enriched in ^{16}O and they demonstrated that rocks from the inner solar system are enriched in ^{17}O and ^{18}O by about 70 ‰ relative to ^{16}O by mass-independent fractionation processes. According to this model, solar system rocks had become ^{16}O poor due to UV self shielding of CO, the most abundant oxygen containing molecule in the solar system. Oxygen released by the UV dissociation of CO then form together with other components of the solar system solid minerals with mass-independent oxygen isotope compositions.

In addition to oxygen isotopes, the volatile elements H, C, N and S show extremely large variations in isotope composition of bulk meteorites. Rather than analyzing bulk meteorite samples, investigations in recent years have concentrated on the analyses of individual components.

3.1.1.2 Hydrogen

The solar system consists of water containing reservoirs with very different D/H isotope compositions that can be used as fingerprints for the origin of water in planetary bodies (Saal et al. 2013; Sarafian et al. 2014). Hydrogen isotopes indicate a gradient through the solar system as a function of distance from the Sun: the protosolar nebula is very D-depleted whereas ice in the outer solar system is very D enriched. Similar ranges of D/H ratios among carbonaceous chondrites, Earth, Mars and Moon suggest a common source region for water in these planetary bodies. Alexander et al. (2012) compared D-isotope ratios of chondritic meteorites with those in comets and demonstrated that they are distinct from one another with comets being highly enriched in D relative to chondrites. Since the various types of chondrites have D-contents being similar to Earth, the dominant source of volatiles on Earth appear to be from asteroids (Sarafian et al. 2014).

In extraterrestrial material, hydrogen is bound in hydrated minerals and in organic matter. Hydrogen isotopes, thus, may provide insight not only into the origin of water in planetary material (Robert 2001; Alexander et al. 2012; Marty 2012; Saal et al. 2013), but also in the origin of organic molecules (Deloule and Robert 1995; Deloule et al. 1998).

Bulk D/H ratios of meteorites give a relatively homogeneous composition with a mean δD -value of -100 ‰ (Robert et al. 2000). This relatively homogeneous composition masks the very heterogeneous distribution of individual components. Considerable efforts have been undertaken to analyze D/H ratios of the different compounds (Robert et al. 1978; Kolodny et al. 1980; Robert and Epstein 1982; Becker and Epstein 1982; Yang and Epstein 1984; Kerridge 1983; Kerridge et al. 1987; Halbout et al. 1990; Krishnamurthy et al. 1992). Eiler and Kitchen (2004) have evaluated the hydrogen isotope composition of water-rich carbonaceous chondrites by stepped-heating analysis of very small amounts of separated water-rich material. They observed a decrease in δD with increasing extent of aqueous alteration from 0 ‰ (least altered, most volatile rich) to -200 ‰ (most altered, least volatile rich).

Hydrogen in organic matter reveals a δD -variation from -500 to $+6000$ ‰ whereas water in silicates gives a variation from -400 to $+3700$ ‰ (Deloule and Robert 1995; Deloule et al. 1998). Two mechanisms have been proposed to account for the deuterium enrichment: (i) for organic molecules, high D/H ratios can be explained by ion molecule reactions that occur in interstellar space and (ii) for the phyllosilicates the enrichment can be produced via isotope exchange between water and hydrogen (Robert et al. 2000).

Alexander et al. (2010) reported even larger D-enrichment up to almost $+12,000$ ‰ in insoluble organic material. These authors suggested that such large enrichments may be produced in the meteorite parent body through the loss of isotopically very light H_2 generated through Fe oxidation by water at temperatures below 200 °C.

3.1.1.3 Carbon

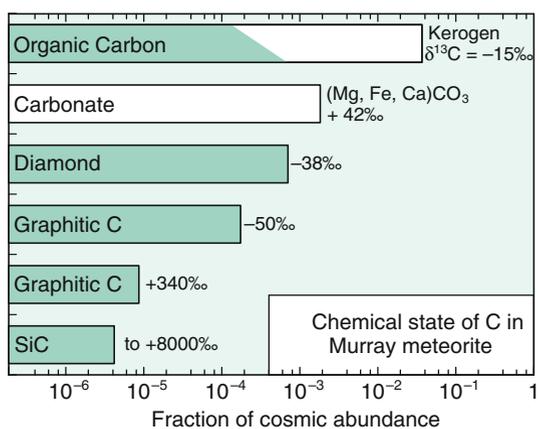
Besides the bulk carbon isotopic composition, the various carbon phases occurring in carbonaceous chondrites (kerogen, carbonates, graphite, diamond, silicon carbide) have been individually analyzed. The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values of the total carbon fall into a narrow range, whereas $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values for different carbon compounds in single meteorites show extremely different ^{13}C -contents. Figure 3.2 shows one such example, the Murray meteorite after Ming et al. (1989).

Of special interest are the minute grains of silicon carbide and graphite in primitive carbonaceous chondrites, which obviously carry the chemical signature of the pre-solar environment (Ott 1993). The SiC grains, present at a level of a few ppm, have a wide range in silicon and carbon isotope composition, with accompanying nitrogen also being isotopically highly variable. The $^{12}\text{C}/^{13}\text{C}$ ratio ranges from 2 to 2500, whereas it is 89 for the bulk Earth. According to Ott (1993), the SiC grains can be regarded as “star dust”, probably from carbon stars that existed long before our solar system. Amari et al. (1993) presented ion microprobe data of individual micrometer sized graphite grains in the Murchison meteorite, that also deviate from values typical for the solar system. These authors interpreted the isotope variability as indicating at least three different types of stellar sources.

The analysis of meteoritic organic matter may provide information about the origin of prebiotic organic matter in the early solar system. Carbonaceous chondrites contain organic carbon in solvent-insoluble form (about 70 %) and a mixture of solvent-soluble organic compounds (about 30 %). The organic carbon is substantially enriched in ^{13}C and ^{15}N , indicating that the material is not a terrestrial contaminant.

Two hypotheses have dominated the debate over formation mechanisms for the organic matter: I. formation by a Fischer-Tropsch type process (the synthesis of hydrocarbons from carbon monoxide and hydrogen) promoted by catalytic mineral grains and II. formation by Miller-Urey type reactions (the production of organic compounds by radiation or electric discharge) in an atmosphere in contact with an

Fig. 3.2 Carbon compounds in primitive meteorites. Species classified as interstellar on the basis of C-isotopes are coloured. Only a minor fraction of organic carbon is interstellar (after Ming et al. 1989) (Fig. 3.2, 6th edition, p. 97)



aqueous phase. However, the isotopic variability exhibited by the volatile elements in different phases in carbonaceous chondrites is not readily compatible with abiotic syntheses. Either complex variants of these reactions must be invoked, or totally different types of reactions need to be considered. $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values reported for amino acids in the Murchison meteorite vary between +23 and +44 ‰ (Epstein et al. 1987). Engel et al. (1990) analyzed individual amino acids in the Murchison meteorite and also confirmed a strong ^{13}C enrichment. Of particular importance is the discovery of a distinct $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ difference between D- and L-alanine, which suggests that optically active forms of material were present in the early solar system.

Compound specific C- and D-isotope compositions of carboxylic acids, the most abundant class of soluble organic compounds in carbonaceous chondrites show a large range in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ C-values (from -31 to +32 ‰) and positive δD -values, that give evidence that these materials are not terrestrial contaminants (Huang et al. 2005).

In the insoluble macromolecular organic matter Alexander et al. (2007) observed very large variations within and between chondrite classes. These authors excluded Fischer-Tropsch type reactions being responsible for the large variations but instead argued that processes within parent bodies, such as different degrees of thermal alteration, may cause differences in δD -values.

3.1.1.4 Nitrogen

The extent and the origin of the nitrogen isotope composition in the solar system is unknown. Solar wind collected during the Genesis mission has a ^{15}N -content that is about 400 ‰ depleted relative to the terrestrial atmosphere (Marty et al. 2011). Thus, it can be expected that nitrogen should be isotopically heterogeneous in the solar system. What was considered by Kaplan (1975) to be a wide range of $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ values in meteorites has continuously expanded over the years (Kung and Clayton 1978; Robert and Epstein 1982; Lewis et al. 1983; Prombo and Clayton 1985; Grady and Pillinger 1990, 1993). In general, chondrites have whole rock nitrogen isotope values of 0 ± 50 ‰. However, some chondrites have δ -values up to 850 ‰ (Grady and Pillinger 1990). Nitrogen released during step-wise heating indicate two N-components: one at low temperatures has $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values between -20 and -40 ‰ and one at high temperatures has a $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ composition of +260 ‰ (Alexander et al. 1998). The large ^{15}N -enrichment in bulk meteorites relative to the protosolar gas requires the existence of especially enriched ^{15}N -compounds and cannot be explained by isotope fractionation processes in planetary environments.

3.1.1.5 Sulfur

There are many sulfur components in meteorites which may occur in all possible valence states (-2 to +6). Troilite is the most abundant sulfur compound of iron meteorites and has a relatively constant S-isotope composition (recall that troilite from the Canyon Diablo iron meteorite is the international sulfur standard). Carbonaceous chondrites contain sulfur in the form of sulfates, sulfides, elemental sulfur and complex organic sulfur-containing molecules. Monster et al. (1965), Kaplan and Hulston (1966) and Gao and Thiemens (1993a, b) separated the various

sulfur components and demonstrated that sulfides are characterized by the highest $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values, whereas sulfates have the lowest $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values, just the opposite from what is generally observed in terrestrial samples. This is strong evidence against any microbiological activity and instead favors a kinetic isotope fractionation in a sulfur–water reaction (Monster et al. 1965). The largest internal isotope fractionation (7 ‰) is found in the Orgueil carbonaceous chondrite (Gao and Thiemens 1993a). Orgueil and Murchison have internal isotopic variations between different specimens, which may indicate that sulfur isotope heterogeneity existed in meteorite parent bodies.

Quadruple sulfur isotope measurements potentially may help in identifying genetic relationships between meteorites in a similar way to oxygen isotopes. Early measurements by Hulston and Thode (1965) and Kaplan and Hulston (1966), and those by Gao and Thiemens (1993a, b), did not indicate any nuclear isotope anomaly. However, more recent measurements by Rai et al. (2005) on achondrites and by Rai and Thiemens (2007) on chondrites did show the presence of mass independent sulfur isotope fractionations indicating photochemical reactions of gaseous sulfur species in the early solar nebula.

3.1.1.6 Metal Isotopes

Mass dependent metal isotope fractionations in meteorites may be due to (i) initial heterogeneities, (ii) fractionation processes during condensation and planetary accretion and (iii) differentiation processes after planet formation. Metal isotope studies of meteorites have been used to characterize the conditions of planetary accretion, including core formation and the loss of volatiles. Isotope variations in meteorites have been found for example for Fe (Weyer et al. 2005; Williams et al. 2006; Schoenberg and von Blanckenburg 2006), for Zn and for Cu (Luck et al. 2005; Moynier et al. 2007). Mass dependent Mg, Si and Fe isotope fractionations among different extraterrestrial objects may, in principle, result from loss of planetary material to space through vaporization or to loss to a planet's core.

Because of the high abundance and variable oxidation state, iron is the most studied metal element in the solar system. Differences in Fe isotope composition between chondrites, iron meteorites and terrestrial basalts may indicate isotope fractionations between metallic and ferrous Fe during segregation of planetary objects into a metallic core and a silicate mantle (Poitrasson et al. 2005; Weyer et al. 2005; Schoenberg and von Blanckenburg 2006; Williams et al. 2012; Craddock et al. 2013). Temperatures above 1000 °C necessary for core segregation were long considered too high to record any detectable isotope fractionation. Fe, Mg and Si isotope investigations have shown, however, that this is not the case (Georg et al. 2007; Weyer and Ionov 2007; Wiechert and Halliday 2007; Fitoussi et al. 2009; Ziegler et al. 2010). Whether core-mantle segregation fractionates Fe isotopes on Earth is a matter of debate. At temperatures between 1750 and 2000 °C, Poitrasson et al. (2009) observed no Fe isotope fractionation between Fe-Ni alloy and ultra-mafic melt (see also discussion on p. 211).

Of special interest are iron meteorites, generally used as analogues of planetary core formation. As shown by Williams et al. (2006) Fe isotope differences between metal and troilite in the range of 0.5 ‰—the metal phase being heavier than the sulfide phase troilite—may be interpreted as equilibrium fractionations. On the other hand, metal-sulfide fractionations for Cu isotopes are very variable, being one order of magnitude greater than for Fe isotopes and thus cannot represent equilibrium conditions (Williams and Archer 2011).

Calcium is a pure lithophile element which does not partition into planetary cores and is not affected by evaporation. Therefore, Ca isotopes may indicate genetic links between Earth and different classes of meteorites. Earth, Moon, Mars and differentiated asteroids are indistinguishable from primitive ordinary chondrites in Ca isotope composition (Simon and de Paolo 2010; Valdes et al. 2014). In contrast, enstatite chondrites are slightly enriched in heavy Ca isotopes, whereas carbonaceous chondrites are slightly depleted in heavy Ca isotopes, suggesting that ordinary chondrites can be regarded as Earth's building block.

Due to its high volatility, Zn isotopes may be used to explore variations in the impact history of planets. Large isotope variations (over 6 ‰) in $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$ values have been explained by impact induced volatilization with preferential loss of the light isotopes in the gas phase (Moynier et al. 2007; Chen et al. 2013). In iron meteorites, $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$ values are indistinguishable from the bulk silicate earth (Bridgestock et al. 2014). In the case of nickel, Ni isotope compositions have been measured for the search of extinct ^{60}Fe (Moynier et al. 2007; Steele et al. 2011).

Metal isotopes can be also used to investigate the formation of chondrules and calcium-aluminium inclusions (CAI). Chondrules have the same Mg and Si isotope composition as most other components of the solar system, but CAIs generally have higher Mg and Si isotope compositions. The systematic enrichment of heavy isotopes in CAIs has been interpreted as being due to evaporation of molten CAIs at low pressures (Shahar and Young 2007; Rumble et al. 2011). These authors argued that melting has occurred during a short interval of heating, perhaps as a result of shock waves. Why chondrules have not been fractionated during melting remains an open question.

Chondrules show a large variation in iron isotope compositions, whereas chondrites, samples from the Moon and Mars have nearly indistinguishable Fe isotope ratios (Craddock and Dauphas 2010).

3.1.2 The Moon

3.1.2.1 Oxygen

Since the early days of the Apollo missions it is well known that the oxygen isotope composition of the common lunar igneous minerals is very constant, with very little variation from one sampled locality to another (Onuma et al. 1970; Clayton et al. 1973b). Small ^{18}O differences between low-Ti and high Ti-basalts are obviously due to modal mineralogical differences (Spicuzza et al. 2007; Liu et al. 2010).

This constancy implies that the lunar interior should have a $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of about 5.5 ‰, essentially identical to terrestrial mantle rocks. The fractionations observed among coexisting minerals indicate temperatures of crystallization of about 1000 °C or higher, similar to values observed in terrestrial basalts (Onuma et al. 1970). By comparison with other terrestrial rocks, the range of observed $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values is very narrow. For instance, terrestrial plagioclase exhibits an O-isotope variation which is at least ten times greater than that for all lunar rocks (Taylor 1968). This difference may be attributed to the much greater role of low-temperature processes in the evolution of the Earth's crust and to the high water contents on Earth.

Today, the Moon is generally viewed as the product of a collision between the early Earth and a Mars-sized protoplanet. Renewed interest in measuring the oxygen isotope composition of lunar basalts results from theoretical considerations that the moon forming material should mainly derive from the impacting body not from the proto-Earth. This means that even very small differences in ^{17}O and ^{18}O content between the impacting body and the Earth should leave a detectable difference in lunar rocks. However, precise ^{17}O and ^{18}O -isotope measurements by Wiechert et al. (2001), Liu et al. (2010) and Hallis et al. (2010) revealed no differences between the Earth and the Moon. Very recently, Herwarth et al. (2014) found a very small difference in $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ between Earth and the Moon which supports the giant impact hypothesis of Moon formation. On the other hand, the Si and Fe isotope composition of the Earth's mantle and the Moon closely match indicating that the two bodies are very similar in Si and Fe isotope composition (Armytage et al. 2012; Liu et al. 2010).

3.1.2.2 Hydrogen

For years it was thought that the Moon is very dry and therefore very low in volatiles. Early studies of lunar samples (soils and breccia) reported variable H_2O concentrations and δD compositions, which were interpreted as hydrogen being implanted on the lunar surface due to the interaction with solar wind. Water extracted from basalts has been interpreted as being terrestrial water that has contaminated samples.

This picture has changed as recent progress in SIMS techniques has enabled measurement of very low OH concentrations in volcanic glass, olivine hosted melt inclusions and apatite. Hauri et al. (2011) demonstrated that some parts of the Moon contain as much water as the Earth's upper mantle. Greenwood et al. (2011) and Barnes et al. (2013) reported δD -values in apatite from +600 to +1100 ‰ and postulated that a significant portion of the water originated from comets. On the other hand, Saal et al. (2013) and Safarian et al. (2014) concluded that lunar water is indistinguishable from bulk water in carbonaceous chondrites and similar to terrestrial water implying an asteroidal origin for the Earth and the Moon.

By analysing chlorine isotopes, Sharp et al. (2010) observed a very large spread in $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ values in basalts and glasses, which they explained by volatilization of metal chlorides being stable only under very low hydrogen concentrations and implying an anhydrous lunar interior.

Enrichments of the heavy isotopes on the surfaces of the lunar fines are most probably due to the influence of the solar wind. Detailed interpretation of their isotopic variations is difficult due to both the lack of knowledge of the isotopic composition of the solar wind and uncertainties of the mechanisms for trapping. Kerridge (1983) demonstrated that nitrogen trapped in lunar surface rocks consists of at least two components differing in release characteristics during experimental heating and isotopic composition: the low-temperature component is consistent with solar wind nitrogen, whereas the high-temperature component consists of solar energetic particles.

3.1.3 Mars

In the late 1970s and early 1980s it was realized that differentiated meteorites referred to as the SNC (Shergottites, Nakhilites, Chassignites) group were samples from Mars (McSween et al. 1979; Bogard and Johnson 1983, besides others). This conclusion is based on young crystallization ages compared to that of other meteorites and compositions of trapped volatiles that match those of the martian atmosphere.

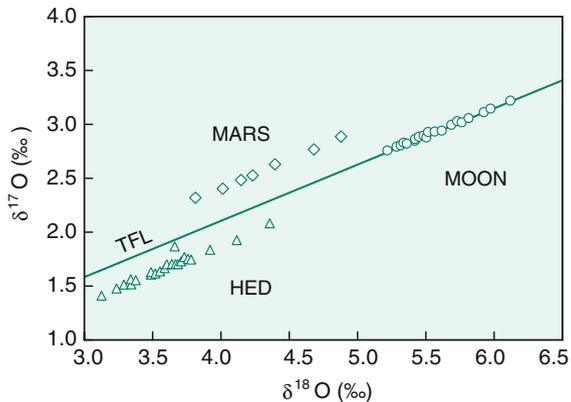
3.1.3.1 Oxygen

SNC-meteorites have an average $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of 4.3 ‰, which is distinctly lower than the 5.5 ‰ value for the Earth–Moon system (Clayton and Mayeda 1996; Franchi et al. 1999). Small ^{18}O -variations among the different SNC-meteorites result primarily from different modal abundances of the major minerals. On a three-isotope plot the $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ offset between Mars and Earth is 0.3 ‰ (see Fig. 3.3). In this connection it is interesting to note that the so-called HED (howardites, eucrites and diogenites) meteorites, possibly reflecting material from the asteroid Vesta, have an oxygen isotope composition of 3.3 ‰ (Clayton and Mayeda 1996). The $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ -offset to the Earth is about -0.3 ‰ (Fig. 3.3). These differences in O-isotope composition among the terrestrial planets must reflect differences in the raw material from which the planets were formed.

3.1.3.2 Hydrogen

Volatiles, especially water, on Mars are of special relevance to reveal the geological and geochemical evolution of the planet. The hydrogen isotope composition of Mars can be estimated from two sources: (i) in situ measurements of the present day Martian atmosphere (Webster et al. 2013) and (ii) hydrogen containing compounds in Martian meteorites (Usui et al. 2012 and others). The D/H ratio of the atmosphere is enriched by a factor of 5 relative to terrestrial ocean water with a δD value of +4000 ‰. This enrichment is thought to result from preferential loss of H relative to D from the martian atmosphere over time (Owen et al. 1988). Ion microprobe

Fig. 3.3 Three oxygen isotope plot of lunar, Martian rocks and HED meteorites supposed to be fragments of asteroid Vesta (after Wiechert et al. 2001) (Fig. 3.3, 6th edition, p. 101)



studies of amphibole, biotite, and apatite in SNC meteorites by Watson et al. (1994) and stepwise heating studies by Leshin et al. (1996) reported large variations in δD -values. These authors observed that water in the samples originated from two sources: a terrestrial contaminant released largely at low temperatures and an extraterrestrial component at high temperatures showing extreme D-enrichments. Boctor et al. (2003) observed D-rich water in all minerals analyzed—including nominally anhydrous minerals—but also found low δD -values, consistent with a more Earth-like composition and concluded no single process can explain the large range in D/H ratios. Instead they suggested that the δD -values are affected by three reservoirs and mechanisms: a magmatic water component, devolatilization by impact melting and terrestrial contamination.

3.1.3.3 Carbon

As is the case for hydrogen, carbon isotope signatures in Martian meteorites present evidence for different carbon reservoirs. Wright et al. (1990) and Romanek et al. (1994) distinguished three carbon compounds: one component released at temperatures below ≈ 500 °C, mostly derived from terrestrial contamination, a second component, released between 400 and 700 °C in heating experiments or by reaction with acid, originates mostly from breakdown of carbonates and gives $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values up to +40 ‰ and the third component, released at temperatures above 700 °C, has $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values between -20 and -30 ‰ reflecting the isotope composition of magmatic carbon on Mars.

Carbonates in Martian meteorites have been especially well studied due to the hypothesis that they might indicate past life on Mars (McKay et al. 1996). Understanding the conditions of formation of the carbonates is thus crucial to the whole debate. Despite extensive chemical and mineralogical studies, the environment of carbonate formation has remained unclear. $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of the carbonates are highly variable ranging from about 5–25 ‰ depending on different investigators and the carbonate investigated (Romanek et al. 1994; Valley et al. 1997; Leshin et al. 1998). In situ C isotope analysis by Niles et al. (2005) gave highly zoned

$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values from $\approx +30$ to $+60$ ‰ consistent with a derivation from the Martian atmosphere and suggesting abiotic formation.

Further evidence about a nonbiogenic origin of Martian carbonates have been presented by Farquhar et al. (1998) and Farquhar and Thiemens (2000). By measuring $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values Farquhar et al. (1998) observed an ^{17}O anomaly in carbonates relative to silicates which they interpreted as being produced by photochemical decomposition of ozone just as in the Earth's stratosphere.

McKay et al. (1996) furthermore suggested on the basis of morphology that tiny sulfide grains inside the carbonates may have formed by sulfate-reducing bacteria. $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of sulfides range from 2.0 to 7.3 ‰ (Greenwood et al. 1997), which is similar to values from terrestrial basalts and probably not the result of bacterial reduction of sulfate.

The isotopic results are, therefore, not in favor of a microbiological activity on Mars, but the discussion will certainly continue on this exciting topic.

Finally, it should be mentioned that recent in situ isotope measurements of the Martian atmosphere from the Curiosity Rover indicate large enrichments in carbon and oxygen isotopes of CO_2 , which might reflect substantial atmospheric loss (Webster et al. 2013; Mahaffy et al. 2013).

3.1.3.4 Sulfur

Mars seems to be rich in sulfur (King and McLennan 2009). Sulfur has been observed as primary igneous sulfides and most importantly as secondary sulfates near the surface of Mars. Mass-independent ^{33}S anomalies have been identified in both sulfides and sulfates (Farquhar et al. 2007; Franz et al. 2014), which obviously result from photochemical reactions in the Martian atmosphere favoring a surficial sulfur cycle for at least 3.5 billion years. Variations observed in $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$, but the absence of $\Delta^{36}\text{S}$ anomalies implies MIF production by different pathways from those on Earth.

3.1.4 Venus

The mass spectrometer on the Pioneer mission in 1978 measured the atmospheric composition relative to CO_2 , the dominant atmospheric constituent. The $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratios were observed to be close to the Earth value, whereas the $^{15}\text{N}/^{14}\text{N}$ ratio is within 20 % of that of the Earth (Hoffman et al. 1979). One of the major problems related to the origin and evolution of Venus is that of its “missing water”. There is no liquid water on the surface of Venus today and the water vapor content in the atmosphere is probably not more than 220 ppm (Hoffman et al. 1979). This means that either Venus was formed from material very poor in water or whatever water was originally present has disappeared, possibly as the result of escape of hydrogen into space. And indeed Donahue et al. (1982) measured a

100-fold enrichment of deuterium relative to Earth, which is consistent with such an outgassing process. The magnitude of this process is, however, difficult to understand.

3.2 The Isotopic Composition of the Earth's Upper Mantle

Considerable geochemical and isotopic evidence has accumulated supporting the concept that many parts of the mantle have experienced a complex history of partial melting, melt emplacement, crystallization, recrystallization, deformation and metasomatism. A result of this complex history is that the mantle is chemically and isotopically heterogeneous with a complex pattern of depletion and fertilisation signatures. A major goal of isotope mantle geochemistry is the characterization of distinct mantle reservoirs and the processes for their evolution.

Heterogeneities in stable isotopes are difficult to detect, because stable isotope ratios are affected by various partial melting-crystal fractionation processes that are governed by temperature-dependent fractionation factors between residual crystals and partial melt and between cumulate crystals and residual liquid. Unlike radiogenic isotopes, stable isotopes are also fractionated by low temperature surface processes. Therefore, they offer a potentially important means by which recycled crustal material can be distinguished from intra-mantle fractionation processes.

O, H, C, S, and N isotope compositions of mantle derived rocks are substantially more variable than expected from the small fractionations at high temperatures. The most plausible process that may result in variable isotope ratios in the mantle is the input of subducted oceanic crust, and less frequent of continental crust, into some portions of the mantle. Because different parts of subducted slabs have different isotopic compositions, the released fluids may also differ in the O, H, C, N and S isotope composition. In this context, the process of mantle metasomatism is of special significance. Metasomatic fluids rich in Fe^{3+} , Ti, K, LREE, P and other LIL (Large Ion Lithophile) elements tend to react with peridotite mantle and form secondary micas, amphiboles and other accessory minerals. The origin of metasomatic fluids is likely to be either (i) exsolved fluids from an ascending magma or (ii) fluids or melts derived from subducted, hydrothermally altered crust and its overlying sediments.

With respect to the volatile behavior during partial melting, it should be noted that volatiles will be enriched in the melt and depleted in the parent material. During ascent of melts, volatiles will be degassed preferentially, and this degassing will be accompanied by isotopic fractionation (see discussion under "magmatic volatiles").

Sources of information about the isotopic composition of the upper portion of the lithospheric mantle come from the direct analysis of unaltered ultramafic xenoliths brought rapidly to the surface in explosive volcanic vents. Due to rapid transport, these peridotite nodules are in many cases chemically fresh and considered by most workers to be the best samples available from the mantle. The other

primary source of information is from basalts, which represent partial melts of the mantle. The problem with basalts is that they do not necessarily represent the mantle composition because partial melting processes may have caused an isotopic fractionation relative to the precursor material. Partial melting of peridotites would result in the preferential melting of Ca–Al-rich minerals leaving behind refractory residues dominated by olivine and orthopyroxene which may differ slightly in the isotopic composition from the original materials. Also, basaltic melts may interact with the crustal lithosphere through which the magmas pass on their way to the Earth's surface. The following section will focus on ultramafic xenoliths, the isotopic characteristics of basalts is discussed under “magmatic rocks”.

3.2.1 Oxygen

The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ value of the bulk Earth is constrained by the composition of lunar basalts and bulk chondritic meteorites to be close to 6 ‰. Insight into the detailed oxygen isotope composition of the subcontinental lithospheric mantle has mostly come from the analysis of peridotitic xenoliths entrained in alkali basalts and kimberlites. The first oxygen isotope studies of such ultramafic nodules by Kyser et al. (1981, 1982) created much debate (e.g. Gregory and Taylor 1986; Kyser et al. 1986). The Kyser et al. data showed that clinopyroxene and orthopyroxene had similar and rather constant $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values around 5.5 ‰, whereas olivine exhibited a much broader variation with $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values extending from 4.5 to 7.2 ‰. Oxygen isotope fractionations between clinopyroxene and olivine ($\Delta_{\text{cpx-ol}}$) were suggested to vary from -1.4 to $+1.2$ ‰, implying that these phases are not in isotopic equilibrium at mantle temperatures. Gregory and Taylor (1986) suggested that the fractionations in the peridotite xenoliths analyzed by Kyser et al. (1981, 1982) arose through open-system exchange with fluids having variable oxygen isotope compositions and with olivine exchanging ^{18}O more rapidly than pyroxene.

It should be recognized, however, that olivine is a very refractory mineral and, as a result, quantitative reaction yields are generally not achieved, when analyzed by conventional fluorination techniques. Matthey et al. (1994) analysed 76 samples of olivine in spinel-, garnet- and diamond-facies peridotites using laser fluorination techniques and observed an almost invariant O-isotope composition around 5.2 ‰. Assuming modal proportions of olivine, orthopyroxene and clinopyroxene of 50:40:10, the calculated bulk mantle $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value would be 5.5 ‰. Such a mantle source could generate liquids, depending on melting temperatures and degree of partial melting, with O-isotope ratios equivalent to those observed for MORB and many ocean island basalts.

Although the results of Matthey et al. (1994) have been confirmed by Chazot et al. (1997), it should be kept in mind that most of the mantle peridotites that have been analyzed for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ originate from the continental lithospheric mantle and not from the mantle as a whole. More recently there have been several indications that the O-isotope composition of mantle xenoliths from certain exotic settings can be more

variable than indicated by Matthey et al. (1994) and Chazot et al. (1997). Zhang et al. (2000) and Deines and Haggerty (2000) documented complex disequilibrium features among peridotitic minerals and intra-crystalline isotope zonations, which presumably result from metasomatic fluid/rock interactions.

Eclogite xenoliths from diamondiferous kimberlites constitute an important suite of xenoliths because they may represent the deepest samples of the continental lithospheric mantle. Eclogite xenoliths have the most diverse range in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values between 2.2 and 7.9 ‰ (McGregor and Manton 1986, Ongley et al. 1987). This large range of ^{18}O -variation indicates that the oxygen isotope composition of the continental lithosphere varies substantially, at least in any region where eclogite survives and is the most compelling evidence that some nodules represent metamorphic equivalents of hydrothermally altered oceanic crust.

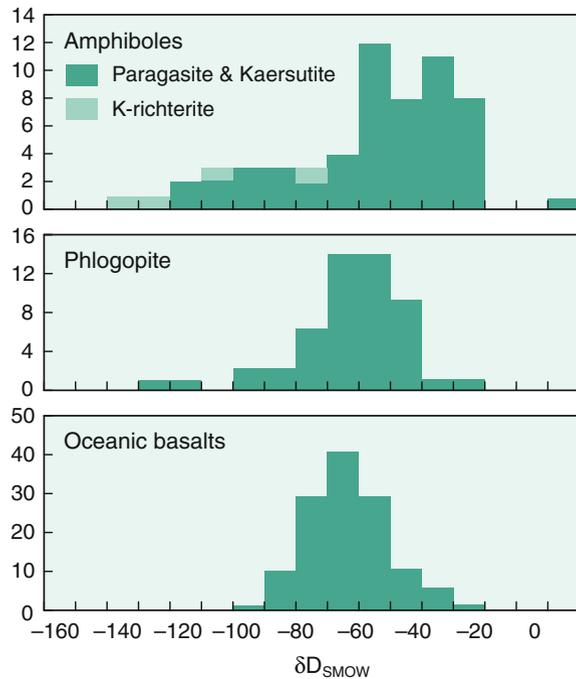
3.2.2 Hydrogen

The origin of the water on Earth is a controversial topic with very different schools of thought. One view postulates that water was delivered to Earth from exogenous sources such as comets and/or meteorites, the other holds that Earth's water has an indigenous origin (Drake and Righter 2002). Delivery of water from comets and meteorites can be evaluated in the light of their D/H ratios, suggesting that comets cannot be the **major** source of water on Earth, but should be less than 10 % (Marty 2012). Estimates of the D/H ratio of the bulk Earth are uncertain, because volatiles derived from mantle-derived rocks may have been lost and fractionated during magma degassing.

In this connection the concept of “juvenile water” has to be introduced, which has influenced thinking in various fields of igneous petrology and ore genesis. Juvenile water is defined as water that originates from degassing of the mantle and that has never been part of the surficial hydrologic cycle. The analysis of OH-bearing minerals such as micas and amphiboles of deep-seated origin has been considered to be a source of information for juvenile water (e.g. Sheppard and Epstein 1970). Because knowledge about fractionation factors is limited and temperatures of final isotope equilibration between the minerals and water not known, calculations of the H-isotope composition of water in equilibrium with the mantle is rather crude.

Figure 3.4 gives δD -data on phlogopites and amphiboles, indicating that the hydrogen isotope composition of mantle water should lie in general between -80 and -50 ‰, the range first proposed by Sheppard and Epstein (1970) and subsequently supported by several other authors. Also shown in Fig. 3.4 are a considerable number of phlogopites and amphiboles which have δD -values higher than -50 ‰. Such elevated δD -values may indicate that water from subducted oceanic crust has played a role in the genesis of these minerals. Similar conclusions have been reached as a result of the analysis of water of submarine basalts from the

Fig. 3.4 Hydrogen isotope variations in mantle-derived minerals and rocks (modified after Bell and Ihinger 2000) (Fig. 3.4, 6th edition, p. 106)



Mariana arc (Poreda 1985) and from estimates of the original δD -values in boninites from Bonin Island (Dobson and O'Neil 1987).

Water in the mantle is found in different states: as a fluid especially near subduction zones, as a hydrous phase and as a hydroxyl point defect in nominally anhydrous minerals. δD -values between -90 and -110 ‰ have been obtained by Bell and Ihinger (2000) analyzing nominally anhydrous mantle minerals (garnet, pyroxene) containing trace quantities of OH. Nominally anhydrous minerals from mantle xenoliths are the most D-depleted of all mantle materials with δD -values 50 ‰ lower than MORB (O'Leary et al. 2005). This difference may either imply that these minerals represent an isotopically distinct mantle reservoir or that the samples analyzed have exchanged hydrogen during or after their ascent from the mantle (meteoric-water interaction?).

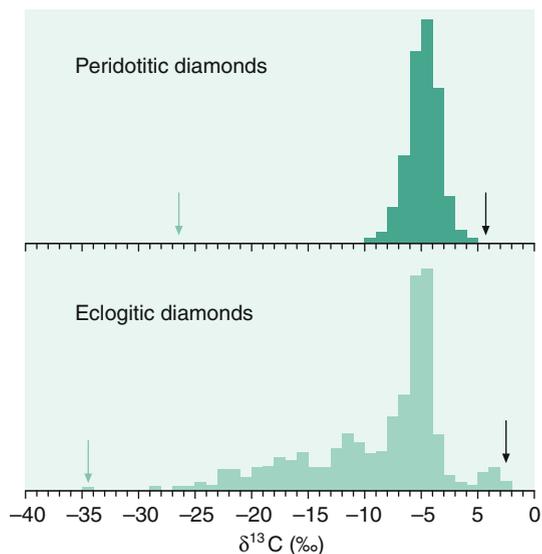
Water is carried into the mantle at subduction zones. The average δD -composition of the oceanic crust is estimated to be -50 ‰ (Agrinier et al. 1995; Shaw et al. 2008). Experimentally determined fractionation factors between water and hydrous minerals indicate that the fluids released from the slab during its subduction path are D-rich. Analyzing olivine-hosted melt inclusions from a subduction zone-setting, Shaw et al. (2008) determined δD -values from -55 to -12 ‰. Continuous losses of D-enriched fluids leads to a depletion in remaining water containing phases. Thus, slab-bound water will evolve to progressively lower D-values as D-enriched waters is released to the mantle wedge. This might explain the exceptionally low δD -values that have been found in mantle xenoliths (Deloule et al. 1991).

3.2.3 Carbon

The presence of carbon in the upper mantle has been well documented through several observations: CO_2 is a significant constituent in volcanic gases associated with basaltic eruptions with the dominant flux at mid-ocean ridges. The eruption of carbonatite and kimberlite rocks further testifies to the storage of CO_2 in the upper mantle. Additionally, the presence of diamond and graphite in kimberlites, peridotite and eclogite xenoliths reflects a wide range of mantle redox conditions, suggesting that carbon is related to a number of different processes in the mantle.

The isotopic composition of mantle carbon varies by more than 30 ‰ (see Fig. 3.5). To what extent this wide range is a result of mantle fractionation processes, the relict of accretional heterogeneities, or a product of recycling of crustal carbon is still unanswered. In 1953, Craig noted that diamonds exhibited a range of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values which clustered around -5 ‰. Subsequent investigations which included carbonatites (e.g. Deines 1989) and kimberlites (e.g. Deines and Gold 1973) indicated similar $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values, which led to the concept that mantle carbon is relatively constant in C-isotopic composition, with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values between -7 and -5 ‰. During the formation of a carbonatite magma, carbon is concentrated in the melt and is almost quantitatively extracted from its source reservoir. Since the carbon content of the mantle is low, the high carbon concentration of carbonatite melts requires extraction over volumes up to 10,000 times higher than the volume

Fig. 3.5 Carbon isotope variations of diamonds (arrows indicate highest and lowest $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values (modified after Cartigny 2005) (Fig. 3.5, 6th edition, p. 108)



of a carbonatite magma (Deines 1989). Thus, the mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value of a carbonatite magma should represent the average carbon isotope composition of a relatively large volume of the mantle.

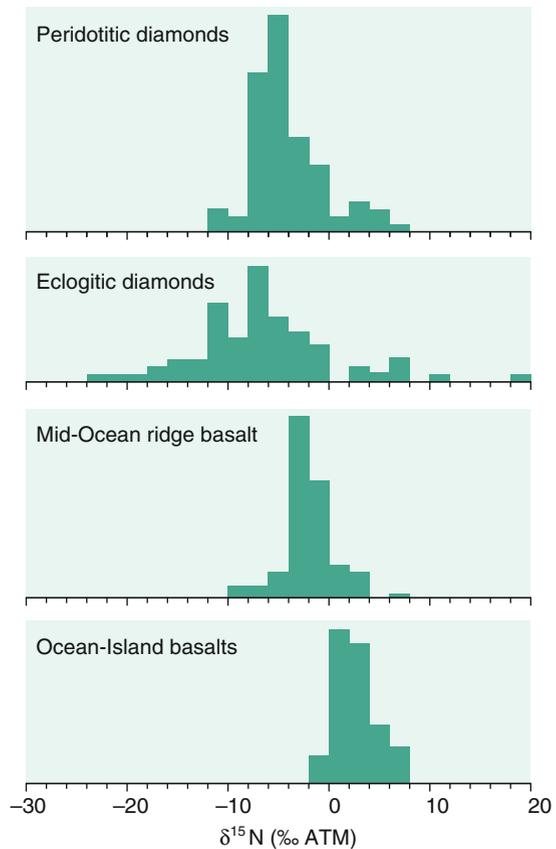
The C-isotope distribution of diamonds is in contrast to that for carbonatites. As more and more data for diamonds became available (at present more than 4000 C-isotope data) (Deines et al. 1984; Galimov 1985b; Cartigny 2005; Cartigny et al. 2014), the range of C-isotope variation broadened to more than 40 ‰. (from -41 to $+5$ ‰ (Galimov 1991; Kirkley et al. 1991; Cartigny 2005; Stachel et al. 2009; Shirey et al. 2013). More than 70 % of the data vary in the narrower range from -8 to -2 ‰ with a mean of -5 ‰, being similar to the range of carbon in other mantle derived rocks. The large ^{13}C variability is not random but restricted to certain genetic classes: Common “peridotitic diamonds” (diamonds associated with peridotitic xenoliths) have less variable carbon isotope compositions than “eclogitic diamonds”, which span the entire range of $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ variations (see Fig. 3.5; Cartigny 2005). Diamond formed in metamorphic rocks subducted to ultrahigh pressures have $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values from -30 to -3 ‰, whereas carbonados, a unique type of polycrystalline diamond (Cartigny 2010) have C-isotope values around -25 ‰. Current debate centers on whether the more extreme values are characteristic of the mantle source regions or whether they have resulted from isotope fractionation processes linked to diamond formation. What appears to be obvious: the observed ranges cannot be assigned to a single process or to variations in the carbon source alone (Stachel et al. 2009). A combination of processes and multiple carbon sources are required.

Spatially resolved analyses of individual diamonds by SIMS measurements first described by Harte and Otter (1992) and later by others have been summarized by Hauri et al. (2002). The latter authors have shown $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ variations of about 10 ‰ and more than 20 ‰ in $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ which are associated with cathodoluminescence-imaged growth zones. Although the origin of these large variations is still unclear, they point to complex growth histories of diamonds.

3.2.4 Nitrogen

A large fraction of Earth’s total nitrogen resides in the mantle, either being primordial or being recycled crustal nitrogen. In silicates nitrogen as NH_4^+ replaces K^+ , in melts and fluids nitrogen speciation depends on redox conditions. Nitrogen trapped in MORB and OIB glasses has been analyzed by Marty and Humbert (1997) and Marty and Zimmermann (1999) (see Fig. 3.6). By analysing separate minerals in peridotite xenoliths Yokochi et al. (2009) observed large N-isotope disequilibria. $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values as low as -17.3 ‰ have been measured for phlogopite, whereas clinopyroxene and olivine show positive ^{15}N values. Positive δ -values of about $+3$ ‰ have been found also in deep mantle material sampled by mantle plumes which may suggest that recycling of oceanic crust may account for heavy nitrogen in the deep mantle (Dauphas and Marty 1999).

Fig. 3.6 Nitrogen isotope variations in mantle derived materials (modified after Marty and Zimmermann 1999) (Fig. 3.6, 6th edition, p. 109)

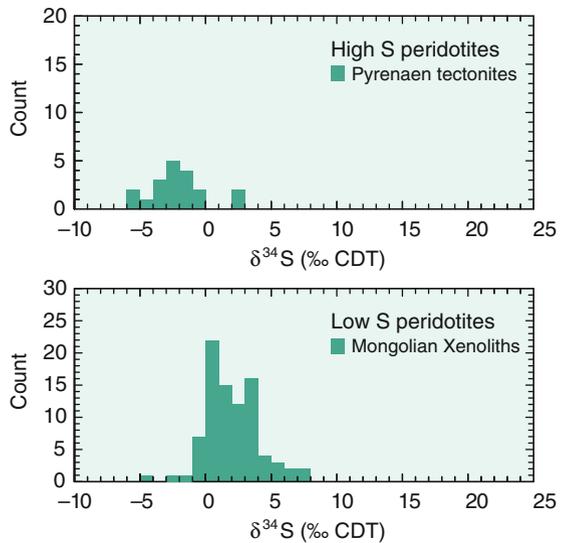


Nitrogen is the main trace component in diamonds. Nitrogen isotopes have been measured in over 700 diamond samples with $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values ranging from +13 to -23 ‰. Despite this broad distribution, the majority varies around -5 ‰ (Javoy et al. 1986; Boyd et al. 1992; Boyd and Pillinger 1994; Hauri et al. 2002; Cartigny 2005; Cartigny et al. 1997, 1998, 2014). Nitrogen in diamonds, thus, is depleted in ^{15}N compared to atmospheric nitrogen (0 ‰) and sedimentary nitrogen which is enriched in ^{15}N (Cartigny and Marty 2013). The negative δ -values in diamonds clearly indicate that the mantle contains non-atmospheric nitrogen.

3.2.5 Sulfur

Sulfur occurs in a variety of forms in the mantle, the major sulfur phase is monosulfide solid solution between Fe, Ni and Cu. Ion microprobe measurements on sulfide inclusions from megacrysts and pyroxenite xenoliths from alkali basalts

Fig. 3.7 Sulfur isotope compositions of high- and low-S peridotites (Fig. 3.7, 6th edition, p. 110)



and kimberlites and in diamonds gave $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values from -11 to $+14$ ‰ (Chaussidon et al. 1987, 1989; Eldridge et al. 1991).

Interesting differences in sulfur isotope compositions are observed when comparing high-S peridotitic tectonites with low-S peridotite xenoliths (Fig. 3.7). Tectonites from the Pyrenees predominantly have negative $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of around -5 ‰, whereas low-S xenoliths from Mongolia have largely positive $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of up to $+7$ ‰. Ionov et al. (1992) determined sulfur contents and isotopic compositions in some 90 garnet and spinel lherzolites from six regions in southern Siberia and Mongolia for which the range of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values is from -7 to $+7$ ‰. Ionov et al. (1992) concluded that low sulfur concentrations (<50 ppm) and largely positive $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values predominate in the lithospheric continental mantle worldwide.

Sulfur isotope variations within diamonds exhibit the same characteristics as previously described for carbon: i.e. eclogitic diamonds are much more variable than peridotitic diamonds. Furthermore, mass independent sulfur isotope fractionations have been preserved in some sulfide inclusions in eclogitic diamonds (Farquhar et al. 2002; Thomassot et al. 2009), implying that sulfide inclusions contain an Archean sedimentary component.

3.2.6 Lithium and Boron

Since lithium and boron isotope fractionations mainly occur during low temperature processes, Li and B isotopes may provide a robust tracer of surface material that is recycled to the mantle (Elliott et al. 2004). Heterogeneous distribution of subducted oceanic and continental crust in the mantle will thus result in variations in Li and B isotope ratios. Furthermore dehydration processes active in subduction zones

appear to be of crucial importance in the control of Li and B isotope composition of different parts of the mantle. For the upper mantle as a whole, Jeffcoate et al. (2007) gave an average $\delta^7\text{Li}$ value of 3.5 ‰.

Seitz et al. (2004), Magna et al. (2006) and Jeffcoate et al. (2007) reported significant Li isotope fractionation among mantle minerals. Olivines are about 1.5 ‰ lighter than coexisting orthopyroxenes, clinopyroxenes and phlogopites are in contrast highly variable, which might indicate isotope disequilibrium. In situ SIMS analyses show Li isotope zonations in peridotite minerals. Jeffcoate et al. (2007) report a 40 ‰ variation in a single orthopyroxene crystal from San Carlos, which is attributed to diffusive fractionation during ascent and cooling.

Since boron concentrations in mantle minerals are exceedingly low, boron isotope analysis of mantle minerals are very restricted. On the basis of a boron budget between mantle and crust, Chaussidon and Marty (1995) concluded that the primitive mantle had a $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ value of -10 ± 2 ‰. For MORB Spivack and Edmond (1987) and Chaussidon and Marty (1995) reported a $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ -value of around -4 ‰. Higher and lower $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ -values observed in some ocean island basalts should be due to crustal assimilation (Tanaka and Nakamura 2005).

3.2.7 Stable Isotope Composition of the Core

Although the composition of the core remains largely unknown, cosmochemical and geophysical arguments indicate that the core must contain lighter elements other than Fe and Ni. One plausible candidate is silicon, because liquid iron reacts with silicate to form an iron-silicon alloy at the relevant pT conditions of the core. Because of the different bonding environments of the two phases, silicon in silicate should be enriched in ^{28}Si relative to the alloy phase (Schauble 2004; Georg et al. 2007). As shown experimentally by Shahar et al. (2009, 2011), at temperatures between 1800 and 2200 °C, silicates are distinctly enriched in ^{28}Si relative to metal. At the even higher temperatures of the core, a 1.2 ‰ depletion of the metal phase in the core relative to silicates in the mantle can be anticipated. Somewhat smaller Si isotope fractionations have been determined by Hin et al. (2014).

With respect to iron isotopes, an enrichment of the heavy Fe isotopes in the metal phase relative to Fe-oxides should be expected (Young et al. 2015). Experiments on the iron isotope distribution between metal and silicates have yielded, however, no iron isotope fractionation between the two phases (Poitrasson et al. 2009; Hin et al. 2012). To better simulate natural conditions, Shahar et al. (2014) added sulfur to their experimental runs and indeed observed a 0.4 ‰ fractionation between metal and Fe-oxides. More experimental studies are needed to solve this inconsistency.

3.2.8 Magmatic Rocks

On the basis of their high temperature of formation, it could be expected that magmatic rocks exhibit relatively small differences in isotopic composition. However, as a result of secondary alteration processes and the fact, that magmas can have a crustal and a mantle origin, the variation observed in isotopic composition of magmatic rocks can actually be quite large.

Provided an igneous rock has not been affected by subsolidus isotope exchange or hydrothermal alteration, its isotope composition will be determined by:

- (i) the isotope composition of the source region in which the magma was generated,
- (ii) the temperature of magma generation and crystallization,
- (iii) the mineralogical composition of the rock, and
- (iv) the evolutionary history of the magma including processes of isotope exchange, assimilation of country rocks, magma mixing, etc.

In the following sections, which concentrate on $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ measurements, some of these points are discussed in more detail (see also Taylor 1968; 1986a, b; Taylor and Sheppard 1986). Isotope variations of metal isotopes reported for magmatic rocks are discussed briefly in Chap. 2 under the specific elements.

3.2.9 Fractional Crystallization

Because fractionation factors between melt and solid are small at magmatic temperatures, fractional crystallization is expected to play only a minor role in influencing the oxygen isotopic composition of magmatic rocks. Matsuhisa (1979), for example, reported that $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values increased by approximately 1 ‰ from basalt to dacite within a lava sequence from Japan. Muehlenbachs and Byerly (1982) analyzed an extremely differentiated suite of volcanic rocks at the Galapagos spreading center and showed that 90 % fractionation only enriched the residual melt by about 1.2 ‰. On Ascension Island Sheppard and Harris (1985) measured a difference of nearly 1 ‰ in a volcanic suite ranging from basalt to obsidian. Furthermore, modelling closed-system crystal fractionation, an ^{18}O enrichment of about 0.4 ‰ per 10 wt% increase in SiO_2 content can be predicted.

3.2.10 Differences Between Volcanic and Plutonic Rocks

Systematic differences in O-isotope composition are observed between fine-grained, rapidly quenched volcanic rocks and their coarse-grained plutonic equivalents (Taylor 1968; Anderson et al. 1971). Fractionations among minerals in plutonic mafic rocks are on average about twice as great as for the corresponding fractionations observed in equivalent extrusive mafic rocks. This difference may result

from retrograde exchange between minerals or post-crystallization exchange reactions of the plutonic rocks with a fluid phase. This interpretation is supported by the fact that basaltic and gabbroic rocks from the lunar surface yield the same “isotopic temperatures” corresponding to their initial temperatures of crystallization. Due to the low water concentration on the Moon, retrograde exchange is very limited.

3.2.11 Low Temperature Alteration Processes

Because of their high glass contents and very fine grain size, volcanic rocks are very susceptible to low-temperature processes such as hydration and weathering, which are characterized by large ^{18}O -enrichment effects in the altered rocks.

In general, it is probable that Tertiary and older volcanic rocks will exhibit O-isotope compositions that have been modified to higher $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratios from their primary state (Taylor 1968; Muehlenbachs and Clayton 1972; Cerling et al. 1985; Harmon et al. 1987). Although there is no way to ascertain the magnitude of these ^{18}O -enrichments on a sample by sample basis, a crude estimate can be made by determining the water (and carbon dioxide) content and “correcting” to what are considered primary values of the suite of rocks to be analyzed (Taylor et al. 1984; Harmon et al. 1987). The primary water content of a magma is difficult to estimate, however, but it is generally accepted that primary basaltic magmas should not contain more than 1 wt % water. Thus, any water content $>1\%$ could be of secondary origin and the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value for such samples should be corrected before such ^{18}O -measurements are to be used for primary, magmatic interpretations.

3.2.12 Assimilation of Crustal Rocks

Because the various surface and crustal environments are characterized by different and distinctive isotope compositions, stable isotopes provide a powerful tool for discriminating between the relative role of mantle and crust in magma genesis. This is especially true when stable isotopes are considered together with radiogenic isotopes, because variations within these independent isotopic systems may arise from unrelated geologic causes. For instance, a mantle melt that has been affected by contamination processes within the upper crust will exhibit increases in $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios that correlate with an increase in SiO_2 and decrease in Sr content. In contrast, a mantle melt, which evolves only through differentiation unaccompanied by interaction with crustal material, will have an O-isotope composition that mainly reflects that of its source region, independent of variations in chemical composition. In this latter case, correlated stable and radiogenic isotope variations would be an indication of variable crustal contamination of the source region, (i.e. crustal material that has been recycled into the mantle via subduction).

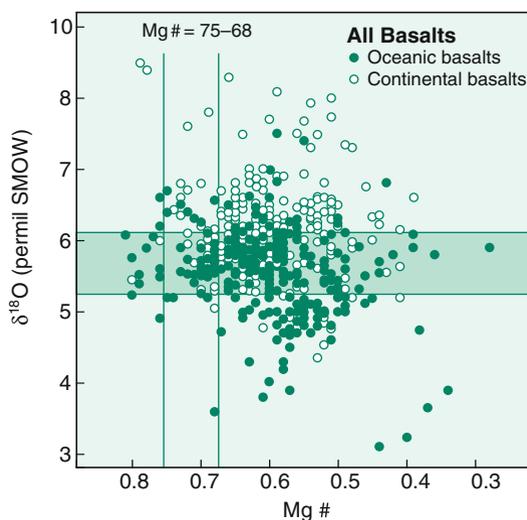


Fig. 3.8 Plot of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values vs Mg numbers for oceanic basalts (filled circles) and continental basalts (open circles). The shaded field denotes the $\pm 2\sigma$ range of a MORB mean value of $+5.7\text{‰}$. the clear vertical field denotes the range for primary basaltic partial melts in equilibrium with a peridotitic source (Harmon and Hoefs 1995) (Fig. 3.8, 6th edition, p. 114)

Modelling by Taylor (1980) and James (1981) has demonstrated that it is possible to distinguish between the effects of source contamination as well as crustal contamination. Magma mixing and source contamination are two-component mixing processes which obey two-component hyperbolic mixing relations, whereas crustal contamination is a three-component mixing process, involving the magma, the crustal contaminant, and the cumulates, that results in more complex mixing trajectories on an oxygen—radiogenic isotope plot. Finally, it has to be mentioned, that in contrast to the radiogenic isotopes, oxygen is the major component in rocks, implying that modification of the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value by several tenths of 1 ‰ requires uptake of volumetrically significant sediment masses, that may cause a space problem.

3.2.13 Glasses from Different Tectonic Settings

3.2.13.1 Oxygen

Early investigations of oxygen isotopes in igneous rocks relied on whole rock data analyzed by the classical reaction with fluorine compounds. Relatively large oxygen isotope variations can be due to secondary alteration effects. Correcting for these low-temperature effects, Harmon and Hoefs (1995) assembled a database consisting of 2855 O-isotope analyses of Neogene volcanic rocks worldwide. They observed a 5 ‰ variation in the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of fresh basalts and glasses, which they have taken

as evidence of significant oxygen isotope heterogeneities in the mantle sources of the basalts. This is documented in Fig. 3.8, which plots $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values versus Mg-numbers (Harmon and Hoefs 1995).

The usage of whole rock data has, however, its ambiguities. Estimates of original magmatic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values are best achieved through analysis of unaltered phenocrysts within rocks in particular refractory phenocrysts such as olivine and zircon. Laser-based extraction methods on small amounts of separated mineral phases have documented subtle, but resolvable differences among different types of basaltic lavas (Eiler et al. 1996, 2000, 2011; Dorendorf et al. 2000; Cooper et al. 2004; Bindeman et al. 2004, 2005, 2008 and others).

MORB has a rather uniform O-isotope composition of all basalt types (5.5 ± 0.2 ‰) and can be used as a reference against which basalts erupted in other tectonic settings can be compared. By performing high precision laser isotope analyses on MORB glasses from the North Atlantic, Cooper et al. (2004) observed a $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ variation range of about 0.5 ‰, which is larger than originally thought by Harmon and Hoefs (1995). ^{18}O variations correlate with geochemical parameters of mantle enrichment such as high $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ and low $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratios. According to Cooper et al. (2004) the enriched material reflects subducted altered dehydrated oceanic crust.

The largest variability in oxygen isotope composition has been found in subduction related basalts. Bindeman et al. (2005) observed a $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ range in olivine phenocrysts between 4.9 to 6.8 ‰. Oxygen isotope variations in arc-related lavas can constrain the contributions of subducted sediments and fluids to the sub-arc mantle assuming the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of the subducted component is known (Eiler et al. 2000; Dorendorf et al. 2000). These authors demonstrated that crustal assimilation or a contribution of oceanic sediments is negligible (<1–2 ‰). Instead, the observed ^{18}O -enrichment in olivines and clinopyroxenes may result from exchange with high ^{18}O fluids derived from subducted altered oceanic crust.

Continental basalts tend to be enriched in ^{18}O relative to oceanic basalts and exhibit considerably more variability in O-isotope composition, a feature attributed to interaction with ^{18}O -enriched continental crust during magma ascent (Harmon and Hoefs 1995; Baker et al. 2000).

3.2.13.2 Hydrogen

Water dissolves in silicate melts and glasses in at least two distinct forms: water molecules and hydroxyl groups. Because the proportions of these two species change with total water content, temperature and chemical composition of the melt, the bulk partitioning of hydrogen isotopes between vapor and melt is a complex function of these variables. Dobson et al. (1989) determined the fractionation between water vapor and water dissolved in felsic glasses in the temperature range from 530 to 850 °C. Under these conditions, the total dissolved water content of the glasses were below 0.2 ‰, with all water present as hydroxyl groups. The measured hydrogen fractionation factors vary from 1.051 to 1.035 and are greater than those

observed for most hydrous mineral—water systems, perhaps reflecting the strong hydrogen bonding of hydroxyl groups in glasses.

Hydrogen isotope and water content data for MORB, OIB and BAB glasses have been determined by Kyser and O'Neil (1984), Poreda (1985), and Poreda et al. (1986). The range of δD -values for MORB glasses is from -90 to -40 ‰ and is indistinguishable from that reported for phlogopites and amphiboles from kimberlites and peridotites (see Fig. 3.4). Kyser and O'Neil (1984) demonstrated that D/H ratios and water content in fresh submarine basalt glasses can be altered by (i) degassing, (ii) addition of seawater at magmatic temperature and (iii) low-temperature hydration. Extrapolations to possible unaltered D/H-ratios indicate that primary δD -values for most basalts are -80 ± 5 ‰.

Shaw et al. (2008) measured the hydrogen isotope composition of melt inclusions hosted in olivine crystals from the Mariana arc which should be little affected by degassing processes. δD -values range from -55 to -12 ‰, significantly heavier than MORB values and indicating enriched fluids in D released from the subducted plate.

The process of degassing has been documented best for rhyolitic magmas where water-rich magmas (about 2 %) have a δD -value of -50 ‰. At very late eruption stages with remaining water contents of around 0.1 % the δD -value is around -120 ‰ (Taylor et al. 1983; Taylor 1986a, b). For this process the decisive parameter is the isotopic fractionation between the vapor and the melt, which can be between 15 and 35 ‰ (Taylor 1986a, b) and the amount of water lost from the system (Rayleigh fractionation). The degassing process produces an opposite trend to a meteoric water hydrothermal alteration, showing decreasing δD -values with increasing water content. De Hoog et al. (2009) modeled hydrogen isotope fractionation during degassing taking the variation of water species with water content and temperature into account. Progressively increasing OH/H₂O ratios during degassing in melts lead to increasing H fractionation factors.

3.2.13.3 Carbon

Isotopic fractionation between CO₂ and dissolved carbon in melts has been estimated by various authors to vary between 2 and 4 ‰ (as summarized by Holloway and Blank 1994), the vapor being enriched in ¹³C relative to the melt. This fractionation can be used to interpret the carbon isotope composition of glasses and CO₂ in volcanic gases and to estimate the initial carbon concentration of undegassed basaltic melts.

Reported $\delta^{13}C$ -values for basaltic glass vary from -30 to about -3 ‰ that represent isotopically distinct carbon extracted at different temperatures by stepwise heating (Pineau et al. 1976; Pineau and Javoy 1983; Des Marais and Moore 1984; Matthey et al. 1984). A “low-temperature” component of carbon is extractable below 600 °C, whereas a “high-temperature” fraction of carbon is liberated above 600 °C. There are two different interpretations regarding the origins of these two different types of carbon. While Pineau et al. (1976) and Pineau and Javoy (1983) consider that the whole range of carbon isotope variation observed to represent primary

dissolved carbon, which becomes increasingly ^{13}C depleted during multi-stage degassing of CO_2 , Des Marais and Moore (1984) and Matthey et al. (1984) suggest that the “low-temperature” carbon originates from surface contamination. For MORB glasses, the “high-temperature” carbon has an isotopic composition typical for that of mantle values. Island arc glasses have lower $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values, which might be explained by mixing two different carbon compounds in the source regions: a MORB—like carbon and an organic carbon component from subducted pelagic sediments (Matthey et al. 1984).

3.2.13.4 Nitrogen

The determination of nitrogen isotopes in basaltic glasses is severely complicated by its low concentration, which makes nitrogen sensitive to atmospheric contamination and to addition of surface-derived materials i.e. organic matter. Nitrogen in basaltic glasses has been determined by Exley et al. (1987), Marty and Humbert (1997) and Marty and Zimmermann (1999). Marty and coworkers reported that nitrogen in MORB and OIB glasses has an average $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -value of around $-4 \pm 1 \text{‰}$ (see Fig. 3.6). The major factors affecting its isotopic composition appear to be magma degassing and assimilation of surface-derived matter.

3.2.13.5 Sulfur

The behavior of sulfur in magmatic systems is particularly complex: sulfur can exist as both sulfate and sulfide species in four different forms: dissolved in the melt, as an immiscible sulfide melt, in a separate gas phase, and in various sulfide and sulfate minerals. To determine the source of sulfur in magmatic rocks requires knowledge of complex parameters such as oxygen fugacity, speciation of dissolved sulfur in melt and what is most important the degassing history. Mandeville et al. (2009) have demonstrated that magmatic degassing can modify the initial sulfur isotope composition by up to 14 ‰. On the other hand de Moor et al. (2010) demonstrated that degassing of a magma body resulted in a slight ^{34}S enrichment only.

Early measurements on MORB glasses and submarine Hawaiian basalts indicated a very narrow range in sulfur isotope composition, with $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values clustering around zero (Sakai et al. 1982, 1984). More recent measurements by Labidi et al. (2012) showed that published MORB data are affected by incomplete sulfur recovery during analytical extraction. Labidi et al. (2012, 2014) argued that the sulfur isotope composition of the depleted mantle is more negative than previously thought and has a $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of -1.4‰ . Negative $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values for the mantle could result from a low- ^{34}S oceanic crust recycled within the MORB mantle source (Cabral et al. 2013) or from sulfur isotope fractionation during core-mantle segregation leading to a ^{34}S enriched core and a ^{34}S depleted mantle (Labidi et al. 2013). The discovery of mass-independent sulfur isotope fractionations in young ocean island basalts indicates that Archean oceanic crust may survive in the mantle (Cabral et al. 2013).

In subaerial basalts, the variation of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values is larger and generally shifted towards positive values. One reason for this larger variation is the loss of a sulfur-bearing phase during magmatic degassing. Isotopic shifts that accompany degassing depend on temperature and speciation, the latter is directly proportional to the fugacity of oxygen (Sakai et al. 1982) and on open-system conditions (immediate removal from the magma) or closed-system conditions (vapor exsolved remains in equilibrium with the magma) (Taylor 1986a, b).

3.2.13.6 Ocean Water/Basaltic Crust Interactions

Information about the O-isotope character of the oceanic crust comes from DSDP/ODP drilling sites and from studies of ophiolite complexes, which presumably represent pieces of ancient oceanic crust. Primary, unaltered oceanic crust has $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values close to MORB ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$: 5.7 ‰). Two types of alteration can be distinguished within the oceanic lithosphere: at low temperatures weathering may markedly enrich the groundmass of basalts in ^{18}O , but not affect phenocrysts. The extent of this low temperature alteration correlates with the water content: the higher the water content, the higher the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values (e.g. Alt et al. 1986). At temperatures in excess of about 300 °C hydrothermal circulation beneath the midocean ridges leads to a high-temperature water/rock interaction in which deeper parts of the oceanic crust become depleted in ^{18}O by 1–2 ‰. Similar findings have been reported from ophiolite complexes, the most cited example is that of Oman (Gregory and Taylor 1981). Maximum ^{18}O contents occur in the uppermost part of the pillow lava sequence and decrease through the sheeted dike complex. Below the base of the dike complex down to the Moho, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values are lower than typical mantle values by about 1–2 ‰.

Thus, separate levels of the oceanic crust are simultaneously enriched and depleted in ^{18}O relative to “normal” mantle values because of reaction with sea water at different temperatures. Muehlenbachs and Clayton (1976) and Gregory and Taylor (1981) concluded that the ^{18}O enrichments are balanced by the ^{18}O depletions which acts like a buffer for the oxygen isotope composition of ocean water.

Gao et al. (2006) evaluated the existing data base and concluded that apparent differences in mass-weighted $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values exist among profiles through the recent and the fossil oceanic crust depending on differences in spreading rates. Oceanic crust formed under fast spreading ridges usually have depleted or balanced $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values, whereas oceanic crust formed under slow spreading ridges is characterized by enriched $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values. This difference might be due to different depths of seawater penetration in fast and slow spreading ridges.

Of special significance in the oceanic crust are serpentinites that are formed by the hydration of olivine-rich ultramafic rocks, because they play an important role in the recycling of water and other volatiles from the surface to the deep lithosphere and back to the surface via mantle wedges and arc magmas (Evans et al. 2013). Serpentinization, thus, may take place over a range of temperatures and in a variety of geologic settings. Experimentally determined H isotope fractionation factors (Saccocia et al. 2009) allow to constrain fluid sources. Serpentine from mid-ocean ridge environments, for instance, has been formed by interaction with hot ocean water.

3.2.14 Granitic Rocks

On the basis of $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratios, Taylor (1977, 1978) subdivided granitic rocks into three groups: (i) normal ^{18}O -granitic rocks with $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values between 6 and 10 ‰, (ii) high ^{18}O granitic rocks with $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values >10 ‰ and (iii) low ^{18}O granitic rocks with $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values <6 ‰. Although this is a somewhat arbitrary grouping it nevertheless turns out to be a useful geochemical classification.

Many granitic plutonic rocks throughout the world have relatively uniform ^{18}O -contents with $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values between 6 and 10 ‰. Granitoids at the low ^{18}O end of the normal group have been described from oceanic island—arc areas where continental crust is absent (e.g., Chivas et al. 1982). Such plutons are considered to be entirely mantle-derived. Granites at the high end of the normal ^{18}O -group may have formed by partial melting of crust that contained both a sedimentary and a magmatic fraction. It is interesting to note that many of the normal ^{18}O -granites are of Precambrian age and that metasediments of this age quite often have $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values below 10 ‰ (Longstaffe and Schwarcz 1977).

Granitic rocks with $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values higher than 10 ‰ require derivation from some type of ^{18}O -enriched sedimentary or metasedimentary protolith. For instance, such high $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values are observed in many Hercynian granites of western Europe (Hoefs and Emmermann 1983), in Damaran granites of Africa (Haack et al. 1982) and in granites from the Himalayas of Central Asia (Blattner et al. 1983). All these granites are easily attributed to anatexis within a heterogeneous crustal source, containing a large metasedimentary component.

Granitic rocks with $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values lower than 6 ‰ cannot be derived by any known differentiation process from basaltic magmas. Excluding those low ^{18}O granites which have exchanged with ^{18}O depleted meteoric-hydrothermal fluids under subsolidus conditions (see p. 87), a few primary low ^{18}O granitoids have been observed (Taylor 1987a, b). These granites obviously inherited their ^{18}O depletion while still predominantly liquid, prior to cooling and crystallization. Such low ^{18}O magmas may be formed by remelting of hydrothermally altered country rocks or by large-scale assimilation of such material in a rift-zone tectonic setting.

Si isotopes have been also used to distinguish among different granite types (Savage et al. 2012). Because weathering leads to the formation of ^{30}Si depleted clay minerals, granites derived from sedimentary rocks (S-type granites) are isotopically more variable and on average more depleted than I- and A-type granites. However, the relatively small variations indicate that Si-isotopes are less sensitive than O-isotopes.

3.2.14.1 Zircon

Recent advances in combining in situ measurements of radiogenic and stable isotopes in zircons allow a better understanding of the petrogenesis of granites and the evolution of the continental crust (Hawkesworth and Kemp 2006). Non-metamict

zircons preserve their $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value from the time of crystallization because of their refractory and robust nature (Valley 2003). The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of zircons, thus, can be used to trace relative contributions of mantle-derived crust and of crust derived by reworking of pre-existing igneous or (meta)-sedimentary crust. Magmas in equilibrium with the mantle crystallize zircon that have a narrow range in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of 5.3 ± 0.3 ‰. Zircons from plutonic oceanic crust have average $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of 5.2 ± 0.5 ‰, thus indicating that plagiogranites and differentiated gabbros do not carry a significant seawater signature (Grimes et al. 2011).

$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -variations towards higher values result if the parental magma incorporates higher ^{18}O material (supracrustal rocks through melting or assimilation). Zircons with $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values lower than 5.3 ‰ indicate an origin of low ^{18}O magmas pointing to meteoric water-rock interaction.

Analyses of the oxygen isotope composition of zircons that have been dated may provide a record of growth and maturation of the crust. Valley et al. (2005) have analyzed 1200 dated zircons representing the whole spectrum of geologic ages. Uniformly low $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values are found in the first half of Earth history, but much more varied values are observed in younger rocks. In contrast to the Archean, ^{18}O -values during the Proterozoic gradually increase possibly indicating a maturation of the crust (see Fig. 3.9). After 1.5 Ga high $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values above 8 ‰ reflect gradual changes in the composition of sediments and the rate and style of recycling of surface-derived material into magmas (Valley et al. 2005).

3.3 Volatiles in Magmatic Systems

The isotope composition of magmatic volatiles and related isotope fractionation processes can be deduced by analyses of volcanic gases and hot springs. The main process that can cause isotope fractionation of volatile compounds is degassing. Informations can be also gained about the initial composition in the melt prior to gas loss. In addition the interaction of magmas with subducting slabs, oceanic and continental crust may also imprint their volatile characteristics onto those of the source (Hahm et al. 2012). The ultimate origin of volatiles in magmatic systems—whether juvenile in the sense that they originate from primary mantle degassing, or recycled by subduction processes—is difficult to assess, but may be deduced in some cases.

Because large differences exist in the isotope compositions of surface rocks relative to the mantle, the analysis of volatiles is important in assessing the extent of volatile transfer from the surface reservoirs to the mantle via subduction. Volatiles from arc related volcanic and hydrothermal systems may indicate an appreciable amount of surface derived materials and provide strong evidence of volatile recycling in subduction zones (Hauri 2002a; Snyder et al. 2001; Fischer et al. 2002).

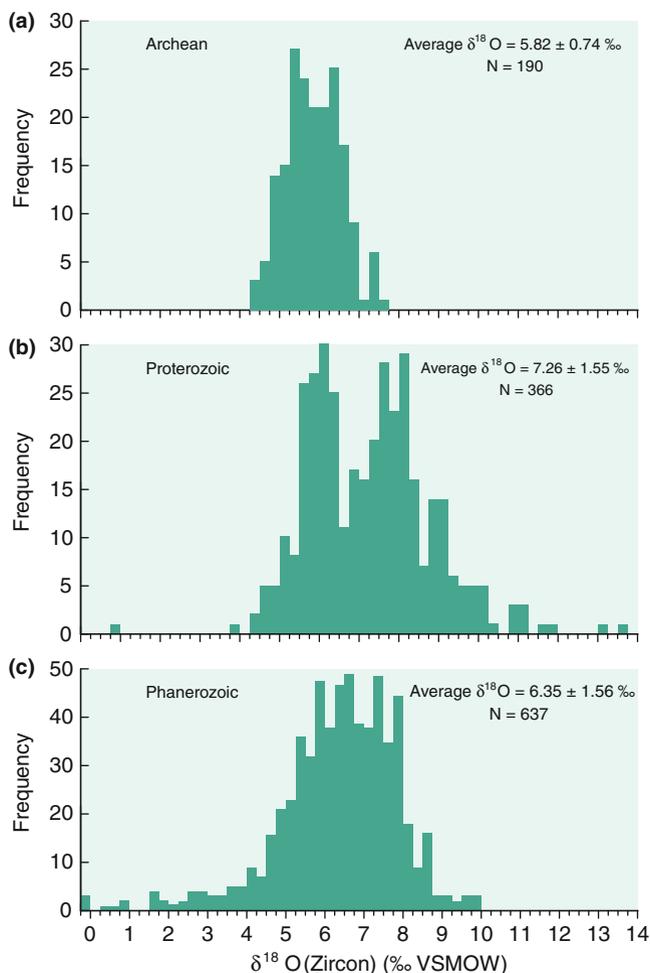


Fig. 3.9 Histogram of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values for igneous zircons (**a** Archean, **b** Proterozoic, **c** Phanerozoic) (after Valley et al. 2005) (Fig. 3.9, 6th edition, p. 117)

3.3.1 Volcanic Gases and Hot Springs

The chemical composition of volcanic gases is naturally variable and can be modified significantly during sample collection, storage and handling. While it is relatively simple to recognize and correct for atmospheric contamination, the effects of natural contamination processes in the near-surface environment are much more difficult to address. Thus, the identification of truly mantle-derived gases except helium remains very problematic. In addition to assimilation/contamination processes, the degassing history can significantly alter the isotopic composition of magmatic volatiles.

3.3.1.1 Water

A long-standing geochemical problem is the source of water in volcanic eruptions and geothermal systems: how much is derived from the magma itself and how much is recycled meteoric water? One of the principal and unequivocal conclusions drawn from stable isotope studies of fluids in volcanic hydrothermal systems is that most hot spring waters are meteoric waters derived from local precipitation (Craig et al. 1956; Clayton et al. 1968; Clayton and Steiner 1975; Truesdell and Hulston 1980, and others).

Most hot spring waters have deuterium contents similar to those of local precipitation, but are usually enriched in ^{18}O as a result of isotopic exchange with the country rock at elevated temperatures. The magnitude of the oxygen isotope shift depends on the original O-isotope composition of both water and rock, the mineralogy of the rock, temperature, water/rock ratio, and the time of interaction.

There is increasing evidence, however, that a magmatic water component cannot be excluded in some volcanic systems. As more and more data have become available from volcanoes around the world, especially from those at very high latitudes, Giggenbach (1992) demonstrated that “horizontal” ^{18}O shifts are actually the exception rather than the rule: shifts in oxygen isotope composition are also accompanied by a change in the deuterium content (Fig. 3.10). Giggenbach (1992) argued that these waters all followed similar trends corresponding to mixing of local ground waters with a water having a rather uniform isotopic composition with a $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of about 10 ‰ and a δD -value of about -20 ‰. He postulated the existence of a common magmatic component in andesite volcanoes having a δD of

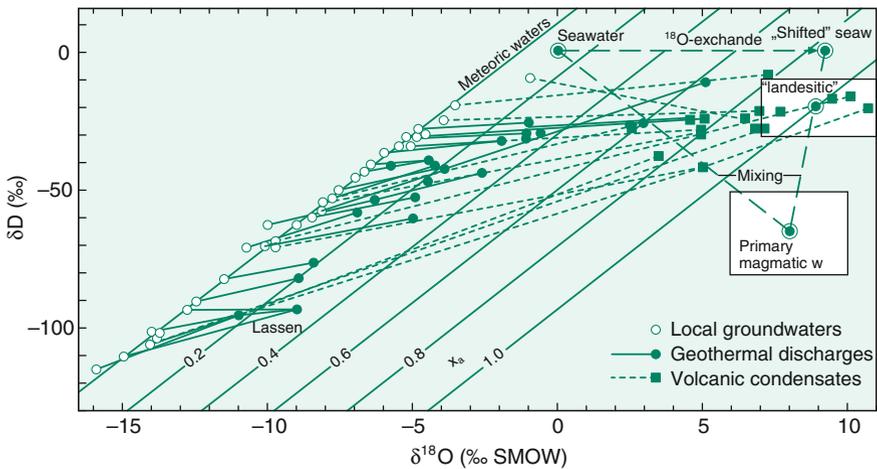


Fig. 3.10 Isotopic composition of thermal waters and associated local ground waters. Lines connect corresponding thermal waters to local groundwaters (Giggenbach 1992) (Fig. 3.10, 6th edition, p. 121)

–20 ‰ which is much higher than the generally assumed mantle water composition. The most likely source would be recycled seawater carried to zones of arc magma generation by the subducted slab.

What is sometimes neglected in the interpretation of isotope data in volcanic degassing products are the effects of boiling. Loss of steam from a geothermal fluid can cause isotopic fractionations. Quantitative estimates of the effects of boiling on the isotopic composition of water can be made using known temperature-dependent fractionation coefficients and estimates of the period of contact between the steam and liquid water during the boiling process (Truesdell and Hulston 1980).

3.3.1.2 Carbon

CO₂ is the second most abundant gas species in magmatic systems. In a survey of CO₂ emanations from tectonically active areas worldwide, Barnes et al. (1978) attributed $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values between –8 and –4 ‰ to a mantle source. This is, however, problematic, because average crustal and mantle isotope compositions are more or less identical and surficial processes that can modify the carbon isotope composition are numerous. A more promising approach may be to analyze the ¹³C-content of CO₂ collected directly from magmas at high temperatures.

The volcano where gases have been collected and analyzed for the longest time is Kilauea in Hawaii, the data base covering a period from about 1960 to 1985 (Gerlach and Thomas 1986; Gerlach and Taylor 1990). Gerlach and Taylor (1990) consider a $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value of -3.4 ± 0.05 ‰ to be the best estimate of the mean for the total summit gas emission of Kilauea. A two-stage degassing model was developed to explain these values: (1) ascent and pressure equilibration in the summit magma chamber and (2) rapid, near surface decompression of summit-stored magma during ascent and eruption. The study demonstrated that the gas at the summit is a direct representation of the parental magma C-isotope ratio ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$: –3.4 ‰), whereas gases given off during East Rift Zone eruptions have a $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value of –7.8 ‰, corresponding to a magma which had been affected by degassing in a shallow magmatic system.

It is well documented that carbon dioxide in vesicles of MORB is derived from the upper mantle. In island arcs and subduction-related volcanism major portions of carbon may derive from limestones and organic carbon. Sano and Marty (1995) demonstrated that the CO₂/³He ratio in combination with the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value can be used to distinguish between sedimentary organic, limestone and MORB carbon. Using this approach Nishio et al. (1998) and Fischer et al. (1998) concluded that about two-thirds of the carbon in a subduction zone originates from carbonates, whereas up to one third is derived from organic carbon. Even larger portions (>80 %) of CO₂ derived from marine carbonates have been found by Shaw et al. (2003) in volcanoes from the Central American arc. Carbon derived from a primary mantle source thus only plays a minor role in a subduction environment.

Besides CO₂, methane has been reported in high-temperature hydrothermal vent fluids (Welhan 1988, Ishibashi et al. 1995). The origin of this methane is somewhat

unclear, even in systems which are associated with ^3He anomalies. Whereas a non-biogenic magmatic origin of methane has been assumed for the East Pacific Rise (Welhan 1988), a thermogenic origin has been proposed for the Okinawa trough (Ishibashi et al. 1995).

In recent years there is growing evidence that methane can be produced abiogenic during a Fischer-Tropsch type synthesis (reduction of CO or CO_2 by H_2 in the presence of a catalyst) (Sherwood-Lollar et al. 2006; McCollom and Seewald 2006 and others). Hydrocarbons ($\text{C}_1\text{--C}_4$) synthesized under abiogenic hydrothermal conditions are significantly depleted in ^{13}C relative to their CO_2 source. The magnitude of ^{13}C depletion may be similar to C isotope fractionations during biological processes making it impossible to distinguish between biogenic and abiogenic sources of reduced carbon. This finding has important implications for the discussion of the Earth earliest biosphere. Sherwood-Lollar et al. (2002) observed a trend of decreasing ^{13}C contents with increasing carbon numbers $\text{C}_1\text{--C}_4$ just opposite to gases derived from biologic sources. Experiments by Fu et al. (2007), however, could not confirm the trend observed by Sherwood-Lollar et al. (2002).

3.3.1.3 Nitrogen

Nitrogen in particular is a potential tracer of volatile recycling between the surface and the mantle, because of the large differences in N-isotope composition of MORB ($\delta^{15}\text{N}$: -5‰), the atmosphere (0‰) and sediments ($6\text{--}7\text{‰}$). As demonstrated by Zimmer et al. (2004), Clor et al. (2005) and Elkins et al. (2006), nitrogen isotopes are very well suited for determining the fate of organic matter in subduction zones. These authors have demonstrated variable contributions of organic matter-derived nitrogen along arcs in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Indonesia. For instance, Elkins et al. (2006) estimated that sediment contributions to volcanic and geothermal gases in the Nicaraguan volcanic front are around 70 %.

3.3.1.4 Sulfur

Elucidation of the origin of sulfur in volcanic systems is complicated by the fact that next to SO_2 , significant amounts of H_2S , sulfate and elemental sulfur can also be present. The bulk sulfur isotope composition must be calculated using mass balance constraints. The principal sulfur gas in equilibrium with basaltic melts at low pressure and high temperature is SO_2 . With decreasing temperature and/or increasing water fugacity, H_2S becomes more stable. $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of SO_2 sampled at very high temperatures provide the best estimate of the ^{34}S -content of magmas (Taylor 1986a, b). Sakai et al. (1982) reported $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of $0.7\text{--}1\text{‰}$ in the solfataric gases of Kilauea which compare well with the $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of $0.9\text{--}2.6\text{‰}$ for Mount Etna gases, measured by Allard (1983) and Liotta et al. (2012). De Moor et al. (2013) investigated sulfur isotope systematics in gases and rocks from a relative reduced volcanic system (Erta Ale in Ethiopia) and a relative oxidized

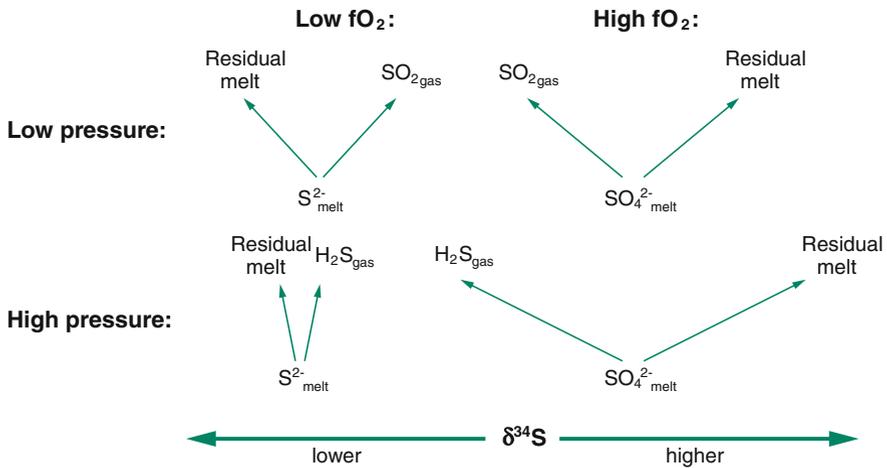


Fig. 3.11 S-isotope degassing scenarios at high and low pressures and at high and low oxygen fugacities (De Moor et al. 2013)

system (Masaya in Nicaragua). $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values in Erta Ale ($\delta^{34}\text{S}_{(\text{gas})} -0.5\text{‰}$, $\delta^{34}\text{S}_{(\text{rock})} +0.9\text{‰}$) are considerably more depleted than $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values from the arc volcano Masaya ($\delta^{34}\text{S}_{(\text{gas})} +4.8\text{‰}$, $\delta^{34}\text{S}_{(\text{rock})} +7.4\text{‰}$). High values in Masaya obviously reflect recycling of subducted sulfate. Figure 3.11 shows schematically sulfur isotope degassing scenarios at high and low pressures on the one hand and high and low oxygen fugacities on the other.

Volcanic sulfur compounds play a key role for the monitoring of volcanoes, because SO_2 may convert to submicron particles of sulfate aerosol that may lead to a cooling of the atmosphere for months or even years. The injection of large quantities of volcanic SO_2 from explosive eruptions into the stratosphere, thus, may have a significant impact on global climate. Bindeman et al. (2007) and Martin and Bindeman (2009) investigated the sulfur and oxygen isotope composition of sulfate in volcanic ash. They observed a large range in $\delta^{34}\text{S}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ - and $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ -isotope values. The existence of mass-independent S-isotope fractionations demonstrates that the chemistry required for MIF generation occurs in parts of the modern oxygen rich atmosphere. MIF of oxygen occurs through oxidation of SO_2 in the upper atmosphere by interaction with mass-independent ozone.

In summary, stable isotope analysis (H, C, S) of volcanic gases and hot springs allow for estimates of the isotopic composition of the mantle source. However, it must be kept in mind that numerous possibilities for contamination, assimilation, and gas phase isotopic fractionation, especially in the surficial environment, make such deductions problematic at best. In cases where it may be possible to “see through” these secondary effects, small differences in H, C, N and S isotope compositions of volcanic gases and hot springs might be characteristic of different geotectonic settings.

3.3.2 Isotope Thermometers in Geothermal Systems

Although there are many isotope exchange processes occurring within a geothermal fluid, many of which have the potential to provide thermometric information, only a few have generally been applied, because of suitable exchange rates for achieving isotope equilibrium (Hulston 1977; Truesdell and Hulston 1980; Giggenbach 1992). Temperatures are determined on the basis of calculated fractionation factors of Richet et al. (1977). Differences among geothermometers in the C–O–H–S system are generally ascribed to differences in exchange rates in the decreasing order CO₂–H₂O (oxygen) > H₂O–H₂ (hydrogen) > SO₂–H₂S (sulfur) > CO₂–CH₄ (carbon). Especially pronounced are the differences for the CO₂–CH₄ thermometer which are often higher than the actual measured temperatures. Investigations on Nisyros volcano, Greece, however, suggest that chemical and isotopic equilibrium between CO₂ and CH₄ may occur to temperatures as low as 320 °C (Fiebig et al. 2004).

3.4 Ore Deposits and Hydrothermal Systems

Stable isotopes have become an integral part of ore deposits studies. The determination of light isotopes of H, C, O and S can provide information about the diverse origins of ore fluids, about temperatures of mineralization and about physico-chemical conditions of mineral deposition. In contrast to early views, which assumed that almost all metal deposits owed their genesis to magmas, stable isotope investigations have convincingly demonstrated that ore formation has taken place in the Earth's near-surface environment by recycling processes of fluids, metals, sulfur, and carbon. Reviews of the application of stable isotopes to the genesis of ore deposits have been given by Ohmoto (1986), Taylor (1987a, b) and Taylor (1997).

Inasmuch as water is the dominant constituent of ore-forming fluids, knowledge of its origin is fundamental to any theory of ore genesis. There are two ways for determining δD - and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of ore fluids:

by direct measurement of fluid inclusions contained within hydrothermal minerals, or

by analysis of hydroxyl-bearing minerals and calculation of the isotopic composition of fluids from known temperature-dependent mineral-water fractionations, assuming that minerals were precipitated from solutions under conditions of isotope equilibrium.

There are two different methods through which fluids and gases may be extracted from rocks: (i) thermal decrepitation by heating in vacuum and (ii) crushing and grinding in vacuum. Serious analytical difficulties may be associated with both techniques. The major disadvantage of the thermal decrepitation technique is that, although the amount of gas liberated is higher than by crushing, compounds present in the inclusions may exchange isotopically with each other and

with the host mineral at the high temperatures necessary for decrepitation. Crushing in vacuum largely avoids isotope exchange processes. However, during crushing large new surfaces are created which easily adsorb some of the liberated gases and that, in turn, might be associated with fractionation effects. Both techniques preclude separating the different generations of inclusions in a sample and, therefore, the results obtained represent an average isotopic composition of all generations of inclusions.

Numerous studies have used the δD -value of the extracted water to deduce the origin of the hydrothermal fluid. However, without knowledge of the internal distribution of hydrogen in quartz, such a deduction can be misleading (Simon 2001). Hydrogen in quartz mainly occurs in two reservoirs: (i) in trapped fluid inclusions and (ii) in small clusters of structurally bound molecular water. Because of hydrogen isotope fractionation between the hydrothermal fluid and the structurally bound water, the total hydrogen extracted from quartz does not necessarily reflect the original hydrogen isotope composition. This finding may explain why δD -values from fluid inclusions often tend to be lower than δD -values from associated minerals (Simon 2001).

Oxygen-bearing minerals crystallize during all stages of mineralization, whereas the occurrence of hydrogen-bearing minerals is restricted in most ore deposits. Examples of hydroxyl-bearing minerals include biotite and amphibole at high temperatures (in porphyry copper deposits), chlorite and sericite at temperatures around 300 °C, and kaolinite at around 200 °C.

The mineral alunite, and its iron equivalent jarosite, are a special case. Alunite ($KAl_3(SO_4)_2(OH)_6$) contains four sites where elements containing stable isotopes are found and both the sulfate and hydroxyl anionic groups may provide information on fluid source and condition of formation.

Alunite forms under highly acidic oxidizing conditions and is characterized by the assemblage alunite + kaolinite + quartz \pm pyrite. Stable isotope data of alunite in combination with associated sulfides and kaolinite permit recognition of environments and temperatures of formation (Rye et al. 1992).

The indirect method of deducing the isotope composition of ore fluids is more frequently used, because it is technically easier. Uncertainties arise from several sources: uncertainty in the temperature of deposition, and uncertainty in the equations for isotope fractionation factors. Another source of error is an imprecise knowledge of the effects of fluid chemistry (“salt effect”) on mineral-water fractionation factors.

Several studies (e.g. Berndt et al. 1996; Driesner and Seward 2000; Horita et al. 1995; Shmulovich et al. 1999) have demonstrated that the approach of using mineral—pure water fractionation factors to deduce the origin of the water is incorrect. Isotope fractionations involving aqueous solutions depend not only on temperature and fluid composition, but also on the presence or absence of phase separation (“boiling”). Phase separation is an important process causing potentially isotope fractionation. Hydrogen isotope studies (Berndt et al. 1996; Shmulovich et al. 1999) indicate that high temperature phase separation produces D-enrichment in the vapor and D-depletion in the conjugate fluid. If the fractionation effect

inherent in a boiling fluid system is disregarded, one may easily misinterpret the isotope composition of hydrothermal minerals, since boiling may mask the source of the parent fluids. In addition, for hydrogen isotope fractionations, pressure may have some control on mineral-water fractionations (Driesner 1997; Horita et al. 1999).

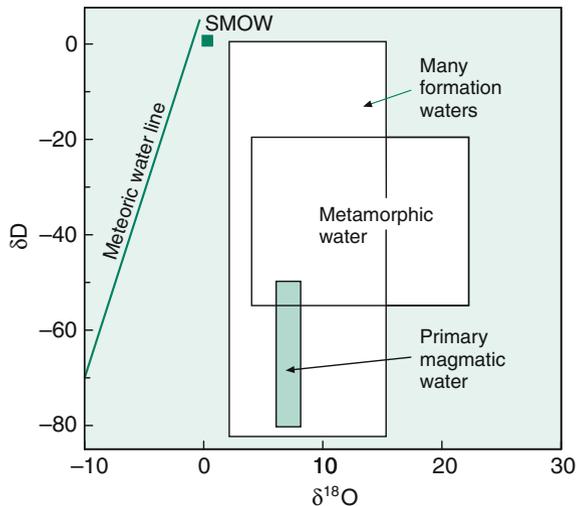
3.4.1 Origin of Ore Fluids

Ore fluids may be generated in a variety of ways. The principal types include (i) sea water, (ii) meteoric waters and (iii) juvenile water, all of which have a strictly defined isotopic composition. All other possible types of ore fluids such as formation, metamorphic and magmatic waters can be considered recycled derivatives or mixtures from one or more of the three reference waters (see Fig. 3.12).

(i) Sea water

The oxygen isotopic composition of present-day ocean water is more or less constant with δ -values close to zero permil. The isotopic composition of ancient ocean water, however, is less well constrained (see Sect. 3.7), but still should not be removed from zero by more than 1 or 2 ‰. Many volcanogenic massive sulfide deposits are formed in submarine environments from heated oceanic waters. This concept gains support from the recently observed hydrothermal systems at ocean ridges, where measured isotopic compositions of fluids are only slightly modified relative to 0 ‰. $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and δD -values of vent fluids are best understood in terms of seawater interaction with the ocean crust (Shanks 2001).

Fig. 3.12 Plot of δD versus $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of waters of different origin (Fig. 3.11, 6th edition, p. 126)



Bowers and Taylor (1985) have modelled the isotopic composition of an evolving seawater hydrothermal system. At low temperatures, the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of the fluid decreases relative to ocean water because the alteration products in the oceanic crust are ^{18}O rich. At around 250 °C, the solution returns to its initial seawater isotopic composition. Further reaction with basalt at 350 °C increases the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ value of modified seawater to ~ 2 ‰. The δD -value of the solution increases slightly at all temperatures because mineral-water fractionations are generally all less than zero. At 350 °C, the δD -value of the solution is 2.5 ‰. The best documented example for the role of ocean water during ore deposition is for the Kuroko-type deposits (see the extensive monograph by Ohmoto and Skinner (1983)).

(ii) Meteoric waters

Heated meteoric waters are a major constituent of ore-forming fluids in many ore deposits and may become dominant during the latest stages of ore deposition. The latter has been documented for many porphyry skarn-type deposits. The isotopic variations observed for several Tertiary North American deposits vary systematic with latitude and, hence, palaeo-meteoric water composition (Sheppard et al. 1971). The ore-forming fluid has commonly been shifted in O-isotope composition from its meteoric $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value to higher ^{18}O contents through water-rock interaction. Meteoric waters may become dominant in epithermal gold deposits and other vein and replacement deposits.

(iii) Juvenile water

The concept of juvenile water has influenced early discussions about ore genesis tremendously. The terms “juvenile water” and “magmatic water” have been used synonymously sometimes, but they are not exactly the same. Juvenile water originates from degassing of the mantle and has never existed as surface water. Magmatic water is a non-genetic term and simply means a water that has equilibrated with a magma.

It is difficult to prove that juvenile water has ever been sampled. One way to search for juvenile water is by analyzing hydroxyl-bearing minerals of mantle origin (Sheppard and Epstein 1970). The estimated isotopic composition of juvenile water from such an approach is δD : -60 ± 20 ‰ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$: $+6 \pm 1$ ‰ (Ohmoto 1986).

3.4.1.1 Magmatic Water

Despite the close association of intrusions with many ore deposits, there is still debate about the extent to which magmas contribute water and metals to ore-forming fluids. Many early studies of the stable isotope composition of hydrothermal minerals indicated a dominance of meteoric water (Taylor 1974), more recent studies show that magmatic fluids are commonly present, but that their isotopic compositions may be masked or erased during later events such as the influx of meteoric waters (Rye 1993).

The δD -value of magmatic water changes progressively during degassing, resulting in a positive correlation between δD and the residual water content of an igneous body. Thus, late-formed hydroxyl-bearing minerals represent the isotopic composition of a degassed melt rather than that of the initial magmatic water. The δD values of most of the water exsolved from many felsic melts is in the range of -60 to -30 ‰, whereas the associated magmatic rocks may be significantly depleted in D.

The calculated range of isotopic composition for magmatic waters is commonly 6 – 10 ‰ for $\delta^{18}O$ -values and -50 to -80 ‰ for δD -values. Magmatic fluids may change their isotopic composition during cooling through isotope exchange with country rocks and mixing with fluids entrained within the country rocks. Thus, the participation of a magmatic water component during an ore-forming process is generally not easily detected.

3.4.1.2 Metamorphic Water

Metamorphic water is defined as water associated with metamorphic rocks during metamorphism. Thus, it is a descriptive, non-genetic term and may include waters of different ultimate origins. In a narrower sense, metamorphic water refers to the fluids generated by dehydration of minerals during metamorphism. The isotopic composition of metamorphic water may be highly variable, depending on the respective rock types and their history of fluid/rock interaction. A wide range of $\delta^{18}O$ -values (5 – 25 ‰) and δD -values (-70 to -20 ‰) is generally attributed to metamorphic waters (Taylor 1974).

3.4.1.3 Formation Waters

The changes in the D- and ^{18}O -contents of pore fluids depend on the origin of initial fluid (ocean water, meteoric water), temperature and the lithology of rocks with which the fluids are or have been associated. Generally, formation waters with the lowest temperature and salinity have the lowest δD - and $\delta^{18}O$ -values, approaching those of meteoric waters. Brines of the highest salinities are generally more restricted in isotopic composition. It is still an unanswered question though whether meteoric water was the only source of water to these brines. The final isotope composition of brines can be produced by reactions between meteoric water and sediments, or result from mixtures of fossil ocean water trapped in the sediments and meteoric water.

3.4.2 Wall-Rock Alteration

Information about the origin and genesis of ore deposits can also be obtained by analyzing the alteration products in wall-rocks. Hydrogen and oxygen isotope zonation in wall-rocks around hydrothermal systems can be used to define the size and the conduit zones of a hydrothermal system. The fossil conduit is a zone of large water fluxes, generally causing a strong alteration in the rocks and lowering

the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values. Thus, fossil hydrothermal conduits can be outlined by following the zones of ^{18}O -depletion. Oxygen isotope data are especially valuable in rock types that do not show diagnostic alteration mineral assemblages as well as those in which the assemblages have been obliterated by subsequent metamorphism (e.g. Beatty and Taylor 1982; Green et al. 1983). Criss et al. (1985, 1991) found excellent spatial correlations between low $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values and economic mineralization in siliceous rocks. Similar zonation around ore deposits in carbonate rocks have also been observed (e.g. Vazquez et al. 1998). Thus, zones having anomalously low ^{18}O -contents may be a useful guide for exploration of hydrothermal ore deposits.

3.4.3 Fossil Hydrothermal Systems

Mainly through the work of H.P. Taylor and coworkers, it has become well established that many epizonal igneous intrusions have interacted with meteoric groundwaters on a very large scale. The interaction and transport of large amounts of meteoric water through hot igneous rocks produces a depletion in ^{18}O in the igneous rocks by up to 10–15 ‰ and a corresponding shift in the ^{18}O content of the water. About 60 of such systems have been observed to date (Criss and Taylor 1986). They exhibit great variations in size from relatively small intrusions (<100 km²) to large plutonic complexes (>1000 km²). Amongst the best documented examples are the Skaergaard intrusion in Greenland, the Tertiary intrusions of the Scottish Hebrides, and the Tertiary epizonal intrusions of the northwestern United States and southern British Columbia, where 5 % of the land surface has been altered by meteoric hydrothermal water (Criss et al. 1991).

The best-studied example of a hydrothermal system associated with a gabbro is the Skaergaard intrusion (Taylor and Forester 1979; Norton and Taylor 1979). The latter authors carried out a computer simulation of the Skaergaard hydrothermal system and found a good match between calculated and measured $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values. They further demonstrated that most of the sub-solidus hydrothermal exchange took place at very high temperatures (400–800 °C), which is compatible with the general absence of hydrous alteration products in the mineral assemblages and with the presence of clinopyroxene.

In granitic hydrothermal systems, temperatures of alteration are significantly lower because of differences in the intrusion temperatures. The most conspicuous petrographic changes are chloritization of mafic minerals, particularly of biotite, and a major increase in the turbidity of feldspars. Large non-equilibrium quartz—feldspar oxygen isotope fractionations are typical. Steep linear trajectories on plots of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{(\text{feldspar})}$ versus $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{(\text{quartz})}$ are a characteristic feature of these hydrothermally altered rocks (see Fig. 2.17). The trajectories result from the fact that feldspar exchanges ^{18}O with hydrothermal fluids much faster than coexisting quartz and from the fact that the fluids entering the rock system have $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values which are out of equilibrium with the mineral assemblage. The process seldom goes to

completion, so the final mineral assemblage is in isotope disequilibrium, which is the most obvious fingerprint of the hydrothermal event.

Taylor (1988) distinguished three types of fossil hydrothermal systems on the basis of varying water/rock ratios, temperatures, and the length of time that fluid/rock interaction proceeds:

Epizonal systems with a wide variation in whole rock ^{18}O -contents and extreme oxygen isotope disequilibrium among coexisting minerals. These systems typically have temperatures between 200 and 600 °C and life-times $<10^6$ y.

Deeper-seated and/or longer-lived systems, also with a wide spectrum of whole rock $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratios, but with equilibrated $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratios among coexisting minerals. Temperatures are between 400 and 700 °C and life-times $>10^6$ y.

Equilibrated systems with a relatively uniform oxygen isotope composition in all lithologies. These systems require a large water/rock ratio, temperatures between 500 and 800 °C, and life times around 5×10^6 y.

These types are not mutually exclusive, Type III systems for example may have been subjected to Type I or Type II conditions at an earlier stage of their hydrothermal history.

3.4.4 Hydrothermal Carbonates

The measured $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ - and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of carbonates can be used to estimate the carbon and oxygen isotope composition of the fluid in the same way as has been discussed before for oxygen and hydrogen. The isotopic composition of carbon and oxygen in any carbonate precipitated in isotopic equilibrium with a fluid depends on the isotopic composition of carbon and oxygen in the fluid, the temperature of formation, and the relative proportions of dissolved carbon species (CO_2 , H_2CO_3 , HCO_3^- , and/or CO_3^{2-}). To determine carbonate speciation, pH and temperature must be known; however, in most geologic fluids with temperatures above about 100 °C, the content of HCO_3^- and CO_3^{2-} is negligible compared to CO_2 and H_2CO_3 .

Experimental investigations have shown that the solubility of carbonate increases with decreasing temperature. Thus, carbonate cannot be precipitated from a hydrothermal fluid due to simple cooling in a closed system. Instead, an open system is required in which processes such as CO_2 degassing, fluid-rock interaction or fluid mixing can cause the precipitation of carbonate. These processes result in correlation trends in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ vs $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ space for hydrothermal carbonates as often observed in nature and theoretically modeled by Zheng and Hoefs (1993).

Figure 3.13 presents $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of hydrothermal carbonates from the Pb–Zn deposits of Bad Grund and Lautenthal, Germany. The positive correlation between $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ - and $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ -ratios can be explained either by calcite precipitation due to the mixing of two fluids with different NaCl concentrations or by calcite precipitation from a H_2CO_3 -dominant fluid due to a temperature effect coupled with either CO_2 degassing or with fluid-rock interaction.

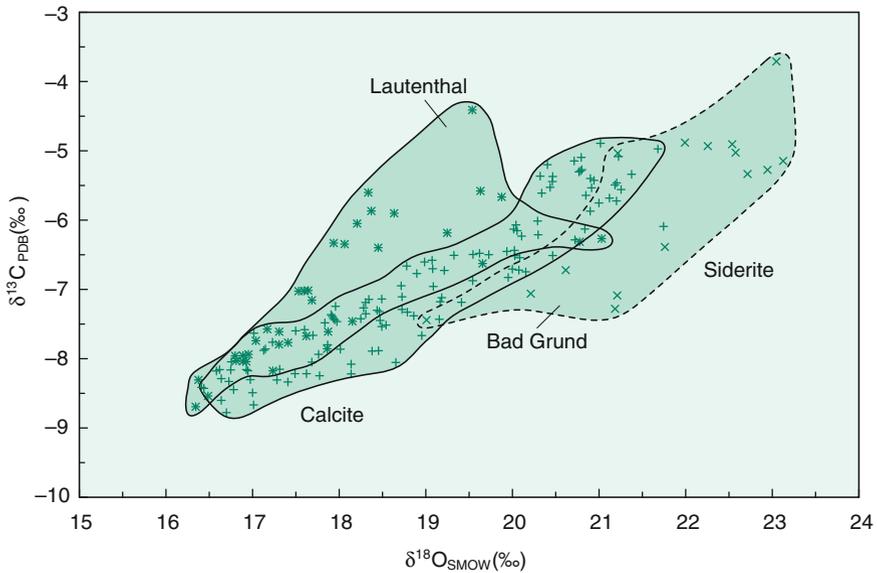


Fig. 3.13 C- and O-isotope compositions of calcites and siderites from the Bad Grund and Lautenthal deposits, Harz (after Zheng and Hoefs 1993) (Fig. 3.12, 6th edition, p. 130)

3.4.5 Sulfur Isotope Composition of Ore Deposits

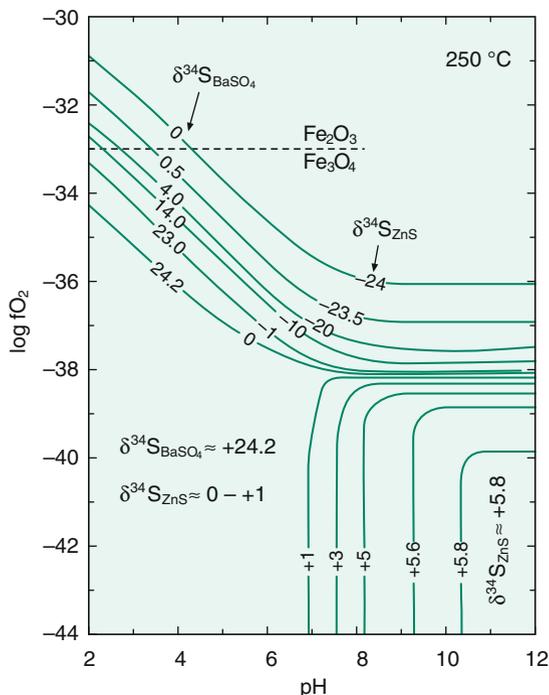
A huge amount of literature exists about the sulfur isotope composition in hydrothermal ore deposits. Some of this information has been discussed in earlier editions and, therefore, is not repeated here. Out of the numerous papers on the subject the reader is referred to comprehensive reviews by Ohmoto and Rye (1979), Ohmoto (1986), Taylor (1987a, b) and Ohmoto and Goldhaber (1997). The basic principles to be followed in the interpretation of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values in sulfidic ores were elucidated by Sakai (1968), and subsequently, were extended by Ohmoto (1972).

The isotopic composition of a hydrothermal sulfide is determined by a number of factors such as (1) isotopic composition of the hydrothermal fluid from which the mineral is deposited, (2) temperature of deposition, (3) chemical composition of the dissolved element species including pH and $f\text{O}_2$ at the time of mineralization, and (4) relative amount of the mineral deposited from the fluid. The first parameter is characteristic of the source of sulfur, the three others relate to the conditions of deposition.

3.4.5.1 The Importance of fO_2 and pH

First, consider the effect of pH -increase due to the reaction of an acidic fluid with a carbonate-bearing host rocks. At $\text{pH} = 5$, practically all of the dissolved sulfur is undissociated H_2S , whereas at $\text{pH} = 9$ the dissolved sulfide is almost entirely

Fig. 3.14 Influence of fO_2 and pH on the sulfur isotope composition of sphalerite and barite at 250 °C and $\delta^{34}S_{\Sigma S} = 0$ ‰ (modified after Ohmoto 1972) (Fig. 3.13, 6th edition, p. 131)



dissociated. Since H_2S concentrates ^{34}S relative to dissolved sulfide ion, an increase in pH leads directly to an increase in the $\delta^{34}S$ of precipitated sulfides.

An increase in oxygen fugacities has a much stronger effect on the $\delta^{34}S$ -values than a pH change, because of the large isotope fractionation between sulfate and sulfide. Figure 3.14 shows an example of the effect of pH and fO_2 variation on the sulfur isotope compositions of sphalerite and barite in a closed system at 250 °C with $\delta^{34}S_{\Sigma S} = 0$ ‰. The curves are $\delta^{34}S$ contours, which indicate the sulfur isotope compositions of the minerals in equilibrium with the solution. Sphalerite $\delta^{34}S$ -values can range from -24 to $+5.8$ ‰ and those for barite from about 0 – 24.2 ‰ within geologically reasonable limits of pH and fO_2 . In the low fO_2 and pH region, sulfide ^{34}S contents can be similar to $\delta^{34}S_{\Sigma S}$ and can be rather insensitive to pH and fO_2 changes. In the region of high fO_2 values where the proportion of sulfate species becomes significant, mineral $\delta^{34}S$ values can be greatly different from $\delta^{34}S_{\Sigma S}$ and small changes in pH or fO_2 may result in large changes in the sulfur isotope composition of either sulfide or sulfate. Such a change must, however, be balanced by a significant change in the ratio of sulfate to sulfide.

In summary, interpretation of the distribution of $\delta^{34}S$ -values relies on information about the source of sulfur and on a knowledge of the mineral parageneses that constrain the ambient temperature, Eh and pH. If the oxidation state of the fluid is

below the sulfate/H₂S boundary, then the ³⁴S/³²S ratios of sulfides will be insensitive to redox shifts.

In the following section different classes of ore deposits are discussed.

3.4.5.2 Magmatic Ore Deposits

Magmatic deposits are characterized by sulfides which precipitate from mafic silicate melts rather than hydrothermal fluids. They can be divided into S-poor (deposits of platinum group elements) and S-rich magmatic sulfide systems (Ni–Cu deposits) (Ripley and Li 2003). The majority of this type of deposits are hosted within sedimentary country rocks in which the sulfur is assimilated or volatilized during magma emplacement. Typical examples are the deposits of Duluth, Stillwater, Bushveld, Sudbury and Noril'sk. In many of these deposits relatively large deviations in δ³⁴S-values from the presumed mantle melt value near zero are observed, indicating magma contamination by interactions with country rocks. The large spread in δ³⁴S is generally attributed to assimilation of sulfur from the wall rocks, provided that the sulfur isotope composition of the country rocks is significantly different from the magma.

3.4.5.3 Magmatic Hydrothermal Deposits

This group of deposits is closely associated in space and time with magmatic intrusions that were emplaced at relatively shallow depths. They have been developed in hydrothermal systems driven by the cooling of magma (e.g. porphyry-type deposits and skarns). From δD- and δ¹⁸O-measurements, it has been concluded that porphyry copper deposits show the clearest affinity of a magmatic water imprint (Taylor 1974) with variable involvement of meteoric water generally at late stages of ore formation.

The majority of δ³⁴S-values of sulfides fall between –3 and 1 ‰ and of sulfates between 8 and 15 ‰ (Field and Gustafson 1976; Shelton and Rye 1982; Rye 2005). Sulfate-sulfide isotope data suggest a general approach to isotope equilibrium. Calculated sulfate-sulfide temperatures, for conditions of complete isotope equilibrium, are typically between 450 and 600 °C and agree well with temperatures estimated from other methods. Thus, the sulfur isotope data and temperatures support the magmatic origin of the sulfur in porphyry deposits.

3.4.5.4 Epithermal Deposits

Epithermal ore deposits are hydrothermal deposits that form at shallow crustal levels. A wide spectrum of ore deposits of a different nature occurs in this category. Typical temperatures of mineralization range from 150 to 350 °C with variable salinities. Individual deposits often reveal that more than one type of fluid was involved in the formation of a single ore deposit. One of the fluids involved often appears to be of meteoric origin. In many deposits different fluids were alternatively discharged into the vein system and promoted the precipitation of a specific suite of minerals, such as one fluid precipitating sulfides and another precipitating carbonates (Ohmoto 1986).

Compared to porphyry copper deposits $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values in epithermal deposits are more variable due to lower temperatures of formation and significant amounts of both sulfide and sulfate in the hydrothermal fluid.

3.4.5.5 Recent and Fossil Sulfide Deposits at Mid-Ocean Ridges

Numerous sulfide deposits have been discovered on the seafloor along the East Pacific Rise, Juan de Fuca Ridge, Explorer Ridge and Mid-Atlantic Ridge (Shanks 2001). These deposits are formed from hydrothermal solutions which result from the interaction of circulating hot seawater with oceanic crust. Sulfides are derived mainly from two sources: (i) leaching from igneous and sedimentary wall rocks and (ii) thermochemical sulfate reduction due to interaction with ferrous silicates and oxides or with organic matter.

The role of sulfur in these vents is complex and often obscured by its multiple redox states and by uncertainties in the degree of equilibration. Studies by Styrer et al. (1981), Arnold and Sheppard (1981), Skirrow and Coleman (1982), Kerridge et al. (1983), Zierenberg et al. (1984), and others have shown that the sulfur in these deposits is enriched in ^{34}S relative to a mantle source (typical $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ ranges are between 1 and 5 ‰), implying small additions of sulfide derived from seawater.

Vent sulfides at sediment covered hydrothermal systems may carry, in addition, signatures of sulfides derived from bacterial reduction. $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values alone may be unable to distinguish between the different sulfur sources. High precision measurements of $\delta^{33}\text{S}$, $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ and $\delta^{36}\text{S}$ allow, however, the distinction of biological isotope fractionation from abiological fractionation (Ono et al. 2007; Rouxel et al. 2008a, b). Biogenic sulfides are characterized by relatively high $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values compared to hydrothermal sulfides. Sulfides from the East Pacific Rise and the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, analyzed by Ono et al. (2007), gave low $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values compared to biogenic sulfides suggesting no contribution of biogenic sulfides. In altered oceanic basalts at ODP Site 801, however, Rouxel et al. (2008a, b) provided evidence for secondary biogenic pyrite. These authors estimated that at least 17 % of pyrite sulfur was derived from bacterial reduction.

For ancient seafloor sulfide deposits an alternative model has been discussed by Ohmoto et al. (1983), in which H_2S and sulfides are buffered by precipitated anhydrite and where $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values reflect temperature dependent equilibrium fractionations between SO_4 and H_2S .

To the category of ancient hydrothermal seafloor ore deposits belong volcanic associated massive sulfide deposits. They are characterized by massive Cu–Pb–Zn–Fe sulfide ores associated with submarine volcanic rocks. They appear to have been formed near the seafloor by submarine hot springs at temperatures of 150–350 °C. Massive sulfide deposits have $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values typically between zero and the δ -value of contemporaneous oceanic sulfate, whereas the sulfate has δ -values similar to or higher than contemporaneous seawater. According to Ohmoto et al. (1983) the ore-forming fluid is evolved seawater fixed as disseminated anhydrite and then reduced by ferrous iron and organic carbon in the rocks.

Another group belonging to this category of ore deposits are sedimentary-exhalative (sedex) massive sulfide deposits. Just as volcanic massive sulfide deposits, this group has formed on the seafloor or in unconsolidated marine sediments. Its members differ from volcanogenic massive deposits in that the dominant host-rock lithologies are marine shales and carbonates, the associated igneous activity is minor or negligible, and water depths seem to be considerably less than the >2000 m proposed for most volcanogenic deposits. The total range of sulfide $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values is much larger than the range observed in volcanogenic massive sulfide deposits.

Sulfides are fine-grained and texturally complex containing multiple generations of minerals. Two different origins of sulfur can be envisaged: biogenic and hydrothermal. Mineral separation methods cannot insure that mineral separates contain only one type of sulfur. Therefore, conventional techniques cannot answer questions such as: is most of the sulfur produced by bacterial reduction of seawater or is it inorganically acquired and hydrothermally introduced together with the metals? In situ ion microprobe techniques allow isotope analysis on a scale as small as 20 μm . Studies by Eldridge et al. (1988, 1993) have revealed extremely large variations on distances of millimeters with gross disequilibrium between base metal sulfides and overgrown pyrites. Thus, the mean $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of these deposits are not particularly diagnostic of its origin, but additional measurements of $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ might be able to distinguish between different sulfur sources.

Like sulfur, Fe isotope investigations show complex patterns (Severmann et al. 2004; Rouxel et al. 2004a, b, 2008a, b; Bennett et al. 2009). High temperature vent fluids are depleted in ^{56}Fe relative to their source rocks. Precipitating marcasite and pyrite from various mid-ocean ridge vents are isotopically lighter than chalcopyrite. When vent fluids enter oxygen-rich ocean water, polymetallic sulfide and Fe hydroxides precipitate causing a 0.6 ‰ isotope fractionation with the sulfides being depleted in ^{56}Fe (Bennett et al. 2009).

3.4.5.6 Mississippi-Valley-Type (MVT) Deposits

The Mississippi-Valley-Type deposits are epigenetic Zn–Pb deposits which mainly occur in carbonates from continental settings (Ohmoto 1986).

Characteristics often ascribed to MVT deposits include temperatures generally <200 °C and deposition from externally derived fluids, possibly basinal brines. Sulfur isotope values from MVT deposits suggest two major sulfide reservoirs, one between –5 and +15 ‰ and one greater than +20 ‰ (Seal 2006). Both sulfide reservoirs can be related, however, to a common seawater sulfate source that has undergone different sulfur fractionation processes. Reduction of sulfate occurs either bacterially or by abiotic thermochemical reduction. High $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values should reflect minimal fractionations associated with thermochemical reduction of seawater sulfate (Jones et al. 1996).

3.4.5.7 Biogenic Deposits

The discrimination between bacterial sulfate and thermal sulfate reduction in ore deposits on the basis of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values is rather complex. The best criterion to

distinguish between both types is the internal spread of δ -values. If individual sulfide grains at a distance of only a few millimeters exhibit large and nonsystematic differences in $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values, then it seems reasonable to assume an origin involving bacterial sulfate reduction. Irregular variations in ^{34}S -contents are attributed to bacteria growing in reducing microenvironments around individual particles of organic matter. In contrast, thermal sulfate reduction requires higher temperatures supplied by external fluids, which is not consistent with the closed system environment of bacterial reduction.

Two types of deposits, where the internal S-isotope variations fit the expected scheme of bacterial reduction, but where the biogenic nature was already known from other geological observations, are the “sandstone-type” uranium mineralization in the Colorado Plateau (Warren 1972) and the Kupferschiefer in Central Europe (Marowsky 1969), although thermal sulfate reduction may have occurred at the base of the Kupferschiefer (Bechtel et al. 2001).

3.4.5.8 Metamorphosed Deposits

It is generally assumed that metamorphism reduces the isotopic variations in a sulfide ore deposit. Recrystallization, liberation of sulfur from fluid and vapor phases, such as the breakdown of pyrite into pyrrhotite and sulfur, and diffusion at elevated temperatures should tend to reduce initial isotopic heterogeneities.

Studies of regionally metamorphosed sulfide deposits (Seccombe et al. 1985; Skauli et al. 1992) indicate, however, little evidence of homogenisation on the deposit scale. Significant changes may take place in certain restricted parts of the deposit as a result of special local conditions, controlled by factors such as fluid flow regimes and tectonics. Thus, a very limited degree of homogenisation takes place during metamorphism (Cook and Hoefs 1997). The extent of this is obscured by primary distribution and zonation patterns.

3.4.6 Metal Isotopes

One of the most important questions in the genesis of ore deposits is the origin of the metals. Recent analytical developments have provided a new tool for the analysis of metal isotopes (Fe, Cu, Zn, Mo). Since the bulk silicate earth (crust + mantle) shows a uniform mean isotope composition of the metals, different metal reservoirs with distinct isotopic compositions are not easily recognizable. It is therefore necessary to determine the ranges of metal isotopes in different ore deposit types and to investigate the mechanism that fractionate metal isotopes. Variations in metal isotope ratios depend on various parameters such as formation temperatures, abiotic or biotic processes and redox state during ore formation making interpretation of metal isotope ratios in ore deposits complex.

Like sulfur, mass balance among reduced and oxidized species controls the isotopic composition of metal sulfides (Asael et al. 2009). Thus far, Cu has received the greatest attention in applying metal stable isotopes to ore deposits (see the

summary of Li et al. (2010a, b). Cu isotope studies have been performed in a wide spectrum of ore deposits, including black smokers (Zhu et al. 2000a, b; Rouxel et al. 2004a, b), massive sulfide deposits (Mason et al. 2005; Ikehate et al. 2011), porphyry deposits (Graham et al. 2004; Mathur et al. 2010; Li et al. 2010a), skarn (Maher and Larson 2007) and other hydrothermal deposits (Markl et al. 2006a, b). A common feature of these investigations is that Cu-mineralizations influenced by low temperature redox processes show larger variations than high temperature Cu-mineralizations

Since Fe is also sensitive to redox processes, it might be expected that Cu and Fe isotope variations in a specific ore deposit are coupled, which, however seems to be not the case. One reason for a decoupling might be that the redox potential of $\text{Cu}^{2+}/\text{Cu}^+$ is much lower than for $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{2+}$ making Cu isotopes more sensitive to redox processes.

A range of more than 5 ‰ in $\delta^{65}\text{Cu}$ has been interpreted by Markl et al. (2006a) as being due to redox processes among dissolved Cu-species and to fractionations during precipitation of Cu minerals. A 2.5 ‰ variation of iron minerals in $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ has been explained by mixing models either through mixing with oxygen-rich surface waters resulting in ^{56}Fe depleted hematite or through mixing with CO_2 -rich fluids leading to precipitation of isotopically depleted siderite (Markl et al. 2006b).

Thus an important reserch field is the identifaction of low-temperature alteration processes in hydrothermal ore deposits, where biogenic and abiogenic redox processes potentially lead to significant isotope fractionations as already has been demonstrated in Sect. 2.13, 2.14 and 2.18, for Fe, Cu and Mo isotopes.

3.5 Hydrosphere

First, some definitions concerning water of different origin are given. The term “**meteoric**” applies to water that has been part of the meteorological cycle, and participated in processes such as evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. All continental surface waters, such as rivers, lakes, and glaciers, fall into this general category. Because meteoric water may seep into the underlying rock strata, it will also be found at various depths within the lithosphere dominating all types of continental ground waters. The **ocean**, although it continuously receives the continental run-off of meteoric waters as well as rain, is not regarded as being meteoric in nature. **Connate** water is water, which has been trapped in sediments at the time of burial. **Formation** water is present in sedimentary rocks and may be a useful nongenetic term for waters of unknown origin and age within these rocks.

3.5.1 Meteoric Water—General Considerations

When water evaporates from the surface of the ocean, the water vapor is enriched in H and ^{16}O because H_2^{16}O has a higher vapor pressure than HDO and H_2^{18}O (Table 1.1). Under equilibrium conditions at 25 °C, the fractionation factors for evaporating water

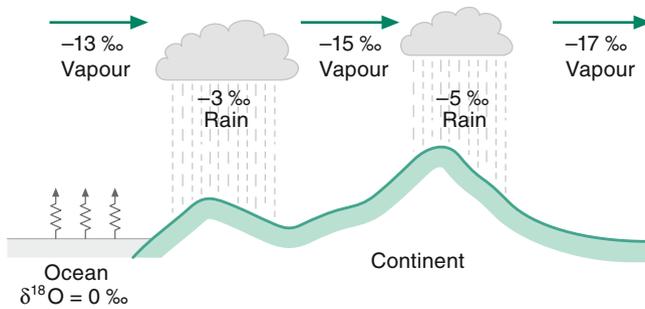


Fig. 3.15 Schematic O-isotope fractionation of water in the atmosphere (Fig. 3.14, 6th edition, p. 137)

are 1.0092 for ^{18}O and 1.074 for D (Craig and Gordon 1965). However, under natural conditions, the actual isotopic composition of water is more negative than the predicted equilibrium values due to kinetic effects (Craig and Gordon 1965). Vapor leaving the surface of the ocean cools as it rises and rain forms when the dew point is reached. During removal of rain from a moist air mass, the residual vapor is continuously depleted in the heavy isotopes, because the rain leaving the system is enriched in ^{18}O and D. If the air mass moves poleward and becomes cooler, additional rain formed will contain less ^{18}O than the initial rain. This relationship is schematically shown in Fig. 3.15. The isotope composition of mean world-wide precipitation is estimated to be $\delta\text{D} = -22$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O} = -4$ ‰ (Craig and Gordon 1965).

The theoretical approaches to explain isotope variations in meteoric waters evolved from the “isolated air mass” models, which are based on Rayleigh condensation, with immediate removal of precipitation and with a part of the condensate being kept in the cloud during the rain-out process. Isotope studies of individual rain events have revealed that successive portions of single events may vary drastically (Rindsberger et al. 1990). Quite often the pattern is “V-shaped”, a sharp decrease of δ -values is usually observed at the beginning of a storm with a minimum somewhere in the middle of the event. The most depleted isotope values usually correspond to the period of most intense rain with little evaporation experienced by individual rain drops. It has also been observed that convective clouds produce precipitation with higher δ -values than stratiform clouds. Thus, the isotope composition of precipitation from a given rain event depends on meteorological history of the air mass in which the precipitation is produced and the type of cloud through which it falls. Liquid precipitation (rain) and solid precipitation (snow, hail) may differ in their isotope composition insofar as rain drops may undergo evaporation and isotope exchange with atmospheric vapor on their descent to the surface. By analyzing hailstones, discrete meteorological events can be studied because hailstones keep a record on the internal structure of a cloud. Jouzel et al. (1975) concluded that hailstones grow during a succession of upward and downward movements in a cloud.

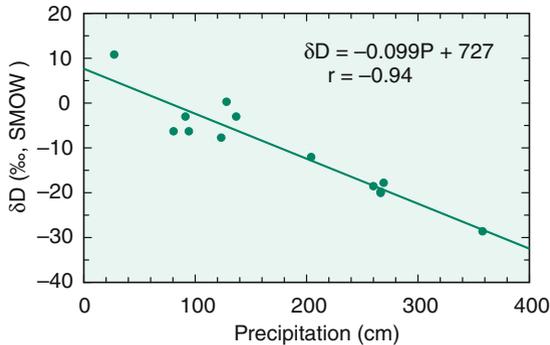


Fig. 3.16 Average δD -values of the annual precipitation from oceanic islands as a function of the amount of annual rainfall. The island stations are distant from continents, within 30° of the equator and at elevations less than 120 m (after Lawrence and White 1991) (Fig. 3.15 6th edition, p. 138)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) conducts a world-wide survey of the isotope composition of monthly precipitation for more than 50 years. The global distribution of D and ^{18}O in rain has been monitored since 1961 through a network of stations (Yurtsever 1975). From this extensive data base it can be deduced how geographic and meteorological factors (rainout, temperature, humidity) influence the isotopic composition of precipitation.

The first detailed evaluation of the equilibrium and non-equilibrium factors that determine the isotopic composition of precipitation was published by Dansgaard (1964). He demonstrated that the observed geographic distribution in isotope composition is related to a number of environmental parameters that characterize a given sampling site, such as latitude, altitude, distance to the coast, amount of precipitation, and surface air temperature. Out of these, two factors are of special significance: temperature and the amount of precipitation. As shown in Fig. 3.16, the best temperature correlation is observed in continental regions nearer to the poles, whereas the correlation with amount of rainfall is most pronounced in tropical regions (Lawrence and White 1991). The apparent link between local surface air temperature and the isotope composition of precipitation is of special interest mainly because of the potential importance of stable isotopes as palaeoclimatic indicators. The amount effect is ascribed to gradual saturation of air below the cloud, which diminishes any shift to higher $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values caused by evaporation during precipitation (Fricke and O'Neil 1999)

A compilation of studies throughout the world's mountain belts has revealed a consistent and linear relationship between change in the isotopic composition of precipitation and change in elevation (Poage and Chamberlain 2001). The isotopic composition of precipitation decreases linearly with increasing elevation by about 0.28 ‰/100 m in most regions of the world except in the Himalayas and at elevations above 5000 m.

3.5.1.1 $\delta D - \delta^{18}O$ Relationship, Deuterium (D) - Excess

In all processes concerning evaporation and condensation, hydrogen isotopes are fractionated in proportion to oxygen isotopes, because a corresponding difference in vapor pressures exists between H_2O and HDO in one case and $H_2^{16}O$ and $H_2^{18}O$, in the other. Therefore, hydrogen and oxygen isotope distributions are correlated in meteoric waters. Craig (1961a) first defined the following relationship:

$$\delta D = 8 \delta^{18}O + 10$$

which is generally known as the “Global Meteoric Water Line”.

Dansgaard (1964) introduced the concept of “deuterium excess”, d defined as $d = \Delta d - 8 \delta^{18}O$. Neither the numerical coefficient, 8, nor the deuterium excess, d , are really constant, both depend on local climatic processes. The long term arithmetic mean for all analyzed stations of the IAEA network (Rozanski et al. 1993) is:

$$\delta D = (8.17 \pm 0.06) \delta^{18}O + (10.35 \pm 0.65) \quad r^2 = 0.99, \quad n = 206$$

Relatively large deviations from the general equation are evident when monthly data for individual stations are considered (Table 3.1). In an extreme situation, represented by the St. Helena station, a very poor correlation between δD and $\delta^{18}O$ exists. At this station, it appears that all precipitation comes from nearby sources and represents the first stage of the rain-out process. Thus, the generally weaker correlations for the marine stations (Table 3.1) may reflect varying contributions of air masses with different source characteristics and a low degree of rain-out.

Table 3.1 Variations in the numerical constant and the deuterium excess for selected stations of the IAEA global network (Rozanski et al. 1993)

Station	Numerical constant	Deuterium excess	r^2
Continental and coastal stations			
Vienna	7.07	-1.38	0.961
Ottawa	7.44	+5.01	0.973
Addis Ababa	6.95	+11.51	0.918
Bet Dagan, Israel	5.48	+6.87	0.695
Izobamba (Ecuador)	8.01	+10.09	0.984
Tokyo	6.87	+4.70	0.835
Marine Stations			
Weathership E (N. Atlantic)	5.96	+2.99	0.738
Weathership V (N. Pacific)	5.51	-1.10	0.737
St. Helena (S. Atlantic)	2.80	+6.61	0.158
Diego Garcia Isl. (Indian Oc.)	6.93	+4.66	0.880
Midway Isl. (N. Pacific)	6.80	+6.15	0.840
Truk Isl. (N. Pacific)	7.07	+5.05	0.940

The imprint of local conditions can also be seen at other coastal and continental stations. The examples in Table 3.1 demonstrate that varying influences of different sources of vapor with different isotope characteristics, different air mass trajectories, or evaporation and isotope exchange processes below the cloud base, may often lead to much more complex relationships at the local level between δD and $\delta^{18}O$ than suggested for the regional or continental scale by the global “Meteoric Water Line” equation.

Knowledge about the isotopic variations in precipitation is increased when single rain events are analyzed from local stations. Especially under mid-latitude weather conditions, such short-term variations arise from varying contributions of tropical, polar, marine, and continental air masses.

The d-excess in oceanic water vapour is determined by evaporative conditions (surface temperature, relative humidity, wind speed) (e.g. Merlivat and Jouzel 1979). Deuterium excess over the oceans increases when humidity over the ocean decreases. Thus, reduced d-excess values in Antarctic ice cores have been interpreted as indicators of higher relative humidity in the oceanic source area providing the moisture for Antarctic precipitation (Jouzel et al. 1982). Later Johnsen et al. (1989), followed by others, showed that besides humidity temperatures in the source regions also have an effect on the size of the d-excess.

Deuterium excess profiles from Greenland and Antarctic ice cores show well defined climatic changes being negatively correlated with $\delta^{18}O$ -values. Combining $\delta^{18}O$ -values with deuterium excess values, temperature estimates at the site of precipitation and at the source region of the moisture can be achieved (Masson-Delmotte et al. 2005).

3.5.1.2 $\delta^{17}O$ - $\delta^{18}O$ Relationships, ^{17}O Excess

It has been common belief for many years that the ^{17}O abundance in meteoric waters carries no additional information to that of ^{18}O . Although mass-independent fractionations are not known to occur in water, $H_2^{17}O$ is a useful tracer within the hydrologic cycle (Angert et al. 2004). As already demonstrated the isotopic composition of water is controlled by two mass-dependent processes. (i) the equilibrium fractionation that is caused by the different vapour pressures of $H_2^{17}O$ and $H_2^{18}O$ and (ii) the kinetic fractionation that is caused by the different diffusivities of $H_2^{17}O$ and $H_2^{18}O$ during transport in air. Angert et al. (2004) have demonstrated that for kinetic water transport in air, the slope in a $\delta^{17}O$ - $\delta^{18}O$ diagram is 0.511, whereas it is 0.526 for equilibrium effects. Similar values have been given by Barkan and Luz (2007).

Improvements in analytical techniques allow to measure $\delta^{17}O$ and $\delta^{18}O$ with a precision of a few 0.01 ‰ which permits calculation of $\Delta^{17}O$ with similar precision and thus the detection of very small $\delta^{17}O$ variations.

Similar to the deuterium excess, the deviation from an expected $^{17}O/^{16}O$ – $^{18}O/^{16}O$ relationship has been defined as ^{17}O excess (Barkan and Luz 2007)

$$^{17}O \text{ excess} = \ln(\delta^{17}O + 1) - 0.528 \ln(\delta^{18}O + 1)$$

Atmospheric vapor collected above the ocean shows the existence of a small ^{17}O excess and a negative correlation between ^{17}O excess and relative humidity. The ^{17}O excess originates from evaporation of sea water into marine air that is undersaturated in water vapor and from the transfer of vapor to liquid water or snow (Luz and Barkan 2010).

^{17}O -excess is thus a unique tracer, which is, in contrast to the deuterium excess, temperature independent and which may give additional informations on humidity relations. Glacial-interglacial ^{17}O records from ice cores in Antarctica (Landais et al. 2008; Uemura et al. 2010) reveal small shifts in ^{17}O excess from low values in glacial periods to high values in interglacial periods.

Last not least, it should be noted that d-excess and ^{17}O excess have different definitions: while d-excess is defined in a linear scale, ^{17}O excess is in a logarithm scale.

3.5.1.3 Meteoric Waters in the Past

Assuming that the H- and O-isotope compositions and temperatures of ancient ocean waters are comparable to present-day values, the isotopic composition of ancient meteoric waters may have been governed by relations similar to those existing presently. However, given the local complexities, the application of this relationship back through time should be treated with caution. To date, however, there is no compelling evidence that the overall systematics of ancient meteoric waters were very different from the present meteoric water relationship (Sheppard 1986). If the isotope composition of ocean water has changed with time, but global circulation patterns were like today, the “meteoric water line” at a specific time would be parallel to the modern meteoric water line, that is the slope would remain at a value of 8, but the intercept would be different.

The systematic behavior of stable isotopes in precipitation as a function of altitude can be used to provide estimates of paleoaltitude. For paleoelevation reconstruction the isotope relationship between precipitation and elevation must be quantitatively known or assumed. In this approach the isotopic composition of paleoprecipitation is determined from the analysis of in situ formed authigenic minerals (Chamberlain and Poage 2000; Blisnink and Stern 2005 and others). The effect of topography on the isotopic composition of precipitation is most straightforward in temperate mid-latitude regions and in topographically and climatically simple settings and varies generally between 2 and 5 ‰ per 1 km. Paleoelevation can be also reconstructed by using clumped isotope thermometry (Huntington et al. 2010; Quade et al. 2011).

3.5.2 Ice Cores

The isotopic composition of snow and ice deposited in polar regions and at high elevations in mountains depend primarily on temperature. Snow deposited during the summer has less negative $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and δD -values than snow deposited during the winter. A good example of the seasonal dependence has been given by Deutsch

et al. (1966) on an Austrian glacier, where the mean δD -difference between winter and summer snow was observed to be -14% . This seasonal cycle has been used to determine the annual stratigraphy of glaciers and to provide short-term climatic records. However, alteration of the snow and ice by seasonal meltwater can result in changes of the isotopic composition of the ice, thus biasing the historical climate record. Systematic isotope studies also have been used to study the flow patterns of glaciers. Profiles through a glacier should exhibit lower isotope ratios at depth than nearer the surface, because deep ice may have originated from locations upstream of the ice-core site, where temperatures should be colder.

In the last decades, several ice cores over 1000 m depth have been recovered from Greenland and Antarctica. In these cores, seasonal variations are generally observed only for the uppermost portions. After a certain depth, which depends on accumulation rates, seasonal variations disappear completely and isotopic changes reflect long-term climatic variations. No matter how thin a sample one cuts from the ice core, its isotope composition will represent a mean value of several years of snow deposition.

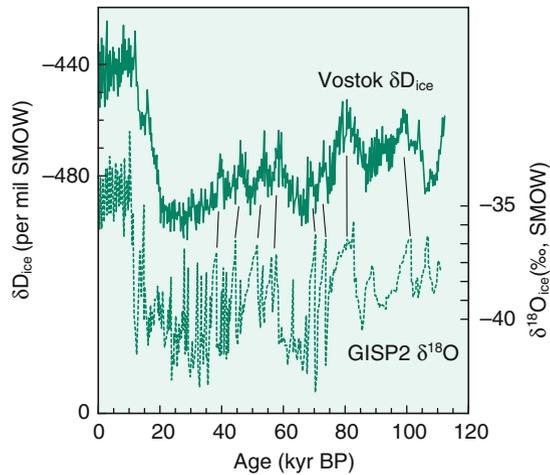
The most recent ice cores—investigated in great detail by large groups of researchers—are the Vostok core from East Antarctica (Lorius et al. 1985; Jouzel et al. 1987) and the GRIP and GISP 2 cores from Greenland (Dansgaard et al. 1993; Grootes et al. 1993). In the Vostok core, the low accumulation rate of snow in Antarctica results in very thin annual layers, which means that climate changes of a century or less are difficult to resolve. The newer Greenland ice cores GRIP and GISP 2 were drilled in regions with high snow accumulation near the centre of the Greenland ice sheet. In these cores it is possible to resolve climate changes on the timescale of decades or less, even though they occurred a hundred thousand years ago. The GRIP and GISP 2 data indicate a dramatic difference between our present climate and the climate of the last interglacial period. Whereas the present interglacial climate seems to have been very stable over the last 10,000 years, the early and late parts of the last interglacial (c.135,000 and c.115,000 years before present, respectively) were characterized by rapid fluctuations between temperatures, both warmer and very much colder than the present. It apparently took only a decade or two to shift between these very different climatic regimes.

Figure 3.17 compares $\delta^{18}O$ profiles from Antarctica and Greenland. The dramatic δ -shifts observed in Greenland cores are less pronounced in the δ -record along the Vostok core, probably because the shifts in Greenland are connected to rapid ocean/atmosphere circulation changes in the North Atlantic (for more details, see 3.12.1).

3.5.3 Groundwater

In temperate and humid climates the isotopic composition of groundwater is similar to that of the precipitation in the area of recharge (Gat 1971). This is strong evidence for direct meteoric recharge to an aquifer. The seasonal variation of all

Fig. 3.17 Correlations of δD and $\delta^{18}O$ values of Greenland (GISP-2) and Antarctic (Vostok) ice cores covering the last glacial-interglacial cycles (<http://www.gisp2.sr.unh.edu/GISP2/DATA/Bender.html>) (Fig. 3.16, 6th edition, p. 142)



meteoric water is strongly attenuated during transit and storage in the ground. The degree of attenuation varies with depth and with surface and bedrock geologic characteristics, but in general deep groundwaters show no seasonal variation in δD and $\delta^{18}O$ values and have an isotopic composition close to amount-weighted mean annual precipitation values.

The characteristic isotope fingerprint of precipitation provides an effective means for identifying possible groundwater recharge areas and hence subsurface flow paths. For example, in areas close to rivers fed from high altitudes, groundwaters represent a mixture of local precipitation and high-altitude low- ^{18}O waters. In suitable cases, quantitative estimates about the fraction of low- ^{18}O river water in the groundwater can be carried out as a function of the distance from the river.

The main mechanisms that can cause variations between precipitation and recharged groundwater are (Gat 1971):

- (1) recharge from partially evaporated surface water bodies,
- (2) recharge that occurred in past periods of different climate when the isotopic composition of precipitation was different from that at present,
- (3) isotope fractionation processes resulting from differential water movement through the soil or the aquifer or due to kinetic or exchange reactions within geologic formations.

In semi-arid or arid regions, evaporative losses before and during recharge shift the isotopic composition of groundwater towards higher δ -values. Furthermore, transpiration of shallow groundwater through plant leaves, may also be an important evaporation process. Detailed studies of soil moisture evaporation have shown that evaporation loss and isotopic enrichment are greatest in the upper part of the soil profile and are most pronounced in unvegetated soils (Welhan 1987). In some arid regions, groundwater may be classified as paleowaters, which were recharged under different meteorological conditions than present in a region today and which imply ages of water of several thousand years. Gat and Issar (1974) have

demonstrated that the isotopic composition of such paleowaters can be distinguished from more recently recharged groundwaters, which have been experienced some evaporation.

In summary, the application of stable isotopes to groundwater studies is based on the fact that the isotopic composition of water behaves conservatively in low-temperature environments where water-rock contact times are short relative to the kinetics of mineral-water isotope exchange reactions.

3.5.4 Isotope Fractionations During Evaporation

In an evaporative environment, one could expect to find extreme enrichments in the heavy isotopes D and ^{18}O . However, this is generally not the case. Taking the Dead Sea as the typical example of an evaporative system, Fig. 3.18 shows only moderately enriched $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values and even to an even lesser degree δD -values (Gat 1984). Isotope fractionations accompanying evaporation are rather complex and can be best described by subdividing the evaporation process into several steps (Craig and Gordon 1965):

- (a) the presence of a saturated sublayer of water vapor at the water-atmosphere interface, which is depleted in the heavy isotopes,
- (b) the migration of vapor away from the boundary layer, which results in further depletion of heavy isotopes in the vapor due to different diffusion rates,
- (c) the vapor reaching a turbulent region where mixing with vapor from other sources occurs, and
- (d) the vapor of the turbulent zone then condensing and back-reacting with the water surface.

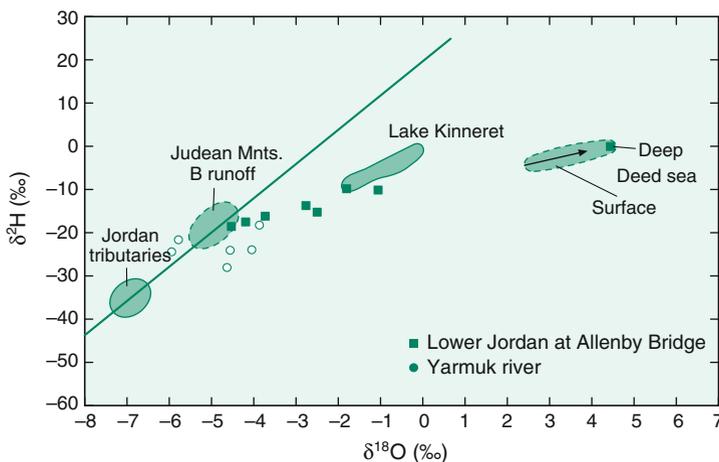


Fig. 3.18 δD versus $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of the Dead Sea and its water sources as an example of an evaporative environment (after GAT 1984) (Fig. 3.17, 6th edition, p. 144)

This model qualitatively explains the deviation of isotopic compositions away from the “Meteoric Water Line” because molecular diffusion adds a non-equilibrium fractionation term and the limited isotopic enrichment occurs as a consequence of molecular exchange with atmospheric vapor. It is mainly the humidity which controls the degree of isotope enrichment. Only under very arid conditions, and only in small water bodies, really large enrichments in D and ^{18}O are observed. For example, Gonfiantini (1986) reported a $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of +31.3 ‰ and a δD -value of +129 ‰ for a small, shallow lake in the western Sahara.

3.5.5 Ocean Water

The isotopic composition of ocean water has been discussed in detail by Craig and Gordon (1965), and Broecker (1974). It is governed by fractionation during evaporation and sea-ice formation and by the isotope content of precipitation and runoff entering the ocean.

Ocean water with 3.5 ‰ salinity exhibits a very narrow range in isotopic composition. There is, however, a strong correlation with salinity because evaporation, which increases salinity, also concentrates ^{18}O and D. Low salinities, which are caused by freshwater and meltwater dilution, correlate with low D and ^{18}O concentrations. As a consequence modern ocean waters plot along two trends that meet at an inflection point where salinity is 3.55 ‰ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ is 0.5 ‰ (Fig. 3.19).

The high-salinity trend represents areas where evaporation exceeds precipitation and its slope is determined by the volume and isotopic composition of the local precipitation and the evaporating water vapor. However, isotope enrichments due to evaporation are limited in extent, because of back-exchange of atmospheric moisture with the evaporating fluid. The slope of the low salinity trend (see

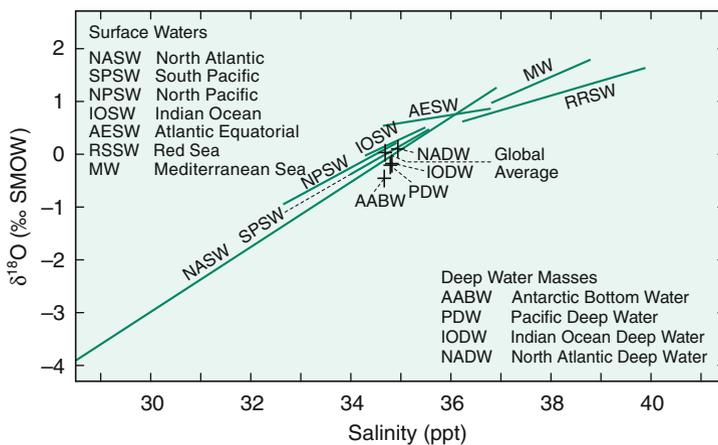


Fig. 3.19 Salinity versus $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ relationships in modern ocean surface and deep waters (after Railsback et al. 1989) (Fig. 3.18, 6th edition, p. 145)

Fig. 3.19) extrapolates to a freshwater input of about -21 ‰ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ at zero salinity, reflecting the influx of high-latitude precipitation and glacial meltwater. This δ -value is, in all probability, not typical of freshwater influx in non-glacial periods. Thus, the slope of the low salinity trend may have changed through geologic time.

Delaygue et al. (2000) have modeled the present day ^{18}O distribution in the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean and its relationship with salinity (see Fig. 3.20). A good agreement is found between observed and simulated $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values using an oceanic circulation model. As shown in Fig. 3.20 the Atlantic Ocean is enriched by more than 0.5 ‰ relative to the Pacific Ocean, but both ocean basins show the same general patterns with high ^{18}O -values in the sub-tropics and lower values at high latitudes.

Another important question concerning the isotopic composition of ocean water is how constant its isotopic composition has been throughout geological history. This remains an area of ongoing controversy in stable isotope geochemistry (see sect. 3.8). Short-term fluctuations in the isotope composition of sea water must arise during glacial periods. If all the present ice sheets in the world were melted, the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of the ocean would be lowered by about 1 ‰. By contrast, Fairbanks (1989) has calculated an ^{18}O -enrichment of 1.25 ‰ for ocean water during the last maximum glaciation.

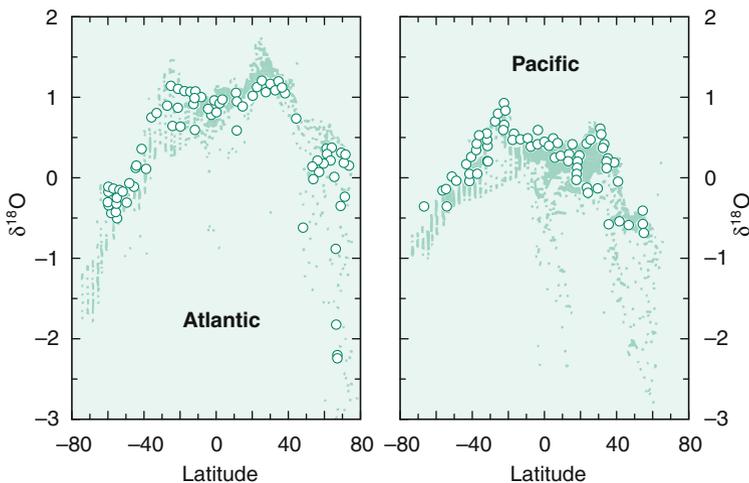


Fig. 3.20 Comparison of measured and modeled $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of surface ocean waters. Characteristic features are: tropical maxima, equatorial low- and high-latitude minima, enrichment of the Atlantic relative to the Pacific (after Delaygue et al. 2000) (Fig. 3.19, 6th edition, p. 146)

3.5.6 Pore Waters

In the marine environment oxygen and hydrogen isotope compositions of pore waters may be inherited from ocean water or influenced by diagenetic reactions in the sediment or underlying basement. Knowledge of the chemical composition of sedimentary pore waters has increased considerably since the beginning of the Deep-Sea-Drilling-Project. From numerous drill sites, similar depth-dependent trends in the isotopic composition have been observed.

For oxygen this means a decrease in ^{18}O from an initial δ -value very near 0 ‰ (ocean water) to about -2 ‰ at depths around 200 m (Perry et al. 1976; Lawrence and Gieskes 1981; Brumsack et al. 1992). Even lower $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of about -4 ‰ at depths of around 400 m have been observed by Matsumoto (1992). This decrease in ^{18}O is mainly due to the formation of authigenic ^{18}O -enriched clay minerals such as smectite from alteration of basaltic material and volcanic ash. Other diagenetic reactions include recrystallization of biogenic carbonates, precipitation of authigenic carbonates and transformation of biogenic silica (opal-A) through opal-CT to quartz. The latter process, however, tends to increase $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of the water. Material balance calculations by Matsumoto (1992) have indicated that the ^{18}O -shift towards negative δ -values is primarily controlled by low-temperature alteration of basement basalts, which is slightly compensated by the transformation of biogenic opal to quartz.

D/H ratios may also serve as tracers of alteration reactions. Alteration of basaltic material and volcanic ash should increase δD -values of pore waters because the hydroxyl groups in clay minerals incorporate the light hydrogen isotope relative to water. However, measured δD -values of pore waters generally decrease from seawater values around 0 ‰ at the core tops to values that are 15–25 ‰ lower, with a good correlation between δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$. This strong covariation suggests that the same process is responsible for the D and ^{18}O depletion observed in many cores recovered during DSDP/ODP drilling. Quite a different process has been suggested by Lawrence and Taviani (1988) to explain the depth-dependent decrease in porewater δD -values. They proposed oxidation of local organic matter or oxidation of biogenic or mantle methane. Lawrence and Taviani (1988) favored the oxidation of mantle methane, or even hydrogen, noting that oxidation of locally-derived organic compounds may not be feasible because of the excessive quantity of organic material required. In conclusion, the depletion of D in porewaters is not clearly understood.

3.5.7 Formation Water

Formation waters are saline with salt contents ranging from ocean water to very dense Ca–Na–Cl brines. Their origin and evolution are still controversial, because the processes involved in the development of saline formation waters are

complicated by the extensive changes that have taken place in the brines after sediment deposition.

Oxygen and hydrogen isotopes are a powerful tool in the study of the origin of subsurface waters. Prior to the use of isotopes, it was generally assumed that most of the formation waters in marine sedimentary rocks were of connate marine origin. This widely held view was challenged by Clayton et al. (1966), who demonstrated that waters from several sedimentary basins were predominantly of local meteoric origin.

Although formation waters show a wide range in isotopic composition, waters within a sedimentary basin are usually isotopically distinct. As is the case with surface meteoric waters, there is a general decrease in isotopic composition from low to high latitude settings (Fig. 3.21). Displacements of δD and $\delta^{18}O$ -values from the Meteoric Water Line (MWL) are very often correlated with salinity: the most depleted waters in D and ^{18}O are usually the least saline, fluids most distant from the MWL tend to be the most saline.

Presently, in the view of numerous subsequent studies, (i.e. Hitchon and Friedman 1969; Kharaka et al. 1974; Banner et al. 1989; Connolly et al. 1990; Stueber and Walter 1991), it is obvious that basin subsurface waters have complicated histories and frequently are mixtures of waters with different origins. As was proposed by Knauth and Beeunas (1986) and Knauth (1988), formation waters in sedimentary basins may not require complete flushing by meteoric water, but

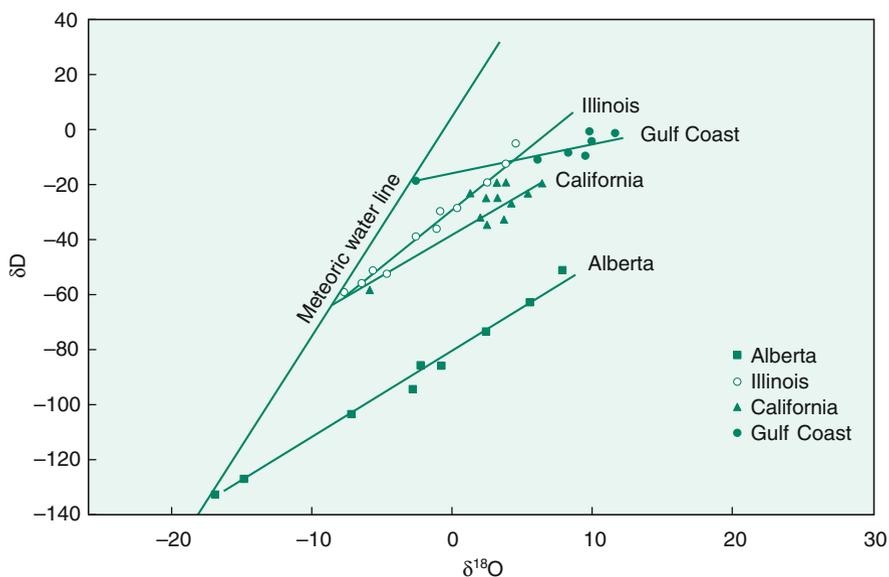


Fig. 3.21 δD versus $\delta^{18}O$ values for formation waters from the midcontinental region of the United States (after Taylor 1974) (Fig. 3.20, 6th edition, p. 148)

instead can result from mixing between meteoric water and the remnants of original connate waters.

The characteristic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ shift observed in formation waters may be due to isotopic exchange with ^{18}O -rich sedimentary minerals, particularly carbonates. The δD -shift is less well understood, possible mechanisms for D-enrichment are (i) fractionation during membrane filtration, and/or (ii) exchange with H_2S , hydrocarbons and hydrous minerals. (i) It is well known that shales and compacted clays can act as semipermeable membranes which prevent passage of ions in solution while allowing passage of water (ultrafiltration). Coplen and Hanshaw (1973) have shown experimentally that ultrafiltration may be accompanied by hydrogen and oxygen isotope fractionation. However, the mechanism responsible for isotopic fractionation is poorly understood. Phillips and Bentley (1987) proposed that fractionation may result from increased activity of the heavy isotopes in the membrane solution, because high cation concentrations increase hydration sphere fractionation effects. (ii) Hydrogen isotope exchange between H_2S and water will occur in nature, but probably will not be quantitatively important. Due to the large fractionation factor between H_2S and H_2O , this process might be significant on a local scale. Isotope exchange with methane or higher hydrocarbons will probably not be important, because exchange rates are extremely low at sedimentary temperatures.

Somewhat unusual isotopic compositions have been observed in highly saline deep waters from Precambrian crystalline rocks as well as in deep drill holes, which plot above or to the left of the Meteoric Water Line (Frape et al. 1984; Kelly et al. 1986; Frape and Fritz 1987). There are two major theories about the origin of these Ca-rich brines.

(a) the brines represent modified Paleozoic seawater or basinal brines (Kelly et al. 1986),

(b) the brines are produced by leaching of saline fluid inclusions in crystalline rocks or by intense water/rock interactions (Frape and Fritz 1987).

Since then quite a number of studies have indicated that the unusual composition is a wide-spread phenomenon in low-permeability fractured rocks with slow water movement and not too high temperatures. Kloppman et al. (2002) summarized the existing data base of 1300 oxygen and hydrogen isotope analyses from crystalline rocks and suggested that the isotope shift to the left side can be explained by seawater which has dissolved and precipitated fracture minerals and subsequently been diluted by meteoric waters. Bottomley et al. (1999) argued that the extremely high concentrations of chloride and bromide in the brines make crystalline host rocks a less likely source for the high salinities. By measuring Li-isotopes these authors postulated that the brines in crystalline rocks share a common marine origin.

Table 3.2 Experimentally determined fractionation factors of salt minerals and their corrections using “salt effect” coefficients (after Horita 1989)

Mineral	Chemical formula	T° C	α_D	$\alpha_{D(\text{corr})}$	$\alpha^{18}\text{O}$	$\alpha^{18}\text{O}_{(\text{corr})}$
Borax	$\text{Na}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7 \times 10 \text{H}_2\text{O}$	25	1.005	1.005	–	–
Epsomite	$\text{MgSO}_4 \times 7 \text{H}_2\text{O}$	25	0.999	0.982	–	–
Gaylussite	$\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \times \text{CaCO}_3 \times 5 \text{H}_2\text{O}$	25	0.987	0.966	–	–
Gypsum	$\text{CaSO}_4 \times 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$	25	0.980	0.980	1.0041	1.0041
Mirabilite	$\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \times 10 \text{H}_2\text{O}$	25	1.017	1.018	1.0014	1.0014
Natron	$\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \times 10 \text{H}_2\text{O}$	10	1.017	1.012	–	–
Trona	$\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \times \text{NaHCO}_3 \times 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$	25	0.921	0.905	–	–

3.5.8 Water in Hydrated Salt Minerals

Many salt minerals have water of crystallization in their crystal structure. Such water of hydration can provide information on the isotope compositions and/or temperatures of brines from which the minerals were deposited. To interpret such isotope data, it is necessary to know the fractionation factors between the hydration water and the solution from which they are deposited. Several experimental studies have been made to determine these fractionation factors (Matsuo et al. 1972; Matsubaya and Sakai 1973; Stewart 1974; Horita 1989). Because most saline minerals equilibrate only with highly saline solutions, the isotopic activity and isotopic concentration ratio of water in the solution are not the same (Sofer and Gat 1972). Most studies determined the isotopic concentration ratios of the source solution and as Horita (1989) demonstrated, these fractionation factors have to be corrected using the “salt effect” coefficients when applied to natural settings (Table 3.2).

3.6 The Isotopic Composition of Dissolved and Particulate Compounds in Ocean and Fresh Waters

The following chapter will discuss the carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur isotope composition of dissolved and particulate compounds in ocean and fresh waters. Investigations of non-traditional isotope systems in recent years have demonstrated that chemical weathering is a complex process that may induce large isotope fractionations. The weathering of silicates rarely result in the dissolution of the initial mineral, but instead in the formation of secondary minerals with isotopic compositions that differ from the initial mineral. The isotopic compositions of released components in waters of different origins depend on a variety of processes such as the composition of the minerals which have been weathered, the inorganic

or organic nature of the precipitation process, and exchange with atmospheric gases. Of special importance are biological processes acting mainly in surface waters, which tend to deplete certain elements such as carbon, nitrogen and silicon in surface waters by biological uptake, and which subsequently are returned at depth by oxidation and dissolution processes.

3.6.1 Carbon Species in Water

3.6.1.1 Bicarbonate in Ocean Water

In addition to organic carbon, four other carbon species exist in natural water: dissolved CO_2 , H_2CO_3 , HCO_3^- and CO_3^{2-} , all of which tend to equilibrate as a function of temperature and pH . HCO_3^- is the dominant C-bearing species in ocean water. The first global $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ measurements of dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) were published by Kroopnick et al. (1972) and Kroopnick (1985) within the geochemical ocean sections study (GEOSECS). These studies have yielded a global average $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value of 1.5 ‰ with a variation range of ± 0.8 ‰ with the least variations at equatorial regions and greater variability at higher latitudes.

The distribution of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values with water depth is mainly controlled by biological processes: Conversion of CO_2 into organic matter removes ^{12}C resulting in a ^{13}C enrichment of the residual DIC. In turn, the oxidation of organic matter releases

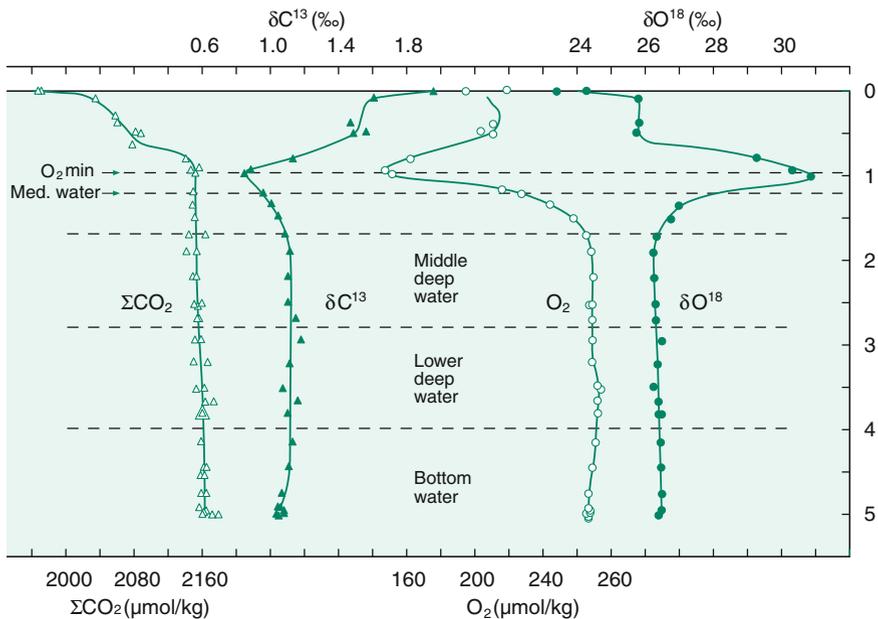


Fig. 3.22 Vertical profiles of dissolved CO_2 , $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, dissolved O_2 and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in the North Atlantic (Kroopnick et al. 1972) (Fig. 3.21, 6th edition, p. 151)

^{12}C -enriched carbon back into the inorganic reservoir, which results into a depth-dependent isotope profile. A typical example is shown in Fig. 3.22.

North Atlantic Deep Water (NADW), which is formed with an initial $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value between 1.0 and 1.5 ‰, becomes gradually depleted in ^{13}C as it travels southward and mixes with Antarctic bottom water, which has an average $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value of 0.3 ‰ (Kroopnick 1985). As this deep water travels to the Pacific Ocean, its $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio is further reduced by 0.5 ‰ by the continuous flux and oxidation of organic matter in the water column. This is the basis for using $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values as a tracer of paleo-oceanographic changes in deep water circulation (e.g. Curry et al. 1988).

The uptake of anthropogenic CO_2 by the ocean is a crucial process for the carbon cycle, resulting in changes of the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value of dissolved oceanic bicarbonate (Quay et al. 1992; Bacastow et al. 1996; Gruber 1998; Gruber et al. 1999; Sonnerup et al. 1999). Quay et al. (1992) first demonstrated that the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value of dissolved bicarbonate in the surface waters of the Pacific has decreased by about 0.4 ‰ between 1970 and 1990. If this number is valid for the ocean as a whole, it would allow a quantitative estimate for the net sink of anthropogenically produced CO_2 . Recent studies estimate that the Earth's ocean has absorbed around 50 % of the CO_2 emitted over the industrial period (Mikaloff-Fletcher et al. 2006).

3.6.1.2 Particulate Organic Matter (POM)

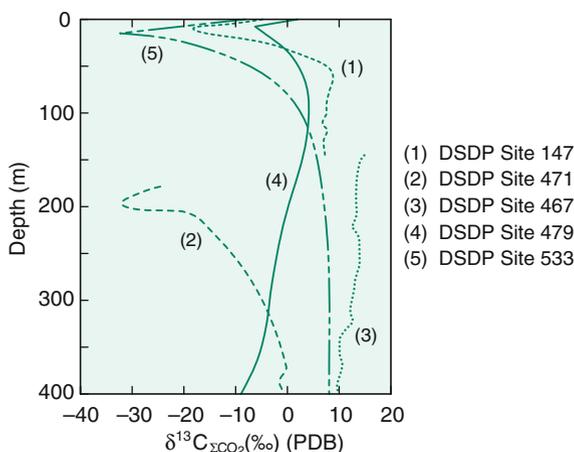
POM in the ocean originates largely from plankton in the euphotic zone and reflects living plankton populations. Between 40°N and 40°S $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of POM varies between -18.5 and -22 ‰. In cold Arctic waters $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values are on average -23.4 ‰ and in high latitude southern ocean $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ are even lower with values between -24 and -36 ‰ (Goericke and Fry 1994). As POM sinks, biological reworking changes its chemical composition, the extent of this reworking depends on the residence time in the water column. Most POM profiles described in the literature exhibit a general trend of surface isotopic values comparable to those for living plankton, with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values becoming increasingly lower with depth. Jeffrey et al. (1983) interpreted this trend as the loss of labile, ^{13}C -enriched amino acids and sugars through biological reworking which leaves behind the more refractory, isotopically light lipid components.

C/N ratios of POM increase with depth of the water column consistent with preferential loss of amino acids. This implies that nitrogen is more rapidly lost than carbon during degradation of POM, which is the reason for the much greater variation in $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values than in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values (Saino and Hattori 1980; Altabet and McCarthy 1985).

3.6.1.3 Carbon Isotope Composition of Pore Waters

Initially the pore water at the sediment/water interface has a $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value near that of sea water. In sediments, the decomposition of organic matter consumes oxygen and releases isotopically light CO_2 to the pore water, while the dissolution of CaCO_3 adds CO_2 that is isotopically heavy. The carbon isotope composition of pore waters at a given locality and depth should reflect modification by the interplay of these

Fig. 3.23 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records of total dissolved carbon from pore waters of anoxic sediments recovered in various DSDP sites (after Anderson and Arthur 1983) (Fig. 3.22, 6th edition, p. 152)



two processes. The net result is to make porewaters isotopically lighter than the overlying bottom water (Grossman 1984). McCorkle et al. (1985) and McCorkle and Emerson (1988) have shown that steep gradients in porewater $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values exist in the first few centimeters below the sediment-water interface. The observed $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -profiles vary systematically with the “rain” of organic matter to the sea floor, with higher carbon rain rates resulting in isotopically lower $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values (Fig. 3.23).

One would expect that pore waters would have $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratios no lower than organic matter. However, a more complex situation is actually observed due to bacterial methanogenesis. Bacterial methane production generally follows sulfate reduction in anaerobic carbon-rich sediments, the two microbiological environments being distinct from one another, except for substrate-rich sections. Since methane-producing bacteria produce very ^{12}C -rich methane, the residual pore water can become significantly enriched in ^{13}C as shown in some profiles in Fig. 3.23.

3.6.1.4 Carbon in Fresh Waters

Chemical weathering consumes atmospheric CO_2 through two pathways. (1) atmospheric CO_2 dissolves in rain and surface waters and reacts with rock forming minerals generating HCO_3^- and (2) atmospheric CO_2 is converted to plant organic matter and subsequently released as soil CO_2 . The mixing proportion from the two different sources determine the carbon isotope composition of fresh waters resulting in extremely variable isotopic composition, because varying mixtures of carbonate species derived from weathering of carbonates and of CO_2 originating from biogenic sources in soils are isotopically different (Hitchon and Krouse 1972; Longinelli and Edmond 1983; Pawellek and Veizer 1994; Cameron et al. 1995).

Although the CO_2 partial pressures in rivers vary widely, studies of major rivers often show that CO_2 concentrations are about 10–15 times greater than expected for equilibrium conditions with the atmosphere. Rivers thus are actively degassing CO_2 into the atmosphere, affecting the natural carbon cycle. This explains an increased interest in analyzing river systems for their carbon isotope composition. Despite the

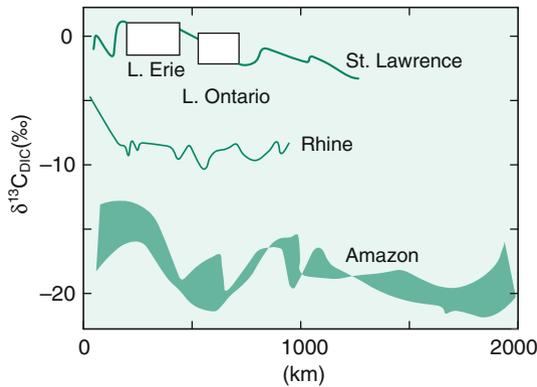


Fig. 3.24 Carbon isotopic composition of total dissolved carbon in large river systems. Data source: Amazon: Longinelli and Edmond (1983), Rhine: Buhl et al. (1991), St. Lawrence: Yang et al. (1996) (Fig. 3.23, 6th edition, p. 153)

fact that the carbon isotopic composition of carbonate minerals and of soil- CO_2 are distinctive, the observed $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -variations of dissolved inorganic carbon are often not easy to interpret, because riverine respiration and exchange processes with atmospheric CO_2 play a role. Figure 3.24 gives some examples where carbon sources can be clearly identified. In the Amazon dissolved CO_2 originates from decomposition of organic matter (Longinelli and Edmond 1983), whereas in the St. Lawrence river system CO_2 originates from the dissolution of carbonates and equilibration with the atmosphere (Yang et al. 1996). The Rhine represents a mixture of both sources (Buhl et al. 1991).

In river systems often a ^{13}C enrichment is observed from upstream to downstream due to enhanced isotopic exchange with atmospheric CO_2 and/or in situ photosynthetic activity (Telmer and Veizer 1999). Variable seasonal signals can be explained by changes in the oxidation rate of ^{13}C -depleted organic matter from the soils in watersheds. Rivers that are characterized by the presence of large lakes at their head—like the Rhone and St. Lawrence—show heavy ^{13}C -values at their head (Ancour et al. 1999; Yang et al. 1996). Due to the long residence time of dissolved carbon in lakes, the bicarbonate is in near equilibrium with atmospheric CO_2 .

3.6.2 Silicon

Silicon isotope variations in the ocean are caused by biological Si-uptake through siliceous organisms like diatoms. Insofar strong similarities exist with C-isotope variations. Diatoms preferentially incorporate ^{28}Si as they form biogenic silica. Thus high $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ values in surface waters go parallel with low Si-concentrations and depend on differences in silicon surface water productivity. In deeper waters dissolution of sinking silica particles causes an increase in Si concentration and a decrease of $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ -values. Therefore, in ocean water distinct ^{30}Si gradients with

depth exist (Georg et al. 2006; Beucher et al. 2008). Surface waters may show a large variation from +2.2 to +4.4 ‰ (Grasse et al. 2013). Deep water masses have on the other hand more ^{30}Si depleted values with regional variations indicating mixing of different water masses (Ehlert et al. 2013).

Vertical and horizontal gradients of Si isotopes have been observed in ocean water profiles, preferentially in the Southern Ocean having higher Si concentrations than the Northern Ocean (Beucher et al. 2008; de Souza et al. 2012a, b; Fripiat et al. 2012). Dissolved silica in North Atlantic Deep Water has a $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ -value being 0.5 ‰ higher than deep water of the Southern Ocean which suggests export of Si from surface waters of the Southern Ocean (de Souza et al. 2012a).

3.6.3 Nitrogen

Nitrogen is one of the limiting nutrients in the ocean. Apparently, the rate of nitrate formation is so slow, and marine denitrification so rapid, that nitrate is in short supply. Dissolved nitrogen is subject to isotope fractionation during microbial processes and during biological uptake. Nitrate dissolved in oceanic deep waters has a $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -value of 6–8 ‰ (Cline and Kaplan 1975; Wada and Hattori 1976). Denitrification seems to be the principal mechanism that keeps marine nitrogen at higher $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values than atmospheric nitrogen.

The $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -value of particulate material was originally thought to be determined by the relative quantities of marine and terrestrial organic matter. However, temporal variations in the ^{15}N -content of particulate matter predominate and obscure N-isotopic differences previously used to distinguish terrestrial from marine organic matter. Altabet and Deuser (1985) observed seasonal variations in particles sinking to the ocean bottom and suggested that $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values of sinking particles represent a monitor for nitrate flux in the euphotic zone. Natural ^{15}N -variations can thus provide information about the vertical structure of nitrogen cycling in the ocean.

Saino and Hattori (1980) first observed distinct vertical changes in the ^{15}N content of suspended particulate nitrogen and related these changes to particle diagenesis. A sharp increase in ^{15}N below the base of the euphotic zone has been ubiquitously observed (Altabet and McCarthy 1985; Saino and Hattori 1987; Altabet 1988). These findings imply that the vertical transport of organic matter is mediated primarily by rapidly sinking particles and that most of the decomposition of organic matter takes place in the shallow layer beneath the bottom of the euphotic zone.

3.6.4 Oxygen

As early as 1951, Rakestraw et al. demonstrated that dissolved O_2 in the oceans is enriched in ^{18}O relative to atmospheric oxygen. Like its concentration, the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of dissolved oxygen is affected by three processes: air-water gas exchange, respiration and photosynthesis. When gas exchange dominates over photosynthesis and

respiration as in the surface ocean dissolved oxygen is close to saturation and the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ is $\sim 24.2\%$, because there is a 0.7% equilibrium fractionation during gas dissolution (Quay et al. 1993). Extreme enrichments up to 14% (Kroopnick and Craig 1972) occur in the oxygen minimum region of the deep ocean due to preferential consumption of ^{16}O by bacteria in abyssal ocean waters, which is evidence for a deep metabolism (see Fig. 3.22).

Precise measurements of the ^{17}O content of dissolved oxygen in seawater indicate a small ^{17}O anomaly that can be used to estimate overall photosynthetic oxygen production in seawater (Luz and Barkan 2000, 2005; Juranek and Quay 2010).

Quay et al. (1995) measured $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratios of dissolved oxygen in rivers and lakes of the Amazon Basin. They observed a large $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ range from 15 to 30% . When respiration dominates over photosynthesis in fresh waters, dissolved O_2 will be undersaturated and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ is $>24.2\%$; when photosynthesis exceeds respiration, dissolved O_2 will be supersaturated and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ will be $<24.2\%$.

3.6.5 Sulfate

Modern ocean water sulfate has a fairly constant $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -value of 21% (Rees et al. 1978) and a $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of 9.3% (Lloyd 1967, 1968; Longinelli and Craig 1967). From theoretical calculations of Urey (1947), it is quite clear that the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of dissolved sulfate does not represent equilibrium with $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of the water, because under surface conditions oxygen isotope exchange of sulfate with ambient water is extremely slow (Chiba and Sakai 1985). By using quantum-chemical calculations Zeebe (2010) estimated the equilibrium fractionation between dissolved sulfate and water to be 23% at $25\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

Lloyd (1967, 1968) proposed a model in which the fast bacterial turnover of sulfate at the sea bottom determines the oxygen isotope composition of dissolved sulfate. Böttcher et al. (2001), Aharon and Fu (2000, 2003) and others demonstrated that the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of sulfate is not only influenced by microbial sulfate reduction, but also by disproportionation and reoxidation of reduced sulfur compounds. In marine pore waters, ^{18}O enrichments up to 30% have been observed, generally associated with strong ^{34}S enrichments. By plotting $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{(\text{SO}_4)}$ vs $\delta^{34}\text{S}_{(\text{SO}_4)}$ two different slopes can be distinguished: in some cases $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ increases linearly with $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ in residual sulfate (slope 1), whereas in most cases the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ increases initially until it reaches a constant value with no further increase while $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ may continue to increase (slope 2). Böttcher et al. (1998), Brunner et al. (2005) and Antler et al. (2013) discussed models to explain the different slopes of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ - $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ plots: (i) a model that postulates the predominance of kinetic oxygen isotope fractionation steps linked to different sulfate reduction steps and (ii) a model postulating a predominance of oxygen isotope exchange between cell-internal sulfur compounds and ambient water (Brunner et al. 2005; Wortmann et al. 2007).

In freshwater environments the sulfur and oxygen isotope composition of dissolved sulfate is much more variable and potentially the isotope ratios can be used

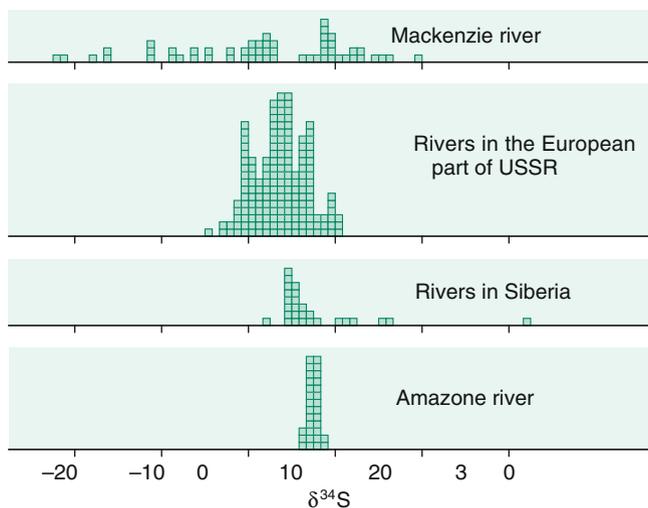


Fig. 3.25 Frequency distribution of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values in river sulfate (Fig. 3.24 6th edition, p. 156)

to identify the sources: (i) oxidation of sedimentary and magmatic sulfides, (ii) dissolution of evaporates, (iii) atmospheric aerosols, (iv) anthropogenic input. However, such attempts have been only partially successful because of the variable composition of the different sources. $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of dissolved sulfate of different rivers and lakes show a rather large spread as is demonstrated in Fig. 3.25. The data of Hitchon and Krouse (1972) for water samples from the MacKenzie River drainage system exhibit a wide range of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values reflecting contributions from marine evaporites and shales. Calmels et al. (2007) argue that around 85 % of the sulfate in the MacKenzie river is derived from pyrite oxidation and not from sedimentary sulfate. For the Amazon River, Longinelli and Edmond (1983) found a very narrow range in $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values which they interpreted as representing a dominant Andean source for sulfate from the dissolution of Permian evaporites with a lesser admixture of sulfide sulfur. Rabinovich and Grinenko (1979) reported time-series measurements for the large European and Asian rivers in Russia. The sulfur in the European river systems should be dominated by anthropogenically derived sources, which in general have $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values between 2 and 6 ‰. Burke et al. (2013) estimated a mean $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -value of 4.3 ‰ for anthropogenic sulphur; excluding the most polluted rivers, the mean value shifts to 5.4 ‰.

A special case represent acid sulfate waters released from mines where metal sulfide ores and lignite have been exploited. S- and O-isotope data may define the conditions and processes of pyrite oxidation, such as the presence or absence of dissolved oxygen and the role of sulfur-oxidizing bacteria (i.e. Taylor and Wheeler 1994).

The oxygen isotope composition of freshwater sulfate can be highly variable too. Cortecchi and Longinelli (1970) and Longinelli and Bartelloni (1978) observed a

range in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values from 5 to 19 ‰ in rainwater samples from Italy and postulated that most of the sulfate is not oceanic in origin, but rather produced by oxidation of sulfur during the burning of fossil fuels. The oxidation of reduced sulfur to sulfate is a complex process which involves chemical and microbiological aspects. Two general pathways of oxidation have been suggested: (i) oxidation by molecular oxygen and (ii) oxidation by ferric iron plus surface water.

3.6.6 Phosphate

As is well known phosphorus is essential for all living matter. Because P has only one stable isotope, stable P-isotope ratios cannot be used to study sources of P in the environment as is the case for C, N and S. But since P is strongly bound to oxygen, O isotope investigations can be used instead.

Oxygen isotope exchange between phosphate and water under purely abiotic conditions is negligible (Tudge 1960; Blake et al. 1997 and others), but is fast in biologically mediated systems (Luz and Kolodny 1985; Blake et al. 1997, 2005). Experiments with microbiological cultures as well as with enzymes indicate that oxygen isotope fractionations depend on growth conditions, phosphate concentrations and sources (Blake et al. 2005). Thus the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of phosphate in fresh and ocean water can be used to distinguish different P sources and biological pathways.

Phosphate depth profiles in the Atlantic and Pacific showed that ^{18}O is near equilibrium with water (Colman et al. 2005), whereas it is not in near coastal shallow waters (McLaughlin et al. (2006). In a 2 years time series experiment these authors observed seasonal ^{18}O variations up to 6 ‰ in the Monterey Bay. Isotope equilibrium is approached during episodic upwelling events when phosphate is extensively cycled by the biological community, lower values have been observed when phosphate is not extensively used. Even larger ^{18}O variations have been observed in pore waters (Goldhammer et al. 2011).

Identification of phosphate sources is important to reduce anthropogenic inputs of phosphorus to the environment. Young et al. (2009a, b) measured the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of different phosphate sources such as fertilizers, detergents, animal feces and observed a large range in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values from 8 to 25 ‰. Although $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values overlap, Young et al. (2009a, b) concluded that in suitable cases some phosphate sources are distinct and can be identified.

3.7 Isotopic Composition of the Ocean During Geologic History

The growing concern with respect to “global change” brings with it the obvious need to document and understand the geologic history of sea water. From paleo-ecological studies it can be deduced that ocean water should not have changed its chemical composition very drastically, since marine organisms can only tolerate relatively small chemical changes in their marine environment. The similarity of the

mineralogy and to some extent paleontology of sedimentary rocks during the Earth's history strengthens the conclusion that the chemical composition of ocean water has not varied substantially. This was the general view for many years. More recently, however, fluid inclusions in evaporite minerals have indicated that the chemical concentrations of major ions in ocean water such as Ca, Mg and SO_4 have changed substantially over the Phanerozoic (Horita et al. 2002a, b and others). It is thus likely that steady state conditions of input fluxes to and output fluxes from the oceans are not always equal during earth's history. The rate of these changes in ocean chemistry is dictated by the residence time of ions in the ocean.

One of the most sensitive tracers recording the composition of ancient sea water is the isotopic composition of chemical sediments precipitated from sea water. The following discussion concentrates on the stable isotope composition of oxygen, carbon, and sulphur. More recently, other isotope systems have been investigated such as Ca (De La Rocha and DePaolo 2000b; Schmitt et al. 2003; Fantle and DePaolo 2005; Farkas et al. 2007), B (Lemarchand et al. 2000, 2002; Joachimski et al. 2005) and Li (Hoefs and Sywall 1997; Misra and Froelich 2012; Wanner et al. 2014). One of the fundamental questions in all these approaches is which kind of sample provides the necessary information, in the sense that it represents the coexisting ocean water composition during the time of sediment formation and has not been modified subsequently by diagenetic reactions. Furthermore, since most chemical sediments are deposited close to the continental margins, they are not necessarily representative for the whole ocean.

3.7.1 Oxygen

It is generally agreed that continental glaciation and deglaciation induce changes in the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of the ocean on short time scales. There is, however, considerable debate about long-term changes.

The present ocean is depleted in ^{18}O by at least 6 ‰ relative to the total reservoir of oxygen in the crust and mantle. Muehlenbachs and Clayton (1976) presented a model in which the isotopic composition of ocean water is held constant by two different processes: (i) low temperature weathering of oceanic crust which depletes ocean water in ^{18}O , because ^{18}O is preferentially bound in weathering products and (ii) high-temperature hydrothermal alteration of ocean ridge basalts which enriches ocean water in ^{18}O , because ^{16}O is preferentially incorporated into the solid phase during the hydrothermal alteration of oceanic crust. If sea floor-spreading ceased, or its rate were to decline, the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of the oceans would slowly change to lower values because of continued continental and submarine weathering. Gregory and Taylor (1981) presented further evidence for this rock/water buffering and argued that the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of sea water should be invariant within about ± 1 ‰, as long as sea-floor spreading was operating at a rate of at least 50 % of its modern value.

The sedimentary record, however, is not in accord with this model for constant oxygen isotope compositions because in a general way carbonates, cherts, and

phosphates show a decrease in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in progressively older samples (Veizer and Hoefs 1976; Knauth and Lowe 1978; Shemesh et al. 1983). The prime issue arising from these trends is whether they are of primary or secondary (post-depositional) origin. Veizer et al. (1997, 1999) presented strong evidence that they are, at least partly, of primary origin. Based on well-selected Phanerozoic low-Mg calcite shells (mostly brachiopods), they observed a 5 ‰ decline from the Quaternary to the Cambrian. Because well preserved textures and trace element contents are comparable to modern low-Mg calcitic shells, Veizer and coworkers argued that the shells preserved the primary oxygen isotope composition and can be used to deduce the past ocean composition. Prokoph et al. (2008) provided an updated compilation of 39,000 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ isotope data for the entire earth history confirming earlier observation of Veizer and coworkers.

Jaffrés et al. (2007) reviewed models about the potential influence of varying chemical weathering and hydrothermal circulation rates. These authors argued that seawater $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values increased from -13.3 to -0.3 ‰ over a period of 3.4 Ga (see Fig. 3.26) with ocean surface temperatures fluctuating between 10 and 33 °C. The most likely explanation for the long-term trend in seawater $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ involves stepwise increases in the ratio of high- to low-temperature fluid/rock interactions.

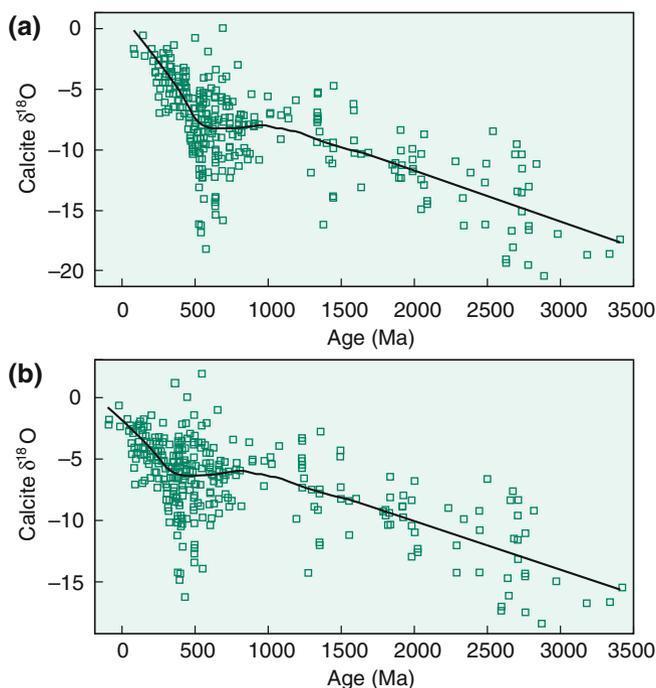


Fig. 3.26 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ data of bulk rock calcite and brachiopods over time for **a** measured and **b** shifted values (upward shift of 2 ‰ for all bulk rock data (Jaffrés et al. 2007) (Fig. 3.25, 6th edition, p. 159)

Presumably, global changes in spreading rate will affect $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of the oceans, albeit by a smaller amount. Model calculations on the geological water cycle by Wallman (2001) support the idea that seawater $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values were not constant through time, but evolved from an ^{18}O depleted state to the current value. Kasting et al. (2006) argue that the low $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values during the Precambrian might be a consequence of changes in midocean ridge-crest depth associated with higher heat flow. However, the processes responsible for the ^{18}O changes during earth's earliest history are presently not fully understood.

3.7.2 Carbon

The ^{13}C content of a marine carbonate is closely related to that of the dissolved marine bicarbonate from which the carbonate precipitated. For a long time the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value of ancient oceans was regarded as essentially constant around 0 ‰. It was in the 1980s when it was first realized that the observed fluctuations represent regular secular variations. Shifts in the carbon isotopic composition of marine carbonates may be interpreted as representing shifts in the amount of organic carbon being buried. An increase in the amount of buried organic carbon means that ^{12}C would be preferentially removed from seawater, so that the ocean reservoir would become isotopically heavier. Negative $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -shifts accordingly may indicate a decrease in the rate of carbon burial and/or enhanced oxidative weathering of once buried organic matter.

$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values of limestones vary mostly within a band of 0 ± 3 ‰ since at least 3.5 Ga (Veizer and Hoefs 1976). The longer term C-isotope trend for carbonates has been punctuated by sudden shifts over short time intervals named "carbon isotope events", which are considered to represent characteristic features, and have been used as time markers for stratigraphic correlations. Characteristic carbon isotope events are the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (Cohen et al. 2007), the Jurassic-Cretaceous Oceanic Anoxic events (Jenkyns 2010) and the Permian-Triassic extinction (Payne and Kump 2007).

Especially noteworthy are very high $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values of up to 10 ‰ and higher for 2.2–2.0 Ga old carbonates and at the end of the Proterozoic with both periods representing periods of increased burial of organic carbon (Knoll et al. 1986, Baker and Fallick 1989; Derry et al. 1992 and others). By compiling the data base for the Proterozoic, Shields and Veizer (2002) (Fig. 3.27) demonstrated ^{13}C fluctuations of at least 15 ‰, coincident with wide spread glaciations (see also Special Issue of Chemical Geology 237, 2007). Highly ^{13}C enriched intervals are related to interglacial times, where the ^{13}C enrichment appears to be the result of unusually efficient burial of organic carbon. Hayes and Waldbauer (2006), on the other hand, interpreted the unusual ^{13}C -enrichment as indication for the importance of methanogenic bacteria in sediments.

Negative $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ intervals are generally associated with glaciations (Kaufmann and Knoll 1995). The most negative ^{13}C -values have been found in massive carbonates

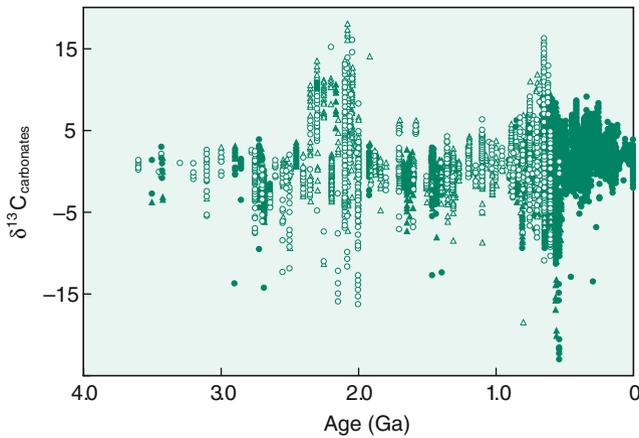


Fig. 3.27 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values for marine carbonates over time. Note persistent values of 0–3 ‰ for the last 600 Ma, anomalous variability at 0.6–0.8 Ga and 2.0–2.3 Ga correlative with snowball earth episodes (Shields and Veizer 2002) (Fig. 3.26, 6th edition, p. 160)

that cap glaciogenic sequences (“cap” carbonates), which record the most profound carbon isotope variations on Earth. The change from very heavy to very light $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values has been interpreted as a collapse of biological productivity for millions of years due to global glaciations (Hoffmann et al. 1998) representing one of the central arguments of the “snowball Earth” hypothesis. Glaciations ended abruptly when subaerial volcanic outgassing raised atmospheric CO_2 to very high levels shifting the ^{13}C of carbonates to values around -5 ‰.

Because of the relationship between carbonate and organic carbon, a parallel shift in the isotope composition of both carbon reservoirs should be observed. Unfortunately, very often carbonate-carbon and organic carbon have not been investigated together. Hayes et al. (1999) have compiled the existing data base on both reservoirs. In contrast to previous assumptions, the long term fractionation is invariant and its average close to 30 ‰ rather than 25 ‰. Variations in the fractionations between the two reservoirs can, in principle, be interpreted as reflecting variations in the pCO_2 content of the atmosphere (Kump and Arthur 1999). By employing a simple model which is subjected to different perturbations each lasting 500,000 years, Kump and Arthur (1999) demonstrated that increased burial of organic carbon leads to a fall in atmospheric pCO_2 and to positive ^{13}C -shifts in both carbonate and organic carbon. Lately, shifts in ^{13}C have been correlated to variations in the O_2/CO_2 ratio of the ambient atmosphere (Strauß and Peters-Kottig 2003).

3.7.3 Sulfur

Because isotope fractionation between dissolved sulfate in ocean water and gypsum/anhydrite is small (Raab and Spiro 1991), evaporite sulfates should closely reflect the sulfur isotope composition of marine sulfate through time. The first S-isotope “age curves” were published by Nielsen and Ricke (1964) and Thode and Monster (1964). Since then, this curve has been updated by many more analyses (Holser and Kaplan 1966; Holser 1977; Claypool et al. 1980). The sulfur isotope curve varies from a maximum of $\delta^{34}\text{S} = +30\text{‰}$ in early Paleozoic time, to a minimum of $+10\text{‰}$ in Permian time. These shifts are considered to reflect net fluxes of isotopically light sulfur generated during bacterial reduction of oceanic sulfate to the reservoir of reduced sulfide in sediments, thus increasing the ^{34}S -content in the remaining oceanic sulfate reservoir. Conversely, a net return flux of the light sulfide to the ocean during weathering or enhanced hydrothermal sulfide input lead to a decrease of marine sulfate $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values. Modeling by Kump (1989) has indicated that pyrite burial was twice as large as today during most of the early Paleozoic followed by a decrease to values that are about half of today’s rate during the Carboniferous and Permian and by approximately constant rates for the last 180 Ma (Kump 1989).

Since evaporites through geologic time contain large gaps and considerable scatter in sulfur isotope composition, two alternative approaches for the reconstruction of seawater $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values through time have been utilized: (I) Structurally substituted sulfate in marine carbonates (Burdett et al. 1989, Kampschulte and Strauss 2004). This approach avoids apparent disadvantages of the evaporite record namely that evaporites are discontinuous with a poor age resolution representing continental margin formations with potential influence from nearby continents. Hence, a much better temporal resolution from structural sulfate records has been obtained. (II) Marine barite in pelagic sediments. Paytan et al. (1998, 2004) generated a seawater sulfur curve for the Cenozoic and for the Cretaceous with a resolution of ~ 1 million years. Barite has advantages over the other two sulfate proxies, because of its resistance to diagenesis as long as dissolved pore water is present to prevent barite dissolution (see Fig. 3.28). Since pelagic sediments are restricted to the modern ocean, the barite record lasts for the last 150 million years only.

The oxygen isotope composition of marine barite might be also a useful tracer for the sulfate cycle in the past. Turchin and Schrag (2004, 2006) observed a 5 ‰ variability in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ over the past 10 million years. Oxygen is incorporated into sulfate through sulfide oxidation and released through sulfate reduction. Turchin and Schrag (2004) suggested that sea level fluctuations reducing the area of continental shelves and increasing sulfide weathering may be responsible for the observed variations.

It might be expected that a parallel age curve to that for sulfates should exist for sedimentary sulfides. However, the available S-isotope data for sulfides range widely and seem to depend strongly on the degree to which the reduction system is

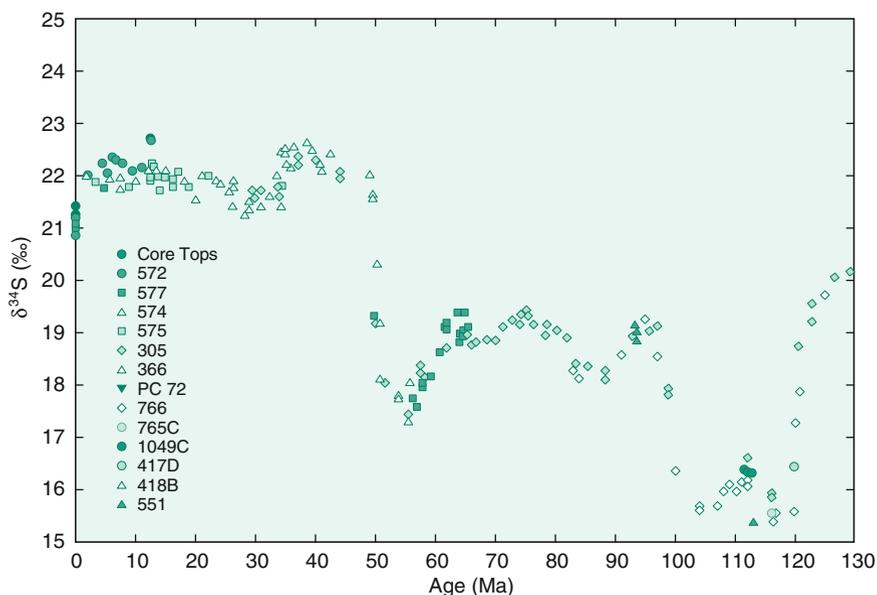


Fig. 3.28 Marine sulfate $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ curve of marine barite for 130 Ma to present (Paytan et al. 2004)

“open” and on the sedimentation rate so that age trends are obscured (Strauß 1997, 1999). Changes in the maximum sulphur isotope fractionation between sulphides and coexisting sulfates were used to propose changes in the complexity of the sulphur cycle (Canfield and Teske 1996). The large variability in $\delta^{34}\text{S}_{\text{sulfide}}$ values within age-equivalent strata might be best explained by time-dependent steps of pyrite formation during progressive diagenesis.

Considering a difference in $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of 40–60 ‰ between bacteriogenic sulfide and marine sulfate in present-day sedimentary environments, similar fractionations in ancient sedimentary rocks may be interpreted as evidence for the activity of sulfate-reducing bacteria. The presence or absence of such fractionations in sedimentary rocks thus may constrain the time of emergence of sulfate-reducing bacteria. In early Archean sedimentary rocks most sulfides and the rare sulfates have $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values near 0 ‰ (Monster et al. 1979; Cameron 1982). The lack of substantial isotope fractionation between sulfate and sulfide has been interpreted initially as indicating an absence of bacterial reduction in the Archean, but could also indicate complete sulfate reduction. Ohmoto et al. (1993) employed a laser microprobe approach to analyze single pyrite grains from the ca 3.4 Ga Barberton greenstone belt and observed a variation of up to 10 ‰ among pyrites from a single rock specimen, which could imply that bacterial reduction has occurred since at least 3.4 Ga. Shen and Buick (2004) argued that the large spread in $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values of microscopic pyrites aligned along growth faces of former gypsum in the 3.47 Ga North Pole barite deposit, Australia represents the oldest evidence for microbial sulfate reduction.

3.7.4 Lithium

The two major sources of Li to the ocean are rivers and hydrothermal input at spreading centers, major sinks are Li-incorporation into marine sediment and low temperature oceanic crust. By analyzing well-dated planktonic foraminifera, Misra and Froelich (2012) presented a Li-isotope curve for the last 68 Ma. They observed a Li isotope increase of 9 ‰ over the past 50 million years, which they interpreted to reflect a general increase in continental weathering rates. Since Li—in contrast to Ca and Sr—is preferentially incorporated in silicate minerals, the Li isotope record is sensitive to changes in the weathering of silicate rocks. Modelling by Wanner et al. (2014) revealed a correlation between $\delta^7\text{Li}$ -values and CO_2 consumption rates by silicate weathering. Thus, the Li isotope record may quantify atmospheric CO_2 consumption.

3.7.5 Boron

Geochemical modelling has indicated significant variations in the boron isotope composition of sea water with geologic time (Lemarchand et al. 2002; Simon et al. 2006). $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ -values of past seawater depend, like Li and other elements, on continental erosion rates and rates of chemical exchange at oceanic ridges. What makes B unique is its dependence on the pH of ocean water (see p. 61). Studies on foraminifera to reconstruct the $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ -value of past ocean water have been used either to determine the pH-value (Pearson and Palmer 2000; Pearson et al. 2009), or to determine changes in the boron isotope composition of ocean water (Raitzsch and Hönisch 2014). By using independent estimates of past deep-ocean pH, benthic foraminifera, being less pH affected than planktonic foraminifera, demonstrate oscillations of 2 ‰ in ^{11}B -values with a striking ^{11}B increase of about 3 ‰ since the Eocene (Raitzsch and Hönisch 2014), also indicating similarities with the Li isotope record of Misra and Froelich (2012).

3.7.6 Calcium

Several studies have documented secular changes in the Ca isotope composition of the ocean (De La Rocha and De Paolo 2000; Griffith et al. 2008a, b, c; Steuber and Buhl 2006; Farkas et al. 2007; Fantle 2010), that indicate a dynamic Ca cycle during earth's history and suggest feedbacks between the Ca and the C-cycle to buffer the oceanic carbon reservoir. A large drop in $\delta^{44}\text{Ca}$ -values at the Eocene-Oligocene boundary observed by Fantle (2010) might suggest a substantial increase in weathering relative to sedimentation. Besides changes in the input and output fluxes to the ocean, other processes might also change the Ca isotope composition such as a shift from Early Paleozoic calcitic oceans to late Paleozoic aragonitic oceans or changes in the magnitude of dolomite formation.

3.8 Atmosphere

The basic chemical composition of the atmosphere is quite simple, being made up almost entirely of three elements: nitrogen, oxygen and argon. Other elements and compounds are present in amounts that although small are nevertheless significant. A mixture of gases with different molecular weights should partially segregate and fractionate in a gravity field. However the lower atmosphere—the troposphere—is much too turbulent for gravitational fractionation to be observed. While it appears possible that certain gases in the upper atmosphere—the stratosphere—could be affected by this process, isotopic evidence for this has not been found so far (Thiemens et al. 1995). (Gravitational fractionation can however be observed in air trapped in ice cores and in sand dunes (Sowers et al. 1992) see p. 18).

In recent years, tremendous progress has been achieved in the analysis of the isotope composition of important trace compounds in the atmosphere, mainly through the introduction of the GC-IRMS technique allowing the precise analysis of nanomole quantities of O₃, CH₄, N₂O, CO, H₂ and also sulfate and nitrate. Of special importance is the isotope composition of ozone having a unique composition that affects other trace components.

Trace gases continually break apart and recombine in a multitude of photochemical reactions, which may produce isotope fractionations (Kaye 1987; Brenninkmeijer et al. 2003). Isotope analysis is increasingly employed in studies of the cycles of atmospheric trace gases e.g. CH₄ and N₂O, giving insights into sources and sinks and transport processes of these compounds. The rationale is that various sources have characteristic isotope ratios and that sink processes are accompanied by isotope fractionation.

Many of the processes responsible for isotope fractionations in the Earth's atmosphere may also occur in the atmospheres of other planetary systems, such as the atmospheric escape of atoms and molecules to outer space. Likely unique to Earth are isotope fractionations related to biological processes or to interactions with the ocean. One aspect of atmospheric research which has great potential for the application of stable isotope investigations is the study of anthropogenic pollution.

Compared to the troposphere very different fractionation effects and reactions can be observed in the stratosphere. Of special importance is the isotope composition of stratospheric ozone. In situ mass-spectrometric measurements by Mauersberger (1981, 1987) demonstrated that an equal enrichment in ¹⁷O and ¹⁸O of about 40 ‰ exists in the stratosphere, with a maximum at about 32 km. The rate of formation of isotopically partially substituted ozone (mass 50) is obviously faster than that of unsubstituted ozone (mass 48). Later measurements by Krankowsky et al. (2000) did not confirm the very large enrichments originally reported by Mauersberger, but gave enrichments of 7–11 ‰. CO₂ samples collected between 26 and 35 km altitude show a mass-independent enrichment in both ¹⁷O and ¹⁸O of up to about 15 ‰ above tropospheric values (Thiemens et al. 1995). The enrichment of stratospheric CO₂ relative to tropospheric CO₂ should make it possible to study mixing processes across the tropopause.

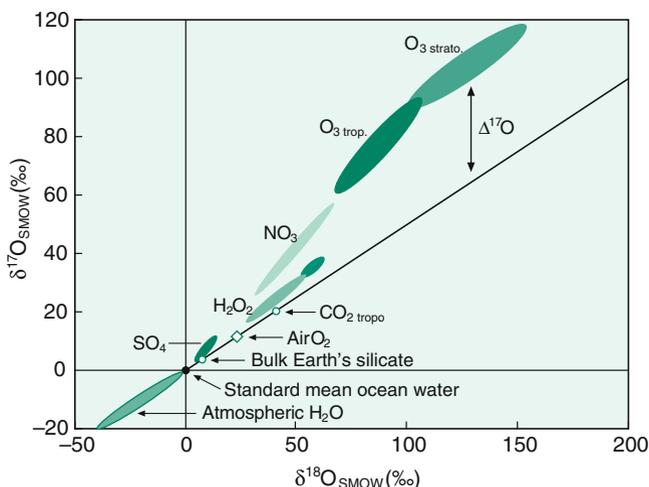


Fig. 3.29 $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ versus $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ plot of atmospheric oxygen species (Thiemens 2006) (Fig. 3.35, 6th edition, p. 176)

Similar effects have also been observed in stratospheric nitrous oxide. $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ measurements by Cliff and Thiemens (1997) reveal that stratospheric N_2O possesses a large variable mass-independent isotope composition, which also requires a mass-independent process (Thiemens 1999).

Figure 3.29 summarizes mass independent isotope compositions of a number of atmospheric molecules such as ozone, CO_2 , N_2O , and CO (Thiemens 1999, 2006).

3.8.1 Atmospheric Water Vapour

While the major compounds nitrogen, oxygen and argon have a constant concentration in the lower part of the atmosphere, water vapour concentrations are highly variable: Craig and Gordon (1965) first measured the isotopic composition of atmospheric water vapour over the North Pacific. Later Rozanski and Sonntag (1982) and Johnson et al. (2001) observed in vertical profiles of tropospheric and stratospheric water vapour a gradual depletion of δD (and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$) with increasing altitude up to the tropopause with a reversal in the stratosphere. The depletion trend in the troposphere can be explained by isotope fractionation associated with cloud formation and rainout processes leading to preferential removal of heavy isotopes from water vapour. In the stratosphere photochemical oxidation of methane might be responsible for the observed increase in δD .

3.8.2 Nitrogen

Nearly 80 % of the atmosphere consists of elemental nitrogen. This nitrogen, collected from different altitudes, exhibits a constant isotopic composition (Dole et al. 1954; Sweeney et al. 1978) and represents the “zero-point” of the naturally occurring isotope variations. Besides the overwhelming predominance of elemental nitrogen, there are various other nitrogen compounds in the atmosphere, which play a key role in atmospheric pollution and determining the acidity of precipitation.

Combustion of fossil fuels and biomass converts inert N_2 into the reactive form NO_x ($NO + NO_2$). Other sources of NO_x include microbial processes in soils, but anthropogenic activities currently dominate NO_x production.

Fractionations during the conversion of NO_x to nitrate appear to be small, therefore $\delta^{15}N$ -values should reflect sources of NO_x . Heaton (1986) has discussed the possibility of isotopically differentiating between naturally produced and anthropogenic NO_x . Since very little isotope fractionation is expected at the high temperatures of combustion in power plants and vehicles, the $\delta^{15}N$ -value of pollution nitrate is expected to be similar to that of the nitrogen which is oxidized.

In soils, NO_x is produced by nitrification and denitrification processes which are kinetically controlled. This, in principle, should lead to more negative $\delta^{15}N$ -values in natural nitrate compared to anthropogenic nitrate. However, Heaton (1986) concluded that this distinction cannot be made on the basis of ^{15}N -contents, which has been confirmed by Durka et al. (1994).

^{18}O variations in atmospheric nitrate are very large (ranging from +25 to +115 ‰, Morin et al. 2008; Michalski et al. 2011), and vary during a yearly cycle. Higher $\delta^{18}O$ -values are found in wintertime, lower values in summer time. High latitude nitrate has higher ^{18}O -values than mid-latitude nitrate. Similar trends are observed in $\Delta^{17}O$ -values, which indicate a strong mass-independent anomaly derived from exchange with ozone.

3.8.2.1 Nitrous Oxide

Besides NO_x oxides, there is nitrous oxide (N_2O), which is of special interest in isotope geochemistry. N_2O is present in air at around 300 ppb and increases by about 0.2 % per year. Nitrous oxide is an important greenhouse gas that is, on a molecular basis, a much more effective contributor to global warming than CO_2 and has also a major chemical control on stratospheric ozone budgets.

N_2O forms during microbial nitrification and denitrification processes in soils and water, the global budget is, however poorly constrained. The first $\delta^{15}N$ -values for N_2O were determined by Yoshida et al. (1984), the first $\delta^{18}O$ -values were published by Kim and Craig (1990) and the first dual isotope determinations have been presented by Kim and Craig (1993). $\delta^{15}N$ and $\delta^{18}O$ values of atmospheric N_2O today range from 6.4 to 7.0 ‰ and 43 to 45.5 ‰ (Sowers 2001). First isotope measurements of N_2O from the Vostok ice core by Sowers (2001) indicate large ^{15}N and ^{18}O variations with time ($\delta^{15}N$ from 10 to 25 ‰ and $\delta^{18}O$ from 30 to

50 ‰), which have been interpreted to result from in situ N_2O production via nitrification.

Terrestrial emissions, mainly from soils, have generally lower δ -values than marine sources. As shown by Kool et al. (2009), $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ signatures in N_2O are determined by oxygen isotope exchange with ambient water. Due to kinetic effects, production of N_2O from both nitrification and denitrification yields N_2O which is isotopically light relative to its precursors whereas reduction during denitrification results in an ^{15}N and ^{18}O enrichment in the residual N_2O (Well and Flessa 2009).

Atmospheric nitrous oxide exhibits a small mass-independent ^{17}O component (Cliff and Thiemens 1997; Cliff et al. 1999), providing a characteristic isotope signature from ^{17}O enriched ozone. $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of stratospheric N_2O gradually increase with altitude due to preferential photodissociation of the lighter isotopes (Rahn and Wahlen 1997).

There is another aspect that makes N_2O a very interesting compound for isotope geochemists. N_2O is a linear molecule in which one nitrogen atom is at the centre and one at the end. The center site is called α -position, the end site β -position. Yoshida and Toyoda (2000) and Röckmann et al. (2003) showed that the ^{15}N content in the two N-positions varies and can be used as a fingerprint. In contrast to ^{18}O and mean ^{15}N -values, the difference between the N^α and the N^β position is independent of the isotope composition of the precursor (Popp et al. 2002). The uneven intramolecular distribution, thus, may help to identify the sources and sinks of N_2O (see p. 17 on site specific isotope composition).

3.8.3 Oxygen

Atmospheric oxygen has a rather constant isotopic composition (Dole et al. 1954; Kroopnick and Craig 1972; Bender et al. 1994) with a $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of 23.5 ‰, which, more recently, has been re-determined to be 23.88 ‰ (Barkan and Luz 2005). Oxygen is produced by photosynthesis without fractionation with respect to the substrate water (Helman et al. 2005). Because the ocean is the largest water reservoir on Earth, the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of atmospheric oxygen, therefore, is linked to the seawater composition.

Urey (1947) calculated that under equilibrium conditions atmospheric oxygen should be enriched in ^{18}O relative to water by 6 ‰ at 25 °C. This means atmospheric oxygen cannot be in equilibrium with the hydrosphere and thus the ^{18}O -enrichment of atmospheric oxygen, the so-called “Dole” effect, must have another explanation. It is generally agreed that the ^{18}O -enrichment is of biological origin and results from the fact that during respiration most species preferentially use ^{16}O (Lane and Dole 1956). Oxygen consumed during respiration has a ^{18}O -content that is about 20 ‰ lower than the intake of O_2 (Guy et al. 1993).

The Dole effect can be separated into terrestrial and oceanic contributions. Bender et al. (1994) estimated that the terrestrial contribution should be 22.4 ‰ whereas the marine contribution should be 18.9 ‰. The δ -value should be thus very

sensitive to changes in the ratio of marine to terrestrial photosynthesis when the climate shifted from glacial to interglacial periods. As has been shown by the analysis of molecular oxygen trapped in ice cores, the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of atmospheric oxygen has indeed varied with geologic time. Sowers et al. (1991), Bender et al. (1994) and Severinghaus et al. (2009) have pioneered the analysis of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of O_2 in air bubbles trapped in ice cores by measuring the difference between the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of atmospheric oxygen and ocean water. $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values within glacial-interglacial cycles vary within 1.5 ‰ and follow the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ value of sea water (Severinghaus et al. 2009).

Further insight into the isotopic composition of atmospheric oxygen comes from the measurement of the ^{17}O content having a $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ -value of 12.03 ‰ (Luz et al. 1999; Luz and Barkan 2000, 2005; Barkan and Luz 2011). These studies revealed that atmospheric oxygen carries a mass-independent ^{17}O signature due to photochemical reactions in the stratosphere. Photosynthesis and respiration fractionate ^{17}O and ^{18}O in a mass dependent way, whereas photochemical stratospheric reactions among O_3 , O_2 and CO_2 (Thiemens et al. 1995) lead to a mass independent isotope fractionation of tropospheric oxygen. As a result, tropospheric oxygen is depleted in ^{17}O by about 0.2 ‰ relative to oxygen affected by photosynthesis and respiration alone. The magnitude of the ^{17}O depletion depends on the relative proportions of biological productivity and stratospheric mixing. As proposed by Luz et al. (1999) and Luz and Barkan (2000) the ^{17}O anomaly can be used as a tracer of global biosphere production rates.

The ^{17}O signal of atmospheric oxygen may be transferred to crustal minerals such as gypsum and barite through oxidative weathering of continental sulfides. Thus by analysing terrestrial sulfates, a record of ^{17}O anomalies through geological history may be obtained (Bao et al. 2000, 2001; Bao 2015).

3.8.3.1 Evolution of Atmospheric Oxygen

Geological, mineralogical and geochemical indicators have been used to deduce oxygen levels of past atmospheres. For half of Earth history, oxygen contents probably have been less than 0.001 % of the present atmospheric level (PAL). Stable isotope proxies document the oxygenation of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans. The increase in oxygen concentration seems to have occurred in several steps. The first major step occurred at about 2.4 Ga (Farquhar et al. 2000; Farquhar and Wing 2003 and others), the so-called "Great Oxidation Event (GOE)", which is characterized by oxidative weathering. The most convincing argument for the existence of the GOE are mass-independent sulfur isotope fractionations that have persisted until the onset of the GOE. Recent studies have indicated that the evolution of atmospheric oxygen is more complex than a single stage transition from anoxic in the Archean to oxic in the Paleoproterozoic (Anbar and Rouxel 2007; Wille et al. 2007, 2013; Frei et al. 2009; Voegelin et al. 2010). On the basis of Mo isotope and Cr isotope data, these authors argued there is evidence for significant amounts of oxygen prior to 2.4 Ga.

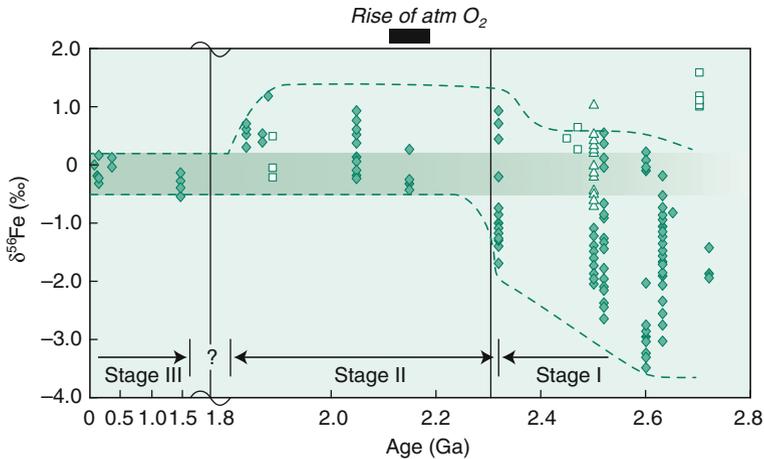


Fig. 3.30 $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values of pyrite and iron oxides versus time showing three evolutionary stages of the ocean (Anbar and Rouxel 2007) (Fig. 3.28, 6th edition, p. 163)

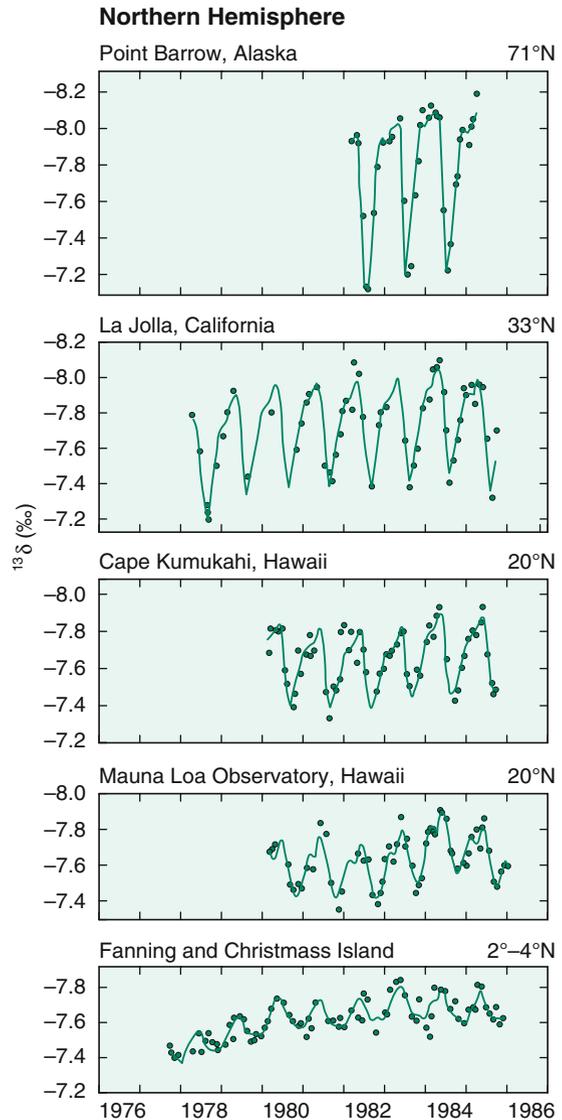
The evolution of atmospheric oxygen can be also deduced from iron isotopes. Besides carbon and sulfur, iron as a third element controls the redox chemistry of the ocean. Rouxel et al. (2005) demonstrated a progressive change in iron cycling from 3.5 to 0.5 Ga that was associated with the oxygenation of the ocean (see Fig. 3.30). According to Rouxel et al. (2005) the iron isotope distribution during earth's history can be divided into 3 stages: stage I (2.8–2.3 Ga) is characterized by highly variable and negative $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values of pyrite, stage II (2.3–1.6 Ga) is characterized by unusually high δ -values and stage III (from 1.6 Ga till today) is characterized by pyrite having a small $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ range from about 0 to -1 ‰. These different stages might reflect changes in the redox state of the earth. In stage I (older than 2.3 Ga), iron was removed from the ocean as iron oxides and as pyrite. Iron oxides enriched in ^{56}Fe were precipitated by anaerobic oxidation, which drove the ocean toward lower $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ -values (Kump 2005). In stage II from 2.3 to 1.8 Ga the atmosphere became oxidized, but the ocean remained more or less anoxic. In stage III atmosphere and ocean were oxygenated, ensuring that iron did not accumulate in the ocean, but was removed as insoluble Fe^{3+} that retained the iron isotope composition of the iron inputs to the ocean which are close to the crustal average.

3.8.4 Carbon Dioxide

3.8.4.1 Carbon

The increasing CO_2 -content of the atmosphere is a problem of world-wide concern. By measuring both the concentration and isotope composition of CO_2 on the same samples of air, it is possible to determine whether variations are of anthropogenic,

Fig. 3.32 Seasonal $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ variations of atmospheric CO_2 from five stations in the Northern Hemisphere. *Dots* denote monthly averages, *oscillating curves* are fits of daily averages (after Keeling et al. 1989) (Fig. 3.31, 6th edition, p. 169)



3.8.4.2 Oxygen

Atmospheric CO_2 has a $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of about +41 ‰, which means that atmospheric CO_2 is in approximate isotope equilibrium with ocean water, but not with atmospheric oxygen (Keeling 1961; Bottinga and Craig 1969). Measurements by Mook et al. (1983) and Francey and Tans (1987) have revealed large-scale seasonal and regional variations. There is a North–South shift in ^{18}O -contents of almost 2 ‰ increasing towards the south, about ten times larger than for ^{13}C . Seasonal cycles

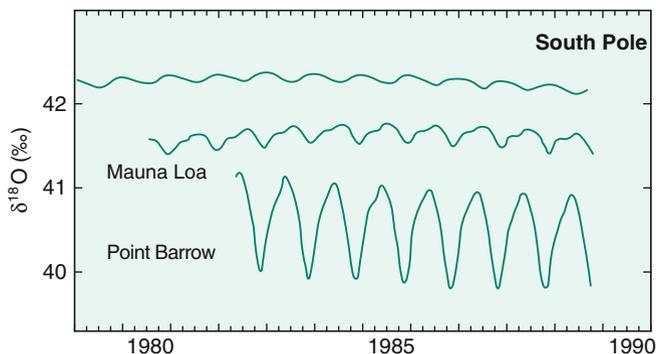


Fig. 3.33 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ seasonal record of atmospheric CO_2 from three stations: Point Barrow 71.3°N , Mauna Loa 19.5°S , South Pole 90.0°S (after Ciais et al. 1998) (Fig. 3.32, 6th edition, p. 170)

are similar in magnitude to those of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (see Fig. 3.33). This north–south gradient is caused by the unequal distribution of ocean and land between the two hemispheres and by the very different oxygen isotope composition of ocean and meteoric water.

Farquhar et al. (1993) demonstrated that much more CO_2 comes into contact with leaf water than is actually taken up by plants during photosynthesis. For every CO_2 molecule that is taken up by photosynthesis, two others enter the leaf through the stomata. They rapidly equilibrate with the leaf water and then diffuse back to the atmosphere without having been incorporated by the plant. This large flux therefore only influences the ^{18}O content of atmospheric CO_2 , but has no influence on the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value.

Additional insight into the cycling of atmospheric CO_2 can be gained by the analysis of triple oxygen isotopes. Hoag et al. (2005) suggested that the determination of the ^{17}O content besides the ^{18}O content of tropospheric CO_2 might be a tracer for CO_2 interactions with the biosphere and the hydrosphere. As CO_2 in the stratosphere is anomalously enriched in ^{17}O and ^{18}O through exchange with ozone, the influx of stratospheric CO_2 enriches tropospheric CO_2 in ^{17}O and ^{18}O which is reset by exchange with the oxygen isotope composition of surface water. A precise determination of the $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ equilibrium fractionation between CO_2 and water has been carried out by Hofmann et al. (2012). They demonstrated that the $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ signal of tropospheric CO_2 varies temporally but does not simply follow the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ seasonal variations.

Horvath et al. (2012) determined the triple oxygen isotope composition of CO_2 from combustion processes and from human breath. High-temperature combustion CO_2 inherits its oxygen isotope composition from ambient air O_2 , whereas the O-isotope composition of human breath is controlled by isotope exchange with body water. Thus, the triple oxygen isotope composition of anthropogenic CO_2 can be clearly distinguished from natural CO_2 sources.

3.8.4.3 Long Term Variations in the CO₂ Concentration

There is increasing awareness that the CO₂ content of the Earth's atmosphere has varied considerably over the last 500 Ma. The clearest evidence comes from measurements of CO₂ from ice cores, which have yielded an impressive record of CO₂ variations over the past 420,000 years (Petit et al. 1999a, b).

In a much broader context, Berner (1990) has modeled how long-term changes in CO₂ concentrations can result from the shifting balance of processes that deliver CO₂ to the atmosphere (such as volcanic activity) and processes that extract CO₂ (such as weathering and the deposition of organic material). The theoretical carbon dioxide curve calculated for the past 500 Ma matches the climate record at several key points: it is low during the ice age of the Carboniferous and Permian and rises to a maximum in the Cretaceous. Although the exact curve is far from being known, it is clear that fluctuations in the CO₂ content of the ancient atmosphere may have played a critical role in determining global surface paleotemperatures. To elucidate these short- and long-term CO₂-fluctuations, several promising "CO₂-paleobarometers" use variations of carbon isotopes in different materials.

Short-term carbon isotope variations in tree rings have been interpreted as indicators of anthropogenic CO₂ combustion (Freyer 1979; Freyer and Belacy 1983). While different trees show wide variability in their isotope records due to climatic and physiological factors, many tree-ring records indicate a 1.5 ‰ decrease in δ¹³C-values from 1750 to 1980. Freyer and Belacy (1983) reported C-isotope data for the past 500 years on two sets of European oak trees: forest trees exhibit large non-systematic ¹³C variations over the 500 years, whereas free-standing trees show smaller ¹³C fluctuations, which can be correlated to climatic changes. Since industrialization of these areas in 1850, the ¹³C record for the free-standing trees has been dominated by a systematic decrease of about 2 ‰.

The most convincing evidence for changes in atmospheric CO₂-concentrations and δ¹³C-values comes from air trapped in ice cores in Antarctica. Figure 3.34 shows a high time-resolution record for the last 1000 years from analysis of the Law Dome, Antarctica ice core (Trudinger et al. 1999). Changes in CO₂ concentration and in δ¹³C values during the last 150 years are clearly related to the increase of anthropogenic fossil fuel burning. During the last ice age with low CO₂-concentrations, atmospheric CO₂ was isotopically lighter by about 0.3 ‰ relative to interglacial periods (Leuenberger et al. 1992). Schmitt et al. (2012) presented δ¹³C-data for the past 24,000 years from two Antarctic ice cores and observed a 0.3 ‰ decrease from about 17,500–14,000, a time where CO₂ concentrations rose, which they interpreted as being due to upwelling of CO₂ enriched waters in the Southern ocean.

Two different classes of approaches have been used in the study of long-term atmospheric CO₂ change: one utilizing deep-sea sediments, the other studying continental sediments. Cerling (1991) has been reconstructing the CO₂ content of the ancient atmosphere by analyzing fossil soil carbonate that formed from CO₂ diffusion from the atmosphere or plant roots. This method relies on certain assumptions and prerequisites. One, for instance, is the necessity of differentiating

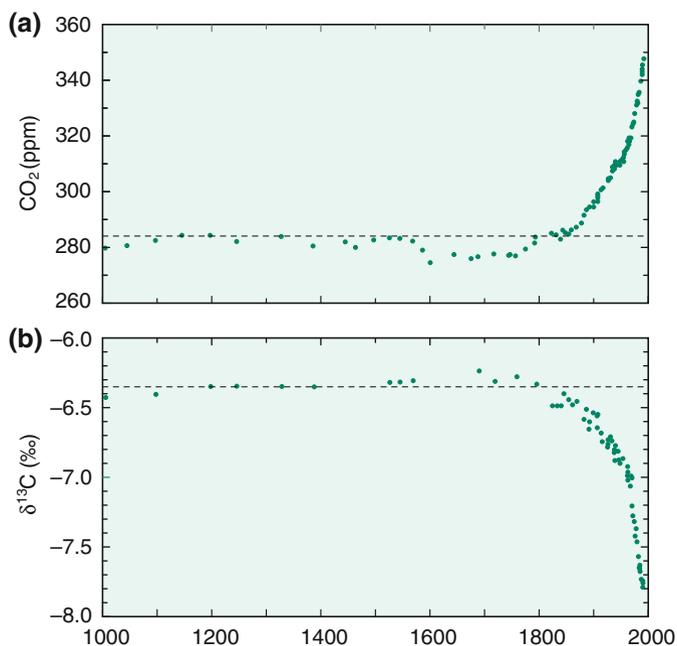


Fig. 3.34 Law Dome ice core CO₂ and δ¹³C record for the last 1000 years (after Trudinger et al. 1999) (Fig. 3.33, 6th edition, p. 171)

pedogenic calcretes from those formed in equilibrium with groundwater, which can not be used for pCO₂ determinations (Quast et al. 2006).

Another approach uses the relationship between the concentration of molecular CO₂ and the δ¹³C-value of marine organic plankton (Rau et al. 1992). Attempts to quantify the relationship between CO_{2(aq)} and δ¹³C_{org} have resulted in several empirically derived calibrations (Jasper and Hayes 1990; Jasper et al. 1994; Freeman and Hayes 1992 and others). Theoretical considerations and experimental work demonstrated that cellular growth rate (Laws et al. 1995; Bidigare et al. 1997) and cell geometry (Popp et al. 1998) also exert considerable control on δ¹³C_{org}, insofar as they influence the intracellular CO₂ concentration. Other complicating factors are potential contamination of terrestrial organic matter and marine photosynthesizers with varying carbon fixation pathways that are integrated in bulk organic matter. Therefore it is preferable to use specific biomarkers, such as alkenones. Alkenones are long-chain (C₃₆–C₃₉) unsaturated ketones, produced by a few taxa of phytoplankton such as the common *Emiliani huxleyi*, in which the number of double bonds is correlated with the water temperature at the time of synthesis. Palaeo-CO₂ levels can be estimated from the carbon isotope composition of alkenones and coeval carbonates (Jasper and Hayes 1990; Pagani et al. 1999a, b).

The boron isotope approach (see Sect. 2.3.2) to estimate pCO₂ relies on the fact that a rise in the atmospheric CO₂ concentration will increase pCO₂ of the surface

ocean which in turn causes a reduction of pH. By measuring the boron isotope composition of planktonic foraminifera Palmer et al. (1998) and Pearson and Palmer (2000) have reconstructed the pH-profile of Eocene seawater and estimated past atmospheric CO₂ concentrations. However, Lemarchand et al. (2000) argued that $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ records of planktonic foraminifera partly reflect changes in the marine boron isotope budget rather than changes in ocean pH.

3.8.5 Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide is an important trace gas, which has a mean residence time of about 2 months and a mean concentration of the order of 0.1 ppm. The principal sources of CO are (i) oxidation of methane and other higher hydrocarbons, (ii) biomass burning, (iii) traffic, industry and domestic heating, (iv) oceans and (v) vegetation. The dominant sinks are (i) in situ oxidation by hydroxyl radical (OH), which is responsible for the removal of contaminant gases from the troposphere and (ii) uptake by soils. The first isotope data on CO have been presented by Stevens et al. (1972), which have later been confirmed by Brenninkmeijer (1993) and Brenninkmeijer et al. (1995). Seasonal variations in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values appear to reflect a shift in the relative contributions from two major sources, biomass burning and atmospheric oxidation of methane. $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values are even more variable than $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ due to a kinetic isotope effect accompanying the removal of CO from the atmosphere. Oxygen in CO also exhibits a mass independent fractionation with a pronounced ¹⁷O excess of up to 7.5 ‰, which must be related to the removal reaction with OH (Röckmann et al. 1998).

Röckmann et al. (2002) measured the complete isotope composition of CO from high northern latitude stations. $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values show strong seasonal variations and indicate mixing between mid and high northern latitude CO. In winter high amounts of combustion CO from industrial regions are transported to high latitudes. Large variations in C- and O- isotope compositions have been observed in CO from ice cores, which have been interpreted as being due to changes in biomass burning (Wang et al. (2011).

3.8.6 Methane

Methane enters the atmosphere from biological and anthropogenic sources and is destroyed by reaction with the hydroxyl radical. Thus, a mass-weighted average composition of all CH₄ sources is equal to the mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value of atmospheric methane, corrected for any isotope fractionation effects in CH₄ sink reactions. Based on the concentration measured in air contained in polar ice cores, methane concentrations have doubled over the past several hundred years (Stevens 1988). Concentrations were increasing at almost 1 % per year in the late 70s and early 80s, the growth rate has slowed down since then for unknown reasons.

Methane is produced by bacteria under anaerobic conditions in wet environments such as wetlands, swamps and rice fields. It is also produced in the stomachs of cattle and by termites. Typical anthropogenic sources are from fossil fuels such as coal mining and as a byproduct in biomass burning. The latter sources are considerably heavier in ^{13}C than the former. Methane may be also formed in terrestrial plants under oxic conditions Keppler et al. (2006). The size of this methane source is still unknown but it might play a important role for the methane cycle.

Atmospheric methane has a mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value of around -47‰ (Stevens 1988). Quay et al. (1999) presented global time series records between 1988 and 1995 on the carbon and hydrogen isotope composition of atmospheric methane. They measured spatial and temporal variation in ^{13}C and D with a slight enrichment observed for the southern hemisphere (-47.2‰) relative to the northern hemisphere (-47.4‰). The mean δD was $-86 \pm 3\text{‰}$ with a 10‰ depletion in the northern relative to the southern hemisphere.

Methane extracted from air bubbles in polar ice up to 350 years in age has a $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value which is 2‰ lower than at present (Craig et al. 1988). This may indicate that anthropogenic burning of the Earth's biomass may be the principal cause of the recent ^{13}C enrichment in methane.

Stratospheric methane collected over Japan gave a $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value of -47.5‰ at the tropopause and increased to -38.9‰ at around 35 km (Sugawara et al. 1998). These authors suggested that reaction with Cl in the stratosphere might be responsible for the ^{13}C -enrichment.

3.8.7 Hydrogen

Molecular hydrogen (H_2) is after methane the second most abundant reduced gas in the atmosphere with an average concentration of 0.53 ppm (Ehhalt and Rohrer 2009). Although hydrogen distribution is rather uniform, the concentration in the southern hemisphere is around 3 % higher than in the northern hemisphere. The isotope geochemistry of hydrogen in the atmosphere is very complex, because there are numerous hydrogen-containing compounds undergoing continuous chemical and physical transformations. Early studies of the isotope composition of H_2 have been performed in conjunction with the measurement of atmospheric tritium. An early estimate of the average hydrogen isotope composition of atmospheric H_2 (Friedman and Scholz 1974) was $+70 \pm 30\text{‰}$. The major result from these studies is that there is a large seasonal and latitudinal variability in deuterium content with higher δD -values in the southern hemisphere than in the northern hemisphere (Batenburg et al. 2011).

The largest hydrogen sources are the oxidation of methane and other hydrocarbons and combustion processes (biomass and fossil fuel burning), the largest

sink is soil uptake which explains the 3 % higher concentration in the southern hemisphere (less landmass). Due to the large mass difference between H and D, large isotope fractionations occur in the processes that produce or remove hydrogen. Of special importance are kinetic isotope effects during soil uptake of atmospheric hydrogen (Rice et al. 2011).

Considering low δD -values of H_2 sources during bacterial processes, fossil fuel combustion and biomass burning (-250 ‰ and lower), the D-enrichment of atmospheric hydrogen is difficult to explain. One way is to attribute the enrichment with a kinetic fractionation during reaction with OH, the other is photochemical production of H_2 from methane and higher hydrocarbons.

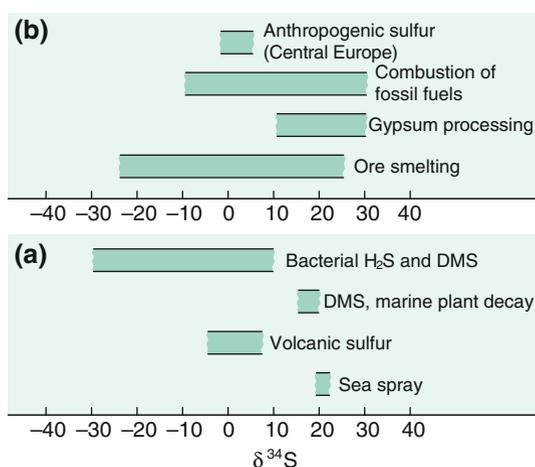
Extreme D enrichments in H_2 have been found in stratospheric air samples (Rahn et al. 2002b). δD -values vary up to $+440$ ‰, representing the most D-enriched natural material on Earth.

3.8.8 Sulfur

Sulfur is found in trace compounds in the atmosphere, where it occurs in aerosols as sulfate and in the gaseous state as H_2S and SO_2 . Sulfur can originate naturally (volcanic, sea spray, aeolian weathering, biogenic) or anthropogenically (combustion and refining of fossil fuels, ore smelting, gypsum processing). These different sources differ greatly in their isotopic composition as shown in Fig. 3.35. The complexities involved in the isotopic composition of atmospheric sulfur have been discussed in the SCOPE 43 report, edited by Krouse and Grinenko (1991).

In brief, the isotopic compositions of the industrial sulfur sources are generally so variable, that the assessment of anthropogenic contributions to the atmosphere is extremely difficult. Krouse and Case (1983) were able to give semiquantitative estimates for a unique situation in Alberta where the industrial SO_2 had a constant

Fig. 3.35 S-isotope composition of **a** natural and **b** anthropogenic sulfur sources in the atmosphere. *DMS* Dimethylsulfide (Fig. 3.34, 6th edition, p. 174)



$\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -value near 20 ‰. Generally, situations are much more complicated which limits the “fingerprint” character of the sulfur isotope composition of atmospheric sulfur to such rare cases.

Very interesting seasonal dependencies for sulfur in precipitation and in aerosol samples have been observed by Nriagu et al. (1991). $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -data for aerosol samples of the Canadian arctic show pronounced seasonal differences, with the sulfur being more ^{34}S enriched in summer than in winter. This situation is quite different from that observed for airborne sulfur in southern Canada. In rural and remote areas of southern Canada, the $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of atmospheric samples are higher in winter and lower in summer. While during the winter sulfur is mainly derived from sources used for heating and industrial sources, in summer the large emission of ^{34}S -depleted biogenic sulfur from soils, vegetation, marshes, and wetlands results in the lowering of the $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of airborne sulfur. The opposite trend observed for aerosol sulfur in the Arctic suggests a different origin of the sulfur in these high latitude areas.

3.8.9 Sulfate and Nitrate in Ice Cores

Upon oxidation of SO_2 and NO_2 to sulfate and nitrate, the mass independent composition of ozone is transferred to sulfate and nitrate. Measurements of the oxygen isotope composition of ice core sulfate and nitrate can thus provide a historical record of natural variations in sulfur and nitrogen pathways (Alexander et al. 2002, 2004; Thiemens 2006). Such a record is of importance in understanding global climate change particularly through glacial and volcanic events. Alexander et al. (2002) showed that the mass independent fractionation of sulfate is significantly greater during the warmer interglacials than during the colder glacials. However, as discussed by Alexander et al. (2002) it is not a record of temperatures, but a measure of the oxidative efficiency of the atmosphere. During colder periods the oxidation of SO_2 to sulfate in clouds is obviously suppressed. In a later study Alexander et al. (2004) demonstrated that a combined approach of sulfate and nitrate measurements in ice cores may give additional evidence for changes in the oxidative capacity of the atmosphere over different time periods.

Additional informations can be gained by measurements of the different sulfur isotopes in stratospheric sulfate aerosols (Baroni et al. 2007). During large explosive eruptions that release large amounts of SO_2 (Pinatubo, Agung, Tambora), sulfur gases rise to the stratosphere where they form small sulfuric acid aerosols that can remain in the stratosphere for several years before they settle to the ground. By extracting sulfate from the Antarctic ice sheet, Baroni et al. (2007) demonstrated that sulfate from the Agung and Pinatubo eruptions exhibit large mass-independent sulfur isotope fractionations. The sign of the $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ changed over time from an initial positive component to a negative component, which indicates a fast process during photochemical oxidation of SO_2 to sulfuric acid on a time scale of months.

3.8.10 Perchlorate

Perchlorate has been detected in soils, waters, plants and food in concentrations that may cause health problems. $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ -, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ - and $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ -values may indicate chlorate sources (Bao and Gu 2004; Böhlke et al. 2005). Perchlorate in the environment is either of man-made or of natural origin. Synthetic perchlorate is used as a constituent of explosives, missiles and rockets or in car airbags. Natural perchlorate is a minor component in hyperarid salt deposit, such as the Atacama desert. Synthetic perchlorate is produced by electrolytic reactions from aqueous chloride. Its $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ -values vary around zero ‰ like natural Cl-sources. $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values range from about -25 to -12 ‰ and are much lower than presumed water sources indicating isotope fractionations during synthesis. $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ -values show no variations.

In contrast, natural perchlorate show the lowest $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ -values reported so far (Bao and Gu 2004; Böhlke et al. 2005), indicating fractionations during formation in the atmosphere. $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values vary too, but the most prominent property are large positive ^{17}O -anomalies reflecting photochemical reactions of atmospheric Cl-species with ozone.

3.9 Biosphere

As used here, the term “biosphere” includes the total sum of living matter—plants, animals, and microbial biomass and the residues of the living matter in the geological environment such as coal and petroleum. A fairly close balance exists between photosynthesis and respiration, although over the whole of geological time respiration has been exceeded by photosynthesis, and the energy derived from this is stored mostly in disseminated organic matter, and, of course, in coal and petroleum.

Photosynthesis is responsible for isotope fractionations in the biosphere, not only for carbon, but also for hydrogen and oxygen. Nevertheless, as will be shown, the transformation of biogenic matter to organic matter in sediments also involves isotope fractionations, occurring in two stages: a biochemical and a geochemical stage. During the biochemical stage microorganisms play the major role in reconstituting the organic matter. During the geochemical stage, increasing temperature and to a much lesser extent pressure are responsible for the further transformation of organic matter (see review of Galimov 2006).

3.9.1 Living Organic Matter

3.9.1.1 Bulk Carbon

Wickman (1952) and Craig (1953) were the first to demonstrate that marine plants are about 10 ‰ enriched in ^{13}C relative to terrestrial plants. Since that time numerous studies have broadened this view and provided a much more detailed

account of isotope variations in the biosphere. The reason for the large C-isotope differences found in plants were only satisfactorily explained after the discovery of new photosynthetic pathways in the 1960s. The majority of land plants (80–90 %) employ the C3 (or Calvin) photosynthetic pathway which results in organic carbon approximately 18 ‰ depleted in ^{13}C with respect to atmospheric CO_2 . Around 10–20 % of carbon uptake by modern land plants is via C4 (or Hatch-Slack) photosynthesis with a carbon isotope fractionation of only 6 ‰ on average. The C4 pathway is thought to represent an adaptation to CO_2 limited photosynthesis, which developed relatively late in the Earth's history. It is advantageous under warm, dry and saline environmental conditions. Differences in the isotope composition of C3 and C4 plants are widely used as a palaeoenvironmental indicator to trace climatic changes or changes in the diet of animals and humans.

One of the most important groups of all living matter is marine phytoplankton. Natural oceanic phytoplankton populations vary in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value by about 15 ‰ (Sackett et al. 1973; Wong and Sackett 1978). Rau et al. (1982) demonstrated that different latitudinal trends in the carbon isotope composition of plankton exist between the northern and the southern oceans: south of the equator the correlation between latitude and plankton ^{13}C -content is significant, whereas a much weaker relationship exists in the northern oceans.

The unusual ^{13}C depletion in high latitude Southern Ocean plankton has been puzzling for years. Rau et al. (1989, 1992) found a significant inverse relationship between high-latitude ^{13}C -depletion in plankton and the concentration of molecular CO_2 in surface waters. Thus, it has been assumed that the major factor controlling the C isotope composition of phytoplankton is the availability of aqueous dissolved CO_2 . However, as has been shown in culture experiments with marine microalgae (Laws et al. 1995; Bidigare et al. 1997; Popp et al. 1998) the carbon isotope composition of phytoplankton depends on many more factors including cell wall permeability, growth rate, cell size, the ability of the cell to actively assimilate inorganic carbon and the influence of nutrients on cell growth. Therefore, estimates of paleo- CO_2 concentrations based on the C-isotope composition of marine organic matter need to consider the paleoenvironmental conditions at the time of phytoplankton production, which are difficult to constrain for the geologic past.

Organic material that comprises living matter consists of carbohydrates (saccharides, “Sacc”)—the first product of carbon fixation—and proteins (“Prot”), nucleic acids (“NA”) and lipids (“Lip”) with prevailing regularities within these compound classes:

$$\begin{aligned}\delta\text{NA} &\sim \delta\text{Prot}, \\ \delta\text{Prot} - \delta\text{Sacc} &\sim -1 \text{ ‰} \text{ and} \\ \delta\text{Lip} - \delta\text{Sacc} &\sim -6 \text{ ‰} \text{ (Hayes 2001)}.\end{aligned}$$

What is known for a long time is that lipids are depleted in ^{13}C by 5–8 ‰ relative to the bulk biomass. On the other hand, the carbohydrate fraction of various organisms is on average enriched in ^{13}C by 4.6 ‰ relative to the bulk (Tece and Fogel 2007). Even larger variations are observed for individual amino acids (Abelson and Hoering 1961) and individual carbohydrates (Tece and Fogel 2007),

where variations are probably associated with different metabolic pathways during their synthesis.

The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value of the total marine organic matter represents a mixed isotope signal derived from land plant detritus, primary production by aquatic organisms and microbial biomass. The possibility of analyzing individual components has refined the interpretation of bulk $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -data. Compound-specific isotope analyses allow the resolution of the isotopic composition of material derived from primary sources from that of secondary inputs. These source-specific molecules have become known as biomarkers, which are complex organic compounds derived from living organisms, showing little structural difference from their parent biomolecules, being not affected by diagenesis as long as the basic biological structure is preserved. Due to the specificity of their origin, biomarkers allow for an investigation of the extent to which various organisms contribute organic materials to complex mixtures. In the Messel Shale, Freeman et al. (1990) observed C-isotope variations of individual compounds between -73.4 and -20.9 ‰ (see Table 3.3). This large range can be interpreted as representing a mixture of secondary, bacterially mediated processes and primary producers. While the major portion of the analyzed hydrocarbons reflect the primary biological source material, some hydrocarbons having low concentrations are extremely ^{13}C depleted indicating their secondary microbial origin in a methane-rich environment. Later studies by Summons et al. (1994), Thiel et al. (1999), Hinrichs et al. (1999) and Peckmann and Thiel (2005) clearly suggested that fermentative and chemoautotrophic organisms must have made significant contributions to total sedimentary organic matter. For example, extremely depleted $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values as low as -120 ‰ of specific biomarkers indicate that ^{13}C -depleted methane must be the carbon source for the respective archaea rather than the metabolic product. In another example Schoell et al. (1994) demonstrated that steranes and hopanes can be used as a monitor of water depth. These authors showed that $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values of C_{35} hopanes and the Δ -difference between steranes and hopanes follow the climatic evolution of the Miocene in the Pacific Ocean.

Table 3.3 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values of separated individual hydrocarbons from the Messel shale (Freeman et al.1990)

Peak	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	Compound
1	-22.7	Norpristane
2	-30.2	C19 acyclic isoprenoid
3	-25.4	Pristane
4	-31.8	Phytane
5	-29.1	C23 acyclic isoprenoid
8	-73.4	C32 acyclic isoprenoid
9	-24.2	Isoprenoid alkane
10	-49.9	22,29,30-trisnorhopane
11	-60.4	Isoprenoid alkane
15	-65.3	30-norhopane
19	-20.9	Lycophane

3.9.1.2 Position Specific Isotope Composition of Organic Constituents

Generally the isotopic composition of the bulk organic matter is measured. However, each distinctive site in an organic compound has not necessarily the same isotopic composition (Galimov 2006; Eiler 2013, Eiler et al. 2014). For example, as is known for some time (Blair et al. 1985), acetate has two different carbon groups, the methyl (CH_3 group) and the carboxyl group (COO) that differ in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values by up to 20 ‰. In recent years it has become possible to measure the C and H isotope composition at the site specific level (Eiler 2013; Eiler et al. 2014) that undoubtedly will provide new insights in the formation and transformation of organic molecules.

3.9.1.3 Hydrogen

During photosynthesis plants remove hydrogen from water and transfer it to organic compounds. Because plants utilize environmental water during photosynthesis, δD -values of plants are primarily determined by the δD -value of the water available for plant growth. Hydrogen enters the plant as water from roots in the case of terrestrial plants or via diffusion in the case of aquatic plants. In both cases, the water enters the organisms without any apparent fractionation. In higher terrestrial plants water transpires from the leaf due to evaporation, which is associated with a H-isotope fractionation of up to 40–50 ‰ (White 1989).

Large negative isotope fractionations occur in biochemical reactions during the synthesis of organic compounds (Schiegl and Vogel 1970). A generalized picture of the hydrogen isotope fractionations in the metabolic pathway of plants is shown in Fig. 3.36 (after Sachse et al. 2012).

There are systematic differences in the D/H ratios among classes of compounds in plants: lipids usually contain less deuterium than the protein and the carbohydrate fractions (Hoering 1975; Estep and Hoering 1980). Lipids can be divided into two

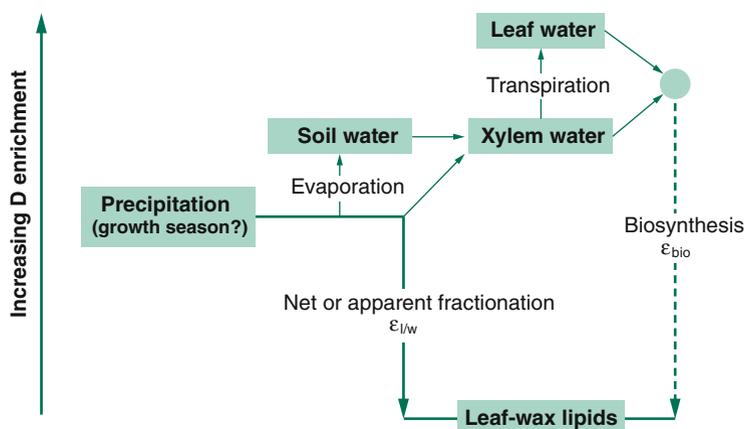


Fig. 3.36 Generalized scheme of hydrogen isotope changes in plants (Sachse et al. 2012)

groups: straight-chain lipids are depleted in D by 150–200 ‰ relative to water whereas isoprenoid lipids are depleted by about 200–300 ‰.

The component typically analyzed in plants is cellulose, which is the major structural carbohydrate in plants (Epstein et al. 1976, 1977). Cellulose contains 70 % carbon-bound hydrogen, which is isotopically non-exchangeable and 30 % of exchangeable hydrogen in the form of hydroxyl groups (Epstein et al. 1976; Yapp and Epstein 1982). The hydroxyl-hydrogen readily exchanges with the environmental water and its D/H ratio is not a useful indicator of the D/H ratio of the water used by the plants.

Compound-specific analysis of individual lipids have revealed a large range of δD -values from about -400 to $+200$ ‰ (Sachse et al. 2012 besides others) that can be related to isotope fractionations associated with different biosynthetic pathways and secondary hydrogenation and dehydrogenation exchange reactions. These effects have to be known when interpreting δD -values of lipid biomarkers as paleoclimate indicators.

Hydrogen and carbon in organic matter, although both of biological origin, undergo very different changes during diagenesis and maturation. Whereas carbon tends to be preserved, hydrogen is exchanged during various diagenetic reactions with environmental water. The timescale for H-isotope exchange depends on the structure of the organic molecule and can reach millions of years. Schimmelmann et al. (2006) demonstrated as thermal maturation increases δD -values of individual hydrocarbons steadily increase while the 100 ‰ biosynthetic difference between linear and isoprenoid structures disappear, which, as shown by Wang et al. (2009b), can be attributed to hydrogen isotope exchange towards an equilibrium state. The endpoint of isotope exchange results in fractionations between hydrocarbons and pore water to be in the range of -80 to -110 ‰.

3.9.1.4 Oxygen

The experimental difficulties in determining the oxygen isotope composition of biological materials is due to the rapid exchange between organically bound oxygen, in particular the oxygen of carbonyl and carboxyl functional groups, with water. This explains why studies on the oxygen isotope fractionation within living systems have concentrated on cellulose, the oxygen of which is only very slowly exchangeable (Epstein et al. 1977; DeNiro and Epstein 1979, 1981).

Oxygen potentially may enter organic matter from three different sources: CO_2 , H_2O and O_2 . DeNiro and Epstein (1979) have shown that ^{18}O -contents of cellulose for two sets of plants grown with water having similar oxygen isotope ratios, but with CO_2 initially having different oxygen isotope ratios, did not differ significantly. This means that CO_2 is in oxygen isotope equilibrium with the water. Therefore, the isotopic composition of water determines the oxygen isotope composition of organically bound oxygen. Similar to hydrogen, oxygen isotope fractionation does not occur during uptake of soil water through the root, but rather in the leaf because of evapotranspiration causing isotope enrichment, the extent depends on the ratio of external to internal water vapor pressures. A high $\delta^{18}O$ -value in cellulose can thus

reflect an increase in temperature or a decrease in relative humidity, making the interpretation of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values ambiguous (Sternberg et al. 2002).

Current methods of ^{18}O analysis give a mean value of the individual positions in the cellulose molecule. Waterhouse et al. (2013) describe a method for the measurement of different oxygen positions in cellulose by demonstrating that different oxygen positions undergo variable degrees of O-isotope exchange. The method potentially enables a separate determination of temperatures and humidities of the past.

3.9.1.5 Nitrogen

There are various pathways by which inorganic nitrogen can be fixed into organic matter during photosynthesis. N-autotrophs can utilize a variety of materials and thus can have a wide range of $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values depending on environmental conditions. However, most plants have $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values between -5 and $+2$ ‰. Plants fixing atmospheric nitrogen have δ -values between 0 and $+2$ ‰. Isotope fractionation will occur when the inorganic nitrogen source is in excess (Fogel and Cifuentes 1993). Isotope fractionations during assimilation of NH_4 by algae varied extensively from -27 to 0 ‰ (Fogel and Cifuentes 1993). A similar range of fractionations has been observed with algae grown on nitrate as the source of nitrogen.

A large fraction of organic nitrogen is comprised by amino acids. As shown by McClelland and Montoya (2002) and others internal differences in ^{15}N contents among different amino acids are due to differences in metabolic pathways. McClelland and Montoya (2002) distinguished two groups of amino acids: a “source” group reflecting the ^{15}N composition of the system and a “trophic level” group showing ^{15}N enrichments relative to the source.

3.9.1.6 Sulfur

The processes responsible for the direct primary production of organically bound sulfur are the direct assimilation of sulfate by living plants and microbiological assimilatory processes in which organic sulfur compounds are synthesized. Generally inorganic sulfate and atmospheric SO_2 serve as the major sulfur sources in plants. Typically plants have $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values that are about 1 ‰ depleted relative to environmental sulfate (Trust and Fry 1992).

Since biosynthetic organic sulphur occurs in chemically labile forms, such as amino acids, sulphur contents in organic matter should decrease during diagenesis. However, this is not the case, generally S-contents increase. Most organic sulfur contained in humic and fulvic acids results from secondary sulfurization during early diagenesis being generally considerably depleted in ^{34}S relative to the original plant material. This indicates the addition of isotopically depleted sulfides from bacterially reduced sulfate.

3.9.1.7 Metal Isotopes

Metals play an essential role in plant nutrition. For example, Fe plays a vital role in various redox reactions and the biosynthesis of chlorophyll. Zn is important for

carbohydrate and protein metabolism. Mo and Cu are important micronutrient, excesses of these elements can lead to toxic effects.

Bioessential metals are extracted from soils and cycled through living organic matter. During these cycling processes various fractionation processes do occur and metal isotopes, thus, can be used to study the transfer processes from soils to plants and within plants.

The range of isotope variations of metal isotopes in plants and animals is of similar magnitude as those reported for geological materials (Jaouen et al. 2013). In plants, the metal isotope compositions vary between seeds, stem and leaves, all being isotopically different from the growth media. In animals metal isotope compositions vary among organs. Thus metal isotopes are potential tracers to reconstruct paleodiet.

Metal isotope fractionation in plants has been investigated for Fe (Guelke and von Blanckenburg 2007; Kiczka et al. 2010). These studies demonstrated that the uptake of Fe by plants at the plasma membrane creates an Fe pool that is depleted in heavy isotopes. Studies on Zn and Mg isotopes (Moynier et al. 2008; Viers et al. 2007; Black et al. 2008) have demonstrated the complex chemistry in plants. For Ca, Page et al. (2008) and Cobert et al. (2011) identified 3 isotope fractionation steps in higher plants that may allow the study of Ca transfer mechanisms within plants.

In summary, the extent and direction of isotope fractionations are metal dependent and in many cases unknown till today. Potentially like the light elements, metals may create isotope signatures characteristic for life.

3.9.2 Indicators of Diet and Metabolism

A similarity in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values between animals and plants from the same environment was already noted by Harmon Craig in 1953. Later, many field and laboratory studies have documented small shifts of 1–2 ‰ in ^{13}C and even smaller shifts in ^{34}S between an organism and its food source (DeNiro and Epstein 1978; Peterson and Fry 1987; Fry 1988).

This technique has been widely used in tracing the origin of carbon, sulfur and nitrogen in modern and prehistoric food webs (e.g. DeNiro and Epstein 1978) and culminates in the classic statement “You are what you eat plus/minus a few permil”. The precise magnitude of the isotopic difference between diet and a particular tissue depends on the extent to which the heavy isotope is incorporated or lost during synthesis. In contrast to carbon and sulfur, nitrogen shows a 3 to 4 ‰ enrichment in ^{15}N in the muscle tissue, bone collagen or whole organism relative to the food source (Minigawa and Wada 1984; Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984). When this fractionation is taken into account, nitrogen isotopes are also a good indicator of dietary source. Due to the preferential excretion of ^{14}N , the 3 to 4 ‰ shift in $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ values occurs with each trophic level along the food chain and thus provides a basis for establishing trophic structure.

Multi-element isotope analysis on the origin of organic compounds has led to new applications of stable isotope investigations termed stable isotope forensics (e.g. Meier-Augustein 2010). In this fast growing branch of research not only the origin of food such as honey or whisky are traced, but also successful attempts have been carried out distinguishing sources for drugs and elucidating explosives.

Archaeological studies have used the stable isotope analysis of collagen extracted from fossil bones to reconstruct the diet of prehistoric human populations (e.g. Schwarcz et al. 1985).

Carbon isotopes have been used successfully to explore changes in the vegetation on Earth. Ecosystems with abundant C₄ biomass have been documented only from the late Neogene to the present (Cerling et al. 1993, 1997). In South Asia, isotopic records from soil carbonates and tooth enamel reveal a dramatic increase in the abundance of C₄ plants at 7 ± 1 million years ago (Quade et al. 1992; Quade and Cerling 1995 and others).

3.9.3 Tracing Anthropogenic Organic Contaminant Sources

The identification of organic compounds polluting the environment is a problem of worldwide concern. Compound-specific stable isotope analysis has become a powerful tool to study the sources of organic contaminants and their transformation reactions in the environment. The first studies on degradation of groundwater pollutants were published in the late 1990. Since then the field has rapidly grown resulting in many articles that monitor natural attenuation of contaminated sites (i.e. Schmidt et al. 2004; Philp 2007; Hofstetter et al. 2008 and others).

Types of contaminants in the environment are manifold and include natural seepage of crude oils, leaking tanks and pipelines, polychlorinated biphenyls, and other types of chemicals. The ultimate goal of many of these studies is the question who was responsible for the contamination and will have to pay for the cleanup.

Temporal and spatial isotope variations of individual organic contaminants may reveal by which pathway contaminants may degrade or even in some cases to which degree a reaction has progressed. When a biotic or abiotic transfer reaction process takes place, a kinetic isotope effect usually occurs making the reaction products initially lighter than their parent products.

Natural attenuation processes may preclude easy application of the isotope ratios as a tracer of pollution. Besides bacterial degradation, isotope fractionations during evaporation and migration of chlorinated hydrocarbons may also affect the isotope composition.

Of special concern for the environment are chlorinated hydrocarbons which are extensively used in many industries and which are, therefore, a potential source of environmental pollution. Coupling the study of C- with Cl-isotopes represents a powerful tool to trace sources, pathways and degradation of chlorinated hydrocarbons (Heraty et al. 1999; Huang et al. 1999; Jendrzewski et al. 2001). The use of C- and Cl-isotopes as tracers of pollution requires the isotope ratios of the

polluting product to be significantly different from the natural abundance. Jendrzejewski et al. (2001) demonstrated on a set of chlorinated hydrocarbons from various manufacturers that both carbon ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$ from -24 to -51 ‰) and chlorine ($\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ from -2.7 to $+3.4$ ‰) had a large compositional range. The range for chlorine is especially significant, because it is much larger than that of inorganic chlorine.

3.9.4 Marine Versus Terrestrial Organic Matter

The commonly observed difference in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of about 7 ‰ between organic matter of marine primary producers and land plants has been successfully used to trace the origin of recent organic matter in coastal oceanic sediments (e.g. Westerhausen et al. 1993). Samples collected along riverine-offshore transects reveal very consistent and similar patterns of isotopic change from terrestrial to marine values (for instance Sackett and Thompson 1963; Kennicutt et al. 1987 and others). It is evident that the decreasing contribution of terrestrial organic matter to distal marine sediments is reflected in the C-isotope composition of the marine sedimentary organic matter. But even deep-sea sediments deposited in areas remote from continents may contain a mixture of marine and continental organic matter.

The C-isotope difference between terrestrial and marine organic matter cannot, however, be used as a facies indicator as originally thought. Carbon isotope fractionation associated with the production of marine organic matter has changed with geologic time, while that associated with the production of terrestrial organic matter has been nearly constant (Arthur et al. 1985; Hayes et al. 1989; Popp et al. 1989; Whittacker and Kyser 1990). Particularly intriguing has been the unusually ^{13}C -depleted organic matter in Cretaceous marine sediments, which has been interpreted as resulting from elevated aqueous CO_2 concentrations allowing for greater discrimination during algal photosynthesis.

Hayes et al. (1999) systematically evaluated the carbon isotope fractionation between carbonates and coeval organic matter for the past 800 Ma. They concluded that earlier assumptions of a constant fractionation between carbonate and organic matter is untenable and that fractionations may vary by about 10 ‰ depending on the dominant biogeochemical pathway as well on environmental conditions.

Not only carbon, but the nitrogen isotope composition of sediments also is primarily determined by the source organic matter. Source studies have been undertaken to trace the contribution of terrestrial organic matter to ocean water and to sediments (i.e. Sweeney et al. 1978; Sweeney and Kaplan 1980). Such studies are based, however, on the assumption that the ^{15}N content remains unchanged in the water column. Investigations by Cifuentes et al. (1989), Altabet et al. (1991), and Montoya et al. (1991) have demonstrated that there may be rapid temporal (even on a time scale of days) and spatial changes in the nitrogen isotope composition of the water column due to biogeochemical processes. This complicates a clear distinction

between terrestrial and marine organic matter, although marine organic matter generally has a higher 15 N/14 N ratio than terrestrial organic matter.

3.9.5 Fossil Organic Matter

Similar to living organisms, organic matter in the geosphere is a complex mixture of particulate organic remains and living bacterial organisms. This complexity results from the multitude of source organisms, variable biosynthetic pathways, and transformations that occur during diagenesis and catagenesis. Of special importance are different stabilities of organic compounds in biological and inorganic degradation processes during diagenesis and subsequent metamorphism.

Immediately after burial of the biological organic material into sediments, complex diagenetic changes occur. Two processes have been proposed to explain the observed changes in carbon isotope composition: (i) preferential degradation of organic compounds which have different isotope composition compared to the preserved organic compounds. Since easily degradable organic compounds like amino acids are enriched in ^{13}C compared to the more resistant compounds like lipids, this causes a shift to slightly more negative δ -values. (ii) Isotope fractionations due to metabolism of microorganisms. Early diagenesis does not only encompass degradation of organic matter, but also production of new compounds that potentially have different isotopic compositions than the original source material. A classic example has been presented by Freeman et al. (1990) analyzing hydrocarbons from the Messel shale in Germany (see Table 3.3). Considered as a whole, recent marine sediments show a mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value of -25‰ (Deines 1980). Some ^{13}C loss occurs with transformation to kerogen, leading to an average $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value of -27.5‰ (Hayes et al. 1983). This ^{13}C depletion might be best explained by the large losses of CO_2 that occur during the transformation to kerogen and which are especially pronounced during the decarboxylation of some ^{13}C -rich carboxyl groups. With further thermal maturation the opposite effect (a ^{13}C enrichment) is observed. Experimental studies of Peters et al. (1981) and Lewan (1983) indicate that thermal alteration produces a maximum ^{13}C change of about $+2\text{‰}$ in kerogens. Changes of more than 2‰ are most probably not due to isotope fractionation during thermal degradation of kerogen, but rather to isotope exchange reactions between kerogen and carbonates.

Whereas carbon tends to be preserved during diagenesis and maturation, hydrogen is exchanged during various diagenetic reactions with environmental water. δD -values of organic compounds, therefore, can be regarded as a continuously evolving system that can provide information about processes during burial of sedimentary rocks (Sessions et al. 2004). Radke et al. (2005) examined how maturation processes alter the δD -value of individual compounds. They demonstrated that aliphatic hydrocarbons are most favourable to record the primary composition because they resist hydrogen exchange. Pedentschouk et al. (2006) argued that n-alkanes and isoprenoids have the potential to preserve the original biological signal till the onset of oil generation.

The isotopic compositions of the end products of organic matter diagenesis - carbon dioxide, methane and insoluble complex kerogen- may record the primary depositional environment. Boehme et al. (1996) determined the C-isotope budget in a well defined coastal site. These authors demonstrated that the degradation of biogenic carbon proceeds via sulfate reduction and methanogenesis. The dominant carbon isotope effect during diagenesis is associated with methanogenesis, which shifts the carbon isotope value of the carbon being buried towards higher ^{13}C -contents.

3.9.6 Oil

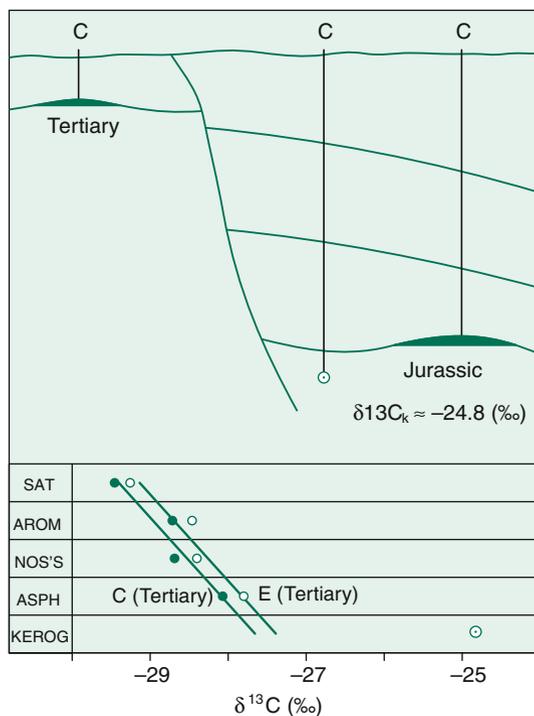
Questions concerning the origins of coal and petroleum center on three topics: the nature and composition of the parent organisms, the mode of accumulation of the organic material, and the reactions whereby this material was transformed into the end products.

Petroleum or crude oil is a naturally occurring complex mixture, composed mainly of hydrocarbons. Although there are, without any doubt, numerous compounds that have been formed directly from biologically produced molecules, the majority of petroleum components are of secondary origin, either decomposition products or products of condensation and polymerization reactions.

Combined stable isotope analysis (^{13}C , D, ^{15}N , ^{34}S) has been used successfully in petroleum exploration (Stahl 1977; Schoell 1984; Sofer 1984). The isotopic composition of crude oil is mainly determined by the isotopic composition of its source material, more specifically, the type of kerogen and the sedimentary environment in which it has been formed and by its degree of thermal alteration (Tang et al. 2005). Other secondary effects like biodegradation, water washing, and migration distances appear to have only minor effects on its isotopic composition.

Variations in ^{13}C have been the most widely used parameter. Generally, oils are depleted by 1–3 ‰ compared to the carbon in their source rocks. The various chemical compounds within crude oils show small, but characteristic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -differences. With increasing polarity the ^{13}C -content increases from the saturated to aromatic hydrocarbons to the heterocomponents (N, S, O compounds) and to the asphaltene fraction. These characteristic differences in ^{13}C have been used for correlation purposes. Sofer (1984) plotted the ^{13}C -contents of the saturated and aromatic fractions against each other. Oils and suspected source rock extracts that are derived from similar types of source materials will plot together in such a graph whereas those derived from different types of source material will plot in other regions of the graph. The approach of Stahl (1977) and Schoell (1984) is somewhat different: the ^{13}C -contents of the different fractions are plotted as shown in Fig. 3.37. In this situation, oils derived from the same source rock will define a near linear relationship in the plot. Figure 3.37 illustrates a positive oil-oil correlation and a negative oil-source rock correlation.

Fig. 3.37 Petroleum-type curves of different oil components from the North Sea showing a positive oil-oil correlation and a negative source rock—oil correlation (SAT saturated hydrocarbons, AROM aromatic hydrocarbons, NOS'S heterocompounds, ASPH asphaltenes (Stahl 1977) (Fig. 3.37, 6th edition, p. 186)



Combined compound specific ^{13}C and D-analyses have been applied in a number of areas of petroleum geochemistry. Tang et al. 2005 demonstrated that variation in δD -values of long chain hydrocarbons provide a sensitive measure of the extent of thermal maturation. Such studies have demonstrated that thermal maturation processes tend to alter the shape of the curves, particularly the curves for the saturate fraction, making correlations more difficult. Furthermore oil migration might affect the isotope composition. Generally a slight ^{13}C depletion is observed with migration distance, which is caused by a relative increase in the saturate fraction and a loss in the more ^{13}C -enriched aromatic and asphaltene fraction.

Compound-specific analyses also indicate that ^{13}C differences between the isoprenoid-hydrocarbons, pristane, and phytane, for which a common origin from chlorophyll is generally assumed, point to different origins of these two components (Freeman et al. 1990). Other classes of biomarkers, such as the hopanes, are also not always derived from a common precursor. Schoell et al. (1992) have demonstrated that hopanes from an immature oil can be divided into two groups: one that is ^{13}C depleted by 2–4 ‰ relative to the whole oil, whereas the other is depleted by 9 ‰, which suggests that the latter group is derived from chemoautotrophic bacteria which utilize a ^{13}C -depleted source. These results indicate that the origin and fate of organic compounds are far more complicated than was previously assumed.

Individual organosulfur compounds may reveal ^{34}S -variations of up to 50 ‰ in oils from the same source rock (Amrani et al. 2012; Amrani 2014). ^{34}S -variations between individual sulphur compounds reflect different stages of thermal sulphate reductions and thus can be used as an indicator of different stages of thermal sulphate alteration.

3.9.7 Coal

Carbon and hydrogen isotope compositions of coals are rather variable (Schiegl and Vogel 1970; Redding et al. 1980; Smith et al. 1982; Schimmelmann et al. 1999; Mastalerz and Schimmelmann 2002). Different plant communities and climates may account for these variations. Due to the fact that during coalification, the amount of methane and other higher hydrocarbons liberated is small compared to the total carbon reservoir, very little change in the carbon isotope composition seems to occur with increasing grade of coalification.

The D/H ratio in coals is usually measured on total hydrogen, although it consists of two portions: exchangeable and non-exchangeable hydrogen. In lignite up to 20 % of hydrogen consists of isotopically labile hydrogen that exchanges fast and reversibly with ambient water. With increasing temperature (maturity) the exchangeable portion decreases to about 2 % (Schimmelmann et al. 1999; Mastalerz and Schimmelmann 2002). Non-exchangeable organic hydrogen may have preserved original biochemical D/H ratios. δD -values in coals typically become isotopically heavier with increasing maturity, which suggests that exchange between organic hydrogen and formation water occurs during thermal maturation.

The origin and distribution of sulfur in coals is of special significance, because of the problems associated with the combustion of coals. Sulfur in coals usually occurs in different forms, as pyrite, organic sulfur, sulfates, and elemental sulfur. Pyrite and organic sulfur are the most abundant forms. Organic sulfur is primarily derived from two sources: the originally assimilated organically-bound plant sulfur preserved during the coalification process, and biogenic sulfides which reacted with organic compounds during the biochemical alteration of plant debris.

Studies by Smith and Batts (1974), Smith et al. (1982), Price and Shieh (1979) and Hackley and Anderson (1986) have shown that organic sulfur exhibits rather characteristic S-isotope variations, which correlate with sulfur contents. In low-sulfur coals $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of organic sulfur are rather homogeneous and reflect the primary plant sulfur. By contrast, high-sulfur coals are isotopically more variable and typically have more negative $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values, suggesting a significant contribution of sulfur formed during bacterial processes.

3.9.7.1 Black Carbon

The combustion of organic material under restricted oxygen concentration produces carbon-rich materials such as charcoal and soot. This black carbon is a common minor component in many recent and palaeoenvironments, because it is resistant to

decay and thus the carbon isotope composition may allow deductions about its origin (Bird and Ascough 2012 and others). However, what has to be taken into account is the fact, that charcoal and other forms of black carbon may change its isotope composition during pyrolysis by up to 2 ‰ with pyrolysis temperature and conditions (vacuum or open fire conditions).

3.9.8 Natural Gas

Natural gases are dominated by a few simple hydrocarbons, which may form in a wide variety of environments. While methane is always a major constituent of the gas, other components may be higher hydrocarbons (ethane, propane, butane), CO₂, H₂S, N₂ and rare gases. Two different types of gas occurrences can be distinguished—biogenic and thermogenic gas—the most useful parameters in distinguishing both types are their ¹³C/¹²C and D/H ratios. Complications in assessing sources of natural gases are introduced by mixing, migration and oxidative alteration processes. For practical application an accurate assessment of the origin of a gas, the maturity of the source rock and the timing of gas formation would be desirable. A variety of models has been published that describes the carbon and hydrogen isotope variations of natural gases (Berner et al. 1995; Galimov 1988; James 1983, 1990; Rooney et al. 1995; Schoell 1983, 1988).

Rather than using the isotopic composition of methane alone James (1983, 1990) and others have demonstrated that carbon isotope fractionations between the hydrocarbon components (particularly propane, iso-butane and normal butane) within a natural gas can be used with distinct advantages to determine maturity, gas-source rock and gas-gas correlations. With increasing molecular weight, from C₁ to C₄, a ¹³C enrichment is observed which approaches the carbon isotope composition of the source.

Genetic models for natural gases were based in the past primarily on field data and on empirical models. More recently, mathematical modeling based on Rayleigh distillation theory and kinetic isotopic theory (Rooney et al. 1995; Tang et al. 2000) may explain why, in a single gas δ¹³C values increase from C₁ to C₄ and why in different gases δ¹³C values of a given hydrocarbon increase with increasing thermal maturity. Such models may provide information on the isotope composition of each gas at any stage of generation.

Although most natural gas occurrences yield the sequence δ¹³C₁ (methane) ≤ δ¹³C₂(ethane) ≤ δ¹³C₃(propane), an increasing number of studies (Jenden et al. 1993; Burruss and Laughrey 2010; Tilley and Muehlenbachs 2013; Xia et al. 2013 and others) have described reversed isotope trends with δ¹³C₁ ≥ δ¹³C₂ ≥ δ¹³C₃. Gases with reversed trends can be explained by mixing of primary gas (methane from kerogen cracking) and secondary gas (“wetter” gas from intermediate products of kerogen with a higher proportion of higher alkanes).

Apart from gas sources and formation mechanisms, isotope effects during migration might affect the isotope composition of natural gas. Early experimental

work has indicated that migrating methane could be enriched in ^{12}C or ^{13}C depending on the mechanism of migration and on the properties of the medium through which the gas is moving. Experiments by Zhang and Kroos (2001) on natural shales with different organic matter contents demonstrate variable ^{13}C depletions (1–3 ‰) during migration, which depend on the amount of organic matter in shales.

Of special interest in recent years has been the analysis of natural gas hydrates that form in marine sediments and polar rocks when saline pore waters are saturated with gas at high pressure and low temperature. Large $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and δD -variations of hydrate bound methane, summarized by Kvenvolden (1995) and Milkov (2005), suggest that gas hydrates represent complex mixtures of gases of both microbial and thermogenic origin. The proportions of both gas types can vary significantly even between proximal sites.

As has been proposed by numerous studies (e.g. Röhl et al. 2000; Dickens 2003) the massive release of gas hydrates could modify climate. The best example for this hypothesis are sedimentary rocks deposited at around 55 Ma during the Paleocene-Eocene thermal maximum, where a $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ decrease of 2–3 ‰ in carbonate-carbon is interpreted as a consequence of an abrupt thermal release of gas-hydrate methane and its subsequent incorporation into the carbonate pool.

3.9.8.1 Biogenic Gas

According to Rice and Claypool (1981), over 20 % of the world's natural gas accumulations are of biogenic origin. Biogenic methane commonly occurs in recent anoxic sediments and is well documented in both freshwater environments, such as lakes and swamps, and in marine environments, such as estuaries and shelf regions. Two primary metabolic pathways are generally recognized for methanogenesis: fermentation of acetate and reduction of CO_2 . Although both pathways may occur in marine and freshwater environments, CO_2 -reduction is dominant in the sulfate-free zone of marine sediments, while acetate fermentation is dominant in freshwater sediments.

During microbial action, kinetic isotope fractionations on the organic material by methanogenic bacteria result in methane that is highly depleted in ^{13}C , typically with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values between –110 to –50 ‰ (Schoell 1984, 1988; Rice and Claypool 1981; Whiticar et al. 1986). In marine sediments, methane formed by CO_2 reduction is often more depleted in ^{13}C than methane formed by acetate fermentation in freshwater sediments. Thus, typical $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ranges for marine sediments are between –110 and –60 ‰, while those for methane from freshwater sediments are from –65 to –50 ‰ (Whiticar et al. 1986; Whiticar 1999).

The difference in composition between methane of freshwater and of marine origin is even more pronounced on the basis of hydrogen isotopes. Marine bacterial methane has δD -values between –250 to –170 ‰ while biogenic methane in freshwater sediments is strongly depleted in D with δD -values between –400 to –250 ‰ (Whiticar et al. 1986; Whiticar 1999). Different hydrogen sources may

account for these large differences: formation waters supply the hydrogen during CO_2 reduction, whereas during fermentation up to three quarters of the hydrogen come directly from the methyl group, which is extremely depleted in D.

3.9.8.2 Thermogenic Gas

Thermogenic gas is produced when organic matter is deeply buried and—as a consequence—temperature rises. Thereby, increasing temperatures modify the organic matter due to various chemical reactions, such as cracking and hydrogen diproportionation in the kerogen. ^{12}C – ^{12}C bonds are preferentially broken during the first stages of organic matter maturation. As this results in a ^{13}C -enrichment of the residue, more ^{13}C – ^{12}C bonds are broken with increasing temperatures which produces higher $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values. Thermal cracking experiments carried out by Sackett (1988) have confirmed this process and demonstrated that the resulting methane is depleted in ^{13}C by some 4–25 ‰ relative to the parent material. Thus, thermogenic gas typically has $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values between –50 and –20 ‰ (Schoell 1980, 1988). Gases generated from non-marine (humic) source rocks are isotopically enriched relative to those generated from marine (sapropelic) source rocks at equivalent levels of maturity. In contrast to $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values, δD -values are independent of the composition of the precursor material, but solely depend on the maturity of kerogen.

In conclusion, the combination of carbon and hydrogen isotope analysis of natural gases is a powerful tool to discriminate different origins of gases. In a plot of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ versus δD (see Fig. 3.38) not only is a distinction of biogenic and thermogenic gases from different environments clear, but it is also possible to delineate mixtures between the different types.

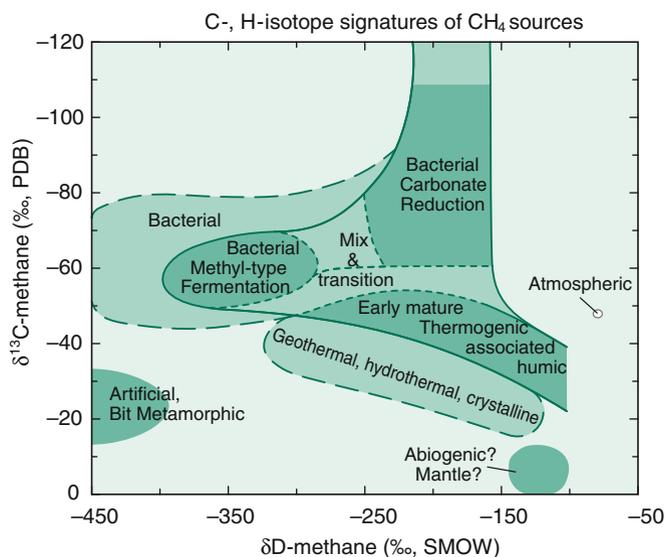


Fig. 3.38 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and δD variations of natural gases of different origins (after Whiticar 1999) Fig. 3.38, 6th edition, p. 190)

3.9.8.3 Isotope Clumping in Methane

Ten isotopologues of methane contribute to the generally given $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and δD -values. If methane forms in internal equilibrium, excesses of clumped isotopologues yield information about temperatures of methane formation (Eiler et al. 2014). With conventional mass spectrometers, the relative contribution of each isotopologue cannot be measured. Using a high resolution multi-collector mass spectrometer, Stolper et al. (2014) were able to measure clumped isotope distributions of methane. They demonstrated that precise measurements of the abundance of $^{13}\text{CH}_3\text{D}$ and $^{12}\text{CH}_2\text{D}_2$ can be used as a geothermometer allowing the distinction of biogenic from thermogenic methane.

3.9.8.4 Abiogenic Methane

Abiogenic methane is defined as methane that does not involve biogenic organic precursors (Welhan 1988). Methane emanating in mid-ocean ridge hydrothermal systems is one of the occurrences for which an abiogenic formation can be postulated with confidence. Considerably higher $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values than biogenic methanes (up to -7‰ ; Abrajano et al. 1988) were thought to be the characteristic feature of abiogenic methane. Horita and Berndt (1999) demonstrated that abiogenic methane can be formed under hydrothermal conditions in the presence of a nickel-iron catalyst. Isotope fractionations induced by the catalyst, however, result in very low $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values. In serpentinites, the circulation of water induces mineral reactions, which may release hydrogen (H_2) that under Fischer-Tropsch type reactions form methane. Another important source of abiogenic methanogenesis has been found in crystalline rocks from the Canadian and Ferrocandian shield areas (Sherwood Lollar et al. 1993; Sherwood Lollar et al. 2002).

Etiopé and Sherwood-Lollar (2013) and Etiopé and Schoell (2014) demonstrated that abiotic methane is more common than previously thought. These authors listed nine specific mechanisms of CH_4 production in two main environments: (i) high-temperature magmatic processes and (ii) low-temperature (below 150 °C) serpentinization processes of ultramafic rocks. The isotopic composition may be divided into two groups: ^{13}C and D enriched ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values ≥ -20 and $\delta\text{D} \geq -200$) and ^{13}C and D depleted ($\delta^{13}\text{C} \leq -30$ and $\delta\text{D} \leq -200$). Clumped isotope data of abiogenic methane yields a large range of high temperatures of formation (Stolper et al. 2014).

The two groups may reflect variable mantle or crustal sources and/or variable degrees of CO_2 and CH_4 isotope exchange. Nevertheless, it remains problematic to distinguish abiogenic from biogenic organic compounds on the basis of their $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and δD signatures (Taran et al. 2007; Bradley and Summons 2010; Etiopé and Sherwood-Lollar 2013).

3.9.8.5 Nitrogen in Natural Gas

Nitrogen is sometimes a major constituent of natural gases, but the origin of this nitrogen is still enigmatic. While a certain fraction is released from degrading sedimentary organic matter during burial, several non-sedimentary sources of

nitrogen may also contribute to the natural gas. By analyzing nitrogen-rich natural gases from California's Great Valley, Jenden et al. (1988) demonstrated, however, that these gases had a complex origin involving mixing of multiple sources. These authors interpreted relatively constant $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ -values between 0.9 and 3.5 ‰ as indicating a deep-crustal metasedimentary origin. Hydrocarbon-rich and nitrogen-rich gases can thus be genetically unrelated.

3.10 Sedimentary Rocks

Sediments are the weathering products and residues of magmatic, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks and reflect weathering, erosion, transport and accumulation in water and air. As a result, sediments may be complex mixtures of material that has been derived from multiple sources. It is convenient to consider sedimentary rocks, and the components of sedimentary rocks, in two categories: clastic and chemical. Transported fragmental debris of all kinds makes up the clastic component of the rock. Inorganic and organic precipitates from water belong to the chemical constituents. According to their very different constituents and low temperatures of formation, sedimentary rocks may be extremely variable in isotopic composition. For example, the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of sedimentary rocks span a large range from about +10 (certain sandstones) to about +44 ‰ (certain cherts).

3.10.1 Clay Minerals

Savin and Epstein (1970a and b) and Lawrence and Taylor (1971) established the general isotope systematics of clay minerals from continental and oceanic environments. Subsequent reviews by Savin and Lee (1988) and Sheppard and Gilg (1996) have summarized the isotope studies of clay minerals applied to a wide range of geological problems. All applications depend on the knowledge of isotope fractionation factors between clay minerals and water, the temperature, and the time when isotopic exchange with the clay ceased. Because clay minerals may be composed of a mixture of detrital and authigenic components, and because particles of different ages may have exchanged to varying degrees, the interpretation of isotopic variations of clay minerals requires a firm understanding of the clay mineralogy of a given sediment.

By comparison with many other silicate minerals, isotope studies of natural clays are complicated by a number of special problems related to their small particle size and, hence, much larger specific surface area and the presence of interlayer water in certain clays. Surfaces of clays are characterized by 1 or 2 layers of adsorbed water. Savin and Epstein (1970a) demonstrated that adsorbed and interlayer water can exchange its isotopes with atmospheric water vapour in hours. Complete removal of interlayer water for analysis with the total absence of isotopic exchange between it and the hydroxyl group, may not be possible in all instances (Lawrence and Taylor 1971).

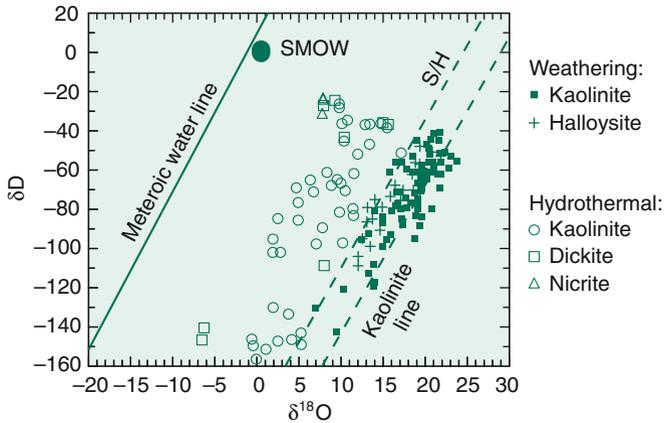


Fig. 3.39 δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of kaolinites and related minerals from weathering and hydrothermal environments. The Meteoric Water Line, kaolinite weathering and supergene/hypogene (S/H) lines are given for reference (after Sheppard and Gilg 1996) (Fig. 3.39, 6th edition, p. 192)

One portion of the oxygen in clay minerals occurs as the hydroxyl ion. Hamza and Epstein (1980), Bechtel and Hoernes (1990) and Girard and Savin (1996) have attempted to separate the hydroxyl and non-hydroxyl bonded oxygen for separate isotope analysis. Techniques include thermal dehydroxylation and incomplete fluorination, both of which indicate that hydroxyl oxygen is considerably depleted in ^{18}O relative to non-hydroxyl oxygen.

Do natural clay minerals retain their initial isotopic compositions? Evidence concerning the extent of isotopic exchange for natural systems is contradictory (Sheppard and Gilg 1996). Many clay minerals such as kaolinite, smectite and illite are often out of equilibrium with present-day local waters. This is not to imply that these clay minerals never underwent any post-formational or retrograde exchange. Sheppard and Gilg (1996) concluded that convincing evidence for complete O- and/or H-isotope exchange without recrystallization is usually lacking, unless the clay has been subjected to either higher temperatures or an unusual set of geological circumstances. Thus, isotopic compositions of clay minerals that formed in contact with meteoric waters should have isotopic compositions that plot on sub-parallel lines to the Meteoric Water Line, the offset being related to their respective fractionation factor (see Fig. 3.39). This implies that some information of past environments is usually recorded in clay minerals and in suitable cases can be used as a paleoclimate indicator (Stern et al. 1997; Chamberlain and Poage 2000; Gilg 2000). By analysing a large number of smectites from the Basin and Range Province and the Great Plains in North America, Mix and Chamberlain (2014) concluded that in some localities temperature change is the decisive factor in controlling the D and ^{18}O isotope composition, while in other localities the change in meteoric water composition is responsible for the variations in isotope composition.

3.10.2 Clastic Sedimentary Rocks

Clastic sedimentary rocks are composed of detrital grains that normally retain the oxygen isotope composition of their source and of authigenic minerals formed during weathering and diagenesis, whose isotopic composition is determined by the physicochemical environment in which they formed. This means authigenic minerals formed at low temperatures will be enriched in ^{18}O compared to detrital minerals of igneous origin (Savin and Epstein 1970b). Due to the difficulty of separating authigenic overgrowths from detrital cores, few studies of this kind have been reported in the literature. However, recent improvements in the precision of ion microprobe analysis with high spatial resolution (1–10 μm) both types of quartz can be clearly distinguished (see Fig. 3.40, Kelly et al. 2007). These authors suggested that the homogeneous $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of quartz overgrowth formed from meteoric waters at low temperatures (10–30 $^{\circ}\text{C}$).

^{18}O enrichments of authigenic minerals are controlled by fluid composition, temperature, and the effective mineral/water ratio. Is the fluid a low- ^{18}O meteoric water, the oxygen isotope composition of the precipitating mineral will have a low- ^{18}O signature, assuming no change in temperature (Longstaffe 1989). Thus, the changes that occur in sedimentary rocks during diagenesis are largely a function of fluid composition, fluid/rock ratio and temperature.

One way to estimate temperatures employs the oxygen isotope composition of diagenetic assemblages. For example, using quartz–illite pairs from the Precambrian Belt Supergroup, Eslinger and Savin (1973) calculated temperatures that range from 225 to 310 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, with increasing depth. In this case the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values were consistent with the observed mineralogy and fractionations between minerals are reasonable for the grade of burial metamorphism. This approach assumes that the diagenetic minerals used have equilibrated their O-isotopes with each other and that no retrograde re-equilibration occurred following maximum burial.

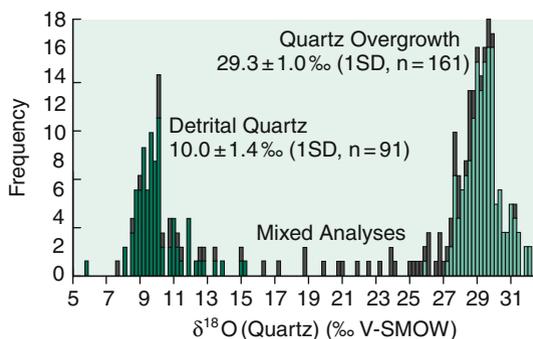


Fig. 3.40 Histogram of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of quartz in sandstone from 6–10 μm spots by ion microprobe. Mixed analyses are on the boundary of detrital quartz and quartz overgrowth (Kelly et al. 2007) (Fig. 3.40, 6th edition, p. 193)

Another application of stable isotopes in clastic rocks is the analysis of weathering profiles, which can potentially provide insight into the continental climate during their formation. Despite this potential, only few studies (Bird and Chivas 1989; Bird et al. 1992) have used this approach because of the (i) imprecise knowledge of mineral-water fractionations at surficial temperatures and (ii) the difficulty of obtaining pure phases from complex, very fine grained rocks. Bird et al. (1992) developed partial dissolution techniques and used this methodology to separate nine pure minerals from a lateritic soil in Haiti (see Fig. 3.41). The measured $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values for some minerals agree with $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratios predicted from available fractionation factors, whereas other do not. Discrepancies might be due to incorrect fractionation factors for the respective minerals or to processes that may have influenced the formation of particular minerals (e.g. evaporation) (Bird et al. 1992).

Lastly, detrital minerals in clastic sediments can be used for provenance studies. If not recrystallized, many common rock-forming minerals, such as quartz, muscovite, garnets etc. can retain their original source rock compositions up to medium-grade metamorphic conditions. Hence, they can potentially be used as tracers of provenance to the sediments. Applications of this type of approach are useful, particularly for siliciclastic sediments that may lack other indicator minerals of provenance. Examples of such applications have been given by Vennemann et al. (1992) and (1996) for the provenance of Archean Au- and U-bearing conglomerates of South Africa and Canada. $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of well dated zircons may be used to document changes with time in the composition of sediments (Valley et al. 2005) (see discussion on p. 219)

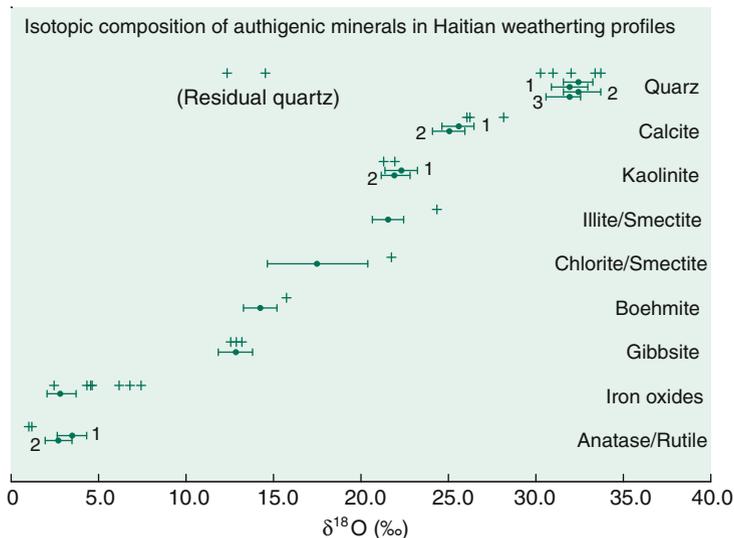


Fig. 3.41 Predicted (*bars*) and measured (*crosses*) oxygen isotope composition of separated minerals from Haitian weathering profiles. The range of predicted $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values are calculated assuming a temperature of 25 °C and a meteoric water $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of -3.1 ‰ (after Bird et al. 1992) (Fig. 3.41, 6th edition, p. 194)

3.10.3 Biogenic Silica and Cherts

3.10.3.1 Biogenic Silica

Due to the large oxygen isotope fractionation between SiO_2 and water at low temperatures, biogenic silica and cherts represent the “heaviest” oxygen isotope components in nature. Just as is the case for carbonates, the oxygen isotope composition of biogenic silica such as diatoms and radiolarians is potentially a paleoclimate indicator, which would enable the extension of climate records into oceanic regions depleted in CaCO_3 such as high latitude regions. Thus a variety of techniques have been developed for the extraction of biogenic silica oxygen. The presence of loosely bound water within cherts and biogenic silica precipitates complicates measurements of the O-isotope composition of biogenic silica. Biogenic silica has an amorphous structure containing not only Si–O–Si bonds, but Si–OH bonds and crystallization water which easily can exchange with environmental water and making it imperative to be removed before isotope analysis. At present 3 techniques exist (Chapligin et al. 2011):

(i) Controlled isotope exchange. Using controlled exchange with waters of different isotope composition, Labeyrie and Juillet (1982) and Leclerc and Labeyrie (1987) were able to estimate the isotope ratio of both exchanged and unexchanged silica-bound oxygen.

(ii) Stepwise fluorination

Haimson and Knauth (1983), Matheney and Knauth (1989) and Dodd and Sharp (2010) noted that the first fractions of oxygen were ^{18}O depleted compared with oxygen recovered in later fractions, suggesting that the water-rich components of hydrous silica react preferentially in the early steps of fluorination.

(iii) High temperature carbon reduction (Lücke et al. 2005).

The technique is based on inductive high temperature heating ($>1500\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) leading to carbon monoxide. It enables complete dehydration and decomposition in a single continuous process.

Silica-water oxygen isotope fractionation factors differ considerably: Diatoms from sediment cores (Matheney and Knauth 1989) are up to 8 ‰ higher than living fresh water diatoms (Brandriss et al. 1998; Dodd and Sharp 2010) or diatoms from sediment traps (Moschen et al. 2006; Schmidt et al. 2001).

Schmidt et al. (2001) demonstrated that the enrichment in sedimentary diatoms can be correlated with structural and compositional changes arising from the in situ condensation of Si–OH groups during silica maturation in surface sediments. Dodd et al. (2013) argued that the ^{18}O enrichment in sedimentary diatoms is due to post-mortem alteration. They demonstrated that diatoms can reach near equilibrium silica water compositions within half a year after diatom death.

3.10.3.2 Cherts

In sediments, opaline skeletons are dissolved and transform to different forms of silica. Microquartz (crystal size between 2–20 μm) and chalcedonic quartz represent the first forms of silica precipitated during chert formation. As was shown from

the early studies of Degens and Epstein (1962), cherts exhibit temporal isotopic variations like carbonates: the older cherts having lower ^{18}O contents. Thus, cherts of different geological ages may contain a record of temperature, isotopic composition of ocean water, and diagenetic history. However, because cherts may have formed by sedimentary, hydrothermal and volcanic silification and may have been altered by metamorphic fluids, the reconstruction of ocean water temperatures on the basis of ^{18}O -values remain a matter of debate.

High resolution in situ O- and Si-isotope analysis of cherts (Marin et al. 2010; Marin-Carbonne et al. 2011, 2012; Steinhofel et al. 2010; Chakrabarti et al. 2012) reveal very large O- and Si-isotope variations on the micrometer-scale that complicate a temperature determination indicating oxygen isotope exchange during burial diagenesis and the formation of microquartz from diagenetic or metamorphic fluids.

Low $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ -values in Archean cherts favor a hydrothermal source of silica, increasing $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ -values during the Proterozoic may reflect an increase in continental Si-sources relative to hydrothermal ones (Chakrabarti et al. 2012).

3.10.4 Marine Carbonates

3.10.4.1 Oxygen

In 1947, Urey discussed the thermodynamics of isotopic systems and suggested that variations in the temperature of precipitation of calcium carbonate from water should lead to measurable variations in the $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratio of the calcium carbonate. He postulated that the determination of temperatures of the ancient oceans should be possible, in principle, by measuring the ^{18}O content of fossil shell calcite. The first paleotemperature “scale” was introduced by Mc Crea (1950). Subsequently this scale has been refined several times. Through experiments which compare the actual growth temperatures of foraminifera with calculated isotope temperatures Erez and Luz (1983) determined the following temperature equation

$$T^{\circ}\text{C} = 17.0 - 4.52 (\delta^{18}\text{O}_c - \delta^{18}\text{O}_w) + 0.03 (\delta^{18}\text{O}_c - \delta^{18}\text{O}_w)^2$$

where $\delta^{18}\text{O}_c$ is the O-isotope composition of CO_2 derived from carbonate and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ is the O-isotope composition of CO_2 in equilibrium with water at 25 °C.

According to this equation an ^{18}O increase of 0.26 ‰ in carbonate represents a 1 °C temperature decrease. Bemis et al. (1998) have re-evaluated the different temperature equations and demonstrated that they can differ as much as 2 °C in the temperature range between 5 and 25 °C. The reason for these differences is that in addition to temperature and water isotopic composition, the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of a shell may be affected by the carbonate ion concentration in seawater and by photosynthetic activity of algal symbionts.

Laboratory experiments and field studies on biogenic and inorganic CaCO_3 have demonstrated that nonequilibrium effects such as carbonate concentration, pH and

precipitation rates may also affect measured CaCO_3 compositions. As Dietzel et al. (2009) argued there is no definite proof that spontaneously precipitated calcite from aqueous solution is in true oxygen isotope equilibrium and it can well be that currently adapted equilibrium values for calcite-water fractionations are actually too low (Coplen 2007).

Before a meaningful temperature calculation of a fossil organism can be carried out several assumptions have to be fulfilled. The isotopic composition of an aragonite or calcite shell will remain unchanged until the shell material dissolves and recrystallizes during diagenesis. In most shallow depositional systems, C- and O-isotope ratios of calcitic shells are fairly resistant to diagenetic changes, but many organisms have a hollow structure allowing diagenetic carbonate to be added. With increasing depths of burial and time the chances of diagenetic effects generally increase. Because fluids contain much less carbon than oxygen, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values are thought to be less affected by diagenesis than $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values. Criteria of how to prove primary preservation are not always clearly resolved (see discussion “diagenesis of limestones”). Schrag (1999) argued that carbonates formed in warm tropical surface oceans are particularly sensitive to the effects of diagenesis, because pore waters—having much lower temperatures than tropical surface waters—could shift the primary composition to higher δ -values. This is not the case for high latitude carbonates, where surface and pore fluids are quite similar in their average temperature.

Shell-secreting organisms to be used for paleotemperature studies must have been precipitated in isotope equilibrium with ocean water. As was shown by studies of Weber and Raup (1966a, b), some organisms precipitate their skeletal carbonate in equilibrium with the water in which they live, but others do not. Wefer and Berger (1991) summarized the importance of the so-called “vital effect” on a broad range of organisms (see Fig. 3.42). For oxygen isotopes, most organisms precipitate CaCO_3 with isotope compositions close to predicted equilibrium values; if disequilibrium prevails, the isotopic difference from equilibrium is rather small (Fig. 3.42). For carbon, disequilibrium is the rule, with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values being more negative than expected at equilibrium. As discussed below, this does not preclude the reconstruction of the $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio of the palaeo-ocean waters.

Isotopic disequilibria effects can be classified as either metabolic or kinetic (McConnaughey 1989a, b). Metabolic isotope effects apparently result from changes in the isotopic composition of dissolved inorganic carbon in the neighborhood of the precipitating carbonate caused by photosynthesis and respiration. Kinetic isotope effects result from discrimination against ^{13}C and ^{18}O during hydration and hydroxylation of CO_2 . Strong kinetic disequilibrium fractionation often is associated with high calcification rates (McConnaughey 1989a, b).

Besides temperature, a variable isotopic composition of the ocean is another factor responsible for ^{18}O variations in foraminifera. A crucial control is salinity: ocean waters with salinities greater than 3.5 ‰ have a higher ^{18}O content, because ^{18}O is preferentially depleted in the vapor phase during evaporation, whereas waters with salinities lower than 3.5 ‰ have a lower ^{18}O content due to dilution by fresh

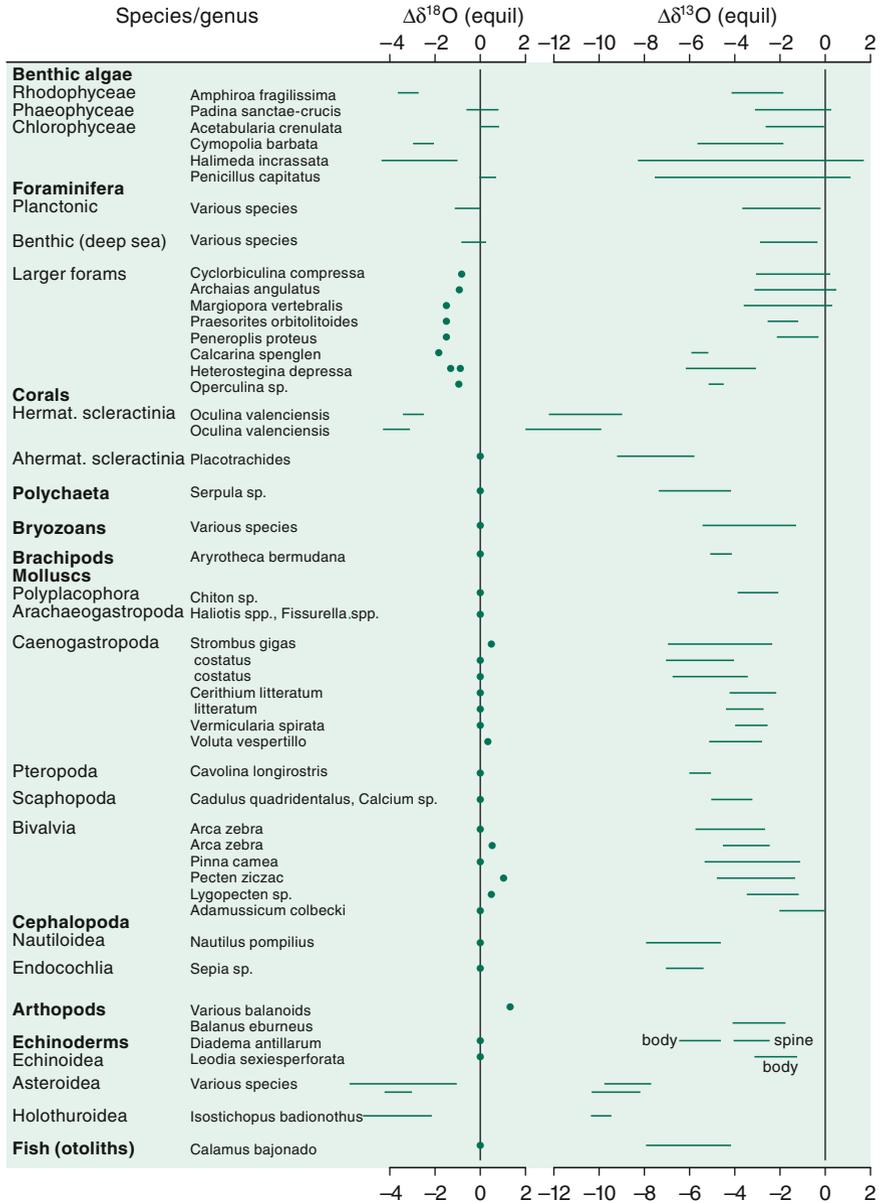


Fig. 3.42 $\Delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$ differences from equilibrium isotope composition of extant calcareous species (after Wefer and Berger 1991) (Fig. 3.42, 6th edition, p. 197)

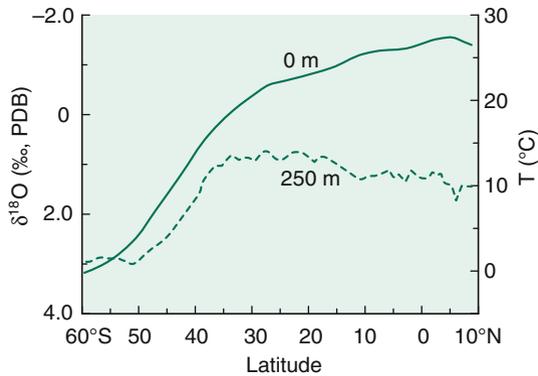


Fig. 3.43 Latitudinal distribution of O-isotope composition of planktonic foraminifera and yearly averaged temperatures at sea surface and 250 m water depth (after Mulitza et al. 1997) (Fig. 3.43, 6th edition, p. 198)

waters, especially meltwaters. The other factor which causes variations in the isotopic composition of ocean water is the volume of low- ^{18}O ice present on the continents. As water is removed from the ocean during glacial periods, and temporarily stored on the continents as ^{18}O -depleted ice, the $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratio of the global ocean increases in direct proportion to the volume of continental and polar glaciers. The magnitude of the temperature effect versus the ice volume effect can be largely resolved by separately analyzing planktonic and benthic foraminifera. Planktonic foraminifera live vertically dispersed in the upper water column of the ocean recording the temperature and the isotopic composition of the water. Figure 3.43 shows a latitudinal plot of annually averaged temperature distribution at the sea surface and 250 m depth together with the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of different foraminifera species. The ^{18}O difference between shallow and deep-living planktonic foraminifera increases from nearly 0 ‰ in subpolar regions to ~ 3 ‰ in the tropics. The difference between shallow and deep-calcifying taxa can be used to calculate the vertical temperature gradient in the upper 250 m of the oceans.

It is expected that the temperature of deep-water masses is more or less constant, as long as ice caps exist at the poles. Thus, the oxygen isotope composition of benthic organisms should preferentially reflect the change in the isotopic composition of the water (ice-volume effect), while the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of planktonic foraminifera are affected by both temperature and isotopic water composition.

The best approach to disentangle the effect of ice volume and temperature is to study shell material from areas where constant temperatures have prevailed for long periods of time, such as the western tropical Pacific Ocean or the tropical Indian Ocean. On the other end of the temperature spectrum is the Norwegian Sea, where deep water temperatures are near the freezing point today and, therefore, cannot have been significantly lower during glacial time, particularly as the salinities are also already high in this sea. Within the framework of this set of limited assumptions, a reference record of the ^{18}O variations of a water mass which has

experienced no temperature variations during the last climatic cycle can be obtained (Labeyrie et al. 1987).

A direct approach to measuring the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of seawater during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) is based on the isotopic composition of pore fluids (Schrag et al. 1996). Variations in deep water $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ caused by changes in continental ice volume diffuse down from the seafloor leaving a profile of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ versus depth in the pore fluid. Using this approach Schrag et al. (1996) estimated that the global $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ change of ocean water during LGM is 1.0 ± 0.1 ‰.

In addition to these variables the interpretation of ^{18}O -values in carbonate shells is complicated by the seawater carbonate chemistry. In culture experiments with living foraminifera Spero et al. (1997) demonstrated that higher pH-values or increasing CO_3^{2-} concentrations result in isotopically lighter shells, which is due to changing sea water chemistry. As shown by Zeebe (1999) an increase of seawater pH by 0.2–0.3 units causes a decrease in ^{18}O of about 0.2–0.3 ‰ in the shell. This effect has to be considered for instance when samples from the last glacial maximum are analyzed.

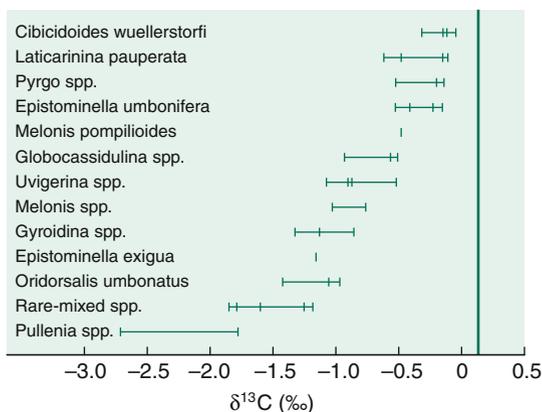
Another approach to distinguish between the temperature effect and the unknown water composition is the clumped isotope thermometer (Eiler 2007; Ghosh et al. 2006; Tripathi et al. 2010; Thiagarajan et al. 2011) that has the potential to circumvent the ambiguities of the classic carbonate thermometer of Urey (1947). Most species that exhibit non-equilibrium $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ - and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values (vital effects) are characterized by ^{13}C - ^{18}O bond abundances that are generally indistinguishable from equilibrium (Tripathi et al. 2010).

Furthermore, clumping of ^{13}C and ^{18}O into carbonate structures is independent of the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of the water from which the mineral is formed. Calibrations of Δ_{47} for inorganic and biogenic calcite give a sensitivity of about 0.004–0.005 ‰/°C (Huntington et al. 2010; Tripathi et al. 2010; Dennis and Schrag 2010; Wacker et al. 2014 and others) (see Fig. 1.5).

3.10.4.2 Carbon

A large number of studies have investigated the use of ^{13}C -contents of foraminifera as a paleo-oceanographic tracer. As previously noted, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values are not in equilibrium with sea water. However, by assuming that disequilibrium $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratios are, on average, invariant with time, then systematic variations in C-isotope composition may reflect variations in ^{13}C content of ocean water. The first record of carbon isotope compositions in Cenozoic deep-sea carbonates was given by Shackleton and Kennett (1975). They clearly demonstrated that planktonic and benthic foraminifera yield consistent differences in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values, the former being enriched in ^{13}C by about 1 ‰ relative to the latter. This ^{13}C -enrichment in planktonic foraminifera is due to photosynthesis which preferentially incorporates ^{12}C in organic carbon thereby depleting surface waters in ^{12}C . A portion of the organic matter is transferred to deep waters, where it is reoxidized, which causes a ^{12}C enrichment in the deeper water masses. Figure 3.44 presents $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values of benthic foraminifera ranked according to their relative tendency to concentrate ^{13}C .

Fig. 3.44 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values of benthic foraminifera species. The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value for the dissolved bicarbonate in deep equatorial water is shown by the vertical line (after Wefer and Berger 1991) (Fig. 3.44, 6th edition, p. 200)



$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values in planktonic and benthic foraminifera can be used to monitor CO_2 variations in the atmosphere by measuring the vertical carbon isotope gradient, which is a function of the biological carbon pump. This approach was pioneered by Shackleton et al. (1983), who showed that enhanced contrast between surface waters and deeper waters was correlated with intervals of reduced atmospheric CO_2 contents. Increased organic carbon production in surface waters (possibly caused by enhanced nutrient availability) leads to removal of carbon from surface waters, which in turn draws down CO_2 from the atmospheric reservoir through re-equilibration.

Another application of carbon isotopes in foraminifera is to distinguish distinct water masses and to trace deep water circulation (Bender and Keigwin 1979; Duplessy et al. 1988). Since dissolved carbonate in the deeper waters becomes isotopically lighter with time and depths in the area of their formation due to the increasing oxidation of organic material, comparison of sites of similar paleodepth in different areas can be used to trace the circulation of deep waters as they move from their sources. Such a reconstruction can be carried out by analyzing $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values of well-dated foraminifera.

Reconstructions of pathways of deep-water masses in the North Atlantic during the last 60,000 years have been performed by analyzing high resolution records of benthic foraminifera *Cibicides wuellerstorfi*, as this species best reflects changes in the chemistry of bottom waters (Duplessy et al. 1988; Sarntheim et al. 2001). The initial $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -signature of North Atlantic Deep Water (NADW) is $\sim 1.3\text{--}1.5$ ‰. As NADW flows southward the ongoing oxidation of organic matter results in a progressive ^{13}C -depletion down to less than 0.4 ‰ in the Southern Ocean. Reductions in ^{13}C observed in many cores from the North-Atlantic (Sarntheim et al. 2001; Elliot et al. 2002) have been interpreted as meltwater input to the surface ocean (Heinrich events), which caused changes in deep water circulation.

3.10.5 Diagenesis

Diagenetic modification of carbonates may begin immediately after the formation of primary carbonates. Two processes may change the isotope composition of carbonate shells: (i) cementation and (ii) dissolution and reprecipitation. (i) Cementation means the addition of abiogenic carbonate from ambient pore waters. Cements added early after primary formation may be in equilibrium with ocean water, whereas late cements depend on the isotope composition of pore waters and temperature. (ii) Dissolution and reprecipitation occurs in the presence of a bicarbonate containing pore fluid and represents the solution of an unstable carbonate phase such as aragonite and the reprecipitation of a stable carbonate phase, mostly low Mg-calcite. Diagenetic modification may occur in two subsequent pathways, often termed as burial and meteoric diagenesis.

3.10.5.1 Burial Pathway

This type of diagenetic stabilization is best documented in deep sea environments. Entrapped pore waters are of marine origin and in equilibrium with the assemblage of carbonate minerals. The conversion of sediment into limestone is not achieved by a chemical potential gradient, but rather through a rise in pressure and temperature due to deposition of additional sediments. In contrast to the meteoric pathway, fluid flow is confined to squeezing off pore waters upwards into the overlying sedimentary column. Theoretically, O-isotope ratios should not change appreciably with burial, because the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ is of sea water origin. Yet, with increasing depth, the deep-sea sediments and often also the pore waters exhibit ^{18}O depletions by several permil (Lawrence 1989). The major reason for this ^{18}O depletion seems to be a low-temperature exchange with the oceanic crust in the underlying rock sequence. The ^{18}O shift in the solid phases is mostly due to an increase in temperature with increasing burial. Independent estimates of diagenetic temperatures may be obtained by clumped isotope thermometry (Huntington et al. 2011; Ferry et al. 2011).

The other important diagenetic process is the oxidation of organic matter. With increasing burial, organic matter in sediments passes successively through different zones which are characterized by distinct redox reactions that are mediated by assemblages of specific bacteria. The usual isotopic changes of these processes will result in a shift towards lighter C-isotope values, the degree of ^{13}C -depletion being proportional to the relative contribution of carbon from the oxidation of organic matter. Under special conditions of fermentation, the CO_2 released may be isotopically heavy, which may cause a shift in the opposite direction.

3.10.5.2 Meteoric Pathway

Carbonate sediments deposited in shallow marine environments are often exposed to the influence of meteoric waters during their diagenetic history. Meteoric diagenesis lowers $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ - and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values, because meteoric waters have lower $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values than seawater. For example, Hays and Grossman (1991) demonstrated

that oxygen isotope compositions of carbonate cements depend on the magnitude of ^{18}O depletion of respective meteoric waters. $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values are lowered because soil bicarbonate is ^{13}C -depleted relative to ocean water bicarbonate.

A more unusual effect of diagenesis is the formation of carbonate concretions in argillaceous sediments. Isotope studies by Hoefs (1970), Sass and Kolodny (1972), and Irwin et al. (1977) suggest that microbiological activity created localized supersaturation of calcite in which dissolved carbonate species were produced more rapidly than they could be dispersed by diffusion. Extremely variable $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values in these concretions indicate that different microbiological processes participated in concretionary growth. Irwin et al. (1977) presented a model in which organic matter is diagenetically modified in a sequence by (a) sulfate reduction, (b) fermentation and (c) thermally induced abiotic CO_2 formation which can be distinguished on the basis of their $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values, (a) -25‰ , (b) $+15\text{‰}$ and (c) -20‰ .

3.10.6 Limestones

Early limestone studies utilized whole-rock samples. In later studies, individual components, such as different generations of cements, have been analyzed (Hudson 1977; Dickson and Coleman 1980; Moldovany and Lohmann 1984; Given and Lohmann 1985; Dickson et al. 1990). These studies suggest that early cements exhibit higher $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values with successive cements becoming progressively depleted in both ^{13}C and ^{18}O . The ^{18}O trend may be due to increasing temperatures and to isotopic evolution of pore waters. Employing a laser ablation technique, Dickson et al. (1990) identified a very fine-scale O-isotope zonation in calcite cements, which they interpreted as indicating changes in the isotope composition of the pore fluids.

3.10.7 Dolomites

Dolomite is found abundantly in Paleozoic and older strata, but is rare in younger rocks. Two requirements are necessary for dolomite formation: (i) the presence of a high Mg/Ca fluid and (ii) large volumes of fluid that are pumped through limestones. There are only few locations where dolomite is forming today. In laboratory experiments, researchers have struggled to produce dolomite at temperatures and pressures realistic for its sedimentary formation (Horita 2014). This is the crux of the “dolomite problem”.

Since dolomitization takes place in the presence of water, oxygen isotope compositions are controlled by the pore fluid composition, the temperature of formation and to a lesser extent by the salt content. Carbon isotope compositions, in contrast, are determined by the precursor carbonate composition, because pore fluids generally have low carbon contents, so that the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -value of the precursor is generally retained. Two problems complicate the interpretation of isotope data to

delineate the origin and diagenesis of dolomites: (i) extrapolations of high-temperature experimental dolomite-water fractionations to low temperatures suggest that at 25 °C dolomite should be enriched in ^{18}O relative to calcite by 4–7 ‰ (e.g. Sheppard and Schwarz 1970). On the hand, the oxygen isotope fractionation observed between Holocene calcite and dolomite is somewhat lower, namely in the range between 2 and 4 ‰ (Land 1980; McKenzie 1984), in agreement with recent theoretical predictions (Zheng and Böttcher 2015). The fractionation also may depend partly on the crystal structure, more specifically on the composition and the degree of crystalline order. (ii) For many years it has not been possible to determine the equilibrium oxygen isotope fractionations between dolomite and water at sedimentary temperatures directly, because the synthesis of dolomite at these low temperatures is problematic. With the discovery, that bacteria mediate the precipitation of dolomite, Vasconcelos et al. (2005) presented however, a new paleothermometer enabling the reconstruction of temperature conditions of ancient dolomite deposits. Horita (2014) determined experimentally C- and O-isotope fractionations by precipitation of dolomite at 80 °C and by dolomitization of CaCO_3 in the temperature range 100–350 °C. In this temperature range dolomite is enriched relative to calcite by 0.7–2.6 ‰. As postulated by Horita (2014) fractionations can be extrapolated to lower temperatures. To elucidate temperatures of formation and the oxygen isotope composition of the dolomitizing fluid, Ferry et al. (2011), for instance, demonstrated that dolomite in the Italian dolomites formed at temperatures between 40 and 80 °C.

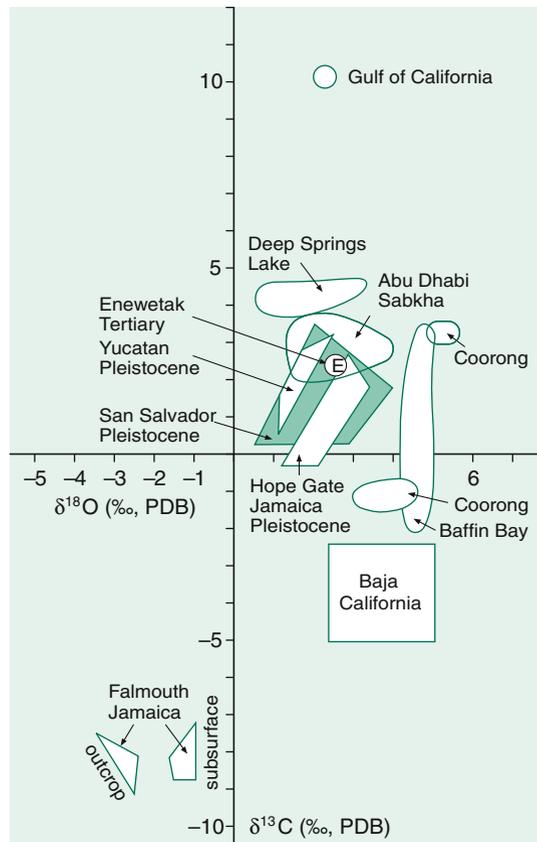
Figure 3.45 summarizes oxygen and carbon isotope compositions of some recent and Pleistocene dolomite occurrences (after Tucker and Wright 1990). Variations in oxygen isotope composition reflect the involvement of different types of waters (from marine to fresh waters) and varying ranges of temperatures. With respect to carbon, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values between 0 and 3 ‰ are typical of marine compositions. In the presence of abundant organic matter, negative $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values in excess of –20 ‰ indicate that carbon is derived from the decomposition of organic matter. Very positive $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values up to +15 ‰ result from fermentation of organic matter (Kelts and McKenzie 1982). Such isotopically heavy dolomites have been described, for example, from the Guaymas Basin, where dolomite formation has taken place in the zone of active methanogenesis.

Besides C- and O-isotope compositions, Ca isotopes (Holmden 2009) and Mg isotopes (Geske et al. 2015) have been investigated in a wide range of dolomite types. Geske et al. (2015) argued that Mg isotope ratios of dolomites are affected by various factors including Mg sources and precipitation/dissolution processes complicating its application as a proxy for dolomite formation models.

3.10.8 Freshwater Carbonates

Carbonates deposited in freshwater lakes exhibit a wide range in isotopic composition, depending upon the isotopic composition of the rainfall in the catchment area, its amount and seasonality, the temperature, the rate of evaporation, the

Fig. 3.45 Carbon and oxygen isotope composition of some recent and Pleistocene dolomite occurrences (after Tucker and Wright 1990) (Fig. 3.45, 6th edition, p. 204)



relative humidity, and the biological productivity. Lake carbonates typically consist of a matrix of discrete components, such as detrital components, authigenic precipitates, neritic and benthic organisms. The separate analysis of such components has the potential to permit investigation of the entire water column. For example, the oxygen isotopic composition of authigenic carbonates and diatoms can be used to obtain a surface water signal of changes in temperature and meteoric conditions, while the composition of bottom dwellers can be used as a monitor of the water composition, assuming that the bottom water temperatures remained constant.

The carbon and oxygen isotope compositions of carbonate precipitated from many lakes show a strong covariance with time, typically in those lakes which represent closed systems or water bodies with long residence times (Talbot 1990). In contrast, weak or no temporal covariance is typical of lakes which represent open systems with short residence times. Figure 3.46 gives examples of such covariant trends. Each closed lake appears to have a unique isotopic identity defined by its covariant trend, which depends on the geographical and climatic setting of a basin, its hydrology and the history of the water body (Talbot 1990).

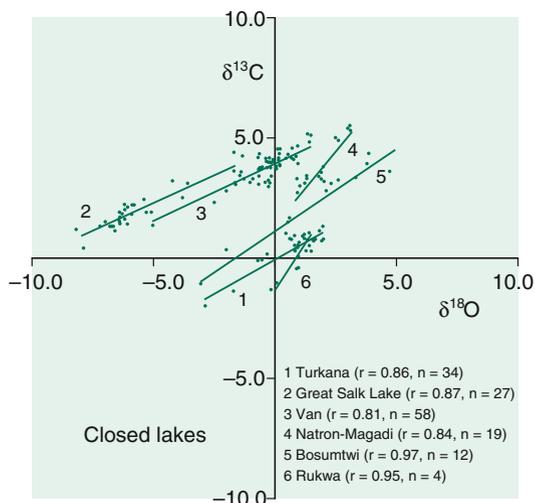
3.10.9 Phosphates

The stable isotope composition of biogenic phosphates record a combination of environmental parameters and biological processes. Biogenic phosphate, $\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4, \text{CO}_3)_3(\text{F}, \text{OH})$, for paleoenvironmental reconstructions were first used by Longinelli (e.g. Longinelli 1966, 1984; Longinelli and Nuti 1973), and later by Kolodny and his coworkers (Kolodny et al. 1983; Luz and Kolodny 1985). However, the use was rather limited for many years, because of analytical difficulties. More recently these problems have been overcome by refinements in analytical techniques (Crowson et al. 1991; O'Neil et al. 1994; Cerling and Sharp 1996; Vennemann et al. 2002; Lecuyer et al. 2002), so the isotope analyses of phosphates for paleoenvironmental reconstruction has been used much more widely

Under abiotic surface conditions phosphate is resistant to oxygen isotope exchange. During biological reactions, however, phosphate-water oxygen isotope exchange is rapid due to enzymatic catalysis (Kolodny et al. 1996; Blake et al. 1997; Paytan et al. 2002; Blake et al. 2005). O'Neil et al. (1994) have shown the importance of phosphate speciation in determining O isotope fractionation among different $\text{PO}_4(\text{aq})$ species and between $\text{PO}_4(\text{aq})$ species and water.

Phosphate materials that may be analyzed are bone, dentine, enamel, fish scales and invertebrate shells. In contrast to bone and dentine, enamel is extremely dense, so it is least likely to be affected diagenetically and the prime candidate for paleoenvironmental reconstructions. Biogenic apatites contain besides the PO_4 group CO_3^{2-} that substitutes for PO_4^{3-} and OH^- as well as "labile" CO_3^{2-} (Kohn and Cerling 2002), the latter is removed by pretreatment with a weak acid. The remaining CO_3^{2-} component in bioapatites is then analyzed similar to the analysis of carbonates (McCrea 1950). Early results of the carbonate-carbon seemed to imply diagenetic overprint and it was not until the 1990s that it became accepted

Fig. 3.46 Carbon and oxygen isotope compositions of freshwater carbonates from recently closed lakes (after Talbot 1990) (Fig. 3.46, 6th edition, p. 205)



that the carbon isotope composition of tooth enamel carbonate is a recorder of diet (Cerling et al. 1993, 1997).

Of special geological interest is the isotopic analyses of coeval carbonate-phosphate pairs (Wenzel et al. 2000), which helps to distinguish primary marine signals from secondary alteration effects and sheds light on the causes for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ variations of fossil ocean water. Wenzel et al. (2000) compared Silurian calcitic brachiopods with phosphatic brachiopods and conodonts from identical stratigraphic horizons. They showed that primary marine oxygen isotope compositions are better preserved in conodonts than in brachiopod shell apatite and suggested that conodonts record paleotemperature and $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratios of Silurian sea water. Joachimski et al. (2004) reached similar conclusions for Devonian seawater.

Studies on mammals, invertebrates and fishes clearly indicate that the oxygen isotope composition of biogenic apatite varies systematically with the isotope composition of the body water that depends on local drinking water (Longinelli 1984; Luz et al. 1984; Luz and Kolodny; 1985). For mammals, there is a constant offset between the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of body water and PO_4 ($\sim 18\text{‰}$, Kohn and Cerling 2002) and between PO_4 and CO_3 components of bioapatite of $\sim 8\text{‰}$ (Bryant et al. 1996; Iacumin et al. 1996). Studies by Luz et al. (1990), and Ayliffe and Chivas (1990) demonstrated that $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of biogenic apatite can also depend on humidity and on diet.

A different approach to get informations about the earth's climate has been used by Pack et al. (2013) by measuring the triple oxygen isotope composition of small mammals. The approach relies on the fact that atmospheric oxygen along with drinking water and water in food is one of the oxygen sources for mammals. By measuring the triple oxygen isotope composition of bone and teeth apatite Pack et al. (2013) used the relation between the ^{17}O anomaly of air oxygen and atmospheric CO_2 , which is transferred to bone apatite thereby giving hints to atmospheric CO_2 concentrations during the animal's lifetime.

3.10.10 Iron Oxides

3.10.10.1 Oxygen

Iron oxides/hydroxides are ubiquitous in soils and sediments and are common precursors to goethite and hematite. The initial precipitates in natural settings are water-rich ferric oxide gels and poorly ordered ferrihydrite, which are later slowly aged to goethite and hematite. The determination of oxygen isotope fractionations in the iron oxide—water system has led to controversial results (Yapp 1983, 1987, 2007; Bao and Koch 1999), yet oxygen isotope fractionations are small and relatively insensitive to changes in temperatures. This seems to make iron oxides ideal recorders of the isotope composition of ambient waters. Bao and Koch (1999) argued that the isotopic composition of original ferric oxide gels and ferrihydrite are erased by later exchange with ambient water during the ageing process. Thus,

$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values of natural crystalline iron oxides may monitor the long-term average $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of soil waters.

During conversion of goethite to hematite only small fractionation effects seem to occur, because most of the oxygen remains in the solid (Yapp 1987). Thus, in principle it should be possible to reconstruct the sedimentary environment of iron oxides from Precambrian Banded Iron Formations (BIF). By analyzing the least metamorphosed BIFs, Hoefs (1992) concluded, however, that the situation is not so simple. Infiltration of external fluids during diagenesis and/or low temperature metamorphism appears to have erased the primary isotope record in these ancient sediments.

3.10.10.2 Iron

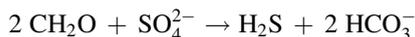
Due to the poorly crystalline state of ferric hydrous oxides and due to their fast transformations to stable minerals, Fe isotope fractionations between iron hydroxides and other Fe phases are not well known. Approaches to determine the equilibrium fractionation factor between $\text{FeII}_{(\text{aq})}$ and Fe hydroxides yield Fe fractionations around -3.2‰ , making Fe(III) minerals the most enriched in ^{56}Fe (Johnson et al. 2002; Welch et al. 2003; Wu et al. 2011). Since fractionations between FeII_{aq} and Fe hydroxides are similar to fractionations between FeII_{aq} and FeIII_{aq} (Johnson et al. 2002; Welch et al. 2003), Fe isotope fractionations between $\text{Fe(III)}_{\text{aq}}$ and Fe-hydroxides should close to zero.

Special attention has been given to banded iron formations (BIFs), in which the largest range of Fe-isotope compositions on Earth are observed (Johnson et al. 2003, 2008; Steinhöfel et al. 2009, 2010; Halverson et al. 2011). Although models of BIF formation are still under debate, there is however general agreement, that the large Fe-isotope variations result from reduction and oxidation of iron in the sedimentary environment and during diagenetic overprint (Steinhöfel et al. 2009, 2010). It is noteworthy that small-scale heterogeneities in iron oxides remain preserved to very high metamorphic stages (Frost et al. 2007).

3.10.11 Sedimentary Sulfur and Pyrite

3.10.11.1 Sulfur

Analysis of the sulfur and iron isotope composition of sediments may yield important information about the origin and further transformations of sulfur and iron compounds. Pyrite is the end product of sedimentary S- and Fe-cycling and their stable isotopes record variations of redox changes. Bacterial sulfate reduction is accomplished by the oxidation of organic matter:



the resulting H_2S reacting with available iron, which is in the reactive non-silicate bound form (oxy-hydroxides). Thus, the amount of pyrite formed in sediments may be limited by (i) the amount of sulfate, (ii) the amount of organic

matter and (iii) the amount of reactive iron. Based upon the relationships between these three reservoirs different scenarios for pyrite formation in anoxic environments can be envisaged (Raiswell and Berner 1985). In normal marine sediments, where oxygen is present in the overlying water body, the formation of pyrite appears to be limited by the supply of organic matter.

Due to the activity of anaerobic sulfate reducing bacteria, most sulfur isotope fractionation takes place in the uppermost mud layers in shallow seas and tidal flats. As a result, sedimentary sulfides are depleted in ^{34}S relative to ocean water sulfate. The depletion is usually in the order of 20–60 % (Hartmann and Nielsen 1969; Goldhaber and Kaplan 1974), although bacteria in pure cultures have been observed to produce fractionations up to a maximum reported value of 47 % (Kaplan and Rittenberg 1964; Bolliger et al. 2001). Therefore, sedimentary sulfides depleted in ^{34}S by more than the apparent limit of 47 % suggest additional fractionations that probably accompany sulfide oxidation and formation of sulfur intermediates and further metabolism. To explain the discrepancy between culture experiments and natural environments the bacterial disproportionation of intermediate sulfur compounds has been proposed (Canfield and Thamdrup, 1994; Cypionka et al. 1998; Böttcher et al. 2001).

Sulfur isotope variations in sediments reflect a record of primary syngenetic as well as secondary diagenetic processes (Jorgenson et al. 2004). For a given range of sulfur isotope values the most negative value should represent the least affected, most primary signal or the one that is most affected by the oxidative part of the sulfur cycle. In a few cases pyrite sulfur with higher $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values than coexisting seawater has been found in the fossil record, which has been attributed to post-depositional diagenetic overprint by anaerobic methane oxidation (Jorgensen et al. 2004).

There has been much progress to identify and measure the isotopic composition of different forms of sulfur in sediments (e.g. Mossman et al. 1991; Zaback and Pratt 1992; Brüchert and Pratt 1996; Neretin et al. 2004). Pyrite is generally considered to be the end product of sulfur diagenesis in anoxic marine sediments. Acid-volatile sulfides (AVS), which include “amorphous” FeS, mackinawite, greigite and pyrrhotite, are considered to be transient early species, but investigations by Mossman et al. (1991) have demonstrated that AVS can form before, during and after precipitation of pyrite within the upper tens of centimeters of sediment.

Up to six or even seven sulfur species have been separated and analyzed for their isotope composition by Zaback and Pratt (1992), Brüchert and Pratt (1996) and Neretin et al. (2004). Their data provides information regarding the relative timing of sulfur incorporation and the sources of the individual sulfur species. Pyrite exhibits the greatest ^{34}S depletion relative to sea water. Acid-volatile sulfur and sulfur in organic compounds are generally enriched in ^{34}S relative to pyrite. This indicates that pyrite is precipitated nearest to the sediment-water interface under mildly reducing conditions, while AVS and kerogen sulfur resulted from formation at greater depth under more reducing conditions with low concentrations of pore water sulfate. Elemental sulfur is most abundant in surface sediments and, probably, formed by oxidation of sulfide diffusing across the sediment-water interface.

By using a GC-MC-ICP-MS technique, Raven et al. (2015) were able to measure the compound-specific S isotope composition of organic sulfur compounds. In contrast to earlier findings, extractable organic S-compounds are ^{34}S depleted relative to kerogen and porewater sulfide providing additional informations about organic matter sulfurization.

3.10.11.2 Pyrite

The analyses of pyrite in sediments yields the average of bulk pyrite. $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values of bulk pyrite integrate over the time, in which pyrite has formed by different processes and in different environments. Microanalytical techniques open the possibility to determine intra-grain and inter-grain variability of bulk pyrite. Investigating pyrites from Devonian carbonates with the ionprobe, Riciputi et al. (1996) observed a bimodal distribution of sulfides that are very heterogeneous on a thin section scale varying by as much as 25 ‰. The predominantly low δ -values indicate bacterial sulfate reduction, whereas the higher values reflect formation at much greater depths by thermochemical sulfate reduction. Correlations between pyrite morphology and isotope values suggest that sulfate reduction was a very localized process, which varied considerably on a small scale. Similar large ^{34}S -variations within and among individual pyrite grains have been reported by Kohn et al. (1998d). McKibben and Riciputi (1998) reported $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -variations of about 105 ‰ over 200 μm in single pyrite grains. Generally pyrite grains become enriched in ^{34}S towards the margin of grains which these authors interpreted as evidence for microbial sulfate reduction in closed systems.

In summary intra-grain and intergrain S-isotope compositions of pyrite vary enormously reflecting different pyrite formation processes over a long time span. Thus bulk analyses of pyrite $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ -values that integrate over all diagenetic processes may lead to misinterpretations.

Besides bacterial sulfate reduction, thermochemical sulfate reduction in the presence of organic matter is another process which can produce large quantities of H_2S . The crucial question is whether abiological sulfate reduction can occur at temperatures as low as 100 °C, which is just above the limit of microbiological reduction. Trudinger et al. (1985) concluded that abiological reduction below 200 °C had not been unequivocally demonstrated, although they did not dismiss its possible significance. As shown by Krouse et al. (1988) and others, the evidence for thermochemical sulfate reduction, even at temperatures near 100 °C or lower, has increased. Thus, it is likely that this process is much more prevalent than originally thought.

By summarizing the isotope record of sedimentary sulfides throughout the Phanerozoic, Strauss (1997, 1999) argued that the long term trend for the entire Phanerozoic broadly parallels the sulfate curve with maximum values in the early Paleozoic, minimum values in the Permian and a shift back to higher values in the Cenozoic. The isotopic difference between sulfate sulfur and minimum sulfide sulfur varies within -51 ± 8 ‰.

Precise MC-ICP-MS investigations of Fe isotopes in pyrite may reflect the isotope composition of the reactive iron source and/or may reflect Fe isotope

fractionation during pyrite formation. SIMS techniques allow the determination of highly resolved Fe isotope profiles in individual pyrite grains (Virtasalo et al. 2013).

In modern anoxic basins pyrite shows $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ isotope values between -0.4 and -1.3 ‰ (Severmann et al. 2006); pyrite in Proterozoic and Archean formations is even lighter (see discussion on p. 274). Mackinawite (FeS_x) is often regarded as a precursor mineral for pyrite formation and Fe isotope fractionations in the $\text{Fe}^{2+}(\text{aq})$ — FeS system have been taken as decisive for pyrite Fe isotope signatures. Butler et al. (2005) and Guilbaud et al. (2011) demonstrated experimentally that FeS is depleted in ^{56}Fe relative to Fe^{2+} . Johnson et al. (2008) argued that $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values of pyrite reflect a mixture of FeS compounds formed during bacterial reduction and Fe that is produced by dissimilatory iron reduction. According to Marin-Carbonne et al. (2014) coupled Fe and S isotope variations in pyrite indicate different mineral precursors: (i) mackinawite that is precipitated in the water column and (ii) greigite that is formed in the sediment.

In summary, detailed investigations on sedimentary pyrite have revealed large variations in sulfur and iron isotope compositions that should be investigated by a combined use of S- and Fe-isotopes (i.e. Archer and Vance 2006, Marin-Carbonne et al. 2014).

3.11 Palaeoclimatology

Past climates leave their imprint in the geologic record in many ways. For temperature reconstructions the most widely used geochemical method is the measurement of stable isotope ratios. Samples for climate reconstruction have in common that their isotope composition depends in a sensitive way on the temperature at the time of their formation.

Climatic records can be divided into (i) marine and (ii) continental records. Because the ocean system is very large and well-mixed, the oceanic record carries a global signal, while continental records are affected by regional factors. One restriction in reconstructing climates is the temporal resolution. This is especially true for marine sediments. Sedimentation rates in the deep-ocean generally are between $1\text{--}5\text{ cm}/10^3\text{ y}$, highly productive areas have $20\text{ cm}/10^3\text{ y}$, which limits the temporal resolution to 50 years for productive areas and to 200 years for the other areas. Furthermore, benthic organisms can mix the top 20 cm of marine sediments, which further reduces temporal resolutions.

3.11.1 Continental Records

Isotopic reconstruction of climatic conditions on the continents is difficult, because land ecosystems and climates exhibit great spatial and temporal heterogeneity. The most readily determined terrestrial climatic parameter is the isotopic composition of precipitation, which is in turn dependent largely but not exclusively on temperature.

Relevant climatic information from meteoric precipitation is preserved in a variety of natural archives, such as (i) tree rings, (ii) organic matter and (iii) hydroxyl-bearing minerals.

3.11.1.1 Tree Rings

Tree rings offer an absolute chronology with annual resolution, but the scarcity of suitable old material and uncertainties about the preservation of original isotope ratios are major restrictions in the application of tree rings. The cellulose component of plant material is generally used for isotope studies because of its stability and its well-defined composition. Numerous studies have investigated the stable isotope composition of tree rings. However, in many respects climatic applications are limited. Although there are strong correlations of δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ with source water, there are variable fractionations between water and cellulose. An increasing number of studies have investigated the complex processes that transfer the climatic signal in the meteoric water to tree cellulose (for instance White et al. 1994; Tang et al. 2000). The complexities result from the interplay of various factors such as humidity, amount of precipitation, topography, biological isotope fractionation, root structure, ageing of late-wood. Tang et al. (2000) assessed both systematic (variations of temperature, humidity, precipitation etc.) and random isotopic variations in tree rings from a well characterized area in the northwestern United States, and demonstrated for instance that temperature only explains up to 26 % of the total variance of δD values of cellulose nitrate.

3.11.1.2 Organic Matter

The utility of D/H ratios in organic matter as paleoclimatic proxies relies on the preservation of its primary biosynthetic signal. In recent years the D/H analysis of compound-specific sedimentary biomarkers have been increasingly used. δD -values of lipid biomarkers from aquatic organism and terrestrial plants, for instance, can be used as palaeohydrological proxies (Sachse et al. 2012 and others)

The question arises at what point paleoclimatic information is lost during diagenesis and thermal maturation. Schimmelmann et al. (2006) argued that in the earliest stages of diagenesis δD -values of most lipid biomarkers are unaffected. With the onset of catagenesis quantitative information diminishes, but qualitative information may be still preserved. At the highest levels of maturity, biomarkers become thermally unstable and can undergo degradation leading to extensive hydrogen isotope exchange (Sessions et al. 2004) and therefore limiting paleoclimate information.

3.11.1.3 Hydroxyl-Bearing Minerals

Hydroxyl bearing minerals might be regarded as another tool to reconstruct climatic changes. Again there are major difficulties that restrict a general application. Fractionation factors of clay minerals and hydroxides are not well constrained, especially at low temperatures and meaningful δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ measurements require pure mineral separates, which are extremely difficult to achieve due to their small

particle size and because these phases are often intergrown. Furthermore, there is a concern that some clays are detrital, whereas others are authigenic; thus, mixtures may be difficult to interpret.

3.11.1.4 Lake Sediments

The isotope composition of biogenic and authigenic mineral precipitates from lake sediments can be used to infer changes in either temperature or the isotope composition of lake water. Knowledge of the factors that may have influenced the isotope composition of the lake water is essential for the interpretation of the precipitated phases (Leng and Marshall 2004). In many lakes the combined analysis of different types of authigenic components (precipitated calcite, ostracodes, bivalves, diatoms etc.) may offer the possibility of obtaining seasonally specific informations.

One of the most useful components for estimating past climate variations are non-marine ostracodes (small bivalved crustaceans), which can live in most types of fresh-water and can be regarded as the “foraminifera of the continent”. In recent years, an increasing number of studies have demonstrated the potentials of ostracodes to reconstruct changes in temperatures of mean annual precipitation, changes in paleohydrology and evaporation histories (Lister et al. 1991; Xia et al. 1997a, b; von Grafenstein et al. 1999; Schwalb et al. 1999). A number of authors have demonstrated systematic differences in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of up to 2 ‰ between ostracodes and calcite precipitated under equilibrium conditions and even larger differences for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$. These differences have not been explained satisfactorily, because the knowledge about life cycles, habitat preferences and valve formation mechanisms of ostracodes is still limited.

3.11.1.5 Speleothems

Two features in caves facilitate the use of stable isotopes as a palaeoarchive: (i) cave air temperatures remain relatively constant throughout the year and are similar to the mean annual temperature above the cave. (ii) In cool temperate climate regions, cave air is characterized by very high humidity that minimizes evaporation effects. Interest in speleothems as recorders of continental palaeo-environments has increased considerable in recent years. The potential of speleothems as climate indicators was first discussed by Hendy and Wilson (1968) followed by Thompson et al. (1974). These early investigators already recognized the complexity of cave carbonate isotope compositions. An early goal was to reconstruct absolute changes in mean annual temperatures, but this appears to be rather unrealistic because various effects can influence the isotope composition of drip water, and thus the precipitated cave carbonate (see reviews by McDermott 2004 and Lachniet 2009).

Most isotope studies on speleothems have concentrated on $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ as the principal palaeoclimatic indicator. Some studies have discussed the potential of using δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of fluid inclusions in speleothems (Dennis et al. 2001; McGarry et al. 2004; Zhang et al. 2008). With respect to oxygen, isotope exchange may

occur between calcite and water, which may lead to a shift of the original drip water composition, but for hydrogen no isotope exchange can take place. With an improved crushing technique for the liberation of the fluid inclusion water, Zhang et al. (2008) were able to recover the water without isotopic fractionation. They demonstrated that it is possible to obtain accurate paleotemperatures.

Complications with respect to paleoclimate reconstructions may arise from kinetic isotope effects during rapid degassing of CO₂. As shown by Affek et al. (2008), Daeron et al. (2011) and others, clumped isotopes may provide a sensitive indicator for disequilibrium effects. In such cases decreased Δ_{47} values correlate with increased $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values corresponding to higher apparent temperatures

3.11.1.6 Phosphates

Oxygen isotope compositions of phosphates have also been used as a paleotemperature indicator. Since the body temperature of mammals is constant at around 37 °C, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values in either bones or teeth depend only on the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ value of the body water, which in turn depends on drinking water (Kohn 1996). Thus phosphates from continental environments are an indirect proxy of ancient meteoric waters.

The best proxy appears to be mammalian tooth enamel (Ayliffe et al. 1994; Fricke et al. 1998a, b), which forms incrementally from the crown to the base of the tooth. Enamel, therefore, preserves a time series of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of precipitation along the direction of growth that reflect only ^{18}O -changes of ingested water. Oxygen isotope data for teeth of mammal herbivores that lived over a wide range of climatic conditions demonstrate that intra tooth $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values mirror both seasonal and mean annual differences in the ^{18}O content of local precipitation (Fricke et al. 1998a). Records going back to glacial-interglacial transitions have been described by Ayliffe et al. (1992). Fricke et al. (1998b) even postulated that tooth enamel may provide a temperature record as far back as the Early Cenozoic.

3.11.2 Ice Cores

Ice cores from polar regions represent prime recorders of past climates. They have revolutionized our understanding of Quaternary climates by providing high resolution records of changing isotope compositions of snow or ice and of changing air compositions from air bubbles occluded in the ice. The best documented ice-core record from Greenland is a pair of 3 km long ice cores from the summit of Greenland. These cores provide a record of climate as far back as 110,000 years ago. Precise counting of individual summer and winter layers extends back to at least 45,000 years ago.

The Antarctic ice sheet also has provided numerous ice cores for paleoclimate research. Antarctica is colder and its ice sheet is larger and thicker than that on Greenland. It accumulates more slowly than at the Greenland sites, such that its temporal resolution is not as good. The Vostok ice core has provided strong

evidence of the nature of climate changes over the past 420 ky. More recently, a core from Dome C, Antarctica has almost doubled the age range to the past 740 ky (Epica 2004). A good agreement with the Vostok core was observed for the 4 most recent glacial cycles, the Dome C core extends back to 8 glacial cycles.

High elevation ice cores from low latitudes, that have been drilled in Africa (Kilimanjaro), South America and Asian Himalayas (e.g. Thompson et al. 2006) represent an important addition to the polar region ice cores. Some of these high altitude, low latitude ice cores span the last 25,000 years, representing a high resolution record of the late glacial stage and the Holocene (Thompson et al. 2000). The interpretation of δ -values is, however, challenging, because of large seasonal differences in precipitation regimes (amount effect) in the tropics.

Oxygen and hydrogen isotope ratios and various atmospheric constituents in ice cores have revealed a detailed climatic record for the past 700 ky. To convert isotopic changes to temperatures, temperature— $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ correlations must be known. In early work, Dansgaard et al. (1993) proposed a relationship of 0.63 ‰ per 1 °C, whereas Johnsen et al. (1995) have used 0.33 ‰ per 1 °C (but see the remarks of caution by Allen and Cuffey 2001). The δ -T relationship varies with climatic conditions, especially between interglacial and glacial periods, because a more extensive sea-ice cover increases the distance to moisture sources and the isotopic composition of oceans changed during glacial periods.

Figure 3.47 compares $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ice core data from GRIP and NGRIP in Greenland for the time period 50,000–30,000 years with significantly colder temperatures during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) than the time period for the last 10,000 years. Characteristic features of Fig. 3.47 are fast changes in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values fluctuating between -37 and -45 ‰. These so-called Dansgaard-Oeschger events (Dansgaard et al. 1993; Grootes et al. 1993) are characterized by rapid warming episodes within decades followed by gradual cooling over a longer period. 23 Dansgaard-Oeschger events have been identified between 110,000 and 23,000 years before present, the causes for these sawtooth patterns are still unclear.

3.11.2.1 Correlations of Ice-Core Records

Ice-core isotope stratigraphy represents a major advance in paleoclimatology because it enables the correlation of climate records from the two poles with each other and with the high-resolution deep-sea marine climate records over the past 100 ka (Bender et al. 1994), allowing the study of phasing between the ocean and the atmosphere. One of the most difficult problems in correlating ice-cores is determining the age-depth relationship. If accumulation rates are high enough, accurate timescales have been achieved for the last 10,000 years. Prior to that there is increasing uncertainty, but in recent years new approaches have been developed, improving age determinations and allowing age correlations between different ice cores (see Fig. 3.47).

A very promising method for correlation purposes relies on changes in atmospheric gas composition. As the mixing time of the atmosphere is on the order of 1–2 years, changes in gas composition should be synchronous. Bender et al. (1994)

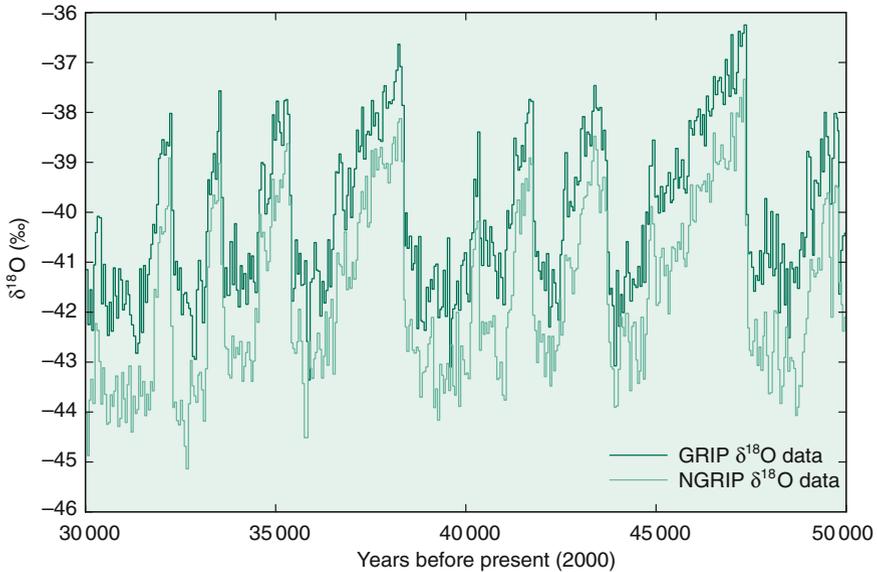


Fig. 3.47 Dansgaard-Oeschger events in the time period from 45,000 to 30,000 years before present from GRIP and NGRIP ice core data (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Grip-ngrip-do18-closeup.png>) (Fig. 3.47, 6th edition, p. 213)

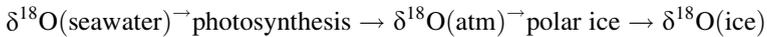
have used variations of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in gas inclusions from ice-cores correlating the Vostok and GISP-2 ice cores. Similar ^{18}O -variations in both cores makes an alignment of the two records possible (Bender et al. 1985; Sowers et al. 1991, 1993), which then allows the comparison of other parameters such as CO_2 and CH_4 with temperature changes as deduced from the isotopic composition of the ice.

3.11.2.2 Gas-Inclusions in Ice Cores

Atmospheric trace gas chemistry is a rapidly growing field of paleo-atmospheric research, because the radiative properties of CO_2 , CH_4 and N_2O make them potential indicators of climate change. A fundamental problem in constructing a record of trace gas concentrations from ice-cores is the fact that the air in bubbles is always younger than the age of the surrounding ice. This is because as snow is buried by later snowfalls and slowly becomes transformed to firn and ice, the air between the snow crystals remains in contact with the atmosphere until the air bubbles become sealed at the firn/ice transition, when density increases to about 0.83 g/cm^3 . The trapped air is thus younger than the matrix, with the age difference depending mainly on accumulation rate and temperature. In Greenland, for instance the age difference varies between 200 and 900 years.

Sowers et al. (1993) and Bender et al. (1994) showed that it is possible to construct an oxygen isotope curve similar to that derived from deep-sea foraminifera from molecular O_2 trapped in ice. These authors argued that $\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{atm})$ can

serve as a proxy for ice volume just as $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values in foraminifera. The isotope signal of atmospheric oxygen can be converted from seawater via photosynthetic marine organisms according to the following scheme



This conversion scheme is, however, complex and several hydrological and ecological factors have to be considered. Sowers et al. (1993) argued that these factors remained near constant over the last glacial-interglacial cycle, so that the dominant signal in the atmospheric oxygen isotope record represents an ice-volume signal.

Air composition in ice cores is slightly modified by physical processes, such as gravitational and thermal fractionation. A gas mixture in ice cores with different molecular weights will partially segregate due to thermal diffusion and gravitational fractionation. Generally, the species with greater mass will migrate towards the bottom and/or the cold end of a column of air. By slow diffusion, air trapped in ice-cores can develop slight changes in atmospheric ratios such as the Ar/N_2 ratio as well as fractionate the nitrogen and oxygen isotope composition of air molecules. This approach was pioneered by Severinghaus et al. (1996), who first showed that thermal diffusion can be observed in sand dunes. Later Severinghaus et al. (1998), Severinghaus and Brook (1999) and Grachev and Severinghaus (2003) demonstrated that thermally driven isotopic anomalies are detectable in ice core air bubbles. Since gases diffuse about 50 times faster than heat, rapid climatic temperature changes will cause an isotope anomaly. Nitrogen in bubbles in snow thus may serve as a tracer for palaeoclimatic reconstructions because the $^{29}\text{N}/^{28}\text{N}$ ratio of atmospheric N_2 has stayed constant in the atmosphere. The measurement of nitrogen isotope ratios can, therefore, supplement the oxygen isotope record and can be used to determine the rapidity and scale of climate change. By measuring the thickness of ice separating nitrogen and oxygen isotope anomalies at the end of Younger Dryas 11,500 years ago, Severinghaus et al. (1998) estimated that the rate of temperature change to be less than 50–100 years and suggested that the Younger Dryas was about 15 °C colder than today which is about twice as large as estimated from Dansgaard-Oeschger events.

3.11.3 Marine Records

Most oceanic paleoclimate studies have concentrated on foraminifera. In many cases analyses have been made both of planktonic and benthonic species. Since the first pioneering paper of Emiliani (1955), numerous cores from various sites of the DSDP and ODP program have been analyzed and, when correlated accurately, have produced a well-established oxygen isotope curve for the Pleistocene and Tertiary. These core studies have demonstrated that similar $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -variations are observed in all areas. With independently dated time scales on hand, these systematic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ variations result in synchronous isotope signals in the sedimentary record because

the mixing time of the oceans is relatively short (10^3 years). These signals provide stratigraphic markers enabling correlations between cores which may be thousands of kilometers apart. Several Pleistocene biostratigraphic data have been calibrated with oxygen isotope stratigraphy, which helps to confirm their synchrony. This correlation has greatly facilitated the recognition of both short and long time periods of characteristic isotopic compositions, and times of rapid change from one period with characteristic composition to another, thus, making oxygen isotope stratigraphy a practical tool in modern paleoceanographic studies. Figure 3.48 shows the oxygen isotope curve for the Pleistocene. This diagram exhibits several striking features: the most obvious one is the cyclicity, furthermore fluctuations never go beyond a certain maximum value on either side of the range. This seems to imply that very effective feedback mechanisms are at work stopping the cooling and warming trends at some maximum level. The “sawtooth”-like curve in Fig. 3.48 is characterized by very steep gradients: maximum cold periods are immediately followed by maximum warm periods.

Emiliani (1955) introduced the concept of “isotopic stages” by designating stage numbers for identifiable events in the marine foraminiferal oxygen isotope record for the Pleistocene. Odd numbers identify interglacial or interstadial (warm) stages, whereas even numbers define ^{18}O enriched glacial (cold) stages. A second terminology used for subdividing isotope records is the concept of terminations labeled with Roman numbers I, II, III etc. which describe rapid transitions from peak glacial to peak interglacial values. This approach was used by Martinson et al. (1987) to produce a high-resolution chronology, called the Specmap time scale which is used when plotting different isotope records on a common time scale. With these different techniques a rather detailed chronology can be worked out.

A careful examination of the curve shown in Fig. 3.48 shows a periodicity of approximately 100,000 years. Hays et al. (1976) argued that the main structure of the oxygen isotope record is caused by variations in solar insolation, promoted by variations in the Earth’s orbital parameters. Thus, isotope data have played a capital role in the confirmation of the “Milankovitch Theory” which argues that the isotope and paleoclimate record is a response to the forcing of the orbital parameters operating at specific frequencies.

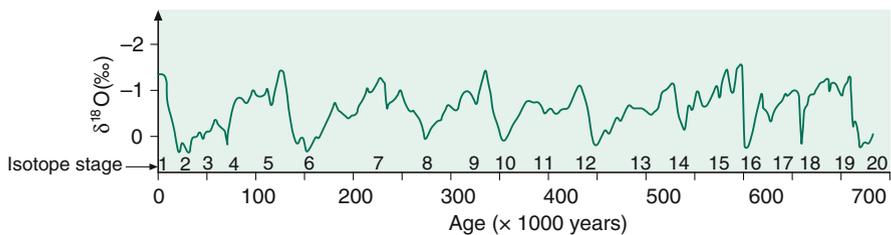


Fig. 3.48 Composite $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ fluctuation in the foraminifera species *G saculifer* from Caribbean cores (Emiliani 1978) (Fig. 3.48, 6th edition, p. 215)

3.11.3.1 Corals

Reef-building corals provide high-resolution records up to several centuries that potentially are ideal tools for the reconstruction of tropical climate. Annual banding provides chronological control and high year-round growth rates allows annual to subannual resolution. Coral skeletons are well known for strong vital effects, their oxygen isotope composition is generally depleted relative to equilibrium by 1–6 ‰. Because of this strong non-equilibrium fractionation early workers were highly skeptical about the usefulness of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values as climate indicators. Later workers, however, realized that the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ records reveal subseasonal variations in seawater temperature and salinity. Most climate studies circumvent the problem of equilibrium offsets by assuming a time independent constant offset and interpret relative changes only. Thus $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of corals generally are not interpreted as temperature records, but as records reflecting combinations of temperature and salinity changes. $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values in corals may record anomalies associated with El Niño (Cole et al. 1993; Dunbar et al. 1994), including the dilution effect on $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ by high amounts of precipitation (Cole and Fairbanks 1990).

Coral growth rates vary over the course of a year, which is expressed in an annual banding. Leder et al. (1996) demonstrated that a special microsampling technique (fifty samples a year) is necessary to accurately reproduce annual sea surface conditions. Generally, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ records show a long-term warming and/or decrease in salinity throughout the tropical oceans (Gagan et al. 2000; Grotoli and Eakin 2007). Fossil coral samples imply an additional problem. Since corals dominantly are composed of aragonite, subaerial exposure of fossil corals will easily change oxygen isotope values due to diagenetic recrystallization to calcite.

3.11.3.2 Conodonts

Conodonts are tooth-like phosphatic microfossils that are widespread in both space and time.

Since the early work of Longinelli (1966), Longinelli and Nuti (1973) and Kolodny et al. (1983) phosphates have been used to reconstruct temperatures. Although being more difficult to analyze, they are advantageous over carbonates because they are more resistant towards isotope exchange. Puceat et al. (2010) redetermined the phosphate-water oxygen isotope fractionation on fish raised under controlled conditions and observed a similar slope to earlier equations, but an offset of about +2 ‰, shifting calculated temperatures to 4 to 8 °C higher temperatures. With this temperature calibration, reasonable temperatures can be obtained for the Devonian (Joachimski et al. 2009); at the Permian/Triassic boundary a large temperature increase has been observed (Joachimski et al. 2012)

3.11.3.3 Characteristic Climatic Events

During the last two decades a rapid growth of high-resolution isotope records across the Cenozoic has taken place. Zachos et al. (2001) have summarized 40 DSDP and ODP sites representing various intervals in the Cenozoic. Their compilation of benthic foraminifera shows a range of 5.4 ‰ over the course of the Cenozoic. This

variation provides constraints on the evolution of deep-sea temperature and continental ice volume. Because deep ocean waters are derived primarily from cooling and sinking of water in polar regions, the deep-sea temperature data also reflect high-latitude sea-surface temperatures.

One of the most dramatic climatic events during the Cenozoic is the Paleocene-Eocene-Thermal-Maximum (PETM) at about 56 Ma lasting less than 200,000 years (McInerney and Wing 2011). The PETM is characterized by an abrupt temperature increase of about 5 °C or even up to 8 °C in conjunction with a large negative carbon isotope anomaly.

For the period prior to the first onset of Antarctic glaciation (around 33 Ma), oxygen isotope variations in global benthic foraminifera records reflect temperature changes only. Oxygen isotope data suggest the deep oceans of Cretaceous and Paleocene age may have been as warm as 10–15 °C, which is very different from today's conditions, when deep waters vary from about +4 to –1 °C. The compilation of Zachos et al. (2001) indicates a bottom water temperature increase of about 5 °C over 5 million years during the Paleocene to the early Eocene.

Variations in the benthic foraminifera record after 33 Ma indicate fluctuations in global ice volume in addition to temperature changes. Since then the majority of the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ variations can be attributed to fluctuations in the global ice volume. Thus, Tiedemann et al. (1994) demonstrated the presence of at least 45 glacial-interglacial cycles over the last 2.5 Ma.

Zachos et al. (2001) discussed the Cenozoic climatic history in respect to three different time frames: (i) long-term variations driven mainly by tectonic processes on time scales of 10^5 – 10^7 years, (ii) rhythmic and periodic cycles driven by orbital processes with characteristic frequencies of roughly 100, 40 and 23 kyr. (These orbitally driven variations in the spatial and seasonal distribution of solar radiation are thought to be the fundamental drivers of glacial and interglacial oscillations), (iii) brief, aberrant events with durations of 10^3 – 10^5 years. These events are usually accompanied by a major perturbation in the global carbon cycle; the 3 largest occurred at 55, 34 and 23 Ma.

Figure 3.49 summarizes the oxygen isotope curve for the last 65 Ma. The most pronounced warming trend is expressed by a 1.5 ‰ decrease in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and occurred early in the Cenozoic from 59 to 52 Ma, with a peak in Early Eocene. Coinciding with this event is a brief negative carbon isotope excursion, explained as a massive release of methane into the atmosphere (Norris and Röhl 1999). These authors used high resolution analysis of sedimentary cores to show that two thirds of the carbon shift occurred just in a few thousand years, indicating a catastrophic release of carbon from methane clathrates into the ocean and atmosphere.

A 17 Ma trend toward cooler conditions followed, as expressed by a 3 ‰ rise in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, which can be attributed to a 7 °C decline in deep-sea temperatures. All subsequent changes reflect a combined effect of ice-volume and temperature.

To investigate the rhythmic scales, Zachos et al. (2001) looked in detail to 4 time intervals (0–4.0; 12.5–16.5; 20.5–24.5; 31–35 Ma) each representing an interval of major continental ice-sheet growth or decay. These intervals demonstrate that climate varies in a quasi-periodic fashion. In terms of frequency, Zachos et al. (2001)

concluded that much of the power in the climate spectrum appears to be related with changes in the obliquity (40 ky). This inference of a 40 ky periodicity contrasts with the obvious 100 Ky periodicity indicated by isotope curves for the last 1–2 Ma.

3.12 Metamorphic Rocks

The isotope composition of metamorphic rocks is mainly controlled by three factors, besides the temperature of exchange (i) the composition of the pre-metamorphic protolith, (ii) the effects of volatilization with increasing temperatures and (iii) an exchange with infiltrating fluids or melts. The relative importance of these three factors can vary extremely from area to area and from rock type to rock type; and the accurate interpretation of the causes of isotope variations in metamorphic rocks requires knowledge of the reaction history of the respective metamorphic rocks.

(i) The isotope composition of the precursor rock—either sedimentary or magmatic—is usually difficult to estimate. Only in relatively dry non-volatile-bearing precursor rocks do retain metamorphic rocks their original composition.

(ii) Prograde metamorphism of sediments causes the liberation of volatiles, which can be described by two end-member processes (Valley 1986):

(a) Batch volatilization, where all fluid is evolved before any is permitted to escape and (b) Rayleigh volatilization, which requires that once fluid is generated it is isolated immediately from the rock. Natural processes seem to fall between both end-member processes, nevertheless they describe useful limits. Metamorphic volatilization reactions generally reduce the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value of a rock because CO_2 and, in most cases, H_2O lost are enriched in ^{18}O compared to the bulk rock. The magnitude of ^{18}O depletion can be estimated by considering the relevant fractionations at the respective temperatures. In most cases the effect on the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value should be small (around 1 ‰), because the amount of oxygen liberated is small compared to the remaining oxygen in the rock and isotope fractionations at these rather high temperatures are small and, in some cases, may even reverse sign.

(iii) The infiltration of externally derived fluids is a controversial idea, but has gained much support in recent years. Many studies have convincingly demonstrated that a fluid phase plays a far more active role than was previously envisaged, although it is often not clear that the isotopic shifts observed are metamorphic rather than diagenetic (see also Kohn and Valley 1994).

A critical issue is the extent to which the isotope composition of a metamorphic rock is modified by a fluid phase. Volatilization reactions leave an isotope signature greatly different from that produced when fluid-rock interaction accompanies mineral-fluid reaction. Changes of 5–10 ‰ are a strong indication that fluid-rock interaction rather than volatilization reactions occurred during the metamorphic event. Coupled O–C depletions are seen in many metamorphic systems involving carbonate rocks. Figure 3.50 summarizes results from 28 studies of marble mostly in contact metamorphic settings. In each of the localities shown in Fig. 3.50, the

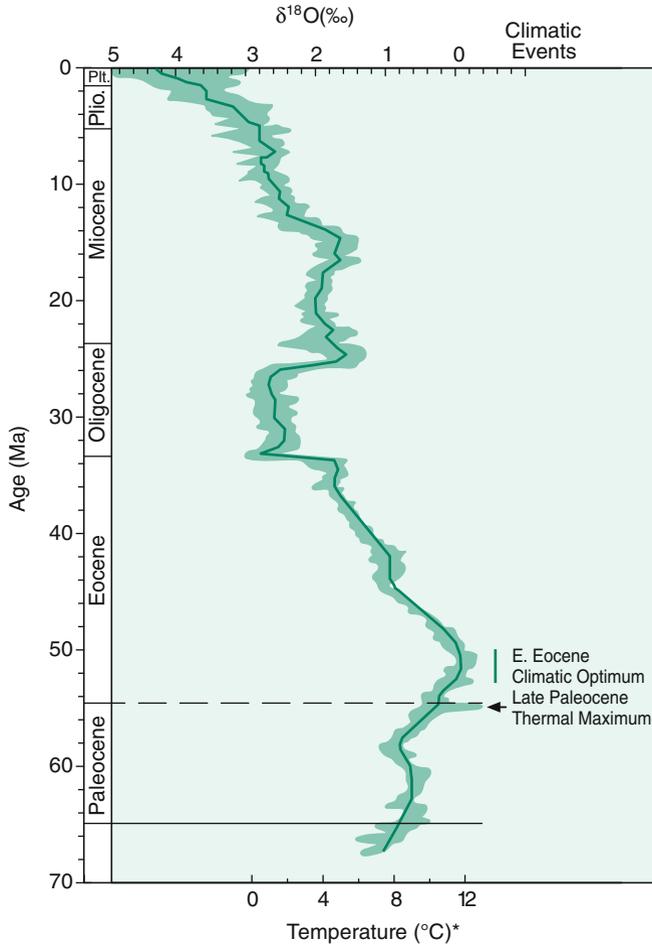


Fig. 3.49 Global deep-sea isotope record from numerous DSDP and ODP cores (Zachos et al. 2001) (Fig. 3.49, 6th edition, p. 218)

O–C trend has a negative slope, qualitatively similar to the effects of devolatilization. However, in each area the magnitude of depletions is too large to be explained by closed-system devolatilization processes, but fluid infiltration and exchange with low ¹⁸O and ¹³C fluids is indicated (Valley 1986; Baumgartner and Valley 2001).

Two end-member situations can be postulated in which coexisting minerals would change their isotopic composition during fluid-rock interaction (Kohn and Valley 1994): (i) A pervasive fluid moves independently of structural and lithologic control through a rock and leads to a homogenization of whatever differences in isotopic composition may have existed prior to metamorphism.

(ii) A channelized fluid leads to local equilibration on the scale of individual beds or units, but does not result in isotopic homogenization of all rocks or units. Channelized flow favors chemical heterogeneity, allowing some rocks to remain unaffected. Although both types of fluid flow appear to be manifest in nature, the latter type appears to be more common.

Numerical modeling of isotope exchange amongst minerals has provided a detailed view of how fluid flow occurs during metamorphism. Stable isotope fronts similar to chromatographic fronts will develop when fluids infiltrate rocks that are not in equilibrium with the infiltrating fluid composition. Isotope ratios increase or decrease abruptly at the front depending on the initial ratio in the rock and infiltrating fluid. Taylor and Bucher-Nurminen (1986), for instance, report sharp isotopic gradients of up to 17 ‰ in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and 7 ‰ in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ over distances of a few mm in calcite around veins in the contact aureole of the Bergell granite. Similar sharp gradients have been also observed in other metasomatic zones but are often unrecognized because an unusually detailed mm-scale sampling is required.

Well defined stable isotope profiles may be used to provide quantitative information on fluid fluxes such as the direction of fluid flow and the duration of infiltration events (Baumgartner and Rumble 1988; Bickle and Baker 1990; Cartwright and Valley 1991; Dipple and Ferry 1992; Baumgartner and Valley 2001). In well constrained situations, fluid flow modeling permits estimation of fluid fluxes that are far more realistic than fluid/rock ratios calculated from a zero-dimensional model.

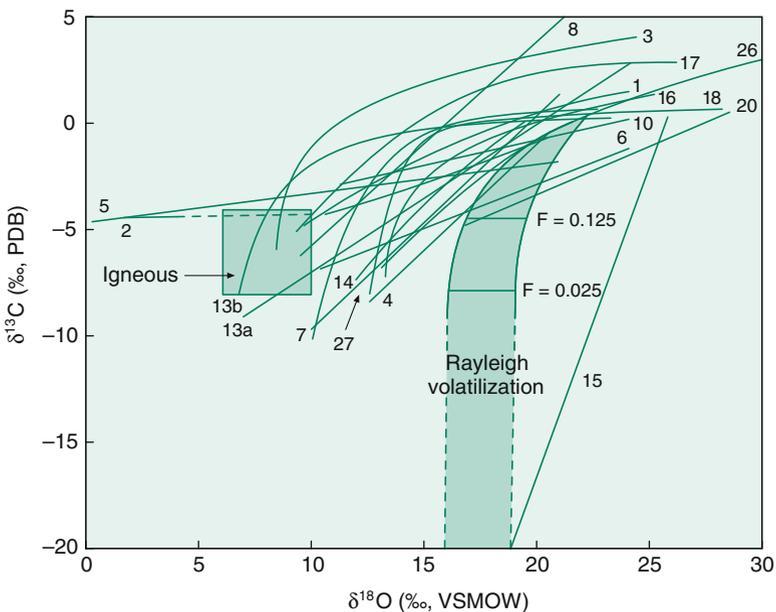


Fig. 3.50 Coupled C-O trends showing decreasing values of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ with increasing metamorphic grade from contact metamorphic localities (Baumgartner and Valley 2001) (Fig. 3.50, 6th edition, p. 219)

Due to the invention of new micro-analytical techniques (laser sampling and ion microprobe), it has become possible to document small-scale isotope gradients within single mineral grains. Oxygen isotope zoning may develop at a variety of scales, from outcrop scale to the grain scale. Patterns of zoning may reflect multiple processes including diffusive oxygen isotope exchange and infiltration of external fluids. For garnets, zoning has been observed in several cases with increases or decreases from core to rim (Kohn et al. 1993; Young and Rumble 1993; Xiao et al. 2002; Errico et al. 2012; Russell et al. 2013). The shape of the isotopic gradient across a grain will allow distinction among processes controlled by open-system fluid migration or closed-system diffusion.

In a detailed ion microprobe study, Ferry et al. (2014) observed in a large number of different minerals large intercrystalline and intracrystalline ^{18}O variability. Regional metamorphic rocks are more variable in ^{18}O than contact metamorphic rocks. Ferry et al. (2014) explained the difference in ^{18}O variability by the longer duration and slower reaction rates of regional metamorphism rather than to differences in temperature.

3.12.1 Contact Metamorphism

Because the isotopic composition of igneous rocks is quite different from those of sedimentary rocks, studies of the isotope variations in the vicinity of an intrusive contact offer the possibility of investigating the role of fluids interacting with rocks around cooling plutons. Two types of aureole can be distinguished (Nabelek 1991): (a) “closed” aureoles where fluids are derived from the pluton or the wall-rock and (b) “open” aureoles that for at least part of their metamorphic history have been infiltrated by fluids of external origin. Some aureoles will be dominated by magmatic or metamorphic fluids, whereas others by surface-derived fluids. The occurrence of meteoric-hydrothermal systems around many plutonic complexes has been documented by H.P. Taylor and his coworkers and has been described in more detail on p. . The depth to which surface-derived fluids can penetrate is still under debate, but most meteoric-hydrothermal systems appear to have developed at depths less than ~ 6 km (Criss and Taylor 1986). However, Wickham and Taylor (1985) suggested that seawater infiltration has been observed to a depth of 12 km in the Trois Seigneurs Massif, Pyrenees.

In many contact aureoles combined petrologic and isotope studies have provided evidence that fluids were primarily locally derived. Oxygen isotope compositions of calc-silicates from many contact aureoles have revealed that the ^{18}O -contents of the calc-silicate hornfels approach those of the respective intrusions. This, together with characteristic hydrogen and carbon isotope ratios, has led many workers to conclude that magmatic fluids were dominant during contact metamorphism with meteoric fluids becoming important during subsequent cooling only (Taylor and O’Neil 1977; Nabelek et al. 1984; Bowman et al. 1985; Valley 1986). Ferry and Dipple (1992) developed different models to simulate fluid-rock interaction on the

Notch Peak aureole, Utah. Their preferred model assumes fluid flow in the direction of increasing temperature, thus arguing against magmatic fluids, but instead proposing fluids derived from volatilization reactions. Nabelek (1991) calculated model $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -profiles which should result from both “down-temperature” and “up-temperature” flow in a contact aureole. He demonstrated that the presence of complex isotopic profiles can be used to get information about fluid fluxes. Gerdes et al. (1995) have examined meter-scale ^{13}C and ^{18}O transport in a thin marble layer near a dike in the Adamello contact aureole, Southern Alps. They observed systematic stable isotope changes in the marble over <1 m as the dike is approached with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values ranging from 0 to -7 ‰ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values from 22.5 to 12.5 ‰. These authors have compared the isotope profiles to one- and two-dimensional models of advective-dispersive isotope transport. Best agreement is obtained using a two-dimensional model that specifies (i) a high permeability zone flow and (ii) a lower permeability zone in marble away from the dike.

3.12.2 Regional Metamorphism

It is a general observation that low-grade metamorphic pelites have $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values between 15 and 18 ‰ whereas high-grade gneisses have $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values between 6 and 10 ‰ (Garlick and Epstein 1967; Shieh and Schwarcz 1974; Longstaffe and Schwarcz 1977; Rye et al. 1976; Wickham and Taylor 1985; Peters and Wickham 1995). In the absence of infiltration of a fluid phase, isotopic shifts resulting from net transfer reactions in typical amphibolite or lower granulite facies metapelites and metabasites are about 1 ‰ or less for about 150 °C of heating (Kohn et al. 1993, Young 1993). Thus, the processes responsible for this decrease in ^{18}O must be linked to large-scale fluid transport in the crust.

There are several factors which control fluid transport. One is the lithology of a metamorphic sequence. Marbles, in particular, are relatively impermeable during metamorphism (Nabelek et al. 1984) and, therefore, may act as barriers to fluid flow, limiting the scale of homogenization and preferentially channeling fluids through silicate layers. Marbles may act as local high- ^{18}O reservoirs and may even increase the ^{18}O content of adjacent lithologies (Peters and Wickham 1995). Therefore, massive marbles generally preserve their sedimentary isotope signatures, even up to the highest metamorphic grades (Valley et al. 1990).

Sedimentary sequences undergoing a low-grade metamorphism initially may contain abundant connate pore fluids which provide a substantial low- ^{18}O reservoir and a medium for isotopic homogenization. An additional important fluid source is provided by metamorphic dehydration reactions at higher grades of metamorphism (e.g. Ferry 1992). In some areas, petrological and stable isotope studies suggest that metamorphic fluid compositions were predominantly internally buffered by devolatilization reactions and that large amounts of fluid did not interact with the rocks during regional metamorphism (e.g. Valley et al. 1990). In a high-grade poly-metamorphic terrane, later metamorphic events are likely to be dominated by

magmatic fluid sources since previous events would have caused extensive dehydration, thereby limiting potential fluid sources (Peters and Wickham 1995). A detailed study of the O-isotope composition of pelites, amphibolites and marbles from the island of Naxos, Greece demonstrates that the isotopic pattern observed today is the result of at least three processes: two fluid flow events and a pre-existing isotopic gradient (Baker and Matthews 1995).

Shear zones are particularly good environments to investigate fluid flow at various depths within the crust (Kerrick et al. 1984; Kerrich and Rehrig 1987; McCaig et al. 1990; Fricke et al. 1992). During retrograde metamorphism aqueous fluids react with dehydrated rocks and fluid flow is concentrated within relatively narrow zones. By analyzing quartzite mylonites in Nevada, Fricke et al. (1992) demonstrated that significant amounts of meteoric waters must have infiltrated the shear zone during mylonitization to depths of at least 5–10 km. Similarly, McCaig et al. (1990) showed that formation waters were involved in shear zones in the Pyrenees and that the mylonitization process occurred at a depth of about 10 km.

Unusually low $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values—as light as -5 to -10 ‰—have been observed in ultra-high pressure (UHP)-rocks from Dabie Shan and Sulu, China (Rumble and Yui 1998; Zheng et al. 1998; Xiao et al. 2006 besides others). UHP-rocks are characterized by coesite and microdiamond in eclogite and other crustal rocks, which is strong evidence that a sizable segment of ancient continental crust was subducted to mantle depths. The extremely low $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values result from meteoric water interaction prior to UHP metamorphism. Surprisingly, these rocks have preserved their extremely low $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values indicating a short residence time at mantle depth followed by a rapid uplift. Quartz-garnet oxygen isotope temperatures in the range 700–900 °C are consistent with an approach to grain-scale oxygen isotope equilibrium under UHP conditions (Rumble and Yui 1998; Xiao et al. 2006). Figure 84 shows a 5000 m oxygen isotope profile through the CCSD (Chinese Continental Scientific Drilling) UHP drill hole, which indicates meteoric water interaction till a depth of 3300 m. Mineral $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ compositions are homogeneous on a mm to cm scale, but heterogeneous on a meter scale.

The Dabie-Sulu terrain is the largest among the UHP belts worldwide and covers an area of 5000 km² in Dabie and >10,000 km² in Sulu. The huge amounts of meteoric water necessary to cause the ¹⁸O-depletions probably originate from the deglaciation of the Neoproterozoic snowball earth.

3.12.3 Lower Crustal Rocks

Granulites constitute the dominant rock type in the lower crust. Granulites may be found at the Earth's surface in two different settings: (i) exposed in high grade regional metamorphic belts and (ii) found as small xenoliths in basaltic pipes. Both

types of granulites suggest a compositionally diverse lower crust ranging in composition from mafic to felsic.

Stable isotope studies of granulite terranes (Sri Lanka—Fiorentini et al. 1990; South India—Jiang et al. 1988; Limpopo Belt—Hoernes and Van Reenen 1992; Venneman and Smith 1992, Adirondacks—Valley and coworkers) have shown that terranes are isotopically heterogeneous and are characterized by $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values that range from “mantle-like” values to typical metasedimentary values above 10 ‰. Investigations of amphibolite/granulite transitions have shown little evidence for a pervasive fluid flux as a major factor in granulite facies metamorphism (Valley et al. 1990; Cartwright and Valley 1991; Todd and Evans 1993).

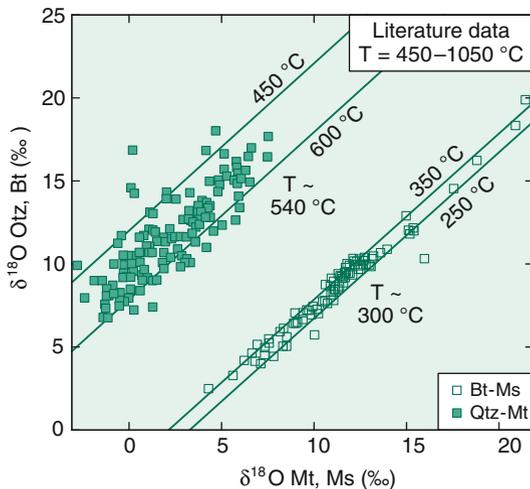
Similar results have been obtained from lower crustal granulite xenoliths, which also exhibit a large range in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values from 5.4 to 13.5 ‰ (Mengel and Hoefs 1990; Kempton and Harmon 1992). Mafic granulites are characterized by the lowest $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -values and range of ^{18}O -contents. By contrast, silicic meta-igneous and meta-sedimentary granulites are significantly enriched in ^{18}O with an average $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -value around 10 ‰. The overall variation of 8 ‰ emphasizes the O-isotope heterogeneity of the lower crust and demonstrates that pervasive deep crustal fluid flow and isotopic homogenization is not a major process.

3.12.4 Thermometry

Oxygen isotope thermometry is widely used to determine temperatures of metamorphic rocks. The principal concern in isotope thermometry continues to be the preservation of peak metamorphic temperatures during cooling. It has long been recognized that oxygen isotope thermometers often record discordant temperatures in slowly cooled metamorphic rocks. Figure 3.51 gives a compilation of literature data (Kohn 1999) showing $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values and calculated temperature ranges for quartz-magnetite and muscovite-biotite. Muscovite-biotite pairs from rocks whose metamorphic conditions range from greenschist to granulite facies cluster around an apparent temperature of $\sim 300^\circ\text{C}$, whereas quartz-magnetite pairs have an apparent temperature of $\sim 540^\circ\text{C}$. These data demonstrate substantial diffusional resetting, which is consistent with relatively high water fugacities during cooling (Kohn 1999).

Assuming that a rock behaves as a closed system and consists of the three mineral assemblage quartz, feldspar and hornblende, then hornblende will be the slowest diffusing phase and feldspar the fastest diffusing phase. Using the formulation of Dodson (1973) for closure temperature and a given set of parameters (diffusion constants, cooling rate and grain size), Giletti (1986) calculated apparent temperatures that would be obtained in rocks with different modal proportions of the three minerals once all isotope exchange had ceased in the rock. In the Giletti model, the apparent quartz—hornblende temperature is dependent only on the quartz/feldspar ratio and is independent of the amount of hornblende in the rock, since hornblende is the first phase to reach its closure temperature. Eiler et al. (1992, 1993), however, demonstrated that the abundance of the slow diffusing phase (e.g. hornblende) can

Fig. 3.51 Plot of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of quartz versus $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ magnetite (solid squares) and of biotite versus muscovite (open squares) from rocks whose peak metamorphic conditions range from greenschist through granulite facies (after Kohn 1999) (Fig. 3.52, 6th edition, p. 225)



affect apparent equilibrium temperatures because of continued exchange between the grain boundaries of this phase and fast diffusing phases. Thus, retrograde diffusion related oxygen isotope exchange makes the calculation of peak metamorphic temperatures impossible, but can be used to estimate cooling rates.

Diffusion modelling, on the other hand, also predicts that accurate temperatures can be obtained from refractory accessory minerals, if they occur in a rock that is modally dominated by a readily exchangeable mineral (Valley 2001). The basis of this approach is that the accessory mineral preserves the isotope composition from crystallization because of slow diffusion while the dominant mineral preserves its isotope composition by mass balance because there are no other sufficiently abundant exchangeable phases.

Several refractory accessory mineral thermometers have been applied, including aluminosilicate, magnetite, garnet and rutile in quartz-rich rocks and magnetite, titanite or diopside in marble. Refractory minerals are defined based on their relative diffusion rates relative to the matrix of the total rock. Thus plagioclase—magnetite or plagioclase—rutile may be good thermometers in amphibolite or eclogite-facies basic rocks, but fail in the granulite facies.

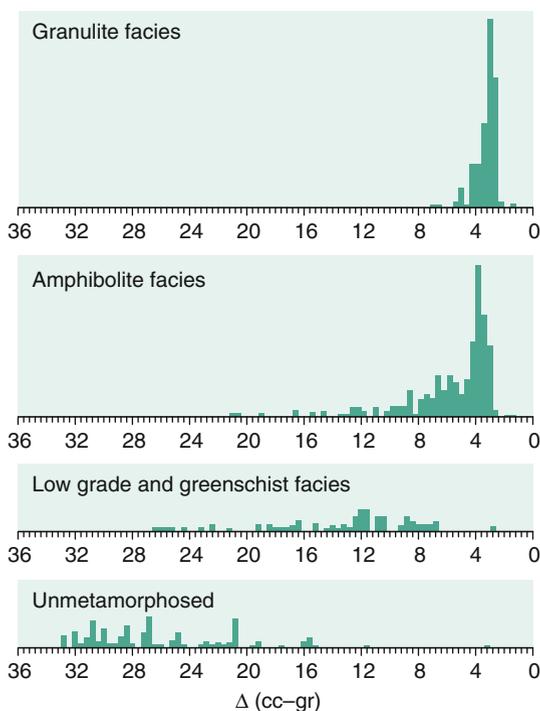
Other suitable phases for the preservation of peak metamorphic temperatures are the Al_2SiO_5 polymorphs kyanite and sillimanite, having both slow oxygen diffusion rates. By analyzing the aluminosilicate polymorphs from a variety of rocks with different temperature histories, Sharp (1995) could derive empirical equilibrium fractionation factors for kyanite and sillimanite. In some rocks oxygen isotope temperatures are far higher than the regional metamorphic temperatures, possibly reflecting early high-temperature contact metamorphic effects that are preserved only in the most refractory phases.

Despite extensive diffusional resetting under water-buffered conditions, some rocks clearly retain oxygen isotope fractionations that are not reset by diffusion

during cooling. Farquhar et al. (1996) have investigated two granulite terrains from NW Canada and Antarctica. Quartz-garnet temperatures of around 1000 °C are in good agreement with a variety of independent temperature estimations. Quartz-pyroxene temperatures are significantly lower and still lower quartz-magnetite temperatures of around 670 °C are attributed to a combination of faster oxygen diffusion in quartz and magnetite and recrystallization during late-stage deformation. The “dry” nature of granulites is obviously critical for preservation of high-temperature records. Cooler and more hydrous rocks seem to be less capable of retaining a record of peak temperatures.

Carbon isotope partitioning between calcite and graphite is another example of a favorable thermometer to record peak metamorphic temperatures in marbles because calcite is the abundant phase with relatively high carbon diffusivities whereas graphite is of minor abundance and has a very slow diffusion rate. Figure 3.52 shows the decrease of fractionation of calcite and graphite (Δ) with increasing metamorphic grade. The narrow range of graphite δ -values associated with granulite facies rocks indicates isotope equilibrium between carbonate and graphite at high temperatures. Figure 3.52 also indicates that under granulite-facies conditions the original carbon isotope composition has been obliterated due to exchange between carbonate and reduced carbon.

Fig. 3.52 Frequency distribution of calcite-graphite fractionations (Δ) with increasing metamorphic grade (after Des Marais 2001) (Fig. 3.53, 6th edition, p. 226)



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