ISOTOPIC ANALYSIS OF PRESOLAR GRAPHITE FROM THE MURCHISON KFB1 SEPARATE.
S. Amari, E. Zinner, and R. S. Lewis. Laboratory for Space Sciences and the Physics Department, Washington University, St. Louis, MO 63130, USA (sa@wuphys.wustl.edu), Enrico Fermi Institute and Chicago Center for Cosmochemistry, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60637, USA.

Introduction: Presolar graphite grains, the carrier of Ne-E(L), show a range of density (1.6 – 2.2 g/cm$^3$) and their isotopic features depend on density [1-3]. Low-density graphite grains from the separate KE3 (1.65 – 1.72 g/cm$^3$) extracted from Murchison [4] are characterized by $^{18}$O excesses, Si isotopic anomalies (mainly in the form of $^{28}$Si excesses), high inferred $^{26}$Al/$^{27}$Al ratios (up to 0.1), as well as the initial presence of $^{44}$Ti (T$_{1/2}$ = 60 a) [5]. These features indicate that they formed in supernova ejecta. Of the other three graphite separates from Murchison, KFA1 (2.05 – 2.10 g/cm$^3$) and KFB1 (2.10 – 2.15 g/cm$^3$) also contain grains with $^{18}$O excesses, although the fraction of grains with such excesses is smaller than in KE3 [6, 7].

Amari et al. [8] have reported on a search for the initial presence of $^{60}$Fe in low-density graphite grains but could not confirm it. $^{22}$Ne in low-density graphite grains appears to be due to the decay of $^{22}$Na (T$_{1/2}$ = 2.6 a) synthesized in the O/Ne zone [9, 10]. One of the radioactive isotopes that are produced in this zone and are of interest with respect to the early solar system is $^{56}$Fe (T$_{1/2}$ = 1.49 Ma). Here we report on our continuing effort in the search for $^{60}$Fe in graphite grains.

Results and Discussion: We analyzed isotopic ratios of 15 grains from KFA1 with the NanoSIMS at Washington University. Ten grains have $^{12}$C/$^{13}$C ratios between 74 and 90 (solar: 89). Only one grain has a $^{12}$C/$^{13}$C ratio significantly higher (493) than the solar ratio. Two of the three $^{18}$O-rich grains exhibit low $^{12}$C/$^{13}$C ratios (7.7 and 13.9). One grain with a low $^{12}$C/$^{13}$C ratio (14.5) but a normal $^{18}$O/$^{16}$O ratio shows anomalous Ti with a V-shape isotopic pattern when normalized to $^{48}$Ti and the solar ratios. The $^{50}$Ti/$^{48}$Ti of the grain was not determined because of a huge $^{50}$Cr correction. Grains that belong to this population, characterized by low $^{12}$C/$^{13}$C ratios (~ 10), are enigmatic: many of them show normal isotopic ratios in trace elements and it is not easy to decipher the stellar sources of these grains. In this study, two such grains, with $^{18}$O excesses, undoubtedly originated from supernovae. The grain with the Ti isotopic anomaly shows a signature of neutron capture. However, it is not clear whether it was produced in a supernova, an AGB star, or a yet unidentified stellar source. $^{57}$Fe/$^{56}$Fe, $^{60}$Ni/$^{59}$Ni and $^{62}$Ni/$^{60}$Ni ratios of all 15 grains are normal within errors and we still have not obtained any evidence for the initial presence of $^{60}$Fe.