

Early Solar System Solar Wind Implantation of ⁷Be into Calcium-Alumimum Rich Inclusions in Primitive Meteortites

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Abstract

The one time presence of short-lived radionuclides (SLRs) in Calcium-Aluminum Rich inclusions (CAIs) in primitive meteorites has been detected. The solar wind implantation model (SWIM) is one possible model that attempts to explain the catalogue of SLRs found in primitive meteorites. In the SWIM, solar energetic particle (SEP) nuclear interactions with gas in the proto-solar atmosphere of young stellar objects (YSOs) give rise to daughter nuclei, including SLRs. These daughter nuclei then may become entrained in the solar wind via magnetic field lines. Subsequently, the nuclei, including SLRs, may be implanted into CAI precursors that have fallen from the main accretion flow which had been destined for the proto-star. This mode of implanting SLRs in the solar system is viable, and is exemplified by the impregnation of the lunar surface with solar wind particles, including SLRs. X-ray luminosities have been measured to be 100,000 times more energetic in YSOs, including T-Tauri stars, than present-day solar luminosities. The SWIM scales the production rate of SLRs to nascent SEP activity in T-Tauri stars. Here, we model the implantation of ⁷Be into CAIs in the SWIM, utilizing the enhanced SEP fluxes and the rate of refractory mass inflowing at the X-region, 0.06 AU from the proto-Sun. Taking into account the radioactive decay of 7Be and spectral flare variations, the 7Be/9Be initial isotopic ratio is found to range from 1×10^{-5} to 5×10^{-5} .

Keywords

Radio-Nuclide, ⁷Be, Early Solar System, Solar Wind, CAI, Solar Wind Implantation Model, X-Wind

1. Introduction

Studies report evidence for the one-time presence of SLRs, through decay prod-

uct systematics, including ¹⁰Be, ²⁶Al, ³⁶Cl, ⁴¹Ca, and ⁵³Mn, in CAIs in primitive carbonaceous meteorites at the nascence of the solar system [1]. The possible origins of these SLRs are widely varied and include stellar sources (AGB Stars, Wolf-Rayet stars, nova, and super nova) and energetic particle interaction, from either SEPs, or galactic cosmic rays (GCRs). Bricker & Caffee [2] [3] proposed the solar wind implantation model (SWIM) for the incorporation of ¹⁰Be and ³⁶Cl into CAIs early in primitive meteorites.

In the SWIM, the SLRs come into existence via SEP nuclear reactions in the proto-solar atmosphere of the young Sun, characterized by X-ray emissions orders of magnitude greater than main sequence stars. Studies of the Orion Nebulae indicate that pre-main sequence (PMS) stars exhibit X-ray luminosity, and hence SEP fluxes on the order of $\sim 10^5$ over contemporary SEP flux levels [4]. The irradiation produced SLRs are then trapped by magnetic field lines, and these solar wind SLRs eventually impregnate CAI precursors. This mode of production of SLRs, entrainment of SLRs in the solar wind, and implantation of SLR into solar system material is seen in the implantation of solar wind particles, e.g. ¹⁰Be [5] [6] and ¹⁴C [6] [7], on the Moon.

¹⁰Be is produced via SEP spallation reactions, with oxygen serving as the chief target particle in the SWIM. Similar to ¹⁰Be, ⁷Be, half-life of 53 days [8], is also primarily produced through SEP nuclear reactions with oxygen as the primary target particle, and ⁷Be has also recently been detected in stellar photospheres [9] In addition, the one-time presence of ⁷Be has been measured in CAIs in primitive meteorites (through the study of Li, the decay product of ⁷Be, systematics) [10] [11]. Owing to the 53 day half-life, local irradiation is the only possible operation pathway for ⁷Be production. As such, the large difference in half-lives between ⁷Be and ¹⁰Be is of interest in terms of chronological processes associated with early solar system and CAI formation and evolution.

In this work, we consider the possible incorporation of ⁷Be into CAIs in primitive carbonaceous meteorites in the SWIM. **Table 1** below characterizes berylliumisotopes found in CAIs.

2. Solar Wind Implantation Mode

2.1. Synopsis

In the SWIM, SLRs are produced in the solar nebula via SEP nuclear reactions on gaseous target material in the solar atmosphere ~4.6 Gyr, during the formation

Table	1.	Beryl	lium	isoto	opes	found	in	CAIs.
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Nuclide	Half-life	Initial Isotopic Ratio	Radionuclide (g ⁻¹)	
⁷ Be	53 days [8]	1.2 × 10 ⁻³ [10] 6.1 × 10 ⁻³ [11]	1.0×10^{13} 5.3×10^{13}	
¹⁰ Be	1.36 × 10 ⁶ yr [12]	9.5 × 10 ⁻⁴ [13]	6.4×10^{12}	

Note: Radionuclide content in g^{-1} calculated from initial isotopic ratio and ⁹Be content in ppb. The ⁹Be content in CAIs is estimated 100 ppb [14] [15].

of the solar system. These newly produced nuclei are incorporated in the solar wind. The SLRs flow along magnetic field lines in the solar wind, and this particle flow intersects with materials which have fallen out of the main accretion flow, which was headed to hot-spots on the Sun. At the intersection of outflowing SLRs, and inflowing fallen CAI precursor material, the SLRs may become impregnated into the inflowing materials. The fundamental geometry for the implantation process described above and transportation of implanted CAIs to the asteroid zone can be gleaned from the X-wind model of Shu *et al.* [16] [17] [18]. Figure 1 below illustrates of the basic magnetic field geometry, ⁷Be production via SEP flaring activity, and subsequent implantation into CAI-precursor material from the main funnel flow onto the proto-Sun.

2.2. Refractory Mass Inflow Rate

The effective refractory mass inflow rate, *S*, *i.e.* the refractory mass that falls from the main funnel flow which was accreting onto the star at the X-region, is calculated from equation (1):

$$S = \dot{M}_D \cdot X_r \cdot F \tag{1}$$

where \dot{M}_D is disk mass accretion rate, X_r is the cosmic mass fraction, and *F* is the fraction of material that enters the X-region from the main funnel flow [19]. For \dot{M}_D , we adopt 1×10^{-7} solar masses year⁻¹. Disk mass accretion rates range from ~10⁻⁷ to ~10⁻¹⁰ solar masses year⁻¹ for T Tauri stars from 1 - 3 Myr [20], whereas embedded class 0 and class I PMS stars have mass accretion rates of ~10⁻⁵ to ~10⁻⁶ solar masses year⁻¹ [21]. Here we adopt for \dot{M}_D , a rate 1×10^{-7} solar masses year⁻¹, corresponding to class II or III PMS stars. From Lee *et al.* [19] we utilize a cosmic mass fraction, X_r and fraction of refractory material fraction *F*, of 4×10^{-3} and 0.01, respectively, in our model. X_r represents the fraction of refractory content in the inflowing material, and *F* represents the fraction of inflowing mass that does not accrete onto the proto-sun. The choice 0.01



Figure 1. SWIM magnetic field geometry for SLRs production via SEP nuclear reactions. The gray area represents the main accretion flow onto "hot spots" on the PMS star. SLRs produced close to the proto-solar surface are incorporated into CAI precursor material which has fallen from the accretion flow (figure after Shu *et al.* [17]).

maximizes *F*, and corresponds to all the mass which comprises the planets falling from the accretion flow. F = 0.01 is the preferred value of Lee *et al.* [19] in their model. (See Lee *et al.* [19] for a detailed discussion of X_r and *F*) Employing Equation (1) and the parameters detailed above, we find the rate at which this refractory material reaches the x-region, called here the refractory mass inflow rate, *S*, is 2.5×10^{14} g s⁻¹. In consideration of the extreme values of, *S*, *S* could be two orders of magnitude greater if the accretion rates of ~10⁻⁵ to ~10⁻⁶ solar masses year⁻¹, or *S* could also be four orders of magnitude less if the mass accretion rate was ~10⁻⁸ to 10⁻¹⁰ solar masses year⁻¹ and *F*~0.0001.

2.3. Effective Ancient Production Rate

The effective ancient ⁷Be outflow rate, P in units of s⁻¹, is given by:

$$P = p \cdot f \tag{2}$$

where *p* is the ancient production rate and *f* is the fraction of the solar wind ⁷Be that enters the CAI-forming region; f = 0.1. (See Bricker & Caffee [2] [3] for a discussion of factor *f*). The ⁷Be production rate is calculated assuming that SEPs are characterized by a power law relationship:

$$\frac{dF}{dE} = kE^{-r} \tag{3}$$

where *r* ranges from 2.5 to 4. For impulsive flares, *i.e.* r = 4, we use ³He/H = 0.1 and ³He/H = 0.3, and for gradual flares, *i.e.* r = 2.5, we use ³He/H = 0. For all spectral indices, we assume a/H = 0.1. Contemporary SEP flux rates at the Sun-Earth distance of 1 AU are ~100 protons cm⁻²·s⁻¹ for E > 10 MeV [22]. We assume an increase in ancient particle fluxes over the current particle flux of ~4 × 10⁵ [2] [4], yielding an energetic particle flux rate of 3.7×10^{12} protons cm⁻²·s⁻¹ for E > 10 MeV at the surface of the proto-Sun.

The production rates for cosmogenic nuclides can be calculated via:

$$p = \sum_{i} N_{i} \int \sigma_{ij} \frac{dF(E)}{dE_{i}} dE$$
(4)

where *i* represents the target elements for the production of the considered nuclide, N_i is the abundance of the target element $(g \cdot g^{-1})$, *j* indicates the energetic particles that cause the reaction, $\sigma_{ij}(E)$ is the cross section for the production of the nuclide from the interaction of particle *j* with energy *E* from target *i* for the considered reaction (cm²), and $\frac{dF(E)}{dE_j}dE$ is the differential energetic particle flux of particle *j* at energy E (cm⁻²·s⁻¹) [22]. We assume gaseous oxygen target particles of solar composition [23].

The cross-section we use to calculate ⁷Be production from protons and ⁴He pathways is from Sisterson *et al.* [24], and the cross-section we use for production from ³He is from Gounelle *et al.* [25]. The Sisterson *et al.* [24] cross-section is experimental obtained, and the Gounelle *et al.* [25] cross-section is a combination of experimental data, fragmentation and Hauser-Feshbach codes. The un-

certainty associated with model codes are at best a factor of two. Taking into account both target abundance and nuclear cross-sections, the reaction with oxygen as the target is the primary production pathway. Any other nuclear reaction would add little to the overall ⁷Be production rate. **Table 2** shows the nuclear reactions considered in the calculations.

3. Results

The content of ⁷Be found in refractory material, in atoms g^{-1} , predicted by SWIM is given by:

$$N^{^{7\mathrm{Be}}} = \frac{P}{S} = \frac{p \cdot f}{\dot{M}_{D} \cdot X_{r} \cdot F}$$
(5)

where *P* is given atoms s^{-1} and *S* is given in $g \cdot s^{-1}$.

Using the refractory mass inflow rate, S, of 2.5×10^{14} g·s⁻¹ from Equation (1), and calculations of *P*, the effective ancient ⁷Be outflow rate, from Equation (2) & Equation (4), we determine the content of ⁷Be in CAIs in atoms g⁻¹ using Equation (5), and find the associated isotopic ratio for different flare parameters given in **Table 3**. **Figure 2** depicts the ⁷Be isotopic ratio predicted by the SWIM from SEPs.

4. Discussion

Similar to ¹⁰Be, the primary target for SEP production of ⁷Be is oxygen. As such, the SEP origin of ⁷Be and ¹⁰Be are uniquely intertwined. The estimated ⁷Be/¹⁰Be production ratio from MeV SEPs in the early solar system is estimated to be ~70 [14]. Using the production rate from Equation (4) and the production rate for ¹⁰Be from Bricker & Caffee [2] from SEP interaction with oxygen targets, we obtain a production ratio of ~50, which is similar to Leya [14]. It would then be expected that the original ratio of ⁷Be/⁹Be found in CAIs would be ~50 times greater than the ¹⁰Be/⁹Be ratio, assuming the simple SWIM mechanism described above. Using 9.5 × 10⁻⁴ [13] as the canonical ¹⁰Be/⁹Be ratio, the ⁷Be/⁹Be ratio would scale to 4.8×10^{-2} . We find this ratio is reproducible within a factor of ~5, the uncertainty associated with SWIM, for spectral indices r > 3.2. The SWIM can account for the scaled up ⁷Be/⁹Be ratio. **Figure 3** below details the ratio of ⁷Be/⁹Be from SWIM to 4.8×10^{-2} .

Experimentally obtained measurements for the original ⁷Be/⁹Be ratio in CAIs are limited and a matter of considerable debate. Limited experimentally determined values for the ratio range from about 1.2×10^{-3} [11] to 6.1×10^{-3} [10]. The experimentally obtained ratios are at least a factor of 10 less than SWIM

Table 2. Nuclear reactions considered in this paper.

$^{16}O(p, x)^7Be$	
$^{16}O(^{3}He, x)^{7}Be$	
$^{16}O(^{4}He, x)^{7}Be$	

atoms g^{-1} (in CAIs)	Isotopic Ratio
1.1×10^{16}	1.6
$3.8 imes 10^{14}$	5.7×10^{-2}
1.1×10^{15}	1.6×10^{-1}
	atoms g ⁻¹ (in CAIs) 1.1×10^{16} 3.8×10^{14} 1.1×10^{15}

Table 3. Predicted ⁷Be content in CAIs.



Figure 2. Predicted ⁷Be content in CAIs from energetic protons as a function of solar flare parameter.



Figure 3. Ratio of ⁷Be/⁹Be found from SWIM.A ratio of one indicates exact match, a ratio greater than one indicates overproduction, and a ratio less than one indicates underproduction.

calculations, and also a factor of at least 10 less than the scaled up ⁷Be/⁹Be found from scaling the canonical ¹⁰Be/⁹Be ratio to ⁷Be and ¹⁰Be production rates. **Figure 4** depicts the ratio of SWIM obtained ratio to the canonical ⁷Be/⁹Be ratio.

Clearly, some other mechanism is needed to explain the overproduction of the



Figure 4. Ratio of SWIM ⁹Be/¹⁰Be ratio to canonical ⁷Be/⁹Be ratio. A factor greater than one indicates overproduction relative to canonical.



Figure 5. Days to canonical ratio vs. spectral index.

⁷Be/⁹Be ratio, both in terms of SWIM calculations and the scaling of the ¹⁰Be/⁹Be to relative ⁷Be and ¹⁰Be production rates.

An assumption of SWIM is that radionuclides are produced via SEP interaction and then immediately incorporated into CAI precursor materials. With a half-life of 53 days, it is possible that some temporal evolution occurs before ⁷Be becomes implanted. **Figure 5** shows days to canonical ratio for spectral index.

Figure 5 shows that with a delay on the order of \sim 100 days from the time of production of ⁷Be to implantation in to CAI precursor materials, the canonical ratio is replicated. Taking into account the time from production of the radio-

nuclide to implantation into CAI precursors, *i.e.*, two half-lives of ⁷Be, explains the deficit in ⁷Be/¹⁰Be measured ratio in comparison to the ⁷Be/¹⁰Be production ratio. It is possible and likely for nuclei to have some finite residence time in the photosphere. Calculations of this residence time have not been performed and are beyond the scope of this paper. Our *ad hoc* choice of two half-lives of residence time for ⁷Be was to explain the ⁷Be/¹⁰Be measured ratio in comparison to the ⁷Be/¹⁰Be production ratio.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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