

Partial differentiation of the CV parent body supported by the paleomagnetic study of 21 CV3 meteorites

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Based chiefly on the paleomagnetic record of Allende [1] and Kaba [2] CV3 meteorites, as well as modeling [3], it has been proposed that the CV parent body may be partially differentiated, with a chondritic shell overlying a differentiated interior [1, 2, 3]. However, this paradigm shift has raised a number of concerns, particularly about the interpretation and significance of the paleomagnetic data [4, 5, 6].

We present here new paleomagnetic data obtained on 21 CV3 meteorites from the ANSMET collection. The parent body thermal metamorphism of the same meteorites was investigated using Raman spectroscopy [7]. For each meteorite, at least one sample was studied using alternating field demagnetization and associated paleointensity techniques. On a selection of meteorites we used thermal demagnetization and associated paleointensity techniques. Both methods show that most studied samples possess a stable paleomagnetic record.

Overall, this paleomagnetic study points to the presence of a stable magnetic field of several μT during cooling of the CV parent body following the peak of thermal metamorphism, supporting the interpretation of paleomagnetic data obtained on Allende [1] and Kaba [2]. The best explanation for such a strong field is the existence of a metallic core generating a dynamo field, implying partial differentiation of the CV parent body.

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