The universal sample holders of microanalytical instruments of FIB, TEM, NanoSIMS, and STXM-NEXAFS for the coordinated analysis of extraterrestrial materials

Motoo Ito (motoo@jamstec.go.jp)
Kaiyo Kenkyu Kaihatsu Kiko Kochi Core Kenkyujo https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5686-0243

Naotaka Tomioka
JAMSTEC

Kentaro Uesugi
JASRI/SPring-8

Masayuki Uesugi
JASRI/SPring-8

Yu Kodama
Marine Works Japan

Ikuya Sakurai
Nagoya University

Ikuo Okada
Nagoya University

Takuji Ohigashi
UVSOR/IMS

Hayato Yuzawa
UVSOR/IMS

Akira Yamaguchi
NIPR

Naoya Imae
NIPR

Yuzuru Karouji
JAXA Space Exploration Center

Naoki Shirai
Tokyo Metropolitan University

Toru Yada
ISAS/JAXA

Masanao Abe
ISAS/JAXA

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Abstract

We developed universal sample holders (the Kochi grid, Kochi clamp, and Okazaki cell) and a transfer vessel (facility-to-facility transfer container (FFTC)) to analyze sensitive and fragile samples, such as extremely small extraterrestrial materials. The holders and container prevent degradation, contamination due to terrestrial atmosphere (water vapor and oxygen gas) and small particles, as well as mechanical sample damages. The FFTC can isolate the samples from the effects of the atmosphere for more than a week. The Kochi grid and clamp were made for a coordinate micro/nano-analysis that utilize a focused-ion beam apparatus, transmission electron microscope, and nanoscale secondary ion mass spectrometry. The Okazaki cell was made as an additional attachment for a scanning transmission X-ray microscope that uses near edge X-ray absorption fine structure. The coordinated analysis involving these holders was successfully carried out without any sample damage or loss, thereby enabling us to obtain sufficient quality of analytical datasets of textures, crystallography, elemental/isotopic abundances, and molecular functional groups for μm-sized minerals and organics in both an Antarctic micrometeorite and a carbonaceous chondrite. We will apply the coordinated analysis to acquire the complex characteristics in samples that obtain by the future spacecraft sample return mission.

Introduction

Spacecraft sample return missions focus on collecting materials from extraterrestrial bodies, including planets, satellites, asteroids, and comets. Moon rocks and soils were collected by the Apollo missions in the 1960s and the USSR Luna missions (Orloff 2004). More recently, solar wind particles, cometary and asteroidal particles were obtained by the Genesis mission (McKeegan et al. 2011), the NASA Stardust mission (Brownlee et al. 2006) and the JAXA Hayabusa mission (Nakamura et al. 2010), respectively. With the exception of approximately 380 kg of Moon rocks and soils, the extraterrestrial materials obtained from the comet Wild2 by the Stardust mission, and the asteroid Itokawa (S-type) by the Hayabusa mission, are very small (tens to hundreds μm in size) and composed of complex mixtures of ultra-fine minerals and/or organic components (Brownlee et al. 2006; Nakamura-Messenger et al. 2006; Yada et al. 2014). The JAXA Hayabusa2 and NASA OSIRIS-REx are both on-going sample return missions from the primitive asteroids Ryugu (C-type) and Bennu (B-type), respectively (Tachibana et al. 2014; Laurette et al. 2015). These missions have complementary scientific goals of understanding Solar System evolution in regard to organics, water, and associated minerals.

Sample preparation, transfer between instruments, and transportation among institutes with minimal chemical reactions with the surrounding environment and/or terrestrial contaminants (e.g., water vapor, hydrocarbon, atmospheric gases, and small particles) is essential for the analysis of extraterrestrial samples directly collected from the asteroid Itokawa (Yada et al. 2014; Okazaki et al. 2017). Okazaki et al. (2017) pointed out that the tiny amorphous silicates and ultra-thin layered space-weathering rims found in the Itokawa asteroidal samples were decomposed as a result of interaction with atmospheric air during a 200-h analysis. The Itokawa particles consist of only anhydrous minerals similar to those in ordinary chondrites (Nakamura et al. 2011), while the Ryugu samples (expected amount of returned sample:

approximately 100 mg) are expected to be carbonaceous chondrites materials that contain organics and hydrous minerals (e.g., Tachibana et al. 2014). Considering the components of carbonaceous chondrites, the expected composition of the Ryugu sample contains 2–18 wt% extraterrestrial water and 500 μg/g organic matter (Okazaki et al. 2017 and reference therein). Therefore, concerning the *in-situ* analysis of organics and volatiles, and sample size, these samples require even more careful handling and proper analytical sequencing without terrestrial contaminations and sample damages in texture, morphology, isotopic fractionation, major and trace element abundances (e.g., Ito et al. 2014; Uesugi et al. 2014a; Yabuta et al. 2014) than samples obtained by previous missions.

Uesugi et al. (2014a) pointed out problems related to sample handling/preparation processes (lost and/or broken) and sample damage (crystal/molecule structural changes, disturbance of elements and isotopic fractionation) of the Itokawa carbonaceous particles (also known as Category 3 organic materials) regarding electron and ion beam analyses (i.e., TEM, SIMS). They proposed an optimized sample handling system that limited terrestrial contaminations during transportation between institutes and had the proper analytical sequence of examinations (Uesugi et al. 2014a, 2019). The drawbacks of their research, however, was that it was only suitable for μm-sized samples, and the original textures/structures of larger samples were readily lost when the sample was pressed onto an Au thin film (Uesugi et al. 2014a).

A coordinated analysis that utilized focused ion beam (FIB) sample preparation and subsequent Scanning transmission X-ray microscope (STXM)- near edge X-ray absorption fine structure (NEXAFS), nanoscale secondary ion mass spectrometer (NanoSIMS), and transmission electron microscope (TEM) analyses is essential to acquire information regarding molecular and crystal structures, abundances of major/trace elements and isotopes, and petrographic textures in nanometer- to micrometer-scale samples. These techniques were applied to the carbonaceous materials provided by the Stardust cometary dust and Hayabusa sample return missions (Sanford et al. 2006; Matrajt et al. 2008; Ito et al. 2014; Uesugi et al., 2014a; Yabuta et al., 2014).

Previous research was mostly performed by extracting a sample from a large amount (> several grams) of chondrite for the analysis of organic matters (e.g., Sephton and Botta 2005). Therefore, it is difficult to retrieve the original chemical and structural characteristics of the organic matters and its surrounding mineral phases. Recently, there were several reports of *in-situ* analysis for organics and their associated minerals using a coordinated microanalysis. For example, Le Guillou et al. (2014) conducted *in-situ* investigations of FIB-sections from carbonaceous chondrites (Orgueil, Murchison, and Renazzo) utilizing STXM and TEM analyses on the FIB-sections with known H isotopic distributions by NanoSIMS. Floss et al. (2014) reported on NanoSIMS and FIB-TEM analyses of individual organic matter, including nanoglobules and their associated minerals. Nevertheless, the number of measurements by a coordinate analysis has not been sufficiently reached due to technical difficulties, including accidents, damages, and contaminations, in sample mounting and transfer between instruments.

Furthermore, we should perform analyses under a non-air exposing environment for the coordinate analysis of samples obtained by future missions. For example, in previous studies, samples attached to an TEM grid were analyzed in an STXM-NEXAFS by fixing the grid to the sample holder using adhesive tape (e.g., Leontowich and Hitchcock 2012). After the analysis, the grid was removed from the tape for subsequent TEM and/or NanoSIMS testing. The commercial TEM grid was easily deformed during the removal process and was therefore difficult to set in the TEM and NanoSIMS sample holders, even under the atmosphere environment. For samples obtained by future missions, we should operate these procedures in a glovebox, where severe electrostatic force acts. However, these procedures could cause unexpected accidents, including damaging and/or losing the samples.

To overcome these problems, we are developing a coordinated analysis procedure that utilizes a series of microanalytical instruments, including FIB, TEM, NanoSIMS, and STXM-NEXAFS, to minimize and avoid terrestrial contaminations, mechanical damages, and sample loss. A sample transport container and different universal sample holders were also developed for the coordinated analysis. Note that it is necessary for these devices to fulfill the following requirements: 1) secure and safe transportation of the sample, 2) adaptable for different analytical instruments, including synchrotron-based analyses, 3) easy handling under a non-air exposing sample system (i.e., in a glove box and sample in/out instrument under a vacuum or an inert gas), and 4) be easy to clean by ultra-pure water or organic solvents (acetone or ethanol). Motivation for the development of these devices is to adequately complete the pertinent analyses of extraterrestrial materials obtained by sample return missions (i.e., the JAXA Hayabusa2 and the NASA OSIRIS-REx).

In this study, the performance of the analytical procedure and sample handling that utilized our developed devices was evaluated through coordinated analyses for a well-characterized Antarctic micrometeorite (AMM) and meteorite. We will report the evaluation of atmosphere shielding performance in subsequent papers.

Developments

Facility to facility transfer container (FFTC)

We developed a sample transport vessel (FFTC) that keeps samples under low-pressure or inert gas conditions to allow for secure transportation by avoiding terrestrial contaminations, chemical reactions, and/or other alterations, with minimum contact (Fig. 1). The FFTC is composed of materials permitted in the clean chambers of the Hayabusa2 returned samples at JAXA, such as SUS304 and SUS316L stainless steel, and viton rubber. A synthetic fused silica glass plate is used as a view port window. The FFTC is designed to be able to hold various kinds of sample holders, including universal sample holders (Sato Seiki corp. 2019). It is 60 mm in height and 50 mm in diameter, while its interior is 20 mm in height and 40 mm in diameter (Fig. 1b). The seal performance of the FFTC under positive and negative pressures showed stable conditions (72.7 ± 0.8 kPa for a month and 60.7 ± 0.2 kPa for a half-day) as a result of an experiment performed from August 8 to September 4 in 2016 (Fig. 1c).

Kochi grid and clamp for FIB, TEM, and NanoSIMS measurements

Two types of universal sample holders, the Kochi grid and Kochi clamp (Fig. 2), were developed to reduce contamination during sample handling (attachments and removals) without adhesive tapes and materials when the samples are transferred among instruments (FIB, TEM, and NanoSIMS), and to improve the handling procedure in the glovebox. The Kochi grid is a TEM grid that has handles on both sides, and the Kochi clamp is a holder for the easy handling of the commercial TEM grid.

The Kochi grid is composed of copper metal and processed by the Synchrotron-based LIGA (Lithographie, Galvanoformung, Abformung) system at the BL8S2 of Aichi Synchrotron Radiation Center (Aichi Science & Technology Foundation, Aichi, Japan). It is 6.57 mm wide, 1.0 mm (left height), 1.47 mm (right height), and 0.2 mm thick with three posts (0.1 mm in width, 0.2 mm in height, and 0.03 or 0.02 mm in thickness) and was shaped with left-right asymmetry (Fig. 2a). The posts are used for attaching ultra-thin section samples that often have a slight roughness on their surface, which means the posts must be sharpened and flattened by an FIB treatment before the grid can be used for a reliable fixation of the samples. Copper was selected as the grid material to avoid analytical artifacts in the spectra obtained by TEM equipped with an energy dispersive X-ray spectrometer (EDS) for elemental analysis. The characteristic X-ray peaks of copper do not overlap with those of extraterrestrial samples. The asymmetric shape provides clearance for access of a micromanipulator to the post in FIB processing and is easy to handle in a glovebox. The stainless steel Kochi clamp (12 mm in width, 4 mm in height, and 0.6 mm in thickness) was developed to hold a commercial TEM grid for STXM and NanoSIMS sample processing/analyses (Fig. 2c).

The Kochi grid is a perfect fit for the sample holder for the TEM series manufactured by JEOL Ltd. (Fig. 2d). The Kochi clamp can be used for a commercial 3 mm-diameter TEM grid for TEM series manufactured by the FEI Thermo Fisher Scientific and Hitachi High-Tech Corp. Advantages of the Kochi clamp include its ability to be used repeatedly, and its low cost compared to the Kochi grid, while its disadvantage is that the commercial TEM grid has to be removed from the clamp before TEM analysis (Fig. 2d).

For a NanoSIMS imaging analysis, we had to design an attachment that can fix both the grid and clamp onto a NanoSIMS sub sample holder, namely “the Kochi sub sample holder”. The Kochi sub sample holder is 12.8 mm in diameter and 4 mm in thickness, and is made of stainless steel. The Kochi grid or clamp can be held in the central shallow hole (Figs. 3a and 3b). The CAMECA NanoSIMS commercial sample holder has six slots for the Kochi sub sample holders (Fig. 3c). We used carbon nanotube tape (Gecko Tape provided by Nitto Denko corp.) (Maeno and Nakayama, 2008), carbon/copper adhesive tapes, or carbon plaster to ensure it held to avoid a sample shift during analysis.

For a STXM-NEXAFS analysis at the beamline BL4U of the UVSOR Synchrotron, Institute for Molecular Science, National Institutes of Natural Sciences (Okazaki, Japan), the Okazaki cell, which can hold two sets of Kochi grids and/or clamps without adhesive tapes.

Assessment of the in-situ analytical sequence for organic matter

Previous research regarding organics in extraterrestrial materials reported that isotopic compositions, C K-edge spectra, elemental distributions, and textures were affected by extensive electron and ion beam irradiation (De Gregorio et al. 2010; Ito et al. 2014; Uesugi et al. 2014a). Therefore, the analytical sequence must be optimized by measured target materials, especially organics, to avoid any artifacts on the measured data.

Herein, we considered the artifacts on the ultra-high magnification image taken by the TEM after NanoSIMS analyses. De Gregorio et al. (2010) pointed out that extensive electron beam damage during the analysis introduces isotopic disturbances of the D/H ratio in organics. Therefore, the hydrogen isotopic measurement with NanoSIMS in organics should be conducted before the TEM analysis. To mitigate electrostatic charging by ion beam irradiation during NanoSIMS, we used a thin film layer (approximately 20 nm) of Au on the surface of the ultra-thin section sample.

Results And Discussion

We evaluated the Kochi grid for FIB, TEM, and NanoSIMS, and the Okazaki cell for STXM-NEXAFS through the coordinated analysis of primitive extraterrestrial materials containing minerals and organics. The detailed discussion for minerals are located in Sect. 3.2 while organics are discussed in Sect. 3.3

In-situ analysis of mineral phases

The AMM, TT006b101, has a spherical shape of approximately 200 μm in size (approximately 13 μg in weight) (Fig. 4a) and is pressed onto a Gecko Tape. An ultra-thin section of the sample ($10 \times 8 \times 0.1$ μm^3) was prepared and attached to the Kochi grid by the FIB (SMI-4050, Hitachi High-Tech Corp., Minato-ku, Japan) at the Kochi Institute of Core Sample Research, JAMSTEC (Fig. 4b).

We examined the detailed major elemental abundances, mineralogy, and microstructure to gain insight into its petrogenesis by TEM (JEM-ARM200F equipped with EDS, JEOL Ltd., Tokyo) followed by FIB (SMI-4050) to prepare an ultra-thin section. Based on the elemental and electron-diffraction analyses of the individual grains, the AMM was confirmed to consist of olivine [$(Mg,Fe)_2SiO_4$], magnetite (Fe_3O_4), and interstitial Ca-Mg-Fe-Al-bearing amorphous silicate (Fig. 4c), where olivine and magnetite occur as euhedral to subhedral grains of several micrometers in size. The petrography suggests that the precursor material of the AMM was extensively heated to be completely melted and then was partially crystallized by rapid cooling. When the hydrated carbonaceous chondrites containing abundant phyllosilicates experienced extensive heating, a mineral assemblage of olivine, magnetite, and SiO_2-rich amorphous material was formed (Toppani et al. 2001). Note that the phyllosilicates in the precursor chondritic material would have also been affected by heating and dehydration processes during its atmospheric entry.

Next, we applied rastered ion imaging by the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science Technology (JAMSTEC) NanoSIMS 50L ion microprobe (Ametek CAMECA, Inc., Gennevilliers Cedex, France) to acquire an isotope map of oxygen ($^{18}O/^{16}O$ ratio) as well as elemental maps of Si and Mg as $^{24}Mg^{16}O$, Al as $^{27}Al^{16}O$, Ca as $^{40}Ca^{16}O$, and Fe as $^{56}Fe^{16}O$ for the sample (Fig. 4d). The detailed measured conditions and calculation of $\delta^{18}O_{SMOW}$ were published in a previous work (Ito and Messenger 2008). The elemental ratio maps (Fig. 4d) show the constituent mineralogical features of olivine, magnetite, and a Ca-Mg-Fe-Al-bearing amorphous silicate in the section analyzed by the TEM-EDS elemental and crystallographic analyses (Fig. 4c). The obtained $\delta^{18}O_{SMOW}$ isotopic composition of the sample's mineral phases shows a homogeneous distribution of 12.7 ± 2.2 per mil (Fig. 4d). We did not find a clear difference in the $\delta^{18}O$ of each phase within the analytical uncertainties. This $\delta^{18}O$ value is broadly consistent with previous O isotopic compositions for various AMMs, which suggests that heavy O isotopic enrichment was caused by atmospheric entry heating or thermal metamorphism in the parent body (Matrajt et al. 2006; Engrand and Dobrica 2012).

In-situ **analysis of organic matter**

A systematic investigation of the nanoglobules in Yamato, (Y)-791198, which is composed of unheated CM2.4 chondrites (Nakamura 2005; Rubin et al. 2007), was carried out utilizing FIB, STXM-NEXAFS, NanoSIMS, and TEM analyses. The universal sample holders of the Kochi grid for FIB, TEM, NanoSIMS, and the Okazaki cell for STXM-NEXAFS were used.

We prepared an ultra-thin section ($30 \times 30 \times 0.1$ μm^3) of the Y-791198 matrix using the FIB at the Kochi Institute for Core Sample Research, JAMSTEC. The NEXAFS spectra of C K-edge of the section and the nanometer-scale carbon distribution were measured by an STXM at the UVSOR BL4U (Fig. 5a). C and N as $^{12}C^{14}N$ elemental images of the same section were obtained by the JAMSTEC NanoSIMS (Figs. 5b-c) as well as the H, C, and N isotope maps (details of the analytical conditions are located in Ito et al. 2014). Subsequently, a TEM-EDS analysis was performed to obtain carbon X-ray maps and ultra-high magnification images of each carbon enriched region (Fig. 5d).

Four nanoglobule candidates, G1 – G4, were found in the ultra-thin section by combining STXM C K-edge spectral image (Fig. 5a) and NanoSIMS ^{12}C and $^{12}C^{14}N$ elemental images (Figs. 5b-c). The STXM C K-edge spectral image was generated by an accumulation of all the spectral peak intensities in each pixel after a baseline collection at 280 eV. The C-rich regions defined by the STXM C K-edge spectral image are broadly consistent with those of the NanoSIMS ^{12}C and $^{12}C^{14}N$ elemental images (Figs. 5a-c). Table 1 summarizes the results obtained by the TEM-EDS (size) and NanoSIMS (H, C, and N isotopic compositions) analyses.

The representative atomic number contrast images (high-angle annular dark field in scanning-TEM mode (HAADF-STEM)) and carbon X-ray images of nanoglobules G1 and G3 are shown in Fig. 5. The size of the grains ranges from 650 nm to 1000 nm in diameter (Table 1). The grains are mainly composed of carbon,

and their size and shape are similar to those of previous reports (e.g., Nakamura-Messenger et al. 2006; De Gregorio et al. 2013).

The STXM C K-edge spectra of G1 to G4 show peak intensities at 285 eV (aromatic or olefinic carbon), 286.5 eV (oxygen substituted double-bonded carbon, e.g., enolic carbon), 288.4 eV (carbonyl carbon in amide moieties), and 290.2 eV (carbonate CO_3) (Fig. 5f). These peaks exist at a slightly lower energy, approximately 0.3 eV, in comparison with the peaks found by Vinogradoff et al. (2018) due to the surrounding organics that have a wide variety of molecular configurations (e.g., De Gregorio et al. 2013).

We found two types of nanoglobules as a result of the C K-edge spectra that suggest G1 is a ketone-rich nanoglobule, and G2 to G4 are aromatic nanoglobules even though they showed no clear size and morphology difference from each other. Similar features of nanoglobules were reported in De Gregorio et al. (2013). As Flynn et al. (2010) indicated that organic matters *in-situ* in the Murchison and Orgueil chondrites differ in their C K-edge spectra from samples of IOM acid extraction from those same chondrites, the similarity found in this study could be fortuitous. However, it may simply be a result of variation in the carbon functional group in each nanoglobule.

The C ($\delta^{13}C_{PDB}$) and N ($\delta^{15}N_{Air}$) isotopic compositions in the nanoglobules (G1 to G4) in Y-791198 showed a large variation (Table 1) that is consistent with nanoglobules in the Bells (CM2) and Murchison (CM2) chondrites (De Gregorio et al. 2013). No isotopic “hot-spots” with highly enriched ^{15}N ($\delta^{15}N_{Air}$) were observed in the globules. G1 shows as negative $\delta^{15}N_{Air}$ of approximately − 300 per mil and low degree and negative $\delta^{15}N$ were observed in the organic matter of the QUE99117 (CR3) and MET 00426 (CR3) chondrites (Floss et al. 2014). These N isotopic characteristics are expected to occur in ion–molecule reactions (Wirström et al. 2012). The H isotopic compositions of G1, G2, and G4 showed high D-enrichment, implying they have interstellar origins, while G3 had only a moderate D-enrichment (δD_{SMOW} = approximately + 200 per mil). The H isotopic variation found in the nanoglobules was not caused by analytical artifact as we carefully chose an analytical sequence (NanoSIMS isotope map followed by TEM observation) to avoid H isotopic fractionation by electron beam irradiation.

We confirmed that the developed coordinated analytical system of the TEM, NanoSIMS, and STXM-NEXAFS provided the same quality analytical dataset as that of previous works by each instrument.

Coordinated Analysis For The Ryugu Asteroidal Sample

As shown in Fig. 6, we established a coordinated analytical sequence for the future analysis of the Ryugu asteroidal samples from non-destructive analyses at synchrotron radiation facilities, such as 3D-CT (computed tomography), XRD (X-ray diffraction), and STXM-NEXAFS, to destructive analyses, such as TEM, SIMS, and laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS). This coordinated sequence has the potential to obtain the complex characteristics inside a sample. Regions-of-interest (ROIs) inside the sample can be found through synchrotron-based 3D-CT and XRD analyses.

Prior to conducting a series of microanalysis, we used an FIB to extract the ROIs based on a 3D characterization of the sample (Uesugi et al. 2014b).

The coordinate analysis proposed in this study, which involves utilizing instruments, devices, and methods, has been further developed by related works (Kodama et al. 2020; Shirai et al. 2020; Uesugi et al. 2020). Kodama et al. (2020) described the development of a surface treatment technique by FIB for obtaining high-quality electron back-scattered diffraction (EBSD) patterns from minerals in AMMs. Uesugi et al. (2020) developed a vertically aligned carbon nanotubes (VACNT) holder for synchrotron-based CT and XRD analyses. Shirai et al. (2020) stated that the elemental abundances of VACNT, polyimide film, and synthetic quartz glass will be used for the analysis of the Ryugu samples to evaluate possible contaminations during the sample handling process as they concluded that these materials showed low levels of contaminants and are therefore adequate for use as sample holders for the Ryugu samples.

An in-house non-air exposing sample loading system that utilized the Okazaki cell for sample transfer between an STXM and a glove box under N_2 or Ar conditions is used for analyzing anaerobic materials at the UVSOR BL4U. A non-air exposing system that includes a glove box is also available for synchrotron-based CT and XRD at SPring-8 (Fig. 7). Note that an *in-house* non-air exposing sample holder for NanoSIMS is currently under development, and will be ready for the analysis of the Hayabusa2 returned samples. Commercial non-air exposing sample holder systems are available for TEM and FIB. We have not yet installed these systems, though they will be installed before the analysis. We plan to use the developed holders (the Kochi grid and clamp), FFTC, Okazaki cell, and coordinate analysis under non-air exposing systems between institutes for extraterrestrial samples (i.e., the asteroid Ryugu) (Fig. 7).

Summary

The FFTC was made under low-pressure or inert gas (e.g., N_2 or Ar) for the secure transportation of samples and to avoid terrestrial contamination. We developed universal sample holders (the Kochi grid by the LIGA process and the Kochi clamp) for FIB sample preparation and TEM analysis. For the NanoSIMS and STXM-NEXAFS analyses, we made additional attachments, including the Kochi sub sample holder for NanoSIMS and the Okazaki cell for STXM, to hold the Kochi grid and the Kochi clamp.

We confirmed that the coordinated analytical system with the Kochi grid and the Okazaki cell was successful in acquiring chemical characteristics (light element isotopes, crystal structures, and molecular functional groups) in AMM samples and carbonaceous chondrite under sub-μm scale level. The acquired data from the coordinated analysis for both minerals and organics were consistent with previous studies for each instrument. Note that the Kochi grid and Okazaki cell improved the handling procedures of sample transfer between instruments, glove boxes, and the FFTC. These developments of not only the coordinated analytical system but also devices and container under a non-air exposing systems will be a potential to become a standard for analyzing extraterrestrial materials obtained by the future sample return mission.

Abbreviations

• AMM
• Antarctic micrometeorite
• CT
• computed tomography
• EDS
• Energy dispersive X-ray spectrometer
• FIB
• Focused-ion beam apparatus
• FFTC
• Facility-to-facility transfer container
• HAADF-STEM
• High-angle annular dark field in scanning-TEM mode
• IOM
• Insoluble organic matter
• LA-ICP MS
• Laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry
• LIGA
• Lithographie, Galvanoformung, Abformung
• NanoSIMS
• Nanoscale secondary ion mass spectrometer
• PDB
• Pee Dee Belemnite
• ROIs
• Regions-of-interest
• SMOW
• Standard Mean Ocean Water
• STXM-NEXAFS
• Scanning transmission X-ray microscope using near edge X-ray absorption fine structure
• TEM
• Transmission electron microscope
• VACNT
• Vertically aligned carbon nanotubes
• XRD
• X-ray diffraction

Declarations

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Availability of data and materials

The Kochi grid, Kochi clamp, and Okazaki cell can be distributed for scientific purposes upon request through the JAXA curation or authors. The FFTC is available for purchase from the Sato Seki corporation (Sato Seki corp. 2019).

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Author contributions

MI and NT equally contributed to the complete design for the technical developments of this research. MI conducted the NanoSIMS data analyses, image data reduction, interpretation, and prepared the manuscript. NT performed the TEM analyses, image data reduction, interpretation, and prepared the manuscript. KU and MU designed the FFTC and its performance test, helped with interpretation, and prepared the manuscript. YK contributed sample preparations by FIB. IS and IO established the LIGA process for preparing the Kochi grid. MU, TO, and HY performed the STXM-NEXAFS experiments at the BL4U, UVSOR Synchrotron. AY, NI, NS, YK, TY, and MA participated in the design of the research and interpretation. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Table

Due to technical limitations, Table 1 is provided in the Supplementary Files section.

Figures

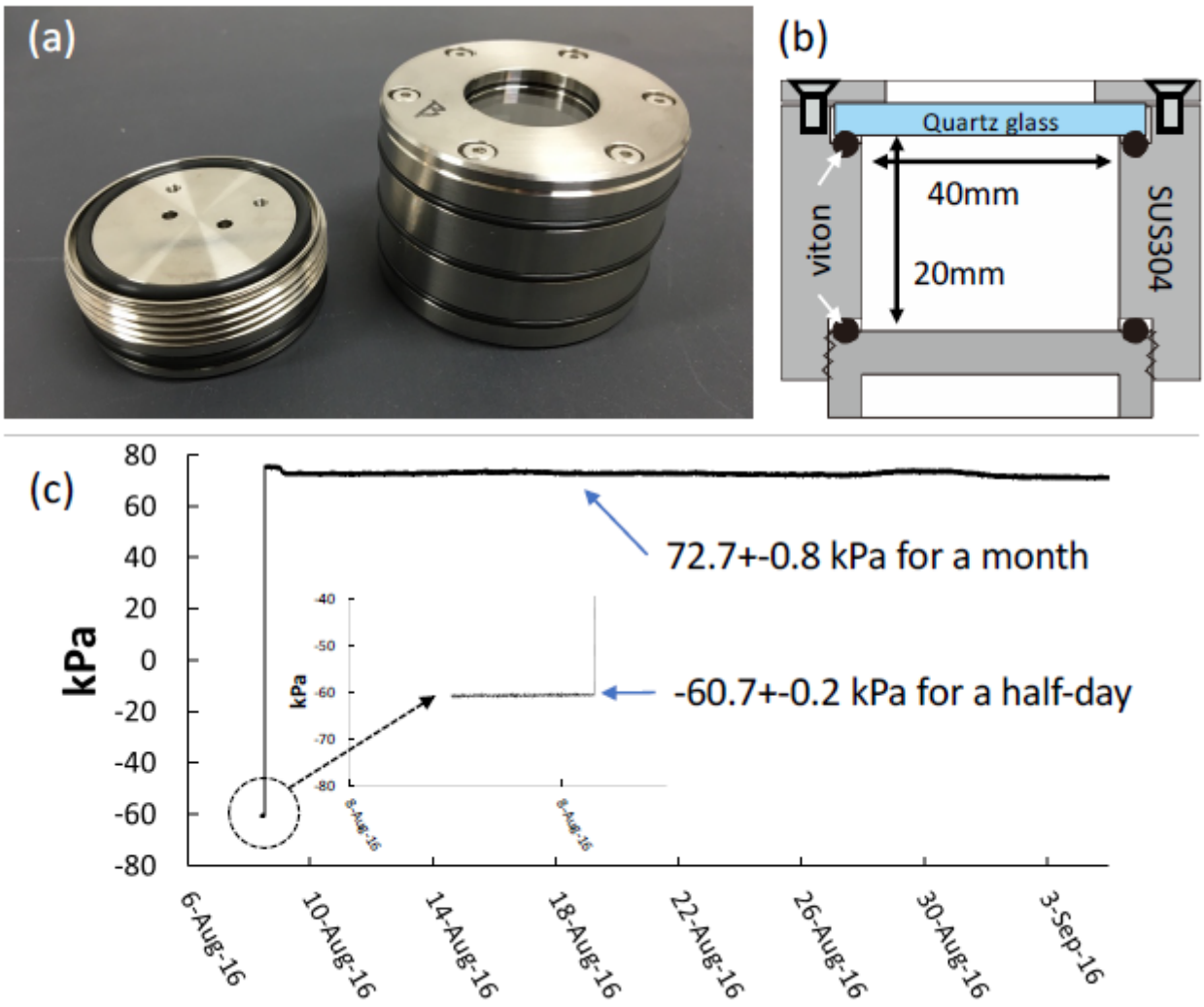

Figure 1

(a) Picture of the facility-to-facility transfer container (FFTC), (b) schematic diagram of the FFTC and (c) result of the performance test of the FFTC under negative and positive pressures (approximately -61 kPa for a half-d and approximately 73 kPa for a month).

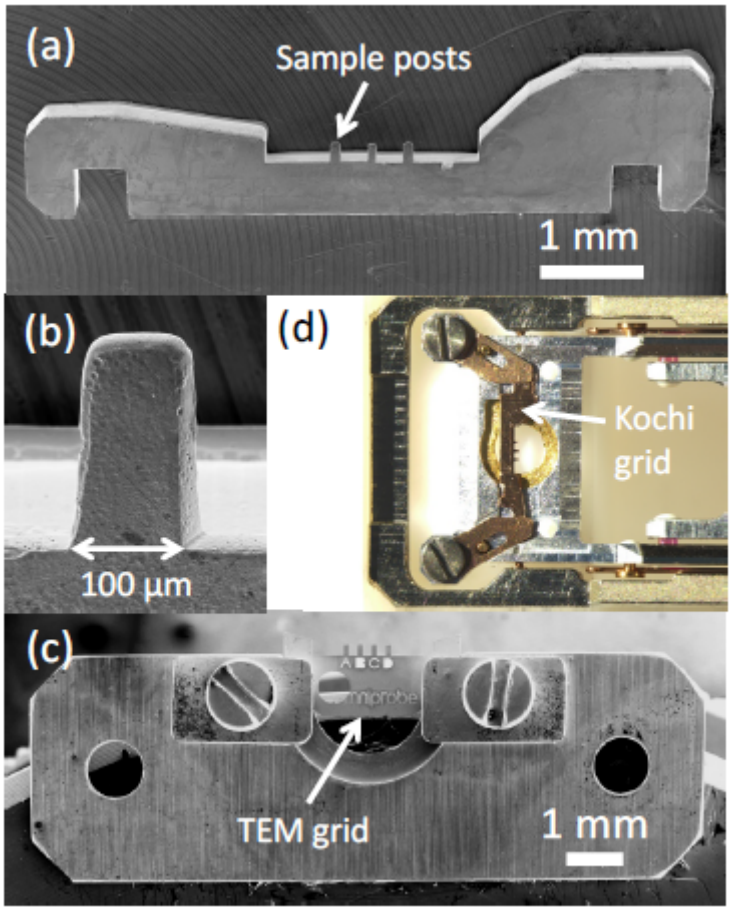

Figure 2

Pictures of (a) the Kochi grid, (b) a sample post of the Kochi grid, (c) the Kochi grid in a JEOL-type transmission electron microscope (TEM) sample holder, and (d) the Kochi clamp with a commercial TEM grid.

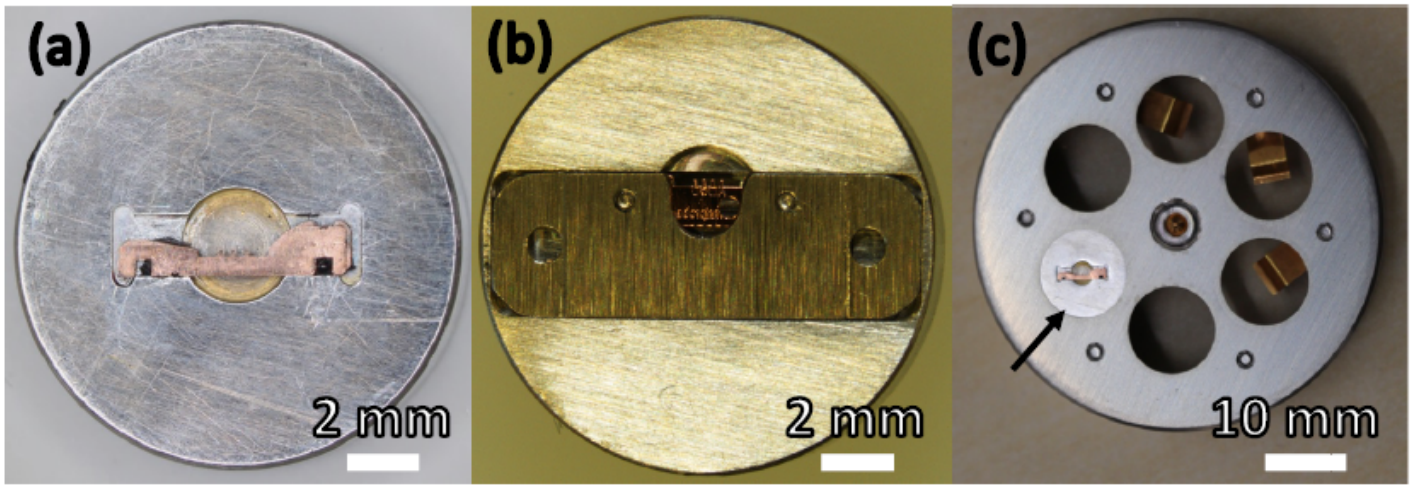

Figure 3

Pictures of the Kochi sub sample holder for the nanoscale secondary ion mass spectrometer (NanoSIMS): (a) a NanoSIMS sub sample holder for the Kochi grid, (b) a NanoSIMS sub sample holder for the Kochi clamp, and (c) a commercial NanoSIMS holder with a sub sample holder for Kochi grid.

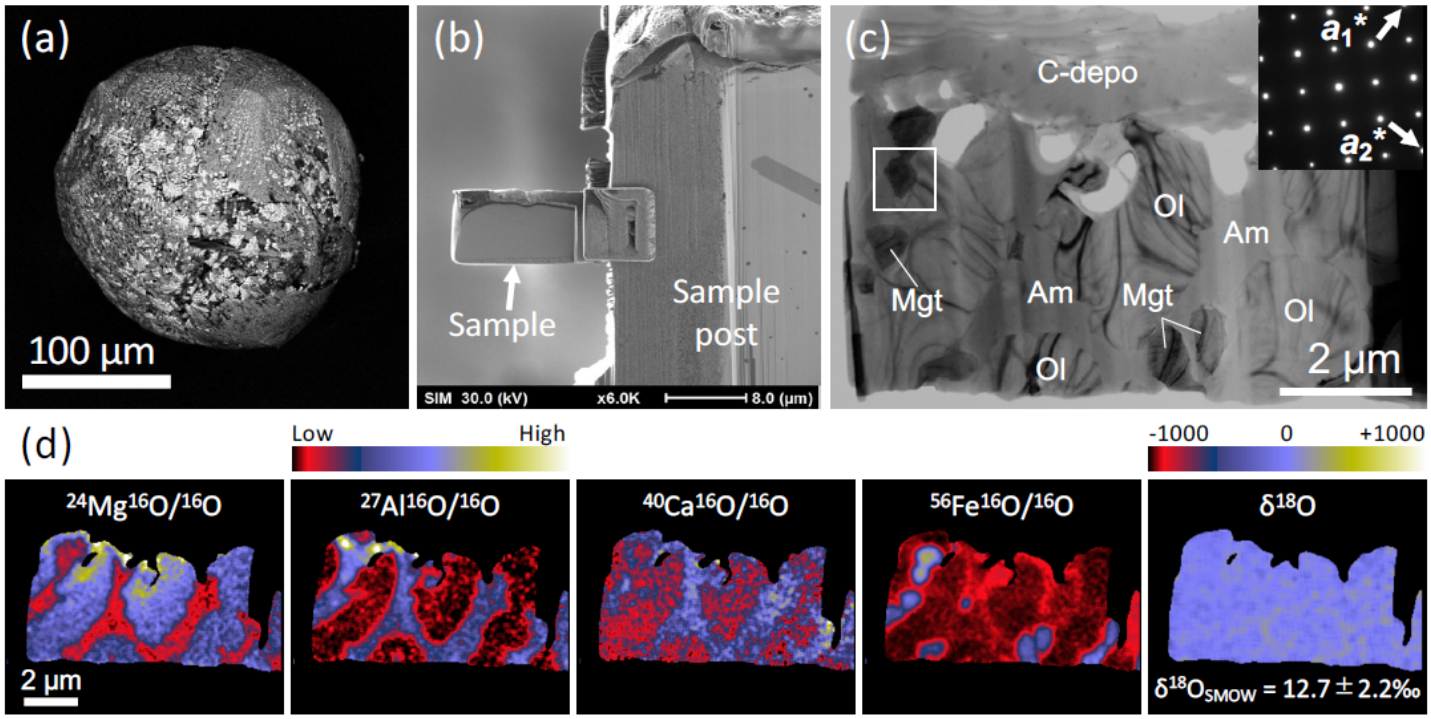

Figure 4

A thin section of an Antarctic micrometeorite (AMM), (a) back-scattered electron image of the AMM, TT006b101, before focused-ion beam apparatus (FIB) processing, (b) the FIB-thin section attached to a post of the Kochi grid, (c) bright-field TEM image with selected-area electron-diffraction patterns of magnetite as an inset, (d) NanoSIMS elemental ratio and O-isotope maps.

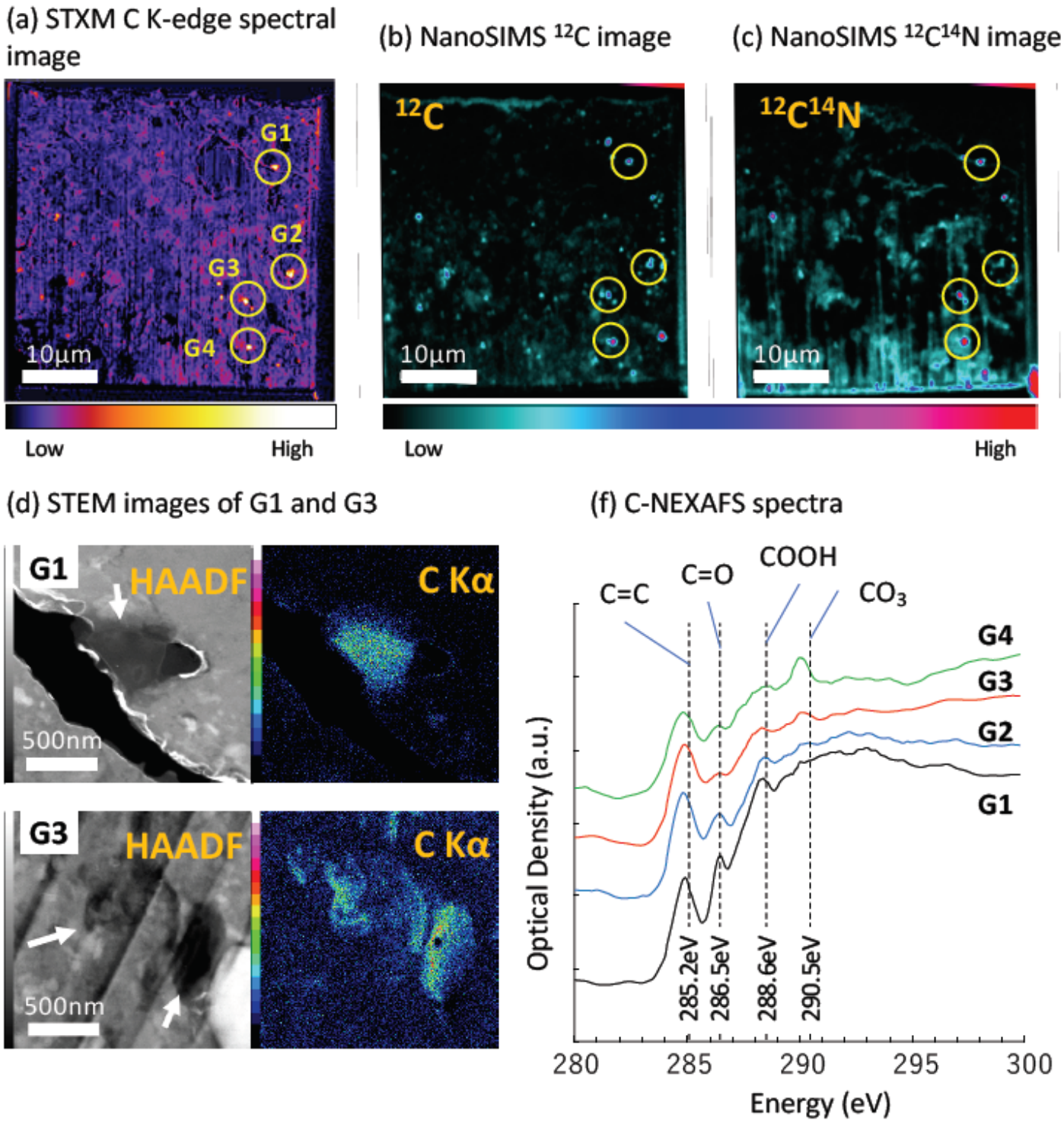

Figure 5

Images of nanoglobules in the FIB-section of Y-791198. (a) Scanning transmission X-ray microscope (STXM) C K-edge spectral image, (b) NanoSIMS 12C image, (c) NanoSIMS 12C14N image, (d) High-angle annular dark-field (HAADF) and carbon Kα X-ray images of the G1 and G3 nanoglobules in (a) by scanning transmission electron microscopy X-ray spectroscopy (STEM-EDS). (e) C K-edge spectra of G1 to G4.

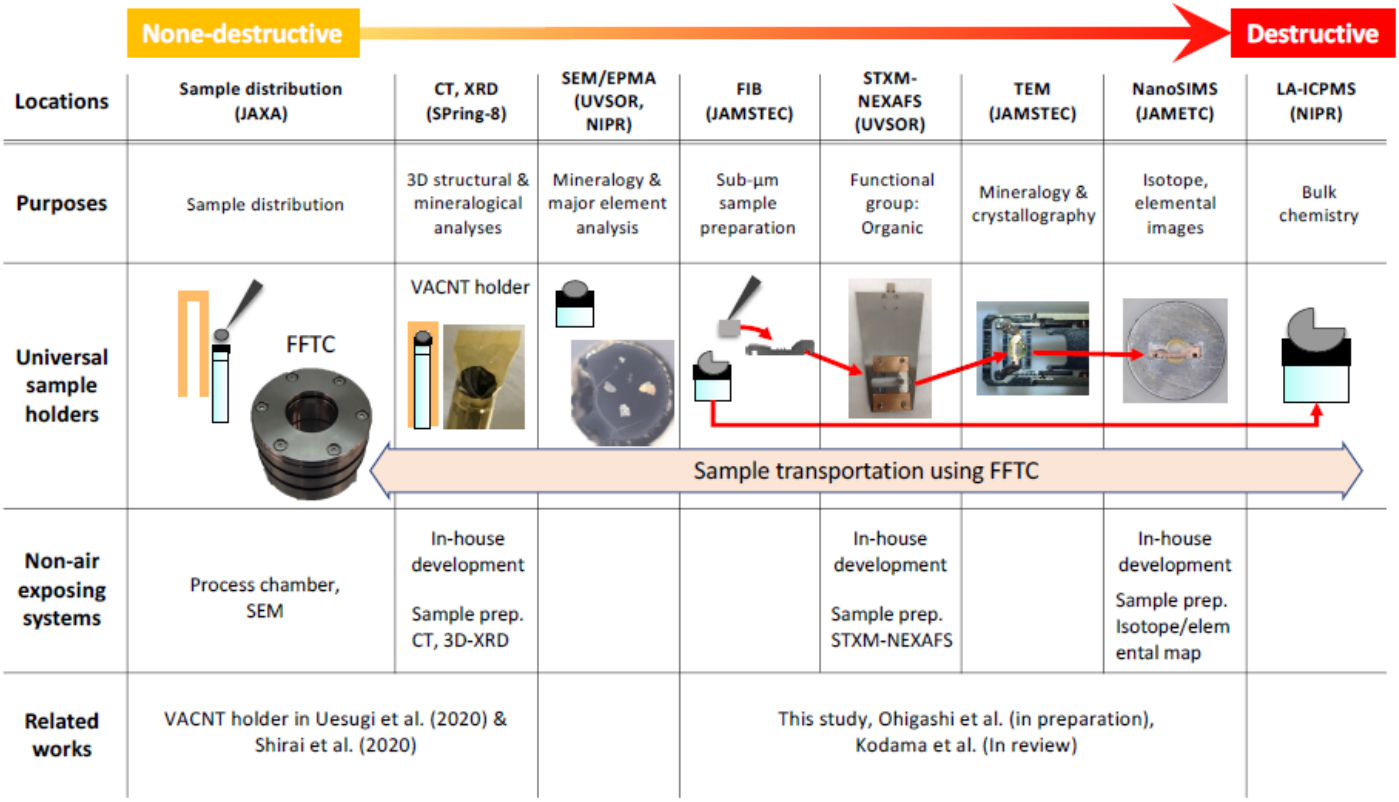

Figure 6

Coordinate analysis of the Ryugu samples.

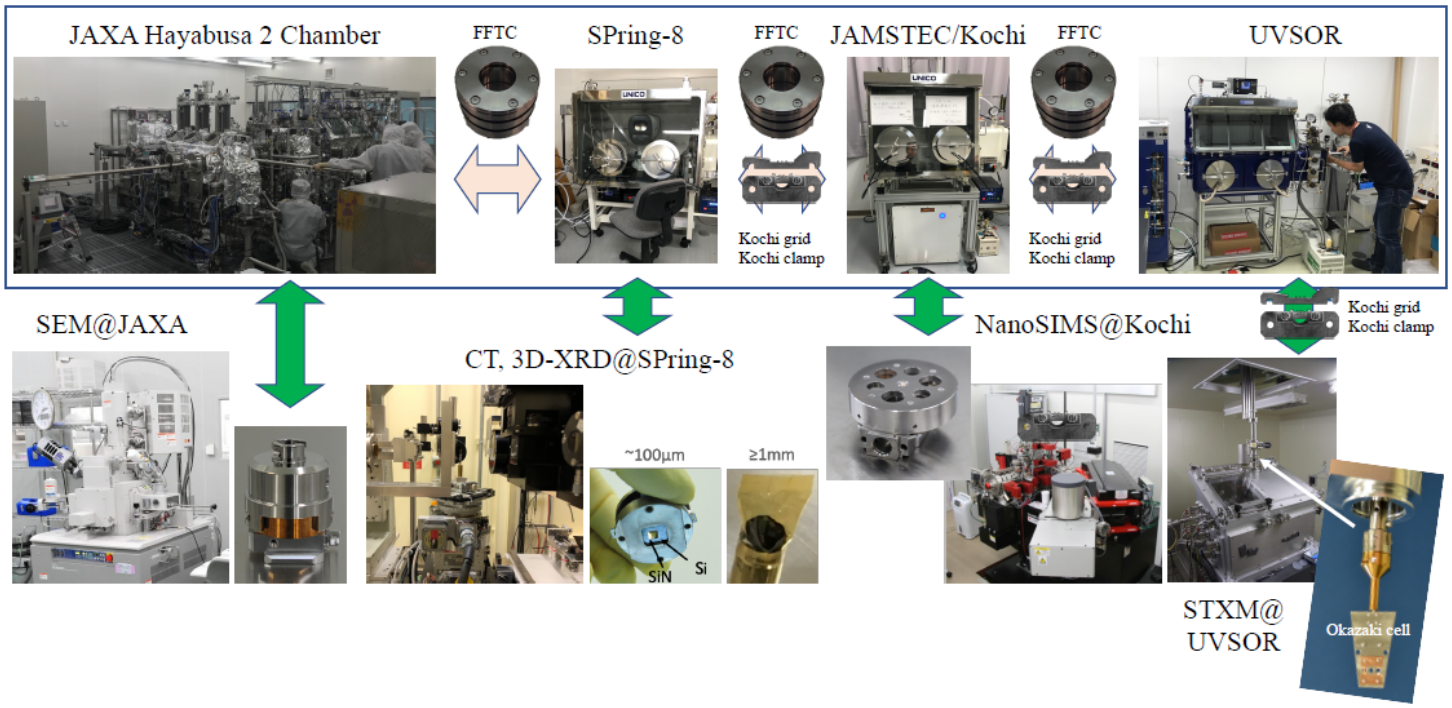

Figure 7

Research platforms with non-air exposing systems for extraterrestrial materials.

Supplementary Files

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- supplement1.pdf
- supplement2.pdf
- Table1.pdf