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# Isotopic trichotomy of main belt asteroids from implantation of outer solar system planetesimals

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### ABSTRACT

Recent analyses of samples from asteroid (162173) Ryugu returned by JAXA's Hayabusa2 mission suggest that Ryugu and CI chondrites formed in the same region of the protoplanetary disk, in a reservoir that was isolated from the source regions of other carbonaceous (C-type) asteroids. Here we conduct *N*-body simulations in which CI planetesimals are assumed to have formed in the Uranus/Neptune zone at ~ 15–25 au from the Sun. We show that CI planetesimals are scattered by giant planets toward the asteroid belt where their orbits can be circularized by aerodynamic gas drag. We find that the dynamical implantation of CI asteroids from ~ 15–25 au is very efficient with ~ 5% of ~ 100-km planetesimals reaching stable orbits in the asteroid belt by the end of the protoplanetary gas disk lifetime. The efficiency is reduced when planetesimal ablation is accounted for. The implanted population subsequently evolved by collisions and was depleted by dynamical instabilities. The model can explain why CIs are isotopically distinct from other C-type asteroids which presumably formed at ~ 5–10 au.

#### 1. Introduction

High-precision isotopic analyses of celestial bodies have uncovered large-scale isotopic anomalies that cannot be easily explained by conventional nebular or planetary processes (Dauphas and Schauble, 2016). These anomalies affect numerous elements and demand the involvement of unusual photochemical or nucleosynthetic processes. Although most of these anomalies originate from nucleosynthesis, they cannot be attributed to a single astrophysical site.

Isotopic anomalies in meteorites, Earth, Moon, and Mars reveal patterns and clusters that have garnered significant interest, as they could offer insights into the processes that shaped the solar system in its early stages. Studies have shown that celestial bodies with isotopic anomalies can be classified into two main groups (Warren, 2011; Budde et al., 2016; Kruijer et al., 2017; Kleine et al., 2020). These groups are named after the chondrites found within their respective isotopic clusters: CC (carbonaceous chondrite) and NC (non-carbonaceous chondrite). This categorization extends to differentiated meteorites and planets, including achondrites, iron meteorites, Earth, the Moon, and Mars.

Typically, Ivuna-type (CI) chondrites are grouped with other CC meteorites. However, iron isotopic anomaly measurements (expressed as  $\mu^{54}$ Fe; Schiller et al., 2020; Hopp et al., 2022) from CI meteorites and samples collected from the Ryugu asteroid by the Hayabusa2 mission (a Cb-type asteroid related to CI; Yokoyama et al., 2022) indicate that CI and Ryugu form a unique group (Hopp et al., 2022). This group is characterized by an Earth-like (NC-like) iron isotopic composition but large anomalies (CC-like) for most other elements. Recent findings on nickel isotopic anomalies have strengthened the case for classifying CI and Ryugu as a distinct group (Spitzer et al., 2023). Instead of the NC-CC dichotomy, a NC-CC-CI trichotomy is a more accurate representation (Hopp et al., 2022).

Isotopic variations documented in planetary materials most likely result from projecting of isotopic heterogeneities that existed in the molecular cloud core parental to the solar system onto the protoplanetary disk during collapse (Dauphas and Schauble, 2016) and/or from thermal destruction of interstellar grains (Trinquier et al., 2009). The details on how planetary bodies acquired distinct isotopic compositions is very much debated (e.g., Schiller et al., 2018; Burkhardt et al., 2019; Nanne et al., 2019; Ek et al., 2020; Lichtenberg et al., 2021; Liu et al., 2022a; Morbidelli et al., 2022; Izidoro et al., 2022). A comprehensive review of these contrasting perspectives is outside the purview of this

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paper. Each model offers its unique advantages and limitations, and no single model comprehensively explains all the observations to date.

Burkhardt et al. (2019) and Nanne et al. (2019) argued that the NC/CC dichotomy resulted from a change in the isotopic composition of material accreted by the disk from the parental molecular cloud core (Dauphas and Schauble, 2016). This scenario was modeled quantitatively by Morbidelli et al. (2022). They placed the effective distance of infall, known as the centrifugal radius, at  $r \le 0.35$  au. This situation was shown to lead to a decretion disk with the disk material flowing outward for r > 0.4 au and expanding past the iceline at ~ 3–5 au in the first 0.5 Myr. Now, if the isotopic composition of the infalling material rapidly changed over time (in the first 0.5 Myr), this could have plausibly produced a radial gradient because (CC-like) material accreted early onto the disk was transported further out than (NC-like, s-process enriched) material accreted later (Burkhardt et al., 2019; Nanne et al., 2019). To explain the isotopic dichotomy of NC-CC iron meteorites, Morbidelli et al. (2022) proposed that their parent planetesimals formed (and differentiated) at two distinct radial locations: NC planetesimals at the silicate sublimation line near 1 au and CC planetesimals at the iceline near 3-5 211

Meteoritic evidence indicates that the NC/CC dichotomy was established early and was preserved until the parent-bodies of chondrites formed; several million years after solar system formation (Dauphas and Chaussidon, 2011 and references therein). The early formation of Jupiter (Kruijer et al., 2017; Nanne et al., 2019) or pressure bumps (Brasser and Mojzsis, 2020) were proposed to accomplish this (by halting the flow of inward-drifting CC pebbles that would otherwise pollute the inner NC reservoir). Liu et al. (2022a), however, pointed out a fundamental problem with these ideas: if Jupiter efficiently blocks drifting pebbles, the inner NC reservoir becomes quickly depleted and the formation of NC chondrites cannot last  $\sim 1-2$  Myr. Liu et al. (2022a) proposed that the NC and CC reservoirs were separated by the viscous expansion of protoplanetary gas disk. They started with an NC-CC radial gradient by suggesting that FU Orionis-type outbursts heated up the inner disk and thermally destroyed (presumably) fragile CC carriers in the inner disk (Trinquier et al., 2009; Ek et al., 2020). Then they constructed a disk with the gas inflow at  $r < r^*$  and gas outflow at  $r > r^*$ , where  $r^* \sim 10$  au for t < 1 Myr, and  $r^* > 10$  au for t > 1 Myr. They showed that particles starting at 1-10 au drifted into the inner disk in  $\sim$  1 Myr, whereas those initially located beyond 20 au were delayed by the outer disk expansion, and arrived several Myr later. In this model, the parent bodies of ordinary and enstatite chondrites would form at  $t \sim 1-2$  Myr and would incorporate predominantly NC material akin to achondrites, but with a notable contribution of CC dust. The parent bodies of carbonaceous chondrites would form at  $t \sim 3-4$  Myr from CC dust and would be scattered into the asteroid belt by migrating Jupiter (Raymond and Izidoro, 2017). This model does not impose an impermeable barrier between the inner and outer solar system. It requires thermal modification of isotopic anomalies during the accretion (Onyett et al., 2023), as otherwise the isotopic compositions of some elements like Zr would not be reproduced (Dauphas et al., 2024).

Planetesimals forming in the vicinity of giant planets cannot survive near their original orbital radii. As the giant planets grow, migrate, and scatter smaller bodies, they effectively clear the 4-35 au region of any small objects (present Jupiter and Neptune Trojans that are generally thought to be populations captured after the gas disk dispersal, Emery et al., 2015; but also see Pirani et al., 2019a,b). Nevertheless, planetesimals from the giant planet region can find refuge on more stable orbits within the asteroid and Kuiper belts (Raymond and Izidoro, 2017; Morbidelli and Nesvorný, 2020). Our study investigates the implantation of planetesimals formed at 4-35 au into the asteroid belt, focusing on the early stages when the protoplanetary gas disk was still present ( $\leq$ 5-10 Myr). During that time, planetesimals dynamically excited by the giant planets were more likely to be implanted in the asteroid belt as gas could circularize their highly eccentric orbits. While the implantation *after* gas disk dispersal is possible, it is inefficient (Levison et al., 2009; Vokrouhlický et al., 2016), and most scattered planetesimals are ejected from the solar system. Outer solar system planetesimals that end up in the asteroid belt collide with each other and with other bodies, producing fragments (Bottke et al., 2005, Deienno et al., 2022) believed to be the parent bodies of carbonaceous meteorites.

Our research is closely aligned with Raymond and Izidoro (2017) and Deienno et al. (2022) who modeled the early implantation of planetesimals from the giant planet region. However, we concentrate on the ~15-25 au zone, as this could be the primary source reservoir for CI planetesimals (Hopp et al., 2022). We distribute planetesimals between 4 and 35 au, implement various growth/migration schemes for giant planets, consider different physical properties and life spans for the protoplanetary gas disk, include thermal ablation of planetesimals (Eriksson et al., 2021; Sect. 3.3), and determine the implantation efficiency of planetesimals in each case as a function of their starting orbital radius. The *N*-body integration method is detailed in Sect. 2, with results reported in Sect. 3 and discussed in Sect. 4.

#### 2. Methods

Our simulations are set up to follow the orbital evolution of planets and planetesimals in a protoplanetary gas disk. They are highly idealized. We adopt two different planetary configurations. In the first one, five planets (Jupiter, Saturn and three ice giants; one of which is ejected from the system after the gas disk dispersal) are placed in a compact resonant configuration (Case 1 from Nesvorný et al., 2013). This initial configuration, with the 3rd ice giant between the original orbits of Saturn and Uranus, was shown to satisfy many solar system constraints, including the current orbits of the giant planets, capture of Jupiter Trojans and irregular satellites, and the orbital distribution of Kuiper belt objects (see Nesvorný, 2018 for a review). In the second one, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are placed on their current orbits. The planets gravitationally interact with each other but are not affected by the gas disk (there is no realistic treatment of planet-disk interactions in our simulations). In some cases, we induce radial migration of planets by artificial force terms (Sect. 3.2).

The planetesimals are given initial diameters D = 10 or 100 km in different simulations. Ten thousand planetesimals are distributed between 4 and 35 au with a prescribed surface density  $\Sigma_p \propto 1/r$ , where *r* is the orbital radius. This means that we initially have an equal number of bodies in each semimajor axis interval. This is not intended to represent the real distribution of planetesimals – which is unknown – but gives us a good coverage of every possible source region. Changing the planetesimal distribution would not change the probability of implantation in the asteroid belt as planetesimal-planetesimal interactions have a negligible role compared to planet-planetesimal and gas-planetesimal interactions. To start with, all planetesimals are subject to gravitational forces of planets, do not influence each other or planets themselves, and feel the effects of aerodynamic gas drag.<sup>1</sup>

The gas disk is assumed to be axisymmetric. The gas density follows a power-law distribution in the radial direction and has a Gaussian profile in the vertical direction:

$$\rho(r,z) = \rho_0 \left(\frac{r}{r_0}\right)^{\alpha} \exp(-z^2/\zeta^2) , \qquad (1)$$

where *r* and *z* are the cylindrical coordinates centered at the Sun,  $\rho_0$  is the reference gas density at  $r_0 = 1$  au, and  $\zeta$  is the scale height. We adopt a non-flaring disk with the fixed aspect ratio  $h = \zeta/r = 0.05$ . The gas surface density is  $\Sigma_{\rm g} = \sqrt{\pi}\rho_0 r_0 h r^{\alpha+1}$  in this disk model. We set  $\alpha = -3/2$  and  $\Sigma_{\rm g} = 2000$  g/cm<sup>2</sup> for r = 1 au. For reference, the Minimum Mass Solar Nebula (MMSN; Hayashi, 1981) has  $\Sigma_{\rm g} \simeq 1700$  g/cm<sup>2</sup> for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> We also include the effects of disk's gravitational potential on planetesimals, but this has not much relevance here (Vokrouhlický and Nesvorný, 2019).

r = 1 au and  $\alpha = -5/2$ . Our reference disk is thus similar to MMSN but has a shallower radial profile. See Andrews (2020) for constraints from observations of protoplanetary disks which tend to have shallower radial profiles than MMSN.

Planetesimals in a gas disk experience aerodynamic drag with the drag acceleration given by (Weidenschilling, 1977)

$$\mathbf{a} = -\frac{3}{4} \frac{C_{\rm d}}{D} \frac{\rho(\mathbf{r}, z)}{\rho_{\rm p}} v_{\rm r} \mathbf{v}_{\rm r} , \qquad (2)$$

where  $\rho(r, z)$  is the gas density from Eq. (1), *D* and  $\rho_p$  are the diameter and bulk density of planetesimals,  $\mathbf{v}_r$  is the relative velocity of planetesimals with respect to gas (the orbital motion of gas is slightly sub-Keplerian due to radial pressure support; Adachi et al., 1976), and  $C_d$  is the aerodynamic drag coefficient. In the highly supersonic regime, which is relevant when planetesimals are scattered to high-eccentricity orbits by planets,  $C_d$  approaches 2. We implement the full dependence of  $C_d$  on the Mach and Reynolds numbers from Brasser et al. (2007). The planetesimals are given  $\rho_p = 1$  g/cm<sup>3</sup> (a fiducial value for outer solar system bodies).

The integrations were performed with the *Swift* code (Levison and Duncan, 1994), an efficient *N*-body code based on the Wisdom-Holman map (Wisdom and Holman, 1991), which is capable of simulating close encounters of planetesimals to planets. Gas drag was implemented in the kick part of the integrator that deals with massless bodies (planetesimals); drag is not applied to planets. We follow the orbits of planets and planetesimals for the assumed duration of the gas disk and check on how planetesimals become re-distributed by the combined effect of planet scattering and gas drag. The gas density is either assumed to be unchanging with time or we decrease it following an exponential decay with one e-fold  $\tau_g$ . The evolution of planetesimals after the gas disk dispersal is ignored in the present simulations, but we discuss it in Sect. 4.

#### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Base model

In our base model, Jupiter and Saturn start in the 3:2 resonance with Jupiter at 5.6 au and Saturn at 7.5 au (e.g., Morbidelli et al., 2007). Raymond and Izidoro (2017) modeled the runaway gas accretion of Jupiter and Saturn and showed that different accretion timescales ( $\sim 10^4-10^6$  yr) yield similar results. We therefore ignore this issue and introduce Jupiter and Saturn immediately at the beginning of our simulations (t = 0). In reality, the gas giants accreted their envelopes with some delay,  $\Delta t$ , after the condensation of the first solar system solids 4.568 Gyr ago (see Kleine et al., 2009 for a review). Our simulations thus effectively start  $\Delta t$  into the protosolar nebula evolution.

All planetesimals are given initial diameter D = 100 km, because this is the characteristic size of planetesimals in the Solar System (e.g., Morbidelli et al., 2009), and are introduced at t = 0. Planetesimal ablation is ignored (see Sect. 3.3). We start with the protoplanetary gas disk described in Sect. 2 ( $\alpha = -3/2$  and  $\Sigma_g = 2000$  g/cm<sup>2</sup> for r = 1 au) and exponentially decrease the gas density with  $\tau_g = 3$  Myr. The simulation is run over 10 Myr. This is not meant to represent the real duration of the protosolar gas disk. Observations suggest that protoplanetary gas disks last ~ 2–10 Myr (Haisch et al., 2001; Williams and Cieza, 2011). In the solar system, we have no evidence from meteorites for primary asteroid accretion after  $\simeq 4-5$  Myr and this is often interpreted as marking the end of the protosolar gas disk (Dauphas and Chaussidon, 2011). The results reported below for t = 4 Myr should thus be the most relevant (assuming that  $\Delta t \lesssim 1$  Myr).

The slow gas decay with  $\tau_g = 3$  Myr and abrupt termination of the disk at t = 4 Myr would schematically correspond to slow viscous evolution of the disk terminated by its rapid photoevaporation. Faster initial gas disk removal by MHD winds is also tested (e.g., Komaki et al., 2023; see below). Three ice giants are introduced in the simulation at t = 3 Myr. The relatively late formation of ice giants could explain why they



Seminajor axis (au)

**Fig. 1.** Dynamical evolution of outer solar system planetesimals. All planetesimals were given diameter D = 100 km and they were assumed to be there at the beginning of the simulation. The starting radial distance of planetesimals is color coded (black for 4–9 au, red for 9–13 au, green for 13-19 au, and blue for 19–35 au). Initially, there is an equal number of planetesimals at each orbital radius. The panels show different stages from our base model simulation: (a) shortly after Jupiter and Saturn were placed in the disk (time  $t = 10^4$  yr), (b) just before the ice giants were introduced (t = 3 Myr), (c) shortly after the ice giants were introduced (t = 3.1 Myr), and (d) at the end of the simulation (t = 10 Myr). The five planets remain in a compact resonant configuration (Nesvorný et al., 2013; planet migration is ignored). The solid black lines are Jupiter-crossing orbits with q = a(1 - e) = 5.2 au and Q = a(1 + e) = 5.2 au. The shaded area at 2.2–3.5 au approximately outlines the orbital region of the current asteroid belt.

did not accrete more massive gas envelopes (Pollack et al., 1996). They are placed in a resonant chain with the inner ice giant in the 3:2 resonance with Saturn, Uranus in the 2:1 resonance with the inner gas giant, and Neptune in the 3:2 resonance with Uranus (Sect. 2; Nesvorný et al., 2013; Deienno et al., 2017).

During the initial stage, Jupiter and Saturn scatter planetesimals from 4–9 au (Fig. 1). Many planetesimals are scattered inward, where their orbits can be circularized by gas drag to end up in the asteroid belt, while others are scattered outward and often end up being ejected from the solar system. We define the implantation probability from the initial orbital distance r as

$$P_{\text{implant}}(r) = \frac{N_{\text{implant}}(r)}{N_0(r)},$$
(3)



**Fig. 2.** The implantation probability of outer solar system planetesimals into the asteroid belt. The lines show the implantation probability computed at different times (black for  $t = 10^4$  yr, red for t = 3 Myr, green for t = 3.1 Myr, blue for t = 4 Myr). To obtain the number of planetesimals implanted into the asteroid belt from each orbital radius, the final profile shown here (blue line) would have to be multiplied by the number of planetesimals originally available at each orbital radius. The final implantation probability is roughly 10–30 times lower for r = 15-25 au than for r = 5-10 au. For comparison, Cb-type asteroids like Ryugu represent ~ 10% of all C-type asteroids (Rivkin, 2012; DeMeo et al., 2009).

where  $N_0(r)$  is the initial number of planetesimals in a small interval  $\Delta r$  around r and  $N_{\text{implant}}(r)$  is the number of planetesimals starting in  $\Delta r$  around r and ending in the asteroid belt. By monitoring  $N_{\text{implant}}(r)$  as a function of time in our simulations and reporting  $P_{\text{implant}}(r, t)$  at time t, we can test different scenarios for the gas disk dispersal (e.g.,  $P_{\text{implant}}(r, t = 4 \text{ Myr})$  corresponds to gas disk dispersal at  $\Delta t + 4 \text{ Myr}$ ).

Fig. 2 shows that the implantation probability of planetesimals from 4-9 au can be as high as 50%, at least for the base simulation setup adopted here. By t = 3 Myr, the 4–9 au region is practically empty (except for a small population Jupiter co-orbitals). The next stage starts when the ice giants are introduced in the disk and scatter planetesimals from 9-24 au. The final implantation probabilities from 9-24 au are generally lower than those from the Jupiter/Saturn zone but still relatively high (1–20%; Fig. 2). There is a narrow region at 12–14 au where some planetesimals survive on low-eccentricity orbits between the inner ice giant and Uranus (bottom panels in Fig. 1). The outer disk at r > 24 au, which is thought to be the main source of Kuiper belt objects and comets, survives undisturbed (additional bodies are injected to it from r < 24 au). The implantation probability from r > 26 au to the asteroid belt is practically zero. The outer disk planetesimals can be implanted into the asteroid belt after the gas disk dispersal (~  $10^{-6}$ capture probability; Levison et al., 2009; Vokrouhlický et al., 2016).

Overall, we identify three implantation stages. During the early stage, Jupiter and Saturn form and scatter planetesimals from 4-9 au (implantation stage A in Fig. 3). This stage is relatively brief ( $< 10^5$ years after Jupiter and Saturn reach their final masses). Interestingly, some planetesimals starting at  $r \simeq 4$  au migrate on low-eccentricity orbits into the asteroid belt region. This is helped by Jupiter that excites the orbital eccentricity of planetesimals, which then feel a stronger headwind and experience faster orbital decay. They reach r < 3.5 au in 1.5–2.5 Myr (stage B in Fig. 3). The third stage of implantation starts when the ice giants are introduced in the simulation and lasts for  $\simeq 1$ Myr. During this stage (stage C in Fig. 3), many planetesimals from 9-24 au are scattered inward by the ice giants and end up in the asteroid belt. The planetesimals starting at 9-12 au have 10-20% implantation probabilities, and those starting at 15-24 au have 1-3% implantation probabilities (both reported here for t = 4 Myr). The implantation probability drops well below 1% near 13-14 au, where many bodies manage to survive on low-eccentricity orbits (Fig. 1; these bodies would be re-



**Fig. 3.** Time of implantation of outer solar system planetesimals into the asteroid belt. Warmer colors indicate higher implantation probabilities. The probabilities shown stand for  $P_{implant}(r)$  calculated from Eq. (3) but we also factor in the time when bodies are implanted in the belt  $t_{implant}$  and show  $P_{implant}(r, t = 10 \text{ Myr})$  as a function of  $t_{implant}$ . The binning is done in  $\log(t)$  thus highlighting the implantation sources at late times. The three red regions are: (A) early implantation from the Jupiter/Saturn reservoir, (B) planetesimals implanted by gas-drag migration, and (C) late implantation from the ice giant reservoir. We show the results for the whole simulation time span (10 Myr).

moved – practically all being ejected from the solar system – during planet migration/instability after the gas disk dispersal).

The great majority of planetesimals implanted in the asteroid belt end up on low-eccentricity and low-inclinations orbits. There is a correlation between the time of implantation and the orbital radius of implanted planetesimals. The planetesimals scattered by the giant planets early tend to end up in the outer asteroid belt with  $a \simeq 3$  au. This happens because the gas density is still relatively high during the early stages and orbits circularize by gas drag before they can reach smaller orbital radii. The planetesimals that are scattered late can end up in the inner part of the asteroid belt (2-2.5 au) or even in the terrestrial planet region near 1 au. This happens because the gas density of an aging disk is relatively low and Jupiter is capable of scattering planetesimals to very small orbital radii before gas drag becomes important. For the model setup that we explore here, with Jupiter and Saturn forming early and the ice giants forming late, the correlation discussed above leads to a trend where the planetesimals from the Jupiter/Saturn zone preferentially populate the outer part of the asteroid belt and the planetesimals from the ice giant zone become more widely distributed across the whole asteroid belt.

#### 3.2. Auxiliary simulations

We performed many additional simulations. The simulations with four giant planets on their current orbits produce results similar to the base model. The main difference is that the final implantation probability from the Jupiter/Saturn region is significantly lower (~ 1% compared to > 10% for the compact five planet system). This happens because the current orbit of Jupiter is somewhat eccentric (mean eccentricity 0.044), this forces orbital oscillations of orbits and enhances the gas drag on bodies implanted in the asteroid belt (the  $v_r$  term in Eq. (2) is larger). Consequently, the planetesimals that are implanted in the asteroid belt early in the simulation manage to drift below 2 au before the gas disk dispersal. We do not consider this case to be particularly realistic because, in reality, Jupiter's eccentricity would have been damped by disk torques. The implantation probability from the 15–25 au region

is lower in the four planet case (0.2–1% for t = 4 Myr) than in the five planet case (1-3% for t = 4 Myr) because, in addition to the effect described above, many planetesimals survive in the gaps between planets (there are large radial gaps between planets in our four planet case with planets near their current locations).

The simulations with migrating planets show additional dynamical effects, mainly related to capture of planetesimals in orbital resonances. The relevance of these effects for the implantation of planetesimals in the asteroid belt, however, seems to be modest. The only migration setup that yielded results substantially different relative to that with the static planets is the case where Jupiter was assumed to form at large orbital radius (r > 10 au) and migrate inward (Deienno et al., 2022). There are two competing effects in these simulations. On one hand, migrating Jupiter has an effectively larger feeding zone and can scatter a larger population of outer solar system planetesimals. This would increase the population of implanted planetesimals (Deienno et al., 2022). On the other hand, Jupiter's migration would delay the whole process: with Jupiter at > 10 au, the early-scattered planetesimals do not reach the asteroid belt and end up at > 5 au. This leads to additional considerations. For example, if the gas density at < 5 au decreased over time and was already orders of magnitude below MMSN when Jupiter reached its current orbital radius, the overall implantation efficiency into the asteroid belt could become less efficient.

If, as we argue here, the parent bodies of CI meteorites formed at  $r \gtrsim 15$  au, another process that may be relevant here is the formation and orbital migration of ice giants. Above we assumed that the ice giants formed at t = 3 Myr, and placed them directly into a resonant chain expected from the convergent gas-driven migration. Here we account for their orbital migration. Uranus and Neptune were placed at 20 and 30 au, respectively, and migrated inward on a timescale consistent with the Type-I torques (Paardekooper et al., 2011). After several attempts, the eccentricity damping timescale was found such that the ice giants ended up in practically the same orbital configuration as the one used for the static simulations (Uranus and Neptune at 16 and 22 au). Fig. 4 shows the implantation probability in this case. Compared to Fig. 2, the main difference is that planetesimals can be implanted into the asteroid belt from a wider range of initial orbital radii. The implantation probability from r = 25-32 au is ~ 1–2%. As a side effect of Neptune's migration from 30 to 22 au, the outer planetesimal belt is destroyed. It may therefore be more difficult to understand the Kuiper belt formation in this case (Nesvorný, 2018; unless the outer disk planetesimals accreted after Neptune reached r < 25 au).

The simulations with 0.1, 0.01 and 0.001 MMSN, where the gas density was decreased by 10, 100 and 1000 times relative to MMSN, show lower implantation probabilities. For example, for 0.01 MMSN and the compact five planet system, the implantation probabilities from 10-25 au to the asteroid belt are only 0.1-1%. The lower gas density in these cases reduces the effects of gas drag and planetesimals are often scattered past the asteroid belt into the terrestrial planet region.<sup>2</sup> More realistic gas disk profiles obtained from hydrodynamical simulations of viscous disks also show reduced gas densities (e.g., Morbidelli and Crida, 2007). Inviscous disks with disk winds indicate lower gas densities for *r* < 5 au as well (e.g., Suzuki et al., 2010).

Additional simulations were performed for different planetesimal sizes and disk life times. The results are generally consistent with those obtained in Raymond and Izidoro (2017) and we do not discuss them in detail here. As the gas drag scales with  $\rho/D$  (Eq. (2)), where  $\rho$  is the gas density and D is the planetesimal diameter, the results for larger (smaller) planetesimals are equivalent to those obtained for lower (higher) gas densities. As for the disk life time, some insights can be



**Fig. 4.** The implantation probability of outer solar system planetesimals into the asteroid belt. Unlike in Fig. 2, where the outer planets were held at constant orbital radii, here the ice giants were assumed to radially migrate. This extends the radial range from which planetesimals can be implanted into the asteroid belt (4 < r < 35 au here vs. 4 < r < 26 au in Fig. 2). The lines show the implantation probability computed at different times (black for  $t = 10^4$  yr, red for t = 3 Myr, green for t = 3.1 Myr, blue for t = 4 Myr). To obtain the number of planetesimals implanted into the asteroid belt from each orbital radius, the final profile shown here (blue line) would have to be multiplied by the number of planetesimals originally available at each orbital radius.

gleaned from Figs. 1–3. If, for example, the gas disk would be removed shortly after the formation of ice giants (t = 3 Myr in our base simulation), the implantation probability from 10-25 au would be strongly reduced. The bulk of implanted CI planetesimals would be sourced from 15-20 au in this case (0.2-0.7% probability; the green line in Fig. 2). In addition, as the implantation probability drops to  $< 10^{-4}$  near 14 au, CCs and CIs would be sampling radially separated reservoirs (r < 12 au for CCs and 15 < r < 20 au for CIs), and this could help to explain their distinct isotopic properties (see below for a discussion of this issue).

#### 3.3. Planetesimal ablation

We follow the model of Eriksson et al. (2021) to account for thermal ablation of planetesimals. The outer solar system bodies are assumed to have formed with a substantial fraction of  $H_2O$  ice that is well mixed with the silicate and carbon grains. Thus, if  $H_2O$  sublimates on body's surface, the silicate and carbon grains would be carried away. This ignores the possibility that the  $H_2O$  ice sublimation could leave behind a refractory crust.<sup>3</sup> Other volatile species such as  $CO_2$  or CO are not considered here.

The mass loss of a planetesimal due to ablation is given by

$$\dot{m} = -4\pi R_{\rm pl}^2 P_{\rm sat}(T_{\rm pl}) \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{2\pi R_{\rm g} T_{\rm pl}}},$$
 (4)

where  $R_{\rm pl} = D/2$  is the planetesimal radius,  $P_{\rm sat}$  is the saturated vapor pressure of H<sub>2</sub>O,  $T_{\rm pl}$  is the surface temperature of the planetesimal,  $\mu = 0.0180153$  kg mol<sup>-1</sup> is the molecular weight of H<sub>2</sub>O,  $R_{\rm g} = 8.3145$ J mol<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-1</sup> is the ideal gas constant (D'Angelo and Podolak, 2015). The saturated vapor pressure of H<sub>2</sub>O is calculated from the polynomial expressions given in Fray and Schmitt (2009). The equilibrium surface

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The implantation process is a competition between planet scattering, which leads to orbits with lower semimajor axes and higher eccentricities, and gas drag, which acts to circularize orbits. If the gas drag is reduced, planet scattering wins and the orbits end up being scattered closer to the Sun.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Eriksson et al. (2021) argued that any refractory crust would be blown away by the vapor pressure buildup underneath the surface. It is not clear, however, whether this process would remove the whole crust as vapor could diffuse outward and escape (e.g., Schörghofer and Hsieh, 2018), leaving the refractory crust in place.



**Fig. 5.** The implantation of outer solar system planetesimals in the asteroid belt for the case with (panel A) and without (panel B) planetesimal ablation. The symbol size is proportional to the planetesimal diameter. All planetesimals start with D = 100 km. The smallest planetesimals shown in panel A have  $D \simeq 10$  km. In both cases, we show the situation shortly after the start of simulations ( $t = 10^5$  yr).

temperature of planetesimal surface,  $T_{\rm pl}$ , is computed from (Ronnet and Johansen, 2020)

$$\sigma_{\rm SB}(T_{\rm pl}^4 - T^4) = \frac{C_{\rm d}\rho v_{\rm rel}^3}{32} - \frac{\dot{m}L}{4\pi R_{\rm pl}^2},$$
(5)

where the gas density  $\rho$  is given in Eq. (1),  $v_{\rm rel}$  is the relative velocity of planetesimals with respect to gas,  $\sigma_{\rm SB} = 5.670374419 \times 10^{-8}$  W m<sup>-2</sup> K<sup>-4</sup> is the Stefan-Boltzmann constant, and  $L = 2.8 \times 10^6$  J kg<sup>-1</sup> is the latent heat of H<sub>2</sub>O vaporization given here for low temperatures and pressures (Eriksson et al., 2021). The midplane temperature of the disk was approximated from  $T = T_{\rm 1au}(r/{\rm au})^{-3/7}$ , where  $T_{\rm 1au} = 150$  K is the temperature at 1 au (Chiang and Goldreich, 1997). The first term on the right-hand side of Eq. (5) stands for heating due to gas friction, the second term is cooling due to the ice sublimation.

We implemented planetesimal ablation in *Swift* and performed several simulations to test the effects of ablation in different cases. Fig. 5 compares the cases with and without planetesimal ablation in our base model (initial D = 100 km,  $\alpha = -3/2$ ,  $\Sigma_{\rm g} = 2000$  g/cm<sup>2</sup> for r = 1 au,  $\tau_{\rm g} = 3$  Myr). With planetesimal ablation, the bodies scattered on orbits with larger eccentricities are more heated and lose more mass. This produces a clear trend where planetesimals implanted in the inner main belt (2 < a < 2.5 au) are smaller than planetesimals implanted in the outer main belt (3 < a < 3.5 au). The characteristic size of planetesimals implanted at different radii is:  $D \simeq 30$  km for  $a \simeq 2$  au,  $D \simeq 50$  km for  $a \simeq 2.5$  au, and  $D \simeq 80$  km for  $a \simeq 3$  au.

Taken at face value, this would imply that a similar trend should exist among main-belt asteroids. We checked on that by plotting the size



**Fig. 6.** The implanted fraction of outer solar system planetesimals into the asteroid belt. Unlike in Fig. 2, here we account for planetesimal ablation (Eriksson et al., 2021). The implanted fraction is the volume fraction of planetesimals starting at a particular orbital radius that ends up in the asteroid belt. This accounts for both the implantation probability of individual objects and their mass loss due to ablation. The lines show the implanted fraction at different times (black for  $t = 10^4$  yr, red for t = 3 Myr, green for t = 3.1 Myr, blue for t = 4 Myr).

distribution of dark main-belt asteroids (albedo  $p_V < 0.1$ ) from the WISE data (Mainzer et al., 2011) but could not find any clear trend. Things can become more complicated when one considers the initial size distribution of planetesimals. Ribeiro de Sousa et al. (2024) studied the effects of ablation on the size distribution of outer solar system planetesimals implanted in the asteroid belt and found that the size distribution generally evolved to become steeper. This most likely happens because large planetesimals can be scattered to high orbital eccentricities and ablate faster that small ones. A detail comparison of the ablation model with the size distribution of asteroids is left for future work.

Planetesimal ablation acts to reduce the implantation efficiency. We quantify that by computing the volumetric fraction of planetesimals that end up in the asteroid belt (Fig. 6). The implanted fraction combines the implantation probability with the mass loss due to ablation. We find that the implanted fraction from different initial orbital radii is characteristically a factor of  $\geq 10$  lower when planetesimal ablation is accounted for. We moreover find, with ablation, that the implanted fraction decreases during the late stages of evolution when the gas disk density decreases. This happens as lower gas densities imply lower aerodynamic drag on planetesimals; bodies can reach very high-eccentricity orbits, heat up, and rapidly ablate. Planetesimal ablation could thus help to reconcile the relatively small mass of the asteroid belt with our expectations from the implantation modeling (this problem is discussed in Sect. 4; also see Deienno et al., 2022).

#### 4. Discussion

Our results show that it is possible to implant planetesimals into the asteroid belt even from very distant orbits (also see Raymond and Izidoro, 2017). If anything, this process is too efficient, which makes it highly likely that it played a significant role in populating the main asteroid belt with volatile and organic-rich planetesimals. As discussed above and illustrated in Fig. 3, we identify three episodes of planetesimal implantation: **A.** Planetesimals originally at 4 to 9 au are very rapidly excited and implanted by the growth of Jupiter and Saturn. **B.** Approximately 2 Myr later, the outer solar system planetesimals from 4–5 au make their way into the asteroid belt. These planetesimals have slowly drifted from their original orbits by gas drag (this is helped by small orbital eccentricities of planetesimals induced by Jupiter; the drift would be reduced for lower forced eccentricities or lower gas densities). These planetesimals come from the same source region as the first wave and are expected to have the same chemical and isotopic composition. **C.** A second wave of planetesimals are implanted in the main belt by the growth of the ice giant planets ( $t \simeq 3-4$  Myr in our base simulation). They primarily come from 9–14 au and include planetesimals coming from as far as ~ 25 au.

It is conceivable that temporal changes in the composition of infalling material and/or thermal processing created an isotopic gradient in the outer solar system.<sup>4</sup> As discussed by Hopp et al. (2022), the discrete excitation of planetesimals by the giant planets could explain why two distinct populations of carbonaceous asteroids seem to exist in the asteroid belt, namely CC and CI. The first planetesimals implanted in the main belt would come from 4–9 au and we identify those with CC. The planetesimals implanted by the ice giants come primarily from beyond 9 au, and this would include CIs.

The dichotomy between CCs and CIs could reflect isotopically distinct source ring reservoirs (e.g., Izidoro et al., 2022) or the nature of the implantation process. For example, asteroids with intermediate compositions between CI and CC could exist, originating from 12–16 au, but they would be rare as they would have been less affected by the giant planets while nebular gas was still around (Fig. 2), and would have been cleared from the disk by planetesimal-driven planet migration after gas dissipation. The likelihood of these planetesimals to end in the asteroid belt is very low (Vokrouhlický et al., 2016); they would not be represented in the meteorite collection. The CC-CI divide could thus be due to discrete excitation by the giant planets in relationship to gas dissipation.

Excitation of planetesimals by the ice giants would have launched a fraction of them inwards to be implanted in the main belt, but the majority would have been launched outwards and some would end up in the Oort cloud (Dones et al., 2015). CI and Ryugu could share the same heritage as Oort cloud comet. The physical properties of CI and Ryugu are clearly distinct from Oort cloud comets, starting with the fraction of ice that they contain. Asteroids larger than ~ 10 km in size should have retained their ice for the lifetime of the solar system (Schörghofer and Hsieh, 2018), so the difference in the ice-to-rock ratio between CI/Ryugu and comets must have been established early. A plausible explanation is that it could be due to ice sublimation in planetesimals before their orbits were stabilized in the asteroid belt (Sect 3.3). Impact energy released during collision in the main belt could have also played a role, as observation of Ryugu and Bennu show that they have a rubble-pile structure likely produced by impacts.

The excitation-implantation process highlighted above could by itself explain the isotopic divide documented between CI and CC. This selective excitation mechanism could have acted on more clustered populations of carbonaceous planetesimals than the smooth gradient envisioned above, which would help create distinct isotopic populations. Izidoro et al. (2022) suggested that outer solar system planetesimals formed in distinct rings at the orbital radii corresponding to the sublimation lines of different volatile species ( $H_2O$ , CO, etc.). Thus, even if the implantation works equally well for a continuous range of orbital radii, the implanted planetesimals would fall into distinct isotopic groups; they would reflect the isotopic composition of the ring reservoirs.

While implantation of outer solar system planetesimals by the giant planets can potentially explain the presence of multiple groups of carbonaceous asteroids in the main belt, notably CC and CI isotopic families, there are two major issues that need to be considered with this scenario: (*i*) the implantation efficiencies are very high, and (*ii*) the implanted planetesimals end up on near circular and near co-planar orbits in the asteroid belt. We discuss these issues below. Assuming that the mass of planetesimals that remained in the giant planet region after the giant planets formed was comparable to that incorporated in planet's cores, say ~ 10  $M_{\rm Earth}$ , several Earth masses in planetesimals would be implanted into the asteroid belt. For comparison, the total mass of asteroids is only ~  $5 \times 10^{-4} M_{\rm Earth}$  (DeMeo and Carry, 2013). Dynamical depletion of the asteroid belt after the gas disk dispersal would help to reduce the mass but clearly not enough to wipe out four orders of magnitude (the main belt is estimated to loose ~ 80-95% of its mass over 4.5 Gyr; see Raymond and Nesvorný, 2022 for a review). Collision grinding could also help to reduce the implanted mass (Bottke et al., 2005, Deienno et al., 2022).

The simplest solution to this problem would be if very few planetesimals remained in the giant planet region when the accretion of giant planets was reaching completion. Levison et al. (2015) studied growth of the giant planets from accreting pebbles and planetesimals, and found that  $\gtrsim 1~M_{\rm Earth}$  in planetesimals remained in the giant planet region when the planets formed. When combined with the high implantation efficiency, such mass would be excessive. Perhaps giant planet formation is not well understood. It is also not clear how the low mass in planetesimals in the giant planet region could be reconciled with studies of the Kuiper belt that require 15–20 $M_{\rm Earth}$  in planetesimals at  $\sim 20{\rm -}30$  au (see Nesvorný, 2018 for a review).

The implantation efficiency of outer solar system planetesimals in the asteroid belt drops when we adopt low gas densities (Sect. 3). When the gas density is low, planetesimals are preferentially scattered to r < 2 au (without ablation; see below), where they would contribute to the formation of the terrestrial planets. To test this, we modified the nominal setup of simulations described in the Sect. 3: the initial gas density was decreased to 1/10 of MMSN and  $\tau_g = 1$  Myr. With this setup, the implantation probabilities from 4–9 au and 15–20 au are  $\simeq 2$ –10% and 0.1–0.5%, respectively, a factor of ~ 10 below the nominal probabilities obtained in Sect. 3. The low gas densities at < 5 au appear most plausible in the disk wind models (e.g., Suzuki et al., 2010; Komaki et al., 2023) or if the planetesimal scattering started late (Raymond and Izidoro, 2017). D'Angelo et al. (2021) presented growth models of Jupiter where it takes over 3 Myr for Jupiter to start the runaway gas accretion.

Cedenblad et al. (2021) studied erosion of planetesimals by gas in a protoplanetary disk and found that planetesimals on eccentric orbits rapidly erode. The erosion timescale can be extremely short (~ 100 yr for eccentric orbits in the inner disk). It is therefore also possible that planetesimals scattered by the giant planets eroded before being able to reach the low-eccentricity orbits in the asteroid belt. In addition, the effects of erosion depend on planetesimal composition and this would presumably produce a trend with planetesimal's initial orbital distance. In Sect. 3.3, we studied the effects of planetesimal ablation (Eriksson et al., 2021). We found that the volumetric fraction of implanted planetesimals is strongly reduced when the effects of ablation are accounted for. Taken together, it thus seems possible that lower gas densities, planetesimal erosion and ablation, and/or reduced initial mass in planetesimals in the giant planet region could resolve problem (*i*).

As for problem (*ii*), bodies implanted in the asteroid belt end up on orbits with low eccentricities and low inclinations. The orbits of current asteroids, however, are dynamically excited with eccentricities 0–0.3 and inclinations 0–20°. The effects of the giant planet migration/instability after the gas disk dispersal may not, in general, be strong enough to sufficiently excite orbits (Roig and Nesvorný, 2015; Brasil et al., 2016) but Deienno et al. (2018) identified at least one instability case with strong excitation. It is also possible that the asteroid belt was excited (and depleted) during the dispersal of the protoplanetary disk when the secular resonances with planets were on the move (Ward, 1981; Liu et al., 2022b). The timing inferred from the cooling rates of iron meteorite parent bodies indicates that disruptive collisions in the asteroid belt persisted at ~ 10 Myr after CAIs (Matthes et al., 2018; Hunt et al., 2022).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The isotopic divide between CC- and CI materials, so far, was only identified for Fe and Ni isotopic anomalies (Hopp et al., 2022, Spitzer et al., 2023). A possible explanation is that the isotopic heterogeneity of Fe and Ni in the outer solar system was dominated by a different carrier phase (e.g., non-refractory Fe,Ni metal) compared to other elements that display isotopic anomalies, e.g. Ti and Cr.

#### 5. Conclusions

Our simulations show that planetesimals from a large range of heliocentric distances could have been implanted into the asteroid belt during the growth and migration of giant planets in a protoplanetary gas disk. Most outer solar system planetesimals implanted in the asteroid belt originate in the formation region of Jupiter/Saturn (5–10 au), but some would come from further away (10-25 au). In this context, the peculiar Fe isotopic heritage and primitive chemical characteristics of CI chondrites and Ryugu (Yokoyama et al., 2022; Hopp et al., 2022) could be explained if they formed in the vicinity of the birthplaces of Uranus and Neptune.

#### CRediT authorship contribution statement

**David Nesvorný:** Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Visualization, Validation, Software, Resources, Project administration, Methodology, Investigation, Formal analysis, Conceptualization. **Nicolas Dauphas:** Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Validation, Supervision, Project administration, Methodology, Investigation, Conceptualization. **David Vokrouhlický:** Writing – review & editing, Software, Methodology, Investigation. **Rogerio Deienno:** Writing – review & editing, Methodology, Formal analysis, Conceptualization. **Timo Hopp:** Writing – review & editing, Validation, Investigation, Conceptualization.

#### Declaration of competing interest

There is no conflict of interest.

#### Data availability

No data was used for the research described in the article.

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