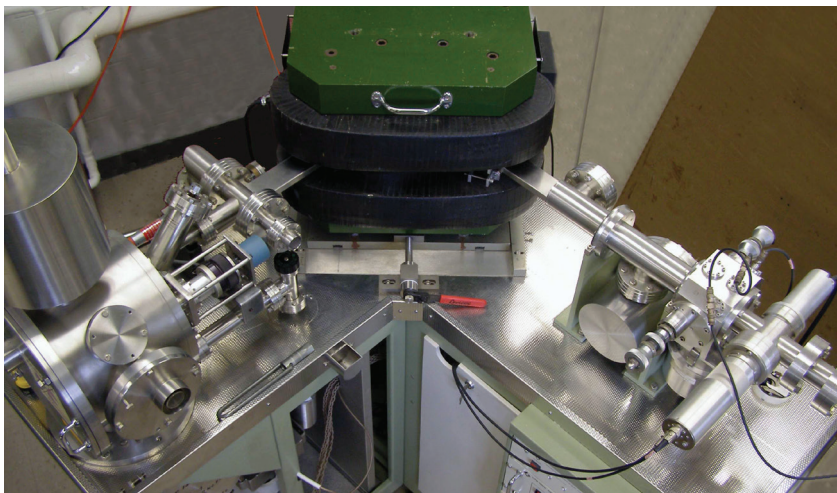


Doubting Deep Time

“**Deep time**” refers to the idea that the Earth and life on it have existed for billions of years. Radiometric dating is the main method used to estimate the ages of rocks and the fossils within them. Radiometric dating is based on precise measurements of the abundance of certain kinds of atoms in the rocks. The numerical ages calculated from these measurements rely on fundamental assumptions about radioactive decay and closed system behavior of the material being analyzed.

Although creationists have yet to develop a satisfactory explanation for the atomic ratios in the rocks, there are several lines of evidence that seem to point to a much shorter chronology for life on the Earth as shown in these displays.



A thermal ionization mass spectrometer used in radiometric dating

Image: Radiometric; CCO