

3- μ m REFLECTANCE SPECTROSCOPY OF OUTER MAIN BELT ASTEROIDS: CONTEXT AND

IMPLICATIONS. D. Takir¹, W. Neumann², J.P. Emery³, and S.N. Raymond⁴. ¹JETS/ARES, NASA JSC, Houston, TX (driss.takir@nasa.gov), ²German Aerospace Center, Institute of Planetary Research, Berlin, Germany, ³University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, ⁴Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France.

Introduction: Primitive Outer Main Belt (OMB) asteroids, spanning heliocentric distances $2.5 < a < 4.0$ AU, are mainly carbon-rich and low-albedo asteroids. The study of these primitive asteroids is crucial for providing additional information related to the abundance and distribution of minerals and chemical compounds in the early solar system. This will then allow more constraints on the current dynamical and thermal theories of the formation and evolution of the early solar system. OMB asteroids are thought to be originally composed of mixtures of anhydrous materials and water ice, and that ice was later melted by the released heat (e.g., by decay of live ²⁶Al), reacting with anhydrous materials (e.g., olivine, pyroxene) to form hydrated minerals. The snow-line falls within the heliocentric range in which our studied OMB asteroids are located. The snow-line's location may have been drifted inwards due to gas drag [1] or during the nebular evolution (e.g., [2]). Recent dynamical models (e.g., [3]) suggested that a substantial fraction of OMB asteroids originated between or beyond the giant planets ($a > 5$ AU), where water ice would have been stable, and then implanted in the OMB space as a consequence of the giant planets' growth. Here, we present new 3- μ m spectral analysis of 50 OMB asteroids, which were observed using the NASA Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF). This investigation completes work begun under [3] and [4] that explored 40 OMB asteroids in the 3- μ m spectral region and has allowed the identification and distribution of at least four 3- μ m spectral groups, each of which is presumably related to distinct surface mineralogy. The complete results of this observational investigation will be placed in the context of the current thermal and dynamical theories.

Methodology: We have measured spectra of OMB asteroids with the long-wavelength cross-dispersed (LXD: 1.9- 4.2 μ m) mode of the SpeX spectrograph/imager at IRTF [5]. We obtained LXD data of asteroids over the course of many periods between 2015 and 2018. We used the IDL (Interactive Data Language)-based spectral reduction tool Spextool (v4.0) [6] to reduce the data. OH-line emission dominates the background sky through most of the wavelength range while thermal emission from the sky and telescope is significant longward of ~ 2.3 μ m. To correct for these contributions, we subtracted spectra of OMB asteroids and their corresponding standard stars at beam position A from spectra at beam B. We ex-

tracted spectra by summing the flux at each channel within a user-defined aperture. We conducted wavelength calibration at $\lambda > 2.5$ μ m using telluric absorption lines. We removed the thermal excess in asteroids' spectra using the methodology described in [3] and references therein. To constrain asteroids' model thermal flux, we fitted the measured thermal excess with a model thermal excess. Then, we subtracted this model thermal flux from the measured relative spectra of asteroids. To calculate the thermal flux in the 3- μ m region, we used the Near-Earth Asteroid Thermal Model (NEATM) [6], which is based on the Standard Thermal Model (STM) of [7].

Most of the newly-observed OMB asteroids exhibit a characteristically sharp 3- μ m feature attributed to OH-stretching in hydrated minerals (e.g., serpentine) (e.g., Figure 1). The majority of asteroids in this group are concentrated in the $2.5 < a < 3.3$ AU region. We also identified new additional asteroids with Europa-like feature (e.g., Figure 2), located. This 3- μ m feature is possibly due to phyllosilicates that allow interlayer H₂O (along with OH).

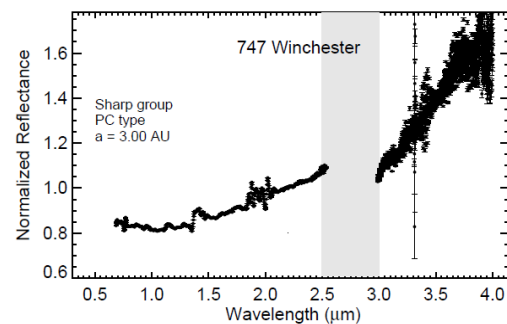


Figure 1: Example of an asteroid, 747 Winchester, with sharp 3- μ m feature.

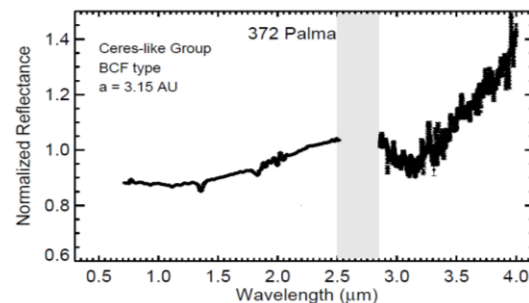


Figure 2: Example of an asteroid, 372 Palma, with asteroid Europa-like feature.

Thermal modeling and evolution of OMB asteroids: Calculations of thermal evolution of rocky and icy planetesimals were performed using 1D finite differences thermal evolution models [8,9]. Such models consider heating of small bodies after accretion and the evolution of their temperature and structure. In particular, porosity and compaction due to hot pressing of an initially unconsolidated interior is included. For rocky bodies, an ordinary chondritic composition with a material that is dominated by olivine was assumed. For icy bodies, an ice-rich composition with 25 vol% H₂O and a rock fraction that contains 85 vol% phyllosilicates and 15 vol% olivine upon aqueous alteration was assumed. An initial porosity of 40% is reduced following the change of the strain rate that is calculated as a volume fraction weighted arithmetic mean of strain rates of components. Material properties (thermal conductivity, density, heat capacity, etc.) correspond to the composition assumed and are adjusted with temperature and porosity. Melting of metal and silicates (rocky bodies) or water ice (icy bodies) as well as metal-silicate and water-rock separation are included. Both short- and long-lived radionuclides are considered as heat sources. The initial temperature is either 290 K (rocky bodies) or 170 K (icy bodies).

Figure 3 shows the maximum temperature calculated for both types of bodies (3a: rocky, 3b: icy) as a function of radius and accretion time. A variety of internal structures is obtained in both cases, ranging from primordial (3a: no melting of metal and silicates; 3b: no melting of water ice) over partially differentiated (3a: melting of metal and/or silicates, formation of an iron core and silicate mantle below an undifferentiated layer; 3b: melting of water ice, formation of a rocky core and water ocean below an undifferentiated layer) to completely differentiated ones (3a: iron core, silicate mantle with a magma ocean, Vesta-like case; 3b: rocky core, water mantle, Enceladus-like case).

The heating and differentiation of planetesimals is determined by the availability of ²⁶Al, i.e., by the accretion time t_0 relative to the formation of the calcium-aluminum-rich inclusions (CAIs), such that maximum temperatures and structures vary strongly for $t_0 < 4$ Myr rel. to CAIs. However, for a later accretion only the size of the body determines its maximum temperature and structure due to the nearly constant heating by long-lived radionuclides.

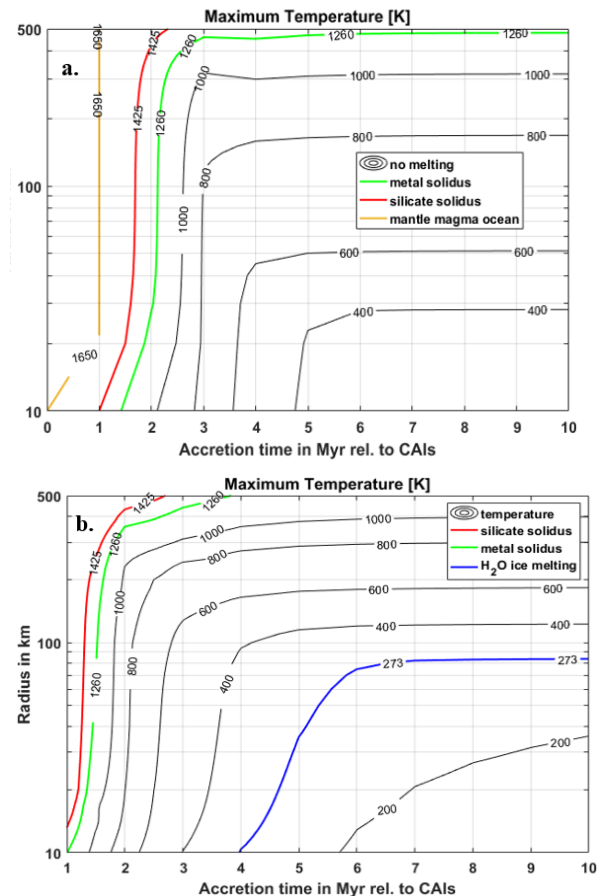


Figure 3: Maximum temperature for rocky (3a) and icy (3b) planetesimals as a function of the accretion time rel. to CAIs and of the radius.

Acknowledgements: Part of this research is funded by NASA Solar System Observations Program grant NNX17AJ24G (PI: Driss Takir). NASA IRTF is operated by the University of Hawai'i under contract NNH14CK55B with NASA.

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