RAMAN SPECTROSCOPIC STUDY OF THE K-NA JAROSITE SOLID SOLUTIONS
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Introduction
The hydrated sulfate minerals are essential for identifying and determining the aqueous history for Mars. Terrestrial Jarosite ((K,Na,H₄O)Fe₃(SO₄)₂(OH)₆) is a common mineral often associated with acid-mine waste on Earth. For Mars, Jarosite is the first definitely discovered sulfate mineral phases by Mossbauer spectrometer aboard Opportunity rover [1], indicating an acidic water-limited chemical weathering environment on this planet [2]. Jarosite has also been remotely detected as a patchy exposures in the northern Mawrth Vallis region by Compact Reconnaissance Imaging Spectrometer for Mars (CRISM) aboard Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO)[3,4].

Raman spectroscopy has a great advantage for future Mars explorations due to its power in fast molecular (organic and inorganic) phase identification in mixtures, characterization of mineral chemistry, and the minimum-to-no sample preparation requirement, etc[5-7]. Three Raman units were selected as scientific payloads for 2018 ExoMars and 2020 Mars rover, with the mission goals of fine-scale definitive mineralogy and bio-signature detection. Calibrations have been done to extract compositional information from major igneous minerals using their Raman peak positions (e.g. Wang et al. (2001)[8] for pyroxene, Kuebler et al. (2006)[9] for olivine). There is a growing need for in-depth study of Raman spectra in the chemical characterization of martian related minerals (especially for secondary minerals like jarosite), as guidance for its possible applications in the coming Mars missions.

In this paper, we report our prediction of K content in K-Na jarosite solid solutions by using their characteristic Raman features. Our goal is trying to correlate the chemical variations (varying K/Na ratio) with their typical Raman peak positions, with intent to derive a reliable formula for the predication of K content in K-Na jarosite solid solutions.

Experiments
We synthesized the K-, Na-, H₂O- jarosite endmembers and K-Na jarosite solid solutions following similar methods of Basciano and Peterson (2007, 2008)[10-11]. The elemental concentration (K, Na, Fe etc) of the samples are determined by the energy dispersive spectrometer (EDS, Oxford Aztec Xmax50) on the scanning electron microscopy (SEM, FEI Nova NanoSEM 450). The Raman measurements are performed on the newly installed state-of-art inVia® Raman System (Renishaw Company) in Shandong University, Weihai. The green laser (532 nm) is applied with a 50X objective during measurements, yielding spectral resolution better than 1cm⁻¹ and spectral repeatability of ± 0.2 cm⁻¹.

Results and Discussions
The chemical compositions of K-Na jarosite solid solutions are shown in Table 1. The occupancy of the alkali and Fe sites were determined in the solid samples based on the ratio of alkali and Fe to S. The percent of K, Na and Fe in these sites were normalized to 2 S per chemical formula based on the ideal chemical formula.

Table 1. The normalized chemical formula of K-Na jarosite solid solutions determined by SEM-EDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Formula</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-95</td>
<td>(K₀.₉₅Na₀.₀₅)Fe₂.₈₁(SO₄)₂(OH)₆</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-91</td>
<td>(K₀.₉₁Na₀.₀₉)Fe₂.₇₄(SO₄)₂(OH)₆</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-68</td>
<td>(K₀.₆₈Na₀.₂₇)Fe₃.₁₇(SO₄)₂(OH)₆</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-53</td>
<td>(K₀.₄₆Na₀.₄₄)Fe₂.₈₅(SO₄)₂(OH)₆</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-2₇</td>
<td>(K₀.₂₇Na₀.₆₇)Fe₂.₉₀(SO₄)₂(OH)₆</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-1₃</td>
<td>(K₀.₁₃Na₀.₈₇)Fe₂.₇₆(SO₄)₂(OH)₆</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-0</td>
<td>(K₀.₀₀Na₀.₉₉)Fe₂.₈₅(SO₄)₂(OH)₆</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig.1. Typical Raman spectra of three end-members K-Na-H₃O jarosites synthesized in laboratory

The Raman spectra of K-jarosite, Na-jarosite and H₂O-jarosite end-members are shown in Fig.1. Although all three have similar major spectral features arising from the internal vibrational modes of SO₄ tetrahedra (v₁ ~ v₃), their precise peak locations are different due to the different occupancies of A-site cations (K-, Na- and H₂O-). The OH stretching region (3200~3650 cm⁻¹) of three jarosite end-members also show distinct features (Fig.1). The major peaks are ascribed as the hydroxyl stretching (v₅) modes, which are sensitive with respect to different cation size in A site, i.e., from 3385 cm⁻¹ in Na-jarosite to 3410 cm⁻¹ in K-jarosite and 3420 cm⁻¹ in H₂O-jarosite, thus this position can also be used as reference for their phase identifications. As shown in Fig. 2. The K-Na jarosite solid solutions show systematic variations of Raman peak positions with the changes of alkali content (i.e. K/Na ratio) in A site. The peak 1 (v₁,
~1010 cm\(^{-1}\)) and Peak 3 (~440 cm\(^{-1}\)) have the largest variations due to the varying K/Na ratio, i.e., Peak 1 (Δ=5 cm\(^{-1}\) from 1006 to 1011 cm\(^{-1}\)), Peak 2 (Δ=11 cm\(^{-1}\) from 1100 to 1111 cm\(^{-1}\)) and Peak 3 (Δ=10 cm\(^{-1}\) from 434 to 444 cm\(^{-1}\)).

![Raman spectra of K-Na jarosite solid solutions](image)

Fig. 2. Raman spectra of K-Na jarosite solid solutions

The precise peak positions of Peak 1, Peak 2 and Peak 3 were obtained by spectral deconvolution using the Renishaw WiRE 3.4 software package with a mixed Gaussian–Lorentzian algorithm. As shown in the 3D scatter plot for K-Na jarosite solid solutions (Fig. 3), the Peak 1, Peak 2 and Peak 3 have very good linear relationship between each other (with Pearson's correlation coefficients > 0.99). This indicates they are good candidate parameters for the evaluation of chemical variations of K-Na jarosite solid solutions. Based on multiple linear regression of these parameters, we can derive the calculation formula as follows,

\[
K\text{-content} = 9.37 \times \text{Peak}1 - 0.32 \times \text{Peak}2 - 13.32 \times \text{Peak}3 - 3195
\]

(1)

Where the K-number is the molar ratio K/(K+Na)\(\times\)100 of K-Na jarosite solid solutions, Peak1 (~1010 cm\(^{-1}\)), Peak2 (~1110 cm\(^{-1}\)) and Peak3 (~440 cm\(^{-1}\)) are Raman peak positions of K-Na jarosite solid solutions in the unit of Raman shift (cm\(^{-1}\)). As shown in Fig. 4, the data points of measured and predicted K-number of K-Na jarosite solid solutions distribute equally along the 1:1 line, suggesting a good model of K-number has been achieved. The standard deviation between measured and predicted K-number is ±4. This formula can be used as the first principle for the prediction of K contents in K-Na jarosite solid solution series.

![3D scatter plot of measured K-number versus predicted K-number](image)

Fig. 4. The scatter plot of measured K-number versus predicted K-number by using equation 1.

**Conclusions and Future work**

We have synthesized the endmember K-jarosite, Na-jarosite and H\(_2\)O-jarosite and the K-Na jarosite solid solutions in laboratory. The Raman peak positions of Na-K jarosites show systematic variations in concert with the K-content for the solid solutions. We derived a formula applicable for the prediction of K content in jarosite, which is meaningful for the future Raman payloads of Mar's missions. Future work will focus on the refinement of the K-number formula and we will extend our calibration work to the ternary K-Na-H\(_2\)O jarosite solid solutions.

**Acknowledgements:** This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (41473065, 41373068, U1231103).

**References:**