

DETERMINATION OF ICY SATELLITE SURFACE COMPOSITION FROM SPACECRAFT OBSERVATIONS: MISSION-CRITICAL CRYOGENIC LABORATORY SPECTRAL MEASUREMENTS.

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Introduction: The bulk of our knowledge regarding icy satellite surface composition is derived from visible to near-infrared (VNIR) reflectance spectroscopy, much of it from spacecraft observations. Spectra of planetary surfaces can be modeled either as linear (areal) mixtures, or as nonlinear (intimate) mixtures, to yield estimates of relative abundance of surface compounds. Linear mixture analysis of planetary surface composition requires access to reflectance spectra of the candidate compounds. Nonlinear mixture analysis requires the real and imaginary indices of refraction (optical constants), which may be estimated from reflectance spectra, or derived from a combination of reflectance and transmittance measurements.

Characterization of Surface Compounds: To date, most candidate species proposed as icy satellite surface constituents have not yet been sufficiently characterized to enable such models. Most infrared spectra of candidate icy satellite surface materials published to date were measured in the mid-infrared (MIR) for purposes of understanding the interstellar medium. In order to constrain abundances of surface materials from spectral observations of icy bodies, cryogenic laboratory measurements for all candidate materials are needed with the following characteristics:

Required quantities. First, useful measurements must be of either reflectance or optical constants (real and imaginary indices of refraction). These are the quantities which enable quantitative abundance modeling. By themselves, transmittance, absorbance, absorption coefficient, line strength, optical depth, or other quantities which cannot be converted to reflectance (primarily due to poorly constrained scattering processes) are of limited usefulness.

Required wavelength range. Second, measurements are needed across the full spectral range of typical spacecraft instruments (298 to 5500 nm would cover the Galileo and Cassini cameras and spectrometers). While a compound may only have strong absorption features in part of the wavelength range, it still contributes to the continuum everywhere, including the vicinity of diagnostic features of other compounds. Deconvolving the observations requires laboratory measurements across the full range, for all proposed constituents, particularly where they may coexist.

Required sample thickness. Third, measurements must be conducted with samples sufficiently thick to yield useful absorption features, shapes and strengths.

The overtones and combinations which make up most of the VNIR spectral signatures are far weaker than the MIR fundamentals. However, reflected sunlight from cold icy bodies in the outer solar system exhibits insufficient spectral contrast and inadequate signal to enable the identification of surface materials in the MIR so remote-sensing instrumentation for icy bodies concentrates upon the VNIR, where there is more available signal. Yet, a thin film (<~10 microns) in the laboratory does not engender sufficient path length for the weak VNIR absorptions to manifest. This is not a problem for a planetary regolith several meters to kilometers thick, but does present a challenge for laboratory work.

Required temperatures. Fourth, measurements must be temperature-appropriate to the bodies of interest. Most of the candidate compounds (especially ices) display marked spectral changes with temperature. Differences of as little as 5-10 K can be distinguished in laboratory spectra of many materials. In order to explain planetary observations, laboratory measurements in the 50-150 K range will be critical.

Important Candidate Materials: Names and/or chemical formulae (where applicable) for 122 materials proposed as surface materials for icy worlds of the outer Solar System are given in the table. Each of these has either been observed in comets, interstellar molecular clouds, or on icy bodies or asteroids, produced in the lab by chemical, photolytic, radiolytic, or other means, or predicted on the basis of numerical simulations. A search of the published literature reveals a dearth of temperature- and wavelength-appropriate spectral measurements of these materials which can be used for quantitative abundance modeling. This represents a major opportunity for laboratory spectroscopists to conduct measurements which will be of paramount importance in interpreting the available data from modern imaging spectrometers on recent (Galileo), current (Cassini, New Horizons) and planned spacecraft missions.

Conclusion: Scientific return from spacecraft- and ground-based observations of planetary surfaces will be significantly enhanced by the proper application of cryogenic laboratory spectroscopy. With these measurements in hand, investigators may identify materials, derive their abundances, map their distributions, and infer their roles in the evolution of these enigmatic bodies.

Proposed Icy Satellite Surface Compounds			
Water	H ₂ O	Hydrogen Sulfide	H ₂ S
Deuterium Oxide	D ₂ O	Sulfur Dioxide	SO ₂
Heavy Water	HDO	Sulfur Trioxide	SO ₃
Hydrogen Peroxide	H ₂ O ₂	Sulfuric Acid	H ₂ SO ₄
Oxygen	O ₂	H ₂ SO ₄ Hydrates	H ₂ SO ₄ •8H ₂ O, H ₂ SO ₄ •6.5H ₂ O
Carbon Monoxide	CO	Sulfur	S ₂
Carbon Dioxide	CO ₂	Methyl Clathrate	CH ₄ •H ₂ O
Carbon Trioxide	CO ₃	CO ₂ Clathrate	CO ₂ •H ₂ O
Formyl ion	HCO	H ₂ O•graphite	...
Formaldehyde	H ₂ CO	Bisodium Sulfate	Na ₂ SO ₄
Formic Acid	H ₂ CO ₂	Bisodium Carbonate	Na ₂ CO ₃
Carbonic Acid	H ₂ CO ₃	Calcium Carbonate	CaCO ₃
D-Carbonic Acid	D ₂ CO ₃	Magnesium Sulfate	MgSO ₄
Carbon Suboxide	C ₃ O ₂	Dodecahydrate	MgSO ₄ •12H ₂ O
Methanol	CH ₃ OH	Epsomite	MgSO ₄ •7H ₂ O
Ethanol	CH ₃ CH ₂ OH	Hexahydrate	MgSO ₄ •6H ₂ O
Acetone	(CH ₃) ₂ CO	Pentahydrate	MgSO ₄ •5H ₂ O
Methyl Formate	HCOOCH ₃	Starkeyite	MgSO ₄ •4H ₂ O
Glycolaldehyde	CH ₂ OHCHO	Bassanite	2CaSO ₄ •H ₂ O
Ethyl Acetate	CH ₃ CO ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	Beryl	Be ₃ Al(SiO ₂) ₆
Dimethyl Carbonate	(OCH ₃) ₂ CO	Bloedite	Na ₂ Mg(SO ₄) ₂ •4H ₂ O
Ethylene Glycol	(CH ₂ OH) ₂	Bronzite	(Mg,Fe ²⁺) ₂ (SiO ₃) ₂
Methane	CH ₄	Dolomite	(Ca,Mg)(CO ₃) ₂
Acetylene	C ₂ H ₂	Burkeite	Na ₆ CO ₃ (SO ₄) ₂
Ethylene	C ₂ H ₄	Calcite	CaCO ₃
Ethane	C ₂ H ₆	Cordierite	Mg ₂ Al ₄ Si ₅ O ₁₈
Propane	C ₃ H ₈	Eugsterite	Na ₄ Ca(SO ₄) ₃ •2H ₂ O
Propdiene	C ₃ H ₄	Gaylussite	Na ₂ Ca(CO ₃) ₂ •5H ₂ O
1,3-Butadiyne	C ₄ H ₂	Goethite	FeOOH
Carbon Trimer	C ₃	Gypsum	CaSO ₄ •2H ₂ O
Cysteinesulfonic Acid	OCS	Hematite	Fe ₂ O ₃
Nitrogen Oxide	NO	Jarosite	KFe ₃ (SO ₄) ₂ (OH) ₆
Nitrogen	N ₂	Kaolinite	Al ₂ Si ₂ O(OH) ₄
Ammonia	NH ₃	Leonite	K ₂ Mg(SO ₄) ₂ •4H ₂ O
Ammonia hydrate	NH ₃ •H ₂ O	Lepidocrocite	FeOOH
Hydrazine	N ₂ H ₄	Magnetite	Fe(II)Fe(III) ₂ O ₄
Hydrogen Isocyanide	HNC	Mirabilite	Na ₂ SO ₄ •10H ₂ O
Hydrogen Cyanide	HCN	Montmorillonite	(Na,Ca) _{0.3} (Al,Mg) ₂ Si ₄ O ₁₀ (OH) ₂ •nH ₂ O
Poly-HCN	poly HCN	Nahcolite	NaHCO ₃
Acetonitrile	CH ₃ CN	Nontronite	Na _{0.3} Fe ³⁺ ₂ Si ₃ AlO ₁₀ (OH) ₂ •4H ₂ O
Ethylamine	CH ₃ CH ₂ CN	Natron	Na ₂ CO ₃ •10H ₂ O
Vinyl Cyanide	CH ₂ CHCN	Olivine	(Mg,Fe) ₂ SiO ₄
Propionitrile	C ₂ H ₅ CN	Palagonite	...
Methylcyanoacetylene	CH ₃ C ₃ N	Iron Sulfide	FeS
Cyanoacetylene	HC ₃ N	Pyroxene Bronzite	Mg _{0.8} Fe _{0.2} SiO ₃
Cyanogen	C ₂ N ₂	Iron Oxide	FeO
Dicyanoacetylene	C ₄ N ₂	Plagioclase	(Na,Ca)(Si,Al) ₄ O ₈
Ammonium Nitrate	NH ₄ NO ₃	Picromerite	K ₂ Mg(SO ₄) ₂ •6H ₂ O
Hydroxylamine	NH ₂ OH	Amorphous SiO ₂ Quartz	SiO ₂
Cyanate ion	OCN-	Pirssonite	Na ₂ Ca(CO ₃) ₂ •2H ₂ O
...	XCN-	Amorphous Pyroxene	(Mg,Fe)SiO ₃
Isocyanic Acid	HNCO	Polyhalite	K ₂ Ca ₂ Mg(SO ₄) ₄ •2H ₂ O
Methyl isocyanate	CH ₃ NCO	Pyrophyllite	Al ₂ Si ₄ O ₁₀ (OH) ₂
Formamide	HCONH ₂	Ortho-Pyroxene	XY(Si,Al) ₂ O ₆
...	HCO ₂ NH ₂	Clino-Pyroxene	XY(Si,Al) ₂ O ₆
Urea	H ₂ NCONH ₂	Serpentine	...
Thiourea	H ₂ NCSNH ₂	Syngenite	K ₂ Ca(SO ₄) ₂ •H ₂ O
...	HCOO ⁻ + NH ₄	Tholin	e.g., C ₃ H ₃ N ₂
Ammonium Hydrosulfide	NH ₄ HS	Kerogen	C ₂₀₀ H ₃₀₀ SN ₅ O ₁₁
Thiocyanic Acid	HNCS, HSNC	Trona	Na ₂ CO ₃ •HCO ₃ •2H ₂ O

Table I. Candidate Icy Satellite Surface Compounds. These compounds have been predicted to occur on the icy worlds of the outer solar system. Though hundreds of measurements have been performed, and the literature contains numerous examples of high-quality spectra at various temperatures, wavelength ranges, spectral resolutions, and sample thicknesses, to date only three compounds (H₂O, NH₃, and CO₂) have been sufficiently characterized to permit quantitative abundance modeling of spacecraft observations across the full wavelength range of the visible to near infrared imaging and imaging spectrometer systems carried by spacecraft such as Galileo, Cassini, and New Horizons.