GYPSUM OPTICAL CONSTANTS IN THE VISIBLE AND NEAR-INFRARED: REAL AND IMAGINED.
Ted L. Roush1 and Francesca Esposito2, George R. Rossmman3, and Luigi Colangi2, 1NASA Ames Research Center, MS 245-3, Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000, USA (troush@mail.arc.nasa.gov), 2INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Capodimonte, Napoli, Italy, 3California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA.

Introduction: Recent and on-going remote and in situ observations indicate that sulfates are present in significant abundances at various locations on Mars [1-5]. In addition, the scheduled Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) will be equipped with an imaging spectrometer (CRISM) that will return hyperspectral data at higher spatial resolution [6] than the OMEGA instrument on the Mars Express Mission [3]. Thus, the optical properties of sulfates, in general, are of interest to quantitative interpretation of this increasing volume of remotely sensed data. This is because optical constants describe how a material interacts with electromagnetic radiation and represent the fundamental values used in radiative transfer calculations describing a variety of physical environments. Such environments include atmospheres where aerosols are present, planetary and satellite regoliths, and circumstellar dust clouds.

Here we focus upon gypsum because of its applicability due to its identification on Mars. Also, gypsum is a mineral that is readily available in samples sizes that are suitable for study using a variety of spectral measurements. In the mid-infrared several studies reporting the optical constants of gypsum can be used in evaluating the approach used here. Most importantly, there is a general lack of data regarding the optical constants for gypsum at visible and near-infrared wavelengths (0.4-5 µm) that are being observed by OMEGA and planned for CRISM.

Background: In the infrared, there have been several studies focused at determining the optical constants of gypsum using classical dispersion models [see figure 1, 7-9].

Spectral measurements of gypsum, and other sulfates, have existed for about 100 years at mid-infrared, near-infrared, and visible wavelengths (0.4-5 µm) [e.g. 10-14]. All these latter spectra exhibit distinct spectral features near 4.5 µm that are attributed to the sulfate anion [10,14]. Yet no sign of this feature is present in the infrared data [compare Figs. 1, near 2220 cm⁻¹, and 2, near 4.5 µm].

Data Used: On-line spectral libraries are available at RELAB (http://lf314-rlds.geo.brown.edu/) and ASTER (http://speclib.jpl.nasa.gov/). Both contain spectral data and information regarding sample acquisition, characterization, preparation, and spectral measurements. The RELAB gypsum samples used here are <45 µm (SF-EAC-041-A/LASF41A) and 25-75 µm (CC-JFM-016-B/F1CC16B). The ASTER gypsum sample included in this study (SO-02B) is separated into three sieve size fractions of <45 µm, 45-125 µm, and 125-500 µm. All these spectra are shown in Fig. 1.

For the RELAB data, two spectrometers (0.3-2.6 and 0.8-26 µm) were used to acquire the reflectance spectra. The first measures bidirectional reflectance while the second measures biconical reflectance. We used data from the RELAB site that was already combined.

Similarly, for the ASTER data two spectrometers (0.4-2.5 and 2.0-15 µm) were used to acquire the reflectance spectra. The first measures bidirectional reflectance while the second measures biconical reflectance. We used data from the RELAB site that was already combined.

Figure 1. laboratory reflectance data used in the current study. a) RELAB. b) ASTER. The inset in each shows the obvious 4.5 µm feature.

Figure 2. Laboratory reflectance data used in the current study. a) RELAB. b) ASTER. The inset in each shows the obvious 4.5 µm feature.

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respectively, and $R_h$ is the hemispherical reflectance. Examination of the ASTER data revealed that the reflectance of the coarse grained sample is greater than the medium grained sample at wavelengths <1 µm. This spectral behavior is suspicious since as the grain size increases, the pathlength of photons through the material should increase and the effect should be increasing absorption resulting in a decrease in reflectance. As a result, we do not use the coarse grained data in any further analyses.

As another check of our results we use the measured transmission of a gypsum crystal that includes the 0.3-2.5 µm wavelength domain as shown in Figure 3.

![Figure 3. Transmission of a gypsum crystal.](image)

**Analytical Approach:** [16] and [17] describe an approach to determination of the absorption coefficient, $\alpha$, from the measured reflectance spectra that relies upon Hapke's description of radiative transfer within particulate surfaces [18-20, and references therein]. Since $\alpha$ is related to $k$ via the dispersion relation, $\alpha=4\pi k/\lambda$, this approach provides a mechanism of determining $k$.

More recently, [21] describe an approach for deriving $k$ using [22]'s description of radiative transfer within particulate surfaces. We use both of these approaches and compare the results with each other. During our analyses, we assume the average optical constants of Long et al. are accurate at wavelengths in the infrared; with the notable exception of the 4.5 µm region.

A treatment of light being transmitted by a slab of material is discussed in detail in [23] and [24]. Representations of the transmission of a slab is given by equations 2.74, 2.75, and 2.76 of [23], in order of decreasing complexity. We used each of these equations and compared the results with each other, and also to the results of the particulate scattering theories.

**Initial Results:** Results of the two different scattering theories and previous values at infrared wavelengths are compared in Figure 4, and results are extended to near-infrared and visible wavelengths where a comparison of the results to those from the transmission measurements is provided in Figure 5.

**Summary:** We find dispersion analysis models accurately describe the optical constants in the regions of strong absorptions ($k>0.1$), where they are least sensitive to the scattering occurring in the sample. We find particulate scattering theories can provide estimates of the optical constants in the regions of weak absorptions, where the dispersion analysis models are relatively insensitive. In the visible to mid-ir we find the scattering theories consistently predict lower values of $k$ than values determined from transmission models. This latter discrepancy may arise from scattering that is unaccounted for in the transmission measurements and/or models.

![Figure 4. Comparison of imaginary index of refraction values determined in the infrared using various techniques.](image)

![Figure 5. Comparison of imaginary index values at near-infrared and visible wavelengths determined using transmission measurements and particulate scattering models.](image)