

**Key Points:**

- We derive Ceres' composition using a Bayesian Hapke radiative-transfer model for infrared spectra, coupled with elemental constraints
- We reconcile compositional estimates of Ceres' mineralogy from reflectance spectra and elemental abundances from gamma ray and neutron data
- Ceres is modeled by a ~50% carbonaceous chondrite-like composition with 10% excess carbon and additional carbonates and phyllosilicates

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## A Probabilistic Approach to Determination of Ceres' Average Surface Composition From Dawn Visible-Infrared Mapping Spectrometer and Gamma Ray and Neutron Detector Data

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**Abstract** The Visible-Infrared Mapping Spectrometer (VIR) on board the Dawn spacecraft revealed that aqueous secondary minerals—Mg-phyllsilicates, NH<sub>4</sub>-bearing phases, and Mg/Ca carbonates—are ubiquitous on Ceres. Ceres' low reflectance requires dark phases, which were assumed to be amorphous carbon and/or magnetite (~80 wt.%). In contrast, the Gamma Ray and Neutron Detector (GRaND) constrained the abundances of C (8–14 wt.%) and Fe (15–17 wt.%). Here, we reconcile the VIR-derived mineral composition with the GRaND-derived elemental composition. First, we model mineral abundances from VIR data, including either meteorite-derived insoluble organic matter (IOM), amorphous carbon, magnetite, or combination as the darkening agent and provide statistically rigorous error bars from a Bayesian algorithm combined with a radiative-transfer model. Elemental abundances of C and Fe are much higher than is suggested by the GRaND observations for all models satisfying VIR data. We then show that radiative transfer modeling predicts higher reflectance from a carbonaceous chondrite of known composition than its measured reflectance. Consequently, our second models use multiple carbonaceous chondrite endmembers, allowing for the possibility that their specific textures or minerals other than carbon or magnetite act as darkening agents, including sulfides and tochilinite. Unmixing models with carbonaceous chondrites eliminate the discrepancy in elemental abundances of C and Fe. Ceres' average reflectance spectrum and elemental abundances are best reproduced by carbonaceous-chondrite-like materials (40–70 wt.%), IOM or amorphous carbon (10 wt.%), magnetite (3–8 wt.%), serpentine (10–25 wt.%), carbonates (4–12 wt.%), and NH<sub>4</sub>-bearing phyllosilicates (1–11 wt.%).

**Plain Language Summary** Ceres is a dwarf planet and the largest object in the main asteroid belt, consisting of ice and assemblages of hydrous minerals that incorporate water, ammonium, and carbon. An open question about Ceres is its surface composition and the nature of the materials that make its surface very dark. Whereas iron oxides and amorphous carbon have been suggested from the analyses of spectra at infrared wavelengths of light and mixture modeling using pure mineral or organic endmembers, elemental analysis independently found that C and Fe are not as abundant as posited by these analyses. Thus, another phase or set of phases must be responsible. The dark nature of Ceres is similar to the dark nature of carbonaceous chondrite meteorites, measured in laboratory. We find that the tiny nanometer- and micrometer-scale of darkening agents in these meteorites is not well-accounted for by existing physics-based mixture models of mineral and organic endmembers. Consequently, we use a spectral unmixing model that involves minerals, organics and carbonaceous chondrite meteorites to show that Ceres' surface contains multiple darkening agents of the style found in carbonaceous-chondrite meteorites and additional carbon, hydrous minerals, carbonates, and NH<sub>4</sub>-bearing minerals.

## 1. Introduction

Ceres, a dwarf planet and the largest body in the asteroid belt, is thought to have a unique mineral composition. Ceres itself has not been directly sampled but parent bodies of carbonaceous chondrite meteorites (CCs), especially CM and CI groups have been considered the closest analogs for Ceres in existing meteorite collections (e.g., Feierberg et al., 1985; McSween et al., 2017; Rivkin et al., 2006; Schäfer et al., 2018). That analogy is largely based on qualitative similarities in their spectral properties including an overall low albedo and  $\sim 3 \mu\text{m}$  absorption. Nevertheless, telescopic measurements prior to the arrival of the Dawn spacecraft indicated that Ceres somewhat differed from CM and CI meteorites, notably through an unusual spectral feature at  $3.06 \mu\text{m}$ . Such a feature is not found in most other dark asteroids and was attributed to multiple possible causes (Rivkin et al., 2006; Takir & Emery, 2012) with the most likely candidate considered to be ammoniated Mg-smectite clay (T. V. King et al., 1992).

The suite of instruments onboard the Dawn spacecraft enables us to determine Ceres' mineral and elemental composition and compare it with those of other bodies, such as CCs. Specifically, reflectance spectra of Ceres' surface, unobscured by Earth's atmosphere, were obtained by the Visible-Infrared Mapping Spectrometer (VIR; De Sanctis et al., 2011). Analyses of VIR-derived spectra from Ceres' surface have identified several features that distinctly differentiate the dwarf planet from CCs, such as the ubiquity of  $\text{NH}_4$ -bearing clay mineral-absorptions ( $3.06 \mu\text{m}$ , De Sanctis et al., 2015; Ammannito et al., 2016; Ehlmann et al., 2018), Na-carbonate absorptions localized in bright spots ( $3.5 \mu\text{m}$  and  $4.0 \mu\text{m}$ , De Sanctis et al., 2016; Stein et al., 2017; Carrozzo et al., 2018), and absorptions indicating aliphatic organic materials localized in Ernutet crater ( $3.4 \mu\text{m}$ , De Sanctis et al., 2017; C. Pieters et al., 2017). In addition, data acquired by the Gamma Ray and Neutron Detector (GRaND) suggests that the abundance of H is higher than in many CCs, whereas the Fe content is lower (Prettyman et al., 2017). These interpreted differences in mineralogy and composition between CCs and Ceres suggest that Ceres' bulk (or at least near-surface) composition and specific alteration pathways could be different.

The inferred volatile-rich composition, and especially the presence of ammoniated phases on Ceres' surface are key to understanding the early evolution of the Solar System. Because the condensation line of  $\text{NH}_3$  ice is located further out from the Sun than the current orbit of Ceres, the presence of ammoniated phases on Ceres could result from an inward migration of the dwarf planet after a more distant formation (De Sanctis et al., 2015; McKinnon, 2012; Vokrouhlický et al., 2016). Such migration might have been induced by interactions between, and the migration of, the giant planets during or after planetary formation (Levison et al., 2009; K. J. Walsh et al., 2011). Another possible explanation for  $\text{NH}_3$  ice is the in-situ accretion of volatile-rich pebbles drifting inward from the outer Solar System (De Sanctis et al., 2015). McSween et al. (2017) proposed that ammonia might be released from organics in Ceres' interior at relatively high temperatures ( $\sim 300^\circ\text{C}$ ). In either case, a quantitative determination of Ceres' mineral assemblages and elemental abundances would provide new constraints on the dynamic history of, and material transport throughout, the early Solar System.

In addition to the aforementioned infrared absorption bands, Ceres' surface is overall darker than any of the phases mentioned above; therefore, some darkening agent must lower Ceres' albedo, and dark materials need to be incorporated in modeling of composition from infrared spectra. Previous spectral modeling (or unmixing) of Ceres' globally averaged VIR spectrum showed that, in addition to Mg-phyllsilicates,  $\text{NH}_4$ -bearing phases, and Mg/Ca carbonates, the low albedo (0.09, Ciarniello et al., 2017) requires the presence of  $\sim 60$ – $80$  wt.% of dark materials, then assumed to be mainly C (amorphous carbon) or Fe (magnetite; De Sanctis et al., 2015). However, the derived elemental abundances of C or Fe from these darkening agents significantly exceed those typically encountered in CCs, of a few wt.% C and  $\sim 20$  wt.% Fe (Lodders et al., 1998). The abundances and spatial distributions of H, C, K, Fe, and constraints on average atomic mass were determined from GRaND data throughout Ceres' regolith, to depths of a few decimeters (Lawrence et al., 2018; Prettyman et al., 2017; Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Castillo-Rogez, et al., 2018). Though GRaND has spatial resolution much larger than that of VIR ( $\sim 400$  km vs.  $\sim 1$  km, respectively), the informed globally averaged abundances of C (8–14 wt.%) and Fe (15–17 wt.%) are higher than the aforementioned values estimated from VIR data. The elemental composition implies that Ceres is rich in C and poor in Fe relative to CCs, possibly due to differentiation and extensive alteration (Prettyman et al., 2017; Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Castillo-Rogez, et al., 2018). Because the Ceres surface is well-mixed

by impacts and relatively homogeneous in composition (e.g., crater ejecta vs. other surface materials), the discrepancies between the estimates from the two instruments likely arise from the choice of darkening agents in previous spectral unmixing.

Recently, Marchi et al. (2018) performed spectral unmixing by using CCs themselves as spectral endmembers along with amorphous carbon and magnetite as candidate darkening agents to solve the discrepancy. Their spectral unmixing model adopted an artificial multiplicative constant to control the absolute level of reflectance. The stated reason for adding this factor was to compensate for uncertainties in the absolute radiometric accuracy of the data and to compensate for parameters of the model not well characterized, such as the porosity. However, the factor could lead to bias on estimating the abundance of dark materials, and thus we revisit the problem without the multiplicative constant.

Here, we revisit the derivation of mineral and elemental compositions from VIR data (De Sanctis et al., 2015; Marchi et al., 2018) to reconcile the differences between VIR-derived and GRaND-derived compositions, and provide statistically rigorous uncertainties by finding a full set of possible mineral assemblages that can reasonably explain both the chemical and mineralogical datasets using a Bayesian method for spectral unmixing (Lapotre, Ehlmann, & Minson, 2017; Section 2). As a control experiment, we first derive Ceres mineral abundances from a VIR spectrum under the same assumptions and using the same mineral endmembers with amorphous carbon (Zubko et al., 1996) or magnetite as darkening agents as in De Sanctis et al. (2015), or meteorite-derived insoluble organic matter (IOM; Section 3). Next, we apply our model to CCs whose mineral and elemental compositions have been independently determined and discuss the contribution of multiple darkening agents such as carbon, magnetite, sulfides, tochilinite, and other oxides to their spectral properties (Section 4). These oxides are opaque and known to be present in CCs (Garenne et al., 2016; Howard et al., 2009). Finally, we perform spectral unmixing by using CCs as spectral endmembers without the multiplicative constant introduced by Marchi et al. (2018), following Kurokawa et al. (2018) (Section 5). The latter approach ensures that multiple darkening agents, which are actually present in meteorite bodies, are included in the modeling. CCs considered in this study include CM- and CI-type meteorites—Murchison (CM2), Cold Bokkeveld (CM2), and Ivuna (CI1) 2013 as well as Tagish Lake (C2 ungrouped) because it is known to be rich in smectite and organics (Blinova et al., 2014). We discuss the mineral assemblages which satisfy both VIR spectrum and GRaND elemental concentrations and implications for the origin and evolution of the dwarf planet (Section 6).

## 2. Methods

### 2.1. Modeling and Fits to Data

We first derive abundances and grain sizes of endmember phases on Ceres' surface from the globally averaged reflectance by using a Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) implementation of the radiative transfer model of Hapke (2012), developed by Lapotre, Ehlmann, and Minson (2017). Ceres' VIR spectrum was first reported by De Sanctis et al. (2015) and then recalibrated by Carrozzo et al. (2016). Photometric parameters were then derived from the recalibrated global average spectra by Ciarniello et al. (2017). Finally, Marchi et al. (2018) utilized an average spectrum as derived from the photometric parameters of Ciarniello et al. (2017), which we herein use. With calculated mineral abundances on hand, we next compute their corresponding elemental abundances of H, C, K, and Fe and compare them to GRaND-derived abundances (Prettyman et al., 2017; Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Castillo-Rogez, et al., 2018; Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Ehlmann, et al., 2018).

Here we briefly summarize the mathematical formulation of the Bayesian algorithm, which is fully described in Lapotre, Ehlmann, and Minson (2017). This method was tested on laboratory mixtures by Lapotre, Ehlmann, and Minson (2017) and applied to real remotely sensed planetary data (Lapotre, Ehlmann, Minson, et al., 2017; Rampe et al., 2018). Inputs to the algorithm are the orbiter-based reflectance spectrum,  $R(\lambda)$ , and the optical indices of endmember phases thought to be on Ceres' surface,  $n(\lambda)$  and  $k(\lambda)$ , where  $n$  and  $k$  are the real and imaginary indices of refraction, and are functions of wavelength,  $\lambda$ . At each step, the code chooses a set of grain size  $D_i$  (10–1,000  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and mass abundance  $m_i$  (<100 wt.%) of each endmember phase  $i$ . The upper bound of grain sizes was chosen to encompass those derived by previous studies (De Sanctis et al., 2015; Marchi et al., 2018), whereas the lower bound is imposed by limitation of Hapke's

**Table 1**

*Endmember Spectra: Name, Condition of Spectral Measurement, RELAB Sample (Spectrum) ID or Reference, the Real Part of Refractive Index  $n$ , Grain Size Assumed in Refractive Index Calculation, Density, and the Previous Study Which Used the Data (if Exists)*

Mineral	Condition	ID or reference	Refractive index $n$	Grain size ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	Density (g/cc)	Used in previous studies?
Antigorite (heated at 500°C)	Room temp., ambient-dry atm.	AT-TXH-007 (LAAT07)	1.565 <sup>d</sup>	62.5 <sup>b</sup>	2.54 <sup>d</sup>	De Sanctis et al. (2015)
Magnesite	Room temp., ambient-dry atm.	JB-JLB-946 (BKR1JB946A)	1.615 <sup>d</sup>	22.5 <sup>b</sup>	2.97 <sup>d</sup>	De Sanctis et al. (2015)
Magnetite (refractive indices)	–	Query (1985)	–	–	5.15 <sup>d</sup>	–
NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite	Room temp., ambient-dry atm.	JB-JLB-189 (397F189)	1.43 <sup>c</sup>	62.5 <sup>a</sup>	2.35 <sup>e</sup>	De Sanctis et al. (2015)
NH <sub>4</sub> -saponite	–100°C, under vacuum	Ehlmann et al. (2018)	1.56 <sup>d</sup>	75 <sup>b</sup>	2.3 <sup>d</sup>	–
Brucite	Room temp., ambient-dry atm.	JB-JLB-944-A (BKR1JB944A)	1.58 <sup>d</sup>	22.5 <sup>b</sup>	2.39 <sup>d</sup>	De Sanctis et al. (2015)
amorphous carbon	Room temp., vacuum	Zubko et al. (1996)	1.78–1.84 <sup>f</sup>	– <sup>f</sup>	2.0 <sup>d</sup>	De Sanctis et al. (2015)
Cold Bokkeveld IOM	Room temp., dry air	Kaplan et al. (2018)	1.6 <sup>a</sup>	25 <sup>b</sup>	2.0 <sup>d</sup>	–
Murchison (heated at 600°C)	Room temp., ambient-dry atm.	MT-JMS-190 (BKR1MT190)	1.6 <sup>g</sup>	17.5 <sup>b</sup>	2.71 <sup>h</sup>	–
Cold Bokkeveld	Room temp., dry air	Ehlmann et al. (2018), MT-JMS-186 (BKR1MT186)	1.6 <sup>g</sup>	75 <sup>b</sup>	2.71 <sup>h</sup>	–
Tagish Lake	Room temp., ambient-dry atm.	MT-MEZ-011 (LCMT11) MT-MEZ-012 (LCMT12)	1.6 <sup>g</sup>	62.5 <sup>b</sup>	2.6 <sup>h</sup>	–
Ivuna (heated at 100°C)	Room temp., ambient-dry atm.	MP-TXH-018-F (LAMP18F)	1.6 <sup>g</sup>	22.5 <sup>a</sup>	2.27 <sup>h</sup>	Marchi et al. (2018)

Abbreviation: IOM, insoluble organic matter.

<sup>a</sup>Assumed a typical value of particulate samples. <sup>b</sup>(minimum size+maximum size)/2. <sup>c</sup><https://refractiveindex.info/>, Query (1987). <sup>d</sup><http://webmineral.com/>. <sup>e</sup>Glotch and Rossman (2009). <sup>f</sup>We used optical constants as a function of wavelength as reported in Zubko et al. (1996). <sup>g</sup>Assumed a typical value among minerals. <sup>h</sup>Britt et al. (2003); Ralchenko et al. (2014).

model, which assumes the grain size is larger than the photon wavelength (Hapke, 2012). For the given set of parameters, we compute  $I/F$  (the radiance factor, hereafter simply referred to as the reflectance), defined by

$$I / F = \frac{\omega}{4} \frac{\mu_0}{\mu + \mu_0} \left[ (1 + B(g)) p(g) + H(\omega, \mu) H(\omega, \mu_0) - 1 \right] \quad (1)$$

where  $\mu$  and  $\mu_0$  are the cosines of the incidence and emission angles. The function  $H(\omega, \mu)$  is the Chandrasekhar integral function associated with the observation geometry (Hapke, 2012). The average spectrum is defined in standard viewing geometry (the incidence angle  $i = 30^\circ$ , the emission angle  $e = 0^\circ$ , and the phase angle  $g = 30^\circ$ ). We assume  $B = 0$  (no opposition effect contribution because this effect is only significant for phase angles  $g < 2^\circ$ , whereas the VIR observation phase angles were much greater than  $2^\circ$ ) and the single-particle phase function (SPPF)  $p = 1$  (isotropic scatters, which assumption is further discussed below). The single scattering albedo of a mixture of grains,  $\omega$  is computed from a linear combination of the single scattering albedos of endmembers,  $\omega_i$ , calculated from the refractive indices and grain size, such that,

$$\omega = \frac{\sum_i m_i / \rho_i D_i}{\sum_i m_i / \rho_i D_i} \omega_i \quad (2)$$

where  $\rho_i$  is the density of endmember phase  $i$  (Table 1). The computed spectrum is compared to VIR  $I/F$  data and the chosen parameter set is either accepted or rejected with the probability determined by goodness of the fit between data and model spectrum (for details, see Lapotre, Ehlmann, & Minson, 2017). We use

**Table 2**  
Elemental Abundances of Endmembers

Endmember	H [wt.%]	C [wt.%]	K [wt.%]	Fe [wt.%]
NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite	4.04 <sup>a</sup>	0	1.43 <sup>b</sup>	0
NH <sub>4</sub> -saponite	2.10 <sup>a</sup>	0	0.82 <sup>b</sup>	0
Antigorite	1.34 <sup>a</sup>	0	0	14.0 <sup>a</sup>
Magnesite	0	14.3 <sup>a</sup>	0	0
Amorphous carbon	0	100	0	0
Magnetite	0	0	0	72.4 <sup>a</sup>
IOM	4.58 <sup>c</sup>	95.4 <sup>c</sup>	0	0
Murchison	1.07 <sup>d</sup>	2.08 <sup>d</sup>	$3.81 \times 10^{-2f}$	20.5 <sup>f</sup>
Cold Bokkeveld	1.36 <sup>d</sup>	2.45 <sup>d</sup>	$4.1 \times 10^{-2f}$	19.8 <sup>f</sup>
Tagish Lake	1.5 <sup>e</sup>	3.6 <sup>e</sup>	$6.5 \times 10^{-2e}$	19.3 <sup>e</sup>
Ivuna	1.52 <sup>d</sup>	3.50 <sup>d</sup>	$4.3 \times 10^{-2h}$	18.6 <sup>g</sup>

<sup>a</sup><http://webmineral.com/>. <sup>b</sup>Maximum value assuming that all Na was replaced with K. <sup>c</sup>Kaplan et al. (2018). <sup>d</sup>Alexander et al. (2012). <sup>e</sup>Brown et al. (2000). <sup>f</sup>Rubin et al. (2007). <sup>g</sup>Wolf and Palme (2001). <sup>h</sup>Barrat et al. (2012).

a covariance value of  $3 \times 10^{-6}$ , which empirically we found to appropriately account for the magnitude of noise in VIR averaged reflectance. We specify a MCMC chain lengths of  $10^6$  for models with four endmembers and  $2 \times 10^6$  for those that include more endmember phases. Modeling outputs are the probability distribution functions (PDFs) of grain size  $D_i$  (10–1,000  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and mass abundance  $m_i$  (<100 wt.%) of each endmember phase  $i$ , as determined by the models accepted by the spectral comparison routine (hereafter called accepted models). We note that our term “accepted model” follows the terminology of the MCMC method, and it does not mean that any accepted model should be treated equally. Models with poor spectral fit can be accepted with low probability. We put additional selection criteria when necessary (see below in this section). A useful descriptor evaluated from PDFs is the maximum a posteriori probability (MAP) model, which corresponds to the most sampled area of the parameter space, that is, the most probable assemblage in the MCMC calculation. Because acceptance probability is determined by goodness of the spectral fit, the MAP model corresponds to the best fit explored by the model.

Prior to the MCMC spectral mixing, the imaginary refractive index  $k(\lambda)$  is calculated from the reflectance data of endmembers given in the form of the reflectance factor,

$$\text{REFR} = \frac{\omega}{4} \frac{1}{\mu + \mu_0} [p(g) + H(\omega, \mu)H(\omega, \mu_0) - 1] \quad (3)$$

and an assumed constant  $n$  value (a reasonable assumption at the wavelengths herein considered) following the methodology of Lucey (1998), T. Roush et al. (1990), T. L. Roush (2003), and Lapotre, Ehlmann, and Minson (2017) (Table 1). In reality,  $n$  varies slightly over the wavelengths of interest. For instance, serpentine and other hydrous minerals show a few % variation in  $n$  values in the 2.5–3.0 wavelength range (Dalton III & Pitman, 2012; Mooney & Knacke, 1985). However, a sensitivity analysis (not shown) revealed that 10% variation in  $n$  does not influence our modeling as variations in  $n$  are readily compensated through derived  $k$  values. Because bulk  $n$  average values of CCs are unknown, a typical value of minerals found in CCs ( $n = 1.6$ ) is applied.

We assumed isotropic scatter ( $p = 1$ ) for all phases considered. We note that the assumption of isotropic scatter may not be correct for some phases such as magnetite (Mustard & Pieters, 1989). Because anisotropy depends on the physical properties of particles, evaluating the SPPF requires reflectance measurements with various phase angles for each sample, which are not always available. Thus, we assumed  $p = 1$  in the absence of further constraints. We note that analysis of VIR data obtained for different phase angles showed that the SPPF of Ceres' averaged surface is fairly symmetric in IR (Ciarniello et al., 2017, 2020).

With PDFs of mineral abundances  $m_i$  on hand, we compute the corresponding PDFs of elemental abundances of H, C, K, and Fe for all accepted models, and compare them to GRaND-derived abundances (Prettyman et al., 2017; Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Castillo-Rogez, et al., 2018; Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Ehlmann, et al., 2018). Assumed elemental abundances for each endmember phase are listed in Table 2. Reported K abundances are upper bounds, as all Na in montmorillonite and saponite is assumed to have been substituted by K in our calculations. Although VIR and GRaND probe different thicknesses of materials, we assume that the upper half meter (probed by GRaND) is well mixed with no difference to the optical surface (probed by VIR) because the surface of Ceres has been subjected to billions of years of continual impact bombardment. This assumption is also consistent with the general lack of evidence for space weathering on Ceres (e.g., C. M. Pieters & Noble, 2016). An exception to this assumption is H, whose abundance was found to increase from the equator to the poles, consistent with the stability of water ice (Prettyman et al., 2017). In order to exclude the effect of spatially variable water-ice content, we used the equatorial average reported by Prettyman et al. (2017).

**Table 3**  
*Mixing Assemblages Used in This Study*

Assemblage name	Endmembers
A1	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, amorphous carbon
A2	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, magnetite
A3	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, IOM
A4	NH <sub>4</sub> -saponite, antigorite, magnesite, IOM
A5	brucite, antigorite, magnesite, IOM
A6	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, magnetite, IOM
B1	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, IOM, Murchison
B2	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, IOM, Cold Bokkeveld
B3	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, IOM, Tagish Lake
B4	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, IOM, Ivuna
B5	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, magnetite, IOM, Murchison
B6	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, magnetite, IOM, Cold Bokkeveld
B7	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, magnetite, IOM, Tagish Lake
B8	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, magnetite, IOM, Ivuna
B9	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, magnetite, amorphous carbon, Murchison
B10	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, magnetite, amorphous carbon, Cold Bokkeveld
B11	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, magnetite, amorphous carbon, Tagish Lake
B12	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, magnetite, amorphous carbon, Ivuna

Abbreviation: IOM, insoluble organic matter.

Our MCMC radiative transfer model equally treats all the spectral range where reliable VIR data are available to compute accepted models. However, when we finally show the models which satisfy both spectral and elemental constraints (Section 5), we additionally filter the results to show those that have, not only an acceptable  $\chi^2$  over the entire spectral range, but also that have the depths of the absorption features at 2.7, 3.1, 3.4, and 4.0  $\mu\text{m}$  being at least 50% of those in VIR data. The absorption depth  $d$  is defined as,

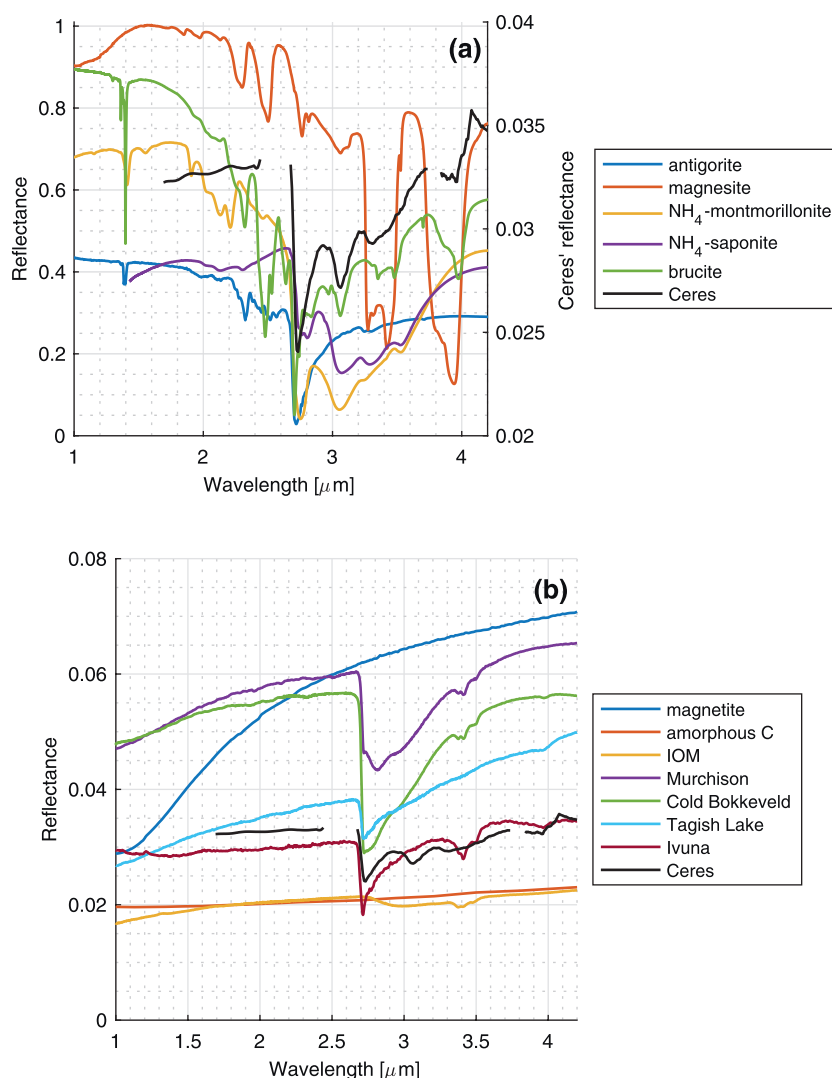
$$d = \frac{R_c - R_\lambda}{R_c} \quad (4)$$

where  $R_c$  is the continuum reflectance given by linear interpolation of two local maximums across the absorption feature, and  $R_\lambda$  is the reflectance at the peak of absorption.

## 2.2. Spectral Endmembers

The investigated sets of endmember phases are listed in Table 3 and their corresponding model parameters in Tables 1 and 2. Whereas assemblages A1–A6 use single phases as endmembers, assemblages B1–B12 use CC assemblages. Endmember reflectance spectra are compared to that of Ceres' surface in Figure 1.

Our choice of endmembers was guided by (i) phases that have been positively identified on Ceres by examination of absorptions in infrared spectra (e.g., Ammannito et al., 2016; De Sanctis et al., 2016, 2017, 2015), (ii) knowledge of phases present in carbonaceous chondrite meteorites (presumed to be similar to those in hydrous asteroids), and (iii) knowledge of GRaND-derived elemental concentrations for Ceres' equatorial ice-free regolith in comparison to carbonaceous chondrites (Prettyman et al., 2017; Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Castillo-Rogez, et al., 2018; Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Ehlmann, et al., 2018). Where possible and reasonable given the radiative transfer model's sensitivity to endmember albedo and slope, we used the same endmembers as De Sanctis et al. (2015, 2016).



**Figure 1.** Ceres and endmember spectra used in this study. (a) Minerals with absorption features. Right and left axes denote the reflectance of Ceres and endmember phases, respectively. (b) Dark phases and CCs.

In addition, spectra of endmember phases that have not been previously considered for Ceres were selected from available spectral libraries (e.g., RELAB and USGS) and other published studies. Criteria for selection of a given spectrum were that (i) it did not suffer from uncorrected measurement artifacts, (ii) it was typical relative to all library spectra of the same sample or sample type, and, when possible, (iii) it was acquired from samples with grain sizes (and preparation) no larger than a few tens of  $\mu\text{m}$ . In all cases, spectra of particulate samples were used, and either dry air purged or low temperature, vacuum-measured spectra were considered for the shortwave infrared wavelength range. Measurements used biconical reflectance measurements in visible and near-infrared (VNIR) to set the overall reflectance level, approximating bidirectional geometry by using acquisitions with small angles (e.g., Schaepman-Strub et al., 2006). In order to obtain the reflectance of wavelengths from 1.7  $\mu\text{m}$  to 4.2  $\mu\text{m}$ , fourier-transform infrared (FTIR) measurements were spliced and scaled to match the VNIR.

### 2.2.1. Antigorite (Mg-Serpentine)

The phyllosilicate-related absorption band in Ceres' spectrum is centered at 2.72  $\mu\text{m}$  (Figure 1), consistent with Mg-serpentine rather than Fe-serpentine (Takir et al., 2013), although we cannot determine the precise Mg-/Fe-content based on band position alone (Schäfer et al., 2018). We use the same Mg-serpentine

(antigorite) as De Sanctis et al. (2015) (Figure 1). To dehydrate the sample, it was heated at 500°C for 1 week in a vacuum glass tube, and then sieved to <125 μm. Reflectance data acquired on the sample shows a sharp 2.72-μm absorption from Mg-OH, similar to what is observed on Ceres. The serpentine also has weaker absorptions near 1.4, 2.3, and 2.5 μm, which are not readily detected in Ceres' spectra.

### 2.2.2. Magnesite (Mg-Carbonate)

The carbonate-related absorption bands in Ceres' spectra are generally broad (e.g., at ~3.5 μm). Though different types of carbonates (magnesite, dolomite, and calcite) show variation in the shape of absorption bands, a previous study found that the limited difference does not influence spectral fitting (De Sanctis et al., 2015). Here, we assume magnesite following De Sanctis et al. (2015) and use the same reflectance data (Figure 1). The sample was sieved to <45 μm. Mg-carbonate has 3.4- and 3.96-μm absorptions, as observed on Ceres, as well as weaker absorptions at 2.31 and 2.51 μm.

### 2.2.3. NH<sub>4</sub>-montmorillonite (Al-Smectite)

Ammoniated smectites were hypothesized by T. V. King et al. (1992) to be the cause of Ceres' distinctive (relative to other dark asteroids) ~3.05-μm absorption, also corroborated by De Sanctis et al. (2015). Montmorillonites, a form of a smectite with octahedral Al, are rarely (if ever) observed in CCs. Nevertheless, we adopt a RELAB-measured NH<sub>4</sub>-montmorillonite for some runs, following De Sanctis et al. (2015) (Figure 1). The sample was sieved to <125 μm.

### 2.2.4. NH<sub>4</sub>-saponite (Mg-smectite)

Saponites, or Mg-smectites, are observed in CCs (e.g., McSween et al., 2017). We use newly obtained endmember spectra acquired of ammoniated Mg-smectites at -100°C in a vacuum by Ehlmann et al. (2018), which was not available when De Sanctis et al. (2015) was published (Figure 1). The sample was sieved to <150 μm.

### 2.2.5. Brucite

The presence of brucite on Ceres was hypothesized by Milliken and Rivkin (2009) from the presence of a 3.05-μm absorption. Because brucite has an additional 2.5-μm absorption that precludes good fits to VIR data (De Sanctis et al., 2015), we include brucite as an endmember for one of our runs to quantify the limits on brucite abundance, using the same spectrum as De Sanctis et al. (2015) (Figure 1). The sample was sieved to <45 μm.

### 2.2.6. Insoluble Organic Matter

Most organic matter is dark and relatively featureless over the VNIR wavelength ranges (Kaplan et al., 2018), and organic matter was hypothesized by De Sanctis et al. (2015) to be one possible cause of Ceres' low VNIR albedo. To identify suitable endmembers, we examined spectra of IOM from meteorites studied by Alexander et al. (2012). We selected a spectrum of <50 μm grains of Cold Bokkeveld IOM (H/C ~58) based on their low reflectance and lack of features, which are suitable properties as a darkening agent. The published version of the Kaplan et al. (2018) data has an unusually positive spectral slope compared to IOM spectral data in RELAB (e.g., OG-CMA-001 to -004), so we corrected the slope of the data using the overlapping 1.7–2.4 μm range measured in bidirectional geometry and spliced these VNIR measurements (Kaplan, Milliken, and Hiroi, personal communication) with the Kaplan et al. (2018) FTIR data to obtain an endmember spectrum (Figure 1). The resultant spectrum shows a C-H stretch at 3.4 μm and a broad 3-μm feature.

### 2.2.7. Amorphous Carbon

Amorphous carbon is dark and featureless, and may form from organic matter via exposure by ultraviolet (UV)/ionizing radiation (Hendrix et al., 2016; Kaplan et al., 2018). We used the optical constants for amorphous grains produced under arc discharge between amorphous carbon electrodes in an H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere (named ACH2 sample; Zubko et al., 1996), which is the same sample discussed and proposed as a possible dark phase on Ceres' surface by De Sanctis et al. (2015) (Figure 1). We note that carbon may exist in the form of graphite on Ceres as suggested from UV spectra (Hendrix et al., 2016), which is also dark and featureless in VIR wavelengths.

### 2.2.8. Magnetite (Fe-oxide)

Magnetite as well as other Fe oxides and sulfides are relatively featureless, with a weak and broad 1- $\mu\text{m}$  absorption; they often occur in the matrix of CCs, and were thus hypothesized by De Sanctis et al. (2015) to be a possible cause of Ceres' low VNIR albedo. Whereas De Sanctis et al. (2015) used refractive indices computed from the reflectance data, we use the refractive index data from Querry (1985) because these optical constants are assumed to be more accurate. We show the reflectance spectrum computed from the refractive indices in Figure 1.

### 2.2.9. Murchison

As a fairly typical CM2 chondrite, the Murchison meteorite was chosen as an endmember. At VNIR and short-wave infrared wavelengths, available Murchison reflectance spectral values at 2  $\mu\text{m}$  range from 0.025–0.10. The absorption strength at 3  $\mu\text{m}$  varies from 30%–45%. All examined reflectance spectra of Murchison samples had a 2.80- $\mu\text{m}$  absorption, typical of both structurally bound H<sub>2</sub>O and Fe serpentines (e.g., J. L. Bishop et al., 1994; T. V. King & Clark, 1989). We chose the high SNR spectrum MT-JMS-190, measured under dry air in RELAB over <35- $\mu\text{m}$  grains, which is typical of Murchison and has been fully characterized in prior studies (P. A. Bland et al., 2004; Howard et al., 2009, 2011; McAdam et al., 2015). This sample shows absorption bands centered around 2.72  $\mu\text{m}$  (weak) and 2.80  $\mu\text{m}$  (strong; Figure 1), which are thought to indicate small amounts of Mg-serpentine and more Fe-serpentine (Takir et al., 2013), possibly with some contribution from structural or bound water (J. L. Bishop et al., 1994).

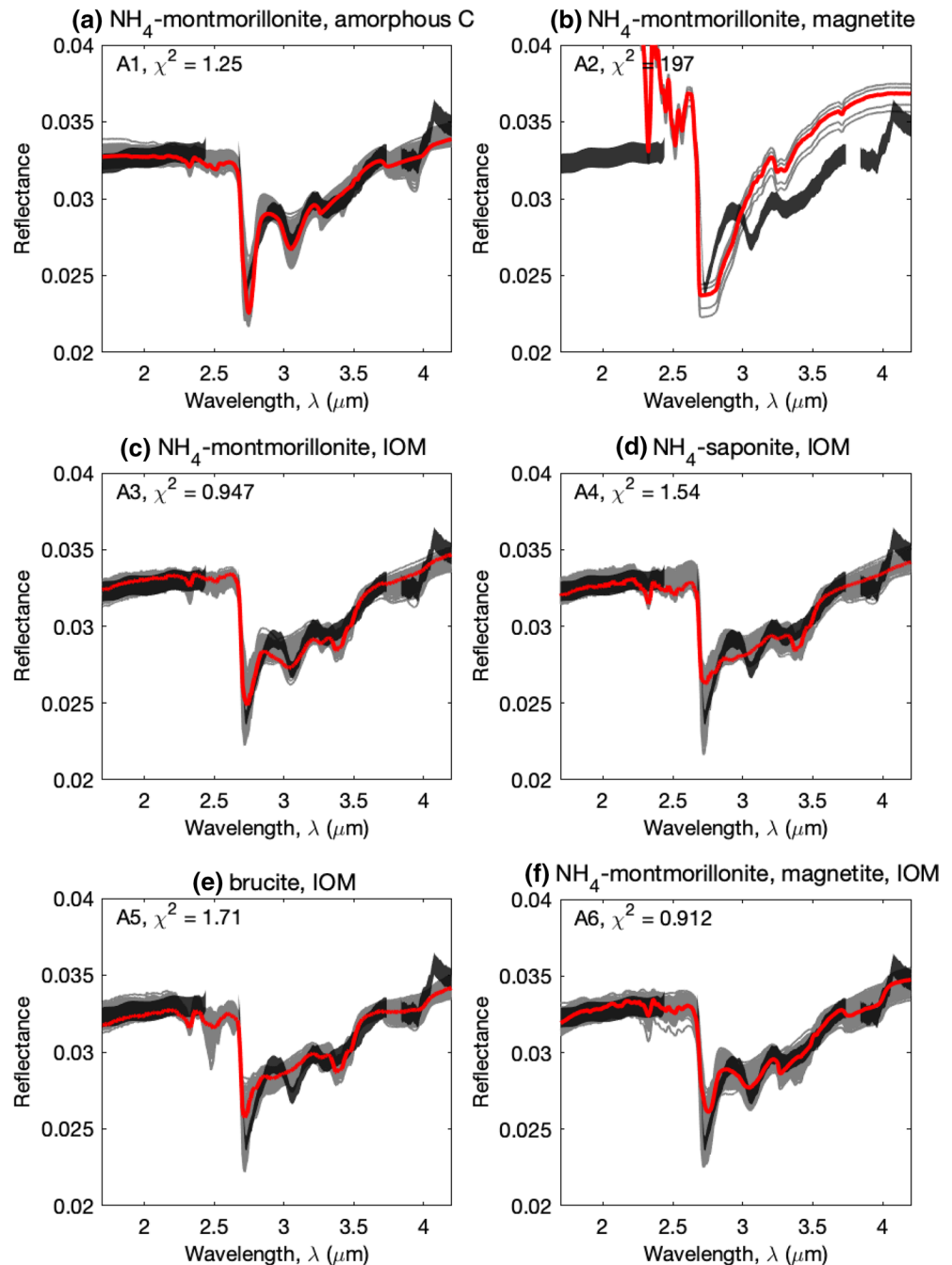
### 2.2.10. Cold Bokkeveld

Cold Bokkeveld was chosen as an example of a more altered CM2 chondrite, relatively enriched in serpentine (specifically, Mg-serpentine rather than Fe-serpentine; e.g., Howard et al., 2009). Particulate samples of Cold Bokkeveld have reflectance values at 2  $\mu\text{m}$  ranging from 0.03 to 0.07. Absorption strength near 3  $\mu\text{m}$  varies from 17%–50%, depending on the specific sample/spectrum. All spectra show a minimum at 2.72  $\mu\text{m}$ , characteristic of Mg-OH. Select samples, however, have a stronger minimum at 2.78  $\mu\text{m}$ , which we interpret as possibly due to bound H<sub>2</sub>O from exposure to terrestrial relative humidity (Table 3b in J. L. Bishop et al., 1994). Interestingly, a spectrum of a Cold Bokkeveld sample measured after heating and under vacuum (Takir et al., 2013) also shows a 2.78- $\mu\text{m}$  absorption, so it is possible that compositional heterogeneity in the meteorite alone leads to a band shift, with some samples having a 2.72- $\mu\text{m}$  and others a 2.78- $\mu\text{m}$  absorption. We choose a spectrum with a 2.72  $\mu\text{m}$  absorption and very weak additional 3- $\mu\text{m}$  absorptions, which is a better match to Ceres's average VIR spectrum.

In the VNIR, we averaged the spectra of different Cold Bokkeveld samples, two <35- $\mu\text{m}$ -sample spectra measured by McAdam et al. (2015) (RELAB MT-JMS-186) and the two <150  $\mu\text{m}$ -sample spectra of Ehlmann et al. (2018). We used the VNIR reflectance to set the albedo at 2.15  $\mu\text{m}$ , and scaled the FTIR spectrum to form a continuous spectrum with the VNIR. McAdam et al. (2015)'s MT-JMS-186 was acquired under dry-air purge in RELAB. It has a sharp 2.72- $\mu\text{m}$  absorption and almost no 2.78  $\mu\text{m}$  absorption. In contrast, Ehlmann et al. (2018)'s ammonium-treated Cold Bokkeveld sample was acquired at 173 K under vacuum, and has a sharp 2.72- $\mu\text{m}$  and a weak 3.1- $\mu\text{m}$  absorptions. The FTIR data of McAdam et al. (2015) was used to form our full VIR endmember spectrum (Figure 1).

### 2.2.11. Tagish Lake

Tagish Lake was chosen because it is a C2 carbonaceous chondrite with a high degree of alteration that in many (but not all) subsamples includes Mg-smectite as well as Mg-serpentine (Blinova et al., 2014; Izawa et al., 2010; Zolensky et al., 2002). There are few published spectra of Tagish Lake. Reflectance values at 2  $\mu\text{m}$  range from 0.02 to 0.045 for particulate samples. Band strength at 3- $\mu\text{m}$  is 15%–25% for most samples. Ehlmann et al. (2018) data were acquired at Ceres temperatures under vacuum, but display somewhat unusual shape and relative strengths around the 2.7- $\mu\text{m}$  and 3.1- $\mu\text{m}$  absorptions relative to ambient data and other meteorites. This warrants further investigation, and we chose to use an ambient, dry air purge spectrum that appear to be more similar to Ceres spectra. In addition, the MT-MEZ-011 and -012 samples of Hiroi et al. (2001) are also used. Those with *K\** and *L\** filenames were acquired in 2001 and 2002, whereas those with *B\** filenames correspond to the same samples but acquired 10 years later. The *B\** spectra show clear evidence for more water (an additional 2.76- $\mu\text{m}$  absorption and possible a 2.8- $\mu\text{m}$  absorption), raising the question of whether Tagish

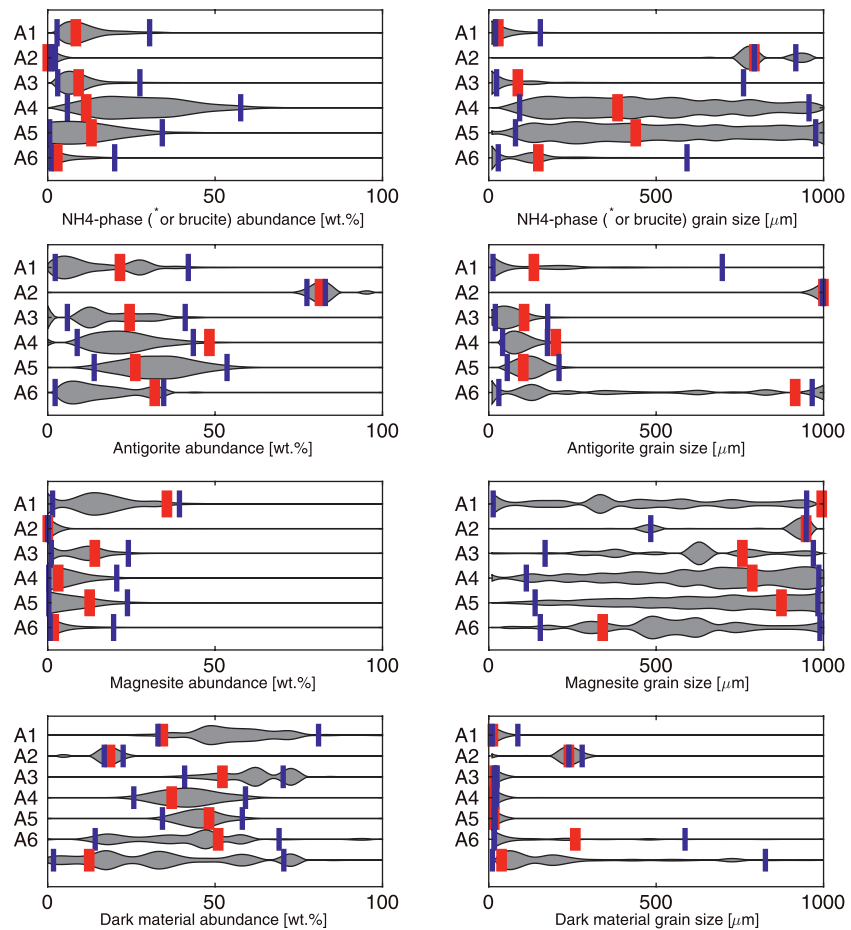


**Figure 2.** A comparison of modeled spectra with antigorite, magnesite, and the additional phyllosilicate phases and darkening agents indicated in the panel title (assemblages A1–A6; Table 3) to Ceres' average spectrum (Ciarniello et al., 2017; Marchi et al., 2018) derived from VIR data. The VIR-derived spectrum including  $1\sigma$  error bars as in De Sanctis et al. (2015) (black), a set of 1,000 accepted and randomly selected models (gray), and the MAP (red) are shown. MAP, maximum a posteriori probability; VIR, Visible-Infrared Mapping Spectrometer.

Lake sample may have reacted or hydrated over time on Earth. We thus used an average of the RELAB spectra acquired in years 2001 and 2002 only (Figure 1). The sample was sieved to  $<125\ \mu\text{m}$ .

### 2.2.12. Ivuna

Ivuna was chosen because it is a CI1 carbonaceous chondrite with a high degree of alteration that is still primitive in composition and has a comparatively high carbonate content (Alexander et al., 2012), as is



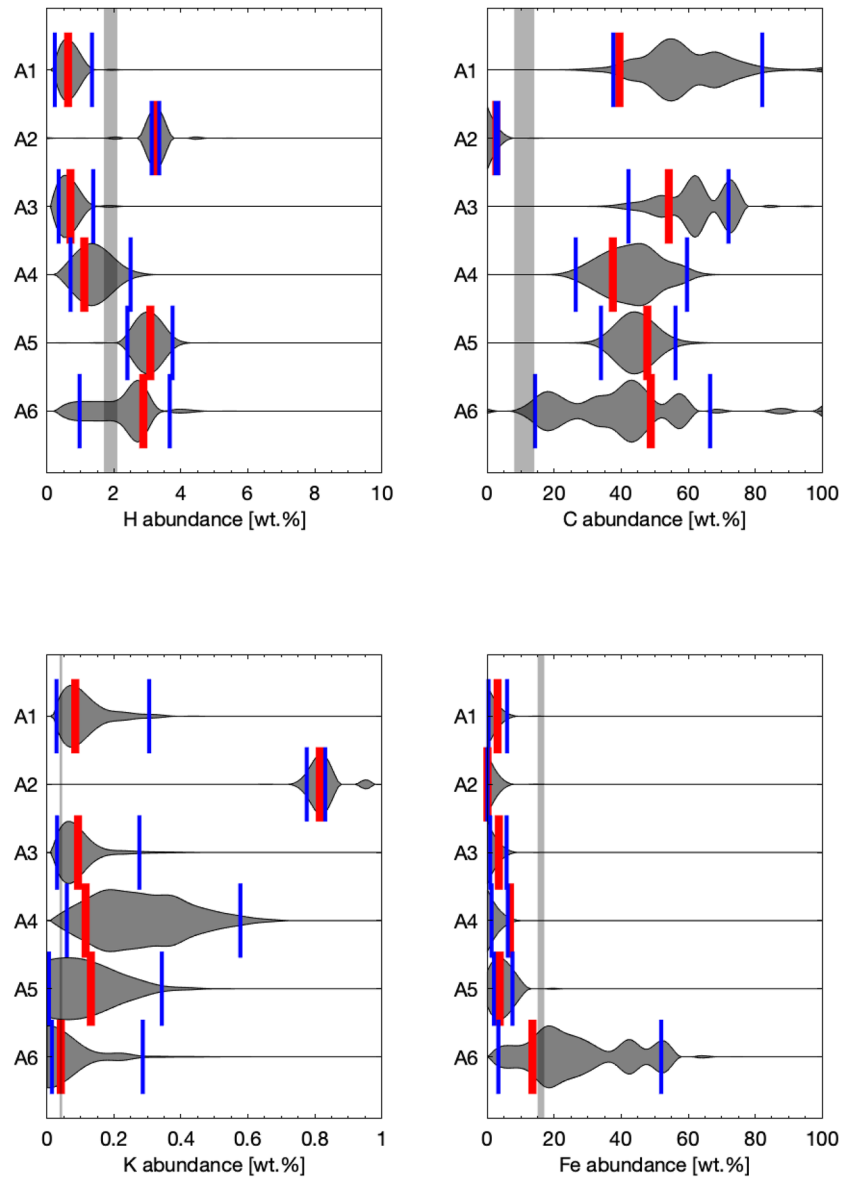
**Figure 3.** PDFs of mineral abundances and grain sizes for assemblages A1–A6 (Table 3). Accepted models (gray), the MAP (red), and 95%-confidence intervals (the range between two blue lines) are shown. The PDFs are smoothed by spline interpolation of binned data (bin number = 20). The two distributions of dark materials in A6 correspond to IOM (upper) and magnetite (lower). PDFs, probability distribution functions.

thought to be the case of Ceres. Few spectra of the CI1 or CM1 exist in public databases, and most of those that do are also affected by postfall terrestrial weathering (e.g., Orgueil, P. Bland et al., 2006). After examination of all available Ivuna spectra and other CI1 and CM1 candidates, we chose to use the VNIR reflectance of RELAB's MP-TXH-018-F (LAMP18F), a sample of Ivuna that had been heated to 100°C and that showed by loss of a 1.9- $\mu\text{m}$  absorption that water had been driven off relative to spectra at ambient. FTIR spectrum from Takir et al. (2013) of an Ivuna sample that was first heated and then measured under low temperature in vacuum similar to the condition of Ceres' surface was scaled and joined to the RELAB spectrum at 2.15  $\mu\text{m}$ . The reconstructed endmember spectrum has a sharp 2.72- $\mu\text{m}$  absorption, like Ceres (Figure 1). The sample was sieved to <45  $\mu\text{m}$ .

### 3. Results: Spectral Modeling of Ceres' Surface

First, we model the VIR spectrum with endmember phases following the approach of De Sanctis et al. (2015), but using the Bayesian algorithm of Lapotre, Ehlmann, and Minson (2017) in order to provide statistically rigorous uncertainties on abundances and grain sizes. Modeled spectra, PDFs of mineral abundances and grain sizes, and PDFs of elemental abundances are shown in Figures 2–4, respectively.

Modeled reflectance spectra reproduce the general properties of Ceres' VIR spectrum (Figure 2): the overall low reflectance and absorption features of phyllosilicates (2.7  $\mu\text{m}$ ), ammonia-bearing phases (3.05  $\mu\text{m}$ ), and carbonates (3.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and 4.0  $\mu\text{m}$ ).



**Figure 4.** PDFs of elemental abundances for assemblages A1–A6 (Table 3). Accepted models (gray), the MAP (red), and 95%-confidence intervals (the range between two blue lines) are shown. PDFs are smoothed by spline interpolation of binned data (bin number = 20). GRaND measurements with  $1\sigma$  uncertainties (Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Castillo-Rogez, et al., 2018; Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Ehlmann, et al., 2018; Prettyman et al., 2017) are shown for comparison (gray areas). We note that K abundance is an upper bound as it is assumed that all Na in montmorillonite or saponite was substituted by K (Section 2). MAP, maximum a posteriori probability; PDFs, probability distribution functions.

However, there are differences between assemblages when we focus on MAP models. The results show that dark phases and phases with positive spectral slopes are important to reproduce Ceres' average spectrum. The MAP model of amorphous-carbon-containing assemblage (A1, Figure 2a) reproduces the absorption features and the absolute level of reflectance, but its flat spectral slope at  $<2.5 \mu\text{m}$  is inconsistent with the VIR data showing a positive slope. Magnetite shows a positive slope (Figure 1), but the magnetite-containing assemblage (A2, Figure 2b) failed to reproduce Ceres' average spectrum. This is likely because magnetite's reflectance calculated from our specific optical constants is not as dark as Ceres (Figure 1), as opposed to De Sanctis et al. (2015) who utilized darker magnetite reflectance data. The MAP model of assemblage A3 (with  $\text{NH}_4$ -montmorillonite and IOM, Figure 2c) shows an overall better fit to the data than the others,

thanks to IOM being redder than amorphous carbon (A1) and darker than magnetite (A2; Figure 1). Mixing magnetite and IOM improves the fitting only slightly (A6, Figure 2f).

Ammoniated-saponite and brucite show worse fits to Ceres' average spectrum than NH<sub>4</sub>-montmorillonite. Ammoniated-saponite-bearing assemblage (A4, Figure 2d) has a higher MAP  $\chi^2$  value than that of A3 (Figure 2c) with shallower 3.05  $\mu\text{m}$ , deeper 3.4  $\mu\text{m}$  absorption features, and underfit at 4.0  $\mu\text{m}$ , even though NH<sub>4</sub>-saponite has been considered to be the best candidate for the origin of Ceres' 3.05  $\mu\text{m}$  absorption. The mismatch is possibly due to the specific NH<sub>4</sub>-saponite endmember's different broad spectral continuum shape 3–4  $\mu\text{m}$  relative to Ceres (Figure 1), which introduces fit problems for that wavelength range. The brucite-bearing assemblage (A5, Figure 2e) shows an unsatisfactory fit, as previously reported (De Angelis et al., 2016; De Sanctis et al., 2015, 2018).

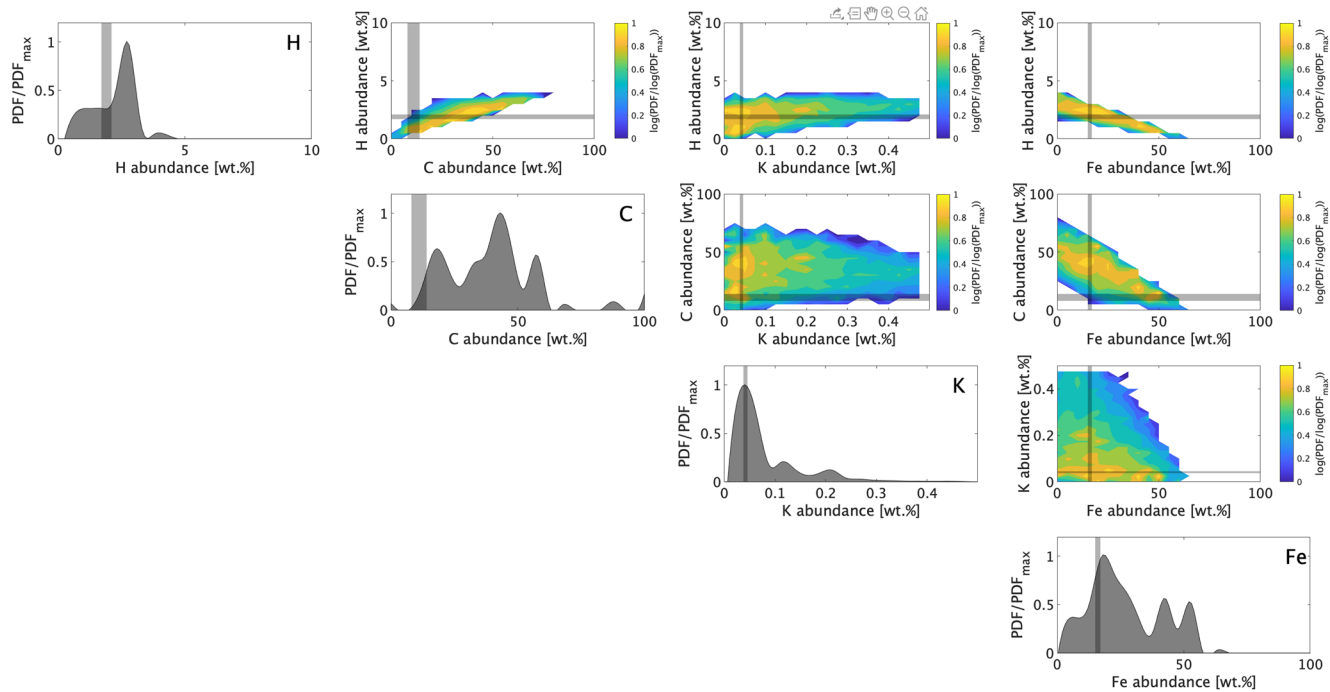
Though the MAP models do not always show a clear carbonate absorption (3.5 and 4  $\mu\text{m}$ ), some of the accepted models (Figure 2, gray lines) do generate spectra displaying these absorption features. This is because the MCMC algorithm accepts or rejects modeled spectra using the goodness of fit over the entire wavelength range rather than using absorption features only. In later steps, we thus filter for absorption band depth (see Methods Section 2.1).

As previously reported by Lapotre, Ehlmann, and Minson (2017) and Lapotre, Ehlmann, Minson, Arvidson, et al. (2017), posterior PDFs show that the unmixing inversion does not always result in unique, well-constrained solutions for mineral abundances and grain sizes (Figure 3), which highlights the importance of considering rigorous uncertainties. Grain-size PDFs tend to be broad and/or multimodal because grain sizes easily trade off between most endmembers in setting the albedo and band depths. In contrast, dark endmembers (IOM, amorphous carbon, and magnetite), which exert a primary control on overall albedo, typically have a unimodal grain-size PDF as it controls the absolute level of reflectance. In A6, IOM has a unimodal grain-size PDF but magnetite does not, because the overall albedo is chiefly controlled by IOM in this case. PDFs of mineral abundances are narrower than those of grain sizes, but their 95%-confidence intervals ( $2\sigma$ ) are typically a few tens of percent.

Though assemblages A1–A3 contain all the same minerals except for the dark phase, the resulting abundance and grain-size PDFs significantly differ, highlighting the important role played by the darkening phase in setting the goodness of the spectral fit. Similarly, assemblages A3 and A4 differ only in their NH<sub>4</sub>-bearing phases, and yet, the PDFs of all endmember phases are affected by this difference. The continuum shapes of specific endmembers, in addition to absorptions, significantly influences the quantitative results, as demonstrated by the higher abundance of NH<sub>4</sub>-saponite in assemblage A4 relative to NH<sub>4</sub>-montmorillonite for assemblages A1–A3.

Though unmixing of the near-IR spectrum of Ceres can rule out some sets of mineral assemblages (A2 in Figure 2b), it does not alone provide definitive constraints on mineral abundances. Therefore, combining spectral unmixing with additional available constraints is critical to further constraining our understanding of Ceres' surface composition. We next compare the PDFs of elemental abundances corresponding to inverted mineral assemblages from VIR with GRaND data (Figure 4).

We did not find pure mineral mixing models that simultaneously satisfy the constraints on elemental abundances from GRaND and the spectral properties from VIR (both acceptable  $\chi^2$  and the absorption band depths comparable to Ceres, Section 2) for assemblages A1–A6. Mimicking the PDFs of mineral phases and grain sizes (Figure 3), the PDFs of elemental abundances (Figure 4) are not always sharp. The modeled 95% confidence intervals of either C (in A1, A2, A4, and A5) or Fe (in A3) abundances in assemblages assuming single dark phase are overall higher than estimates from GRaND data. Assemblages with both IOM and magnetite (A6) display the lowest discrepancy in C and Fe abundances with GRaND data. There are some accepted models in A6 which satisfy GRaND constraints, but we found that those models do not meet the requirement on absorption band depths (at least 50% of those in Ceres' average spectrum). The C and Fe abundances in A6 accepted models show an anticorrelation (Figure 5), and both phases are overpredicted from VIR relative to GRaND measurements for the majority of accepted models. Moreover, many models failed to match the H abundance, either in excess or in depletion. Because we only considered an upper bound for K abundance in montmorillonite and saponite by assuming that K substituted for all Na, accepted models could still be consistent and reconciled with GRaND estimates, if montmorillonite or saponite on



**Figure 5.** Correlation plot of elemental abundances for assemblage A6. The color contours show the PDF scaled by the peak value in a logarithmic scale ( $\log(\text{PDF})/\log(\text{PDF}_{\text{max}})$ ). GRaND measurements (Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Castillo-Rogez, et al., 2018; Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Ehlmann, et al., 2018; Prettyman et al., 2017) are shown for comparison (gray areas). GRaND, Gamma Ray and Neutron Detector; PDF, probability distribution function.

Ceres had the appropriate interlayer cation K abundance. Collectively, these results suggest that the models so far did not include all the necessary endmembers, and additional darkening agents containing less C and Fe should be included. In Section 5, we show that these discrepancies can be reduced when carbonaceous chondrites are included as endmembers.

## 4. Spectral Modeling of Carbonaceous Chondrites

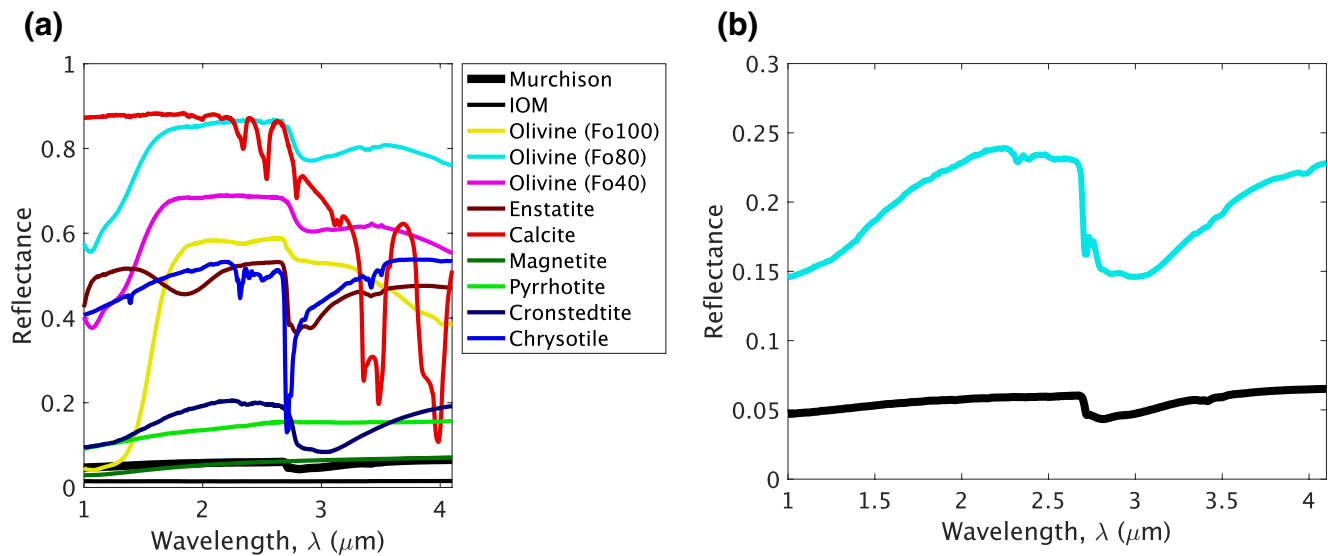
### 4.1. Why Are Carbonaceous Meteorites Dark?

The discrepancy between the inferred large quantities of darkening agents from VIR unmixing models and those allowed by C and Fe abundances derived from GRaND data raises the question of what phases are responsible for Ceres' low albedo and why (e.g., the composition(s) of darkening agent(s) vs. their physical textures and spatial relationships with other phases).

Carbon is a main candidate as the reflectances of CCs have been shown to correlate with their carbon contents (E. E. Cloutis et al., 2012). Carbon in CCs chiefly exists as IOM (Alexander et al., 2012; Kerridge, 1985), which is dark and IOM reflectance decreases as IOM matures (i.e., as the H/C ratio decreases, Moroz et al., 1998; Quirico et al., 2016; Kaplan et al., 2018). However, a comparison between primitive and metamorphosed CM chondrites does not show a clear difference in their albedos at 2  $\mu\text{m}$ , though metamorphosed ones are inferred to contain less C from elemental analysis (Beck et al., 2018; Garenne et al., 2016). Garenne et al. (2016) and Beck et al. (2018) argued that the albedo of CCs is primarily controlled by their matrix-to-chondrule ratio.

In addition, sulfides and iron oxides in the matrix also likely contribute to lowering the albedo. Iron sulfides (e.g., troilite and pyrrhotite) and Fe-Ni alloys have been identified in carbonaceous chondrites and as opaque phases mixed with refractory polyaromatic carbon on the 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko comet observed by the Rosetta spacecraft (Quirico et al., 2016; Rousseau et al., 2018).

In addition to mineralogy, the mixing structure may also affect albedo. For example, small dark grains effectively decrease the reflectance when mixed with large bright grains (also called the coating effect, e.g.,



**Figure 6.** (a) Reflectance spectra of Murchison and minerals found in Murchison. (b) A comparison of a model reflectance (blue) computed by the linear-SSA-mixing model to Murchison's reflectance (black).

E. A. Cloutis et al., 1990; Pommerol & Schmitt, 2008; Rousseau et al., 2018). Moreover, laboratory measurements on a pure opaque phase (iron sulfides) showed that finer grains provide the lowest albedo in submicron sizes, with a behavior basically opposite to “classical silicates” (Rousseau et al., 2018). Darkening from small grains is sometimes more effective than predicted by linear single-scattering-albedo mixing models (Clark, 1983). In particular, submicroscopic metallic Fe produced by space weathering in lunar regolith is a potent darkening agent, even in limited abundances (Hapke, 2001; Li & Li, 2011; Shkuratov et al., 1999). Modeling the effect of such inclusions on reflectance requires more complex radiative transfer models (Mustard & Hays, 1997). If dark phases are coatings, their effect on spectral properties and modeled abundances would be higher than their true abundances.

To quantitatively examine the effect of these structural and compositional phenomena in CCs, we first compute a reflectance spectrum using endmembers and abundances as measured in Murchison by independent techniques (Howard et al., 2009), assuming a grain size of 31.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , and compare it to an actual reflectance spectrum of Murchison (Figure 6). Measured Murchison composition used to model a synthetic reflectance spectrum is listed in Table 4.

We find that our synthetic Murchison spectrum has an overall higher albedo than the true Murchison spectrum, suggesting that some darkening phases or mechanisms are missing in the spectral modeling and that pure-endmember geometric optics radiative transfer models are not appropriate for dark asteroids. Next, we explore how using CCs as phase endmembers in spectral modeling may affect spectral fit and compare with GRaND data.

## 5. Spectral Modeling of Ceres Using Meteorites as Endmembers

From darkest to brightest, we investigate the reflectance spectra of Ivuna, Tagish Lake, Cold Bokkeveld, and Murchison (Figure 1). CI chondrites are rich in iron sulfides compared to CM chondrites (Howard et al., 2011, 2009; A. King et al., 2015), possibly explaining why Ivuna has the lowest albedo. However, there is no simple correlation between albedo and C or Fe abundances (Table 2), which is consistent with the inference that multiple phases contribute to darkening.

Modeled spectra are compared with Ceres' VIR spectrum in Figure 7.  $\text{NH}_4$ -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite are assumed for all mixtures and the endmembers for carbonaceous chondrite and darkening agent endmember vary. Assemblages B1–B4 (Figures 7a–7d) differ in the choice of CCs used as an endmem-

**Table 4**  
*Endmember Data for Murchison Modeling: Sample IDs, n Values and Grains Sizes for Refractive Indices Calculations, and Abundances in Spectral Mixing Calculations*

Phase	RELAB sample (spectrum) ID	Refractive index $n^a$	Grain size ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) <sup>b</sup>	Abundance [wt.%]
Olivine (Fo <sub>100</sub> )	SR-JFM-043 (BKR1SR043)	1.635 <sup>c</sup>	85.5	7.4 <sup>e</sup>
Olivine (Fo <sub>80</sub> )	DD-MDD-087 (BKR1DD087)	1.673 <sup>c</sup>	22.5	4.14 <sup>e</sup>
olivine (Fo <sub>40</sub> )	DD-MDD-094 (BKR1DD094)	1.750 <sup>c</sup>	22.5	4.04 <sup>e</sup>
Enstatite	JB-JLB-238 (397F238)	1.65	22.5	8.39 <sup>e</sup>
Calcite	CA-EAC-010 (LACA10)	1.62	22.5	1.03 <sup>e</sup>
Magnetite	Query (1985)	–	–	1.79 <sup>e</sup>
Pyrrhotite	PY-LXM-001 (LAPY01)	1.8	47.5	1.44 <sup>e</sup>
Cronstedtite	CR-EAC-021 (LACR21)	1.76	22.5	51.7 <sup>e</sup>
Chrysotile	CR-TXH-006 (LACR06)	1.565	22.5 <sup>d</sup>	17.9 <sup>e</sup>
IOM in Murchison	OG-CMA-002 (BKR1OG002)	1.8	13.75	2.08 <sup>e</sup>

Abbreviation: IOM, insoluble organic matter.

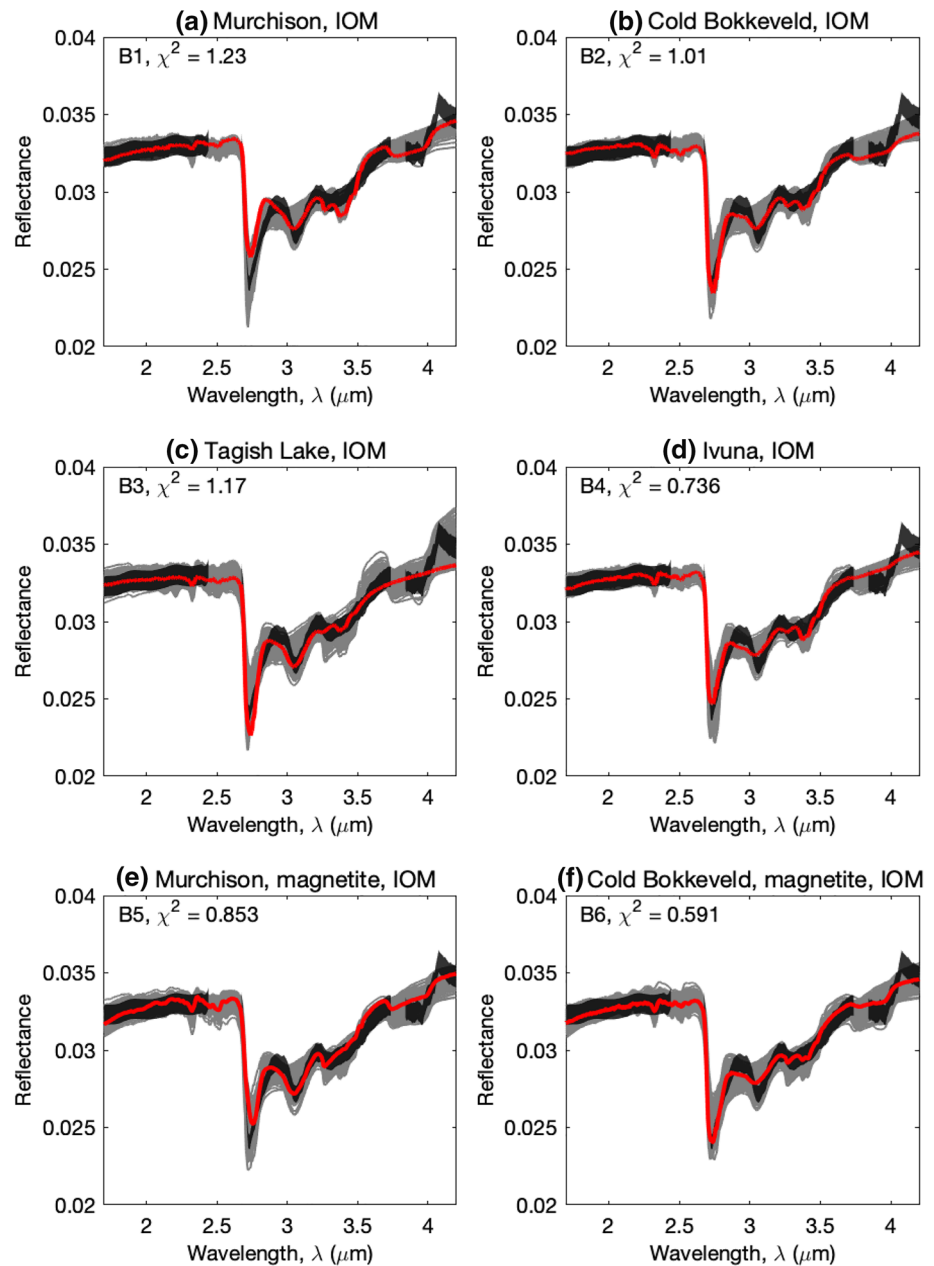
<sup>a</sup><http://webmineral.com/>. <sup>b</sup>(minimum size+maximum size)/2. <sup>c</sup>Lucey (1998). <sup>d</sup>Assumed. <sup>e</sup>Howard et al. (2009); Alexander et al. (2012).

ber (Table 3). All of their MAP spectra provide a good fit to Ceres, though they are outside error bars in some wavelengths, for example, shallower  $\sim 2.7 \mu\text{m}$  absorption in B1, B7, B9, and B11, and  $\sim 3.9 \mu\text{m}$  absorption in B3 and B4. Specifically, both CM and CI types appear to provide good analogs for Ceres' dark material, when IOM is added. Addition of magnetite or substitution of amorphous carbon for IOM in assemblages B5–B12 do not always improve the spectral fit significantly (Figures 7e–7l).

Minerals having characteristic absorption features (NH<sub>4</sub>-montmorillonite, antigorite, and magnesite) are relatively well constrained with estimated abundances <20% and typically with modes and MAPs closer to  $\sim 10\%$  (Figures 8 and 9). The abundances of dark phases (IOM, amorphous carbon, magnetite, and meteorite) display broad and/or multimodal PDFs, a likely result of trade-off relations between the abundances of various dark phases in matching the albedo of Ceres. Notably, the presence of CCs typically reduces the amount of IOM required (Figures 8 and 9 vs. Figure 3).

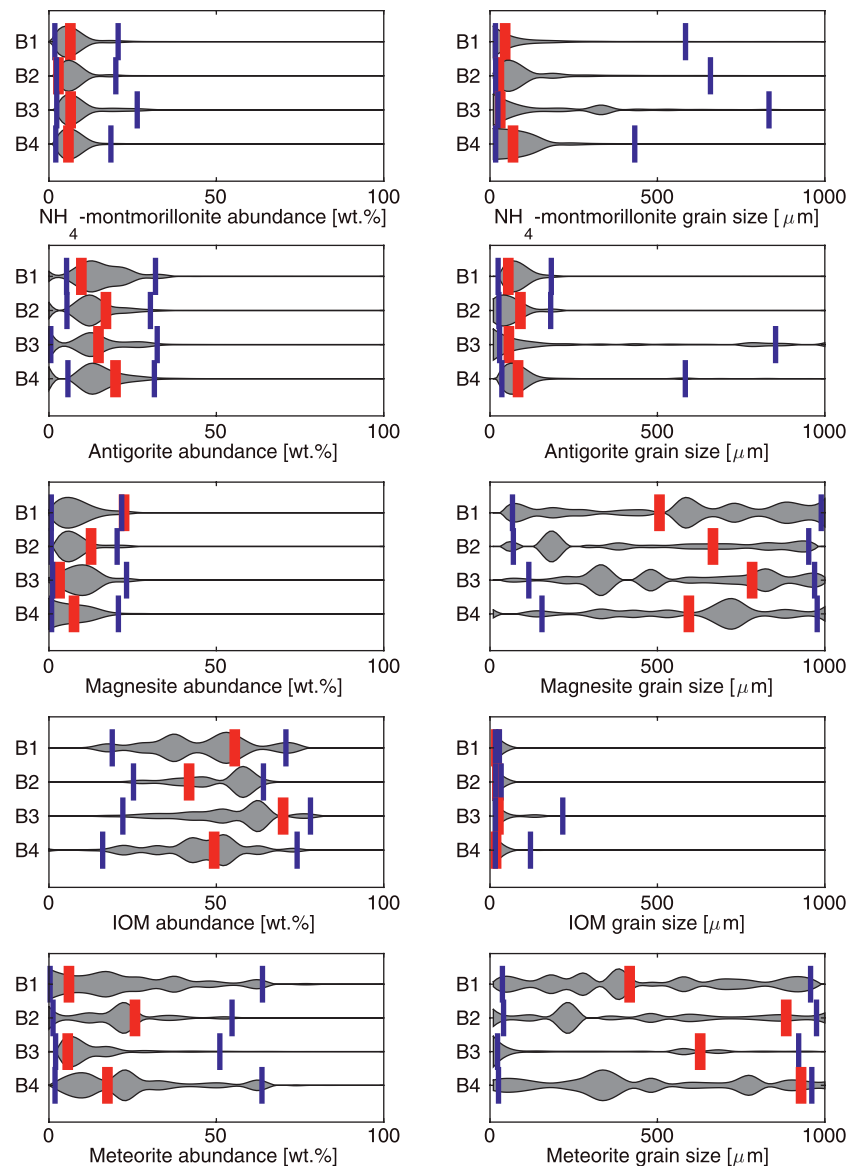
Elemental abundances in CC-bearing assemblages (B1–B12; Figure 10) are more consistent with GRaND data than those in assemblages without CCs (A1–A6; Figure 4). For nearly all of the investigated mixtures, there exists a model solution for which the modeled elemental abundances match GRaND data. Overall, the mismatch between VIR and GRaND-derived H and C abundances was reduced by adding CCs as endmembers in assemblages B1–B4. Further adding magnetite (B5–B8) and substituting amorphous carbon for IOM (B9–B12) makes the H and C abundances comparable to the estimate from GRaND data, although this improvement does not result from more H contributed by magnetite or IOM, but because less of the dark phases is required to match the albedo, leading to higher abundances of hydrated minerals and CCs. K abundances are not significantly affected by the specific assemblages, and our upper bounds remain consistent with GRaND data. Whereas Fe abundances for assemblages without magnetite (B1–B4) are smaller than GRaND estimates, assemblages with magnetite (B5–12) are comparable within  $2\sigma$  in PDFs. Carbon abundances remain larger than GRaND constraints in most models; however, many models are compatible. Compared to B1–B4, adding magnetite (B5–B8) or substituting amorphous carbon for IOM (B9–B12) reduces the C abundance. Finally, there is a clear anticorrelation between the abundances of C and Fe for assemblages B5–B12 (Figure 11), but contrary to assemblages A1–A6 (Figure 5), several accepted models now satisfy the GRaND constraints.

Including various CCs as an endmember in spectral modeling of VIR data not only produces good spectral fits, but it resolves the discrepancy between VIR- and GRaND-derived C and Fe abundances. We showed the spectra and mineral abundances of select models (out of  $2 \times 10^6$  models) that satisfy both spectral (VIR) and elemental (GRaND) constraints (Figure 12 and Table 5). We additionally filtered the results in



**Figure 7.** A comparison of modeled spectra with  $\text{NH}_4$ -montmorillonite, antigorite, magnesite, and the darkening agents indicated in the panel title (assemblages B1–B12; Table 3) to Ceres' average spectrum (Ciarniello et al., 2017; Marchi et al., 2018) derived from VIR data. The VIR-derived spectrum including  $1\sigma$  error bars as in De Sanctis et al. (2015) (black), a set of 1,000 accepted and randomly selected models (gray), and the MAP (red) are shown. MAP, maximum a posteriori probability; VIR, Visible-Infrared Mapping Spectrometer.

Figure 12 and Table 5 to show those that not only have an acceptable  $\chi^2$  over the entire spectral range, but also have absorption depths at 2.7, 3.1, 3.4, and 4.0  $\mu\text{m}$  at least 50% of those in VIR data (Section 2). Only six accepted models from assemblages B3, B7, B10, and B12 fully reconcile VIR and GRaND data. We note that their modeled spectra do not match Ceres' average spectrum for the entire wavelength range because of trade-offs to satisfy the constraints on elemental abundances. These models suggest that Ceres is composed of CI/CM-chondrites-like materials (40–70 wt.%) with excess amounts of darkening phases such as carbon and magnetite (10–20 wt.% in total), as well as hydrous minerals (10–25 wt.%), carbonates (4–12 wt.%), and  $\text{NH}_4$ -bearing phyllosilicates (1–11 wt.%).



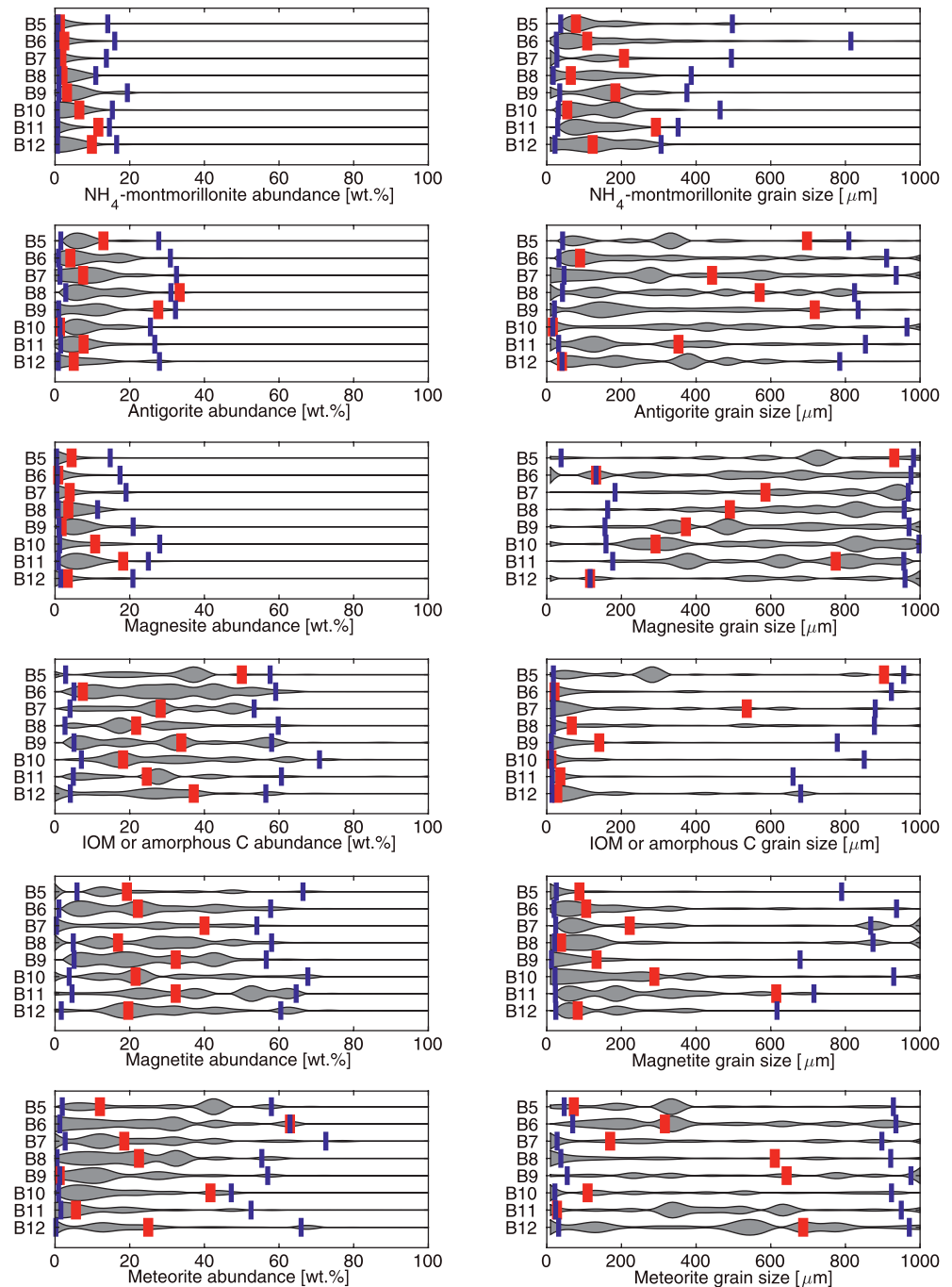
**Figure 8.** PDFs of phase abundances and grain sizes for assemblages B1–B4 (Table 3). All accepted models (gray), MAP (red), and 95%-confidence intervals (the range between two blue lines) are shown. PDFs are smoothed by spline interpolation of binned data (bin number = 20). MAP, maximum a posteriori probability; PDFs, probability distribution functions.

## 6. Discussion

### 6.1. Comparisons With Previous Studies

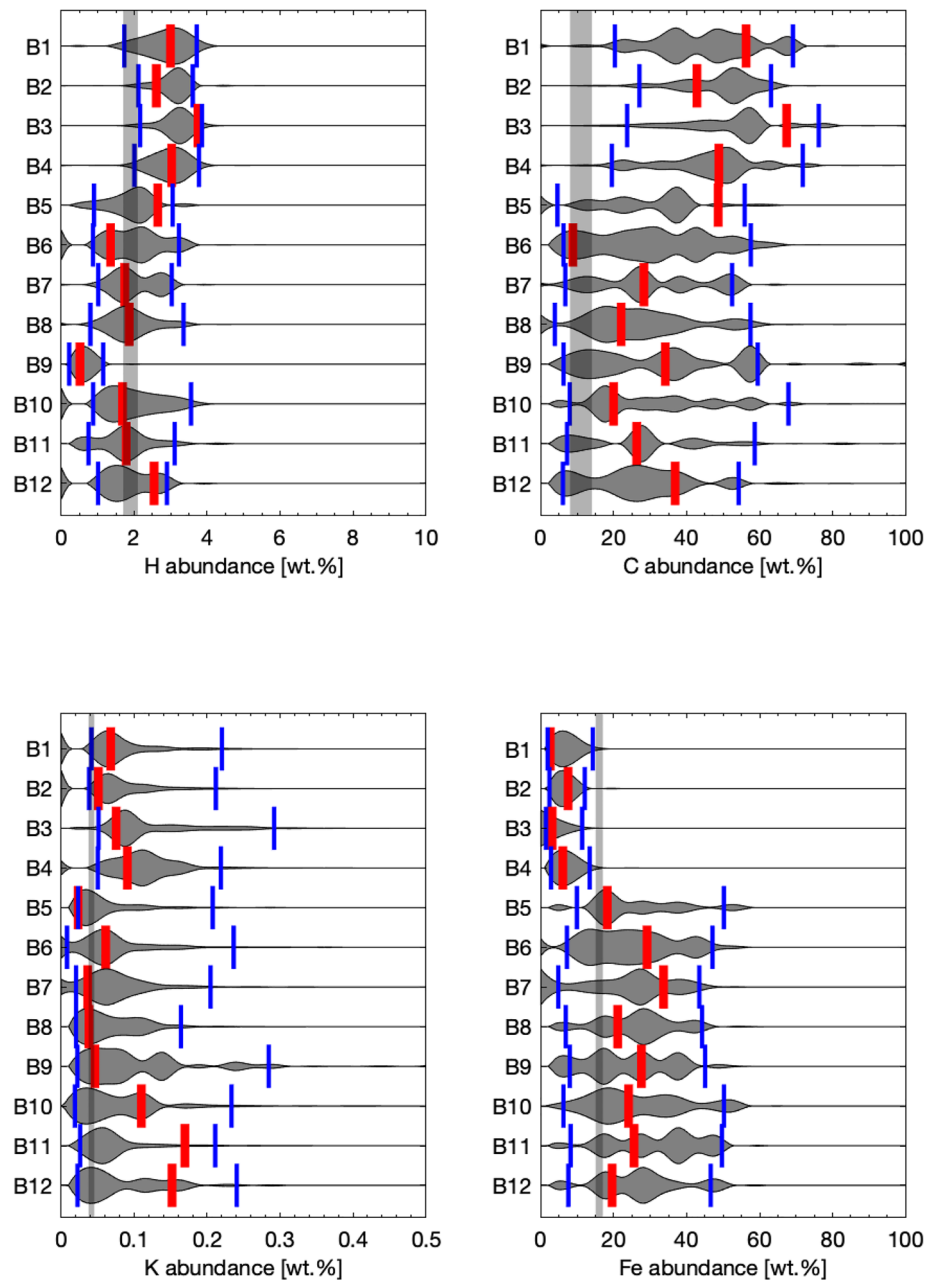
Our spectral unmixing highlights the importance of identifying all spectral endmembers in the mixture and not including those not in fact present. Any model that includes artificial scaling or synthetic endmembers cannot provide absolute abundances. If a model contains all the endmembers that are actually present, and accounts adequately for their radiative contribution, either with a mathematical formulation or with compound endmembers as we did in this study, the best fit (or the MAP model in our MCMC method) will correspond to the true mineralogical—and elemental—abundances.

Here, we improved on the initial results of De Sanctis et al. (2015), who reported a single best-fit estimate of mineral abundances to Ceres' VIR data. Specifically, we derived full probability distributions of possible phase assemblages using the same radiative transfer model, but combining it with an MCMC algorithm



**Figure 9.** PDFs of phase abundances and grain sizes for assemblages B5–B12 (Table 3). All accepted models (gray), MAP (red), and 95%-confidence intervals (range between two blue lines) are shown. PDFs are smoothed black by spline interpolation of binned data (bin number = 20). MAP, maximum a posteriori probability; PDFs, probability distribution functions.

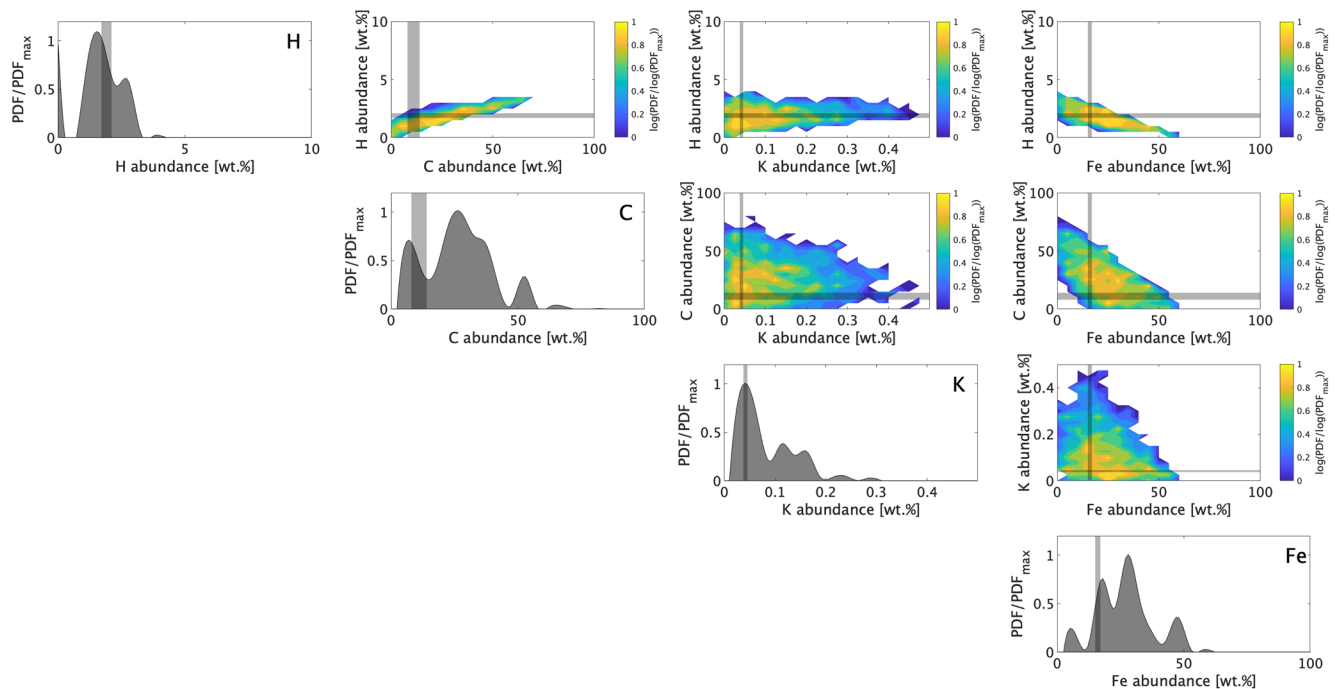
(Figures 3, 8, and 9). For all assemblages, we found that the  $2\sigma$  intervals of phase abundances are typically 5%–20% for phases that are responsible for absorption features ( $\text{NH}_4$ -bearing phases, antigorite, and magnesite). In contrast,  $2\sigma$  intervals are wider for featureless dark materials, especially when multiple dark phases are included in the mixture. The range reflects noise in VIR observations as well as the uncertainty in grain sizes. Considering the variety of possible mineral assemblages (assemblages A1–A6 and B1–B12) makes the



**Figure 10.** PDFs of elemental abundances for assemblages B1–B12 (Table 3). All accepted models (gray), MAP (red), and 95%-confidence intervals (range between two blue lines) are shown. PDFs are smoothed by spline interpolation of binned data (bin number = 20). GRaND measurements (Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Castillo-Rogez, et al., 2018; Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Ehlmann, et al., 2018; Prettyman et al., 2017) are shown for comparison (gray areas). K abundance is an upper bound, as all Na in montmorillonite and saponite is assumed to have been substituted by K (Section 2). GRaND, Gamma Ray and Neutron Detector; MAP, maximum a posteriori probability; PDFs, probability distribution functions.

uncertainty even larger. Nevertheless, our results quantitatively corroborate those of De Sanctis et al. (2015) that Ceres is enriched in  $\text{NH}_4$ -phyllosilicate, carbonate, and serpentine relative to CCs.

We updated the optical constants for magnetite from those used in De Sanctis et al. (2015) (Section 2). The reflectance of magnetite computed from the exact optical constant was brighter than Ceres' average reflectance, which made magnetite no longer most suitable as the darkening agent (Figure 2b), in contrast to the

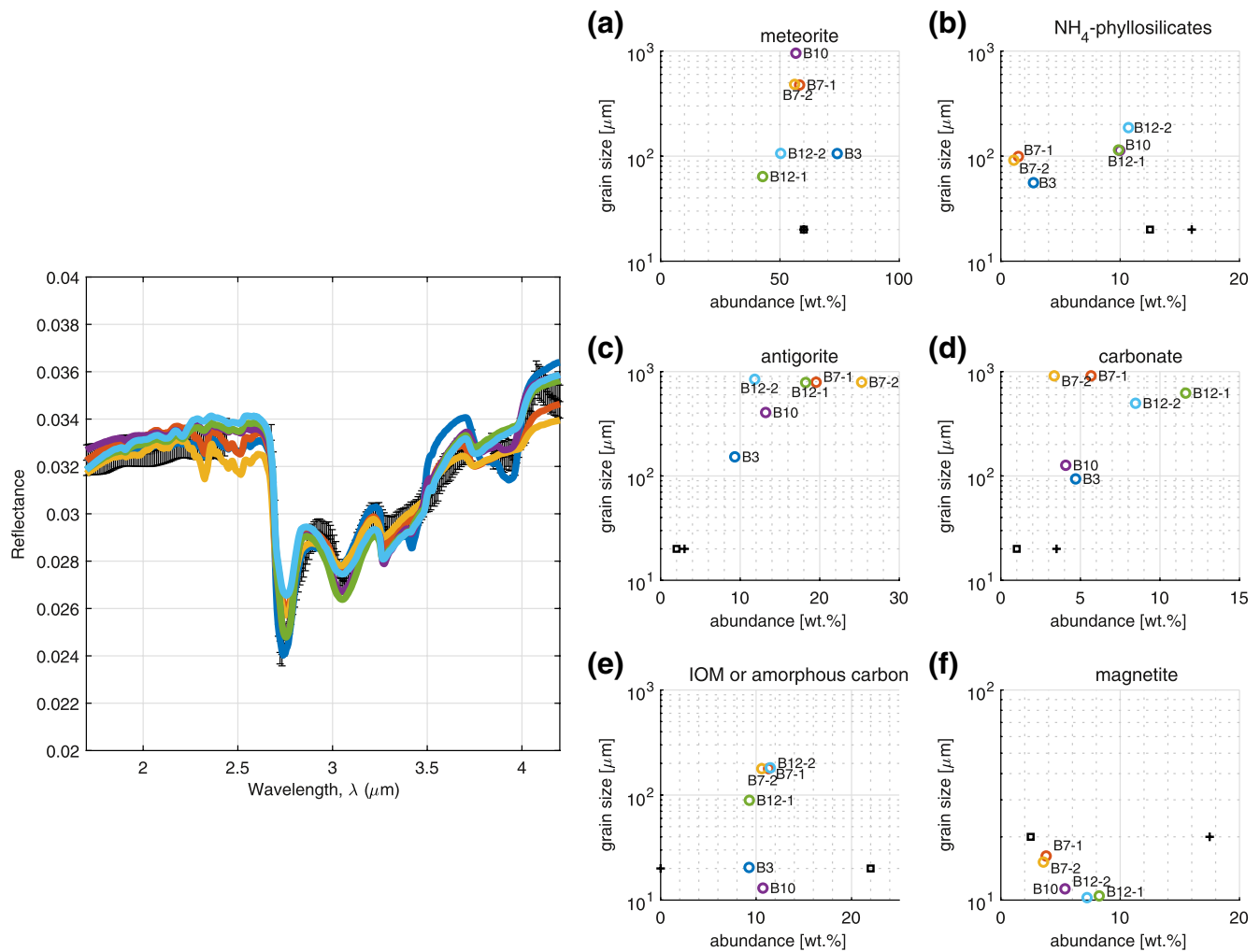


**Figure 11.** Correlation plot of elemental abundances for assemblage B12. The color contours show the PDF scaled by the peak value in a logarithmic scale ( $\log(\text{PDF})/\log(\text{PDF}_{\text{max}})$ ). GRaND measurements (Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Castillo-Rogez, et al., 2018; Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Ehlmann, et al., 2018; Prettyman et al., 2017) are shown for comparison (gray areas). Assemblages B5–B12 show similar results, except for B9 which resulted in less H (Figure 10). GRaND, Gamma Ray and Neutron Detector; PDF, probability distribution function.

results of De Sanctis et al. (2015) but consistent with Fe contents lower than CCs that have been reported by GRaND (Prettyman, Yamashita, Ammannito, Ehlmann, et al., 2018). Assumption of isotropic scattering in our model may underestimate the darkening effect of magnetite due to its forward scattering (Mustard & Pieters, 1989). However, analysis of Ceres' photometric properties (Ciarniello et al., 2017, 2020) showed back scattering or symmetrical scattering, depending on different assumptions, which suggests that strong forward scattering is unlikely to be a major cause of Ceres' low albedo.

Our work shows that mimicking CC properties, in particular composition and/or texture of their diverse opaque phases is important to fitting Ceres' spectral properties with modest additional amounts of IOM or amorphous carbon (~10 wt.%) and smaller amounts of magnetite (3–8 wt.%) that are fully consistent with both VIR and GRaND data. Marchi et al. (2018) also modeled Ceres' spectra with CC endmembers. They reconciled the discrepancy between VIR-derived and GRaND-derived elemental compositions, with a model where the absolute value of reflectance is a free parameter. In contrast, we succeeded to reconcile VIR and GRaND constraints without using the multiplicative factor free-parameter on absolute reflectance. Compared to Marchi et al. (2018), our model led to larger grain sizes because of its control on the absolute level of reflectance (Figure 12). Given the recently observed properties of Ryugu (Jaumann et al., 2019; Sugita et al., 2019; Watanabe et al., 2019) and Bennu (DellaGiustina et al., 2019; Lauretta et al., 2019; K. Walsh et al., 2019), also hydrous asteroids and with surfaces including large cobble to boulder-sized clasts, a Ceres regolith of exclusively fine particles may be unlikely. The different model assumptions resulted in the differences in all phase abundances as well: our model results have more serpentine (antigorite) and carbonates but less  $\text{NH}_4$ -phyllosilicates than those in Marchi et al. (2018). Our model results show that dark phases only require ~10 wt.% carbon (vs. the up to 20 wt.% in Marchi et al., 2018) and <10 wt.% magnetite (vs. the up to 18 wt.% in Marchi et al., 2018).

The crustal density reflects the mineral composition, but we do not consider it as a constraint on the phase abundance in our model. The density of Ceres' 30–40 km kilometer thick crust is 1,200–1,400  $\text{kg m}^{-3}$ , as inferred from gravity measurements, and is thus significantly lower than any endmember phase because ice is inferred to represent many 10's wt.% in the Ceres bulk crust (Ermakov et al., 2017). With impact



**Figure 12.** Models which satisfy both the spectral (VIR) and elemental (GRaND) constraints (Section 2.1). Left: Modeled spectra of assemblages B3 (blue), B7 (orange and yellow), B10 (purple), and B12 (green and cyan). Ceres' average spectrum is shown for comparison (black). Light: Modeled phase abundances and grain sizes (Table 5, circles). Marchi et al. (2018)'s models, their Case A (cross) and Case B (square), are shown for comparison. We note that the cross and square overlap with each other in panel (a). GRaND, Gamma Ray and Neutron Detector; VIR, Visible-Infrared Mapping Spectrometer.

gardening (Stein et al., 2017), the surface is likely very porous and so the bulk density does not necessarily equals the solid density. Additionally, as discussed by Marchi et al. (2018), the VIR measurements probe a dehydrated near-surface layer where the density is not constrained by gravity data.

**Table 5**  
Phase Abundances (wt.%) in Models Which Satisfy Both the Spectral (VIR) and Elemental (GRaND) Constraints

	Meteorite	NH <sub>4</sub> -montmorillonite	Antigorite	Magnesite	IOM or amorphous C	Magnetite
B3	74	2.7	9.3	4.7	9.3	0
B7-1	58	1.5	20	5.7	11	3.8
B7-2	56	1.1	25	3.3	11	3.6
B10	57	10	13	4.1	11	5.4
B12-1	43	9.9	18	12	9.3	8.2
B12-2	50	11	12	8.5	11	7.2

Abbreviations: GRaND, Gamma Ray and Neutron Detector; IOM, insoluble organic matter; VIR, Visible-Infrared Mapping Spectrometer.

## 6.2. Implications for Formation and Evolution of Ceres

Whereas multiple mixtures are permitted, all accepted models suggest that Ceres experienced an alteration process similar to, but more thorough than, CCs (McSween et al., 2017). Alternatively, alteration on Ceres may have involved systems richer in volatile species (H, C, N) than is typical for CCs, possibly due to accretion of materials located outside NH<sub>3</sub> snowline (De Sanctis et al., 2015) and/or ice-rock differentiation (Ermakov et al., 2017; Park et al., 2016). Such a distant origin has been discussed for Tagish Lake parent body from the high abundance of <sup>13</sup>C-rich carbonates (Fujiya et al., 2019). Our model showed that Ceres can be modeled by mixing of Tagish Lake-like materials with amorphous carbon, IOM, and other hydrous minerals (B3, Figure 12). The position of 2.7 μm absorption in assemblage B3 matches that of Ceres. These results are consistent with the distant origin of Ceres (and Tagish Lake parent body) beyond the NH<sub>3</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> snow lines. The lack of ammoniated-phyllsilicates in Tagish Lake may suggest the different alteration pathways between the two bodies, as a result of their different sizes or Tagish Lake's source depth. Models of the accretion, differentiation, and alteration of asteroids that account for the differences in surface bulk composition are required to determine whether an outer-Solar-System origin needs to be invoked.

## 7. Conclusions

We derived Ceres' surface phase abundances, with full uncertainties, for a set of possible phase assemblages from data acquired by Dawn's VIR spectrometer. We find that, within 2σ, abundances of NH<sub>4</sub>-bearing phases, serpentine, and carbonate are of about 5%–20%. Dark phases have larger uncertainties. Comparing the resulting elemental abundances of H, C, K, and Fe with those derived from GRaND data demonstrates that only including pure endmember phases in the models leads to overestimated abundances of C and Fe (through overmodeling of IOM, carbonaceous materials, and magnetite). Relative to the true reflectance of CCs, the spectral unmixing method using independently measured CC abundances underestimates the darkening effect of the dark materials. The unmixing of Ceres' reflectance spectra using CCs as an endmember resolves the discrepancy from elemental abundances of C and Fe measured by GRaND. Ceres' average reflectance spectrum (VIR) and elemental abundances (GRaND) are reproduced by CC-like composition, for example, like that of including Tagish Lake with modest amounts of additional carbon and minor additions of Fe oxides like magnetite. Ceres is composed of CI/CM-chondrite-like materials (40–70 wt.%), with additional carbon like IOM or amorphous carbon (10 wt.%), magnetite (3–8 wt.%), serpentine (10–25 wt.%), carbonates (4–12 wt.%), and NH<sub>4</sub>-bearing phyllosilicates (1–11 wt.%). The best match in the position of 2.7 μm absorption in Assemblage B3 is consistent with the hypothetical similarity in the formation and evolution history with Tagish Lake parent body. Our results are consistent with the scenario that Ceres accreted materials which originate outside NH<sub>3</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> snow lines and that its surface materials experienced greater alteration than CCs.

## Data Availability Statement

All data from this work can be downloaded at <https://doi.org/10.22002/D1.1628>. MATLAB scripts for MCMC computation are available at <http://resolver.caltech.edu/CaltechAUTHORS:20170302-115016869>. Laboratory spectra presented in this study are available from the RELAB spectral library and the authors of corresponding publications.

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