

Olivine-dominated asteroids: Mineralogy and origin



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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 19 July 2013

Revised 29 September 2013

Accepted 2 October 2013

Available online 18 October 2013

Keywords:

Asteroids

Spectroscopy

Infrared observations

Meteorites

ABSTRACT

Olivine-dominated asteroids are a rare type of objects formed either in nebular processes or through magmatic differentiation. The analysis of meteorite samples suggest that at least 100 parent bodies in the main belt experienced partial or complete melting and differentiation before being disrupted. However, only a few olivine-dominated asteroids, representative of the mantle of disrupted differentiated bodies, are known to exist. Due to the paucity of these objects in the main belt their origin and evolution have been a matter of great debate over the years. In this work we present a detailed mineralogical analysis of twelve olivine-dominated asteroids. We have obtained near-infrared (NIR) spectra (0.7–2.4 μm) of asteroids (246) Asporina, (289) Nenetta, (446) Aeternitas, (863) Benkoela, (4125) Lew Allen and (4490) Bamberry. Observations were conducted with the Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF) on Mauna Kea, Hawai'i. This sample was complemented with spectra of six other olivine-dominated asteroids including (354) Eleonora, (984) Gretia, (1951) Lick, (2501) Lohja, (3819) Robinson and (5261) Eureka obtained by previous workers. Within our sample we distinguish two classes, one that we call monomineralic-olivine asteroids, which are those whose spectra only exhibit the 1 μm feature, and another referred to as olivine-rich asteroids, whose spectra exhibit the 1 μm feature and a weak (Band II depth $\sim 4\%$) 2 μm feature. For the monomineralic-olivine asteroids the olivine chemistry was found to range from $\sim\text{Fo}_{49}$ to Fo_{70} , consistent with the values measured for brachinites and R chondrites. In the case of the olivine-rich asteroids we determined their olivine and low-Ca pyroxene abundance using a new set of spectral calibrations derived from the analysis of R chondrites spectra. We found that the olivine abundance for these asteroids varies from 0.68 to 0.93, while the fraction of low-Ca pyroxene to total pyroxene ranges from 0.6 to 0.9. A search for dynamical connections between the olivine-dominated asteroids and asteroid families found no genetic link (of the type core–mantel–crust) between these objects.

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1. Introduction

A-type asteroids are a unique class of objects that were initially distinguished from the R-type asteroids (the group into which

they'd previously been classified) based on broadband spectrophotometry by Veeder et al. (1983) and were later re-classified based on Eight Color Asteroid Survey (ECAS) data (0.3–1.1 μm) by Tholen (1984). Asteroids of this taxonomic class have moderately high albedos, extremely reddish slopes shortward of 0.7 μm , and a strong absorption feature centered at $\sim 1.05 \mu\text{m}$ (Tholen and Barucci, 1989). Subsequent near-infrared (NIR) spectra have shown that in these original A-type asteroids a $\sim 2 \mu\text{m}$ feature is absent or very weak, consistent with a silicate component of nearly monomineralic olivine on the surface of these bodies.

The discovery of olivine-dominated asteroids is of considerable interest regarding the accretion and geochemical evolution of

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primitive bodies. Olivine-dominated objects are expected to form either through magmatic differentiation, being the major constituent of the mantles of most differentiated bodies (Burbine et al., 1996), or through nebular processes which can produce olivine-dominated objects like the R-chondrite parent body (Schulze et al., 1994). The presence of olivine-dominated asteroids suggests that at least some objects in the asteroid belt underwent complete or near-complete melting that led to the differentiation of their interiors. Another interesting aspect is that in order for the mantle to be exposed, the parent body must be fragmented or its deep interior exposed by large impacts. Based on meteorites in terrestrial collections, it is estimated that at least ~100 meteorite parent bodies should have existed in the asteroid belt that underwent partial or complete melting and differentiation before disruption and fragmentation (Keil, 2000). However, even assuming all A-type asteroids are olivine-dominated, only a handful of objects from the mantles of differentiated and disrupted parent bodies were discovered during the taxonomic surveys. This is described as the “missing mantle” problem because the corresponding mantle components of the iron cores (as represented by iron meteorites) are missing (Chapman, 1986; Bell et al., 1989; Burbine et al., 1996). More recent work on M-type asteroids by Hardersen et al. (2011) indicates that a subset of that population (766 Moguntia, 798 Ruth and 1210 Morosovia) shows a significant olivine component in the surface assemblage. It is unclear, at this point, if the olivine seen on these M-type asteroids are pieces of mantle remaining on an iron-rich core or formed via nebular processes.

More recent surveys like the Small Main-Belt Asteroid Spectroscopic Survey (SMASS) (Xu et al., 1995), and SMASS II (Bus and Binzel, 2002a,b) have expanded the number of members within each taxonomic class based on visible spectroscopy. Twelve new A-type asteroids were added to the original five from Tholen (1984). Burbine and Binzel (2002) observed 10 A-type asteroids at near-infrared wavelengths, four from Tholen (1984) and six from Bus and Binzel (2002a,b). They subsequently divided the A-type asteroids into two groups based on the strength of the 1 μm feature. Because the Burbine and Binzel (2002) data do not extend beyond 1.65 μm , the possibility of a 2 μm feature due to pyroxene cannot be ruled out. It is important to note that A-type asteroids under the Bus and Binzel (2002a,b) taxonomic system are not the same as those under the original Tholen system. Some A-types in the SMASS II taxonomic system contain up to ~20% pyroxene, as indicated by the presence of a 2 μm feature in NIR data, e.g., (4142) Dersu-Uzala (Binzel et al., 2004), and are similar to S-I/S-II asteroids in the Gaffey S-asteroid subtypes (Gaffey et al., 1993).

A comprehensive summary of all previous work on A-type asteroids is published in Sunshine et al. (2007). This study was based on the work of Sunshine and Pieters (1998), and included VIS–NIR spectra of nine olivine-dominated asteroids. Of these nine objects, four were analyzed using the Modified Gaussian Model (MGM) (Sunshine et al., 1990) in order to derive their olivine compositions. Those four objects that included (1951) Lick, (289) Nenetta, (246) Asporina, and (354) Eleonora were characterized by the lack of a detectable 2 μm feature. The other five asteroids; (446) Aeternitas, (863) Benkoela, (984) Gretia, (2501) Lohja, and (3819) Robinson, whose spectra have a detectable 2 μm feature, were not analyzed due to the difficulties inherent to the modeling of olivine–pyroxene mixtures (Sunshine et al., 2007).

In the present work we analyze VIS–NIR spectra of twelve olivine-dominated asteroids, six observed by our group and six obtained from previous studies. Because taxonomic classification can be ambiguous depending on the system used we will refer to these objects as S(I)-types, which is the designation introduced by Gaffey et al. (1993) that includes objects where olivine is the major silicate phase present. We further distinguish two classes

within our sample: one class that will be called *monomineralic-olivine* asteroids, which are those whose spectra exhibit the 1 μm feature and no detectable 2 μm feature, and another class that will be called *olivine-rich* asteroids, whose spectra exhibit the 1 μm feature and a weak 2 μm feature.

The approach used in the present study differs from previous work (e.g., Sunshine and Pieters, 1998; Sunshine et al., 2007) in that olivine compositions are determined from the measured Band I centers, along with a spectral calibration derived from laboratory measurements. Furthermore, in the case of the olivine-rich asteroids, the olivine–pyroxene abundance ratio ($ol/(ol + px)$) and the ratio of low-Ca pyroxene (LCP) to total pyroxene ($LCP/(LCP + HCP)$) are determined using a set of equations derived from the analysis of meteorite samples. Here we define low-Ca pyroxenes (LCP) as pyroxenes with <25% iron and include pigeonite and orthopyroxene, and high-Ca pyroxenes (HCP) as those with >25% iron, including augite–diopside–hedenbergite.

In addition to the mineralogical analysis we also search for dynamical connections between the studied objects and asteroid families. Using this information we finally discuss possible formation scenarios for the olivine-dominated asteroids.

2. Observations and data reduction

Observations were carried out with the NASA IRTF on Mauna Kea, Hawai'i. NIR spectra (~0.7–2.5 μm) were obtained with the SpeX instrument (Rayner et al., 2003) in its low resolution ($R \sim 150$) prism mode with a 0.8" slit width. A typical observing sequence consists of spectra taken in pairs (A-beam and B-beam) by nodding the telescope. Nodding enables the subtraction of the sky background from the object during the data reduction process. Depending on the magnitude of the asteroid, 10–20 spectra are taken per asteroid with a maximum integration of 120 s due to saturation from the background sky. In order to correct for telluric water vapor features and to obtain relative reflectance values, local standard and solar analog stars were also observed. For each night, flat fields and arc line spectra were acquired. Data reduction was carried out with Spextool (Cushing et al., 2004). Detailed descriptions of observation and data reduction protocols are presented in Reddy (2009) and Reddy et al. (2011a, 2012a). NIR spectra are normalized to unity at 1.5 μm . Table 1 lists observational circumstances for the observed asteroids.

In order to extend our study we also analyzed data from Sunshine et al. (2007), de León et al. (2010), and the MIT-UH-IRTF Joint Campaign for NEO Spectral Reconnaissance (NEOSR). NIR spectra were combined with VIS spectra in order to increase the wavelength coverage. VIS spectra were obtained from the SMASS II (Bus and Binzel, 2002a,b), and the Small Solar System Objects Spectroscopic Survey (S^3OS^2) (Lazzaro et al., 2004). VIS–NIR spectra of the studied asteroids are shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

3. Results

3.1. Monomineralic-olivine asteroids

Asteroids in our sample that fall into the class of *monomineralic-olivines* are: (246) Asporina, (289) Nenetta, (354) Eleonora, (1951) Lick, (4125) Lew Allen, (4490) Bamberg, and (5261) Eureka. The spectra of these asteroids lack detectable 2 μm feature (Band II depth <1%), and the combined VIS–NIR spectra typically overlap at ~0.7 μm . For each spectrum the Band I center and Band I depth are calculated after dividing out the linear continuum (a straight line tangent to the reflectance maxima) and fitting a polynomial over the bottom third of the band. A detailed explanation about the procedure used to measure the band parameters and their uncertainties

Table 1
Observational circumstances. The columns in this table are: object number and designation, UT date, number of exposures, phase angle (α), V-magnitude at the time of observation, heliocentric distance (r), air mass and solar analog used. The integration time with IRTF/SpeX was 120 s.

Object	UT date	Exp	α ($^\circ$)	mag. (V)	r (AU)	Air mass	Solar analog
246 Asporina	20-January-2004	10	5.5	15.0	2.88	1.16	Hyades 64
289 Nenetta	17-February-2003	16	15.0	15.4	3.46	1.16	Hyades 64
446 Aeternitas	20-January-2004	10	13.7	12.4	3.13	1.00	Hyades 64
863 Benkoela	17-November-2002	6	17.9	14.8	3.20	1.02	Hyades 64
4125 Lew Allen	15-August-2003	12	21.2	15.0	1.70	1.00	BS5996
4490 Bamberry	17-February-2003	18	24.2	15.7	1.88	1.04	Hyades 64

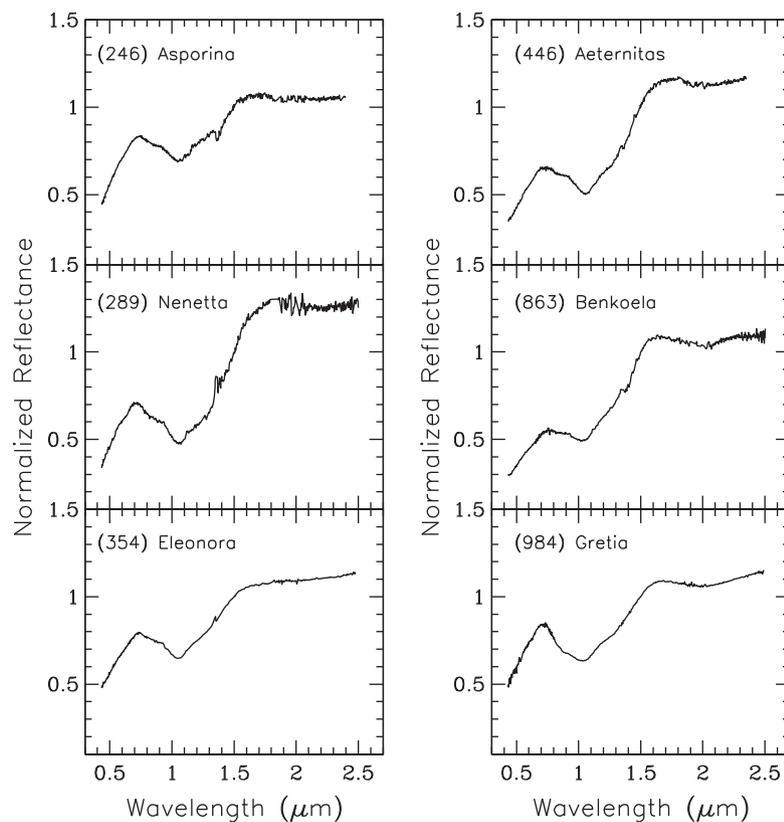


Fig. 1. VIS–NIR spectra of asteroids analyzed in this study. All spectra are normalized to unity at 1.5 μm . The noise seen in the spectrum of (289) Nenetta longwards of 1.9 μm is due to incompletely corrected telluric bands. The NIR spectrum of (354) Eleonora was obtained from the NEOSR survey (<http://smass.mit.edu/minus.html>). The NIR spectrum of (984) Gretia was obtained from Sunshine et al. (2007). VIS spectra of all asteroids were obtained from the SMASS II survey (Bus and Binzel, 2002a,b).

can be found in Sanchez et al. (2012, 2013). The band parameters with their corresponding errors are presented in Table 2.

The primary diagnostic feature in the spectrum of olivine assemblages is composed of three overlapping features and is centered near $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$. This composite feature is attributed to electronic transitions of Fe^{2+} occupying both the M1 and M2 crystallographic sites (Burns, 1993). Using NIR diffuse spectral reflectance, King and Ridley (1987) investigated apparent wavelength shifts as a function of mineral chemistry in the Fe/Mg olivine series from forsterite Fo_{11} to Fo_{91} . They found that the composite 1 μm feature in olivine moves to longer wavelengths as the Fe^{2+} content increases.

Reddy et al. (2011b) improved the olivine calibration developed by King and Ridley (1987) by adding more Mg-rich olivine (Fo_{85-93}) samples. Reflectance spectra of these additional samples were obtained at the University of Winnipeg HOSERLab. This calibration plot is shown in Fig. 4, where the solid line represents a linear fit to the data used by Reddy et al. (2011b). The equation that describes the linear fit is given by:

$$\text{Fo} = -1946.6 \times (\text{BIC}) + 2139.4 \quad (1)$$

Using this equation, along with the measured Band I centers (BIC), we estimated the molar % of forsterite (Fo) for the monomineralic-olivine asteroids. The root mean square error between the molar content of forsterite determined using Eq. (1) and the laboratory measurements is 5%, however due to the band center uncertainty the percentage of forsterite can only be estimated with a precision of ± 10 –15%.

The laboratory measurements used to develop Eq. (1) were obtained at room temperature (300 K), however the surface temperature of asteroids is typically much lower. The effects on spectral parameters of mafic minerals due to temperature have been investigated by several authors (e.g., Singer and Roush, 1985; Schade and Wäsch, 1999; Moroz et al., 2000; Hinrichs and Lucey, 2002; Reddy et al., 2012b; Sanchez et al., 2012). These effects are seen as broadening or narrowing of the absorption features and shifting of the band centers. In order to determine whether this temperature difference could affect the Band I centers measured from asteroid spectra, we have reanalyzed spectra of olivine (Fo_{86}) from Hinrichs and Lucey (2002) acquired in the temperature range between 80 and 400 K, with a temperature resolution of 20 K. Band I centers

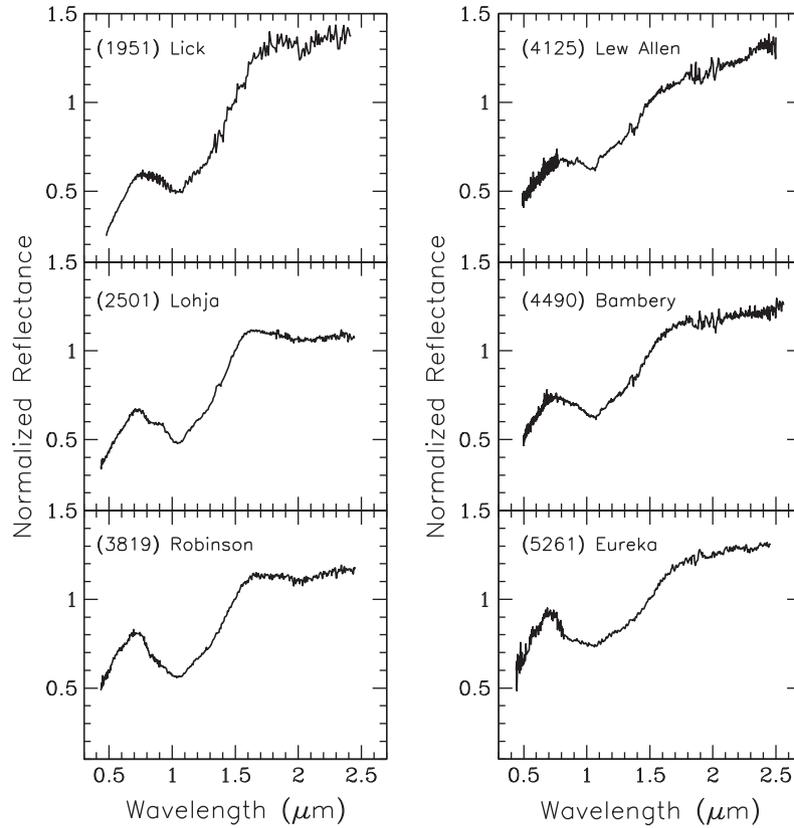


Fig. 2. VIS–NIR spectra of asteroids analyzed in this study. All spectra are normalized to unity at 1.5 μm . The noise seen in the spectra of (1951) Lick, (4125) Lew Allen and (4490) Bambergy longwards of 1.9 μm is due to incompletely corrected telluric bands. The VIS–NIR spectrum of (1951) Lick was obtained from de León et al. (2010), the NIR spectrum of (2501) Lohja was obtained from Sunshine et al. (2007), NIR spectra of (3819) Robinson and (5261) Eureka were obtained from the NEOSR survey (<http://smass.mit.edu/minus.html>). VIS spectra of asteroids (2501) Lohja, (3819) Robinson, and (5261) Eureka were obtained from the SMASS II survey (Bus and Binzel, 2002a,b). VIS spectra of asteroids (4125) Lew Allen and (4490) Bambergy were obtained from the S³OS² survey (Lazzaro et al., 2004).

Table 2

Spectral band parameters for the monomineralic-olivine asteroids. The columns in this table correspond to: object number and designation, Band I center ($\text{BIC} \pm 0.005$), temperature corrected Band I center ($\Delta\text{BIC} \pm 0.005$), olivine composition ($\text{Fo} \pm 5\%$) and its temperature corrected value ($\Delta\text{Fo} \pm 5\%$), Band I depth ($\text{Bl}_{\text{depth}} \pm 0.3$), geometric albedo (p_v), the beaming parameter (η) and the average surface temperature (T). Temperature values were calculated in the same way as Burbine et al. (2009). The infrared emissivity, ϵ is assumed to be 0.9, albedo and η values of asteroids (246) Asporina, (354) Eleonora, and (4125) Lew Allen are obtained from Masiero et al. (2011). Albedo values for asteroids (289) Nenetta, (1951) Lick, and (4490) Bambergy are obtained from Tedesco et al. (2004). A slope parameter $G = 0.15$ has been adopted for all the asteroids with the exception of (354) Eleonora, which has $G = 0.37$ (Masiero et al., 2011). If the albedo and η of the asteroid are unknown a value of $p_v = 0.2$ and $\eta = 1$ is assumed.

Object	BIC (μm)	ΔBIC (μm)	Fo (mol %)	ΔFo (mol %)	Bl_{depth} (%)	p_v	η	T (K)
246 Asporina	1.065	1.070	66.3	56.5	24.00	0.2069 ± 0.0294	1.118 ± 0.018	160.3
289 Nenetta	1.069	1.074	58.5	48.8	48.08	0.2438 ± 0.042	–	149.8
354 Eleonora	1.060	1.065	76.0	66.3	27.04	0.1732 ± 0.0324	1.071 ± 0.084	161.2
1951 Lick	1.061	1.063	74.1	70.2	38.35	0.0895 ± 0.020	–	247.5
4125 Lew Allen	1.062	1.065	72.1	66.3	23.56	0.1462 ± 0.0358	1.249 ± 0.033	204.3
4490 Bambergy	1.066	1.070	64.3	56.5	29.11	0.2156 ± 0.024	–	204.0
5261 Eureka	1.071	1.074	54.6	48.8	27.70	–	–	225.6

were measured using the same procedure applied to the asteroid spectra and then plotted as a function of temperature. We found that the Band I center shifts to longer wavelengths as the temperature increases. This shift in Band I center can be described as

$$\text{BIC} (\mu\text{m}) = (1.18 \times 10^{-7})T^2 - (2.15 \times 10^{-5})T + 1.05 \quad (2)$$

From this equation we derived a wavelength correction with respect to room temperature (300 K) for the Band I center

$$\Delta\text{BIC} (\mu\text{m}) = -(1.18 \times 10^{-7})T^2 + (2.15 \times 10^{-5})T + 0.004 \quad (3)$$

This correction must be added to the calculated Band I center of each asteroid. The average surface temperature of the asteroids was calculated in the same way as Burbine et al. (2009). Thus, after

correcting the Band I centers, Eq. (1) was used to calculate the olivine composition of the asteroids. The temperature corrected Band I centers, olivine compositions (with and without temperature corrections) and the average surface temperature of the asteroids are presented in Table 2. The temperature corrected Band I centers of the monomineralic-olivine asteroids are depicted in Fig. 3 as filled circles.

3.1.1. Mineralogical analysis

Cruikshank and Hartmann (1984) were the first to obtain spectrophotometric observations in the NIR of (246) Asporina using the NASA IRTF, which led to the identification of nearly monomineralic olivine on an asteroid surface. Using spectral curve matching techniques, the authors suggested that Asporina’s spectrum best

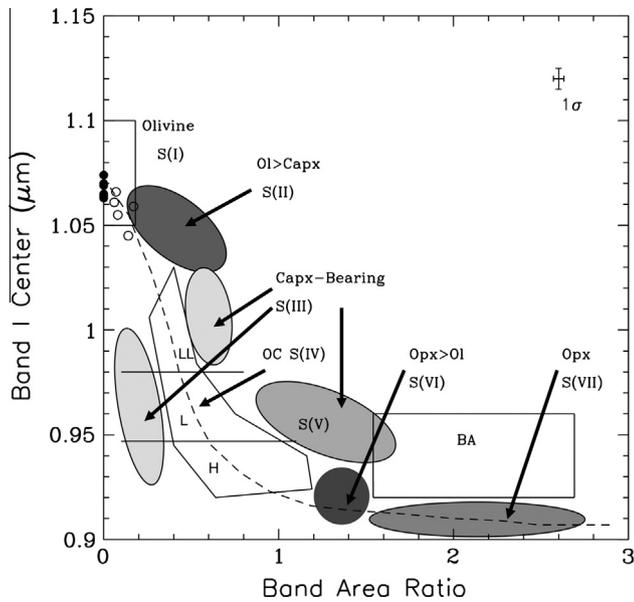


Fig. 3. Plot of the Band I center versus BAR for the monomineralic-olivine (filled circles) and olivine-rich (open circles) asteroids studied in the present work. The average 1σ error bars are shown in the upper right corner. The rectangular zone corresponding to the S(I)-type asteroids encompasses monomineralic olivine assemblages (Gaffey et al., 1993). The rectangular region (BA) includes the pyroxene-dominated basaltic achondrite assemblages. The polygonal region, corresponding to the S(IV) subgroup, represents the mafic silicate components of ordinary chondrites (OC). The dashed curve indicates the location of the olivine-orthopyroxene mixing line (Cloutis et al., 1986). The horizontal lines represent the approximate boundaries for ordinary chondrites found by Dunn et al. (2010).

matched lab samples of olivine that were coarse grains mixed with “substantial fraction of grains $<45\ \mu\text{m}$ in size” (Cruikshank and Hartmann, 1984). Their best match for (246) Asporina was an olivine assemblage with mineralogy of Fo_{60-90} . More recently, Sunshine et al. (2007) estimated the composition of (246) Asporina to be Fo_{63} . The spectrum of (246) Asporina shown in Fig. 1 is dominated by a deep complex feature (band depth 24%) at $\sim 1\ \mu\text{m}$, and the derived temperature-corrected band center for this feature is $1.07\ \mu\text{m}$. The presence of this complex $1\ \mu\text{m}$ feature, composed of three overlapping narrower features, is a strong indication of the presence of olivine (Burns, 1993) with no high- (Type B CPX) or low-Ca pyroxene due to the lack of $2\ \mu\text{m}$ feature. Using the calculated Band I center, and based on the olivine calibration by Reddy et al. (2011b) (Eq. (1)) we found that Asporina has an estimated forsterite abundance of $\text{Fo}_{56.5\pm 5}$. This value, depicted in Fig. 4 as a filled circle, is a little lower than the forsterite value reported for Asporina (Fo_{63}) by Sunshine et al. (2007).

After determining the olivine composition of Asporina the next step is to identify a possible meteorite analogue. S(I)-type asteroids have been traditionally interpreted as pieces of asteroid mantles based on the $1\ \mu\text{m}$ olivine spectral feature. While pallasites are often invoked as possible analogues, they are typically equated to core-mantle boundaries, and would therefore represent very deep mantle samples. Other olivine-rich meteorites that could be potential analogues for S(I) asteroids include the R-chondrites, brachinites, and ureilites. Representative spectra of these meteorites are shown in Fig. 5, for comparison we also included the spectrum of dunite NWA 2968 from Vesta measured at the University of Winnipeg HOSERLab for this study. This meteorite shows FeO/MnO ratios and oxygen-isotopic compositions consistent with howardites, eucrites and diogenites (HED) meteorites, and therefore it is considered to be a fragment of Vesta’s mantle.

Pallasites consist of metal and silicate (olivine) in roughly equal amounts with troilite as a minor phase (Mittlefehldt et al., 1998).

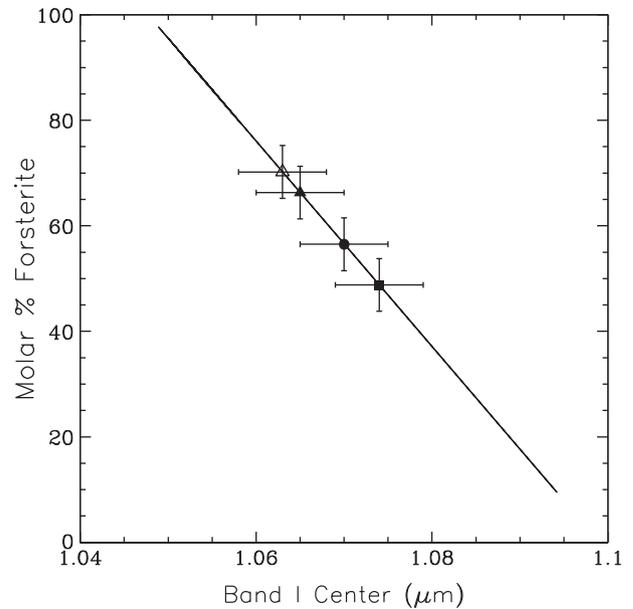


Fig. 4. Improved olivine calibration plot developed by Reddy et al. (2011b). The linear relationship between the Band I center and forsterite content is represented as a solid line. The root mean square error between the molar content of forsterite determined using Eq. (1) and the laboratory measurements is 5%. Also shown the calculated forsterite content for (246) Asporina and (4490) Bambery (both depicted as a filled circle), (289) Nenetta and (5261) Eureka (both depicted as a filled square), (354) Eleonora and (4125) Lew Allen (both depicted as a filled triangle), and (1951) Lick (open triangle).

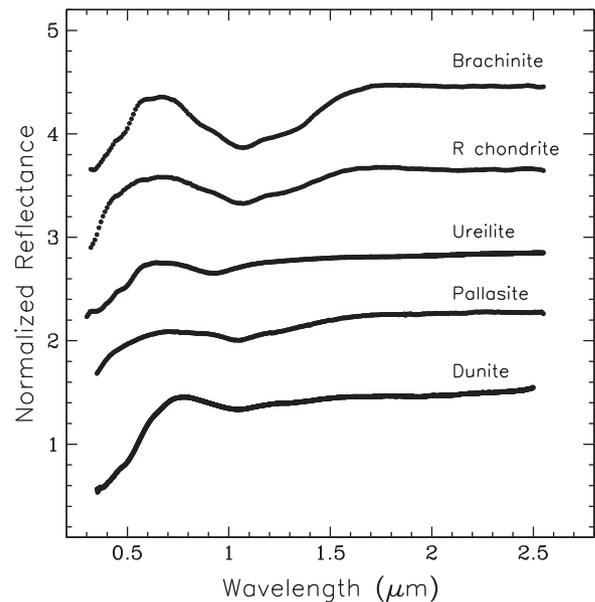


Fig. 5. VIS-NIR spectra of olivine-dominated meteorites obtained from RELAB. All spectra are normalized to unity at $1.5\ \mu\text{m}$ and have been offset for clarity. From the bottom to the top: Dunite NWA 2968 from Vesta (measured at the University of Winnipeg HOSERLab), pallasite (Marjalahti, RELAB ID:MS-CMP-005-X), ureilite (Y-791538, RELAB ID:MP-TXH-101), R chondrite (Rumuruti, RELAB ID:MT-TJM-013), and Brachinite (EET99402, RELAB ID:TB-TJM-058).

The three types of pallasites (main group, Eagle station, and pyroxene-pallasite) differ from each other based on mineralogy, composition, and O-isotopes of the silicate and metal components. All three pallasite groups have olivine with Fo_{80-90} (Mittlefehldt et al., 1998; Rubin, 1997), which is much higher than Asporina. Work by Cloutis et al. (1990) has shown that silicate spectral features are severely suppressed with the addition of metal, and

significant metal (>50%) can cause reddening of spectral slope. An example of a pallasite spectrum is depicted in Fig. 5 that shows the VIS–NIR spectrum of pallasite Marjalahti obtained from the RELAB database (Pieters and Hiroi, 2004). Based on the mismatch in olivine chemistry, and spectral parameters (band depth suppression and red spectral slope) we conclude that pallasites are not good meteorite analogues for (246) Asporina.

Ureilites are composed mostly of mafic silicates like olivine (60–90%) and minor pyroxene which are embedded in a dark matrix of carbonaceous material (graphite) (Mittlefehldt et al., 1998). Olivine is Mg-rich (Fo_{74–95}) and pyroxene is in equilibrium (Mittlefehldt et al., 1998). Spectra of most ureilites exhibit absorption features near 1 and 2 μm due to olivine and pyroxene, but because of the presence of carbon these features are severely suppressed (Band I depth 6–12%, Band II depth 1–3%) (see Fig. 5). Most ureilites have moderate albedos between 0.10–0.14, and spectrally they exhibit flat or negative slopes across the 0.7–2.6 μm interval (Cloutis et al., 2010). In contrast, 246 Asporina has an olivine chemistry of Fo_{56.5±5}, an albedo of ~0.21, and a Band I depth of 24%, which are inconsistent with ureilites. Based on the differences in chemistry and band parameters we conclude that ureilites are not analogues for 246 Asporina.

R chondrites (Fo_{60–63}) (Brearley and Jones, 1998) and brachinites (Fo_{60–75}) (Mittlefehldt et al., 1998) are olivine-dominated meteorites with chemistries within the range of the Asporina's estimated chemistry. R chondrites are formed under highly oxidizing nebular processes with most olivine having a chemistry of Fo_{60–63} with minor clinopyroxene (~5%) and traces of low-Ca pyroxene (Schulze et al., 1994). Brachinites are formed in igneous processes and contain 80–90% olivine with 5–10% clinopyroxene and traces of low-Ca pyroxene (Mittlefehldt et al., 2003). Examples of R chondrite and brachinite spectra are depicted in Fig. 5. Based on Asporina's olivine chemistry Fo_{56.5±5}, and the lack of a significant 2 μm feature due to pyroxene, brachinites are the most probable meteorite analogues for this asteroid, although R chondrites can not be completely ruled out. The moderate albedo of 0.21 for (246) Asporina also supports this linkage with brachinites, which have relatively moderate albedos of ~0.19. The albedo of brachinites was estimated from the lab spectra of a <150 μm size powder of Brachina, obtained at the University of Winnipeg HOSERLab for this study, and EET99402 from the RELAB database. Sunshine et al. (2007) modeled the formation of brachinites from an R chondrite precursor using MELTS model (Asimow and Ghiorso, 1998; Ghiorso and Sack, 1995) and concluded that an olivine-rich residue with Fa concentrations similar to brachinites can be produced at ~25% melting at a temperature of ~1220 °C. This suggests that Fe-rich olivines like those in brachinites can be created starting with an R chondrite type material.

For Asteroid (289) Nenetta, the temperature corrected Band I center is located at 1.074 μm with a Band I depth of 48.08%. Using Eq. (1) we determined that the olivine composition of this asteroid is Fo_{48.8±5}. This composition, depicted in Fig. 4 as a filled square, is consistent with the range reported by Cruikshank and Hartmann (1984) (Fo_{40–80}), and similar to that found by Lucas et al. (2012) (Fo₅₃), however it is lower than the value obtained by Sunshine et al. (2007) (Fo₆₀). Based on its olivine chemistry, the lack of a significant 2 μm feature, and its albedo of 0.24, brachinites are the most likely meteorite analogues. However, as in the case of (246) Asporina, R chondrites can not be completely ruled out. It is also important to point out that the olivine composition of (289) Nenetta seems to be more ferroan than the typical compositions observed among brachinites and R chondrites.

The spectrum of asteroid (354) Eleonora has a Band I center at 1.065 μm and Band I depth of 27.04%. For this object we obtained an olivine composition of Fo_{66.3±5} (Fig. 4, filled triangle). Sunshine et al. (2007) found that this asteroid is a magnesian object, however their estimated composition of Fo₉₂ is much higher than ours.

The composition of (354) Eleonora determined by us seems to be consistent with the range found for brachinites (Fo_{60–75}).

Asteroid (1951) Lick is the only near-Earth asteroid (NEA) among the studied objects. The Band I center of (1951) Lick is located at 1.063 μm (after temperature correction) and its Band I depth has a value of 38.35%. Using MGM, Sunshine et al. (2007) found that the composition of this asteroid is consistent with magnesian olivine (Fo₇₉). Brunetto et al. (2007) determined that the best fit of Lick's spectrum is obtained by a linear combination of reflectance spectra of San Carlos olivine (20%) and meteorite Brachina (80%), along with a fraction of nanophase iron needed to account for space weathering effects. Our analysis of (1951) Lick using Eq. (1) yielded a composition of Fo_{70.2±5}, which is the highest forsterite value found among the monomineralic-olivine asteroids studied in this work. The olivine chemistry of (1951) Lick, represented in Fig. 4 as an open triangle, is consistent with the composition of brachinites.

In the case of Asteroid (4125) Lew Allen, the Band I center is located at 1.065 μm and the Band I depth is 23.56%. According to our calculations, the olivine chemistry for this asteroid is Fo_{66.3±5} (Fig. 4, filled triangle). No previous work was performed on this object. Based on its olivine chemistry and the absence of a significant 2 μm feature, brachinites are the best meteorite analogues for this asteroid.

For Asteroid (4490) Bamberg, the Band I center is located at 1.070 μm with a Band I depth of 29.11%. As in the previous cases, the olivine composition of the asteroid was calculated, given the value of Fo_{56.5±5} (Fig. 4, filled circle). Like Lew Allen, this is the first time that the composition of this asteroid is determined. Brachinites and R chondrites have olivine compositions that, within the uncertainty, are consistent with the value found for Bamberg. However, considering the lack of the 2 μm feature and its albedo of ~0.22, brachinites are the most probable meteorite analogues for this object.

Asteroid (5261) Eureka is the largest known Mars Trojan (Trilling et al., 2007). Rivkin et al. (2007) obtained NIR spectra of Eureka with the IRTF and SpeX. From their analysis they identified angrites as possible meteorite analogues for this asteroid. Angrites are a rare group of basaltic achondrites with mineralogies dominated by CaO-rich olivine, Ca–Al–Ti-rich pyroxene and anorthite (Weisberg et al., 2006). Spectrally, they exhibit a broad absorption feature centered around 1 μm and, in some cases, a weak absorption feature near 2 μm (Burbine et al., 2006). Using Hapke formalism, Rivkin et al. (2007) modeled the reflectance spectrum of Eureka by combining angrites and neutral components. Although they obtained a reasonably good fit for Eureka's spectrum they could not rule out R chondrites as possible meteorite analogues. The thermal-IR spectrum (5–30 μm) of Eureka obtained with the Spitzer IRS by Lim et al. (2011) showed olivine reststrahlen features similar to those observed from laboratory spectra of R chondrites, brachinites and chassignites. From their study Lim et al. (2011) determined that the molar content of Fo for Eureka is probably not higher than Fo₆₅. The measured Band I center for Eureka is located at 1.074 μm with a band depth of 27.7%. Using Eq. (1) we calculated its olivine composition, giving a value of Fo_{48.8±5} (Fig. 4, filled square). Similar to asteroid (289) Nenetta, the olivine composition of Eureka is more ferroan than the typical compositions found among olivine-rich meteorites. However, based on these results and the lack of a significant 2 μm feature, brachinites are the most likely meteorite analogues for Eureka, although R chondrites can not be completely ruled out.

In general, olivine compositions of asteroids obtained using Eq. (1) seems to be more Fe-rich than those estimated by previous work using MGM (e.g., Sunshine and Pieters, 1998; Sunshine et al., 2007). These differences regarding the estimation of forsterite chemistry based on the Band I center by (e.g., Sunshine and

Pieters, 1998; Sunshine et al., 2007) and King and Ridley, 1987 are due to the way the band center is calculated. The band centers calculated using MGM are at shorter wavelengths than those of King and Ridley (1987). In addition, the temperature correction that we have applied to the asteroid Band I centers using Eq. (3) slightly increases their value, hence the molar content of Fo calculated using Eq. (1) will decrease.

As noted earlier, monomineralic olivine can be formed through different mechanism: accretion of grains from an oxidized nebular region without significant post-accretionary heating (R chondrites), partial melting with extraction of a basaltic melt leaving an olivine-rich residue (brachinites), or crystallization of olivine from a melt to form an olivine mantle or olivine-rich layer (differentiated object). The Fe content of igneously formed olivine depends on the Fe content of the starting parent material with the Fe content of the final olivine never being higher than the precursor material. For example, olivine produced in an igneous process with an LL-chondrite precursor material can never have Fe content more than Fo₇₂. In other words, the only way to produce a Fe-rich olivine via igneous processing is to start with a precursor material that has high Fe content (Sunshine et al., 2007). Based on the results obtained, and taking into account the uncertainties associated to the Band I centers and Fo content, it is possible that at least three of the studied asteroids (354 Eleonora, 1951 Lick and 4125 Lew Allen) could have formed from melting of ordinary chondrite-like bodies.

3.2. Olivine-rich asteroids

Asteroids that have been grouped in this category are: (446) Aeternitas, (863) Benkoela, (984) Gretia, (2501) Lohja, and (3819) Robinson. In addition to the 1 μm feature, the spectra of these objects exhibit a weak absorption feature at $\sim 2 \mu\text{m}$ indicative of the presence of a second mineral in the assemblages, most likely pyroxene. For each VIS–NIR spectrum spectral band parameters, band centers, Band Area Ratios (BAR), and band depths along with their errors were measured in the same way as in Sanchez et al. (2012, 2013). The band parameters with their corresponding errors are presented in Table 3. The Band I centers and BAR of the olivine-rich asteroids are depicted in Fig. 3 as open circles.

The most common secondary or accessory mineral present in olivine-rich asteroids is low-Ca pyroxene, which gives rise to two absorption features at ~ 0.9 and $2 \mu\text{m}$. Depending on the type of pyroxene and its Fe content, the band center of the 1 μm olivine feature is shifted to shorter wavelengths. From the calibration developed by Reddy et al. (2011b), the band center of the 1 μm olivine feature ranges from $\sim 1.048 \mu\text{m}$ for pure forsterite to $\sim 1.1 \mu\text{m}$ for pure fayalite. Depending on the Fo content of the olivine and the abundance of low-Ca pyroxene in a olivine + low-Ca pyroxene assemblage, the Band I center could be shifted beyond this band center range (~ 1.048 – $1.10 \mu\text{m}$) leading to inconsistent Fo estimates using this calibration. Even if the measured Band I centers are within this range the presence of pyroxene might shift

the Band I center to longer or shorter wavelength (depending on the type of pyroxene and the cation abundance) preventing an accurate determination of olivine chemistry using Eq. (1). Therefore, we decided not to use this calibration with the olivine-rich asteroids and to look for possible meteorite analogs that could be used to develop a new calibration.

Olivine-rich meteorites that could be potential analogs for these asteroids include pyroxene pallasites, brachinites, ureilites, and R-chondrites. Pyroxene pallasites are dominated by olivine (55–63 vol.%) and contain (1–3 vol.%) low-Ca pyroxenes (Mittlefehldt et al., 1998). Due to the presence of metal, sample preparation for laboratory spectroscopy is extremely difficult for metal–silicate mixtures like pallasites (Gaffey, 1976; Cloutis et al., 1990). As a result there are no useful NIR laboratory spectra of both metal and olivine + pyroxene from a pyroxene pallasite. Due to this limitation, these meteorites are not considered in the present analysis. As it was mentioned earlier, brachinites contain ~ 5 – 10% clinopyroxene and traces of low-Ca pyroxene, however brachinite spectra do not show the $2 \mu\text{m}$ feature. Spectra of most ureilites show absorption features near 1 and $2 \mu\text{m}$, however these features are severely suppressed. Band depths measured for the olivine-rich asteroids in our sample range from ~ 32 – 42% (Band I depth), and from ~ 3 – 7% (Band II depth). Furthermore, the typical albedos for ureilites (0.10–0.14) are lower than most of olivine-rich asteroids. R chondrites, on the other hand, have an olivine abundance of typically 65–78 vol.% and different proportions of low-Ca and Ca-pyroxene (Bischoff et al., 2011). Spectrally they show the 1 μm feature and a weak absorption feature at $\sim 2 \mu\text{m}$. In Figs. 6 and 7 we plotted the Band I and Band II centers vs. BAR, respectively of seven R chondrite spectra from the RELAB database. Measured values are depicted as open circles and have been plotted along with the values measured from the olivine-rich asteroid spectra. Spectral band parameters of the R chondrites are presented in Table 4. An inspection of Figs. 6 and 7 shows that the band centers and BAR values of the olivine-rich asteroids are located within the range of those measured for the R chondrites. As can be seen in Fig. 6, values obtained from the R chondrites deviate from the olivine–orthopyroxene mixing line of Cloutis et al. (1986) (dashed curve). This deviation could be explained by the presence of a clinopyroxene component in the R chondrites. This behavior is also observed in the measured values of an olivine–clinopyroxene mixture depicted as “x” symbols in Fig. 6. These values correspond to a mixture in which the fraction of olivine to clinopyroxene ranges from 80:20 to 40:60. Based on these results we developed a new set of calibrations in an effort to determine the olivine abundance and the ratio of low-Ca pyroxene to total pyroxene of the olivine-rich asteroids.

Fig. 8 shows the ol/(ol + px) ratios vs. BAR measured for R chondrites. Here the ol/(ol + px) values correspond to the abundances of olivine and LCP and HCP. Modal abundances (included in Table 4) are only available for four samples, however from Fig. 8 it is possible to see how the ol/(ol + px) ratio decreases as the BAR increases. This curve (solid line) shows a much steeper decrease in olivine content with increasing BAR than shown by the Cloutis et al.

Table 3
Spectral band parameters for the olivine-rich asteroids. The columns in this table correspond to: object number and designation, Band I center ($\text{BIC} \pm 0.005$), Band I depth ($\text{BI}_{\text{depth}} \pm 0.3$), Band II center ($\text{BIIC} \pm 0.01$), Band II depth ($\text{BIID}_{\text{depth}} \pm 0.5$), Band Area Ratio ($\text{BAR} \pm 0.03$), olivine–pyroxene abundance ratio ($\text{ol}/(\text{ol} + \text{px}) \pm 0.003$), the ratio of low-Ca pyroxene to total pyroxene ($\text{LCP}/(\text{LCP} + \text{HCP}) \pm 0.09$), and geometric albedo (p_v). In the case of the olivine-rich asteroids no temperature corrections to the band parameters were applied because spectra of R chondrites obtained at different temperatures are not available. Albedo values are obtained from Masiero et al. (2011).

Object	BIC (μm)	BI _{depth} (%)	BIIC (μm)	BIID _{depth} (%)	BAR	ol/(ol + px)	LCP/(LCP + HCP)	p_v
446 Aeternitas	1.066	38.00	1.980	3.00	0.07	0.92	0.90	0.1902 ± 0.0492
863 Benkoela	1.059	33.50	1.982	6.50	0.17	0.68	0.89	0.1123 ± 0.0163
984 Gretia	1.045	31.64	2.040	4.77	0.14	0.78	0.60	0.3990 ± 0.0930
2501 Lohja	1.061	41.90	2.022	3.20	0.06	0.93	0.69	0.1898 ± 0.0440
3819 Robinson	1.055	39.20	2.026	4.35	0.08	0.91	0.67	0.3580 ± 0.2982

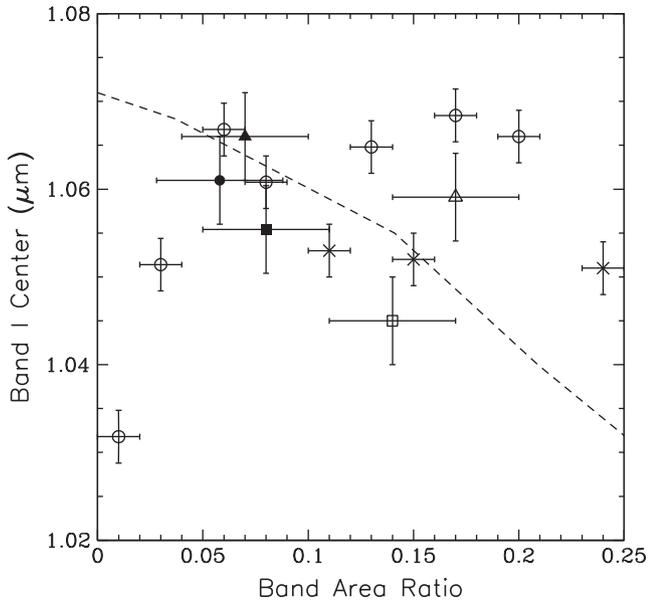


Fig. 6. Band I center vs. Band Area Ratio (BAR) for olivine-rich asteroids and R chondrites. Values measured for R chondrites are depicted with open circles. The asteroids whose band parameters have been plotted are: (2501) Lohja (filled circle), (3819) Robinson (filled square), (446) Aeternitas (filled triangle), 863 Benkoela (open triangle) and (984) Gretia (open square). For comparison we have included measured values (× symbols) from a mixture of OLV003 (forsterite) + PYX016 (diopside) obtained at the University of Winnipeg HOSERLab. The dashed curve indicates the location of the olivine-orthopyroxene mixing line from Cloutis et al. (1986).

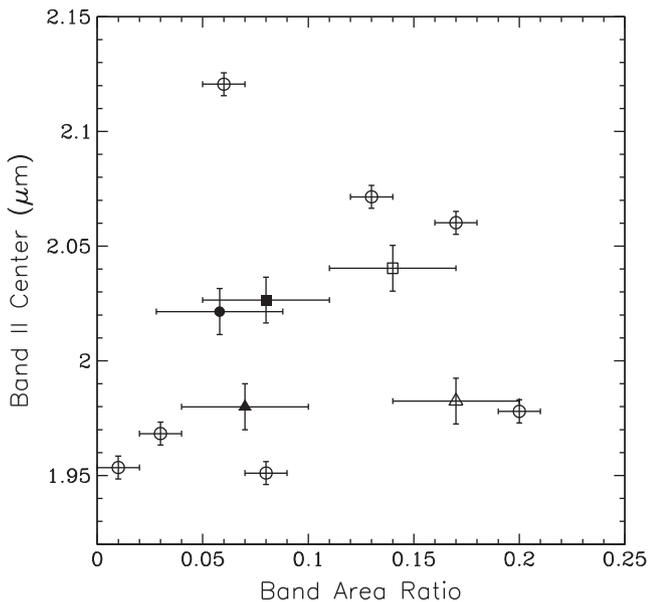


Fig. 7. Band II center vs. Band Area Ratio (BAR) for olivine-rich asteroids and R chondrites. Values measured for R chondrites are depicted with open circles. The asteroids whose band parameters have been plotted are: (2501) Lohja (filled circle), (3819) Robinson (filled square), (446) Aeternitas (filled triangle), 863 Benkoela (open triangle) and (984) Gretia (open square).

(1986) olivine pyroxene mixing experiments (dashed line). This discrepancy could be attributed to the fact that the linear relationship obtained by Cloutis et al. (1986) was derived from an olivine-orthopyroxene mixture, while our measurements include both LCP and HCP. As an example we have included in Fig. 8 measured values from an olivine-clinopyroxene mixture (depicted as filled triangles), which show a pronounced deviation from the linear

relationship obtained by Cloutis et al. (1986). The correlation between the ol/(ol + px) ratio and the BAR found for the R chondrites can be described by a second order polynomial fit:

$$ol/(ol + px) = -11.27 \times BAR^2 + 0.302 \times BAR + 0.956 \quad (4)$$

With this equation we determined the olivine abundance of the olivine-rich asteroids from their BAR values. Calculated ol/(ol + px) ratios are presented in Table 3.

In Fig. 9 we plotted LCP/(LCP + HCP) ratios vs. Band II centers measured for R chondrites. Here the LCP/(LCP + HCP) values correspond to the ratio of low-Ca pyroxene to total pyroxene. As can be seen in Fig. 9, Band II centers move to longer wavelengths with increasing Ca²⁺ content. This shift in the wavelength position is explained by crystal field theory (CFT), and is due to the effects of replacing the larger Ca²⁺ cation into the crystallographic site of the smaller Fe²⁺ cation, resulting in changes in the crystal structure and thus in the crystal fields and electronic transitions which produce this absorption feature (Burns, 1993). A least-squares fit of the data in Fig. 9 yields

$$LCP/(LCP + HCP) = -5.006 \times (BII) + 10.81 \quad (5)$$

Using Eq. (5) we determined the fraction of low-Ca pyroxene present in the olivine-rich asteroids from their measured Band II centers. The LCP/(LCP + HCP) ratios are presented in Table 3. In the case of the olivine-rich asteroids no temperature corrections were derived since spectra of R chondrites obtained at different temperatures are not available. It is important to stress that the results obtained using Eqs. (4) and (5) must be taken with caution. Although R chondrites provide a good spectral match for olivine-rich asteroids, their compositions might differ. In addition, these equations were derived from a very limited sample. Thus, these calculations represent only a first attempt to determine mineral abundances for this type of asteroids. Additional laboratory measurements of meteorite samples will be required to improve these spectral calibrations.

3.2.1. Mineralogical analysis

Of all the S(1)-type asteroids, (446) Aeternitas is one of the best-characterized members. Based on spectral analysis, Cloutis et al. (1990) suggested that the surface assemblage of (446) Aeternitas contained roughly 35 wt% metal, 55 wt% olivine (Fo_{80±10}), 7 wt% clinopyroxene, and 3 wt% orthopyroxene. Similar to (246) Asporina (Cruikshank and Hartmann, 1984; Cloutis et al. 1990) suggested a substantial fine-grained (<45 μm) component on the surface and concluded that the best match for the spectrum of this asteroid is fine-grained olivine scattered on a roughened metal surface. Hiroi and Sasaki (2001) modeled the reflectance spectrum of Aeternitas using model mixtures of minerals that were irradiated with a pulse-laser that simulates the space weathering effect. They found that the best fit for Aeternita's spectrum was obtained combining 2% fresh olivine, 93% space-weathered olivine, 1% space-weathered orthopyroxene, and 4% chromite. Sunshine et al. (2007) suggested that (446) Aeternitas is magnesian with ~5–10% pyroxene based on the presence of a weak 2 μm feature. The VIS-NIR spectrum of Aeternitas exhibits a broad, asymmetric feature (Band I depth 38%) indicating the presence of olivine as the primary mineral on the surface. The calculated Band I center is 1.066 μm. There is also a weak ~3% feature centered at 1.98 μm and the BAR is 0.07. From its BAR value and using Eq. (4) we determined that the ol/(ol + px) ratio for Aeternitas is 0.92. From the measured Band II center we estimated a LCP/(LCP + HCP) ratio value of 0.90.

The spectrum of Asteroid (863) Benkoela exhibits two absorption features centered at 1.059 μm (Band I depth 33.5%) and 1.982 μm (Band II depth 6.5%), with a BAR value of 0.17. For this asteroid we determined an olivine abundance of 0.68, the lowest

Table 4
Spectral band parameters for the R chondrites. The columns in this table correspond to: meteorite name, RELAB ID, Band I center (BIC \pm 0.003), Band II center (BIIC \pm 0.005), Band Area Ratio (BAR \pm 0.01), olivine–pyroxene abundance ratio ol/(ol + px), and the ratio of low-Ca pyroxene to total pyroxene LCP/(LCP + HCP), both derived from laboratory measurements.

Meteorite	RELAB ID	BIC (μm)	BIIC (μm)	BAR	ol/(ol + px)	LCP/(LCP + HCP)
NWA753	TB-TJM-114	1.061	1.951	0.08	–	–
LAP04840	DD-AHT-107	1.032	1.954	0.01	0.96 ^a	1.00 ^a
Rumuruti	MT-TJM-013	1.067	2.121	0.06	0.93 ^b	0.09 ^b
PRE95411	MT-TXH-045	1.066	1.978	0.20	–	–
PCA91002	MB-TXH-065-A	1.065	2.072	0.13	0.81 ^c	0.57 ^c
ALH85151	MB-TXH-045	1.068	2.060	0.17	0.68 ^d	0.53 ^d
A-881988	MP-TXH-059	1.051	1.968	0.03	–	–

^a Data from McCanta et al. (2008).

^b Data from Schulze et al. (1994).

^c Data from Rubin and Kallemeyn (1994).

^d Data from Kallemeyn et al. (1996).

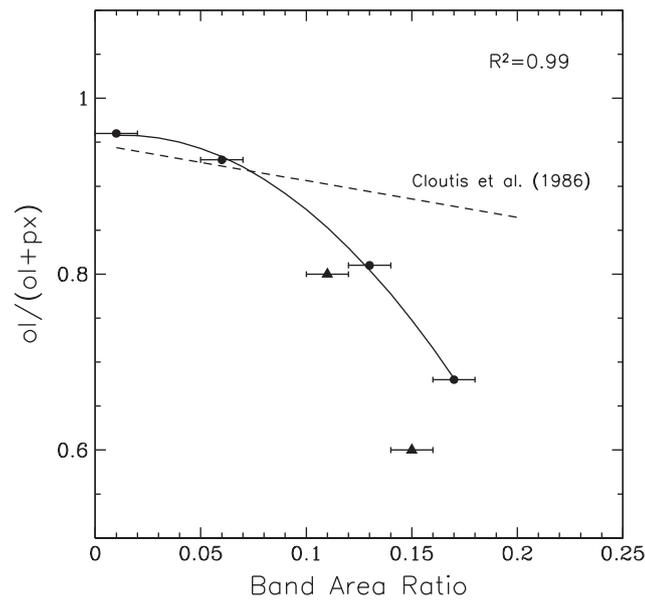


Fig. 8. ol/(ol + px) ratios vs. Band Area Ratio (BAR) measured for R chondrites (filled circles). The solid line represents a second order polynomial fitted to the data. The coefficient of determination (R^2) is given. The root mean square error between the ol/(ol + px) ratios determined using Eq. (4) and the laboratory measurements is 0.003. For comparison we have included the linear relationship between ol/(ol + opx) and BAR from Cloutis et al. (1986) (dashed line) given by ol/(ol + opx) = $-0.417 \times \text{BAR} + 0.948$. Also shown, as filled triangles, measured values from a mixture of OLV003 (forsterite)+PYX016 (diopside) obtained at the University of Winnipeg HOSERLab.

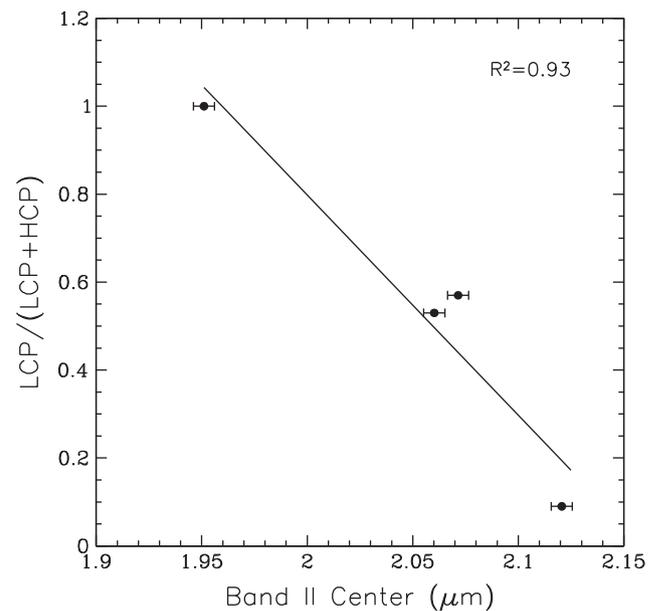


Fig. 9. LCP/(LCP + HCP) ratios vs. Band II center measured for R chondrites. The solid line represents a linear fit to the data. The coefficient of determination (R^2) is given. The root mean square error between the (LCP/(LCP + HCP)) ratios determined using Eq. (5) and the laboratory measurements is 0.09.

among the olivine-rich asteroids studied, and a ratio of low-Ca pyroxene to total pyroxene of 0.89.

For (984) Grotia, the Band I center is located at 1.045 μm and the Band II center is at 2.040 μm with a BAR of 0.14. Band I and II depths are 31.64% and 4.77%, respectively. Using Eqs. (4) and (5) we found that the ol/(ol + px) ratio for this asteroid is 0.78 and the LCP/(LCP + HCP) ratio is 0.60, implying that Grotia has the lowest fraction low-Ca pyroxene among the studied asteroids.

The measured Band I and Band II centers of (2501) Lohja are located at 1.061 μm (Band I depth 41.9%) and 2.022 μm (Band II depth 3.2%), respectively. The calculated BAR is 0.06. With an ol/(ol + px) ratio of 0.93, Lohja has the highest olivine abundance among the olivine-rich asteroids studied. The fraction of low-Ca pyroxene was estimated to be 0.69.

Like the other olivine-rich asteroids, the spectrum of (3819) Robinson exhibits two absorption features, one centered at 1.055 μm with a Band I depth of 39.20%, and the other centered at 2.026 μm with a Band II depth of 4.35%. The calculated BAR is

0.08. From its BAR value and using Eq. (4) we found that the ol/(ol + px) ratio for Robinson is 0.91. The ratio of low-Ca pyroxene to total pyroxene gave a value of 0.67.

Based on spectral matching Sunshine et al. (2007) suggested that the olivine composition of these olivine-rich asteroids is more likely to be MgO-rich. According to them this magnesian composition along with the position of the pyroxene feature (<2.2 μm), indicative of the presence of low-Ca pyroxene, would suggest that these objects formed from melting of ordinary chondrite material. This would make pallasites their most likely meteorite analogue. Our results suggest that R chondrites are better meteorite analogues for these asteroids. However, further analysis of meteorite samples will be needed to support or reject this idea.

4. Dynamical connection with asteroid families

In addition to the mineralogical analysis, an important part in understanding the formation of S(1)-type asteroids is to try to establish dynamical links between these objects and other asteroids or families. Some asteroid families show compositional

diversity among their members. This diversity could be explained by the presence of interlopers in the family, but could also reflect the compositional gradient of what once was a differentiated asteroid later fragmented. Although conclusive evidence for the latter scenario still remains elusive, this hypothesis could not be ruled out in recent studies of asteroid families (e.g., [Mothé-Diniz et al., 2008](#)). Thus, finding dynamical links between S(I)-type asteroids and metallic and/or basaltic asteroids (representing the core and crust of a differentiated body) could support the scenario in which these olivine-dominated asteroids originated from a differentiated object. [Table 5](#) includes the orbital elements and absolute magnitudes of the S(I)-type asteroids studied. After doing a careful inspection of the proper orbital elements (e_p , i_p , a_p) of asteroids 246, 289, 354, 446, 863, 984, 2501, and 3819 we determined that none of these bodies are related to known families. In particular we compared the orbital elements of these asteroids with those from [Nesvorný \(2012\)](#). The proper eccentricity (e_p) and proper inclination (i_p) versus proper semimajor axis (a_p) of these objects, along with the asteroid families identified by [Nesvorný \(2012\)](#), and background objects are shown in [Fig. 10](#) as filled triangles, red, and blue points, respectively. This result is in agreement with the work of [Masiero et al. \(2013\)](#), in which they linked $\sim 38,300$ asteroids into 76 distinct families using the Hierarchical Clustering Method (HCM) and WISE/NEOWISE data. None of the S(I)-type asteroids listed above were linked to the dynamical families of [Masiero et al. \(2013\)](#).

Two of the studied asteroids, (4125) Lew Allen and (4490) Bamberg, have orbital elements which place them in the same region of the Hungaria asteroid family, defined by a semimajor axis of $1.78 < a < 2.0$ AU, an eccentricity $e < 0.18$, and inclination $16^\circ < i < 34^\circ$ ([Warner et al., 2009](#)). [Fig. 11](#) shows the Hungaria family in a plot of absolute magnitude (H) versus proper semimajor axis (a_p) from [Warner et al. \(2009\)](#). The location of (434) Hungaria, (4125) Lew Allen, and (4490) Bamberg are depicted as a filled triangle, filled square and filled circle, respectively. Asteroid (434) Hungaria has been classified as E/Xe-type ([Tholen, 1984; DeMeo et al., 2009](#)) and it has a high geometric albedo of $p_v = 0.428$. The VIS–NIR spectrum of this asteroid exhibits a few weak absorption features in the visible region (~ 0.45 – $0.9 \mu\text{m}$), and it is relatively smooth and featureless in the wavelength range of 0.8 – $2.5 \mu\text{m}$ ([Kelley and Gaffey, 2002](#)). A detailed analysis of (434) Hungaria carried out by [Kelley and Gaffey \(2002\)](#) showed that the surface of this asteroid is mainly composed of iron-free pyroxene, enstatite, making enstatite achondrites (aubrites) the best meteorite analogs for this object. Similar results were obtained by [Clark et al. \(2004\)](#). The only way to produce an object of the size (~ 11 km) and composition of Hungaria is through the melting and differentiation of a parent body with an enstatite chondrite composition ([Keil, 1989; McCoy et al., 1999; Kelley and Gaffey, 2002](#)). However, this process would lead to the formation of an

enstatite mantle instead of an olivine mantle. Therefore, if (434) Hungaria is a fragment of the enstatite mantle of a disrupted body (as suggested by the evidence), a genetic connection between this asteroid and (4125) Lew Allen and (4490) Bamberg could be ruled out. Implying that these asteroids are probably interlopers in the Hungaria family.

Asteroid (5261) Eureka is one of the eight Mars Trojans known to date ([de la Fuente Marcos and de la Fuente Marcos, 2013](#)). Seven of these objects (including Eureka) are located in the L_5 point and one of them in the L_4 . Possible formation scenarios for Eureka and the Mars Trojans include: collisional fragmentation, rotational fission of the parent body, and capture events in the Trojan region ([Christou, 2013; de la Fuente Marcos and de la Fuente Marcos, 2013](#)). Only for three of these asteroids, 5261 Eureka (L_5 point), 101429 (1998 VF31) (L_5 point), and 121514 (1999 UJ7) (L_4 point), spectroscopic observations are available. VIS–NIR spectra (~ 0.4 – $2.5 \mu\text{m}$) of asteroid 101429 (1998 VF31) obtained by [Rivkin et al. \(2007\)](#) showed that this object belongs to the S (VII) subclass defined by [Gaffey et al. \(1993\)](#). Objects in this class are considered to be analogous to the mesosiderite meteorites (i.e., metal-basaltic assemblages). From their analysis, [Rivkin et al. \(2007\)](#) determined that the spectrum of 101429 (1998 VF31) is consistent with a mixture of primitive achondrites and iron, and in general, their mixture models produced good fits with and without the contribution of mesosiderites. Based on these results, [Rivkin et al. \(2007\)](#) concluded that there is no genetic connection between Eureka and 101429 (1998 VF31), and suggested that at least one of these objects was probably captured into its current orbit during the early stages of the Solar System. These results are confirmed by recent numerical models carried out by [de la Fuente Marcos and de la Fuente Marcos \(2013\)](#). VIS spectra (0.5 – $1.0 \mu\text{m}$) of asteroid 121514 (1999 UJ7) acquired by [Rivkin et al. \(2003\)](#) allowed them to classify this object as an X-class ([Bus, 1999](#)). Spectra of this class are characterized by being featureless with moderately reddish slopes, and have been associated with iron meteorites and enstatite achondrites ([Bus and Binzel, 2002a](#)). Unfortunately, the lack of NIR spectra for 121514 (1999 UJ7) prevents a more detailed mineralogical analysis. Based on the current data it is not possible to establish whether (5261) Eureka is indeed a fragment of the mantle of a primordial body, presumably formed in the terrestrial planets region, or whether it reached its current location during a capture event. Additional spectroscopic observation of the rest of the Mars Trojans could help to constrain the formation scenario for this object.

Asteroid (1951) Lick has a perihelion distance of $q = 1.305$ AU, which places it in the borderline between NEAs ($q \leq 1.3$ AU) and Mars-crossing asteroids ($1.3 < q < 1.66$ AU). Dynamical modeling performed by [Dunn et al. \(2013\)](#) showed that the source regions for olivine-dominated NEAs include: the intermediate source Mars-crossing region, the v_6 secular resonance, and the 3:1 mean-motion resonance with Jupiter. Apart from (1951) Lick, the

Table 5
Osculating elements and absolute magnitudes of the S(I)-type asteroids studied.

Object	Semimajor axis (AU)	Eccentricity	Inclination ($^\circ$)	Absolute magnitude
246 Asporina	2.6975	0.1073	15.6265	8.62
289 Nenetta	2.8719	0.2058	6.6972	9.51
354 Eleonora	2.7985	0.1147	18.3925	6.44
446 Aeternitas	2.7901	0.1261	10.6294	8.90
863 Benkoela	3.1986	0.0347	25.3963	9.02
984 Gretia	2.8032	0.1964	9.0860	9.03
1951 Lick	1.3905	0.0616	39.0897	14.7
2501 Lohja	2.4244	0.1945	3.3129	12.08
3819 Robinson	2.7734	0.1363	11.0977	11.8
4125 Lew Allen	1.9214	0.1178	20.4399	13.5
4490 Bamberg	1.9311	0.0921	26.1157	12.7
5261 Eureka	1.5236	0.0648	20.2810	16.1

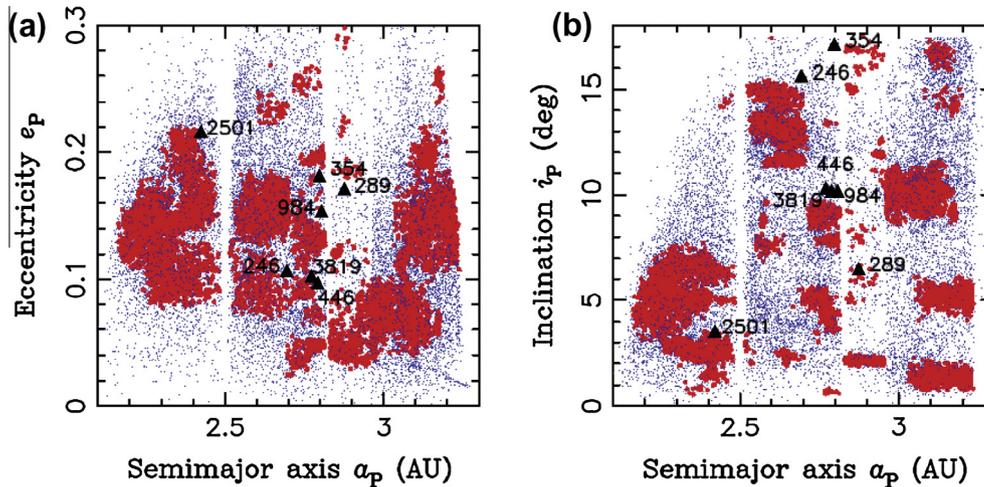


Fig. 10. Proper eccentricity (e_p) and proper inclination (i_p) vs. proper semimajor axis (a_p) for the asteroid families identified by Nesvorný (2012) (red), background objects (blue), and the S(I)-type asteroids: 246, 289, 354, 446, 984, 2501, and 3819 (filled triangles). Due to its high inclination, asteroid (863) Benkoela is not included in this figure. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

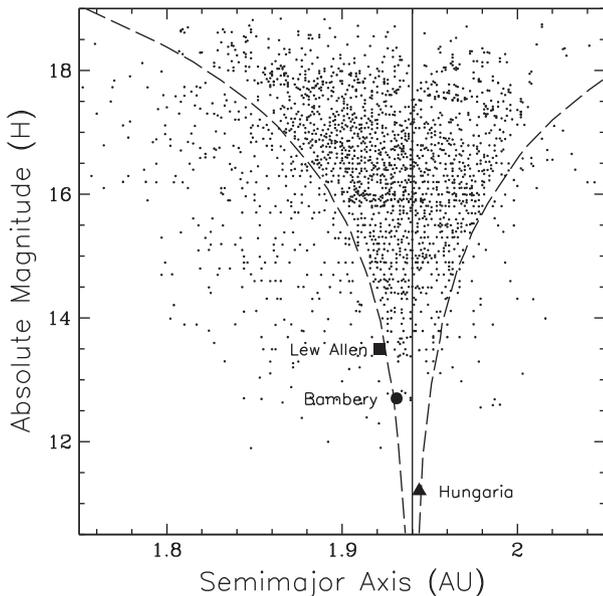


Fig. 11. Hungaria-population asteroids in a diagram of absolute magnitude (H) versus proper semimajor axis (a_p) from Warner et al. (2009). The dashed curved lines show the Hungaria-family region where the highest concentration of the asteroids is located. The vertical line represents the center of the collisionally-derived family (Warner et al., 2009). The location of (434) Hungaria, (4125) Lew Allen, and (4490) Bamberg are depicted as a filled triangle, filled square and filled circle, respectively.

only other olivine-dominated NEA with known composition is (136617) 1994CC (Reddy et al., 2011b). The analysis of this asteroid carried out by (Reddy et al., 2011b) revealed a Mg-rich ($F_{0.90}$) olivine composition, similar to Mg-rich pallasites with a low metal component. This difference in olivine chemistry between (136617) 1994CC and (1951) Lick ($F_{0.70\pm 5}$), along with the significant difference in their orbital elements suggest that there is no genetic connection between these two objects.

5. Conclusions

The surfaces of S(I)-type asteroids are dominated by olivine and in some cases pyroxene as a minor phase. Using VIS–NIR spectroscopy,

copy, mineralogy, and mineral chemistry of monomineralic-olivine asteroids can be constrained using olivine spectral calibration developed by King and Ridley (1987) and improved by Reddy et al. (2011b). We have found that the olivine composition for the monomineralic-olivine asteroids ranges from $\sim F_{0.49}$ to $F_{0.70}$. Based on their olivine chemistry, albedo, and the absence of a significant $2\ \mu\text{m}$ feature we determined that the most plausible meteorite analogues for (354) Eleonora, (1951) Lick and (4125) Lew Allen are brachinites. In the case of (246) Aspordina, (289) Nenetta, (4490) Bamberg and (5261) Eureka, brachinites are also the most likely meteorite analogues, although R chondrites can not be completely ruled out.

For the olivine-rich asteroids we found similarities between their spectral band parameters and those measured for R chondrites. Therefore, we have developed a new set of spectral calibrations from the analysis of VIS–NIR spectra of R chondrites, whose modal abundances are known. We have established a relationship between the $ol/(ol + px)$ ratio and BAR, and the $LCP/(LCP + HCP)$ ratio and the Band II centers. Using these equations we have constrained the olivine and low-Ca pyroxene abundance of these objects. In particular, we found that the olivine abundance for the olivine-rich asteroids varies from 0.68 (863 Benkoela) to 0.93 (2501 Lohja). The highest fraction of low-Ca pyroxene (0.9) was found for (446) Aeternitas, while the lowest (0.6) corresponds to (984) Gretia. Although this is a preliminary estimation, this is the first time that the mineral abundance of these asteroids has been determined. More laboratory measurements including both, spectra and modal abundances will be needed to improve the spectral calibrations. These additional data could also help to develop new equations to estimate the olivine and pyroxene chemistry of this type of asteroid. This would be particularly useful considering that the current calibrations (Sunshine et al., 1990; King and Ridley, 1987) are affected by the presence of pyroxene, and therefore can not be used when this mineral is present as a secondary phase.

Based on the spectral and mineralogical characteristics of the studied asteroids, the two most plausible meteorite analogues are brachinites and R chondrites, which span the primitive-differentiated range. This suggests that olivine could be produced via nebular processes or in a thermally evolved environment. However, it is also possible that samples of S(I)-type asteroids have not yet been found in terrestrial meteorite collections.

A possible explanation for the paucity of olivine-dominated asteroids in the main belt is that all differentiated asteroids (with

the exception of Vesta) were either disrupted or fragmented into pieces during the early stages of the Solar System. These fragments, some from the crust and some from the mantle, were subsequently eroded by continuous collisions, being reduced to pieces that are below our current detection limits (see Burbine et al., 1996 and references therein). Our failure in finding dynamical links between the S(I)-type asteroids and basaltic objects could support this hypothesis. On the other hand, depending on the starting material, the melting and differentiation of the parent body could form a mantle with a different composition. As discussed in the previous section, there is evidence that shows that differentiation of an enstatite chondrite-like body will produce an enstatite mantle instead of an olivine mantle.

Another possible scenario is that the largest S(I)-type asteroids were originally part of differentiated objects that started their lives outside the main belt. In this circumstance, their parent body or bodies were disrupted by early Solar System collisions, with the fragments scattered across the inner Solar System. We speculate that this led a few S(I)-types to be captured within the primordial main belt by early dynamical processes.

In the existing literature, there are several possible ways S(I)-type asteroids (and other objects) may be captured within the primordial main belt. First, it is possible these bodies reached their current orbits by being scattering into the primordial main belt via interacting planetary embryos (Bottke et al., 2006). Second, the S(I)-types may have been injected into the main belt by the dynamical conditions surrounding the so-called “Grand Tack” (Walsh et al., 2011). In this scenario, Jupiter migrates both inward and outward across the primordial main belt via interactions with the solar nebula. This may have allowed objects in the inner Solar System to become deeply embedded within the primordial main belt. A third possibility is that the S(I)-types were captured within the fossil resonances of Jupiter before the so-called Nice model events took place (Bottke and Asphaug, 2013). Fourth, it is plausible they were somehow captured during the events surrounding the Nice model itself (Tsiganis et al., 2005). This last mechanism seems less likely to us as of this writing, however, because the resonances that sweep across the main belt during the Nice model seem more likely to deliver comet-like bodies to the outer main belt than fragments from differentiated bodies (Levison et al., 2009).

Regardless of the exact mechanism, if one or more of these capture scenarios are true in the broadest sense, it seems likely that the S(I)-types were once part of differentiated planetesimals that started their lives in the terrestrial planet region (Bottke et al., 2006). This makes their origin and evolution history extraordinarily interesting from the perspective of understanding terrestrial planet formation.

Acknowledgments

This paper is based on data obtained with the Infrared Telescope Facility on Mauna Kea, Hawai'i. Some of the data used in this work were obtained from the SMASS II and S³OS². In addition, part of the data utilized in this publication were obtained and made available by the MIT-UH-IRTF Joint Campaign for NEO Reconnaissance. The IRTF is operated by the University of Hawaii under Cooperative Agreement No. NCC 5-538 with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Office of Space Science, Planetary Astronomy Program. The MIT component of this work is supported by NASA Grant 09-NEOO009-0001, and by the National Science Foundation under Grant Nos. 0506716 and 0907766. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NASA or the National Science Foundation. This publication makes use of data products from the Wide-field Infrared

Survey Explorer, which is a joint project of the University of California, Los Angeles, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory/California Institute of Technology, funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. This publication also makes use of data products from NEOWISE, which is a project of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory/California Institute of Technology, funded by the Planetary Science Division of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The authors thank, John Hinrichs and Paul Lucey for providing us with data for this research. VR and MJG research was supported by NASA 182 NEOO Program Grant NNX12AG12G, and NASA Planetary Geology and Geophysics Grant NNX11AN84G. We thank the IRTF TAC for awarding time to this project, and to the IRTF TOs and MKSS staff for their support. We also thank the anonymous reviewers for their useful comments, which helped to improve the manuscript.

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