

1 **Wishstone to Watchtower: Amorphous alteration of plagioclase-rich rocks in**
2 **Gusev crater, Mars**

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ABSTRACT

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Previous observations by the Spirit rover in Gusev crater revealed a suite of rocks dubbed

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Wishstone and Watchtower Class in which the parent lithology and daughter products of a

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distinctive style of aqueous alteration are evident. Results from Spirit's Miniature Thermal

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Emission Spectrometer (Mini-TES; $\sim 2000\text{-}340\text{ cm}^{-1}$) were compromised by dust contamination

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of one of the instrument's mirrors, for which a correction has since been developed. Now we

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have documented nearly 200 examples of rocks encompassing the span of alteration from

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Wishstone Class, which spectrally resemble minimally altered plagioclase-phyric basalt, to the

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most altered Watchtower Class. Among them is a rock dubbed Bruce that may be a previously

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unrecognized alteration spectral end member. We employed factor analysis/target

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transformation and linear least squares modeling to investigate the spectral characteristics and

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mineralogy of these rocks. Our results amplify those of a prior preliminary analysis showing that

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alteration produced a material resembling basaltic glass that masks the spectral features of

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plagioclase. The association of this amorphous silicate component with a ferric iron nanophase

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oxide phase identified via Spirit's Mössbauer spectrometer is now clearly shown by our data,

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further characterizing the distinctive mineralogic expression of the alteration. These components

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and the absence of any recognizable secondary silicates or opaline silica may be an expression of

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alteration in the extreme aridity and cold of the Martian environment. Similar mineralogic

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characteristics of soil measured with the CheMin X-ray diffraction instrument on the Curiosity

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rover in Gale crater may be an indication that this alteration process is widespread on Mars.

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Keywords: Mars, alteration, thermal infrared, spectroscopy, plagioclase, amorphous materials

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INTRODUCTION

44 The Mars Exploration Rover Spirit encountered a remarkable diversity of rock types during
45 its traverse of the Columbia Hills in Gusev crater, manifested both as variations in primary
46 mineralogy and in secondary alteration (e.g., Arvidson et al. 2008). The classification of all
47 rocks and soils observed by Spirit is based on elemental chemistry measured by the Alpha
48 Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS), with subclasses defined where warranted by sufficiently
49 large variations in Fe mineralogy measured by the Mössbauer spectrometer (MB) (e.g., Ming et
50 al. 2006; Morris et al. 2006; Squyres et al. 2006). Both APXS and MB are contact instruments
51 mounted on the rover's instrument deployment device (IDD) that allowed for interrogation of
52 small (<3 cm) spots on rocks. Many of these spots were cleared of dust by the brush on the Rock
53 Abrasion Tool (RAT), and in more limited cases, abraded by the RAT grind heads to expose
54 fresh surfaces.

55 Wishstone and Watchtower Class were recognized as members of an alteration series
56 identified by variations in geochemistry and Fe-bearing mineral phases (Hurowitz et al. 2006;
57 Ming et al. 2006; Morris et al. 2006; Squyres et al. 2006). Work by Hurowitz et al. (2006)
58 demonstrated a geochemical relationship consistent with two-component mixing between the
59 less altered high Al₂O₃, TiO₂, CaO, Na₂O, P₂O₅ Wishstone Class end-member and an
60 unidentified more altered end-member enriched in MgO, Zn, S, Br, and Cl. Watchtower Class is
61 intermediate between these two end-members (Hurowitz et al. 2006). The alteration evident in
62 the MB-derived Fe mineralogy is manifested as increasing values of nanophase ferric oxide
63 (npOx), ferric to total iron ratio (Fe³⁺/Fe_T), and mineralogical alteration index (MAI; the sum of
64 npOx, hematite, goethite, and sulfate abundance) (Morris et al. 2008). The rocks of Watchtower

65 Class display sufficient variations among these parameters that it was subdivided into three
66 subclasses in order of increasing alteration: Keystone, Keel, and Watchtower.

67 A preliminary assessment of the bulk mineralogy of these rock classes using thermal
68 infrared (TIR) spectra from Spirit's Mini-TES revealed a dominant plagioclase component in
69 Wishstone rock, and in Watchtower rock, up to 50% abundance of an amorphous component
70 resembling basaltic glass (Ruff et al. 2006). These results were based on spectra from only a
71 single rock for each class in part because most of the other examples were compromised by a
72 sudden accumulation of dust on the Mini-TES elevation mirror on sol 420 of the mission, due to
73 an aeolian event. Many tens of additional examples of Wishstone Class rocks were recognized
74 following sol 420 despite the dust spectral artifacts, demonstrating it to be the most common
75 rock type on the north side of Husband Hill (Ruff et al. 2006; Fig. 1). A robust correction for
76 mirror-dust contamination has since been developed (Smith et al. 2006) and verified for surface
77 observations (Ruff et al. 2011), allowing for more in-depth analyses of a suite of rocks that
78 appears to record evidence for a particular style of Martian aqueous alteration.

79 Recent results from the Mars Science Laboratory rover Curiosity provide additional
80 motivation for our study. Samples from an accumulation of drifted soil (a "sand shadow") called
81 Rocknest measured by the Chemistry and Mineralogy (CheMin) X-ray diffraction (XRD)
82 instrument on Curiosity contain as much as 45% by weight X-ray amorphous material along with
83 mostly primary igneous crystalline phases including plagioclase, olivine, and pyroxene in order
84 of decreasing abundance (Bish et al. 2013; Blake et al. 2013). The XRD pattern of the
85 amorphous material in the Rocknest sand shadow can be fit with basaltic glass (Bish et al. 2013),
86 but it likely represents a complex mixture including possible volcanic glass, hisingerite
87 ($\text{Fe}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4 \cdot 2(\text{H}_2\text{O})$), amorphous S-bearing phases, and npOx (e.g., Dehouck et al. 2014;

88 McAdam et al. 2014; Sklute et al. 2015). The amorphous material also appears to be the host for
89 3 to 6 wt% H₂O (Leshin et al. 2013).

90 The Rocknest CheMin results add to a growing list of observations of poorly- or non-
91 crystalline phases (hereafter referred to as amorphous) identified in Martian materials.
92 Laboratory measurements of Martian meteorites, orbital remote sensing, and rover-based
93 observations all have shown evidence for amorphous phases (e.g., Bandfield et al. 2000b; Glotch
94 et al. 2006; Squyres et al. 2008; Changela and Bridges 2011; Horgan and Bell III 2012).
95 Although the evidence is robust, in some cases it is not clear whether these phases are primary or
96 secondary in origin, or perhaps indicative of phyllosilicates (Clark et al. 2007). The amorphous
97 silica identified as opal-A in outcrops and soil adjacent to the Home Plate feature within a
98 kilometer of Husband Hill, clearly resulted from hydrothermal activity in a volcanic setting
99 (Squyres et al. 2008) and has retained its amorphous character without evidence for any
100 transition to more crystalline forms (Ruff et al. 2011). So the origin and persistence of at least
101 one example of an amorphous phase on Mars is well established. Wishstone and Watchtower
102 Class rocks and their variants provide an opportunity to investigate in situ the nature of another
103 example of an amorphous component on Mars.

104 DATA AND METHODS

105 Mini-TES instrument and spectra

106 Mini-TES spectra, which are the focus of this paper, provide information on the vibrational
107 modes of molecular compounds. These modes are attributable to specific mineral phases in
108 geologic materials. Details of the instrument design and operation are described by Christensen
109 et al. (2003) and reviewed post-landing by Christensen et al. (2004) and Ruff et al. (2006).
110 Briefly, Mini-TES is an interferometric spectrometer covering the range from ~2000 to 340 cm⁻¹

111 (~5–29 μm) with a spectral sampling of $\sim 10 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and a nominal field of view (FOV) of 20 mrad.
112 This FOV results in a spot size $\sim 10 \text{ cm}$ in diameter for targets (i.e., outcrops, rocks, and soils)
113 nearest the rover, which increases with increasing distance to the target. As described by Ruff et
114 al. (2006), the FOV is not sufficiently small to isolate the surfaces or interiors of rocks brushed
115 or abraded by the Rock Abrasion Tool (RAT; Gorevan et al. (2003)). In the case of abraded
116 surfaces (RAT holes), Mini-TES spectra include features attributable to scattering by fine
117 particles that accumulate around the RAT hole from the grinding operation.

118 Each mirror-dust corrected Mini-TES spectrum presented in this paper is the average of
119 200 individual spectra constituting a single observation of a given target. Other dust-related
120 spectral features are present in Mini-TES spectra that need to be described because of the
121 variability they impart on otherwise similar spectra. As demonstrated by Ruff et al. (2006),
122 Mini-TES spectra display certain features that are a function of the temperature difference
123 between the target materials and the atmosphere. This behavior initially was thought to be due to
124 atmospheric downwelling radiance contributing spectral features of atmospheric dust (Ruff et al.
125 2006). It was subsequently recognized that the contribution of optically thin surface dust likely
126 was responsible, due to temperature differences between the dust and substrate material (Ruff
127 and Bandfield 2010; Hamilton and Ruff 2012; Rivera-Hernandez et al. 2015). Spectral
128 contributions of optically thin surface dust are most readily apparent from ~ 800 to $\sim 1300 \text{ cm}^{-1}$,
129 ranging from a reduction in contrast of the substrate spectrum to a complete inversion in
130 apparent emissivity as the emitted radiance of the dust dominates (Fig. 2). Note that Figure 2
131 also shows that spectral features due to atmospheric CO_2 in the ~ 500 to $\sim 800 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ range tend to
132 follow similar trends, because both effects are controlled by surface-atmosphere temperature
133 differences.

134 Except where noted, the spectra shown in the current work have not been corrected for
135 contributions from atmospheric CO₂, optically thin dust, or the more straightforward
136 contributions of optically thick dust. Instead, the classification of rocks presented in subsequent
137 sections relies on the low wavenumber range of Mini-TES spectra (<600 cm⁻¹), where dust in
138 either form has much less impact (Ruff et al. 2006; Ruff et al. 2011; Hamilton and Ruff 2012)
139 and atmospheric CO₂ features are minor. Dust lacks distinct spectral features in this range and
140 has low opacity. An effort has been made to classify as many measured rocks and outcrops as
141 possible, even those with substantial dust contributions. But in some cases, the spectral features
142 of dust sufficiently obscure those of the substrate that classification is not possible. Some targets
143 were measured more than once by Mini-TES. In those cases, the spectrum displaying the
144 greatest contrast across both the ~800 to ~1300 cm⁻¹ and <600 cm⁻¹ ranges and least evidence
145 for dust related artifacts is presented.

146 **Determination of mineralogy**

147 **Linear least squares modeling.** One of the approaches for identifying mineral
148 components in the various spectral classes involves modeling using a linear least squares fitting
149 algorithm and a library of reference spectra referred to as end-members (also known as linear
150 deconvolution). This approach is based on the validated assumption that spectral contributions
151 of individual components mix linearly, allowing each to be identified and their abundance (the
152 areal fraction) to be determined (e.g., Thomson and Salisbury 1993; Ramsey and Christensen
153 1998; Feely and Christensen 1999; Hamilton and Christensen 2000). Note that this assumption
154 generally applies to particulate mixtures with particle sizes greater than ~100 micrometers as
155 well as mixed phase rocks independent of grain size.

156 We have experimented with two different linear least squares algorithms, those of Ramsey
157 and Christensen (1998) and Rogers and Aharonson (2008). The former is a constrained least-
158 squares linear retrieval (abbreviated here as CLS) that iteratively removes library spectra with
159 negative coefficients until only those with positive values remain in the final solution. The latter
160 version is a modification of a non-negative least squares (NNLS) algorithm. It retains all library
161 spectra in the design matrix until the algorithm has converged on a best-fit solution, thus
162 preventing the inadvertent ejection of a correct component early in the fitting process. Although
163 NNLS model fits tend to have lower root-mean-square (RMS) residual error than those produced
164 by the CLS algorithm, this typically requires more spectral end-members in the model solution
165 with abundance levels that are insignificant (<1%; Rogers and Aharonson (2008)). Also
166 noteworthy is the fact that in the case of one or more missing end-members from the spectral
167 library, neither algorithm produces better results.

168 In the current work, we have applied the NNLS algorithm to model Mini-TES spectra. We
169 do not report the results for modeled end-members that occur at <1% abundance given that they
170 likely are unreliable components of the actual rocks. These modeled end-members are shown
171 grouped as “other”, with their total number and abundance presented. End-members modeled
172 with <10% abundance are presented but may or may not be robust identifications given the
173 variable spectral contrast of various mineral phases and their resultant detectability. High
174 spectral contrast phases are detectable in lower abundance, so may represent reliable detections
175 at <10% abundance, which is considered a general detection limit (e.g., Feely and Christensen
176 1999). All modeled end-members and their mathematical uncertainty are shown rounded to the
177 nearest integer. Various caveats regarding modeled mineralogy are included in the Results and
178 Discussion sections.

179 Because we are interested in testing the previously identified chemical mixing trend in
180 which Wishstone Class appears to be the least altered end-member (Hurowitz et al. 2006), we
181 have included in the library an average Wishstone Class spectrum. Our work has identified a
182 previously unrecognized candidate for an alteration spectral end-member, dubbed Bruce (see
183 below), which we include in the library to assess the possible spectral mixing of the intermediate
184 members of the Wishstone-Watchtower suite. In cases where either Wishstone or Bruce was
185 part of a given model result, the algorithm was re-run without them to test the robustness of each
186 as a true component, by quantifying the changes in RMS error, uncertainty value, and quality of
187 spectral fit. This approach also allows us to assess the suite of mineral phases that fit the spectra
188 independent of the two rock spectral end-members.

189 Following the approach of Ruff et al. (2006), the spectra were fit over the range ~380–1350
190 cm^{-1} (Mini-TES channels 5-102), which excludes the ends of the spectra where the signal-to-
191 noise is low. The spectral range from ~560 – 780 cm^{-1} (channels 24 – 45) where atmospheric
192 CO_2 is highly absorbing also was excluded. To account for spectral contributions from dust and
193 thermal heterogeneity, three different dust variants and a “slope” spectrum were included in the
194 end-member library (Ruff et al. 2006; Hamilton and Ruff 2012). A spectrum with unit
195 emissivity (blackbody) also was used to address spectral contrast variations (e.g., Ramsey and
196 Christensen 1998). These are shown among the “modeled” results versus the “normalized”
197 results in which they have been subtracted and the remaining spectral components normalized.
198 The full list of end-member spectra used for modeling is provided in Table 1.

199 **Factor analysis and target transformation (FATT).** We have applied the combination of
200 factor analysis and target transformation (FATT) both to investigate the range of Mini-TES
201 spectral classes and to recognize mineral components among the classes. This approach has

202 been used successfully to separate compositional signatures in orbital Thermal Emission
203 Spectrometer (TES) data (e.g., Bandfield et al. 2000b; Christensen et al. 2000; Glotch and
204 Rogers 2013) and Mini-TES data acquired by the Opportunity rover in Meridiani Planum
205 (Glotch and Bandfield 2006) and the Spirit rover in Gusev crater (Hamilton and Ruff 2012). It
206 relies on two assumptions: (1) that there are independently varying components in the spectral
207 data, such as atmospheric and/or surface components, and (2) that the components add linearly.
208 In this study, we use the code and analytical approach described by Bandfield et al. (2000a) with
209 details of the application to Mini-TES spectra described in Hamilton and Ruff (2012). Briefly,
210 the factor analysis computes the eigenvectors and corresponding eigenvalues of the covariance
211 matrix of the Mini-TES spectra. The number of eigenvectors, N , required to reconstruct these
212 spectra to within the level of the noise of the data indicates how many linearly independent
213 spectral components can be distinguished in the data set.

214 The eigenvectors are spectral in nature and may or may not resemble the spectra of
215 geologic materials, but they do not have physical meaning. However, linear combinations of the
216 eigenvectors can be used to reconstruct the spectral components present in a set of mixed data,
217 even if the pure end members are not present. The eigenvalue associated with each eigenvector
218 can be used to guide the selection of eigenvectors for this reconstruction. That is, a large drop in
219 an eigenvalue below a given eigenvector indicates that subsequent eigenvectors with lower
220 eigenvalues likely can be dismissed.

221 The eigenvectors are converted into physically meaningful spectra by applying a target
222 transformation in which laboratory spectra (the “targets”) are linearly fit using the N
223 eigenvectors derived from the factor analysis (the subset of eigenvectors that excludes vectors
224 attributable solely to noise) along with the mean and a blackbody (to account for contrast

225 differences). Although laboratory spectra of real materials are used in this step, the eigenvectors
226 are the spectral library used to fit them, not the other way around as is typical in other linear least
227 squares models of thermal infrared data, such as the NNLS and CLS methods described above.
228 If a known mineral or rock spectrum can be closely approximated by a linear combination of the
229 eigenvectors, then that spectrum is a plausible component of the dataset. If the known spectrum
230 is not a component of the dataset, the model shape produced from the eigenvectors will not fit it
231 well, but the model shape will represent a valid component of the dataset (or a mixture of
232 components). Spectral shapes that are recovered repeatedly, even if they do not match any of the
233 target spectra, are reliable components of the data. Because spectral end-members often have
234 greater contrast than mixed spectra, they typically recover the high contrast spectral end-
235 members from the fitted eigenvectors, even when they do not produce a precise match.
236 Additionally, unlike traditional linear least squares modeling of rock spectra, the target
237 transformation task is not limited to positive values of the eigenvectors. Any linear combination
238 of eigenvectors, including negative values, can be used to model the target spectra.

239 The Wishstone-Wachtower series represents a sequence of progressive alteration
240 (Hurowitz et al. 2006; Ming et al. 2006; Morris et al. 2006; Squyres et al. 2006). We focused on
241 using FATT to identify the dominant spectral components that might lead to compositional
242 variability within the series and within subclasses, as described more fully in the next section.
243 We performed factor analysis both on the entire series of Wishstone-Wachtower rocks (all
244 subclasses, 193 spectra) as well as on individual subclasses. The resulting eigenvectors in both
245 cases were used to model the mineral library, which is that used by Ruff et al. (2006) to model
246 Wishstone spectra (Table 1). This target transformation step resulted in the recovery of spectral

247 shapes that provide insight into the dominant sources of variability among the entire series, as
248 well as within subclasses.

249 **RESULTS: SPECTRAL CHARACTERISTICS AND DISTRIBUTION**

250 **Wishstone Subclass.** Wishstone originally was recognized as a single class based on
251 results from APXS and MB (Ming et al. 2008; Morris et al. 2008), but our work identifies the
252 need to subdivide Mini-TES spectra of Wishstone Class rocks. The type example of the
253 originally defined Wishstone Class occurs near the base of Husband Hill (Fig. 1) and was the
254 subject of a measurement campaign using the full instrument suite starting on sol 333 (e.g.,
255 Arvidson et al. 2006). Two other examples that included measurements with the IDD
256 instruments, called Wishing Well (target: Dreaming) and Champagne, occur within 10 meters.
257 All three are float rocks. The last example of Wishstone Class material that included IDD
258 measurements is a clast called Chic within the Bourgeoisie outcrop roughly midway up Husband
259 Hill (Ming et al. 2008), a feature too small to isolate in a Mini-TES observation. No Wishstone
260 subclasses were recognized among the four examples measured with APXS and MB. However,
261 among the tens of Mini-TES spectra with Wishstone-like characteristics are variants of the type
262 example in which the overall spectral similarity is preserved but some key departures are
263 displayed repeatedly. We thus have defined Wishstone and M80 Subclasses.

264 The spectral characteristics of Wishstone Subclass were identified from the type example
265 Wishstone, as well as Dreaming and adjacent rocks. Targeting of Mini-TES on the Wishstone
266 Class rock Champagne was compromised by drift in the rover's inertial measurement unit
267 (subsequently corrected), resulting in a spectrum of adjacent soil. As recognized by Ruff et al.
268 (2006), the spectra of Wishstone rocks are dominated by features of plagioclase feldspar of
269 intermediate An number ($\sim\text{An}_{30} - \text{An}_{65}$; Fig. 3). A relatively prominent peak at $\sim 1080 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ is a

270 match to a comparable feature in plagioclase, but in some spectra is masked by a broad convex-
271 upward feature between $\sim 900\text{-}1200\text{ cm}^{-1}$ arising from optically thin surface dust. Features below
272 600 cm^{-1} tend to be the most diagnostic because this region of Mini-TES spectra is less affected
273 by dust in any form (Ruff et al. 2006). Consequently, a set of features at $\sim 560, 540, 490,$ and
274 455 cm^{-1} present in plagioclase and Wishstone Subclass serves as the most diagnostic for
275 recognizing other examples (Fig. 3).

276 Wishstone Subclass spectra resemble that of a plagioclase-phyric basalt sample from Hole
277 in the Ground maar in south central Oregon, USA (e.g., Heiken 1971) that likely represents
278 basement rock related to the Cascade volcanic arc (Marie Schmidt, personal
279 communication)(Fig. 3). Sub-cm phenocrysts of plagioclase are the dominant phase of this rock
280 and likewise produce its dominant spectral character in TIR data. Evidence for a greater
281 proportion of olivine is manifested in the Wishstone Subclass spectrum as a relatively broad
282 minimum at $\sim 900\text{ cm}^{-1}$ and the reduced contrast of the low wavenumber plagioclase features
283 compared with the Hole in the Ground spectrum. The spectral similarity between Wishstone
284 Subclass and Hole in the Ground suggests a similar mineralogy, but not necessarily a similar
285 volcanic process for their origin.

286 During the traverse of the north side of Husband Hill and the summit area named Hillary,
287 and into the adjacent terrain known as Haskin Ridge (Fig. 1), Mini-TES observed 59 rocks with
288 spectral characteristics consistent with the Wishstone type example (Fig. 4a and Appendix Table
289 1). No other examples of Wishstone Subclass beyond Haskin Ridge have been recognized.
290 With the exception of the Chic clast, Wishstone Subclass was observed only as float rocks
291 ranging from cobbles to small boulders, six of which are shown in Figure 5. An outcrop source
292 has not been identified.

293 **M80 Subclass.** A rock named M80 measured by Mini-TES on sol 529, midway up
294 Husband Hill, is the type example for a new subclass because it most clearly displays spectral
295 features akin to Wishstone Subclass but with key distinguishing features that are found in tens of
296 other examples. Although clearly retaining some of the spectral features of plagioclase, M80
297 departs from Wishstone Subclass with the appearance of a narrow, shallow minimum at ~ 510
298 cm^{-1} and the loss of Wishstone's emissivity maxima at ~ 490 and 455 cm^{-1} (Fig. 4b). The
299 prominent emissivity minimum at $\sim 540 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ in Wishstone Subclass also is present in the M80
300 Subclass but is narrower and more symmetrical in M80. Finally, a weak peak near 900 cm^{-1} is
301 present in many spectra of this subclass, although in some cases it is masked by the spectral
302 distortions due to optically thin dust. Fifty-five rocks of the M80 Subclass were observed by
303 Mini-TES from the base of Husband Hill on its north flank, through the summit region, and
304 down onto Haskin Ridge (Appendix Table 2). Six examples are shown in Figure 5. No outcrop
305 examples of M80 subclass have been recognized.

306 **Watchtower Class**

307 The type example of Watchtower Class is a rock that occurs immediately adjacent to an
308 outcrop known as Larry's Lookout (Fig. 1) that shares similar Mini-TES spectral characteristics,
309 clearly linking the two. Watchtower was the subject of a full IDD campaign beginning on sol
310 416. This was the last use of the grind capability of the RAT, during which the grind heads were
311 abruptly worn down beyond their useable range, perhaps due in part to movement of the rock
312 during the grind operation, as evidenced by small soil avalanches and displaced pebbles seen in
313 post-grind images of the rock (Fig. 6). The movements indicate that Watchtower is either
314 loosened outcrop or a displaced float rock.

315 Eleven examples of Watchtower Class were measured with the IDD instruments (Hurowitz
316 et al. 2006; Ming et al. 2008). Although their chemistry allows all eleven to be grouped into a
317 single class, results from MB show systematic variations in npOx, $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_T$, and MAI sufficient
318 to define three subclasses (Morris et al. 2006; Morris et al. 2008). The least altered is Keystone
319 Subclass, followed by Keel Subclass, and the most altered Watchtower Subclass, each of which
320 is presented below.

321 **Keystone Subclass.** Keystone Subclass is recognized as the least altered of the three
322 previously defined Watchtower subclasses (Morris et al. 2008). Only two targets of the
323 Keystone Subclass were measured with the IDD instruments, both on the outcrop known as
324 Methuselah immediately west of the larger Jibsheet Ridge outcrop (Fig. 1). The surface texture
325 of the Methuselah outcrop is notably rough, with sub-cm scale pits and protuberances that in the
326 case of the Keystone target, look vaguely aligned. These give the appearance of fine-scale
327 laminations (Squyres et al. 2006), although they are not manifested elsewhere on the outcrop.
328 This texture creates voids that trap soil and dust, yielding Mini-TES spectra that in some cases
329 do not display recognizable features of the underlying rock.

330 The Keystone IDD target was so dusty that the Mini-TES spectrum is dominated by
331 features attributable to dust. A second Mini-TES target known as Madam, lower down on the
332 same portion of the Methuselah outcrop within 10 cm of the Keystone target, was somewhat
333 cleaner and provides a better spectrum to guide our analysis. A sharp inflection point at ~ 540
334 cm^{-1} is the sole manifestation of a plagioclase feature, with an unusually flat portion extending to
335 lower wavenumbers (Fig. 4c). This combination of characteristics was used to classify other
336 examples of Keystone Subclass.

337 Thirteen examples of Keystone Subclass were observed, dominated by targets on the
338 Methuselah outcrop and five float rocks within 20 m of it (Appendix Table 3). A sixth float rock
339 example occurs near the Voltaire outcrop and two more near the summit region (Fig. 1). One of
340 these, named Ian Clough, appears darker and less dusty than most other Keystone Subclass
341 examples, although it retains some of the spectral characteristics of dust (“roll-off” above 1300
342 cm^{-1} and an emissivity peak near 1650 cm^{-1}). It displays similar low wavenumber features but
343 also clearly shows a peak at $\sim 1080 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ consistent with plagioclase and common to Wishstone
344 Subclass (Fig. 4). Consequently, this rock more clearly links Keystone Subclass spectrally to
345 Wishstone Subclass. It also suggests that the lack of this feature in other members of Keystone
346 Subclass may be due to masking effects of dust and soil contaminants present among the rough
347 textural elements of these rocks. Six examples of Keystone targets are shown in Figure 5.

348 **Keel Subclass.** Intermediate in alteration between Watchtower and Keystone Subclasses
349 as determined from MB results (Morris et al. 2008), Keel Subclass was first encountered at the
350 Jibsheet Ridge outcrop on sol 481 where two targets were measured with the IDD instruments.
351 Two more examples were measured with the IDD instruments on the Husband Hill summit
352 (Hillary) and one at the Kansas outcrop east of the summit (Fig. 1). All IDD measurements of
353 Keel Subclass were made on outcrops.

354 Mini-TES observed the Keel target, which serves as the type example. It shares features of
355 both Wishstone and Watchtower Subclasses, most notably with recognizable plagioclase features
356 producing a peak at $\sim 1080 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and a narrow trough at $\sim 540 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ (Fig. 5d). The region < 600
357 cm^{-1} displays a broad negative slope similar to Watchtower Subclass (see below) but with weak
358 features superimposed. In some cases, an inflection at $\sim 470 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ typical of this class is a fully
359 resolved local minimum. We used the broad negative slope and the presence of a recognizable

360 plagioclase feature at $\sim 540 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, even where it is just an inflection point, to classify Mini-TES
361 targets as Keel Subclass. Forty examples were observed, dominated by outcrop targets of the
362 Hillary summit region, with additional outcrop examples on Jibsheet Ridge and Larry's Outcrop,
363 and a float rock example in the vicinity of the Voltaire outcrop (Fig. 1; Appendix Table 4). Six
364 examples of Keel Subclass are shown in Figure 5.

365 To the east of the summit is a flat-lying outcrop known as Kansas (Fig. 1) that was
366 classified as Keel Subclass based on APXS/MB measurements (Ming et al. 2008). Although
367 very dusty, the outcrop had portions clean enough to reveal features other than dust in Mini-TES
368 spectra. Three targets (including Lousewort in Fig. 5) present features that are most similar to
369 Keel Subclass although with some differences at the lowest wavenumbers (Fig. 4d). Because of
370 the marginal spectral quality due to dust and the limited exposure, we grouped these targets into
371 the Keel Subclass rather than identifying a new subclass.

372 **Watchtower Subclass.** Four examples of Watchtower Subclass were measured with the
373 IDD instruments, all on the Larry's Lookout/Larry's Outcrop part of the feature known as
374 Cumberland Ridge adjacent to the Tennessee Valley (Fig. 1). Mini-TES measured Watchtower
375 rock, which serves as the type example. A strongly negative slope in emissivity with no
376 recognizable plagioclase features dominates the range $< 600 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and distinguishes the
377 Watchtower Subclass (Fig. 5e). However, a weak emissivity peak near 1080 cm^{-1} likely is
378 attributable to plagioclase. There are 25 targets that show the spectral features of the type
379 example, most of which occur in outcrop at Larry's Lookout/Larry's Outcrop and Jibsheet Ridge
380 (Appendix Table 5). Six examples are shown in Figure 5. No examples of Watchtower Subclass
381 have been recognized farther up Husband Hill or beyond, making it the most spatially confined
382 of the Wishstone-Watchtower suite.

383 **Bruce: A Candidate Watchtower Subclass end-member.** Among the rocks observed by
384 Mini-TES and Pancam on Husband Hill is one whose spectrum qualifies as Watchtower
385 Subclass based on its similar low wavenumber characteristics, but that also displays distinctive
386 features that set it apart. Named after Mount Everest explorer Charles Bruce, it occurs as an
387 angular piece of float rock with a maximum length of ~40 cm near the Hillary outcrop on the
388 Husband Hill summit (Fig. 1). It is notably dark and relatively dust-free, with a vaguely striated
389 surface texture that is similar to that observed on other Hillary rocks (Fig. 7). Its minimal dust
390 cover, warm surface temperature (~278 K), and late afternoon acquisition time (16:20) provided
391 optimal measurement conditions, yielding a high quality spectrum well suited to detailed
392 analysis. It displays the strongly negative slope in emissivity at low wavenumbers common to
393 Watchtower Subclass but includes a distinct, relatively broad minimum centered at ~ 460 cm⁻¹
394 and weak peaks at ~1080 and ~1150 cm⁻¹ that are above the noise level, identified as 1-sigma
395 variations of the 200 individual spectra in the observation (Fig. 4f).

396 Bruce most closely resembles another Watchtower Subclass spectrum from a minimally
397 dusty float rock named Cadge on Larry's Outcrop (Figs. 5 and 8). This similarity appears to
398 provide a spectral link between the Bruce float rock and materials comprising Larry's
399 Lookout/Outcrop, which hosts the Watchtower Subclass type-example. No IDD measurements
400 were acquired on Bruce. The range of spectral variations evident in the Watchtower Subclass,
401 represented by the Watchtower type example and Cadge in Figure 8, appears to show a trend
402 toward the features of Bruce, which may indicate that it is a spectral end-member. Given that the
403 chemistry and mineralogy of Watchtower Subclass rocks have been shown to be indicative of
404 substantial alteration (e.g., Hurowitz et al. 2006), Bruce may be an alteration end-member.
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RESULTS: MINERALOGY AND ALTERATION CHARACTERISTICS

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Previous work demonstrated an alteration trend beginning with the least altered Wishstone Class followed by Keystone, Keel, and Watchtower Subclasses (Hurowitz et al. 2006; Ming et al. 2006; Morris et al. 2006). This trend also is evident in Mini-TES spectra as shown most clearly in a plot of the average of the best examples from each subclass (Fig. 9). The best examples are those spectra that display the greatest spectral contrast and a relatively strong $\sim 667\text{ cm}^{-1}$ atmospheric CO_2 absorption feature indicative of a target much warmer than the atmosphere (Ruff et al. 2006). Under these conditions, the emission from optically thin surface dust is minimized. Although the emission of the rock is still modulated by the dust, the rock's emissivity features are more discernible than when dust emission dominates. The average spectrum of the new M80 Subclass and the candidate Watchtower spectral end-member Bruce also are included in Figure 9. Because the Keystone Subclass rocks are substantially dust contaminated, the original average spectrum is shown along with one incorporating a dust correction. In this case, we found that subtracting 10% of optically thick surface dust is sufficient to remove the recognizable dust features at high wavenumbers. It is this version that was used in subsequent analyses.

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The alteration trend evident in the Mini-TES spectra is manifested as a loss of the recognizable plagioclase features in the low wavenumber range ($<600\text{ cm}^{-1}$) with the development of an increasingly negative slope. In the middle wavenumber range ($\sim 800\text{-}1250\text{ cm}^{-1}$), there is a trend toward a relatively symmetric U- or V-shaped broad emissivity minimum. The spectrum of Bruce appears to be a culmination of these spectral trends, supporting the idea that it could be an alteration end-member.

429 Application of FATT to the various subclasses did not identify any independently varying
430 components within the subclasses, unlike that observed in the study of Adirondack class olivine
431 basalts (Hamilton and Ruff 2012). However, analysis of the entire Wishstone-Watchtower series
432 resulted in some interesting and unexpected insights. Four plagioclase target spectra with a
433 compositional range of An₄₈ to An₆₃ are the best modeled targets of any of the primary igneous
434 phases in the library (Fig. 10a). The quality of fit is inferior to that produced by linear least
435 squares modeling, but this simply means that plagioclase in isolation is not varying across all
436 subclasses. Instead, the recurrence of essentially the same spectral shape recovered from the
437 plagioclase target spectra is perhaps an indication of a dominant feldspar-like spectral component
438 that is independently varying. This is consistent with linear least squares results described in
439 subsequent sections. Other target spectra with similar quality of fit include K-rich obsidian glass
440 and two zeolites that resemble it. As with the feldspar targets, the recovered shapes are not
441 identical to the target spectra, but they are suggestive of a higher SiO₂ (>~55 wt%) amorphous
442 component based on the position and shape of the two emissivity band minima (Fig. 10b).

443 Target spectra of natural and synthetic basaltic glasses and maskelynite (shocked feldspar
444 glass) recovered spectral shapes suggestive of a lower SiO₂ (<~55 wt%) amorphous component
445 (Fig. 10c). The spectra of the lower silica component are distinguishable from those of the
446 higher silica component in several ways (Fig 11a): 1) the Si-O stretching band minimum is at
447 ~990 cm⁻¹ in the lower silica spectra versus ~1075 cm⁻¹ in the higher silica recovered spectra, 2)
448 the Si-O stretching band shape in the lower silica recovered spectra is broader than that in the
449 higher silica recovered spectra, and 3) the Si-O bending band minima exhibit notably different
450 shapes, with the lower silica variant having a broader, asymmetric minimum without a
451 distinctive maximum at 400 cm⁻¹ and the higher silica variant displaying a narrower, relatively

452 symmetric minimum with a maximum at $\sim 400\text{ cm}^{-1}$. Similar trends have been observed in
453 spectra of laboratory silicate glasses having variable SiO_2 wt% (Minitti and Hamilton 2010).

454 Finally, it is worth noting that the recovered lower silica spectral shape cannot be
455 reproduced by a mixture of the plagioclase-like and higher silica spectra. However, a simple
456 additive spectral mixture of equal fractions of the lower and higher silica spectral shapes yields a
457 spectrum that is similar to the Bruce spectrum (Fig. 11b). This lends support both to the FATT
458 modeling results and that Bruce is a possible spectral end-member. The two recovered spectral
459 shapes thus suggest that among the full suite of Mini-TES rock classes are possibly two
460 mineralogical components that vary independently and resemble amorphous silicates of differing
461 SiO_2 content.

462 **Wishstone Subclass mineralogy**

463 We applied linear least squares modeling to the best average Wishstone Subclass spectrum
464 using the NNLS linear retrieval algorithm of Rogers and Aharonson (2008). The spectral results
465 are shown in Fig. 12a with spectral components identified in Table 2. Although the overall fit is
466 good, it is important to recognize that even minor misfit portions can be recognized as
467 misidentified components (Rogers and Aharonson 2008). One example is a weak emissivity
468 peak near 1140 cm^{-1} in the model that is stronger and shifted to lower wavenumber than one in
469 the Wishstone Subclass spectrum. None of the modeled spectral components displays a feature
470 in this position. Instead, it arises from the modeled anhydrite component where a steep increase
471 in emissivity starting at $\sim 1160\text{ cm}^{-1}$ combines with decreasing or flat emissivity of most other
472 components (Fig. 12a). Rerunning the algorithm without anhydrite results in the disappearance
473 of the $\sim 1140\text{ cm}^{-1}$ peak but introduces new misfit at higher wavenumbers due to a near doubling
474 of the kieserite component that is the next best spectral substitute for anhydrite. This suggests

475 either that the available sulfate end-member spectra are insufficient to properly model sulfate(s)
476 in the Wishstone Subclass spectrum or that sulfates are substituting for some other spectral
477 component in this region, as was considered in previous work by Hamilton and Ruff (2012).

478 Other areas of misfit in the model (Fig. 12a) indicate additional inaccuracies in the modeled
479 components. Only plagioclase is identified confidently, in part because of feature matching as
480 shown in Figure 3. Two separate plagioclase components are modeled, bytownite at 25% and
481 oligoclase at 12% (Table 2). These may represent two distinct phases or perhaps zoned
482 plagioclase (Milam et al. 2004). Bytownite has a modeled uncertainty of $\pm 15\%$, which is high
483 relative to its modeled abundance. This may be an indication that the available bytownite
484 spectrum is not optimal.

485 **M80 Subclass mineralogy**

486 Because of the pronounced spectral similarities between M80 Subclass and Wishstone
487 Subclass, a good overall fit is achieved using nearly 50% of the average Wishstone Subclass
488 spectrum in the model (Fig. 12b and Table 3). However the key features distinguishing the two
489 subclasses are not well fit. Weak emissivity peaks near 900 cm^{-1} and 520 cm^{-1} are not present in
490 the model, an indication that the end-member library is insufficient to fully model the data.
491 Also, the model introduces more pronounced plagioclase-related peaks at ~ 490 and 455 cm^{-1}
492 where they are muted in the data (Fig. 12b). A second run of the algorithm without the
493 Wishstone Subclass end-member resulted in a 70% increase in RMS error (Table 3). The key
494 distinguishing spectral features of M80 Subclass again were not properly modeled. Although the
495 model results are insufficient to confidently identify the mineral components that distinguish
496 M80 from Wishstone Subclass, plagioclase likely remains the dominant component. A reduction

497 in olivine is evident based on visual inspection (reduced absorption near 900 cm^{-1}) and model
498 results (Table 3).

499 **Keystone Subclass mineralogy**

500 The notably flat emissivity at low wavenumbers ($<550\text{ cm}^{-1}$) that distinguishes Keystone
501 Subclass from the others is well fit in a model dominated by the Wishstone Subclass average
502 spectrum ($\sim 41\%$) followed by two basaltic glass spectra totaling $\sim 11\%$ (Fig. 12c and Table 4).
503 Two sulfate spectra totaling 7% round out the largest components, excluding the non-rock
504 spectral components. A second run of the algorithm without the Wishstone Subclass end-
505 member resulted in a $\sim 70\%$ increase in RMS error. The anhydrite related erroneous peak near
506 1140 cm^{-1} is present in this second model along with degradation in the quality of the fit at low
507 wavenumbers (Fig. 12c). The good fit of this low wavenumber range achieved using the
508 Wishstone end-member and the two glass components suggests that the difference between
509 Wishstone and Keystone Subclasses is due to the addition of one or more components that
510 resemble basaltic glass. Basaltic glass has a relatively deep and featureless absorption centered
511 at $\sim 450\text{ cm}^{-1}$ that combines with the plagioclase features of Wishstone Subclass to create the
512 characteristic shape of Keystone Subclass in this spectral range (Fig. 12c).

513 **Keel Subclass mineralogy**

514 The modeling of Keel Subclass resulted in a remarkably good fit, the best among any of the
515 spectral classes presented in this work (Fig. 12d). Despite the visually disparate spectral features
516 between Wishstone and Keel, the former still appears in the model as the dominant component at
517 23% (Table 5). This model is the first case where the Bruce spectrum appears as a major
518 component, at 19%. Basaltic glass is the next largest component at 5% (excluding non-rock
519 components), which because of its relatively high spectral contrast, makes a substantive

520 contribution to the fit; likewise for the modeled oligoclase at 4%. It is perhaps noteworthy that
521 11 of the modeled components occur at <1%, so the quality of the fit is due in part to the sum of
522 many minor additional components. However, we interpret the substantive components as an
523 indication that Wishstone Subclass could be the parent rock type of Keel Subclass with alteration
524 represented by a Bruce-like spectral component augmented by lesser components.

525 A second run of the algorithm without the Wishstone and Bruce end-members resulted in a
526 ~75% increase in RMS error (Table 5). However, this is a case where the fit of the first model
527 run is so good that even with the substantial increase in RMS error of the second run, the quality
528 of the fit is still good (Fig. 12d). The spectrally dominant components of this second run,
529 excluding the non-rock components, are basaltic glass, oligoclase, and anhydrite. Although
530 anhydrite has a modeled abundance of only 2%, its high spectral contrast results in a substantial
531 contribution even at this low abundance. The modeled shocked anorthite component has higher
532 abundance (8%), but with its low contrast, is nearly indiscernible at this abundance. In this run,
533 Keel Subclass presents the plagioclase-rich aspect of Wishstone Subclass combined with a
534 basaltic glass-like component (Table 5). Uncertainty remains about the robustness of sulfate
535 identification (cf. Hamilton and Ruff 2012).

536 **Watchtower Subclass mineralogy**

537 Although Watchtower Subclass is spectrally similar to Keel Subclass, the quality of the
538 model fit is inferior, most notably at low wavenumbers (<550 cm⁻¹)(Fig. 12e). Wishstone
539 Subclass is present as a component in the best-fit model at 30%, followed by two basaltic glass
540 components totaling 21% (Table 6). A higher-silica K-rich glass component is the next most
541 abundant at 3% (excluding the non-rock components) but with its high-contrast spectrum,
542 provides a substantive contribution to the fit even at this low abundance. The Bruce component

543 is modeled at a comparable value, but because of its lower contrast, it makes only a small
544 contribution to the fit.

545 Removing the Wishstone and Bruce end-members from the library results in a 27%
546 increase in RMS error, a relatively small change. The quality of fit at low wavenumbers is
547 comparable to the first run, but visibly degraded at higher wavenumbers, most notably with a
548 weak emissivity peak near 1140 cm^{-1} (Fig. 12e) attributable to the high-contrast anhydrite
549 component (4%) as described above. Two basaltic glass components totaling 25% dominate the
550 model, with oligoclase following at 8% (Table 6). Although saponite is the next highest at 5%, it
551 is spectrally a low contrast phase such that its identification cannot be considered robust at this
552 abundance. Instead, we interpret the basaltic glass components as proxies for one or more
553 amorphous alteration phases, given that Watchtower Subclass is recognized as the most altered
554 among the rocks measured with the APXS and MB instruments (Hurowitz et al. 2006; Ming et
555 al. 2006; Morris et al. 2006).

556 **Bruce mineralogy**

557 The modeling of Bruce is the only case where Wishstone Subclass is not the dominant
558 component, replaced instead by saponite at 16% (Table 7). The Wishstone component appears
559 as the fourth most abundant at 7%, but with a notably high uncertainty value of 6%. A second
560 run without Wishstone in the library resulted in a negligible increase in RMS error ($\sim 1\%$). In
561 both cases, the overall fit is good but in detail there are clear examples of misfit that indicate an
562 end-member library insufficient to capture one or more components (Fig. 12f). Key features of
563 Bruce that are misfit by the models include: the narrow minimum of the strong V-shape centered
564 at $\sim 1025\text{ cm}^{-1}$; a weak narrow peak at $\sim 1150\text{ cm}^{-1}$; the nearly featureless drop in emissivity to a
565 broad minimum centered at $\sim 460\text{ cm}^{-1}$; and the adjacent peak at $\sim 415\text{ cm}^{-1}$. Both models display

566 much more fine scale structure in this low wavenumber range than is present in the Bruce
567 spectrum, which emphasizes that some of the modeled components are inaccurate.

568 The dominant modeled saponite component broadly resembles the Bruce spectrum with
569 two strong absorption features in roughly the same positions as those of Bruce (Fig. 12f). But
570 the shapes of these features are different than those of Bruce, with minima that are broader.
571 Because saponite lacks sharp spectral features akin to plagioclase for example, it is not clearly
572 recognizable visually in the Bruce spectrum. Saponite is thus a possible but not robustly
573 identified component.

574 **Summary of mineralogic results**

575 Plagioclase and various amorphous silicate phases in differing amounts are the dominant
576 spectral components of the different rock classes. Despite the recognized inaccuracies of the
577 linear least squares modeling in some cases, these major components display trends with
578 alteration as shown by the normalized values in which the dust, slope, and blackbody
579 components are removed. Table 8 tallies the changes in abundance of plagioclase and
580 amorphous silicate totals among the modeled rock classes arranged from least to most altered as
581 determined by previous MB results shown by increasing values of npOx, Fe^{3+}/Fe_T , and MAI.
582 With the exception of Bruce, modeled plagioclase abundance decreases and amorphous silicate
583 abundance increases with increasing alteration. These trends are consistent with visually
584 recognizable changes in the spectra as shown by Figure 9.

585 The modeling results do not present a clear mixing trend between Wishstone Subclass and
586 Bruce. For example, although Keel Subclass is best modeled using a combination of both,
587 Watchtower Subclass requires little of the Bruce component to achieve the best fit despite having
588 the most Bruce-like spectral characteristics in the low wavenumber range. Although Bruce does

589 not appear to be a common component of the altered subclasses, Wishstone Subclass is the
590 largest component of the best-fit models of M80, Keystone, Keel, and Watchtower Subclass
591 spectra. These results are discussed below.

592 **DISCUSSION**

593 Our results support the MB-based subdivision of Watchtower Class into three subclasses
594 (Keystone, Keel, and Watchtower)(Morris et al. 2006; Morris et al. 2008). This is noteworthy
595 given that the Keystone and Keel Subclasses were not considered separable based on APXS
596 geochemistry. Furthermore, the evidence for increasing alteration among these subclasses
597 shown by increasing values of npOx, Fe^{3+}/Fe_T , and MAI coincides with decreasing plagioclase
598 and increasing amorphous silicate abundance determined with Mini-TES (Table 8). No singular
599 amorphous silicate phase is modeled in the Mini-TES spectra. Instead, various combinations of
600 different basaltic glasses and shocked plagioclase are modeled that likely represent proxies for
601 one or more alteration phases that are not present in the spectral library. Combined with the MB
602 results, it appears that the alteration includes npOx either as a separate component or perhaps
603 attributable to the amorphous silicate component.

604 The increasing amorphous silicate component coincident with increasing alteration appears
605 to support the idea that this component results from alteration that either masked or altered the
606 plagioclase component among these rocks. Given that Wishstone Subclass, with its strong
607 plagioclase spectral features, is the largest component of the best-fit models of all the subclasses
608 except Bruce, one interpretation is that these subclasses represent Wishstone-like starting
609 lithology that has been increasingly altered. An alternative hypothesis is that the Wishstone-
610 Watchtower series represents plagioclase-rich pyroclastic rocks with variable amounts of
611 primary basaltic glass. Over time, the glass is altered while the plagioclase is largely unaltered.

612 This would lead to the appearance of increasing alteration with decreasing plagioclase
613 abundance.

614 Observations from elsewhere in Gusev crater provide clues that may help to distinguish
615 between the two hypotheses. A rock known as Mazatzal on the rim of Bonneville crater visited
616 by Spirit on the plains adjacent to the Columbia Hills displays unambiguous evidence of a
617 coating attributed to alteration (e.g., Squyres et al. 2004; Haskin et al. 2005). Here, all the rocks
618 appear to be olivine-rich Adirondack Class basalt (e.g., Squyres et al. 2004; Ruff et al. 2006;
619 Hamilton and Ruff 2012). The thin (<1 mm) coating has notably similar Mini-TES spectral
620 characteristics as those of Keel and Watchtower Subclasses (Fig. 13). The coating is sufficiently
621 opaque in the spectral range of Mini-TES to completely mask the strong, low wavenumber
622 features of the dominant olivine component in the underlying Adirondack Class basalt (Hamilton
623 and Ruff 2012). Basaltic glass is the dominant modeled spectral component of the Mazatzal
624 coating although it was viewed as a proxy for an alteration component atypical of terrestrial
625 weathering rinds (Hamilton and Ruff 2012). Comparable coatings are not evident in images of
626 Keel and Watchtower Subclass rocks, but the Mazatzal coating demonstrates a style of alteration
627 in which the spectral characteristics of the host rock are masked by an amorphous silicate of
628 basaltic composition. Perhaps alteration of Wishstone-like rocks has resulted in progressive
629 masking of their spectral characteristics by a comparable amorphous silicate component.

630 The FATT-recovered spectral shapes provide additional insight into the nature of the
631 amorphous component. The spectral shapes that resemble higher and lower SiO₂ amorphous
632 components (Figs. 10b,c and 11a) may indicate two separate amorphous (or dominantly
633 amorphous) components in the Wishstone-Watchtower series. Bruce may represent a
634 combination of these amorphous components that is not consistent among the other subclasses,

635 thus not modeled consistently among them. It still may represent a compositional end-member.
636 The presence of the lower SiO₂ component was recognized in previous linear least squares
637 modeling as a basaltic glass in Watchtower (Ruff et al. 2006). The presence of a higher SiO₂
638 component was not recognized previously.

639 Just as informative as the spectral shapes that were recovered from FATT are the shapes
640 that were not recovered. Target spectra representing pyroxenes, olivines, sulfates, and oxides did
641 not result in the recovery of similar shapes, suggesting that these phases, which have been
642 inferred on the basis of MB and APXS data (Ming et al. 2006; Morris et al. 2006), do not vary
643 independently across the Wishstone-Watchtower series. In other words, although these phases
644 likely are present, they vary roughly in unison with other phases.

645 **IMPLICATIONS**

646 Our results demonstrate that the alteration of Wishstone Class rocks is manifested as an
647 increase of an amorphous silicate component, as shown by Mini-TES measurements, and
648 increased Fe³⁺ in the form of npOx, as shown by MB measurements. The oxidative weathering
649 of rocks in the McMurdo Dry Valleys of Antarctica has been shown to produce similar
650 manifestations (Salvatore et al. 2013), making oxidative weathering a candidate process.
651 However, this process does not result in the notably high values of Fe³⁺/Fe_T and npOx such as
652 those seen among the Wishstone-Watchtower rocks. An alternative process involving acid fog
653 has been suggested on the basis of textural variations among the subclasses (Cole 2015).
654 However, laboratory experiments intended to mimic acid fog alteration produced phyllosilicate
655 and/or opaline silica phases (Tosca et al. 2004), which have not been identified with confidence
656 in our work.

657 We hypothesize that a water-limited alteration process is possible in the extreme aridity and
658 cold of Mars that is sufficient to depolymerize silicate tetrahedral networks but insufficient to
659 allow significant cation mobility. On Earth, silicate depolymerization is recognized as a rate-
660 limiting step in natural and experimental weathering studies (e.g., Banfield and Barker 1994;
661 Banfield et al. 1995), which perhaps leads to persistent amorphous silicate phases in the Martian
662 environment. The apparent absence of any phyllosilicate or opaline silica phases among the
663 alteration products supports the concept of limited cation mobility and is perhaps consistent with
664 a form of “cation conservative” alteration as has been described for other rocks in Gusev crater
665 (Hurowitz and Fischer 2014).

666 Viewed in this context, the results of the first XRD measurements on Mars by the CheMin
667 instrument on the Curiosity rover become more significant. Samples of drifted soil from the
668 Rocknest sand shadow in Gale crater have a crystalline component dominated by a plagioclase
669 phase ($\sim\text{An}_{57}$) with no recognized crystalline secondary silicates but as much as 45 wt%
670 amorphous material that is best modeled by basaltic glass (Bish et al. 2013; Blake et al. 2013).
671 Those investigators suggested that the amorphous material was not necessarily basaltic glass but
672 could instead be analogous to the substantial abundances of npOx in Gusev crater soils. A true
673 basaltic glass component is unlikely based on chemical constraints that appear to preclude such
674 composition (Dehouck et al. 2014) and that support indications of other amorphous alteration
675 products (McAdam et al. 2014; Sklute et al. 2015). The alteration of Wishstone-Watchtower
676 rocks manifests as a lack of phyllosilicates but with abundant npOx associated with an
677 amorphous component that spectrally resembles basaltic glass, characteristics apparently in
678 common with Rocknest sand. The presence of such comparable material in widely separated

679 locations suggests that the style of alteration encountered by the Spirit rover on Husband Hill is
680 not limited to this location, but may be common elsewhere on the surface of Mars.

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688

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862

863 **Figure Captions**

864 **Figure 1.** Oblique view of Husband Hill looking south. Red line indicates the traverse path of the
865 Spirit rover entering the scene from the right. Base image and topography are from the High
866 Resolution Imaging Experiment (HiRISE; PSP_001777_1650) and along with the traverse path,
867 were rendered using the Mars feature of Google Earth.

868 **Figure 2.** Examples of the spectral effects of optically thin surface dust on rocks. (a) The
869 Wishstone subclass rock called La Brea was observed on three different sols at different times of
870 day producing variations in spectral contrast and band shape. The white circle (inset) represents
871 the approximate field of view (FOV) of Mini-TES with a diameter of ~12 cm shown on a
872 Pancam approximate true color (ATC; Savransky and Bell III 2004; Bell et al. 2006) image
873 (subframe of P2574 acquired on sol 343). All ATC images are available from
874 http://marswatch.astro.cornell.edu/pancam_instrument/true_color.html. Mini-TES spectra are
875 from sol 340, P3816 (black), sol 341, P3820, (red), and sol 347, P3832, (green). (b) Spectra from
876 a Wishstone subclass rock with the two Mini-TES targets called Orange Grove (black spectrum,
877 sol 352, P3842) and Colorado (red spectrum, sol 352, P3843) show pronounced distortions due
878 to the spectral effects of surface dust, most notable in the ~800 to 1300 cm^{-1} range. The Mini-
879 TES FOV circles (colors match spectra) with a diameter of ~15 cm are shown on a Pancam ATC
880 image (subframe of P2589 acquired on sol 352). The grey box in each plot indicates the
881 approximate spectral range over which atmospheric CO_2 features are most evident.

882 **Figure 3.** Wishstone Subclass spectrum (black; average of the 10 best Mini-TES spectra)
883 compared with scaled and offset laboratory spectra of feldspars and a basalt sample from Hole in
884 the Ground maar in Oregon collected by Aileen Yingst and Mariek Schmidt. Intermediate

885 plagioclase (~An₃₀₋₆₀) displays a set of features (vertical lines) recognizable in Wishstone
886 Subclass.

887 **Figure 4.** Mini-TES spectra grouped by spectral classification. (a) Red spectrum is from the
888 rock Wishstone and the green spectrum is the average of all 59 examples (gray). (b) Red
889 spectrum is from the rock M80 and the green spectrum is the average of all 55 examples (gray).
890 Vertical lines highlight features described in the text. (c) Red spectrum is from the Keystone
891 outcrop (target Madam) and the green spectrum is the average of all 13 examples (gray). The
892 blue spectrum is from the float rock named Ian Clough described in the text. Vertical lines
893 highlight features described in the text. (d) Red spectrum is from the Keel outcrop and the green
894 spectrum is the average of all 40 examples (gray). The three blue spectra are slight variants of
895 Keel Subclass from the outcrop known as Kansas. Vertical lines highlight features described in
896 the text. (e) Red spectrum is from the rock Watchtower and the green spectrum is the average of
897 all 25 examples (gray). (f) Single Bruce spectrum (red) with 1-sigma variations (gray).

898 **Figure 5.** Pancam approximate true color images of examples of rocks or outcrops from each
899 spectral subclass. White scale bar is ~15 cm in all images. Sol number and product identifier for
900 each image is shown below.

901 **Figure 6.** Watchtower rock before (left) and after (right) the grinding operation by the Rock
902 Abrasion Tool (RAT). The RAT operation appears to have caused small soil avalanches as
903 shown by black arrows and was the last grind because of the resulting heavy wear on the RAT
904 grind heads. Pancam approximate true color images are shown from sol 409 (left) and 419
905 (right). RAT “hole” is ~4 cm in diameter.

906 **Figure 7.** Pancam approximate true color image of the possible Watchtower end-member called
907 Bruce (sol 617 P2597). Maximum dimension is ~40 cm.

908 **Figure 8.** Mini-TES spectra of Bruce with Watchtower rock and the Watchtower Subclass rock
909 called Cadge (scaled by 65%). Bruce may represent a spectral end-member of the Watchtower
910 Subclass.

911 **Figure 9.** Mini-TES subclass spectral averages showing variations from least to most altered
912 rocks (top to bottom). Vertical lines highlight features associated with plagioclase that are most
913 evident in Wishstone. Cyan Keystone spectrum is uncorrected for surface dust.

914 **Figure 10.** Target spectra (black) and modeled results (red) using FATT-derived eigenvectors
915 from the full Wishstone-Watchtower series: (a) four plagioclase feldspars (An_{48} to An_{63}); (b)
916 obsidian and two zeolites; and (c) natural and synthetic basaltic glass, and maskelynite.

917 **Figure 11.** Results from FATT modeling of Mini-TES spectra. (a) Averages of the modeled
918 results shown in Figure 10. (b) Comparison of the measured spectrum of Bruce (red) with a
919 simple additive mixture of 50% of the FATT-modeled higher silica component and 50% of the
920 lower silica component shown in (a).

921 **Figure 12.** Mini-TES measured (black) and linear least squares modeled spectra of the different
922 spectral subclasses, fit between 1350 and 380 cm^{-1} , with the region of atmospheric CO_2
923 excluded. Model 1 spectra are shown in red and offset in green; model 2 spectra are in blue with
924 an offset. Vertical lines highlight misfit features described in the text. Purple and brown
925 laboratory spectra in (a) represent the modeled abundance of anhydrite and plagioclase,
926 respectively. Purple laboratory spectra in (c) and (f) represent the modeled abundance of basaltic
927 glass and saponite, respectively.

928 **Figure 13.** Comparison of the Mini-TES spectrum of the coating on Mazatzal rock from the
929 Gusev crater plains and those of the most altered subclasses of Wishstone-Watchtower rocks.
930 All spectra have been corrected for dust, slope, and blackbody components.
931

Table 1. Spectra used in FATT and linear least squares (deconvolution) modeling

Category	Name ^a	Category	Name	
Plagioclase feldspar	Albite WAR-0612	Phosphate	Wavellite ML-P7	
	Oligoclase WAR-0234		Meta-variscite ML-P4	
	Andesine BUR-240		Pyromorphite ML-P3	
	Labradorite WAR-4524	Oxide	Apatite ML-P1	
	Labradorite WAR- RGAND01		Black Hematite Coating ^h	
	Bytownite WAR-1384		Magnetite Synthetic Packed Powder MTS5 ^h	
	Anorthite BUR-340		Goethite Synthetic Packed Powder GTS2 ^h	
Pyroxene	Diopside WAR-6474	Secondary silicate	Ilmenite WAR-4119	
	Diopside NMNH-80819		Serpentine HS-8.4B	
	Hedenbergite, manganooan NMNH-R11524		Serpentine BUR-1690	
	Hedenbergite NMNH- 16168		Kaolinite KGa-1b granular	
	Pigeonite Lindsley Wo ₁₀ En ₃₆ Fs ₅₄ 33,34 ^b		Halloysite WAR-5102 solid	
	Enstatite NMNH-R14440		Saponite ASU-SAP01 granular	
	Bronzite average		Ca-montmorillonite STx-1 solid	
	Hypersthene NMNH- B18247		Na-montmorillonite SWy-2 granular	
	Olivine		Forsterite BUR-3720A	Nontronite WAR-5108 granular
			KI 3115 Fo ₆₈ ^c	Fe-smectite SWa-1 solid
KI 3362 Fo ₆₀ ^c		Illite IMt-2 granular		
KI 3373 Fo ₃₅ ^c		Heulandite		
KI 3008 Fo ₁₀ ^c		Stilbite		
Fayalite WAR-RGFAY01		Beidellite Sbd1 < 0.2 mic ⁱ		
Glass		Silica glass ^d	Sulfate	Nontronite Nau-1 < 0.2 mic ⁱ
	K-rich obsidian glass ^d	Nontronite Nau-2 < 0.2 mic ⁱ		
	Quenched basalt ^d	Hectorite SHca < 0.2 mic ⁱ		
	RVM Mars glass ^e	Montmorillonite Swy-1 < 0.2 mic ⁱ		
	Basalt glass HWKV340A: Matte uneven surface ^e	Saponite <0.2 mic ⁱ		
	Glassy black flat surface ^e	Other		Gypsum var. Alabaster ML-S11
	Rind spot			Anhydrite ML-S9
	Maskelynite ASU-7591			Celestite ML-S13
	Shocked An 22.6 GPa ^g			Kieserite KIEDE1 < 1mm ^j
	Shocked An 37.5 GPa ^g			Glauberite GBYAZ1-R1 ^j
	Epsomite ^j			
	Slope			
	Gusev surface dust (thick dust) ^k			
	Average sky (thin dust 1) ^k			
	MER A dust shape (thin dust 2) ^k			
	Wishstone Subclass best average Bruce			

^aUnless otherwise noted, spectra are from the ASU TES library (Christensen et al. 2000)

^bHamilton et al. 2000 ^cHamilton 2010 ^dWyatt et al. 2001 ^eR. V. Morris personal communication ^gJohnson et al. 2002 ^hGlotch et al., 2004 ⁱMichalski et al. 2006 ^jProvided by A. Baldrige ^kHamilton and Ruff 2012

933 **Table 2.** Wishstone Subclass spectral deconvolution results

End-member	Abundance (%)	Uncertainty (\pm %)	Normalized (%)
Bytownite WAR-1384 177	25	15	25
Pigeonite	13	4	13
Oligoclase BUR-3680 48	12	5	12
Kieserite KIEDE1 < 1mm	11	3	11
Basalt Glassy Black Flat	9	3	9
Olivine KI 3362 Fo60	5	2	6
Anhydrite ML-S9	5	1	5
Kaolinite KGa-1b granular 185	4	6	4
Olivine KI 3008 Fo10	3	2	3
Meta-variscite ML-P4 95	3	1	3
Pyromorphite ML-P3 77	3	3	3
Average enstatite	2	1	2
Apatite ML-P1 86	1	1	1
Glauberite GBYAZ1-R1	1	1	1
Other (1)	<1		<1
Thick dust	17	2	0
Thin dust 1	6	4	0
Thin dust 2	4	1	0
Slope	33	6	0
Blackbody	-47	10	0
Total	111		100
RMS	0.207		

935 **Table 3.** M80 Subclass spectral deconvolution results

End-member	Abundance (%)	Uncertainty (\pm %)	Normalized (%)
Model 1			
Wishstone best average	49	4	58
Oligoclase BUR-3680 48	5	6	6
Pigeonite	5	3	5
Labradorite WAR-RGAND01 222	4	2	5
Oligoclase WAR-0234 22	4	6	5
Average bronzite	4	2	5
Basalt Glassy Black Flat	4	2	4
Wavellite ML-P7 73	3	1	3
Kieserite KIEDE1 < 1mm	3	1	3
Gypsum var. Alabaster ML-S11	2	1	2
Other (8)	<1		4
Thick dust	7	1	0
Thin dust 2	3	1	0
Slope	15	3	0
Thin dust 1	1	2	0
Blackbody	-7	4	0
Total	101		100
RMS	0.070		
Model 2			
Oligoclase BUR-3680 48	14	3	21
Pigeonite	11	4	17
Labradorite WAR-RGAND01 222	9	3	13
Kieserite KIEDE1 < 1mm	8	2	12
Basalt Glassy Black Flat	7	1	11
Olivine KI 3115 Fo68	3	1	4
Average enstatite	2	2	4
Average bronzite	2	4	3
Anhydrite ML-S9	2	1	3
Meta-variscite ML-P4 95	2	1	3
Glauberite GBYAZ1-R1	2	1	2
Pyromorphite ML-P3 77	1	2	2
Other (6)	<1		5
Thick dust	15	1	0
Thin dust 1	8	3	0
Thin dust 2	3	1	0
Slope	38	3	0
Blackbody	-19	5	0
Total	111		100
RMS	0.119		

938 **Table 4.** Keystone Subclass spectral deconvolution results

End-member	Abundance (%)	Uncertainty (\pm %)	Normalized (%)
Model 1			
Wishstone best average	41	2	64
Quenched Basalt	8	4	12
Kieserite KIEDE1 < 1mm	4	1	7
Basalt Glassy Black Flat	3	2	5
Celestite ML-S13	3	1	4
Pigeonite	2	2	3
Other (8)	<1		4
Thick dust	7	1	0
Thin dust 1	0	0	0
Thin dust 2	0	0	0
Slope	13	2	0
Blackbody	17	3	0
Total	101		100
RMS	0.076		
Model 2			
Kieserite KIEDE1 < 1mm	10	2	19
Basalt Glassy Black Flat	8	2	17
Pigeonite	6	3	12
Bytownite WAR-1384 177	6	9	12
Shocked An 22.6 GPa	5	11	9
Oligoclase BUR-3680 48	5	3	9
Anhydrite ML-S9	2	1	4
Meta-variscite ML-P4 95	2	1	3
Olivine KI 3008 Fo10	1	1	3
Pyromorphite ML-P3 77	1	2	2
Olivine KI 3362 Fo60	1	3	2
Apatite ML-P1 86	1	0	2
Other (4)	<1		5
Thick dust	13	1	0
Thin dust 1	4	2	0
Slope	28	3	0
Blackbody	10	6	0
Total	104		100
RMS	0.130		

941 **Table 5.** Keel Subclass spectral deconvolution results

End-member	Abundance (%)	Uncertainty (\pm %)	Normalized (%)
Model 1			
Wishstone best average	23	3	35
Bruce	19	5	29
Basalt Glassy Black Flat	5	1	8
Oligoclase BUR-3680 48	4	1	6
Maskelynite (chunk) ASU-7591	2	2	4
Nontronite WAR-5108 granular 203	2	1	4
Andesine WAR-0024 175	2	3	3
Anhydrite ML-S9	1	0	2
Basalt Rind Spot B	1	1	2
Other (11)	<1		7
Thick dust	8	1	0
Thin dust 1	1	1	0
Thin dust 2	0	0	0
Slope	5	2	0
Blackbody	22	2	0
Total	101		100
RMS	0.034		
Model 2			
Basalt Glassy Black Flat	11	3	21
Oligoclase BUR-3680 48	10	6	20
Shocked An 22.6 GPa	8	4	16
Average bronzite	3	2	6
Pigeonite	3	2	5
Anhydrite ML-S9	2	0	5
Kieserite KIEDE1 < 1mm	2	1	4
Fe-smectite SWa-1 solid 207	2	2	4
Basalt Rind Spot B	2	2	4
Olivine KI 3362 Fo60	1	1	3
Illite IMt-2 granular 211	1	4	2
Oligoclase WAR-0234 22	1	7	2
Other (11)	<1		9
Thick dust	12	1	0
Thin dust 1	3	1	0
Thin dust 2	0	1	0
Slope	12	3	0
Blackbody	26	6	0
Total	100		100
RMS	0.060		

944 **Table 6.** Watchtower Subclass spectral deconvolution results

End-member	Abundance (%)	Uncertainty (\pm %)	Normalized (%)
Model 1			
Wishstone best average	30	5	41
Quenched Basalt	16	5	23
Basalt Glassy Black Flat	5	3	7
K-rich glass	3	3	5
Bruce	3	7	4
Nontronite WAR-5108 granular 203	2	3	3
Anhydrite ML-S9	2	1	3
Pigeonite	2	2	3
Gypsum var. Alabaster ML-S11	2	1	2
Oligoclase BUR-3680 48	1	2	2
Basalt Rind Spot B	1	3	2
Kieserite KIEDE1 < 1mm	1	1	1
Other (5)	3		5
Thick dust	12	1	0
Slope	5	4	0
Blackbody	11	7	0
Total	100		100
RMS	0.085		
Model 2			
Basalt Glassy Black Flat	13	4	21
Quenched Basalt	12	8	19
Oligoclase BUR-3680 48	8	2	13
Saponite ASU-SAP01 granular 194	5	6	9
Pigeonite	5	3	8
Anhydrite ML-S9	4	1	6
Meta-variscite ML-P4 95	3	1	4
Celestite ML-S13	3	2	4
Kieserite KIEDE1 < 1mm	3	2	4
Shocked An 22.6 GPa	2	5	3
Olivine KI 3362 Fo60	2	1	3
Average enstatite	1	1	2
Other (6)	<1		3
Thick dust	16	1	0
Thin dust 1	1	2	0
Slope	12	4	0
Blackbody	11	8	0
Total	102		100
RMS	0.108		

947 **Table 7.** Bruce spectral deconvolution results

End-member	Abundance (%)	Uncertainty (\pm %)	Normalized (%)
Model 1			
Saponite ASU-SAP01 granular 194	16	6	21
Labradorite WAR-4524 63	8	6	11
Basalt Rind Spot B	7	3	10
Wishstone best average	7	6	9
Pigeonite	5	2	7
Serpentine BUR-1690 51	5	2	7
Average bronzite	4	1	5
Bytownite WAR-1384 177	4	7	5
K-rich glass	4	3	5
Shocked An 37.5 GPa	3	4	4
Oligoclase WAR-0234 22	3	3	4
Gypsum var. Alabaster ML-S11	2	0	3
Olivine KI 3362 Fo60	2	1	3
Anhydrite ML-S9	1	1	2
Crystalline heulandite (zeo)	1	2	2
Other (2)	<1		1
Thick dust	4	1	0
Thin dust 1	3	2	0
Thin dust 2	2	1	0
Blackbody	22	5	0
Total	105		100
RMS	0.089		
Model 2			
Saponite ASU-SAP01 granular 194	17	4	23
Basalt Rind Spot B	8	2	10
Labradorite WAR-4524 63	7	6	10
Pigeonite	6	2	9
Shocked An 37.5 GPa	5	5	6
Average bronzite	4	1	6
Serpentine BUR-1690 51	4	1	5
Oligoclase WAR-0234 22	4	9	5
Bytownite WAR-1384 177	3	9	4
K-rich glass	3	3	3
Gypsum var. Alabaster ML-S11	2	1	3
KI 3362 Fo60	2	1	3
Crystalline heulandite (zeo)	2	2	3
Shocked An 22.6 GPa	2	11	3
Basalt Glassy Black Flat	2	2	3
Anhydrite ML-S9	2	1	2

Other (2)	<1		2948
Thick dust	4	1	0949
Thin dust 1	3	2	0
Thin dust 2	3	1	0
Blackbody	20	6	0
Total	105		100
RMS	0.090		

950 **Table 8.** Mineralogical trends among different rock classes from Mini-TES and MB results

Parameter	Plagioclase (%)	Amorphous Silicate ^a (%)	npOx ^b (%)	Fe ³⁺ /Fe _T ^b	MAI ^b (%)
Wishstone	37	9	17 ± 4	0.42 ± 0.09	31
M80	34	11	NA	NA	NA
Keystone	23	26	23 ± 8	0.51 ± 0.11	45
Keel	20	41	25 ± 2	0.65 ± 0.08	50
Watchtower	13	44	55 ± 14	0.88 ± 0.06	88
Bruce	19	25	NA	NA	NA

951 ^aSum of all Mini-TES modeled glass and amorphous silicate phases.

952 ^bAverages of MB results from Morris et al. (2008); see text for descriptions.

953

Figure 1.

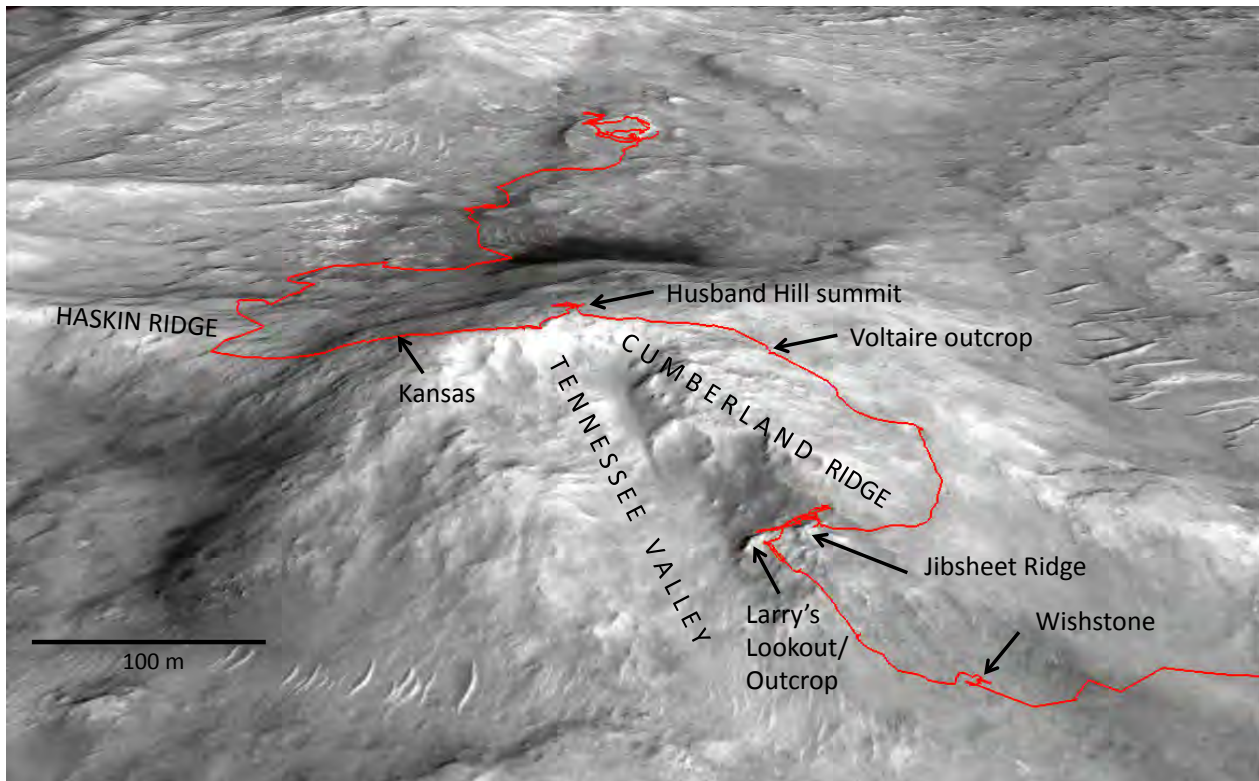


Figure 2.

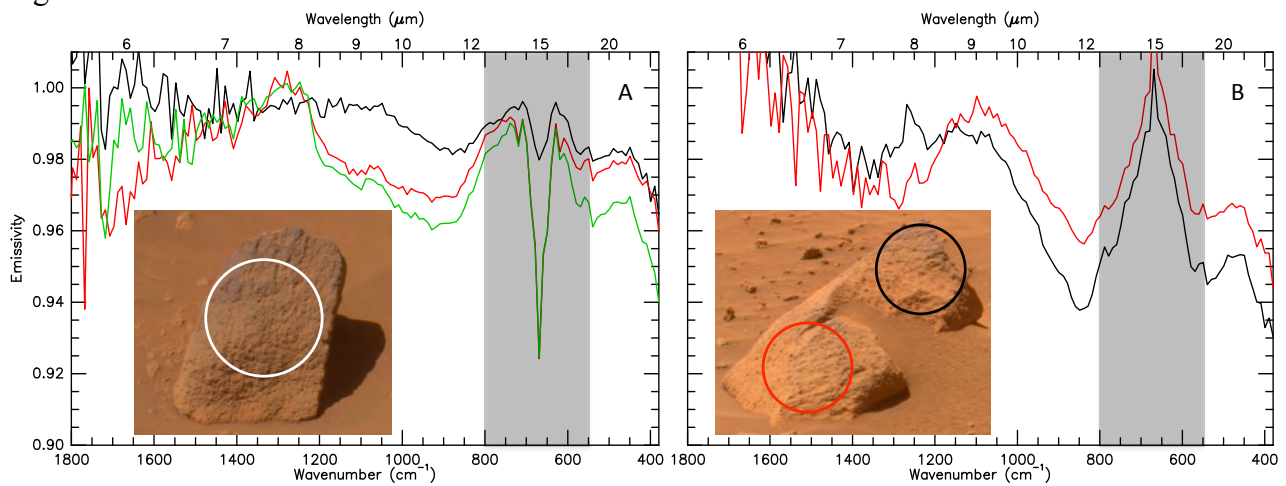


Figure 3.

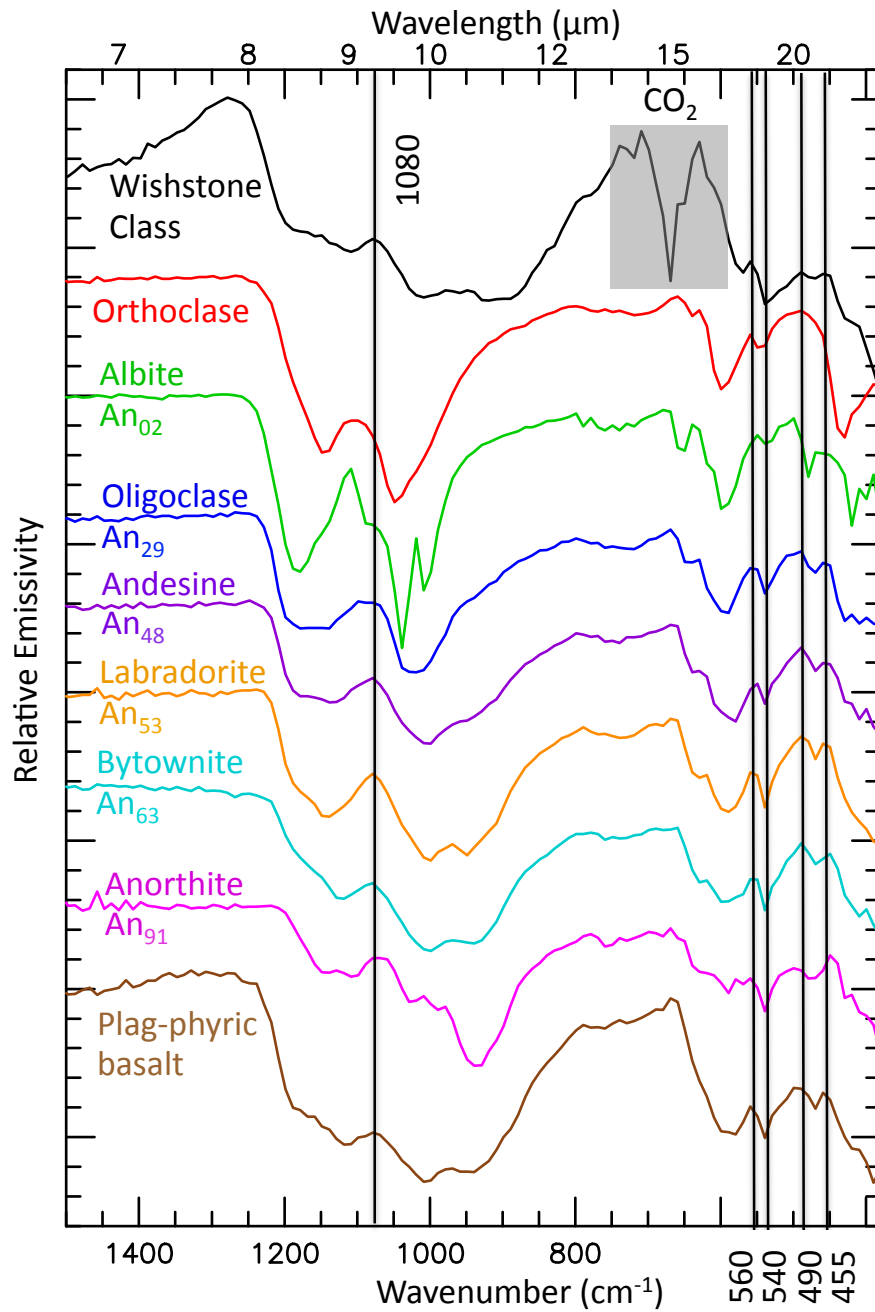


Figure 4.

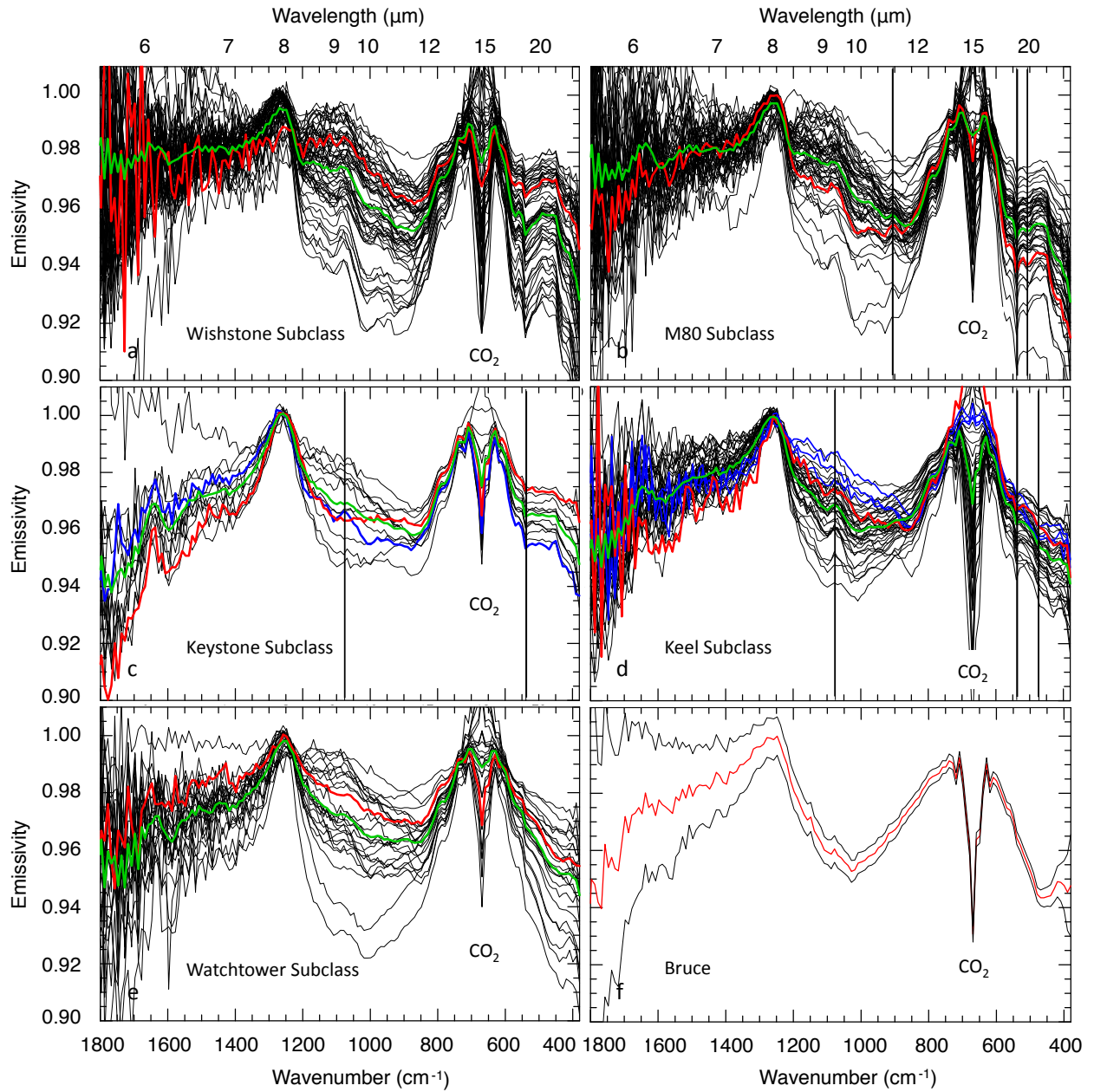


Figure 5.



Figure 6.

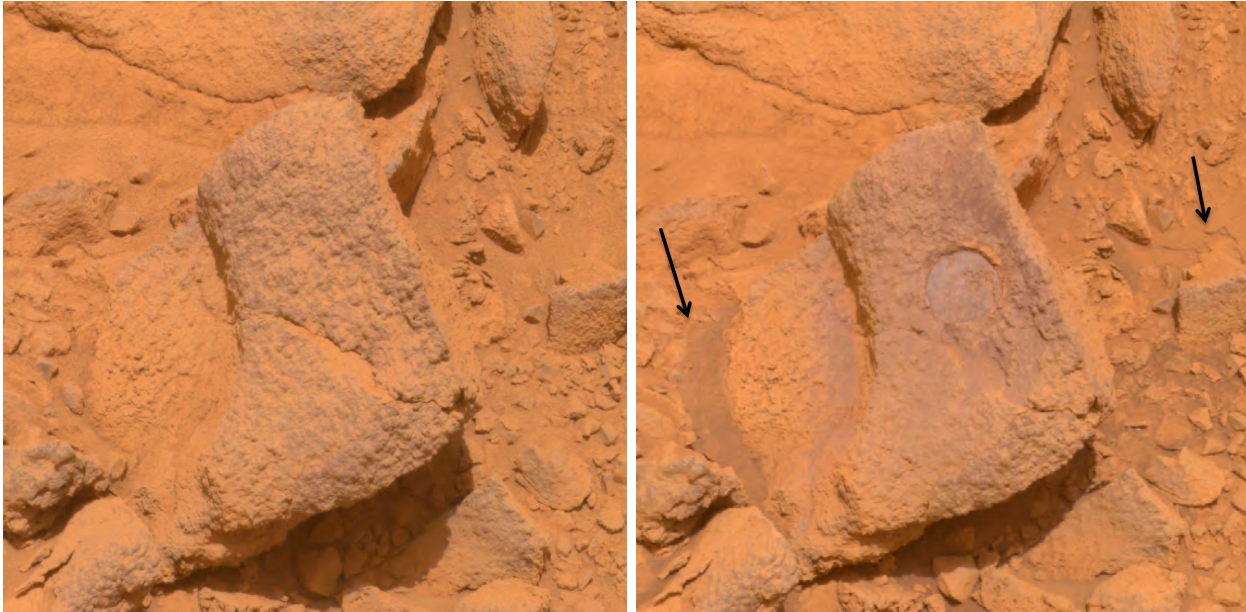


Figure 7.



Figure 8.

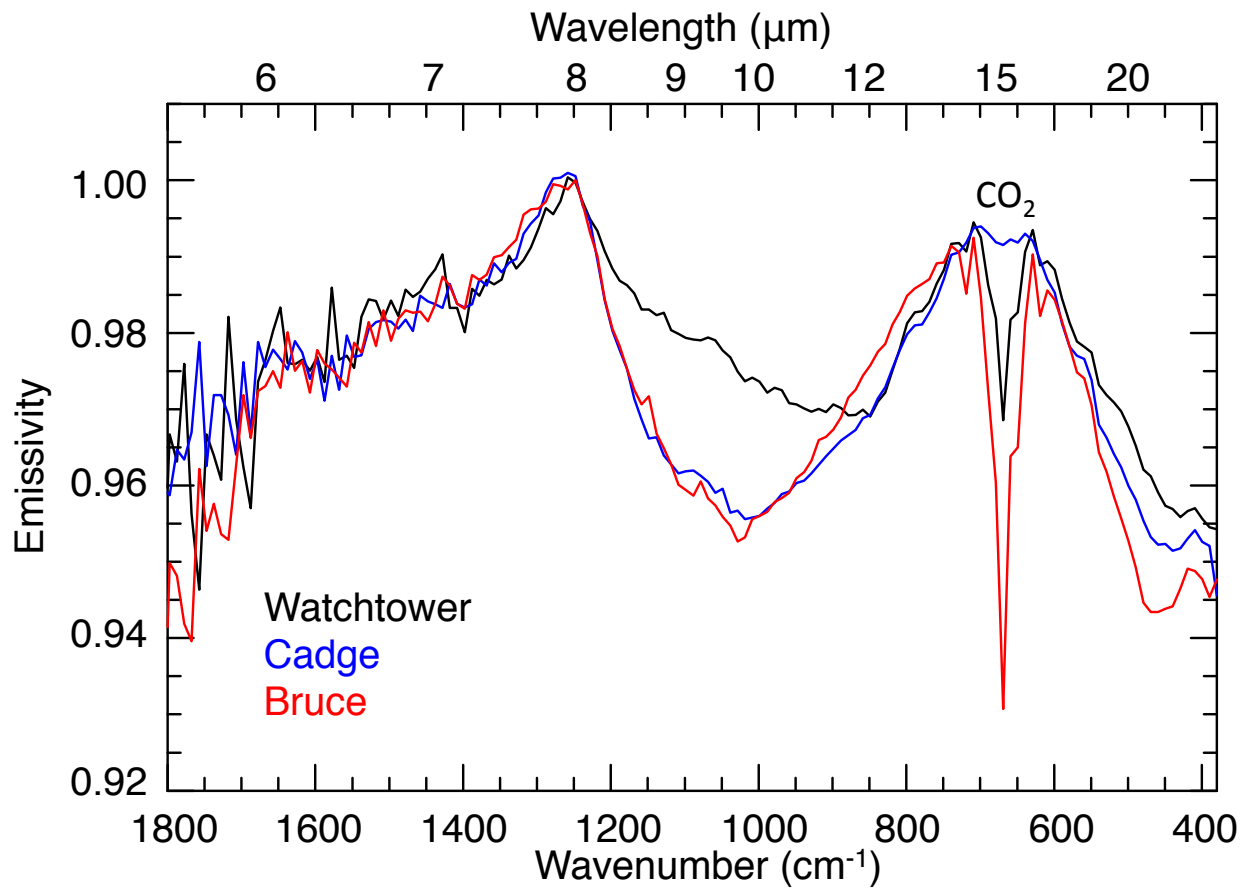


Figure 9.

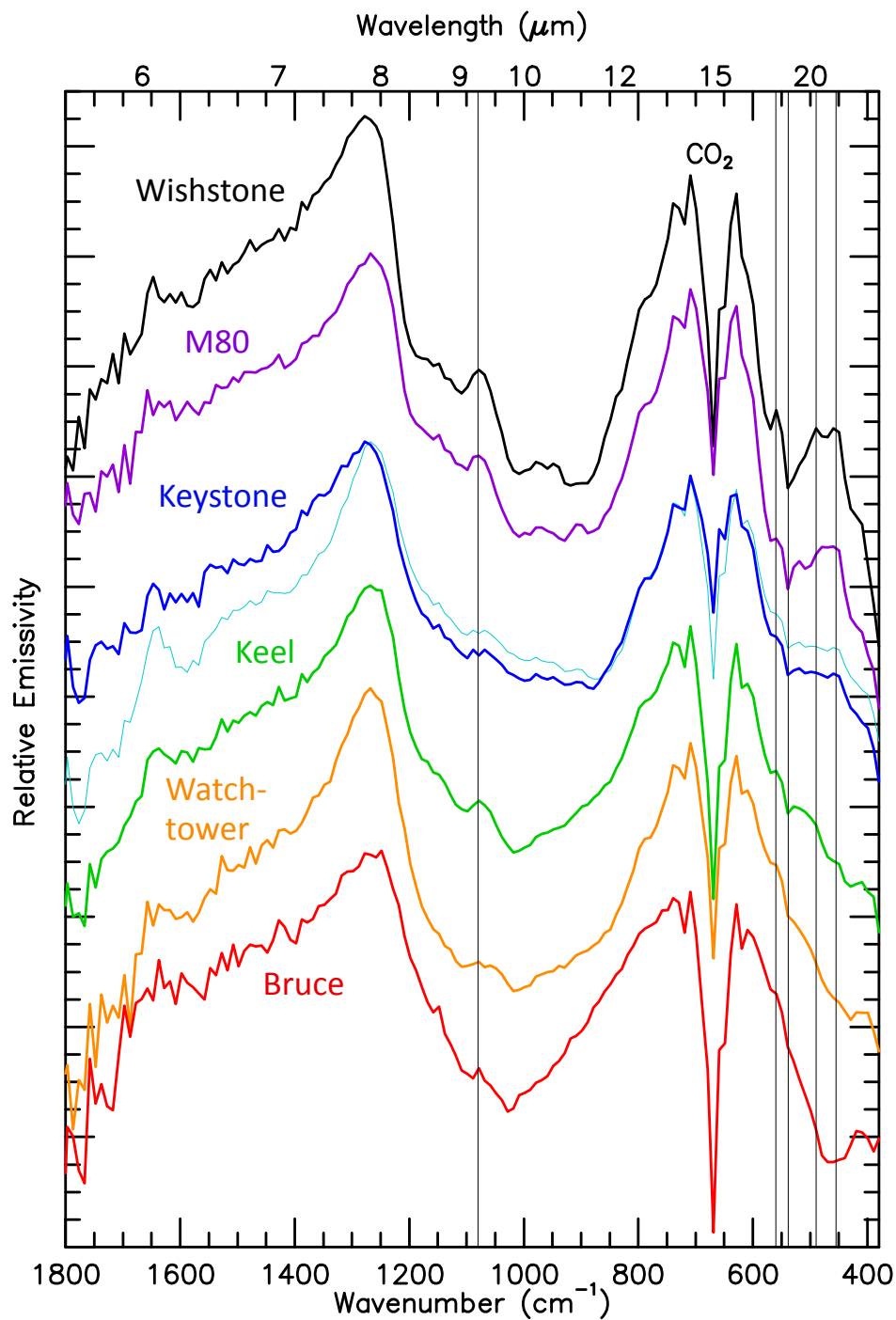


Figure 10.

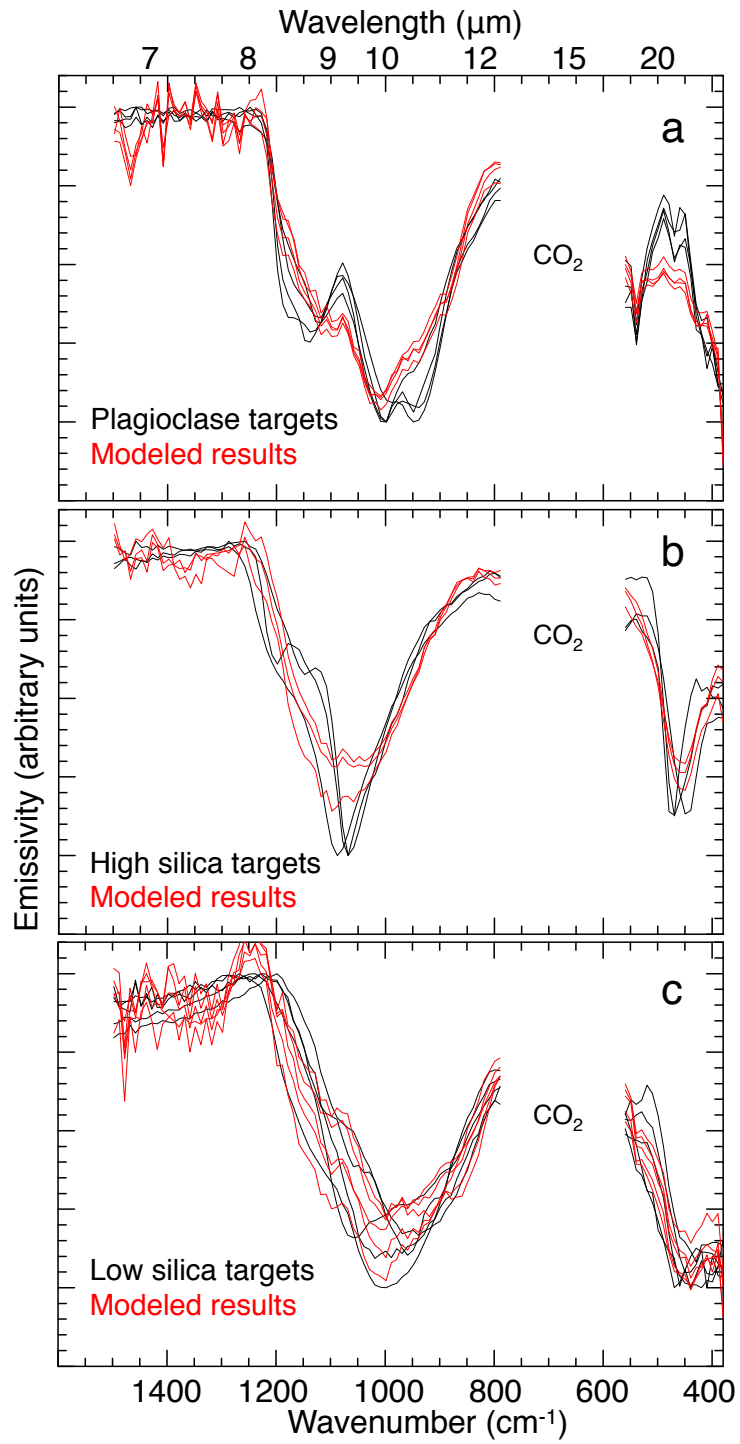


Figure 11.

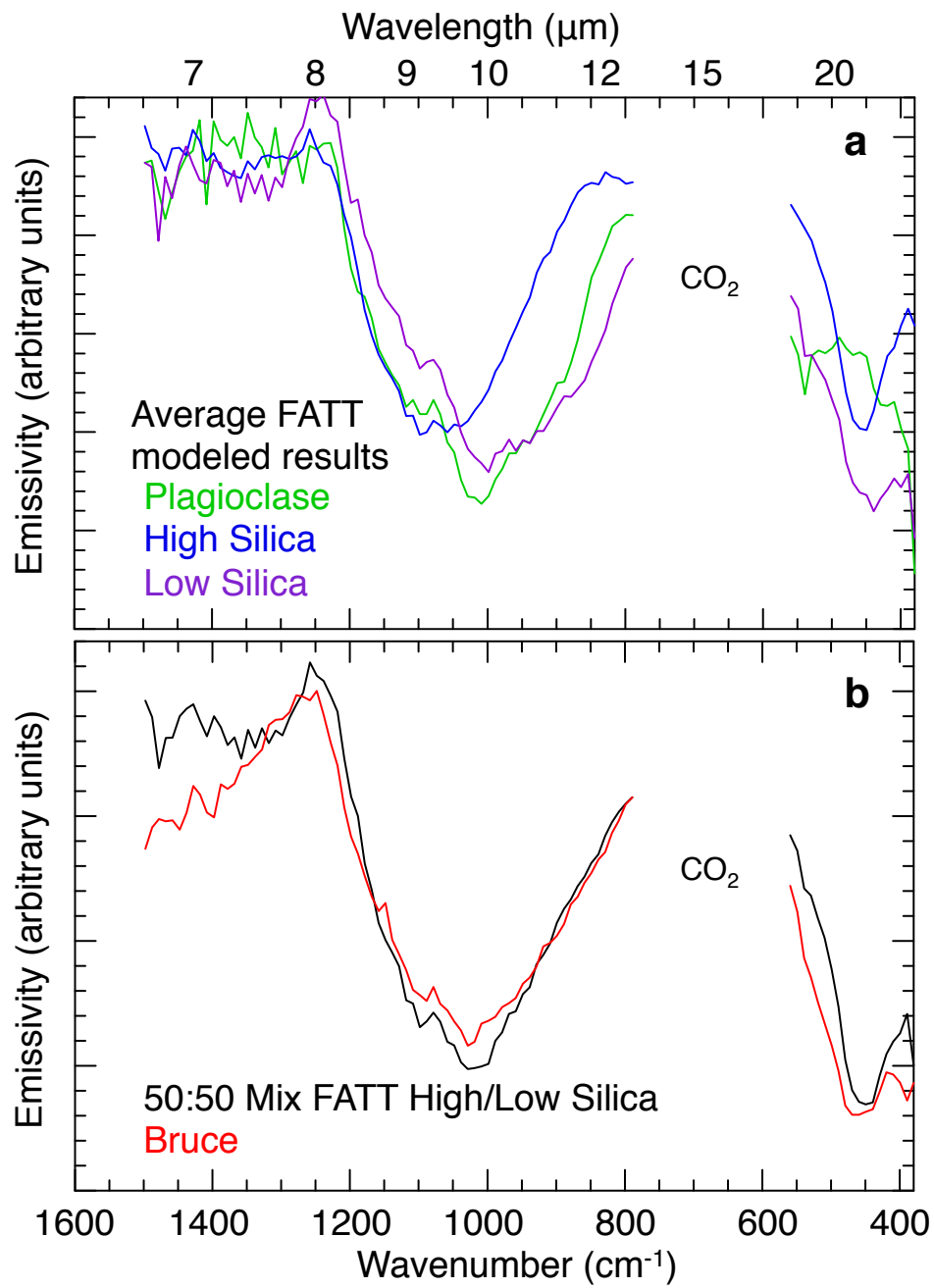


Figure 12.

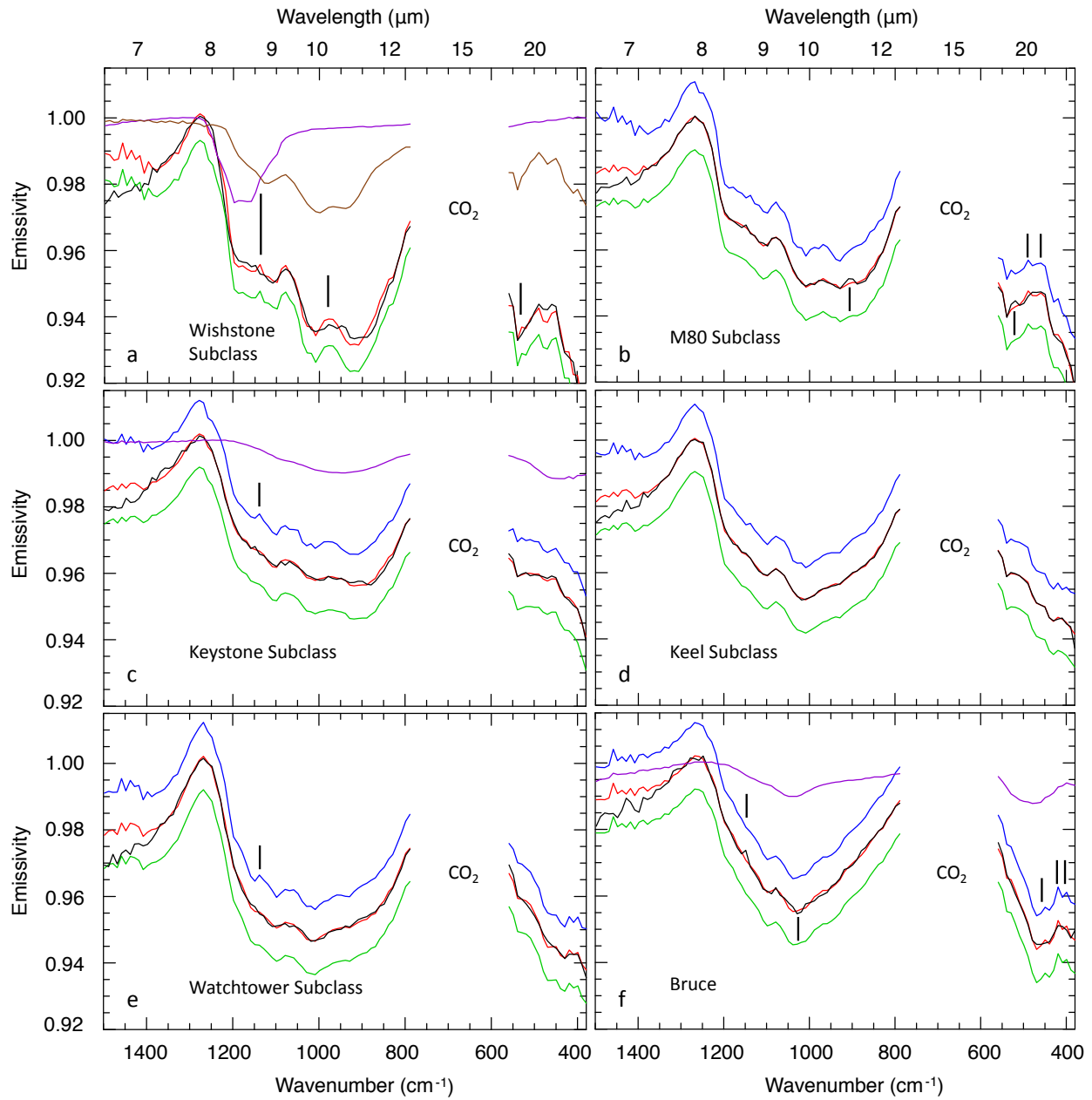


Figure 13.

