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1 Hydrogen Abundance Estimation and Distribution on (101955) Bennu

#### 2

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# 24 Abstract:

- 25 Asteroids were likely a major source of volatiles and water to early Earth. Quantifying the
- 26 hydration of asteroids is necessary to constrain models of the formation and evolution of the
- 27 Solar System and the origin of Life on Earth. The OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation,
- 28 Resource Identification, and Security–Regolith Explorer) mission showed that near-Earth
- 29 asteroid (101955) Bennu contains widespread, abundant hydrated phyllosilicates, indicated
- 30  $\,$  by a ubiquitous absorption at ~2.7  $\mu m.$  The objective of this work is to quantify the
- 31 hydration—that is, the hydrogen content—of phyllosilicates on Bennu's surface and
- 32 investigate how this hydration varies spatially. We analyse spectral parameters
- 33 (normalized optical path length, NOPL; effective single-scattering albedo, ESPAT; and
- 34 Gaussian modeling) computed **from** the hydrated phyllosilicate absorption band of spatially
- 35 resolved visible–near-infrared spectra acquired by OVIRS (the OSIRIS-REx Visible and
- 36 InfraRed Spectrometer). We also computed the same spectral parameters using laboratory-
- 37 measured spectra of meteorites including CMs, Cls, and the ungrouped C2 Tagish Lake. We
- 38 estimate the mean hydrogen content of water and hydroxyl groups in hydrated
- 39 phyllosilicates on Bennu's surface to be 0.71 ± 0.16 wt.%. This value is consistent with the
- 40 hydration range of some aqueously altered meteorites (CMs, C2 Tagish Lake), but not the
- 41 most aqueously altered group (CIs). The sample collection site of the OSIRIS-REx mission has
- 42 slightly higher hydrogen content than average. Spatial variations in hydrogen content on
- 43 Bennu's surface are linked to geomorphology, and may have been partially inherited from its
- 44 parent body.
- 45
- 46 *Keywords:* Asteroid Bennu; Asteroid Surfaces; Asteroid Composition; Meteorites;
- 47 Spectroscopy.

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#### 49 **1.** Introduction

- 50 The OSIRIS-REx Visible and InfraRed Spectrometer (OVIRS) (Reuter et al., 2018) collected
- 51 visible-near-infrared (VNIR) spectra in the range of 0.4 to 4.3 µm during the spacecraft's
- 52 approach to and global mapping of Bennu (Lauretta et al., 2017). Early observations showed
- 53 that Bennu's strongest spectral feature is the absorption band in the 3- $\mu$ m region (at 2.74 ±
- 54 0.01  $\mu$ m for Bennu) associated with the presence of OH<sup>-</sup> or H<sub>2</sub>O bound in hydrated
- 55 phyllosilicates (Hamilton et al., 2019). The band position and ubiquity of **this feature on**
- 56 **Bennu** indicates the global presence of Mg-phyllosilicate minerals that are the result of an 57 advanced stage of hydrothermal alteration (Hamilton et al., 2019).
- 58 In addition, Simon et al. (2020b) found minor absorption bands (characterized by a depth
- 59 less than 5%) centered near 1.4, 1.8, and 2.3 μm, among others. The 1.4-μm absorption
- 60 band is due to the first overtone of the OH stretch band (Clark et al., 1999), and the band
- 61 near 1.8 could be associated with the combination the H<sub>2</sub>O bending and the OH stretch
- 62 that occurs near 1.9 μm (Clark et al., 1999). As for the minor absorption band detected
- 63 near 2.3 μm, it is insufficiently clear whether it is due to phyllosilicates (cation–OH bound),
- 64 carbonates, or other species (Simon et al., 2020b).
- 65 Bennu is a rubble-pile asteroid, believed to be part of the Eulalia/New Polana families that
- 66 reaccumulated from the fragments of a ~100-km-diameter parent asteroid that was broken
- apart by impacts (Bottke et al., 2015; DellaGiustina and Emery et al., 2019; Jutzi and Michel,
- 68 2020; Michel and Ballouz et al., 2020; Walsh et al., 2013). Through simulations, Michel and
- 69 Ballouz et al. (2020) predicted that Bennu could originate from the catastrophic disruption
- of an already hydrated parent body sourced from a localized region, and that similarly
- 71 heated unbound material during collision could result into a homogenous asteroid surface.
- 72 This is consistent with Amsellem (2020) who, using radiometric dating of five heated CM
- 73 carbonaceous chondrites, found that the CM heating event (at least 3 Ga after the Solar
- 74 System formation) could have correlated with the parent-body disruption (i.e., the
- 75 asteroid family-forming event) of New Polana and Eulalia families, for example, with age
- 76 estimations of 1.4  $\pm$  0.15 Ga and 0.8  $\pm$  0.1 Ga, respectively (Walsh et al., 2013; Bottke et al.,
- 77 **2015).**
- 78 Image data acquired by OSIRIS-REx showed that Bennu has a rough and rocky surface
- 79 covered with boulders up to ~100 m in longest dimension (Daly et al., 2020; DellaGiustina &
- 80 Emery et al., 2019; Jawin et al., 2020; Walsh et al. 2019). There are two distinct populations
- 81 of boulders distinguishable by their albedo, texture and thermal inertia (DellaGiustina et al.,
- 82 2020). The low-reflectance population (≤4.9% normal albedo) has a rough, hummocky
- 83 texture and encompasses a range of sizes. The high-reflectance population (>4.9% normal
- 84 albedo) has smoother and more angular features and includes only boulders <~20 m. In the
- 85  $\,$  global map of the 2.7- $\mu m$  hydration band depth (spectrum spot spatial resolution of ~20 m x  $\,$
- 86 30 m per spectrum, map spatial resolution of ~600 m<sup>2</sup>), the shallowest band depths are
- 87 associated with the darkest boulders, which are also the hottest, as well as with the
- 88 equatorial band (-20° to 20° latitude) (Simon et al., 2020**a**, see also **Figure 4**), which may be
- due to the differences in the mineralogy resulting from aqueous alteration (Kaplan et al.,2020).
- 90 91
- 92 The closest spectral analogs to Bennu (Clark et al., 2011) and other **low albedo** asteroids
- 93 (e.g. Clark et al., 2010; Fornasier et al., 1999) are carbonaceous chondrite (CC) meteorites,

94 which have a continuum of mineralogical, petrological, and textural properties resulting

- 95 from mild to strong aqueous alteration on their parent bodies. These properties can be used
- 96 to constrain scenarios of geological evolution of small planetary bodies within the early solar

97 system material (McSween et al., 2018). VNIR reflectance spectra of these meteorites

- 98 measured in the laboratory have been analyzed to understand the spectral properties of
- 99 hydrated minerals associated with varying degrees of alteration (Garenne et al. 2016; Potin
- 100 et al. 2020; Takir and Emery, 2015). The first spectral behaviour analysis of the data from the
- 101 OSIRIS-REx spacecraft, even if different from all available meteorites, showed that Bennu is 102 most consistent with CM or CI chondrites (Hamilton et al., 2019), which are the most
- 103 aqueously altered of the CC meteorites.
- 104
- 105 Previous studies of CM and CI chondrite hydration indicate that these meteorites have a
- 106 range of hydration (defined as hydrogen wt.% in  $H_2O$  and  $OH^-$ ) that is correlated with the
- 107 degree of alteration (Robert and Epstein, 1982; Alexander et al., 2007, 2012, 2013). These
- 108 bulk-composition studies made assumptions about where hydrogen is hosted—for example,
- 109 in minerals as opposed to organics—because direct detections of H<sub>2</sub>O and OH<sup>-</sup> in situ were
- 110 not possible. However, subsequent studies found that most hydrated species are hosted in
- 111 phyllosilicates, in particular Mg- and Fe-serpentines and saponite (Takir et al., 2013). Howard
- 112 et al. (2015) showed that the majority of hydrogen is contained in phyllosilicates for the CM,
- 113 ungrouped type 2, and CR chondrites. Phyllosilicate composition changes from Fe-rich to
- 114 Mg-rich with increasing alteration (McSween, 1979).
- 115

116 Laboratory studies of C chondrites have shown how hydration may be quantified from VNIR 117 spectra (Pommerol and Schmitt, 2008a, 2008b and references therein). Milliken and

- 118 Mustard (2007) developed an approach where the effective single-particle absorption
- 119 thickness (ESPAT) and the normalized optical path length (NOPL) of a spectrum can be linked
- 120 directly to water content (see also Milliken and Mustard, 2005; Garenne et al., 2016). This
- 121 approach has since been applied to global spectral datasets from Mars (e.g. Mustard et al., 122
- 2008) and the Moon (e.g. Li and Milliken, 2017). A similar study using H wt.% and spectra of 123
- C chondrites found that ESPAT and band depth can be used to estimate hydration for these
- 124 meteorites (Garenne et al, 2016). Other analyses of C chondrites showed that Gaussian 125 modeling of the 2.7-µm absorption feature could be directly related to H wt.% of the
- 126 samples (Kaplan et al., 2019; Potin et al., 2020).
- 127

128 Correlation between meteorite spectral parameters and their hydration, defined as H 129 content of the water and hydroxyl groups ( $H_2O$  and  $OH^-$ ) in the hydrated phyllosilicates 130 (hereafter, H content) allowed us to estimate Bennu's surface H content, using Bennu 131 spectral parameters. We discuss how Bennu H content estimation compares to the ones of 132 CC meteorites. We, then, explore in detail how the hydration of Bennu's surface spatially 133 varies. The implications of the H content estimation as well as its spatial variations are 134 fundamental for the understanding of the cosmochemical history and aqueous alteration of 135 Bennu's parent body, as well as for the sample of Bennu that the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft will 136 return to Earth in 2023 (Lauretta et al., 2017). 137 138

- 139
- 140

#### 141 **2.** Data and Methods

#### 142 **2.1 Bennu data**

143 In April 2019, OVIRS, onboard the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft, acquired visible-infrared spectra,

144 from 0.4 to 4.3 μm, of asteroid (101955) Bennu from a range of 5km. Global coverage was

obtained at a solar phase angle of 8-10 degrees, with approximately 30% overlap from one

spectrometer spot to the next (Simon et al., 2020a). The Bennu spectral data we used were

- 147 acquired during the **third** Equatorial Station (EQ3) of the Detailed Survey phase, on May 9
- 148 2019, at 12:30 pm local solar time (Lauretta et al., 2017). This data set allows both careful
- spectral analysis at a spectral resolution of 2 nm from 0.4 to 2.4  $\mu$ m and 5 nm from 2.4 to
- **4.3 μm**, and global mapping at a spatial resolution of 20x30 meters per spectrum.
- 151 Spectra acquired were then calibrated and resampled. Finally, the thermal tail of each
- spectrum is removed and all spectra are divided by solar flux (Simon et al., 2020**a**) and then
- 153 photometrically corrected (Zou et al., **2021**). The spectra were filtered according to their
- 154 viewing geometry with incidence and emergence angles both inferior to 70°, to eliminate
- viewing geometry artefacts. Spectra were also filtered for spikes and saturation. Our data set
- 156 after filtering is 7089 spectra for EQ3 station.
- 157 The OVIRS spectral reflectance of Bennu's surface depends on the light scattering geometry.
- 158 In order to make comparisons between different areas and quantitatively interpret the
- 159 spectra based on laboratory measurements, the observations need to be photometrically
- 160 corrected to the same geometry. We choose a common geometry often used in laboratory
- 161 settings, where Reflectance Factor (REFF) is measured at (i<sub>0</sub>,  $e_0$ ,  $\alpha_0$ ) = (0°, 30°, 30°). OVIRS
- 162 data are obtained in units of Radiance Factor (RADF). A McEwen model is used to correct
- 163 the measured RADF values of each spectral wavelength to the reference geometry. Then,
- 164 RADF data are converted to units of REFF for comparison with laboratory measurements.
- 165 The details of the photometric correction are explained in (Zou et al., **2021**).
- 166

167 The OVIRS spectra are calibrated on a spot-by-spot basis using an automated pipeline that 168 subtracts a nearby deep space background level, subtracts out-of-band signal (IR leakage in 169 all filters < 2.95 µm), converts to absolute physical radiance units and screens for outlier 170 pixels (Simon et al., 2018). Each spectrum is then resampled onto a common wavelength axis 171 with 2-nm sampling below 2.4  $\mu$ m and 5-nm sampling above 2.4  $\mu$ m. As part of the signal 172 above 2.2 µm is from thermal radiance, a thermal tail is calculated and removed from each 173 spectrum before dividing by a range-corrected solar spectrum to convert to reflectance 174 (Simon et al., 2020a). There are two sources of uncertainty in the final spectra: channel-to-175 channel noise, which is calculated based on read noise and photon noise, and absolute 176 radiance calibration. The absolute radiometric uncertainty affects the overall radiance across 177 the full spectrum with no particular wavelength dependence. However, two terms do have 178 a spectral dependence that may affect the hydration band. First, the out-of-band signal is 179 calculated by summing the long wavelength radiance and multiplying by coefficients for 180 each wavelength derived from perfect blackbody source data. Any spot that covers a mixed 181 temperature scene may potentially have an error in this correction that increases with 182 decreasing wavelength in each filter segment (i.e., it is larger at 1.7 µm than at 2.9 µm). The 183 second uncertainty comes from the thermal tail correction that may remove too much, or 184 not enough, radiance, if the thermal tail fit is **not well determined**. Both of these contribute 185 a few percent of uncertainty to the absolute radiance. The uncertainty plotted in Figure 1a 186 represents the standard error of the mean normalized spectrum. 187

#### 188 **2.2 Meteorite data**

- 189 The meteorite dataset that we assembled for this study is composed of 39 hydrated CC
- 190 meteorites (Appendix A) for which bulk hydrogen values have been independently
- 191 measured (Alexander et al., 2012, 2013; Garenne et al., 2016).
- 192 All the selected meteorites used in this work, were powdered and spectra were measured
- 193 under asteroid-like conditions (vacuum- and thermally-desiccated conditions) (Appendix A).
- 194 Meteorite chips from Takir et al. (2013, 2019) were grounded into ~100-μm powder and no
- 195 grain size distributions were measured due to the small amount of meteorite sample. The
- 196 meteorites from Potin et al. (2020) and Garenne et al. (2016) were powdered manually but
- 197 not sieved to keep a large grain size distribution.
- 198  $\,$  An additional spectrum was collected for Mighei (with grain size < 500  $\mu m$ ) at INAF-
- 199 Astrophysical Observatory of Arcetri in Firenze, Italy (*Poggiali personal communication*).
- 200 Milliken and Mustard (2007) studied the effect of increasing spectrum particle size class
- 201  $\,$  (from <25  $\mu m$  to 125–250  $\mu m$  ) on spectral parameters such as NOPL and ESPAT calculated  $\,$
- 202 on the spectrum 2.7-μm hydration band. They showed that these spectral parameters
- 203 increase with increasing particle size for the same water content (H<sub>2</sub>O wt.%) of the sample.
- 204 The meteorite spectra chosen in this study all present large grain size distribution with
- 205 different maximum grain size. This difference is not believed to impact spectral
- 206 measurements, as small-sized material dominates the spectral signature of planetary
- 207 surfaces or meteorite powders characterized by a large particle size distribution.
- 208
- 209 The meteorite H contents used in this study are calculated in Alexander et al. (2012, 2013).
- 210 The authors have measured the bulk carbon content as well as bulk hydrogen content.
- 211 Assuming all carbon is in the organic matter, they then deduced the organic hydrogen
- 212 content using the typical Insoluble Organic Matter (IOM) hydrogen to carbon ratio of CR
- 213 meteorites and CM meteorites. The organic hydrogen content is subtracted from the bulk
- 214 hydrogen content to derive the bulk hydrogen content in water and hydroxyl groups of
- 215 hydrated phyllosilicates, i.e.: **H content** which is reported in **Appendix A**. In the case of
- 216 meteorites for which the H contents were not calculated by Alexander et al. (2012, 2013),
- 217 we did the same calculations as explained above, using the meteorite bulk composition
- 218 measurements (bulk, H, bulk C and H/C values) from the literature. In the case of the Orgueil
- and Tagish Lake meteorites, several samples were analyzed and several **different** hydrogen
- content values were ultimately derived (Alexander et al., 2012; Gilmore et al., 2019), and our
- 221 results reflect the variability in the reported values.
- 222

# 223 2.3 I/F spectrum conversion into single-scattering albedo (SSA) spectrum

- 224 In order to calculate the effective single-particle absorption thickness (ESPAT) parameter, we
- converted Bennu photometrically corrected I/F spectra into single-scattering albedo spectra using the five-parameter form of **a** Hapke model (Li et al., 2007a, 2007b, 2009) that **includes**
- 227 a single-scattering albedo term ( $\omega$ ), a single-term Henyey-Greenstein (HG) function (p) with
- an asymmetry factor (g), a roughness parameter ( $\theta$ ) and finally a shadow hiding opposition
- effect term (SHOE) characterized by its width (h) and its height (B<sub>0</sub>). The two latter
- parameters are fixed to 0.11 and 2.06, respectively, as derived from the disk-integrated
- phase function based on the OCAMS images obtained during the approach to the asteroid inDecember 2018.
- 233 The Hapke model is then run on **the** global-surface spectral data set in order to obtained the
- 234 following global Hapke modeling parameters for the model best fit:  $\omega$ , g,  $\theta$ , geometric

- albedo and bond albedo and goodness-of-fit indicators root-mean-square (RMS), relative
- root-mean-square (RRMS). The best fit **is** deduced from the smallest chi-square test ( $\chi^2$ )
- value when searching in parameter space (**from** Li et al., in **revision**). The same Hapke
- 238 Isotropic Multiple Scattering Approximation (IMSA) model (Hapke, 1993, 2002) was then re-
- run on global-surface I/F spectral data set (EQ3) using the previously obtained global Hapke
   modeling parameters (i.e. the global average Hapke model parameters from Li et al., in
- revision), with the porosity term calculated using Helfenstein and Shepard (2011), leaving
- 242 SSA as a free parameter at every channel.
- 243
- 244 In the case of meteorite spectra measured in **the** laboratory: we apply several simplifications
- to the Hapke model (Beck et al., 2010). The simplifications (Garenne et al., 2016; Milliken
  and Mustard, 2007) are the absence of opposition effects (no SHOE, no CBOE), therefore the
  backscattering term is negligible (B(g) = 0), and the phase function is assumed to be isotropic
  (the scattering term is set to p(g) = 1). These are reasonable assumptions for particulate
  samples in which particles are in intimate contact (powder) and larger in size than the
- wavelength (from 2.6 to 3.3  $\mu$ m) (Milliken and Mustard, 2007).
- 251

# 252 2.4 ESPAT parameter calculation

- The Effective Single Particle Absorption Thickness parameter ( $W(\lambda)$ , ESPAT) function is a quantity defined by Hapke (1993) related to the absorption coefficient, volume of particles and the single-scattering albedo (**Equation 1**).
- 256 Dealing with such quantities has proved to have some advantages: Hapke (1993) has shown
- that the ESPAT function is quasi-linear, proportional for a wide range of effective particle
- size determined by the value of internal scattered coefficient; subsequently, Milliken &
- 259 Mustard (2005) found that this function is also linearly proportional for a wide range of 260 absolute water content (0-15 %wt H<sub>2</sub>O). ESPAT function is, therefore, most useful when th
- absolute water content (0-15 %wt H<sub>2</sub>O). ESPAT function is, therefore, most useful when the medium consists of particles that are sufficiently small (Hapke, 1993) or surface roughness
- 262 equivalent to small particle size. It also indicates that the water content is quasi-linear in
   263 respect with the effective particle size.
- 264 When the extinction coefficient ( $Q_E(\lambda)$ ) is assumed to be 1, then the scattering coefficient 265 ( $Q_S(\lambda)$ ) is equivalent to the volume-average single-scattering albedo ( $\omega(\lambda)$ ). Thus, the ESPAT
- 266 parameter can be calculated using volume-average single-scattering albedo ( $\omega(\lambda)$ ). Thus, the LSFAT 266 parameter can be calculated using volume-average single-scattering albedo ( $\omega(\lambda)$ ).
- 267 Milliken and Mustard (2007).
- $W(\lambda) = \frac{1-\omega(\lambda)}{\omega(\lambda)}$  (1)
- **Equation 1** shows that when there is no absorption ( $\omega(\lambda) = 1$ ), the ESPAT parameter is null (W( $\lambda$ ) = 0). However, for dark material:  $\omega(\lambda)$  values are **less than 1** in **the** OVIRS wavelength range (0.4 to 4.3 µm), even when no absorption occurs. Therefore, following Milliken and Mustard (2007), we divide  $\omega(\lambda)$  values by their continuum fits (using the maximum single scattering albedo value:  $\omega_{max}(\lambda)$ ) to isolate the absorption band studied, with the following equation (**Equation 2**):
- 275  $W(\lambda) = \frac{1 \frac{\omega(\lambda)}{\omega_{max}(\lambda)}}{\frac{\omega(\lambda)}{\omega}} \quad (2)$
- A linear continuum is fitted using the reflectance average of three OVIRS wavelength
- 277  $\,$  channels as left and right anchor points (at 2.6 and 3.3  $\mu m$  ). The mean wavelength of the
- 278 hydration band minimum position for the EQ3 data set corrected with McEwen model is

279 2.73  $\pm$  0.01  $\mu$ m; therefore, the ESPAT parameter was calculated at 2.73  $\mu$ m, using also three-280 wavelength channel average.

281

### 282 **2.5** NOPL parameter calculation

The normalized optical path length (NOPL) is calculated on absolute reflectance spectra of Bennu's surface and meteorites following the calculation of Milliken and Mustard (2007, see also Garenne et al., 2016; Milliken and Mustard, 2005; Milliken et al. 2007). The NOPL parameter at a defined wavelength ( $\lambda$ , here 2.73 µm) is calculated using the reflectance (R( $\lambda$ )) as well as the reflectance of the linear continuum (R<sub>c</sub>( $\lambda$ )) fitted between 2.6 µm and 3.3 µm (**Equation 3**). We computed three-wavelength channel average for each linear continuum anchor point as well as for the centre point.

(3)

$$NOPL(\lambda) = \frac{-ln(R(\lambda)+1-R_c(\lambda))}{-ln(1-R_c(\lambda))}$$

290 291

293

292 **2.6** Band gaussian modeling

#### 294 2.6.1 3-μm Region Absorption Band

- 295 The absorption band in the 2.7-μm region is caused by the combination of vibration
- 296 fundamental mode and overtones of H<sub>2</sub>O, OH, and cation–OH bonds.
- 297 H<sub>2</sub>O and OH groups are present in the mineral structure of phyllosilicates or can be
- $298 \qquad \text{adsorbed onto the surface of mineral grains in the case of $H_2O$. In the scope of this work,}$
- we focus our analysis on the absorption contribution of OH and  $H_2O$  in the region between 300 2.6 and 3.3  $\mu$ m.
- 301 The hydroxyl O—H bond has one stretching vibration fundamental mode, which depends
- 302 on the cation to which the OH is bonded (Bishop et al., 2002). It can occur between 2.67
- 303 (Farmer, 1974) and 3.45 μm (Ryskin, 1974), and more typically between 2.7 and 2.8 μm
- 304 (Clark et al., 1990). Absorptions near 2.72 and 2.75–2.76 μm are characteristic to
- 305 magnesium-rich (Mg-OH) and aluminium-rich (Al-OH) phyllosilicates, respectively
- 306 (DeSanctis et al., 2016). The OH stretch vibration of iron-rich (Fe-OH) phyllosilicates occurs
- 307 near 2.8 µm (Manceau et al., 2000). Water (H<sub>2</sub>O) in minerals is characterised by three
- 308 vibration fundamental modes (v). A symmetric OH stretch in the water molecule ( $v_1$ )
- 309 occurs near 3.106 µm and the asymmetric OH stretch ( $v_3$ ) occurs near 2.903 µm, whereas
- 310 the H-O-H bend ( $v_2$ ) occurs near 6.079  $\mu$ m (Clark et al., 1990). Adsorbed water was also
- 311  $\,$  found to cause an absorption band near 2.85  $\mu m.$
- 312

# 313 2.6.2 Gaussian modeling

# 314 Gaussian modeling allows us to distinguish and define the different contributions of

- 315 radical-OH and H<sub>2</sub>O stretching modes in the 2.7-μm region absorption band.
- 316 The absorption band due to hydrated phyllosilicates in Bennu's spectra as well as in
- 317 meteorite spectra were modelled using several Gaussians. The 2.7-µm region absorption
- 318  $\,$  band was modelled using Gaussians from 2.6 to 3.3  $\mu m$  for Bennu's EQ3 average spectrum
- 319 and using continuum anchor points adapted for each meteorite, using up to five Gaussian
- 320 curve fits and a linear continuum.
- 321 Each Gaussian is diagnostic of one or several different stretching modes of  $OH^-$  and/or  $H_2O$
- 322 groups, depending on their center wavelength (2.72, 2.75, 2.8, 2.9 and 3.1  $\mu m$ ).
- 323 While these five Gaussian curves combine to create the composite absorption feature from
- 324  $\hfill ~2.6$  to ~3.3  $\mu m$  , each individual Gaussian curve is associated with energy required by a

- 325 slightly different hydrogen-rich functional group linked to hydroxyl (OH<sup>-</sup>) and water (H<sub>2</sub>O)
- 326 (Clark et al., 1999; DeSanctis et al., 2017; Rivkin et al., 2015).
- 327

328 In our analysis, we use the area of the second Gaussian curve centered (on average) at 2.75

- $\mu$ m (hereafter the G2 area) that is associated with OH<sup>-</sup> (Kaplan et al., 2019). Of the three
- 330 methods we have employed to assess H content of Bennu, Gaussian modeling of the
- absorption band has the highest number of free parameters and, as a result, the greatest
   uncertainty due to the large number of local model solutions, which leads to noisier results.
- 333 We therefore have decided not to include Gaussian modelling results in our final **map of**
- 334 **Bennu mean** H content, as we cannot distinguish spatial features within the noise. However,
- 335 the gaussian modeling of the hydrated phyllosilicates is an independent test **to confirm the**
- 336 global average H content values obtained from ESPAT and NOPL.
- 337

# 338 **2.7** Mapping

In this study, we use the 200,000-facet Palmer shape model version 20 (Barnouin et al., 2019). For each facet, a weighted average value of the spectral parameter of all overlapping OVIRS spots is calculated using the percentage of overlap between OVIRS spot and the facet as weight (Ferrone et al., 2021). As described before, each spectrum thermal tail is removed and all spectra are photometrically corrected. Finally, all spectral parameter maps are overlaid on the global basemap (Bennett et al., 2020).

345

# **346 3. Results**

We calculated the NOPL and the ESPAT parameters and performed Gaussian modeling of the
 2.7-µm absorption band for the absolute reflectance spectra of a set of 39 meteorites
 (Appendix A). We find a linear correlation between our calculated spectral parameters and
 the H content of the meteorites. Using this correlation, we estimated the H content of

- 351 Bennu's surface as well as its spatial variation, using the same spectral parameters
- 352 calculated **from** Bennu's reflectance spectra.
- 353

# 354 **3.1** Hydration Estimation

The spatially resolved spectral dataset of Bennu's global surface includes 7089 spectra, with incidence and emergence angles less than 70°, and covers Bennu's surface **from** –80°S and +80°N latitude. The average EQ3 Bennu spectrum is shown in **Figure 1a**. **Our** Gaussian model

- 358 of Bennu's EQ3 average spectrum can be found in **Figure 1b**.
- 359



Figure 1: a) Average normalized (at 2.5μm) EQ3 Bennu spectrum with standard error of the
mean (~5.10<sup>-4</sup>), as well as the spectra showing the deepest and shallowest hydration band
in red and blue respectively. b) Gaussian model result obtained for the average EQ3
spectrum (normalized to 1.0 @ 2.5μm), showing five separate Gaussian curves (dotted green
lines), for which the composite spectrum (solid green curve), agrees well with the measured
spectrum (blue dots).

368	We find a linear correlation between each of the spectral parameters (ESPAT, NOPL and
369	Gaussian), we calculated from the meteorite spectra and the H content of the meteorites
370	(Figure 2, a to c). The Spearman rank correlation was computed for each linear regression:
371	the rank correlation coefficient (R) and the two-sided significance of its deviation from 0 (p-
372	value) (Figure 2). In all three cases, the correlation is strong (p-value < 0.01 and $ R  > 0.6$ ).
373	
374	
375	



382 Figure 2: Linear correlation between the H content of meteorites (Appendix A) and a) their 383 ESPAT parameter, **b**) the NOPL parameter, and **c**) G2 area, for different types of hydrated CC 384 meteorites and Bennu. The thick black line is the linear regression of the meteorite data; the 385 two dashed black lines define the prediction bounds, which indicate the area in which a new 386 data point would fall with 95% probability. Spearman rank correlation coefficient (R) and p-387 value are reported. Parameter errors for the meteorites are smaller than the symbols. The 388 values for Bennu (Table 1) were determined by using the meteorite correlations. The vertical 389 error bars on Bennu mean ESPAT, NOPL and G2 area are their averaged uncertainty (Table 390 1) and are inside their symbol. The H content horizontal bar is computed for each method 391 by propagating the error in the determination of the linear regression coefficients (which 392 represents the uncertainty linked to the linear regression equation) as well as the mean 393 uncertainty.

394 We can therefore use the linear correlations between each spectral parameter and H 395 content in the meteorites to estimate the H content of Bennu. Figure 2 shows the average, 396 maximum, and minimum values of each spectral parameter obtained from the EQ3 spectra 397 of Bennu. The H content error is estimated using the propagation error associated with the 398 linear correlation from the meteorites. We estimate the average H content of Bennu's 399 surface to be  $0.72 \pm 0.15$  wt.% using ESPAT,  $0.70 \pm 0.16$  wt.% using NOPL, and  $0.69 \pm 0.26$ 400 wt.% using the G2 area. All average H content values that we derived for Bennu's surface are 401 summarized in Table 1. The three different spectral parameters indicate consistent H 402 content within the error bars. However, the Gaussian modeling method for G2 area presents

- 403 a large number of free parameters, and the non-**uniqueness** of **the Gaussian models**
- 404 enhance its noise levels; therefore, we do not use the H content range derived from G2 area
- 405 to compute **or map** the **mean** H content value of Bennu's surface. On the basis of the ESPAT
- and NOPL methods, Bennu's surface mean H content is  $0.71 \pm 0.16$  wt.%. This range of
- 407 values is consistent with the C2 Tagish Lake and heated CM meteorites and not consistent
- 408 with the most heavily aqueously altered meteorites, the CIs (higher H content 1.330-1.366
- wt.%, Figure 2). H content values obtained by measuring the NOPL parameter are consistent
   with values from ESPAT and G2 area fits to Bennu's 2.7-µm absorption band, which adds
- with values from ESPAT and G2 area fits to Bennu's 2.7-μm absorption band, which adds
   confidence to the result.
- 412
- 413 **Table 1:** Estimation of the **global** average H content **(phyllosilicate H<sub>2</sub>O and OH group**
- 414 hydrogen content) of Bennu's surface derived from ESPAT, NOPL, and G2 area, with the
- 415 error derived from the uncertainties of each set of linear correlation coefficients. The
- 416 average H content computed with NOPL and ESPAT methods is also reported. The mean
- 417 value of each parameter as well as their associated mean uncertainty is reported in the
- 418 first column.

Parameter (Mean value ± uncertainty unit)	Estimated Bennu global average H content (wt.%)			
ESPAT	0.72 + 0.15			
(0.155 ± 0.010)	0.72 ± 0.15			
NOPL	0.70 ± 0.16			
(0.162 ± 0.010)				
G2 Area	0.60 ± 0.26			
(0.006 ± 0.0007 normalized REFF.μm)	0.09 ± 0.20			
NOPL & ESPAT avg	0.71 ± 0.16			

#### 421 **3.2** Hydration Variations

422 Maps showing the spatial variation of the NOPL and ESPAT parameters are shown in Figure 423 3a and 3b, overlain on the global basemap of Bennu constructed from PolyCam images 424 (Bennett et al., 2020). Both maps show a global pattern that is very similar to the hydration 425 band depth map (Simon et al., 2020a) that we independently computed (Figure 4). 426 Variations in the calculated spectral parameters are associated with albedo (DellaGiustina 427 and Emery et al., 2019; Simon et al., 2020a) and morphological features on Bennu's surface. 428 We find that Bennu's boulder-rich areas (Walsh et al., 2019) are characterized by lower NOPL 429 and lower ESPAT. The equatorial band (-20° to 20° latitude) also shows lower NOPL and 430 lower ESPAT. On the other hand, higher latitudes (low to intermediate boulder abundances) 431 show higher values of NOPL and ESPAT (Figure 3a and 3b). The ESPAT and NOPL maps show 432 similar behaviour to the band depth (Figure 4), surface temperature, and albedo (Simon et 433 al., 2020a). Simon et al. (2020a) report that the causes of the correlation between band 434 depth and surface temperature are not clear, as they could be due to thermal tail removal 435 method or they could be a function of surface properties (e.g., grain size effect, boulder 436 thermal inertial, albedo, weathering, and composition) varying together. 437



Figure 3: The ESPAT (top) and NOPL (bottom) parameters calculated for EQ3 spectra are
respectively mapped on the global basemap of Bennu (Bennett et al., 2020). The OSIRIS-REx
mission's final selected site for sampling (Nightingale) is indicated.



Figure 4: Band depth calculated at 2.73 μm, using a linear continuum from 2.6 to 3.3 μm, on
EQ3 spectra (Simon et al., 2020a). The uncertainties on the band depth are of the order of
1% (Simon et al., 2020a).



450 Figure 5: The relative variation of the average H content (phyllosilicate H<sub>2</sub>O and OH group

451 **hydrogen content)** map of Bennu is derived from the average of the NOPL and ESPAT

452 methods and overlain on the global basemap of Bennu (Bennett et al., 2020). The zero value
 453 on the scale corresponds to the global average H content and the scale represent the H

454 content variation with respect that zero value. The error of variation in H content is

estimated with the error of the band depth measurement, which is of the order of 1%. The

456 **H content variation is in good agreement with the band depth variation (Figure 4).** The

- 457 OSIRIS-REx mission's final selected site for sampling (Nightingale) is indicated.
- 458

459 The spatial variations of the average H content (phyllosilicate H<sub>2</sub>O and OH group hydrogen 460 content) are overlain on the global basemap (Bennett et al., 2020) in Figure 5. The relative 461 variation of the average H content is in agreement with the band depth variation (Figure 462 4). Lower H content is evident in boulder-rich areas (such as from 225 to 275 degrees 463 longitude and 0 to -60° latitude). We observe several areas—including the boulders Benben 464 Saxum (~56 m in diameter) and Roc Saxum (~95 m), and the Tlanuwa Regio, a region with a 465 high density of large boulders (~50 m)—that are characterized by relatively low NOPL, low 466 ESPAT, low H content (~0.66 wt.%), and shallow 2.7-µm band depths (Simon et al., 2020a). 467

In the equatorial band (-20° to 20° latitude), the H content is lower than average. This
equatorial region is characterized by rubble-filled craters and a few boulders. Other workers
have shown that the equatorial band has a higher thermal inertia than global average
(Rozitis et al., 2020a), a stronger red spectral slope than global average (Barucci et al., 2020;
Clark et al., 2019; Fornasier et al., 2020; Simon et al., 2020a), and a shallower hydration
band depth (Simon et al., 2020a). The causes of these differences in the equatorial region

- 474 may include space weathering, surface roughness variations due to mass movement (Barucci
- 475 et al., 2020; Jawin et al., 2020), and/or preferential fall-back of particles ejected from
  476 Bennu's surface (McMahon et al. 2020).
- 477

478 We also find areas at intermediate to high latitudes (beyond 20° and –30°) that display

- 479 deeper than average 2.7-μm band depths and higher than average ESPAT and NOPL values.
- 480 These areas show the most hydration, with a higher than average H content of ~0.74 wt. %
- 481 (see Figure 5, particularly at longitudes 0–100° and 275–360°). There are intermediate-size

- 482 boulders in these regions, and the surface has a higher than average albedo at 0.55  $\mu$ m and
- 483 lower abundances of the organic carbon surface components (Simon et al., 2020a). The site
- 484 from which the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft collected a sample, Nightingale (56.0° N and 42.1° E),
- 485 lies within this region, suggesting that the spacecraft is very likely to return a sample with
- 486 relatively high H content in comparison to average Bennu, yet not as high as CIs.
- 487

## 488 **4. Discussion**

## 489 **4.1** Spatial distribution of hydrogen

490 The patterns of high and low hydration on Bennu's surface likely reflect early processes on 491 Bennu's parent body, as well as on-going modification of Bennu by space weathering, 492 heating, and the drivers (meteoroid impacts, thermal fracturing, and/or dehydration of 493 phyllosilicates) of the particle ejection events observed by the OSIRIS-REx mission 494 (Hergenrother et al., 2020; Lauretta and Hergenrother et al., 2019). Some of these processes 495 reduce hydration (e.g., impact-induced heating can cause dehydration, Nakamura, 2006), 496 and others may increase the H+ ions on the surface (e.g., solar wind implantation, Li and 497 Milliken, 2017; Tucker et al., 2019). Solar wind implantation of hydrogen has been shown to 498 increase the 2.7-µm signature diurnally on the Moon, with higher hydrogen content at 499 higher latitudes (Li and Milliken, 2017; Clark, 2009; Pieters et al., 2009; Sunshine et al., 500 **2009**). A similar spatial pattern of higher hydration at the poles is seen on Bennu, though it 501 has not been noted on Ryugu (Kitazato et al., 2019). There is a strong relationship between 502 observed hydration and temperature (Simon et al., 2020a), which is also the case for the 503 implanted hydrogen on the Moon (Li and Milliken, 2017). Solar wind implantation is a 504 surface process, meaning that our findings may not be representative of unexposed material 505 on Bennu. The lunar surface spectral data, acquired in 2017 by OVIRS, showed the 2.8 μm 506 absorption band (Simon et al., 2019), which is consistent with the previous full-disk 507 observations.

- 508 Further, meteoroid bombardment would preferentially affect the equatorial region (Bottke 509 et al., 2020) and could trigger a dehydration reaction; larger impacts in the equatorial region
- 510 (as evidenced by the presence of large craters) could also have dehydrated material in the
- 511 past. Boulders exposed for longer periods of time may also be more likely to experience
- 512 similar dehydration processes. Moreover, Jawin et al. (2020), analysing Bennu's surface
- 513 morphology, concluded that mass movement appears to dominantly move from the mid-
- 514 latitudes toward the equator, consequently altering the surface.
- 515

516 Dehydration from impacts and implantation of H<sup>+</sup> by solar wind may together explain the 517 small spatial variation in estimated H content at the spatial resolution of the studied 518 spectra of Bennu (20 × 30 m). According to the modeling of Starukhina (2001), solar wind 519 proton implantation may result in the creation of bands, but this is not confirmed in the 520 spectroscopic survey of asteroids (Rivkin et al., 2003, 2015). Brunetto et al. (2020) showed 521 that there is likely a solar wind contribution in the OTES data of Bennu's surface when they 522 compared them with laboratory-irradiated meteorite spectra in the far infrared. Thus, we 523 can expect a contribution from the solar wind proton implantation in the 2.7- $\mu$ m region. 524 However, spectral effects of space weathering are highly dependent on the initial physical 525 and compositional properties of the material as shown by Lantz et al. (2018). Lantz et al. 526 (2017) studied spectral effects associated with solar wind space weathering on 527 carbonaceous chondrites and showed the 2.7-µm absorption band minimum position 528 shifts to longer wavelength. Moreover, from spectral analysis of higher spatial resolution

- 529  $\,$  OVIRS data of 45 craters on Bennu (Deshapriya et al., 2021), the 2.7- $\mu m$  absorption band
- 530 minimum position was found to have shifted to shorter wavelength for 20 craters with
- respect to the global average band minimum position, which has been attributed to the
- 532 presence of less space-weathered (fresher) material in those craters. At the spatial
- 533 resolution of the OVIRS spectral data set used in this study, the 2.7-μm band minimum
- 534 position does not vary. Thus, with this analyzed spectral data set and because of the lack 535 of supporting laboratory data, we cannot yet isolate the likely contribution of solar wind
- of supporting laboratory data, we cannot yet isolate the likely c
   hydrogen implantation on Bennu's surface.
- 537

538 Another consideration is differences in hydration originally inherited from the parent body

- of Bennu. The two main boulder types on Bennu, which are well-mixed at all observed
- 540 **spatial scales,** may have had different initial compositions (e.g., resulting from spatially
- varying alteration) (Kaplan et al., 2020) and subsequent different reactions to space
   weathering (DellaGiustina et al., 2020). We find that regions with higher 0.55-μm reflectance
- 543 on Bennu (**Figure 3D in** Simon et al., 2020a) generally have more hydrogen, **though**
- 544 variations are small (Figure 5). In addition, the largest boulders on Bennu are dark ( $\leq 4.9\%$
- albedo; DellaGiustina et al., 2020) and are associated with lower hydration, as well as
- shallower band depth (Simon et al., 2020a), which suggests that some of the hydration
   signature is inherent to the discrete boulder population and likely reflects a dichotomy on
- 548 Bennu's parent asteroid. From our dataset, we cannot separate the effects of space
- 549 weathering, impact dehydration, or original composition.
- 550 551

# 552 **4.2** Hydrogen abundance and comparison to meteorites

Bennu has similar H content  $(0.71 \pm 0.16 \text{ wt.\%})$  to the ranges found in CM meteorites (0.46-1.36 wt%), the ungrouped C2 meteorite Tagish Lake (0.50-0.69 wt.%), and CR meteorites (0.30-1.20 wt.%), Alexander et al., 2012). However, previous spectral analyses ruled out the CRs as analogs for Bennu and suggested that Bennu is most similar to the most aqueously altered CM and CI chondrites (Hamilton et al., 2019). However the H content of Bennu is not similar to those of the CIs (1.330-1.366 wt.%), Alexander et al., 2012, **Figure 2**).

559

560 Our results therefore indicate that Bennu is most similar to the CM and Tagish Lake

- 561 meteorites. Most heated CMs have experienced temperatures of >~400°C (e.g. Lee et al.,
- 562 2016). The estimation of H content, as shown here, and the fact that olivine has not been
- 563 detected on the surface by OVIRS or OTES, both suggest that Bennu's phyllosilicates have
- not been significantly dehydrated or decomposed, which occurs at ~700°C (Hamilton et al.,
- 565 2019; Hamilton et al., in **revision**). **The areas of lower H content on Bennu's surface**
- 566 correspond to higher surface temperature (~350 K) as shown in Figure 3C in Simon et al.,
- 567 **2020a.** Moreover, Rozitis et al. (2020b), modelling Bennu's surface temperature, found
- modest seasonal temperature variations but relatively high diurnal temperature with a
   maximum of 390K at the equator during perihelion.
- 570 The presence of organics in some locations on Bennu's surface could imply that these
- 571 regions have not experienced significant heating (Kaplan et al., in prep; Kebukawa et al.,
- 572 2010; Simon et al., 2020a), which could potentially rule out the heated CMs as analogs of
- 573 Bennu, without excluding the lower end of heated CMs as evidence consistent with low to
- 574 moderate heating are present on Bennu. Although Tagish Lake has a strongly red spectral
- slope (unlike the moderately blue slope of Bennu), it has previously been suggested to be

analogous to Bennu in terms of its carbonate-rich lithology, strong hydration feature, and
low albedo (Kaplan et al., 2020; Merlin et al., in revision) as well as by OTES comparison to
laboratory spectral data (Brunetto et al., 2020).

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- 580

581 **4.3** Hydrogen abundance and comparison with C-complex asteroids

582 The relative abundance of phyllosilicates on asteroid surfaces has been the subject of

studies of ground-based (Rivkin et al., 2003; Takir et al., 2019) and space-based
observations (Ammannito et al., 2016; De Sanctis et al., 2016).

585 Ground-based observation campaigns of asteroids revealed the presence of 2.7-µm region

- absorption band in a number of asteroids (Rivkin et al., 2003; Rivkin et al., 2015, Takir &
- 587 Emery, 2012). However, the 2.5–2.85 μm range remains difficult to analyse due to

588 atmospheric absorption. The band minimum is generally situated in this wavelength

- range, limiting detailed mineralogical studies and comparison with carbonaceouschondrite.
- 591

592 The Dawn mission collected spatially resolved spectral data with near-global coverage of 593 Ceres' and Vesta's surfaces using the visible and infrared mapping spectrometer (VIR) (De

Sanctis et al., 2011) from 0.25 to 5μm. Ammannito et al. (2016) studied the repartition of

595 phyllosilicates on the surface of Ceres using spectral data collected by VIR. The relative

abundance of the Mg-bearing phyllosilicates was mapped using the intensity of its 2.72-to-

597 **2.73-μm** centered absorption band and showed the variability of the Mg-bearing

598 phyllosilicate abundance as well as a fairly uniform phyllosilicate composition across Ceres 599 surface (with no significant variation of the band minimum position). Furthermore, using

surface (with no significant variation of the band minimum position). Furthermore, using
 the VIR spectrometer in combination with the GRaND instrument (gamma ray and neutron

600 the VIR spectrometer in combination with the GRaND instrument (gamma ray and neutron 601 detector) of the Dawn mission, Prettyman et al. (2019) analyzed the hydrogen elemental

602 abundance at the surface of Ceres and Vesta. Prettyman et al., found that the majority of

603 hydrogen is present in hydroxyl-bearing minerals at the surface of Vesta, while for Ceres,

604 higher concentration of hydrogen in the poles is consistent with the presence of

605 subsurface ice. However, the evolution histories and physical properties of these two

606 objects are completely dissimilar from those of Bennu.

607

608 Spectroscopic surveys of C-complex and S-complex asteroids were performed using the 609 Infrared Camera (from 2.5 to 5 µm) on board the satellite AKARI and the resulting asteroid 610 spectral library was analyzed by Usui et al. (2019). They showed that the majority of 611 observed C-complex asteroids present a significant 2.7-µm region absorption band, 612 generally centered near 2.75  $\mu$ m. They analyzed the relative abundance of hydrated 613 phyllosilicates with a band depth calculation. Beck et al. (2020) discussed an approach to 614 quantify the equivalent water abundance of main-belt asteroid surfaces using AKARI 615 asteroid spectral data set in coordination with a set of laboratory measurements on 616 carbonaceous chondrites under dry vacuum conditions (Beck et al., 2010). Using this newly 617 available near-infrared spectral library of C-complex main-belt asteroids, Beck et al. (2020) 618 computed a spectral metric and compared the results of those from laboratory-measured 619 carbonaceous chondrite spectra as well as carbonaceous chondrite H<sub>2</sub>O abundances (wt.%) 620 estimated by TGA (thermogravimetric analyses). The spectral metric they found, which can 621 be applied to all meteorite types used in this study (CM, CI, CV, CR, CO, and Tagish Lake), 622 uses the sum of the band depths at 2.75 and 2.8 µm. Through a linear correlation between

- 623 the previously mentioned spectral metric, they were able to estimate the water content at
- 624 the surface of C-complex main-belt asteroids and determined a water content average of
- 625 **4.5 wt.% H<sub>2</sub>O with high uncertainties of \pm 4 wt.% H<sub>2</sub>O linked to the quality of the**
- 626 correlation. Beck et al. observed that the water content estimated for the most hydrated
- asteroids is lower than those of carbonaceous chondrites. This may be due to space
- 628 weathering of asteroids or to an underestimation of the terrestrial water contribution in
- 629 carbonaceous chondrites. While Bennu's spectra are of higher resolution and quality than
   630 AKARI's asteroid observations, the global H content estimation for Bennu gives only an
- 631 indication of the surface hydration without disentangling the space weathering effects on
- 632 Bennu's surface.
- 633

### **634 5. Conclusions**

635 These results represent the first spatially resolved estimation of hydrogen content in water 636 and hydroxyl groups of hydrated phyllosilicates of an asteroid surface, revealing the

- 637 presence of small latitudinal differences in H content as well as differences associated with
- 638 geomorphology. Our results suggest that Bennu is moderately hydrated compared to CC
- 639 meteorites, with an average H content of ~0.71 ± 0.16 wt.% derived from the NOPL and
- 640 ESPAT methods. Long-term, on-going surface modification processes, including solar wind
- 641 implantation and impact dehydration, may be responsible for the lower H content in the
- 642 equatorial region. In addition, different initial compositions inherited from Bennu's parent
- body (DellaGiustina et al., 2020) may play a role in the distribution of H content, as
- 644 exemplified by large, dark individual boulders with lower than average H content.
- 645
- 646 Quantifying the H content at the surface of Bennu can constrain its thermal history and help
- 647 us to understand the composition of the primitive asteroid populations. The H content
- 648 variations on Bennu, the full range of which is 0.64 ± 0.15 to 0.76 ± 0.15 wt.%, are small
- 649 compared to the overall range of the CC meteorites used in this study (0.410  $\pm$  0.001 to
- 650 1.366 ± 0.015 wt.%), which could validate the use of non–spatially resolved investigations of
- 651 the 2.7-μm feature on asteroids to understand hydration and/or relation to the CC
- 652 meteorites (e.g., with ground- or space-based telescopes). The study of H<sub>2</sub>O and OH<sup>-</sup>
- abundance on many primitive bodies can help constrain models of the formation and
- evolution of our Solar System, as well as some of the key processes in the development oflife on Earth (Brack, 1993).
- 656 The origin of water on Earth is one of the most important topics still debated (Alexander et 657 al., 2012; Altwegg et al., 2015; Piani et al., 2020), i.e. how the Earth acquired so much 658 water, having originated from a hot, dry part of the disk of gas and dust from which the Solar 659 System formed. Many primitive asteroids once contained abundant water, now stored as 660 OH in hydrated minerals (Alexander et al. 2012). Therefore, the H content (phyllosilicate 661 H<sub>2</sub>O and OH group hydrogen content) as well as its distribution found for Bennu's surface 662 could help to constrain and model the compositional evolution of the pristine asteroid 663 population.
- 664
- 665 Two of the key ingredients for life, water and complex organic molecules, may have been
- delivered to Earth after formation by impacts with small bodies (Altwegg et al., 2019).
- 667 OSIRIS-REx sampled Bennu's surface at site Nightingale in October 2020 and will return the
- 668 collected sample to Earth in 2023; the sample is predicted to contain water and organics. As
- 669 Beck et al. (2021) estimated the water content for the most hydrated asteroids to be lower

- 670 than those of carbonaceous chondrites, we suggest that the hydrogen content contained in
- 671 the phyllosilicate H<sub>2</sub>O and OH group of the returned sample will be at least 0.71 wt.%. This
- 672 hydrogen abundance is similar to those of the CM and Tagish Lake meteorites, which share
- 673 similarities in phyllosilicate mineralogy with Bennu. **Our analysis does not allow to unravel**
- 674 the space weathering effects on Bennu's surface.
- 675 Both the sample and the VNIR spectral data reflect the surface composition of Bennu, which 676 may be more heated and/or space-weathered than material sourced from the interior.
- 677 Given that the OSIRIS-REx sample acquisition mechanism penetrated several centimetres
- 678 **into the subsurface (Lauretta et al., 2021),** weathered as well as potentially unweathered
- 679 material will be returned. Our results, if validated by analysis of the returned sample, could
- 680 be used to estimate H content on other hydrated asteroids.
- 681
- 682 683

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#### 697 Data availability

The OVIRS EQ3 spectral data used in this work are available via the Planetary Data System at https://sbn.psi.edu/pds/resource/orex/ovirs.html. Data are delivered to the PDS according to the OSIRIS-REx Data Management Plan available in the OSIRIS-REx PDS archive. The maps are available upon request. The meteorite data were obtained from the references shown

- in **Appendix A**.
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1017 **Appendix A**: The selected meteorites are reported with their spectral reference and their H 1018 content calculated by Alexander et al., 2012, 2013 (\*); Garenne et al., 2016 (\*\*); Gilmore et

al., 2019 (\*\*\*). For each meteorite, the type and the subtype using the Rubin (2007) scale

1020 are reported, as well as the ones for which a Gaussian centered originally at 2.75 $\mu$ m was

1021 modelled (<sup>1</sup>).

Name	H content	H error	Types	Subtypes	Spectrum Reference	H content
					Corrence	Reference
ALH83100	1,353	0,009	CM1/2	2.1	Garenne et al 2016	*
ALH83100 <sup>1</sup>	1,353	0,009	CM1/2	2.1	Potin et al., 2020	*
ALH84029	1,260	0,009	CM1/2	2.1	Garenne et al., 2016	*
ALH84033	0,610	0,018	CM2 Heated	/	Garenne et al., 2016	*
ALH84044	1,240	0,008	CM2	2.1	Garenne et al., 2016	*
Banten <sup>1</sup>	0,910	0,010	CM2	2.5	Takir et al., 2019	*
Cold Bokkeveld (*) <sup>1</sup>	1,220	0,004	CM2	2.2	Takir et al., 2013	*
DOM03183	0,950	0,001	CM2 Heated	2.3	Garenne et al., 2016	*
DOM080031	1,359	0,006	CM2	2.2	Potin et al., 2020	*
EET83355	0,410	0,001	CM2 Heated	/	Garenne et al., 2016	*
EET96029	0,728	0,012	CM2 Heated	/	Garenne et al., 2016	*
EET96029 <sup>1</sup>	0,728	0,012	CM2 Heated	/	Potin et al., 2020	*
Essebi (*) <sup>1</sup>	0,770	0,005	CM2?	/	Takir et al., 2019	*
lvuna <sup>1</sup>	1,330	0,094	CI1	/	Takir et al., 2013	*
LAP02277 <sup>1</sup>	1,112	0,009	CM1 Heated	2.0	Takir et al., 2013	*
LAP02333	1,020	0,005	CM2	2.6	Garenne et al., 2016	*
LAP02336	0,950	0,005	CM2	2.6	Garenne et al., 2016	*
LEW87022	1,090	0,014	CM2	2.3	Garenne et al., 2016	*
LEW90500	0,990	0,005	CM2	2.3	Garenne et al., 2016	*
MAC88100 <sup>1</sup>	0,894	0,010	CM2 Heated	2.3	Potin et al., 2020	*
MET01070	1,274	0,000	CM1	2.0	Garenne et al., 2016	*
MET01070 <sup>1</sup>	1,274	0,000	CM1	2.0	Potin et al., 2020	*
Mighei (*) <sup>1</sup>	0,994	0,003	CM2	2.3	Poggiali personal communicati	*

					on	
MIL07700	0,570	0,016	CM2 Heated	/	Garenne et al., 2016	*
MIL07700 <sup>1</sup>	0,570	0,016	CM2 Heated	/	Potin et al., 2020	*
MIL07700 <sup>1</sup>	0,570	0,016	CM2 Heated	/	Takir et al., 2013	*
Murchison <sup>1</sup>	0,956	0,002	CM2	2.4	Potin et al., 2020	*
Murchison <sup>1</sup>	0,956	0,002	CM2	2.4	Takir et al., 2019	*
Orgueil BM <sup>1</sup>	1,366	0,015	CI1	/	Potin et al., 2020	*
Orgueil BM <sup>1</sup>	1,366	0,015	CI1	/	Takir et al., 2019	*
Orgueil Smith. <sup>1</sup>	1,346	0,019	CI1	/	Potin et al., 2020	*
Orgueil Smith. <sup>1</sup>	1,346	0,019	CI1	/	Takir et al., 2019	*
QUE97990 <sup>1</sup>	0,959	0,000	CM2	2.5	Potin et al., 2020	*
QUE97990 <sup>1</sup>	0,959	0,000	CM2	2.5	Takir et al., 2013	*
Tagish Lake lithology 4 <sup>1</sup>	0,642	0,000	C2	/	Potin et al., 2020	***
Tagish Lake <sup>1</sup>	0,720	0,003	C2	/	Takir et al., 2019	*
Tagish Lake <sup>1</sup>	0,717	0,004	C2	/	Takir et al., 2019	*
WIS91600	0,878	0,000	CM2 Heated	/	Garenne et al., 2016	**
WIS91600 <sup>1</sup>	0,878	0,000	CM2 Heated	/	Potin et al., 2020	**