Reflectance Experiment Laboratory (RELAB)
Description and User's Manual

Spectroscopic data acquired in the laboratory provide the interpretive foundation upon which compositional information about unexplored or unsampled planetary surfaces is derived from remotely obtained reflectance spectra. The RELAB is supported by NASA as a multi-user spectroscopy facility, and laboratory time can be made available at no charge to investigators who are in funded NASA programs. RELAB has two operational spectrometers available to NASA scientists: 1) a near-ultraviolet, visible, and near-infrared bidirectional spectrometer and 2) a near- and mid-infrared FT-IR spectrometer. The overall purpose of the design and operation of the RELAB bidirectional spectrometer is to obtain high precision, high spectral resolution, bidirectional reflectance spectra of earth and planetary materials. One of the key elements of its design is the ability to measure samples using viewing geometries specified by the user. This allows investigators to simulate, under laboratory conditions, reflectance spectra obtained remotely (i.e., with spaceborne, telescopic, and airborne systems) as well as to investigate geometry dependent reflectance properties of geologic materials. The Nicolet 740 FT-IR spectrometer currently operates in reflectance mode from 0.9 to 25 µm. Use and scheduling of the RELAB is monitored by a 4-member advisory committee. NASA investigators should direct inquiries to the Science Manager or RELAB Operator.

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INSTRUMENT SPECIFICATIONS: UV-VIS-NIR BIDIRECTIONAL SPECTROMETER

Operating Spectral Range: Nominal (0.32 to 2.55 μm); Possible (0.30 to 2.8 μm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Range (μm)</th>
<th>Resolution (nm)</th>
<th>Grating</th>
<th>Detector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>0.3-0.85</td>
<td>≤ 1.7</td>
<td>1180</td>
<td>Photomultiplier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>0.6-1.8</td>
<td>≤ 3.4</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>InSb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1.7-2.7</td>
<td>≤ 6.8</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>InSb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>2.0-3.6</td>
<td>≤ 13</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>InSb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sampling Interval: 5 or 10 nm standard, 1 nm minimum. Inverse centimeter sampling optional.

Precision: Instrumental error is less than 1/4 % in reflectance.

Geometry: Bidirectional reflectance; Spectral goniometry.
Incident and reflected beam can each be varied from normal to 70°.
(-10 < i < 70; -70 < e < 70).
Phase angle minimum 10°, maximum 140°.

Sample: Particulate sample or soil (reflectance):
Measured horizontal and uncovered (normally rotated slowly).
Typical amount required is 500 mg.
Sample should be no smaller than 20 mg.
More than 10 g is unnecessary.
Chip or rock (reflectance):
Measured horizontal and uncovered on a height-adjustable stage.
Regions to be measured should be no smaller than 1.5 mm.
Maximum sample size is 10 cm in diameter (2.5 cm to be spun).
Thin section (reflectance or transmittance):
Measured horizontal on halon (reflectance) or on an aperture (transmittance).
Regions to be measured should be no smaller than 1.5 mm.
Surface should be polished and clean (no carbon coating).

Reference Standard: Halon (pressed; approximate Lambertian surface; reflectance < 0.97).
Corrections based on the NBS calibration are applied automatically.
Corrections for the non-Lambertian properties of halon are available on request.

Light Source: Quartz halogen lamp; Jarrel Ash half-meter monochromator.

Optics: Order sorting filters, front surface mirrors, depolarizer, apertures.

Typical Run Time: Measurements over a spectral range of 0.35 to 2.55 μm at 5 nm sampling interval take ~2 hours per sample.
INSTRUMENT SPECIFICATIONS: **Nicolet Nexus 870 FT-IR SPECTROMETER**

**Operating Spectral Range:** Nominal (1.0 to 25 μm) Possible (0.8 to 200 μm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Range (μm)</th>
<th>Light Source</th>
<th>Beam Splitter</th>
<th>Detector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>0.8 – 2.6</td>
<td>Quartz</td>
<td>Si-on-CaF2</td>
<td>TE cooled InGaAs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>1.3 – 28</td>
<td>Glowbar</td>
<td>Ge-on-KBr</td>
<td>TE cooled DTGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>14.3 – 200</td>
<td>Glowbar</td>
<td>solid substrate</td>
<td>DTGS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sampling Interval:** 16, 8, 4, 2, 1 or 0.5 cm⁻¹
Default: 8 cm⁻¹ (0.9-3.2 μm), 4 cm⁻¹ (1.8-26 μm)

**Geometry:**
- Biconical - on axis for multiple sample holder (Pike attachment)
- Biconical - off axis for single measurement
- Transmission (normal incidence)

**Sample:**
- Particulate sample or soil (reflectance):
  - Measured horizontal and uncovered.
  - Typical amount required is 100 - 500 mg.
  - Sample should be no smaller than 20 mg.
  - More than 1 g is unnecessary.

- Chip (reflectance):
  - Measured horizontal and uncovered.
  - Regions to be measured should be no smaller than 1 mm.
  - Maximum size is 1 cm in diameter.

- Thin section and single crystal (transmission):
  - Measured vertical, attached to an appropriate aperture board.
  - Regions to be measured should be no smaller than 1.5 mm.
  - Surface should be polished and clean (no carbon coating).

**Reference Standard:**
- Brushed gold (reflectance)
- Blank (transmittance)

**Additional Attachments:**
- Pike AutoDiff Diffuse Reflectance Autosampler [new]
- Continuum Microscope system [new]

**Software:**
- OMNIC, Atlus [new]
GENERAL OPERATIONS

Use of the RELAB should be initially arranged through the Science Manager. New Investigators must fill out the attached Investigator Form. All investigators must provide information on each sample to be measured using the attached Sample Information Form and Compositional Analysis Form if chemical or mineral composition is available. A completed Measurement Request Form must be provided for each set of samples to be measured under a common measurement condition. This information is very important in order to maintain a useful and up-to-date data base of spectroscopic data.

Bidirectional Spectrometer:

Powders, chips, or slabs can be run using the RELAB bidirectional spectrometer. Although sample dishes come in various sizes, the smallest sample that can be accurately handled is about 20 mg, while the optimum sample size is about 1 g.

The standard sample dish for the bidirectional spectrometer is aluminum coated with black teflon. Its reflectance is less than 3% throughout the entire spectral range of the bidirectional spectrometer.

For analysis of heterogeneous samples, viewing optics include precision apertures for measurements from broad sample areas up to 1 cm in diameter down to areas as small as 1 mm in diameter.

To initiate a data run the USER must supply and specify the following run parameters: (a) sample name and properties; (b) angle of incidence (light source) and angle of emission (reflectance); (c) wavelength range (start and stop); and (d) sampling interval.

Based on these run parameters specified by the user, the RELAB Operator configures the system and performs all the data acquisition. A complete spectrum from 350 to 2550 nm at 5 nm sampling interval requires about 2 hours of laboratory time per sample, depending on characteristics.

At the end of a run, values for the sample signal, the standard signal, the offset, the ratio of sample/halon (after offset subtraction), and the standard deviation of signal variance during integration on the sample are recorded on disk in a file with all run parameters and text. These data files, each identified by a unique run ID, become part of the data base collection. NBS calibration of halon is a (multiplicative) correction to the ratio data producing reflectance values for the sample.

FT-IR Spectrometer:

A Nicolet Nexus 870 FTIR spectrometer is operational for samples of particulate samples using a Pike AutoDiff multi-sample attachment. Infrared [off-axis] biconical reflectance spectra are normally produced relative to a gold standard. Infrared spectra are typically scaled to and merged with bidirectional reflectance spectra to produce continuous spectra from 0.3 to 26 μm. The Pike multi-sample biconical reflectance attachment is normally requested by outside users as the standard mode for midIR data. Use of the Nicolet Continuum microscope, on the other hand, requires training. Contact the RELAB science manager for information.
USER INSTRUCTIONS

1) After the initial contact with the RELAB Science Manager to arrange use of the facility, users should contact the RELAB Operator directly to schedule samples to be measured. Investigators should carefully select the most appropriate sample preparation and RELAB configuration for their specific science requirements. If uncertain of measurement strategy, contact the RELAB Operator or Science Manager for advice. [During periods of heavy use of the facility, requests for extensive numbers of spectra may be given lower priority in the measurement queue, therefore it is important to prioritize measurements in any large request.]

2) Investigators (and/or their students) should fill out the attached Investigator Form with up-to-date information. Sample ID's assigned at the RELAB use the investigators' three initials. If you have published work using RELAB spectra, please include a publication list in the Investigator Form. These will be included in a public spectroscopy bibliography on the RELAB web site. (It is unnecessary to send references already included.)

3) For each set of samples to be measured under common conditions, the investigator is requested to fill out the attached Measurement Request Form. It includes information to specify the type of measurement to be made in the RELAB.

   a) Applicable Samples: Identify all the submitted sample names which are to be measured under a common measuring condition described in the form, or write "All".

   b) Research Type: For accounting purposes, circle at least one category which accounts for support of this research. The research type should reflect the NASA involvement of the PI/CoI or Sponsor.

   c) Wavelength Range and Sampling Interval or Resolution: Choose one of standard values or specify.

   d) Geometry: Incidence and emergence angles are measured from the vertical direction in positive and negative values of degrees (negative values are on the opposite site). For example, a geometry with source light at 30° inclination and detector at 20° inclination from the vertical direction would be (30, -20) which makes 50° phase angle. Phase angle must be 10° or larger for the Bidirectional Spectrometer. Geometry for the FT-IR Spectrometer is fixed at (30, -30).

   e) Date Desired: Indicate the date spectral data need to be completed.

   f) Public Release Date: Specify when spectroscopic data on this sample can be included in a public data base available to other investigators in digital form. Typical period is three years. Default is immediate release.

   g) Data Transfer Preference: Choose all desired. Floppy disks are available in IBM or Macintosh format (3.5").
4) For each sample the investigator must fill out the attached Sample Information Form. The information requested includes:

a) Sample Name: Formal name or the investigator's name for the sample.
b) Origin: The geographical site from which the sample was obtained or where it was prepared. If it is extraterrestrial, provide appropriate information - Meteorite fall/find location, Apollo lunar site, etc.
c) Location: Where the sample will be (semi)permanently stored.
d) Project Topic: Purpose for measuring the samples; general application.
e) Comment: General comments about the sample and/or its history.
f) Texture: Powder, slab, coarse-grained sand, fine-grained soil, thin section, etc.
g) Minimum and Maximum Particle Size: For particulate samples, the maximum and minimum (if known) particle sizes in micrometers.
h) General Type, Type, Subtype: Three levels of sample description in addition to Origin. See example below (multiple keywords are allowable in both the Type and Subtype fields).

Descriptive examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Type</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Subtype</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mineral</td>
<td>Silicate</td>
<td>Pyroxene, Enstatite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral</td>
<td>Carbonate</td>
<td>Calcite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock</td>
<td>Igneous, Plutonic</td>
<td>Granite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock</td>
<td>Metamorphic</td>
<td>Gneiss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil</td>
<td>Sand</td>
<td>Quartz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil</td>
<td>Mare</td>
<td>Bulk, Immature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meteorite</td>
<td>Achondrite</td>
<td>Basaltic, Eucrite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experimental</td>
<td>Heated</td>
<td>Basalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man-made</td>
<td>Mixture</td>
<td>Olivine, Enstatite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological</td>
<td>Plant</td>
<td>Maple Leaf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5) Whenever available, modal mineralogy for the sample and/or chemical analysis for either the bulk sample or for individual mineral constituents should be provided on the Compositional Analysis Form. This important information will be stored in a separate file and assigned a unique record number for easy retrieval.

6) Samples should be sent to the RELAB Operator with completed forms and any other necessary instructions. Any NASA investigator is welcome to visit the RELAB at Brown University to prepare their samples for measurement in person and to use available data analysis tools. This should be prearranged to prevent schedule conflicts.

7) Data products are sent to the investigator (digital and/or hard copy). Special requirements should be discussed with the RELAB Operator.

8) RELAB forms are downloadable in PDF form from our web site, and their Microsoft Word files are also available upon request to the RELAB Operator.
Investigator Form

Principal Investigator:

Full Name: ____________________________________________
First    Middle Initial    Last

Affiliation: ____________________________________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________________

E-Mail Address: ________________________________________

Phone: __________________________ Fax: ______________________

Secondary (or Student) Investigator:

Full Name: ____________________________________________
First    Middle Initial    Last

Affiliation: ____________________________________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________________

E-Mail Address: ________________________________________

Phone: __________________________ Fax: ______________________

Publication List (Papers & abstracts containing RELAB spectra to be included in spectroscopy bibliography. Use separate sheet if necessary.)

* For RELAB use:

PI Code: _______ _______ _______    SI Code: _______ _______ _______
Sample Information Form (One for each sample)

Investigator: _______________________________________________________

Sample Name: _______________________________________________________

Origin: ___________________________________________________________

Location: _________________________________________________________

Project Topic: _____________________________________________________

Comment: _________________________________________________________

Textures: __________________________________________________________

Particle Size: ___________________________ μm
                    (Minimum)                        (Maximum)

General Type: _____________________________________________________

Type: _____________________________________________________________

Subtype: __________________________________________________________

Is compositional information available? ( ) Yes ( ) No
(If yes, please also submit Compositional Analysis Form.)

Priority Level: _____ (used in Measurement Request Form)

* For RELAB use:

MM Analysis #: _____________________________ Bulk Chem. #: _____________________________

ID: __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

PI: __ __ __ SI: __ __ __ PO: _____________________________
**Compositional Analysis Form (One for each sample if available)**

Investigator: 

Sample Name: 

Text (identify facility and/or investigator performing analysis): 

**Chemical Analysis (wt%):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SiO₂</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TiO₂</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al₂O₃</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cr₂O₃</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V₂O₅</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fe₂O₃</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FeO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NiO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MnO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MgO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZnO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CaO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na₂O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K₂O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P₂O₅</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Include minor or trace elements information on a separate sheet.

**Modal Mineralogy:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mineral / Component</th>
<th>(wt / vol) %</th>
<th>Mineral / Component</th>
<th>(wt / vol) %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If available, provide chemical analysis for individual minerals on separate sheets.

* For RELAB use:

Sample ID: 

M Mineral #: 

C Analysis #: 
Measurement Request Form (One for each group or subgroup of samples)

Investigator Name: ____________________________________________________________

Applicable Samples: __________________________________________________________

Research Type (circle at least one): PGG  Cosmochemistry  Astronomy  Exobiology

Student  LDAP  MDAP  NASA-ESA-FSU-Japan-Canada  Active missions

Mission planning  Proposal preparation  Other: ________________________________

NASA PI/CoI or Sponsor (if different from Investigator): ____________________________

Bidirectional Spectrometer (* Standard parameters)

Wavelength Range: ( )* 0.32-2.55 μm ( ) 0.3-2.6 μm ( ) Other _______________

Sampling Interval: ( )* 10 nm ( ) 5 nm ( ) Other _______________

Geometry (incidence, emergence angles): ( )* (30, 0) ( ) Other _______________

FT-IR Spectrometer (* Standard parameters)

Wavelength Range: ( ) 0.9-3.2 μm ( )* 1.8-26 μm ( ) Other _______________

Wavenumber Resolution: ( ) 2 cm⁻¹ ( )* 4 cm⁻¹ ( ) Other _______________

Schedule & Data Transfer

Date desired for the priority levels specified in the Sample Information Forms

Priority Level: _______ _______ _______ _______

Date Desired: ______________ ______________ ______________

Public Release Date: ( ) Immediate ( ) 1 Year ( ) 3 Years ( ) Other _______________

Data Transfer Preference: ( ) E-mail ( ) 3.5" floppy disk [( ) IBM / ( ) Macintosh]

( ) FTP [ Host: __________________________ Password: _______ Directory: _____________ ]

( ) Plot on paper ( ) Other ________________________________

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELAB Bidirectional Spectrometer Time Statistics</th>
<th>Nicolet FT-IR Spectrometer Time Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>User Type</strong></td>
<td><strong>Research Type</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>PCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor</td>
<td>PCG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>PCG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor</td>
<td>PCG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calibration</td>
<td>PCG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corespectrometer</td>
<td>PCG</td>
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<td>Exobiology</td>
<td>PCG</td>
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<td>Student</td>
<td>PCG</td>
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<td>NASA-ESF-Japan-Canada</td>
<td>PCG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Missions</td>
<td>PCG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal Preparation</td>
<td>PCG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>PCG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*hours = Operation time of the spectrometer during data acquisition. The specific function(s) that are timed have varied as instrument configuration has evolved. Thus, the hours themselves are not comparable year to year, but the % Use can provide a good summary.*
Summary of RELAB use by year for the period covered by NAG5-3871. Hours of Operation monitors the time the instruments (RELAB bidirectional spectrometer or Nicolet FTIR) are powered on and acquiring data. This provides a relative measure of the use over time (but does not include sample preparation, maintenance, calibration, data management, and other activities). The % Usage is an indication of Brown usage compared to Visitors.