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## Evidence for widespread hydrated minerals on asteroid (101955) Bennu

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10

11 **Evidence for widespread hydrated minerals on asteroid (101955) Bennu**

12

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45 **Early spectral data from the Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource**  
46 **Identification, and Security–Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) mission reveal**  
47 **evidence for abundant hydrated minerals on the surface of near-Earth asteroid**  
48 **(101955) Bennu in the form of a near-infrared absorption near 2.7  $\mu\text{m}$  and thermal**  
49 **infrared spectral features that are most similar to those of aqueously altered CM**  
50 **carbonaceous chondrites. We observe these spectral features across the surface**  
51 **of Bennu, and there is no evidence of substantial rotational variability at the**  
52 **spatial scales of tens to hundreds of meters observed to date. In the visible and**  
53 **near-infrared (0.4 to 2.4  $\mu\text{m}$ ) Bennu’s spectrum appears featureless and with a**  
54 **blue (negative) slope, confirming previous ground-based observations. Bennu**  
55 **may represent a class of objects that could have brought volatiles and organic**  
56 **chemistry to Earth.**

57

58 The OSIRIS-REx mission began its Approach phase to asteroid (101955) Bennu in  
59 August 2018. Before and just after arrival at Bennu on 3 December, the OSIRIS-REx  
60 Visible and InfraRed Spectrometer (OVIRS) and Thermal Emission Spectrometer  
61 (OTES) collected hyperspectral data of this B-type asteroid, which is thought to be  
62 related to the carbonaceous chondrite meteorites<sup>1</sup>. The OVIRS instrument<sup>2</sup> is a  
63 hyperspectral, point spectrometer that measures the reflected and emitted energy of  
64 Bennu across the spectral region from 0.4 to 4.3  $\mu\text{m}$  (25,000 to 2,300  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) with a  
65 circular, 4-mrad field of view (FOV). The OTES instrument<sup>3</sup>, the first thermal infrared  
66 spectrometer to visit an asteroid, is a hyperspectral, point spectrometer that measures  
67 the emitted radiance of Bennu across the spectral region from  $\sim 1750$  to 100  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $\sim 5.71$

68 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ ) with a circular, 8-mrad FOV. The primary role of visible-to-infrared  
69 spectroscopy on the OSIRIS-REx mission is to characterize the mineralogy and  
70 chemistry of Bennu and aid in sample site selection<sup>4</sup>. The OTES radiance data also are  
71 used in conjunction with thermophysical models to determine properties of the surface,  
72 such as particle size and roughness, and to study the Yarkovsky effect<sup>5</sup>. The  
73 mineralogy and chemistry of the surface of Bennu provide information about the  
74 geological processes that have affected the asteroid, the potential for resource  
75 extraction, and the accuracy of telescopic spectral observations (with the final ground-  
76 truth coming from measurements of the returned sample).

77

78 On five days between 2 and 9 November 2018, both spectrometers obtained whole-  
79 disk (sub-FOV) spectra of Bennu for 4.5 hours, which is just over one full rotation period  
80 (~4.3 hours). In December 2018, both instruments collected spatially resolved spectra of  
81 Bennu as “ride-along” observations during imaging activities optimized for the PolyCam  
82 and MapCam imagers<sup>6</sup>.

83

#### 84 **Visible and near-infrared spectral characteristics**

85 The ground-based, composite (0.4 to 2.4  $\mu\text{m}$ ) reflectance spectrum of Bennu shows  
86 a spectrally “blue” (negative) continuum slope across the visible and near infrared,  
87 characteristic of B-type asteroids<sup>1</sup>. *Clark et al.*<sup>1</sup> did not find strong spectral absorptions  
88 in the Bennu telescopic data, and they identified CI and CM carbonaceous chondrites  
89 as the most likely spectral matches, with a preference for a CM1-like composition.  
90 (Please note that throughout the paper we following the standard convention of

91 petrologic types for chondrites, such as CI1 and CM2, first introduced by Van Schmus  
92 and Wood<sup>7</sup>.) Thus, Bennu was predicted to have hydrated minerals, but no spectral  
93 features attributable to hydration were observed. The average OVIRS disk-integrated  
94 spectrum of Bennu compares very well with the telescopic data at these wavelengths,  
95 also having a negative slope and no clear absorption features (Figure 1). There is no  
96 variation in the spectra (above the noise) with rotational phase. Analysis of spatially  
97 resolved data is ongoing and will be used to confirm or refute ground-based  
98 observations of spectral slope changes<sup>8</sup>.

99  
100 A blue-sloped continuum could be explained in one or more ways; such a continuum  
101 has been observed in some CI and CM carbonaceous chondrites and, in CI meteorites,  
102 is attributed to the presence of fine-particulate magnetite and/or insoluble organic  
103 material; it is also commonly associated with larger-particle-size samples and possibly  
104 space weathering<sup>9-11</sup>. *Lauretta et al.*<sup>12</sup> identify a candidate magnetite feature at 0.55  
105  $\mu\text{m}$ <sup>13</sup> in the darkest materials imaged by the MapCam instrument; however, as of yet, no  
106 such feature has been observed in OVIRS spectra that would confirm this detection or  
107 its assignment to magnetite. Such a feature may become evident in the higher-spatial-  
108 resolution OVIRS data that will be collected later in the mission. Experimental space  
109 weathering of carbonaceous materials can result in reddening or bluing of the spectral  
110 slope<sup>11,14,15</sup>; at present, we do not have sufficient information from OVIRS spectra to  
111 draw any conclusions about the nature or degree of space weathering on Bennu as it  
112 relates to Bennu's spectral slope or the presence of magnetite.

113

114 At longer wavelengths ( $>2.4 \mu\text{m}$ ), both disk-integrated and spatially resolved OVIRS  
115 spectra display a  $\sim 2.7\text{-}\mu\text{m}$  absorption feature. The  $2.7\text{-}\mu\text{m}$  feature is apparent in all  
116 OVIRS spectra collected thus far and is similar to the feature observed in aqueously  
117 altered CM1 and CM2 carbonaceous chondrites<sup>16-19</sup>. In analog meteorites measured  
118 under appropriate conditions (Figure 2), this absorption is due primarily to structural -OH  
119 ions in hydrous clay minerals (typically poorly-ordered to crystalline phyllosilicates of the  
120 kaolinite-serpentine group), which are common in CI and CM carbonaceous  
121 chondrites<sup>19-21</sup>. Among carbonaceous chondrites, hydrated minerals also are a  
122 component of CR chondrites<sup>22</sup>. Adsorbed H<sub>2</sub>O in CI/CM meteorite samples (commonly  
123 terrestrial in origin) exhibits a broad feature centered closer to  $3.1 \mu\text{m}$ <sup>19</sup>. Any potential  
124 H<sub>2</sub>O feature in the OVIRS spectrum is weak and will be examined in greater detail using  
125 higher spatial resolution data.

126

127 The exact position of the  $\sim 2.7\text{-}\mu\text{m}$  band minimum in phyllosilicates shifts with mineral  
128 structure and composition<sup>19,23</sup> and there is experimental evidence that its position may  
129 be altered by space weathering<sup>24</sup>. The band center in the OVIRS data is at  $2.74 \mu\text{m}$   
130 ( $\pm 0.01$ ). *Takir et al.*<sup>19</sup> showed that CI and CM chondrites display three distinct types of  
131 spectra based on the position of this feature. In “Group 1” spectra, this feature ranges in  
132 position from  $2.77$  to  $2.80 \mu\text{m}$  and is associated with petrologic subtypes between  
133 CM2.3 and 2.6 (where decimal values indicate relative alteration within type 2, with  
134 smaller values representing greater alteration). The band center for “Group 2”  
135 meteorites ranges from  $2.76$  to  $2.78 \mu\text{m}$  and includes petrologic subtypes CM2.1 to 2.2,  
136 which are the most aqueously altered petrologic type 2 meteorites. Finally, “Group 3”



137 meteorites are also CM2.1 to 2.2 but have a band center at 2.72  $\mu\text{m}$ . Ivuna, the only CI  
138 in the study, has a band center at 2.71  $\mu\text{m}$ . The OVIRS band center lies between  
139 Groups 2 and 3 and is consistent with meteorites having petrologic types of CM2.1 –  
140 2.2. Meteorites with these petrologic types are among the most aqueously altered  
141 samples studied. Space weathering effects on asteroids in this spectral region do not  
142 always match predictions<sup>25</sup> but if solar wind irradiation is affecting this band in a manner  
143 consistent with experimental data on Murchison (CM2.5), the predicted effect would be  
144 to shift the band center to slightly longer wavelengths (a maximum of 0.03  $\mu\text{m}$  for  
145 Murchison) and introduce a concave shape<sup>24</sup>. As seen in Figure 2, spectra of CI and  
146 CM1 and low petrologic type CM2 meteorites can display concave shapes in the  
147 absence of irradiation. The concavity of the Bennu spectrum is visibly less than that  
148 observed in the analogue meteorites, therefore, we cannot uniquely ascertain whether  
149 or not the shape of the Bennu spectrum in this region is indicative of space weathering.

150

151 Prior studies identify four classes of so-called “3- $\mu\text{m}$ ” band shapes among C-  
152 complex Main belt asteroids, which includes the region of the 2.7- $\mu\text{m}$  feature. These  
153 classes are named for their type examples: the asteroids Ceres, Pallas, and Themis  
154 and the Jovian moon Europa<sup>26-29</sup>. These classes correspond to different dominant  
155 surface materials. Bennu's spectrum, with its smooth rise from 2.85 to ~3.3  $\mu\text{m}$  and blue  
156 spectral slope, falls into the Pallas-like class, consistent with what is presumed to be a  
157 phyllosilicate-dominated composition.

158

159 Spectra of Cb-type<sup>30</sup> asteroid (162173) Ryugu measured by the near-infrared

160 spectrometer on the JAXA-led Hayabusa2 mission exhibit a weak, narrow 2.72- $\mu\text{m}$   
161 hydroxyl band that does not vary spatially and is interpreted as indicating the presence  
162 of Mg-rich phyllosilicates<sup>31</sup>. The best meteorite analogues for the observed feature are  
163 thermally-metamorphosed CI chondrites and shocked CM chondrites, suggesting that  
164 Ryugu has experienced more heating than Bennu, although other interpretations are  
165 possible<sup>31</sup>. Regardless of the interpretation, it is clear that Ryugu differs from unheated  
166 or slightly heated, phyllosilicate-rich carbonaceous chondrites and from Bennu.

167

168       There is not yet unambiguous evidence of organic features in the whole-disk or  
169 spatially resolved OVIRS spectra of Bennu above the level of the noise in the data  
170 shown. The whole-disk observations filled only ~40% of the FOV, and the spatially  
171 resolved data were acquired at moderate phase angles (~40-50°) on relatively hot  
172 (~340 K) surfaces, which increases the contribution from thermal emission at the  
173 wavelengths where organic bands would be expected. Planned higher-spatial-resolution  
174 data on colder surfaces may yet reveal such signatures.

175

### 176 **Thermal infrared spectral characteristics**

177       Whole-disk emissivity spectra of Bennu acquired in 2007 by the Infrared  
178 Spectrograph on the Spitzer Space Telescope have no discernible spectral features  
179 above the noise level of the data<sup>32</sup> although a comparison is shown by<sup>33</sup>. Comparable  
180 disk-integrated OTES observations require additional calibration because Bennu does  
181 not fill the OTES FOV. However, spatially resolved (80 m/spot) OTES observations  
182 reveal thermal infrared (TIR) spectra having a spectral contrast of ~2% that do not vary

183 in shape with rotational phase above the level of the noise (Figure 3).

184

185 The average TIR spectrum of Bennu exhibits a Christiansen feature (a peak on the  
186 high wavenumber/short wavelength side of the first major, usually silicate, absorption)  
187 position that is most similar to that of the CM1/2 and CM2 petrologic types. The  
188 spectrum also exhibits an absorption at the lowest wavenumbers (longest wavelengths)  
189 that is very similar to that observed in CI and CM carbonaceous chondrites (Figure 4).  
190 Meteorites in the CI and CM groups are volumetrically dominated (>55 vol.%<sup>34,35</sup>) by  
191 hydrated silicate minerals of the phyllosilicate group and are widely accepted to have  
192 been aqueously altered during their history within a parent body<sup>36-38</sup>. Therefore, we can  
193 infer that Bennu's surface is volumetrically dominated by phyllosilicates and represents  
194 aqueous alteration of the parent body.

195

196 It is notable that we have not yet observed a distinct Mg-OH feature near  $625\text{ cm}^{-1}$   
197 ( $16\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ), as this feature is common to many meteorites of the CI and CM groups. The  
198 absence of this feature may be indicative of a non-Mg endmember (Fe-bearing)  
199 phyllosilicate composition, modest heating, disorder, and/or a particle size effect.  
200 Although there is no “smoking gun” match to Bennu among the aqueously altered  
201 meteorites, spectra of Bennu are distinctly dissimilar to carbonaceous meteorite groups  
202 that have either not undergone hydrothermal aqueous alteration or have experienced  
203 alteration but are now “dry” (e.g., CO, CB, CV, CK<sup>39</sup>) (Figure 4 and Methods). Bennu's  
204 spectral signature also is dissimilar to meteorites of the CR group, which may be  
205 aqueously altered but typically contain lesser amounts of phyllosilicates with abundant

206 olivine and pyroxene<sup>34</sup> and have features that would be evident in the Bennu spectrum  
207 (Figure 4)<sup>39-41</sup>.

208

209 OTES spectra of Bennu also exhibit two features at 555 and 340  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  that are likely  
210 attributable, at least in part, to magnetite (Figure 5) and may support the proposed  
211 detection of a magnetite feature at  $\sim 0.55 \mu\text{m}$  in the darkest regions of the asteroid<sup>12</sup>.  
212 Magnetite is believed to be a product of aqueous alteration and is present at  
213 abundances up to  $\sim 10\%$  in CI chondrites. Magnetite abundance varies widely in CM  
214 chondrites, from  $\sim 0.3 - 8.4\%$  depending on petrologic subtype<sup>34,35</sup>. The abundance of  
215 magnetite on Bennu has not yet been tightly constrained, but it is present at  
216 abundances of at least a few percent and its detection is consistent with our other  
217 observations that support an affinity with these meteorite groups.

218

219 The spectral slope of Bennu from 1500 to 1110  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $\sim 6.6$  to  $9 \mu\text{m}$ ) is relatively  
220 shallow and featureless—it does not clearly exhibit the spectral shapes and emissivity  
221 reductions in this region that are common to fine-particulate sample spectra and result  
222 from volume scattering (Figure 4b). The region of silicate stretching bands ( $\sim 1100$  to  
223  $700 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ;  $\sim 9$  to  $14.3 \mu\text{m}$ ) exhibits a broad, bowl-like shape that is not well reproduced  
224 by spectra equivalent to solid and coarse-particulate (e.g.,  $>125 \mu\text{m}$ ) meteorites or fine-  
225 particulate ( $<125 \mu\text{m}$ ) meteorites measured in vacuum with an induced thermal gradient  
226 (Figure 4). Although there are similarities in the shape and breadth of the fine-  
227 particulate Orgueil (CI) chondrite spectrum and Bennu in this region, there are distinct  
228 differences between these spectra at higher wavenumbers, so this feature shape might

229 alternatively indicate an amorphous/disordered component rather than production of  
230 transparency features resulting from volume scattering.

231

232 Despite the lack of strong evidence for abundant, volume-scattering (fine)  
233 particulates at the ~80-m spatial scale of these observations, it is possible that these  
234 spectra represent a mixture of a small amount of fine (<125  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and greater amount of  
235 coarse (>125  $\mu\text{m}$ ) particulate materials, as well as the boulders that are present across  
236 the surface<sup>5,42</sup>. The lack of variation in the spectra indicates that at these spatial scales,  
237 the distribution of particle sizes on the surface does not vary substantially. The thermal  
238 inertia of Bennu is  $350 \pm 20 \text{ J m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1/2}$ , does not vary with rotational phase, and  
239 indicates a mean particle size on the order of 0.5 to 5  $\text{cm}^5$ . However, thermal inertia is  
240 not uniquely interpretable in terms of particle size, and the presence of numerous  
241 boulders for this relatively low value of thermal inertia could be interpreted as indicating  
242 that there also may be smaller particles present than the mean particle size estimate  
243 would suggest. On the other hand, it may be that the assumption about the thermal  
244 inertia of boulders on Bennu is inaccurate and that their thermal inertia is lower than  
245 what is assumed for typical planetary materials<sup>5</sup>. The lack of rotational variability in  
246 thermal inertia is consistent with the lack of variability in the apparent particle size  
247 distribution from spectroscopy, despite their differing depth sensitivities.

248

249 OSIRIS-REx spectroscopic observations from visible through thermal infrared  
250 wavelengths are highly complementary and show that the pristine sample that will be  
251 returned from Bennu has the potential to inform our understanding of water in the early

252 solar system and its origins on Earth. Bennu's spectra indicate that the surface is  
253 consistent with and dominated volumetrically by some of the most aqueously altered  
254 CM chondrites. We cannot rule out the presence of a lesser component of CI material  
255 based on both the presence of magnetite and the visual variability among materials on  
256 the surface<sup>5</sup>.

257

258 The spectral datasets presented here are consistent with a surface having range of  
259 particle sizes that does not vary spatially at scales down to 80 m as evidenced by the  
260 lack of variation in the spectral reflectance and emissivity. Other observed properties  
261 may help explain the apparent spatial uniformity of the spectral signatures at relatively  
262 large scales if there are compositional variations present among the mobile materials,  
263 but material movement leads to homogenization of their distribution. The lack of  
264 rotational and spatial variation in particle size distribution may reflect surficial  
265 redistribution processes rather than compositional uniformity, given the observed  
266 variations in albedo<sup>5</sup>. Redistribution processes are supported by the geopotential at  
267 Bennu's surface, which reveals that disturbed material moves towards the equator  
268 and/or escapes<sup>43</sup>. Additionally, analysis of the geological characteristics of Bennu's  
269 surface indicates that it is an old rubble pile but has experienced recent dynamical and  
270 geological processes<sup>42</sup>. With these and future, higher-spatial-resolution spectral  
271 observations, we will be able to 1) provide vital context for analysis of the returned  
272 sample; 2) address the history and degree of aqueous alteration experienced by  
273 Bennu's parent body based on details of mineral distribution, abundance, and  
274 composition (e.g., Mg/Fe proportions in phyllosilicates and abundance of magnetite);

275 and 3) constrain the presence or absence of organics.

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405

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407 V.E.H. is the spectral analysis working group lead, the OTES Deputy Instrument  
408 Scientist, and wrote this manuscript. A.A.S. is the spectral analysis working group

409 deputy, the OVIRS Deputy Instrument Scientist, and led the calibration of the OVIRS  
410 data and production of the disk-integrated average spectrum. P.R.C. is the OTES  
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422 Principal Investigator for the OSIRIS-REx mission. C.W.H. contributed to the data  
423 processing and analysis of OTES spectra. E.S.H. contributed to the development of  
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432

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479

## 480 **Main figure legends**

481 **Figure 1. Average whole-disk, full-rotation OVIRS spectrum of Bennu compared**

482 **with the ground-based spectrum.** The OVIRS radiance factor spectrum (black) and

483 ground-based spectrum<sup>1</sup> (red) are normalized to a reflectance of 1.0 at 0.55  $\mu\text{m}$ . The

484 OVIRS data were acquired on day of year (DOY) 306 (2 November 2018), and the field

485 of view was ~40% filled during these observations.

486

487 **Figure 2. Average DOY 306 OVIRS spectrum between 2.3 and 3.5  $\mu\text{m}$  compared to**

488 **spectra of example carbonaceous chondrites.** The carbonaceous chondrites were

489 measured in vacuum after heating<sup>19</sup> (see Methods for full meteorite names). The

490 spectra are normalized to a reflectance of 1.0 at 2.4  $\mu\text{m}$  and offset vertically for clarity.

491 The vertical line at 2.74  $\mu\text{m}$  denotes the Bennu band minimum position (see Methods).

492

493 **Figure 3. Average OTES spectrum of Bennu between 1500 and 200  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .** The

494 Bennu spectrum (black) represents slightly more than one full rotation of the asteroid as

495 measured on DOY 347 (13 December 2018). The gray spectrum shows the standard

496 deviation (offset +0.98).

497

498 **Figure 4. Average OTES spectrum of Bennu compared to spectra of whole-rock**

499 **and fine-particulate carbonaceous chondrite meteorites. a,** Comparison with whole-

500 rock samples. **b,** Comparison with fine-particulate (<125  $\mu\text{m}$ ) samples. Spectra have

501 been scaled and offset for comparison (see Methods). Vertical lines at 1110 and 530  
502  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  indicate the positions of diagnostic peaks in the Bennu spectrum, and the vertical  
503 line at  $440 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  denotes a diagnostic absorption.

504

505 **Figure 5. Average OTES Bennu spectrum compared to a spectrum of pure, fine-**  
506 **particulate (<90  $\mu\text{m}$ ) magnetite.** Spectra have been scaled and offset for comparison.  
507 Vertical lines at 555 and  $340 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicate the positions of diagnostic absorptions in  
508 both spectra.

509

## 510 **Methods**

### 511 OVIRS instrument, calibration, and data processing

512 The OVIRS design is derived from the New Horizons LEISA portion of the Ralph  
513 instrument<sup>44</sup> with an extended wavelength and simplified optics. The spectrometer uses  
514 five linear variable filters to collect the spectrum. Details of the various operating modes  
515 (e.g., super pixel summing) are described elsewhere<sup>2</sup>. To measure compositional  
516 spectral features with >5% absorption depth at spatial resolutions of 5 to 50 m, OVIRS  
517 meets a performance requirement of a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of >50 across the  
518 entire spectral range assuming an asteroid surface albedo of ~3-4% at a solar range of  
519 1.2 AU and 300 K thermal radiation. To characterize and map variations in space  
520 weathering on surfaces with an albedo of >1%, OVIRS meets an accuracy requirement  
521 of 2.5% with a precision of 2%. OVIRS calibrations and performance assessments were  
522 performed on the ground and in-flight during the OSIRIS-REx Earth encounter in  
523 September 2017<sup>45</sup>.

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The observing sequence on day of year (DOY) 306 consisted of pointing OVIRS at Bennu for 4.5 hours while scanning in a slight “up and down” pattern but keeping Bennu within the FOV at all times to obtain whole-disk measurements. The phase angle during these observations was  $\sim 5.2^\circ$ . The spectrum shown in Figures 1 and 2 is the average of 17,061 radiance factor (RADF) or I/F spectra where Bennu filled approximately 40% of the FOV; the excursions in the spectra are representative of the point-to-point scatter in the data. The OVIRS calibrated radiance spectra were obtained according to methods described by<sup>2,45</sup>. In brief, OVIRS raw data are converted from counts/second to absolute radiance units using an automated calibration pipeline. First, the closest space view is identified to create an average background file. The background subtracted counts are converted to physical units using radiometric and out-of-band coefficients derived from ground testing and in-flight calibration activities. The full calibration approach is described in more detail elsewhere<sup>45</sup>. Slight adjustments were made to the previously derived radiometric and out-of-band coefficients to adjust the response in a few spectral regions based on the Bennu Approach data to ensure filter overlap regions aligned. Calibrated radiances are then resampled onto a common wavelength axis by removing outlying noise spikes more than 1.8 standard deviations from the mean and a performing a weighted average on the remaining spectral points in each wavelength bin. The common wavelength axis has a spectral sampling of 2 nm from 0.4 to 2.4  $\mu\text{m}$  and 5 nm from 2.4 to 4.3  $\mu\text{m}$ . Data are then converted to radiance factor (I/F) by dividing by the solar spectrum scaled for Bennu’s distance.

547 The OVIRS disk-integrated data shown in this work are not photometrically  
548 corrected. The geometric albedo of Bennu ( $0.044 \pm 0.002$ ) as determined from imaging  
549 results is given by<sup>46</sup>. The geometric albedo of asteroids (extrapolated to  $0^\circ$  phase) is  
550 known to be higher than the values measured in laboratory settings at  $30^\circ$  phase, where  
551 for Bennu's phase function, this scale factor is  $\sim 2$ . If we apply this scaling factor to  
552 meteorite albedo values presented in Figure 4 of<sup>1</sup>, CI and CM chondrite values are most  
553 comparable to the geometric albedo of the hemispherically-integrated observation of  
554 Bennu and meteorites of the CK, CO, CV, CR, and CH groups are not consistent.  
555 However, because there is evidence in higher resolution imaging of materials on  
556 Bennu's surface having considerably higher albedos<sup>5</sup>, we are not prepared to assert  
557 that any compositions are ruled out by the global geometric albedo value.

558

559 Analysis of OVIRS spectra beyond  $\sim 2 \mu\text{m}$  requires removal of the contribution to the  
560 signal from thermal emission. We have tested two methods for removing this "thermal  
561 tail", with both giving similar results; we show the spectrum obtained by the first method.  
562 The first approach to computing the thermal contribution to the total radiance uses a  
563 smooth-surface thermophysical model assuming a spherical asteroid. The thermal  
564 portion of the measured flux was estimated assuming that the spectrum of Bennu is flat  
565 from  $2.2$  to  $4.0 \mu\text{m}$ . The thermal model was run while varying thermal inertia and  
566 asteroid size to fit the thermal portion of the measured flux for each OVIRS spectrum.  
567 The reflected radiance was computed as a straightforward subtraction of the model  
568 thermal radiance from the total measured radiance. In this approach, all the uncertainty  
569 and any remaining calibration artifacts are assumed to reside in the reflected radiance.

570 Because the absolute uncertainties remain unchanged but the radiance itself is  
571 decreased substantially at wavelengths with significant thermal contribution, the relative  
572 uncertainties at these longer wavelengths increase, leading to an apparent increase in  
573 noise at longer wavelengths in the subtracted spectrum. For purposes of searching for  
574 potential spectral features, we also computed total model radiance by adding the  
575 thermal model radiance to a model reflected radiance (computed by scaling the solar  
576 spectrum to OVIRS radiance at 2.2  $\mu\text{m}$ ), then divided the measured OVIRS spectra by  
577 the model total spectra (Figures 1 and 2).

578

579 In the second method, the thermal contribution to the total radiance was computed  
580 using the OSIRIS-REx thermal model described in<sup>5</sup>. The computation was performed  
581 independently for each OVIRS spectrum for the instantaneous spacecraft distance and  
582 rotation phase of Bennu, using the shape of Bennu derived from OSIRIS-REx images<sup>47</sup>.  
583 We used the v13 shape model at the lowest (12-m) resolution. The disk-integrated  
584 thermal models are not affected by the small changes in the newer version (v20) of the  
585 shape model. For some rotation phases, the model thermal radiance does not perfectly  
586 match the OVIRS measurements due to remaining imperfections in the shape model.  
587 We therefore scaled the model thermal radiance to the average measured radiance  
588 (averaged from 3.5 to 4.0  $\mu\text{m}$ ) of each spectrum before subtracting from the total  
589 radiance. For scaling purposes, the measured thermal radiance was estimated  
590 assuming that the reflectance of Bennu is flat from 2.2 to 4.0  $\mu\text{m}$ . The reflected radiance  
591 was computed as a straightforward subtraction of the model thermal radiance from the  
592 total measured radiance. In this approach, all the uncertainty and any remaining

593 calibration artifacts are assumed to reside in the reflected radiance as described above.

594

595 Determination of the 2.7- $\mu\text{m}$  band center was calculated (after the correction for  
596 thermal emission) using two methods that give virtually the same result to within the  
597 uncertainty of the measured spectrum. The first method is to fit a sixth-order polynomial  
598 to the measured spectrum between 2.65 and 2.85  $\mu\text{m}$  and find the minimum of that fit;  
599 this is the same method used by<sup>19</sup> although those authors did not report the wavelength  
600 range over which they did their fitting. This fit was calculated for both versions of the  
601 average thermal-radiance-removed Bennu spectrum. The derived minima vary by a  
602 single channel between the two spectra, being fit at 2.74 and 2.745  $\mu\text{m}$ . Because the  
603 thermal emission correction can influence the position of this band, and these spectra  
604 represent a whole-disk measurement with variable temperatures and phase angles, this  
605 result suggests our uncertainty is relatively small (on the order of the channel to channel  
606 uncertainty).

607

608 The second method for determining the 2.7- $\mu\text{m}$  band position fits a smoothing spline  
609 function to the spectrum between 2.69 and 2.85  $\mu\text{m}$  for the DOY 306 (2 November  
610 2018) average spectrum; the best fit is obtained using a smoothing value of 0.999999.  
611 The first derivative is then calculated, and the inflection point is used to determine the  
612 position of the band, which is  $2.74 \pm 0.007$ . Applying the same analytical approach to all  
613 of the spectra acquired on DOY 306, we obtain the same answer, to within the  
614 uncertainty of the data. Based on the consistency of the results obtained by these two  
615 methods and their estimated uncertainties, we conservatively identify the feature as

616 being located at  $2.74 \pm 0.01 \mu\text{m}$ .

617

### 618 OTES calibration and data processing

619 The OTES instrument<sup>3</sup> is a Michelson interferometer with heritage from the Mars  
620 Exploration Rovers Mini-Thermal Emission Spectrometer (Mini-TES) and Mars Global  
621 Surveyor Thermal Emission Spectrometer (TES)<sup>48,49</sup>. Spectral sampling is  $8.66 \text{ cm}^{-1}$   
622 across the entire spectrum. To confidently identify spectral features having a >5% band  
623 depth and achieve a 1.5% total emitted radiance accuracy requirement, OTES meets a  
624 SNR of 320 at a reference temperature of 325 K and has a single-spectrum radiometric  
625 precision of  $\leq 2.2 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W cm}^{-2} \text{ sr}^{-1} / \text{cm}^{-1}$  between 1350 and  $300 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The absolute  
626 integrated radiance error is <1% for scene temperatures ranging from 150 to 380 K.

627

628 Observing sequences designed to obtain whole-disk OTES spectra consisted of  
629 pointing OTES at Bennu for 4.5 hours (a little longer than one full rotation of the  
630 asteroid) without scanning. However, the standard calibration of OTES data depends on  
631 the scene and the calibration targets all filling the FOV; when the scene (Bennu) fills  
632 only a portion of the FOV, wavelength-dependent, off-axis modulation of energy through  
633 the interferometer results in an apparent low signal at short wavelengths. Correcting this  
634 effect requires a substantially more complex calibration approach, which is under  
635 consideration. As such, we show here spectra acquired on DOY 347 (13 December  
636 2018) when the FOV was fully filled and the standard calibration approach is  
637 appropriate for the observations. The average phase angle during these observations  
638 was  $\sim 45.5^\circ$ . The DOY 347 observations cover the equator and southern (relative to the

639 plane of the ecliptic) hemisphere and are equally representative of observations in the  
640 northern hemisphere collected during Preliminary Survey sequences on other days.

641  
642 The calibration of OTES data generally consists of an automated processing pipeline  
643 that transforms OTES raw interferograms into voltage spectra and then into absolute  
644 radiance units<sup>3</sup>. More specifically, the measured voltage spectrum is the difference  
645 between the radiance of the scene, foreoptics, and the detector times the instrument  
646 response function (IRF); the radiance of the detector and the IRF are unknowns, but  
647 can be determined by periodically observing space and an internal calibration target, at  
648 which point it becomes possible to solve for the scene radiance and account for  
649 temperature fluctuations of the instrument (detector) that result from the instrument  
650 heater cycling during the observations. After the acquisition of Earth observations in  
651 September 2017, an adjustment was made to the calibration pipeline to account for  
652 slopes in the interferograms that occur during the transition between cold space and a  
653 hot target (e.g., Earth or Bennu). This slope results from the time constant associated  
654 with the DC-correction electronics (which is longer than the 2-second integration) and, if  
655 uncorrected, results in high-frequency “ringing” in the spectra. In addition, many of the  
656 “ride-along” observation sequences in Approach and Preliminary Survey<sup>4</sup> that were  
657 designed for imaging did not include periodic views of space, instead measuring space  
658 only at the start and end of sequences that lasted on the order of 4.5 hr. As a result, an  
659 alternative calibration approach was developed to account for instrument (detector)  
660 temperature fluctuations during these sequences; this involves using a look-up table  
661 that correlates in-flight measurements of the temperature measured by a thermistor



662 adjacent to the detector to the detector radiance.

663

664 The afternoon local time of the DOY 347 observations (~15:00 - 15:30) results in  
665 viewing surfaces having different temperatures (e.g., sunlit and shadowed) thus  
666 requiring an emissivity-temperature separation that allows for the fitting of multiple  
667 temperatures. We fit the OTES calibrated radiances using a non-negative linear least  
668 squares algorithm<sup>50</sup> that takes as input a suite of Planck functions having temperatures  
669 between 150 and 380 K. The mixture of Planck functions that provides the best fit to the  
670 measured radiance is divided into the measured Bennu radiances to obtain emissivity,  
671 where the maximum emissivity is assumed to be 0.97 based on reflectance  
672 measurements of relevant carbonaceous chondrite meteorites<sup>39</sup>. The Bennu spectrum  
673 shown in Figures 3 and 4 is the average of 974 spectra having spatial resolutions of  
674 ~80-90 m/spot collected on DOY 347.

675

#### 676 Meteorite samples

677 The meteorites shown in Figure 2 are Ivuna (CI1), LaPaz Icefield (LAP) 02277  
678 (CM1), Meteorite Hills (MET) 00639 (CM2), and Cold Bokkeveld (CM2)<sup>19</sup>. Cold  
679 Bokkeveld may have been very mildly and briefly heated based on Raman  
680 spectroscopy of the insoluble organic material, but the evidence is somewhat  
681 ambiguous<sup>51,52</sup> and there is no mineralogical evidence of heating that would change our  
682 interpretation of the observed 2.71- $\mu\text{m}$  feature (where mineralogy is the property to  
683 which the laboratory and remote sensing measurements shown here are sensitive).  
684 Because meteorites have interacted with the Earth's environment, even if briefly, they

685 are prone to mineralogical and chemical alteration, including the adsorption and  
686 absorption of terrestrial water (which can be recognized through oxygen isotope  
687 analysis). The spectra shown in Figure 2 were measured under vacuum after the  
688 samples were heated to between 400 and 475 K, which drives out adsorbed and  
689 absorbed terrestrial water. The laboratory spectra have been resampled to the OVIRS  
690 spectral sampling. See<sup>19</sup> for details of sample preparation, characterization, and  
691 measurement.

692

693 The meteorites shown in Figure 4 are Orgueil (CI1), Allan Hills (ALH) 83100  
694 (CM1/2), Murchison (CM2), Miller Range (MIL) 090001 (CR2), Allende (CV3<sub>ox</sub>), and  
695 Vigarano (CV3<sub>red</sub>). All of these spectra were acquired as part of the development of the  
696 OSIRIS-REx spectral library for the analysis of OTEs data and have been resampled to  
697 the OTEs spectral sampling. The spectral acquisition methods are described below.  
698 The text indicates that thermal infrared spectra of meteorite groups CO, CB, and CK do  
699 not resemble the OTEs spectrum of Bennu; spectra of these groups are contained in  
700 the research collection of V.E.H. and are not shown here but have been shown  
701 elsewhere<sup>39</sup>.

702

### 703 Laboratory spectroscopy

704 The meteorite spectra shown in Figure 4a were measured by V.E.H. in reflectance  
705 on uncoated thin sections using a Thermo Scientific Nicolet iN10 microscope at  
706 Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, CO. The microscope is equipped with a KBr  
707 beamsplitter and a nitrogen-cooled, extended-range mercury-cadmium-telluride (MCT)

708 detector and measures spectra from 4,000 to 400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; the optical geometry of this  
709 microscope is such that the spectra are equivalent to emission spectra according to  
710 Kirchhoff's Law<sup>53</sup>. The spectra have been scaled by differing amounts to minimize  
711 spectral contrast variations and simplify the comparison of spectral shapes. These  
712 spectra are appropriate for comparison to OTES emissivity spectra of coarse  
713 particulates and solids that do not exhibit volume scattering and are not susceptible to  
714 thermal gradients<sup>54,55</sup>.

715

716 Figure 4b shows fine particulate (<125  $\mu\text{m}$ ) versions of the same meteorite samples  
717 measured by K.L.D.H. in a simulated asteroid environment at Oxford University; the  
718 sample preparation, characterization, and spectral measurements are described in  
719 detail by<sup>56</sup>. The <90- $\mu\text{m}$  magnetite spectrum in Figure 5 was measured under the same  
720 conditions and its spectrum is virtually identical to magnetite spectra measured as  
721 coarse materials and under ambient conditions. All of these spectra are appropriate for  
722 comparison to OTES emissivity spectra of dominantly fine particulates that exhibit  
723 volume scattering and are potentially susceptible to the development of thermal  
724 gradients.

725

## 726 **Data Availability Statement**

727 The data that support the plots within this paper and other findings of this study are  
728 available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request. Raw and calibrated  
729 spectral data will be available via the Small Bodies Node of the Planetary Data System  
730 (PDS) (<https://pds-smallbodies.astro.umd.edu/>). Data are delivered to the PDS

731 according to the OSIRIS-REx Data Management Plan available in the OSIRIS-REx PDS  
732 archive. Higher-level products, such as reflectance and emissivity spectra, will be  
733 available in the PDS 1 (one) year after departure from the asteroid. Laboratory spectral  
734 data are deposited in the spectral library hosted by Arizona State University  
735 (<http://speclib.mars.asu.edu/>).

736

737 **Additional references only in the Methods**

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