



# Experimental investigation of OH/H<sub>2</sub>O in H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated plagioclase: Implications for the thermal stability of water on the lunar surface

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## ABSTRACT

Determining the characteristics and thermal stability of solar wind-produced OH/H<sub>2</sub>O is critical to understanding the formation and migration of water on the lunar surface. In this study, terrestrial plagioclase (An<sub>50–53</sub>) was used as a lunar analogue and was irradiated with 5 keV H<sup>+</sup> at a fluence of  $\sim 1 \times 10^{17}$  H<sup>+</sup>/cm<sup>2</sup>. The irradiated plagioclase was characterized via Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy, nanoscale secondary ion mass spectrometry, Raman spectroscopy, and transmission electron microscopy. The thermal stability of OH/H<sub>2</sub>O in the irradiated plagioclase was investigated via heating experiments. Our results reveal (1) a  $\sim 100$ – $200$  ppm increase in the water content of the irradiated plagioclase; (2) structural hydrous species formation in the plagioclase through H<sup>+</sup> implantation, including Type I H<sub>2</sub>O ( $\sim 2.75$   $\mu$ m) and Type II H<sub>2</sub>O ( $\sim 2.90$   $\mu$ m); and (3) the escape of much of the OH/H<sub>2</sub>O formed by H<sup>+</sup> implantation at a temperature equivalent to the highest temperature on the lunar surface. The results of this study can improve our understanding of OH/H<sub>2</sub>O thermal stability on the lunar surface and provide a baseline for the interpretation of remote sensing observations.

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## 1. Introduction

Solar wind-produced water was first proposed as one of the origins of lunar water by Zeller et al. (1966). Until recently, the Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M<sup>3</sup>) on Chandrayaan-1, the Visual and Infrared Mapping Spectrometer (VIMS) on Cassini, and the High-Resolution Instrument infrared spectrometer on the Deep Impact satellites had all detected absorption near 2.8 to 3  $\mu$ m, which indicates the presence of water (possibly related to hydroxyl and molecular water; Clark, 2009; Pieters et al., 2009; Sunshine et al., 2009). However, H<sub>2</sub>O cannot be distinguished from OH in M<sup>3</sup> spectra with the longest wavelength of 2.976  $\mu$ m (Li and Milliken, 2017). Data suggest that OH/H<sub>2</sub>O on the Moon is present at concentrations of several thousand ppm (Clark, 2009; Pieters et al., 2009; Sunshine et al., 2009; Li and Milliken, 2017). The large variation in OH/H<sub>2</sub>O content is most likely related to variations in latitude and temperature (Li and Milliken, 2017; Wöhler et al.,

2017). In addition, secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS) measurements of lunar agglutinates reveal that solar wind can contribute up to 70–200 ppm of the hydroxyl groups on the Moon (Liu et al., 2012). Stephant and Robert (2014) also concluded that lunar hydroxyl groups mostly occur as a result of solar wind implantation, based on the deuterium/hydrogen (D/H) and <sup>7</sup>Li/<sup>6</sup>Li ratios in the agglutinates, volcanic glasses, and plagioclase grains from Apollo samples.

Many laboratory experiments have been performed to examine the production of OH/H<sub>2</sub>O through solar wind implantation on the lunar regolith (Zeller et al., 1966; Holmes et al., 1975; Cantando et al., 2008; Burke et al., 2011; Managadze et al., 2011; Ichimura et al., 2012; Schaible and Baragiola, 2015). Most of these experiments have included qualitative analyses of OH/H<sub>2</sub>O formation (Managadze et al., 2011; Ichimura et al., 2012; Bradley et al., 2014), but the lack of quantitative analyses of the OH/H<sub>2</sub>O produced by solar wind limits our knowledge of the mechanism of formation and contribution of solar wind-produced water on the Moon. Most experimental investigations have only identified the formation of hydroxyl groups during H<sup>+</sup> implantation (Yoshida et al., 2004; Schaible and Baragiola, 2015). However, Bradley et al. (2014) found

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that H<sub>2</sub>O forms in vesicles within the amorphous rims of plagioclase grains. The combination of protons from the solar wind and oxygen in the lunar silicates remains unknown, which limits further understanding of the formation and stability of solar wind-produced water.

The lunar surface temperature is believed to be a key factor affecting the retention, escape, and migration of solar wind-produced water, and yet experiments that investigate the effects of temperature on water stability are lacking (Poston et al., 2015; Wöhler et al., 2017; Hendrix et al., 2019). In this study, we investigated the thermal stability of solar wind-produced water on the lunar surface by using a terrestrial plagioclase analogue. In particular, we considered changes in the water content with temperature for H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated plagioclase.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Sample preparation

Plagioclase is one of the most common mineral phases on the lunar surface (Yan et al., 2010); in this study, we used terrestrial plagioclase, selected from the Damiao anorthosite (located in Hebei, China), as a lunar mineral analogue to conduct our experiments. Through electron microprobe (JEOL JXA-8230 electron microprobe EMP at the Guilin University of Technology) measurements, the studied plagioclase was identified as labradorite (An<sub>50–53</sub>). To determine the water content using transmission infrared spectroscopy, double-sided polished sections of plagioclase with a size and thickness of  $\sim 1 \times 1$  cm and  $200 \pm 10$   $\mu$ m, respectively, were prepared. To eliminate any organic matter produced during the sample preparation, the polished samples were soaked in acetone for 24 h, cleaned with ethanol, and then washed with pure water. Finally, the samples were baked at  $\sim 110$  °C for 24 h to remove any adsorbed water on the sample surfaces.

### 2.2. Ion irradiation

Experiments using H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated samples were performed with an ion implanter at the Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. This instrument consists of an ion source, a vacuum system, a magnetic analyzer, an accelerator, a sample chamber, and a control system. Ions (e.g., H<sup>+</sup>) produced by the ionized H<sub>2</sub> gas are accelerated in an electric field. Then, the H<sup>+</sup> ions are passed through the magnetic deflection field and implanted onto the studied samples in an irradiation chamber. The irradiated area is  $\sim 1.5$  cm<sup>2</sup>. The energy of the implanted H<sup>+</sup> was 5 keV owing to the limits of the instrument's performance. This energy is slightly higher than the typical energy range of solar wind but is still suitable for simulating proton implantation (Schaible and Baragiola, 2015). The H<sup>+</sup> fluence was  $1 \pm 0.03 \times 10^{17}$  H<sup>+</sup>/cm<sup>2</sup>, and the flux was  $\sim 1.85 \pm 0.06 \times 10^{12}$  ions/cm<sup>2</sup>·s, which is equivalent to 30 years of solar wind proton implantation on the Moon (Burke et al., 2011). The total irradiation time was  $\sim 10$  h, and the irradiation temperature was  $21 \pm 1$  °C (monitored by an infrared thermometer). During the irradiation processes, the pressure was controlled at  $\sim 2 \times 10^{-7}$  Torr to simulate the high vacuum conditions of the lunar surface.

### 2.3. Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy

Transmission infrared spectra measurements of the samples were performed before and after irradiation using a Thermo IS50 Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectrometer coupled with a Continuum  $\mu$ m IR microscope at the Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The transfer of the irradiated plagioclase samples between the irradiation chamber and the FTIR spectrometer occurred in the air, and the exposure time was less than 10

min, following which all samples were restored in the drying oven. Transmission spectra were obtained in the range of 4500–1000 cm<sup>-1</sup> (i.e., 2.22–10  $\mu$ m) with a spectral resolution of 4 cm<sup>-1</sup>, averaged over 128 scans. For quantitative analyses of OH/H<sub>2</sub>O, infrared absorption was measured in transmission before and after H<sup>+</sup> irradiation, at the same positions. Clean, crack-free, and alteration-free areas on each single crystal of plagioclase were chosen for FTIR measurements. Each measurement spot was  $\sim 50 \times 50$   $\mu$ m in size.

Analyses of OH/H<sub>2</sub>O characteristics were based on the FTIR data by comparing the spectra of samples before and after H<sup>+</sup> irradiation, especially the peak position and absorption area. Thus, we extracted FTIR spectra in the range of 4400–2400 cm<sup>-1</sup>, including the vibration absorption wavelengths of OH and H<sub>2</sub>O.

The content of OH/H<sub>2</sub>O was quantitatively calculated in the range of 4400–2400 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Baseline correction and multiple peak fitting were performed using the Origin 9.0 software. The Beer–Lambert rule, modified by Johnson and Rossman (2004), states that

$$\Delta = I \times c \times t \quad (1)$$

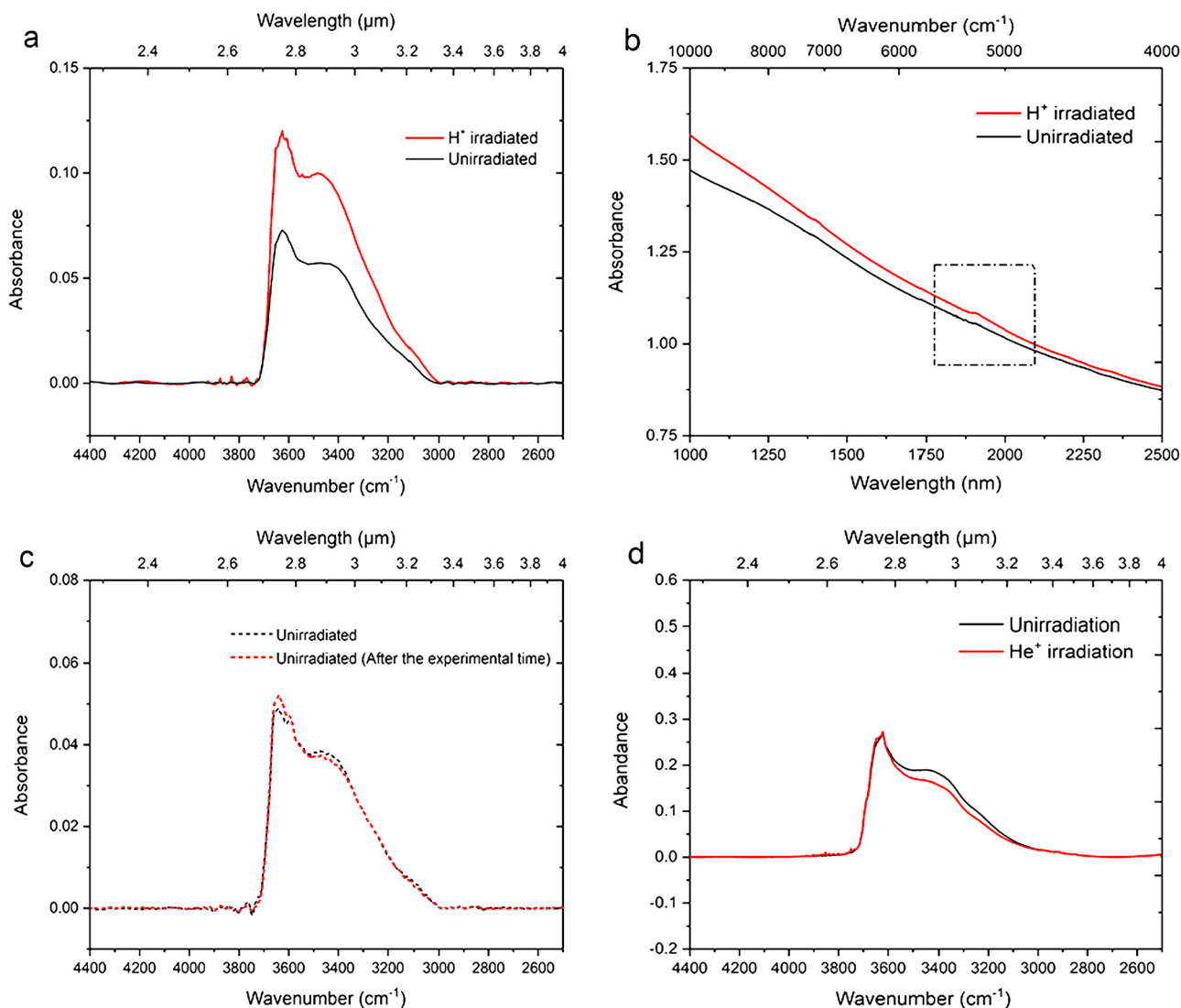
where  $\Delta$  is the area integral of the OH/H<sub>2</sub>O absorption peak,  $I$  is the molar absorption coefficient,  $t$  is the thickness (cm) of the sample, and  $c$  is the water content (ppm).

Here, the integral area  $\times 3$  was taken as  $\Delta$  for unpolarized light measurement patterns (Kovács et al., 2008). The value of  $I$  is  $107000 \pm 5000$  L·mol (H<sub>2</sub>O)<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-2</sup>, but in this study, the unit of  $I$  was replaced by ppm, and, therefore, its value was  $15.3 \pm 0.7$  ppm·cm<sup>-2</sup> (Johnson and Rossman, 2003).

Water content determination using the FTIR spectra can be affected by uncertainties in sample thickness ( $\sim 5\%$ ), spectra baseline correction ( $\sim 0.2\%$ ), unpolarized light measurements ( $\sim 20\%$ ), and the absorption coefficient ( $\sim 4.5\%$ ). Therefore, we estimated the uncertainty of the calculated water content to be  $\sim 30\%$  (Kovács et al., 2008; Liu et al., 2012; Johnson and Rossman, 2003).

### 2.4. Nanometer-scale secondary ion mass spectrometry

The hydrogen isotopes and water content of the H<sup>+</sup> irradiated and the unirradiated plagioclase were measured *in situ* with a Cameca NanoSIMS 50L at the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The plagioclase grains were measured during the same session as an NWA 8657 standard (Hu et al., 2020a,b). The analytical conditions and data reduction are identical to those reported by Hu et al. (2020a, 2020b). The secondary ions of <sup>1</sup>H<sup>-</sup>, <sup>2</sup>D<sup>-</sup>, <sup>12</sup>C<sup>-</sup>, and <sup>18</sup>O<sup>-</sup> were simultaneously counted using electron multipliers from the central areas (50% blanking). San Carlos olivine was used for H background corrections according to the following equations:  $H/O_{bg} = (H_{counts} - H_{bg})/O_{counts}$ ,  $D/H_{measured} = (1 - f) \times D/H_{real} + f \times D/H_{bg}$ , where  $f$  is the proportion of H from the instrument background (Tartèse et al., 2019; Hu et al., 2020a,b),  $D/H_{bg} = (1.98 \pm 0.51) \times 10^{-4}$ , and  $H_{bg} = (1.60 \pm 0.31) \times 10^5$  (2SD,  $N = 4$ ). The instrumental mass fractionation (IMF) and matrix effect on water content were established by measuring two apatite standards: Durango apatite (0.0478 wt% H<sub>2</sub>O) (Greenwood et al., 2008, 2011) and Kovdor apatite ( $0.98 \pm 0.07$  wt% H<sub>2</sub>O and  $\delta D = -66 \pm 21\%$ ) (Nadeau et al., 1999), and one MORB glass reference material (SWIT MORB glass; 0.258 wt% H<sub>2</sub>O and  $\delta D = -73 \pm 2\%$ ). Hydrogen isotopic compositions are presented in delta notation,  $\delta D = ((D/H)_{sample}/(D/H)_{SMOW} - 1) \times 1000\%$ , where SMOW is the standard mean ocean water with a D/H ratio of  $1.5576 \times 10^{-4}$ . Hu et al. (2014, 2015) outline additional technical details. All data are reported at  $2\sigma$  uncertainties including the reproducibility of D/H measurements on reference materials, the uncertainty on H<sub>2</sub>O background subtraction on San Carlos olivine and the internal precision of each analysis. Four spots were de-



**Fig. 1.** Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectra. (a) Unirradiated and  $H^+$ -irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase; the absorption feature at  $3000\text{--}3600\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the unirradiated sample represents the initial water in the plagioclase. (b) The absorption at  $\sim 5200\text{ cm}^{-1}$  represents the combination band of  $H_2O$  in the Unirradiated and  $H^+$ -irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase. (c) FTIR spectra of the unirradiated reference sample. (d) The change of absorption spectra before and after  $He^+$  irradiation (5 keV). (For interpretation of the colors in the figure(s), the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

terminated for  $H^+$  irradiated and unirradiated plagioclase and the analytical depth was approximately  $1.3\ \mu\text{m}$ .

### 2.5. Raman spectroscopy

To reveal the difference between the molecular bonding before and after  $H^+$  irradiation in the plagioclase, Raman spectra were collected from the same positions in the sample using a Renishaw InVia Laser Raman Spectrometer at the Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The spectral detection parameters were as follows: laser wavelength of 532 nm, spot size of  $<1\ \mu\text{m}$ , and exposure time of 20 s; the spectra were accumulated twice. After data collection, Origin 9.0 software was used for spectral processing.

### 2.6. Transmission electron microscopy

To observe the structural damages in the  $H^+$ -irradiated plagioclase, transmission electron microscopy (TEM) was used to analyze the microstructure of the uppermost layer. A thin ( $\sim 70\text{ nm}$ ) slice of irradiated plagioclase was prepared using a FEI Scios dual-beam focused ion beam/scanning electron microscope at the Institute of

Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Analyses were performed using a Talos F200S TEM at the Guangdong University of Technology. The instrument was operated at an accelerating voltage of 200 kV and a beam current of 1 nA.

### 2.7. Heating experiments

To investigate the thermal stability of  $OH/H_2O$  in irradiated plagioclase, a heating experiment was performed using *in situ* hot-stage FTIR microspectroscopy. We performed a heating experiment from  $20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  to  $1000\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  under nitrogen purge. For the lower temperature range (i.e.,  $20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  to  $300\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ), irradiated plagioclase was heated and measured through FTIR microspectroscopy with an interval of  $40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . Then, the sample was heated and measured using FTIR microspectroscopy from  $300\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  to  $1000\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  at  $100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  intervals. Finally, FTIR spectra were collected after the sample was cooled to  $20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1. Water content variation after $H^+$ irradiation

Fig. 1a shows the baseline-corrected FTIR absorbance spectra for plagioclase before and after  $H^+$  (5 keV) irradiation. Plagioclase

**Table 1**  
Absorption and water contents of unirradiated and H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase.

Analyzed positions	Unirradiated plagioclase					H <sup>+</sup> irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase					$\Delta^b$ (ppm)		
	Peak-1 (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak-2 (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak area-1 (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak area-2 (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Water content <sup>a</sup> (ppm)	Peak-1 (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak-2 (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak area-1 (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak area-2 (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Water content <sup>a</sup> (ppm)	Peak-1	Peak-2	Total
1	3625	3457	5.13	21.33	259 ± 17	3625	3455	7.88	36.12	431 ± 29	27	145	172 ± 34
2	3620	3450	6.61	16.34	225 ± 15	3625	3447	8.82	24.55	327 ± 22	22	80	102 ± 26
3	3637	3470	17.62	49.00	653 ± 44	3633	3459	21.28	66.13	857 ± 58	36	168	204 ± 73
4	3629	3449	3.15	7.94	109 ± 7	3639	3463	8.93	21.47	298 ± 20	56	133	189 ± 21
5	3629	3459	6.41	24.13	299 ± 20	3629	3465	11.02	38.19	482 ± 32	45	138	183 ± 38
6	3644	3459	5.99	21.39	268 ± 18	3629	3459	10.76	31.31	412 ± 27	47	97	144 ± 33

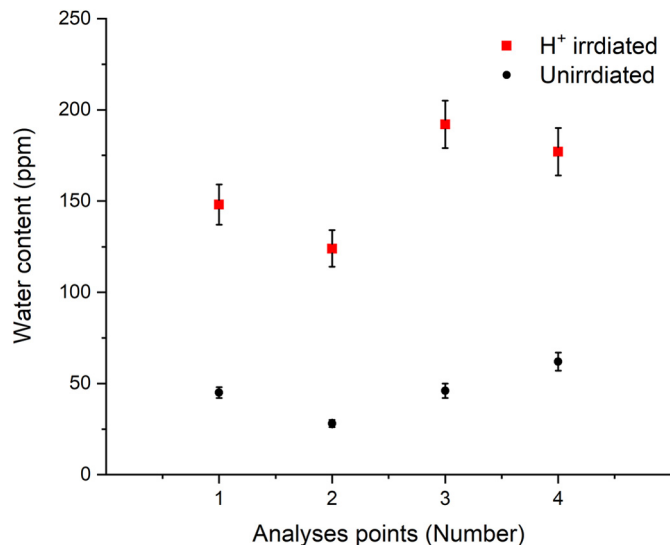
<sup>a</sup> Water content includes water abundance in peak-1 and peak-2, which are calculated using formula (1) shown in section 2.3. The error is from thickness, baseline correction, and absorption coefficient in formula (1), and has been calculated using uncertainty propagation.

<sup>b</sup>  $\Delta$  represents the changes in water content after H<sup>+</sup> implantation in plagioclase compared with the water content in unirradiated plagioclase.

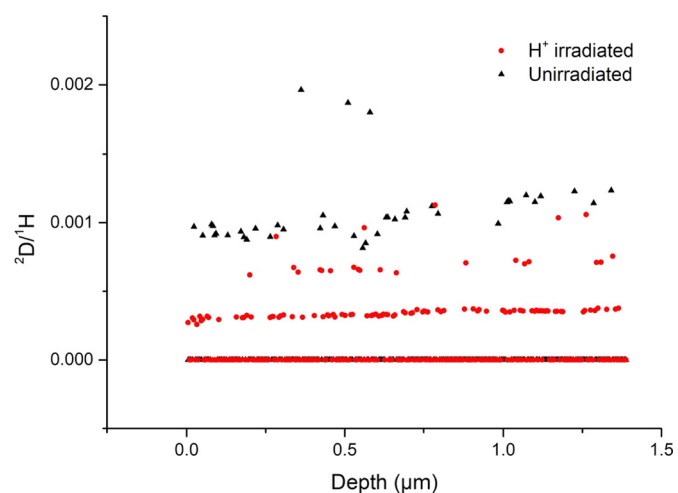
before H<sup>+</sup> irradiation showed initial water absorption at  $\sim 3600$  cm<sup>-1</sup> and 3400 cm<sup>-1</sup>, whereas H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated plagioclase exhibited an obviously increased absorption. To determine the influence of environmental water on the implanted samples, two different background samples were prepared. The first background sample was an unirradiated plagioclase that was exposed to air for the same time period as the irradiated sample. A plagioclase slice was irradiated by 5 keV He<sup>+</sup> with  $1 \pm 0.3 \times 10^{17}$  ions/cm<sup>2</sup> as the other background sample. There was little change ( $<1$  ppm water variation) in the unirradiated plagioclase after the same experimental exposure time as the irradiated plagioclase (Fig. 1c). Fig. 1d shows that the absorption at 3449 cm<sup>-1</sup> decreased, whereas the peak of 3624 cm<sup>-1</sup> was unchanged in the plagioclase sample after the He<sup>+</sup> irradiation. The total reduced water content was  $53 \pm 16$  ppm, which was caused by the sputtering of H and O atoms in the outermost layer of the plagioclase during the He<sup>+</sup> irradiation. Therefore, the enhancement at the 3000–3700 cm<sup>-1</sup> absorption range in the plagioclase sample after H<sup>+</sup> irradiation can be attributed entirely to OH/H<sub>2</sub>O formation by the implanted H<sup>+</sup>.

The water content variation after H<sup>+</sup> irradiation was then calculated according to formula (1). Table 1 summarizes the absorption features and content of water in unirradiated and H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase samples at six different analysis positions. The increased water content in the plagioclase after H<sup>+</sup> irradiation ranged from  $102 \pm 26$  to  $204 \pm 73$  ppm. The differences in water content in different positions are likely related to crystal orientations. According to Li et al. (2013), implanted He<sup>+</sup> in different crystal planes of olivine caused different degrees of crystal structural damage. As such, H<sup>+</sup> implanted into different crystal planes of plagioclase could also affect the retention of H ions and water formation, resulting in the observed differences in the increases in water content for different positions of the plagioclase.

Fig. 2 shows the water content calculated by <sup>1</sup>H/<sup>18</sup>O ratios at four spots for unirradiated and H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase. The values of water content in the unirradiated sample were  $28 \pm 2$ – $62 \pm 5$  ppm, while those in the H<sup>+</sup> irradiated sample were  $124 \pm 10$ – $192 \pm 13$  ppm. The increased water content at four analyzed positions exhibited  $\sim 115$  ppm after H<sup>+</sup> irradiation, consistent with the FTIR data. The D/H ratios from 300 counts in each measured point were measured successively in the 1.3  $\mu$ m depth range (Fig. 3). Except for data with a value of zero, the D/H ratios of H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated plagioclase were mainly distributed in the range of  $3$ – $3.5 \times 10^{-4}$ , which was relatively lower than that of the unirradiated samples (D/H ratios mainly in the range of  $8.3$ – $12.3 \times 10^{-4}$ ). This indicates that implanted H<sup>+</sup> was effectively retained in the plagioclase, thereby reducing the D/H ratio in the sample. In addition, a slight increase of the D/H ratio from the rim to the interior indicates a strong diffusion capability of H during the irradiation process.

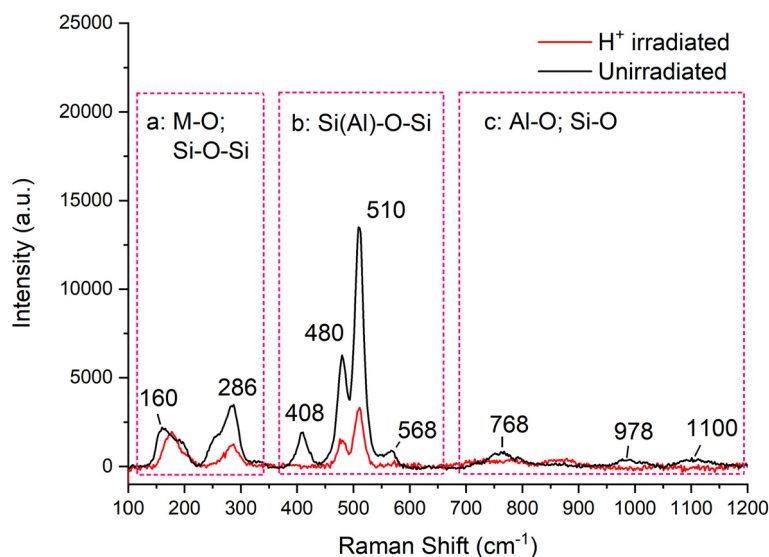


**Fig. 2.** The water content calculated by <sup>1</sup>H/<sup>18</sup>O at four analyzed spots for unirradiated and H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase. Error bars represent 2 $\sigma$  standard deviations and uncertainties.



**Fig. 3.** The deuterium/hydrogen (D/H) ratios as a function of depth for unirradiated and H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase.

FTIR spectra and NanoSIMS data for unirradiated and H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase exhibit a  $\sim 100$ – $200$  ppm increase in the water content after H<sup>+</sup> implantation. Our results are not only consistent with the water content evaluated by the orbital IR spectra data (VIMS, 10–1000 ppm; M<sup>3</sup>,  $\sim 500$ – $750$  ppm; DI,  $<5000$  ppm; Clark, 2009; Li and Milliken, 2017; Sunshine et al., 2009),



**Fig. 4.** Representative Raman spectra of unirradiated and  $H^+$ -irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase. Marked on the skeleton range are (a) the metal-oxygen bond vibrations ( $160\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and bending vibration of Si-O-Si ( $286\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), (b) Si(Al)-O-Si bridging oxygen bending vibration range, and (c) Si(Al)-O non-bridging oxygen stretching vibration range (Frogner et al., 1998).

but also with those of Apollo samples analyses (Liu et al., 2012; Stephant and Robert, 2014). The average increased band depth in transmittance was 6.22% for the plagioclase after  $H^+$  irradiation (5 keV). The growth of OH/ $H_2O$  absorption depth in this study is similar to that in an implantation experiment conducted on Apollo 16 soil (40% plagioclase) with 1.1 keV and  $\sim 10^{21}$  ions/ $\text{m}^2$  fluence (close to  $1 \pm 0.03 \times 10^{17}$   $H^+$ / $\text{cm}^2$  in this study)  $H^+$  (Ichimura et al., 2012). This suggests that solar wind-produced water is an important contributor to lunar surface water, and that plagioclase is a critical mineral for the formation of water through solar wind implantation.

### 3.2. Water occurrence after $H^+$ irradiation

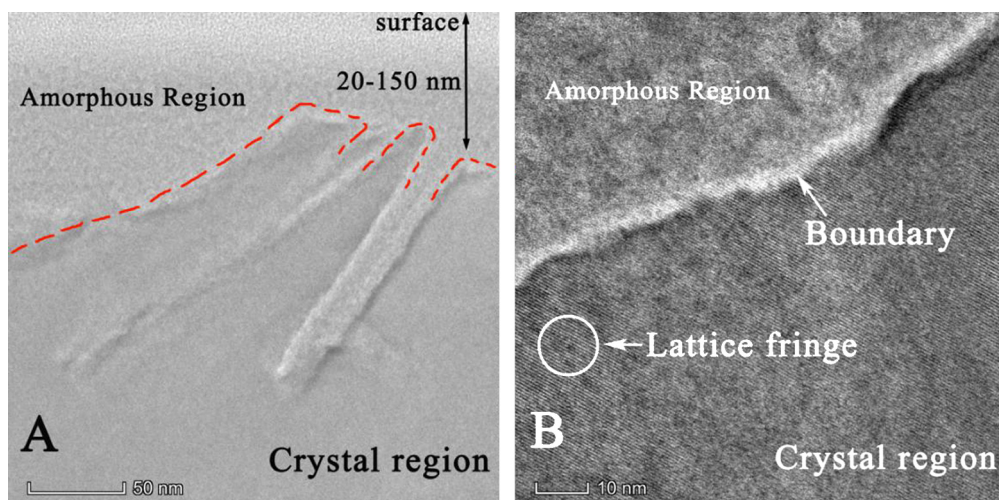
The FTIR spectra of both unirradiated and  $H^+$ -irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase show two peaks related to water, one at  $3620\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the other at  $3450\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Table 1). These two intense bands, with H-O-H fundamental frequency vibrations in the range of  $3400\text{--}3700\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the combination band of H-O-H around  $5200\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Fig. 1a, b), represent the structural hydrous species: Type I  $H_2O$  ( $\sim 3639\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; i.e.,  $2.75\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ) and Type II  $H_2O$  ( $\sim 3445\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; i.e.,  $2.90\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ) (Aines and Rossman, 1985; Johnson and Rossman, 2004). It is important to note that Type I  $H_2O$  and Type II  $H_2O$  are not the free molecular water mentioned in Clark (2009). Type I  $H_2O$  and Type II  $H_2O$  are both structural bound  $H_2O$  in plagioclase (Kronenberg et al., 1996). The mechanism for H incorporation for both Type I  $H_2O$  and Type II  $H_2O$  is bonding to the O atoms adjacent to M-site vacancies (e.g., Ca, Na) (Johnson and Rossman, 2004). Another possibility is that these two structural  $H_2O$  types are accommodated within the crankshaft-like chains that run parallel to the a-axis (Johnson and Rossman, 2004). However, Type I  $H_2O$  at  $\sim 3600\text{ cm}^{-1}$  might also be related to tetrahedral vacancies (i.e., Si and Al defects) (Mosenfelder et al., 2020). The increase in the content of Type II  $H_2O$  is significantly higher than that of Type I  $H_2O$  (see Table 1), which means that Type II  $H_2O$  was likely formed more easily. Furthermore, although the water absorbance of  $H^+$ -irradiated plagioclase was higher than that of unirradiated plagioclase, the peak positions were almost the same. This indicates that implanted  $H^+$  that combined with oxygen in the plagioclase to form water was preferentially retained in the original structural locations. As Johnson and Rossman (2004) discussion, there are three types (I, IIa and

IIb) structural OH and two types (I and II) structural  $H_2O$  in plagioclase. If the chosen plagioclase samples contained other types of OH/ $H_2O$  or no OH/ $H_2O$ , then the types of OH/ $H_2O$  formed after  $H^+$  implantation would be different. However, the absorption range ( $3200\text{--}3800\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) of the OH/ $H_2O$ , which represents the fundamental frequency vibrations of O-H and H-O-H, was basically the same.

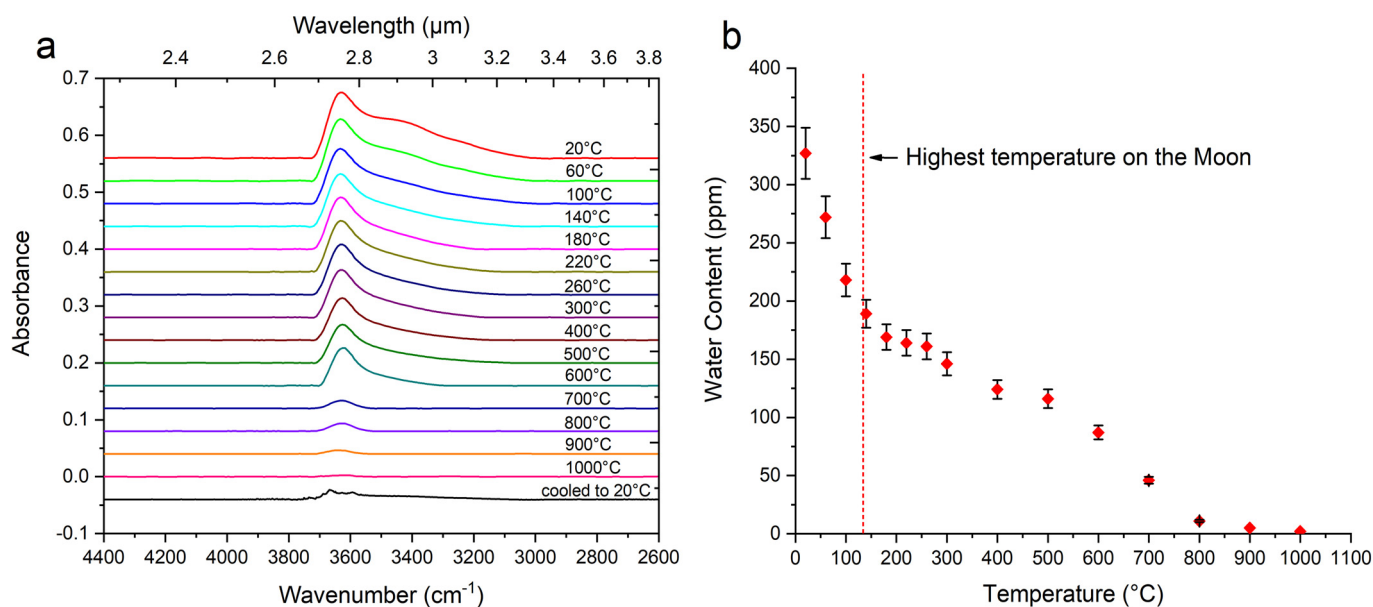
Fig. 4 shows the baseline-corrected Raman spectra for unirradiated and  $H^+$ -irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase. The Raman spectra of plagioclase in the range of  $100\text{--}1200\text{ cm}^{-1}$  can be divided into three regions, representing the vibrations of M-O and bending vibrations of Si-O-Si ( $100\text{--}300\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), Si(Al)-O-Si(Al) ( $400\text{--}700\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), and Si(Al)-O ( $750\text{--}1200\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) (Frogner et al., 1998). Compared with the spectra of unirradiated plagioclase, most of the peaks in the  $H^+$ -irradiated plagioclase decreased, and some even disappeared. The peaks at  $480\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $510\text{ cm}^{-1}$  represent the four-membered ring of a tetrahedral structure (Freeman et al., 2008); they clearly decreased, and some peaks related to silica-oxygen bonds (e.g.,  $768\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $568\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and  $408\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) even disappeared from the spectra. This indicates that the tetrahedral skeleton suffered serious deformation and amorphization (Brunetto and Strazzulla, 2005; Li et al., 2013).

TEM and high-resolution TEM images of the surface  $H^+$ -irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase are presented in Fig. 5. There was an irregular 20–150 nm thick amorphous rim on the uppermost surface, which was slightly deeper than that observed on lunar soil grains (Keller and McKay, 1997). This large maximum depth may, in part, be due to the high energy (5 keV) used in the experiment (not 1 keV, as observed in solar wind energy). This irregular rim may have been caused by the inhomogeneity of the microstructure and element content in plagioclase. The irradiated damage region was typically completely amorphous; however, partial amorphization occurred near the boundary region. The amorphization on the surface of  $H^+$ -irradiated plagioclase indicated that the structure had been destroyed, and that a large number of defects and vacancies had been produced, making it easy to retain the implanted  $H^+$  (Farrell et al., 2015). The sample was completely crystalline below the boundary and was not affected by  $H^+$  implantation.

From the Raman spectra and TEM images, we conclude that the surface of  $H^+$ -irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase suffered serious structural damage, to a maximum depth of 150 nm, after  $H^+$  im-



**Fig. 5.** TEM images of  $H^+$ -irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase include amorphous region (rim) and crystal region. (a) Transmission electron microscope (TEM) and (b) high resolution TEM images.



**Fig. 6.** FTIR spectra and variations in water content of  $H^+$ -irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase. (a) FTIR spectra of  $H^+$ -irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase under different heating temperatures (20–1000 °C and cooled to 20 °C), (b) Total water content variation with increasing temperature for  $H^+$ -irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase. The error bars are calculated by uncertainty propagation.

plantation. Damage at this depth would create many defects and vacancies and would result in abundant dangling oxygen bonds, which could then trap the implanted  $H^+$  and combine to form  $OH/H_2O$  (McCord et al., 2011). In addition, the rapid mobility of  $H^+$  could have allowed it to enter the deeper mineral structure and become trapped in pre-existing defects and dislocations. This is consistent with the occurrence of both Type I  $H_2O$  and Type II  $H_2O$  in the FTIR spectra. However, the specific combination site of implanted H with oxygen in the plagioclase structure and its relationship with structural damage needs to be studied further.

### 3.3. Water content as a function of temperature

The heating experiment for  $H^+$ -irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase demonstrated that both water peaks decreased with increasing temperature (Fig. 6a). The change in total water content with temperature (Fig. 6b and Table 2) demonstrated three stages of structural  $H_2O$  loss: a significant decrease between 20 °C and

180 °C, a gradual decrease between 180 °C and 500 °C, and a clear decrease between 500 °C and 1000 °C. This suggests that the loss of water content with temperature depends on water occurrence.

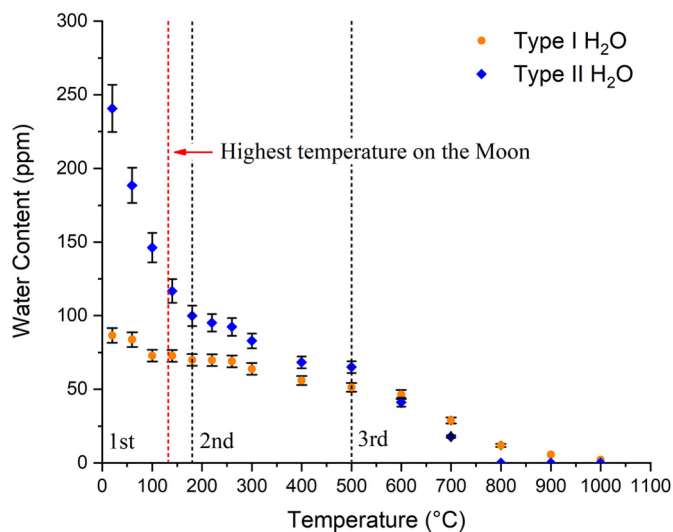
Fig. 7 and Table 2 show the content variations of Type I  $H_2O$  and Type II  $H_2O$  with increasing temperature for  $H^+$ -irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase; these content variations differed, especially in the range of 20 °C to 180 °C. As the temperature increased, the content of Type II  $H_2O$  (at  $\sim 3450\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) decreased sharply between 20 °C and 140 °C and eventually disappeared at 800 °C, whereas the content of Type I  $H_2O$  (at  $\sim 3630\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) decreased relatively slowly and did not disappear until 1000 °C. When the temperature increased to 140 °C, Type I  $H_2O$  was reduced by only 16 wt%, whereas the content of Type II  $H_2O$  was reduced by 51 wt%. The thermal stability of Type I  $H_2O$  and Type II  $H_2O$  differed; the former was more stable, similar to the findings of Aines and Rossman (1985).

The differences in temperature dependence of  $OH/H_2O$  in minerals are related to many conditions (e.g., chemical compositions,

**Table 2**  
Water content variation as a function of increasing temperature for H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase.

Temperature (°C)	Type I H <sub>2</sub> O			Type II H <sub>2</sub> O			Total water content (ppm)
	Peak-1 (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak area-1 (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Water content (ppm)	Peak-2 (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak area-2 (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Water content (ppm)	
20	3625	8.82	86 ± 5	3447	24.55	241 ± 16	327 ± 22
60	3626	8.54	83 ± 5	3459	19.23	189 ± 12	272 ± 18
100	3633	7.42	72 ± 4	3480	14.91	146 ± 10	218 ± 14
140	3628	7.41	72 ± 4	3487	11.91	117 ± 8	189 ± 12
180	3629	7.13	70 ± 4	3494	10.19	99 ± 7	169 ± 11
220	3627	7.11	70 ± 4	3496	9.70	94 ± 6	164 ± 11
260	3626	7.03	69 ± 4	3498	9.42	92 ± 6	161 ± 11
300	3627	6.50	63 ± 4	3504	8.45	83 ± 5	146 ± 10
400	3625	5.70	56 ± 3	3505	6.96	68 ± 4	124 ± 8
500	3623	5.22	51 ± 3	3505	6.63	65 ± 4	116 ± 8
600	3624	4.74	46 ± 3	3530	4.21	41 ± 3	87 ± 6
700	3625	2.95	28 ± 2	3545	1.83	18 ± 1	46 ± 3
800	3627	1.22	11 ± 1	-	-	-	11 ± 1
900	3636	0.58	5 ± 0	-	-	-	5 ± 0
1000	3628	0.22	2 ± 0	-	-	-	2 ± 0

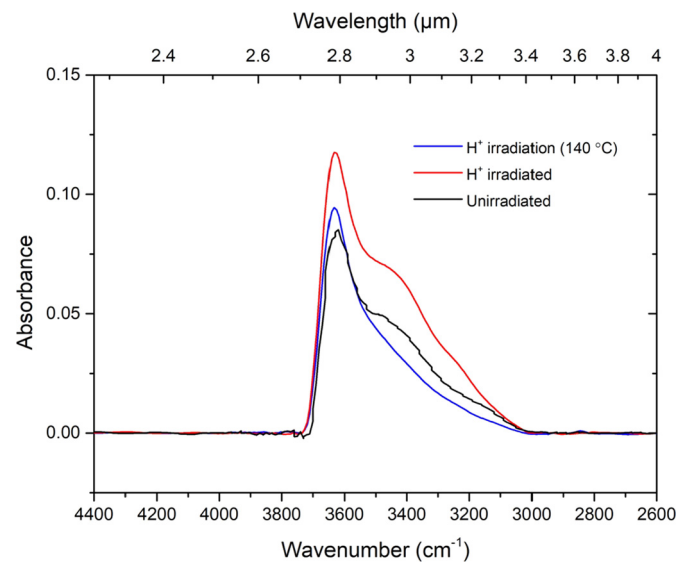
‘-’: No data.



**Fig. 7.** Variations in Type I H<sub>2</sub>O and Type II H<sub>2</sub>O content with increasing temperature for H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase. The red dashed line represents the highest temperature on the Moon. The black dashed lines represent the three stages of water loss with temperature.

hydrogen storage sites) (Yang et al., 2019). Aines and Rossman (1985) simply analyzed that Type II H<sub>2</sub>O occupying the open sites or defects was easily exchanged, while Type I H<sub>2</sub>O occupied the more “structural” and well defined sites. Jones et al. (2018) had discussed the activation energies for the thermal desorption of water and suggested that recombinative desorption (RD) was the primary loss of surface water. This process forms gas-phase water while “healing” the defect with a bridged oxygen bond in mineral: M-OH + M-OH → M-O-M + H<sub>2</sub>O (g) (M is metal cation). The temperature required for a significant loss of -OH via second-order RD from metal oxides is different, for example, the peak RD temperature of SiO<sub>2</sub> (327 °C) is much higher than that of other metal oxides (e.g. Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: ~ 77 °C). The loss of Type I and II H<sub>2</sub>O may be explained by the RD theory. The different binding positions of Type I H<sub>2</sub>O and Type II H<sub>2</sub>O would determine the peak RD temperatures, resulting in their desorption temperature.

As discussed above, the H incorporation of Type I H<sub>2</sub>O and Type II H<sub>2</sub>O occurred via its bonding to O atoms adjacent to the M-sites (e.g., Ca and Na), whereas the Type I H<sub>2</sub>O may also be related to the T-sites (e.g., Si and Al). According to Raman data, the four-membered tetrahedral rings suffered severe defor-



**Fig. 8.** FTIR spectra of unirradiated plagioclase (black line), H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase (red line), and H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase heated to 140 °C (blue line).

mation, which would have changed the bond energy and the thermal stability of structural H<sub>2</sub>O in H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated plagioclase. Type I H<sub>2</sub>O is relatively stable compared to Type II H<sub>2</sub>O under a gradually rising temperature, which might be due to the H<sub>2</sub>O being incorporated into different active sites or defects (Aines and Rossman, 1985; Jones et al., 2018). Thus, the binding position of structural H<sub>2</sub>O, which influences the RD process, is very important for the thermal stability of water. Meanwhile, the effects of H<sup>+</sup> implantation on the plagioclase structure, which change the binding energy, should also be considered; this requires further study.

The FTIR spectra of unirradiated plagioclase, H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase, and H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated (5 keV) plagioclase heated to 140 °C (Fig. 8) exhibited different structural H<sub>2</sub>O absorptions. The unirradiated plagioclase showed characteristic structural H<sub>2</sub>O absorption, whereas the absorption of H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated plagioclase increased significantly at the original absorption position; however, the structural H<sub>2</sub>O absorption of H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated plagioclase heated to 140 °C decreased significantly. Compared with the unirradiated plagioclase, Type I H<sub>2</sub>O absorption was higher for the H<sup>+</sup>-irradiated plagioclase heated to 140 °C, whereas Type II H<sub>2</sub>O absorption generally disappeared. This indicates that Type II H<sub>2</sub>O

formed by  $H^+$  implantation had completely disappeared, whereas residual Type I  $H_2O$  formed by  $H^+$  implantation remained after being heated to  $140^\circ C$ .

### 3.4. Implications for OH/ $H_2O$ thermal stability on the Moon

Our experiment results reveal that the water content of plagioclase formed by  $H^+$  implantation was  $\sim 100$ – $200$  ppm in about 30 years, which indicated that solar wind proton implantation can produce hundreds of ppm or even more of water on the lunar surface, which is consistent with previous analysis of lunar infrared spectra and lunar samples (e.g., Liu et al., 2012; Li and Milliken, 2017). Moreover, the OH/ $H_2O$  absorption is closely related to latitude and temporal variation from the lunar infrared spectra analyses. That is, the OH/ $H_2O$  absorption gradually increases from the equator to the poles, and the OH/ $H_2O$  absorption reaches maximum value in the morning/evening and minimum value at the noon (Sunshine et al., 2009; McCord et al., 2011; Li and Milliken, 2017). Hurley et al. (2015) and Williams et al. (2016) calculated the correlation between temperature and latitude of lunar surface. On the lunar surface, the maximum temperature at the lunar equator is  $\sim 130^\circ C$ , whereas the highest temperatures for the mid-latitude regions are  $60$ – $90^\circ C$ . This indicates that temperature primarily controls the variation of OH/ $H_2O$  content on the lunar surface.

The structural  $H_2O$  formed by  $H^+$  implantation in plagioclase decreased with increasing temperature, and the changes observed in Type I  $H_2O$  and Type II  $H_2O$  were different. Between  $20^\circ C$  and  $140^\circ C$ , the content of Type II  $H_2O$  decreased significantly, whereas the content of Type I  $H_2O$  decreased only slightly. According to the calculated water contents in the experiments at different temperatures, we assume that the escape rate between the original water and the water formed by  $H^+$  implantation in plagioclase was the same as in the heating process. Combined with the maximum temperatures at different latitudes of the lunar surface, the maximum losses of OH/ $H_2O$  formed by solar wind proton implantation in low and middle latitudes would be  $\sim 42\%$  and  $17\%$ – $33\%$ , respectively. For Type I  $H_2O$  at  $\sim 2.75 \mu m$  absorption formed by solar wind proton implantation, the maximum losses in low and middle latitudes would be  $\sim 16\%$  and  $3\%$ – $16\%$ , respectively, whereas for the losses of the Type II  $H_2O$  at  $\sim 2.90 \mu m$  absorption, these would be  $\sim 51\%$  and  $22\%$ – $39\%$ , respectively. Considering that lunar minerals basically contain little or no intrinsic water, if OH/ $H_2O$  formed after  $H^+$  implantation were to escape preferentially during heating, then solar wind-produced water could be preserved at  $<10\%$  in the equatorial region. The Type II  $H_2O$  at  $\sim 2.90 \mu m$  absorption would completely escape from the plagioclase, and  $\sim 36\%$  of the Type I  $H_2O$  at  $\sim 2.75 \mu m$  absorption would remain. This result is consistent with the  $\sim 2.8 \mu m$  absorption that has been identified on the whole lunar surface; however, near  $3 \mu m$  absorption is absent from the lunar equator (Clark, 2009; Sunshine et al., 2009). In our experiments, intrinsic structural  $H_2O$  in the plagioclase samples had a certain influence on the estimated extent of water escape after  $H^+$  implantation. It is necessary to select samples with little or no water for performing experiments in future studies.

Furthermore, the formation and loss of OH/ $H_2O$  on the lunar surface reveals a dynamic hydration process. The experimental simulation of 30 years of  $H^+$  implantation and heating in this study did not entirely represent the daily hydration and dehydration process. However, our results provide an important indication of the observed temperature dependence of lunar OH/ $H_2O$ . The continuous formation of water to supplement the water loss with temperature needs to be considered, particularly when studying the migration of water on the lunar surface.

In summary, Type I  $H_2O$  is more stable than Type II  $H_2O$  and could easily be retained on the lunar surface, which is consistent with the remote sensing observation data (Wöhler et al., 2017). The results of this study provide a useful baseline for analyzing the spatial and temporal variations in infrared spectra of OH/ $H_2O$  absorption observed by the Cassini, Deep Impact, and Chandrayaan-1 satellites.

## 4. Conclusions

In this study, terrestrial plagioclase ( $An_{50-53}$ ) was irradiated with  $5 \text{ keV } H^+$  to simulate the formation of OH/ $H_2O$  through solar wind implantation on the Moon. The content variation and occurrence of OH/ $H_2O$  in the irradiated plagioclase was characterized using FTIR spectrometry, Raman spectroscopy, NanoSIMS, and TEM. The heating experiment was conducted to investigate thermal stability of OH/ $H_2O$ .

Our results reveal that the increased water content in irradiated plagioclase was  $\sim 100$ – $200$  ppm. The structural  $H_2O$  formed by  $H^+$  irradiation included both Type I  $H_2O$  (at  $\sim 3620 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the FTIR spectra) and Type II  $H_2O$  (at  $\sim 3450 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the FTIR spectra), which were accommodated through coupled substitutions at the M sites. Type I  $H_2O$  may also be related to the presence of Si and Al defects. Heating experiments suggested that much of the structural  $H_2O$  formed by  $H^+$  implantation would be lost at  $140^\circ C$  (similar to the highest temperature on the Moon). Type I  $H_2O$  was more stable than Type II  $H_2O$  and could be preserved on the Moon. The binding position of  $H_2O$  and the effect of  $H^+$  implantation on the mineral structure were both found to be very important factors regarding the thermal stability of water. These data indicate that temperature variation is a critical influence that affects the retention of solar wind-produced OH/ $H_2O$  on the Moon.

This work provides an experimental reference for revealing the thermal stability of OH/ $H_2O$  on the lunar surface; the results also provide a baseline from which the remote sensing observations (e.g.,  $M^3$  spectra) can be interpreted. However, significant ambiguity remains as to the formation mechanism, retention, and migration of OH/ $H_2O$  formed by solar wind (e.g., the effects of irradiation flux on water formation in different lunar mineral species). Further lunar sample analyses and laboratory experiments with different mineral samples are needed to address these questions.

### CRedit authorship contribution statement

**Xiandi Zeng:** Data curation, Investigation, Methodology, Software, Writing – original draft. **Hong Tang:** Conceptualization, Funding acquisition, Project administration, Resources. **Xiongyao Li:** Funding acquisition, Supervision, Writing – review & editing. **Xiaoajia Zeng:** Software, Writing – review & editing. **Wen Yu:** Funding acquisition, Investigation, Validation. **Jianzhong Liu:** Funding acquisition. **Yongliao Zou:** Funding acquisition.

### Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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