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Crystal-chemical, vibrational and electronic properties of 1M-phlogopite $K(Mg,Fe)_3Si_3AlO_{10}(OH)_2$ from Density Functional Theory simulations

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1 **Crystal-chemical, vibrational and electronic properties of 1M-phlogopite**
2 **K(Mg,Fe)₃Si₃AlO₁₀(OH)₂ from Density Functional Theory simulations**

3
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9
10 **Abstract**

11 Trioctahedral micas are peculiar minerals that may present interesting electronic properties that can be
12 modulated by specific cationic substitutions. In the present work, a detailed characterization of the structural,
13 vibrational, and electronic properties of 1M-phlogopite as a function of the Fe^{II}/Mg^{II} substitutions, with Mg/Fe
14 ratio ≥ 2 , is reported. The results were obtained from density functional theory simulations at the B3LYP-D*
15 level of theory, which included the effect of long-range interactions, and also using all-electron Gaussian-type
16 orbitals to describe the atoms in the mineral. The crystal structures of the different phlogopite models were in
17 good agreement with previous X-ray and neutron diffraction data reported in the literature. In addition, the
18 simulated Raman spectra well described the experimental ones obtained from confocal Raman micro-
19 spectrometry, providing additional information on the atomic motions. The electronic band structure and the
20 atom- and orbital-projected density of states were also discussed, describing the nature of the band gap and
21 electronic transitions, and how they vary with the iron content.

22
23 **Keywords**

24 1M-phlogopite; crystal structure; IR and Raman spectroscopy; electronic properties; Density Functional
25 Theory

26 **1. Introduction**

27 Micas belong to the phyllosilicate family, whose general formula is $AM_{2-3}T_4O_{10}X_2$, where A = K, Na, Ca is
28 the interlayer cation, M = Mg, Al, Fe is the octahedral cation, T = Si and Al is the tetrahedral cation, and X =
29 OH, F, Cl, O. These layered minerals are structurally characterized by an octahedral (O) sheet sandwiched
30 between two tetrahedral (T) sheets forming a packet called 2:1 layer, T–O–T, or TOT. These layers are
31 negatively charged because of the presence of Al^{III}/Si^{IV} substitutions in the T sheets, which are balanced by
32 the presence of monovalent or divalent cations in the interlayer region. The crystal structure is thus given by
33 strong covalent/ionic bonds within the TOT layers on the *ab* crystallographic plane, which in turn are stacked
34 and held together by a mix of ionic and dispersive interactions along the [001] direction (Ventruti et al., 2009).

35 From the geological perspective, phlogopite and biotite are ubiquitous minerals found in various and manifold
36 rocks in igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic environments (Icenhower and London, 1995). Like other
37 phyllosilicates, the presence of hydroxyl groups within the crystal structure makes them important water
38 reservoirs for the release and storage of H_2O in the Earth's mantle (Virgo and Popp, 2000), which may affect
39 several petrologic processes because of the variations of melting conditions and other properties of the sub-
40 crustal material (Ventruti et al., 2009). It is worth remembering that phlogopite is also a source of K_2O that
41 concurs in the generation of potassium-rich magmas in the upper mantle (Tutti et al., 2000).

42 In addition to their wide and well-known use in ceramics and glass (Ariane et al., 2023; Ercenk and Yilmaz,
43 2015; Faeghinia and Razavi, 2016; King et al., 2000), trioctahedral micas could be interesting dielectric
44 materials in optoelectronic applications because of their large band gap of about 5–6 eV (Frisenda et al., 2020),
45 which could be modulated by the amount of iron or other cation/anion substituents (Meunier et al., 1983). This
46 was indeed demonstrated by the earlier experiments of Davidson and Yoffe (1968), who showed that the
47 electrical conductivity in trioctahedral mica is a bulk-controlled process related to the presence of transition
48 metals (mainly Fe and Ti) in the octahedral sheet.

49 The electronic properties of phlogopite were never computationally investigated in detail because of the low
50 symmetry of the structure and the relatively high computational demands. The only available work was carried
51 out within the density functional theory (DFT) framework, with simulations conducted using the B3LYP
52 functional and all-electron atomic basis sets (Timon et al., 2013). They considered several Fe^{II}/Mg^{II}

53 substitutions between 0 and 100% of the available cationic sites, however they did not include any correction
54 for the long-range interactions that are severely underestimated within the standard DFT framework.

55 In addition, in the scientific literature there are no reports regarding the theoretical infrared (IR) and Raman
56 spectra of this mineral, and how the spectra vary with the iron content. This information is of fundamental
57 importance for the interpretation of experimental data. For example, in the study of Moro et al. (2017) it was
58 found in the Raman spectrum of the phlogopite sample BU1-7 a triplet of bands in the 600 – 800 cm⁻¹, whereas
59 only one band should be present. According to previous investigations, the presence of three bands is due to
60 high iron contents in the mineral (Wang et al., 2015). However, the spectroscopic results on the BU1-7 sample
61 analysed by Moro and collaborators (2017) are not in line with the previous statement, because the cited
62 specimen has low Fe content.

63 The present work is focused on trioctahedral micas, *i.e.*, those presenting magnesium in the octahedral sheet,
64 which typically show an extended solid solution between the Mg and Fe end-members, phlogopite (Phl)
65 $\text{KMg}_3(\text{Si}_3\text{Al})\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$ and annite (Ann) $\text{KFe}_3(\text{Si}_3\text{Al})\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$, respectively. To be noted that iron can be
66 present both as a divalent cation in the octahedral sheet and as a trivalent one in the T sheet, as shown by
67 Mössbauer spectroscopy (Scordari et al., 2012). Conventionally, phlogopites have Mg/Fe ratio > 2, whereas
68 biotite has Mg/Fe ratio < 2 (Deer et al., 1992). In nature, trioctahedral micas commonly crystallize as $1M$
69 polytype (see **Fig.1**), which may coexist with other polytypes such as the $2M_1$, as described by Lacalamita and
70 co-workers (2012).

71 To extend and complete the knowledge of phlogopite, in this paper a detailed characterization of the $1M$
72 polytype of phlogopite using DFT-based simulations is provided. Specifically, the crystal structure, the
73 vibrational spectra, and electronic properties (band structure and density of states) of phlogopite are reported
74 as a function of the iron(II) content in the octahedral sheet, which were compared and discussed in detail
75 against previous experimental and few theoretical data.

76 **2. Materials and Methods**

77 *2.1 Computational methods*

78 The Density Functional Theory simulations were performed using the CRYSTAL17 code (Dovesi et al., 2018),
79 employing the hybrid B3LYP functional, which uses the Becke 3-parameters exchange functional (Becke,
80 1993) in combination with the correlation one of Lee, Yang and Parr (Lee et al., 1988). This functional, which
81 includes 20% of exact Hartree-Fock exchange and some non-local contribution to the exchange-correlation
82 terms, is well-known for its accuracy when simulating the structural, elastic, dielectric (optical) and vibrational
83 properties of minerals and solids (Pascale et al., 2004; Pascale et al., 2005). In addition, it was already used to
84 model the properties of other phyllosilicates, e.g., talc (Ulian et al., 2013) and muscovite (Ulian and Valdrè,
85 2015a), obtaining data in very good agreement with the experimental findings. As mentioned in the
86 introduction, most DFT functionals lack of proper treatment of the long-range interactions, which were
87 however here accounted for by the semiempirical correction DFT-D2 (Grimme, 2006), specifically
88 reparametrized for the B3LYP functional. This combination is called B3LYP-D* approach in the scientific
89 literature (Civalleri et al., 2008).

90 Kohn-Sham orbitals were described within the linear combination of atomic orbitals (LCAO) approach, using
91 all-electron Gaussian-type functions for each atom in the structure. The selected atomic basis sets were 88-
92 31G* for Si (Nada et al., 1996), 85-11G* for Al (Catti et al., 1994), 8-511d1G for Mg (Valenzano et al., 2007),
93 86-511G for K (Dovesi et al., 1991), 8-411d11G for O (Valenzano et al., 2007), 3-1p1G for H (Gatti et al.,
94 1994), and 86-411d41G for Fe (Catti et al., 1995). These all-electron basis sets were already recently employed
95 in the study of the structural, elastic, vibrational and thermodynamic properties of other phyllosilicates such as
96 talc (Ulian et al., 2014), pyrophyllite (Ulian and Valdrè, 2015b), muscovite (Ulian and Valdrè, 2015a) and
97 clinocllore (Ulian et al., 2018, 2020).

98 The accuracy of the Coulomb and exchange series were controlled by five thresholds set to 10^{-8} (ITOL1 to
99 ITOL4) and 10^{-16} (ITOL5) for structural relaxation and to 10^{-10} and 10^{-20} when calculating the dielectric and
100 polarizability tensors (*vide infra*). The reciprocal space was sampled with a $5 \times 5 \times 5$ Monkhorst–Pack mesh
101 (Monkhorst and Pack, 1976), corresponding to 39 independent k points. The CRYSTAL default pruned grid
102 (75 radial, 974 angular points, XLGRID) was used to calculate the total energy of the system, via numerical

103 integration of the electron density over the unit cell volume (Dovesi et al., 2018). The self-consistent-field
 104 (SCF) convergence on energy was set to 10^{-8} Hartree and 10^{-10} Hartree for geometry optimization and
 105 vibrational frequency calculation, respectively.

106 Zone-central (*i.e.*, Γ -point) normal modes were calculated by diagonalizing the mass-weighted Hessian matrix
 107 W (dynamical matrix), whose elements are the second derivatives of the lattice potential for mass-weighted
 108 atomic displacements (Pascale et al., 2004):

$$109 \quad W_{\alpha i, \beta j}(\Gamma) = \frac{H_{\alpha i, \beta j}}{\sqrt{M_{\alpha} M_{\beta}}},$$

110 with $H_{\alpha i, \beta j}$ the energy second derivative, M_{α} and M_{β} the atomic masses and the subscripts in Latin (i, j) and in
 111 Greek letters (α, β) the atomic coordinates and the atoms, respectively. The infrared intensities were calculated
 112 analytically in terms of absorbance, using the classical absorption formula as explained by Maschio et al.
 113 (2012):

$$114 \quad A(\nu) = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{ii=1}^3 \frac{4\pi}{\lambda \rho} \text{Im}[n_{ii}(\nu)]$$

115 where the terms $A(\nu)$, λ , ρ , and n are the infrared absorption, the wavelength of the incident light, the mineral
 116 density and the complex refractive index, respectively. This absorption formula reproduces in a satisfactorily
 117 way the typical shape of the bands observed in IR spectroscopy. The polarization direction is expressed by
 118 the subscripts ii . The real and imaginary parts of the refractive index n_{ii} were obtained from the following
 119 relations:

$$120 \quad \{\text{Re}[n_{ii}(\nu)]\}^2 - \{\text{Im}[n_{ii}(\nu)]\}^2 = \text{Re}[\epsilon_{ii}(\nu)]$$

$$121 \quad 2\text{Re}[n_{ii}(\nu)] \cdot \text{Im}[n_{ii}(\nu)] = \text{Im}[\epsilon_{ii}(\nu)]$$

122 The term $\epsilon_{ii}(\nu)$ is the complex dielectric tensor, which was computed for each inequivalent polarization
 123 direction according to a classical Drude-Lorentz model:

$$124 \quad \epsilon_{ii}(\nu) = \epsilon_{\infty, ii} + \sum_p \frac{f_{p, ii} \nu_p^2}{\nu_p^2 - \nu^2 - i\nu d_p}.$$

125 with ϵ_{∞} the optical (high frequency) dielectric tensor, ν_p the transverse optical frequency, f_p the oscillator
 126 strength and d_p the damping factor of the p^{th} vibrational mode. As suggested by Maschio and co-workers

127 (2012), to obtain a band broadening similar to those typically found in experimental samples, the damping
 128 factor (*i.e.*, the full width at half maximum of each vibrational mode) was set to 8.

129 The Raman intensities were instead calculated within the Placzek (1934) approximation assuming the mineral
 130 as a polycrystalline powder, by using the optical vibrational modes employing a pseudo-Voigt functional form
 131 (Maschio et al., 2013a, b):

$$132 \quad A(\nu) = \eta L(\nu) + (1 - \eta) G(\nu)$$

133 where, in this case, $A(\nu)$ represents the Raman intensity and $L(\nu)$ and $G(\nu)$ are given by:

$$134 \quad L(\nu) = \sum_p \frac{I_p}{\pi} \frac{\varphi_p/2}{(\nu - \nu_p)^2 + (\varphi_p/2)^2}$$

$$135 \quad G(\nu) = \sum_p 2\sqrt{\frac{\ln 2}{\pi}} \frac{I_p}{\varphi_p} \exp\left[-\frac{4\ln 2(\nu - \nu_p)^2}{\varphi_p^2}\right]$$

136 with I_p the computed Raman intensity and φ_p the full width at half maximum for the p^{th} vibrational mode, and
 137 η the Lorentz factor. A pure Lorentzian form, which is the default of CRYSTAL (Maschio et al., 2013a),
 138 corresponding to $\eta = 1$, was employed to obtain the typical sharp bands of Raman spectra as explained by
 139 Dovesi et al. (2018). The Raman intensity of the p^{th} mode was calculated according to the following formula:

$$140 \quad I_p \propto C \left(\frac{\alpha}{\partial Q_p} \right)^2$$

141 where α is the polarizability, Q_p is the normal mode coordinate for mode p . C is a prefactor that depends on
 142 the (angular) frequency of the exciting laser ω_L and the temperature T according to:

$$143 \quad C \sim (\omega_L - \omega_p)^4 \frac{1}{30\omega_p} \left[1 - \exp\left(-\frac{\hbar\omega_p}{k_B T}\right) \right]^{-1}$$

144 with k_B the Boltzmann's constant and ω_p the angular frequency of mode p . In the simulations, the prefactor
 145 was calculated setting $T = 298$ K and $\omega_L = 532$ nm to mimic the experimental conditions (*vide infra*). All the
 146 tensorial properties related to the intensity of the bands in the infrared and Raman spectra, *i.e.*, the dielectric
 147 tensor, and the polarizability, were calculated analytically using a Couple Perturbed Kohn-Sham (CPKS)
 148 approach (Ferrero et al., 2008a; Ferrero et al., 2008b).

149

150 *2.2 Experimental methods*

151 The 1M-phlogopite single-crystal sample BU1-7 used in the present study was extracted from the BU1 rock,
152 which is from the deposits of the Bunyampaka maar (Kasenyi field). According to the analyses of Stoppa and
153 collaborators (2003), the rock was a melilitite bomb described as a lapilli tuffisite that presents 20% subhedral
154 phlogopite crystals associated with 40% olivine, 25% melilite and 15% spinel. The crystal chemistry of the
155 BU1-7 sample was previously characterized by Lacalmita and co-workers (2012) using electron probe
156 microanalysis, Mössbauer spectroscopy and single-crystal X-ray diffraction. The mineral belonged to the *C2/m*
157 space group (monoclinic system), with lattice parameters $a = 5.3259(2) \text{ \AA}$, $b = 9.2245(3) \text{ \AA}$, $c = 19.2309(4) \text{ \AA}$
158 and $\beta = 100.050(2)^\circ$, with two unit formulas ($Z = 2$) of $(\text{K}_{0.90}\text{Na}_{0.05}\text{Ba}_{0.01})[\text{Mg}_{2.34}\text{Al}_{0.08}\text{Fe(II)}_{0.20}\text{Fe(III)}_{0.08}\text{Ti}_{0.26}$
159 $\text{Cr}_{0.05}][\text{Si}_{2.87}\text{Al}_{1.07}\text{Fe(III)}_{0.06}]\text{O}_{10.58}(\text{F}_{0.10}\text{OH}_{1.31})$ in the crystallographic cell.

160 Several Raman spectra were collected at room temperature ($\sim 20^\circ\text{C}$) using a WITec Alpha 300R confocal
161 Raman microscopy system, made of an optical microscope and an ultra-high throughput UHTS 300 VIS
162 spectrometer with CCD camera and gratings of 600 g/mm. A green laser beam (532 nm) was used as excitation
163 light, setting a power of 30 mW to prevent heating the sample and possible alterations on the mineral. The
164 laser beam was focused on the sample with a 100 \times Zeiss microscope objective with a low numerical aperture
165 objective (NA = 0.50) to avoid optical artefacts. The backscattered Raman spectra were collected in confocal
166 mode between 100 and 4000 cm^{-1} , with a resolution of about 2.7 cm^{-1} and an acquisition time of 10 minutes.
167 The Rayleigh scattering line was removed by an edge filter.

168

169 **3. Results and discussion**

170 *3.1 Phlogopite crystal structure*

171 The neutron diffraction results of Ventruti and collaborators (Ventruti et al., 2009; Ventruti et al., 2008) were
172 employed to create the model of the 1M polytype of phlogopite. The crystal structure was experimentally
173 refined with relatively high symmetry (space group *C2/m*) due to the partial occupancies of the cationic sites
174 with different atoms. For example, in the experimental structure there was a single, symmetrically inequivalent
175 tetrahedral site that generates all the TO_4 units in the unit cell (4 sites in the primitive cell) due to the symmetry
176 elements of the *C2/m* space group. This T site is occupied by about 70% by Si and 30% by Al (Ventruti et al.,

2009), meaning that, randomly, 1/4 sites are occupied by aluminium. However, in quantum mechanical simulations, each site must have single occupancy, for example, a T site may be occupied by either Al or Si but not by both at the same time. To both include the Al^{III}/Si^{IV} substitutions in the T sheets and preserve the monoclinic structure, an analysis of the sub-groups of the experimentally determined crystals was performed, finding that, for phlogopite with chemical formula K(Mg,Fe)₃(AlSi₃)O₁₀(OH)₂, the 1M polytype can be described in the P2 space group (44 atoms in the unit cell, Z = 2, 26 inequivalent by symmetry). Within this setting, there were four inequivalent tetrahedral sites, of which those containing Si^{IV} were labelled as T1–T3 and the one with aluminium as T4, and six non-equivalent cationic sites in the octahedral sheet, labelled as M1–M6. Hence, due to symmetry, each T site was related to two SiO₄ or AlO₄ tetrahedra, one in one tetrahedral sheet and one in the other of the TOT layer, whereas all octahedral sites are symmetrically independent. In stoichiometric KMg₃(AlSi₃)O₁₀(OH)₂, whose model was labelled Phl-Fe0, all M sites were occupied by magnesium, whereas in the ferroan phlogopite structure with chemical formula KMg_{2.5}Fe_{0.5}(AlSi₃)O₁₀(OH)₂ (called Phl-Fe1) the site M4 contained Fe, and in the model KMg₂Fe(AlSi₃)O₁₀(OH)₂ (Phl-Fe2) the sites M1 and M4 presented Fe^{II}/Mg^{II} substitutions. These sites were chosen because they ensure a sufficient distance between the iron atoms in the mineral structure (see **Fig.1**). The authors are aware that this was one of the possible ways to place the desired atomic substitutions within the phlogopite unit cell. For example, a simple combinatorics analysis showed that there were 16 ways (i.e., inequivalent configurations) to place two Al^{III}/Si^{IV} substitutions in the tetrahedral sheet. Further complexity due to placing iron in the octahedral sheet dramatically increases the number of possible configurations, which would not be treatable without very large computing resources. It is expected that different configurations could lead to slightly different crystal-chemical results, with the general behaviour given by the structurally disordered structure, which is a mean of all the possible configurations weighted on their relative stability (i.e., the energy associated to each configuration). Obviously, the precision of the simulations, in terms of a better comparison with the experimental data, would increase by considering more configurations, i.e., by fully addressing the structural disorder.

The crystallographic features, *i.e.*, lattice parameters, tetrahedral (T) and octahedral (M) sheet thicknesses, interlayer space (I), and selected polyhedral properties were reported in **Table 1**, alongside previous XRD and neutron scattering results (Lacalamita et al., 2012; Ventruti et al., 2009). Simulated powder X-ray

205 diffractograms, obtained from the optimized phlogopite models, are plotted in **Fig.2**, alongside the XRD
206 pattern obtained from the refinements of a phlogopite sample at 10 K by Ventruti and collaborators (2009).
207 These diffractograms were obtained considering a standard Cu K α radiation. As expected, the most intense
208 reflection was the one at about 8° 2 θ related to the (001) plane. It was observed that the Fe^{II}/Mg^{II} substitutions
209 caused slight variations in both the position and intensity of some reflections. **Table 2** showed the mean bond
210 and interlayer distances for each cationic site, and complete data on specific atom bond distances could be
211 found in **Table S1** in the Supplementary Materials. In the structural analysis, three types of oxygen atoms were
212 distinguished, i.e., basal oxygen, O(b), apical oxygen, O(a) and hydroxyl oxygen, O(h). Basal oxygen atoms
213 are those shared with other SiO₄ tetrahedra, whereas the apical ones are those involved in the bonding between
214 the T and O sheets. The structural comparison with the single-crystal XRD data was performed considering
215 the BU1-1 sample reported by Lacalamita and collaborators (2012) because the authors reported more
216 structural details (bond lengths and angles) for this sample than those of the BU1-7 specimen. However, the
217 differences in the lattice constants between the two samples were very small (see the Materials and Methods
218 section), thus it can be assumed that the internal geometries would be similar.

219 The theoretical results were generally in line with the experimental data reported in the literature, with a very
220 low underestimation of the unit cell volume ($\Delta V \leq -1.5\%$). In agreement with previous simulations on
221 dioctahedral muscovite (Ulian and Valdrè, 2015a), it was of utmost importance to include long-range
222 interactions to properly consider and describe the properties of phyllosilicates. In the present work, the DFT-
223 D* approach led to unit cell volumes that were smaller than the experimental ones, in good agreement with
224 the crystallographic refinements. The Fe^{II}/Mg^{II} cationic substitutions in the octahedral sheet resulted in a
225 continuous decrease of the moduli of the lattice vectors, hence in the shrinking of the unit cell volume. The
226 value of the 001 reflection decreased in the order Phl-Fe0 (10.046 Å) > Phl-Fe1 (10.036 Å) > Phl-Fe2 (10.020
227 Å), as can be noted in **Fig.2**. The reduced size of the phlogopite unit cell with increasing iron content in the O
228 sheet was due to a variation of the forces (bond strength) in the site where Fe^{II}/Mg^{II} substitutions occurred, as
229 observed from the analysis of the charge density difference of the phlogopite models. This analysis was
230 graphically reported in **Fig.3**, calculated on a plane perpendicular to the [001] direction and passing through
231 the cations in the octahedral sheet. Indeed, in the Phl-Fe0 structure (**Fig.3a**), the charge density is negative
232 (meaning that electric charges are carried away) around the M^{II} cations, and it is positive (meaning electrons

233 are concentrated) on and between the oxygen atoms. This result suggested the ionic nature of the bonds
234 between the involved atoms. In addition, a slightly more positive charge density was noticed on the O(a)
235 bonded to the Al^{III} atoms in the tetrahedral sheet, in line with the increased negative charge on the AlO₄
236 tetrahedra with respect to the SiO₄ ones. The iron substitutions led to (i) an increase of the positive charge on
237 the O(a) and O(h) atoms and (ii) a small decrease of the radius of negative charge density around the Fe^{III} ion.
238 As a result, the O sheet thickness is reduced due to the M – O bond shortening, especially in the M1 and M4
239 sites (see **Table 2**). At the same time, there is a very small increase of the interlayer thickness. This could
240 suggest the presence of slightly lower interaction between the TOT layers and the interlayer cations in the iron-
241 bearing phlogopite than in the stoichiometric model, resulting in an easier cleavage of the (001) planes of the
242 mineral. The observed unit cell volume variations were in contrast with the structural data reported by Timon
243 et al. (2013), who performed DFT/B3LYP simulations with the CRYSTAL09 code and obtained an increasing
244 length of the *b* and *c* lattice parameters, with the *a* vector remaining almost constant. This means that the unit
245 cell volume of phlogopite increased with the amount of iron in the octahedral sheet, according to the results of
246 Timon and collaborators (2013). Despite the similar theoretical approach, this different behaviour could be
247 due, most probably, to the absence of any correction for long-range interactions. Albeit the DFT-D2 scheme
248 was implemented in CRYSTAL09, the cited authors did not include van der Waals interactions because they
249 considered the bonding between the (negatively charged) TOT layers and the (positively charged) interlayer
250 cations as mainly ionic. Instead, it was recently showed the relevancy of the dispersive forces for the
251 characterization of the crystal structure, vibrational properties and thermodynamics of muscovite
252 KAl₂Si₃AlO₁₀(OH)₂, the dioctahedral equivalent of phlogopite, where long-range interactions play a
253 fundamental role (Ulian and Valdrè, 2015a). Furthermore, other computational settings could influence the
254 results and the discrepancy. For example, Timon et al. (2013) used a smaller basis set for the oxygen atom (6-
255 31d1) than that employed by us (8-411d11G). Also, tighter tolerances for the bi-electronic and Coulomb
256 integrals and a sampling grid in the reciprocal space with 39 *k*-points were set in the present work (see Materials
257 and Methods), whereas the cited authors used larger tolerances (10⁻⁷ and 10⁻¹⁴) and a smaller *k* grid with 36
258 points in the reciprocal space. All these parameters concurred to the determination of the total energy of the
259 system, which in turn affected the forces calculated during the unit cell relaxation.

260 Besides the necessary approximations introduced in the DFT simulations (e.g., the absence of thermal effects,
261 the Born-Oppenheimer approximation, and numeric algorithms), the differences between the present
262 theoretical simulations and the experimental results can be ascribed to the mineral composition. In this work,
263 both stoichiometric and Fe-bearing 1*M*-phlogopite models with general formula $K(Mg,Fe)_3(AlSi_3)O_{10}(OH)_2$
264 were modelled and geometrically optimized, whereas the experimental samples presented several
265 cationic/anionic substitutions. For example, the neutron diffraction experiments of Ventruti et al. (2009) were
266 conducted on a phlogopite sample whose formula was $(K_{0.86}Na_{0.08}Ba_{0.04})$
267 $[Mg_{1.97}Fe(II)_{0.29}Fe(III)_{0.37}Ti_{0.19}Al_{0.17}Mn_{0.01}](Si_{2.72}Al_{1.28})O_{10}(OH)_{1.22}F_{0.12}$, as calculated from a combination of
268 electron probe microanalysis (EPMA), CHN analysis and Mössbauer spectroscopy. The presence of cations
269 and anions with ionic radii that are different from those of the substituted elements, and the site vacancies were
270 expected to deeply affect the crystal structure. The theoretical results suggested that the inclusion of iron in the
271 octahedral sheet caused a reduction of the unit cell volume of the mineral, which was due to an overall
272 contraction of the lattice vectors of about 0.4%.

273 The DFT results were also in good agreement with the experimental refinements made by Brigatti and
274 collaborators (1996), who performed single-crystal XRD refinements on several phlogopite samples collected
275 from the Tapira carbonatite complex in Brazil. The selected sample, Tas 27-2Ba, had a chemical composition
276 close to the ideal Phl-Fe0 model, with very low amounts of Fe and Ti in the octahedral sheet. A fine comparison
277 was also made on the single crystal investigated by Comodi et al. (2004), which was collected from Colli
278 Albani in Italy. As previously observed for the other experimental samples, the present results showed a
279 slightly smaller unit cell volume than that obtained from the XRD analyses.

280 The mean atomic charges calculated for each atom in the different phlogopite-1*M* models from the analysis of
281 the Born charge tensor were reported in **Table S2** (Supporting Information), whose values were close to the
282 formal oxidation states ($q_K = +1 |e|$, $q_{Mg} = +2 |e|$, $q_{Si} = +4 |e|$, $q_{Al} = +3 |e|$, $q_{Fe} = +2 |e|$, $q_H = +1 |e|$, $q_O = -2 |e|$).
283 It is worth noting that when the atom – atom bond is not purely ionic, i.e., it has some covalent contribution,
284 the atomic charges deviate from the ideality, but the formal charge of the ions are generally respected. For
285 example, the O(h) and H atoms presented about -1.3 and $+0.3$ charges, respectively, but the hydroxyl group
286 having the expected -1 charge.

287 3.2 Infrared and Raman spectra

288 Each crystalline material has an associated number of degrees of freedom equal to three times the atoms in the
289 unit cell ($3N$), which give the so-called total irreducible representation (IRREP), Γ_{tot} . Three of these $3N$ modes
290 are related to acoustic vibrations (Γ_{a}), whereas the other $3N - 3$ are optical modes (Γ_{o}). In both standard IR and
291 Raman spectroscopies, the IRREP is calculated in the central zone of the Brillouin zone (Γ point), hence the
292 Γ_{a} modes have a zero-frequency value. The phlogopite-1M models here employed belonged to the $P2$ space
293 group and their point group was C_2 (2). Since it contains 44 atoms in the unit cell, this polytype of phlogopite
294 has 132 modes, whose IRREP was calculated as:

$$295 \quad \Gamma_{\text{tot}} = \Gamma_{\text{a}} + \Gamma_{\text{o}} = 62A + 70B,$$

296 with $A + 2B$ acoustic modes (Γ_{a}) and $61A + 68B$ optical modes (Γ_{o}), the latter being active in both infrared and
297 Raman spectroscopies.

298 The site symmetry analysis (see **Table 3**) for the 1M polytype was in line with that of McKeown and
299 collaborators (1999). It is worth noting that the factor group analysis reported by the cited authors is related to
300 the phase belonging to the $C2/m$ space group, whereas the present analysis was performed considering the $P2$
301 symmetry. Thus, in this space group setting, all vibrational modes are active in both IR and Raman
302 spectroscopies. Furthermore, McKeown et al. (1999) considered the hydroxyl site as a single contributor, *i.e.*,
303 it counted as a single atom and excluded the effect of O – H stretching modes. It is worth remembering that
304 the density functional theory data are generally blue-shifted (higher wavenumbers) because of the absence of
305 any thermal effect and the harmonic approximation, which typically increases the force constants of the
306 computed vibrational modes. The calculation of the infrared and Raman spectra of (Fe-bearing) phlogopite at
307 $T = 298$ K would require the knowledge of the thermal behaviour of the mineral, in particular the unit cell
308 volume at room temperature, which can be accessed from the volumetric and axial thermal expansion
309 coefficients. This information could be obtained, for example, from quasi-harmonic approximation
310 simulations, *i.e.*, by knowing how the phonon frequencies vary with volume (pressure), which are
311 computationally demanding and beyond the scope of the present work. However, albeit thermal effects were
312 neglected, the theoretical results at zero Kelvin are comparable with the experimental ones having in mind

313 that, within the selected computational approach, the vibrational bands were generally blue-shifted, and were
314 helpful in assigning each band to specific lattice vibrations.

315 The calculated vibrational wavenumbers ν for the modes with *A* and *B* IRREP are reported in **Tables 4** and **5**,
316 respectively. The *A* modes were also subject to the longitudinal optical (LO) - transverse optical (TO) splitting,
317 which is common in many layered silicates where atoms that vibrate perpendicularly to the layers (the so-
318 called polar modes, or Fröhlich modes) should vibrate at their longitudinal optical frequency (Balan et al.,
319 2001). The LO-TO splitting associated with the *A* modes was reported in **Table 4**. For the sake of
320 completeness, the complex dielectric function, the refractive index and the reflectance spectra along the *x*, *y*
321 and *z* Cartesian directions were also calculated and reported in **Tables S3 – S5** in the Supporting Information.
322 In the following, to better present and discuss the results, the infrared and Raman spectra were treated
323 separately. It is worth recalling also that the experimental spectra were obtained at room temperature (298 K),
324 whereas the theoretical ones at absolute zero (0 K). Thermal effects were included only in the Raman spectra
325 for the calculation of the intensity of the bands (see Materials and Methods for further details).

326 A representative experimental Raman spectrum of the phlogopite sample BU1-7 obtained from confocal
327 Raman micro-spectrometry was reported in **Fig.4a** (black line) in the spectral range 90 – 1200 cm^{-1} , together
328 with the DFT data on the Phl-Fe0 (blue line), Phl-Fe1 (red line) and Phl-Fe2 (green line) models. Full spectra
329 in the range 90 – 3900 cm^{-1} can be found in a dedicated dataset freely available online (Ulian and Valdrè,
330 2023). The assignment of the Raman bands to specific phonon modes was performed with the aid of the
331 potential energy distribution (PED) obtained from theoretical simulations and using the previous results
332 reported in the literature (Moro et al., 2017). At high Raman shifts, there was a single band with low intensity
333 at 3706 cm^{-1} in the experimental spectrum, related to the O – H stretching mode (not shown in **Fig.4a** for the
334 sake of clarity). The same band was observed at about 3760 cm^{-1} in the theoretical Raman spectra, as obtained
335 from the correction proposed by Tosoni and collaborators (2005) to include the anharmonicity to this specific
336 kind of normal mode.

337 In the experimental spectrum, there were two very broad, low intensity bands centred at 915 and 1075 cm^{-1}
338 related to the antisymmetric Si–O stretching ($\nu_a \text{SiO}_4$). In fact, the DFT simulations showed the presence of
339 several modes, with eight asymmetric Si – O(b) + Si – O(a) stretching modes ($3B + 5A$) that fell in the range

340 1000 – 1100 cm^{-1} , whereas the range 900 – 1000 cm^{-1} presented eleven bands ($7B + 4A$) mainly due to the
341 contribution of Si – O(a) stretching motions. The theoretical intensity of these bands was very low, suggesting
342 that the two experimental bands could be due to the overlap of these signals, explaining their broadness.

343 The range 650 – 800 cm^{-1} in the experimental spectra was characterized by a triplet of slightly broad bands
344 centred at 674 cm^{-1} , 738 cm^{-1} and 778 cm^{-1} , in agreement with the previous results of Moro et al. (2017). The
345 analysis of the PED showed that the first experimental band was due to the combination of two strong bands
346 calculated at 686 cm^{-1} and 707 cm^{-1} , related to symmetric “umbrella” O(b) – Si – O(a) and O(b) – Al – O(a)
347 bending modes, confirming the analysis of McKeown and collaborators (1999), who measured these umbrella
348 modes at 684 cm^{-1} and 712 cm^{-1} , respectively. There were also other modes contributing to this band, which
349 were due to the combination of the umbrella motions with Mg – O(h) – H (and Fe – O – H in the iron-bearing
350 phlogopite models) bending modes, commonly called O–H librations. The bands at 738 cm^{-1} and 778 cm^{-1}
351 were due to symmetric Si–O(b) stretching modes ($\nu_s \text{SiO}_4$), which also saw the contribution of O–H libration
352 modes. This intermix of the Si – O(b) modes with the Mg/Fe – O(h) – H ones caused a slight increase of the
353 intensity of these bands in the iron-bearing phlogopite models. It is possible suggesting that this effect was due
354 to the variation of the polarizability of the Fe – O(h) bonds with respect to the Mg – O(h) ones. Indeed, the
355 intensity of the Raman bands is proportional to the square of the variation of the polarizability of the system
356 during the atomic vibration. However, there is a disagreement between the intensity of the signals obtained
357 from the DFT simulations and the experimental ones, being very high. As explained in the introduction, Wang
358 et al. (2015) suggested that these two signals should have quite low intensities, which could increase because
359 of specific cationic substitutions in the octahedral sheet. The simulations of the Fe-bearing models seem to
360 confirm this hypothesis, with the band at 783 cm^{-1} increasing the intensity (see **Fig.4**), but not as high as
361 observed in the experimental spectrum. Since the BU1-7 sample presented also a quite large amount of titanium
362 in the octahedral sheet, the Fe + Ti content could justify the increase of the intensity of these two bands, as
363 already explained by Moro and co-workers (2017). In addition, the slight intermix of the Si – O(b) modes with
364 the Mg/Fe – O(h) – H ones caused a slight variation of the position of the vibrational bands.

365 According to the theoretical PED analysis, the modes with the most contribution of hydroxyl librations fell in
366 the range 600 – 650 cm^{-1} , with very low Raman intensities, with the most intense band found at 636 cm^{-1} . In

367 the experimental spectrum, no band was found correlated to this specific mode. However, the DFT spectral
368 range of the Mg – O(h) – H bending modes was highly affected by anharmonicity, as also discussed in previous
369 work on talc (Ulian et al., 2013). Unfortunately, the used version of the CRYSTAL code did not allow to
370 correct the anharmonic behaviour of OH libration modes, but it is expected these bands would fall at lower
371 wavenumbers than those calculated.

372 Lattice modes fell in the spectral range below 550 cm^{-1} , and they were due to different kinds of atomic
373 vibrations, in particular long-range T_4O_{10} sheet motions mixed with octahedral cations and hydroxyl group
374 displacements. In the experimental Raman spectrum, there were quite broad signals at 533 cm^{-1} , 422 cm^{-1} and
375 347 cm^{-1} , an intense and narrow band at 187 cm^{-1} , two shoulders at 320 cm^{-1} and 147 cm^{-1} , and three small
376 bands at 289 cm^{-1} , 264 cm^{-1} and 78 cm^{-1} . Mg – O(a) and Mg – O(h) stretching modes were calculated within
377 DFT at 530 cm^{-1} and 456 cm^{-1} , respectively. Si – O(a) – Mg bending modes occur in the spectral range 470 --
378 510 cm^{-1} , whereas the O – Mg – O bending modes fall between 345 cm^{-1} and 434 cm^{-1} . These theoretical
379 bands had very low intensity in Raman, in agreement with the experimental measurement. The strong
380 theoretical bands at about 205 cm^{-1} and 180 cm^{-1} were associated with a symmetric and collective Mg – O(a)
381 – Mg bending (resulting in the compression of the interlayer space) and the rotations of the SiO_4 tetrahedra
382 around a shared vertex, respectively. These bands were found in the experimental Raman spectrum at about
383 187 cm^{-1} and 147 cm^{-1} , respectively, in line with the modes observed by McKeown and co-workers (1999),
384 i.e., 162 cm^{-1} and 105 cm^{-1} , respectively. The small band at about 114 cm^{-1} was composed of two almost
385 degenerate phonon modes related to the sliding of the TOT layers along the x and y directions. The present
386 DFT results for the stoichiometric Ph1-Fe0 model were also in line with the Raman spectrum of a fluorine-
387 poor phlogopite of formula $(\text{K}_{0.911}\text{Na}_{0.047})$
388 $(\text{Mg}_{2.723}\text{Fe}_{0.026}\text{Al}_{0.111}\text{Ti}_{0.062}\text{Cr}_{0.002}\text{Ni}_{0.001})(\text{Si}_{2.955}\text{Al}_{1.045})\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH}_{1.954}\text{F}_{0.053}\text{Cl}_{0.002})$, whose most relevant bands were
389 centred at 193 cm^{-1} , 281 cm^{-1} , 327 cm^{-1} , 358 cm^{-1} , 682 cm^{-1} (Sun et al., 2022).

390 In general, the presence of increasing amounts of divalent iron in the octahedral sheet results in low ($|\Delta\nu| < 10$
391 cm^{-1}) spectral shifts for modes involving the octahedral cations, e.g., Fe – O(a) and Fe – O(h) modes between
392 $200\text{ -- }250\text{ cm}^{-1}$, whereas smaller shifts ($|\Delta\nu| < 1\text{ cm}^{-1}$) were observed for modes not mainly related to the O
393 sheet. This also led to some bands showing a change in intensity, e.g., those at 204 cm^{-1} and 214 cm^{-1} , because

394 of the combined red- and blue-shifts, i.e., shifts at lower and higher wavenumbers, respectively. Generally, the
395 bands are more shifted when the related phonon modes directly involve the iron cations, e.g., Fe – O(a) and Fe
396 – O(h) modes. This led to different overlaps or separations of the bands, which resulted in the presence of more
397 low-intensity bands or fewer high-intensity signals, respectively.

398 The DFT simulated infrared spectra of the Phl-Fe0, Phl-Fe1, and Phl-Fe2 models were reported in **Fig.4b** as
399 blue, red and green lines, respectively. As a general observation, the bands that were very intense in the Raman
400 spectrum are weaker in the IR spectrum, and vice versa. The *P2* space group used to model phlogopite does
401 not contain the inversion centre as the *C2/m* one observed from the experimental refinements, hence the mutual
402 exclusion rule did not apply. In general, small differences can be noted in the spectra with increasing iron
403 content, especially in the spectral region above 500 cm⁻¹. The change in intensity and position of some bands
404 are due to the same reasons explained for the Raman spectra. Considering the systematic blue-shift imposed
405 by the harmonic approximation, our results were in good agreement with the experimental findings of Jenkins
406 (1989) in the spectral range 1300 – 350 cm⁻¹ for a natural phlogopite mineral with chemical composition near
407 ideality, i.e., K_{0.72}(Mg_{2.85}Al_{0.14})(Al_{0.87}Si_{3.13})O₁₀(OH,F)₂ (spectrum drawn with a black line in **Fig.4b**). In the
408 theoretical spectra, the most intense bands for $\nu < 1200$ cm⁻¹ fell at 935 cm⁻¹ and 976 cm⁻¹ for symmetric Si –
409 O(a), 945 cm⁻¹ and 999 cm⁻¹ for symmetric Si – O(b) and 1008 cm⁻¹ for asymmetric Si – O(a) stretching
410 modes. The band with medium intensity at 1067 cm⁻¹ and the very low-intensity one at 1100 cm⁻¹ in the DFT
411 spectra were associated to asymmetric Si – O(b) stretching modes. Jenkins (1989) described a broad band
412 centred at 995 cm⁻¹ in the experimental IR spectrum, which was generally assigned to the Si – O stretching
413 vibrations, without specifying the type of oxygen atom (apical or basal) associated to the vibrational motion.
414 The same band was instead measured by Weiss and collaborators (2010) at 1006 cm⁻¹ on a phlogopite sample
415 with both Fe and Ti in the octahedral sheet.

416 Jenkins reported the band associated with the OH libration mode, i.e., Mg – O – H, at 592 cm⁻¹, whereas in
417 the present simulations for the Phl-Fe0 model a series of bands between about 600 cm⁻¹ and 790 cm⁻¹ were
418 found, with the most intense band at 647 cm⁻¹. This blue-shift was due to high anharmonic behaviour of this
419 kind of mode, where the energy separation between the different vibrational levels could not be described
420 properly with the harmonic approximation of atomic vibrations.

421 Summarizing, **Table 6** reports the most intense bands observed in the experimental Raman and infrared
422 spectra, together with the related DFT bands and their assignment to specific normal modes. It can be noted
423 that the mean absolute deviation between the theoretical and experimental positions of the Raman bands with
424 $\nu > 200 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ is about 3%, whereas for infrared spectroscopy the deviation is smaller (about 2%). This is in
425 line with the results of similar comparisons between DFT simulations at 0 K and room temperature as reported
426 in several scientific publications by various authors (see for instance Pascale et al., 2004; Tosoni et al., 2005;
427 Valenzano et al., 2007). For the sake of completeness, **Fig.S1** reports the simulated Raman spectra of the three
428 phlogopite models, considering different laser polarizations (xx , xy , xz , yy , yz and zz).

429

430 *3.3 Electronic band structure*

431 The electronic band structure of the three phlogopite-1M models was calculated in the Γ -Z-D-B- Γ -A-E-Z-
432 C_2 -Y₂- Γ -Z'-D'-B'- Γ -A'-E'-Z'-C'₂-Y'₂- Γ path in the first Brillouin zone (reciprocal lattice). Spin-
433 polarized solutions were also considered due to the presence of Fe^{II} ions with 3d⁶ electronic configuration,
434 which lead to a total spin $S = 2$ (see **Fig.5**). In addition, **Fig.5** reports the atom-projected density of states
435 (DOS) calculated for each model, whereas **Fig.6** shows details of the orbital-projected DOS in the -7.5 – 15
436 eV for selected atoms.

437 In each phlogopite model, as in typical insulators, the valence bands were almost flat near the Fermi level (here
438 set to 0 eV). The band gap was of the indirect type, with an energy gap E_g that was very high for the
439 stoichiometric Phl-Fe0 phlogopite (6.94 eV, **Fig.5a**), in line with the experimental value of 7.85 eV calculated
440 from the optical properties by Hendricks and Jefferson (1939). This study is slightly dated, and probably the
441 optical measurements were affected by some uncertainties, explaining the difference of about 1 eV between
442 the theoretical and experimental electronic band gap. Unfortunately, to the authors' knowledge, no recent
443 experimental studies reported band properties for this mineral. The present E_g value was also smaller than that
444 of Timon et al. (2013), who conducted DFT simulations with the CRYSTAL09 code and the hybrid B3LYP
445 functional. As previously explained the different theoretical approach could be the reason of this slight
446 disagreement. From the atom- and orbital-projected density of states, it was possible to note the contribution
447 of the p orbitals of oxygen atoms, especially the apical O(a) ones to the topmost valence bands, whereas the

448 contribution of all other atoms was negligible between -7.5 eV and the Fermi level. The first conduction bands
449 in the $7 - 10$ eV range were mainly due to the hydrogen atoms. For electronic energies greater than 10 eV, the
450 p orbitals of Si were the most contributing element to the conduction bands, followed by the d orbitals of
451 potassium for $E > 12$ eV.

452 The presence of iron(II) ions in the octahedral sheet of the phyllosilicate led to several important variations in
453 the band structure (see **Figs.5b,c**). First, $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}/\text{Mg}^{\text{II}}$ substitutions reduced the separation between the valence and
454 the conduction bands, an effect that increased with the number of iron ions in the structure. This E_g variation
455 occurred because of the presence of mid-band levels just above the topmost valence band associated with iron
456 (see the atom-projected DOS plots). Moreover, most of the bands associated with the oxygen atoms were
457 shifted at lower energy than the same ones in the Phl-Fe0 model. Also, there were other bands in the conduction
458 region due to Fe^{II} , which crossed the bands associated with H (see the red dashed lines in **Figs.5b,c**). The band
459 gap associated with the α electrons (spin up, or majority-spin) was $E_{g,\alpha} = 5.01$ eV and $E_{g,\alpha} = 4.19$ eV for the
460 phlogopite models with one and two Fe^{II} ions, respectively. When β electrons (spin down, or minority-spin)
461 were considered, the band gap further reduces to $E_{g,\beta} = 3.44$ eV and $E_{g,\beta} = 3.59$ eV for the Phl-Fe1 and Phl-
462 Fe2 models, respectively. The calculated atomic spin density of the Fe4 site in the Phl-Fe1 structure is 3.75
463 μ_B , whereas the Fe1 and Fe4 sites in the doubly substituted model are both $3.72 \mu_B$, close to the expected value
464 of 4 . The results are also consistent with those of Timon et al. (2013), who calculated a spin density of $3.7 \mu_B$.
465 Thus, it was possible to modulate the band gap of phlogopite with the amount of iron in the octahedral sheet.
466 This means that it is required less energy to promote the transition of electrons from the valence bands into the
467 conduction ones. For example, in the optics perspective, the mineral can absorb light with different
468 wavelengths (inversely proportional to the E_g value) depending on the amount of iron in the octahedral sheet,
469 hence the mineral could be used for specific applications such as filter screens. The band gap is also relevant
470 in other important applications, e.g., large insulators and semiconducting materials can be used as dielectric
471 and source/drain electrodes, respectively, in field emission transistors.

472 The analysis of the orbital-projected DOS for the iron(II) substituted structures (**Figs.6c-f**) showed the
473 degeneracy between the 2p orbitals of the O(a) and O(h) atoms and the 3d orbitals (majority spin) of iron in
474 the valence states, and the admixture of the 1s orbital of H and the 3d orbitals (minority spin) of Fe^{II} in the

475 bottommost conduction bands, with Fe giving the dominant contribution to the electronic bands. The orbitals
476 of O(b) atoms, which are not connected to any iron ion in the octahedral sheet, are not involved in these
477 degenerate levels. This means that these orbital sets, i.e., Fe–O(a), Fe–O(h) and Fe–H, were hybridized and
478 were responsible of the decreasing electronic band gap. These observations agreed with those of Timon and
479 collaborators (2013), with an electronic band gap $E_g = 3.70$ eV. However, the cited authors calculated a slightly
480 different band structure in the conduction levels, with bands related to the 2p O orbitals placed below those of
481 H. As previously explained, this could be an effect of the different computational parameters.

482 Finally, for the sake of completeness, the calculated static relative permittivity ϵ , the refractive index n and the
483 high-frequency relative permittivity ϵ_{HF} of the different phlogopite models were reported in **Table 7**, which
484 were in good agreement with the available experimental (Bisdom et al., 1982; Gudkov and Metsik, 1973) and
485 theoretical data (Timon et al., 2013). By increasing the amount of iron in phlogopite in place of magnesium,
486 the refractive index and the high-frequency dielectric constant increased as observed in other minerals such as
487 olivine (Mg, Fe)₂SiO₄. This effect is due to the increasing density of the mineral with the Fe(II) concentration
488 in phlogopite, which is related to both the volume shrinking and the increasing molecular weight of the unit
489 cell.

490

491 **4. Conclusions**

492 The present study focused on the crystal-chemical investigation of phlogopite as a function of the iron (Fe²⁺)
493 content in the octahedral sheet, and how the vibrational and electronic properties vary with the composition.
494 The well-known hybrid functional B3LYP was employed and corrected with the DFT-D2 scheme to properly
495 describe the long-range interactions that typically characterize the layer silicates, together with all-electron
496 basis sets to describe the atomic orbitals. The crystal-chemistry of KMg_{2-x}Fe_x(Si₃Al)O₁₀(OH)₂ models, with x
497 = 0, 0.5 and 1 was correctly described by the chosen theoretical framework, finding a general reduction of the
498 unit cell volume by increasing the Fe content in the octahedral sheet of the mineral. The simulated vibrational
499 (infrared and Raman) spectra of phlogopite well reproduced the experimental ones, showing that the triplet of
500 very intense Raman bands here experimentally recorded with confocal Raman micro-spectrometry and in
501 previous works was not only related to the iron content, and that other cationic/anionic substitutions could be

502 the reason behind the increase of the intensity of two of the three vibrational signals. Further details on the
503 atomic vibrations associated with the specific vibrational modes were also provided as a reference for future
504 experimental and theoretical studies. The electronic band structure and density of states highlighted the
505 progressive reduction of the indirect band gap of the mineral with the number of Fe^{II}/Mg^{II} substitutions, and
506 the strong hybridisations of the 3d Fe – 2p O orbitals in the valence states and of the 3d Fe – 1s H in the
507 conduction bands. This could lead to interesting and peculiar applications of this mineral in optoelectronics
508 because of the wide-bandgap behaviour ($E_g > 2$ eV) of phlogopite that can be tuned by the number of Fe cations
509 in the octahedral sheet and polarization of the electronic spin. For example, the $E_g = 3.49$ eV corresponds to a
510 wavelength of about 355 nm, hence this mineral could adsorb (or emit) light radiation in the near ultraviolet.
511 Thus, the mineral could be used as a filter for specific wavelengths, which can be tailored with the
512 concentration of Fe(II) in the octahedral sheet. In future, the effect of Fe^{III}/Mg^{II}, Ti^{IV}/Mg^{II} and Fe^{III}/Si^{IV} will be
513 investigated to increase our understanding of the effects of naturally occurring substitutions in the crystal-
514 chemical and electronic properties of phlogopite. Considering the wide interest in new, sustainable materials
515 for different kinds of applications, phlogopite could be a promising mineral, in particular for two-dimensional
516 optoelectronic devices.

517 As a final note, this study further assessed the quality of the proposed B3LYP-D*/all-electron basis set
518 approach for the characterization of phyllosilicates with increasing crystal-chemical complexity.

519

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525

526 **Author Contributions**

527 Conceptualization, G.U. and G.V.; methodology, G.U.; validation, G.U. and G.V.; formal analysis, G.U.;
528 investigation, G.U. and G.V.; data curation, G.U.; writing—review and editing, G.U. and G.V.; visualization,
529 G.U.; supervision, G.V. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

530

531 **Data Availability**

532 The results of the present work are reported in the manuscript and in a dedicated dataset published at the
533 following link: <https://doi.org/10.17632/7wsntzztxw.1>.

534

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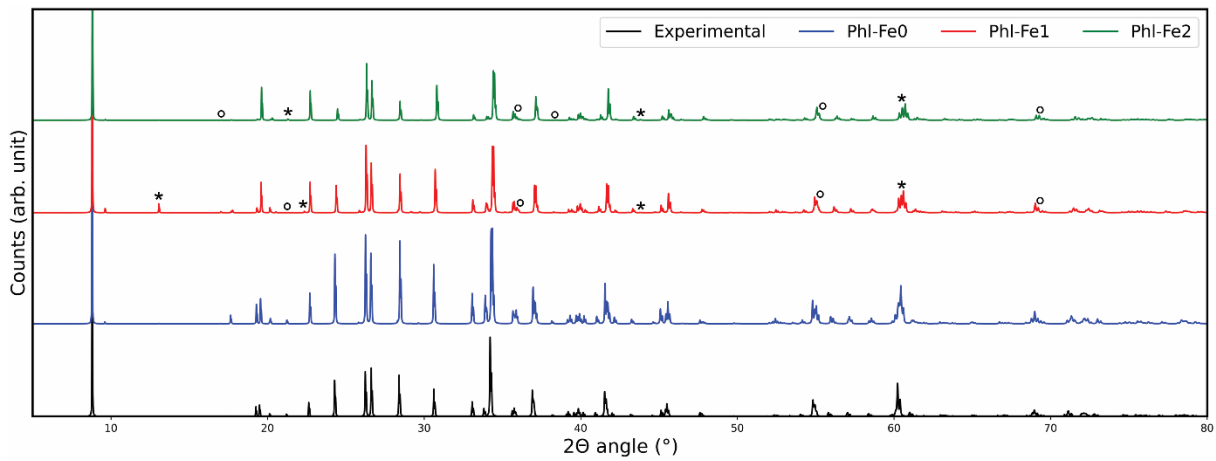
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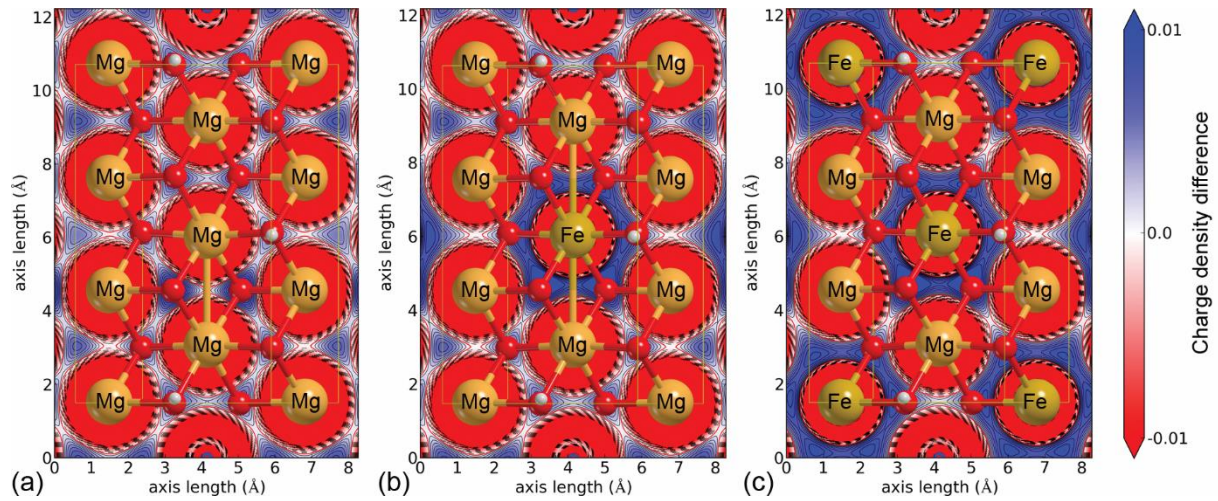
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677 **Figure 2.** Simulated powder X-ray diffraction patterns of Phl-Fe0 (blue line), Phl-Fe1 (red line) and Phl-Fe2

678 (green line) phlogopite models, compared to the experimental refinement from Ventruti et al. (2009),

679 reported in black line. Asterisks (*) and circles (°) mark the appearance and the disappearance of reflections,

680 respectively, in the Fe-bearing phlogopite models with respect to the stoichiometric one.



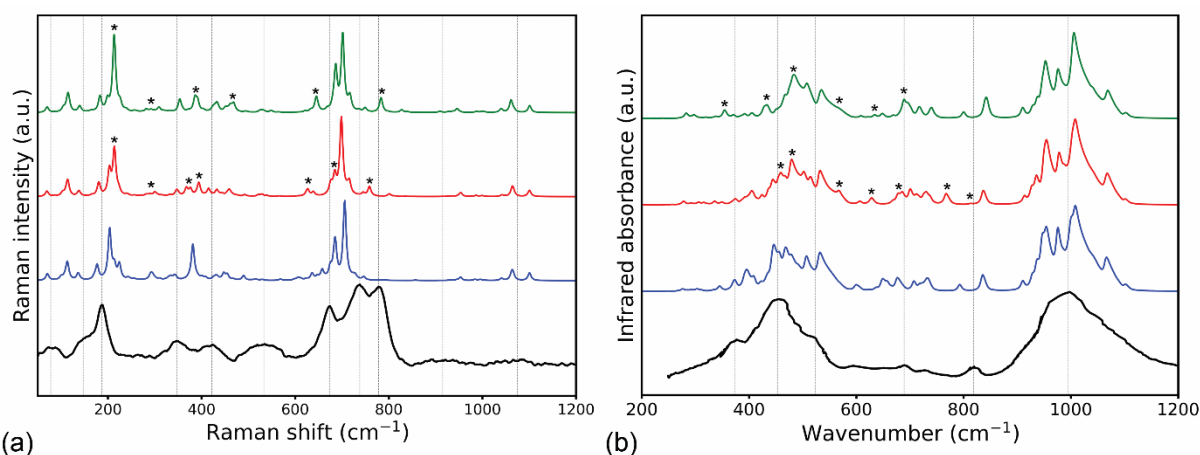
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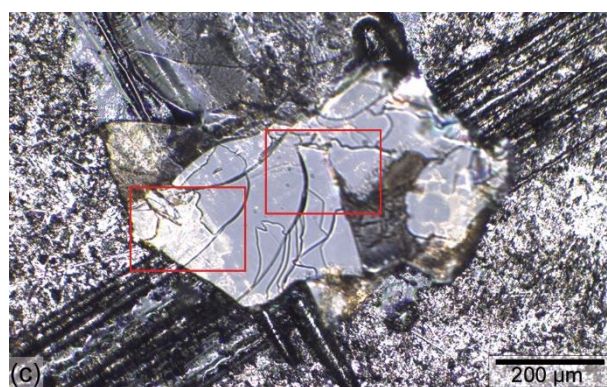
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Figure 3. Charge density difference in the octahedral sheet of (a) stoichiometric Phl-Fe0, (b) Phl-Fe1 and (c) Phl-Fe2 phlogopite models, calculated with the DFT/B3LYP-D* approach at 0 K. Orange, ochre, red and white indicate Mg, Fe, O and H atoms, respectively.



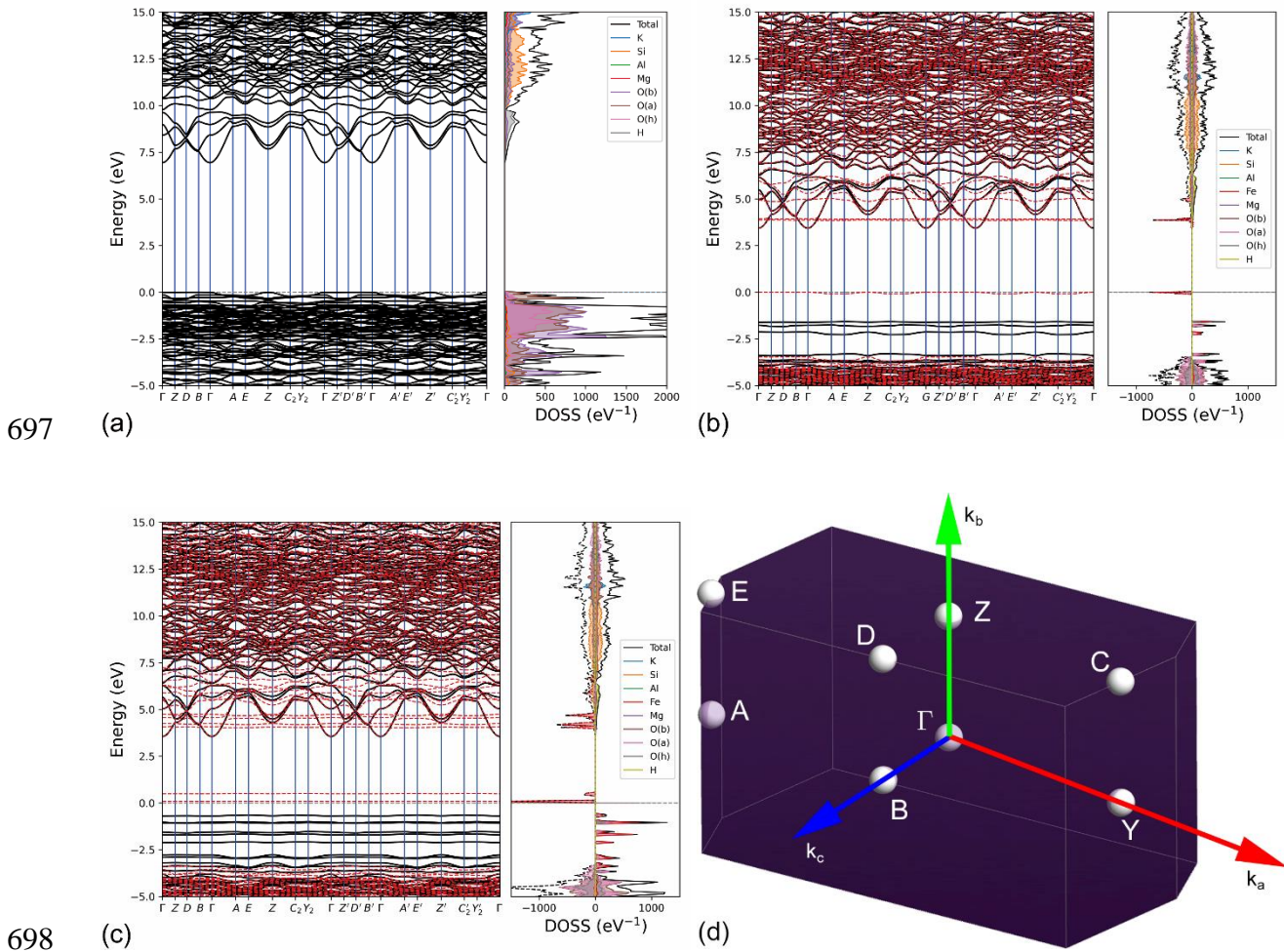
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687 **Figure 4.** (a) Raman and (b) infrared spectra of 1M phlogopite polytype models with ideal crystal chemistry
 688 $\text{KMg}_3(\text{AlSi}_3)\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$ (Phl-Fe0, blue line), $\text{KMg}_{2.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}(\text{AlSi}_3)\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$ (Phl-Fe1, red line) and
 689 $\text{KMg}_2\text{Fe}(\text{AlSi}_3)\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$ (Phl-Fe2, green line) as obtained from simulations at the DFT/B3LYP-D* level of
 690 theory. In panel (a) a representative Raman spectrum from confocal Raman micro-spectrometry on the BU1-
 691 7 sample (black line) is reported, whereas the infrared spectrum shown in panel (b) is from the natural
 692 phlogopite sample characterized by Jenkins (1989). The asterisks (*) in both panels (a) and (b) mark the bands
 693 that showed the highest spectral variations in terms of position and intensity. Panel (c) shows an optical image
 694 of the phlogopite sample, with the red rectangular areas highlighting the zones analysed with Raman
 695 spectroscopy.

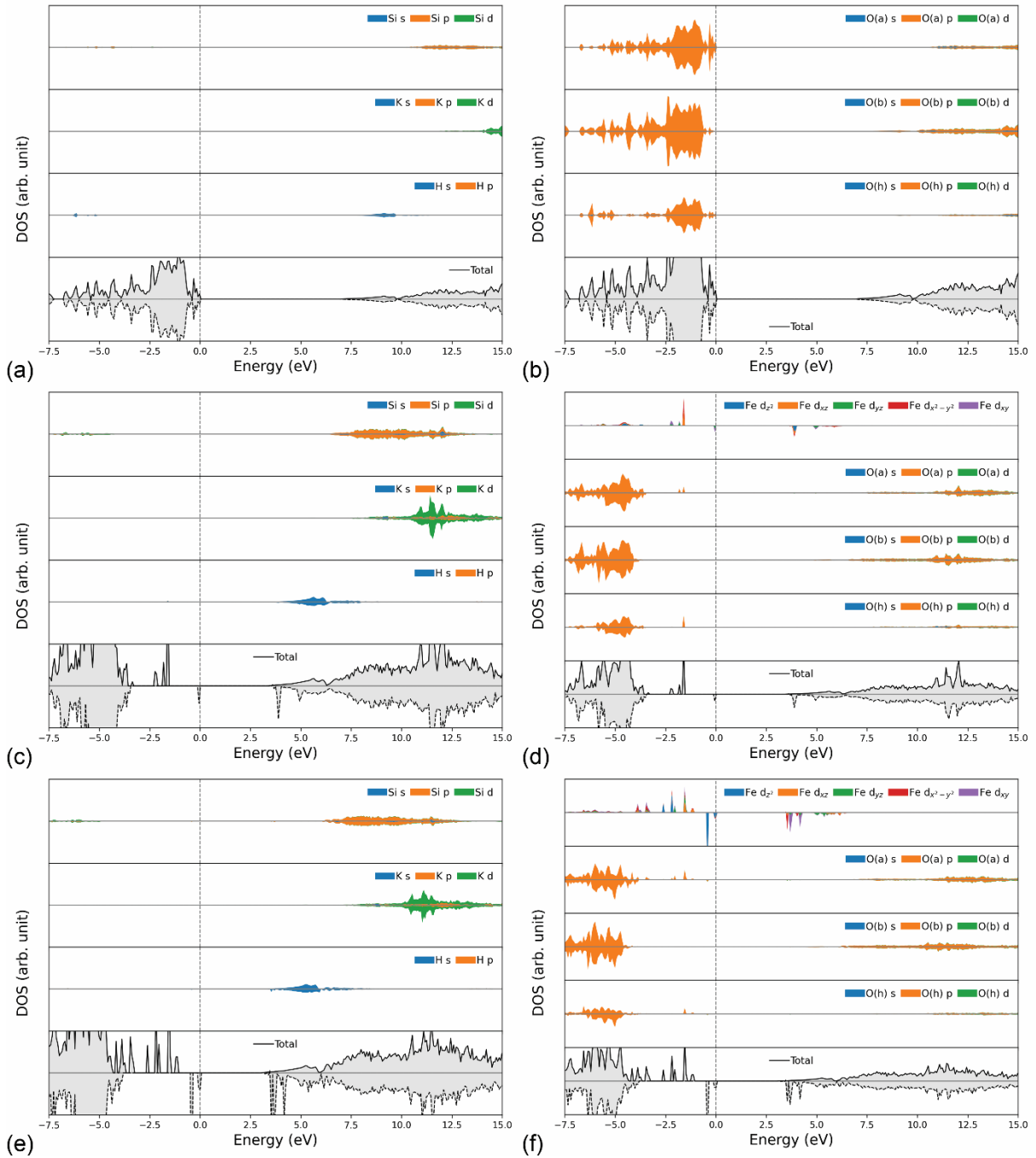
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699 **Figure 5.** Electronic band structure and atom-projected density of states (DOSS) of (a) Phl-Fe0, (b) Phl-Fe1
700 and (c) Phl-Fe2 phlogopite-1M models in the $-5 - 10$ eV energy range. The black lines in the band structure
701 are related to the α electrons, whereas the red dashed ones to the β electrons. The density of states associated
702 with the α and β electrons are represented with solid (on the right, positive values) and dashed lines (on the
703 left, negative values), respectively, in the DOSS plots. Panel (d) shows the first Brillouin zone associated
704 with the monoclinic lattice with symmetry $P2$ and its special k points.

705

706



707

708 **Figure 6.** Electronic density of states projected on selected sets of orbitals of the different atoms in the
 709 phlogopite-1M models. Panels (a,b), (c,d) and (e,f) are related to the Phl-Fe0, Phl-Fe1 and Phl-Fe2 structures,
 710 respectively. Solid lines are associated with majority-spin DOS, whereas dashed lines are due to minority-spin
 711 DOS. The grey dashed lines indicate the Fermi energy level.

712

714 **Table 1.** Crystal structure data of the stoichiometric and Fe-bearing 1M-phlogopite from DFT simulations.

	B3LYP-D*			ND	XRD		
	Phl-Fe0	Phl-Fe1	Phl-Fe2		(BU1-1)	Tas 27-2Ba	CA-IT
space group	<i>P2</i>	<i>P2</i>	<i>P2</i>	<i>C2/m</i>	<i>C2/m</i>	<i>C2/m</i>	<i>C2/m</i>
<i>a</i> (Å)	5.2990	5.2856	5.2740	5.3187	5.3252	5.318	5.337
<i>b</i> (Å)	9.1954	9.1788	9.1692	9.2104	9.2260	9.214	9.240
<i>c</i> (Å)	10.2086	10.1916	10.1689	10.1967	10.2342	10.279	10.237
β (°)	100.228	100.022	99.804	100.148	100.080	100.01	100.02
<i>V</i> (Å ³)	489.52	486.90	484.56	491.69	495.05	496.00	497.1
<i>T</i> _{thick} (Å)	2.2708	2.2720	2.2506	2.232	2.239	2.256	2.25
<i>M</i> _{thick} (Å)	2.1781	2.1621	2.1444	2.141	2.140	2.163	2.20
<i>I</i> _{thick} (Å)	3.3267	3.3300	3.3324	3.372	3.406	3.447	3.39
ψ (°)	58.38	58.39	58.68	58.91	58.91	58.63	58.5
<i>TQE</i>							
T1	1.0015	1.0014	1.0015				
T2	1.0016	1.0015	1.0017				
T3	1.0019	1.0021	1.0021				
T4	1.0013	1.0014	1.0012				
mean	1.0016	1.0016	1.0016	1.000	1.000	1.0004	
Volume T (Å ³)							
T1	2.2486	2.2450	2.2460				
T2	2.2523	2.2483	2.2471				
T3	2.2667	2.2638	2.2612				
T4	2.7568	2.7522	2.7479				
mean	2.3811	2.3773	2.3756	2.36	2.336	2.330	2.4
<i>OQE</i>							
M1	1.0076	1.0073	1.0071	1.012	1.012	1.0097	
M2	1.0100	1.0114	1.0123	1.011	1.011	1.0096	
M3	1.0071	1.0085	1.0091				
M4	1.0123	1.0108	1.0106				
M5	1.0085	1.0088	1.0106				
M6	1.0116	1.0125	1.0147				
mean	1.0095	1.0099	1.0107	1.012	1.012	1.0097	
Volume O (Å ³)							
M1	11.7415	11.6753	11.1856	11.77	11.85	11.791	12.0
M2	11.8843	11.7671	11.7233	11.59	11.60	11.770	11.9
M3	11.7733	11.7018	11.6801				
M4	11.8359	11.3304	11.2609				
M5	11.7095	11.7014	11.6113				
M6	11.8011	11.7613	11.6588				
mean	11.7909	11.6562	11.5200	11.68	11.73	11.781	12.0

M1 and M4 sites in Fe-bearing phlogopite are occupied by Fe²⁺. Experimental results from single-crystal X-ray diffraction (SC-XRD) at 100 K (sample BU1-1) and neutron diffraction (ND) at 10 K were taken from the works of Lacalamita and co-workers (2012) and Ventruti et al. (2009), respectively. Tas 27-2Ba sample was characterized in the study of Brigatti and collaborators (1996), whereas the CA-IT phlogopite was refined by Comodi et al. (2004). *T*_{thick}, *M*_{thick}, and *I*_{thick} are tetrahedral sheet thickness (calculated from the *z* coordinates of the basal and apical oxygen atoms), the octahedral sheet thickness (calculated from the *z* coordinates of the apical and hydroxyl O atoms) and interlayer thickness (calculated from the *z* coordinates of the basal oxygen atoms), respectively. TQE and OQE are the tetrahedral and octahedral quadratic elongations, respectively (Robinson et al., 1971).

716 **Table 2.** Mean bond lengths and interlayer distances (Å) in the different cationic sites of 1M phlogopite obtained from
 717 different DFT simulations, compared to previous experimental results.

	B3LYP-D*			SC-XRD			ND⁴
	Phl-Fe0	Phl-Fe1	Phl-Fe2	(BU1-1) ¹	Tas 27-2Ba ²	CA-IT ³	
<i>Tetrahedral sheet</i>							
⟨Si1 – O⟩	1.6374	1.6366	1.6366				
⟨Si2 – O⟩	1.6385	1.6376	1.6372				
⟨Si3 – O⟩	1.6421	1.6416	1.6407				
⟨Al – O⟩	1.7524	1.7516	1.7503				
⟨T – O⟩	1.6676	1.6669	1.6662	1.657	1.656	1.67	1.663
<i>Octahedral sheet</i>							
⟨M1 – O⟩	2.0726	2.0683	2.0391	2.068	2.078	2.09	2.068
⟨M2 – O⟩	2.0832	2.0778	2.0764	2.084	2.077	2.09	2.079
⟨M3 – O⟩	2.0739	2.0713	2.0705				
⟨M4 – O⟩	2.0826	2.0511	2.0473				
⟨M5 – O⟩	2.0717	2.0714	2.0682				
⟨M6 – O⟩	2.0802	2.0788	2.0749				
⟨M – O⟩	2.0774	2.0698	2.0627	2.073		2.09	2.072
<i>Interlayer</i>							
⟨K1 – O⟩	3.1558	3.1510	3.1483		3.172		
⟨K2 – O⟩	3.1167	3.1144	3.1112		3.172		
⟨K – O⟩	3.1363	3.1327	3.1297	3.164	3.172		3.153
<i>Hydroxyl groups</i>							
⟨O – H⟩	0.9555	0.9560	0.9563				

1 – room temperature (298 K) single-crystal XRD refinement of Lacalamita et al. (2012); 2 – single-crystal XRD results of Brigatti and co-workers (1996); 3 – single-crystal XRD refinement of Comodi et al. (2004); 4 – neutron diffraction refinement at 10 K by Ventruti et al. (2009). T and M represent the generic tetrahedral and octahedral sites, respectively.

718

719 **Table 3.** Irreducible representations of the normal modes of the 1*M* polytype of phlogopite according to the site
 720 symmetry.

1<i>M</i> polytype (s.g. <i>P</i>2)			
Atom	Wyckoff	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>
K	1a	1	2
K	1c	1	2
Mg1/Fe1	1b	1	2
Mg2	1b	1	2
Mg3	1b	1	2
Mg1/Fe4	1d	1	2
Mg5	1d	1	2
Mg6	1d	1	2
Si1	2e	3	3
Si2	2e	3	3
Si3	2e	3	3
Al1	2e	3	3
O(b)1	2e	3	3
O(b)2	2e	3	3
O(b)3	2e	3	3
O(b)4	2e	3	3
O(b)5	2e	3	3
O(b)6	2e	3	3
O(a)1	2e	3	3
O(a)2	2e	3	3
O(a)3	2e	3	3
O(a)4	2e	3	3
O(h)1	2e	3	3
O(h)2	2e	3	3
H	2e	3	3
H	2e	3	3

721

722

723 **Table 4.** Infrared and Raman vibrational frequencies ν (cm^{-1}) related to the irreducible representation A of stoichiometric
724 (Phl-Fe0) and iron-bearing 1M-phlogopite models (Phl-Fe1 and Phl-Fe2), calculated from DFT/B3LYP-D* simulations.
725 Transverse optic (TO) and longitudinal optic (LO) frequencies, and IR and Raman intensities for each mode are reported.

Phl-Fe0				Phl-Fe1				Phl-Fe2			
ν_{TO}	$\Delta\nu_{LO-TO}$	IR	R	ν_{TO}	$\Delta\nu_{LO-TO}$	IR	R	ν_{TO}	$\Delta\nu_{LO-TO}$	IR	R
70.7	0.1	0.2	93.8	69.7	0.1	0.6	74.8	70.0	0.0	0.1	71.2
111.8	6.1	24.5	60.6	111.8	6.0	44.3	10.2	112.9	6.1	28.4	8.5
113.0	-0.3	5.7	218.6	113.7	-0.1	1.6	228.1	114.4	-0.1	0.8	256.3
136.4	0.0	0.2	94.6	137.8	0.0	0.1	70.8	139.4	0.0	0.0	74.9
171.3	1.5	11.2	34.4	166.0	1.4	14.4	12.8	163.3	1.3	8.2	13.1
176.9	0.2	1.2	273.6	180.5	0.0	0.2	263.1	183.0	0.0	0.2	300.3
203.7	0.0	0.0	709.7	203.1	0.1	2.0	351.6	199.0	0.0	0.0	157.3
213.7	0.0	0.1	162.6	213.8	0.1	2.0	628.9	213.4	0.0	0.1	1000.0
224.5	0.0	0.2	201.6	223.5	0.0	0.3	60.7	226.1	0.1	0.8	96.1
254.3	0.0	0.3	15.8	255.7	0.4	8.7	8.3	256.2	0.0	0.3	17.2
259.4	0.0	0.0	10.6	258.0	0.0	0.0	11.0	261.2	0.1	0.7	15.0
285.4	0.6	11.5	2.2	286.3	0.1	2.3	5.5	286.0	0.0	0.3	1.4
291.9	0.8	14.7	59.8	292.0	1.3	34.5	7.8	289.9	0.3	6.3	15.6
295.6	0.2	3.3	55.7	300.3	0.2	3.9	52.9	296.3	2.4	36.0	2.0
310.8	0.6	12.3	12.6	306.4	0.2	6.8	7.7	308.9	0.0	0.0	47.0
329.1	0.1	1.9	39.0	315.4	1.7	45.8	15.8	318.9	1.0	15.9	17.9
334.8	0.0	0.9	9.2	332.4	0.1	2.2	26.1	331.2	0.4	6.8	15.9
340.1	0.0	1.2	17.5	346.5	0.3	9.8	73.6	336.9	0.1	1.9	10.3
343.1	0.8	20.7	59.0	354.4	0.1	3.2	5.7	353.4	0.1	1.8	166.9
363.1	0.0	0.0	8.2	367.6	0.3	14.5	100.4	371.7	0.8	20.7	13.6
369.3	1.5	66.0	4.4	371.5	0.7	34.0	3.2	376.5	0.0	0.0	5.0
375.6	0.3	11.5	12.1	376.3	0.7	31.1	87.1	385.9	0.2	6.5	163.2
381.4	0.1	5.0	452.5	391.2	0.8	63.9	16.5	391.5	1.6	50.2	123.9
390.3	1.7	262.8	23.1	394.3	0.5	32.9	153.0	403.9	0.7	23.0	11.7
393.6	15.4	222.1	2.1	403.3	5.9	321.7	1.5	413.1	0.0	1.2	6.5
401.5	-0.2	7.0	31.5	415.0	0.9	36.5	94.9	423.3	0.3	26.2	36.2
424.8	0.6	20.8	1.5	422.7	2.0	98.9	11.8	427.4	2.7	215.3	43.4
433.7	4.4	127.3	21.8	436.1	1.4	144.3	11.5	432.5	7.1	135.6	42.2
435.3	-0.2	16.6	13.8	442.2	10.2	293.0	26.6	450.6	0.7	30.0	44.3
447.5	0.4	22.1	140.4	446.4	-1.6	139.0	15.3	455.7	2.1	77.1	44.1
455.8	3.3	272.3	23.3	460.4	0.2	18.3	69.4	468.7	0.6	54.4	112.2
466.0	108.0	599.4	7.9	467.0	2.4	264.2	22.7	472.9	1.0	101.8	3.6
468.8	0.0	11.0	8.3	477.4	104.1	1000.0	4.8	480.5	108.6	777.3	1.7
489.8	-1.0	32.8	83.3	492.0	-0.1	7.0	29.9	496.7	-0.4	19.4	11.0
515.8	-0.5	5.2	18.9	521.2	0.0	0.6	18.8	527.9	0.0	1.8	7.6
523.5	0.3	0.7	2.3	528.4	0.0	0.5	23.2	528.4	-4.0	31.4	10.2
528.0	-5.2	57.7	6.7	530.6	-5.4	114.0	5.5	534.2	-3.1	81.0	14.2
531.4	0.0	0.9	5.0	539.7	0.0	0.4	15.1	548.7	0.0	0.2	33.6
598.2	7.6	31.8	17.9	605.6	3.5	27.4	5.3	608.1	2.9	11.0	1.2
611.8	0.1	0.2	31.6	627.6	6.9	63.3	3.8	633.4	3.0	24.0	34.4
636.2	1.7	15.3	119.0	638.8	0.1	0.6	72.3	647.6	5.0	33.1	36.3
657.7	2.9	41.3	180.0	675.3	0.8	25.1	119.6	681.2	1.1	22.5	81.3
674.9	15.4	123.1	146.8	684.6	7.6	146.1	246.4	686.5	5.8	51.4	522.7
685.5	-0.5	2.6	460.8	698.7	3.9	38.4	1000.0	701.6	1.9	15.9	939.7
705.8	2.8	22.7	1000.0	715.8	2.6	48.7	157.8	717.3	7.5	63.3	137.9
717.4	3.4	26.8	10.6	724.8	9.3	77.6	5.3	736.2	3.8	22.3	31.1
727.9	5.7	27.2	73.2	745.2	0.2	1.3	38.8	749.4	0.5	2.8	47.2
746.5	0.0	0.1	48.0	758.6	0.1	1.3	208.3	783.4	0.3	3.5	299.7
783.4	0.0	0.1	3.2	801.1	0.0	0.0	51.4	827.5	0.1	2.4	53.2
857.1	0.1	2.4	6.8	851.5	0.0	0.8	1.4	855.9	0.1	1.1	2.4
935.5	5.6	357.5	4.9	934.5	7.0	626.6	7.1	936.4	3.2	287.6	10.0
944.9	0.2	7.8	11.6	948.3	0.1	8.8	10.2	945.6	18.9	403.2	45.5
953.2	22.3	518.2	43.1	953.7	20.8	705.5	48.2	951.1	0.0	0.1	11.2
995.2	1.9	91.8	19.9	998.4	1.4	152.4	14.8	999.3	0.9	146.1	19.4
1007.0	103.2	539.7	4.9	1007.0	101.2	864.6	3.2	1004.4	88.8	660.3	6.0
1041.0	-0.8	11.8	26.6	1042.3	-0.4	9.2	18.6	1040.4	-0.6	10.0	34.0
1062.8	-4.0	23.3	102.5	1063.7	-4.7	38.4	107.2	1061.2	-1.6	6.4	161.1
1065.6	-0.8	13.8	75.1	1065.9	-0.7	25.1	50.8	1067.5	-3.5	30.1	26.2

1100.7	-6.8	10.3	118.6	1100.5	-5.9	11.6	92.3	1101.0	8.4	11.2	93.9
3761.1*	0.1	5.6	372.0	3771.8*	0.0	3.0	482.9	3755.4*	0.1	3.6	436.4
3785.5*	0.0	2.1	439.9	3773.4*	0.1	7.7	386.0	3761.6*	0.0	1.4	658.0

Notes: modes marked with an asterisk (*) were corrected for anharmonicity.

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729 **Table 5.** Infrared and Raman vibrational frequencies ν (cm^{-1}) related to the irreducible representation B of stoichiometric
730 (Phl-Fe0) and iron-bearing 1M-phlogopite models (Phl-Fe1 and Phl-Fe2), calculated from DFT/B3LYP-D* simulations.

Phl-Fe0			Phl-Fe1			Phl-Fe2		
ν_{TO}	IR	R	ν_{TO}	IR	R	ν_{TO}	IR	R
85.8	2.7	10.4	86.1	2.5	15.4	86.8	1.7	6.9
100.0	2.9	70.3	103.0	1.9	75.0	104.7	1.0	82.9
106.9	24.7	35.2	109.6	29.5	17.2	110.6	28.0	17.7
114.0	4.3	138.2	114.6	3.7	129.3	116.0	3.2	148.8
131.8	85.0	0.0	133.6	93.3	0.2	135.0	86.3	0.1
139.6	1.0	6.7	140.8	0.3	6.7	142.2	0.1	10.1
144.8	0.8	1.9	151.9	1.0	1.3	157.6	2.5	4.9
170.4	12.3	8.0	164.6	8.5	5.6	165.0	8.3	6.1
186.2	1.8	5.3	178.8	3.0	3.7	169.7	0.8	8.8
190.5	2.2	9.9	192.3	2.8	5.9	189.0	0.1	1.9
210.3	1.4	6.9	202.9	2.0	2.7	196.9	1.5	1.4
218.0	1.7	14.9	221.0	1.6	17.3	223.5	1.4	23.4
236.1	1.5	3.2	239.4	1.8	21.7	238.6	3.0	9.4
242.9	0.1	42.6	241.8	0.1	17.3	239.0	1.5	32.3
247.0	3.7	13.8	244.8	2.8	5.1	244.5	0.1	1.6
267.3	5.0	12.4	271.0	3.6	14.0	272.9	5.5	8.8
275.4	25.0	7.5	277.4	49.8	2.2	281.9	43.4	19.1
281.3	1.5	4.1	282.0	0.9	34.7	282.0	34.1	39.8
290.3	0.1	37.8	289.5	1.7	28.9	293.3	1.1	30.6
299.5	3.9	16.0	298.2	3.1	7.5	297.9	16.7	5.4
303.0	29.7	12.0	305.6	31.4	12.6	302.7	4.1	17.4
310.5	1.9	19.0	310.8	0.8	5.1	309.5	5.0	45.7
322.4	0.0	11.1	323.2	7.2	9.6	324.4	0.4	16.6
333.9	13.6	57.4	335.2	56.4	5.3	338.2	23.5	1.1
345.0	67.3	25.6	349.2	20.2	51.0	347.7	0.9	0.1
353.5	2.1	1.6	350.0	8.4	1.1	353.3	132.2	0.3
363.1	7.1	2.9	367.1	12.7	0.7	358.8	3.9	25.4
372.5	150.5	18.4	374.0	63.3	2.9	370.2	23.2	4.6
385.9	9.3	11.7	386.6	36.7	6.5	384.6	11.7	1.0
393.4	0.0	3.2	391.9	29.3	10.5	391.6	20.2	5.7
397.4	60.8	14.9	398.1	61.6	5.0	403.1	8.7	12.4
408.6	160.2	52.1	407.9	46.5	12.2	405.1	39.8	10.2
421.4	74.2	0.1	424.4	75.0	3.0	426.6	12.3	3.0
425.5	5.2	42.5	432.2	4.5	118.4	433.2	10.3	100.0
430.4	41.3	59.8	435.3	93.8	10.0	436.5	10.8	26.4
442.4	697.4	7.0	443.6	222.0	7.4	449.7	77.5	3.3
444.8	444.5	0.7	454.0	493.6	35.3	461.5	180.8	114.9
454.8	30.5	93.1	458.0	328.7	66.2	465.5	379.6	23.5
469.7	37.2	5.9	473.5	61.2	9.3	474.5	333.8	7.0
477.8	114.1	3.9	476.9	105.5	8.1	485.0	150.6	2.3
505.5	248.8	6.9	501.3	211.6	5.7	493.4	24.0	13.8
511.7	15.9	4.8	513.3	125.1	0.3	506.6	245.7	1.8
519.9	9.0	0.0	521.5	0.7	10.2	524.0	3.7	26.4
523.6	21.2	0.7	524.3	9.7	0.4	528.5	4.5	5.5
530.4	243.7	6.7	529.9	192.3	11.4	531.5	139.3	16.9
568.5	1.8	27.7	566.3	39.2	12.5	564.6	3.7	8.8
605.8	9.3	50.9	622.3	3.6	16.4	621.3	4.7	22.8
624.1	4.4	25.2	626.6	7.2	147.1	645.1	1.7	286.2
647.5	103.7	66.4	667.5	29.0	9.6	668.4	22.2	45.7
664.3	5.6	21.3	677.0	79.0	102.2	688.1	138.3	2.0
682.4	3.0	139.7	699.7	121.1	1.9	695.2	118.8	3.3
707.0	54.5	7.8	710.7	62.0	74.4	715.1	45.2	76.1
723.1	28.8	36.5	730.4	65.7	7.3	739.7	84.6	0.1
732.0	71.3	2.4	736.7	38.5	4.2	749.2	1.1	1.5
734.5	16.0	4.4	765.9	113.5	4.1	799.2	72.1	8.9

791.9	56.6	13.1	813.0	7.6	9.6	839.0	169.3	9.4
834.2	202.0	0.0	835.4	196.1	5.9	841.8	137.6	5.5
909.7	106.0	1.7	912.9	96.8	1.9	909.2	138.1	28.1
927.2	120.1	6.2	925.8	161.8	7.6	927.8	95.1	18.1
945.4	873.5	0.2	948.9	926.3	0.2	951.5	842.3	0.2
974.3	1000.0	1.0	976.4	1000.0	5.6	974.3	1000.0	0.4
984.0	50.3	24.3	986.5	102.6	22.3	987.7	18.4	24.8
998.7	678.2	4.6	1001.6	715.5	5.6	1002.5	657.0	5.8
1036.6	7.0	0.8	1037.2	5.4	2.3	1038.9	7.4	18.0
1046.4	1.9	0.2	1047.9	0.3	0.5	1049.0	1.3	0.3
1064.3	62.0	0.9	1066.1	63.9	7.5	1066.6	63.5	5.5
3761.0*	42.9	24.0	3772.1*	28.7	5.5	3755.2*	35.2	16.9
3785.6*	31.5	6.1	3773.2*	51.6	18.7	3762.0*	32.2	5.0

Notes: modes marked with an asterisk (*) were corrected for anharmonicity.

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733 **Table 6.** Most intense bands in the experimental Raman and infrared spectra of phlogopite, together with the
 734 related theoretical bands and the assignment to specific normal modes.

	$\nu_{\text{exp}} (\text{cm}^{-1})$	$\nu_{\text{DFT}} (\text{cm}^{-1})$	Assignment
Raman ¹	78	114	TOT sliding
	147	180	Mg–O(a)–Mg
	187	205	Mg–O(a)–Mg
	347	345	O–Mg–O
	422	456	Mg–O(h)
	533	530	Mg–O(a)
	674	686, 707	O(b)–Si – O(a) and O(b)–Al–O(a) “umbrella”
	738	746	Si – O(b)
	778	792	Si – O(b)
	915	927	Si – O(a)
Infrared ²	1075	1066, 1101	Si – O(a) and Si – O(b)
	374	390	O–Mg–O + Mg – O
	453	463	Mg – O(h)
	523	530	Mg – O(a)
	689	706	O(b) – Si – O(a) “umbrella”
	819	834	Al – O(a)
	994	935, 976, 999, 1008	Si – O(a) and Si – O(b)

735 1 – present work; 2 – Jenkins (1989).

736 **Table 7.** Static relative permittivity ϵ , refractive index n and high-frequency relative permittivity ϵ_{HF} of the
 737 different phlogopite models along the principal Cartesian directions, as obtained from DFT/B3LYP-D*
 738 simulations at 0 K.

		Phl-Fe0			Phl-Fe1			Phl-Fe2		
		xx	yy	zz	xx	yy	zz	xx	yy	zz
ϵ	B3LYP-D* ¹	6.58	6.43	5.08	6.31	6.30	5.02	6.07	6.13	4.99
	B3LYP ²	6.12	6.31	4.74						
	Exp ³	6.80	-	-						
n	B3LYP-D* ¹	1.49	1.52	1.52	1.51	1.54	1.54	1.52	1.56	1.56
	B3LYP ²	1.44	1.45	1.41						
	Exp ⁴	1.52	1.55	1.55						
ϵ_{HF}	B3LYP-D* ¹	2.32	2.32	2.22	2.37	2.37	2.26	2.43	2.42	2.31
	B3LYP ²	2.08	2.09	2.41						

739 1 – present work; 2 – theoretical results of Timon and collaborators (2013); 3 – experimental data from Gudkov and
 740 Metsik (1973), measured in the direction parallel to cleavage; 4 – experimental data from Bisdom et al. (1982).