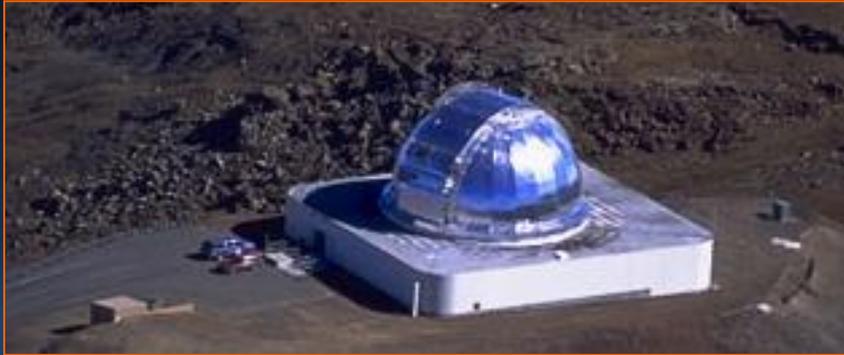
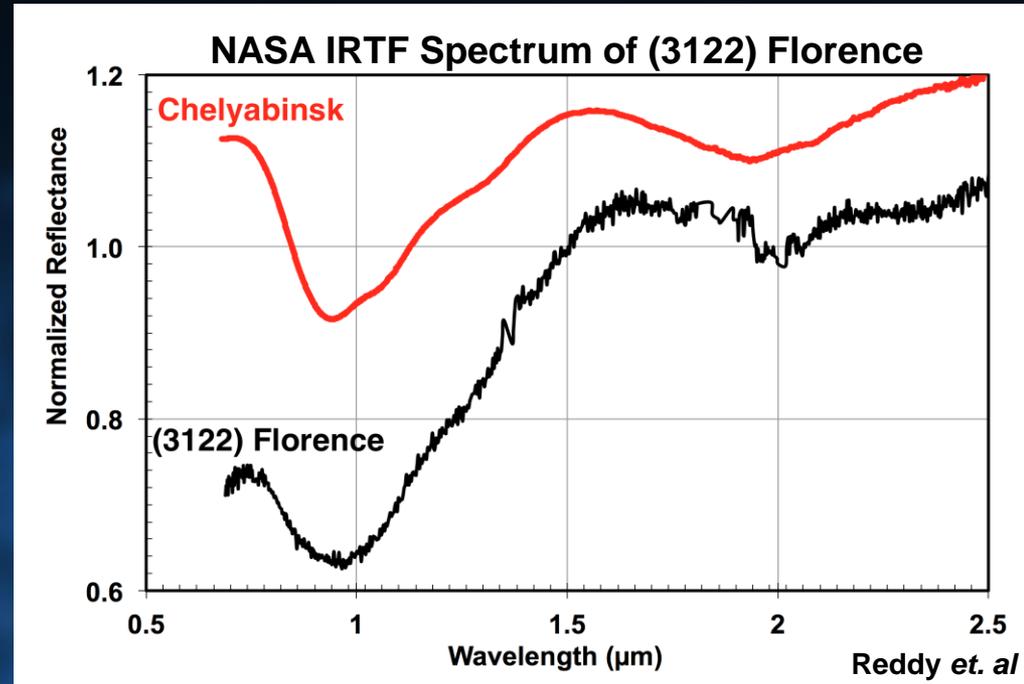


Large Near-Earth Asteroid (3122) Florence Found To Be Ordinary Stony Chondrite



Spectroscopic observations by astronomers operating NASA's Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF) on Maunakea, Hawaii, indicate that (3122) Florence is an S-type or "stony" asteroid with surface composition similar to ordinary chondrite meteorites. The Chelyabinsk meteorite is one such ordinary chondrite that has spectral properties similar to Florence.



Florence passed 4.4 million miles from Earth on September 1, this being one of many observations to determine its physical characteristics. Florence was discovered in 1981 by astronomer Schelte "Bobby" Bus and named for Florence Nightingale at the suggestion of Carolyn Shoemaker.



Chelyabinsk meteorite fragment
Ordinary chondrite