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PREDICTIONS OF THE ATMOSPHERIC COMPOSITION OF GJ 1132b

Laura Schaefer1, Robin D. Wordsworth2,3, Zachory Berta-Thompson4, and Dimitar Sasselov1

1 Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics 60 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA; lschaefer@cfa.harvard.edu
2 Harvard Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, 29 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA
3 Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Harvard University, 20 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA
4 MIT Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research 77 Massachusetts Avenue Bldg. 37 Cambridge, MA 02139, USA

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ABSTRACT

GJ 1132b is a nearby Earth-sized exoplanet transiting an M dwarf, and is among the most highly characterizable small exoplanets currently known. In this paper, we study the interaction of a magma ocean with a water-rich atmosphere on GJ 1132b and determine that it must have begun with more than 5 wt% initial water in order to still retain a water-based atmosphere. We also determine the amount of O\textsubscript{2} that can build up in the atmosphere as a result of hydrogen dissociation and loss. We find that the magma ocean absorbs at most ~10% of the O\textsubscript{2} produced, whereas more than 90% is lost to space through hydrodynamic drag. The most common outcome for GJ 1132b is the continued existence of a magma ocean on GJ 1132b. Further modeling is needed to study the evolution of CO\textsubscript{2} or N\textsubscript{2}-rich atmospheres on GJ 1132b.

Key words: planet–star interactions – planets and satellites: atmospheres – planets and satellites: composition – planets and satellites: individual (GJ 1132b)

1. INTRODUCTION

With the success of the Kepler and K-2 missions and ground-based follow-up efforts of the brightest targets, significant strides have been made in understanding the size and density distribution of planets around other stars (e.g., Burke et al. 2015; Dressing & Charbonneau 2015). Planets with radii less than 1.5–1.6 Earth radii and masses less than about seven Earth masses are universally consistent with a rocky, Earth-like composition (Weiss & Marcy 2014; Rogers 2015). However, most of these likely rocky planets have been found at very close orbital periods and are therefore significantly hotter than the Earth. Some of these planets receive orders of magnitude more stellar insolation than the Earth, and their atmospheres will be sculpted and altered by interactions with the stellar insolation, particularly the high-energy extreme ultra-violet (XUV, 1–120 nm) radiation. Therefore, models of atmospheric loss and evolution for close-in planets are timely.

There has been substantial work done on atmospheric loss from planets in the solar system, particularly Venus (e.g., Walker et al. 1981; Kasting & Pollack 1983; Zahnle 1986; Chassefière 1996; Kulikov et al. 2006; Lichtenegger et al. 2010; Erkaev et al. 2013; Hamano et al. 2013). Several recent studies extend this type of modeling to atmospheric loss on habitable zone exoplanets with H\textsubscript{2}O-rich atmospheres (Wordsworth et al. 2013; Ramirez & Kaltenegger 2014; Wordsworth & Pierrehumbert 2014; Luger & Barnes 2015; Tian & Ida 2015). Bolmont et al. (2016) have modeled water loss from the recently discovered TRAPPIST-1 system of planets around an ultra-cool dwarf star. Others have also studied whether or not close-in rocky exoplanets could be the residual core remnants of gas giant planets stripped of massive H\textsubscript{2} atmospheres (e.g., Lammer et al. 2009; Lopez & Fortney 2013; Luger et al. 2015; Owen & Mohanty 2016). Many of the solar system studies have noted that preferential loss of H from steam atmospheres may lead to build up of O\textsubscript{2} in a planet’s atmosphere (e.g., Kasting 1995, and references therein). This is particularly a problem for Venus, where minimal O\textsubscript{2} is observed, despite an assumed massive early loss of atmospheric water. Luger & Barnes (2015) applied this type of model to rocky exoplanets in the habitable zones of M and K dwarf stars, where O\textsubscript{2} may be a biosignature mimic.

In the present paper, we also study atmospheric loss and oxygen build up, but we extend previous models by including an interior model that allows for uptake of O\textsubscript{2} by the planet’s mantle. Our interior model includes both a magma ocean stage, as well as parameterized solid-state convection with passive outgassing following solidification. This model is based on magma ocean thermal evolution models long used to study the Solar System’s terrestrial objects (e.g., Abe & Matsui 1985; Elkins-Tanton et al. 2003; Hamano et al. 2013; Lebrun et al. 2013). In comparison, few exoplanet models consider the solid body except as a lower boundary condition for the atmosphere. The present model is an improvement on these treatments and is the first fully coupled model of atmosphere-interior exchange of oxygen.

We focus on GJ 1132b, a planet only slightly larger than the Earth ($M_\text{p} \approx 1.62 M_\oplus$, $R_\text{p} \approx 1.16 R_\oplus$), which was recently discovered by the MEarth ground-based transiting planet survey (Berta-Thompson et al. 2015). GJ 1132 is a nearby M3.5 dwarf ($0.181 M_\odot$) located only 12 pc away. The planet GJ 1132b has an orbit of 1.6 days and at 0.0153 au, receives ~9 times more stellar insolation than the Earth and 10 times more than Venus. With a large relative transit depth, GJ 1132b will be amenable to near-term follow-up both from large ground-based telescopes, as well as orbiting observatories like the Hubble Space Telescope and the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). It is our goal to determine if the planet could have sustained a water- or O\textsubscript{2}-rich atmosphere over its lifetime. We focus on O and H in order to be able to thoroughly explore the parameter space in a timely manner. Future models may
wish to include a more detailed chemistry incorporating carbon and nitrogen-bearing species.

The magma ocean stage on close-in rocky exoplanets may be extremely long-lived. Observations of these objects may present a means to test magma ocean models, which are also used to study processes occurring during Solar System accretion. As such, observations of GJ 1132b and other planets like it may help us improve models for our own Solar System, in particular, models for water and O₂ loss on Venus.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 discusses our atmospheric escape model and line-by-line climate model. Section 4 describes the planetary interior model and the coupling to the atmospheric model. Section 5 presents results from the coupled model, including the amount of water lost from the planet, the final O₂ abundance in the atmosphere, and the mantle composition. In Section 6, we discuss some of the limitations of the model. Finally, in Section 7, we give predictions for the atmospheric composition of GJ 1132b.

2. ATMOSPHERIC ESCAPE

2.1. Loss of the Planet’s Primordial Atmosphere

As in the Solar System, atmospheric erosion from young planets around M dwarfs will be driven by a combination of XUV-driven hydrodynamic escape, erosion by coronal mass ejection events, blowoff by giant impacts, and a host of more complex processes involving non-thermal effects, ion-pickup, and magnetic fields (Khodachenko et al. 2007; Lammer et al. 2007; Tian 2009; Zendejas et al. 2010; Vidotto et al. 2013; Cohen et al. 2014). The early XUV emission from most M dwarfs is high for an extended period, making XUV-driven hydrodynamic escape one of the most critical effects to model. Because it is also more straightforward to calculate escape rates in this case than for many other processes, we focus on it here.

For a planet undergoing XUV-driven hydrodynamic escape, the atmospheric escape flux (kg m⁻²s⁻¹) is approximately given by (Zahnle et al. 1990)

$$\phi = -\frac{cF_{\text{XUV}}}{4V_{\text{pot}}},$$

(1)

where $F_{\text{XUV}}$ is the stellar flux in the XUV wavelength range (1–120 nm) and $V_{\text{pot}}$ is the gravitational potential at the base of the escaping region. Here we take

$$V_{\text{pot}} = -GM_p/r_p,$$

(2)

with $G$ as the gravitational constant, and $M_p$ and $r_p$ as the estimated planetary radius and mass of GJ 1132b, respectively (see Table 1). $\epsilon$ is an empirical factor that accounts for radiative losses and 3D effects and typically varies between 0.15 and 0.3 (Watson et al. 1981; Kasting & Pollack 1983; Chassefière 1996; Tian 2009). Equation (2) neglects the expansion of the heated upper atmosphere away from the planet’s surface, which typically results in a correction factor of up to a few tens of percent. Equation (1) also assumes that re-emission of absorbed XUV radiation at infrared wavelengths is not effective. This is a reasonable assumption for a hydrogen-dominated upper atmosphere, but not if the upper atmosphere is dominated by gas with strong vibrational and rotational modes such as CO₂.

We also neglect tidal enhancement of the escape flux (Erkaev et al. 2007), which is likely a much smaller effect than the uncertainty in the XUV flux.

The total mass of atmosphere lost as a fraction of the final planet mass is

$$\frac{M_{\text{lost}}}{M_p} = \frac{4\pi r_p^2}{M_p} \int_0^{\tau_{\text{ion}}} \phi(t) dt = \frac{\pi c^2}{GM_p^2} \int_0^{\tau_{\text{ion}}} F_{\text{XUV}}(t) dt.$$  

(3)

Here we are assuming $M_{\text{lost}} < < M_p$, so that $r_p$ and $M_p$ can be treated as approximately independent of time in Equation (3).

The present-day XUV flux from GJ 1132 has not yet been measured. However, the star GJ 1214 (0.15 $M_\odot$) is similar in mass to GJ 1132 (0.181 $M_\odot$) and has a similar activity level (Hawley et al. 1996; Berta-Thompson et al. 2015). As such, we use the semi-empirical high-energy spectrum of GJ 1214 constructed by Parke Loyd et al. (2016) as a proxy for that of GJ 1132 (see Figure 1). The XUV-to-FUV portion of this spectrum was directly observed with Hubble COS and STIS (France et al. 2016), the EUV was estimated from a model-dependent scaling from the Lyα emission line (Linsky et al. 2014), and the X-ray from a plasma model matched to an earlier XMM detection of a flare from GJ 1214 (Lalitha et al. 2014). In this spectrum, the XUV flux (1–120 nm) represents about 3 $\times$ 10⁻⁵ of the bolometric flux, with an additional 3 $\times$ 10⁻⁵ of the bolometric flux contributed by the Lyα line alone (120–130 nm). Based on scaling from GJ 1214, we estimate that GJ 1132b currently receives about 0.8 W m⁻² in the XUV. The XUV flux could be at least three times above or below this value, due both to uncertainties in reconstructing GJ 1214’s intrinsic spectrum (see Youngblood et al. 2016) and to the unknown extent to which GJ 1132’s high-energy behavior tracks that of GJ 1214.

The time evolution of XUV from M dwarfs similar in mass to GJ 1132 is poorly constrained. For main-sequence stars including M dwarfs, observations indicate that time-averaged XUV from the stellar corona for young, active stars saturates at LXUV = 10⁻³$L_{\text{bol}}$ (Pizzolato et al. 2003; Wright et al. 2011). M dwarfs may stay in this active phase for roughly a gigayear (Shkolnik & Barman 2014) and then fade to lower XUV flux ratios, though the lower limit for quiescent XUV from old, inactive mid-M dwarfs is just starting to be probed (France et al. 2016). Here, we take two approaches to bracket the range of uncertainty for XUV-driven atmospheric loss. The XUV flux models are shown in Figure 2. XUV flux model A assumes that XUV emissions are 10⁻³ times the evolving stellar luminosity (Baraffe et al. 2015) and declining as a power law after 1 Gyr with $\epsilon = 0.3$. XUV model B assumes that throughout its youth, GJ1132’s XUV flux is 10⁻³ times the present-day stellar luminosity and zero after 1 Gyr with $\epsilon = 0.15$. This brackets the likely present-day XUV flux at 5 Gyr. From Equation (3), we find $M_{\text{lost}}/M_p = 0.142$ for model A. Alternatively, model B yields $M_{\text{lost}}/M_p = 0.024$. Hence a very large amount of
hydrogen (2%–14% of the total mass) could have been lost from GJ 1132b since its formation.

2.2. Drag of Heavier Species with an Escaping Hydrogen Atmosphere

Having demonstrated that even a substantial primordial hydrogen envelope could have been lost from GJ 1132b, we now assess the possibility that the planet has retained an atmosphere of heavier gases. The first thing we need to calculate is the rate at which hydrogen escape would drag away heavier species. The flux received by GJ 1132b places it well within the Kombayashi–Ingersoll limit for the runaway greenhouse5 (Kombayashi 1967; Ingersoll 1969). If it formed with some water, it would hence initially have had an H2O-rich upper atmosphere.

Given an intense early XUV-driven escape regime, the oxygen in this H2O, along with other heavy elements such as C or N, would have been dragged along with the escaping hydrogen. The loss rate of a heavier species in the neutral hydrodynamic escape regime depends on how effectively the hydrogen drags that species with it. Specifically, the number flux Φ2 of a heavy species 2 [in molecules m⁻² s⁻¹] is given by

$$\Phi_2 = \begin{cases} \mu_2 < \mu_c : \mu_2 \times \frac{X_2 \mu_2 - \mu_1}{X_1 \mu_1 - \mu_1} \\ \mu_2 > \mu_c : 0 \end{cases}$$

where $$X_2$$ and $$X_1$$ and $$\mu_1$$ and $$\mu_2$$ are, respectively, the molar concentrations [mol/mol] and molecular masses [amu] of species 1 and 2. The cross-over mass $$\mu_c$$ is defined as

$$\mu_c = \mu_1 + \frac{k_B T \Phi_1}{b_{12} g X_1 m_p}$$.

Here $$k_B$$ is Boltzmann’s constant, $$T$$ is the temperature of the escaping gas, $$g$$ is gravitational acceleration at the escape radius, $$m_p$$ is the proton mass, and $$b_{12}$$ is the binary diffusion coefficient for species 1 and 2. For O atoms dragged by H, $$b_{12} = 4.8 \times 10^{19} T^{0.75}$$ m⁻¹ s⁻¹ (Zahnle 1986). We also define

5 Given a modern estimate of the Kombayashi–Ingersoll limit of around 280 W m⁻² (Goldblatt et al. 2013; Figure 3) a planetary albedo of 0.955 is required for stable surface water on GJ 1132b, which is implausibly high for a planet with an atmosphere. Enceladus has an albedo of 0.99 (Verbiscer et al. 2007), but it is airless with a surface composition dominated by fresh water ice.
a reference flux
\[ \Phi_i^\text{ref} = \frac{\phi}{\mu_i m_p} = \frac{\epsilon F_{\text{XUV}} R_p}{4GM_p \mu_i m_p} \] (6)

for species 1 in the absence of heavy species (Chassefière 1996). Note that when \( \mu_2 > \mu_1 \), \( \Phi_i^\text{ref} \) = \( \Phi_i \) in general. Otherwise, \( \mu_i \Phi_i^\text{ref} = \mu_1 \Phi_1 + \mu_2 \Phi_2 \), so that the loss rate depends on the relative abundances of species 1 and 2. In our coupled model, we set \( \Phi_i \) equal to the diffusion-limited loss rate and \( \Phi_2 \) equal to zero once the abundance of \( \text{O}_2 \) exceeds that of \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \). Following Tian (2015), we use the composition-dependent loss rates for \( \text{H} \) and \( \text{O} \), rather than the stoichiometric loss rates of Luger & Barnes (2015). We discuss the possibility of oxygen-dominated escape from GJ 1132b in a later section.

Equations (5) and (6) can be used to define the critical XUV flux required for drag to occur. Setting \( \mu_e = \mu_2 \), we can write
\[ F_{\text{XUV}}^\text{crit} = \frac{4b_2 \gamma_2^2}{\epsilon k_B T_p} [\mu_2 / \mu_1 - 1] X_i, \] (7)

with \( \gamma_1 \) as the potential energy of one molecule of species 1. For GJ 1132b, given O drag by \( \text{H} \) with \( \epsilon = 0.3 \) and \( T = 500 \text{ K} \), \( F_{\text{XUV}}^\text{crit} = 0.30 \text{ W m}^{-2}. \) As can be seen from Figure 2, this is smaller than the estimated XUV flux received by GJ 1132b for the first 10 Gyr of its lifetime in model A, implying that oxygen will continually be dragged along with escaping hydrogen if an \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \)-rich atmosphere is present. However, the planet will still oxidize overall because the escape rate of \( \text{O} \) is less rapid. Whether this detectable signal depends on atmosphere-interior exchange rates, which we address in Section 4.

The net build up rate of \( \text{O} \) on the planet in the hydrodynamic drag escape regime can be approximated as
\[ \Phi_1 = b_{12} \frac{n_2}{n_1 + n_2} \left( \frac{1}{H_1} - \frac{1}{H_2} \right) \] (8)
\[ = \frac{b_{12} m_p g}{k_B T} (\mu_1 - \mu_2) X_2, \] (9)

where the \( n_i \) and \( H_i \) terms are the molecular number density and individual scale heights of species 1 and 2, respectively. For \( \text{O} \) diffusing through \( \text{H} \) following \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) photolysis (Luger & Barnes 2015),
\[ \Phi_1 \approx -\frac{15b_{12} m_p g}{k_B T} \frac{1}{3} = -\frac{5b_{12} m_p g}{k_B T}. \] (10)

Equation (8) can be simply physically interpreted as the diffusion rate of \( \text{O} \) atoms out of the escaping region back to the lower atmosphere.

3. LINE-BY-LINE CLIMATE MODEL

The rate at which a planet exchanges volatiles between the atmosphere and interior is a strong function of temperature. In particular, once the surface is hot enough to be in a magma ocean state, the atmosphere and interior will equilibrate on geologically short timescales. For this reason, climate calculations are necessary to assess the increase in surface temperature due to the atmosphere’s greenhouse effect.

To calculate surface temperature, we first calculate the outgoing longwave radiation (OLR) from a pure \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) atmosphere using a line-by-line radiative transfer calculation. We integrate the monochromatic equation for upwelling radiative flux per unit wavenumber (\( \text{W} / \text{m}^2 / \text{cm}^{-1} \))
\[ F_\nu = B_\nu (T_{\text{surf}}) e^{-\tau_\nu} + \int_0^{\tau_\nu} B_\nu (\tau) e^{\tau_\nu - \tau} d\tau, \] (11)

where \( T_{\text{surf}} \) is surface temperature, \( \tau \) is the mean path optical depth at a given wavenumber \( \nu \) and pressure \( p \), \( \tau_\nu \) is the total optical depth, and \( B_\nu \) is the Planck spectral irradiance. Mean path optical depth is defined as
\[ \tau = \int \kappa(p, \nu, \nu) dp, \] (12)

where \( \rho_s \) is surface pressure, \( g \) is surface gravity, and \( \kappa = \kappa(T, p, \nu) \) is the mass absorption coefficient (\( \text{m}^2 \text{kg}^{-1} \)). In addition, \( \kappa \) is the mean emission angle cosine, which we take to be a constant 0.5 here. The layer optical depth weighting approach of Clough et al. (1992) is used to ensure accurate model behavior in high absorption regions of the spectrum. Line absorption coefficients for \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) are calculated from the 2010 HITRAN line list (Rothman et al. 2013), with the Voigt function used to describe lineshapes and temperature scaling for the line strengths following standard methods (Rothman et al. 1998).

The calculation is performed over 30 layers up to a minimum atmospheric pressure of 1 Pa. Spectral calculations were performed from 1 cm\(^{-1} \) to five times the Wien peak wavenumber of the Planck function at the given surface temperature. We used 5000 points in wavenumber; sensitivity tests indicated that further increases in spectral resolution had an insignificant effect on the integrated OLR.

The temperature profile was assumed to be a dry adiabat from the surface to the tropopause, after which a stratospheric temperature equal to the skin temperature for GJ 1132b given a planetary albedo of 0.75 was assumed (344.2 K). Ideal gas behavior was assumed when calculating the dry adiabat, which is a reasonable approximation for the range of temperatures and pressures studied (Kasting 1988; Wordsworth et al. 2013). We accounted for the variation in the specific heat capacity of water vapour as a function of temperature using data from Lide (2000).

Continuum opacity due to far-wing absorption of strong \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) lines and other effects was taken into account using the MCTKD parametrization (Clough et al. 1989). Outside of the MCTKD temperature range of validity, continuum absorption was simply set to its value at the maximum temperature given. Spectral lines were truncated at 25 cm\(^{-1} \) to avoid double-counting of the continuum absorption. To render the line-by-line calculation more manageable, we also preprocessed the HITRAN-2010 data set by removing weak lines, which we defined as lines with a reference strength below \( 1 \times 10^{-30} \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ molecule}^{-1} \) at 1000 K. This approximation means that we slightly underestimate the atmospheric opacity at the highest temperatures and pressures studied. Because the planet’s surface is already in a magma ocean state under these conditions, however, this has little effect on atmospheric evolution.

To validate the code, we first ensured that it reproduced semi-analytic textbook results (Figure 4.5 in Pierrehumbert 2011). Next, we compared the code output with runaway greenhouse calculations for Earth (Goldblatt et al. 2013).
Figure 3. Outgoing longwave radiation from the line-by-line radiative-convective model (red) vs. results produced using the SMART code detailed in Goldblatt et al. (2013). In each case, the atmospheric composition is 100% H₂O, the assumed surface temperature is 300 K, and the atmospheric temperature profile follows the H₂O saturation vapour pressure curve. The spectrally integrated OLR is 281.2 W m⁻² and 274.7 W m⁻², respectively, for the two cases.

Figure 3 shows the results of this intercomparison. As can be seen, our model agrees closely with published results except in a small region around 1200 cm⁻¹, most likely due to slightly differing assumptions for the H₂O continuum (C. Goldblatt 2016, personal communication). Given the large uncertainties in other parameters for GJ 1132b, we decided this agreement was more than sufficient for our purposes.

We calculated the OLR over a range of surface temperatures from 400 to 4000 K and a range of surface pressures from 1 Pa to 1000 bar. At high surface temperatures, the uncertainty in water vapour opacity becomes large due to uncertainty in the scaling of the continuum. However, at these temperatures the planet’s surface is in a magma ocean state that permits rapid exchange of oxygen between the atmosphere and interior. Hence this uncertainty should have little effect on our key conclusions.

We calculate the atmospheric heat flux as a balance of the OLR and the absorbed shortwave radiation (ASR). The ASR is given by \((1 - A)F_{\text{stellar}} / 4\), where \(A\) is the planetary albedo and \(F_{\text{stellar}}\) is the bolometric stellar flux received by the planet, which we derived by interpolating data from Baraffe et al. (2015) to the mass of GJ 1132. The planetary albedo of GJ 1132b is currently unconstrained, although observations indicate low albedos for planets orbiting M dwarfs in general. Demory (2014) did a statistical study of Kepler’s close-in super-Earths and found a median total albedo of \(\sim 0.3\), although values ranged up to 0.92. Note that the sample of planets studied all had equilibrium temperatures significantly larger than GJ 1132b, and they may be more representative of bare rocky planets than those with dense atmospheres. Here we take the albedo of Venus, as a representative planet with a thick, hot atmosphere, as our nominal constant value \(A = 0.75\), but discuss the effect of lower albedos in the results section.

4. COUPLED ATMOSPHERE-INTERIOR MODEL

We address the atmosphere-interior rates of exchange by coupling our atmospheric model with a magma ocean model, which includes thermal evolution and the exchange of H₂O and O with the atmosphere. The thermal parameterization combines elements of the work of Lebrun et al. (2013), Elkins-Tanton (2008), and Hamano et al. (2013). As in these papers, we assume that solidification of the magma ocean proceeds from the bottom up, due to the fact that mantle adiabats are steeper than the solidus and liquidus curves of silicates. The thermal evolution is governed by two temperatures: the mantle potential temperature, which dictates the degree of melting and convection within the mantle, and the surface temperature, which is governed by heat flux out of the mantle and heat loss from the top of the atmosphere. For most of the duration of the magma ocean phase, these temperatures are the same. However, as the solidification front (the depth at which the mantle adiabat intersects the mantle solidus) moves toward the surface, a thermal boundary layer can develop at the surface, which insulates the mantle from additional heat loss. Following formation of the thermal boundary layer, the model switches to whole mantle solid-state convection as parameterized in Schaefer & Sasselov (2015). The atmosphere is assumed to be composed of H₂O, H and O gases. H₂O is the only source of atmospheric opacity and the climate is calculated as discussed above. The composition and thickness of the atmosphere depends on mass exchange with the magma ocean and loss of volatiles due to both atmospheric escape and crystallization into the solid mantle. Following magma ocean solidification, only passive outgassing of H₂O and atmospheric loss occur. We will discuss each of these aspects in more detail below.

4.1. Thermal Model

The thermal evolution of the magma ocean potential temperature is given by

\[
\frac{4}{3} \pi \rho_m c_p (r_p^3 - r_s^3) \frac{dT_p}{dt} = 4 \pi r_s^2 \Delta H_f \rho_m \frac{dr_s}{dt} - 4 \pi r_p^2 q_m + \frac{4}{3} \pi \rho_m Q_s (r_p^3 - r_s^3),
\]

where \(\rho_m\) is the mantle bulk density, \(c_p\) is the silicate heat capacity \((1.2 \times 10^3 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1})\), \(r_p\) is the planetary radius, \(r_s\) is the core radius, \(r_s\) is the radius of solidification, \(\Delta H_f\) is the heat of fusion of silicates \((4 \times 10^7 \text{ J kg}^{-1})\), \(q_m\) is the mantle heat flux, and \(Q_s\) is the heat generated by radioactive decay. We begin our calculations at \(T_p = 4000 \text{ K}\), which is hot enough for the magma ocean to extend from the surface to the core-mantle boundary. The heat generated by radioactive decay is limited to the long-lived isotopes \(^{40}\text{K}, ^{235,238}\text{U}, \text{ and } ^{232}\text{Th}\). Abundances of these elements are assumed to be the same as for the Earth’s
mantle, and the parameterization for $Q_s$ is the same as that given by Schaefer & Sasselow (2015) Equation (4). Although we expect GJ 1132b to have different abundances of the radioactive elements, the results of the magma ocean model are relatively insensitive to them, given the typically short lifetimes of the magma oceans. After solidification, the first term on the RHS disappears and the thermal evolution proceeds as for Schaefer & Sasselow (2015).

The mantle heat flux is parameterized by the mantle Rayleigh number:

$$q_m = \frac{k(T_p - T_{surf})}{l} \left( \frac{Ra}{Ra_{cr}} \right)^\beta$$

(14)

$$Ra = \frac{\alpha g (T_p - T_{surf})^{1/3} \nu}{\kappa}$$

(15)

where $k$ is the thermal conductivity ($4.2 \text{ W m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$), the critical Rayleigh number ($1.1 \times 10^5$) and the exponent $\beta$ (0.33) are determined from numerical mantle convection simulations, $\alpha$ is the thermal expansion coefficient ($2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ K}^{-1}$), $\kappa$ is the thermal conductivity ($10^{-4} \text{ m s}^{-1}$), and $\nu$ is the kinematic viscosity ($\text{m s}^{-2}$). The dynamic viscosity $\eta$ for a silicate liquid is very small, of the order of 0.01 Pa s. We therefore assume that the liquid portion of the magma ocean is instantaneously well-mixed. We only consider convection within the magma ocean, not the solid mantle, until solidification of the magma ocean has occurred. As partial crystallization proceeds, the viscosity of the magma ocean increases dramatically. The viscosity depends on the melt fraction $\psi$, which is given by $(T_p - T_{solidus})/(T_{liquidus} - T_{solidus})$. We use the same viscosity parameterizations as Lebrun et al. (2013). Below a critical melt fraction ($\psi_{c} \sim 0.4$), the viscosity becomes solid-like, where our solid viscosity is given by $\eta = \eta_0 \exp(-E_a/(RT))$, where $\eta_0 = 3.8 \times 10^9 \text{ Pa s}$, $E_a = 350 \text{ KJ mole}^{-1}$ and $R$ is the ideal gas constant.

The radius of solidification is given by the intersection of the adiabate and the mantle solidus. We derive an equation for $(dR_i/dt)$ by approximating the adiabate as the first Taylor expansion, and the solidus as a straight line in two sections, from 0–100 km, and from 100 km to the core-mantle boundary. The coefficients for the high pressure region are taken from Hirschmann (2000) ($a = 26.53 \text{ K Gpa}^{-1}$, $b = 1825 \text{ K}$), and a linear fit is done to the low pressure dry peridotite solidus from that paper ($a = 104.42 \text{ K Gpa}^{-1}$, $b = 1420 \text{ K}$). The liquidus is assumed to be larger than the solidus by 600 K. The linear parameterization for the solidus leads to a simple and straightforward analytic expression for the radius of solidification, which yields our second differential equation:

$$T_p[1 + \frac{\alpha g}{c_p}(r_p - r_i)] = a g \rho_m (r_p - r_i) + b$$

(16)

$$\frac{dr_i}{dt} = \frac{c_p(b - a \rho_m c_p)}{g(\alpha \rho_m c_p - \alpha T_p^{5/2})} \frac{dT_p}{dt}$$

(17)

The surface temperature of the planet is calculated from the heat loss equation for the surface environment, where we make the simplification that the atmosphere and thermal boundary layer are governed by a single average temperature ($T_{surf}$):

$$\begin{aligned}
(c_p, H_2O M_{atm} + c_p,m \frac{4}{3} \pi \rho_m (r_p^3 - \delta^3)) \frac{dT_{surf}}{dt} &= 4 \pi r_p^2 (q_m - \delta)
\end{aligned}$$

(18)

where $\delta$ is the heat flux from the atmosphere, calculated from OLR–ASR (see Section 3), and $\delta$ is the thickness of the thermal boundary layer, which is given by $\delta = k_m (T_p - T_{surf})/q_m$. The boundary layer develops once the melt fraction at the surface of the magma ocean reaches the critical value, causing the viscosity of the magma ocean to increase dramatically. This is the “mush” stage of Lebrun et al. (2013).

A sample run of the thermal model is shown in the top panel of Figure 4. The potential temperature and surface temperature are nearly identical until the “mush” stage is reached and the boundary layer begins to grow. When the surface temperature reaches the solidus temperature (1420 K), the magma ocean phase is concluded. When applied to an Earth-like planet, our thermal model reproduces the cooling times and heat fluxes found in Lebrun et al. (2013) and Hamano et al. (2013) very well. We deviate at later stages due to the fact that we do not include condensable atmospheric water vapor, which will not be present on GJ 1132b. However, the comparison gives us confidence that our thermal model produces reasonable results.

4.2. Volatile Model

Water is very soluble in silicate melts, so the H$_2$O pressure at the surface of the planet during the magma ocean stage is set by its solubility in the magma ocean. We use a fit to the solubility data of Papale (1997):

$$p(Pa) = \left( \frac{F_{H_2O}}{3.44 \times 10^{-8}} \right)^{1/0.74}$$

(19)

where $F_{H_2O}$ is the mass fraction of water in the liquid silicate melt. Note that the solubility of water within silicates at low pressures is effectively temperature independent. Mass balance for water within the magma ocean system is given by

$$M_{H_2O}^{\text{melt}} = M_{H_2O}^{\text{crystal}} + M_{H_2O}^{\text{liq}} + M_{H_2O}^{\text{atm}}$$

$$= k_{H_2O} F_{H_2O} M_{H_2O}^{\text{crystal}} + f_{H_2O} M_{H_2O}^{\text{liq}}$$

$$+ \frac{4 \pi R_p^2}{g} \left( \frac{F_{H_2O}}{3.44 \times 10^{-8}} \right)^{1/0.74}$$

(20)

where $k_{H_2O}$ is the partition coefficient for water between melt and solid (0.01), $M_{H_2O}^{\text{melt}}$ is the mass of water in the magma ocean + atmosphere system on the current time step, and the mass of crystals ($M_{\text{crystal}}$) within the magma ocean is found from the melt fraction $\psi$ calculated along the adiabatic profile in the magma ocean. The total mass of the magma ocean ($M_{H_2O}^{\text{melt}}$) is determined by the difference of the radius of solidification. The mass of water in the magma ocean + atmosphere system ($M_{H_2O}^{\text{melt}}$) and the mass of water in the solid mantle at a given time are determined with the differential equations:

$$\frac{dM_{H_2O}^{\text{melt}}}{dt} = 4 \pi \rho_m k_{H_2O} F_{H_2O} r_p^2 \frac{dr_i}{dt}$$

(21)
where $\phi_1$ is the XUV-driven atmospheric mass-loss rate of H (in kg m$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$), discussed in Section 2.1. We find that our calculations conserve H$_2$O mass when atmospheric loss is turned off. A sample model run is shown in the bottom panel of Figure 4. The figure shows the distribution of water between the three planetary reservoirs: magma ocean, atmosphere, and solid mantle. When the magma ocean has cooled, most of the water remains in the solid mantle. Atmospheric escape is included in the calculation shown.

We assume that O$_2$ is produced in the atmosphere by the loss of H from H$_2$O. O$_2$ is then also lost from the atmosphere at a slightly slower rate due to hydrodynamic drag, as discussed in Section 2.2. The O$_2$ produced in the atmosphere is also in contact with the FeO in the silicate melt. We allow the magma ocean to take up O$_2$ by oxidation of FeO to FeO$_{1.5}$. The equilibrium oxygen fugacity for the magma ocean is given by Kress & Carmichael (1991):

$$\ln \left( \frac{X_{\text{FeO}_x}}{X_{\text{FeO}}} \right) = 0.196 \ln(f_{\text{O}_2}(\text{Pa})) + \frac{11,492}{T} - 6.675 - 2.243X_{\text{Al}_{2}O_{3}} - 1.828X_{\text{FeO}^*} + 3.201X_{\text{CaO}} + 5.854X_{\text{Na}_{2}O} + 6.215X_{\text{K}_{2}O} - 3.36 \left[ 1 - \frac{1673}{T} - \ln \left( \frac{T}{1673} \right) \right] - 7.01 \times 10^{-2} \frac{P(\text{Pa})}{T} - 1.54 \times 10^{-10} \frac{(T - 1673)P(\text{Pa})}{T} + 3.85 \times 10^{-17} \frac{P^{2}(\text{Pa})}{T},$$

where $X_i$ is the molar concentration of the oxides in the silicate melt, and we use the Bulk Silicate Earth as our nominal composition (O’Neill & Palme 1998). This empirical relationship was derived for a wide range of natural silicate melt compositions equilibrated at oxygen fugacities ranging from metal-silicate equilibrium (iron-wustite buffer) up to air at temperatures between 1473 and 1900 K. Rocky exoplanets are expected to have relatively similar rocky elemental abundances to the Earth based on the analysis of the observed mass–radius measurements and stellar elemental abundances (Dressing et al. 2015, and references therein). GJ 1132b itself falls very close to an Earth-composition track on the mass–radius diagram (Berta-Thompson et al. 2015). The empirical oxygen fugacity relationship therefore is likely to cover the relevant compositional range for rocky exoplanets. The strongest mantle influence on the oxygen fugacity will likely be the total abundance of FeO (FeO*) in the silicate, so we explore a range of FeO abundances in our calculations. Note that we assume a metal-free magma ocean for these calculations.

Mass balance between the atmosphere and the magma ocean is calculated for O$_2$ in the same way as for H$_2$O. Oxygen is sequestered into the solid mantle as FeO$_{1.5}$. We assume no fractionation between liquid and solid, either for FeO or FeO$_{1.5}$, although Fe is known to fractionate from Mg in the melt (i.e., minerals that condense early should be less Fe-rich than those that condense later). We consider that this will have only a small effect on our oxygen mass balance, but we discuss implications in a later section. The magma ocean + atmosphere system loses oxygen to the solid mantle and to atmospheric escape, while atmospheric escape of H from H$_2$O produces O. This gives us two more differential equations for the abundance of free O in the solid and in the magma ocean + atmosphere system:

$$\frac{dM_{\text{O}}}{dt} = 4\pi \rho \frac{F_{\text{FeO}_x}}{r_{\infty}} \frac{d\nu}{dt} \frac{\mu_{\text{O}}}{2\mu_{\text{FeO}_x}}$$

Figure 4. Sample model run for both XUV model A (blue) and B (pink). The top panel shows the evolution of the mantle potential temperature (solid line) and the surface temperature (dashed line). The bottom panel shows the evolution of the planetary water reservoirs (solid line: magma ocean, dashed line: atmosphere, dotted line: solid mantle). Model shown has FeO = 8 wt%, $\chi_d = 0$, and initial H$_2$O inventory of 100 Earth oceans (EOs).
where \( \phi_0 \) is the XUV-driven atmospheric mass-loss rate of O (in kg m\(^{-2}\) s\(^{-1}\)) and \( F_{FeO_3} \) is the mass fraction of FeO\(_{1.5}\) in the mantle. Following magma ocean solidification, direct exchange of oxygen between the mantle and the atmosphere halts (\( dM_{O_{\text{solid}}}^0 /dt = 0 \)). Oxygen no longer exchanges with the mantle following solidification, but is continuously created by H loss and lost by hydrodynamic drag. Although similar models for Venus have allowed continued O loss due to oxidation of the crustal layer (Gillmann et al. 2009), we consider this effect to be small given that the upper mantle will already be significantly oxidized by exchange with the atmosphere during the magma ocean phase. Water outgassing continues but there is no return of water to the mantle after magma ocean solidification. Outgassing is parameterized similar to Sandu \\

\[
\frac{dM_{O_{\text{solid}}}^0}{dt} = 4\pi R_p^2 \phi_0 \frac{\mu_o}{2\mu_H} - 4\pi R_p^2 \phi_2 - \frac{dM_{O_{\text{solid}}}^0}{dt},
\]

(25)

where \( \phi_2 \) is the XUV-driven atmospheric mass-loss rate of O (in kg m\(^{-2}\) s\(^{-1}\)) and \( F_{FeO_3} \) is the mass fraction of FeO\(_{1.5}\) in the mantle. Following magma ocean solidification, direct exchange of oxygen between the mantle and the atmosphere halts (\( dM_{O_{\text{solid}}}^0 /dt = 0 \)). Oxygen no longer exchanges with the mantle following solidification, but is continuously created by H loss and lost by hydrodynamic drag. Although similar models for Venus have allowed continued O loss due to oxidation of the crustal layer (Gillmann et al. 2009), we consider this effect to be small given that the upper mantle will already be significantly oxidized by exchange with the atmosphere during the magma ocean phase. Water outgassing continues but there is no return of water to the mantle after magma ocean solidification. Outgassing is parameterized similar to Sandu & Kiefer (2012):

\[
r_{\text{outgas}} = 4\pi R_p^2 \rho_m F_{\text{avg}}^\text{m} \frac{F_{\text{melting}}^\text{m}}{F_{\text{mech}}^\text{m}} u_c \chi_d,
\]

(26)

where \( F_{\text{avg}}^\text{m} \) is the volume-averaged mass fraction of water in the melt, \( F_{\text{melting}}^\text{m} \) is the volume-averaged melt fraction of the mantle, \( u_c \) is the mantle convection velocity, and \( \chi_d \) is the degassing efficiency, which can vary from 0 (no degassing) to 1 (completely efficient degassing). We will explore the effect of the degassing efficiency in our discussion of the results.

4.3. Properties of GJ 1132b

The mass and radius for GJ 1132b are taken from the discovery paper Berta-Thompson et al. (2015). The core mass and radius assuming a two-component model (silicate + metal, no water) are determined with the online tool of Zeng et al. (2016). Values for the planet properties are given in Table 1. The mass of the planet is currently only known to \( \sigma \sigma \), though continued Doppler monitoring will shrink the mass uncertainty and enable more detailed compositional models. We note that there is additionally a well-known degeneracy in determining the planet’s composition from the density. Using the online tool of Zeng et al. (2016), we find that the nominal mass of the planet allows for up to about 20 wt\% of the planet to be water. Note that this extreme value results in a nearly zero silicate mass fraction, which is highly unphysical, as giant impact simulations show that mantle stripping can produce planets with at most a 70% core mass fraction (Marcus et al. 2010). However, we will test loss models here for total planetary water abundances up to 20 wt\% as a limiting case, while holding the core and silicate mass fractions fixed at the value determined assuming the present measured mass and a two-component silicate-metal model.

5. RESULTS OF COUPLED MODELS

We explore model results for the two XUV flux models. For both models, we vary the initial planetary water inventory and the mantle FeO abundance. We explore water inventories ranging from 0.1 up to 1000 Earth oceans (EO = 1.39 \( \times \) 10\(^{21} \) kg) of water, which is about 20 ppm in the mantle up to about 20 wt\%. We note that while there are measurements of the solubility of water in silicate melts up to this value, the data beyond 10 wt\% is sparse and fairly poorly constrained.

For mantle FeO, we consider abundances ranging from 0.1 to 20 wt\%. Abundances of FeO in the silicate mantles of the terrestrial planets in the Solar System span this range. Estimates for Mercury’s mantle are 2–3 wt\%, Earth and Venus have about 7–8 wt\% of FeO, whereas Mars has a mantle FeO abundance of about 18 wt\%, and Vesta 20 wt\% (Robinson & Taylor 2001). The abundance of FeO in the mantle is a result of the composition of the protoplanets out of which a planet is made, the conditions under which core formation occurs and any subsequent reducing or oxidizing processes. The abundance of Fe\(^{3+}\) (or FeO\(_{1.5}\)) in the Earth’s mantle is fairly small (Fe\(^{3+}\)/Fe\(_{\text{total}}\) \( \sim 0.02–0.03 \), Frost & McCammon 2008). We examine values from 0 up to 0.03, and find only a minor difference on the final results of the model. Our nominal results use Fe\(^{3+}\)/Fe\(_{\text{total}}\) = 0, which gives the mantle maximum oxygen uptake potential.

We also consider the effect of efficient (\( \chi_d = 1 \)) versus inefficient (\( \chi_d = 0 \)) degassing after the magma ocean stage has solidified. This parameter has an effect on the final water and O\(_2\) abundances, as we discuss below.

5.1. Water Loss and Magma Ocean Solidification

Magma ocean solidification times depend strongly on the initial water abundance of the planet, as well as the XUV flux. Figure 5 shows the solidification times for the two XUV models as a function of initial water abundance. Models were run for a total integration time of 5 Gyr, consistent with the estimated age of GJ 1132 (Newton et al. 2016). The XUV flux model B results in magma oceans that persist roughly an order of magnitude longer than for XUV flux model A. The longer duration is due to the slower loss of water vapor from the atmosphere, which causes the planet to remain hotter for longer.

Total planetary water loss also depends strongly on both the initial water abundance and the XUV flux, as well as the degassing efficiency in the post-magma ocean state. Figure 6 shows the fraction of initial water lost for both flux models, as well as different degassing efficiencies. For XUV flux model A, water loss is more than 95% complete for all initial water abundances, except for the largest. For XUV flux model B, the figure shows that the amount of water lost for low initial water abundances depends strongly on the degassing efficiency. For efficient degassing, all water is lost except for initial water abundances \( \geq 10 \) wt\% of the planet. For no degassing post-magma ocean, the fraction of the initial water lost increases with increasing water abundance, but only up to 10 wt\%, above which water loss decreases. This indicates that for low water abundances, most of the remaining water is stored in the mantle and is lost after the magma ocean phase during passive outgassing of the interior. If degassing is inefficient, the water can be permanently trapped in the mantle. A large melting event, possibly caused by late impacts, could induce further outgassing. The amount of remaining water is not sufficient to affect the planet’s density except at the very highest water abundances where most of it remains in the atmosphere. For XUV model B and no degassing, the remaining water abundance is \( \sim 10 \) wt\% of the planet’s mass. This is technically consistent with the present mass and radius measurement, but requires un-Earth-like silicate (0.36) and core (0.54) mass fractions (Zeng et al. 2016). The majority of the water in this scenario would be locked in solid phases in the mantle.
5.2. Atmospheric Oxygen

For models with initial $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{\text{total}} = 0$, all free oxygen is produced by destruction of water and loss of hydrogen. The amount of oxygen produced is therefore directly proportional to the amount of water lost, shown in Figure 6. XUV model A, therefore, typically produces more total oxygen than model B, especially at high initial water abundances and at lower abundances when degassing is inefficient.

A fraction of the oxygen that is produced is lost both to atmospheric escape and to the mantle. For both XUV models, between 90% and 99% of the total oxygen produced by photolysis of water vapor is lost to space, with higher O loss amounts occurring at low water abundances. At most 10% of the total oxygen produced is sequestered into the mantle (discussed below). The remainder of the oxygen resides in the atmosphere, as shown in Figure 7. Both XUV models can result in residual $\text{O}_2$ remaining in the atmosphere at a few bar level, with minimal dependence on FeO content. Several hundred to several thousand bars can build up only for initial water abundances greater than about 5 wt% of initial water. For XUV model A, the final atmospheric $\text{O}_2$ abundance is negligible for water abundances below $\sim 5$–10 wt% initial water, whereas for XUV model B, the $\text{O}_2$ abundance in the atmosphere is slightly dependent on the FeO content of the mantle, with more $\text{O}_2$ atmospheric build up for smaller FeO abundances. This is because there is a smaller sink for $\text{O}_2$ in the magma ocean with lower FeO abundances.

Degassing efficiency affects the final $\text{O}_2$ abundance in the atmosphere for XUV model B with $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ abundances less than 10 wt% as shown in Figure 8. At higher water abundances, persistent magma oceans mean that the model never enters the passive degassing state. For water abundances less than 10 wt%, the atmosphere has about 10 times more oxygen than for inefficient degassing. This is due to the creation of additional oxygen by the dissociation of water degassed in the post-magma ocean time frame.

Figure 6. Fraction of total water lost as a function of initial planetary water abundance. The figure shows results for the two XUV flux models, A (blue) and B (pink). Thick lines are for $\chi_d = 0$ (i.e., no outgassing after magma ocean solidification), whereas thin lines with open points (A: square, B: circle) are for $\chi_d = 1$ (i.e., perfectly efficient outgassing after magma ocean solidification). The difference between the thin and thick lines for XUV model B indicates that most of the planet’s water is lost after magma ocean solidification.

We find that for both XUV models, $\text{O}_2$ is more abundant than water vapor in the atmosphere for nearly all of our parameter space, but the atmosphere is likely to be fairly tenuous ($p < $ few bar). Steam dominates the atmosphere only for XUV model B at the highest water abundances, with about a factor of 10 more water vapor than $\text{O}_2$. Therefore, our models indicate that the atmosphere of GJ 1132b may be tenuous and dominated by $\text{O}_2$. If abundant atmospheric water is observed, it is indicative of both a low XUV flux history and high initial abundance.

For mantles with initial $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{\text{total}}$ of 0.02–0.03, we find that atmospheric $\text{O}_2$ is relatively unaffected. At low water abundances, $\text{O}_2$ is the same as for our nominal calculations. At large water abundances (>5 wt% for XUV B), atmospheric $\text{O}_2$ is the same for low initial FeO, but is slightly larger than for our nominal model as FeO increases. We find a maximum increase at 20% initial FeO of about 50% in the $\text{O}_2$ atmospheric pressure.

Planetary albedo has a slightly larger effect on our results. For a lower planetary albedo of 0.3, we find for XUV model B that the final $\text{O}_2$ atmospheric pressure is 60%–90% of our nominal results. For XUV model A, results are the same (i.e., $p \ll 1$) at water abundances below 5 wt%, and are about 75%–90% of the nominal results at higher water abundances. In both cases, we find that the fraction of the nominal abundance increases with increasing water abundance. That is, the albedo has a larger effect on models with lower initial water abundances. However, the effect of the albedo is small enough that it does not alter our primary conclusions.
5.3. Mantle Composition

While more extensive destruction of H$_2$O for XUV model A implies greater production of oxygen, most of the oxygen is directly lost to space and therefore a smaller fraction can be absorbed into the mantle than for XUV model B. For XUV model A, this is at most 8% of the total oxygen produced, whereas slightly more (10%) can be absorbed for model B. For XUV model A extensive absorption of O by the mantle only occurs at high water (>5 wt%) and FeO abundances (>5 wt%). In contrast, extensive oxygen absorption occurs across wide ranges of water (>0.05 wt%) and FeO (>0.5 wt%) for XUV model B, although the highest relative absorption still occurs at the largest FeO and water abundances.

While high FeO abundances lead to more oxygen absorption, the conversion (or oxidation) of FeO to FeO$_{1.5}$ is more extensive at low FeO abundances as shown in Figure 9. Note that we include here the FeO$_{1.5}$ remaining in the magma ocean for those models that do not fully solidify. For XUV model A, the peak oxidation occurs above 15 wt% H$_2$O, at FeO abundances less than 8 wt%. For XUV model B, the peak is at 5 wt% H$_2$O for FeO abundances less than about 5 wt%. Less oxidation occurs for XUV model B at higher H$_2$O abundances because these models lose less H from the atmosphere and therefore produce less free O.

Figure 10 shows the profile of FeO$_{1.5}$ abundance with depth in the solidifying magma ocean at the end of the integration period of 5 Gyr. The remaining liquid at larger radii has the same FeO$_{1.5}$ abundance as the last layer of the solidified mantle. The outer radius of the magma ocean is smaller than the planetary radius because of the formation of a thermal boundary layer, which insulates the upper mantle. The maximum abundance of FeO$_{1.5}$ is limited by the total FeO content, which is fixed at 1 wt% in this figure. As can be seen, the mantle becomes progressively more oxidized as the magma ocean solidifies, and the degree of oxidation is strongly dependent on the total water abundance. Less stratification occurs for non-zero Fe$^{3+}$/Fe$^{total}$ starting abundances. The progressive oxidation of the mantle may effect later mantle convection. The density of silicates enriched in FeO$_{1.5}$ will be slightly lower than more reduced silicates, which results in a stably stratified mantle. This may delay the onset of solid-state convection after magma ocean solidification. We will discuss this possibility in the next section.
6. DISCUSSION

6.1. Sensitivity of Loss Rate to Atmospheric Composition

In our nominal models, we assume that atmospheric loss is energy-limited, where the loss rates are dependent on the O and H molar concentrations. We assume that energy-limited escape driven by hydrodynamic loss of H occurs until the O₂ and H₂O total atmospheric pressures are equal. After this cross-over point, we assume that H must diffuse through the O background gas, at which point the hydrodynamic loss halts and O no longer escapes. However, the transition composition is uncertain because H should diffuse more readily into the upper atmosphere than O. We explore the sensitivity of our final results to this transition point in Figure 11. Here we show results for both XUV flux models with \( \chi_d = 1 \) for a constant FeO abundance of 8 wt% as a function of initial water abundance for different transition points (\( X_H = 0.4 \) (nominal), 0.1, and 0.001). For XUV model A, the final O₂ pressure is insensitive to the transition point up to \(~1\) wt% of H₂O. At higher water abundances, the final O₂ pressure is reduced by several orders of magnitude as the transition point drops, except at the very highest water abundance where the magma ocean persists. For XUV model B, the transition point has a strong effect on the O₂ abundance for initial water abundances less than \(~10\) wt%. Reducing the transition abundance results in more tenuous O₂ atmospheres, since more of the O can escape.

6.2. Loss of an Earlier H₂ Envelope

It is possible that GJ 1132b began with an envelope dominated by H₂ gas, rather than H₂O. As discussed in Section 2.1, a significant mass of H₂ can be lost from the planet, up to 15% of the planet’s mass over 10 Gyr. Interaction of an H₂ atmosphere with mantle FeO might result in the reduction of mantle FeO to Fe metal through a reaction such as

\[
\text{H}_2(\text{g}) + \text{FeO} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{g}) + \text{Fe}. 
\]

The forward reaction is thermodynamically unfavorable and has been shown to go nearly to completion in the reverse direction (oxidation of metal) at all temperatures and pressures on the present and early Earth (Fukai 1984; Kuramoto & Matsui 1996). In fact, these experimental studies of the iron–water reaction at high pressure have shown that hydrogen...
through an O background gas energy-limited loss of H. The total pressures of O2 and H2O are given in terms of the molar abundance of H in the atmosphere, calculated from (Holloway 1998). Hirschmann (2012) also suggests the possibility of diamond precipitation in the mid- to lower mantle or a magma ocean carbon pump to lower atmospheric CO2 abundances. This would sequester carbon in the mantle where it would be available for later outgassing during a post-magma ocean state, much like water in our efficient degassing scenarios. However, while this is a possibility, it would require detailed additional modeling to evaluate.

CO2 in the atmosphere will prolong the magma ocean lifetimes by additional greenhouse warming, which may enhance atmospheric loss of both water vapor and O2. Tian (2009) showed that in highly irradiated super-Earth atmospheres dissociation of CO2 can lead to both carbon and oxygen loss, with carbon escaping more rapidly due to its lower atomic weight. Wordsworth & Pierrehumbert (2013) showed that water loss from CO2-rich atmospheres can still be substantial, especially for planets that receive more insolation than the present-day Earth, such as GJ 1132b. While CO2 is effective at cooling the upper atmosphere, which can hinder loss in more temperate planets, a back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that the degree of cooling from the CO2 15 μm non-LTE emission would still be far lower than the XUV flux received by GJ 1132b, at least for the first gigayear. Therefore, cooling of the upper atmosphere would likely be insufficient to hinder the escape of O2 and CO2. Therefore, tenuous O2 atmospheres are the most likely scenarios for GJ 1132b after loss of an H2 envelope. Non-thermal effects provide additional loss avenues as discussed below.

6.4. Non-thermal Loss Mechanisms

Considering non-thermal mechanisms for atmospheric escape from GJ 1132b, it is safe to assume no planetary magnetic field, in analogy to Venus and as a conservative choice. Also, while GJ 1132b is closer than Venus to its star in terms of bolometric irradiation and stellar wind flux, it is significantly more massive. As a result, charge exchange (e.g., H + H* → H0 + H*) and ion escape could increase the loss of hydrogen, and dissociative recombination (e.g., O2 + e− → O* + O*) could increase the loss of oxygen. The latter mechanism releases only 0.6 × 10−15 J per atom, which is not enough to permit escape given the high mass of GJ 1132b. The hydrogen non-thermal escape might be insignificant, by analogy to Venus (e.g., Pierrehumbert 2011), but a dedicated study is warranted. Similarly, the stellar wind of M dwarfs like GJ1132 is expected to be too tenuous to lead to significant atmospheric erosion, but no firm conclusion is possible without detailed modeling (Kulikov et al. 2006; Kislyakova et al. 2013).

Figure 11. Sensitivity of the final O2 pressure to the transition point between energy-limited loss of H (with hydrodynamic drag of O) to diffusive-loss of H through an O background gas (with no loss of O). The transition composition is given in terms of the molar abundance of H in the atmosphere, calculated from the total pressures of O2 and H2O (XH = 0.4_nominal, 0.1, 0.001). Blue lines are for XUV model A, pink lines are XUV model B.

6.5. Mantle Convection after Solidification

In order to have efficient degassing during the post-magma ocean state, the mantle of GJ 1132b must continue to convect. However, progressive oxidation of the mantle by liberated O should lead to lower density materials at the top of the mantle, as shown in Figure 10. This may prevent overturn of mantle and delay the onset of solid-state mantle convection, which would lead to reduced outgassing efficiencies. However, Elkins-Tanton et al. (2003) calculated the mineralogy of a solidifying magma ocean (without atmospheric oxidation), and found that the cumulate pile of the solidified magma ocean is dissolved in the magma ocean (Holloway 1998). Hirschmann (2012) also suggests the possibility of diamond precipitation in the mid- to lower mantle or a magma ocean carbon pump to lower atmospheric CO2 abundances. This would sequester carbon in the mantle where it would be available for later outgassing during a post-magma ocean state, much like water in our efficient degassing scenarios. However, while this is a possibility, it would require detailed additional modeling to evaluate.
unstable due to the partitioning of FeO into later (near surface) crystal phases.

Although oxidation of FeO to FeO\textsubscript{1.5} may change the exact mineral condensation sequence, the additional oxygen should not be sufficient to counteract the density effect of enhanced FeO abundance in the upper mantle. For low FeO abundances, the density instability may be insufficient to cause mantle overturn, in which case GJ 1132b may become stuck in a stagnant lid regime. This would mimic the low degassing efficiency model, which we have shown is only important in the case of the low XUV model B. Inefficient degassing reduces the final O\textsubscript{2} abundance by about an order of magnitude in pressure.

7. PREDICTIONS FOR GJ 1132B

Our model suggests that GJ 1132b would require more than \sim 5 wt\% by planet mass of initial water in order to retain a substantial steam envelope. Substantial oxygen atmospheric abundances (a few bars up to several thousand bars) without significant steam (\textless 1 bar) would imply a relatively high XUV flux and initial water abundances greater than \sim 5 wt\%. Substantial oxygen atmospheric abundances (>500 bar) with significant steam (>500 bar) would imply either low XUV flux over the system’s lifetime, a large initial water abundance of more than 250 EO, or the presence of an earlier H\textsubscript{2}-rich envelope. The presence of a steam atmosphere implies the continued existence of a magma ocean at GJ 1132b’s surface. However, most of our starting conditions result in tenuous atmospheres with at most a few bars of O\textsubscript{2} and little to no steam remaining. Further constraints on the initial planet composition will require more stringent mass bounds and XUV flux measurements.

Future observations of GJ 1132b’s atmosphere will allow us to probe these scenarios. The planet’s transmission and emission spectra are sensitive to the relative abundances of O\textsubscript{2}, H\textsubscript{2}O, and other species (Benneke & Seager 2012), and these spectra will be measurable with deep observations from the ground (Snellen et al. 2013; Rodler & López-Morales 2014) or from space (Cowan et al. 2015; Barstow et al. 2016, and references therein). Complementary JWST observations of GJ 1132b’s thermal phase curve could reveal its total atmospheric mass, and therefore determine whether the present-day atmosphere is thick or tenuous (Selsis et al. 2011; Koll & Abbot 2015). Detection of O\textsubscript{2}–O\textsubscript{2} collisionally induced absorption features may also be used to constrain the presence and total pressure of a massive O\textsubscript{2} atmosphere (Schwieterman et al. 2016).

Our model is applicable to a wide range of exoplanets inwards of their habitable zones. For instance, water loss from the recently discovered TRAPPIST-1 system (Gillon et al. 2016) was modeled by Bolmont et al. (2016). As the host star is an ultra-cool dwarf and the planets therefore receive less total XUV flux, they may retain both massive water vapor and O\textsubscript{2} atmospheres, although conclusions must await both planet mass determinations, as well as detailed application of our model. Application to planets such as TRAPPIST-1d, which is potentially within the habitable zone, will require altering our atmospheric model to allow for condensible water vapor. In our own solar system, Venus may have experienced the loss of a similar steam-rich atmosphere as posited here for GJ 1132b, but with nearly 10 times less stellar insolation, the escape rates from Venus should have been much lower and magma ocean cooling should have been much faster. Future application of this model to Venus may help confirm whether an early magma ocean could have taken up the O\textsubscript{2} produced by atmospheric loss as suggested by Gillmann et al. (2009) and others.

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