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MOONS UNVEILED: HABITABILITY AND SPECTRAL ANALYSIS INNOVATIONS

Abstract

This paper delves into the multifaceted features of moon systems within our solar system, highlighting their distinctive environments and potential habitability. Large planet moons, prevalent in our solar system, boast substantial water ice mantles, indicating the possibility of past and present subsurface liquid water. The appeal of moon systems lies not only in their diverse physical and chemical configurations but also in the prospect of Earth-like environments within a single planetary system, challenging our terrestrial-centric understanding of habitability. To explore these aspects, the paper advocates for the development of advanced spectral analysis techniques, particularly in the infrared spectrum, as a means of identifying habitable zones. By combining a star's spectrum with a planet's, unique absorption lines can pinpoint the presence of specific elements or molecules in the atmosphere, offering crucial insights into the planet's composition and potential for habitability. The emphasis on infrared observations stems from the fact that molecules in planetary atmospheres exhibit the greatest number of spectral characteristics at infrared wavelengths. The ultimate aim is to identify planets with atmospheres akin to Earth's, considering factors such as overall air pressure, chemical composition, condensates, cloud formations, haze presence, observer phase angles, and incident radiative and energetic particle fluxes from the host star. Our evolving understanding of the diversity of life on Earth has led to numerous modifications to traditional habitability concepts, encompassing environments ranging from hot to cold and chemically reactive to inert. The conclusion anticipates that the search for evidence of moons in exoplanetary systems is on the cusp of becoming a reality. The impending realization of this endeavor promises to yield new insights into these celestial bodies, their unique characteristics, and the prospect of habitability, thereby reshaping our understanding of the broader cosmic landscape.