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TITLE: Water and Organics in the Universe: an introduction

ABSTRACT BODY:

Abstract Body: Water and organics are commonly believed to be the essential ingredients for life on Earth. The development of infrared and submillimeter observational techniques has resulted in the detection of water in circumstellar envelopes, interstellar clouds, comets, asteroids, planetary satellites and the Sun. Complex organics have also been found in stellar ejecta, diffuse and molecular clouds, meteorites, interplanetary dust particles, comets and planetary satellites. In this Focus Meeting, we will discuss the origin, distribution, and detection of water and other life's building blocks both inside and outside of the Solar System. The possibility of extraterrestrial organics and water on the origin of life on Earth will also be discussed.

CONTACT (NAME ONLY): Sun Kwok

CONTACT (E-MAIL ONLY): sunkwok@hku.hk

AUTHORS/INSTITUTIONS: S. Kwok, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, HONG KONG|

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