Regional map of molecular water at high southern latitudes on the Moon using 6 μ m data from the Stratospheric Observatory For Infrared Astronomy

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Abstract

A map of surface molecular water was derived from long slit spectroscopy of the south polar region of the Moon using the Faint Object infraRed CAmera for the SOFIA Telescope (FORCAST) spectrometer on the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA). Mean water abundances detected are about 250 μ g/g over that of a mare reference surface at Mare Fecunditatis. Water abundances are locally anticorrelated with temperature and latitude. The distribution of water is consistent with derivation of water from pre-existing hydroxyl subsequently trapped in impact glass, provided hydroxyl increases with latitude as some models and measurements suggest. The detected water cannot be in equilibrium with the exosphere because insufficient water is present to maintain the surface abundance. The data are also consistent with a high latitude water-bearing mineral host that may be a precursor to recently detected high latitude hematite.

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9 Key Points:

- SOFIA+FORCAST confirms the presence of water emission in the South Polar Region of the Moon.
- Small maps of water emission are presented that begin to enable tests of various hypotheses for water formation and variation.

Observations suggest the water cannot migrate and instead is trapped within impact
 glasses or in a mineral-based host.

16 Abstract

A map of surface molecular water was derived from long slit spectroscopy of the south 17 polar region of the Moon using the Faint Object infraRed CAmera for the SOFIA Telescope 18 (FORCAST) spectrometer on the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA). 19 Mean water abundances detected are about 250 μ g/g over that of a mare reference surface at Mare 20 21 Fecunditatis. Water abundances are locally anticorrelated with temperature and latitude. The distribution of water is consistent with derivation of water from pre-existing hydroxyl 22 subsequently trapped in impact glass, provided hydroxyl increases with latitude as some models 23 and measurements suggest. The detected water cannot be in equilibrium with the exosphere 24 because insufficient water is present to maintain the surface abundance. The data are also 25 consistent with a high latitude water-bearing mineral host that may be a precursor to recently 26 detected high latitude hematite. 27

28 Plain Language Summary

29 If water is present in sufficient quantities on the Moon, it may be an important resource for 30 space exploration as it can be used to make rocket fuel and sustain human presence. The water molecule on the illuminated surface of the Moon can be detected using a unique spectral signature 31 that is obscured from telescopes on Earth's surface by water vapor in the atmosphere. The 32 NASA/DLR Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) is a large telescope on a 33 34 747 aircraft that operates high in the stratosphere above 99% of the water vapor, and so can detect the infrared thermal emission from water on the Moon's surface. Near the South Pole, we produced 35 a map of water emission that shows water is present at a few hundred parts per million, and is 36 inversely correlated with surface temperature. This is consistent both with the behavior of water 37 free to migrate on the surface, and water bound up in glass from meteorite impacts. However, the 38 amount of water we find probably cannot be freely exchanging with the Moon's tenuous exosphere 39 because it would require much more water in the exosphere than has been measured. 40

41 **1 Introduction**

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The water molecule is a key compound for understanding the interaction of airless 42 planetary surfaces with the space environment. This interaction is often termed "space 43 weathering," denoting that surfaces evolve with space exposure in a manner analogous to terrestrial 44 geologic weathering (Pieters et al., 2000). The Moon's surface that is exposed to space weathering 45 is the lunar regolith which is poorly sorted but largely fine grained with a mean grain size of 60 46 μm (McKay et al., 1991). It is a product of pulverization of the lunar surface by billions of years 47 of meteorite impacts of all sizes. The principal agents of space weathering in our Solar System are 48 the solar wind and micrometeorites (Pieters et al., 2000). The solar wind is a moderate energy 49 plasma that emanates from the solar corona composed largely of protons (H+), but also the nuclei 50 of other elements, as well as electrons (Meyer-Vernet, 2007). The solar wind implants hydrogen 51 and other elements a few nanometers into the surfaces of lunar grains forming hydroxyl (OH; 52 53 Zeller et al., 1966), as well as sputtering their surfaces, resulting in vapor deposited coatings on neighboring grain surfaces (Keller and McKay, 1997). Micrometeorites, defined as those 54 impactors less than 1 cm (Grun et al., 2001), melt and vaporize the regolith target producing vapor 55 deposited coatings, as well as melt welded aggregates of glass and mineral fragments called 56 agglutinates (McKay et al., 1991). 57

Water molecules have two principal styles of emplacement in the space weathering

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process: They can be directly introduced into the lunar environment, or synthesized from solar 59 wind hydrogen. A fraction of the population of micrometeorites and other small impactors are 60 water-bearing, containing minerals that include the water molecule in their structures (Hanner and 61 Zolensky, 2010). A portion of this water is promptly released on impact, but a substantial fraction, 62 on the order of 1/3, can be retained in impact glass produced during the impact (Daly and Schultz, 63 2018). The energy of micrometeorite impact can also facilitate synthesis of water from a hydroxyl 64 precursor (Zhu et al., 2019). Hydroxyl was proposed to be formed in the lunar surface from a 65 reaction of solar wind hydrogen and oxygen in lunar minerals (Zeller et al., 1966). Zhu et al. (2019) 66 showed that a particulate surface containing pre-existing hydroxyl could form and release water in 67 the vapor phase with stimulations of micrometeorite impacts using laser irradiation. Presumably 68 69 the water formed during impact could also be trapped in the impact glass produced, this time originating in the target rather than the impactor. Bennett et al. (2013) and Jones et al. (2018) 70 showed that thermal energy from high lunar noontime temperatures could produce water from 71 recombinant desorption of adjacent hydroxyls that would react to form water and hydrogen, both 72 released into the lunar exosphere. 73

While characterizing the behavior and origin of water is important to understanding the 74 planetary process that is space weathering, it is of topical importance owing to the value of water 75 for the progress of space exploration. Water ice is known to occur in permanently shadowed 76 77 regions of the lunar poles that feature sustained temperatures below 100 K (Li et al., 2018, Hayne et al., 2015), and is a potential resource for many aspects of space exploration. As with any 78 resource, an understanding of its formation aids its use as a resource. One commonly assumed 79 mechanism for supply of water to the poles is by cold trapping of water vapor from the lunar 80 exosphere, but the viability of this mechanism is a matter of research. 81

The only direct evidence of the water molecule in the lunar environment outside ice 82 detections in regions of permanent shadow comes from two experiments. Mass spectroscopic 83 measurements in lunar orbit from the Neutral Mass Spectrometer on the Lunar Atmosphere and 84 85 Dust Environment Explorer (LADEE) spacecraft that detected water associated with meteor showers (Benna et al., 2019), perhaps reflecting the Zhu et al. (2019) or Daly and Schultz (2018) 86 processes, and placed an upper limit of <0.1 molecules per cubic centimeter as the background 87 away from meteor stream events. Infrared emission at the fundamental water vibration at 6 µm 88 from surface water was found by Honniball et al. (2020) using the Stratospheric Observatory for 89 Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) (Young et al., 2012). Other than these measurements, there are few 90 91 constraints on the origin, evolution and ultimate fate of water in the lunar environment.

In this paper we describe additional measurements of lunar surface water by SOFIA that confirm the presence of water emission, and produced small maps of water emission that begin to enable tests of various hypotheses for water formation and variation.

95 **2 Data and Methods**

96 Spectral data were obtained with the Faint Object infraRed CAmera for the SOFIA 97 Telescope (FORCAST) on SOFIA (Herter et al., 2018). The high operational altitude of SOFIA 98 situates it above most of the water vapor in the terrestrial atmosphere enabling unique access to 99 the 6 μ m wavelength region, which is obscured from groundbased observatories by water vapor 100 absorption. FORCAST can be operated as a long slit spectrograph using a grism in its optical train 101 and employs a 256 x 256 Si Blocked-Impurity-Band infrared focal plane array for detection. We 102 used the FORCAST G063 grism with a 2.4 by 191 arcsecond slit sampled by 249 pixels with 0.768 arcsecond pixel height to obtain spectra from 5 to 8 μ m with a spectral resolution of 180 ($\Delta\lambda/\lambda$, or about 12 nm). The spatial resolution of each pixel at the lunar center of disk is about 4.8 x 1.5 km.

A technical goal of the observations was to demonstrate FORCAST could be used as an imaging spectrometer by scanning the slit across the lunar surface as the detector was read out to form pushbroom scan images. By the end of the flight the SOFIA telescope operators were able to advance the slit by approximately one slit width per frame.

A region surrounding the southern polar crater Moretus (70.6°S, 6.4°W) was chosen for 110 measurement. This region is adjacent to Clavius crater observed by Honniball et al. (2020) 111 broadening coverage of the Moon, but still at high latitude with the expectation that molecular 112 water might be present. This region is known to have high values of "total water" (the sum of 113 molecular water and hydroxyl) based on measurements using the Moon Mineralogy Mapper on 114 the Chandrayaan-1 lunar orbiter (Li and Milliken, 2017). A near equatorial portion of Mare 115 Fecunditatis was chosen as the reference location, and this mare site's distance from the terminator 116 117 ensured higher temperatures than the high latitude Moretus region on the assumption that a high temperature equatorial site would contain less water than a polar site. A total of 93 frames of south 118 polar region were obtained, and 32 frames of reference data. 119

120 On source integration times of 8.6 seconds per frame were used for both the Moretus polar 121 site and the equatorial reference site. The zenith angle of the observations ranged from 58.91° to 122 61.71° during data acquisition and the aircraft traveled ~22° in terrestrial longitude maintaining an 123 altitude between 39,990 ft. and 42,028 ft. Supplementary Table S1 summarizes the observation 124 conditions during each observation segment.

Data were placed in the lunar cartographic system with a combination of celestial 125 coordinates reported by the SOFIA telescope control system, and refinement using guider images 126 obtained with the visible range Focal Plane Imager (FPI). Synthetic simulated FPI images of the 127 Moon were produced using Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera, Wide Angle Camera data 128 draped on Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter topographic data with lighting rendered to simulate the 129 appearance of the FPI images at the time of data acquisition. The FPI images are then correlated 130 with the simulated data to determine the spatial offsets of the FPI images from the celestial 131 coordinate system. Finally, using predetermined position of the FORCAST slit on the FPA, the 132 corners of each slit pixel are assigned a latitude and longitude and can be mapped using standard 133 projection (Figure S1). 134

Calibration and processing of the data follows the methodology of Honniball et al. (2020) with a few improvements to the atmospheric removal and corrections to residual artifacts that are further described in the supplementary information.

138 4 Results

Emission features near 6 µm were observed in all spectra of the region surrounding Moretus crater reduced as ratios of south polar data relative to the mare reference site in Mare Fecunditatis (Figure 1). Each 6 µm water emission feature was fit with a Gaussian to characterize centers and widths. The centers and widths of the bands are consistent with water bearing crystalline hydrates (Falk, 1984), hydrated meteorites (Takir et al., 2019), a sample of water bearing glass (Li, 2017; Shimizu et al., 2015) and the data collected of the Clavius region as reported in Honniball et al. (2020) (Figure 2). Temperatures derived from the radiance spectra are consistent with expectations for this latitude and lunar time
of day based on time of day bolometric temperature
measurements derived from the LRO Diviner Lunar
Radiometer (Williams et al., 2017; Figure S2) lending
confidence to the radiance calibration.

Observed emission peak heights were converted to 151 water concentration $(\mu g/g)$ using the calibration of 152 Honniball et al. (2020.) Emission peak heights were defined 153 as the average emissivity between $+/-0.04 \mu m$ around the 6 154 um band center found by the Gaussian fits relative to a 155 linear continuum defined at 5.8 to 5.9 µm and 6.3 to 6.4 µm 156 specifically avoiding the 6 µm band. Emission data are 157 converted to apparent emissivity, then to reflectance via 158 Kirchhoff's law in order to apply the Honniball et al. (2020) 159 calibration which used particulate samples measured in 160 reflectance. Water concentrations range from 100 to 400 161 $\mu g/g$, consistent with those reported by Honniball et al. 162 (2020) for the nearby Clavius region (Figure S3). 163

Only limited spatial analysis was possible by
Honniball et al. (2020) owing to the small number of slit
observations, but the new data reported here are formatted
as images to allow consideration of spatial relationships.
Figure 3a shows the mean flux from 5 to 8 μm

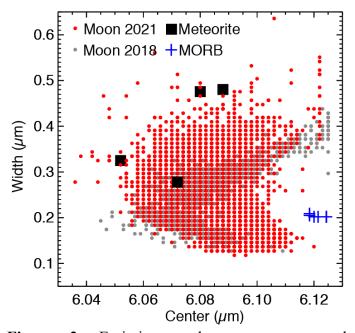


Figure 2: Emission peak centers vs. peak widths for measurements presented here (red), SOFIA measurements from Honniball et al. (2020; gray), hydrated meteorites (black), and silicate glass (MORB: Mid-Ocean Ridge Basalt; blue).

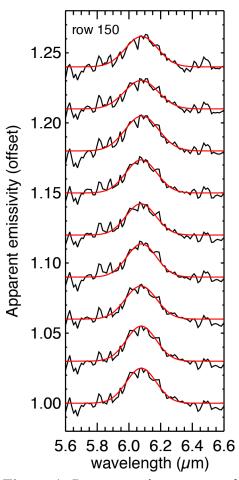


Figure 1: Representative spectra of the Moretus region with Gaussian fits superimposed.

georeferenced and mapped onto a lunar background image. Craters and other topographic features are readily apparent in the georeferenced image. Throughout the wavelengths covered by the measurements, lunar radiance is dominated by thermal emission, and temperature is largely dominated by the effect of local slopes; surface temperatures are dictated by the angle of the surface normal to the Sun, resulting in images that appear very similar to visible images of the Moon obtained at moderate and large phase angles. The images feature a roughly north-south gradient in flux consistent with proximity to the subsolar point $(0.6^{\circ} \text{ N}, 21.25^{\circ} \text{ E})$ that was north and slightly to the east of Moretus

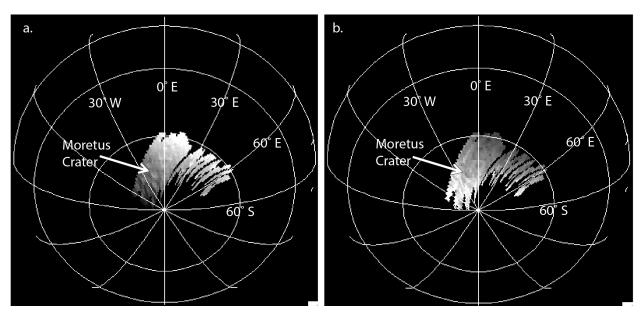


Figure 3: Orthographically rectified images of average flux (a) and emission peak height (b).

187 longitude, and modulation by temperature188 variations due to local slopes.

An image of the emission peak height is shown in Figure 3b. There is a moderate inverse correlation of peak height and flux (Figure 4), which indicates a control by temperature or latitude, where latitude is a proxy for the average or maximum temperature of the site.

195 **5 Discussion**

196 These new measurements confirm the 197 findings of Honniball et al. (2020) that the lunar 198 south polar region features about 200 μ g/g 199 molecular water relative to a low latitude mare site 200 based on observations of a 6 μ m surface emission 201 feature.

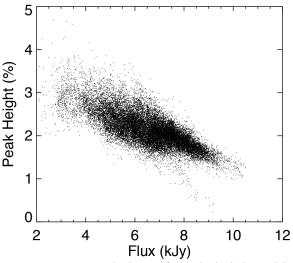


Figure 4: Correlation of peak height with average flux.

There are three reservoirs that might host the detected water molecules: adsorbed on silicate 202 surfaces, trapped or dissolved in silicate glass, or chemically bound to a mineral (Dyar et al., 2010; 203 Daly and Schultz, 2018; Lucey et al., 2021). Water physically adsorbed on the surface of silicate 204 205 grains is the surface state of water that can potentially migrate through the exosphere to the poles via hopping ballistically and randomly across the surface, known as ballistic migration (Watson et 206 al., 1961). In this case water in the exosphere lacking sufficient thermal energy and direction to 207 escape will return to the surface on a ballistic trajectory. If the water molecule survives the impact 208 with the surface (which is not assured; Jones et al., 2018), then it will remain until thermal 209 agitations of the surface and the molecule give it enough energy to overcome the weak van der 210 Waals bonds between the molecule and the silicate grain surface (physisorption). While trapped 211

on the surface, the molecule is able to emit thermal radiation which is enhanced by the high emissivity at the water fundamental.

The second potential reservoir for detected surface water is in silicate glass as proposed by 214 Honniball et al. (2020) to explain their water detections. Per Daly and Schultz (2018), water 215 derived from projectiles can remain in glass formed from the impact with reasonably high 216 efficiency (10s of percent of impactor water preserved). Presumably the Zhu et al. (2019) process 217 of water synthesis from hydroxyl aided by impact energy would also result in some amount of 218 water trapped in glass as opposed to water released as vapor. Hydroxyl might also be expected to 219 occur in the glass. Liu et al. (2012) detected either water or hydroxyl in the small impact melt 220 bodies common in lunar soils (agglutinates); their FTIR measurements used the "total water" band 221 at 3 µm and did not include 6 µm measurements, and their SIMS measurements detect hydrogen 222 so the presence of the water molecule is not confirmed. 223

The third possibility is that the water is bound within the structure of a mineral. There are no minerals containing molecular water in the lunar sample collection, however, at high latitudes (> 60°) the iron oxide hematite, also absent in the sample collection, was detected. For example, Li et al. (2020) suggested that this hematite might be formed from dehydration of a hydrated iron oxide precursor (hydrated iron oxide). A hydrated precursor was invoked to explain the observation that the hematite is limited to high latitudes where the 3 µm total water band persists throughout the lunar day, suggesting some influence of hydration on hematite formation.

Honniball et al. (2020) dismissed the possibility of physisorbed water based on results of Poston et al. (2015) that suggested the mean residence time of water for the Clavius data was only a few seconds. We probe the possibility of physically adsorbed water further with these new data, and arrive at the same conclusion.

The upper limit on the equatorial exospheric water abundance provided by Benna et al. (2019) is a strong constraint on the viability of surface adsorbed water. Considering a 1dimensional model, the abundance of water in the exosphere relative to the abundance on the surface is the ratio of the mean ballistic flight time and the surface residence time of a water molecule. The former is a function of the surface temperature that provides the energy to propel a molecule into the exosphere and the latter is a function of surface temperature and the energy of desorption of water from a silicate surface. The time of flight (T_f) is:

242
$$T_f = 2\nu * \frac{\sin(\theta)}{g} \qquad \text{eq. 1}$$

where θ is the ejection angle, v is the speed of ejection and g is the gravitational acceleration of the body. The mean speed of ejection (v) in the z-axis is:

245 $\boldsymbol{v} = \sqrt{\frac{2RT}{M}} \qquad \text{eq. 2}$

where \mathbf{R} is the gas constant, \mathbf{T} is the temperature (K) and \mathbf{M} is the molecular weight (kg/mol). For a 300K surface with an average ejection angle of 45 degrees, the time of flight is 91 s, which we can safely round to 100 s.

The surface residence time at 300K is an exponential function of the activation energy of desorption. Estimates vary widely, with a low value of less than 1 eV from Jones et al. (2021) and a high of 1.3 eV from Hendrix et al. (2019) owing to the exponential nature of the residence time, the ratio of exospheric to surface mass varies from over 3 at 0.8 eV, to $1x10^{-8}$ at 1.3 eV. We can

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estimate the exchangeable surface mass from the 200 µg/g water concentration from our 253 calibration. Equating the surface sensed by the thermal measurements with the exchangeable mass 254 of water, with the mean grain size of the lunar surface of about 60 µm, and the sensing depth is on 255 the order of a few grains. Taking the sensing depth then as $\sim 100 \mu m$, the mass of exchangeable 256 water per square centimeter is about 10 micrograms per square centimeter assuming a grain density 257 of 2.85 g/cc (Kiefer et al., 2012). Using the mass ratios above, the exospheric density at one scale 258 height (86 km) would range from 10^{18} to $3x10^9$ molecules per cubic centimeter. These exospheric 259 densities are extremely large, far over the upper limit provide by Benna et al. (2019) from in situ 260 mass spectroscopic measurements. To meet the upper limit imposed by Benna et al. (2019) the 261 activation energy of desorption would have to be ~ 1.8 eV, far above any previous estimate, and 262 above any consideration of water as a volatile (surface residence times would exceed 10⁶ years). 263 This order of magnitude calculation supports the contention by Honniball et al. (2020) that the 264 water sensed by SOFIA+FORCAST cannot be that of migrating water. 265

Our data are not inconsistent with a mineral-based host of molecular water. Li et al. (2020) 266 detected anhydrous iron oxide (hematite) at high lunar latitudes ($>60^\circ$), but suggested that the 267 coincidence of high total water abundance, low solar wind hydrogen fluence and the presence of 268 extremely fine-grained iron metal common in lunar soil might produce a hydrated iron oxide 269 precursor (FeOOH) that later dehydrates to hematite (the common potential precursors are much 270 less detectable than hematite in near-IR data explains their lack of detection). If there is a 271 relationship, the mineral present would likely be ferrihydrite (water bearing iron oxide). Our data 272 is limited to latitudes above 60°S, but suggest strong tests are possible in future observations that 273 span lower latitudes. 274

However, the most likely host of the detected water is silicate impact glass as suggested by Honniball et al. (2020). This possibility is supported by the impact experiments of Daly and Schultz (2018), and the water synthesis experiments of Zhu et al. (2019) and does not invoke speculative chemical reactions.

Our results have implications for models or hypotheses for molecular water distribution. 279 Any model that correlates molecular water with solar wind fluence is inconsistent with our 280 281 observations. For example, if hydroxyl were correlated with fluence, then presumably micrometeorite impact would convert a portion of this hydroxyl to molecular water, a portion of 282 which could in turn be sequestered in impact glass. The ratio of solar wind fluence between our 283 reference and the Moretus site is between 5 and 15 using the equations and assumptions of Johnson 284 et al. (1999), whereas water abundance is ~200 µg/g higher at the southern Moretus site. This is 285 the reverse of expectation if solar wind fluence dominated water concentrations. 286

However, our data are consistent with a model by Jones et al. (2018) where hydroxyl is eroded from low latitudes through recombinant desorption of surface correlated hydroxyl to water and hydrogen released into the exosphere, facilitated by high equatorial midday temperatures. For this model to be consistent with our data, we must assume that molecular water is formed per Zhu et al. (2019) from pre-existing hydroxyl and then trapped in impact glass, and so follows the evolved hydroxyl distribution.

Owing to the high correlation of latitude and temperature in our data, we do not constrain models that require water to respond to the instantaneous temperature, though ballistic migration 295 appears inconsistent with the exospheric limits imposed by LADEE and the surface abundance we 296 measure.

297 6 Conclusions

We have verified the observation that excess molecular water emission is found at high 298 lunar latitudes. We have strengthened the correlation of temperature or latitude with molecular 299 water abundance, but this set of data cannot distinguish which parameter dominates. A simple 300 model suggests that ballistic migration of water through the exosphere is not consistent with most 301 302 of the detected water being exchangeable with the exosphere, though does not rule out a small amount. Our data are not inconsistent with a mineral host of the molecular water, but we suggest 303 an impact glass host is the most likely. Models that result in hydroxyl abundances correlated with 304 solar wind fluence seem ruled out, but this assumes micrometeorites will trap molecular water in 305 impact glass and freeze in a distribution similar to hydroxyl. A hybrid of the Jones et al. (2018) 306 model that results in strong latitude increases in hydroxyl toward the poles, and trapping of water 307 synthesized from hydroxyl into impact glass is consistent with our data. 308

Further observations can create robust tests of these models. The variation of water emission with time of day at any latitude constrains the ballistic migration hypothesis, and any other model that forms molecular water proportional to instantaneous temperature, so time of day observations are critical, including at low latitudes since 3 µm observations suggest that hydration increases toward the terminator.

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325 **Open Research**

The spectral data that support the plots within this paper and other findings of this study are publicly available from the SOFIA Data Cycle System hosted by the Infrared Science Archive hosted by the Infrared Processing & Analysis Center (IPAC)) at <u>https://irsa.ipac.caltech.edu</u>. Please go to the SOFIA Archive, select 'Solar System Object' and search for 'Moon' observations, then select the FORCAST tab to locate the data.

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Geophysical Research Letters

Supporting Information for

Regional map of molecular water at high southern latitudes on the Moon using 6 µm data from the Stratospheric Observatory For Infrared Astronomy

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1. Extended methods

The wavelength is normally done by matching emission lines in spectra of supernovae to the target spectra. However, only a small number of lines are available for matching which causes a misalignment in the wavelength calibration of our Moon data. This in turn caused the atmospheric removal procedure to leave behind artifacts that may confuse the final spectrum or cause shifts in the 6 μ m band center. We took advantage of the fact that the Moon is bright to create a new wavelength calibration by matching atmospheric absorption lines in each spectrum. The new wavelength calibration allows for more accurate atmospheric removal without residual artifacts and for accurate characterization of the 6 μ m band center.

During the calibration process is the correction of crosstalk that results in a linear pattern of bars spaced by 16 pixels, known as "jailbars" (Clark et al., 2021). Normal pipeline procedures remove the jailbars so that they are no longer observed in the flux calibrated data. However, for lunar observations we must remove a continuum from the flux to characterize the 6 μ m band and in doing so we reveal residual jailbar artifacts that cause spikes in the spectra that may interfere with the 6 μ m band. To correct the jailbar residuals we mask the jailbars in the raw data before running the SOFIA pipeline. This greatly reduces the jailbar residuals observed in the final spectra.

The radiometric calibration of the data is completed using recent observation of a standard star with known flux. For these observations the standard star Alpha Bootes was used. Finally after atmospheric removal (Lord, 1992), correction of residual artifacts, and the radiometric calibration the data are in units of flux (Jy). We then follow the methods of Honniball et al. (2020) to remove a remaining multiplicative artifact using the reference data and remove a continuum to convert the data to apparent emissivity.

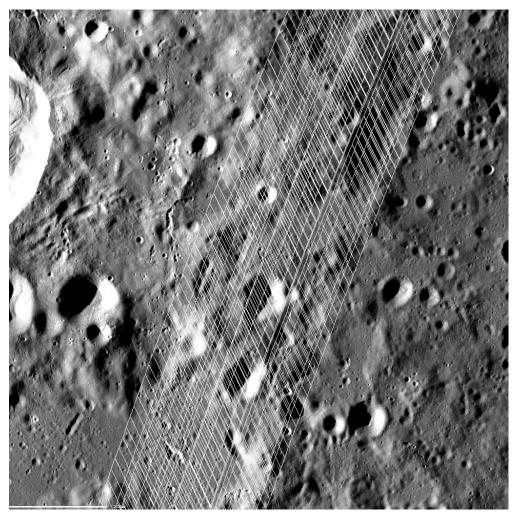


Figure S1: Closeup of mapped location of data pixels on the lunar surface.

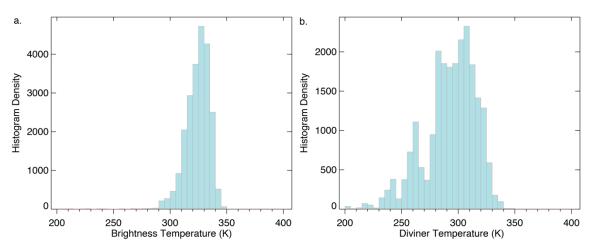


Figure S2: a.) Brightness temperature from the Moretus region. b.) Bolometric temperature from the LRO Diviner Lunar Radiometer for the same location and lunar time of day as the SOFIA Moretus data.

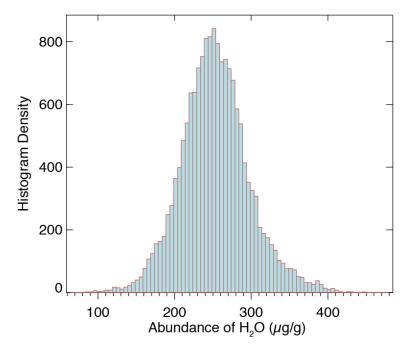


Figure S3: Distribution of water concentrations for the Moretus region.

Table S1: Flight conditions of each scan during the SOFIA flight FO751. Start values are taken from the beginning frame in the scan and the end values are from the ending frame in the scan. Values are quired from the file header information and the start value is used (example: for file 76 the start altitude is taken from the keyword 'ALTI_STA' in the header information).

Target		Moretus Region				
Scan		1	2	3	4	
File Numbers		76-100	110-139	146-175	184-193	
Integration time (s)		8.6				
UT	Start	06:06:02.86	06:53:14.02	07:32:21.57	08:20:54.61	
2021-06-23	End	06:19:44.79	07:17:20.35	07:56:36.27	08:25:45.16	
Altitude (ft)	Start	40015	40009	41009	42022	
	End	40015	40020	41020	42014	
Aircraft	Start	37.5842	36.5515	35.9912	35.387	
Latitude	End	37.2546	36.178	35.7605	35.2991	
Aircraft	Start	-124.969	-132.825	-139.274	-147.601	
Longitude	End	-127.266	-136.791	-143.339	-148.436	
Zenith	Start	61.7135	60.3351	59.6047	58.949	
Angle	End	61.2346	59.8277	59.3162	58.8755	
Lunar	Start	-60.08	-61.17	-61.01	-55.11	
Latitude	End	-58.12	-60.40	-57.49	-58.94	

Lunar	Start	6.16	6.47	3.29	3.16
Longitude	End	62.72	18.99	14.81	-3.75

Target		Mare Reference				
Scan		1	2	3	4	
File Numbers		101-108	140-145	176-183	194-203	
Integration time (s)		8.6				
UT	Start	06:29:14.88	07:22:12.76	07:26:33.22	08:27:37.35	
2021-06-23	End	06:45:04.01	07:27:05.71	08:13:55.63	08:35:02.18	
Altitude (ft)	Start	40014	40014	40014	42018	
	End	40006	40015	41020	42026	
Aircraft	Start	37.0349	36.1121	36.0571	35.2661	
Latitude	End	36.7053	36.0571	35.5078	35.1343	
Aircraft	Start	-128.837	-137.582	-138.307	-148.755	
Longitude	End	-131.462	-138.395	-146.349	-150.007	
Zenith	Start	60.6286	59.408	59.3415	58.5233	
Angle	End	60.1868	59.3427	58.7471	58.4203	
Lunar	Start	-1.58	-0.29	-0.07	-0.92	
Latitude	End	-1.96	-1.57	-0.84	-1.28	
Lunar	Start	59.11	58.97	57.83	55.73	
Longitude	End	73.06	55.11	54.8	55.05	