



Physics & Astronomy Colloquium

Spring 2011

“Is Water Necessary for Life?”

“Is water necessary for life?” is a key question in defining habitable zones and guiding search for life in the solar system and beyond. Solvent for life has to promote not only chemical reactions but also self-organization of organic molecules into living structures. The latter is governed by non-covalent interactions (interactions that do not involve making or breaking chemical bonds), strength of which must be properly tuned. In water, but not in most other liquids, this is possible because its special properties provide a balance between different interactions that can be readily changed in response to environmental signals. Potential alternatives to water will be discussed.

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Thursday, April 7, 2011

***4:20 -5:45 PM - MND 1015**

*** Note - later time than previous semesters**

Open & Free to all Students, Faculty & Public