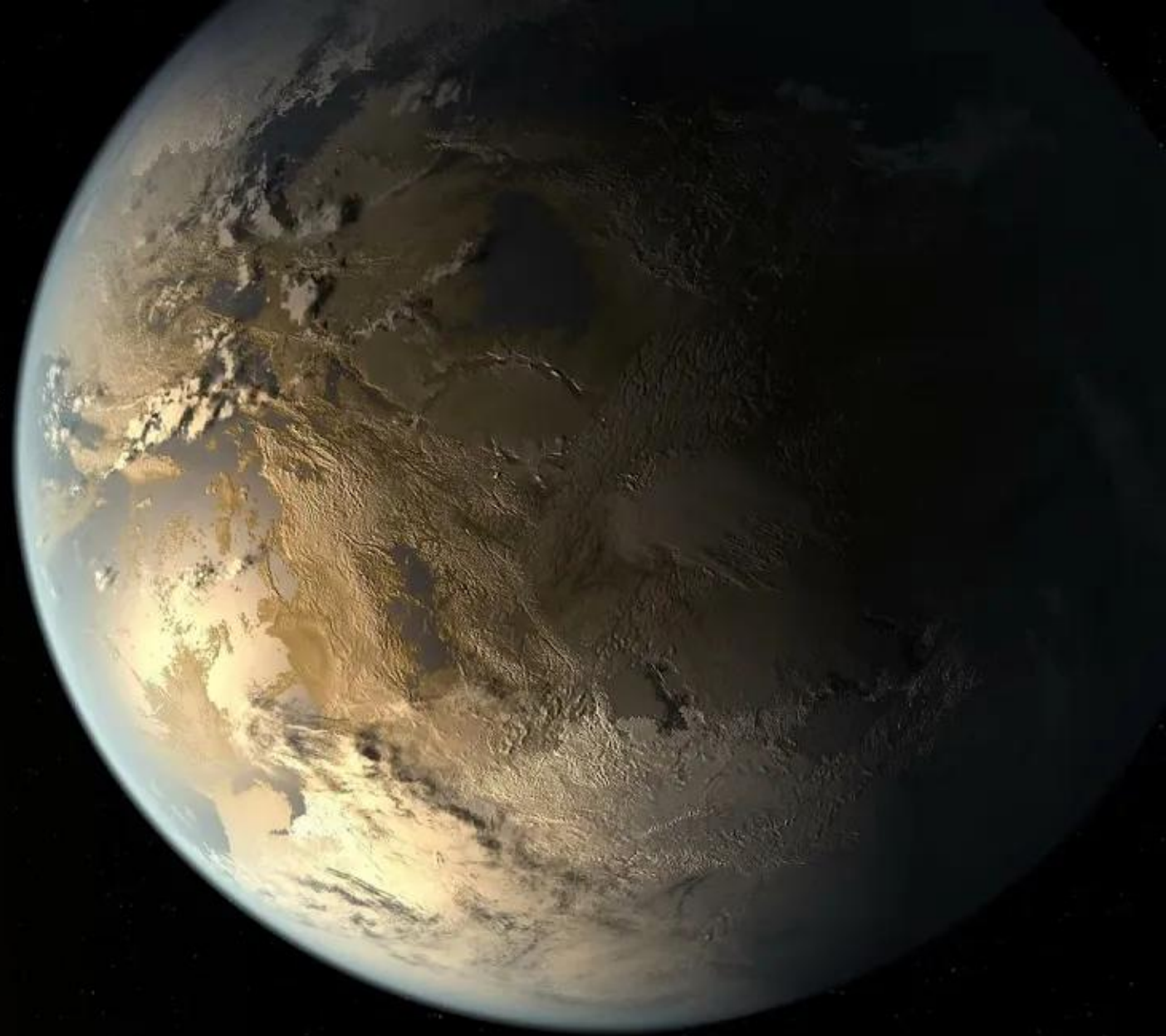


**Are surface  
biosignatures  
detectable from directly  
imaged Earth-like  
exoplanets?**



1  
00:00:09,030 --> 00:00:06,789  
hello

2  
00:00:11,589 --> 00:00:09,040  
i'm gabrielle jones an undergraduate

3  
00:00:12,870 --> 00:00:11,599  
senior at northern arizona university

4  
00:00:15,190 --> 00:00:12,880  
and i will be presenting on the

5  
00:00:19,830 --> 00:00:15,200  
detectability of service bio signatures

6  
00:00:24,150 --> 00:00:21,910  
previous studies have examined how

7  
00:00:25,589 --> 00:00:24,160  
spectral observations are influenced by

8  
00:00:27,670 --> 00:00:25,599  
noise sources

9  
00:00:30,390 --> 00:00:27,680  
and how the vegetation red edge could be

10  
00:00:32,549 --> 00:00:30,400  
used as a potential bile signature

11  
00:00:33,510 --> 00:00:32,559  
but it is currently unknown if noise

12  
00:00:35,910 --> 00:00:33,520  
sources

13  
00:00:37,910 --> 00:00:35,920

and technological capabilities will

14

00:00:43,510 --> 00:00:37,920

allow for the detection of surface bowel

15

00:00:48,150 --> 00:00:45,670

our study modeled an exoplanet's

16

00:00:50,549 --> 00:00:48,160

atmosphere with earth-like conditions

17

00:00:52,549 --> 00:00:50,559

and computed definitive detection times

18

00:00:54,790 --> 00:00:52,559

of surface biosignatures

19

00:00:56,069 --> 00:00:54,800

using the atmospheric radiative transfer

20

00:01:01,270 --> 00:00:56,079

model smart

21

00:01:05,830 --> 00:01:04,070

so what are surface biosignatures well

22

00:01:06,550 --> 00:01:05,840

the surface biosignatures we are

23

00:01:08,230 --> 00:01:06,560

focusing on

24

00:01:10,310 --> 00:01:08,240

are biological pigments and the

25

00:01:12,789 --> 00:01:10,320

vegetation red edge

26  
00:01:13,670 --> 00:01:12,799  
they are features present in a reflected

27  
00:01:16,870 --> 00:01:13,680  
light spectrum

28  
00:01:19,670 --> 00:01:16,880  
that are created from living organisms

29  
00:01:21,590 --> 00:01:19,680  
on the figure on the right we have a

30  
00:01:23,030 --> 00:01:21,600  
reflected light spectrum of an orange

31  
00:01:25,190 --> 00:01:23,040  
microbial mat

32  
00:01:27,590 --> 00:01:25,200  
and here are the specific surface box

33  
00:01:29,830 --> 00:01:27,600  
initials we are looking for

34  
00:01:34,469 --> 00:01:29,840  
absorption features and the vegetation

35  
00:01:39,270 --> 00:01:37,190  
so what are pigments pigments are

36  
00:01:41,429 --> 00:01:39,280  
produced by living organisms

37  
00:01:42,630 --> 00:01:41,439  
that have a color resulting from

38  
00:01:46,230 --> 00:01:42,640

selective color

39

00:01:48,550 --> 00:01:46,240

absorption pigment absorption features

40

00:01:50,069 --> 00:01:48,560

are troughs in the spectra of plant

41

00:01:52,389 --> 00:01:50,079

microbial life

42

00:01:53,429 --> 00:01:52,399

caused by biological pigments such as

43

00:01:56,469 --> 00:01:53,439

chlorophyll a

44

00:01:58,230 --> 00:01:56,479

and b as seen on the right

45

00:02:00,230 --> 00:01:58,240

they are created when primary

46

00:02:02,469 --> 00:02:00,240

photosynthetic molecules

47

00:02:03,670 --> 00:02:02,479

absorb energy from light as they process

48

00:02:06,709 --> 00:02:03,680

water and carbon

49

00:02:08,550 --> 00:02:06,719

into sugar and oxygen however some

50

00:02:10,389 --> 00:02:08,560

pigment absorption features

51  
00:02:13,430 --> 00:02:10,399  
are not dependent on life to produce

52  
00:02:16,070 --> 00:02:13,440  
oxygen as a byproduct of photosynthesis

53  
00:02:16,710 --> 00:02:16,080  
and as a result non-photosynthetic

54  
00:02:21,110 --> 00:02:16,720  
pigments

55  
00:02:24,390 --> 00:02:23,430  
the vegetation red edge is characterized

56  
00:02:26,949 --> 00:02:24,400  
by the region

57  
00:02:28,229 --> 00:02:26,959  
of rapid increase in reflectance of

58  
00:02:30,710 --> 00:02:28,239  
vegetation

59  
00:02:31,270 --> 00:02:30,720  
in the near infrared region of a

60  
00:02:34,550 --> 00:02:31,280  
spectrum

61  
00:02:38,070 --> 00:02:34,560  
around 0.6 to 0.8

62  
00:02:40,390 --> 00:02:38,080  
as seen in the figure here it is

63  
00:02:41,990 --> 00:02:40,400

a spectral feature produced by the

64

00:02:44,309 --> 00:02:42,000

absorption of chlorophyll

65

00:02:46,309 --> 00:02:44,319

and other pigments in the ultraviolet

66

00:02:48,309 --> 00:02:46,319

invisible wavelength ranges

67

00:02:49,509 --> 00:02:48,319

and the scattering of light in the near

68

00:02:52,710 --> 00:02:49,519

infrared region

69

00:02:54,949 --> 00:02:52,720

as a result of internal cell structure

70

00:02:58,710 --> 00:02:54,959

and it is indicative of photosynthetic

71

00:03:04,630 --> 00:03:01,830

so why microbial mats microbial mats are

72

00:03:06,390 --> 00:03:04,640

composed of layers of microorganisms

73

00:03:08,550 --> 00:03:06,400

and they are the extremophiles we are

74

00:03:10,149 --> 00:03:08,560

focusing on specifically orange and

75

00:03:11,910 --> 00:03:10,159

black mats

76

00:03:14,229 --> 00:03:11,920

they are a reasonable candidate for

77

00:03:16,710 --> 00:03:14,239

detection of life on other planets

78

00:03:18,070 --> 00:03:16,720

because they are a simple light form

79

00:03:21,190 --> 00:03:18,080

making it more probable

80

00:03:22,710 --> 00:03:21,200

to exist on an exoplanet they have been

81

00:03:23,589 --> 00:03:22,720

prevalent on earth throughout its

82

00:03:25,509 --> 00:03:23,599

history

83

00:03:28,229 --> 00:03:25,519

containing some of the oldest life on

84

00:03:29,990 --> 00:03:28,239

earth and they have prominent

85

00:03:31,589 --> 00:03:30,000

vegetation red edge and pigment

86

00:03:33,589 --> 00:03:31,599

absorption features within the

87

00:03:35,430 --> 00:03:33,599

reflecting spectra

88

00:03:37,830 --> 00:03:35,440

the picture on the right showcases

89

00:03:40,149 --> 00:03:37,840

orange and black microbial mats

90

00:03:44,390 --> 00:03:40,159

in a stream bed called green creek in

91

00:03:48,229 --> 00:03:46,309

if you want to know more about microbial

92

00:03:51,110 --> 00:03:48,239

mats visit my co-author

93

00:03:53,589 --> 00:03:51,120

skylar borges talk on high resolution

94

00:03:54,309 --> 00:03:53,599

satellite mapping of microbial mat and

95

00:03:58,869 --> 00:03:54,319

moss cover

96

00:04:03,429 --> 00:04:01,750

so are surface biosignatures detectable

97

00:04:07,110 --> 00:04:03,439

from directly image earth-like

98

00:04:10,949 --> 00:04:09,350

and what kind of extremophile life can

99

00:04:13,190 --> 00:04:10,959

be detected

100

00:04:15,270 --> 00:04:13,200

to answer these questions we are using

101  
00:04:16,469 --> 00:04:15,280  
models to simulate the spectra of an

102  
00:04:18,789 --> 00:04:16,479  
exoplanet

103  
00:04:19,749 --> 00:04:18,799  
and test whether surface biosignatures

104  
00:04:22,629 --> 00:04:19,759  
are detectable

105  
00:04:23,110 --> 00:04:22,639  
using future and current technologies

106  
00:04:26,950 --> 00:04:23,120  
such as

107  
00:04:29,990 --> 00:04:29,270  
our first step is to create realistic

108  
00:04:33,189 --> 00:04:30,000  
surfaces

109  
00:04:35,030 --> 00:04:33,199  
of exoplanets we did this using a linear

110  
00:04:37,670 --> 00:04:35,040  
mixing model to mix multiple

111  
00:04:41,430 --> 00:04:37,680  
and members at desired percentages and

112  
00:04:47,110 --> 00:04:44,790  
we created various percentages of soil

113  
00:04:48,870 --> 00:04:47,120

black matte and orange mat to see which

114

00:04:49,749 --> 00:04:48,880

combination would be the fastest to

115

00:04:51,590 --> 00:04:49,759

detect

116

00:04:55,110 --> 00:04:51,600

and even if some combinations are

117

00:04:58,230 --> 00:04:56,950

here are our results from our linear

118

00:05:01,990 --> 00:04:58,240

mixing model

119

00:05:04,310 --> 00:05:02,000

we mix black matte and soil with soil in

120

00:05:07,990 --> 00:05:04,320

the red

121

00:05:11,029 --> 00:05:08,000

and black 100 black matte in purple

122

00:05:17,189 --> 00:05:11,039

then we mix combinations of 25

123

00:05:21,590 --> 00:05:19,270

here are the specific surface bio

124

00:05:25,909 --> 00:05:21,600

signatures we are looking for

125

00:05:28,230 --> 00:05:25,919

the absorption pigment of chlorophyll

126

00:05:32,950 --> 00:05:28,240

and the red edge characterized by a

127

00:05:37,670 --> 00:05:35,189

we did the same combinations for orange

128

00:05:40,230 --> 00:05:37,680

matte with soil and red

129

00:05:41,590 --> 00:05:40,240

and 100 orange matte and purple with

130

00:05:45,830 --> 00:05:41,600

combinations 25

131

00:05:49,270 --> 00:05:48,150

here are the chlorophyll absorption

132

00:05:53,350 --> 00:05:49,280

pigments

133

00:05:55,749 --> 00:05:53,360

and then the steep red edge feature

134

00:05:56,710 --> 00:05:55,759

then we created mixtures of black bat

135

00:05:59,749 --> 00:05:56,720

orange matte

136

00:06:02,710 --> 00:05:59,759

and soil to represent a realistic world

137

00:06:03,909 --> 00:06:02,720

with these extremophiles here you can

138

00:06:07,350 --> 00:06:03,919

see

139

00:06:08,070 --> 00:06:07,360

the pigment features and the vegetation

140

00:06:13,510 --> 00:06:08,080

red edge

141

00:06:17,110 --> 00:06:16,070

after creating surface spectra we take

142

00:06:19,110 --> 00:06:17,120

it a step further

143

00:06:20,390 --> 00:06:19,120

and simulate an earth-like atmosphere

144

00:06:22,710 --> 00:06:20,400

using smart

145

00:06:25,110 --> 00:06:22,720

or spectral mapping atmospheric

146

00:06:27,350 --> 00:06:25,120

radiative transfer model

147

00:06:28,390 --> 00:06:27,360

and with our mixed spectrum as input

148

00:06:30,550 --> 00:06:28,400

smart will produce

149

00:06:36,390 --> 00:06:30,560

top of the atmosphere radiance that we

150

00:06:41,830 --> 00:06:39,510

here are results for smart we used

151  
00:06:42,550 --> 00:06:41,840  
our black matte surface spectrum as

152  
00:06:45,110 --> 00:06:42,560  
input

153  
00:06:45,590 --> 00:06:45,120  
and used our output values for solar

154  
00:06:48,070 --> 00:06:45,600  
flux

155  
00:06:49,830 --> 00:06:48,080  
and radians to calculate the reflectance

156  
00:06:51,670 --> 00:06:49,840  
for each wavelength

157  
00:06:54,150 --> 00:06:51,680  
the spectrum contains surface bowel

158  
00:06:54,710 --> 00:06:54,160  
signatures as well as key absorption

159  
00:06:59,350 --> 00:06:54,720  
bands

160  
00:07:02,870 --> 00:07:01,749  
here is a comparative figure of our

161  
00:07:05,670 --> 00:07:02,880  
surface spectrum

162  
00:07:09,110 --> 00:07:05,680  
and smart spectrum for black matte you

163  
00:07:12,150 --> 00:07:09,120

can see the vegetation red edge

164

00:07:14,950 --> 00:07:12,160

present in both spectrum and

165

00:07:17,350 --> 00:07:14,960

the pigment absorption feature in the

166

00:07:20,309 --> 00:07:17,360

surface spectrum but it is unclear

167

00:07:25,029 --> 00:07:20,319

where the the pigment absorption feature

168

00:07:28,629 --> 00:07:27,749

here are smart results for orange matte

169

00:07:31,670 --> 00:07:28,639

and here you could

170

00:07:35,029 --> 00:07:31,680

distinctly see the chlorophyll pigments

171

00:07:37,029 --> 00:07:35,039

and the vegetation red edge

172

00:07:39,110 --> 00:07:37,039

in our comparative figure we have the

173

00:07:41,670 --> 00:07:39,120

pigments and red edge again

174

00:07:45,990 --> 00:07:41,680

and that translates very well in our

175

00:07:50,309 --> 00:07:48,469

next we run those radiant spectra

176  
00:07:53,110 --> 00:07:50,319  
through a luvar noise model

177  
00:07:53,990 --> 00:07:53,120  
to output realistic detection times for

178  
00:07:57,430 --> 00:07:54,000  
each spectrum

179  
00:07:58,070 --> 00:07:57,440  
at 10 parsecs the detection times are

180  
00:08:01,189 --> 00:07:58,080  
calculated

181  
00:08:02,629 --> 00:08:01,199  
by how well the levoir noise model can

182  
00:08:04,950 --> 00:08:02,639  
tell the difference between

183  
00:08:06,869 --> 00:08:04,960  
a model with a spectrum containing

184  
00:08:09,029 --> 00:08:06,879  
surface biocenters

185  
00:08:10,629 --> 00:08:09,039  
and a model with a spectrum that has

186  
00:08:13,430 --> 00:08:10,639  
those features scrubbed out

187  
00:08:14,230 --> 00:08:13,440  
which in our case would be soil we wrote

188  
00:08:17,110 --> 00:08:14,240

a script that

189

00:08:17,990 --> 00:08:17,120

individually compared our mixed spectra

190

00:08:19,830 --> 00:08:18,000

to soil

191

00:08:22,950 --> 00:08:19,840

and stored the corresponding detection

192

00:08:27,350 --> 00:08:25,670

here are our results from our noise

193

00:08:29,909 --> 00:08:27,360

detection model

194

00:08:31,110 --> 00:08:29,919

we created a table with the percentage

195

00:08:33,670 --> 00:08:31,120

abundance

196

00:08:35,670 --> 00:08:33,680

of each end member of our mixed spectrum

197

00:08:36,870 --> 00:08:35,680

and its corresponding detection time

198

00:08:38,790 --> 00:08:36,880

value

199

00:08:41,750 --> 00:08:38,800

here you can see a hundred percent black

200

00:08:45,030 --> 00:08:41,760

matte has a detection time of 12 hours

201  
00:08:47,829 --> 00:08:45,040  
100 orange matte has a second fastest

202  
00:08:51,350 --> 00:08:47,839  
detection time of 22 hours

203  
00:08:54,389 --> 00:08:51,360  
and our combination of 75 percent

204  
00:08:59,350 --> 00:08:54,399  
black matte 15 orange mat and 10

205  
00:09:02,550 --> 00:08:59,360  
soil has a close third of about 24 hours

206  
00:09:06,070 --> 00:09:02,560  
past this line is over 100 hours

207  
00:09:09,990 --> 00:09:07,750  
here's a plot of our percentage

208  
00:09:11,990 --> 00:09:10,000  
abundance of orange matte and black

209  
00:09:13,750 --> 00:09:12,000  
matte with the corresponding detection

210  
00:09:16,389 --> 00:09:13,760  
time values

211  
00:09:18,470 --> 00:09:16,399  
you can see a nice trend that as the

212  
00:09:19,190 --> 00:09:18,480  
percentage abundance of orange matte and

213  
00:09:21,509 --> 00:09:19,200

black matte

214

00:09:23,590 --> 00:09:21,519

increases the detection time

215

00:09:26,389 --> 00:09:23,600

exponentially decreases

216

00:09:27,829 --> 00:09:26,399

and here are the values for 25 percent

217

00:09:34,230 --> 00:09:27,839

orange and black matte

218

00:09:36,710 --> 00:09:34,240

and 100 and as you can see

219

00:09:37,990 --> 00:09:36,720

with a higher percentage abundance

220

00:09:38,949 --> 00:09:38,000

orange matte and black matte are

221

00:09:42,070 --> 00:09:38,959

relatively

222

00:09:45,110 --> 00:09:42,080

close in detection time but the

223

00:09:47,590 --> 00:09:45,120

less abundance of each matte

224

00:09:48,829 --> 00:09:47,600

then the more separation between the

225

00:09:52,870 --> 00:09:48,839

detection times

226

00:09:57,350 --> 00:09:54,710

we found that if the percentage of

227

00:09:58,870 --> 00:09:57,360

biological was greater than or equal to

228

00:10:01,030 --> 00:09:58,880

75 percent

229

00:10:02,630 --> 00:10:01,040

then the detection time was less than

230

00:10:05,990 --> 00:10:02,640

100 hours

231

00:10:09,430 --> 00:10:06,000

and with our fastest detection time

232

00:10:11,190 --> 00:10:09,440

being blackmai at around 12 hours

233

00:10:13,590 --> 00:10:11,200

then to be able to detect life on

234

00:10:18,310 --> 00:10:13,600

another planet it is quite reasonable to

235

00:10:21,430 --> 00:10:18,320

devote tens of hours of observation time

236

00:10:23,269 --> 00:10:21,440

so why is this important understanding

237

00:10:26,310 --> 00:10:23,279

techniques for detecting life

238

00:10:26,710 --> 00:10:26,320

on an exoplanet's surface will aid in

239

00:10:28,870 --> 00:10:26,720

our

240

00:10:31,110 --> 00:10:28,880

search for life beyond earth and will

241

00:10:32,310 --> 00:10:31,120

inform future space telescope mission

242

00:10:37,750 --> 00:10:32,320

design

243

00:10:41,509 --> 00:10:40,389

moving forward we will test different a

244

00:10:43,990 --> 00:10:41,519

biologic

245

00:10:45,750 --> 00:10:44,000

spectra for our noise model to compare

246

00:10:47,509 --> 00:10:45,760

to our spectra with our surface

247

00:10:49,269 --> 00:10:47,519

biosignatures

248

00:10:51,269 --> 00:10:49,279

this is because reflectance is

249

00:10:54,069 --> 00:10:51,279

dominating detection times

250

00:10:55,110 --> 00:10:54,079

not bio signatures so to isolate the bio

251  
00:10:56,870 --> 00:10:55,120  
signature

252  
00:10:58,550 --> 00:10:56,880  
we are going to create a spectrum that

253  
00:11:00,870 --> 00:10:58,560  
has those features

254  
00:11:04,870 --> 00:11:00,880  
more specifically removed to really

255  
00:11:08,150 --> 00:11:04,880  
focus on detecting those signatures

256  
00:11:12,150 --> 00:11:08,160  
we will also run smart with clouds

257  
00:11:16,230 --> 00:11:12,160  
for each of our surface spectra with 25

258  
00:11:19,389 --> 00:11:16,240  
50 and 75 cloud coverage

259  
00:11:21,910 --> 00:11:19,399  
we will test other extremophiles with

260  
00:11:23,670 --> 00:11:21,920  
non-photosynthetic pigments and without

261  
00:11:25,670 --> 00:11:23,680  
the vegetation red edge

262  
00:11:27,350 --> 00:11:25,680  
to compare the detectability with our

263  
00:11:31,350 --> 00:11:27,360

results for orange mat

264

00:11:35,670 --> 00:11:33,110

thank you so much for listening to my

265

00:11:37,190 --> 00:11:35,680

talk and please feel free to reach out