



The CLEAN PAPER

WHAT THE PAPER SAYS · WHAT IT DOESN'T · WHY IT MATTERS

K2-18 b: hint tokko fi headline tokko gidduu fageenya jiru

Ebla 2025 keessatti JWST observations sub-Neptune K2-18 b solar system alatti mallattoo jireenya hanga ammaatti argame keessaa isa cimaa jechuun gabaafaman. Paperichi ofumaa baay'ee of-eeggannoo qaba: roughly 3σ hint — firm detection jedhamee waamuuf threshold gadi — molecules sulfur wal-fakkaatan lama, possible biosignatures, keessaa tokko jiraachuu danda'a; planet habitable ocean ta'uun isaa mataan isaas uncertain. Authors non-biological sources tarreessu fi data da-balataa waamu; teams independent booda evidence caalaatti dadhabaa argatan. Safartuu dhugaa, jireenya argachuun miti.

Written by Vera Rubin · Cross-checked by Lucio Vaglio · Edited by Michele Renda · Figures by Nova Vela · AI-assisted, human-reviewed

Paper: *New Constraints on DMS and DMDS in the Atmosphere of K2-18 b from JWST MIRI*, Nikku Madhusudhan, Savvas Constantinou, Mans Holmberg, Subhajit Sarkar, Anjali A. A. Piette, and Julianne I. Moses, *The Astrophysical Journal Letters* 983, L40 (2025) · DOI: 10.3847/2041-8213/adc1c8

Hint tokko fi mata-duree tokko gidduu fageenya jiru

Ebla 2025 keessatti, pilaaneetii light-years 124 fagaatee jiru tokko yeroo gabaabaaf addunyaa samii keessaa beekamaa ta'e. Gareen Nikku Madhusudhan'n durfamu James Webb Space Telescope atmosphere sub-Neptune **K2-18 b** keessatti dimethyl sulfide ta'uu danda'u mallattoo argate jedhee gabaase — molekiyuulii tokko kan Lafa irratti guutumaan guutuutti jechuun danda'amu lubbu qabeeyyiin, keessumaa plankton galaanaa, oomishamu. mata-duree fi coverage boodarraa dhufe jechoota gurguddoo filate: mallattoo jireenya solar sirna alaa hanga ammaatti argame keessaa isa cimaa. barruun ofumaa garuu baay'ee of-eeggannoo qaba; fageenyi wantoota lama kana gidduu jiru seenaa guutuu dha.

K2-18 b dhugumaan galma nama hawwatu dha. Maassaa Lafa naannoo $8.6 \times$ fi radius isaa $2.6 \times$ qaba; urjii diimaa xixiqqaa tokko naannoo temperate zone keessatti naanna'a. Yaada tokkoon pilaaneetota akkanaa **hycean worlds** ta'uu danda'u — waliigalaa ocean tokko atmosphere haayidiroojiinii furdaa jala — kanaan jireenya barbaaduuf bakka bal'aa fi telescope'n ilaaluun danda'amu ta'u. Garuu identity sun hin murtoofne: safartuuwwan sanuma mini-Neptune yookaan rocky “gas dwarf” waliin illee wal-simu. K2-18 b dhugumaan maal akka ta'e gaaffii banaa dha. Hiika ocean habitable abdi-qabeessa hypothesis dha, fact mirkanaa'e miti.

Duubbee kana irratti, barruun ragaa haaraa tokko dabala; speektrumii kutaa mid-infrared, gara 6–12 microns, ilaalchawwan K2-18 b duraanii hin hagamne irraa. Ragaa kana ibsuuf karaa amanamaan lakkoofsota barruu sanaa fayyadamu dha, adjectives mata-duree miti.

barruun gara **3σ istaatistikii hint** gabaasa: molekiyuulota sulfur qaban lama wal-fakkaatan keessaa **tokko** jiraachuu danda'a — scientists yeroo baay'ee “firm detection” jechuuuf illee barbaadan daan-gaa gadi, jireenyaaf mallattoo jechuu irraa ammoo tarkaanfii hedduu fagaata. Garaagarummaa kana keessatti careful dubbisuu barbaachisa.

DMS, “biosignature,” fi “ 3σ ” asitti maal jechuu dha

Dimethyl sulfide (DMS) fi dimethyl disulfide (DMDS) molekiyuulota sulfur qaban dha. Lafa irratti baay'inaan lubbu qabeeyyiin — marine microbes — oomishamu; chemistry non-biological idileen baay'ina guddaan hin oomishu. Kanaaf **kan filatame biosignatures** jedhamanii ilaalamu: gases presence isaanii haala sirrii keessatti baayoloojii irratti akeekuu danda'u. Jechi “kan filatame” asitti hojii guddaa qaba.

Biosignature detection miti; detection illee jireenya miti. Molekiyuulii tokko argachuun waan tokko; dhugumaan achi jiraachuu isaa (moodeela artefact yookaan instrument quirk miti) mirkaneessuun waan biraa; jireenyi explanation caalaa gaarii ta'uu isaa non-biological chemistry caalaa agarsiisuun ammoo sadarkaa sadaffaa, baay'ee rakkisaa dha. Tarkaanfiin tokko tokko addaan fashaluu danda'a.

“ **3σ** ” mallattoo noise tasaa irraa dhufuu isaa hammam akka hin eegamne safara — asitti, salphisuun, fraction of a dhibbeentaa tokko. Cimaa fakkaata; garuu fiiziksii fi astronomy keessatti **3σ hint** dha. Convention discovery himannaa'f **5σ** barbaada; **5σ** illee molekiyuulii tokko irratti himannaa ta'a, jireenya irratti miti. Barreessitoonni akkasuma jedhu: ragaa isaanii robustness saayinsii'n yeroo baay'ee barbaadu keessaa gadi-aanaa dha.

[figure_pair pending]

Dimethyl sulfide (DMS) fi dimethyl disulfide (DMDS) molekiyuulota sulfur xixiqqoo dha; sulfur atom tokkoon adda. Barruu JWST/MIRI spectral amaloota molekiyuulota kana waliin wal-simuu danda'an gabaasa — garuu barbaachisummaa istaastikii secure detection taasisu hin qabu, daataanis lamaan adda baafachuu hin danda'u.

Barreessitoonni maal godhan

- K2-18 b JWST instrument MIRI low-resolution mode'n ilaaluun transmission speaktrumii isaa naannoo 6–12 microns keessatti galmeessan — wavelength daangaa daataa near-infrared duraanii hin qabne.
- Daataa pipelines walaba lama keessatti adeemsa godhan; robustness sakatta'awwan hedduu raawwatan; speaktrumii kutaa 5.6 microns gadi jiru noise caalaa qabu conservatively dhiisan.
- Speaktrumii atmospheric moodeelota waliin fit godhan; kan filatame molekiyuulota 20 keessaa kam amaloota ibsuu danda'a qoran.
- DMS-only, DMDS-only fi DMS+DMDS moodeela walitti makame ragaa, featureless speaktrumii waliin pipelines lamaan keessatti wal-bira qaban.
- False positives irratti sections ifaa kennan — non-biological chemistry molekiyuulota kana uumuu danda'aa — fi bu'aa kana jabeessu yookaan diiguuf ilaalchawwan maal akka barbaachisu ibsan.

Maal argatan

- Mid-infrared speaktrumii flat miti: canonical moodeela barreessitootaa irratti featureless sarara irraa 3.4σ adda. Wanti tokko speaktrumii boca isaa jijjiiraa jira.
- Molekiyuulota 20 qorataman keessaa, amaloota DMS fi/yookaan DMDS'n caalaatti ibsamu jedhan; ragaa naannoo 3σ (nama dhuunfaa fits pipelines lamaan irratti 2.9σ – 3.2σ).
- Abundance tilmaamame olaanaa dha — molekiyuulii lamaan keessaa yoo xiqqaate tokkoof order of **10 kutaalee miliyoona tokko keessatti** by volume.
- Daataa DMS fi DMDS adda baafachuu hin danda'u: lamaan degenerate dha. Kanaaf mallattoo dhugaa jennee fudhanus molekiyuulii kamiin akka ta'e hin murtaa'u.
- Hint DMS near-infrared duraanii dadhabaa ($\sim 2\sigma$) fi instrument settings irratti sensitive ture; kun instrument fi wavelength adda irraa ragaa walaba dha, kanaaf barreessitoonni tarkaanfii forward jedhanii ilaalu.

Kun maal hin mirkaneessu

- Kun **detection miti**. Naannoo 3σ hint dha, scientists molekiyuulii dhugumaan jira jechuuuf conventionally 5σ barbaadan gadi. Barreessitoonni ofumaa robustness gadi-aanaa fi verification bar-

baachisa jedhu.

- Molekiyuulii tokko sirriitti **hin adda baasu**. DMS/DMDS degeneracy “lamaan keessaa tokko” deeg-gara, tokko specifically miti.
- **Jireenya hin agarsiisu**. DMS fi DMDS danda’amaa biosignatures qofa. barruun false-positive section keessatti molekiyuulota akkasii abiotic ta’een uumamuu danda’an (lab yaaliiwwan keessatti; DMS koomeetii irratti illee argame) jedhu; biosignature xumuraa jechuun robustness, environmental haala fi false positives waliin qorachuu akka barbaachisu, fi “instantaneous yookaan un-ambiguous” ta’uun hin eegamu jedhu.
- K2-18 b habitable ocean world ta’uu **hin mirkaneessu**. Hycean hiika possibilities hedduu keessaa tokko, ammallee contested dha.
- Molekiyuulii identification laaboraatoorii safartuuwwan gases kun ifa akkamitti absorb godhan — cross-sections — irratti hirkata; barreessitoonni safartuu kana caalaatti sirreessuu barbaachisa jedhu.

Ragaan hammam cimaa dha

- **Speektrumii keessatti mallattoo dhugaa fakkaatu, hiika isaa irratti constraint dadhabaa**. Mid-infrared speektrumii featureless miti (3.4σ) jechuun kutaa cimaa dha. “Amaloota jiru” irraa “DMS/DMDS dha” gara “jireenya irratti hint dha”tti deemuun tarkaanfii tokko tokko irratti ragaa laafa.
- **Barreessitoonni of-eeggannoo qabu; amplification alaa irraa dhufe**. barruun “danda’amaa,” “tentative,” “Qorannoon dabalataa barbaachisa” jedha; JWST yeroo dabalataa 8–24 hours’n barbaachisummaa istaastikii $4\text{--}5\sigma$ ga’uu danda’a yookaan reproduce hin ta’u danda’a. Framing confident “signs of jireenya” coverage irraa dhufe, himannaa barruu irraa miti.
- **Walaba scrutiny ragaa dadhabsiise**. Maxxansa booda teams biroon daataa sanuma irra deebi’anii xiinxala godhan; mallattoo jabaataa hin arganne. Taylor (2025) MIRI speektrumii amaloota dhugaa qaba moo jedhee qoree, flat sarara caalaa support naannoo 2σ qofa argate. Luque fi colleagues (2025) NIRISS, NIRSpec fi MIRI daataa waliin reanalysis godhanii DMS/DMDS’f ragaa gahaa hin jiru jedhan. Stevenson (2025) geggeessaa assessment bal’aan standards biosignature hin guunne, mid-infrared amaloota instrumental systematics irraa ta’uu danda’u jedhe. Mariin kun kufaatii saayinsii miti; **saayinsii akkasitti hojjeta**. 3σ hint jalqaba dha, xumura miti.

Maaliif barbaachisaa dha

Kun fakkeenya qulqulluu tokko: bu’aa of-eeggannoo qabu fi mata-duree baay’ee guddaan guyyaa tokko keessa jiraachuu danda’u. Saayinsii as jiru dhugaa fi barbaachisaa dha: JWST amma atmospheres pilaaneetota xixiqqoo, temperate ta’an qoruu danda’a; sulfur molekiyuulota barbaaduun yaada gaarii dha. Garuu status amanamaan K2-18 b: mallattoo laafaa, ambiguous, molekiyuulota lama keessaa tokko ta’uu danda’u; pilaaneetii maal akka ta’e mataan isaa uncertain; amanamummaa discoverers ofumaa gadi-aanaa jedhanii waaman; walaba xiinxalawwan boodarraa ammoo caalaatti laafisan. Kun disappointing ta’uun isaa namni aliens siif waadaa gale yoo jiraate qofa. Karaa sirrii itti qabachuun, akka damee saayinsii hojjatu: thread nama hawwatu, JWST yeroo dabalataa fi walaba

sakatta'awwan waliin, waggoota dhufan keessatti. Jireenya alaa barbaaduun mata-duree tokkoon hin dhufu; safartuu tokko tokkoon walitti qabama — yookaan bada.

Cuunfaa gabaabaa

JWST mid-infrared instrument fayyadamuun astronomers speektrumii K2-18 b featureless akka hin taane, fi molekiyuulota qorataman keessaa best-fitting explanation DMS fi/yookaan DMDS — danda'amaa biosignature gases — naannoo 3σ akka ta'e argatan; daataa lamaan adda baafachuu hin danda'u. Kun hint dha, detection miti; detection illee jireenya ofumaan hin agarsiisu. Barreessitoonni false positives non-biological ibsu fi ilaalchawwan dabalataa waamu. Walaba reanalyses booda ragaa caalaatti dadhabaa argatan. K2-18 b galma dhugaa fi barbaachisaa dha; safartuu kunis dhugaa dha. Jireenya argachuun miti, paperichis akkas hin himannaa godhne.

Maddoota

Madhusudhan et al., New Constraints on DMS and DMDS in the Atmosphere of K2-18 b from JWST MIRI, *ApJL* 983, L40 (2025)

<https://doi.org/10.3847/2041-8213/adc1c8>

J. Taylor, Are there Spectral Features in the MIRI/LRS Transmission Spectrum of K2-18b?, *Research Notes of the AAS* (2025), DOI 10.3847/2515-5172/add881 (arXiv:2504.15916)

<https://doi.org/10.3847/2515-5172/add881>

R. Luque et al., Insufficient evidence for DMS and DMDS in the atmosphere of K2-18 b, *A&A* 700, A284 (2025), DOI 10.1051/0004-6361/202555580 (arXiv:2505.13407)

<https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/202555580>

K. B. Stevenson et al., K2-18b Does Not Meet the Standards of Evidence for Life, *AJ* 170, 257 (2025), DOI 10.3847/1538-3881/ae0338 (arXiv:2508.05961)

<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-3881/ae0338>