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Exoplanets

Finding, Exploring, and Understanding Alien Worlds

- Will present the first findings from the Kepler telescope mission, which launched in 2009 with the express purpose of finding new worlds
- Explores the possibility of humans one day traveling to and living on exoplanets
- Reviews the possibility of finding alien life within the context of what we now know about exoplanets

Exoplanets: Finding, Exploring, and Understanding Alien Worlds probes the basis for possible answers to the fundamental questions asked about these planets orbiting stars other than our Sun. This book examines what such planets might be like, where they are, and how we find them. Until around ten years ago, the only planets that we knew about were within the Solar System. The first genuine planet beyond the confines of the Solar System was discovered only 1988. Since then another 350 or so exoplanets have been detected by various methods, and most of these haven been found in the last ten years. Although many more exoplanets discoveries may be expected to occur even as this book is being read, a large enough data set is now available to form the basis for an informed general account of exoplanets. The topic hence is an extremely "hot" one - all the more so because the recently launched Kepler spacecraft should soon start uncovering many more exoplanets, some perhaps comparable with the Earth (and therefore possibly alternative homes for mankind, if we could ever reach them). Exoplanets: Finding, Exploring, and Understanding Alien Life gives a comprehensive, balanced, and above all accurate account of exoplanets.

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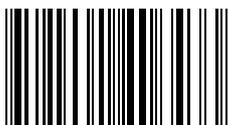
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