

From Atmospheric Evolution to the search of species with astrobiological interest in the Solar System – Case-Studies using PSG

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EGU General Assembly

26 May 2022

1 – Institute of Astrophysics and Space Sciences, Lisbon

2- Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon

Goals



1.

Identify $\text{PH}_3 + \text{SO}_2$ features on the IR spectra of Venus and constrain abundance



2.

Identify CH_4 and H_2O on the IR spectra of Mars and constrain its abundance



3.

Identify and determine abundance of CH_4 , CH_3D , NH_3 , PH_3 on the IR spectra of Jupiter

4.


Estimate D/H for Venus, Mars, Jupiter

Methods – Planetary Spectrum Generator

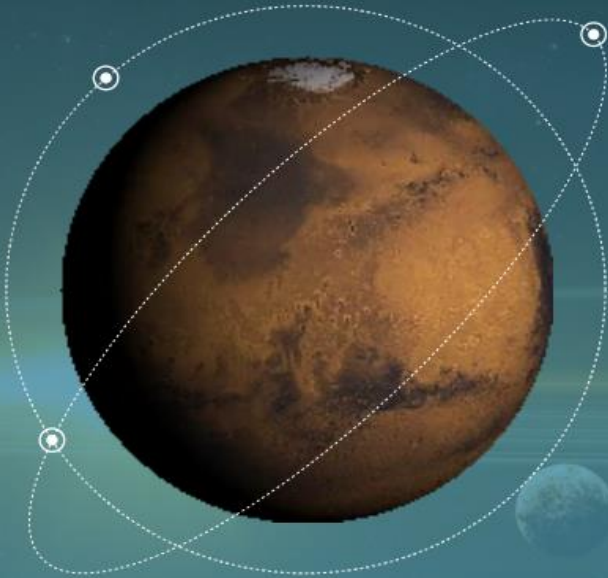


Planetary
Spectrum Generator

Villanueva+2018

 psg.gsfc.nasa.gov/atmosphere.php

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Mars

Geometry: Mars measured via Nadir from 2.4920 km for date (2021/07/14 13:51 UT)

Atmosphere and surface: Surface pressure: 5.6827 mbar; Molecular weight: 43.64 g/mol; Gases: CO₂, N₂, O₂, CO, H₂O, O₃, CH₄; Surface temperature: 267.56 K; Albedo: 0.200; Emissivity: 0.800; Surface components: Mars;

Instrument parameters: Measurement range 2000–4000 cm with a resolution of 1000 RP. Molecular signatures included; Continuum/background fluxes enabled;

Change Object

Change Composition

Change Instrument

Select template

Load template

Results - Sulphur Dioxide on Venus

7.4 μm

Line depth ratio

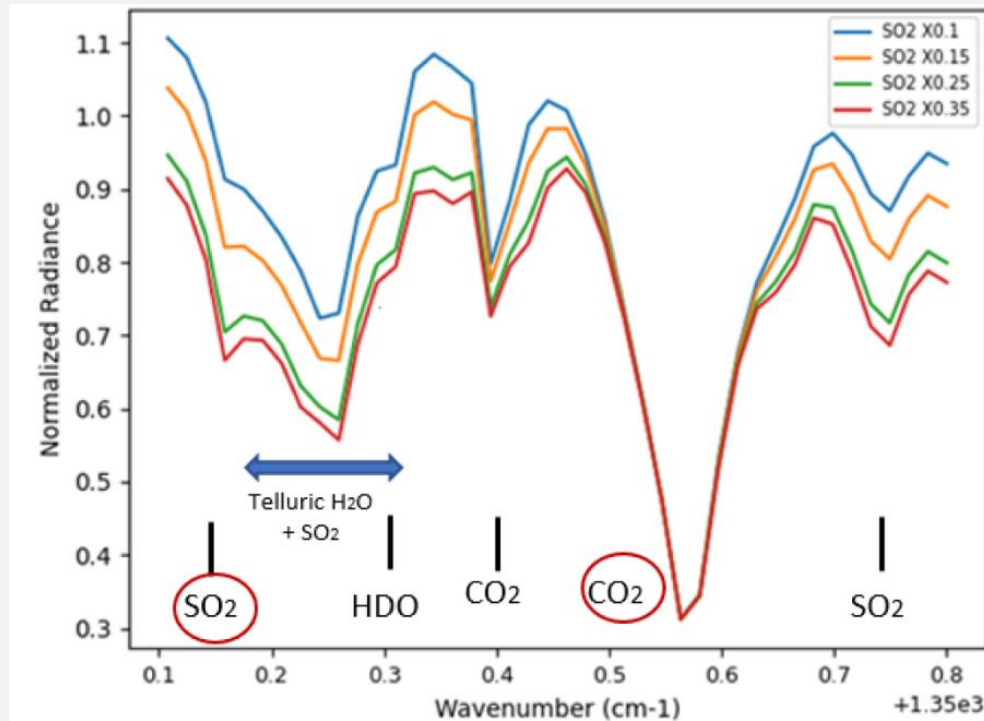


Fig.1. Method of the line depth ratio.
 $\text{Ldr} = d(\text{SO}_2)/d(\text{CO}_2)$. Model input: VIRA (Zasova+2006)

Retrieval

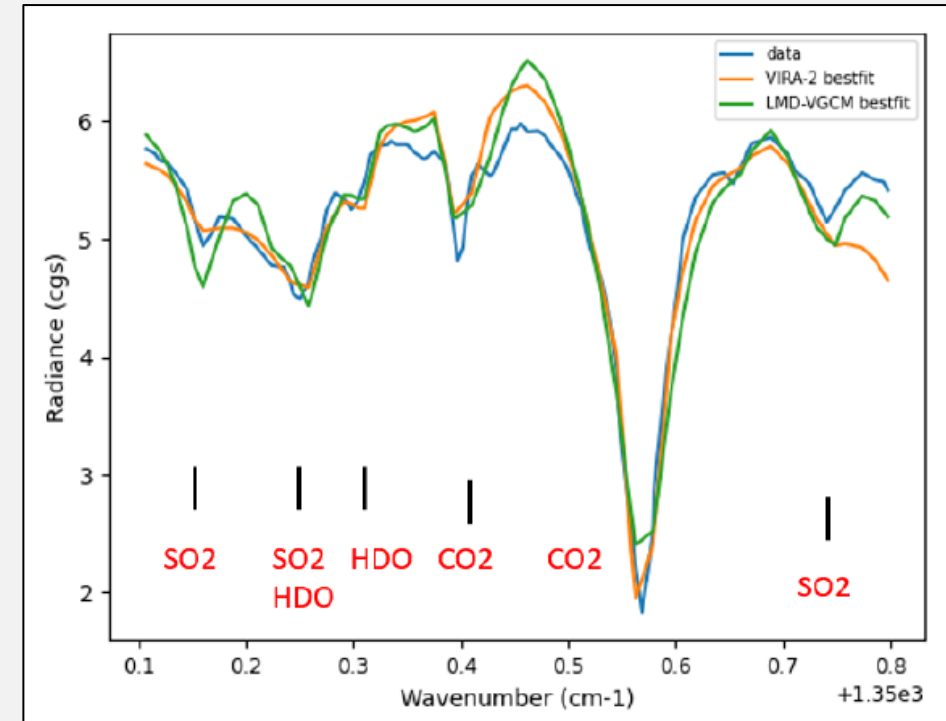


Fig.2. Best-fits obtained for TEXES observations (Encrenaz+2012).

Results - Methane on Mars and Phosphine on Venus

3.3 μm , 10.5 μm

Positive Detection on Mars Express

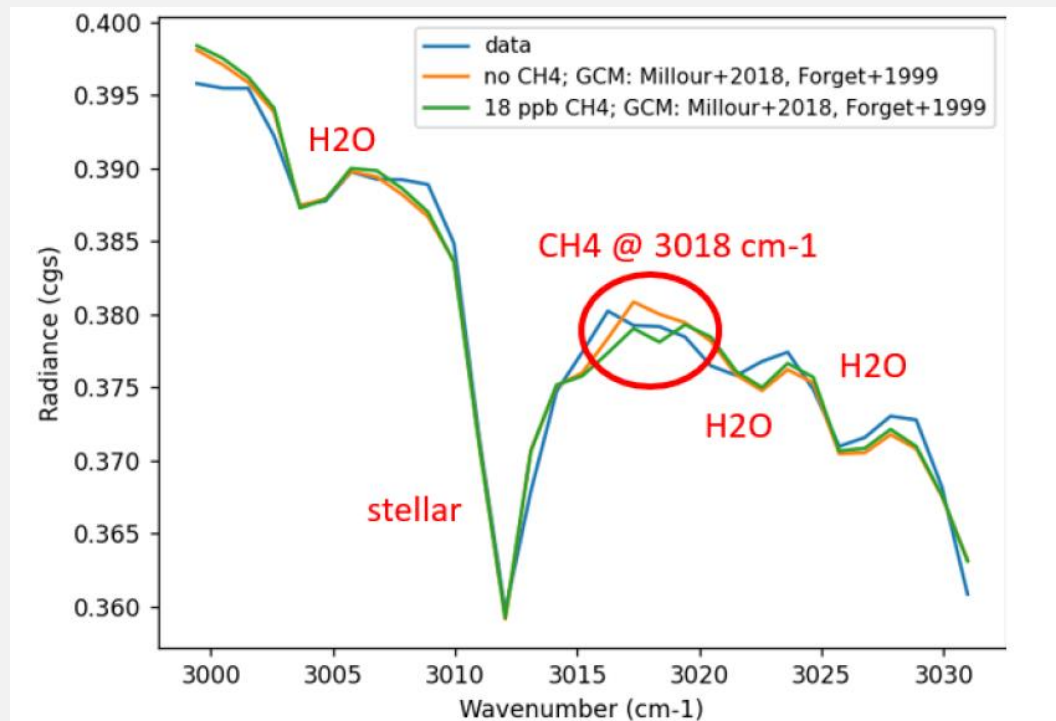


Fig.3- Data (blue) (Giuranna+2019) compared with a model with no CH₄ (orange) and other with 18 ppb of CH₄ (green)

Non-Detection of Phosphine – IRFT (Mauna Kea)

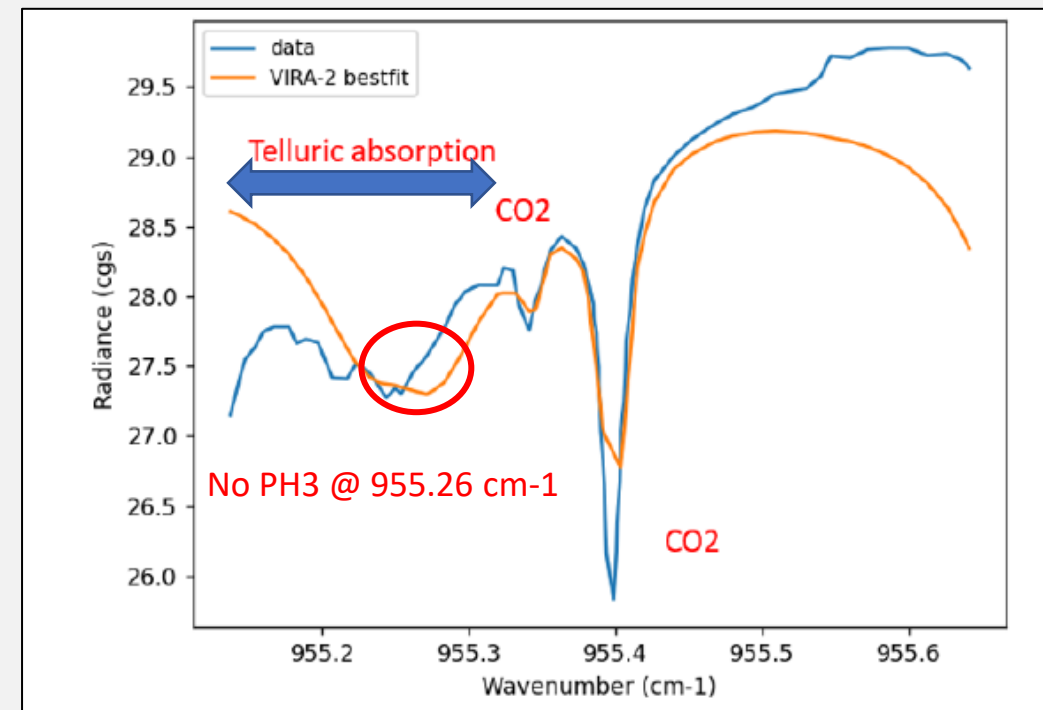


Fig.4. Best-fit model (PSG) as compared with TEXES observations (Encrenaz+2020)

Results - Determining the D/H ratio on Mars 7.2 μm

D/H \sim (5.3-6.5) D/H (Earth)

D/H (Encrenaz+2019) \sim 3.4-4.8 D/H (Earth)

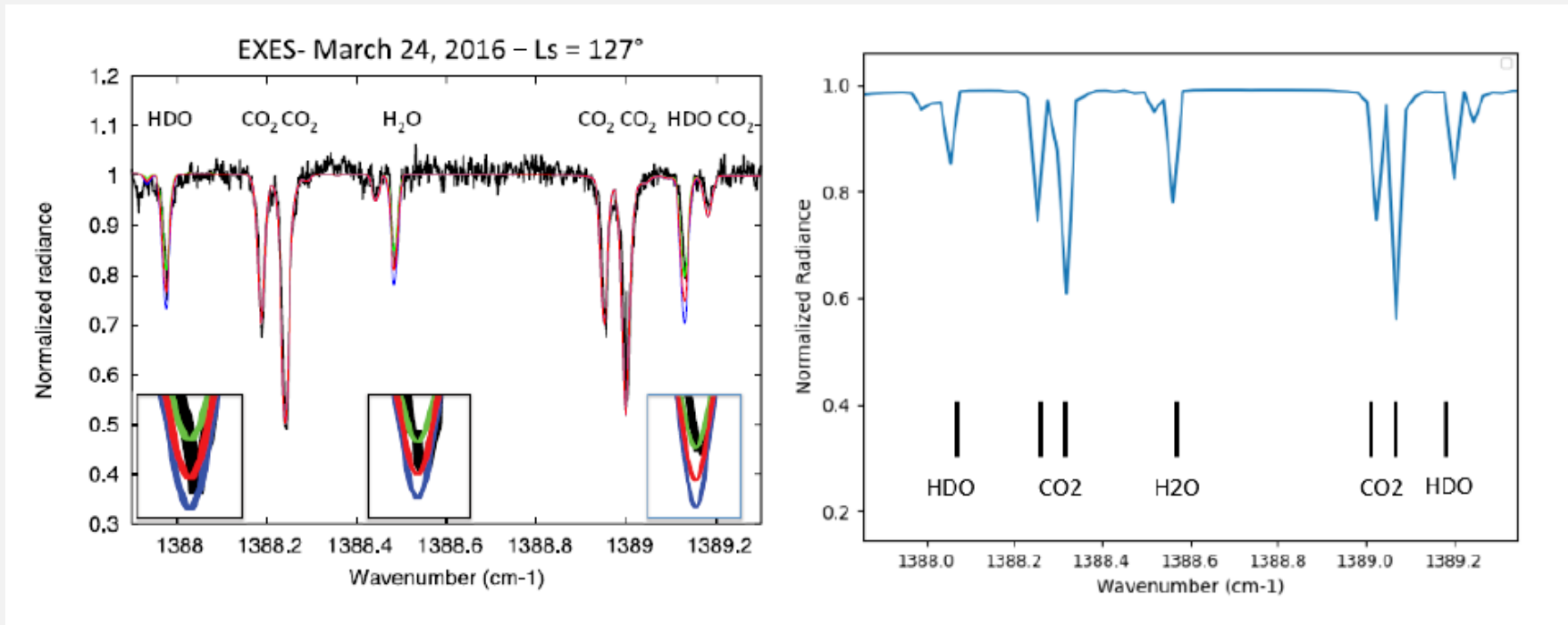


Fig.5. Comparison between EXES data (left) (Encrenaz+2019) and normalized radiance simulation (right), at 1388-1389.2 cm⁻¹.

Conclusions and projects

- Positive detection of SO₂ and estimated abundance in agreement with literature (Encrenaz+2012).
- The detection of phosphine on Venus is extremely difficult due to low abundance and the presence of a telluric water band. Further dedicated observations are needed.
- The historic detection of methane by Mars Express was reproduced using PSG.
- Determination of D/H on Jupiter with PSG (Villanueva+2018) and NEMESIS (Irwin+2008) is ongoing
- Ongoing work in the context of the EnVision and Ariel space missions



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