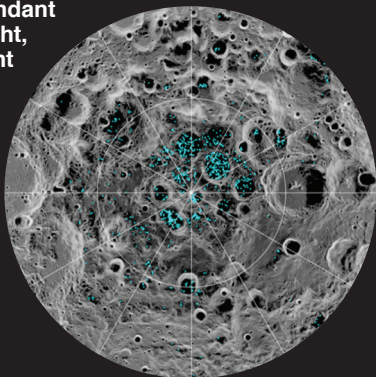


Scientists confirm water exists on moon

Water on the moon may be more abundant and accessible than previously thought, a discovery that could prove important to future lunar missions

- Molecular water unambiguously detected on surface, trapped in bubbles of lunar glass or between grains of debris
- Around 40,000 square km of permanent shadows – or cold traps – could potentially harbour hidden pockets of water in form of ice



Discovery made using **Stratospheric Observatory For Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA)** – modified Boeing 747 that works as flying observatory

Signatures consistent with water first recorded by India's Chandrayaan-1 probe in 2009, mostly at moon's south pole

