

Global Survey of Lunar Spinel-Rich Exposures by Satellite Hyperspectral Remote Sensing

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The studies using the spectral data obtained by Spectral Profiler (SP) and Multiband Imager (MI) onboard the Japanese lunar explorer SELENE/Kaguya revealed the global distributions of the purest anorthosite (PAN), olivine-rich materials, and orthopyroxene-rich materials over the entire Moon. These results were based on the diagnostic bands of these lunar major minerals in spectral data with wavelength less than 1.7 micron. Recently, a prominent Mg-spinel-rich material (hereafter, Mg-spinel) on the lunar surface has been identified by Moon Mineralogy Mapper onboard Chandrayaan-1. Since the Mg-spinel is characterized by a strong absorption band around 2 micorn, the spectral data with wavelength longer than 1.7 micron are needed to find the Mg-spinel by remote-sensing spectral data. We have recently updated the radiometric calibration for SP NIR 2 data with wavelength longer than 1.7 micron. Based on the entire data set of SP, including the SP NIR 2 data, we conducted the global survey to find the Mg-spinel on the Moon. Here, we report the global distribution of the Mg-spinel sites based on this survey.

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