

# Astronomers help focus research in the search for another Earth

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Credit: NASA

Using public data collected by NASA's Kepler mission, astronomers have catalogued the planet candidates that may be similar to our third rock from the sun. The tabulation of candidates will help astronomers focus their research efforts in the search for life.

The analysis, led by Stephen Kane, an associate professor of physics and

astronomy at San Francisco State University in California, highlights 20 candidates in the Kepler trove that are less than twice the size of Earth and orbit their star in the conservative habitable zone—the range of distances where liquid water could pool on the surface of an orbiting planet. Of these 20 candidates, nine have been previously investigated and determined to be verified planets, including notables like Kepler-62f, Kepler-186f, Kepler-283c, Kepler-296f and Kepler-442b.

The results are presented in a paper accepted by the *Astrophysical Journal*.

**More information:** A Catalog of Kepler Habitable Zone Exoplanet Candidates. [arxiv.org/abs/1608.00620](https://arxiv.org/abs/1608.00620)

Provided by NASA

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