

# Orbital Constraints on Exoplanet Habitability

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A 1-D energy balance climate model is developed in order to investigate how changing certain orbital parameters can result in changes to a planet's habitability. Theoretical relationships between temperature, semimajoraxis, and eccentricity are derived from a simple 0-D energy balance model and are tested against the 1-D model and are found to be correct. A qualitative analysis of obliquity shows that there are optimal obliquities to minimise and maximise global temperature. The climates of exomoons orbiting gas giants are also investigated, including reflected light from the gas giant, eclipsing, and tidal heating. It is expected that these additional sources of heat move the habitable zones for the planet outwards.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

## **2. 1-D ENERGY BALANCE CLIMATE MODEL**

### **A. Characterising Model Parameters**

### **B. Discretisation of the PDE**

## **3. EARTH-LIKE MODEL**

## **4. EXOPLANETS**

### **A. Investigating time-averaged solar flux**

### **B. Investigating obliquity and rotation rate**

### **C. Investigating of ocean fraction**

## **5. EXOMOONS**

### **A. Investigating eclipsing**

### **B. Investigating tidal heating**

### **C. Developing and investigating a depth model**

## **6. DISCUSSION**

## **7. CONCLUSION**

## **REFERENCES**

**Appendix A: Defining Equilibrium Temperature and Averages used**

**Appendix B: Numerical stability of the 1D EBCM**

**Appendix C: Tidal heating equations and method**

## SCIENTIFIC SUMMARY FOR A GENERAL AUDIENCE

Many interesting solar systems have been reported in the news, such as the Trappist-1 system which is filled with Earth-like planets. Simulations and models such as those in this paper are used to determine if a planet could be habitable. A habitable zone can be made by varying the parameters of the model to see where the model is habitable, partially habitable, or uninhabitable.

The main model in this paper takes a planet and divides it into a number of latitude bands which can have energy flow between them. Certain parameters, such as how the planet orbits around its star and the angle the planet is tilted at, are varied to build this habitable zone. A result of this paper is if the Earth orbited slightly further away from the Sun then it is likely that it would fall into an ice age similar to what the Earth has experienced in the past. Another result found is that the tilt of the planet can affect how hot or cold it is, and indicates that the current tilt of the Earth gives a cold planet.

Another aspect of this paper's exoplanet research is exomoons orbiting a gas giant such as Jupiter. In certain configurations an exomoon can be heated not only from the host star, but also due to a process called tidal heating. Tidal heating is similar to stretching an elastic band. Stretching and relaxing an elastic band many times can cause the band to warm up. The moon of a gas planet is stretched slightly by unequal forces of gravity as one part of the moon is further away than the other. If the moon's orbit is not circular then the moon is stretched and relaxed, thus heats up in a similar way to the elastic band. Adding tidal heating to the model allows for investigations into how tidal heating can move, or change the shape of, the habitable zone.