

## **How Special is the Sun?**

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Whether our Sun is an average star or not, is directly related to the search for life elsewhere in the Universe. The properties of our star may be associated with special prerequisites for life. By comparing our Sun to other stars in our galaxy, we can identify such prerequisites. If our star is a typical star, stellar conditions appropriate for life may be common in the Universe. On the other hand, if the Sun is atypical, conditions appropriate for life and life itself may be uncommon. In other words, if one property of the Sun is highly atypical, the existence of life could be related to this property. In that case a deeper analysis of the apparent atypical property is an important step in the search for extrasolar life-harboring planets and help us to answer the fundamental question: Are We Alone? We present the results from the most in depth comparison of the Sun with hundreds of nearby stars.