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Comparison of the PKT and SPA regions of the Moon revealed through Kaguya GRS

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The geological evolution of the Moon is dominated by impact crater events. The largest recognized impact structure is the South Pole-Aitken impact basin. The geometric shape of this impact structure has remained largely unaltered with relatively minor mare volcanism, recording mainly ancient activity on its surface. In addition to the South Pole-Aitken basin, an older, significantly larger, impact basin has been proposed in the Procellarum-Imbrium region located near the central part of the nearside of the Moon. This hypothesized basin has not been fully accepted, but topographic, geophysical, petrologic, mineralogic, and elemental evidence supports it as a site of a large, early impact. Our results show that the potassium and thorium are distinct in the Procellarum-Imbrium region when compared to the South Pole-Aitken basin region or the rest of the Moon. These elemental signatures strongly support an impact origin for the Procellarum basin and are consistent with different evolutionary histories between the two lunar distinctive geological structures. This presentation introduce to our approach associated with GIS-based comparison of the geologic evolution of the Procellarum-Imbrium and South Pole-Aitken basin regions using the gamma ray data of the Kaguya (SELENE).

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