





Planetary characterization in the presence of stellar activity. The case of TOI-396.

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Master Thesis at The Space Research Institute in Graz (Austria)



The scientific case

Fundamental planetary parameters

Radial velocity method



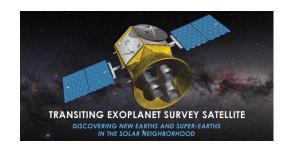
Mass

Radius

Transit method

Density

Composition
Internal structure
Formation and evolution



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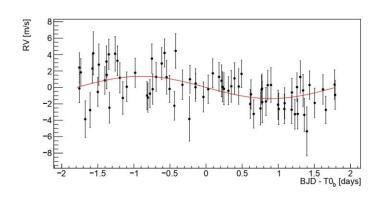
Radial Velocity Method

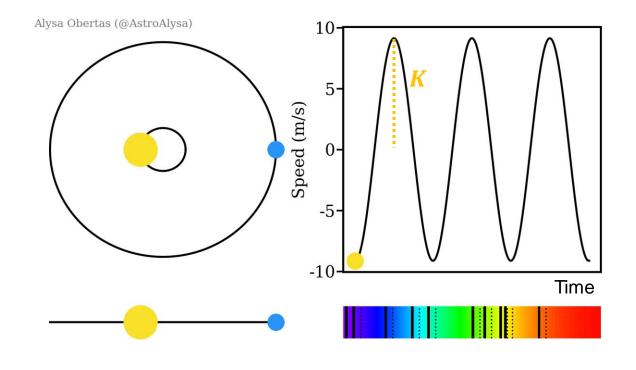


78 HARPS spectra

Radial velocity time series

Planetary mass determination





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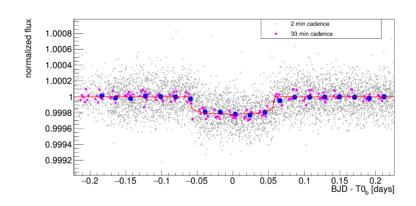
Transit Method



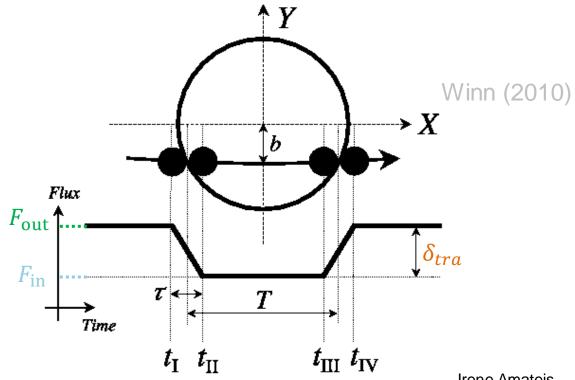
TESS transit observations



Planetary radius determination



Periodic dimming of the brightness of the star as the orbiting planet transits in front of it



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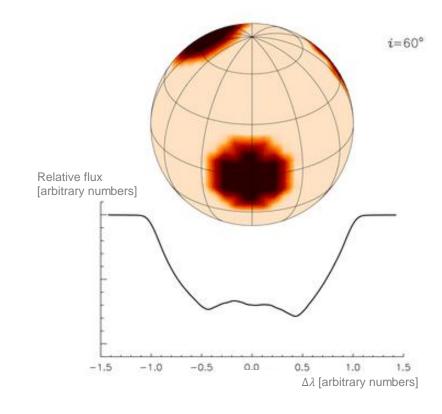
Stellar Activity

Star spots, flares, faculae

Correlation with stellar rotational period

Potentially masking a planetary signal

RV detrending using break-point method Stellar activity is not stationary



Axel Hahlin et al. (2018)

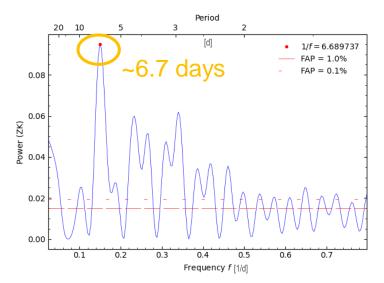


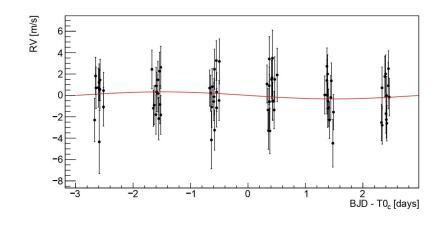
Stellar Activity

TOI-396 c RV signal is not statistically detected

Hypothesis: $P_{rot} \approx P_c$

Periodograms of activity indicators





Stellar activity covered the RV signal generated by TOI-396 c

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Results

- Discovery paper: Vanderburg (2019)
 - Radii determination using transit method

- My work: Joint analysis of RV time series and transits using a Markov Chain Monte Carlo code (Bonfanti & Gillon, 2020)
 - Masses and radii determination

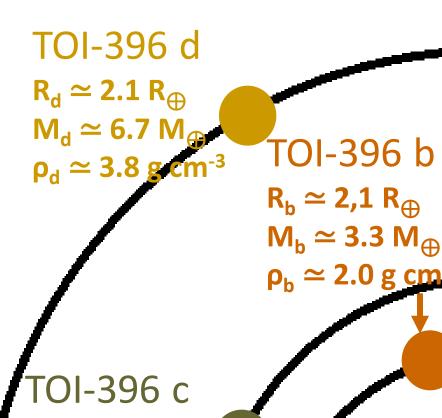
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TESS Spots a Compact System of Super-Earths around the Naked-eye Star HR 858

Andrew Vanderburg^{1,27}, Chelsea X. Huang^{2,28}, Joseph E. Rodriguez^{3,29}, Juliette C. Becker^{4,30,31}, George R. Ricker², Roland K. Vanderspek², David W. Latham³, Sara Seager^{2,5}, Joshua N. Winn⁶, Jon M. Jenkins⁷, Brett Addison⁸,



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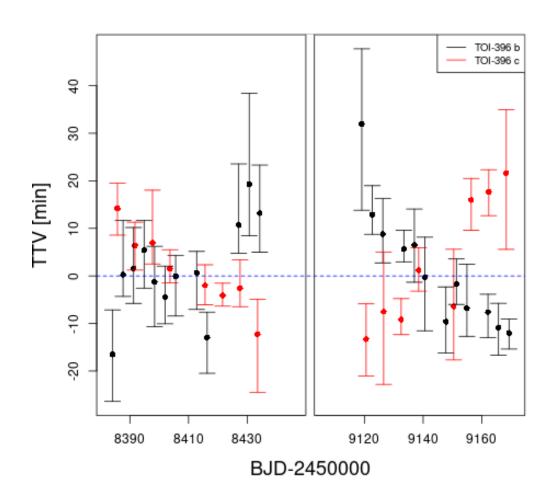
 $R_c \simeq 2.1 R_{\oplus}$

 $M_c < 3.8 M_{\oplus}$

 $\rho_{c} < 2.5 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$



Transit timing variations (TTV)



Anti-correlation pattern in TTV of TOI-396 b and c



Mean motion resonance

$$\frac{P_c}{P_b} \cong 1,666213 \approx 5:3$$



Proof that TOI-396 c orbits around TOI-396



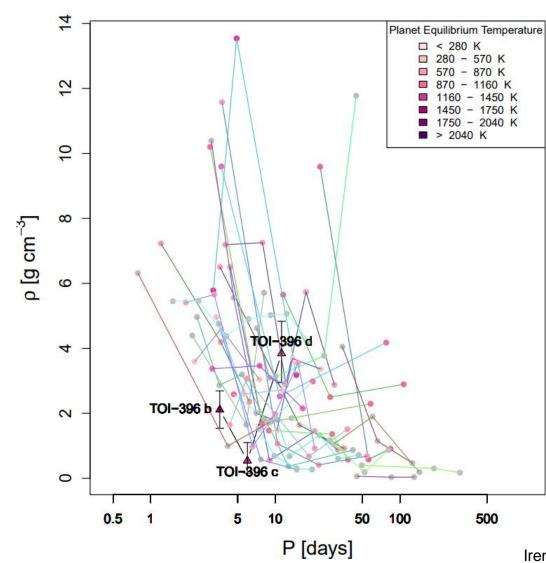
Comparison with known systems

The outer planet is denser than the inner planet

Unusual system

Atmospheric characterization needed

A paper on this thesis is the process of being submitted





Relevant Studies

"Element of Eliophysics and Space Weather" elective class "Physics of the Matter in Fluids and Plasma state" elective class

Ground and space-based data analysis
Object-oriented programming in C++, Root (Cern)
R, Python
Experience in working in a research group