

How's your internship going? This teen found a planet

Last year, Wolf Cukier, 17, spent his summer vacation as few other rising seniors have: He helped discover a planet. Meet TOI 1338 b, the newly identified world orbiting two stars more than 1,300 light years away.

Last July, just after he finished his junior year at Scarsdale High School in Scarsdale, New York, Wolf started an internship at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

During the first week of the internship, as he sifted through data that had been flagged by citizen-scientists, he **zeroed** in on a system that included two orbiting stars. He identified a body in that system that was later verified as a planet about 6.9 times as large as Earth. His colleagues gave the system a name, TOI 1338.

zero 集中精力

Any dip in the brightness of a single star is a good indication that a planet has crossed in front of it. TOI 1338 b was particularly **elusive** because it involved two stars — a large star where the planet's transit was easy to detect, and a smaller one where the planet's transit was so small it was not observable.

elusive 逃避的；难懂的

Wolf plans to study astrophysics when he starts college in September, he said. He said he was humbled by his contribution to the discovery of the new world, emphasizing the team work in the verification process.