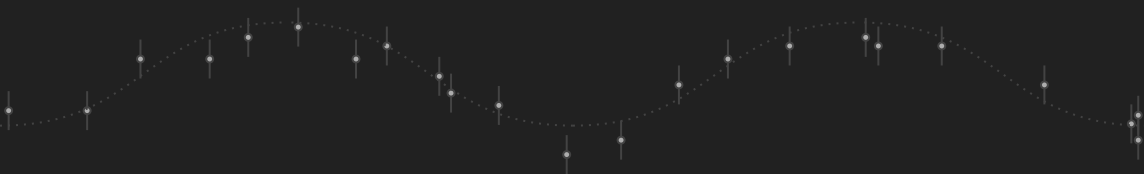


# Determining The Parameters of Exoplanetary Candidates From Transit Timing Variations

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Supervised by:  
Stephen Fitcher FCA FRAS, Dr. Hooshyar Assadollahi, Prof. Daniel Thomas





# Presentation Outline

Useful Information

Why look for variations in transit timing?

What can we do with TTV?

Data collection

Analysis

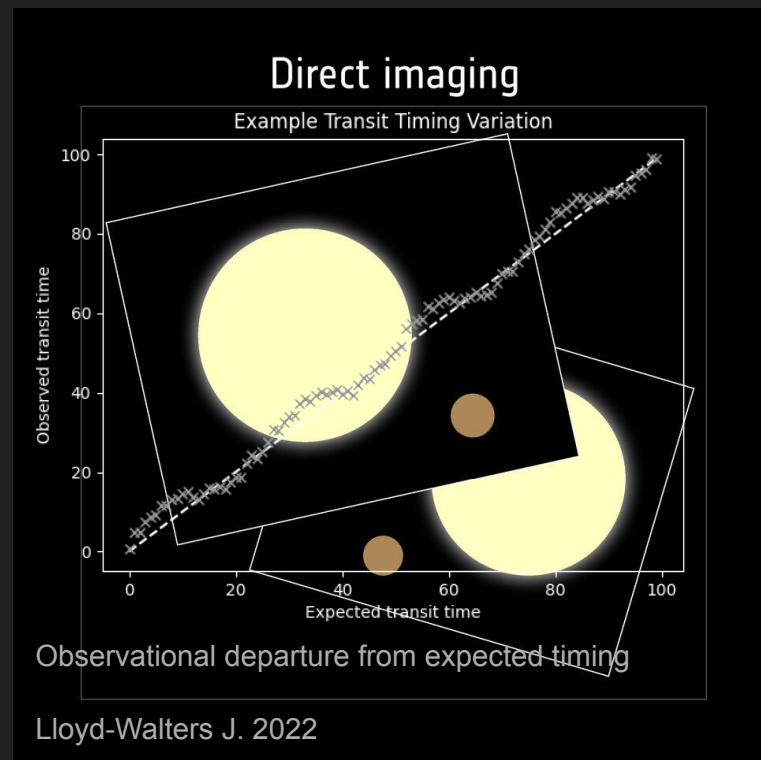
Developments

Discussion

Conclusion

# Useful Information

- How do we discover exoplanets?
  - Transit Photometry
  - Doppler Spectroscopy
  - Gravitational Microlensing
  - Direct Imaging
- What are Transit Timing Variations?



Detecting exoplanets with ~~transit timing~~ direct imaging

ESA 2022



# Rationale

What problem am I trying to solve?

## **Rationale**

Methodology

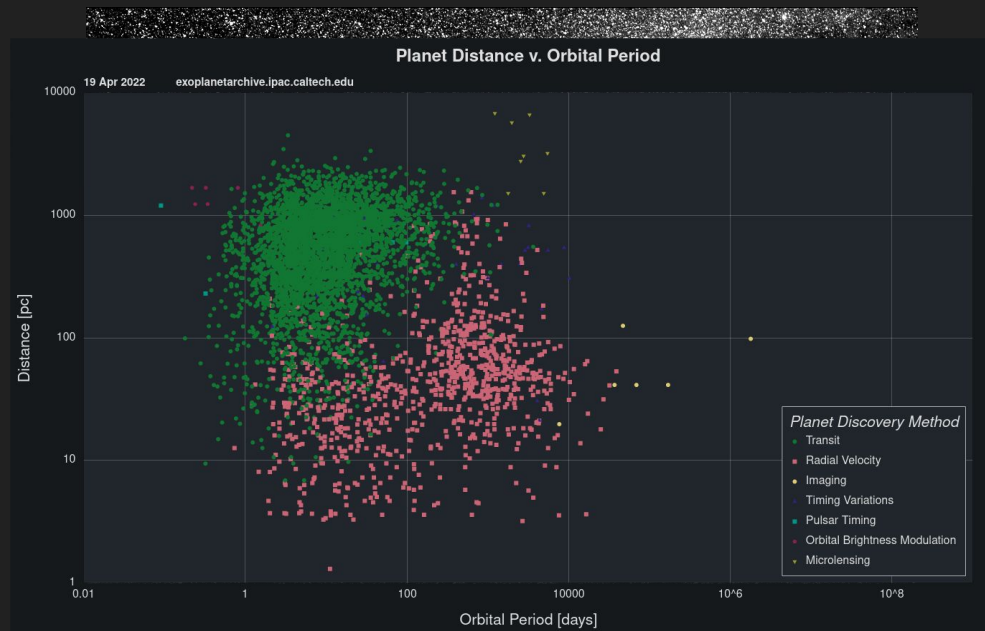
Results

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Conclusion

# Why look for variations in transit timing?

- Observing many stars for transits is easy
- Strong historical data
  - ~3800 Transiting planets
  - >100,000,000 Light curves



Confirmed planets in the NASA Exoplanet Archive

Courtesy of MIT TESS Science Office

TESS Star field  
NASA Filtergraph 2022

NASA/MIT/TESS 2018

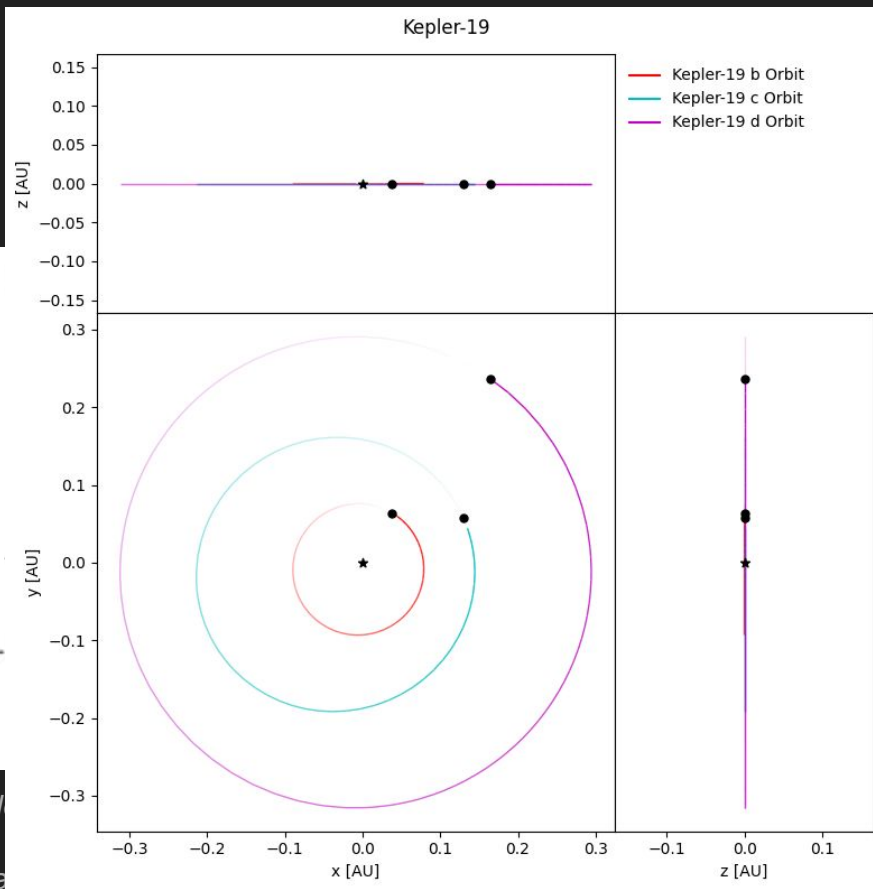
# What can we do with TTV?

- Verify the properties of known planets
- Discover new orbiting bodies

Minutes from Predicted Ephemeris

Kepler

Ballard



Possible Orbits for Kepler-19c as given by TTV analysis  
System Transits for Kepler-19

Ballard S. et al. 2011  
Lloyd et al. 2017



# Methodology

How am I going to solve the problem?

Rationale

**Methodology**

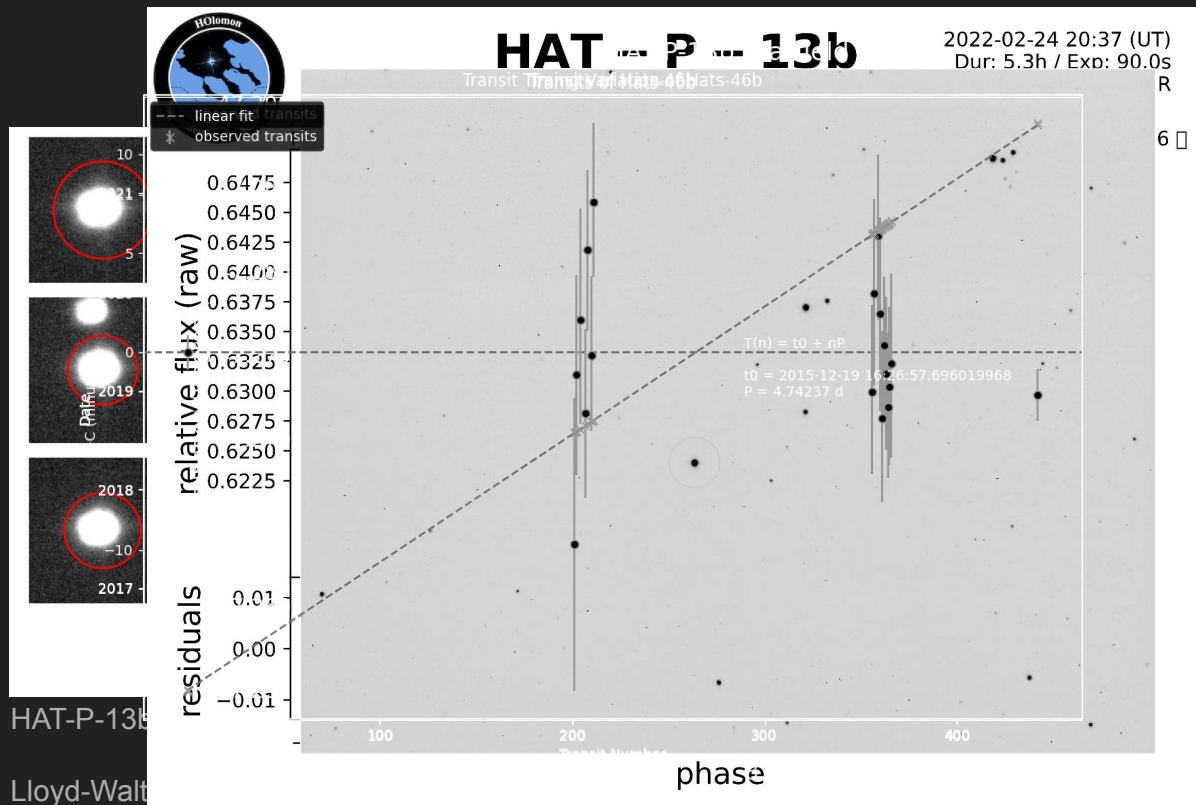
Results

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Conclusion

# Data collection

- Planetary light curve
- Ephemerides and TTV



HAT-P-13b

Lloyd-Walters

HAT-P-13b and companion stars

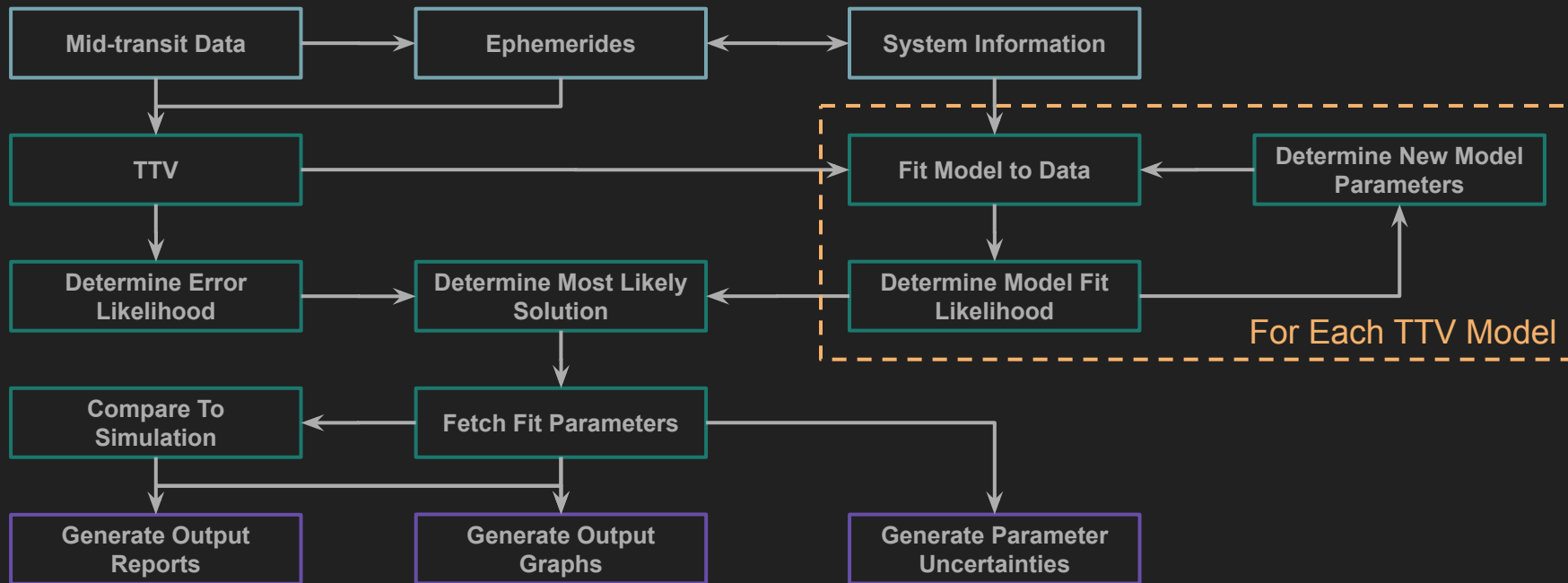
HAT-P-13b light curve, fit using HOPS Software

Lloyd-Walters J. 2022

Lloyd-Walters J. Futcher S. 2022



# Analysis





# Results

What did I achieve in trying to solve the problem?

Rationale

Methodology

**Results**

Discussion

Conclusion

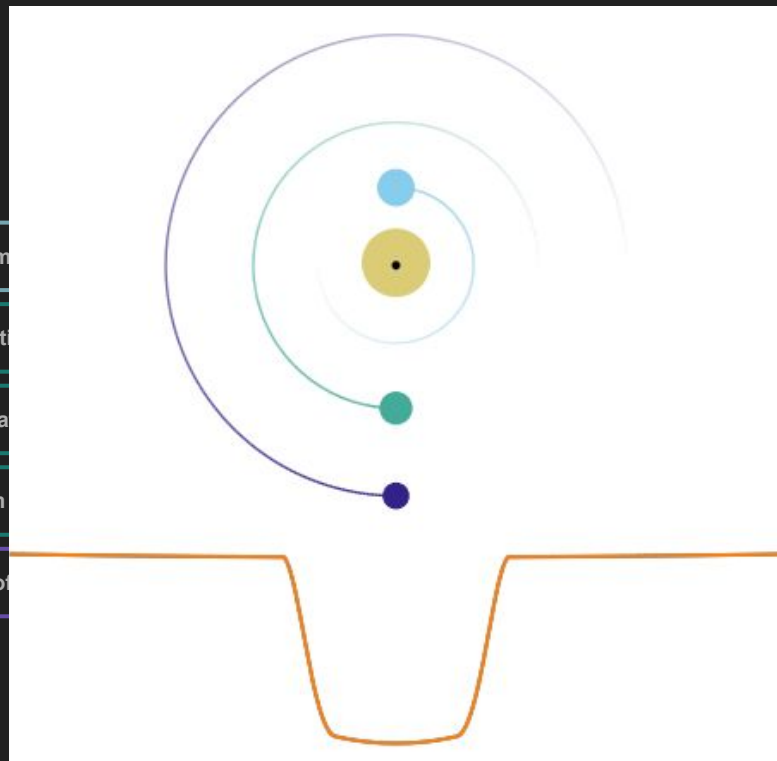
# Developments

- Analytical TTV Models
  - Arbitrarily many planets
  - Extensible

fetchData.py	Fetch reported m
TTVCandidates.py	Order and priorit
processing.py	Run data verifica
simulationPipeline.py	Simulate system
plotOrbitalConfig.py	Generate plots of

- Computational Pipeline
  - Fully Automatable
  - Self-Verifying

$$\delta_t = -\frac{P_t}{2\pi a_t} \sum_i^n \left[ a_i \mu_i \sin \left( \frac{2\pi (t - t_{i,0})}{p_i} \right) \right]$$



Animation for TTV due to interior perturbation

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# Discoveries—(wip slide)

- Take known TTV systems
- Apply the pipeline to the midtransit points
- Demonstrate that we can recover known exoplanetary parameters > Double check with the code which planet I used

Placeholder > Generate graphical output of the model + code working

Kepler-19b has a nice set of TTV Curves  
the code is working with



# Discussion

What are the implications of the results for this problem?  
How can we progress further?

Rationale

Methodology

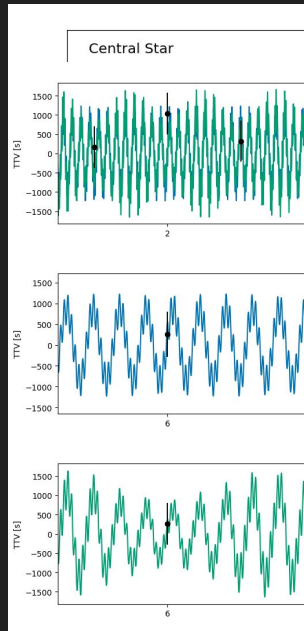
Results

**Discussion**

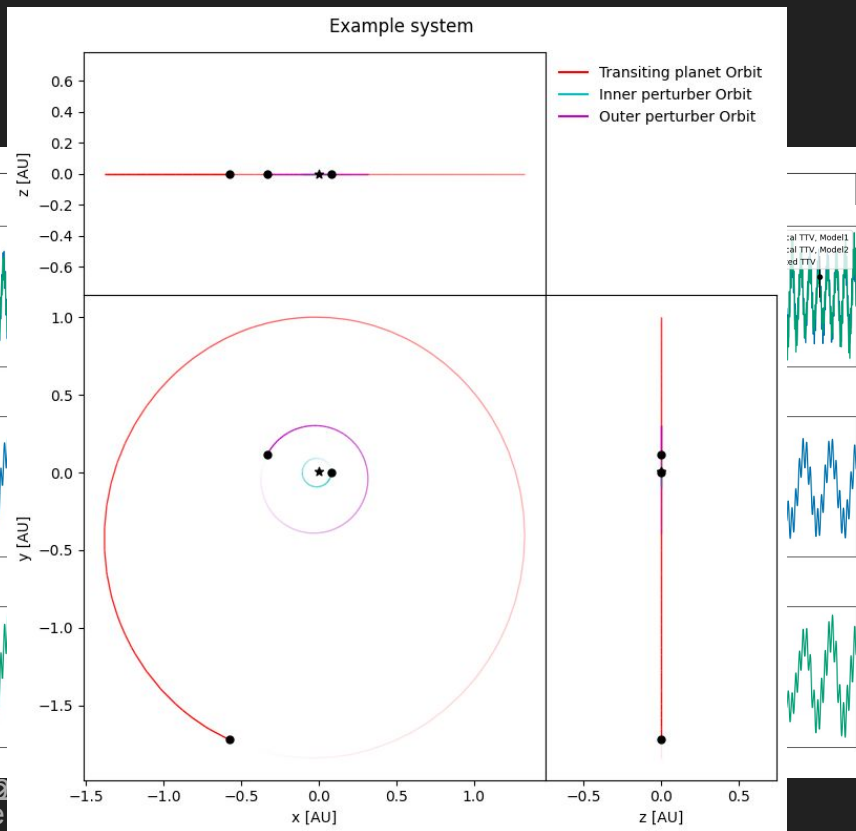
Conclusion

# Discussion

- Quickly Generate TTV Curves
- Accurate to simulation
- Determine best fit parameters
- Develop additional models
- Search transit data for non-transiting planets



Planet comparison  
TTV curves using the  
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Lloyd-Walters J. 2022



Example systems layout used in TTV model testing

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# Conclusion

A Summary of the problem, results, and any future steps

Rationale

Methodology

Results

Discussion

**Conclusion**

# Conclusion

- TTV can find and verify exoplanets
- Created analytical models for TTV
- Computational pipeline can search for TTV
- Additional models to be created
- Apply method to unknown systems







Thank you for your time!



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The data, software, and diagrams underlying this project are available in GitHub at <https://github.com/SK1Y101/TransitProject>. The datasets were derived from sources in the public domain.