

**The Pennsylvania State University**

**The Graduate School**

**ON DETECTING NEW WORLDS:  
THE ART OF PRECISE DOPPLER SPECTROSCOPY  
USING IODINE CELLS**

A Dissertation in

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by

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# Abstract

I present the art of precise Doppler spectroscopy using iodine cells as calibrators, with the goal to detect extra-solar planets (exoplanets).

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# **Chapter 1**

## **Introduction**

This is introduction, which will have the glorious history of precise radial velocities.  
Including a sample citation for Butler et al. (1996a).

## Chapter 2

# The Carlifornia Planet Survey Doppler Code

This chapter contains a brief documentation describing the algorithm and structure of the California Planet Survey (CPS) Doppler code, which extracts RVs from iodine-calibrated stellar spectra. As of March 2016, no documentation in published or unpublished form existed for this widely used code, although Butler et al. (1996a) describes the basics for the technique of iodine-calibrated precise RV, and some CPS publications contain description for certain elements of the code (e.g., Johnson et al. 2006; Howard et al. 2009, 2011; Johnson et al. 2011a).

The earliest date mark in the code is 1991, which is roughly when Paul Butler and Geoffrey Marcy started drafting the code. The code was heavily modified by John Johnson around 2002-2008. Later on, two versions of the code are maintained by two separate groups: the California Planet Survey (LCPS) team (John Johnson) and the Lick-Carnegie Planet Survey team (Paul Butler). Post 2014, the CPS version of the code was maintained mostly by Howard Isaacson at UC Berkeley. This code is widely used by many iodine-calibrated precise RV instruments, such as Lick/Hamilton, HET/HRS (this thesis; Chapter 3), AAT/UCLES, Magellan/PFS, and the Automated Planet Finder (APF) at Lick (both LCPS and CPS have their own version of this code for APF). Our copy of the code was kindly provided by John Johnson in 2009, and the copy was checked to still be consistent with the CPS version in 2013.

### 2.1 Basic Formulae, Algorithm, and Components

First, we describe the basic mathematics and algorithm behind RV extraction from iodine-calibrated stellar spectra using the CPS code. The overall algorithm is to forward model the stellar spectra using synthetic or empirically derived reference spectra, finding best-fit model parameters including the Doppler shift,  $z$ .

The reference spectra include<sup>1</sup>: a model spectrum for the iodine absorption lines,  $F_{I_2}(\lambda)$  and a model spectrum for the star,  $F_*(\lambda)$ . The goal is to use the model the

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<sup>1</sup>It can also include a model spectrum for a faint secondary star, telluric absorption lines (see Chapter 4 Section 4.1), and so on.

Table 2.1. Parameters for Forward Modeling Keck/HIRES RV Spectra

Parameter	Unit and Meaning
$z$	no unit, the stellar red shift
$w_0$	Å, wavelength of the first pixel of a spectral chunk
$w_d$	Å/pixel, wavelength dispersion scale for a spectral chunk
$A_n, n = 1, \dots, 12$	no unit, amplitudes of side gaussians for IP <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>See Section 2.1.2 for more information.

observed, extracted, and normalized 1-D spectrum,  $F_{\text{obs}}(x)$ , at any given pixel position (and spectral order),  $x$ , using these reference spectra and model parameters. The broadening effect of the spectrograph is described by the spectral response function, or the spectral point spread function, or the instrumental profile (IP), which we will refer to as the IP throughout this thesis and is denoted as  $\mathcal{P}(x)$ . Hence,

$$F_{\text{obs}}(x) = [F_{\text{I}_2}(\lambda(x)) \times F'_*(\lambda(x))] * \mathcal{P}(x), \quad (2.1)$$

where  $\lambda(x)$  is the wavelength solution for the 1-D spectrum, and  $F'_*$  is the red-shifted stellar spectrum defined by  $F'_*(\lambda) = F_*(\lambda \cdot (1 + z))$ . The Doppler shift  $z$  contains two components: the stellar RV  $v_*$  and the barycentric (BC) velocity of the Earth  $v_{\text{BC}}$ . The BC component is corrected by  $v_* = v_{\text{measured}} + v_{\text{BC}} + z \cdot v_{\text{BC}}$ .

The stellar reference spectrum is empirically derived from iodine-free stellar observations taken on an epoch, say,  $T_0$ . As a result, all measured RVs for the star using a stellar template from  $T_0$  represent relative stellar velocities between epoch  $T_0$  and epoch  $T_{\text{obs}}$  (i.e.,  $v_{*,T_{\text{obs}}} - v_{*,T_0}$ ), instead of the absolutely RVs of the star. The following subsection describes the origins of the stellar (and also the iodine) reference spectra.

In practice, for Keck/HIRES, for example, each 1-D spectrum taken at an epoch is divided into  $\sim 700$  spectral chunks, each with 80 pixels and about 2Å in wavelength. One model is created and fitted for each spectral chunk, with the model parameters listed in Table 2.1. Model parameter optimization is done through least- $\chi^2$  fitting using the Levenberg-Marquardt (LM) algorithm. Errors on the extracted 1-D spectrum is assumed to be Poisson noise plus a 2% additional representing potential errors in the raw reduction. Initial guesses of the parameters come from the solution for nearest B star + iodine observation, with the exception of the initial guess for  $z$ , which is set to be  $v_{\text{BC}}$  because that is usually on the order of km/s and dominates the Doppler shift signal.

To sample the reference spectra into the observed pixel grid, the code first re-sample (using spline) each of them onto a grid finer than the observation pixel grid by a factor of four (i.e., using a wavelength dispersion of  $w_d/4$ ). The wavelengths of this fine grid is provided by the proposed wavelength solution parameters  $w_0$  and  $w_d$ . Next, it shifts the stellar reference spectrum according to the proposed Doppler shift parameter  $z$ . Then

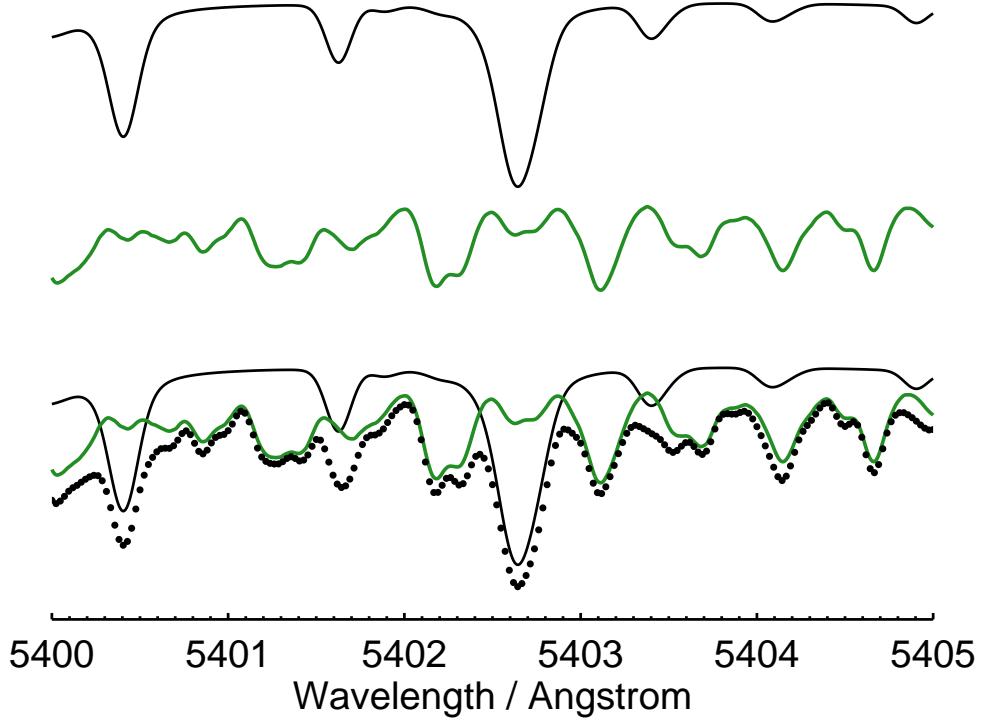


Figure 2.1 An illustration for the forward modeling process for iodine-calibrated stellar spectrum. The top black line represents the stellar reference spectrum (DSST), and the middle green line represents the iodine reference spectrum. Both reference spectra are convolved with an IP only for illustration purposes in order to have a clear match with the observed spectrum, plotted in black dots on the bottom. In practice, the reference spectra are multiplied *first* and then convolved with IP.

it multiplies the shifted stellar reference spectrum with the iodine reference spectrum, and then convolves the product spectrum by the IP. Finally, it re-bins the finely sampled model spectrum onto the observed pixel grid, which yields the final normalized model spectrum  $F_{\text{model},\text{norm}}(x)$ .

In reality, the observed spectrum used in the fitting is not normalized (i.e. no blaze or continuum removal). To account for blaze and stellar continuum, the codes divides the observed spectrum by the normalized model spectrum, i.e.,  $F_{\text{obs}}(x)/F_{\text{model},\text{norm}}(x)$ , and then it fits a straight line  $S(x)$  through the divided spectrum (for a small  $2\text{\AA}$  chunk, this linear approximation seems sufficient). It then computes a new model spectrum by adding this model “continuum” on top, i.e.,  $F_{\text{model},\text{final}}(x) = F_{\text{model},\text{norm}}(x) \times S(x)$ . This way, the continuum component in the observed spectral chunk is modeled by a linear function but imposes no explicit parameters for the model.

### 2.1.1 The Reference Spectra

Ideally, the reference spectra are the “ground truth” spectra, i.e. the intrinsic spectra of the sources (e.g., the iodine cell, or the star) without Doppler shift or being broadened by the spectrometer. In reality, there is no way of knowing such “ground truth”, so the reference spectra are empirically derived from observations.

The iodine reference spectrum, often referred to as the iodine atlas, originates from a Fourier Transform Spectrometer scan of the iodine cell illuminated by a continuum source. It is often of very high signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) with high resolution (normally  $\sim 500,000$  or larger). Therefore, it is generally regarded as basically the “ground truth” for the cell, especially for the purpose of forward modeling lower-resolution ( $\sim 60,000$ ) spectra. However, there can be problems with the iodine atlas, for various reason. See Chapter 3 Section 3.2 for more on this topic. The current FTS iodine atlas being used for Keck/HIRES RV work is from a scan in 1993, using the Babar FTS at NSO/KPNO, and so is the atlas for HET/HRS. See Section 3.2 for more on iodine reference spectra.

The stellar reference spectrum for any star, or internally to CPS referred to as the Deconvolved Stellar Spectral Template (DSST), is empirically derived from observed spectra of the target star. For most of the CPS targets (bright stars), a few (4-5) observations of the star with a narrower slit ( $R \geq 80,000$ ) are taken without the iodine cell in the light path. Then they are stacked together to boost the SNR ( $> 500$ ), and then deconvolved with proper IPs derived from bracketing B star + iodine observations. The wavelength solution for the DSST also comes from the bracketing B star + iodine observations. See Section 4.2 for more information and problems related to DSSTs. For faint stars where obtaining stellar template is expensive or unfeasible, Johnson et al. (2006) developed a technique where they “morph” a synthetic stellar spectrum or an existing DSST of another star with similar stellar properties to fit the stellar iodine observation, and then they use this new morphed DSST for RV extraction.

### 2.1.2 The Functional Forms of the Instrumental Profile

The IP  $\mathcal{P}(x)$  can take many functional forms, and for Keck/HIRES, an IP of sum of gaussians works exceptionally well ( $\chi^2 \sim 1$  for pure iodine absorption line fit). The mathematical form for it is:

$$\mathcal{P}_{\text{gaus}}(x) = \sum A_n \exp \left[ \left( \frac{x - \mu_n}{\sigma_n} \right)^2 \right]. \quad (2.2)$$

$A_n$  stands for the amplitude for each gaussian component.  $A_n$ 's are floated parameters for the fitter to optimize while  $\mu_n$  and  $\sigma_n$  (i.e., positions and widths of the gaussians) have empirically-optimized fixed values, depending on the instrument setting of Keck/HIRES (e.g., slit width). For Keck/HIRES precise-RV mode (B5 decker,  $\sim 60,000$  resolution, with iodine cell in light path), the IP contains 12 free parameters,  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{12}$ , while  $A_0$  is fixed to 1 (the big central gaussian) and  $\mu_n, n = 0, \dots, 12$  and  $\sigma_n, n = 0, \dots, 12$  also have fixed values.

Another frequently used IP is the Gauss-Hermite (GH) function, which is composed

of gaussians multiplied by Hermite polynomials  $H_n$ :

$$\mathcal{P}_{\text{GH}}(x) = \sum A_n u_n(x) = \sum A_n \left( \frac{2}{\pi w^2} \right)^{1/4} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!2^n}} H_n \left( \frac{\sqrt{2}x}{w} \right) \exp \left[ - \left( \frac{x}{w} \right)^2 \right]. \quad (2.3)$$

Mathematically, any sum of gaussians can be decomposed into orthogonal GH terms<sup>2</sup>, and therefore, in principle, the GH IP should present a generic and flexible option for IP choices. However, in reality, the least- $\chi^2$  solver is extremely sensitive to the choices of initial guesses, even for orthogonal bases. As a result, GH IP normally does not outperform sum of gaussians (e.g., see work by Vanderburg et al. 2013). The GH IP is what we use for extracting RVs from HET/HRS data. See Chapter 3 Section 3.3 for more.

## 2.2 Code Structure and Work Flow

This section documents the structure of the CPS Doppler code, with the main goal to help any reader who wishes to adopt this code for their own work. Figure 2.2 illustrates the code’s calling sequence.

The most top-level routine for running Doppler reduction is the IDL procedure `dop_driver.pro`, which takes in the name of the star and then automatically locate input files such as the extracted 1-D spectra, the proper DSST file, the iodine atlas, and the files storing initial guesses for parameters (which are called the `vdiod` files). The code is also very flexible with inputs and the user can specify almost anything, e.g., a specific DSST file, choice for a specific IP model, explicit initial guesses for parameters, and so on. It drives the Doppler analysis and output a `vd` file for each observed spectrum, which contains best-fit parameters and other information for all the spectral chunks. At the end, `dop_driver.pro` calls `jjvank.pro`, which combines the RVs from all the chunks in all the observations for this star, and evaluates numerical weights for each chunk and each observation. Finally, `jjvank.pro` computes the weighted RV for each observation and its RV uncertainty and outputs the information in `vst` files. The most useful variable is the `cf3` structure in the `vst` file, which contains, for example, the Julian Date (JD) of the observation `cf3.jd`, the BC `cf3.bc`, the weighted RV `cf3.mnvel`, and its uncertainty `tt cf3.errvel`. The algorithm for `jjvank.pro`, or “vanking”, is described in the next section. In the end, `dop_driver.pro` will produce  $N_{\text{obs}}$  `vd` files and one `vst` file for each star. If a new observation is taken, a new `vd` file is created, and vanking re-evaluates the chunk and observation weights and outputs a new `vst` file.

While `dop_driver.pro` is the routine to call for Doppler analysis, most of its actual codes simply deal with logistical work such as locating the right files. The real driver behind the scene is `crank.pro`, which contains the loop through all observations and “fills out” the `vd` files. In a standard CPS reduction routine, `crank.pro` is called three times. In the case of Keck/HIRES standard RV reduction, for example, the first time `crank.pro` is called, it fits for all 15 free parameters ( $z$ ,  $w_0$ ,  $w_d$  and 12 IP parameters;

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<sup>2</sup>See <http://math.stackexchange.com/questions/28719/how-to-decompose-displaced-hermite-gaussian-function-into-higher-order-hgs> for an illustration, retrieved on March 18 2016.

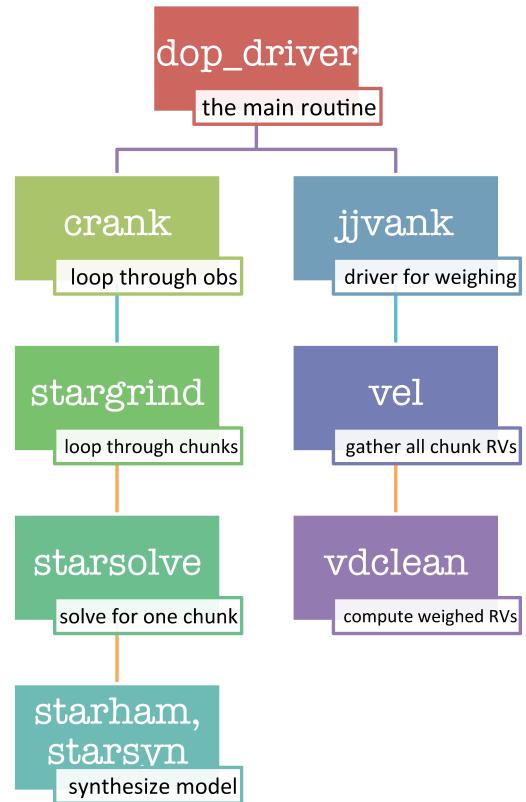


Figure 2.2 Calling sequence and main functionality for core IDL routines in the CPS Doppler code.

see Table 2.1) for each chunk in each observation. The LM fitter takes in the initial guesses for parameters from B star + iodine solutions and tries its best to optimize the 15-parameter model. Due to the complexity of this multi-modal and multi-dimensional problem, very often the best fit for this “first pass” does not yield a good global minimum on the  $\chi^2$  surface. Therefore a second pass of `crank.pro` is called, with fixed IP parameters and thus only three free parameters. The IP parameters are not simply fixed to last round’s best-fit values, but instead, they were fixed to describe an “averaged” IP over a region on the CCD chip (for example, over a neighbor of nine chunks across three spectral orders for the central chunk). After the second pass, a third pass of `crank.pro` is called with fixed wavelength dispersion  $w_d$  and only floating  $z$  and  $w_0$ , in search for a deeper minimum or lower  $\chi^2$ .

Within `crank.pro`, the code calls for `stargrind.pro` in a loop of all observations. `stargrind.pro` does the model fitting for a single observation, and it loops through all spectral chunks, calling `starsolve.pro`, which contains the LM fitter, for each chunk. Inside `starsolve.pro`, the spectral model is computed using `starham.pro`, which is really just a wrapper around `starsyn.pro`. The core algorithm for model construction is all in `starsyn.pro`, which takes in the observed 1-D spectral chunk, the DSST, the iodine atlas, and the model parameters, and outputs a model spectrum for this chunk.

## 2.3 Adjusting Offsets and Computing Weights for Chunk RVs

Now all observations and all chunks have their best-fit model parameters computed by `crank.pro`, and all RVs are barycentric corrected. What’s next?

Two extremely important things need to happen at this point before we can have an RV time series in hand, and they are accomplished by `jjvank.pro` and most importantly, `vel.pro` and `vdclean.pro` (see Figure 2.2 for the calling sequence).

First, the chunk RVs need to be adjusted so that they have the same “zero point”. Ideally, measured RVs from all chunks in one observation are good estimates for the true RV of this epoch, so the mean of all chunk RVs provides an unbiased estimate for the true RV and their scatter provides a sense for the RV uncertainty. However, in reality, some effects may cause the chunk RV to be biased and have a constant offset from the true RV. One of the leading culprits is the error in the wavelength solution of a DSST. As mentioned in the previous section, the measured RV for each chunk at a certain epoch  $T_{\text{obs}}$  is a relative RV against the DSST taken at epoch  $T_0$ ,  $v_{\star,T_{\text{obs}}} - v_{\star,T_0}$ . This is because the stellar lines and their Doppler shift in each chunk are modeled by red-shifting the DSST:  $F'_*(\lambda) = F_*(\lambda \cdot (1+z))$ . The wavelength solution for the DSST implies its absolute RV  $v_{\star,T_0}$  at  $T_0$ . If the wavelength solution for all DSST chunks corresponds to the exact same value of  $v_{\star,T_0}$ , then measured RVs for all chunks in the observed stellar iodine observation would have the same “zero point”. Consequently, any biases or relative errors in the DSST wavelength solution would result in a shifted zero point for that chunk with respect to other chunks. For example, one source of error comes from the fact that the wavelength solution for DSST is derived from neighboring B star + iodine observations, which assumes that the wavelength solution for the orders

and pixels remain the same between the B star and the DSST observations. Or, the wavelength solution derived from B star observations may be imperfect. There are also other reasons why the RV zero point of a chunk deviates from the other chunks. Things like persisting CCD effect and certain errors in iodine atlas or DSST can cause biases in RV estimates that contain a constant shift component. In the end, the inconsistent RV zero points will translate into RV scatter as we take the average of all chunk RVs to estimate the RV for one observation. Thus, it is very important to determine and correct for the chunk RV zero point offsets.

Second, not all spectral chunks are equal in terms of the quality of their reported RVs, meaning that we need to take a weighted average. There are several reasons why one chunk would consistently have a larger RV scatter than the other. The most obvious one is difference in the amount of Doppler information contained in the chunks. Some chunks have more and/or deeper stellar/iodine lines, which make them more powerful in accessing the RV information of the star. Some chunks land on the peak of the blaze, which constantly give them more SNR over the chunks down near the bottom. Some chunks may contain stellar lines that have more sensitive response to stellar activity, which would manifest as RV scatter or “jitter”. This is not an exhaustive list, but the important thing is that there could be many reasons which we know or do not know, and even for some of the things we do know, we could have no way of estimate how much extra RV scatter it would introduce to the chunk. Therefore, it is most sensible to derive the chunk weights empirically, rather than using any a priori ones.

Overall, the algorithm for vanking works like this:

- It rejects chunks (and observations) with poor performances indicated by, for example, high  $\chi^2_\nu$  values.
- It brings all chunks to having the same RV zero point.
- It computes the weighted average RV for each observation based on the chunk RVs, where the weight for each chunk in each observation is evaluated by how well this chunk behaves in long term (by comparing it with other chunks across all observations). Then the weight is also scaled by how good each observation is, which is evaluated by comparing the behavior of a typical chunk in one observation with the other observations.

To be specific, most of the heavy lifting is done in `vel.pro` and `vdclean.pro`. First `vel.pro` calls `vdcube.pro`, which combines all vd structures stored in the vd files for all the good observations. A good observation is defined by: (1) median photon counts for all chunks is within a user-defined range; and (2) median  $\chi^2_\nu$  values of all chunks is lower than the user-defined threshold. Otherwise `vdcube.pro` will throw out the bad observation and print out warning messages. Second, the vd cube put together by `vdcube.pro` gets passed on to `vdclean.pro`, and `vdclean.pro` performs a series tasks including quality checks, outlier rejections, RV zero point offset adjustment, and finally the computation of chunk weights, i.e., it

1. Throws out chunks with bad DSST or containing no Doppler information (meaning it has a weight of 0 as calculated following the method described in Butler et al. 1996a).

2. Rejects the chunks where the fitter constantly fails to converge (indicated by setting  $\chi^2_\nu$  to 0 or 100 in the code).
3. Rejects the bottom 1% (or other user-defined threshold) of the chunks which have the highest photon-limited RV errors (calculated following Butler et al. 1996a).
4. Rejects the bottom 1% (or other user-defined threshold) of the chunks which have the highest  $\chi^2_\nu$  values.
5. Computes the RV zero point offsets for all chunks and adjust all chunks to have the same zero points. Mathematically, this is done for each chunk by subtracting the offset velocity, which is estimated by the mean velocity of each chunk in all observations, i.e.:

$$\text{offset for chunk } i = \sum_{j=1}^N v_{i,j} / N \quad (2.4)$$

where  $v_{i,j}$  means the reported RV for a chunk with index  $i$  in observation  $j$ , and there are  $N$  observations and  $M$  chunks in total, so  $v_{i,j}$  is a  $M \times N$  matrix. This is basically requiring that the mean RV reported by any chunk over all observations is set to zero (or any arbitrary value, since we only care about the RV variation of the star instead of its absolute velocity).

6. Computes chunk weights as the inverse of the estimated RV variance of each chunk  $i$  in each observation  $j$ , i.e.,  $w_{i,j} = 1/\sigma_{i,j}^2$ , and

$$\sigma_{i,j} = r_j \cdot \sigma_i, \quad (2.5)$$

where  $\sigma_i$  is defined for each chunk and  $r_j$  is defined for each observation as:

$$\sigma_i = \text{std}\{\Delta_{i,j}, j = 1, \dots, N\} \quad (2.6)$$

$$r_j = \text{median}\{|\Delta_{j,i}| \cdot \sigma_i, i = 1, \dots, M\} \quad (2.7)$$

where  $\text{std}$  stands for standard deviation, and  $\Delta_{i,j}$  is the matrix of velocity differences between  $v_{i,j}$  and the median velocity of all chunks in each corresponding observation  $j$ :

$$\Delta_{i,j} = v_{i,j} - \tilde{v}_j \quad (2.8)$$

$$\tilde{v}_j = \text{median}\{v_{i,j}, i = 1, \dots, M\}, \quad (2.9)$$

7. Rejects top 1% of the chunks which have the highest  $\sigma_i$ .

Then `vdclean.pro` passes back the  $v_{i,j}$  and the  $w_{i,j}$  matrices to `vel.pro`, which rejects the top 1% chunks that have the largest  $v_{i,j} - \tilde{v}_j$  for each observation. Then `vel.pro` computes the weighted mean RV for each observation,

$$v_j = \sum_{i=1}^M (v_{i,j} \cdot w_{i,j}) / \sum_{i=1}^M w_{i,j}. \quad (2.10)$$

It is worth noting that because  $w_{i,j} = \sigma_j \cdot r_j$ , this is equivalent to

$$v_j = \sum_{i=1}^M (v_{i,j} \cdot \sigma_i) / \sum_{i=1}^M \sigma_i \quad (2.11)$$

However,  $r_j$  enters the picture when calculating the corresponding RV uncertainty,

$$\sigma_{v_j} = \left( \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^M w_{i,j}} \right)^{-1}. \quad (2.12)$$

$v_j$  nad  $\sigma_{v_j}$  are then passed back to `jjvank.pro` and stored in the `cf3` structure in the `vst` file for the star.

The algorithm of vanking does not have the most rigorous statistical justification. It was more or less conjured up intuitively and tweaked until it worked, and it works extremely well: the RV scatter is decreased by typically a factor of two or more before and after vanking. It also efficiently eliminates problematic chunks such as the ones with telluric contamination, and as a result, it mitigates the adverse effects caused by the contamination (Section 4.1). Vanking certainly has room for improvement, just like the rest of the code, which is a topic that will be touched on in Chapter 7.

# Chapter 3

## Improve the Radial Velocity Precision of HET/HRS

This is about HET/HRS. This will have introduction to HET and HRS.

- 3.1 Adoption of REDUCE and the CPS Doppler Code for HET/HRS**
- 3.2 Investigation on the Fourier Transform Spectrometer Scans of the Iodine Cell**

### 3.2.1 Motivation

Successful modeling of the iodine observations (B star spectra taken through the Iodien cell) is a good indication of a working radial velocity (RV) pipeline. At Keck/HIRES, which has demonstrated 1 m/s RV precision over the years, the modeling of the iodine observations yields a reduced chi-square ( $\chi^2_\nu$ ) value of typically 1.05. However, for HET/HRS iodine observations, with the same RV pipeline used at Keck, the typical  $\chi^2_\nu$  value is  $> 2$  or even  $> 5$  for some observations.

As we were investigating the reasons behind the apparent ‘bad fit’ of HET/HRS iodine observations, we decided to check the quality of the existing iodine cell FTS scan/spectrum, which was taken at KPNO in 1993. The main reason is that the FTS scan was taken almost two decades ago, and during this time the cell may have gone through changes (such as temperature, leaking or condensation, etc., though unlikely, since the cell was designed to be stable). This would mean that the FTS scan is out of date and inaccurate, and it could explain the ‘bad fits’ to the iodine observation.

We therefore took the HET/HRS cell to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and obtained a new FTS scan in 2011. A close comparison between this new scan from NIST and the old scan at KPNO reveals that they have many differences:

- The overall line depths are very different — the NIST scan has deeper lines.

- The absolute wavelength solutions are different, and the drifting of wavelength solution or the dispersion scales at different wavelength are also different.
- Even after we adjust the ‘normalization’ level of the NIST scan (assuming the FTS data has normalization issues or low frequency noise/offset), the line ratios of the two scans still exhibits differences.

Figure 3.1 shows the comparison between the two scans in a selected 2Å region. As the two scans also differ in resolution (the NIST scan has a higher resolution), the middle panel is a more direct comparison: the NIST scan has been convolved down to the same resolution with the KPNO scan; it is also shifted in wavelength space so that the two scans match in absolute wavelength solution; and it is adjusted to a proper ‘normalization’ level to match with the KPNO scan as much as possible in order to compare their relative line ratios.

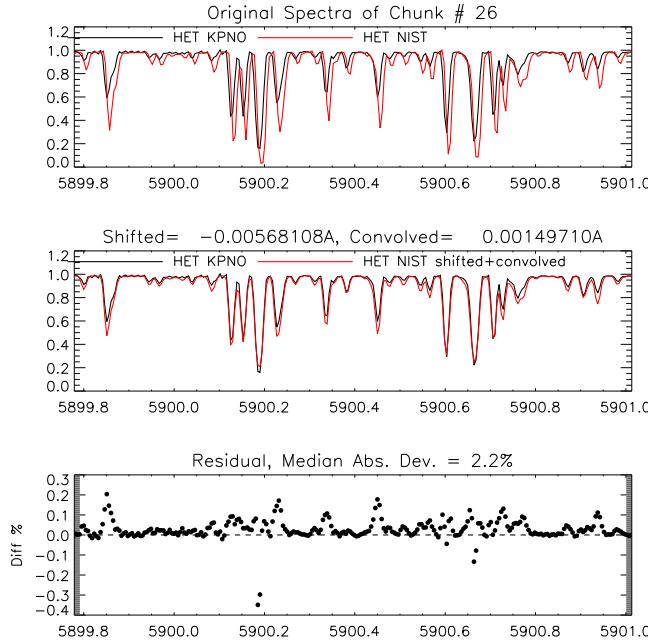


Figure 3.1 Comparison of the KPNO FTS scan (black) and the NIST FTS scan (red) for the HET/HRS iodine cell for a selected 1.5Å chunk. **Top:** Two scans at their native resolution and original wavelength solution. **Middle:** Comparison of the two scans after adjusting the normalization, shifting, and convolution for the NIST scan to match the KPNO scan for a more direct comparison of line depths/ratios. **Bottom:** Residuals of the middle panel, NIST spectrum minus the KPNO spectrum. The median absolute deviation between the two spectra is 0.02 (2%), though at many places, especially at line centers, the two can differ by up to 5–10%.

We suspect that the NIST scan is problematic. The reason is illustrated in the left panel of Figure 3.2, where it shows the histogram of  $\chi^2_\nu$  values for fitting an selected

iodine observation using the two scans, respectively. Each  $\chi^2_\nu$  value is for a  $2\text{\AA}$  chunk in this selected iodine observation. It is clear that the NIST scan provides worse fits.

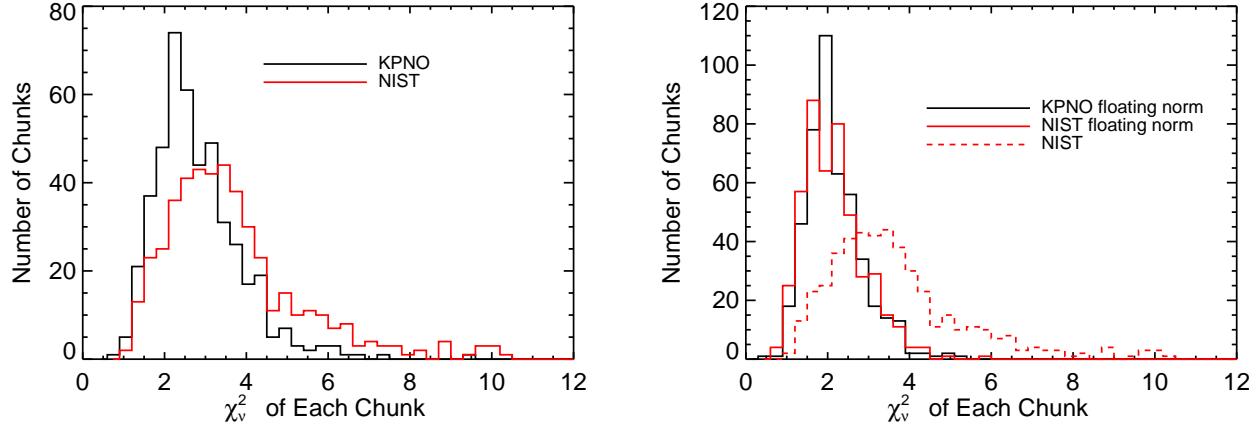


Figure 3.2 Both plots are histograms of  $\chi^2_\nu$  values of a single iodine observation. Each  $\chi^2_\nu$  value in the histogram represents the  $\chi^2_\nu$  goodness of fit for a  $\sim 2\text{\AA}$  spectral chunk in this iodine observation (each iodine observation is chopped into several hundred of chunks and is fitted independently). **Left:**  $\chi^2_\nu$  histograms for the fit of the iodine observation using the KPNO (black) and NIST (red) scan as iodine templates, respectively. The KPNO scan obviously performs better. **Right:**  $\chi^2_\nu$  histograms for the two scans, but both with the normalization as a free parameter for each chunk (as we suspect the NIST scan has problems in normalization). The two scans now perform at essentially the same level. Dashed red line is the same red histogram as plotted in the left panel. Notably, the KPNO scan also performs better when we float the normalization parameter.

Since the direct comparison between the KPNO scan and the NIST scan has hinted that the ‘normalization’ of the NIST scan might be problematic, we decide to add a free parameter to account for this ‘normalization error’ when fitting the iodine observation. The right panel of Figure 3.2 shows the  $\chi^2_\nu$  histograms for the same iodine observation using the two scans, but adding a free parameter as the ‘normalization’ when fitting each chunk (note: the normalization parameter is a free parameter for each chunk, not a global single parameter). The two scans now perform at essentially the same level.

This is both encouraging and worrisome at the same time. It is encouraging because it seems that we have found the problem with the NIST scan, and also have a solution for it. It is very worrisome because this reveals that:

- Even the KPNO cell performs visibly better when we float the normalization parameter. This may suggest that there are ‘normalization’ issues or low frequency errors/noise in the KPNO scan as well.
- Obtaining high-quality, reliable FTS scans of iodine cell is very difficult, and the FTS scans cannot be naively trusted as the ‘ground truth’ super accurate templates of the complicated iodine spectrum.

- The pipeline (when floating normalization as a free parameter) cannot distinguish which scan is the ‘correct’ one (by  $\chi^2_\nu$ ) even when two scans differ as much as  $\sim 5\text{--}10\%$  at places and also have obvious line ratio differences (see comparison in bottom panel of Figure 3.1). However, this level of difference in FTS may affect the RV precision.

Perhaps even more alarmingly and more puzzling, when we use the KPNO scan for the iodine cell used at Keck/HIRES to fit an HET/HRS iodine observation, it yields smaller  $\chi^2_\nu$  values (Figure 3.3). A closer look at the KPNO HET cell scan and the Keck cell scan reveals that the two cells seem to have very similar optical depths, and this maybe why the Keck scan works for HET obervation despite the fact that it is for a different cell.

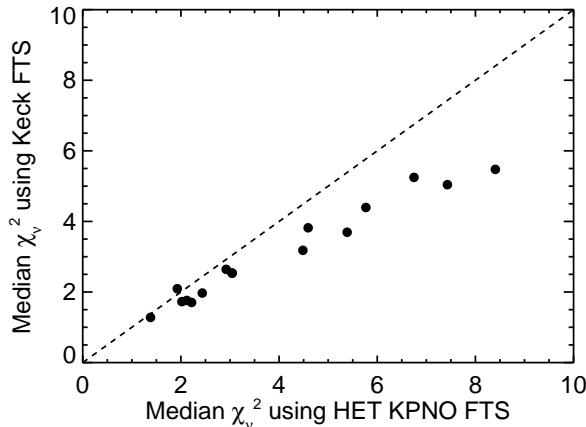


Figure 3.3 Comparison of the median  $\chi^2_\nu$  values for fits of iodine observations using the HET cell KPNO scan and the Keck cell KPNO scan. Each point represents the median  $\chi^2_\nu$  value for all the chunks in a single iodine observation. Results of multiple observations are plotted here to illustrate the statistically significance. The Keck cell KPNO scan provides a better fit than the HET cell KPNO scan when fitting HET iodine observations.

All of the facts above prompted us to seek a relatively independent way to perform quality checks for any FTS scan — not just comparing their relative qualities or performances. One natural choice is to obtain spectra taken with high-resolution echelle spectrographs, which are measurements of the iodine spectrum directly in the ‘real wavelength space’ instead of in the ‘Fourier space’, and thus they serve as good reference spectra as they suffer from different types of error compared to FTS. Since FTS scans are usually at a very high spectral resolution (200,000–400,000), this limits our choice to essentially only one spectrograph — the TS12 setting of the Tull Spectrograph at the 2.7m Telescope at McDonald.

**The Main Purpose** of the test using a TS12 spectrum is to see if it shows significant difference with the KPNO FTS scan, especially in terms of line depths and ratios. We chose to use the iodine cell at the Sandiford (2.1m) Telescope, because the HET/HRS

Table 3.1. Hardware Settings for  
TS12 Iodine Spectrum Test

Parameter	Unit and Meaning
Tull Spectrograph, TS12, Coude107	
Echelle	E1
Cross Disperser	c
CCD	TK4, $1024 \times 1056$
On-chip Binning	$1 \times 1$
Slit	#23 ( $L \times W = 30'' \times 0''.32$ )

cell was still under active use when we did this test. The Sandiford cell also has an KPNO FTS scan which was taken together with the KPNO scan of the HET cell in 1993, so it serves the purpose of testing the overall quality of the KPNO scans.

### 3.2.2 Methods

We obtained the spectra of the Sandiford iodine cell with TS12 from September 7 to September 9, 2013, when the telescope was scheduled to on Cassegrain instrument and the Tull Spectrograph room was free for use. The description on data acquisition and reduction in this section and the results presented in the next section are for the contiguous  $\sim 30\text{\AA}$  spectrum region that we took on the second and third day of observation.

**Hardware Settings:** We used the TS12 arm of the Tull Spectrograph, and the specific instrument choices are listed in Table 3.1. The cell was kept at a temperature of 49.9–50.1°C, the same as its working temperature for RV work and its temperature when the KPNO was taken (50°C). Slit #23 is chosen to maximize SNR while maintaining sufficient resolution — it is among the longest slit and is also the second narrowest slit.

**Observation:** A single exposure frame for the iodine spectrum covers about  $1.9\text{\AA}$ . The dispersion direction runs vertically along the chip with increasing wavelength when increasing the  $y$ -axis pixel. The dispersion scale is about  $0.002\text{\AA}$  per pixel ( $\sim 7$  pixels per resolution element). We immediately preceded or followed each exposure with a flat fielding frame. The exposure times for the iodine and flat frames are both 45 seconds to achieve a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of 160 per pixel. Neighboring frames differ by about  $1\text{\AA}$  in absolute wavelength. If prominent Solar or ThAr line was predicted within the wavelength coverage of a frame, then we also took a Solar or ThAr frame to verify the rough wavelength solution (the exposure time varied — typically a couple minutes to up to 10 minutes). We took dark frames (45s each, about 10 frames) in the morning at the beginning of each day.

**Reduction:** We combined and averaged all available dark frames and created a master dark frame. Then we subtracted the master dark from all flat and iodine frames. After outlier rejection (cosmic rays, chip defects, etc.), we modeled the scattered light for each row of pixels by using the region outside the slit image. We stacked 160 neighboring

rows and fitted a third order polynomial along the column, and then interpolated for the amount of scattered light within the slit image region and subtracted it. Both the flat and iodine frames have scattered light removed. We then normalized the flat frames and divided each iodine frame by its associated normalized flat (for the slit image regions only).

**Extraction:** As the slit does not lie perfectly along the  $x$ -axis direction on the chip, we corrected for this by cutting columns along the dispersion direction and cross-correlating the columns. Then we interpolated and shifted the columns to create an aligned image, which we stacked along the  $x$ -axis direction and obtained the reduced, extracted spectrum. Each spectrum is then normalized by dividing the estimated continuum (top 5% counts). Due to lower quality of scattered light removal near the edge of the chip, we discarded the top 80 and bottom 80 rows of pixels. Thus the extracted spectrum from each frame is about  $1.6\text{\AA}$  across (instead of  $1.9\text{\AA}$ ). The  $\sim 20$  frames are then ‘stitched’ together by finding the overlapping region through cross correlation for each pair of neighboring frames and taking into account the changes and differences of dispersion scales across frames.

**Mapping onto FTS:** To compare with the KPNO FTS spectrum, we chopped the TS12 spectrum into  $2\text{\AA}$  chunks and project each chunk onto the FTS spectrum by cross correlation. In this way we obtained the absolute wavelength solution and dispersion scale (as set by the wavelength solution of the FTS scan) for the TS12 spectrum. The results of comparison are shown in the next section.

### 3.2.3 Results

The left panel of Figure 3.4 shows a direct comparison of the reduced TS12 spectrum (a random  $2\text{\AA}$  chunk) with the KPNO FTS scan, at their native resolutions. Note that the TS12 spectrum appears to have a higher resolution than the FTS scan. According to the header of the FTS scan, its resolution is about 491,000. An FFT analysis on the TS12 spectrum (to see where the high-frequency signal cuts off and becomes indistinguishable from the noise) shows that its resolution is about 455,000 and maybe even higher.

To make a more direct comparison and also to see the differences of the two spectra (if any) would make a significant impact when fitting a 60,000 resolution iodine observation, we degraded the resolution of both spectra to 60,000 by convolving them with a Gaussian of a proper width. We analyzed the FFT spectra of the two convolved spectra to make sure that they are indeed at the same resolution, and both are around 60,000. The right panel of Figure 3.4 illustrates the comparison of the two spectra at  $R \sim 60,000$ , with residuals of the TS12 spectrum minus the KPNO FTS spectrum plotted in the bottom panel. The two spectra differ by a median absolute deviation of 0.3% (0.4% for the entire  $\sim 30\text{\AA}$  spectrum available as shown in Figure 3.5). As the TS12 spectrum has a SNR of about 160 and we have convolved the comparison spectrum down to  $R \sim 60,000$ , the expected shot noise should be  $\sim 1/160 \times \sqrt{450,000/60,000} = 0.23\%$ . The additional  $\sim 0.1\%-0.2\%$  of noise may come from flat fielding, scattered light removal, cosmic ray removal and interpolation between pixels, stitching of spectra, projection onto the FTS spectrum and interpolation for comparison purposes, and so on.

For comparison: when fitting the HET/HRS Iodine observation used for creating

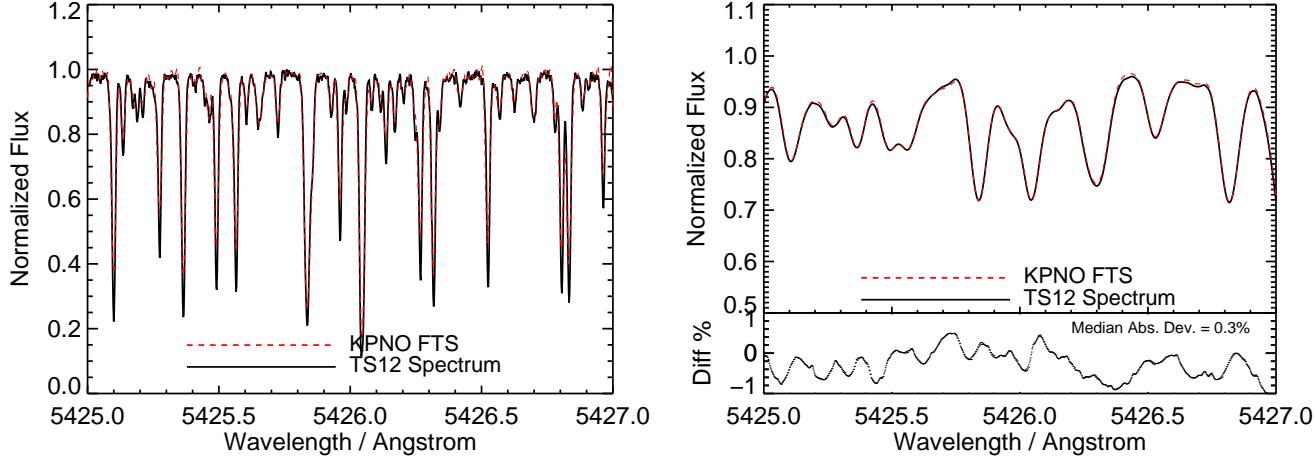


Figure 3.4 Comparison of the Sandiford iodine cell KPNO FTS spectrum and the spectrum taken with TS12. **Left:** Comparison of the two spectra in their native resolutions (both about 450,000–500,000). **Right:** Comparison of the two spectra convolved down to about 60,000 resolution, which is the resolution of typical iodine observations or radial velocity observations (star+iodine). Bottom panel shows the residuals in percentage of the TS12 spectrum minus the KPNO spectrum, with a median absolute deviation of 0.3%.

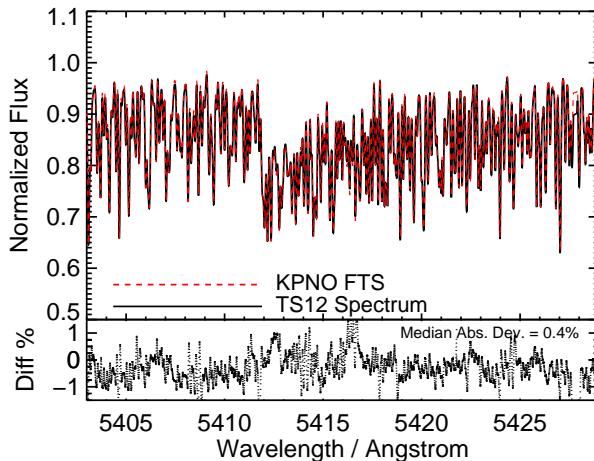


Figure 3.5 The same as the right panel of Figure 3.4, the KPNO spectrum and the TS12 spectrum both at 60,000, but for the entire  $\sim 30\text{\AA}$  TS12 spectrum available.

Figure 3.2 (median SNR for a typical chunk is  $\sim 150$ , or 0.65% shot noise), for a typical chunk, the median absolute deviation between the observation and the best-fit model is 0.73% (the rms value is 1%, thus  $\chi^2_\nu$  is  $\sim 2$ –3).

**Conclusion:** Through this test, we have demonstrated that an iodine cell spectrum taken with TS12 has the same quality as an FTS scan to serve as the ‘true solution’ of the iodine spectrum (caveat: lack of wavelength solution).

A comparison between the TS12 spectrum and the FTS scan of the same cell serves as a good method to check the quality of FTS scans.

### 3.3 The Search for a Better Instrumental Profile

### 3.4 The Investigation on Modal Noise

# Chapter 4

## Improve the Radial Velocity Precision of Keck/HIRES

This is about Keck/HIRES.

### 4.1 Effects of Telluric Contamination and Remedies

#### 4.1.1 Introduction

The first exoplanets around main-sequence stars were discovered by the radial velocity (RV) method, where precise Doppler spectroscopy measures the wavelength shift of the host stars induced by the gravitational pull of the planets (Campbell et al. 1988; Latham et al. 1989; Hatzes & Cochran 1993; Mayor & Queloz 1995; Butler & Marcy 1996). Since then, the RV method has discovered hundreds of planetary systems (see [exoplanets.org](http://exoplanets.org); Han et al. 2014) and contributed to numerous confirmation and characterization of exoplanets discovered by the transit method (e.g., for *Kepler* follow-up observations; Marcy et al. 2014).

The current best RV precision is around 1 m/s (Fischer et al. 2016), attainable via two wavelength calibration methods in the optical band: ThAr lamp emission line calibration (e.g., ELODIE and HARPS; Baranne et al. 1996; Mayor et al. 2003;  $\sim$ 400-690 nm) and iodine cell absorption line calibration (e.g., Keck/HIRES and Magellan/PFS; Butler et al. 1996a; Crane et al. 2010;  $\sim$ 500-620 nm). The major obstacles for achieving a higher RV precision are: stellar activity induced RV signals, instrumental effects, telluric contamination, and limitation in data analysis (Fischer et al. 2016).

Traditionally, telluric contamination is not considered as problematic for precise RV in the optical. It is certainly a sever source of spectral contamination and a bottleneck for achieving higher RV precision in the near infra-red (NIR) region (e.g., Bean et al. 2010), where a large number of deep water and methane lines reside. However, there is only a small wavelength range in the optical that has deep telluric lines, and typically such regions are simply thrown out for the purpose of precise RV analysis, either by giving them zero weights in the cross correlation masks (for ThAr calibrated spectra, e.g., Pepe et al. 2002) or flagging them as bad pixels (for iodine calibrated spectra, e.g., for Keck/HIRES).

Recently, the works by Artigau et al. (2014) and Cunha et al. (2014) have characterized and mitigated the effects of telluric contamination in the precise RV data taken by the ThAr-calibrated HARPS-S. Cunha et al. (2014) focuses on the issues with “micro-telluric” lines (shallow telluric absorption lines with < 1-3% depths), which are recognized for the first time. Cunha et al. (2014) fit and then divide out the telluric lines in the observed spectra using synthetic telluric spectra generated by the LBLRTM package (Line-By-Line Radiative Transfer Model, Clough et al. 1992; with line lists from High-resolution TRANsmision molecular absorption database, or HITRAN, Rothman et al. 2013) and also TAPAS (Bertaux et al. 2014), which is a more user-friendly but less flexible package wrapper using LBLRTM. They concluded that the micro-tellurics have an impact (defined as RMS of difference between RVs before and after micro-telluric removal) of  $\sim$ 10-20 cm/s for G stars observed with low to moderate air masses, but the impact can be substantial in some cases to up to  $\sim$ 0.5-1 m/s.

Artigau et al. (2014) uses principal component analysis (PCA) to empirically correct for telluric lines in HARPS-S data (both micro-tellurics and the deep lines in the  $\sim$ 630 nm region), and combined PCA with rejection masking, they reduced the RV RMS by  $\sim$ 20 cm/s (and more significantly for the  $\sim$ 630 nm region). More recently, Sithajan et al. (2016) characterized the effects of telluric contamination and effectiveness of some typical remedies (masking and modeling) for emission line-calibrated spectra for the optical, broad optical (300-900 nm), and NIR. Their conclusion for the optical region is similar to the results in Artigau et al. (2014) and Cunha et al. (2014).

This paper characterizes and corrects for the adverse effects of telluric contamination under the context of iodine-calibrated precise RV, especially for the micro-telluric lines. ZZZ We first describe our methodology for characterizing the effects of tellurics in Section 4.1.2.1, then... ZZZ

#### 4.1.2 Impacts of Micro-tellurics on RV Precision

To evaluate the impacts of micro-tellurics (referred to often simply as “tellurics” below), we performed end-to-end simulation of Keck/HIRES data and analysis process on RV standard stars in order to isolate error sources. We use Keck/HIRES data to for our study because Keck has the highest RV precision among all iodine-calibrated spectrometers, and it also has long observing baselines on a number of RV standard stars. RV standard stars are bright and quite stars which do not host known planets, and thus exhibit the smallest RV variation in both short term and long term. Their data are often good diagnostic tools for identifying RV systematics. For our study, we used and simulated Keck/HIRES RV spectra on two standard stars,  $\sigma$  Draconis (HD 185144) and  $\tau$  Ceti (HD 10700), which are benchmark classics in precise RV work.

HD 185144 (spectral type G9V, per Simbad) has 712 Keck/HIRES observations, with RV RMS = 2.57 m/s, and it has a relatively small barycentric velocity (often referred to as the barycentric velocity correction, or BC; see Chapter 2) span,  $[-4.7, 4.6]$  km/s, because it is near the north ecliptic pole. HD 10700 (spectral type G8.5V) has 623 observations, with RMS = 3.05 m/s, and its BC span is  $[-27.8, 26.8]$  km/s. The RV RMS numbers quoted here come from reductions using our version of CPS Doppler pipeline, and they are larger than the RMS values from the most up-to-date CPS pipeline

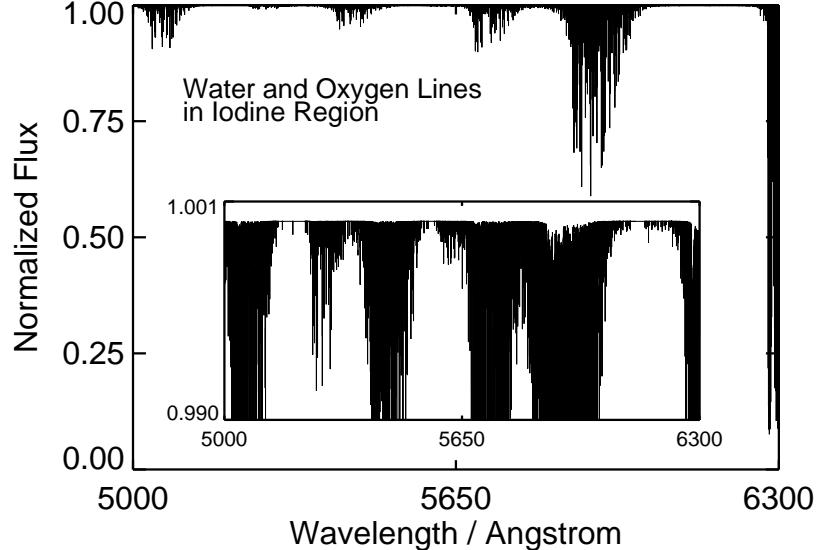


Figure 4.1 Telluric lines in the iodine region are mostly shallow water lines, with some moderately deep water lines near 5900Å and very deep oxygen lines near 6300Å. The insert plot is showing the pervasiveness of micro-telluric lines, i.e.  $\leq 1\text{--}3\%$  in depths.

due to some recent improvements in the CPS version.

#### 4.1.2.1 Methodology

sig Dra RMS is 2.57 m/s and tau Ceti 3.05 m/s for real Keck data.

We simulated Keck observations on sig Dra and tau Ceti by using synthetic stellar spectra of their respective spectral types (?) using SME (ZZZ cite Valenti and Fischer). We simulated one spectrum for each actual observed spectrum taken at Keck through the CPS programs. The synthetic stellar spectra is multiplied with the iodine atlas to create the standard iodine+ star RV observations. The multiplied spectrum is then multiplied with the blaze function and convolved with the observed spectral PSF, both derived from real observations for each night. Poisson noise is added.

We then forward model the simulated spectra to extract RVs using the CPS Keck code (ZZZ cite Johnson and Howard). We used the synthetic stellar spectrum as the input stellar template. In reality, stellar templates are derived from observed stellar spectra via deconvolution, which would introduce additional errors. Using the same synthetic stellar spectrum would eliminate such errors and isolate the problem to telluric lines only.

We ran two sets of simulations: control and contaminated. In the control, we only had stellar spectrum and iodine spectrum. In the contaminated, we added in simulated telluric lines in the simulated observed spectrum. The telluric lines were generated using TERRASPEC (ZZZ cite Bender). We adopted the typical Mauna Kea atmospheric condition (temperature and pressure profiles) and typical oxygen column density (which

Table 4.1. RV RMS for Simulations with Poisson Noise and Complex IP

HD 185144	HD 10700	Simulation Conditions
1.26 m/s	1.34 m/s	No tellurics
1.35 m/s	1.42 m/s	With tellurics
1.35 m/s	1.39 m/s	No tellurics, but masking telluric pixels
1.37 m/s	1.43 m/s	With tellurics, and masking telluric pixels

in reality fluctuate very little anyway). For simplicity, we assumed the same water column density for every observation, which is  $\text{pwv} = 1\text{mm}$ , a little bit humid than a typical Mauna Kea night (true? I think this is actually pretty typical). The pair of simulated control and contaminated spectra have the same added Poisson noise, and therefore any RV differences derived from these two sets of simulation would reveal the net effect of telluric contamination.

#### 4.1.2.2 Results

Micro-tellurics in the iodine region introduces  $\text{RMS} = 0.6 \text{ m/s}$  scatter for GK stars (RV systematic error added in quadrature). Leaving untreated, this would define the precision floor.

Additionally, it manifests as spurious signal at periods of a sidereal year and harmonics, with an amplitude of 20 cm/s. This would affect our ability to detect super-Earth in the habitable zone of GK stars (Earth's signal is 8 cm/s). We have seen such spurious signal in Keck data on many stars, and telluric contamination is one of the contributing factors (see discussion for other factors).

For M stars... (probably worse)

#### 4.1.3 Remedies and Effectiveness

There are several ways to remedy the adverse effects of telluric lines on RV precision and accuracy: masking, modeling, or a combination of both. HARPS works...

##### 4.1.3.1 Masking is an ineffective solution

The simplest solution is to mask out telluric lines in the spectrum, which means, in practice, locate the telluric-contaminated pixels and flag them as bad pixels in the observed spectrum so that the least- $\chi^2$  fitter will ignore them. For Keck/HIRES or any iodine-calibrated RV reduction, this also means masking out the regions corresponding to locations of telluric lines in the deconvolved stellar reference spectrum – because the stellar reference spectrum was taken at a different BC, the telluric lines therein are shifted with respect to the ones in the epoch observation as we try to match up the stellar lines in observed and reference spectra. This “double masking” procedure is illustrated

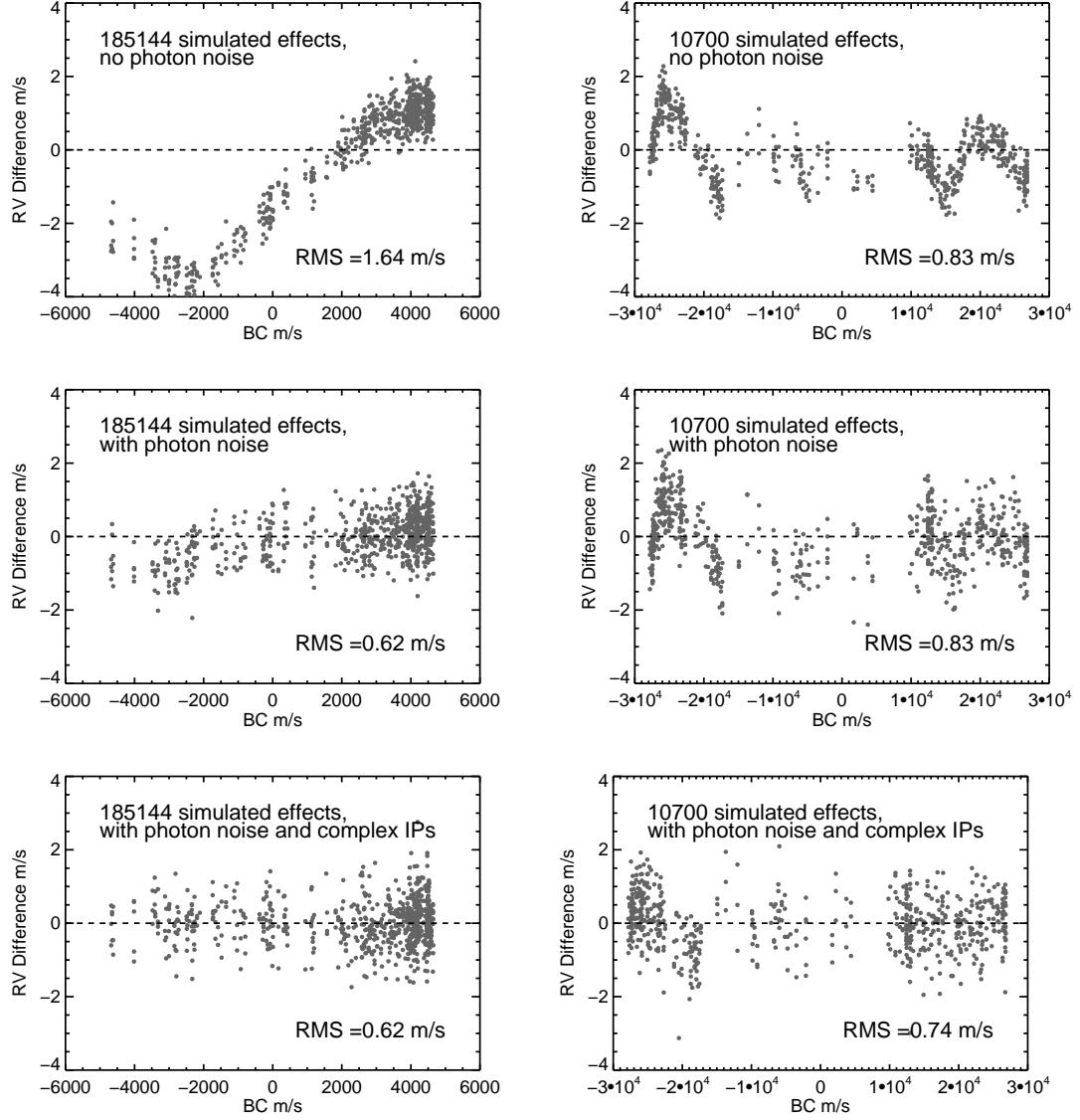


Figure 4.2 Effects of telluric lines manifested as correlation between RV and BC. Each point represents the difference in RV estimates for a pair of simulated spectra: one without telluric absorption, and one with telluric absorption on top of the stellar and iodine spectra. **Top 2 panels:** To isolate the effects of telluric lines, the simulated spectra used for this plot do not have Poisson noise added, and they have simple one-component Gaussian IPs which have fixed width and thus the IP parameters are all fixed to the true values in the RV extraction. **Middle 2 panels:** same as the top panels, but for simulated spectra with Poisson noise (same noise for the telluric and non-telluric spectrum pairs; and still the same simple IPs). **Bottom 2 panels:** same as above, but for simulated spectra with Poisson noise and complex IPs that are similar to the ones in actual observations. IP parameters are not fixed in this case, so the code is fitting 12 additional parameters for the IP on top of the 3 for wavelength solution and Doppler shift (see Chapter 2 for more details on the code).

in Figure 4.3. This is done “dynamically” in the fitting process, in the sense that, for each iteration in the least- $\chi^2$  minimization process, the contaminated pixels are located according to the current wavelength solution parameters in this fitting iteration. The wavelength solution changes from iteration to iteration, and thus the masked pixels can change too.

To investigate the effectiveness of masking, we performed RV extraction on simulated spectra with or without telluric lines injected and with or without masking (all with Poisson noise and complex IP to mimic real observations as much as possible). For stellar reference spectrum, we used the synthetic spectrum with telluric lines. The results are tabulated in Table 4.1. In terms of improving RV precision or reducing RV RMS, masking is very ineffective. The additional errors it introduces diminish its merits. On the other hand, masking does improve the accuracy to some degree: for example, masking does remove the downward RV trend seen in HD 10700 data on the bottom right plot of Figure 4.2 in the BC range  $[-3 \times 10^4, -2 \times 10^4]$  m/s. However, masking is an ineffective way to mitigate the effects of telluric contamination overall, especially since the RV errors and RV-BC trends are dominated by photon noise and algorithmic errors (and other types of errors too in real observations).

So why masking does not work? First of all, it complicates the  $\chi^2$  surface and “breaks” the L-M fitter. Due to the “dynamic” nature of the mask mentioned above, the degrees of freedom for fitting could change, because some telluric lines may shift in and out of this spectral chunk as the wavelength solution changes. This would make the fitter harder to converge or may create more loci for the fitter to get stuck in, causing additional errors. Furthermore, masking is throwing away iodine and stellar content embedded in these pixels too. Finally, to “mask” the telluric lines out, one needs to pick a flux threshold for the masks. This threshold must maintain a balance between masking too much (throwing away too much iodine and stellar information) and too little (leaving shallow telluric lines and line wings untreated). In our study, we have chosen a flux threshold of 0.3%, which means any pixel with telluric absorption deeper than 0.3% will be masked (reference telluric spectrum is generated by TERRASPEC at an altitude of  $70^\circ$ , meaning deep oxygen lines, and with precipitable water vapor (pwv) 0.8 mm, a little more than typical Keck/HIRES humidity). This masks 11% of the spectral domain, which is quite substantial and is very damaging to the RV precision, but is almost the minimal amount of masking required to achieve some RV accuracy improvement.

We also applied telluric masking in RV reduction for real observations, and saw no improvement over RV precision or accuracy. This is because other effects dominate over telluric absorption, as mentioned above, such as photon and algorithmic errors and especially deconvolution errors in stellar reference spectrum, which we will touch on in Section 4.1.4 and discuss in more detail in Section 4.2.

To summarize, masking sounds like a simple solution to the problem of micro-telluric contamination, but it is actually complicated to implement (for iodine-calibrated RV reduction) and it is ineffective in terms of improving RV precision. We do not recommend masking as a remedy for treating micro-telluric lines in iodine-calibrated RV work. We believe the most effective way is to forward model telluric lines, and combine that with some “masking” for deep or troublesome telluric lines, which we discuss in the next subsection.

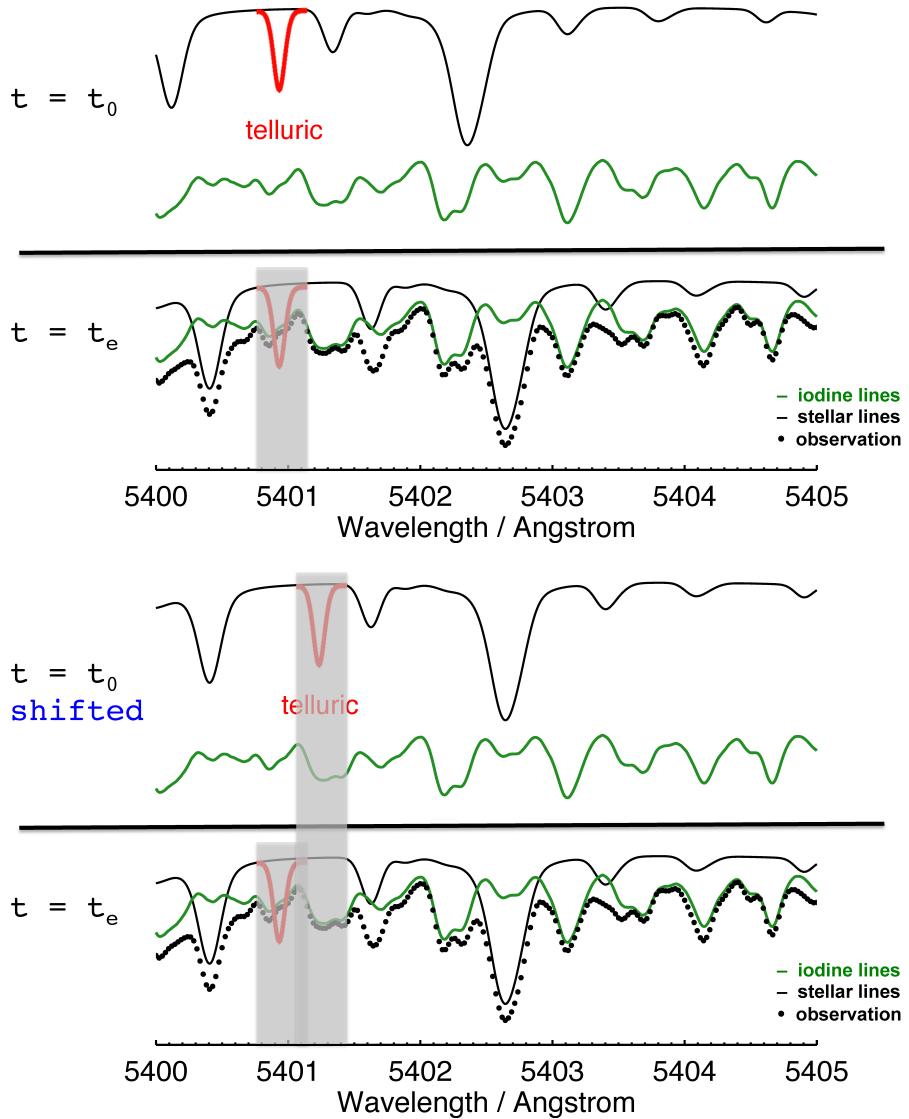


Figure 4.3 Illustration for how we mask telluric contaminated pixels. The top panel shows how we mask the telluric lines (red solid lines) in the epoch observation taken at  $t = t_e$ . The bottom panel shows why we also need to mask pixels associated with telluric lines in the deconvolved stellar reference spectrum taken at epoch  $t = t_0$  and being shifted in order to model the observation.

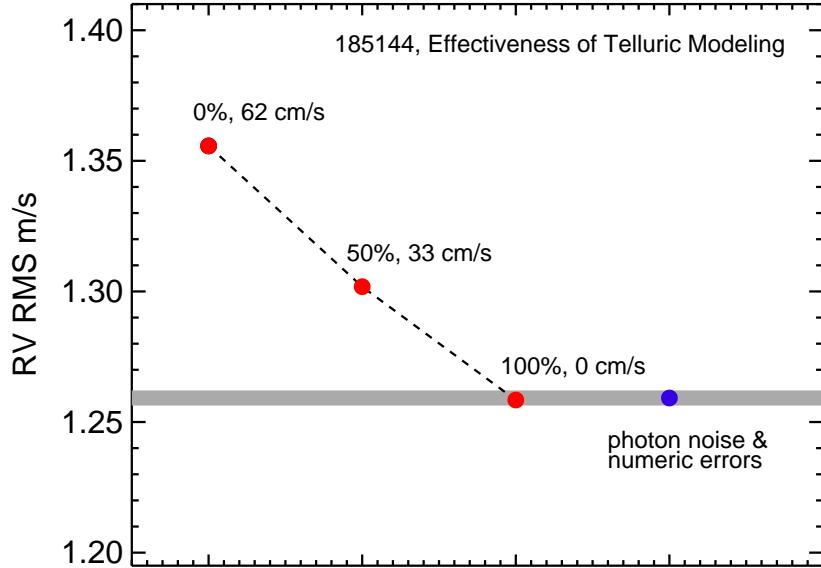


Figure 4.4 Improvements in RV RMS for different “level” of telluric modeling/removal. For example, the mid point labeled with “50%, 33 cm/s” means that if you model your telluric absorption lines to 50% of their original depths, the effects of the residual telluric absorption will add 33 cm/s in quadrature to your final RV RMS. The blue point marks the RV RMS for simulations with Poisson noise and complex IP on HD 185144, which represents the photon-limited RV precision (subject to additional numeric or algorithmic errors; see Chapter 7 for more on the limitation of the Doppler code).

#### 4.1.3.2 How precisely does one need to model the tellurics?

The other way is to incorporate telluric lines as part of the iodine RV forward modeling process, where water column density can either be from a priori knowledge or an additional free parameter. In principle, the oxygen column density can also be a free parameter, not because the amount of oxygen varies on a noticeable level, but just to allow some compensation for errors in atmospheric temperature and pressure profile and so on. We do not fit for oxygen in our simulation or treatment for real observations in this work for simplicity, and also because the chunks contaminated with oxygen lines are in the reddest part near 6300Å, where the amount of iodine and stellar contents are minimal anyway, and these chunks tend to be thrown away or heavily de-weighted in the final RV weighting process.

Modeling telluric absorption lines to high precision (below 1–2% RMS residual) can be a challenging task. There are several reasons for this: lab measurements of a large number of water lines are inaccurate, in terms of line depths, line positions, and line shapes; and these line properties can also be uncertain due to change or a lack of knowledge of the atmospheric conditions, such as wind, high line-of-sight variations (e.g., water vapor), and mixing uncertainties. For a summary of the state of the problem and paths forward recommended by the RV community, see Section 4.6 in Fischer et al. (2016). However,

the goal here is not to model or “remove” the telluric lines perfectly, but to mitigate their impact on RV precision and accuracy as much as possible. A central question is: how well do we need to model telluric lines to reach a certain RV precision (Fischer et al. 2016)?

To answer this question under the context of iodine-calibrated RV, we performed RV extractions on the simulated HD 185144 data with telluric absorption (all with pwv = 1.0 mm, as described in Section 4.1.2.1), incorporating forward modeling of telluric lines with different levels of accuracy and using a stellar reference spectrum free of tellurics. The results are illustrated in Figure 4.4. All three simulations were run with simulated spectra of HD 185144 with pwv 1.0 mm, but the one labeled “0%” has no telluric modeling in the RV extraction, while the one labeled with “50%” has synthetic telluric lines with pwv 0.5 mm in the forward modeling process, and “100%” meaning using telluric model with pwv 1.0 mm, the same as the injected telluric lines. In addition, we also used telluric model with pwv 1.1 mm in the forward modeling, which basically produced the same RV RMS as the “100%” simulation with no visible RV-BC trends or correlations. Extrapolating between the results, a  $\geq 90\%$  modeling accuracy for the water lines would control the RV RMS contribution from tellurics to below 10 cm/s, which is near or beyond target precision for the next generation RV spectrographs. This modeling is very easy to achieve in reality.

One important point to notice is that the reason why the damage of 10% telluric modeling residual is controlled down to  $\leq 10$  cm/s is the additional “masking” and weighting process in the Doppler code, i.e., “vanking” (Chapter 2). In another word, a combination of modeling (even only to 90% precision) and statistical weighting can effectively control the RV RMS introduced by tellurics to  $\leq 10$  cm/s. Weighting plays a role in telluric contamination remedy because it is essentially performing some “masking” on the chunks that are badly contaminated by tellurics and/or have large modeling residuals, such as the ones near 6300 $\text{\AA}$  with deep oxygen lines and little stellar or iodine content. Chunks with deep and numerous oxygen lines are normally thrown out completely, and other contaminated chunks which suffer from low precision will receive lower weights and thus cast a lower impact on the final precision and accuracy. In reality, we are using a combination of modeling and masking or weighting to tackle problem of telluric contamination, which we believe is the optimal solution for iodine-calibrated RVs.

#### 4.1.3.3 How about real observations?

The situation is much more complicated for real observations, because uncontrollable and unknown noise sources enter the picture. We have tested both masking and preliminary modeling for real Keck RV observations on HD 185144 and HD 10700. In the case of HD 185144, RV RMS went down (from 2.57 m/s) after we applied masking (to 2.44 m/s) or modeling (to 2.50 m/s), with visible changes in the RV-BC trends. In the case of HD 10700, the RV RMS actually went up (from 3.05 m/s) after masking (to 3.26 m/s) or modeling (3.17 m/s), also with visible changes in the RV-BC trend.

If telluric contamination is dominating the spurious RV-BC trend, then the results would be easier to interpret: other things, such as photon noise and algorithmic errors mentioned above dominate the RV RMS, and hence we see the almost arbitrary fluctua-

tion of RV RMS with different telluric remedies; and the changes we see in RV-BC trend are due to the fact that we are removing the damages caused by telluric contamination in RV accuracy. This is perhaps true for the cases of masking, but is probably false for the cases with modeling, because another important component is at play here: the deconvolved stellar reference spectrum.

For simulations, we have the privilege of using a true stellar reference spectrum that is free of tellurics. For real observations, when

#### 4.1.4 Discussion and Future Work

For redder bands, it is unclear at the moment what the requirement would be, although some theoretical calculation by Sithajan et al. (2016) suggests that modeling to 1% may not be sufficient for reaching below 1 m/s in the near infrared.

We will try real observation, and see if a priori or floating water column density parameter works better.

We hope to do a study on M dwarfs, because they are probably worse.

Important for MINERVA, HRS2, HPF2. Crucial for CARMENES, HPF, EPDS, SHREK, ESPRESSO, SPiRou etc. White paper has suggested improvement on line lists in HITRAN. EPRV2 has a lot of recommendations. That is the future direction.

## 4.2 Erros Induced by Imperfect Stellar Reference Spectra

## Chapter 5

# Characterization of Exoplanet Systems Using Radial Velocities

### 5.1 Introduction and Background

Extracting exoplanet signals from RV data is hard in many ways (see Section 4 of Fischer et al. 2016 for a summary of the status of this problem as of 2015). First, it can be hard to identify and quantify stellar activity signals from planetary signals, and one of the examples is the famous case of the GJ 581 system (Mayor et al. 2009; Vogt et al. 2010; Hatzes 2013; Robertson et al. 2014; Anglada-Escudé & Tuomi 2015; Robertson et al. 2015). Second, even with the definitive knowledge that the RV signal is dominated by planets, it can still be challenging if the planetary system is dynamically active, e.g., for the case of the 55 Cnc system (Nelson et al. 2014b), and characterizing planetary orbits is a numerically and computationally challenging problem (Nelson et al. 2014a). Third, even if the star is RV quiet and the planetary system is dynamically quiet, and all orbits can be described by simple Keplerian orbits, several challenges remain for this “parameter fitting” or optimization problem with complicated model selection scenarios: the number of planets in the system can be hard to pin down (Vogt et al. 2015; Motalebi et al. 2015; Johnson et al. 2016); some orbits may not be well constrained and thus raise ambiguities (e.g., circular orbits or eccentric; e.g., Anglada-Escudé et al. 2010; Wittenmyer et al. 2013; Kürster et al. 2015); and it can be computationally demanding.

In 2012, there were very few published codes on performing simple Keplerian fit using RV data under the context of exoplanet detection (i.e., handling multi-planets, data from multiple telescopes, etc.; e.g., the systemic console, Meschiari et al. 2009), especially ones that were easy to use. The RVLIN package by Wright & Howard (2009) addresses the problem of simple Keplerian orbital fitting using least- $\chi^2$  algorithm and exploiting the linear parameters (i.e.,  $K$ ,  $\omega$ ,  $\gamma$ , and RV trend) to speed up the convergence. It handles multi-planet systems and RV data from multiple telescopes, is very easy to use (simple input requirements and easy commands; written in IDL), and its typical time for convergence is within seconds. It is fairly popular and has a large user group beyond the exoplanet community (e.g., for binary stars and systems characterized using astrometry, Koren et al. 2016).

However, RVLIN does not provide estimates for uncertainties on the best-fit parameters. This becomes a much desirable feature especially for the Transit Ephemeris Refinement and Monitoring Survey (TERMS) project (Kane et al. 2009). TERMS follows up RV detected exoplanets with moderate separation from their bright, nearby host stars (semi-major axis > few hundredths of an AU) to search for transiting “warm” planets (as opposed to the Hot Jupiters), which are unique and important targets for atmospheric characterization. TERMS uses RVLIN for orbital parameter estimates, but only having the best-fit Keplerian parameters will not suffice for transit prediction and transit observation planning. A transit search can only be feasible if the transit window is well constrained by the RV data. Otherwise, more RVs need to be collected. As many of the TERMS targets were reported in the literature a while ago, the predicted transit ephemerides might have “drifted” from the true ones as the predictive power of old RV data faded as time went by. Therefore, estimating uncertainties on transit ephemerides becomes crucial for the project.

With the purpose of calculating transit ephemerides and their uncertainties for TERMS, and also to supplement RVLIN with a tool to estimate uncertainties, I constructed the BOOTTRAN package, which uses bootstrapping to calculate uncertainties for the Keplerian parameters estimated by RVLIN. BOOTTRAN was heavily used in the TERMS project and others (e.g., some of my co-authored publications: Henry et al. 2013; Dragomir et al. 2012; Kane et al. 2011e,a; and Feng et al. 2015). As of March 2016, BOOTTRAN and Wang et al. (2012) have received  $\sim 30$  citations. The statistical justification and algorithm of BOOTTRAN is described in the next section. The final section of this chapter describes my contributing work on characterizing exoplanetary systems in in Feng et al. (2015) and Henry et al. (2013) using other tools besides BOOTTRAN. The next chapter, Chapter 6, descirbes the planetary system around the star HD 37605, which serves as an example of application of RVLIN and BOOTTRAN(similar with other TERMS publications citing Wang et al. 2012 such as Dragomir et al. 2012).

## 5.2 BOOTTRAN: Uncertainties for Orbital Parameters Estimated Using Radial Velocities

*The following texts are originally published in the appendix of Wang et al. (2012) in ApJ, and copy right belongs to IOP Publishing. They are used in this thesis with permission (with minor modification to fit in this chapter).*

We have constructed a package, BOOTTRAN, to calculate uncertainties for Keplerian orbital parameter estimates<sup>1</sup> and transit mid-time  $T_c$  via bootstrapping (Freedman 1981; Davison & Hinkley 1997). BOOTTRAN is designed to calculate error bars for transit ephemerides and the Keplerian orbital fit parameters output by the RVLIN package(Wright & Howard 2009), but can also be a stand-alone package. The two packages, RVLIN and BOOTTRAN, are publicly available at <http://exoplanets.org/code/> and the Astrophysical Source Code Library (ASCL.net). Thanks to the simple concept of bootstrapping, it is computationally very time-efficient and easy to use.

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<sup>1</sup>Through out this thesis, we refer to the “estimates of the parameters” (as distinguished from the “true parameters”, which are not known and can only be estimated simply as the “parameters”).

The basic idea of bootstrap is to resample based on original data to create bootstrap samples (multiple data replicates); then for each bootstrap sample, derive orbital parameters or transit parameters through orbital fitting and calculation. The ensemble of parameters obtained in this way yields the approximate sampling distribution for each estimated parameter. The standard deviation of this sampling distribution is the standard error for the estimate.

We caution the readers here that there are regimes in which the “approximate sampling distribution” (a frequentist’s concept) is not an estimate of the posterior probability distribution (a Bayesian concept), and there are regimes (e.g., when limited sampling affects the shape of the  $\chi^2$  surface) where there are qualitative differences and the bootstrap method dramatically underestimates uncertainties (e.g., long-period planets when the observations are not yet sufficient to pin down the orbital period; Ford 2005; Bender et al. 2012). In situations with sufficient RV data, good phase coverage, a sufficient time span of observations and a good orbital fit, bootstrap often gives a useful estimate of the parameter uncertainties. For the data considered in Chapter 6 (Wang et al. 2012), it was not obvious that the bootstrap uncertainty estimate would be accurate, as the time span of observations is only slightly longer than the orbital period of planet  $c$ . Nevertheless, we find good agreement between the uncertainty estimates derived from bootstrap and MCMC calculations in Wang et al. (2012).

The radial velocity data are denoted as  $\{\vec{t}, \vec{v}, \vec{\sigma}\}$ , where each  $t_i, v_i, \sigma_i$  represents radial velocity  $v_i$  observed at time (BJD)  $t_i$  with velocity uncertainty  $\sigma_i$ . Extreme outliers should be rejected in order to preserve the validity of our bootstrap algorithm. We first derive our estimates for the true orbital parameters from the original RV data via orbital fitting, using the RVLIN package:

$$\vec{\beta} = \mu(\vec{t}, \vec{v}, \vec{\sigma}), \quad (5.1)$$

where  $\vec{\beta}$  is the best fitted orbital parameters<sup>2</sup>. From  $\vec{\beta}$ , we derive  $\{\vec{t}, \vec{v}_{best}(\vec{\beta})\}$ , the best-fit model (here  $\vec{t}$  are treated as predictors and thus fixed). Then we can begin resampling to create bootstrap samples.

Our resampling plan is model-based resampling, where we draw from the residuals against the best-fit model. For data that come from the same instrument or telescope, in which case no instrumental offset needs to be taken into account, we simply draw from all residuals,  $\{\vec{v} - \vec{v}_{best}\}$ , with equal probability for each  $(v_i - v_{best,i})$ . This new ensemble of residuals, denoted as  $\vec{r}^*$ , is then added to the best-fit model  $\vec{v}_{best}$  to create one bootstrap sample,  $\vec{v}^*$ <sup>3</sup>. Associated with  $\vec{r}^*$ , the uncertainties  $\vec{\sigma}$  are also re-assigned to  $\vec{v}^*$  – that is, if  $v_j - v_{best,j}$  is drawn as  $r_k$  and added to  $v_k$  to generate  $v_k^*$ , then the uncertainty for  $v_k^*$  is set to be  $\sigma_j$ .

For data that come from multiple instruments or multiple telescopes, we incorporate our model-based resampling plan to include stratified sampling. In this case, although data from each instrument or telescope are close to homoscedastic, the entire set of data

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<sup>2</sup>As described in §6.3.2, this includes the  $P$ ,  $T_p$ ,  $K$ ,  $e$ , and  $\omega$  for each planet, as well as  $\gamma$ ,  $dv/dt$  (if applicable), and velocity offsets between instruments/telescopes (if applicable) for the system.

<sup>3</sup>We simply use the raw residual instead of any form of modified residual, because the RV data for any single instrument or telescope are usually close enough to homoscedasticity.

are usually highly heteroscedastic due to stratification in instrument/telescope radial velocity precision. Therefore, the resampling process is done by breaking down the data into different groups,  $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots\}$ , according to instrument and/or telescope, and then resample within each subgroup of data with the algorithm described in last paragraph. The bootstrap sample is then  $\vec{v}^* = \{\vec{v}_1^*, \vec{v}_2^*, \dots\}$ .

To construct the approximate sampling distribution of the orbital parameter estimates  $\vec{\beta}$ , we compute

$$\vec{\beta}^* = \mu(\vec{t}, \vec{v}^*, \sigma^*) \quad (5.2)$$

for each bootstrap sample,  $\{\vec{t}, \vec{v}^*, \sigma^*\}$ . The sampling distribution for each orbital parameter estimate  $\beta_i$  can be constructed from the multiple sets of  $\vec{\beta}^*$  calculated from multiple bootstrap samples ( $\vec{\beta}^{*(1)}, \vec{\beta}^{*(2)}, \dots$  from  $\vec{v}^{*(1)}, \vec{v}^{*(2)}, \dots$ ). The standard errors for  $\vec{\beta}$  are simply the standard deviations of the sampling distributions<sup>4</sup>.

The sampling distribution of the estimated transit mid-time,  $T_c$ , is calculated likewise. Here  $T_c$  is the transit time for a certain planet of interest in the system, and is usually specified to be the first transit after a designated time  $T$ . However, the situation is complicated by the periodic nature of  $T_c$ . Our approach is to first calculate, based on the original RV data,  $T_{c0}$ , the estimated mid-time of the first transit after time  $T_0$  (an arbitrary time within the RV observation time window of  $[\min(\vec{t}), \max(\vec{t})]$ ;  $T_{c0}$  is also within this window). Then

$$T_c = N \cdot P + T_{c0}, \quad (5.3)$$

where  $P$  is the best-estimated period for this planet of interest, and  $N$  is the smallest integer that is larger than  $(T - T_{c0})/P$ . Next we compute  $T_{c0}^*$  for each bootstrap sample  $\{\vec{t}, \vec{v}^*, \sigma^*\}$ . Given that within the time window of radial velocity observations ( $[\min(\vec{t}), \max(\vec{t})]$ ), the phase of the planet should be known well enough, it is fair to assume that  $T_{c0}$  is an unbiased estimator of the true transit mid-time. Therefore we assert that  $T_{c0}^*$  has to be well constrained and within the range of  $[T_{c0} - P^*/2, T_{c0} + P^*/2]$ , where  $P^*$  is the period estimated from this bootstrap sample. If not, then we subtract or add multiple  $P^*$ 's until  $T_{c0}^*$  falls within the range. Then naturally

$$T_c^* = N \cdot P^* + T_{c0}^*. \quad (5.4)$$

The ensemble of  $T_c^*$ 's gives the sampling distribution of  $T_c$  and its standard error. Note that  $T_c^*$  is not necessarily within the range of  $[T_c - P/2, T_c + P/2]$ .

Provided with the stellar mass  $M_\star$  and its uncertainty, we calculate, for each planet in the system, the standard errors for the semi-major axis  $a$  and the *minimum mass* of the planet  $M_{p,\min}$  (denoted as  $M \sin i$  in the main text as commonly seen in literature, but this is a somewhat imprecise notation). As the first step, the mass function is calculated for the best-fit  $\vec{\beta}$  and each bootstrap sample  $\vec{\beta}^*$ ,

$$f(P, K, e) = \frac{PK^3(1-e)^{3/2}}{2\pi G} = \frac{(M_p \cdot \sin i)^3}{(M_\star + M_p)^2}. \quad (5.5)$$

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<sup>4</sup>The standard deviation of a sampling distribution is estimated in a robust way using the IDL function *robust\_sigma*, which is written by H. Fruedenreich based on the principles of robust estimation outlined in Hoaglin et al. (1983).

The sampling distribution of  $f(P, K, e)$  then gives the standard error of the mass function. The minimum mass of the planet  $M_{p,\min}$  is then calculated by assuming  $\sin i = 1$  and solving for  $M_p$ . Standard error of  $M_{p,\min}$  is derived through simple propagation of error, as the covariance between  $M_\star$  and  $f(P, K, e)$  is probably negligible.

For the semi-major axis  $a$ ,

$$a^3 = \frac{P^2 G(M_\star + M_p)}{4\pi^2} \approx \frac{P^2 G(M_\star + M_{p,\min})}{4\pi^2}. \quad (5.6)$$

The standard error of  $P^2$  is calculated from its bootstrap sampling distribution, and via simple propagation of error we obtain the standard error of  $a$  (neglecting covariance between  $P^2$ ,  $M_{p,\min}$ , and  $M_\star$ ).

### 5.3 Other Works on Characterization of Planetary Systems

This section highlights my contributing work in Feng et al. (2015) and Henry et al. (2013) using other tools instead of BOOTTRAN for characterization of planetary systems.

(1) Feng et al. (2015) reports updates and/or new detections on the planetary systems around eight stars using RV data (primarily taken by Keck/HIRES), including: orbit updates for HD 24040, HD 183263, HD 74156, and HD 187123; a newly detected linear trend in RV for the HD 66428 system; RV coverage for complete orbits for GJ 849c and HD 217107c; detection of HD 145934b. The emphasis of the paper is on detecting and characterizing long-period planets, which can be challenging because some of the planets have orbital periods on a  $\sim 10$  year time scale and thus have relatively poor RV coverage. In such cases, it is important to illustrate good constraints on orbital properties to confirm detection of the planets. A very useful tool is the “Wright diagram” (as referred to by Knutson et al. 2014; see, e.g., Wright et al. 2009b). For example, Figure 5.1 is a Wright diagram for HD 217107c, which shows the  $\chi^2$  surface “marginalized” over  $M \sin i$  and  $P$  (each  $\chi^2$  value is for a set of optimized parameters with fixed  $M \sin i$  and  $P$ ; see Section 6.3.2 for more details). This demonstrates that the mass of HD 217107c is well constrained to justify its planetary nature (nominally  $< 13 M_{\text{Jup}}$ ), and the period is decently constrained even though the RV data barely covers one orbital period for HD 217107c. Figure 11 in Feng et al. (2015) serves the same purpose but for GJ 849c.

(2) Henry et al. (2013) reports the host star properties and transit exclusion for the HD 38529 system. TERMS refined the orbital parameters for HD 38529b and c using new and archival RV data from HET/HRS, Lick/Hamilton, and Keck/HIRES. See Figure 5.2 for the RV plot for this system (orbital fitting and uncertainty estimates from RVLIN and BOOTTRAN). The RV data also enabled us to test the hypothesis of a third planet in the system speculated by Benedict et al. (2010), using Monte Carlo to estimate the significance of potential periodic signals in the RV residuals to the two-planet Keplerian solution.

*The texts below are from Section 3.4 of Henry et al. (2013) and were co-written by me and the second author Stephen R. Kane (with minor revisions for consistency with this chapter).*

The results of Benedict et al. (2010) are utilized by the authors to speculate on evidence for a third planet in the system of HD 38529. Thus we also consider this possibility from our analysis since our RV data comprise a substantially larger dataset. As reported by Benedict et al. (2010), a coplanar orbital solution is only stable if the third planet has a period within the window of [33, 445] days and an eccentricity of  $< 0.3$ , or a period larger than their RV data baseline ( $> 10$  years). For this reason, we focused our search for the third planet within the period window of [33, 445] days, and constrained the eccentricity to be  $< 0.3$ .

We first searched for strong periodic signals in the residuals of the two-planet Keplerian solution by fitting sinusoids to the residuals at different periods within [33, 445] days (with 0.4 day step in period). The results are plotted in solid line in Figure 5.3. We then estimated the false positive probability to see if any of the strong peaks are significant enough. We define the false positive probability for a peak with a certain amplitude  $K'$  as the probability that a signal with amplitude  $\geq K'$  is generated by the residuals just by chance. We generated 1000 sets of simulated residuals by scrambling the true residuals (and their associated errors, with replacements), and then searched for the peak with largest amplitude within the  $P = [33, 445]$  day window for each of the 1000 sets. These 1000 amplitudes provide approximately the distribution of amplitudes arising purely from random noise in the residuals. Any peak in Figure 5.3 that has an amplitude smaller than 950 (95%) of these 1000 amplitudes is thus considered having false positive probability of  $> 5\%$ . This is marked by the top dashed line in Figure 5.3, and similarly for the 10% and 50% lines.

As shown in Figure 5.3, no peak has a false positive probability of less than 5%, and two with less than 10% at 119 days and 164 days. We see no significant peak around 194 days as reported by Benedict et al. (2010). We then performed 3-planet Keplerian fit with our RV data within the  $P = [33, 445]$  day window and with the constraint that the eccentricity must be smaller than 0.3. We found that indeed the best-fit is near 164 days, with  $e = 0.3$  (also true if we force the third planet to be on circular orbit; best-fit  $e = 0.99$  if no constraint on  $e$  is required). The  $\chi^2_\nu$  of this fit is 9.58, and an F-test suggests that the 3-planet model provides a better fit though having 5 more parameters. However, the RMS for this fit is  $11.92 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , i.e., adding a third planet does not reduce the RMS of the fit. Combining with the fact that this signal at  $P = 164$  days does not have lower than 5% false positive probability, we cannot conclude that our data have detected a third planet in the HD 38529 system.

We note here that including or excluding this third planet does not affect our transit exclusion analysis in the following sections, because the changes in the orbital parameters for both HD 38529 $b$  or  $c$ , after adding the third planet, are smaller than their error bars.

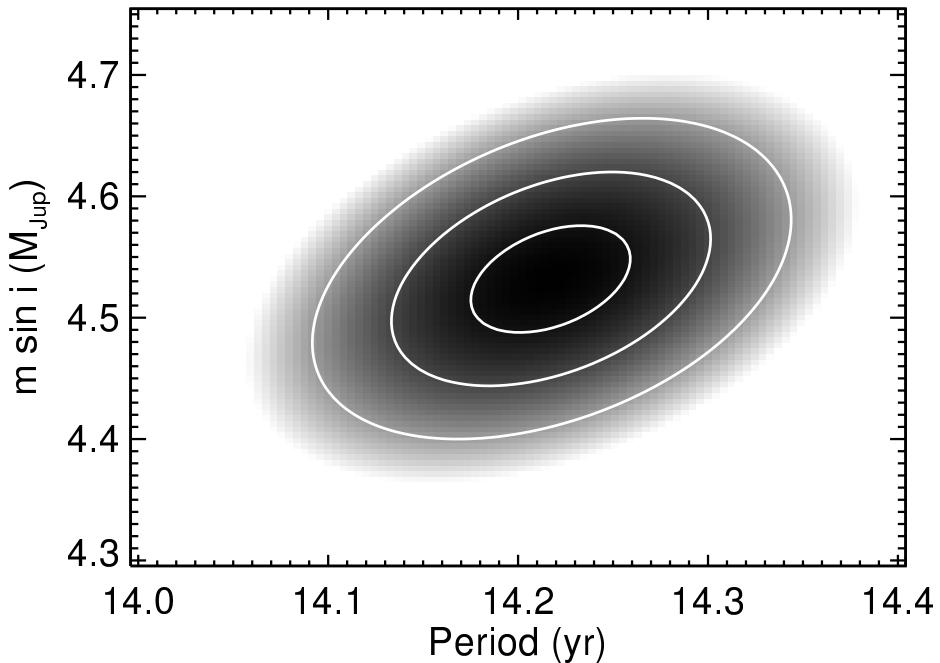


Figure 5.1 Best-fit  $100 \times 100$   $\chi^2$  map for fixed values of  $P_c$  and  $M_c \sin i_c$  for HD 217107c. This confirms that the period and mass are well-constrained. We have illustrated the contours of the  $1\sigma$ ,  $2\sigma$ , and  $3\sigma$  (defined by  $\chi^2 = \chi^2_{\min} + \{2.30, 6.17, 11.8\}$ ) confidence levels, based on for the number of degrees of freedom in the problem (Press et al. 2002). The center and  $1\sigma$  limits in both parameters are consistent with the bootstrapping uncertainties for these parameters. This figure is published as Figure 9 in Feng et al. (2015) and was co-produced by me and the leading author Y. Katherina Feng.

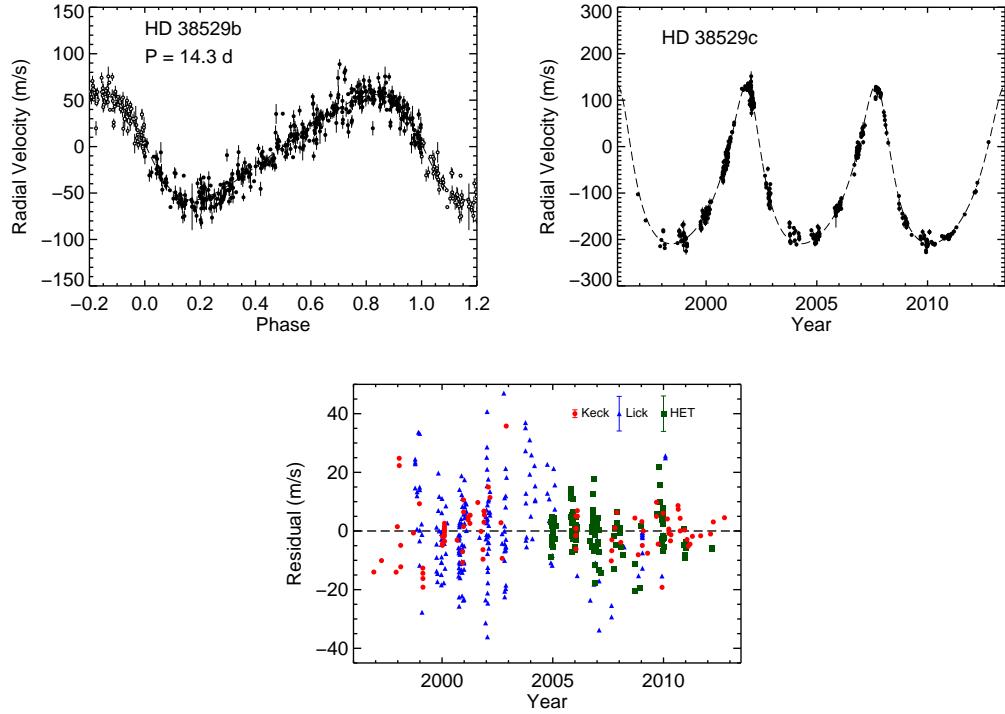


Figure 5.2 Top two panels: radial velocity signal (black dots) induced by HD 38529b and *c*, respectively, and the best-fit orbital solution (dashed line). Error bars shown are internal errors for each observation. The radial velocity signal for each planet was extracted by subtracting off the best-fit orbital velocities of the other planet from the total observed RVs. Bottom panel: residual velocities with respect to the best two-planet orbital solution. The red dots are for Keck data (data sets 3 and 4 in Henry et al. (2013)), the blue triangles are for Lick data (data sets 5 and 6), and the green squares are for the HET data (data sets 1 and 2). The typical size of internal error bars for each telescope ( $\pm$  median internal errors) are plotted on the upper right of this panel. This figure is published as Figure 2 in Henry et al. (2013) and was made by me.

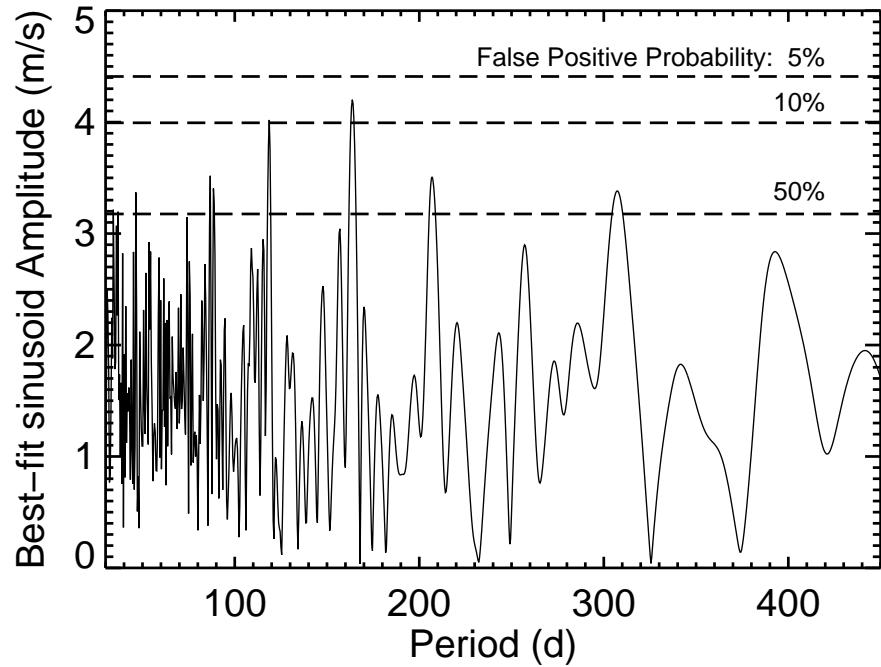


Figure 5.3 Amplitude of best-fit sinusoids to the residuals of the two-planet Keplerian solution (solid line). Any peak in this period window that has amplitude larger than the top dashed line is considered to be significant for having  $< 5\%$  false positive probability. Similar meanings for the two lower dashed lines ( $< 10\%$  and  $< 50\%$ ). No period within this window has less than 5% false positive probability, and the two peaks with  $< 10\%$  false positive probability are at 119 days and 164 days. We see no significant peak around 194 days as reported by Benedict et al. (2010). This figure is published as Figure 3 in Henry et al. (2013) and was made by me.

# Chapter 6

## The Discovery of HD 37605 $c$ and a Dispositive Null Detection of Transits of HD 37605 $b$

*The content in this chapter were published in ApJ, and the copy right belongs to IOP Publishing; all texts, figures, and tables are used in this thesis with permission. Most of the texts were written by Sharon Xuesong Wang, with the exception of Section 6.1 and Section 6.3.5 (both by Jason T. Wright), Section 6.3.4 (by Matthew J. Payne), and the first three paragraphs in Section 6.4.2 (by Stephen R. Kane and Victoria Antoci).*

*For figures and tables: Figure 6.3 and 6.4 were made by Mathew J. Payne, Figure 6.5 and 6.6 were made by Gregory W. Henry, and Figure 6.7 was made by Stephen R. Kane. The rest of the figures were made by Sharon Xuesong Wang. All tables were compiled by Sharon Xuesong Wang, although some of the data came from contributing authors: Table 6.1 was based on SME analysis results done by Jeff A. Valenti; Table 6.3 contains orbital parameters estimated using MCMC by Mathew J. Payne; the data in Table 6.4 are provided by Gregory W. Henry; and the data in Table 6.5 are provided by Stephen R. Kane, Victoria Antoci, Diana Dragomir, and Jaymie M. Matthews.*

### 6.1 Introduction

#### 6.1.1 Context

Jupiter analogs orbiting other stars represent the first signposts of true Solar System analogs, and the eccentricity distribution of these planets with  $a > 3$  AU will reveal how rare or frequent true Jupiter analogs are. To date, only 9 “Jupiter analogs” have been well-characterized in the peer reviewed literature<sup>1</sup> (defined here as  $P > 8$  years,  $4 > M \sin i > 0.5 M_{\text{Jup}}$ , and  $e < 0.3$ ; Wright et al. 2011, exoplanets.org). As the duration

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<sup>1</sup>HD 13931 $b$  (Howard et al. 2010), HD 72659 $b$  (Moutou et al. 2011), 55 Cnc  $d$  (Marcy et al. 2002), HD 134987 $c$  (Jones et al. 2010), HD 154345 $b$  (Wright et al. 2008, but with possibility of being an activity cycle-induced signal),  $\mu$  Ara  $c$  (Pepe et al. 2007), HD 183263 $c$  (Wright et al. 2009a), HD 187123 $c$  (Wright et al. 2009a), and GJ 832 $b$  (Bailey et al. 2009).

of existing planet searches approach 10–20 years, more and more Jupiter analogs will emerge from their longest-observed targets (Wittenmyer et al. 2012; Boisse et al. 2012).

Of the over 700 exoplanets discovered to date, nearly 200 are known to transit their host star (Wright et al. 2011, [exoplanets.org](#); Schneider et al. 2011, [exoplanet.eu](#)), and many thousands more candidates have been discovered by the *Kepler* telescope. Of all of these planets, only three orbit stars with  $V < 8$ <sup>2</sup> and all have  $P < 4$  days. Long period planets are less likely than close-in planets to transit unless their orbits are highly eccentric and favorably oriented, and indeed only 2 transiting planets with  $P > 20$  days have been discovered around stars with  $V < 10$ , and both have  $e > 0.65$  (HD 80606, Laughlin et al. 2009, Fossey et al. 2009; HD 17156, Fischer et al. 2007, Barbieri et al. 2007; both highly eccentric systems were discovered first with radial velocities).

Long period planets not known to transit can have long transit windows due to both the large duration of any edge-on transit and higher phase uncertainties (since such uncertainties scale with the period of the orbit). Long term radial velocity monitoring of stars, for instance for the discovery of low amplitude signals, can produce collateral benefits in the form of orbit refinement for a transit search and the identification of Jupiter analogs (e.g., Wright et al. 2009a). Herein, we describe an example of both.

### 6.1.2 Initial Discovery and Followup

The inner planet in the system, HD 37605b, was the first planet discovered with the Hobby-Eberly Telescope (HET) at McDonald Observatory (Cochran et al. 2004). It is a super Jupiter ( $M \sin i = 2.41 M_{\text{Jup}}$ ) on an eccentric orbit  $e = 0.67$  with an orbital period in the “period valley” ( $P = 55$  days; Wright et al. 2009a).

W.C., M.E., and P.J.M. of the University of Texas at Austin, continued observations in order to get a much better orbit determination and to begin searching for transits. With the first new data in the fall of 2004, it became obvious that another perturber was present in the system, first from a trend in the radial velocity (RV) residuals (i.e., a non-zero  $dV/dt$ ; Wittenmyer et al. 2007), and later from curvature in the residuals. By 2009, the residuals to a one-planet fit were giving reasonable constraints on the orbit of a second planet, HD 37605c, and by early 2011 the orbital parameters of the c component were clear, and the Texas team was preparing the system for publication.

### 6.1.3 TERMS Data

The Transit Ephemeris Refinement and Monitoring Survey (TERMS; Kane et al. 2009) seeks to refine the ephemerides of the known exoplanets orbiting bright, nearby stars with sufficient precision to efficiently search for the planetary transits of planets with periastron distances greater than a few hundredths of an AU (Kane et al. 2011c; Pilyavsky et al. 2011a; Dragomir et al. 2011). This will provide the radii of planets not experiencing continuous high levels of insolation around nearby, easily studied stars.

In 2010, S.M. and J.T.W. began radial velocity observations of HD 37605b at HET from Penn State University for TERMS, to refine the orbit of that planet for a fu-

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<sup>2</sup>55 Cnc e (McArthur et al. 2004; Demory et al. 2011), HD 189733 (Bouchy et al. 2005), and HD 209458 (Henry et al. 2000; Charbonneau et al. 2000).

ture transit search. These observations, combined with Keck radial velocities from the California Planet Survey (CPS) consortium from 2006 onward, revealed that there was substantial curvature to the radial velocity residuals to the original Cochran et al. (2004) solution. In October 2010 monitoring was intensified at HET and at Keck Observatory by A.W.H., G.W.M., J.T.W., and H.I., and with these new RV data and the previously published measurements from Wittenmyer et al. (2007) they obtained a preliminary solution for the outer planet. The discrepancy between the original orbital fit and the new fit (assuming one planet) was presented at the January 2011 meeting of the American Astronomical Society (Kane et al. 2011d).

#### 6.1.4 Synthesis and Outline

In early 2011, the Texas and TERMS teams combined efforts and began joint radial velocity analysis, dynamical modeling, spectroscopic analysis, and photometric observations (Kane et al. 2012). The resulting complete two-planet orbital solution allows for a sufficiently precise transit ephemeris for the  $b$  component to be calculated for a thorough transit search. We herein report the transit exclusion of HD 37605 $b$  and a stable dynamical solution to the system.

In § 6.2, we describe our spectroscopic observations and analysis, which provided the radial velocities and the stellar properties of HD 37605. § 6.3 details the orbital solution for the HD 37605 system, including a comparison with MCMC Keplerian fits, and our dynamical analysis. We report our photometric observations on HD 37605 and the dispositive null detection<sup>3</sup> of non-grazing transits of HD 37605 $b$  in § 6.4. After § 6.5, Summary and Conclusion, we present updates on  $M \sin i$  of two previously published systems (HD 114762 and HD 168443) in § 6.6. In the Appendix we describe the algorithm used in the package BOOTTRAN (for calculating orbital parameter error bars; see § 6.3.2).

## 6.2 Spectroscopic Observations and Analysis

### 6.2.1 HET and Keck Observations

Observations on HD 37605 at HET started December of 2003. In total, 101 RV observations took place over the course of almost eight years, taking advantage of the queue scheduling capabilities of HET. The queue scheduling of HET allows for small amounts of telescope time to be optimally used throughout the year, and for new observing priorities to be implemented immediately, rather than on next allocated night or after TAC and scheduling process (Shetrone et al. 2007). The observations were taken through the High Resolution Spectrograph (HRS; Tull 1998) situated at the basement of the HET building. This fiber-fed spectrograph has a typical long-term Doppler error of 3 – 5 m/s (Baluev 2009). The observations were taken with the spectrograph configured at a resolving power of  $R = 60,000$ . For more details, see Cochran et al. (2004).

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<sup>3</sup>A dispositive null detection is one that disposes of the question of whether an effect is present, as opposed to one that merely fails to detect a purported or hypothetical effect that may yet lie beneath the detection threshold. The paragon of dispositive null detections is the Michelson-Morley demonstration that the luminiferous ether does not exist (Michelson & Morley 1887).

Observations at Keck were taken starting August 2006. A set of 33 observations spanning over five years were made through the HIRES spectrometer (Vogt et al. 1994) on the Keck I telescope, which has a long-term Doppler error of 0.9 – 1.5 m/s (e.g. Howard et al. 2009). The observations were taken at a resolving power of  $R = 55,000$ . For more details, see Howard et al. (2009) and Valenti et al. (2009).

Both our HET and Keck spectroscopic observations were taken with an iodine cell placed in the light path to provide wavelength standard and information on the instrument response function<sup>4</sup> (IRF) for radial velocity extraction (Marcy & Butler 1992; Butler et al. 1996b). In addition, we also have observations taken without iodine cell to produce stellar spectrum templates – on HET and Keck, respectively. The stellar spectrum templates, after being deconvolved with the IRF, are necessary for both radial velocity extraction and stellar property analysis. The typical working wavelength range for this technique is roughly 5000 Å– 6000 Å.

### 6.2.2 Data Reduction and Doppler Analysis

In this section, we describe our data reduction and Doppler analysis of the HET observations. We reduced the Keck data with the standard CPS pipeline, as described in, for example, Howard et al. (2011) and Johnson et al. (2011a).

We have constructed a complete pipeline for analyzing HET data – from raw data reduction to radial velocity extraction. The raw reduction is done using the REDUCE package by Piskunov & Valenti (2002). This package is designed to optimally extract echelle spectra from 2-D images (Horne 1986). Our pipeline corrects for cosmic rays and scattered light. In order to make the data reduction process completely automatic, we have developed our own algorithm for tracing the echelle orders of HRS and replaced the original semi-automatic algorithm from the REDUCE package.

After the raw data reduction, the stellar spectrum template is deconvolved using IRF derived from an iodine flat on the night of observation. There were two deconvolved stellar spectrum templates (DSST) derived from HET/HRS observations and one from Keck/HIRES. Throughout this work, we use the Keck DSST, which is of better quality thanks to a better known IRF of HIRES and a superior deconvolution algorithm in the CPS pipeline (Howard et al. 2009, 2011).

Then the pipeline proceeds with barycentric correction and radial velocity extraction for each observation. We have adopted the Doppler code from CPS (e.g. Howard et al. 2009, 2011; Johnson et al. 2011a). The code is tailored to be fully functional with HET/HRS-formatted spectra, and it is capable of working with either an HET DSST or a Keck one.

The 101 HET RV observations include 44 observations which produced the published velocities in Cochran et al. (2004) and Wittenmyer et al. (2007), 34 observations also done by the Texas team in follow-up work after 2007, and 23 observations taken as part of TERMS program. We have performed re-reduction on these 44 observations together with all the rest 57 HET observations through our pipeline. This has the advantage

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<sup>4</sup>Some authors refer to this as the “point spread function” or the “instrumental profile” of the spectrograph.

of eliminating one free parameter in the Keplerian fit – the offset between two Doppler pipelines.

Two out of the 101 HET observations were excluded due to very low average signal-to-noise ratio per pixel ( $< 20$ ), and one observation taken at twilight was also rejected as such observation normally results in low accuracy due to the significant contamination by the residual solar spectrum (indeed this velocity has a residual of over 100 m/s against best Keplerian fit, much larger than the  $\sim 8$  m/s RV error).

All the HET and Keck radial velocities used in this work (98 from HET and 33 from Keck) are listed in Table ??.

### 6.2.3 Stellar Analysis

HD 37605 is a K0 V star ( $V \sim 8.7$ ) with high proper motion at a distance of  $44.0 \pm 2.1$  pc (ESA 1997; van Leeuwen 2008). We derived its stellar properties based on analysis on a high-resolution spectrum taken with Keck HIRES (without iodine cell in the light path). Table 6.1 lists the results of our analysis<sup>5</sup>, including the effective temperature  $T_{\text{eff}}$ , surface gravity  $\log g$ , iron abundance [Fe/H], projected rotational velocity  $v \sin i$ , bolometric correction BC, bolometric magnitude  $M_{\text{bol}}$ , stellar luminosity  $L_{\star}$ , stellar radius  $R_{\star}$ , stellar mass  $M_{\star}$  and age. HD 37605 is found to be a metal rich star ([Fe/H]  $\sim 0.34$ ) with  $M_{\star} \sim 1.0 M_{\odot}$  and  $R_{\star} \sim 0.9 R_{\odot}$ .

We followed the procedure described in Valenti & Fischer (2005) and also in Valenti et al. (2009) with improvements. Briefly, the observed spectrum is fitted with a synthetic spectrum using Spectroscopy Made Easy (SME; Valenti & Piskunov 1996) to derive  $T_{\text{eff}}$ ,  $\log g$ , [Fe/H],  $v \sin i$ , and so on, which are used to derive the bolometric correction BC and  $L_{\star}$  consequently. Then an isochrone fit by interpolating tabulated Yonsei-Yale isochrones (Demarque et al. 2004) using derived stellar parameters from SME is performed to calculate  $M_{\star}$  and  $\log g_{\text{iso}}$  values (along with age and stellar radius). Next, Valenti et al. (2009) introduced an outside loop which re-runs SME with  $\log g$  fixed at  $\log g_{\text{iso}}$ , followed by another isochrone fit deriving a new  $\log g_{\text{iso}}$  using the updated SME results. The loop continues until  $\log g$  values converge. This additional iterative procedure to enforce self-consistency on  $\log g$  is shown to improve the accuracy of other derived stellar parameters (Valenti et al. 2009). The stellar radius and  $\log g$  reported here in Table 6.1 are derived from the final isochrone fit, which are consistent with the purely spectroscopic results. The gravity ( $\log g = 4.51$ ) is also consistent with the purely spectroscopic gravity (4.44) based on strong Mg b damping wings, so for HD 37605 the iteration process is optional.

Cochran et al. (2004) reported the values of  $T_{\text{eff}}$ ,  $\log g$ , and [Fe/H] for HD 37605, and their estimates agree with ours within  $1\sigma$  uncertainty. Santos et al. (2005) also estimated  $T_{\text{eff}}$ ,  $\log g$ , [Fe/H], and  $M_{\star}$ , all of which agree with our values within  $1\sigma$ . Our stellar mass and radius estimates are also consistent with the ones derived from the empirical method by Torres et al. (2010).

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<sup>5</sup>Note that the errors on the stellar radius  $R_{\star}$  and mass  $M_{\star}$  listed in Table 6.1 are not intrinsic to the SME code, but are  $5\% \times R_{\star}$  and  $5\% \times M_{\star}$ . This is because the intrinsic errors reported by SME do not include the errors stemming from the adopted stellar models, and a more realistic precision for  $R_{\star}$  and  $M_{\star}$  would be around  $\sim 5\%$ . Intrinsic errors reported by SME are  $0.015 L_{\odot}$  for  $R_{\star}$  and  $0.017 M_{\odot}$  for  $M_{\star}$ .

Our SME analysis indicates that the rotation of the star ( $v \sin i$ ) is likely  $< 1$  km/s (corresponding to rotation period  $\gtrsim 46$  days). We have used various methods to estimate stellar parameters from the spectrum, including the incorporation of color and absolute magnitude information and the Mg b triplet to constrain  $\log g$ , and various macroturbulent velocity prescriptions. All of these approaches yield results consistent with an undetectable level of rotational broadening, with an upper limit of 1-2 km/s, consistent with the tentative photometric period 57.67 days derived from the APT data (See §6.4.1).

## 6.3 Orbital Solution

### 6.3.1 Transit Ephemeris

The traditional parameters for reporting the ephemerides of spectroscopic binaries are  $P, K, e, \omega$ , and  $T_p$ , the last being the time of periastron passage (?). This information is sufficient to predict the phase of a planet at any point in the future in principle, but the uncertainties in those parameters alone are insufficient to compute the uncertainty in orbital phase without detailed knowledge of the covariances among the parameters.

This problem is particularly acute when determining transit or secondary eclipse times for planets with near circular orbits, where  $\sigma_{T_p}$  and  $\sigma_\omega$  can be highly covariant. In such cases the circular case is often not excluded by the data, and so the estimation of  $e$  includes the case  $e = 0$ , where  $\omega$  is undefined. If the best or most likely value of  $e$  in this case is small but not zero, then it is associated with some nominal value of  $\omega$ , but  $\sigma_\omega$  will be very large (approaching  $\pi$ ). Since  $T_p$  represents the epoch at which the true anomaly equals 0,  $T_p$  will have a similarly large uncertainty (approaching  $P$ ), despite the fact that the phase of the system may actually be quite precisely known!

In practice even the ephemerides of planets with well measured eccentricities suffer from lack of knowledge of the covariance in parameters, in particular  $T_p$  and  $P$  (whose covariance is sensitive to the approximate epoch chosen for  $T_p$ ). To make matters worse, the nature of “ $1\sigma$ ” uncertainties in the literature is inconsistent. Some authors may report uncertainties generated while holding all or some other parameters constant (for instance, by seeing at what excursion from the nominal value  $\chi^2$  is reduced by 1), while others using bootstrapping or MCMC techniques may report the variance in a parameter over the full distribution of trials. In any case, covariances are rarely reported, and in some cases authors even report the most likely values on a parameter-by-parameter basis rather than a representative “best fit”, resulting in a set of parameters that is not self-consistent.

The TERMS strategy for refining ephemerides therefore begins with the recalculation of transit time uncertainties directly from the archival radial velocity data. We used bootstrapping (see Appendix) with the time of conjunction,  $T_c$  (equivalent to transit center, in the case of transiting planets) computed independently for each trial. For systems whose transit time uncertainty makes definitive observations implausible or impossible due to the accumulation of errors in phase with time, we sought additional RV measurements to “lock down” the phase of the planet.

### 6.3.2 The 37605 System

There are in total 137 radial velocities used in the Keplerian fit for the HD 37605 system. In addition to the 98 HET velocities and 33 Keck ones (see §6.2.2), we also included six<sup>6</sup> velocities from Cochran et al. (2004) which were derived from observations taken with the McDonald Observatory 2.1 m Telescope (hereafter the 2.1 m telescope).

We used the RVLIN package by ?) to perform the Keplerian fit. This package is based on the Levenberg–Marquardt algorithm and is made efficient in searching parameter space by exploiting the linear parameters. The uncertainties of the parameters are calculated through bootstrapping (with 1,000 bootstrap replicates) using the BOOTTRAN package, which is described in detail in the Appendix<sup>7</sup>.

The best-fit Keplerian parameters are listed in Table 6.2. The joint Keplerian fit for HD 37605b and HD 37605c has 13 free parameters: the orbital period  $P$ , time of periastron passage  $T_p$ , velocity semi-amplitude  $K$ , eccentricity  $e$ , and the argument of periastron referenced to the line of nodes  $\omega$  for each planet; and for the system, the velocity offset between the center of the mass and barycenter of solar system  $\gamma$  and two velocity offsets between the three telescopes ( $\Delta_{\text{Keck}}$  and  $\Delta_{\text{HET}}$ , with respect to the velocities from the 2.1 m telescope as published in Cochran et al. 2004). We did not include any stellar jitter or radial velocity trend in the fit (i.e., fixed to zero). The radial velocity signals and the best Keplerian fits for the system, HD 37605b only, and HD 37605c only are plotted in the three panels of Fig. 6.1, respectively.

Adopting a stellar mass of  $M_\star = 1.000 \pm 0.017 M_\odot$  (as in Table 6.1), we estimated the minimum mass ( $M \sin i$ ) for HD 37605b to be  $2.802 \pm 0.011 M_{\text{Jup}}$  and  $3.366 \pm 0.072 M_{\text{Jup}}$  for HD 37605c. While HD 37605b is on a close-in orbit at  $a = 0.2831 \pm 0.0016$  AU that is highly eccentric ( $e = 0.6767 \pm 0.0019$ ), HD 37605c is found to be on a nearly circular orbit ( $e = 0.013 \pm 0.015$ ) out at  $a = 3.814 \pm 0.058$  AU, which qualifies it as one of the “Jupiter analogs”.

In order to see whether the period and mass of the outer planet, HD 37605c, are well constrained, we mapped out the  $\chi^2_\nu$  values for the best Keplerian fit in the  $P_c$ - $M_c \sin i$  space (subscript ‘ $c$ ’ denoting parameters for the outer planet, HD 37605c). Each  $\chi^2_\nu$  value on the  $P_c$ - $M_c \sin i$  grid was obtained by searching for the best-fit model while fixing the period  $P_c$  for the outer planet and requiring constraints on  $K_c$  and  $e_c$  to maintain  $M \sin i$  fixed. As shown in Fig. 6.2, our data are sufficient to have both  $P_c$  and  $M_c \sin i$  well-constrained. This is also consistent with the tight sampling distributions for  $P_c$  and  $M_c \sin i$  found in our bootstrapping results.

The rms values against the best Keplerian fit are 7.86 m/s for HET, 2.08 m/s for Keck, and 12.85 m/s for the 2.1 m telescope. In the case of HET and Keck, their rms values are slightly larger than their typical reported RV errors ( $\sim 5$  m/s and  $\sim 1$  m/s, respectively). This might be due to stellar jitter or underestimated systematic errors in the velocities. We note that the  $\chi^2_\nu$  is reduced to 1.0 if we introduce a stellar jitter of 3.6 m/s (added in quadrature to all the RV errors).

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<sup>6</sup>The velocity from observation on BJD 2,453,101.6647 was rejected as it was from a twilight observation, which had both low precision ( $\sigma_{\text{RV}} = 78.12$  m/s) and low accuracy (having a residual against the best Keplerian fit of over 100 m/s).

<sup>7</sup>The BOOTTRAN package is made publicly available online at <http://exoplanets.org/code/> and the Astrophysics Source Code Library.

### 6.3.3 Comparison with MCMC Results

We compared our best Keplerian fit from RVLIN and uncertainties derived from BOOTTRAN (abbreviated as RVLIN+BOOTTRAN hereafter) with that from a Bayesian framework following Ford (2005) and Ford (2006) (referred to as the MCMC analysis hereafter). Table 6.3 lists the major orbital parameters from both methods for a direct comparison. Fig. 6.3 illustrates this comparison, but with the MCMC results presented in terms of 2-D confidence contours for  $P$ ,  $e$ ,  $K$ ,  $M \sin i$ , and  $\omega$  of both planets, as well as for  $T_c$  of HD 37605b.

For the Bayesian analysis, we assumed priors that are uniform in log of orbital period, eccentricity, argument of pericenter, mean anomaly at epoch, and the velocity zero-point. For the velocity amplitude ( $K$ ) and jitter ( $\sigma_j$ ), we adopted a prior of the form  $p(x) = (x+x_o)^{-1}[\log(1+x/x_o)]^{-1}$ , with  $K_o = \sigma_{j,o} = 1$  m/s, i.e. high values are penalized. For a detailed discussion of priors, strategies to deal with correlated parameters, the choice of the proposal transition probability distribution function, and other details of the algorithm, we refer the reader to the original papers: Ford (2005, 2006); Ford & Gregory (2007). The likelihood for radial velocity terms assumes that each radial velocity observation ( $v_i$ ) is independent and normally distributed about the true radial velocity with a variance of  $\sigma_i^2 + \sigma_j^2$ , where  $\sigma_i$  is the published measurement uncertainty.  $\sigma_j$  is a jitter parameter that accounts for additional scatter due to stellar variability, instrumental errors and/or inaccuracies in the model (i.e., neglecting planet-planet interactions or additional, low amplitude planet signals).

We used an MCMC method based upon Keplerian orbits to calculate a sample from the posterior distribution (Ford 2006). We calculated 5 Markov chains, each with  $\sim 2 \times 10^8$  states. We discarded the first half of the chains and calculate Gelman-Rubin test statistics for each model parameter and several ancillary variables. We found no indications of non-convergence amongst the individual chains. We randomly drew  $3 \times 10^4$  solutions from the second half of the Markov chains, creating a sample set of the converged overall posterior distribution of solutions. We then interrogated this sample on a parameter-by-parameter basis to find the median and  $68.27\% (1\sigma)$  values reported in Table 6.3. We refer to this solution set below as the “best-fit” MCMC solutions.

We note that the periods of the two planets found in this system are very widely separated ( $P_c/P_b \sim 50$ ), so we do not expect planet-planet interactions to be strong, hence we have chosen to forgo a numerically intensive N-body DEMCMC fitting procedure (see e.g. Johnson et al. 2011b; Payne & Ford 2011) as the non-Keplerian perturbations should be tiny (detail on the magnitude of the perturbations is provided in §6.3.4). However, to ensure that the Keplerian fits generated are stable, we took the results of the Keplerian MCMC fits and injected those systems into the Mercury n-body package (Chambers 1999) and integrated them forward for  $\sim 10^8$  years. This allows us to verify that all of the selected best-fit systems from the Keplerian MCMC analysis are indeed long-term stable. Further details on the dynamical analysis of the system can be found in §6.3.4.

We assumed that all systems are coplanar and edge-on for the sake of this analysis, hence all of the masses used in our n-body analyses are minimum masses.

As shown in Table 6.3 and Fig. 6.3, the parameter estimates from RVLIN+BOOTTRAN and MCMC methods agree with each other very well (all within  $1\sigma$  error bar). In some

cases, the MCMC analysis reports error bars slightly larger than bootstrapping method ( $\sim 20\%$  at most). We note that the relatively large MCMC confidence intervals are not significantly reduced if one conducts an analysis at a fixed jitter level (e.g.  $\sigma_J = 3.5\text{m/s}$ ) unless one goes to an extremely low jitter value (e.g.  $\sim 1.5\text{m/s}$ ). That is, the larger MCMC error bars do not simply result from treating the jitter as a free parameter. For the uncertainties on minimum planet mass  $M \sin i$  and semi-major axes  $a$ , the MCMC analysis does not incorporate the errors on the stellar mass estimate. Note here, as previously mentioned in § 6.3.1, that the “best-fit” parameters reported by the MCMC analysis here listed in Table 6.3 are not a consistent set, as the best estimates were evaluated on a parameter-by-parameter basis, taking the median from marginalized posterior distribution of each. Assuming no jitter, The best Keplerian fit from RVLIN has a reduced chi-square value  $\chi^2_\nu = 2.28$ , while the MCMC parameters listed in Table 6.3 give a higher  $\chi^2_\nu$  value of 2.91.

### 6.3.4 Dynamical Analysis

We used the best-fit Keplerian MCMC parameters as the basis for a set of long-term numerical (n-body) integrations of the HD 37605 system using the Mercury integration package (Chambers 1999). We used these integrations to verify that the best-fit systems: (i) are long-term stable; (ii) do not exhibit significant variations in their orbital elements on the timescale of the observations (justifying the assumption that the planet-planet interactions are negligible); (iii) do not exhibit any other unusual features. We emphasize again that the planets in this system are well separated and we do not expect any instability to occur: for the masses and eccentricities in question, a planet at  $a_b \sim 0.28$  AU will have companion orbits which are Hill stable for  $a \gtrsim 0.83$  AU (Gladman 1993), so while Hill stability does not preclude outward scatter of the outer planet, the fact that  $a_c \sim 3.8 \gg 0.83$  AU suggests that the system will be far from any such instability.

We integrated the systems for  $> 10^8$  years ( $\sim 10^7 \times$  the orbital period of the outer planet and  $> 10^2 \times$  the secular period of the system), and plot in Fig. 6.4 the evolution of the orbital elements  $a$ ,  $e$ , &  $\omega$ . On the left-hand side of the plot we provide short-term detail, illustrating that over the  $\sim 10$  year time period of our observations, the change in orbital elements will be very small. On the right-hand side we provide a much longer-term view, plotting  $10^7$  out of  $> 10^8$  years of system evolution, demonstrating that (i) the secular variation in some of the elements (particularly the eccentricity of the outer planet; see  $e_c$  in red) over a time span of  $\sim 4 \times 10^5$  years can be significant: in this case we see  $0.03 < e_c < 0.11$ , but (ii) the system appears completely stable, as one would expect for planets with a period ratio  $P_c/P_b \sim 50$ . Finally, at the bottom of the figure we display the range of parameter space covered by the  $e_i \cos \omega_i$ ,  $e_i \sin \omega_i$  parameters ( $i = b$  in blue for inner planet and  $i = c$  in red for outer planet), demonstrating that the orbital alignments circulate, i.e. they do not show any signs of resonant confinement, which confirms our expectation of minimal planet-planet interaction as mentioned before.

As noted above, our analysis assumed coplanar planets. As such the planetary masses used in these dynamical simulations are minimum masses. We note that for inclined systems, the larger planetary masses will cause increased planet-planet perturbations.

To demonstrate this is still likely to be unimportant, we performed a  $10^8$  year simulation of a system in which  $1/\sin i = 10$ , pushing the planetary masses to  $\sim 30 M_{\text{Jup}}$ . Even in such a pathological system the eccentricity oscillations are only increased by a factor of  $\sim 2$  and the system remains completely stable for the duration of the simulation.

We also performed a separate Transit Timing Variation (TTV) analysis, using the best-fit MCMC systems as the basis for a set of highly detailed short-term integrations. From these we extracted the times of transit and found a TTV signal  $\sim 100$  s, or  $\sim 0.001$  day, which is much smaller than the error bar on  $T_c$  ( $\sim 0.07$  day). Therefore we did not take into account the effect of TTV when performing our transit analysis in the next section.

### 6.3.5 Activity Cycles and Jupiter Analogs

The coincidence of the Solar activity cycle period of 11 years and Jupiter's orbital period near 12 years illustrates how activity cycles could, if they induced apparent line shifts in disk-integrated stellar spectra, confound attempts to detect Jupiter analogs around Sun-like stars. Indeed, Dravins (1985) predicted apparent radial velocity variations of up to 30 m/s in solar lines due to the Solar cycle, and Deming et al. (1987) reported a tentative detection of such a signal in NIR CO lines of 30 m/s in just 2 years, and noted that such an effect would severely hamper searches for Jupiter analogs. That concern was further amplified when Campbell et al. (1991) reported a positive correlation between radial velocity and chromospheric activity in the active star  $\kappa^1$  Cet, with variations of order 50–100 m/s.

Wright et al. (2008) found that the star HD 154345 has an apparent Jupiter analog (HD 154345 *b*), but that this star also shows activity variations in phase with the radial velocity variations. They noted that many Sun-like stars, including the precise radial velocity standard star HD 185144 ( $\sigma$  Dra) show similar activity variations and that rarely, if ever, are these signals well-correlated with signals similar in strength to that seen in HD 154345 ( $\sim 15$  m/s), and concluded that the similarity was therefore likely just an inevitable coincidence. Put succinctly, activity cycles in Sun-like stars are common (Baliunas et al. 1995), but few Jupiter analogs have been discovered, meaning that the early concern that activity cycles would mimic giant planets is not a severe problem.

Nonetheless, there is growing evidence that activity cycles can, in some stars, induce radial velocity variations, and the example of HD 154345 still warrants care and concern. Most significantly, Dumusque et al. (2011) found a positive correlation between chromospheric activity and precise radial velocity in the average measurements of a sample of HARPS stars, and provided a formula for predicting the correlation strength as a function of the metallicity and effective temperature of the star. Their formulae predict a value of 2 m/s for the most suspicious case in the literature, HD 154345 (compared to an actual semiamplitude of  $\sim 15$  m/s), but are rather uncertain. It is possible that in a few, rare cases, the formula might significantly underestimate the amplitude of the effect.

The top panel of Fig. 6.5 plots the T12 APT observations from all five observing seasons (data provided in Table 6.4; see details on APT photometry in § 6.4.1). The dashed line marks the mean relative magnitude ( $\Delta(b + y)/2$ ) of the first season. The

seasonal mean brightness of the star increases gradually from year to year by a total of  $\sim 0.002$  mag, which may be due to a weak long-term magnetic cycle. However, no evidence is found in support of such a cycle in the Mount Wilson chromospheric Ca II H & K indices (Isaacson & Fischer 2010), although the S values vary by approximately 0.1 over the span of a few years. The formulae of Lovis et al. (2011) predict a corresponding RV variation of less than 2 m/s due to activity, far too small to confound our planet detection with  $K = 49$  m/s.

Since we do not have activity measurements for this target over the span of the outer planet's orbit in HD 37605, we cannot definitively rule out activity cycles as the origin of the effect, but the strength of the outer planetary signal and the lack of such signals in other stars known to cycle strongly dispels concerns that the longer signal is not planetary in origin.

## 6.4 The Dispositive Null Detection of Transits of HD 37605 $b$

We have performed a transit search for the inner planet of the system, HD 37605 $b$ . This planet has a transit probability of 1.595% and a predicted transit duration of 0.352 day, as derived from the stellar parameters listed in Table 6.1 and the orbital parameters given in Table 6.2. From the minimum planet mass ( $M \sin i = 2.802 \pm 0.011 M_{\text{Jup}}$ ; see Table 6.2) and the models of Bodenheimer et al. (2003), we estimate its radius to be  $R_p = 1.1 R_{\text{Jup}}$ . Combined with the stellar radius of HD 37605 listed in Table 6.1,  $R_* = 0.901 \pm 0.015 R_{\odot}$ , we estimate the transit depth to be 1.877% (for an edge-on transit,  $i = 90^\circ$ ). We used both ground-based (APT; §6.4.1) and space-based (MOST; §6.4.2) facilities in our search.

### 6.4.1 APT Observations and Analysis

The T12 0.8-m Automatic Photoelectric Telescope (APT), located at Fairborn Observatory in southern Arizona, acquired 696 photometric observations of HD 37605 between 2008 January 16 and 2012 April 7. Henry (1999) provides detailed descriptions of observing and data reduction procedures with the APTs at Fairborn. The measurements reported here are differential magnitudes in  $\Delta(b + y)/2$ , the mean of the differential magnitudes acquired simultaneously in the Strömgren  $b$  and  $y$  bands with two separate EMI 9124QB bi-alkali photomultiplier tubes. The differential magnitudes are computed from the mean of three comparison stars: HD 39374 (V = 6.90, B-V = 0.996, K0 III), HD 38145 (V = 7.89, B-V = 0.326, F0 V), and HD 38779 (V = 7.08, B-V = 0.413, F4 IV). This improves the precision of each individual measurement and helps to compensate for any real microvariability in the comp stars. Intercomparison of the differential magnitudes of these three comp stars demonstrates that all three are constant to 0.002 mag or better from night to night, consistent with typical single-measurement precision of the APT (0.0015–0.002 mag; Henry 1999).

Fig. 6.5 illustrates the APT photometric data and our transit search. As mentioned in § 6.3.5, the top panel shows all of our APT photometry covering five observing seasons, which exhibits a small increasing trend in the stellar brightness. To search for the transit signal of HD 37605 $b$ , the photometric data were normalized so that all five seasons had

the same mean (referred to as the “normalized photometry” hereafter). The data were then phased at the orbital period of HD 37605b, 55.01307 days, and the predicted time of mid-transit,  $T_c$ , defined as Phase 0. The normalized and phased data are plotted in the middle panel of Fig. 6.5. The solid line is the predicted transit light curve, with the predicted transit duration (0.352 day or 0.0064 phase unit) and transit depth (1.877% or  $\sim 0.020$  mag) as estimated above. The scatter of the phased data from their mean is 0.00197 mag, consistent with APT’s single-measurement precision, and thus demonstrates that the combination of our photometric precision and the stability of HD 37605 is easily sufficient to detect the transits of HD 37605b in our phased data set covering five years. A least-squares sine fit of the phased data gives a very small semi-amplitude of  $0.00031 \pm 0.00011$  mag (consistent with zero) and so provides strong evidence that the observed radial-velocity variations are not produced by rotational modulation of surface activity on the star.

The bottom panel of Fig. 6.5 plots the phased data around the predicted time of mid-transit,  $T_c$ , at an expanded scale on the abscissa. The horizontal bar below the transit window represents the  $\pm 1\sigma$  uncertainty on  $T_c$  (0.138 day or 0.0025 phase unit for  $T_c$ ’s near BJD 2,455,901.361; see § 6.3.2). The light curve appears to be highly clustered, or binned, due to the near integral orbital period ( $P \sim 55.01$  days) and consequent incomplete sampling from a single observing site. Unfortunately, none of the data clusters chance to fall within the predicted transit window, so we are unable to rule out transits of HD 37605b with the APT observations.

Periodogram analysis of the five individual observing seasons revealed no significant periodicity between 1 and 100 days. This suggests that the star is inactive and the observed  $K \sim 200$  m/s RV signal (for HD 37605b) is unlikely to be the result of stellar activity.

Analysis of the complete, normalized data set, however, suggests a weak periodicity of  $57.67 \pm 0.30$  days with a peak-to-peak amplitude of just  $0.0012 \pm 0.0002$  mag (see Fig. 6.6). We tentatively identify this as the stellar rotation period. This period is consistent with the projected rotational velocity of  $v \sin i < 1$  km/s derived from our stellar analysis described in §6.2.3. It is also consistent with the analysis of Isaacson & Fischer (2010), who derived a Mount Wilson chromospheric Ca II H & K index of  $S = 0.165$ , corresponding to  $\log R'_{HK} = -5.03$ . Together, these results imply a rotation period  $\gtrsim 46$  days and an age of  $\sim 7$  Gyr (see Table 6.1). Similarly, Ibukiyama & Arimoto (2002) find an age of  $> 10$  Gyr using isochrones along with the Hipparcos parallax and space motion, supporting HD 37605’s low activity and long rotation period.

#### 6.4.2 MOST Observations and Analysis

As noted earlier, the near-integer period of HD 37605b makes it difficult to observe from a single longitude. The brightness of the target and the relatively long predicted transit duration creates additional challenges for ground-based observations. We thus observed HD 37605 during 2011 December 5–6 (around the predicted  $T_c$  at BJD 2,455,901.361 as listed in Table 6.2) with the MOST (Microvariability and Oscillations of Stars) satellite launched in 2003 (Walker et al. 2003; Matthews et al. 2004) in the Direct Imaging mode. This observing technique is similar to ground-based CCD photometry, allowing to apply

traditional aperture and PSF procedures for data extraction (see e.g. Rowe et al. 2006, for details). Outlying data points caused by, e.g., cosmic rays were removed.

MOST is orbiting with a period of  $\sim 101$  minutes (14.19 cycles per day,  $\text{cd}^{-1}$ ), which leads to a periodic artifact induced by the scattered light from the earthshine. This signal and its harmonics are further modulated with a frequency of  $1 \text{ cd}^{-1}$  originating from the changing albedo of the earth. To correct for this phenomenon, we constructed a cubic fit between the mean background and the stellar flux, which was then subtracted from the data. The reduced and calibrated MOST photometric data are listed in Table 6.5.

The MOST photometry is shown in Figure 6.7 for the transit window observations. The vertical dashed lines indicate the beginning and end of the  $1\sigma$  transit window defined by adding  $\sigma_{T_c}$  (0.069 day) on both sides of the predicted transit duration of 0.352 days. The solid line shows the predicted transit model for the previously described planetary parameters. The rms scatter of the photometry is 0.17%, and within the predicted transit window there are 58 MOST observations. Therefore, the standard error on the mean relative photometry (which is measured to be 0.00%) is  $0.17\%/\sqrt{58} = 0.022\%$ . This means that, for the predicted transit window and a predicted depth of 1.877%, we can conclude a null detection of HD 37605b’s transit with extremely high confidence ( $149\sigma$ ).

Note that the above significance is for an edge-on transit with an impact parameter of  $b = 0.0$ . A planetary trajectory across the stellar disk with a higher impact parameter will produce a shorter transit duration. However, the gap between each cluster of MOST measurements is 0.06 days which is 17% of the edge-on transit duration. In order for the duration to be fit within the data gaps, the impact parameter would need to be  $b > 0.996$ . To estimate a more conservative lower limit for  $b$ , we now assume the most unfortunate case where the transit center falls exactly in the middle of one of the measurement gaps, and also consider the effect of limb darkening by using the non-linear limb darkening model by Mandel & Agol (2002) with their fitted coefficients for HD 209458. Even under this scenario, we can still conclude the null detection for any transit with  $b < 0.951$  at  $\gtrsim 5\sigma$  (taking into account that there are at least  $\sim 20$  observations will fall within the transit window in this case, though only catching the shallower parts of the transit light curve).

All of the above is based on the assumption that the planet has the predicted radius of  $1.1 R_{\text{Jup}}$ . If in reality the planet is so small that even a  $b = 0$  transit would fall below our detection threshold, it would mean that the planet has a radius of  $< 0.36 R_{\text{Jup}}$  (a density of  $> 74.50 \text{ g/cm}^3$ ), which seems unlikely. It is also very unlikely that our MOST photometry has missed the transit window completely due to an ill-predicted  $T_c$ . In the sampling distribution of  $T_c$  from BOOTTRAN (with 1000 replicates; see § 6.3.2 and Appendix), there is no  $T_c$  that would put the transit window completely off the MOST coverage. In the marginalized posterior distribution of  $T_c$  calculated via MCMC (see § 6.3.3 and Fig. 6.3), there is only 1 such  $T_c$  out of  $3 \times 10^4$  (0.003%).

## 6.5 Summary and Conclusion

In this paper, we report the discovery of HD 37605c and the dispositive null detection of non-grazing transits of HD 37605b, the first planet discovered by HET. HD 37605c is

the outer planet of the system with a period of  $\sim 7.5$  years on a nearly circular orbit ( $e = 0.013$ ) at  $a = 3.814$  AU. It is a “Jupiter analog” with  $M \sin i = 3.366 M_{\text{Jup}}$ , which adds one more sample to the currently still small inventory of such planets (only 10 including HD 37605c; see §6.1). The discovery and characterization of “Jupiter analogs” will help understanding the formation of gas giants as well as the frequency of true solar system analogs. This discovery is a testimony to the power of continued observation of planet-bearing stars.

Using our RV data with nearly 8-year long baseline, we refined the orbital parameters and transit ephemerides of HD 37605b. The uncertainty on the predicted mid-transit time was constrained down to 0.069 day (at and near  $T_c = 2,455,901.361$  in BJD), which is small compared to the transit duration (0.352 day). In fact, just the inclusion of the two most recent points in our RV data have reduced the uncertainty on  $T_c$  by over 10%. We have performed transit search with APT and the MOST satellite. Because of the near-integer period of HD 37605b and the longitude of Fairborn Observatory, the APT photometry was unable to cover the transit window. However, its excellent photometric precision over five observing seasons enabled us to rule out the possibility of the RV signal being induced by stellar activity. The MOST photometric data, on the other hand, were able to rule out an edge-on transit with a predicted depth of 1.877% at a  $\gg 10\sigma$  level, with a  $5\sigma$  lower limit on the impact parameter of  $b \leq 0.951$ . This transit exclusion is a further demonstration of the TERMS strategy, where follow-up RV observations help to reduce the uncertainty on transit timing and enable transit searches.

Our best-fit orbital parameters and errors from RVLIN+BOOTTRAN were found to be consistent with those derived from a Bayesian analysis using MCMC. Based on the best-fit MCMC systems, we performed dynamic and TTV analysis on the HD 37605 system. Dynamic analysis shows no sign of orbital resonance and very minimal planet-planet interaction. We derived a TTV of  $\sim 100$  s, which is much smaller than  $\sigma_{T_c}$ .

We have also performed a stellar analysis on HD 37605, which shows that it is a metal rich star ( $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = 0.336 \pm 0.030$ ) with a stellar mass of  $M_\star = 1.000 \pm 0.017 M_\odot$  with a radius of  $R_\star = 0.901 \pm 0.015$ . The small variation seen in our photometric data (amplitude  $< 0.003$  mag over the course of four years) suggests that HD 37605 is consistent as being an old, inactive star that is probably slowly rotating. We tentatively propose that the rotation period of the star is  $57.67 \pm 0.30$  days, based on a weak periodic signal seen in our APT photometry.

## 6.6 Note on Previously Published Orbital Fits

In early 2012, we repaired a minor bug in the BOOTTRAN package, mostly involving the calculation and error bar estimation of  $M \sin i$ . As a result, the  $M \sin i$  values and their errors for two previously published systems (three planets) need to be updated. They are: HD 114762b (Kane et al. 2011b), HD 168443b, and HD 168443c (Pilyavsky et al. 2011b). Table 6.6 lists the updated  $M \sin i$  and error bars.

One additional system, HD 63454 (Kane et al. 2011f), was also analyzed using BOOTTRAN. However, the mass of HD 63454b is small enough compared to its host mass and thus was not affected by this change.

Table 6.1. STELLAR  
PARAMETERS

Parameter	Value
Spectral type <sup>a</sup>	K0 V
Distance (pc) <sup>a</sup>	$44.0 \pm 2.1$
$V$	$8.661 \pm 0.013$
$T_{\text{eff}}$ (K)	$5448 \pm 44$
$\log g$	$4.511 \pm 0.024$
[Fe/H]	$0.336 \pm 0.030$
BC	-0.144
$M_{\text{bol}}$	5.301
$L_{\star}$ ( $L_{\odot}$ )	$0.590 \pm 0.058$
$R_{\star}$ ( $R_{\odot}$ )	$0.901 \pm 0.045^c$
$M_{\star}$ ( $M_{\odot}$ )	$1.000 \pm 0.050^c$
$v \sin i$	< 1 km/s
Age <sup>b</sup>	$\sim 7$ Gyr

<sup>a</sup>ESA (1997); van Leeuwen (2008).

<sup>b</sup>Isaacson & Fischer (2010), see § 6.4.1.

<sup>c</sup>5% relative errors, not the SME intrinsic errors. See footnote 5 for details.

Table 6.2. KEPLERIAN FIT PARAMETERS

Parameter	HD 37605 $b$	HD 37605 $c$
$P$ (days)	$55.01307 \pm 0.00064$	$2720 \pm 57$
$T_p$ (BJD) <sup>a</sup>	$2453378.241 \pm 0.020$	$2454838 \pm 581$
$T_c$ (BJD) <sup>b</sup>	$2455901.361 \pm 0.069$	...
$K$ (m/s)	$202.99 \pm 0.72$	$48.90 \pm 0.86$
$e$	$0.6767 \pm 0.0019$	$0.013 \pm 0.015$
$\omega$ (deg)	$220.86 \pm 0.28$	$221 \pm 78$
$M \sin i$ ( $M_{\text{Jup}}$ )	$2.802 \pm 0.011$	$3.366 \pm 0.072$
$a$ (AU)	$0.2831 \pm 0.0016$	$3.814 \pm 0.058$
$\gamma$ (m/s)		$-50.7 \pm 4.6$
$\Delta_{\text{Keck}}$ (m/s) <sup>c</sup>		$55.1 \pm 4.7$
$\Delta_{\text{HET}}$ (m/s) <sup>c</sup>		$36.7 \pm 4.7$
$\chi_{\nu}^2$		$2.28$ ( <i>d.o.f.</i> = 124)
rms (m/s)		7.61
Jitter (m/s) <sup>d</sup>		3.6

<sup>a</sup>Time of Periastron passage.

<sup>b</sup>Time of conjunction (mid-transit, if the system transits).

<sup>c</sup>Offset with respect to the velocities from the 2.1 m telescope.

<sup>d</sup>If a jitter of 3.6 m/s is added in quadrature to all RV errors,  $\chi_{\nu}^2$  becomes 1.0.

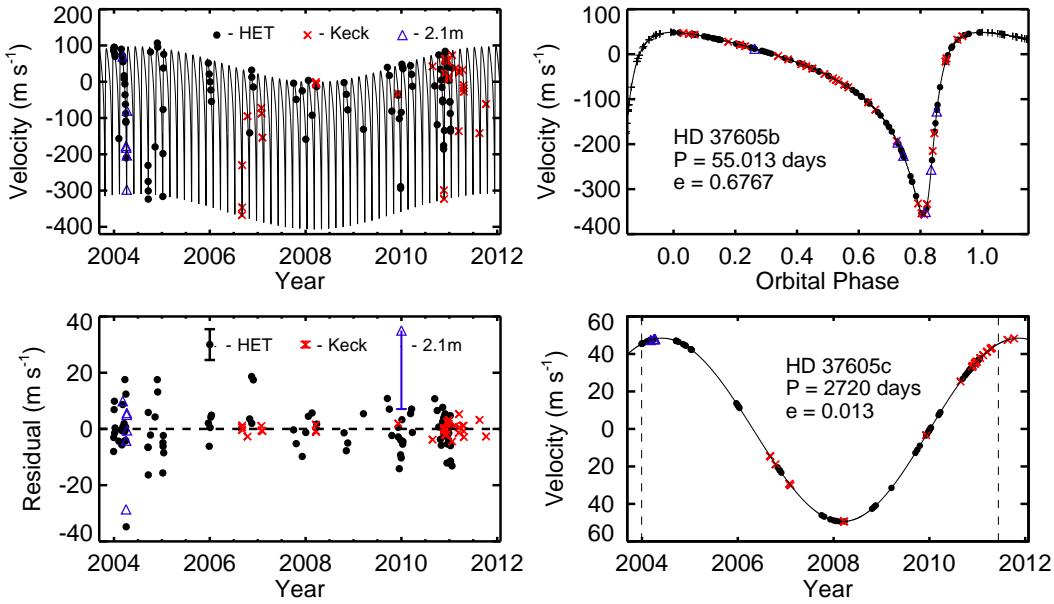


Figure 6.1 Radial velocity and Keplerian model plots for the HD 37605 system. In all panels, HET observations are labeled with black filled circles, Keck observations are labeled with red crosses, and the velocities from the 2.1 m telescope (Cochran et al. 2004) are labeled with blue triangles. Best Keplerian fits are plotted in black solid lines. **Top left:** The best-fit 2-planet Keplerian model (solid line) and the observed radial velocities from 3 telescopes. The HET and Keck velocities have been adjusted to take into account the velocity offsets (i.e., subtracting  $\Delta_{\text{HET}}$  and  $\Delta_{\text{Keck}}$  from the velocities, respectively; see Table 6.2 and § 6.3.2). **Bottom left:** Residual velocities after subtracting the best-fit 2-planet Keplerian model. The legend gives the typical size of the error bars using the  $\pm$  median RV error for each telescope (for 2.1 m telescope only the lower half is shown). **Top right:** RV signal induced by HD 37605b alone, phased up to demonstrate our coverage. **Bottom right:** RV signal induced by HD 37605c alone. The two vertical dashed lines denote the date of our first observation, and the date when HD 37605c closes one orbit, respectively.

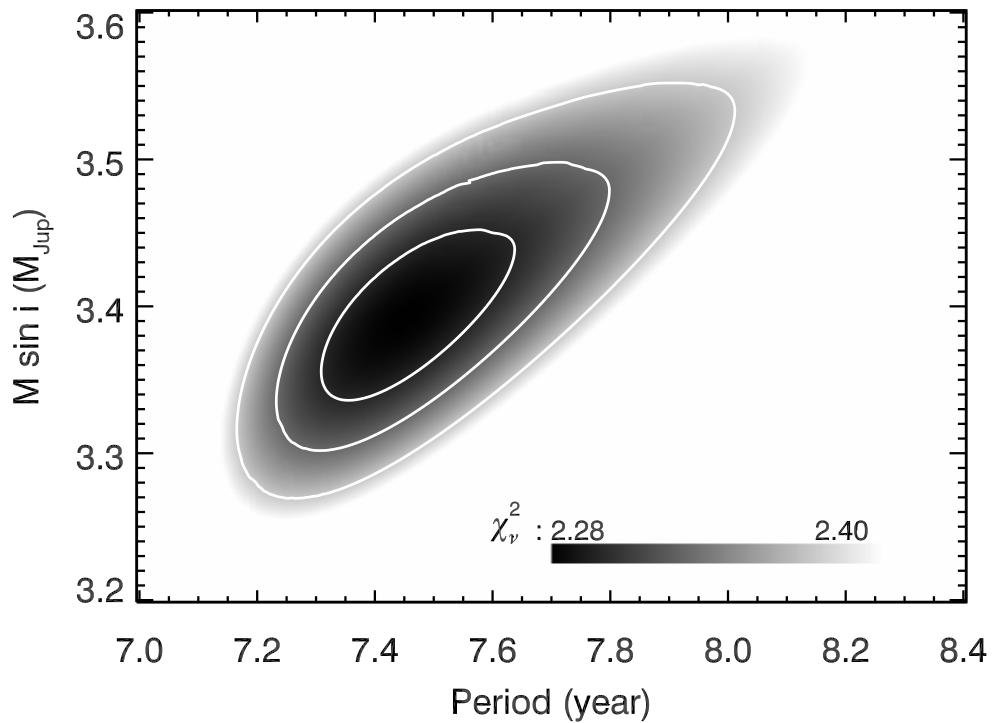


Figure 6.2  $\chi^2_\nu$  map for the best Keplerian fits with fixed values of period  $P$  and minimum planet mass  $M \sin i$  for HD 37605c. This is showing that both  $P$  and  $M \sin i$  are well-constrained for this planet. The levels of the contours mark the  $1\sigma$  (68.27%),  $2\sigma$  (95.45%) and  $3\sigma$  (99.73%) confidence intervals for the 2-D  $\chi^2$  distribution.

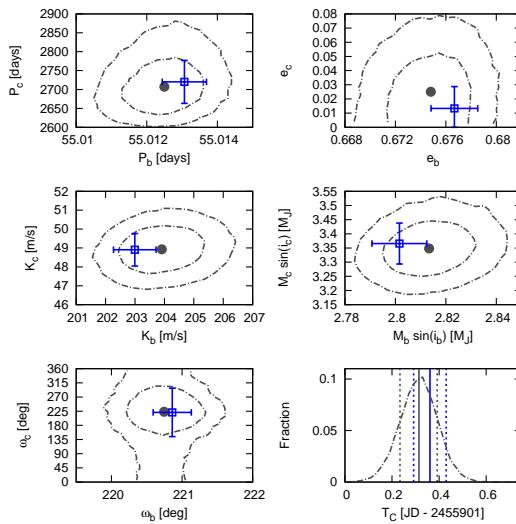


Figure 6.3 Comparison between the Bayesian (MCMC) analysis and RVLIN+BOOTTRAN results. **Top four and bottom left:** Contours of the posterior distributions of selected orbital parameters ( $P$ ,  $e$ ,  $K$ ,  $M \sin i$ , and  $\omega$ ) based on the MCMC analysis (dashed dotted line). The  $x$ -axes are orbital parameters of the inner planet,  $b$ , and the  $y$ -axes are those of the outer planet,  $c$ . The inner contours mark the 68.27% (' $1\sigma$ ') 2-D confidence regions and the outer ones are 95.45% (' $2\sigma$ ') ones. Also plotted are the best Keplerian fit from RVLIN (blue squares) and  $\pm 1\sigma$  error bars estimated via bootstrapping (blue bars). **Bottom right:** Marginalized posterior distribution of time of conjunction (mid-transit)  $T_c$  of HD 37605b in dashed dotted line. The solid grey vertical line is the median of the distribution, and the dashed grey vertical lines mark  $1\sigma$  confidence interval. The solid blue vertical line is the best estimate of  $T_c$  from RVLIN+BOOTTRAN, with  $\pm 1\sigma$  error bars plotted in blue dashed vertical lines. See § 6.3.3 for details.

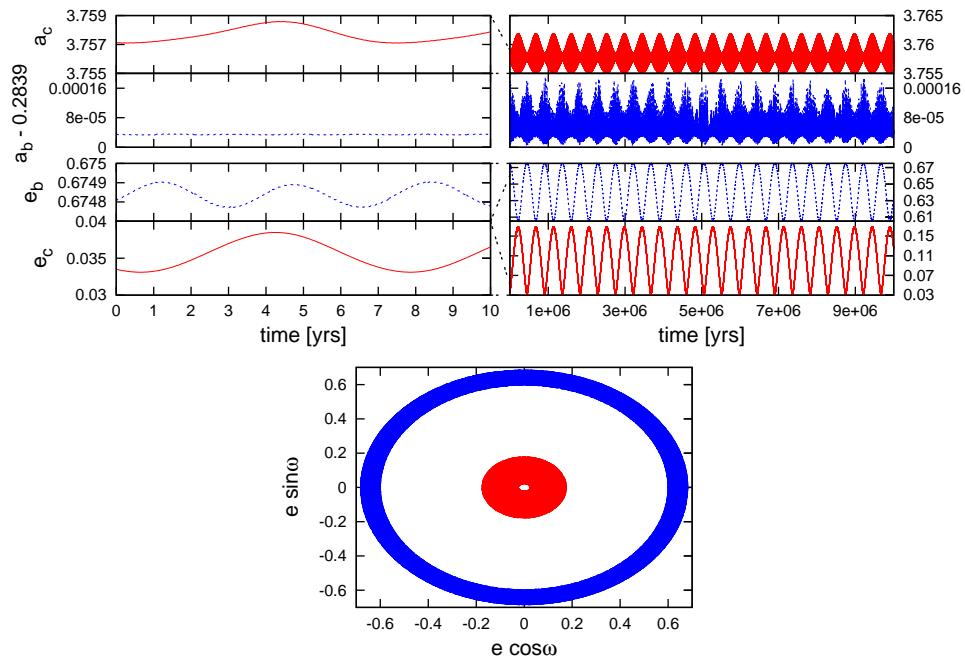


Figure 6.4 Dynamic evolution of the best-fit MCMC system. On the left we plot the short-term evolution over 10 years, on the right we plot the evolution over  $10^7$  years ( $< 1/10$  of our dynamic simulation time scale). The top plots describe the evolution of the semi-major axes and eccentricities of the inner planet ( $a_b$  &  $e_b$ , blue lines) and the outer planet ( $a_c$  &  $e_c$ , red lines), while the bottom plot describes the parameter space covered by the  $e \cos \omega, e \sin \omega$  quantities over  $10^8$  years (blue for inner planet and red for outer planet). We find that over the short-term (e.g., our RV observation window of  $\sim 10$  years), the parameter variations are negligible, but in the long term significant eccentricity oscillations can take place (particularly noticeable in the eccentricity of the outer planet). See § 6.3.4 for details.

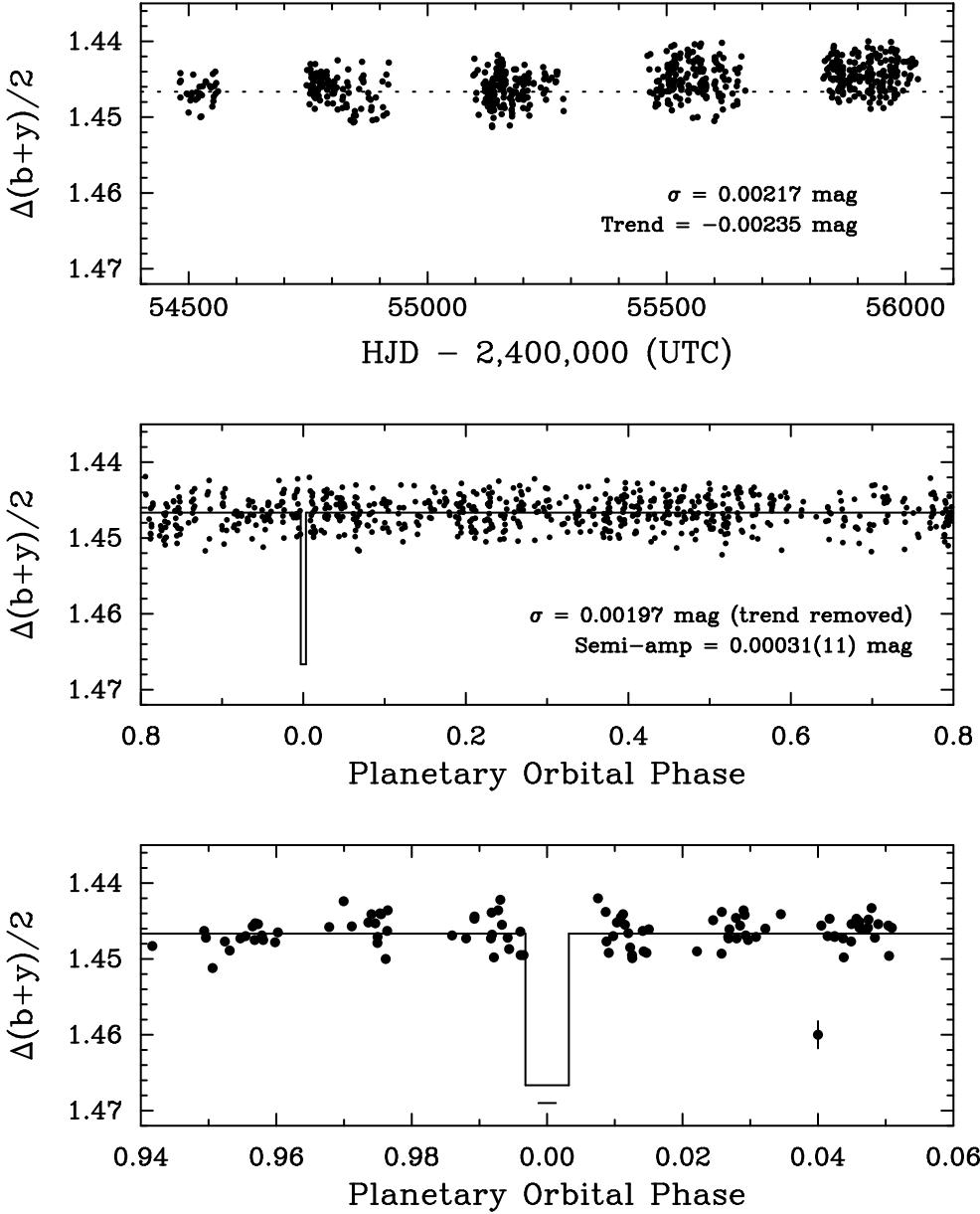


Figure 6.5 Photometric observations of HD 37605 acquired over five years with the T12 0.8m APT. The top panel shows the entire five-year data set; the dotted line represents the mean brightness of the first observing season. A long-term brightening trend is evident with a total range in the seasonal means of 0.002 mag. The middle panel shows the photometric data normalized so that each season has the same mean as the first and then phased to the orbital period of HD 37605b (55.01307 day). The solid line is the predicted transit light curve, with Phase 0.0 being the predicted time of mid-transit,  $T_c$ . A least-squares sine fit of the phased data produces the very small semi-amplitude of  $0.00031 \pm 0.00011$  mag, providing strong evidence that the observed radial-velocity variations are not produced by rotational modulation of surface activity on the star. The bottom panel plots the observations near  $T_c$  at an expanded scale on the abscissa. The horizontal bar below the transit window represents the  $\pm 1\sigma$  uncertainty in  $T_c$ . Unfortunately, none of the APT observations fall within the predicted transit window, so we are unable to rule out transits with the APT observations. See § 6.4.1 for more.

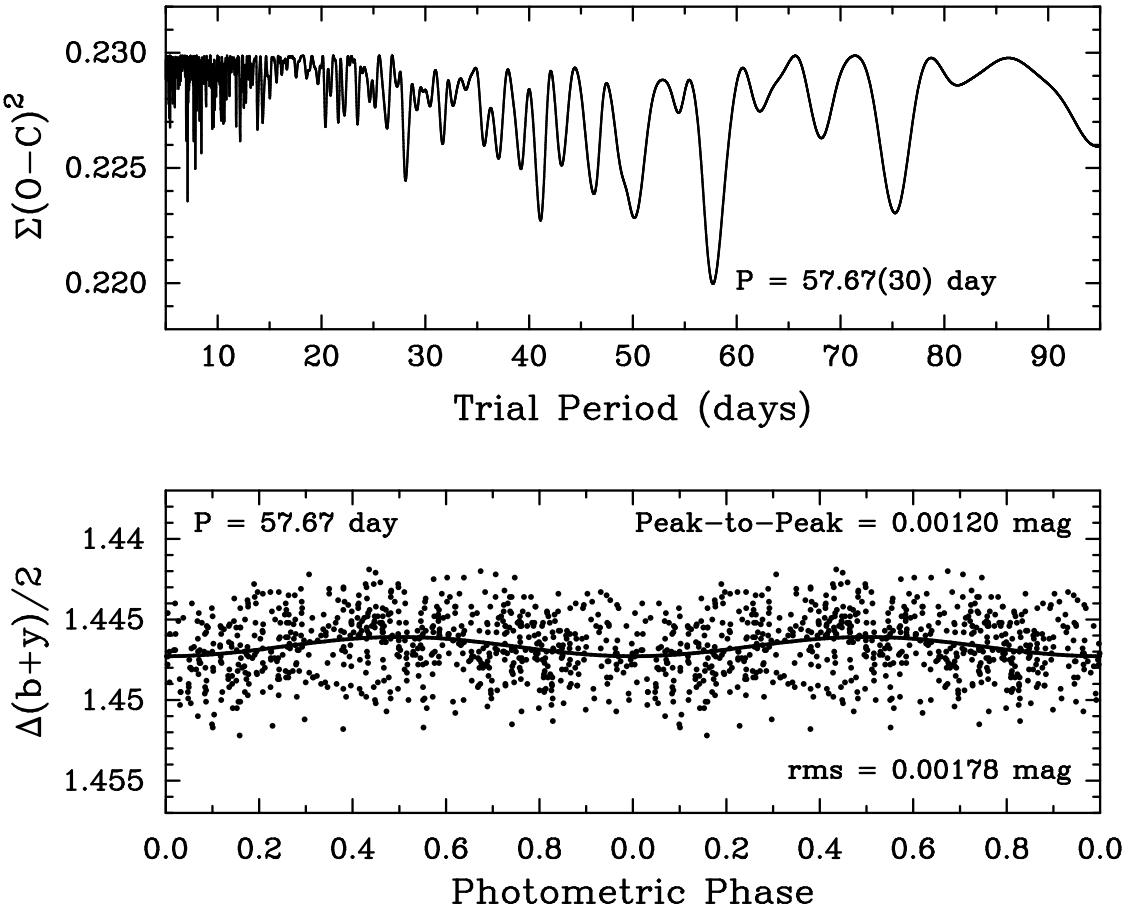


Figure 6.6 Brightness variability in HD 37605 possibly induced by stellar rotation at  $P = 57.67 \pm 0.30$  days. Top panel is the periodogram of the complete, normalized data set. Bottom panel shows the normalized photometry folded with this possible rotation period. The peak-to-peak amplitude is  $0.00120 \pm 0.00021$  mag. See § 6.4.1 for more.

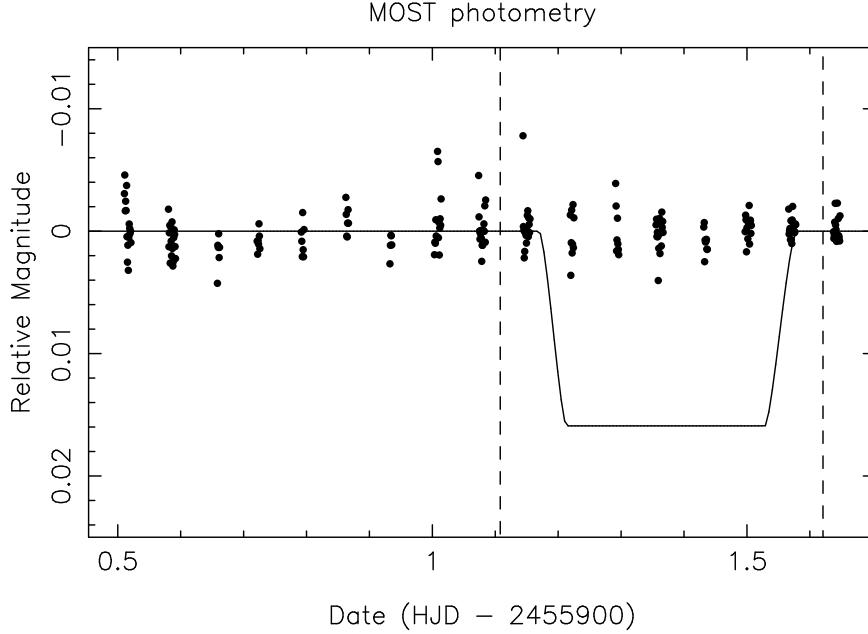


Figure 6.7 Photometric observations of HD 37605 by the MOST satellite, which rule out the edge-on transit of HD 37605 $b$  at a  $\gg 10\sigma$  level. The solid line is the predicted transit light curve, and the dashed vertical lines are the  $1\sigma$  transit window boundaries defined by adding  $\sigma_{T_c}$  (0.069 day) on both sides of the predicted transit window (0.352-day wide). See § 6.4.2 for more details.

Table 6.3. COMPARISON WITH MCMC RESULTS

Parameter	HD 37605 $b$		HD 37605 $c$	
	RVLIN+BOOTTRAN	MCMC <sup>a</sup>	RVLIN+BOOTTRAN	MCMC <sup>a</sup>
$P$ (days)	$55.01307 \pm 0.00064$	$55.01250 +0.00073 -0.00075$	$2720 \pm 57$	$2707 +57 -42$
$T_p$ (BJD)	$2453378.243 \pm 0.020$	$2453378.243 +0.025 -0.024$	$2454838 \pm 581$	$2454838 +354 -435$
$T_c$ (BJD)	$2455901.361 \pm 0.069$	$2455901.314 +0.077 -0.081$	...	...
$K$ (m/s)	$202.99 \pm 0.72$	$203.91 +0.92 -0.88$	$48.90 \pm 0.86$	$48.93 +0.82 -0.82$
$e$	$0.6767 \pm 0.0019$	$0.6748 +0.0022 -0.0023$	$0.013 \pm 0.015$	$0.025 +0.022 -0.017$
$\omega$ (deg)	$220.86 \pm 0.28$	$220.75 +0.33 -0.32$	$221 \pm 78$	$223 +50 -52$
$M$ (deg) <sup>b</sup>	$62.31 \pm 0.15$	$62.27 +0.18 -0.18$	$117 \pm 78$	$118 +56 -51$
$M \sin i$ ( $M_{Jup}$ )	$2.802 \pm 0.011$	$2.814 +0.012 -0.012$	$3.366 \pm 0.072$	$3.348 +0.065 -0.062$
$a$ (AU)	$0.2831 \pm 0.0016$	$0.2833364 +0.0000027 -0.0000027$	$3.814 \pm 0.058$	$3.809 +0.053 -0.040$
Jitter (m/s) <sup>c</sup>	3.6	$2.70 +0.53 -0.46$		

<sup>a</sup>Median values of the marginalized posterior distributions and the 68.27% ('1 $\sigma$ ') confidence intervals.

<sup>b</sup>Mean anomaly of the first observation (BJD 2,453,002.671503).

<sup>c</sup>Like RVLIN, BOOTTRAN assumes no jitter or fixes jitter to a certain value, while MCMC treats it as a free parameter. See § 6.3.3.

Table 6.4. PHOTOMETRIC  
OBSERVATIONS OF HD 37605  
FROM THE T12 0.8m APT

Heliocentric Julian Date (HJD – 2,400,000)	$\Delta(b + y)/2$ (mag)
54,481.7133	1.4454
54,482.6693	1.4474
54,482.7561	1.4442
54,483.6638	1.4452
54,495.7764	1.4469
54,498.7472	1.4470

Note. — This table is presented in its entirety in the electronic edition of the Astrophysical Journal. A portion is shown here for guidance regarding its form and content.

Table 6.5. PHOTOMETRIC  
OBSERVATIONS OF HD 37605 ON  
MOST

Heliocentric Julian Date (HJD – 2,451,545)	Relative Magnitude (mag)
4355.5105	-0.0032
4355.5112	-0.0047
4355.5119	-0.0018
4355.5126	-0.0026
4355.5133	-0.0018
4355.5140	-0.0039

Note. — This table is presented in its entirety in the electronic edition of the Astrophysical Journal. A portion is shown here for guidance regarding its form and content.

Table 6.6. Updated  $M \sin i$  and Errors for HD 114762 $b$  and HD 168443 $b, c$

Planet	$M \sin i \pm \text{std. error } (M_{\text{Jup}})$
HD 114762 $b^a$	$11.086 \pm 0.067$
HD 114762 $b^b$	$11.069 \pm 0.063$
HD 168443 $b$	$7.696 \pm 0.015$
HD 168443 $c$	$17.378 \pm 0.044$

<sup>a</sup>For best orbital fit with RV trend ( $dv/dt$ ).

<sup>b</sup>For best orbital fit without RV trend ( $dv/dt$ ).

## Chapter 7

# Conclusion and Future Works

This is conclusion.

promised to talk about limitation of the code.

This will also contain work on MINERVA and EPDS and looking forward to other future work.

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## Vita

### Sharon Xuesong Wang

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## EDUCATION

<i>PhD Candidate, Astronomy &amp; Astrophysics, Penn State University</i>	expected Aug 2016
<i>PhD Minor, Computational Sciences</i>	
<i>Thesis: Finding More and Lower Mass Exoplanets with Improved Radial Velocimetry</i>	
<i>Advisor: Dr. Jason T. Wright</i>	
<i>Bachelor of Science, Physics, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China</i>	Jun 2008
<i>Thesis: Characterizing the Luminosity-Variability Correlation in Gamma-Ray Bursts</i>	
<i>Advisor: Dr. Shuang-Nan Zhang</i>	

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## PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

<i>Research Assistant / Fellow</i>	May 2010 – present
<i>Department of Astronomy &amp; Astrophysics, Penn State University</i>	
<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Aug 2008 – Dec 2009
<i>Department of Astronomy &amp; Astrophysics, Penn State University</i>	

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## AWARDS

<i>Carnegie DTM Fellowship in Astronomy and Planetary Science</i>	since Aug 2016
<i>NASA Earth and Space Science Fellow</i>	since Sep 2014
<i>Proposal title: Finding the Lowest Mass Exoplanets with Improved Radial Velocimetry</i>	
<i>Downsborough Graduate Fellowship</i>	May 2013
<i>Stephen B. Brumbach Fellowship in Astrophysics</i>	May 2010
<i>Zaccheus Daniel Fellowship</i>	2009-2013
<i>Teaching Assistant of the Year Award</i>	Jun 2009
<i>Department of Astronomy &amp; Astrophysics, Penn State University</i>	

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## TELESCOPE TIME AWARDED AND OBSERVING EXPERIENCE

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### **Exoplanet Programs**

PI, 25.7 hours on Hobby-Eberly Telescope, with the High Resolution Spectrograph                      2013  
*Improve the Radial Velocity Precision of HET/HRS*  
 Co-I: Jason Wright, Ming Zhao

Observer, Observing Planner, Tull Spectrograph at the McDonald Obs. 2.7m Telescope    2013  
 TS12 arm, R~500,000, day-time runs

Observer, Keck/HIRES remote observing at Caltech and Yale ROCs                                  2010, 2011, 2013

### **Extragalactic Programs**

As founding member of the MUSSCEL program (Multiwavelength Study of the Structure, Chemistry and Evolution of LSB galaxies):

Co-I, 5 hours of Green Bank Telescope, 2015A with AUGUS receiver                              2014  
*CO in Low Surface Brightness Galaxies in Tandem with Optical/UV Star Formation*  
 PI: Jason Young, Co-Is: Rachel Kuzio de Naray, Karen O'Neil

Co-I, 9 Nights on VIRUS-P IFU on 2.7m telescope of McDonald Observatory    2013, 2014, 2015  
*IFU Spectroscopy of Low Surface Brightness Galaxies*  
 PI: Jason Young, Co-I for 2014 & 2015: Rachel Kuzio de Naray

Co-I, NASA Swift Cycle 10 GI Program    2013  
*Anchoring the Blue End of Low Surface Brightness Disk Galaxy SEDs*  
 PI: Jason Young, Co-I: Rachel Kuzio de Naray

Others: Co-I on one *Fermi* proposal on GRB theory (2009) and one *Chandra* Archival proposal on AGN spectroscopy (2013).

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## TALKS AND CONFERENCE POSTERS

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### **Talks**

*Paths, Roadblocks, and Byways in Detecting Habitable Rocky Planets in Radial Velocity Data*

Invited Talk, Carnegie DTM Exoplanet Seminar    Nov 2015

Invited Talk, Berkeley Center for Integrative Planetary Science Seminar                      Sep 2015

NExScI Exoplanet Seminar    Sep 2015

Contributed Talk, Bay Area Exoplanet Science Meeting    Sep 2015

*Co-Chair, Breakout Discussion Session on Telluric Contamination*                              Jul 2015

The 2nd Extremely Precise Radial Velocity Workshop, Yale

*Improve RV Precision through Better Modeling and Better Reference Spectra*              May 2015

Contributing Talk, The 1st Emerging Researchers in Exoplanet Symposium, Penn State

*Pushing the Radial Velocity Precision to 1 m/s*

Oct 2014

Stellar, Solar and Planet Seminar, Harvard/CfA

*Accreting Supermassive Black Holes in Submm Galaxies* Apr 2013  
 Contributed Talk at the Penn State Neighborhood Cosmology Workshop

*AGNs in Submm Galaxies — Combining the Power of Chandra and ALMA* Jan 2013  
 Contributed Talk at 2013 AAS Winter Meeting, Long Beach  
 Contributed Talk at Seyfert 2012 Workshop — Nuclei of Seyfert Galaxies and QSOs  
 Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy, Bonn, Germany Now 2012

*Resolving the 6-8 keV X-ray Background* Aug 2012  
 Lunch Talk at Kavli Institute of Astronomy & Astrophysics  
 Peking University, Beijing, China

plus 6 Penn State Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics Lunch Talks and 2 invited talks at the *Swift* Mission Control Center.

### Posters

*Telluric Contamination: Effects and Solutions* Jul 2015  
 Poster at the 2nd Extremely Precise Radial Velocity Workshop, Yale

*Finding Extra-Solar Planet Near and Far* Mar 2013  
 Poster Presentation at the 2013 Penn State Graduate Exhibition  
**First Prize Winner** in the Physical Sciences and Mathematics Category

*Improving the Radial Velocity Precision of HET/HRS* May 2011, Jan 2014  
 Serial Poster Presentations at the 2011 AAS Winter Meeting in Seattle and Summer Meeting in Boston, the 1st Precise Radial Velocity Workshop at Penn State, and the 2014 AAS Winter Meeting in National Harbor.

*Spectral Lags from Structured Jets* Jan 2010  
 Poster Presentation at the 2010 AAS Winter Meeting in D.C  
 Poster Presentation at the Swift 5 Year Conference, **Poster Award Winner** Nov 2009

## SUMMER SCHOOLS AND TRAININGS

*The Dunlap Institute Summer School on Astronomical Instrumentation* Aug 2013  
 Honorable Mention, Optical Design Challenge

*The AAS CAE Tier I Workshop on Teaching Astro 101* 2011

*The Summer School in Statistics for Astronomers* Jul 2010  
 Pennsylvania State University

*The 37th Stanford SLAC Summer School* Aug 2009  
 Revolutions on the Horizon: A Decade of New Experiments  
 Honorable Mention, The 37th SLAC Summer School Challenge

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## SERVICES AND COMMITTEE WORK

*Referee, ApJ, A&A*

<i>Outreach Volunteer</i>	since Aug 2008
Given over 10 planetarium shows to local school students and general public, and over 6 public talks at various outreach events through the Penn State Astro Outreach program.	
<i>Astronomy beyond Academia, Founder and Group Manager</i>	since Aug 2012
A <i>LinkedIn</i> network for astronomers outside academia, endorsed by AAS Employment Committee	
<i>Mentor for First-Year Physics Major Undergraduate</i>	since Sep 2014
Penn State Physics and Astronomy Women Mentoring Program	
<i>Scientific and Logistic Organizing Committee Member</i>	May 2015
The 1st Emerging Researchers in Exoplanet Symposium, Penn State	
<i>Graduate Council Representative</i>	Sep 2010 – May 2012
Penn State Graduate Student Association	
<i>Co-Chair and Event Organizer for Inside Scientists Studio</i>	Sep 2010 – May 2011
Graduate Women in Science, Nu Chapter at Penn State	
<i>Mentor for First-Year International Graduate Students</i>	2009 – 2010
Penn State Global Programs	

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## TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Coding Languages:**

IDL, Python, Java, C++, R

**Astronomical Data Analysis Skills:**

Exoplanet:

- Forward modeling echelle spectra for radial velocity (RV) extraction;
  - working with and improving the California Planet Survey Doppler code (used at Keck/HIRES, APF, HET/HRS, AAT, etc.)
  - building a Doppler code from scratch
- Diagnosing and solving problems in the context of iodine precise RV;
  - general diagnostic tests with calibration frames, standard stars frames, etc.;
  - modeling telluric contamination in reference and science spectra;
  - modeling spectrograph response function (spectral PSF);
  - modeling/characterizing iodine atlases (as calibration/reference spectra);

- Observation and raw data reduction with echelle spectrograph;
- Characterization of planetary systems with RV data;
- Modeling telluric absorption lines;
- Optical and NIR photometry;
- Solid background in statistical computing.

Extragalactic:

- X-ray: photometry, stacking, spectroscopy, and spectral modeling (CIAO tools and XSPEC)
- Galaxy Stellar SED fitting (UV, optical to NIR; experience with FAST, GalMC, and CIGAR)
- Metalicity estimate from emission lines (e.g. using the R23 method)

#### **Astronomical Packages and Software:**

California Planet Survey Consortium Doppler Code  
 REDUCE (optimal extraction for 2-D echelle spectrum)  
 TERRASPEC (software for modeling telluric spectra based on HITRAN line database)  
 IodineSpec5 (theoretical computation of iodine lines)  
 SourceExtractor (Optical/NIR photometry)  
 CIAO tools and XSPEC (X-ray photometry and spectroscopy)  
 FAST (galaxy SED fitting)  
 ALMA Observing and Proposal Tool

#### **Published Code:**

BOOTTRAN (in IDL, bootstrapping to compute error bars for Keplerian orbit parameters, including transit ephemeris, based on radial velocity data)

## **LIST OF PUBLICATIONS**

Total publications: 13, with 4 as first or second author, 9 as contributing author.

Total citations: 225 (152 citations as first or second author), h-index: 9, as of Mar. 2016.

1 first author paper and 2 co-author papers in preparation.

#### **Publications as a Major Contributor:**

4. The Exoplanet Orbit Database II: Updates to exoplanets.org  
 Eunkyu Han<sup>+</sup>, **Sharon X. Wang**, Jason T. Wright, et al. 2014, *PASP*, 126, 813  
 (+ Undergraduate student co-supervised)
3. The X-ray Properties of the Submillimeter Galaxies in the ALMA  
 LABOCA E-CDF-S Submillimeter Survey  
**Sharon Xuesong Wang**, W. Niel Brandt, et al. 2013, *ApJ*, 778, 179
2. The Discovery of HD 37605c and A Null Detection of Transits of HD 37605b  
**Sharon Xuesong Wang**, Jason T. Wright, et al. 2012, *ApJ*, 761, 46
1. Tracking Down the Source Population Responsible for the Unresolved Cosmic 6-8 keV  
 Background  
 Yongquan Xue, **S. X. Wang**, et al. 2012, *ApJ*, 758, 129

**Other Publications:**

9. The Distribution of Star Formation and Metals in the Low Surface Brightness Galaxy UGC 628  
Young, J. E.; Kuzio de Naray, Rachel; **Wang, Sharon X.**, 2015, *MNRAS*, 452, 2973
8. Evolution in the Black Hole—Galaxy Scaling Relations and the Duty Cycle of Nuclear Activity in Star-forming Galaxies  
Mouyuan Sun, and other 8 coauthors including Sharon X. Wang, 2015, *ApJ*, 802, 14S
7. The California Planet Survey IV: A Planet Orbiting the Giant Star HD 145934 and Updates to 7 Systems with Long-Period Planets  
Katherina Y. Feng, Jason T. Wright, Ben Nelson, **Sharon X. Wang**, et al. 2014, *ApJ*, 800, 22F
6. MARVELS-1: A Face-on Double-lined Binary Star Masquerading as a Resonant Planetary System and Consideration of Rare False Positives in Radial Velocity Planet Searches  
Jason T. Wright, Arpita Roy, Suvrath Mahadevan, **Sharon X. Wang**, et al. 2013, *ApJ*, 770, 119
5. Host Star Properties and Transit Exclusion for the HD 38529 Planetary System  
Gregory W. Henry, Stephen R. Kane, **Sharon X. Wang**, et al. 2013, *ApJ*, 768, 155
4. The HD 192263 System: Planetary Orbital Period and Stellar Variability Disentangled  
Diana Dragomir, and other 13 coauthors including Sharon X. Wang, 2012, *ApJ*, 754, 37
3. A Search for the Transit of HD 168443b: Improved Orbital Parameters and Photometry  
Genady Pilyavsky, and other 15 coauthors including Sharon X. Wang, 2011, *ApJ*, 743, 162
2. Stellar Variability of the Exoplanet Hosting Star HD 63454  
Stephen R. Kane, and other 12 coauthors including Sharon X. Wang, 2011, *ApJ*, 737, 58
1. Revised Orbit and Transit Exclusion for HD 114762b  
Stephen R. Kane, and other 6 coauthors including Sharon X. Wang, 2011, *ApJ*, 735, L41