

New planetary and eclipsing binary candidates from campaigns 1–6 of the K2 mission[★]

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ABSTRACT

Context. With only two functional reaction wheels, *Kepler* cannot maintain stable pointing at its original target field and has entered a new mode of observation called K2.

Aims. We describe a new pipeline to reduce K2 pixel files into light curves that are later searched for transit like features.

Methods. Our method is based on many years of experience in planet hunting for the CoRoT mission. Owing to the unstable pointing, K2 light curves present systematics that are correlated with the target position in the charge coupled device (CCD). Therefore, our pipeline also includes a decorrelation of this systematic noise. Our pipeline is optimised for bright stars for which spectroscopic follow-up is possible. We achieve a maximum precision on 6 hours of 6 ppm. The decorrelated light curves are searched for transits with an adapted version of the CoRoT alarm pipeline.

Results. We present 172 planetary candidates and 327 eclipsing binary candidates from campaigns 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of K2. Both the planetary candidates and eclipsing binary candidates lists are made public to promote follow-up studies. The light curves will also be available to the community.

Key words. planets and satellites: detection – binaries: eclipsing – techniques: photometric

1. Introduction

Since the launch of *Kepler* in 2009 (Borucki et al. 2010), the number of confirmed exoplanets has grown exponentially, reaching 2933 known transiting exoplanets today and a few thousand unconfirmed candidates. The great diversity of discovered planetary systems is bringing a number of fundamental clues about the processes of planet formation and evolution. Moreover, *Kepler* has also revealed exoplanets around a diversity of hosts from M-dwarfs (Dressing & Charbonneau 2015) to giant stars (Quinn et al. 2015) and binaries (Doyle et al. 2011).

The exceptional accuracy of the *Kepler* light curves reaching 15 parts per million (ppm) in six hours was in part due to its highly stabilised pointing. The failure of two out of four of the reaction wheels of the *Kepler* satellite put an end to the prime *Kepler* mission since the pointing stability could not be maintained at the original target field. Fortunately, clever engineering provided a second life to the *Kepler* satellite through a mission named K2 (Howell et al. 2014). K2 is balanced against solar radiation pressure in an unstable equilibrium and it needs to fire thrusters every six hours to maintain the pointing.

K2 observes four fields a year close to the Ecliptic with a typical duration of 80 days. This important diminution of the time coverage imposed by the new pointing capabilities of the satellite is compensated by the possibility offered to the community to observe different regions of the Milky Way and thus different stellar populations. For example, K2 observes many

more M dwarfs than its predecessor (Crossfield et al. 2015; Petigura et al. 2015), as well as supernovae, clusters and a full campaign (#9) will be dedicated to microlensing. Furthermore, the targets observed by K2 are globally brighter, which facilitates the confirmation and characterisation of the detected planetary systems.

Initially K2 only delivered pixel files and not light curves. However, since Campaign 3, the K2 mission has produced light curves using its PDC pipeline. The initial lack of light curves triggered the development of many K2 pipelines by many groups. The challenge was to correct for the systematics introduced by the degraded pointing stability coupled with a mis-calibrated pixel response. To correct these systematics in the K2 data, several methods have been developed, all presenting two main steps: a photometric extraction with a variety of aperture shapes and positions and a “correction of systematics”. Vanderburg & Johnson (2014) and later on Armstrong et al. (2015) used normal aperture photometry and corrected the systematics decorrelating the flux and the position variations of the target on the CCD. However, while Vanderburg & Johnson (2014) used the fact that the main motion of the line of sight was along one direction (the roll direction), which reduced the decorrelation to 1D, Armstrong et al. (2015) opted for a 2D decorrelation. Aigrain et al. (2015) also used aperture photometry but coupled with Gaussian processes to model the systematics at the same time as the stellar intrinsic variability. Huang et al. (2015) used the astrometric solution for the position of the targets to extract the light curves and three algorithms for the decorrelation of the position related systematics: external parameter decorrelation, trend filtering algorithm

[★] Full Tables A.1 and A.2 are only available at the CDS via anonymous ftp to cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr (130.79.128.5) or via <http://cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr/viz-bin/qcat?J/A+A/vol/page>

1 (TFA; Kovács et al. 2005), and semi-periodic stellar oscillations via cosine-filtering. Foreman-Mackey et al. (2015) and
 2 Angus et al. (2016) do not decorrelate the systematics but fit
 3 the systematics together with their signal-of-interest respectively
 4 transits and periodic signals. They modelled the systematics by
 5 identifying common trends in the light curves similarly to the
 6 TFA method. Until now the only pipeline using an optimised
 7 aperture is the one by Lund et al. (2015). The optimised aperture
 8 is calculated with a data clustering algorithm called density-
 9 based spatial clustering of applications with noise (DBSCAN) and
 10 their reduction is optimised for asteroseismology studies.
 11

12 Several groups also preformed planet searches in the K2 data
 13 but only a couple have published lists of planetary candidates:
 14 (Foreman-Mackey et al. 2015; Vanderburg et al. 2016) for cam-
 15 paign 0 to campaign 3.

16 In this paper, we present our K2 custom built pipeline and
 17 give planetary and binary candidates for stars brighter than
 18 K_p mag = 14.7 from campaigns 1 to 6. In Sect. 2, we describe
 19 the pipeline we developed to extract the K2 light curves and to
 20 correct the systematics. In Sect. 3, we discuss the performances
 21 of our pipeline. In Sect. 4, we present our method to search for
 22 transits in the light curves, our vetting procedure and the results
 23 of our eclipse signals hunt for bright stars in the first six cam-
 24 paigns. We finish with a summary of our results in Sect. 5.

25 **2. Data reduction of K2 pixel files: production 26 of de-correlated light curves**

27 *2.1. Photometric extraction*

28 To develop our K2 pipeline, we use several routines from the
 29 CoRoT imaged pipeline (Barros et al. 2014), which is part
 30 of the CoRoT legacy. Our main objective being the detection
 31 of planetary candidates around bright stars for which follow-
 32 up radial velocity observations are possible, we optimised our
 33 pipeline for stars whose K_p mag < 15. Because other targets
 34 would require a specific data reduction sequence, we decided to
 35 reduce only so-called guest observer targets in long cadence and
 36 discard superstamps.

37 We download the calibrated pixel data (pixel files) from the
 38 Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST)¹. Then, for
 39 each campaign the *Kepler*/K2 science centre provides data re-
 40 lease notes which are very useful for identifying specific features
 41 and events that might affect the photometry. Thus, prior to any
 42 reduction step, we take into account the information given in the
 43 release notes. We check the start and end cadences and discard
 44 custom postage stamps. We also check the times of passage of
 45 solar system planets in the field of view, which can give rise to
 46 features in the light curves. Finally, we check for changes in the
 47 calibrated pixels pipeline, for example, from Campaign 3 the sky
 48 background is already subtracted from the postage stamps.

49 The first step of the pipeline is to extract the header infor-
 50 mation necessary for our calculations: target magnitude, gain,
 51 readout noise, background level, and target position. We convert
 52 the flux of each pixel to electrons. For simplicity, we consider
 53 only images whose QUALITY keyword is equal to zero, except for
 54 Campaign 2 where 30% of the cadences are accidentally flagged
 55 as detector anomalies (flag 16384). While convenient, this strat-
 56 egy has the major drawback of discarding a non-negligible
 57 amount of useful data points. Starting in Campaign 3, some flags

are related to the data reduction process and do not necessarily
 58 indicate that the data is unsuitable for high precision photometry.
 59 For example, the flag 8192 indicates the possible detection of a
 60 cosmic ray hit in the postage stamp (imagedette). As this cosmic
 61 ray hit doesn't necessarily affect the PSF of the target stars, the
 62 imagedette could be perfectly valid. Therefore, we advise anyone
 63 who wants to analyse K2 pixel files to carefully select which ca-
 64 dences to discard. The details of the flags of the K2 pipeline can
 65 be obtained on page 19 of the Kepler manual²
 66

The initial lack of official aperture masks³ for the K2 mission
 67 required the definition of the target masks which is our second
 68 step. Most other K2 pipelines chose circular apertures with sev-
 69 eral sizes. However, in general the PSF of *Kepler* is neither circu-
 70 lar nor symmetric and hence we opt to derive an optimal aperture
 71 for each target. This was also done by Lund et al. (2015) who
 72 used DBSCAN routine (Ester et al. 1996). In our case, the optimal
 73 aperture is calculated with a routine from the CoRoT imagedette
 74 pipeline (see Adda 2000 or Bryson et al. 2010). The routine re-
 75 quires a mean image, the gain, and the mean background level.
 76 To avoid contamination by background stars, for non-saturated
 77 stars (K_p mag > 10), we considered a 9 by 9 pixel subset of the
 78 original image centred on the position of the target taken from
 79 the header. Subsequently, pixels from this mean sub-image were
 80 ranked by decreasing flux. Then they were added starting with
 81 the highest flux pixel until the total signal-to-noise ratio (S/N)
 82 starts to decrease. Finally, to obtain a connected aperture, the
 83 routine excludes pixels that are isolated. Therefore, contaminat-
 84 ing stars that are separated from the main target are not included
 85 in the mask, but targets whose PSF merge with the main tar-
 86 get are included in the mask to decrease the noise. This results
 87 in apertures that are, in general, not circular, contrary to most
 88 of the other published K2 pipelines, and nicely follow the PSF
 89 shape. However, we found that for saturated stars, the mean im-
 90 age resulted in a PSF that was too short along the main satura-
 91 tion column. This is because the extent of the saturation leakage
 92 strongly depends on the flux. Therefore, for stars brighter than
 93 10 mag, we apply the optimum aperture routine to the mean
 94 of the 10 brightest images, which are the ones with the larger
 95 PSF. The saturated stars have very large optimal apertures rang-
 96 ing from 100 pixels to 900 pixels. We also found that, for stars
 97 brighter than 16 mag, increasing the optimal aperture by 1 pixel
 98 all around the aperture improved the final light curve. This re-
 99 sults in apertures with 10–50 pixels in the brightness range be-
 100 tween 10 and 16 mag. This enlargement of the optimal aper-
 101 ture was not needed for CoRoT but it is probably required here
 102 because of the additional pointing jitter. Finally in some cases,
 103 mostly for faint stars (16–20 mag), the S/N always increases by
 104 adding new pixels. Therefore, the resulting aperture is the whole
 105 imagedette and we consider that the aperture fails. For these cases,
 106 we performed some tests, concluded that the best aperture was
 107 as small as possible and we use the smallest practical aperture
 108 containing 3×3 pixels. We show two extreme examples of our
 109 mask in Fig. 1.

The third step consists of computing and removing the back-
 111 ground flux level for Campaigns 0–2. For later campaigns,
 112 the background flux level was already removed so this step is
 113 not preformed. We estimate the background level using the 3σ
 114 clipped median of all the pixels in the image that are not inside
 115

² http://archive.stsci.edu/kepler/manuals/archive_manual.pdf

³ For the Campaigns 3 and after, the K2 mission is also producing aperture masks.

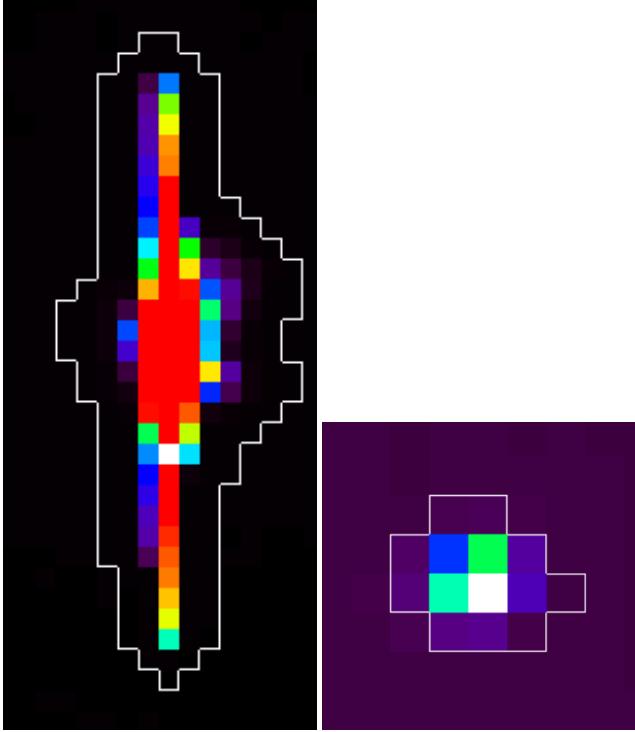


Fig. 1. Example of aperture mask for EPIC 201832337, a 7.8 mag star that shows high saturation (*left panel*) and EPIC 201465501, a 15 mag star (*right panel*).

1 the aperture mask and we remove the background from each
2 image.

3 The fourth step is the computation of the centroid position.
4 Since the centroid position is very important for the correction of
5 the flux-position systematics, we tested several algorithms to cal-
6 culate the centroid. We found that the Modified Moment Method
7 by Stone (1989) resulted in a smaller dispersion in the final light
8 curves. Therefore, we chose this method, which was also used in
9 the CoRoT imager pipeline.

10 In the final step, for each image, we compute the sum of all
11 the flux inside the optimal aperture. We also compute the cor-
12 responding uncertainty that accounts for photon statistics, read-
13 out noise, and the noise of the subtracted background. The light
14 curves are normalised to 1 by dividing by the mean flux. At this
15 stage, the light curve are called raw light curves (RAWLC). An
16 example of a raw light curve is shown in the left of Fig. 2.

17 2.2. Flux-position decorrelation

18 The degraded pointing stability of the K2 mission couples
19 with pixel sensitivity variations to introduce systematics in the
20 raw light curves since it is clear in Fig. 2. As mentioned
21 above, several methods to correct the systematics have been ap-
22 plied to the K2 data (Vanderburg & Johnson 2014; Aigrain et al.
23 2015; Foreman-Mackey et al. 2015; Armstrong et al. 2015;
24 Lund et al. 2015). In our case, to correct for this flux de-
25 pendence with position we used a procedure similar to
26 Vanderburg & Johnson (2014), which is based on meth-
27 ods developed for the *Spitzer* satellite (Knutson et al. 2008;
28 Ballard et al. 2010; Stevenson et al. 2012). Owing to the partic-
29 ular pointing stabilisation mechanism of K2, the satellite slowly
30 rolls around its line of sight and to correct for this, every six
31 hours, the thrusters are fired returning the spacecraft close to its
32 initial orientation. Thus, Vanderburg & Johnson (2014) showed

33 that for each roll of the spacecraft, the target crosses a similar
34 path on the CCD. This allows the use of self-flat-fielding meth-
35 ods that calibrate the sensitivity variations with respect to the
36 centroid position of the target by calculating the mean flux at
37 each of a series of centroid position bins. Then the flux can be
38 corrected from those sensitivity changes. The authors showed
39 that they could retrieve a precision within a factor of 2 of the
40 *Kepler* primary mission.

41 Following Vanderburg & Johnson (2014), we start by esti-
42 mating and removing stellar activity with a spline filter with
43 breakpoints every 1.5 days. Then we calculate the main direction
44 of motion using principal component analysis. Finally, the
45 sensitivity dependence with position is computed and the correc-
46 tion is applied to the data. This 1D approximation starts failing after
47 ~ 10 days because of an extra slow drift of the satellite along
48 the direction perpendicular to the main rolling motion. Hence,
49 to maintain the 1D approximation, the light curves are divided
50 in eight segments. The division is mostly in equal parts, but we
51 insure that there are divisions whenever the position behaviour
52 changes. For example in Campaign 1, the satellite pointed to-
53 wards the Earth in the middle of the campaign to download data.
54 This created a gap in the data and a drastic change of correlation
55 between flux and position before and after the gap. For the other
56 campaigns similar breaks happen although not always for the
57 same reasons. For each segment we performed the decorrelation
58 method described above. After this self-flat-fielding procedure
59 the stellar activity signal, filtered out by the spline filter, is re-
60 added to the light curve to avoid affecting the transit shape. In
61 the right panel of Fig. 2, we show the light curve of the same
62 target as in left panel, EPIC 201465501, after the flux-position
63 decorrelation with our pipeline.

64 The precision of the centroid is very important for the per-
65 formances of the decorrelation. The precision on the centroid
66 is better for bright stars that are not saturated. Hence, for each
67 of the 21 modules of K2, we choose a non-saturated bright star
68 and used its centroid position to decorrelate all the stars of the
69 same module. This resulted in final light curves with smaller root
70 mean square (RMS) than if we use individual centroid positions
71 especially for stars fainter than 14 mag.

72 We also investigated flux-position decorrelation using a 2D
73 self-flat-fielding procedure. We start by removing stellar activity
74 as explained above. Then we compute a 2D map of the variation
75 of sensitivity with position with 40 bins in the main direction of
76 motion and 20 bins in the other direction. The sensitivity depen-
77 dence with position was corrected by dividing the light curve by
78 the respective interpolation of the 2D flat field map. In agreement
79 with Lund et al. (2015), we find that the previously described 1D
80 procedure corrects better the flux-position correlation than the
81 2D flat fielding and opt for it for our pipeline. This is because
82 the 2D procedure is very sensitive to the bin size, for too small
83 bin sizes we over-fit the data, and for too large bin sizes the
84 interpolation is not sufficient to describe correctly the sensitivity
85 variations resulting in a poor correction. Further optimisation of
86 this 2D self-flat-fielding method is possible and Armstrong et al.
87 (2015) showed that it also gives nice results.

88 Our pipeline produces two data products, the decorrelated
89 light curve described above, thereafter DECLC, and a light curve
90 where the stellar activity has been filtered, thereafter FILLC,
91 which is used to search for transits and for performance anal-
92 ysis. To obtain the FILLC, we filter stellar activity on timescales
93 longer than 0.5 days with a spline filter with break points ev-
94 ery 0.5 days. Then we reject points that are 5 sigma higher than
95 the median. Points that are 5 sigma lower than the median are
96 only rejected if the points immediately before and after are not

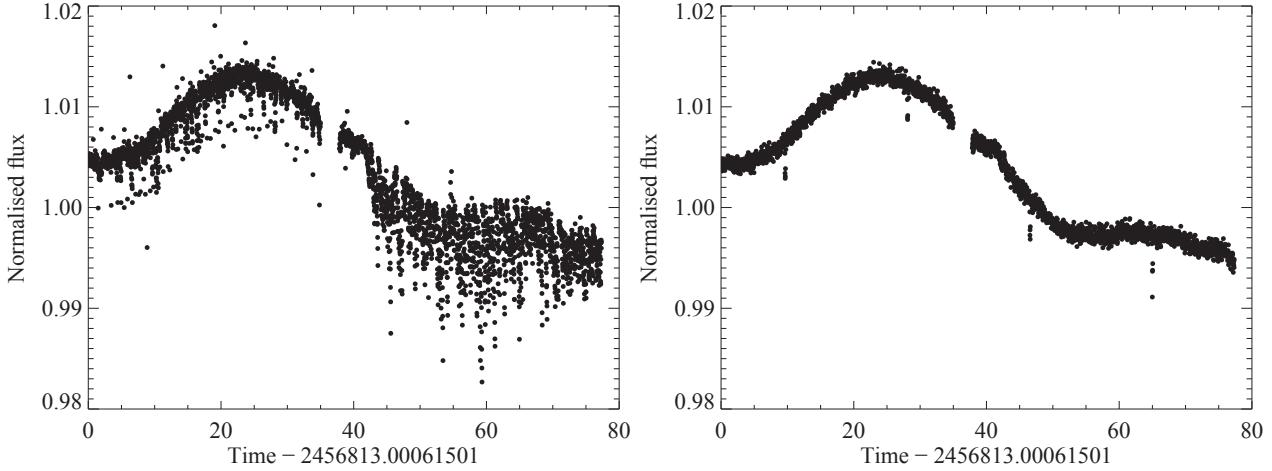


Fig. 2. Left panel: the large systematic noise is clearly visible on the raw light curve of EPIC 201465501, a 14.95 magnitude star in Campaign 1. Right panel: same light curve after being position-decorrelated. The improvement of the precision is evident, the RMS improved from 1358 ppm for the RAWLC to 417 ppm for the DECLC, allowing to clearly see the transits.

1 5 sigma lower than the median to avoid removing transits. This
2 sigma rejection is needed to remove remaining cosmic ray hits
3 and points for which the decorrelation didn't work.

4 3. Photometric performance

5 To improve and optimise the performance of the pipeline, we
6 performed several tests on the filtered light curves. For each
7 light curve, we computed four statistical indicators: the robust
8 RMS (i.e. root mean square with 3 sigma clipping), the mean
9 point to point variation (P2P), and the quasi Combined Differ-
10 ential Photometric Precision (CDPP) measured on 2.5 and 6 h
11 timescales (used to approximate the real CDPP provided with
12 *Kepler* data, Christiansen et al. 2012). This quasi-CDPP was ob-
13 tained by computing the standard deviation within a running
14 window of 2.5 or 6 h divided by the square root of the number of
15 points in each bin (Vanderburg & Johnson 2014). In most cases,
16 the conclusions drawn from all the statistics indicators agree.
17

18 We performed in depth testing for Campaigns 1 and 3, but
19 for concision and clarity, we only show here the results obtained
20 on Campaign 3 (C3) for which we reach a lower noise level.
21 However, the performance for both campaigns is qualitatively
22 the same. The lower noise level of Campaign 3 onwards is due
23 to the increase in the frequency of pointing corrections.

23 3.1. Pipeline tests

24 As mentioned above we tested the centroid computation and the
25 size of the aperture and optimised them in order to obtain a lower
26 robust RMS in the final light curve. We also tested if moving the
27 aperture to make it follow the centroid motion, thereafter “jitter-
28 correction”, would improve and/or be sufficient to correct the
29 flux-position systematics. To do this, we used a routine devel-
30 oped for the CoRoT imagette pipeline. This routine oversamples
31 the images, re-centres them to superimpose the centroids of all
32 the images and finally converts them back to the original sam-
33 pling. The result is similar to aperture shifting at sub-pixel level.
34 If the flux correlation with position was due to aperture losses
35 only, this procedure would completely correct the effects of the
36 pointing jitter. This would be more efficient than just increasing
37 the size of the aperture since it prevents the background noise
38 increasing.

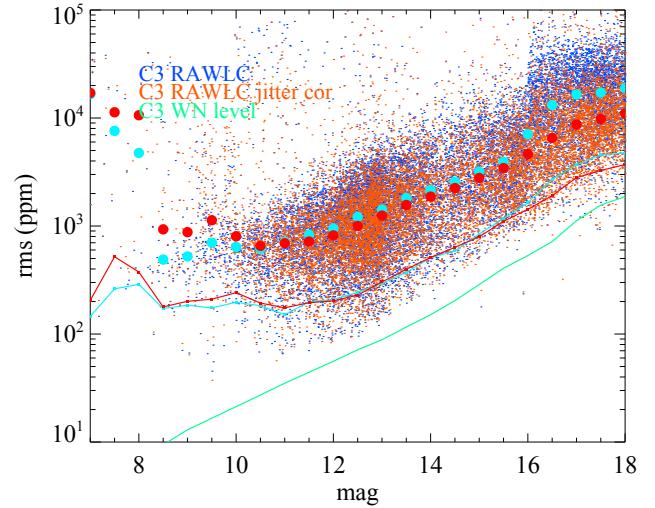


Fig. 3. Robust RMS of the raw light curves, with the stellar activity filtered, before (black) and after (red) jitter correction in C3. We show the median of the RMS in bins of 0.5 mag as large circles and the lower RMS envelope computed with the 0.05 percentile with the respective colour code. We also show the median of the light curves estimated un-
certainties assuming only white noise (green line) for comparison with other figures.

In Fig. 3, we show the robust RMS of each RAWLC with the stellar activity filtered out, both with and without jitter correction. We find that correcting the jitter improves the photometry for stars fainter than 11 mag but degrades it for brighter stars. 11 mag being very close to the 11.3 mag of *Kepler* saturation level (Gilliland et al. 2010), we conclude that for saturated stars correcting the jitter degrades the photometry. Noteworthy, even for the faint stars, the jitter correction is not enough to completely correct the flux-position dependence (as one can see comparing Fig. 3 with the top-left panel of Fig. 4). Therefore, we conclude that the main reason for the degradation of the precision of the light curves from K2 relative to *Kepler* is intra/extrapixel sensitivity variations and not aperture losses. Hence, the systematics need to be corrected with the decorrelation techniques presented above.

We also tested if the jitter correction would improve the RMS of the decorrelated light curves. We found that the jitter

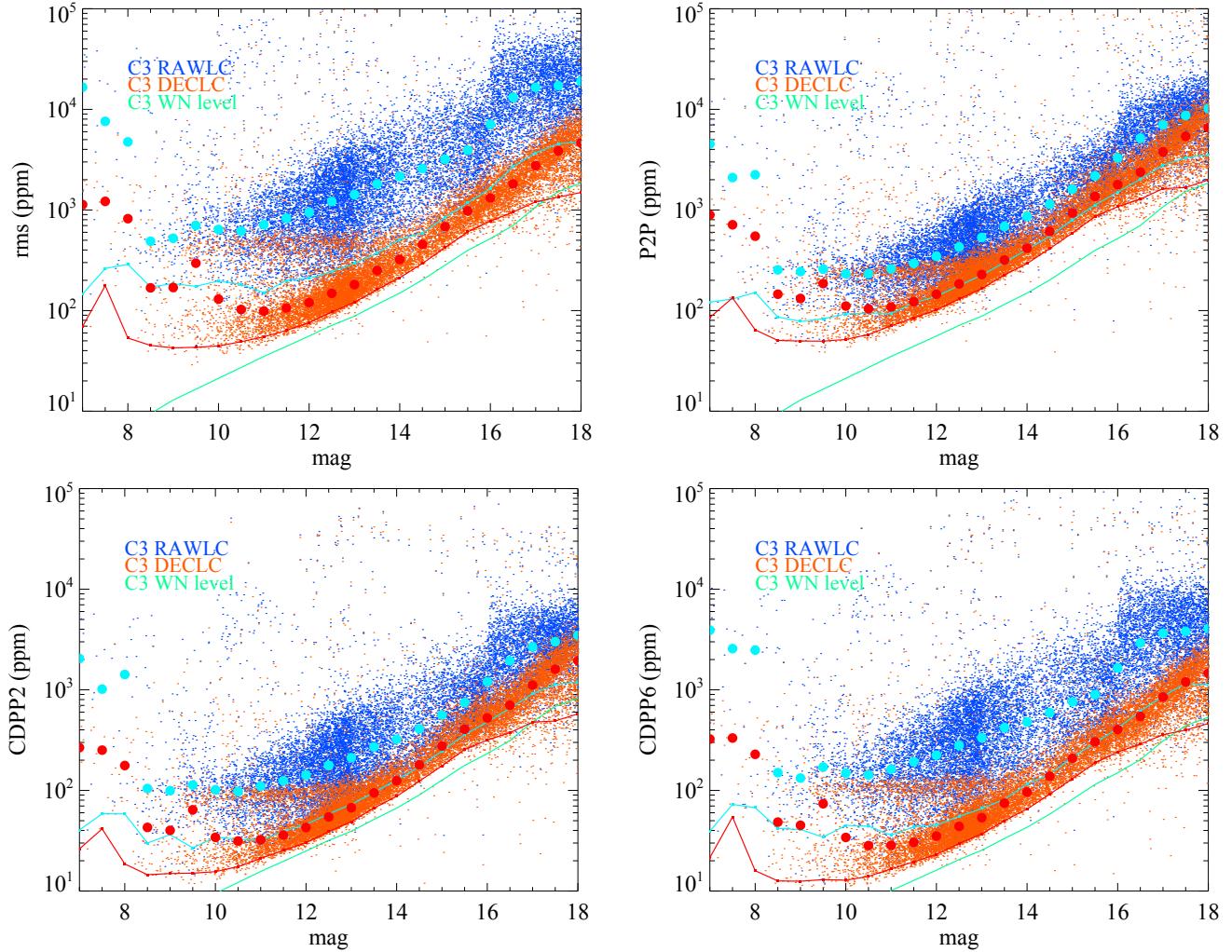


Fig. 4. Robust RMS of light curves, with the stellar activity filtered, before (black) and after (red) the position decorrelation. For each statistic, we show the median value in each 0.5 mag bin as large circles and the lower envelope computed with 0.05 percentile with the respective colour code. We also show the median of the light curves estimated assuming only white noise (green line).

1 correction actually increases the RMS of the final light curves.
 2 This is probably because the PSF is very under-sampled and the
 3 jitter correction actually introduces noise. In contrast, the CoRoT
 4 PSF was much better sampled and the same routine worked very
 5 well for CoRoT imagette data.

6 3.2. Pipeline performance

7 To exemplify the final performance of the pipeline, described in
 8 Sect. 2, we show the comparison of the four statistical indica-
 9 tors for the stellar activity filtered RAWLC and the FILLC light
 10 curves of C3 in Fig. 4. We show the results for each individ-
 11 ual light curve together with the median in each 0.5 mag bin
 12 (large filled circles) and the lower envelope computed with the
 13 0.05 percentile (red and blue lines) for clarity. The decorrelation
 14 increases significantly the photometric precision according to all
 15 indicators and also decreases the spread of values in each mag-
 16 nitude bin. The improvement of the decorrelation is higher for
 17 the RMS (median decrease of 2022 ppm) and CDPP6 (median
 18 decrease of 560 ppm) indicators that are particularly sensitive to
 19 long timescales where the six hours systematic noise owing to
 20 pointing is more evident. We conclude that the final photometric
 21 precision approaches the white noise level and it is similar to the

Table 1. Minimum values of the RMS, p2p, CDPP2.5, and CDPP6 achieved in each campaign.

Campaign	RMS (ppm)	p2p (ppm)	CDPP2.5 (ppm)	CDPP6 (ppm)
C1	43	56	17	13
C2	45	48	15	16
C3	29	39	12	9
C4	22	24	7	6
C5	19	22	7	6
C6	21	23	7	6

precision obtained in the nominal *Kepler* mission. As in *Kepler*, we found a red noise, residual of stellar activity (Bastien et al. 2016), in the light curves that prevents us from reaching the white noise level.

In Table 1, we show the minimum values of the RMS, p2p, CDPP2.5 and CDPP6 for each campaign. After Campaign 3, we reach a precision similar to the original *Kepler* mission. For the earlier campaigns, we find slightly higher noise levels. This confirms the improvement of photometric precision during and after Campaign 3 caused by the smaller motion of the satellite during

1 exposures. Hence we conclude that our pipeline is capable of
 2 correcting the position dependence and achieves similar performance to other published pipelines.
 3

4 The light curves computed by our pipeline have been
 5 used in several published papers. The light curves of K2-3
 6 (Almenara et al. 2015) and K2-19 (Barros et al. 2015) were used
 7 to better characterise these two multi-planetary systems. For the
 8 11.6 mag star, K2-3, we achieved a robust RMS of the FILLC
 9 of 115 ppm. For K2-19, which is a 12.8 mag star, we achieved a
 10 RMS of 175 ppm. Our light curves were also used in the discovery
 11 papers of EPIC-211089792b (Santerne et al. 2016), EPIC-
 12 210957318b, and EPIC-212110888b (Lillo-Box et al. 2016),
 13 and EPIC-212521166b (Osborn et al., in prep.). The host stars
 14 have magnitudes of 12.9, 13.2, 11.4, 11.6, and the corresponding
 15 light curves (FILLC) produced by our pipeline have a robust
 16 RMS of 195 ppm, 368 ppm, 86 ppm, and 134 ppm respectively.

17 4. Transit search and candidates vetting

18 For the transit search, we use the filtered light curves
 19 (FILLC) and an adapted version of the CoRoT alarm pipeline
 20 (Bonomo et al. 2012). We only performed this search on targets
 21 brighter than K_p mag = 14.7 for which follow-up radial velocity
 22 is possible. For this bright target, we can obtain a good precision
 23 on both planetary mass and radius and hence probe the planetary
 24 composition.

25 The CoRoT alarm pipeline starts by filtering out any undesired signals from the light curves. For this purpose, the first step
 26 consists of identifying outliers caused by non-corrected cosmic
 27 ray hits thanks to a 5-sigma clipping. Then the remaining low-
 28 frequency signals (residual of the stellar activity and pointing
 29 jitter noise) are corrected with a high-pass filter realised by re-
 30 moving a 0.5 days sliding median. High-frequency variations
 31 are removed with a low-pass Savitzky-Golay filter (Press et al.
 32 1992) with a time scale of ~ 1 h to preserve transit ingress and
 33 egress. Finally discontinuities (or jumps), which are produced by
 34 hot pixels or sudden pointing jitter (see for example, Srour et al.
 35 2003 or Auvergne et al. 2009) and filtered by the previous steps,
 36 can produce a lot of instrumental false positives when looking
 37 for transit signals. Therefore, they are detected using a moving
 38 window of eight data points and computing the standard deviation
 39 inside this moving window. If the standard deviation differs
 40 by more than 4 sigma from the mean standard deviation, a dis-
 41 continuity is detected. To avoid transient effects associated with
 42 the appearance of hot pixels or with the filtering of a pure dis-
 43 continuity, we remove 0.4 days before and after the time of each
 44 discontinuity.

45 After the filtering steps, the transit hunt is performed with a
 46 box-fitting least-square (BLS) algorithm with the directional cor-
 47 rection (Tingley 2003) that eliminates box-shaped events with
 48 a negative depth from the resulting periodogram. The search
 49 is made over periods ranging from 0.4 to 50 days and dura-
 50 tions ranging from 0.006 to 0.09 times the period with a num-
 51 ber of phase bins $n_{bins} = 240$ (Kovács et al. 2002). The fre-
 52 quency sampling is optimised according to the criterion given
 53 by $\delta\nu = 1/(P_{max}.n_{bins})$ where P_{max} is the maximum period
 54 searched (Schwarzenberg-Czerny & Beaulieu 2006). Using the
 55 periods and epochs found by the BLS, each light curve is phase-
 56 folded and the signal detection (SD) efficiency is computed
 57 (Kovács et al. 2002). We obtain a few thousand eclipse signal
 58 detections per campaign, most of which are instrumental false
 59 positives. Hence, the candidates have to be screened and we in-
 60 spect by eye all the folded light curves up to a SD of 11, which

Table 2. Number of planetary and eclipsing binary candidates found per campaign.

Campaign	Planetary	EB	Total LC
C1	19	35	8743
C2	20	59	10609
C3	22	38	9261
C4	27	60	10650
C5	58	60	16077
C6	26	75	16841

was empirically chosen after scrutinising the results of the first three campaigns.

The light curves that have real transit-like events are then divided between planetary candidates and eclipsing binary candidates. First, to avoid misidentification of the correct period, we test the double and half of the detected period. Then we fit, independently, a trapezoidal model to the phase-folded primary transit, and to the phase-folded odd and even primary transits. We also look for the presence of a secondary transit, fitting a trapezoidal model with the same outer and inner durations as the primary transit, but leaving the depth as a free parameter in the vicinity of the 0.5 orbital phase (from 0.4 to 0.6 with a visual inspection outside of this range). Finally we perform a visual search for sinusoidal out-of-transit variations. With all this information, we perform a list of checks which, if any of them is true, allow us to decide whether a candidate should be classified as an eclipsing binary:

- Candidates with sinusoidal out-of-transit variations;
- Candidates with a significant difference in the depth of the odd and even transits;
- Candidates with depth higher than 5%;
- Candidates with a significant secondary transit and a period longer than two days.

For candidates with a significant secondary transit and a period shorter than two days, the decision is taken on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the depth of this secondary transit and the other criteria above.

The results of this hunt for Campaigns 1 to 6 of K2 are provided in Table A.1 for the planetary candidates and in Table A.2 for the eclipsing binary candidates. The full tables will be available at the CDS. In these tables, we present the period, epoch, depth, full duration of the transit/eclipse, and ingress/egress duration. We also give a few indicators that the reader can use to choose their favourite targets depending on their science objectives: existence of secondary and V-shaped (grazing) at a 3 sigma detection threshold. We consider that a transit is V-shaped if the time between the 2nd and 3rd contacts is $0 \pm 3\sigma_{t23}$. In some cases with low S/N, our automatic trapezoidal fit gives excessively high error bars for some parameters, these were substituted by *.

In Table 2, we show a summary of the number of planetary and eclipsing binary (EB) candidates found in each campaign. For Campaigns 1 to 3, there are already two published lists of planetary candidates provided by Foreman-Mackey et al. (2015) and Vanderburg et al. (2016), hence some of these candidates were already followed up, confirmed, or disconfirmed. For Campaign 1, we found five new candidates compared to these two lists: EPIC 201534540, 201291843, 201270464, 201705526 and 201626686. We found nine new planetary candidates for campaign 2: EPIC 203623230, 204658292, 204763194, 203560204, 204346718, 204676499, 205047565, 205050711,

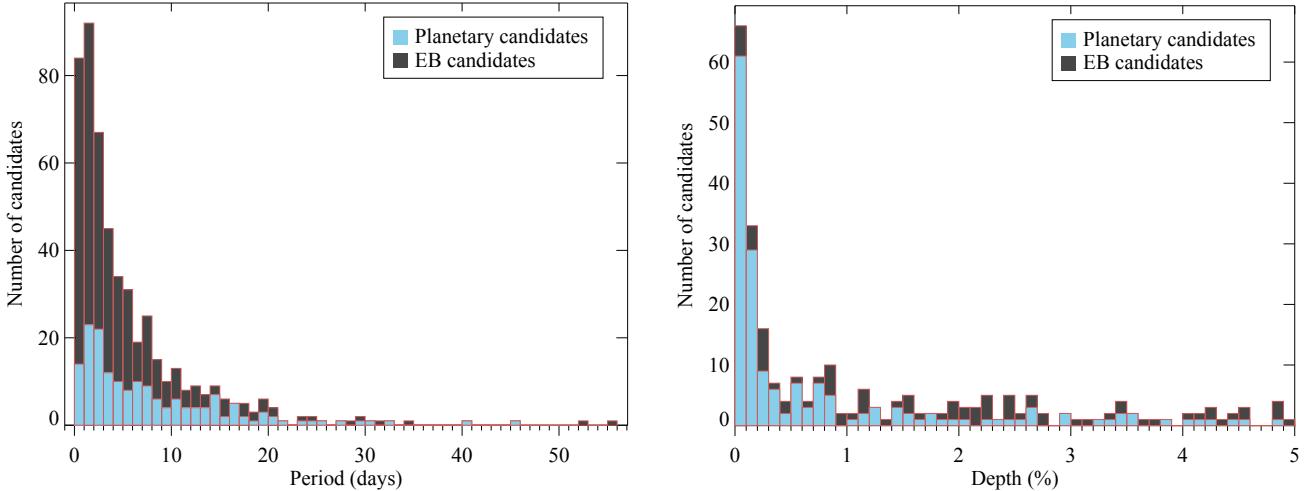


Fig. 5. *Left panel:* histogram of the orbital period of the planetary candidates and the EB candidates. *Right panel:* histogram of the depth of the planetary candidates and EBs with depth <5%.

and 202688980. Furthermore, we found four new planetary candidates for Campaign 3: EPIC 206175552, 206311743, 206500801, 206152015. Finally, we present here the first published list of planetary candidates for Campaigns 4, 5, and 6.

For the early campaigns, we missed some candidates that were already found by others in stars within our magnitude limit (brighter than 14.7 mag): 29 in C1, 23 in C2, and 36 in C3. The majority of these false negatives were due to the incorrect identification of the period by the BLS due to noise. In a few cases, the BLS identified a harmonic of the real period. Very few were missed because they had an SD value lower than our limit. Future improvements of our pipeline will attempt to reduce this number of false negatives. All transit surveys and detection efforts suffer from incompleteness. Therefore, it is always beneficial to have several groups publishing their candidate lists so that together we miss the least amount of real candidates.

In most campaigns, we find the double of eclipsing binaries candidates (0.4–0.6%) than planetary candidates (0.2–0.25%) except for Campaign 5, where the number of candidates in both categories are almost the same (0.36%). In the latest Campaigns C5 and C6, the number of light curves within our magnitude cut has increased by 50%. However, they also have a higher percentage of faint stars (13.5–14.5 bin) where planets are more difficult to detect. This explains the disproportional increase in the number of candidates for these campaigns.

In Fig. 5, we show histograms of the orbital period and depth of planetary and EB candidates that we found. We find a large percentage of candidates with small depths. The lowest is 0.008%, which corresponds to a planetary radius of $0.975 R_{\oplus}$ (if orbiting a solar size star). The shorter baseline combined with higher systematic noise leads to a lower limit on the transit depth than the nominal *Kepler* mission. We also find a large percentage of candidates with short periods. The main reason for this is observational biases, since the transit probability decreases as $P^{-2/3}$. We also require at least two transits to be observed to claim a detection. Therefore, we expect a large incompleteness for periods longer than 40 days. All of these planetary candidates have magnitudes brighter than 14.7 mag and, amongst them, 128 planetary candidates have magnitudes brighter than 12. These will be excellent targets for measuring accurate mass and radius, probing the planetary composition, and for atmospheric studies.

5. Summary

We provide decorrelated light curves for all long cadence targets of K2 from C1 to C6 (discarding superstamps). The particularity of our pipeline, relative to previously published ones, is the determination of an optimal aperture and the precision of the centroid determination. Our apertures are, in general, not circular and follow the PSF of the stars nicely. We show that our light curves have a precision similar to the light curves from the nominal *Kepler* mission and these will be made public.

Using these light curves, we searched for eclipse signals on targets brighter than 14.7 mag. This analysis results in a list of 172 planetary and 327 EB candidates. Among the 172 planetary candidates, 129 are new, while this is the first release of eclipsing binary candidates from K2 data. All these products will be made public. Other teams have presented candidates for the K2 data until Campaign 3. The different methods lead to common and non-common candidates since the pipelines have slightly different performances for specific targets. The comparison between the methods will enable us to fine tune the methods themselves but most importantly to build a more robust candidate list.

There are some possible improvements to the pipeline, such as the application to the short cadence data, and/or a more robust transit search, an automatic candidate validation instead of the current eyeballing that could result in larger numbers of candidates. However we think that making candidate lists available is urgent to optimise the follow-up of candidates and prevent a waste of resources.

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Appendix A: Additional tables

Table A.1. Parameter for the planet candidates excerpt.

EPIC	Mag	RA	Dec	Period	T0	Depth %	T_{14} (h)	T_{12} (h)	Sec	Gr
201208431	14.41	11:38:58.9536	-3:54:20.106	10.00617969	6815.5130268	0.130 ± 0.011	3.036 ± 0.401	0.522 ± 0.344	-	Y
201270176	12.45	11:20:31.8235	-2:54:09.2952	1.57771549	6818.3269951	1.823 ± 0.121	3.086 ± 0.148	1.280 ± 0.153	-	Y
201270464	9.39	11:20:32.0352	-2:53:53.4084	1.57771549	6818.3276907	0.875 ± 0.012	2.993 ± 0.034	1.203 ± 0.032	-	-
201291843	13.68	11:53:41.0021	-2:34:18.3936	40.70206194	6823.2949209	0.536 ± 0.028	1.621 ± 4.980	0.089 ± 4.838	Y	Y
201324549	12.15	11:24:56.6198	-2:05:06.5904	2.51881781	6820.0759662	0.215 ± 0.007	1.580 ± 0.057	0.790 ± 0.028	-	-
201367065	11.57	11:29:20.3878	-1:27:17.2332	10.05176778	6823.4776686	0.145 ± 0.004	3.052 ± 0.118	0.829 ± 0.096	-	-
201445392	14.38	11:19:10.4796	-0:17:03.75	10.35848367	6813.5958020	0.149 ± 0.014	3.263 ± 0.243	1.134 ± 0.253	-	Y
201505350	12.81	11:39:50.4766	+0:36:12.87	7.91952314	6829.2222756	0.667 ± 0.009	3.415 ± 0.078	0.612 ± 0.063	Y	-
201534540	8.20	11:26:36.2808	+1:03:18.8388	2.72273204	6814.4918318	1.494 ± 0.178	3.596 ± 0.256	1.562 ± 0.292	-	Y
201546283	12.43	11:26:03.6396	+1:13:50.6568	6.77093147	6819.6205997	0.267 ± 0.003	3.032 ± 0.046	0.580 ± 0.039	-	-
201549860	13.92	11:20:24.7394	+1:17:09.4416	5.60967748	6817.7182408	0.093 ± 0.009	2.290 ± 0.282	0.723 ± 0.239	-	Y
201577035	12.30	11:28:29.2697	+1:41:26.2896	19.29206200	6819.6007738	0.164 ± 0.009	4.413 ± 0.263	1.594 ± 0.208	-	Y
201596733	14.28	11:22:42.9838	+1:59:35.7936	2.89607106	6815.0048603	0.383 ± 0.072	1.874 ± 0.603	0.501 ± 0.535	-	Y
201626686	11.47	11:17:47.3047	+2:27:21.6216	5.28130579	6817.6339628	0.074 ± 0.005	3.552 ± 0.298	0.837 ± 0.244	Y	Y
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Notes. The full table is available at the CDS.

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Table A.2. Parameters for the ebs candidates.

EPIC	Mag	RA	Dec	Period	T0	Depth %	T_{14} (h)	T_{12} (h)	Sec	Gr
201158453	14.69	11:35:55.3694	-5:05:37.95	7.07626177	6813.4862974	11.154 ± 0.128	4.504 ± 0.041	1.781 ± 0.038	-	-
201160662	12.12	11:39:59.4691	-5:02:24.846	1.53717783	6818.1794506	1.383 ± 0.060	7.303 ± 0.323	3.652 ± 0.161	Y	-
201184068	14.14	11:33:59.3158	-4:28:47.7984	1.58860603	6813.7522849	62.967 ± 533.617	2.326 ± 0.012	1.163 ± *	Y	Y
201193666	14.62	11:16:07.2293	-4:15:01.764	0.43292816	6813.7583017	23.912 ± 0.681	1.198 ± 0.081	0.277 ± 0.074	Y	Y
201253025	12.86	11:57:19.8415	-3:0942.588	6.78657519	6823.9778149	25.671 ± 0.078	5.954 ± 0.013	2.558 ± 0.013	Y	-
201306196	12.73	11:59:32.0326	-2:21:27.2808	7.25648360	6819.7306604	0.528 ± 0.019	2.863 ± 0.077	1.130 ± 0.083	Y	-
201382417	11.66	11:20:38.3957	-1:13:33.4668	5.19784929	6821.4691946	7.038 ± 0.037	4.812 ± 0.027	1.668 ± 0.021	Y	-
201382958	13.53	11:13:57.6974	-1:13:05.4372	3.20531346	6818.2532917	21.661 ± 0.138	6.436 ± 0.049	1.847 ± 0.037	Y	-
201390608	13.36	11:33:37.9114	-1:06:12.5352	9.81161598	6822.3852228	14.625 ± 0.129	3.767 ± 0.041	1.147 ± 0.032	Y	-
201407812	11.86	11:36:10.5948	-0:50:26.5164	2.82621695	6815.3250016	13.914 ± 0.090	6.258 ± 0.032	2.564 ± 0.029	-	-
201408204	11.85	11:30:03.2402	-0:50:03.9228	8.48220256	6818.4957840	41.788 ± 0.528	5.260 ± 0.034	2.426 ± 0.042	Y	-
201458798	12.09	11:13:07.2358	-0:05:33.0648	0.61941709	6813.0299113	21.494 ± 0.395	1.913 ± 0.027	0.770 ± 0.030	Y	-
201460467	14.27	11:49:34.1532	-0:04:05.2176	1.06624664	6813.3080223	18.961 ± 0.437	1.695 ± 0.058	0.528 ± 0.052	-	-
201473612	13.14	11:09:08.3256	+0:07:31.9188	1.37171460	6814.2375111	64.314 ± 0.333	5.756 ± 0.029	2.441 ± 0.023	Y	-
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Notes. The full table is available at the CDS.

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