

Exoplanet atmosphere challenges

Understanding stellar activity

Juan Carlos Morales

Collaborators: Ignasi Ribas, Manuel Perger, Guillem Anglada, Enrique Herrero, David Baroch, Jordi Blanco, Òscar Porqueres, and the stars & planets ICE-IEEC group

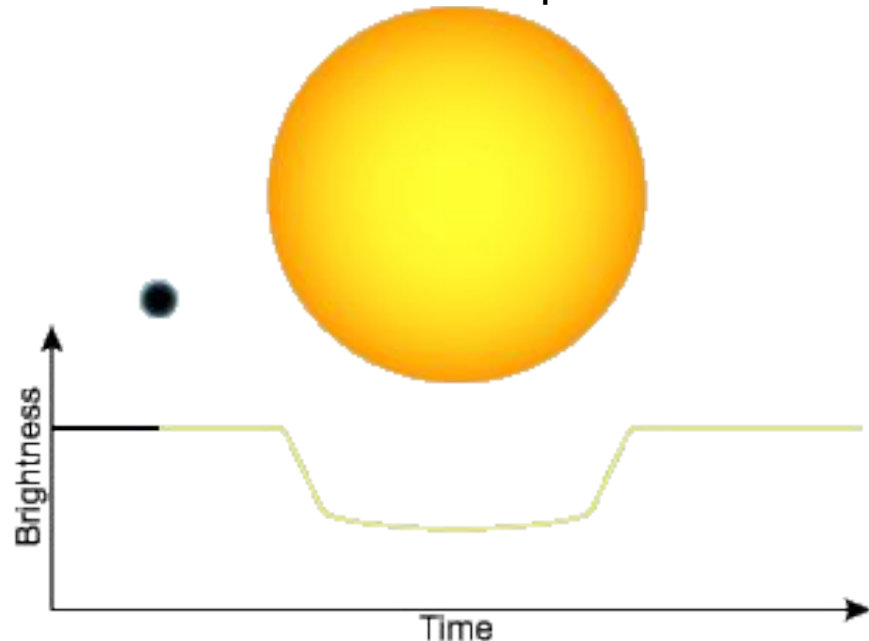
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Barcelona, Spain

Studying exoplanet atmospheres

- Transiting exoplanets

Detection and bulk properties

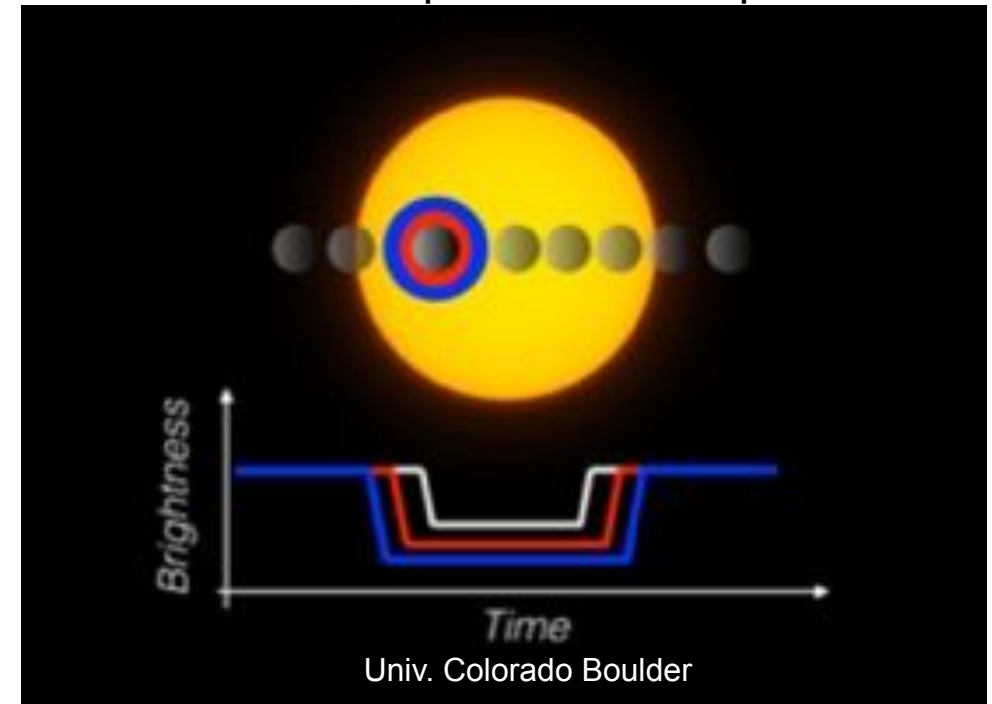
White light or broadband filter:
radius of the planet



Univ. Hertfordshire

Transmission spectroscopy

Narrow band filter/spectra:
radius of the planet + atmosphere



Univ. Colorado Boulder

Studying exoplanet atmospheres

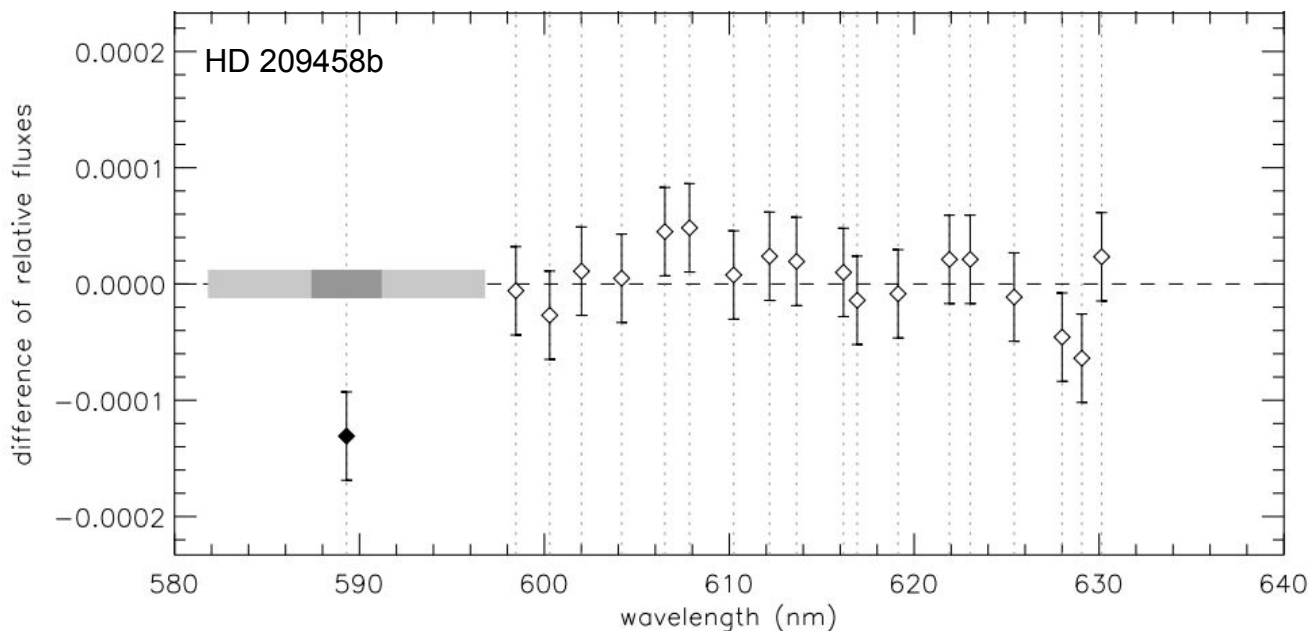
- First exoatmospheres detections

2002 - Na in the atmosphere of a hot Jupiter planet
(Charbonneau et al. 2001)

DETECTION OF AN EXTRASOLAR PLANET ATMOSPHERE¹

DAVID CHARBONNEAU,^{2,3} TIMOTHY M. BROWN,⁴ ROBERT W. NOYES,³ AND RONALD L. GILLILAND⁵

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 568:377–384, 2002 March 20

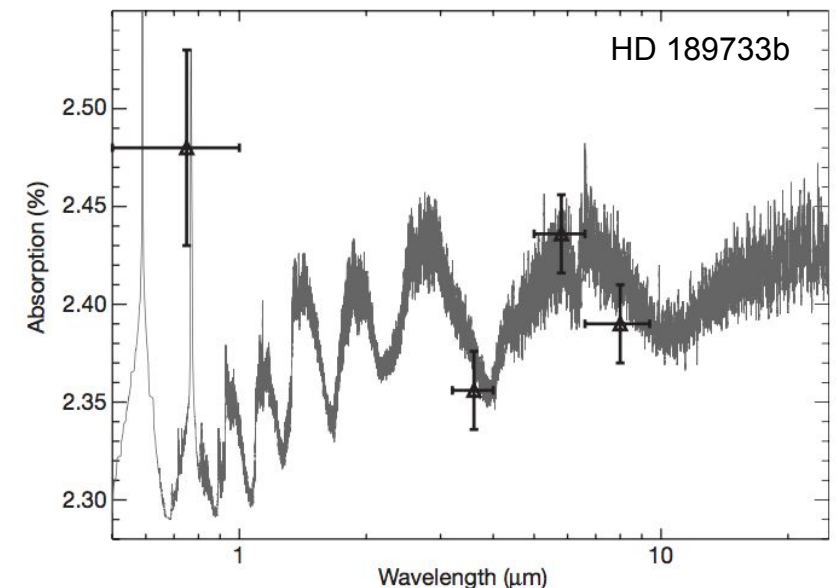


2007 - Water in the atmosphere of a hot Jupiter
(Tinetti et al. 2007)

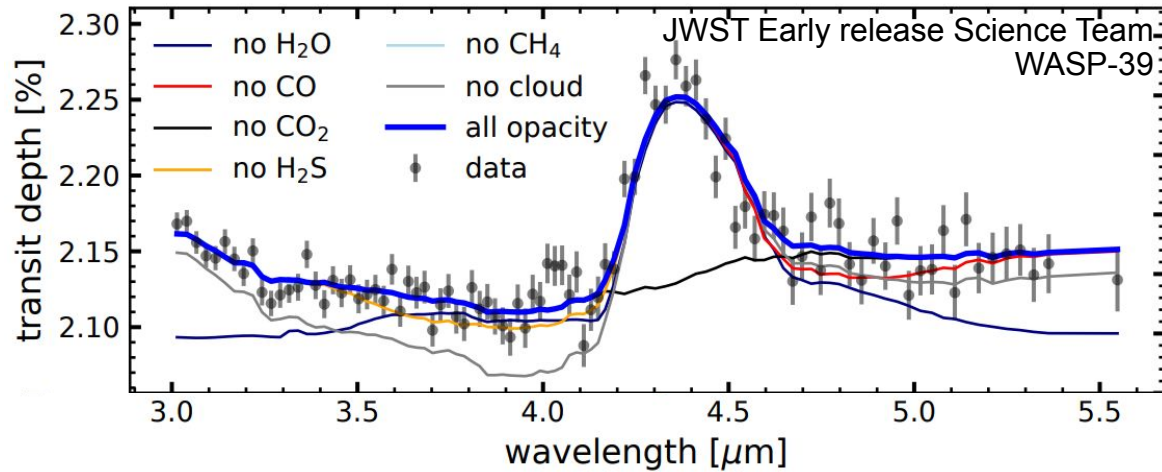
Water vapour in the atmosphere of a transiting extrasolar planet

[Giovanna Tinetti](#) [✉](#), [Alfred Vidal-Madjar](#), [Mao-Chang Liang](#), [Jean-Philippe Beaulieu](#), [Yuk Yung](#), [Sean Carey](#), [Robert J. Barber](#), [Jonathan Tennyson](#), [Ignasi Ribas](#), [Nicole Allard](#), [Gilda E. Ballester](#), [David K. Sing](#) & [Franck Selsis](#)

[Nature](#) 448, 169–171 (2007) | [Cite this article](#)

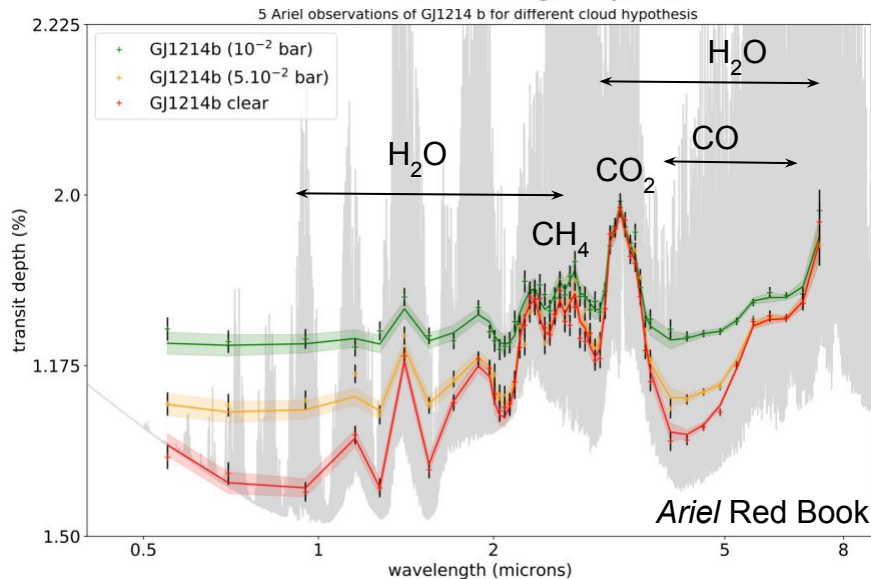


Studying exoplanet atmospheres



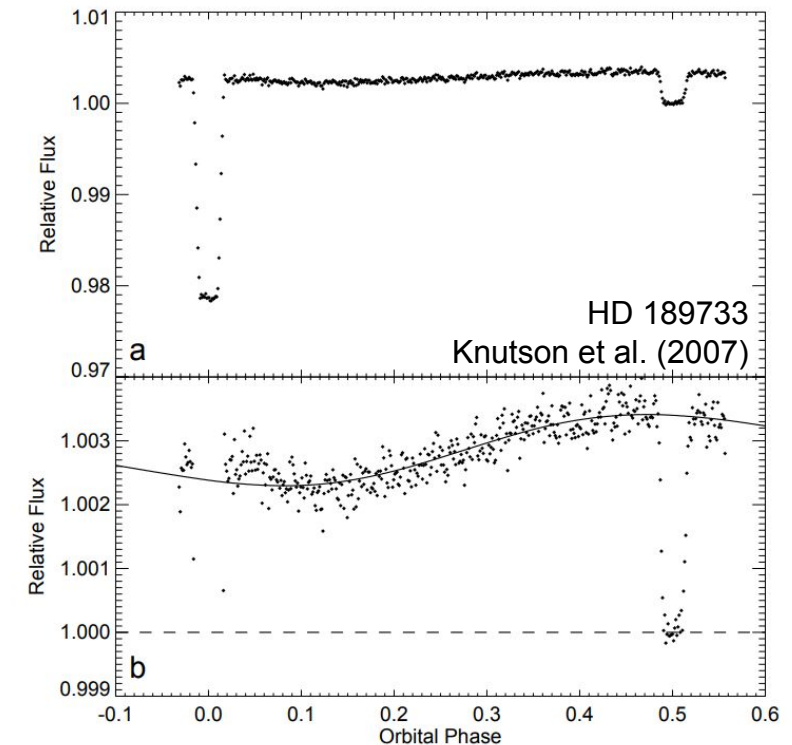
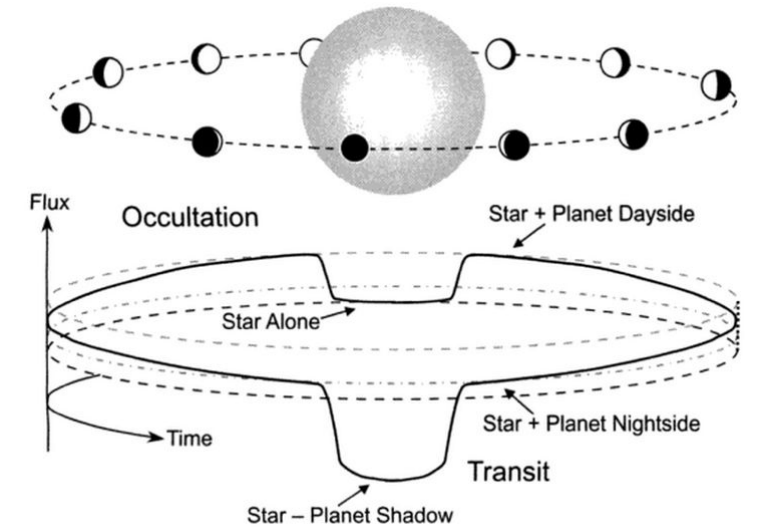
- Exploding in the coming years with JWST
- Future dedicated space missions such as *Ariel* (expected launch 2029)

→ large survey of exoplanets (~1000)
→ wide spectral coverage



Studying exoplanet atmospheres

- Transmission spectroscopy
Light of the star passing through the atmosphere terminator
 - Composition
 - Temperature profile
 - Clouds/hazes
 - Line profiles
- Emission spectroscopy
Reflection and thermal emission from the dayside
 - Dayside temperature profile
 - Albedo
 - Chemical composition
- Phase curves
Reflection/emission from the exoplanet at different phases
 - Day/nightside differences
 - Albedo
 - Temperature map
 - Atmosphere circulation



Studying exoplanet atmospheres

- Exoplanet atmospheres

Already a lot of progress!

181 planets studied, 56 molecules detected

→ Mainly ultrahot (> 2000 K) and hot Jupiters (> 800 K)

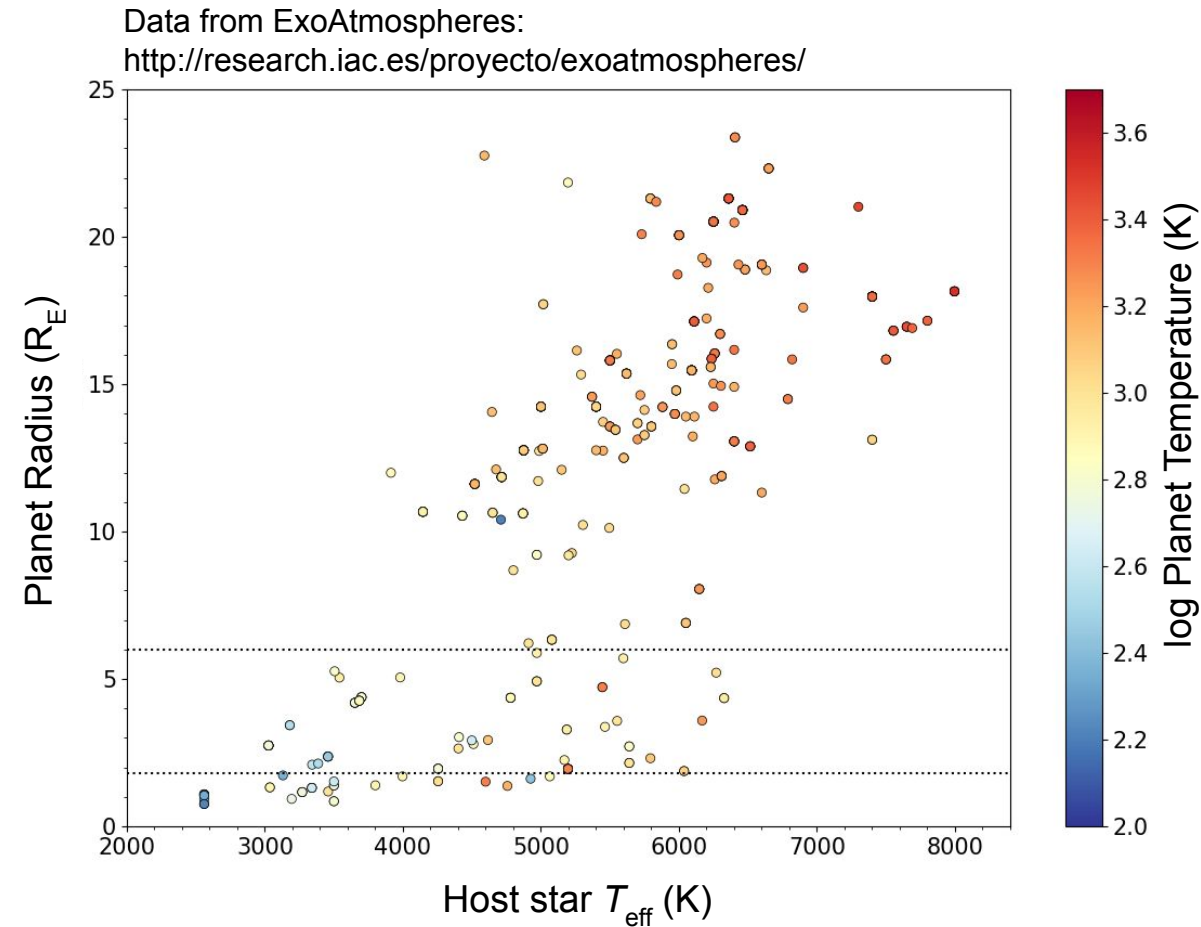
→ Several hot and warm Neptunes and sub-Neptunes

→ Few Earth and SuperEarths

Different species detected:

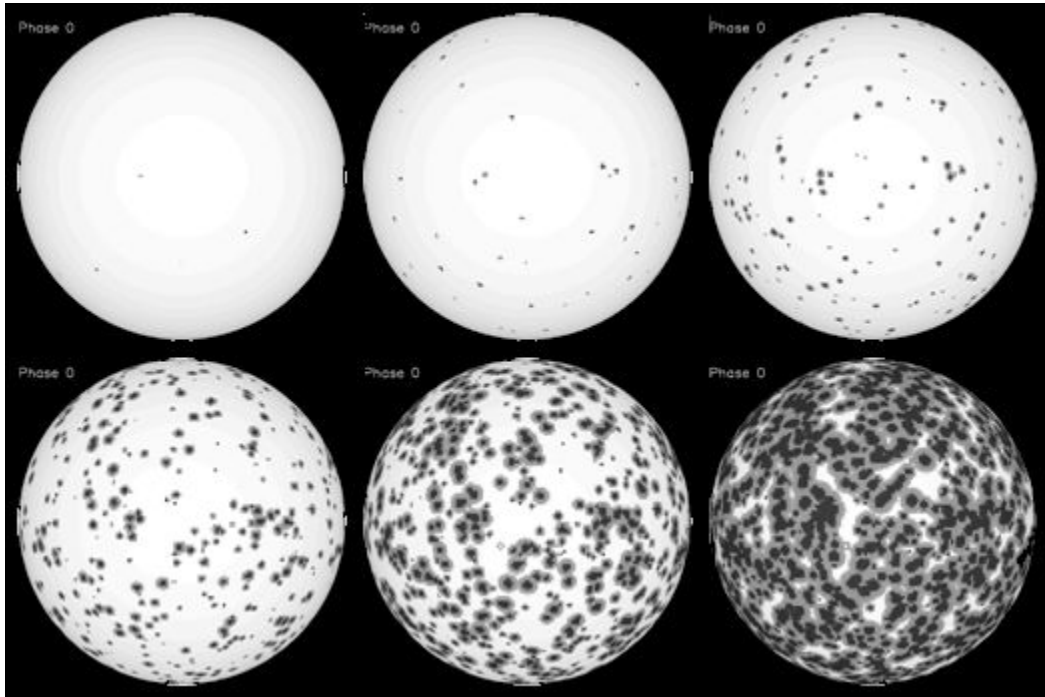
H, He, H₂O, CO, CO₂, Ca, Na, Fe...

Atmosphere signal $\lesssim 10^{-3}$!

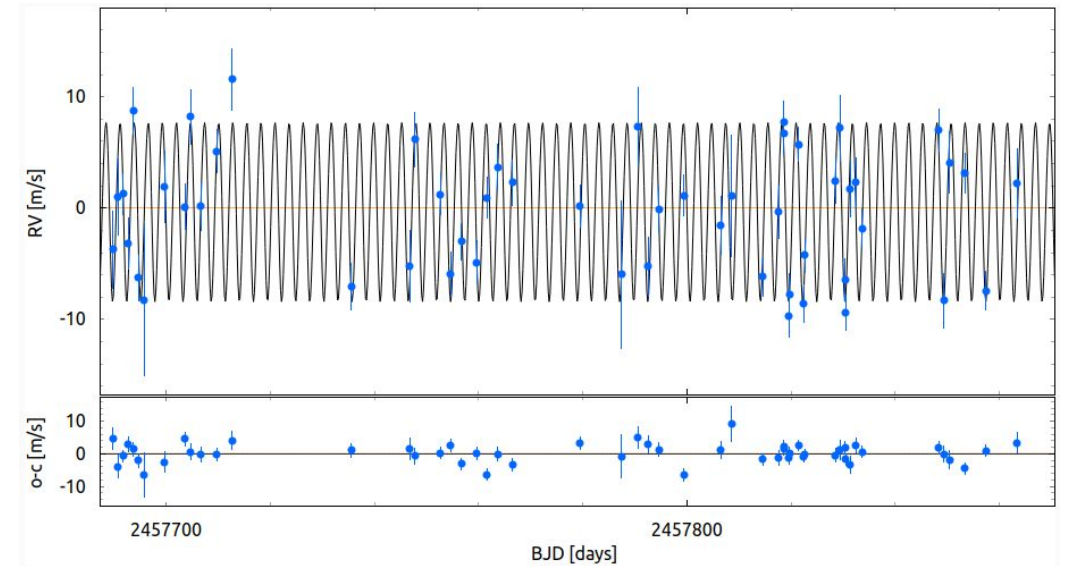
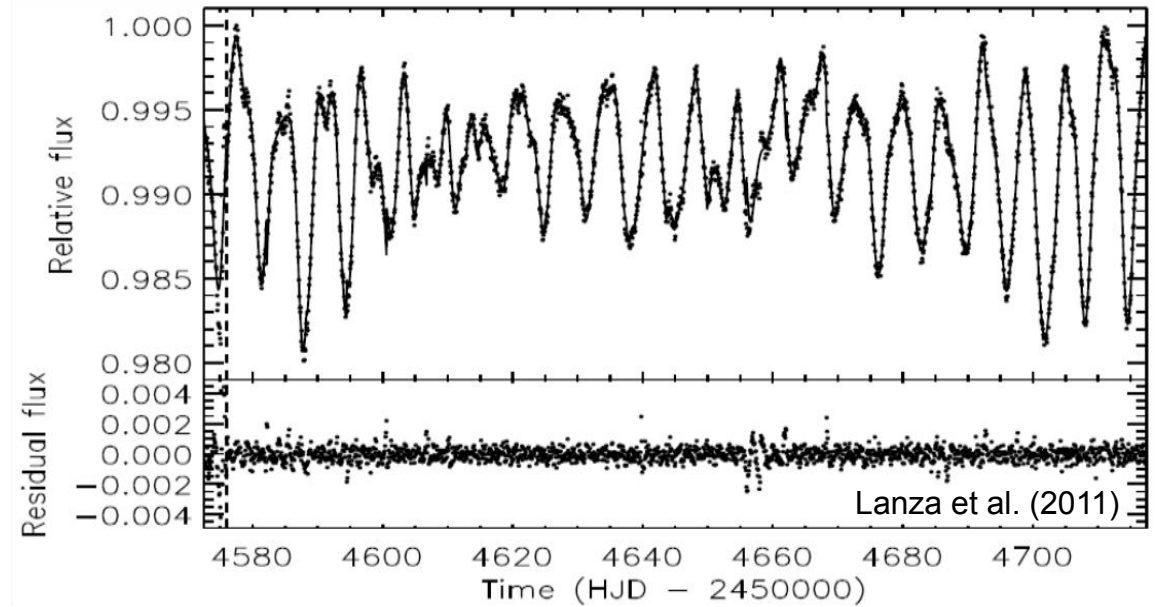


Stellar activity, a challenge!

- Stellar spots → photometric variability
→ transit depth variations
→ spectroscopic variability



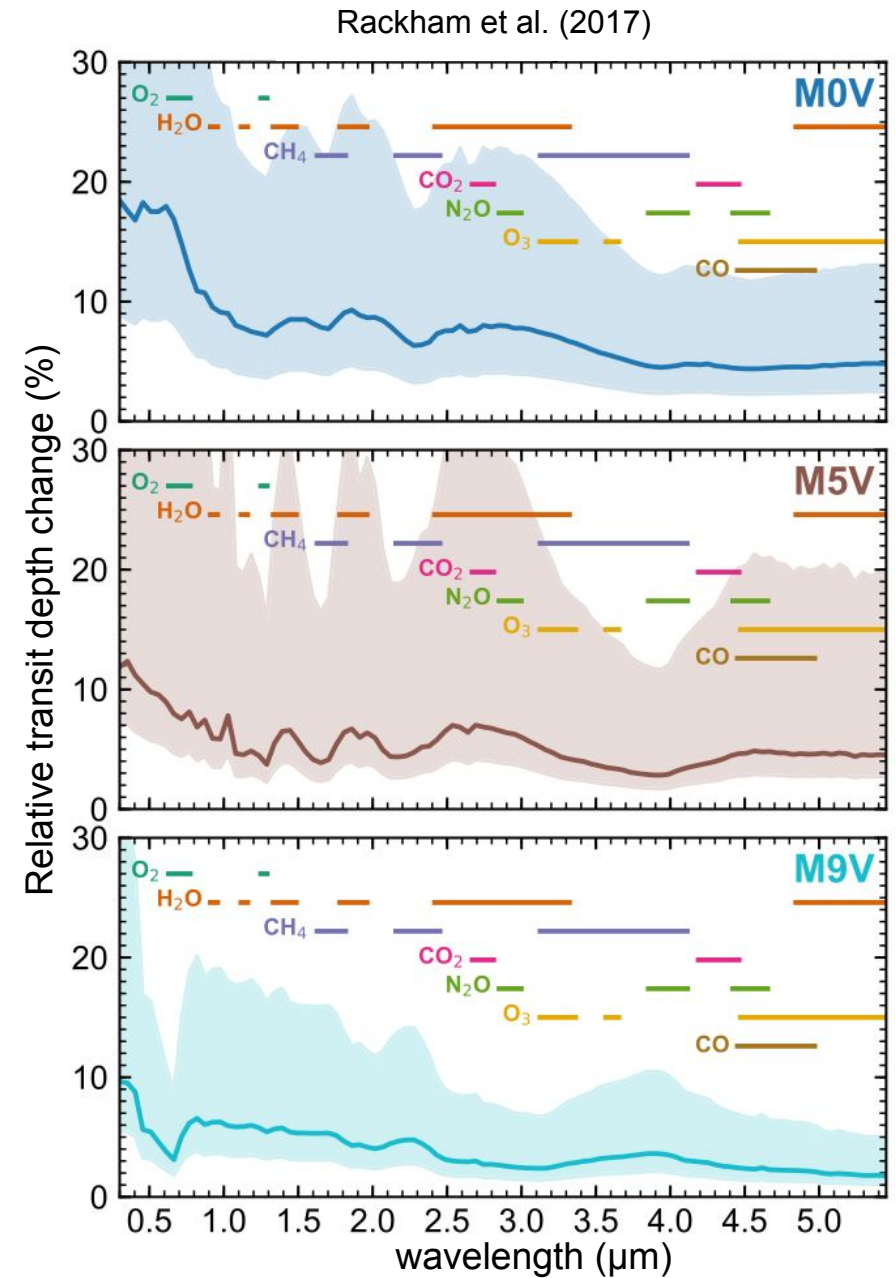
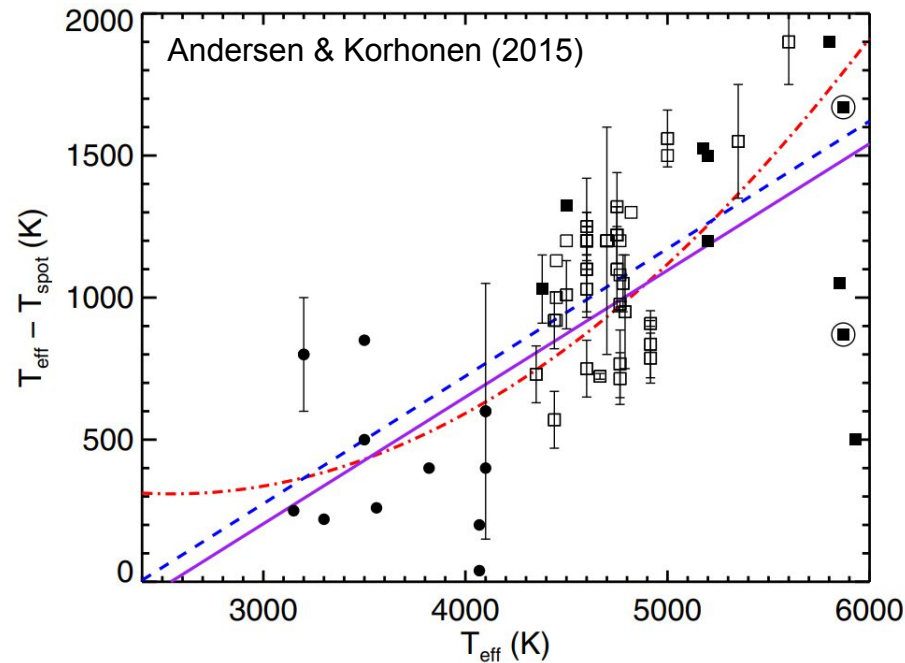
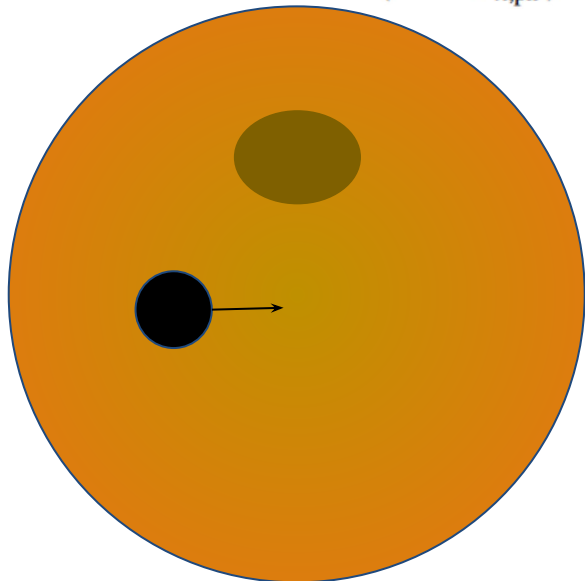
Barnes et al. (2011)



Stellar activity, a challenge!

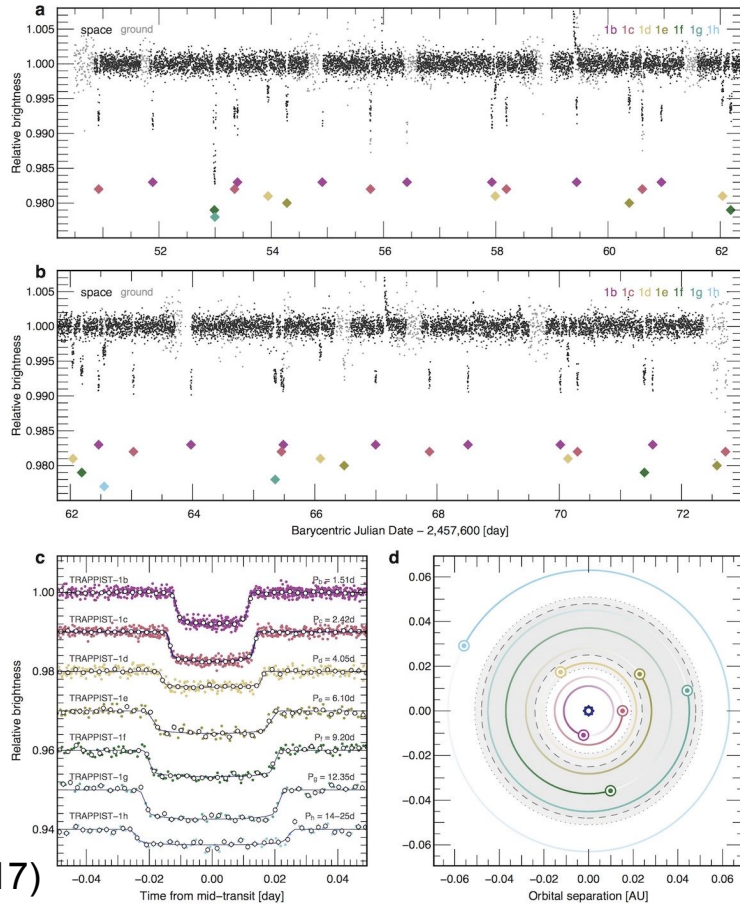
- Spot effects on transmission spectroscopy:
 - Chromatic → wavelength dependence
 - Spots size/temperature → large differences
 - Spots evolution → variability
- Particularly relevant for M-dwarf stars!

$$\mathcal{D}'(\lambda) = \frac{\mathcal{D}_0}{1 - \delta_{\text{sp}} \left(1 - \frac{F_{\lambda, \text{sp}}}{F_{\lambda, \text{ph}}}\right)}$$

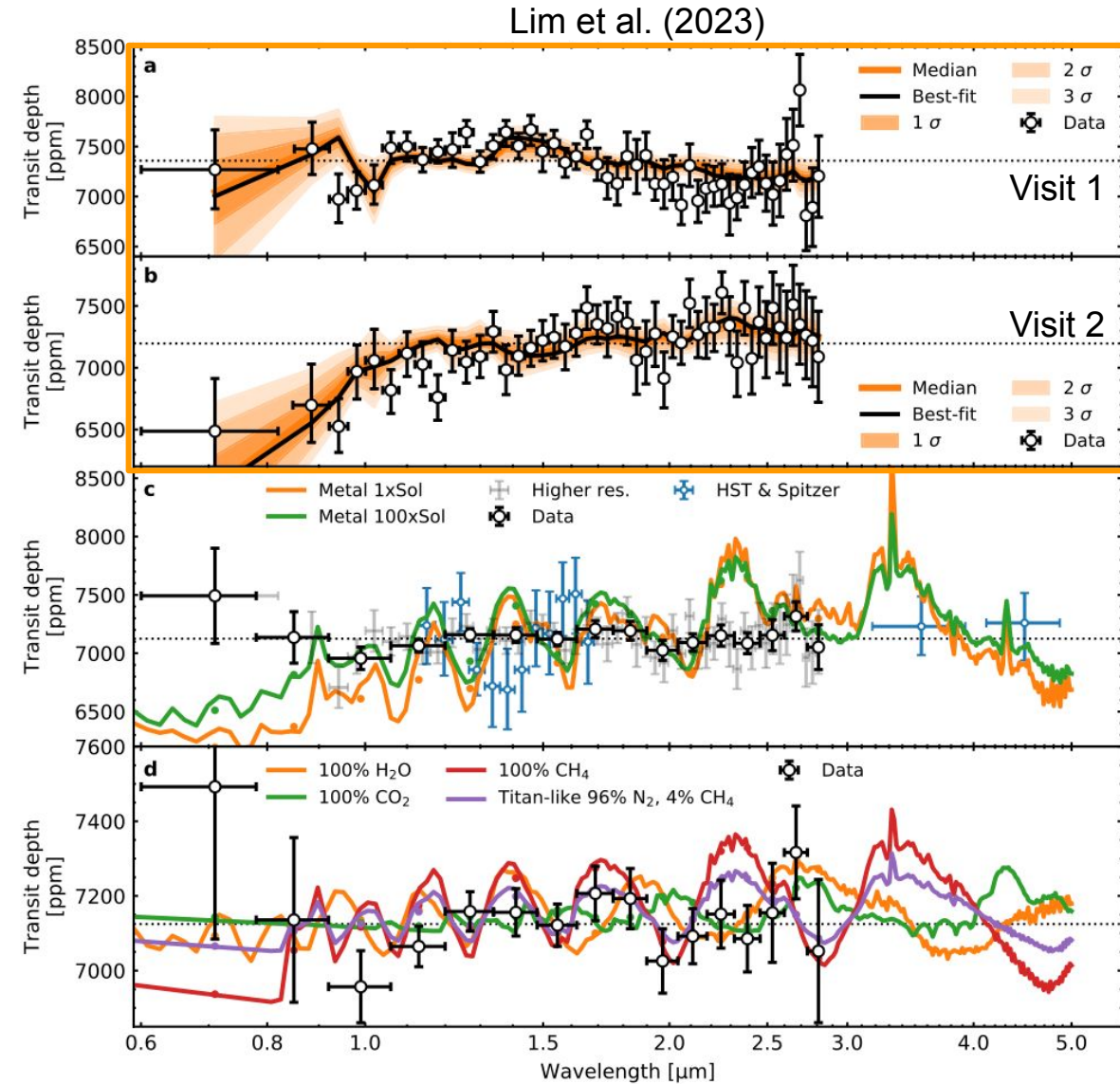


Stellar activity, a challenge!

- JWST transmission spectra of TRAPPIST-1b:
 - Contamination from spots
 - Different on each visit

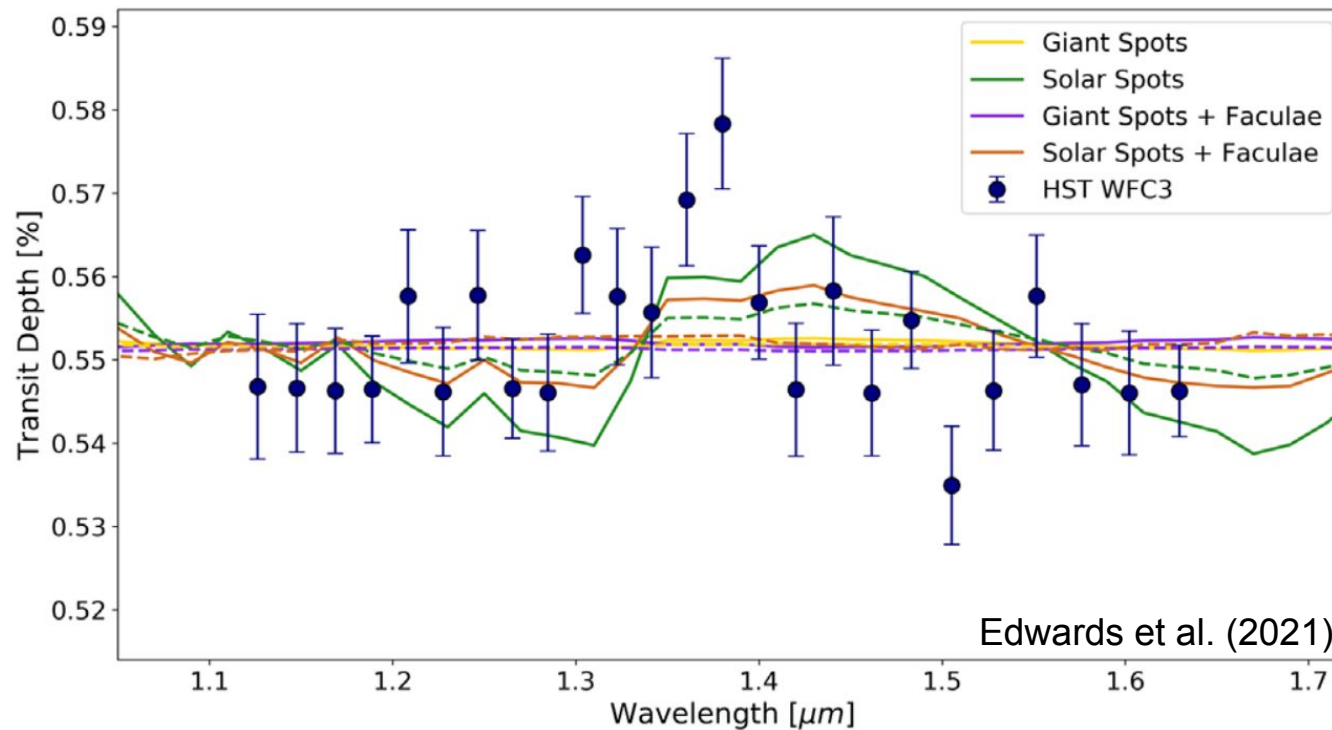


Gillon et al. (2017)



Stellar activity, a challenge!

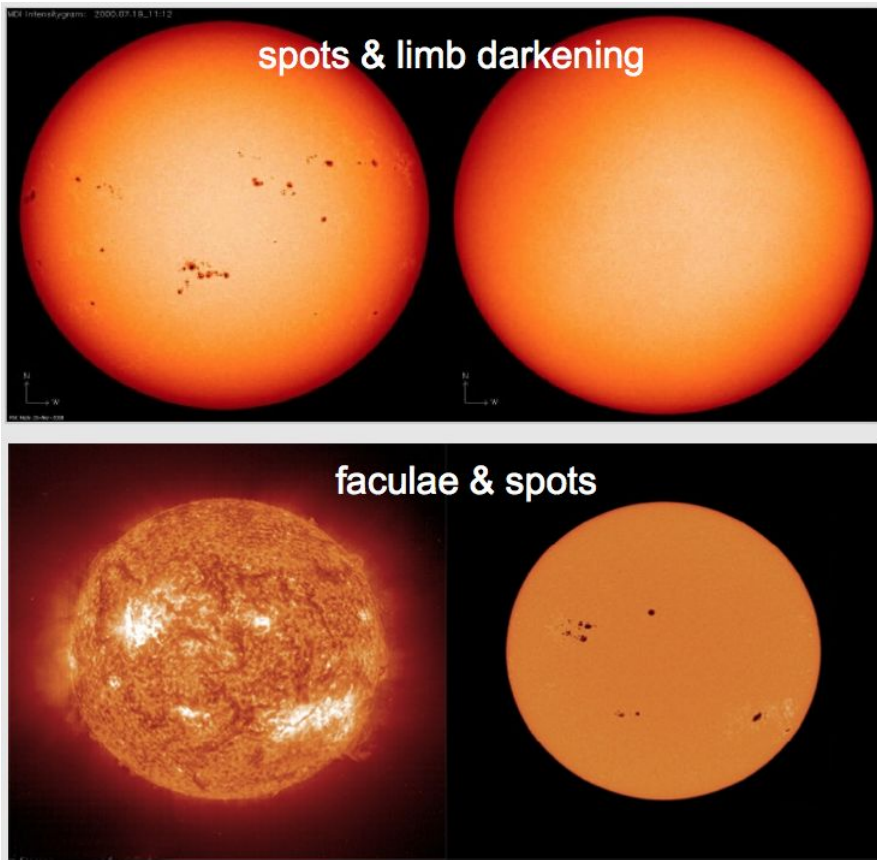
- HST transmission spectra of LHS 1140b:
 - Contamination from spots reduce the detection significance



Edwards et al. (2021)

StarSim, the solution!

- Modeling the effects stellar activity.
(Herrero et al. 2016, Rosich et al. 2020)



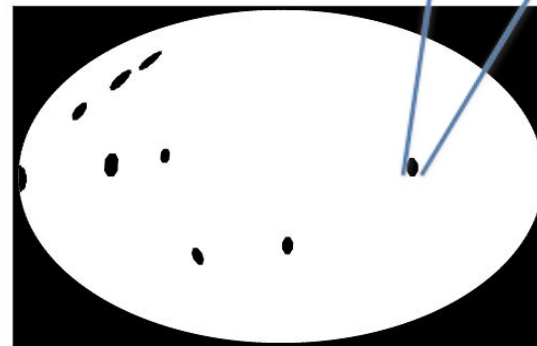
Input

Stellar parameters

- T_{eff}
- $\log(g)$
- Metallicity
- Rotation period
- Differential rotation
- Axis inclination

Active regions

- Spot map
- Spot T contrast
- Faculae area Q
- Faculae T contrast

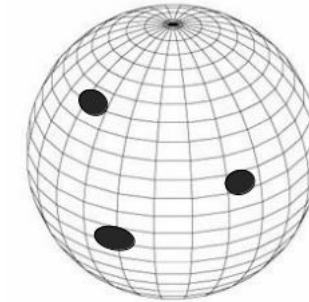


Methodology

Spectrum of the spotted photosphere

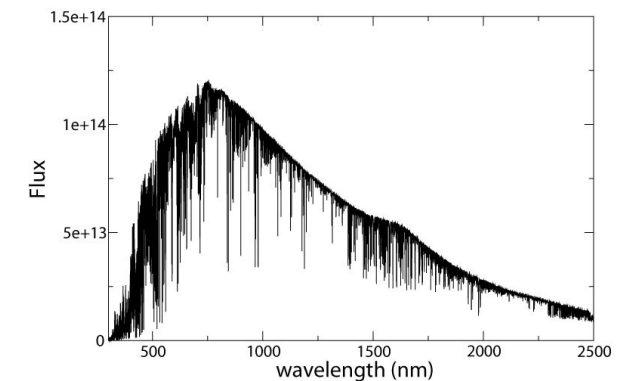
Σ (spectrum of each surface element):

- Individual T_{eff} (photosphere or spot)
- Individual limb darkening
- Individual rad. vel. (Doppler shift)



BT-Settl models (Phoenix)

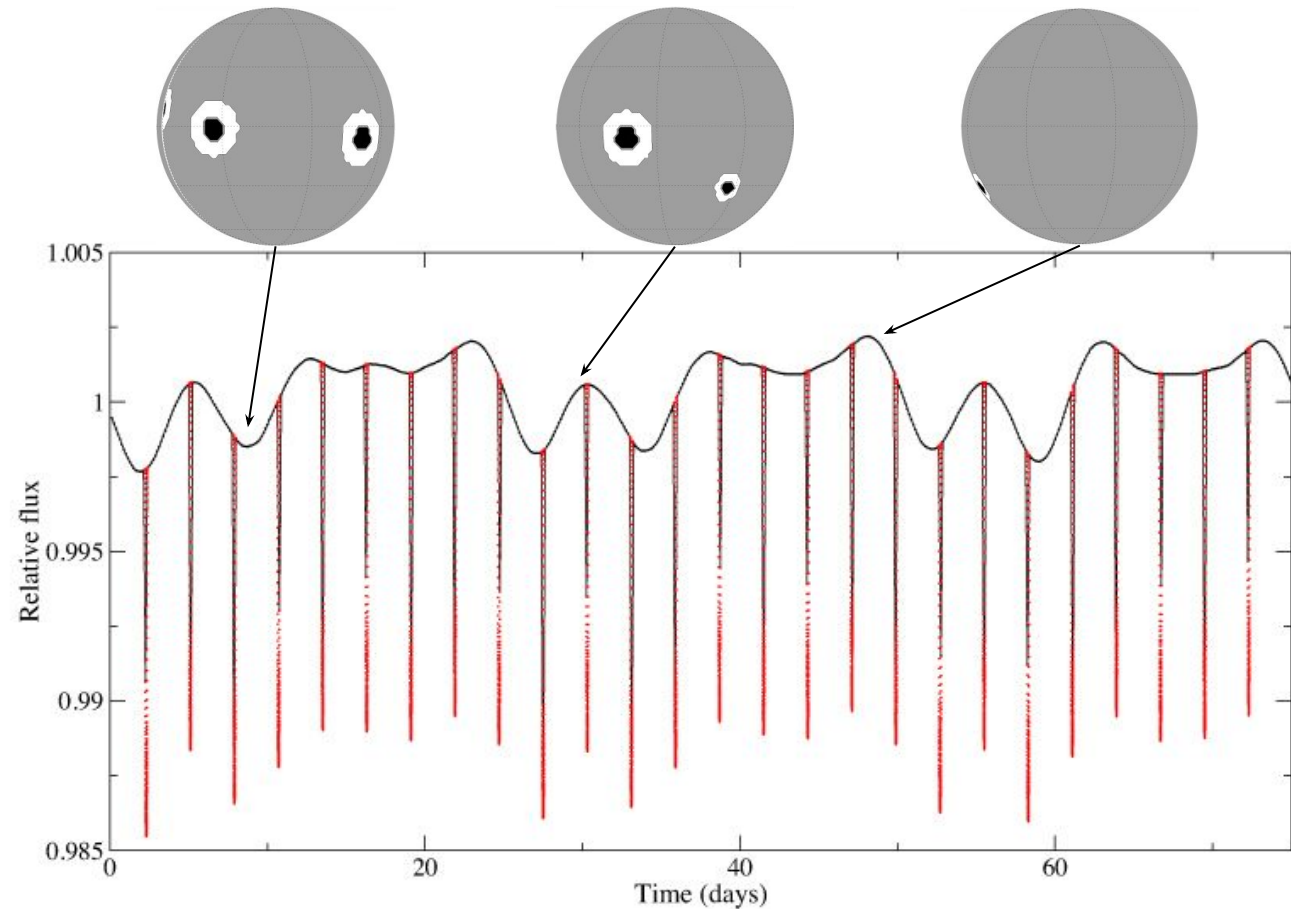
- $T_{\text{eff}} = 3500\text{-}10000\text{ K}$
- λ range: 10-5000 nm
- Low resolution ($R \sim 5000$)



StarSim, the solution!

Output

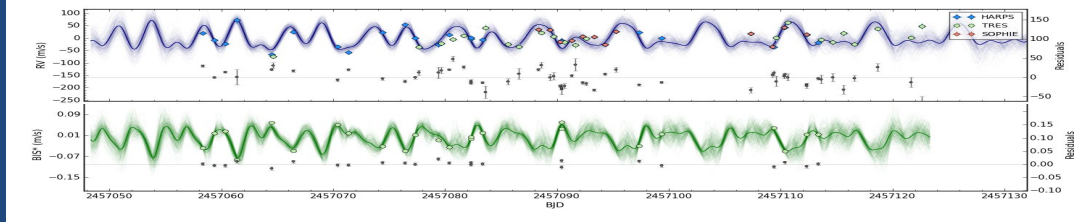
Photometric variability



Output

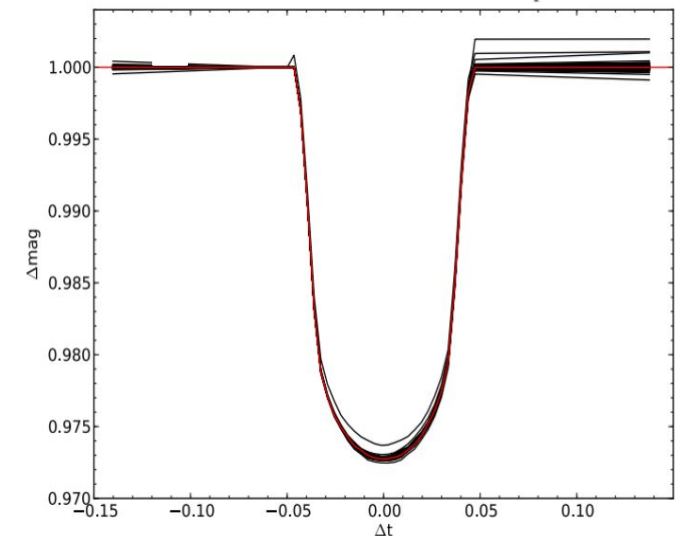
Radial velocity variability and spectroscopic indices
(Baroch et al. 2020, Perger et al. 2023)

J. Blanco-Pozo talk



Transit depth variation

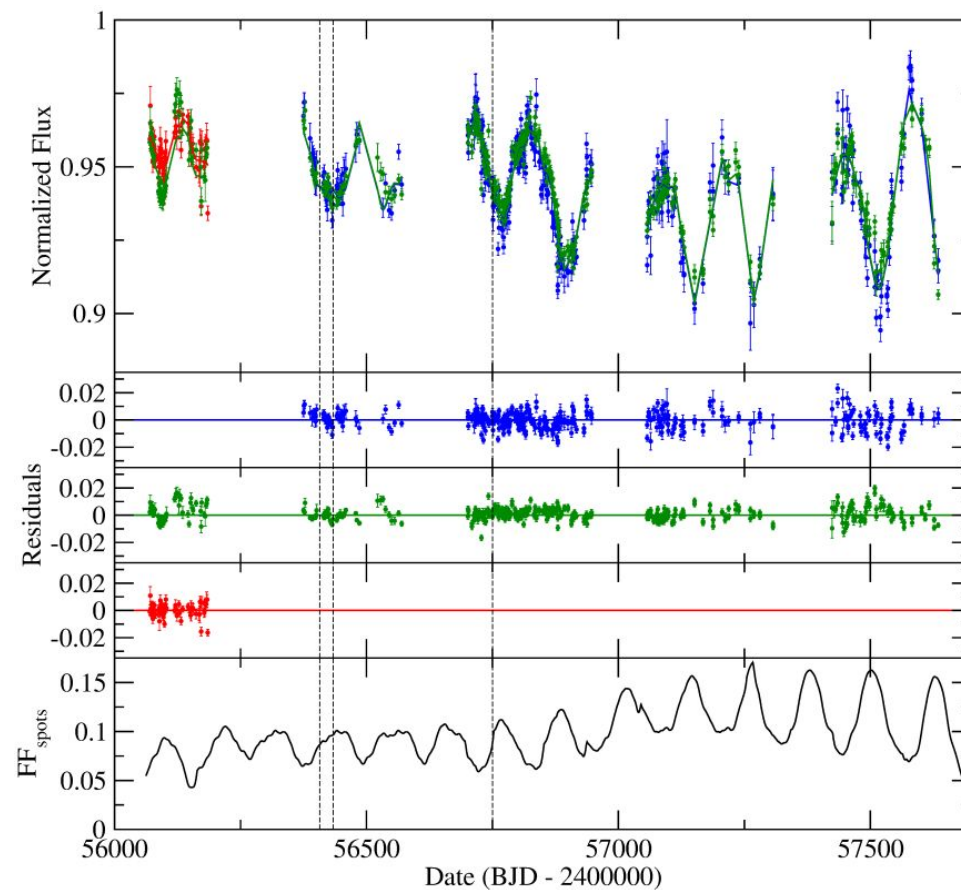
$$\mathcal{D}'(\lambda) = \frac{\mathcal{D}_0}{1 - \delta_{sp} \left(1 - \frac{F_{\lambda,sp}}{F_{\lambda,ph}}\right)}$$



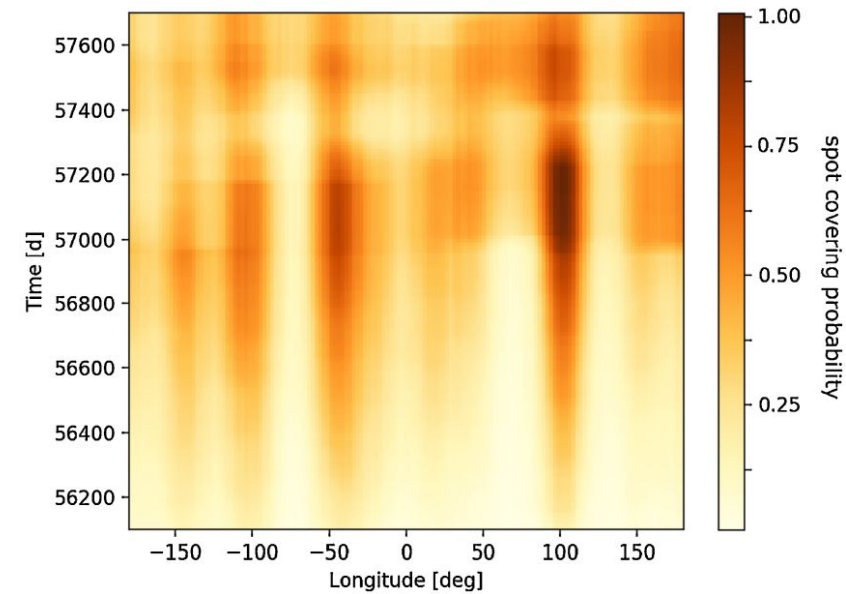
StarSim, the solution!

- Multiwavelength photometry: 2 bands
 - Disentangle spot filling factor and spot temperature
 - Spot distribution

Mallonn et al. (2018)
GJ 1214



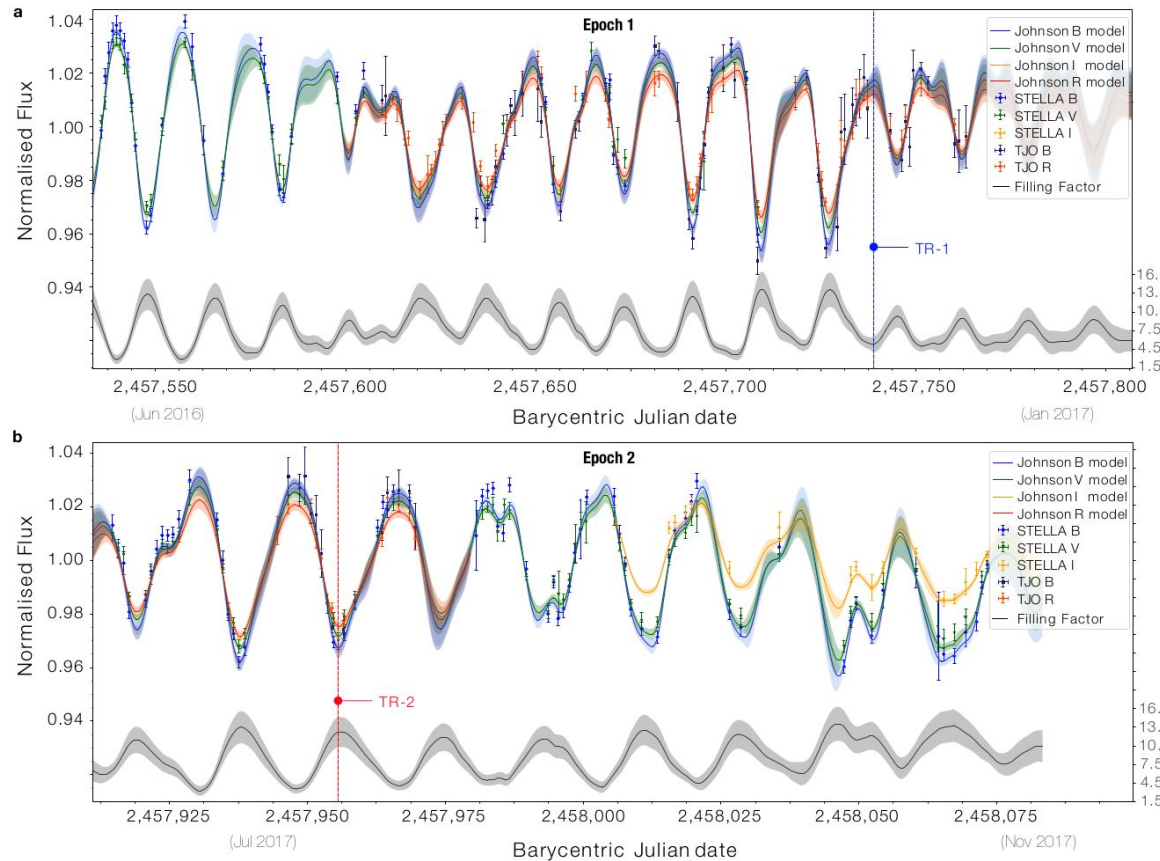
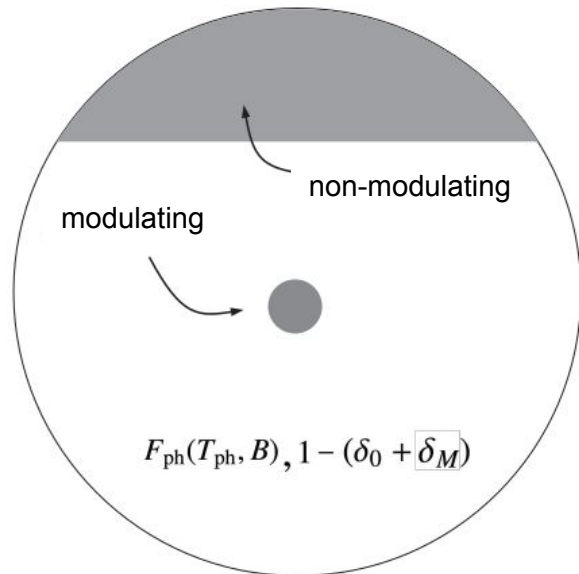
$$\Delta T_{\text{spot}} = 370 \pm 150 \text{ K}$$



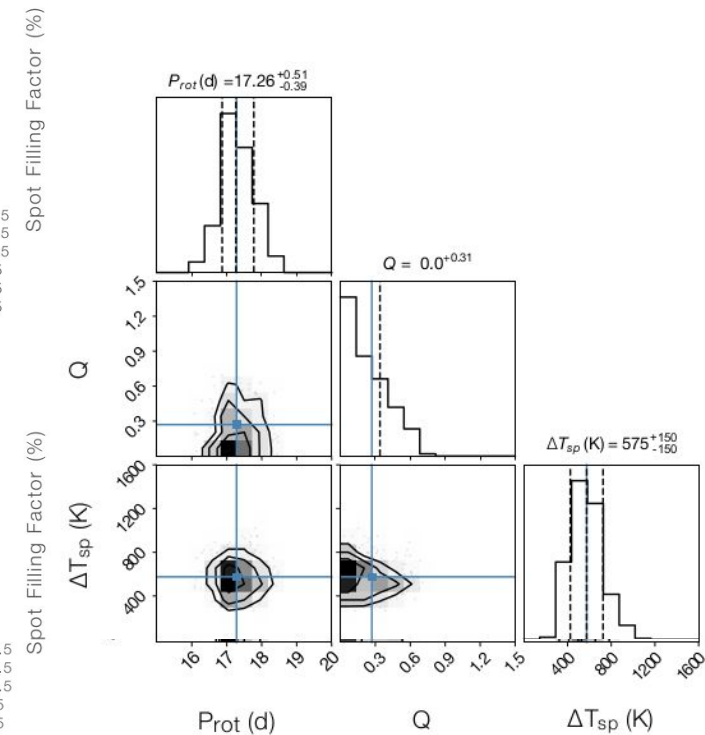
StarSim, the solution!

- Contemporaneous multiwavelength photometry: **>2 bands**
 - Disentangle spot filling factor and spot temperature
 - Spot distribution
 - Non-modulating spot component (amplitude changes)

Rosich et al. (2020)
WASP-52



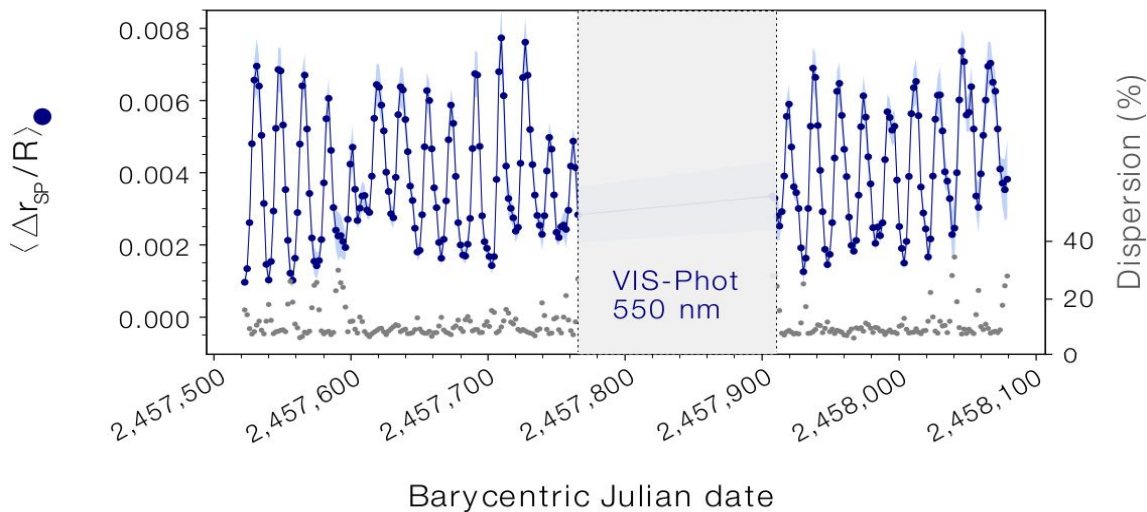
$$\Delta T_{\text{spot}} = 575 \pm 150 \text{ K}$$



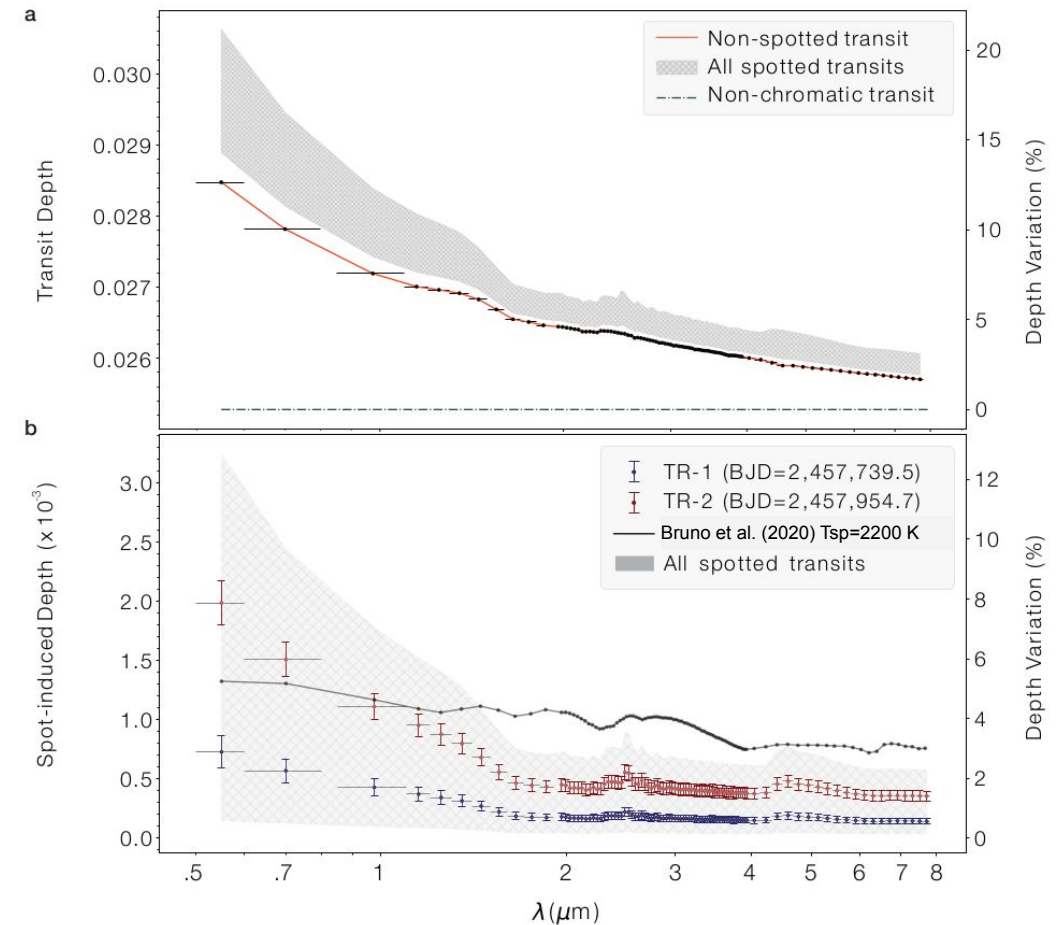
StarSim, the solution!

- Contemporaneous multiwavelength photometry:
 - Evaluate rotation phase at the time of transit
 - Infer transit depth variations from light curve variability
 - Estimate values for longer wavelengths

Rosich et al. (2020)
WASP-52



Instrument	$\lambda_{\text{eff}} (\mu\text{m})$	$(\langle \text{SP}(\lambda) \rangle \pm \sigma) \times 10^{-3}$	
		low-activity TR-1	high-activity TR-2
VIS-Phot	0.55	0.73 ± 0.13	1.99 ± 0.18
FGS-1	0.7	0.57 ± 0.10	1.51 ± 0.15
FGS-2	0.975	0.43 ± 0.07	1.11 ± 0.11
NIR-Spec	1.525	0.22 ± 0.04	0.56 ± 0.06
AIRS-Ch0	2.95	0.17 ± 0.03	0.43 ± 0.05
AIRS-Ch1	5.875	0.15 ± 0.02	0.37 ± 0.04



Summary

- Features caused by stellar activity complicates the interpretation of the transmission spectra of exoplanets
- Multiband photometry helps to overcome this problem:
 - independent filling factor and spot temperature
 - absolute filling factor
 - spot distribution at the time of transit
 - correction factors on other bands
- Key for JWST observations of exoplanets around active stars, and for future missions such as *Ariel*:
 - ground-based support observations
 - space-based contemporaneous surveys (e.g. PhotSat)
- New methodologies: training Neural Networks with StarSim
 - Already applied for radial velocity data ([J. Blanco-Poxo next talk](#))
 - Plan to develop similar tools for transmission spectroscopy

Thank you!

Acknowledgements:

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