

# Exoplanet characterization: dealing with stellar activity

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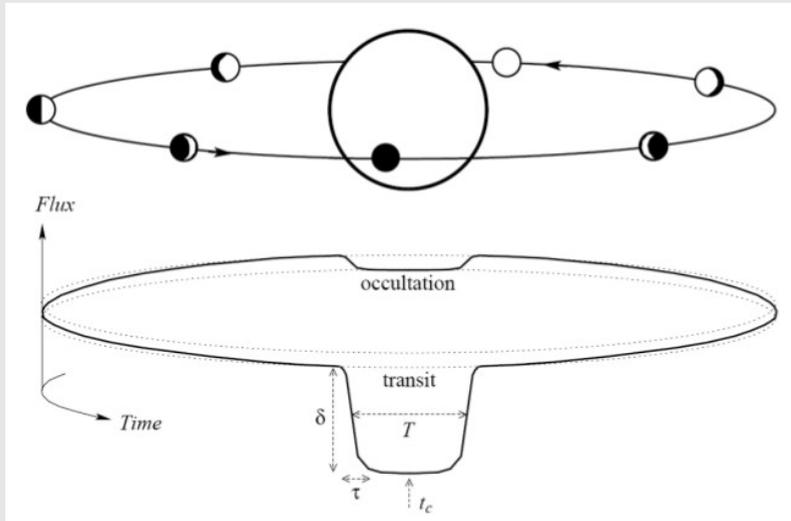
(Courtesy Stephen Kane)

# Outline

- Exoplanet detection methods
- Modeling the internal structure
- Stellar activity
- Our study on CoRoT-2
- Conclusions

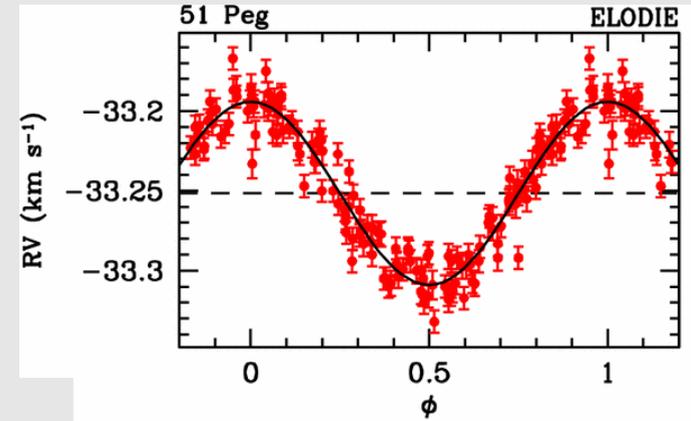
# DETECTION METHODS

# Transits and radial velocities



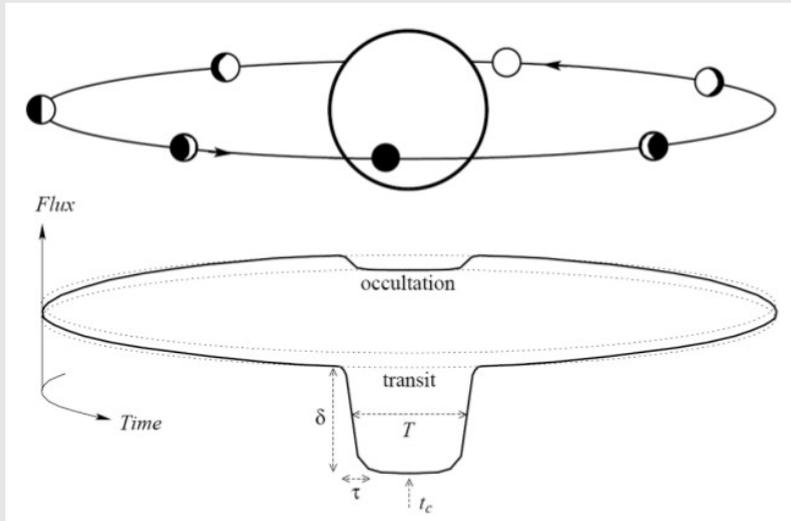
$$\frac{\Delta F}{F} = 8.41 \cdot 10^{-5} \left( \frac{r_p}{R_{\oplus}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{R_{\star}}{R_{\odot}} \right)^{-2}$$

$$K = \frac{8.95 \text{ cm s}^{-1} m_p \sin i}{\sqrt{1 - e^2} M_{\oplus}} \left( \frac{M_{\star} + m_p}{M_{\odot}} \right)^{-2/3} \left( \frac{P}{\text{yr}} \right)^{-1/3}$$



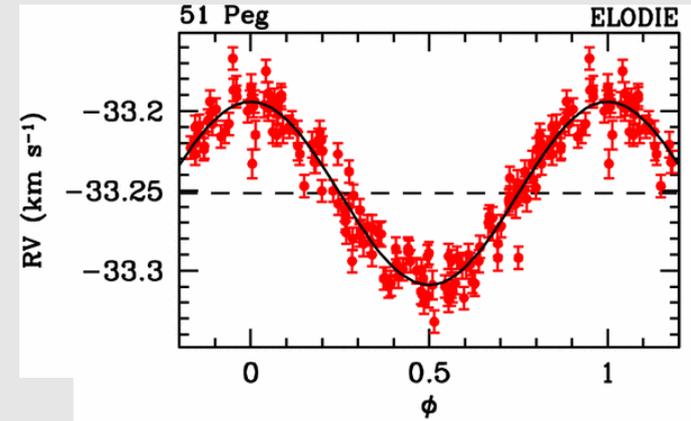
Mayor & Queloz (1995)

# Transits and radial velocities



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Mayor & Queloz (1995)

# Transits

Ground: SuperWASP, HATNet

Space: CoRoT, Kepler, MOST

Future: TESS, CHEOPS, PLATO

- Architecture of planetary systems (mostly  $< 0.1$  AU)
- Large eccentricities
- Multi-planetary systems and transit timing variations
- Planet occurrence (also in the habitable zone)
- Phase curves for planet atmospheres

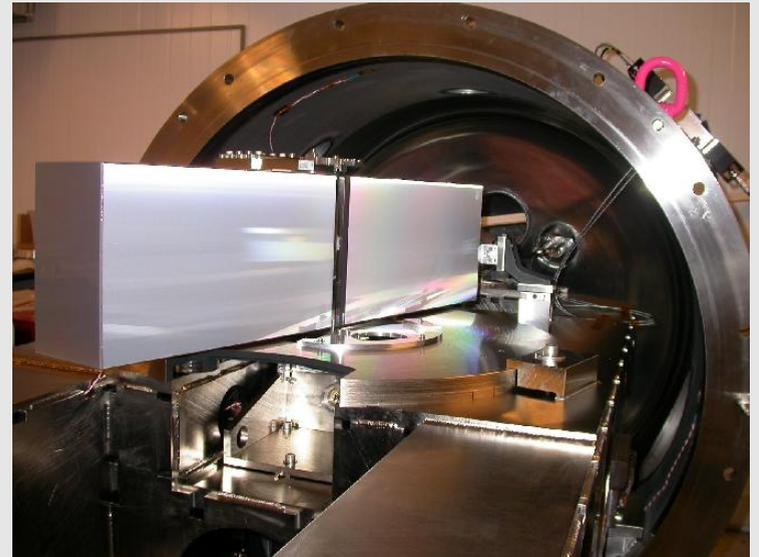


# Radial velocities

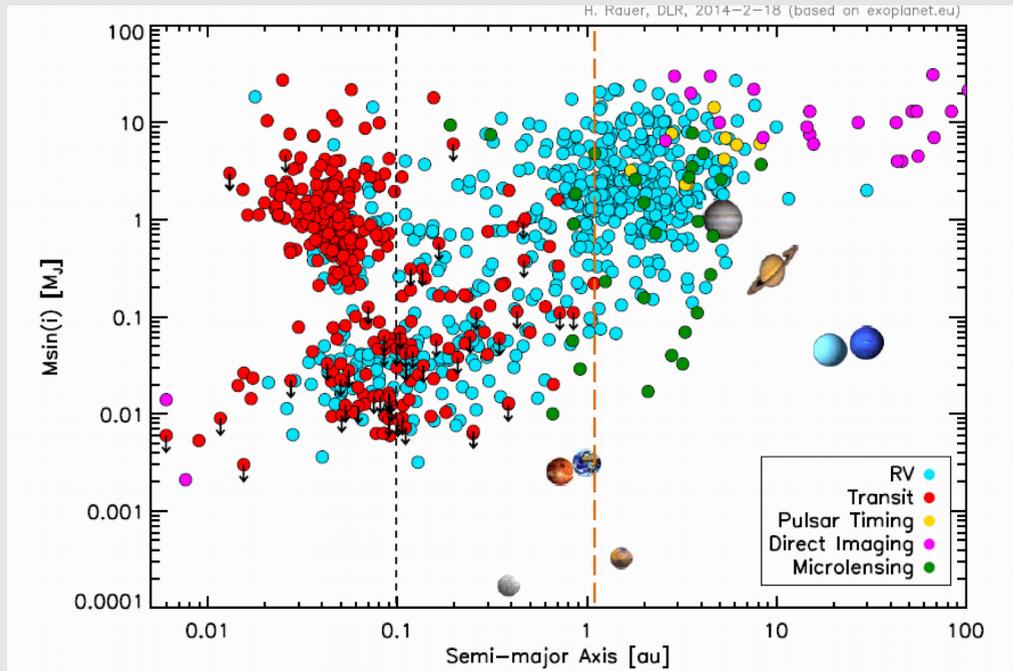
- First planet around a main-sequence star (Mayor and Queloz 1995)
- $a > 0.1$  AU as well
- Planets around M and giant stars
- Multi-planetary systems
- Coupling with transits:
  - Validation
  - Mass (solved for  $\sin i$  modulation)
  - Spin-orbit geometry
- Yields stellar spectrum

Future:

- Improving precision
- NIR spectroscopy (M dwarfs)



# Exploring the "exoplanet zoo"



Rowe et al. (2014)

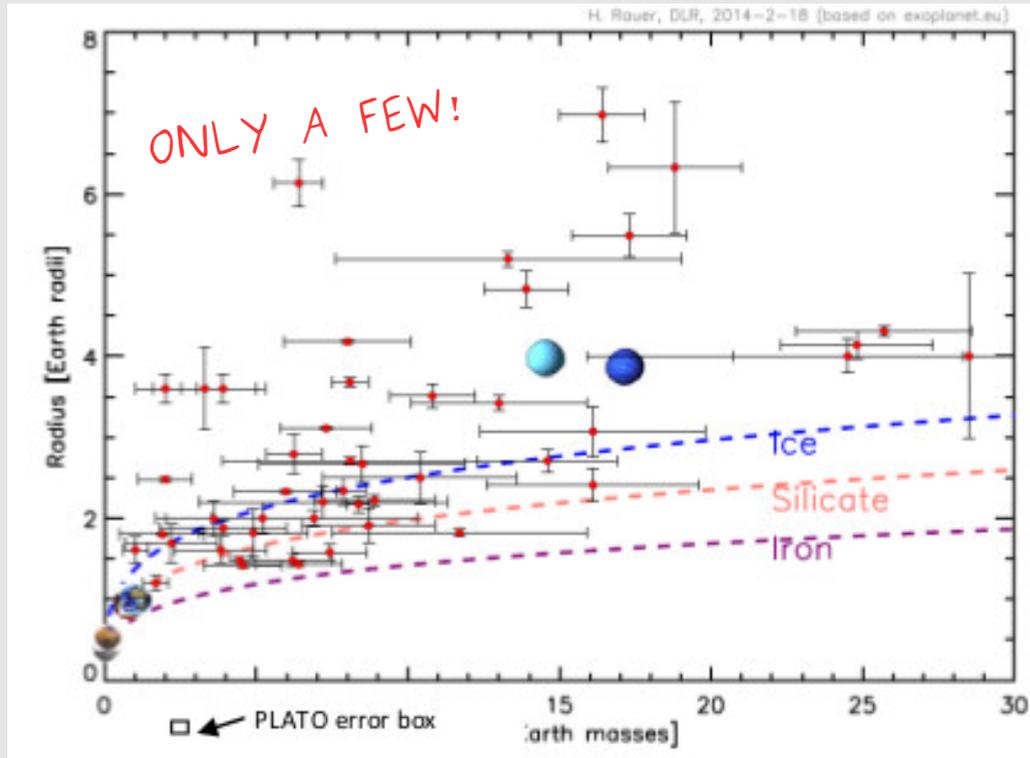
About 2000 planets confirmed

- Jupiter-sized
- Mini-Neptunes
- Super-Earths
- Terrestrial planets

Main hosts: FGKM stars

Different techniques, different parts of the pars. space

# Internal structure

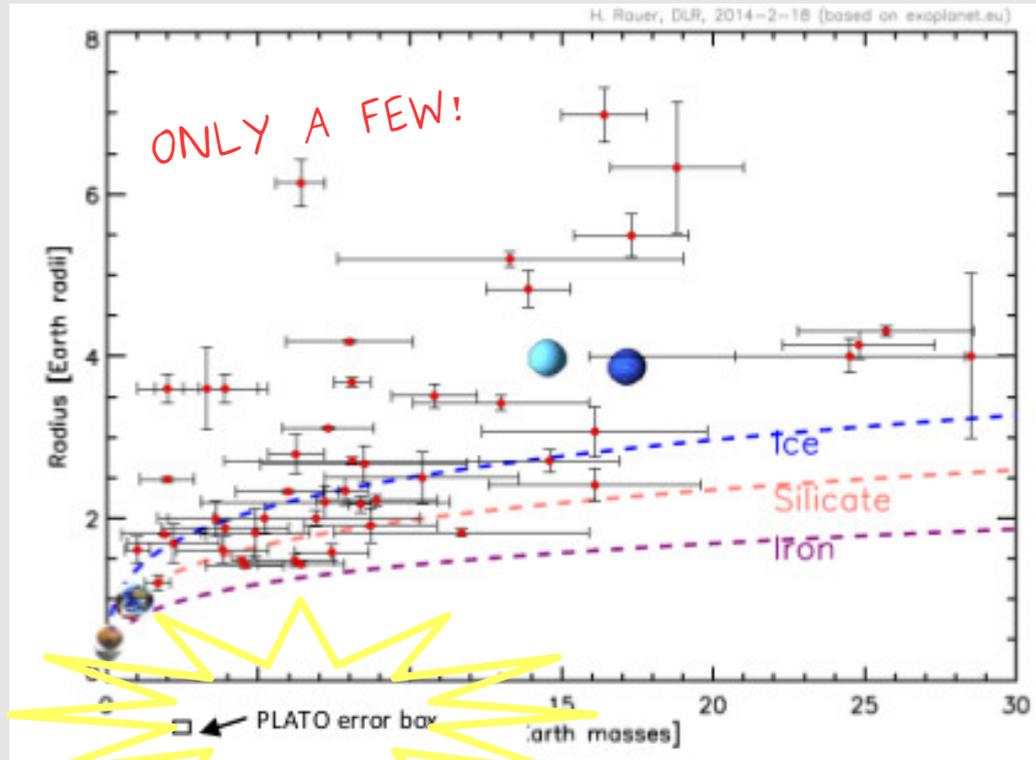


Rowe et al. (2014)

Needed ~ 1%  
precision on planet  
radius for bulk  
modeling (Wagner  
et al. 2011)

- Current precision:  $\sigma_M \sim 20\%$ ,  $\sigma_R \sim 6\%$   $\rightarrow$   $\sigma_\rho \sim 30-50\%$
- Expected for future:  $\sigma_M \sim 10\%$ ,  $\sigma_R \sim 2\%$  (PLATO)

# Internal structure



Rowe et al. (2014)

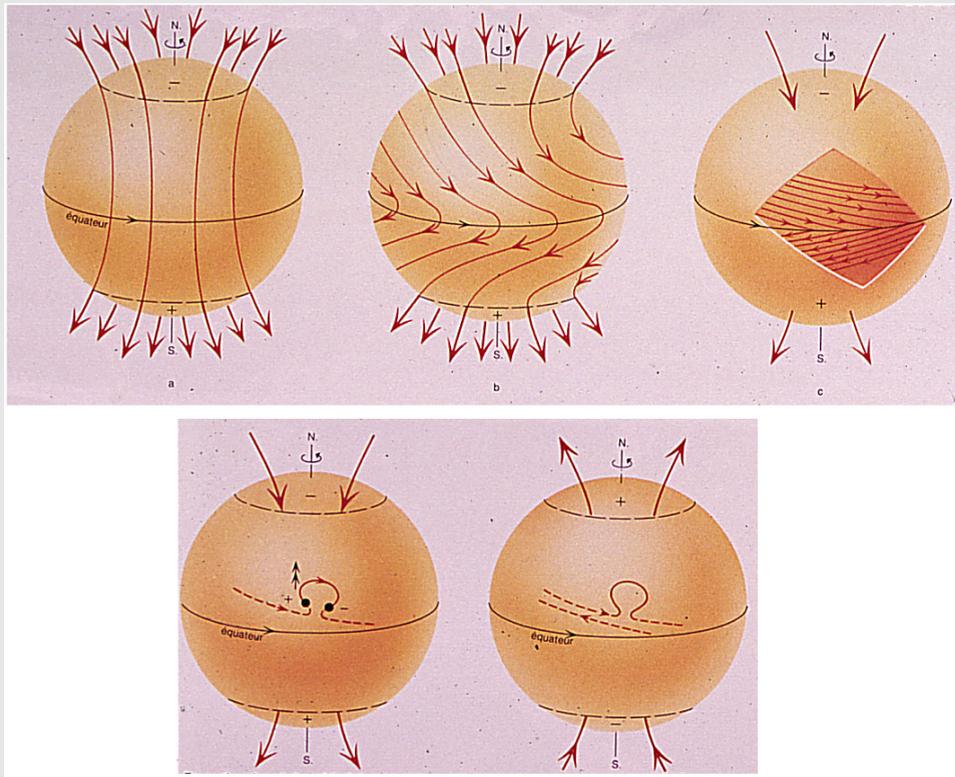
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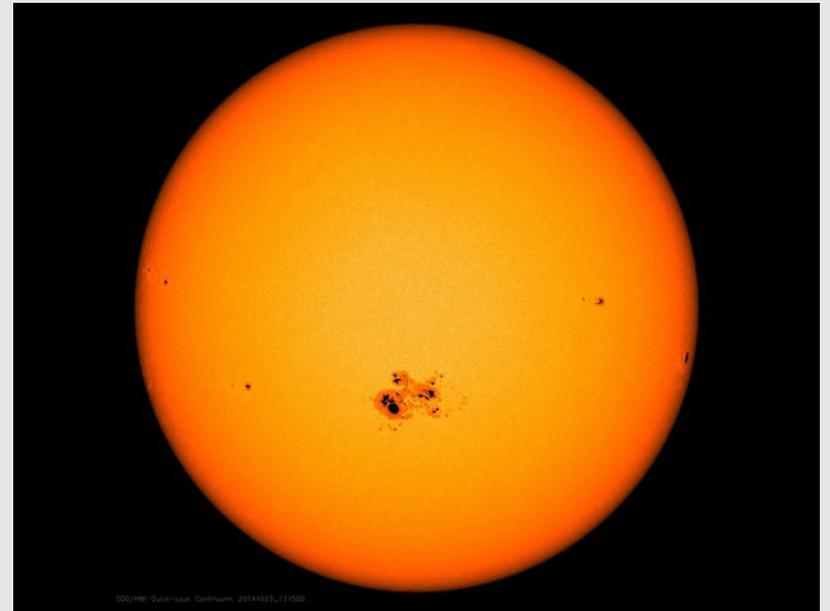
# STELLAR ACTIVITY

# stellar magnetic activity

stellar dynamo



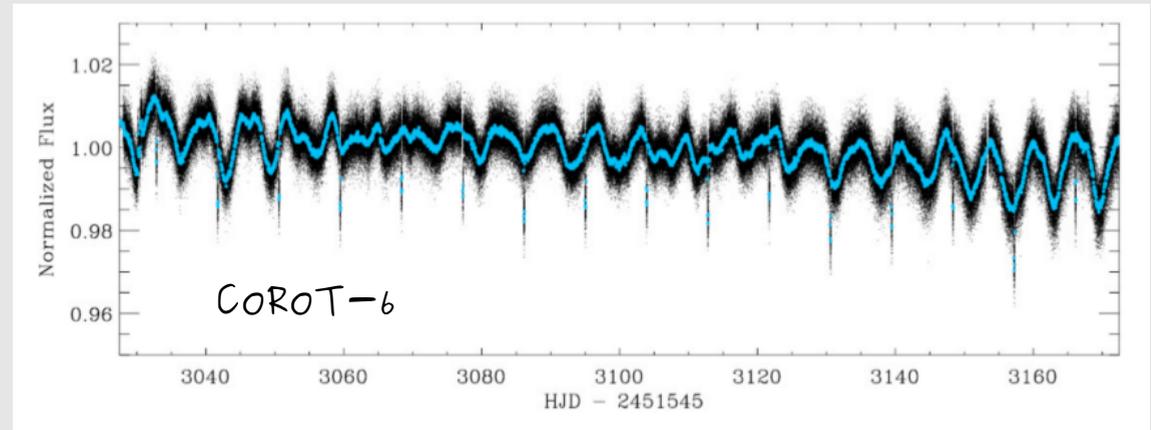
starspots & faculae



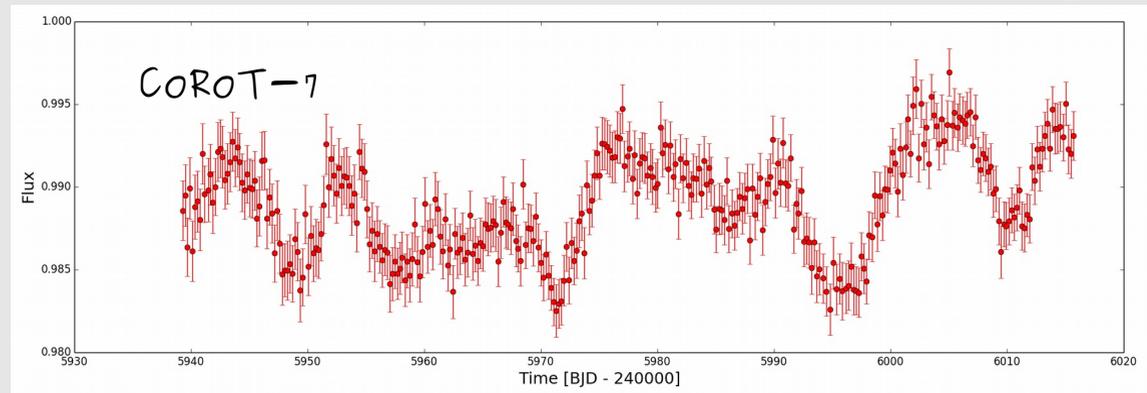
# Out-of-transit starspots

OK

- Some % brightness variations
  - Allow to measure stellar period and differential rotation
- Age indicator



Fridund et al. (2010)



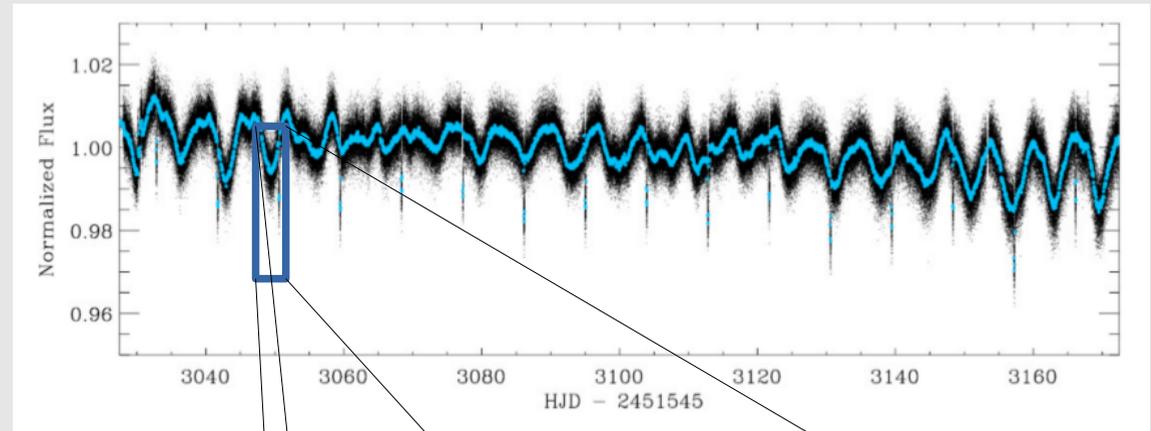
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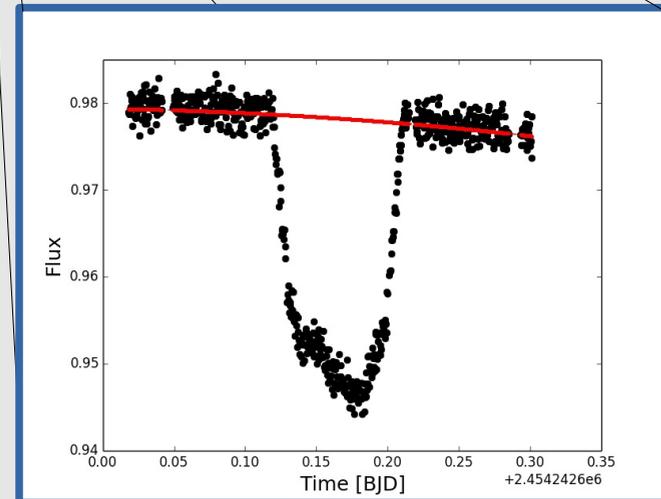
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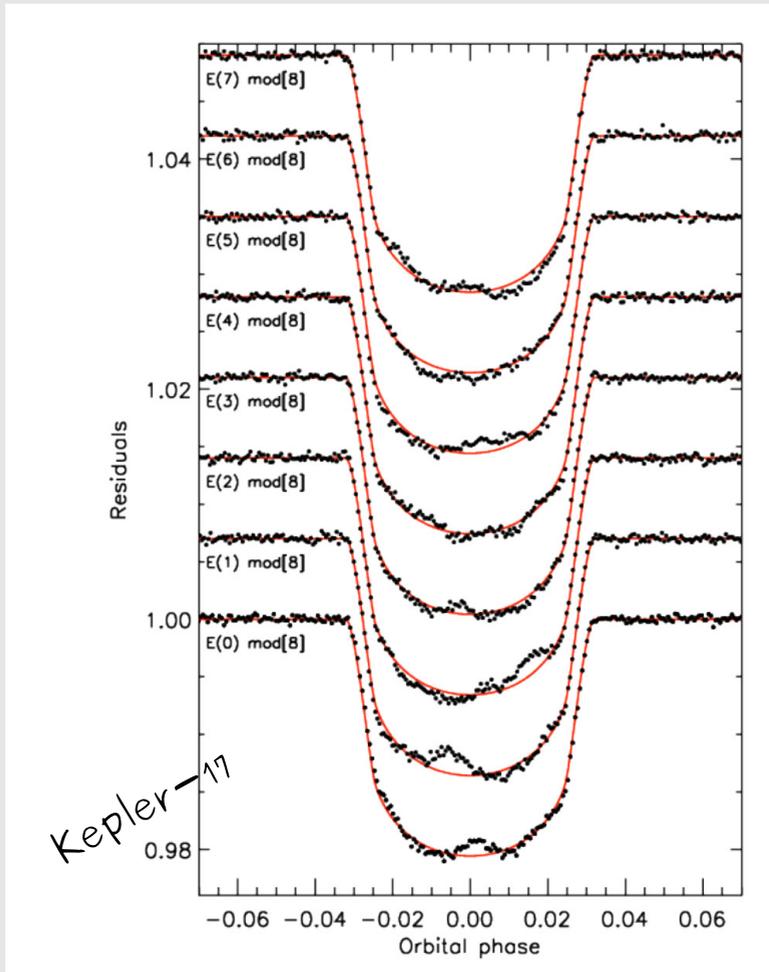
- Induce overestimates of the transit depth (Czesla et al. 2009)



Fridund et al. (2010)



# In-transit starspots



Kepler-11

Desert et al. (2011)

- Distort the transit profile (e.g. Desert et al. 2011), affect the measure of:

Transit depth (Czesla et al. 2009)

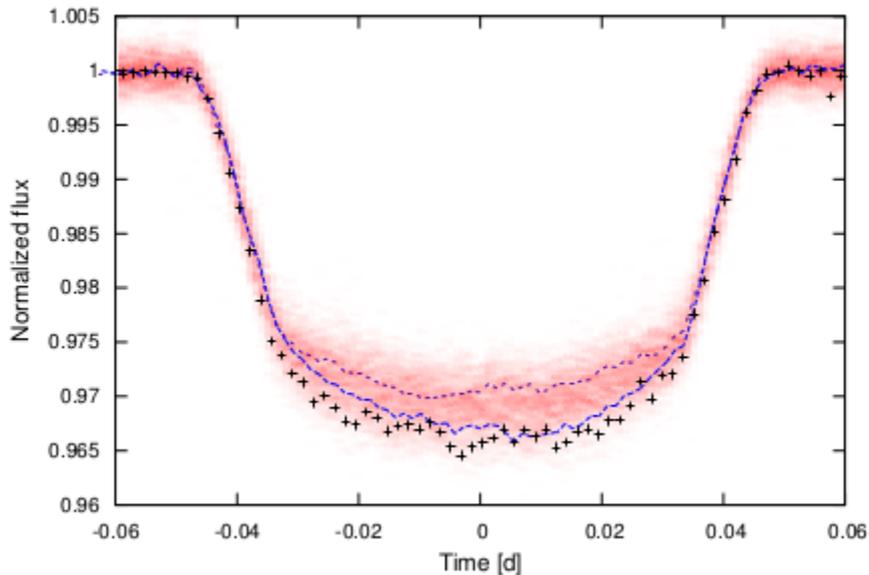
stellar density (Léger et al. 2008)

Limb darkening coefficients

(Csizmadia et al 2013)

Orbital period (Barros et al. 2013)

# In-transit starspots



Czesla et al. (2009)

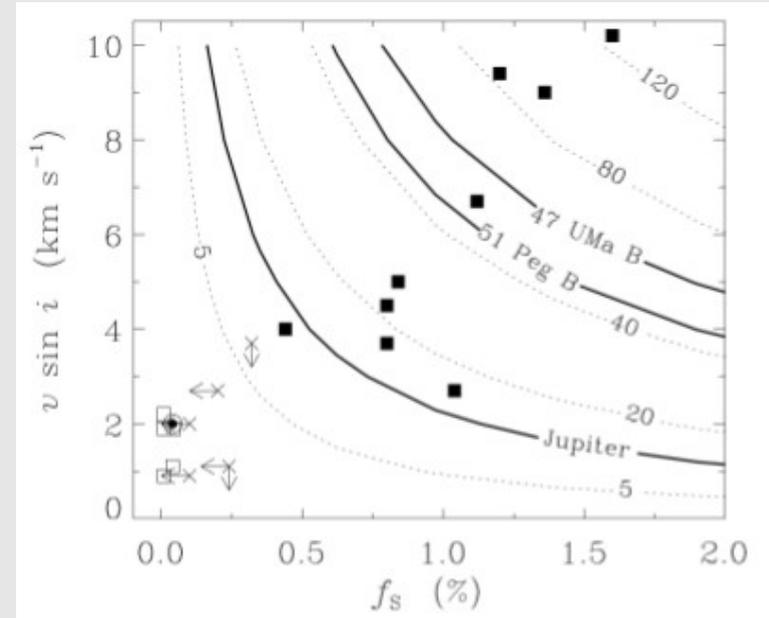
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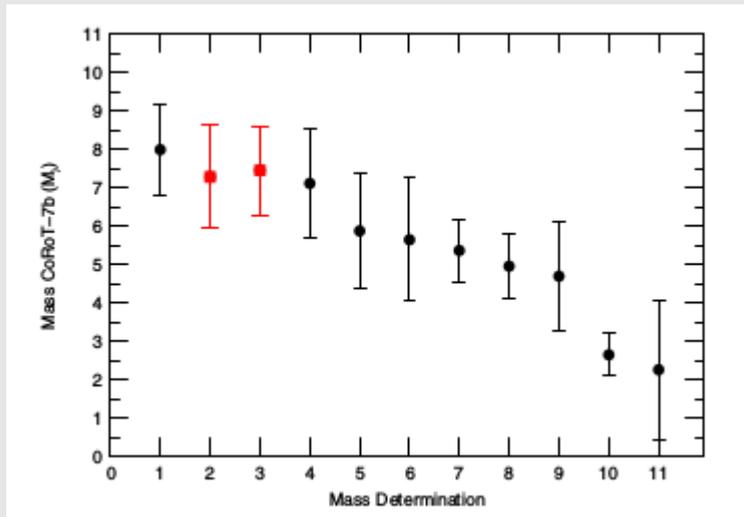
- Lowest envelope: least affected one?

# Starspots in RVs

- Produce time-varying jitter
- Measured orbital parameters affected
- Planet features can be mimicked (Desort et al. 2007)



Saar & Donahue (1997)

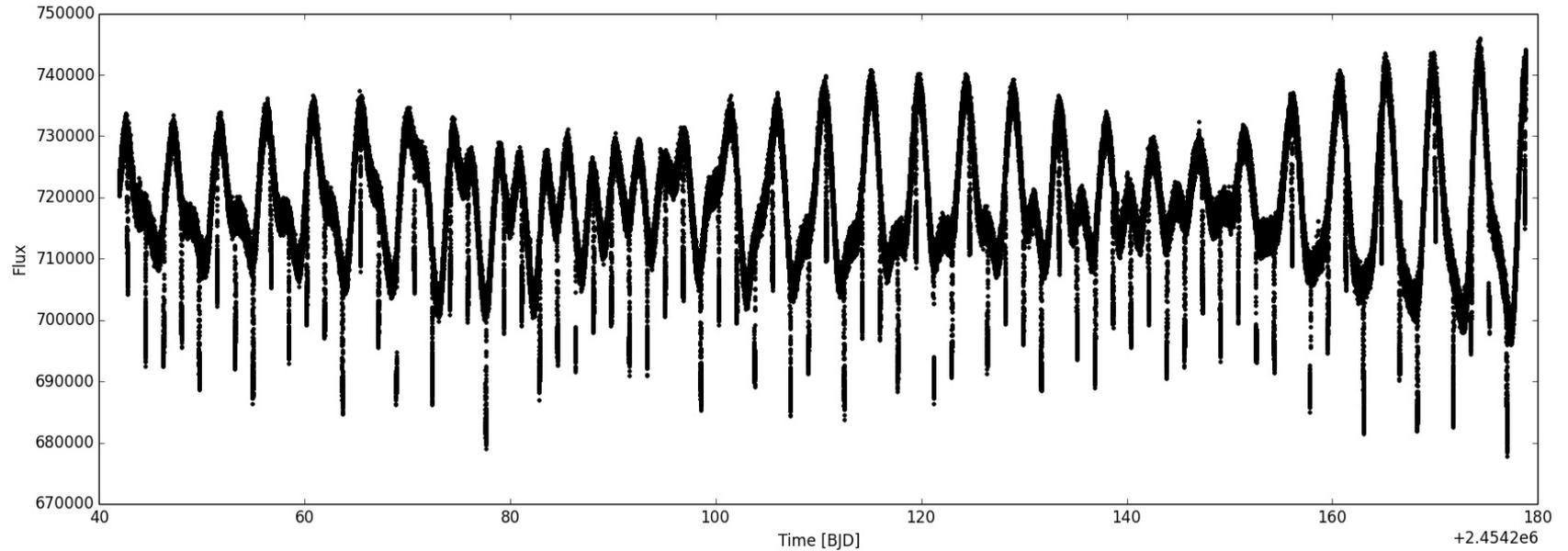


Hatzes et al. (2010)

- Diagnostics can reveal false positives (e.g. Queloz et al. 2001)
- Need to observe RV stars for transit follow-up

OUR STUDY ON CoRoT-2

# COROT-2



- Active, young (Alonso et al. 2008)
- Long-duration light curve
- spots both outside and inside transits
- Hosts a Hot Jupiter ( $1.47 R_J$ ,  $P_* \sim 3 P_{orb}$ )

# Our study

What?

simultaneous spot-transit fitting in the light curve

Why?

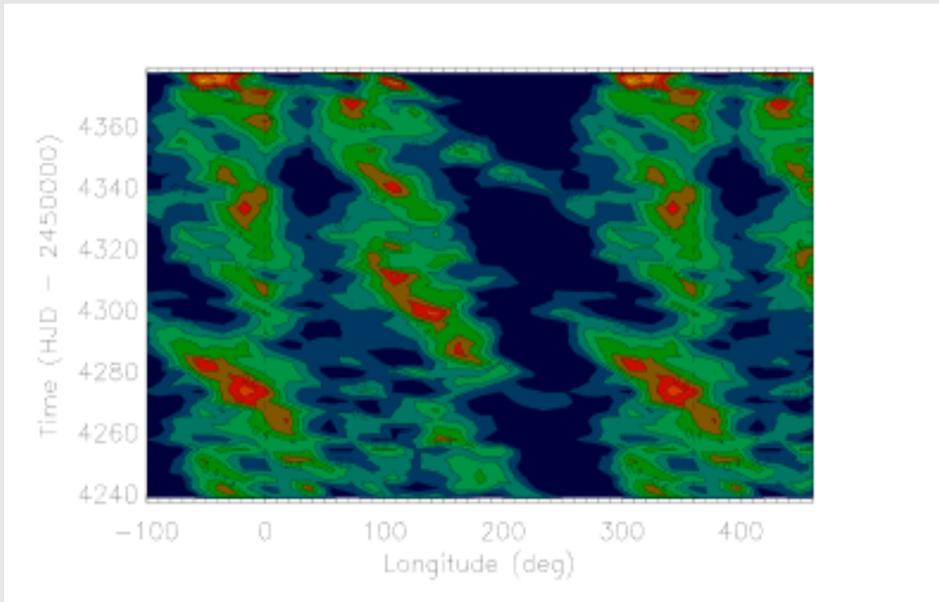
Correction for activity, more consistent transit parameters

Why AGAIN?

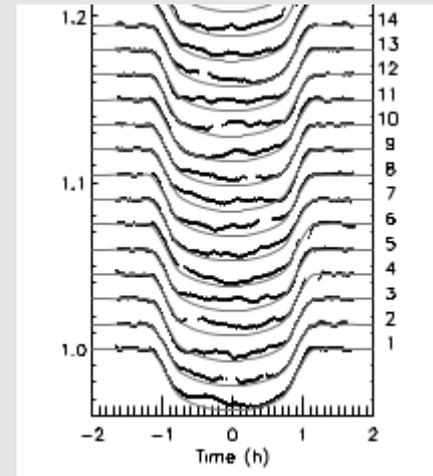
No current approach is complete

# Previous attempts

Lanza et al. (2009): out-of-transit  
brightness distribution



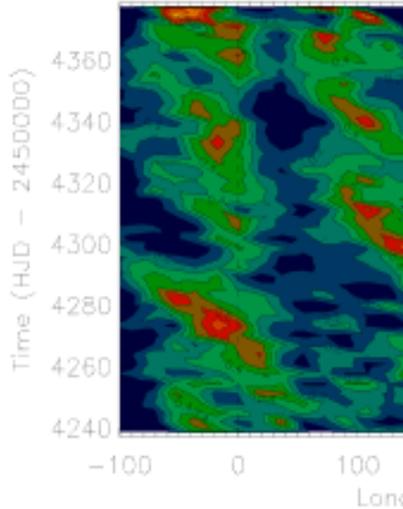
silva-Valio et al. (2010): spots  
inside all transits



- Huber et al. (2010): surface  
model of ~30 strips: also  
transits, no evolution

# Previous attempts

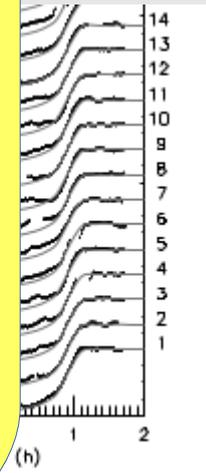
Lanza et al. (2009): out-of-transit  
brightness distribution



## What we add:

- simultaneous spot-transit fit
  - spot evolution
- Fit of longer segments of light curve

(2010): spots



- Huber et al.  
model of ~30 strips: also  
transits, no evolution

# Method

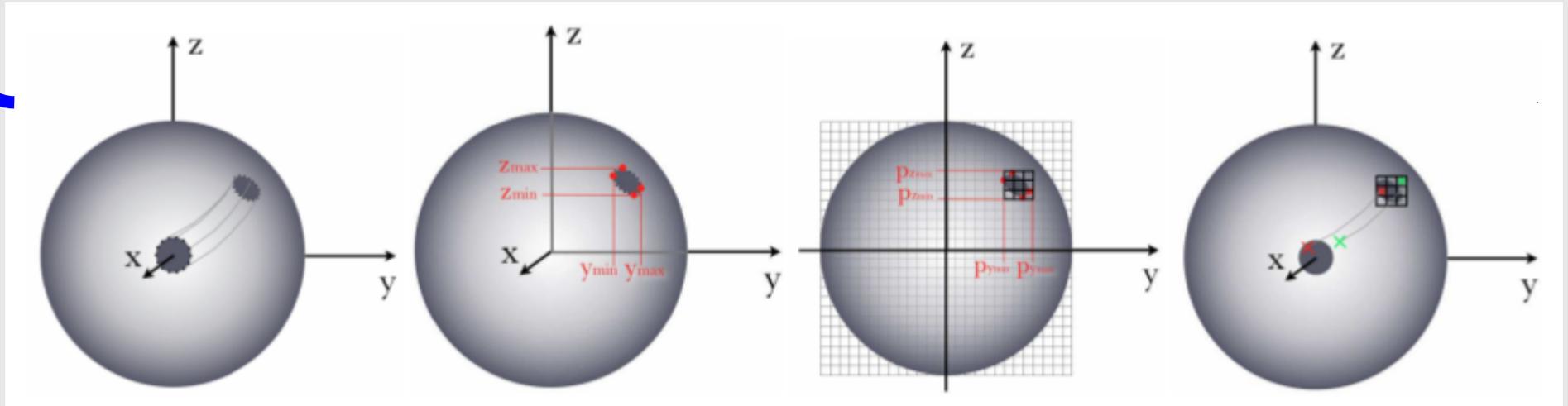
## Starspot models

- Numerical (computation of a grid and numerical integration)
- Analytical (much faster to execute, but need assumptions)

# Method

## Starspot models

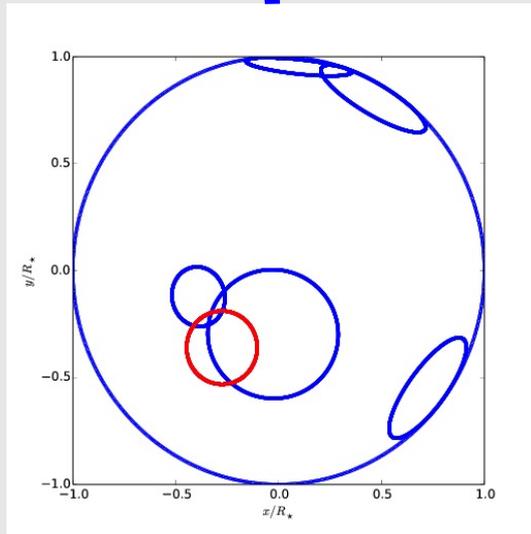
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# Method

## Starspot models

- Numerical (computation of a grid and numerical integration)
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Montalto et al. (2014)

Transits modeling

+

Longitude, latitude, size, contrast for each spot

# Method

## Starspot models

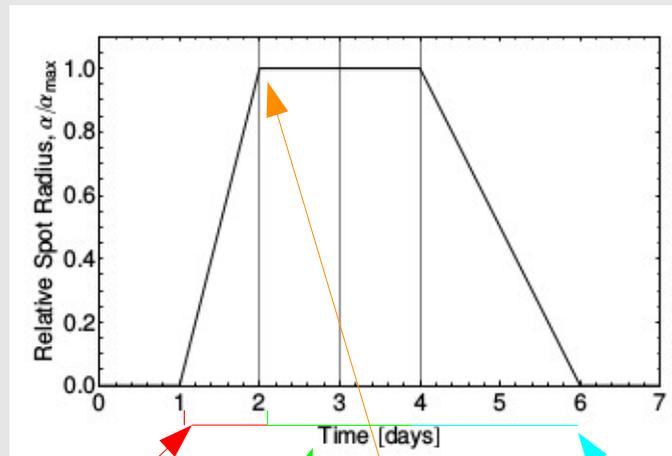
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# Method

## Starspot models

- Numerical (computation of a grid and numerical integration)
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Added linear spot evolution (Kipping 2012)



$T_{\text{ingress}}$

$T_{\text{life}}$

$T_{\text{max}}$

$T_{\text{egress}}$

# Method

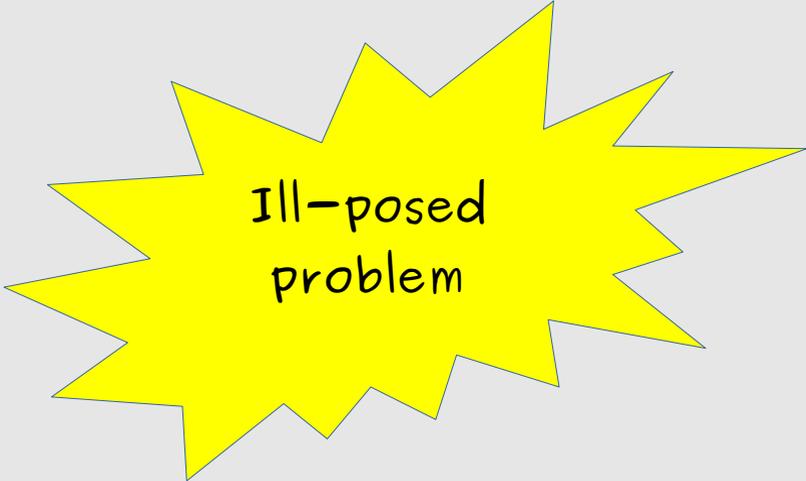
## Starspot models

- Numerical (computation of a grid and numerical integration)
- Analytical (much faster to execute, but need assumptions)

+

## Fitting method

- $\chi^2$  minimization
- maximum entropy regularization
- MCMC



Ill-posed  
problem

# Method

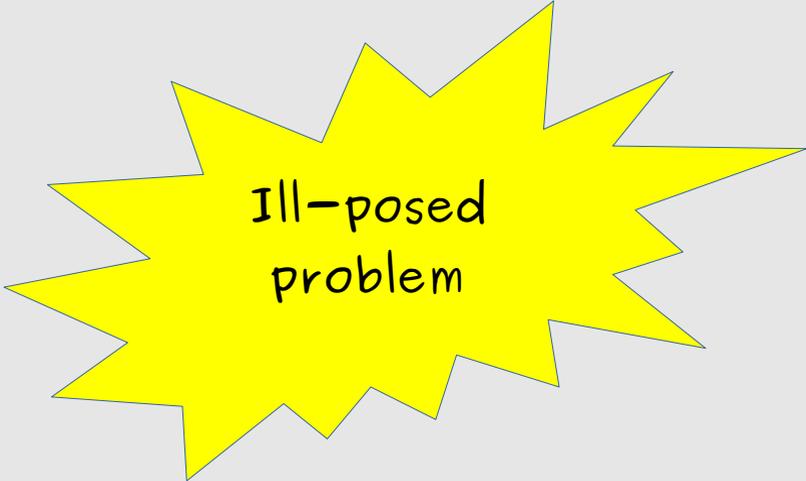
## Starspot models

- Numerical (~~computation of a grid and numerical integration~~)
- Analytical (much faster to execute, but need assumptions)

+

## Fitting method

- $\chi^2$  minimization
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Ill-posed  
problem

# Strategy

## With spot modeling

Fit in two steps

1) Fit spots

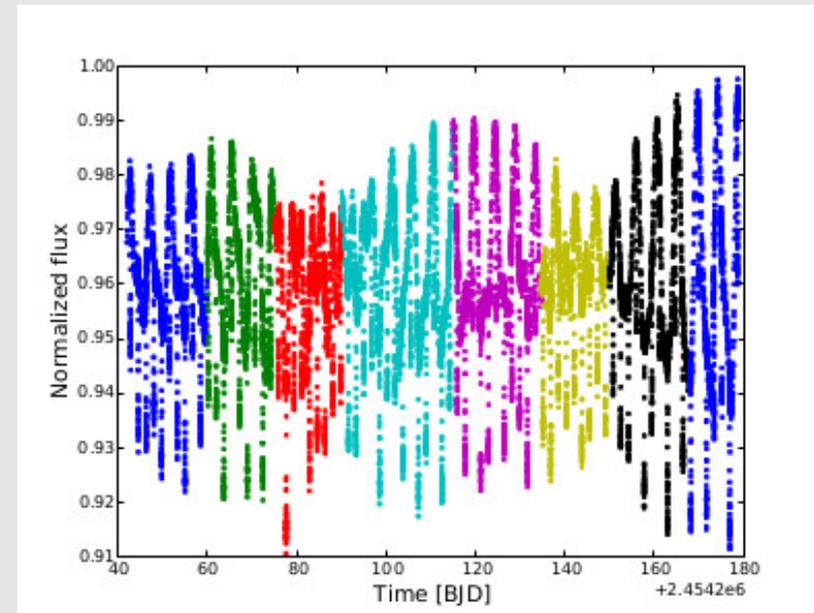
Fixed transit pars.

2) Fit transits, adjust spots

Adjust  $\lambda$ ,  $\alpha$  for spots,

fit transit pars.

+ standard transit fit using model 1



# About the activity cycle

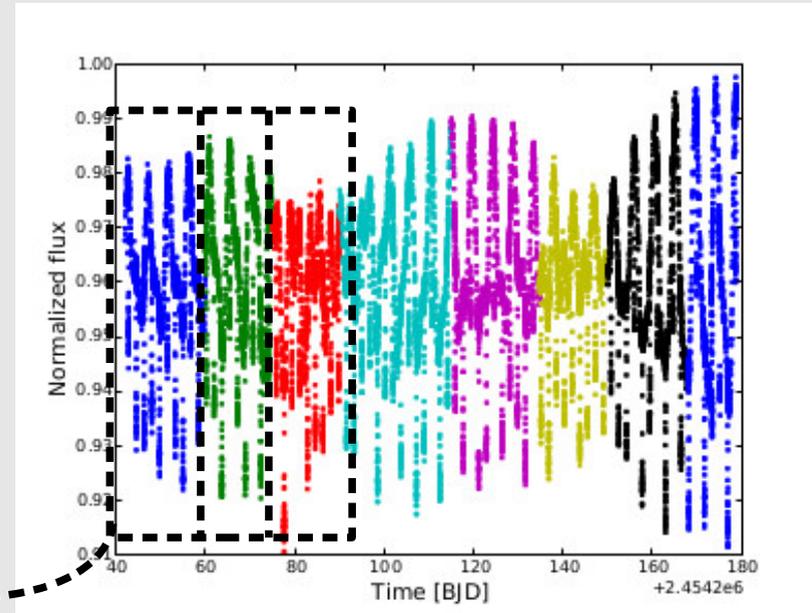
Classic transit fit

All transits folded and fitted at once

With spot modeling

Too many spots needed: light curve cut in segments

15–25 days–length, ~ lifetime of active regions, Lanza et al. (2009)



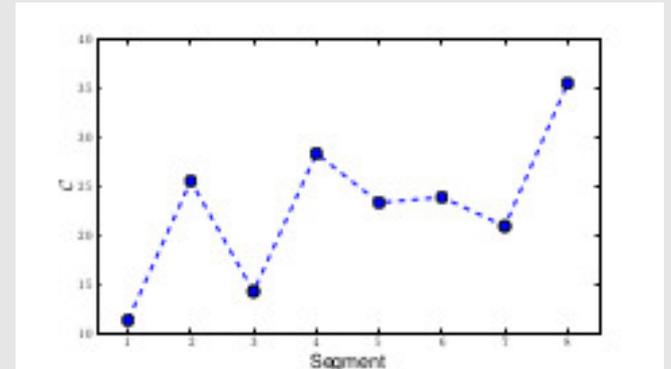
# Results: spot parameters

6 to 9 spots/segment required  
5–30 deg. size

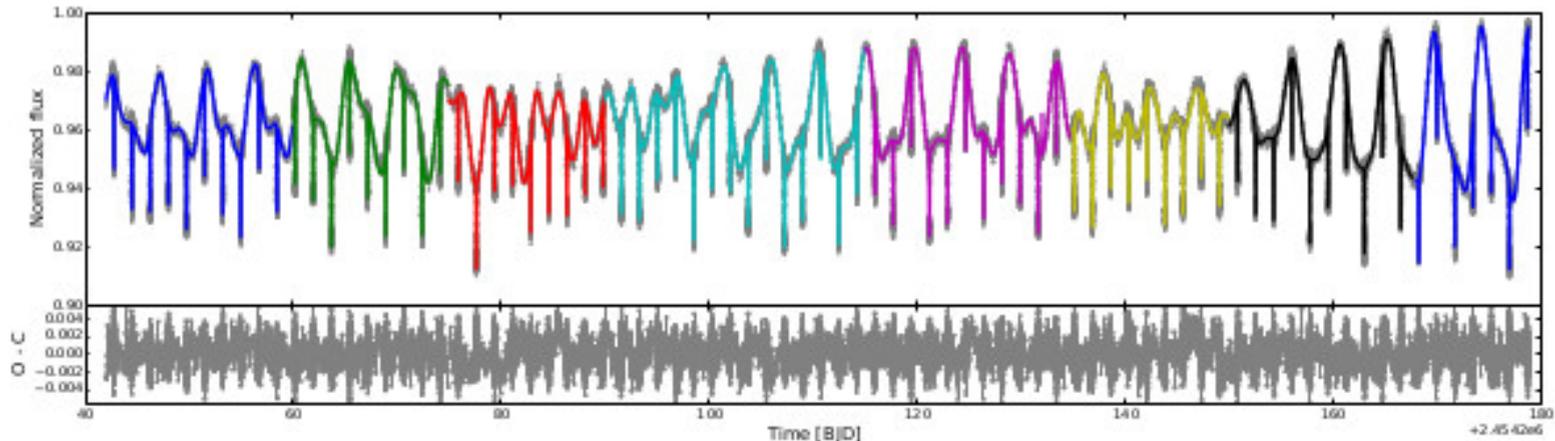
Hints of longitudinal migration

Average 1–2 faculae per segment

1–2 features constantly in the transited belt



$$C = \sum_i \alpha_{\max,i} (1 - c_i)$$

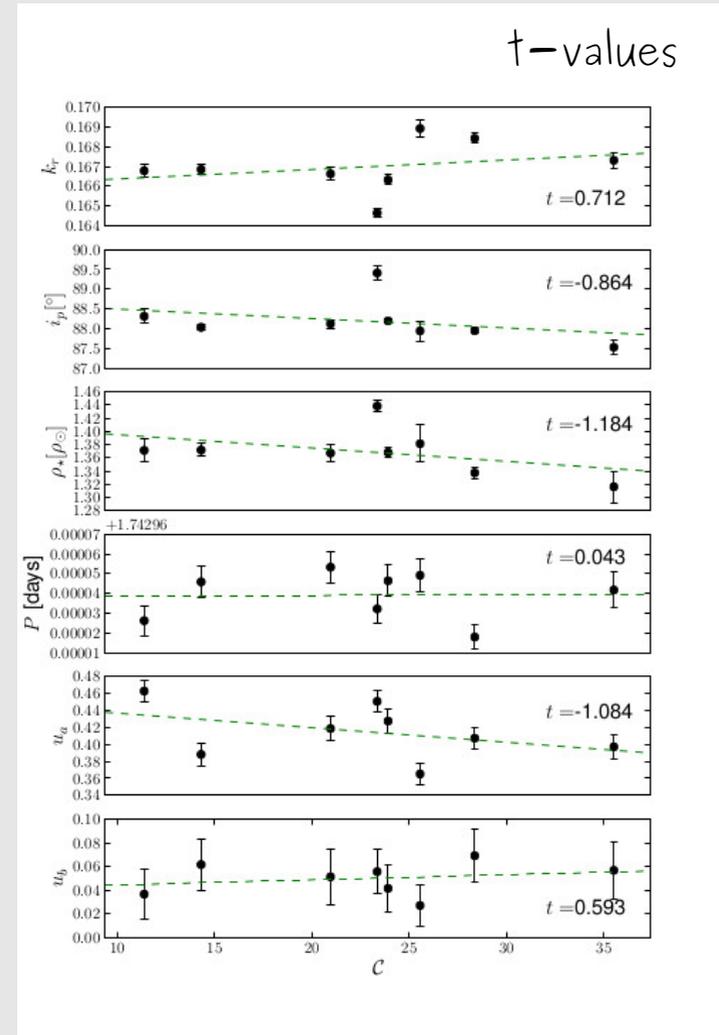


# Results: transit parameters

- Transit depth, incl.: Non-significant correlations
- stellar density, LD: needed improvements
- Period: not affected by spots

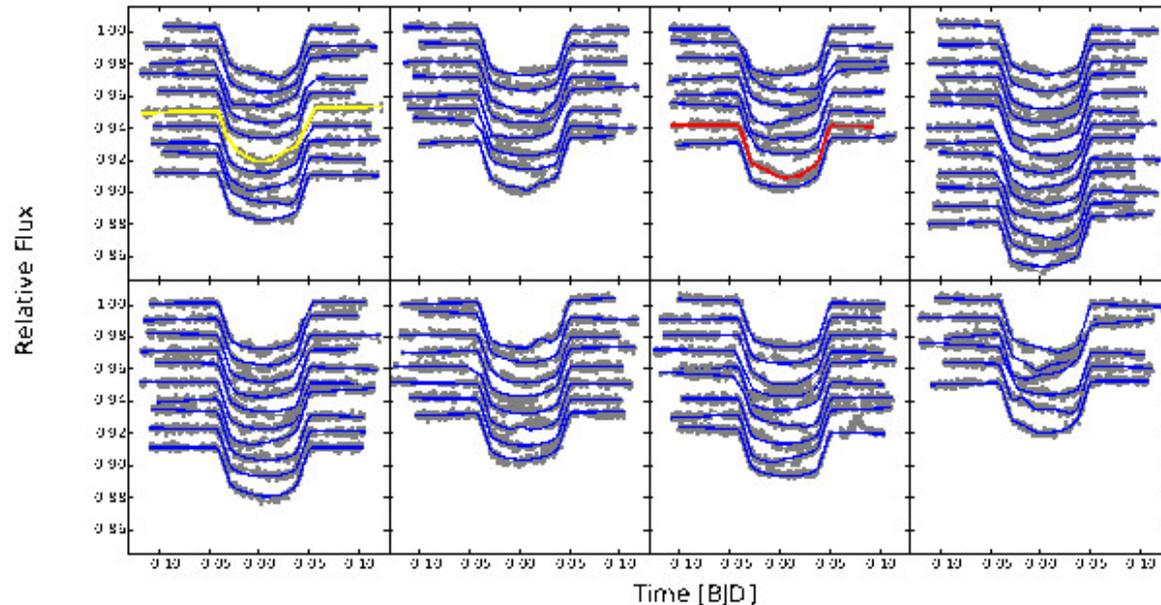
## Possible improvement

- Automatic fit no. of spots



# Least distorted transit

- Czesla et al. (2009): average of deepest transits less affected. Transit depth  $>3\%$  than Alonso et al. (2009)
- On single deepest transit, result in agreement

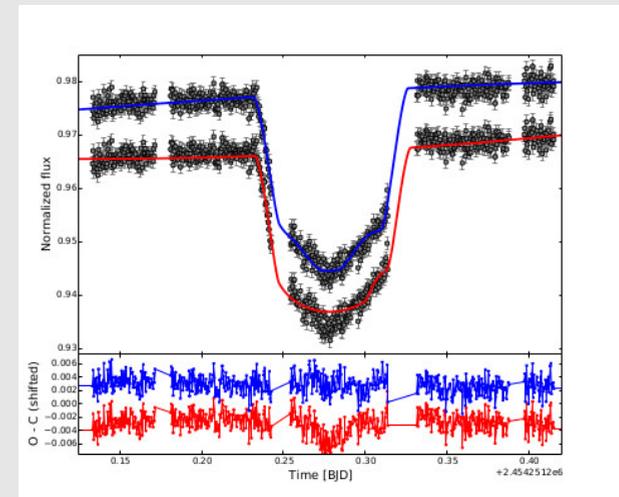
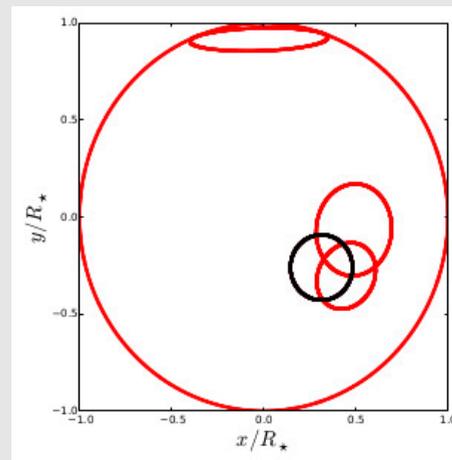
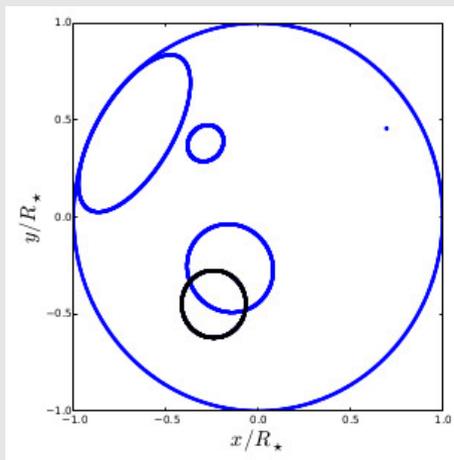


# Least distorted transit

- Czesla et al. (2009): average of deepest transits less affected.  
Transit depth >3% than Alonso et al. (2009)

From our fit:

- 1) On single deepest transit, result in agreement
- 2) Deepest with only dark spots? Worse fit (Bayes factor 2%)



# CONCLUSIONS

## Conclusions

- Analytic evolving spot modeling + transit features + MCMC fit
- More consistent transit parameters,  
explored correlations spots-transit parameters
- Required presence of faculae

## Future developments

- Refine spot modeling
- Explore more efficient MCMC algorithms
- Test on synthetic data and other real cases