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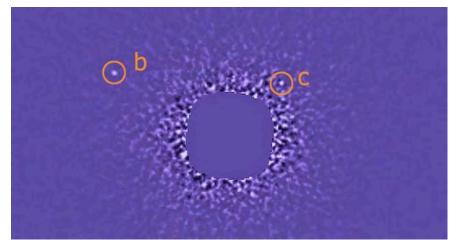


Planets 101

What is a planet?

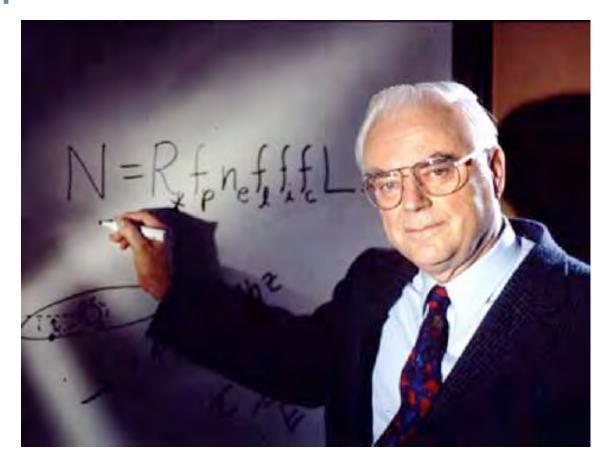


What is an exoplanet?





How many exoplanets are there out there?



Frank Drake with his famous equation - fp is fraction of stars with planets



Picture of Earth



Cassini spacecraft images Earth from over 1 billion km away!



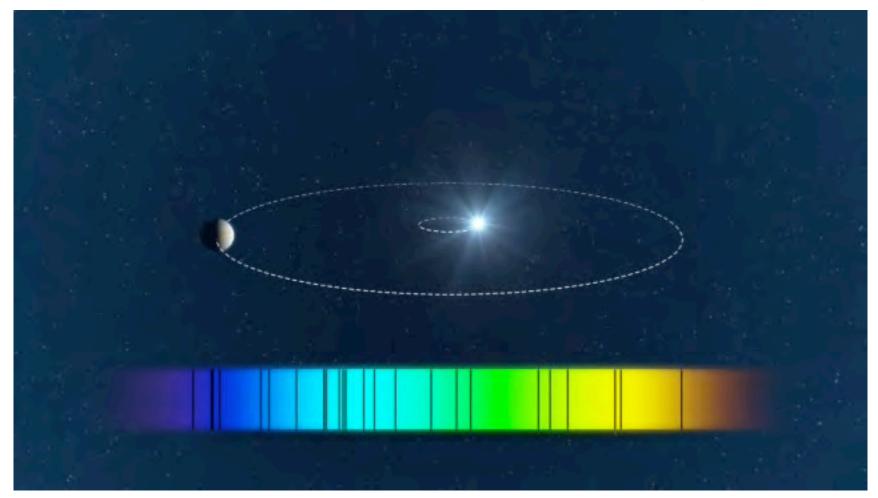
Planets are hard to see!

- Closest star is 40,000 times further away than than the Cassini image!
- To make matters worse, planets are very close to bright stars.
- As a result astronomers need to use clever techniques to detect and study exoplanets.





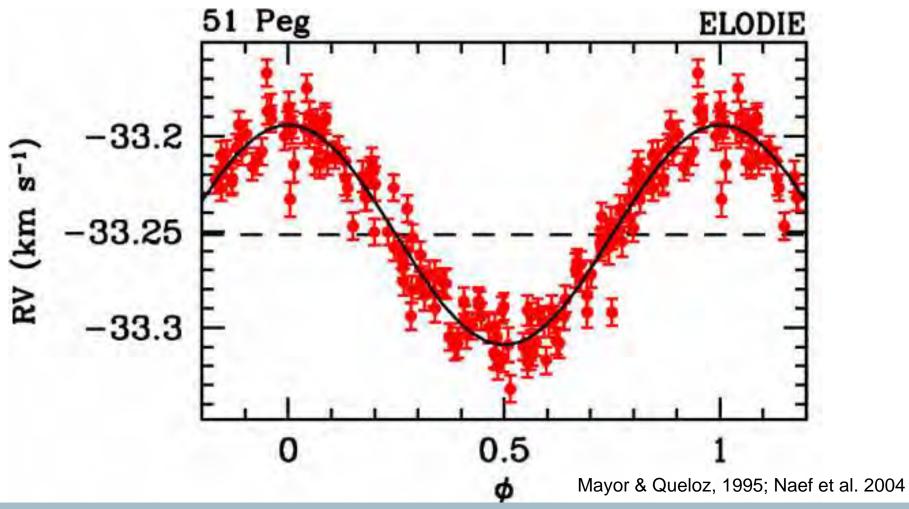
Technique No. 1 - Radial Velocity



ESO/L. Calçada



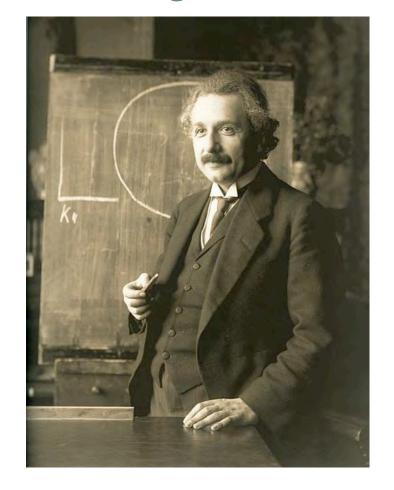
Wobbling star = orbiting planet!





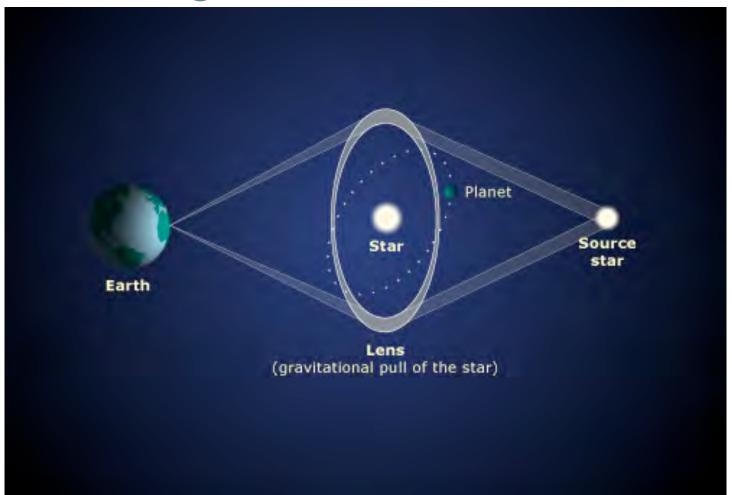
Technique No. 2 - Microlensing

 In 1924 Einstein worked out that light from distant stars could be bent by the gravity of a foreground star!





Microlensing





Microlensing



Animation: JPL



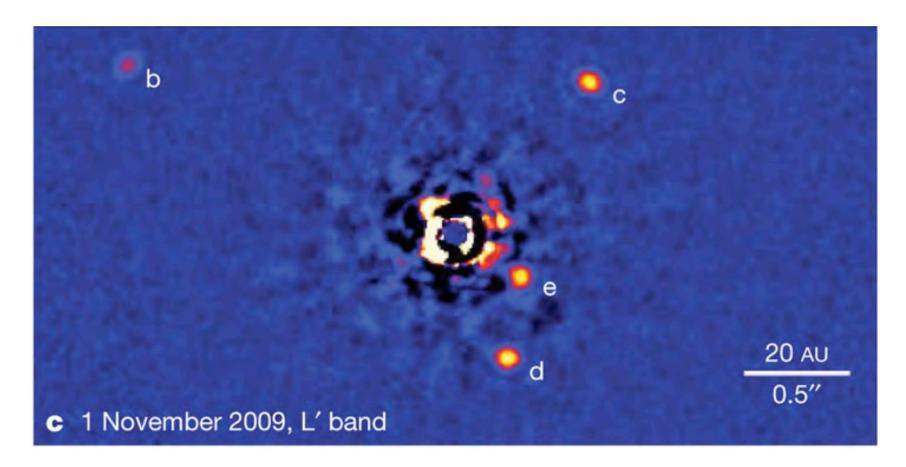
Technique No. 3 - Direct Imaging

- Hard to take an image of an exoplanet
- They appear very close to the star they orbit which appears very bright!





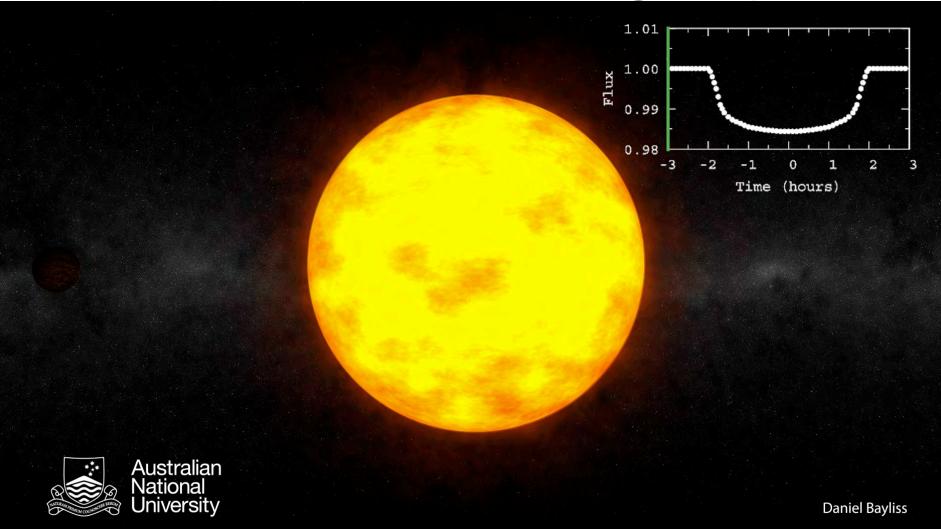
Technique No. 3 - Direct Imaging



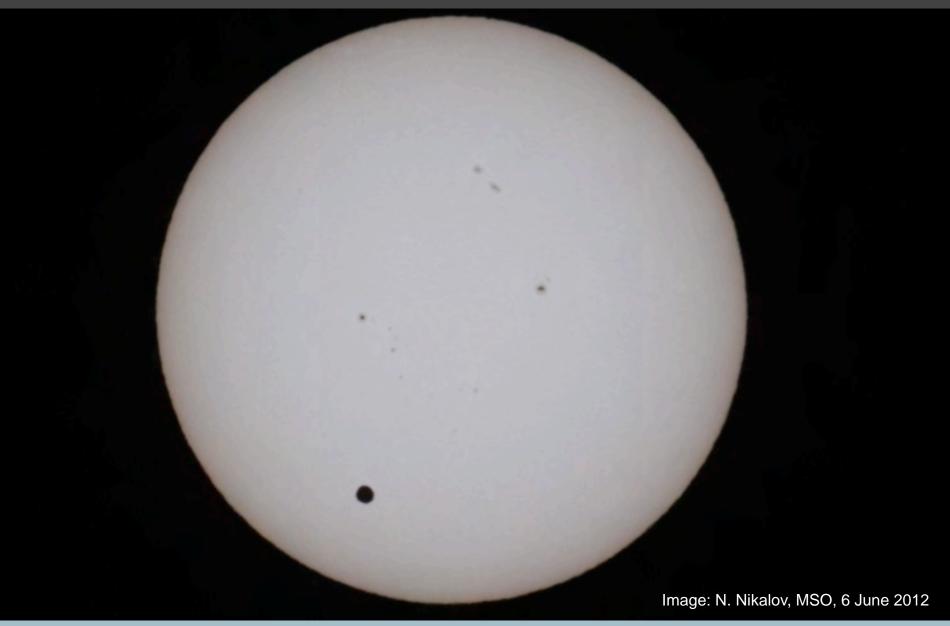
Marois et al. 2010



Technique No. 4 - Transiting Exoplanets

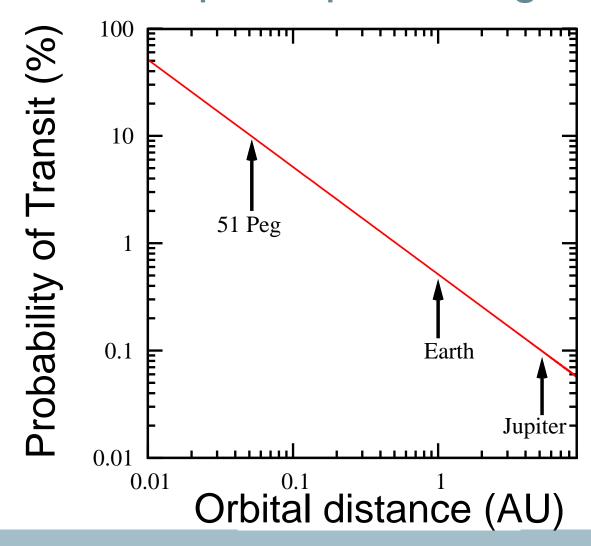








Transits require special alignment





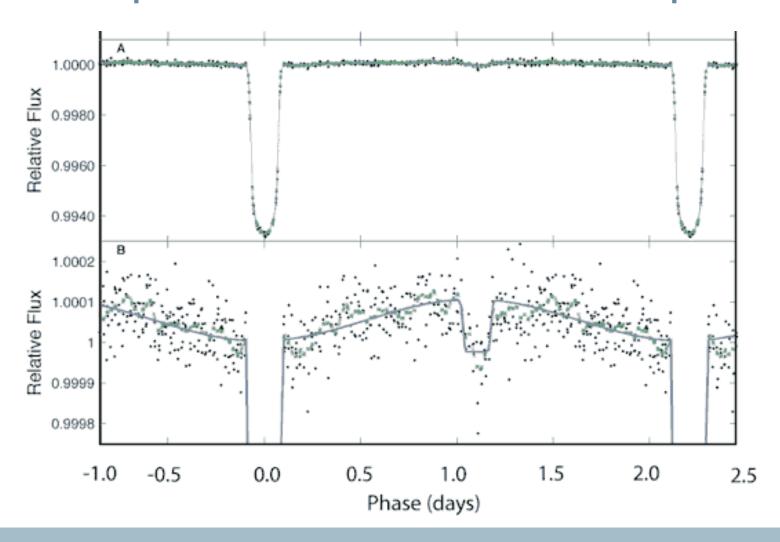
Kepler Mission





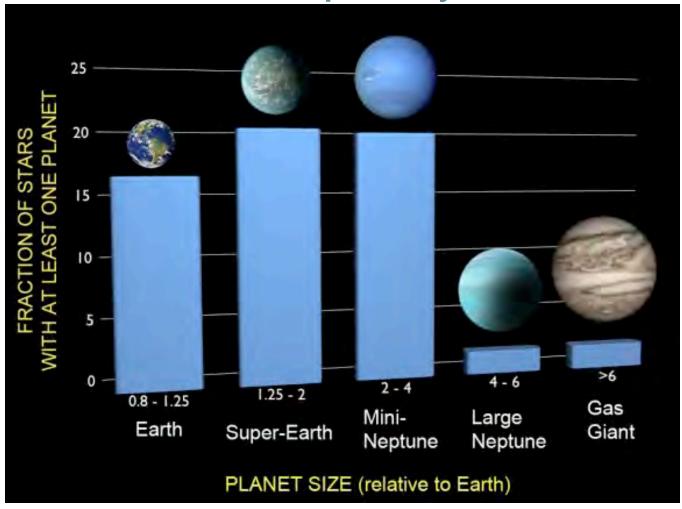


Exoplanet "HAT-P-7" from Kepler





Kepler - Planet frequency





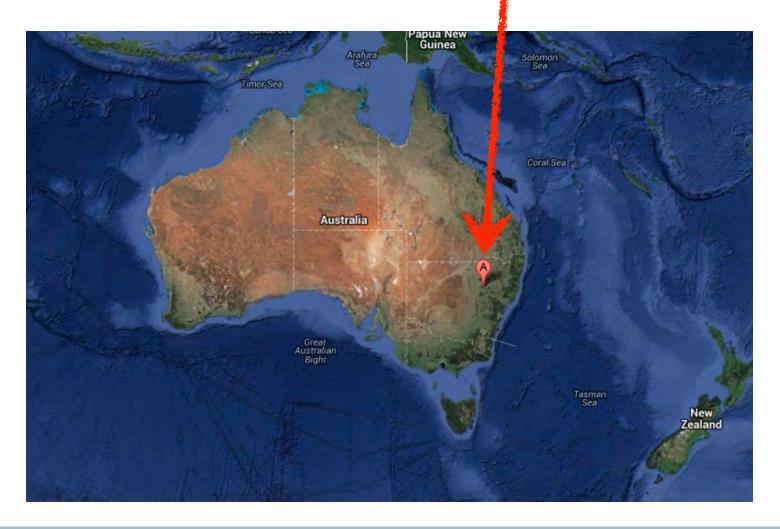
Australian Exoplanet hunting - HATSouth







Siding Spring Observatory





HATSouth Network of Telescopes



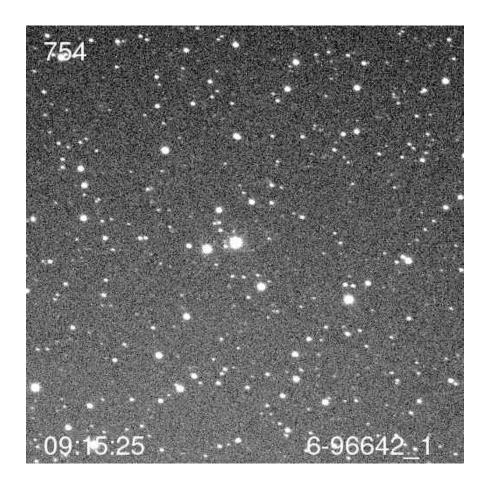


A day in the life of HATSouth telecopes ...



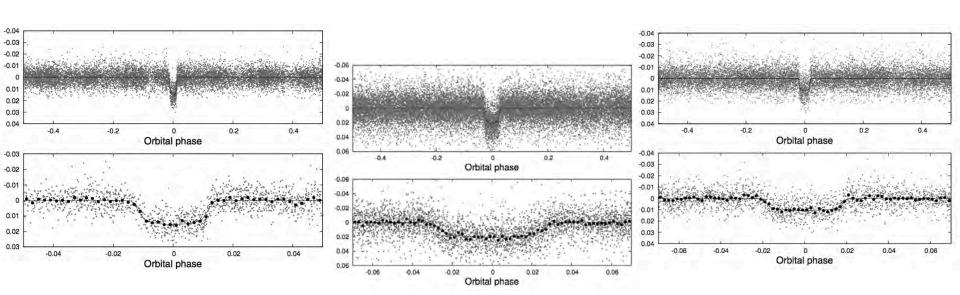


"Videoing" the sky





Exoplanets found so far: HATS-1b, HATS-2b & HATS-3b



Penev et al., 2013

Mohler-Fischer et al., 2013

Bayliss et al., 2013



Studying Planets

Now we have discovered planets we want to

study them:

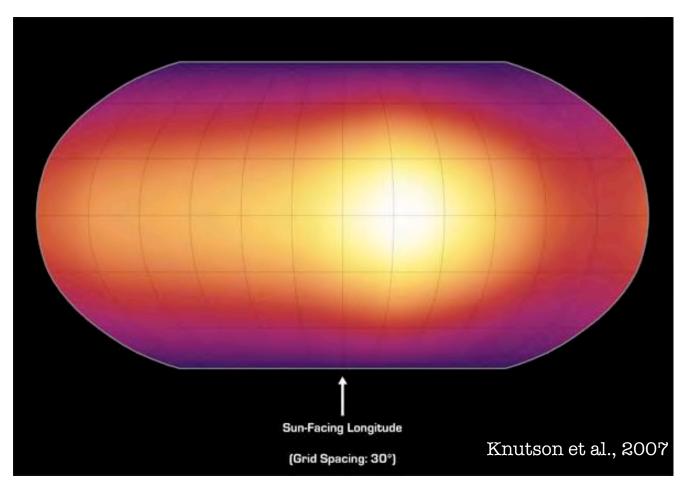
- What are their orbits?

- How hot are they?
- What are they made of?





Hot and very windy!

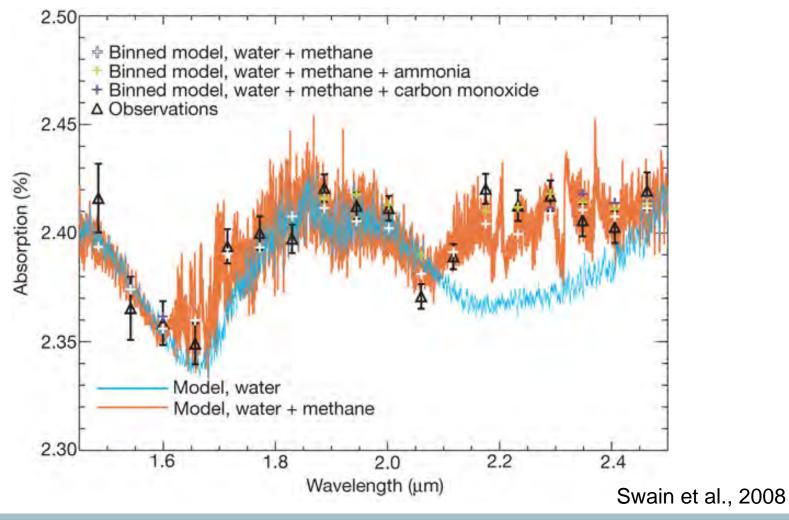


Temperatures of around 2000C!

Wind speed of 10,000 km/h

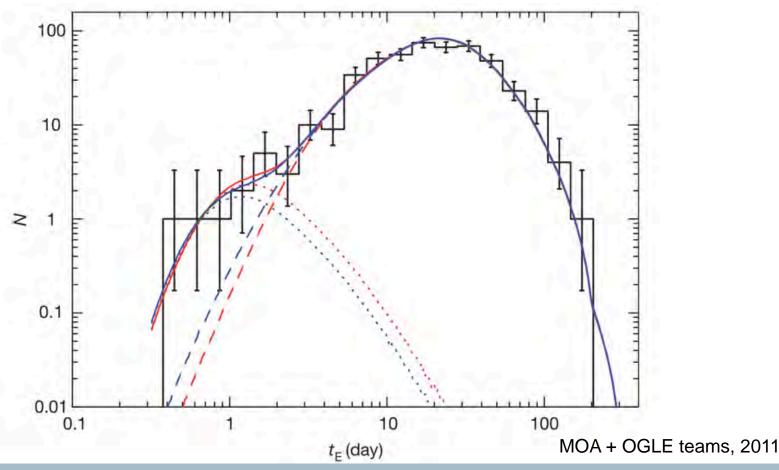


Exoplanet's have water!



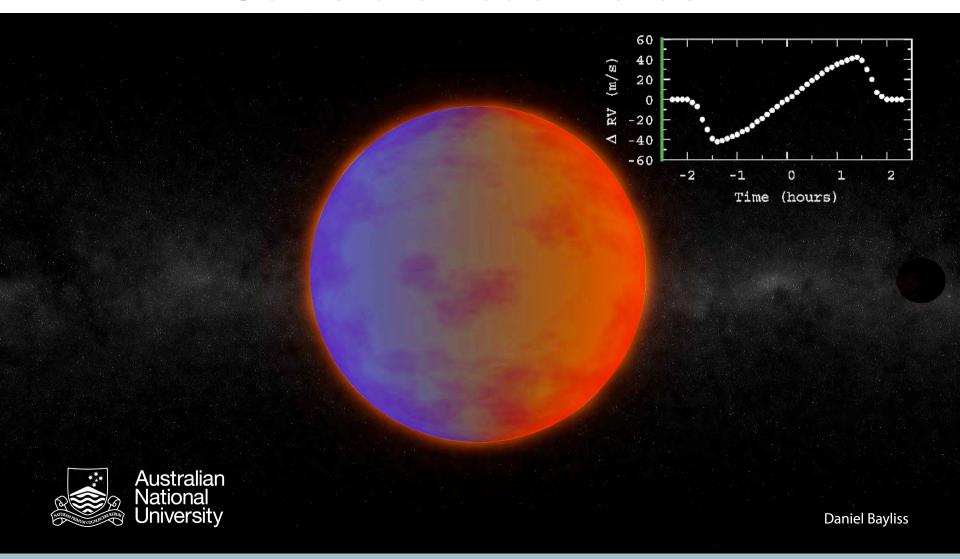


Many exoplanets are free floating (i.e. do not orbit a star).





Some orbit backwards!





Summary (to date...)

- Planets are <u>abundant</u> and <u>diverse</u>
- Using transits, microlensing, and radial velocity surveys we know now that planets are abundant in our Galaxy
- Transiting planet discoveries are showing a wide diversity in the physical properties of planets.
- We still have not found another Earth yet, but we are getting closer!



