UCL Atmospheric composition of

transiting extrasolar planets

with HST/WFC3 spatial scanning

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Detection overview



Composition



Composition

Mass and Radius of Kepler-138 Planets



Mass Relative to Earth

Conditions on exoplanets

- Density alone does not fully characterise a planet.
- Atmosphere is the one, key component, that affects mostly the conditions on a planet (Earth - Venus).
- We need spectroscopy of to constrain molecular abundances in the exoplanetary atmospheres.



Emission spectrum



Emission spectrum



Transmission spectrum



HD 209458b from 290-1030 nm (Knutson et al. 2007)

Transmission spectrum







Observational requirements

- Precision of ~ 10^{-4}
- High SNR
 - Bright star
 - Large planet
 - Hot planet
- Infrared spectrometer:
 - More absorption lines from molecules
 - Low Rayleigh scattering
 - Less stellar activity
- Large wavelength range
- Reliable IR detectors



HD209458b - emission



HD189733b - transmission



Atmospheric characterisation process



HST Spatial scanning



Instrumental systematics



GJ1214b - transmission



HD97658b - transmission



De-trending techniques

Supervised learning

- E.g. gaussian processes, neural networks.
- No functional form for the instrument systematics.
- Requires information about the instrument to learn the data properties.

Unsupervised learning

• No prior knowledge.

Independent Component Analysis



Independent Component Analysis

$$\begin{aligned} x_{\lambda_1} &= A_{11}s_1 + A_{12}s_2 + A_{13}s_3 \\ x_{\lambda_2} &= A_{21}s_1 + A_{22}s_2 + A_{23}s_3 \\ x_{\lambda_3} &= A_{31}s_1 + A_{32}s_2 + A_{33}s_3 \end{aligned}$$



Spitzer/IRAC observations at 3.6 mm of GJ436b

Raw lightcurves

Detrended lightcurves + models



Morello et al. 2015, ApJ, 802, 117



Atmospheric Remote-sensing Infrared Exoplanet Large-survey

ARIEL – Example spectrum

