# A. Suárez Mascareño

# Detection of exoplanets with high-precision radial velocities

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### About me

#### My Career

BsC - University of Oviedo (2004 - 2011)

MsC – University of La Laguna (2012 - 2014)

PhD – University of La Laguna (2012 - 2016)

Post-Doc – University of Geneva (2016 - 2019)

Post-Doc – Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (2019 -2020)

Juan de la Cierva Fellow – Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (2020 - ...)

#### My Projects

HADES: Rocky planets orbiting nearby M-dwarfs with HARPS-N.

RoPES: Rocky planets orbiting GK-type dwarfs with HARPS and HARPS-N

ESPRESSO GTO: Earth-mass planets orbiting nearby Stars with ESPRESSO

NIRPS GTO: Rocky planets orbiting nearby M-dwarfs with NIRPS

THE: Earth-mass planets in the HZ of nearby GK-type dwarfs with HARPS-3

IACSAT-1: The first Space observatory of the IAC

ANDES: High-resolution spectrograph for the ELT

# Exoplanets



### Planets orbiting stars other than the Sun





## **Basic demographics**





Image Credit: Chester Harman Planets: PHL at UPR Arecibo, NASA/IPL Starlight on planet relative to sunlight on Earth

# So many exoplanets...



### How do we find them?

### **Different techniques**

#### **Radial Velocity**

Measure the gravitational pull of the planet based on the doppler movement of the spectrum





#### **Transit photometry**

Drop in brightness as a planet eclipses



# **Radial Velocity Method**

The star and planet orbit their common center of mass.

Spectral lines move towards the red as the star travels away from us. Spectral lines move towards the blue as the star travels towards us.

As the star moves away from us, light waves leaving the star are "stretched" and move towards the red end of the spectrum.

Planet

Center of Mass

Star

As the star moves towards us, light waves leaving the star are "compressed" and move towards the blue end of the spectrum.





Orbital Period (day)



### Search for periodic signals







Planet (minimum) mass



# Actually not so easy



### About astrophysical instrumentation and stellar activity



### The instruments

Fibre-fed

High resolution – R > 80 000

Ultra-stable - Temperature, pressure and stress isolated

Accurate wavelength calibration (ThAr, Laser Comb)

Simultaneous calibration (ThAr, Laser Comb, Fabry Perot)



Designed specifically to obtain precise radial velocities ( < 1-2 m/s)





### The instruments are not perfect





Dumusque et al. 2015





### The stars - precision in RV

We need bright stars

We need star with many lines in their spectrum (FGKM)

We need stars with narrow lines in their spectrum (slow rotation)

We favor low mass stars (bc. planet/star ratio)

The more we deviate, the worse we do

### The stars - stellar activity







Pepe et al. 2021



## Oscillations



### Dumusque et al. 2011



1.0

0.5

-0.5

-1.0

RV (m/s)







### Granulation





Suárez Mascareño et al. 201<del>5, 2</del>016, 2017, 2018



#### Mortier et al. 2017



Suárez Mascareño et al. 2018b





Rotation

Faria et al. 2022

Haywood PhD thesis Haywood et al. 2014 Rajpaul et al. 2015 Suárez Mascareño et al. 2020 Barragán et al. 2022 Delisle et al. 2022

# 400 Years of Sunspot Observations











Fig. 20:  $P_{cyc}/P_{rot}$  versus  $1/P_{rot}$  in log-log scale. Filled dots represent main-sequence stars while empty circles stand for premain-sequence stars. The dashed line shows the fit to the full dataset. The solid line shows the fit to the main-sequence stars with radiative core.

Fig. 21: Cycle length versus rotation periods. Filled symbols show the stars analysed in this work.

Suárez Mascareño et al. 2016





Figure 9. Forecast for optimal observations of *JWST*'s guaranteed time objects for the next 10 yr. The red and blue regions indicate the duration of activity maxima and minima, respectively. Depicted in grey from left to right are the launch of *JWST*, ERS phase and planned launch of ARIEL, respectively.

Sairam et al. 2022

# Where are the planets?



### Let's talk Proxima Centauri

#### Revisiting Proxima with ESPRESSO\*,\*\*,\*\*\*

A. Suárez Mascareño<sup>1,7</sup>, J. P. Faria<sup>2,14</sup>, P. Figueira<sup>17,2</sup>, C. Lovis<sup>10</sup>, M. Damasso<sup>11</sup>, J. I. González Hernández<sup>1,7</sup>, R. Rebolo<sup>1,7,16</sup>, S. Cristiani<sup>9</sup>, F. Pepe<sup>10</sup>, N. C. Santos<sup>2,14</sup>, M. R. Zapatero Osorio<sup>12</sup>, V. Adibekyan<sup>2,14</sup>, S. Hojjatpanah<sup>2,14</sup>, A. Sozzetti<sup>11</sup>, F. Murgas<sup>1,7</sup>, M. Abreu<sup>3,20</sup>, M. Affolter<sup>4</sup>, Y. Alibert<sup>5</sup>, M. Aliverti<sup>6</sup>, R. Allart<sup>10</sup>, C. Allende Prieto<sup>1,7</sup>, D. Alves<sup>3,20</sup>, M. Amate<sup>1</sup>, G. Avila<sup>8</sup>, V. Baldini<sup>9</sup>, T. Bandi<sup>4</sup>, S. C. C. Barros<sup>2</sup>, A. Bianco<sup>6</sup>, W. Benz<sup>4</sup>, F. Bouchy<sup>10</sup>, C. Broeng<sup>4</sup>, A. Cabral<sup>3,20</sup>, G. Calderone<sup>9</sup>, R. Cirami<sup>9</sup>, J. Coelho<sup>3,20</sup>, P. Conconi<sup>6</sup>, I. Coretti<sup>9</sup>, C. Cumani<sup>8</sup>, G. Cupani<sup>9</sup>, V. D'Odorico<sup>9,18</sup>, S. Deiries<sup>8</sup>, B. Delabre<sup>8</sup>, P. Di Marcantonio<sup>9</sup>, X. Dumusque<sup>10</sup>, D. Ehrenreich<sup>10</sup>, A. Fragoso<sup>1</sup>, L. Genolet<sup>10</sup>, M. Genoni<sup>6</sup>, R. Génova Santos<sup>1,7</sup>, I. Hughes<sup>10</sup>, O. Iwert<sup>8</sup>, F. Kerber<sup>8</sup>, J. Knusdstrup<sup>8</sup>, M. Landoni<sup>6</sup>, B. Lavie<sup>10</sup>, J. Lilo-Box<sup>12</sup>, J. Lizon<sup>8</sup>, G. Lo Curto<sup>8</sup>, C. Maire<sup>10</sup>, A. Manescau<sup>8</sup>, C. J. A. P. Martins<sup>2,19</sup>, D. Mégevand<sup>10</sup>, A. Mehner<sup>8</sup>, G. Micela<sup>13</sup>, A. Modigliani<sup>8</sup>, P. Molaro<sup>9,15</sup>, M. A. Monteiro<sup>2</sup>, M. J. P. F. G. Monteiro<sup>2,14</sup>, M. Moschetti<sup>6</sup>, E. Mueller<sup>8</sup>, N. J. Nunes<sup>3,20</sup>, L. Oggioni<sup>6</sup>, A. Oliveira<sup>3,20</sup>, E. Pallé<sup>1,7</sup>, G. Pariani<sup>3</sup>, L. Pasquini<sup>8</sup>, E. Poretti<sup>6,15</sup>, J. L. Rasilla<sup>1</sup>, E. Redaelli<sup>6</sup>, M. Riva<sup>6</sup>, S. Santana Tschudi<sup>1</sup>, P. Santo<sup>9</sup>

#### A candidate short-period sub-Earth orbiting Proxima Centauri\*

J. P. Faria<sup>1,2</sup>, A. Suárez Mascareño<sup>3,4</sup>, P. Figueira<sup>5,1</sup>, A. M. Silva<sup>1,2</sup>, M. Damasso<sup>6</sup>, O. Demangeon<sup>1,2</sup>, F. Pepe<sup>7</sup>, N. C. Santos<sup>1,2</sup>, R. Rebolo<sup>8,4,3</sup>, S. Cristiani<sup>9</sup>, V. Adibekyan<sup>1</sup>, Y. Alibert<sup>10</sup>, R. Allart<sup>11,7</sup>, S. C. C. Barros<sup>1,2</sup>, A. Cabral<sup>12,13</sup>, V. D'Odorico<sup>9,14,15</sup>, P. Di Marcantonio<sup>9</sup>, X. Dumusque<sup>7</sup>, D. Ehrenreich<sup>7</sup>, J. I. González Hernández<sup>4,3</sup>, N. Hara<sup>7</sup>, J. Lillo-Box<sup>16</sup>, G. Lo Curto<sup>17,5</sup>, C. Lovis<sup>7</sup>, C. J. A. P. Martins<sup>1,18</sup>, D. Mégevand<sup>7</sup>, A. Mehner<sup>5</sup>, G. Micela<sup>19</sup>, P. Molaro<sup>9,14</sup>, N. J. Nunes<sup>12</sup>, E. Pallé<sup>3,4</sup>, E. Poretti<sup>20</sup>, S. G. Sousa<sup>1,2</sup>, A. Sozzetti<sup>6</sup>, H. Tabernero<sup>21</sup>, S. Udry<sup>7</sup>, and M. R. Zapatero Osorio<sup>21</sup>

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### FRIENDLY NEIGHBOUR PROXIMA

Sp. Type: M5.5V Eff. Temperature: 2900 K Mass: 0.12 M<sub>sun</sub> Radius: 0.15 R<sub>sun</sub> Age: 4.9 Gyr Visual magnitude: 11.1 Rotation ~83 days Cycle ~7 years Habitable zone 7 - 130 days



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# Almost best case scenario

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- ▶ Very low mass → Large planet/star ratio for all masses
- ▶ Very low mass → Undetectable oscillations/granulation
- Low-temperature  $\rightarrow$  Lots of lines
- Small radius  $\rightarrow$  Low projected rotation velocity
- ▹ Slow rotation → Narrow lines
- $^{>}$  Slow rotation (II) ightarrow Low amplitude activity signal
- ► Slow rotation (III) → Rotation signal at longer period than (part of the) Habitable zone
- Slow rotation (IV)  $\rightarrow$  Rotation signal easy to sample

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• Low amplitude cycle  $\rightarrow$  No need to model it

# ESPRESSO@VLT

# Installed at the VLT array (4x8.2 meter telescopes)

R ~140 000

Wavelength 390-780 nm

Ultra-stabilized

Simultaneous calibration (FP, Laser Comb)

Designed to obtain RV precisión of 10 cm/s



# REVISITING PROXIMA WITH ESPRESSO

#### Proxima b

- Period 11.186 d
- Semi-Amplitude 1.38 m/s
- Minimum mass 1.27 M
- Equilibrium temperatura 234 K

(Anglada Escudé et al. 2016, Suárez Mascareño et al. 2020)



# **ANOTHER PLANET?**

#### Candidate signal

- Period 5.1 d
- Semi-Amplitude 44 cm/s
- Minimum mass 0.3 M
- Equilibrium temperatura 500 K
- (Suárez Mascareño et al. 2020)



# THE HUNT FOR THE 5 DAYS PLANET

52 new observations

117 ESPRESSO obs (total)

99 individual nights

RMS RV 2.1 m/s

sigRV 17 cm/s

(Faria et al. 2022)



### **PRE-WHITENING**

11.19 d signal significant after subtracting activity

5.13 d signal significant after subtracting 11.19 d signal.

No significant signals in the residuals.



# STABLE WITH THE NUMBER OF MEASUREMENTS

Planetary signals are expected to be stable with time.

Activity signals are usually not stable with time.









### Radial velocities

The RV technique is fairly straightforward to understand, but complicated to execute (for low mass planets)

### Proxima

The closest star to the sun ticks almost all the boxes for an ideal RV target. Activity is very nicely reproduced via GPs using the FWHM of the CCF as activity proxy.

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SUMMARY

### Instrumentation

Obtaining precise RVs demands extreme instrumentation and exquisite knowledge of all their quirks and issues.

### **Stellar activity**

Many stellar effects create RV variations which could lead to false positive detections (when mistaken for planets) or prevent detections (by increasing noise levels)

### Proxima d

Proxima d is a sub-Earth planet orbiting at a distance of 0.029 AU with a minimum mass of 1/4 of the mass of the Earth.

### Contact

Email: <u>asm@iac.es</u>

Twitter: @AlexSM10000ft

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