

# A Spot of Trouble:

## Examining Stellar Activity of TOI-3884 and Its Impact on Its Super-Neptune Companion

Jessica Libby-Roberts

CEHW Postdoc Fellow (Penn State)

Know Thy Star 2

February 3, 2025

# A Spot of Trouble:

## Examining Stellar Activity of TOI-3884 and Its Impact on Its Super-Neptune Companion

Thanks to:

Leslie Hebb

Maria Schutte

Joe Ninan

Gudmundur Stefansson

Catriona Murray\*

And everyone else who  
contributed to these  
results

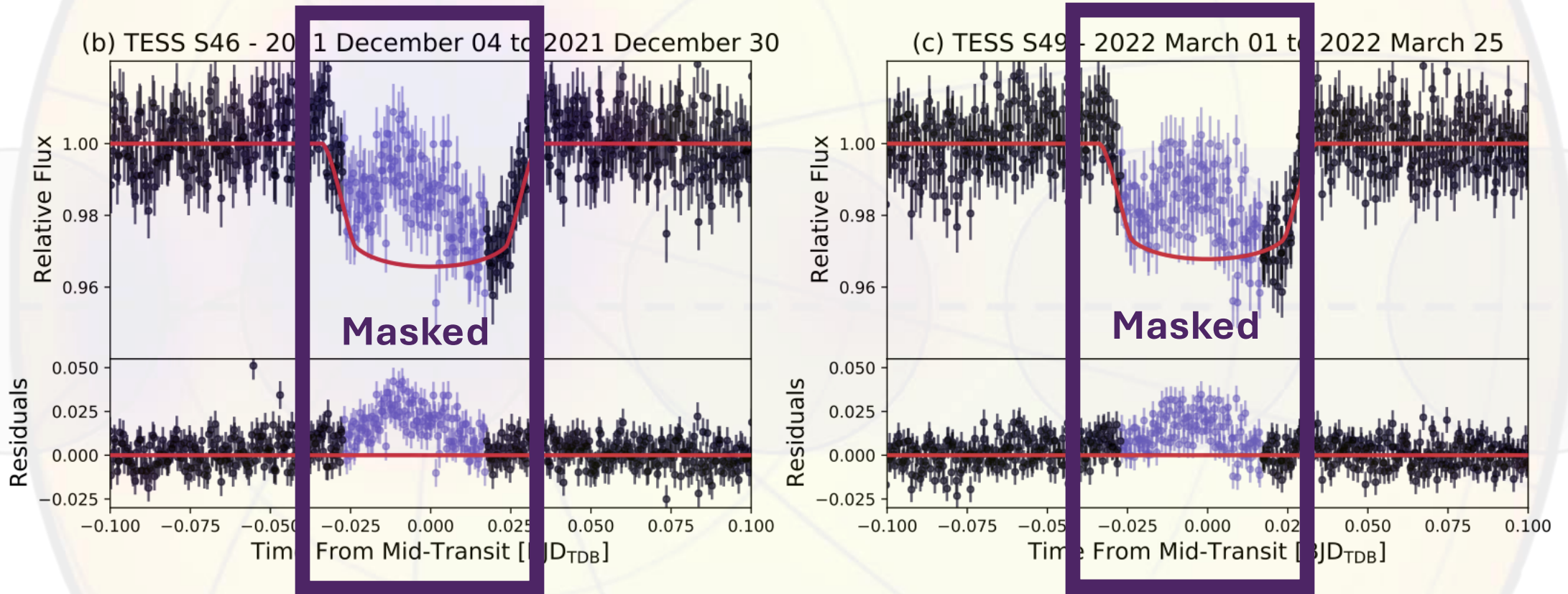
Jessica Libby-Roberts

CEHW Postdoc Fellow (Penn State)

Know Thy Star 2

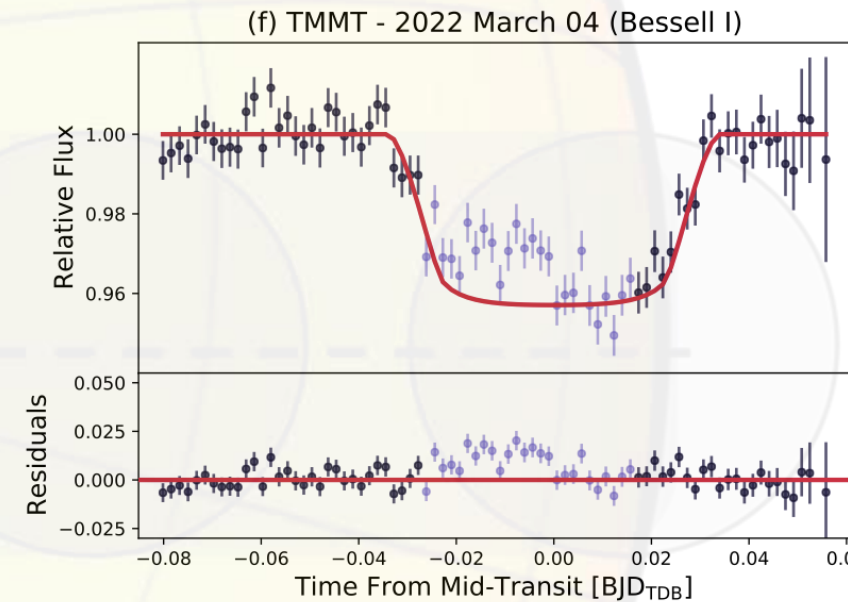
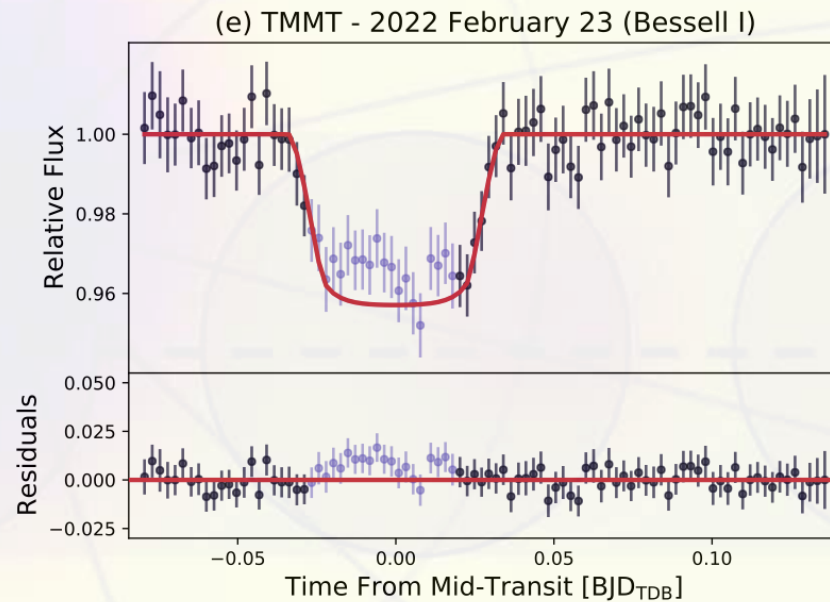
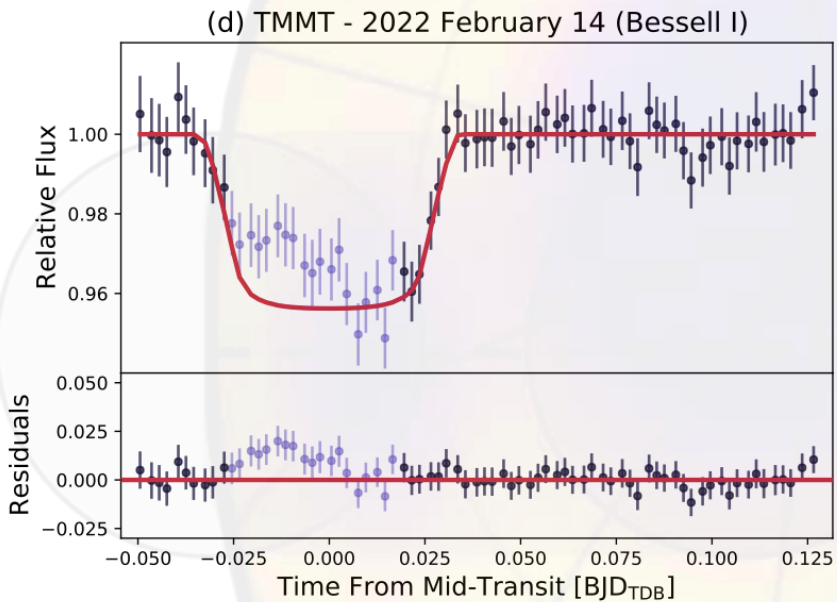
February 3, 2025

# Transit observations with **TESS** of TOI-3884b showed the same bump in **EVERY** transit



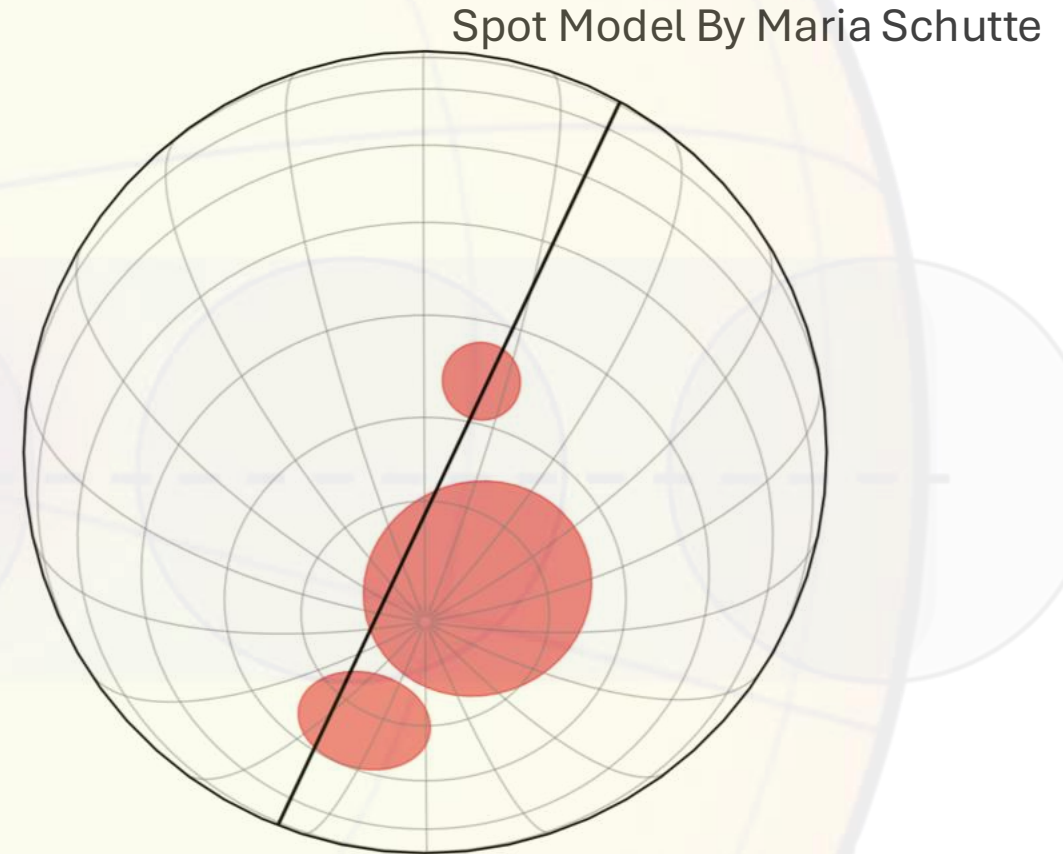
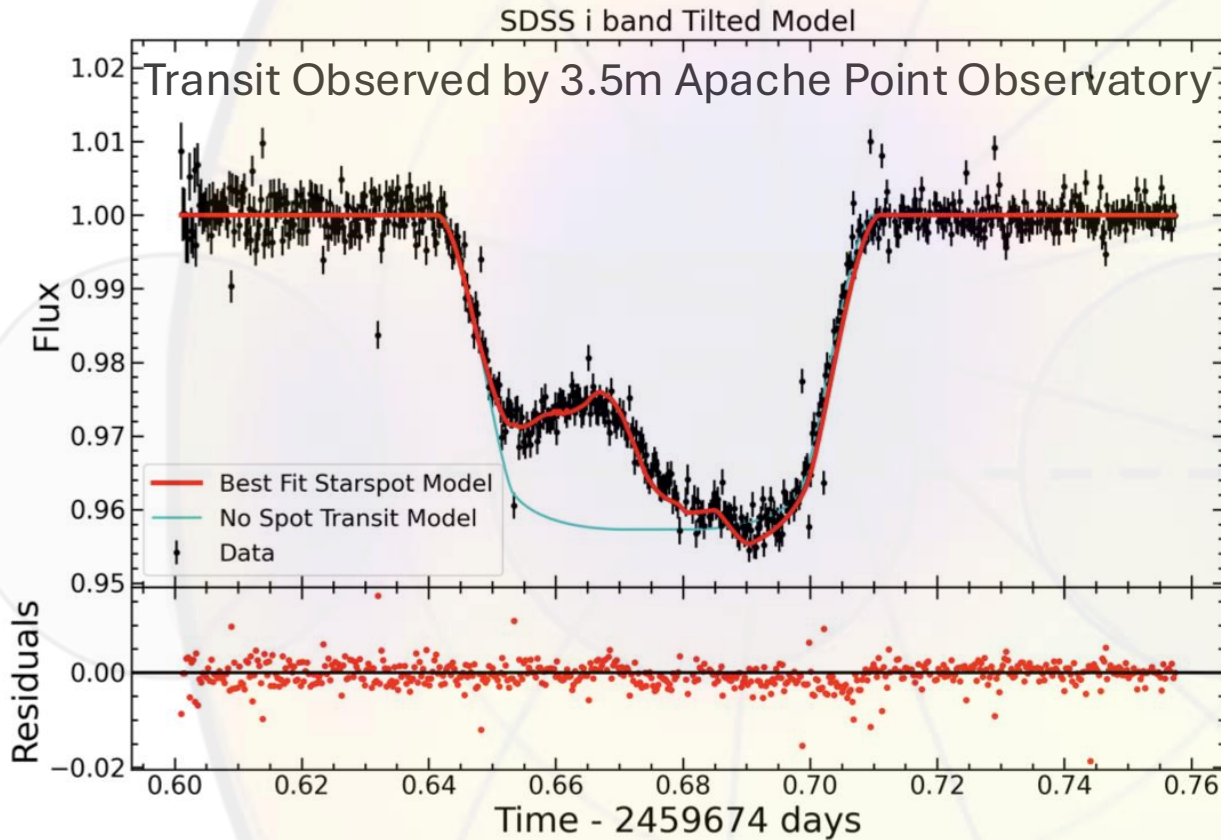
Libby-Roberts et al. (2023)

# Transit observations from the GROUND of TOI-3884b showed the same bump in EVERY transit



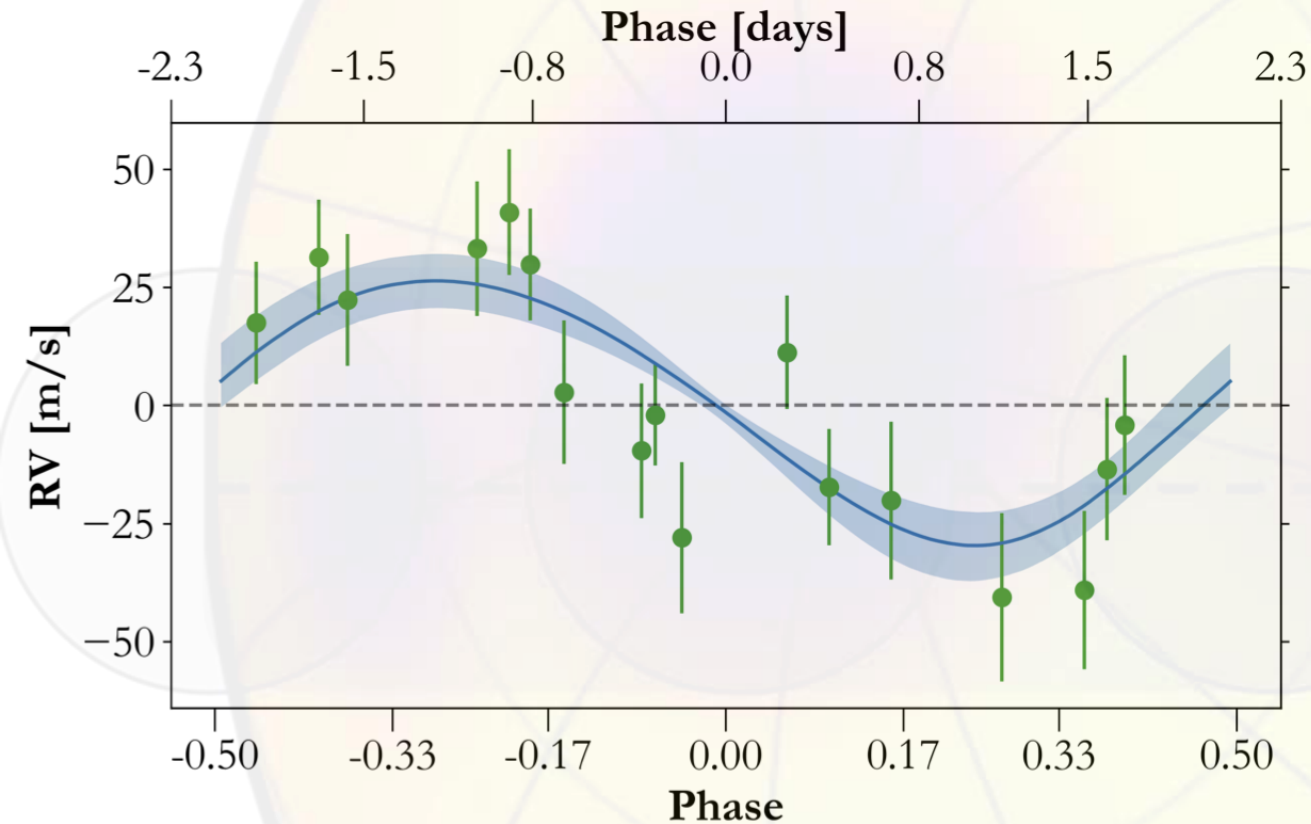
Libby-Roberts et al. (2023)

# TOI-3884b is a $6 R_{\oplus}$ planet on a polar orbit (4.5-day period) crossing the same pole spot



Libby-Roberts et al. (2023)

# We measured the mass ( $32 M_{\oplus}$ ) with radial velocities from the Habitable-zone Planet Finder



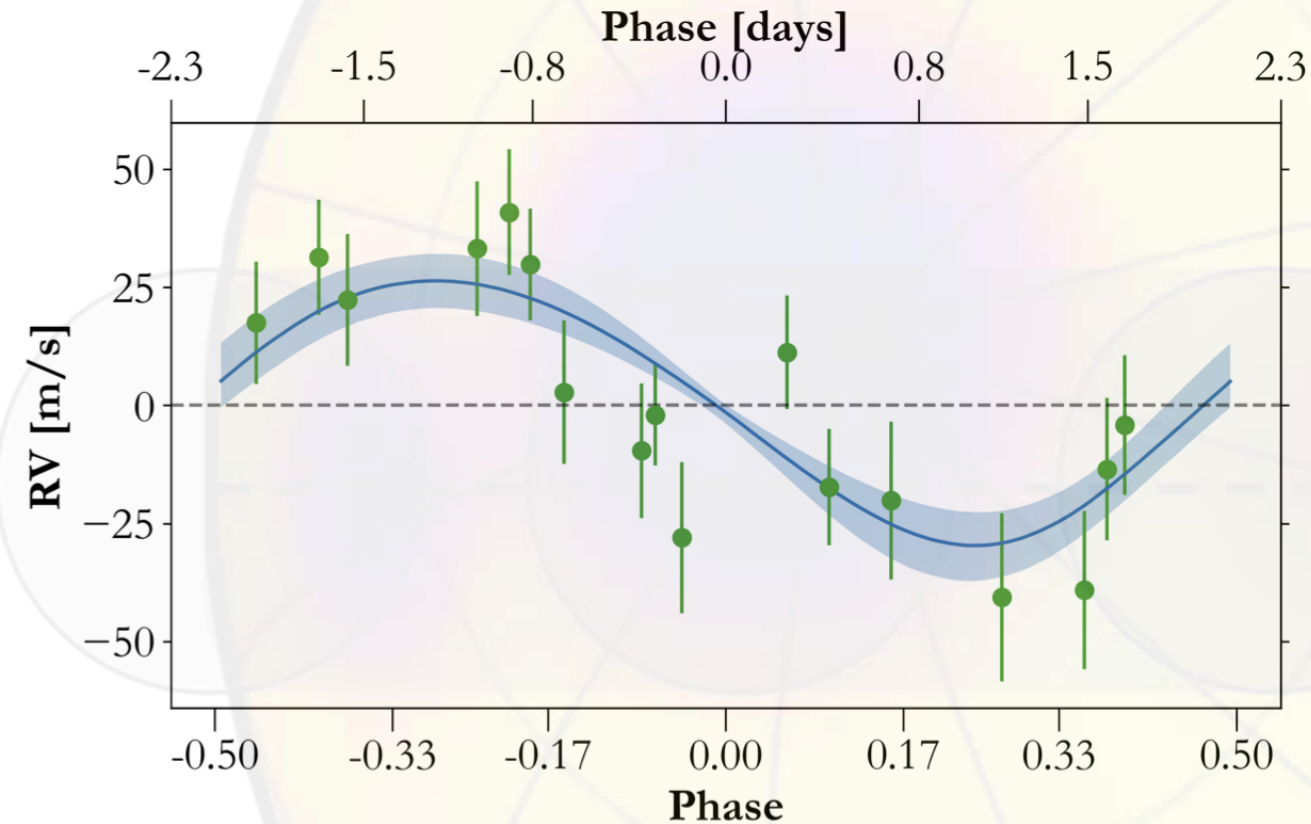
## Derived Stellar Parameters:

**Effective Temperature:  $3200 \pm 100$  K**

**$V \sin(i)$ :  $3.59 \pm 0.92$  km/s**

Libby-Roberts et al. (2023)

# We measured the mass ( $32 M_{\oplus}$ ) with radial velocities from the Habitable-zone Planet Finder



## Derived Stellar Parameters:

**Effective Temperature:  $3200 \pm 100$  K**

**$V \sin(i)$ :  $3.59 \pm 0.92$  km/s**

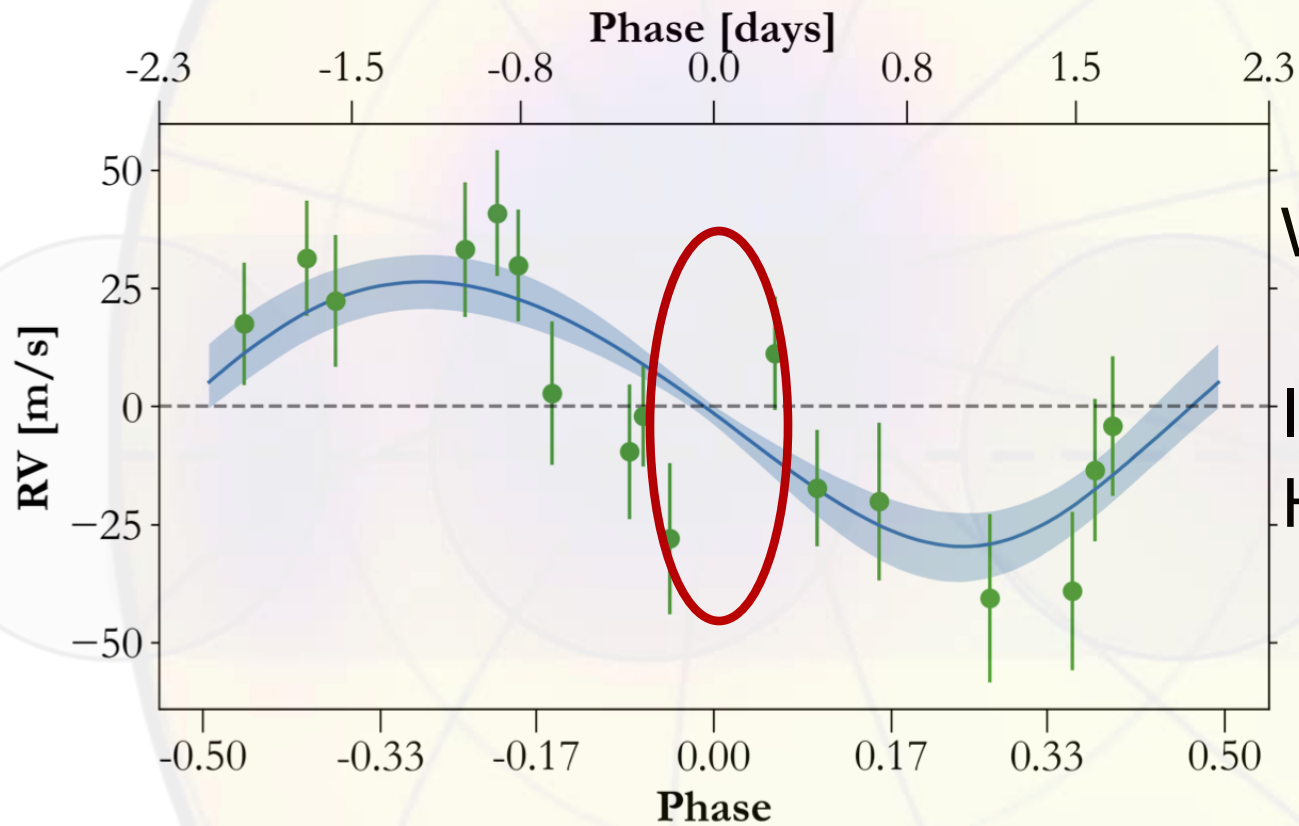
**Stellar Mass:  $0.30 \pm 0.02 M_{\odot}$**

**Stellar Radius:  $0.30 \pm 0.01 R_{\odot}$**

**Age:  $< 1$  Gyr**

Libby-Roberts et al. (2023)

# We measured the mass ( $32 M_{\oplus}$ ) with radial velocities from the Habitable-zone Planet Finder



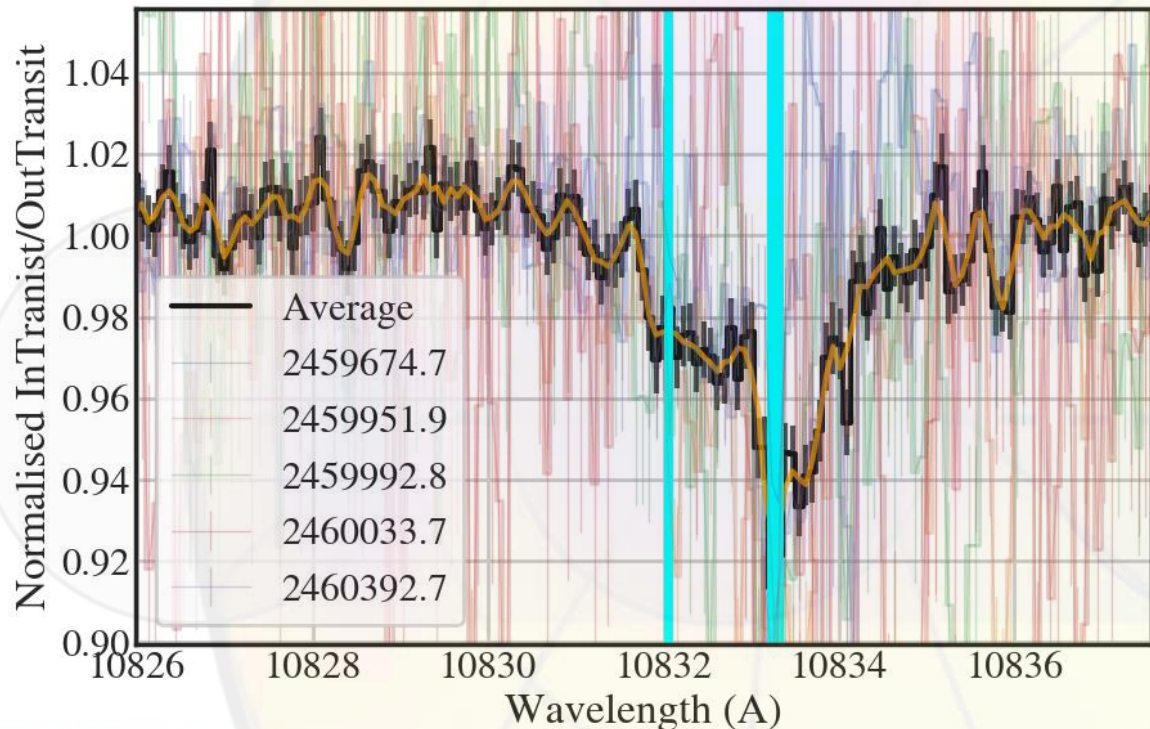
Wavelength Coverage: 810 – 1280nm

Including the 1083nm metastable Helium Triplet

Libby-Roberts et al. (2023)



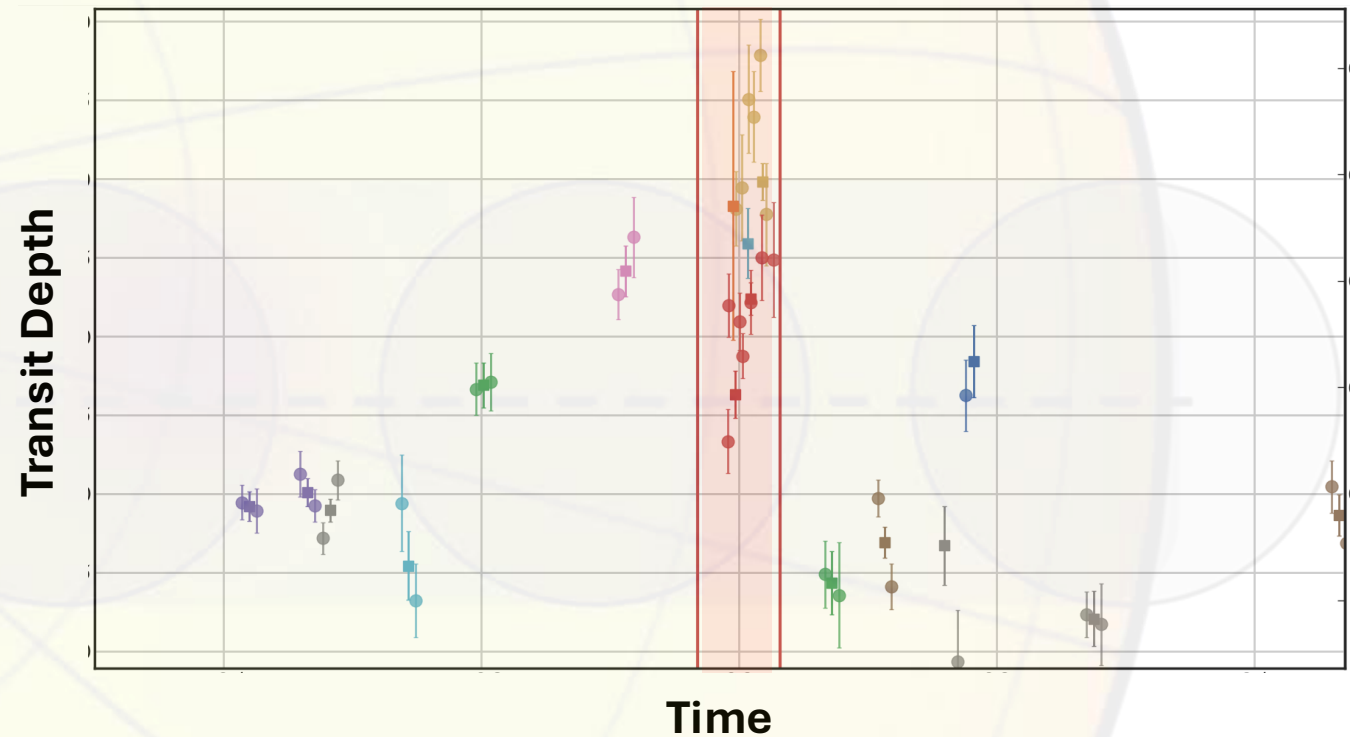
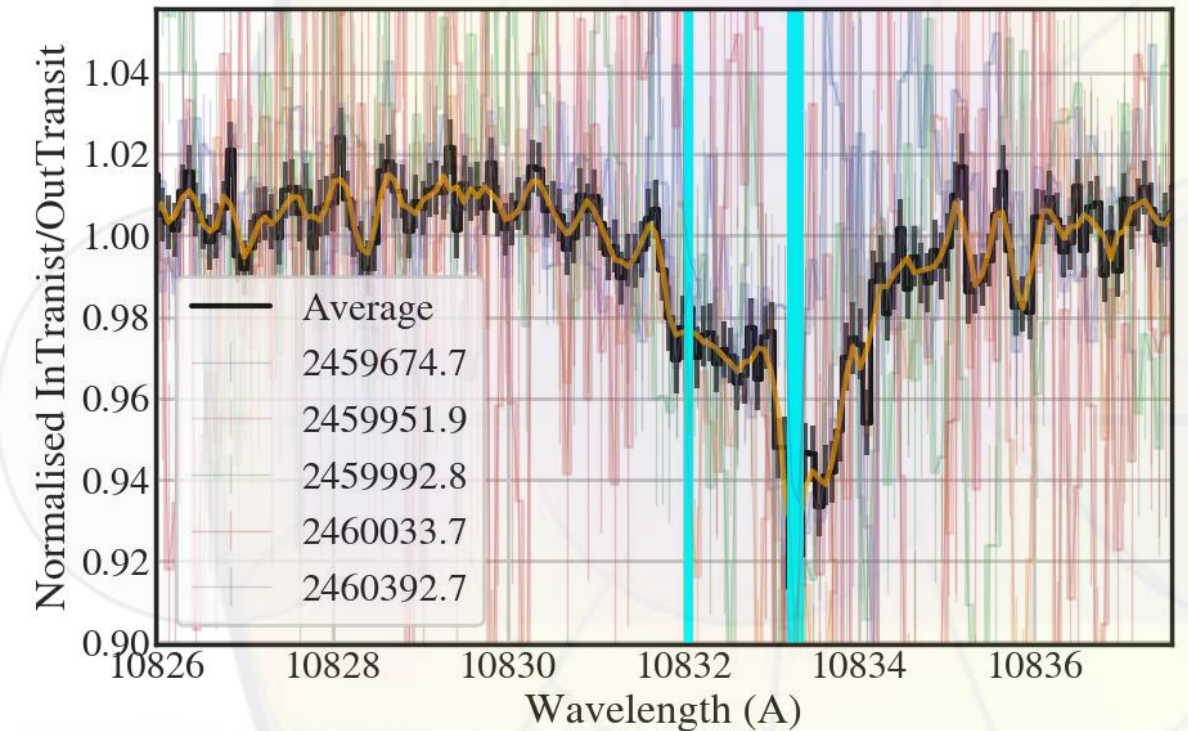
# We observed a clear helium absorption feature during transit across multiple transits



Helium analysis by Joe Ninan

Ninan, Libby-Roberts et al. (In Prep)

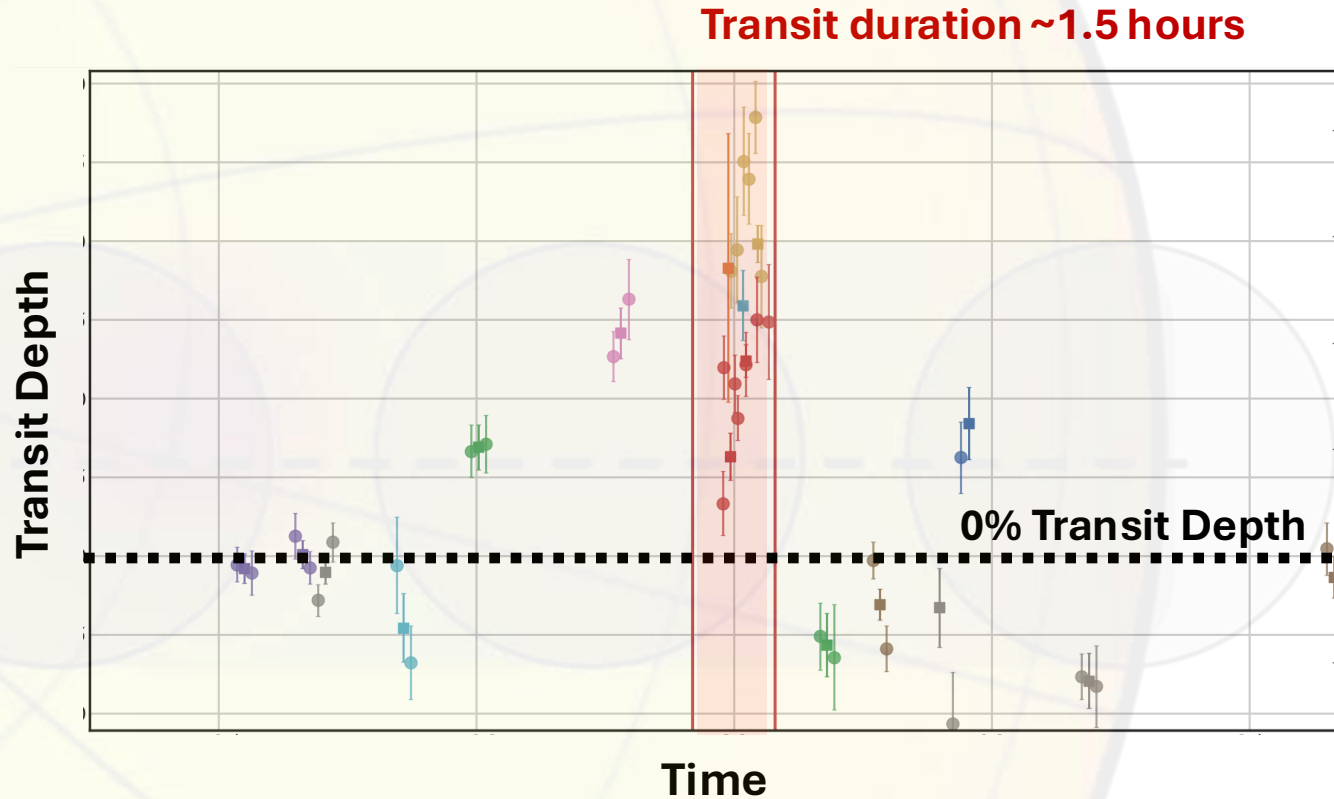
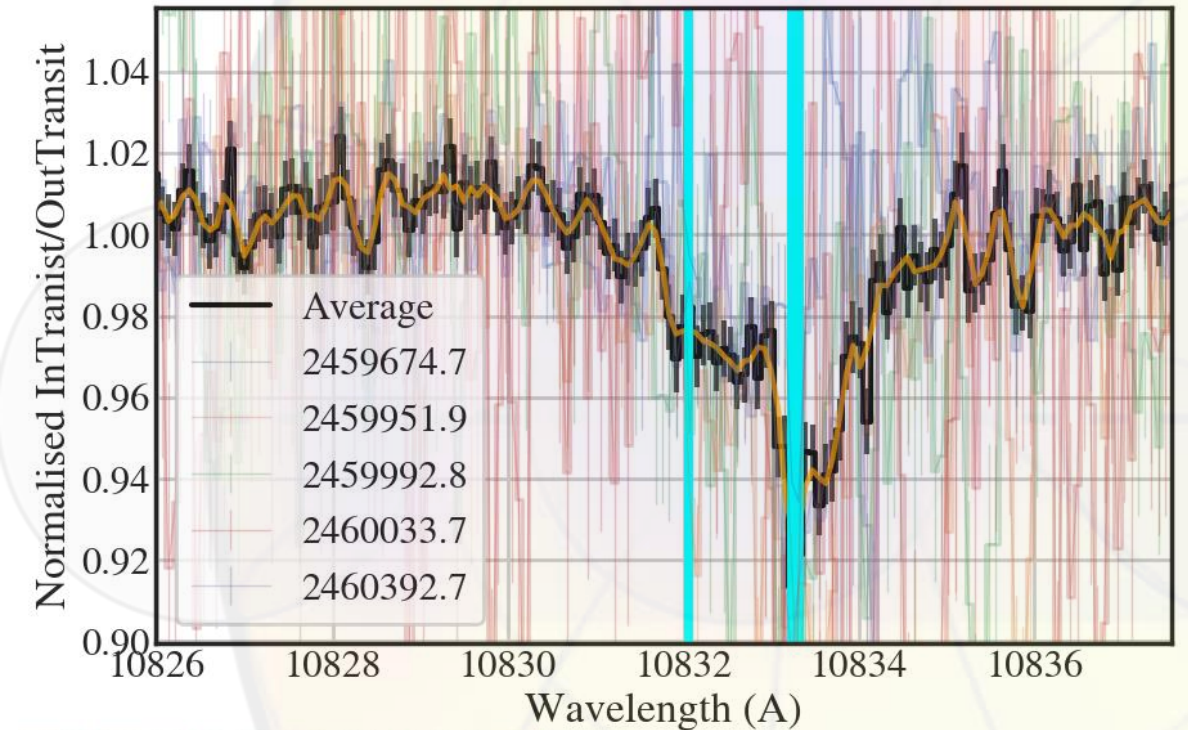
# Follow-up with out-of-transit HPF observations show a 5-hour pre-transit helium tail



Helium analysis by Joe Ninan

Ninan, Libby-Roberts et al. (In Prep)

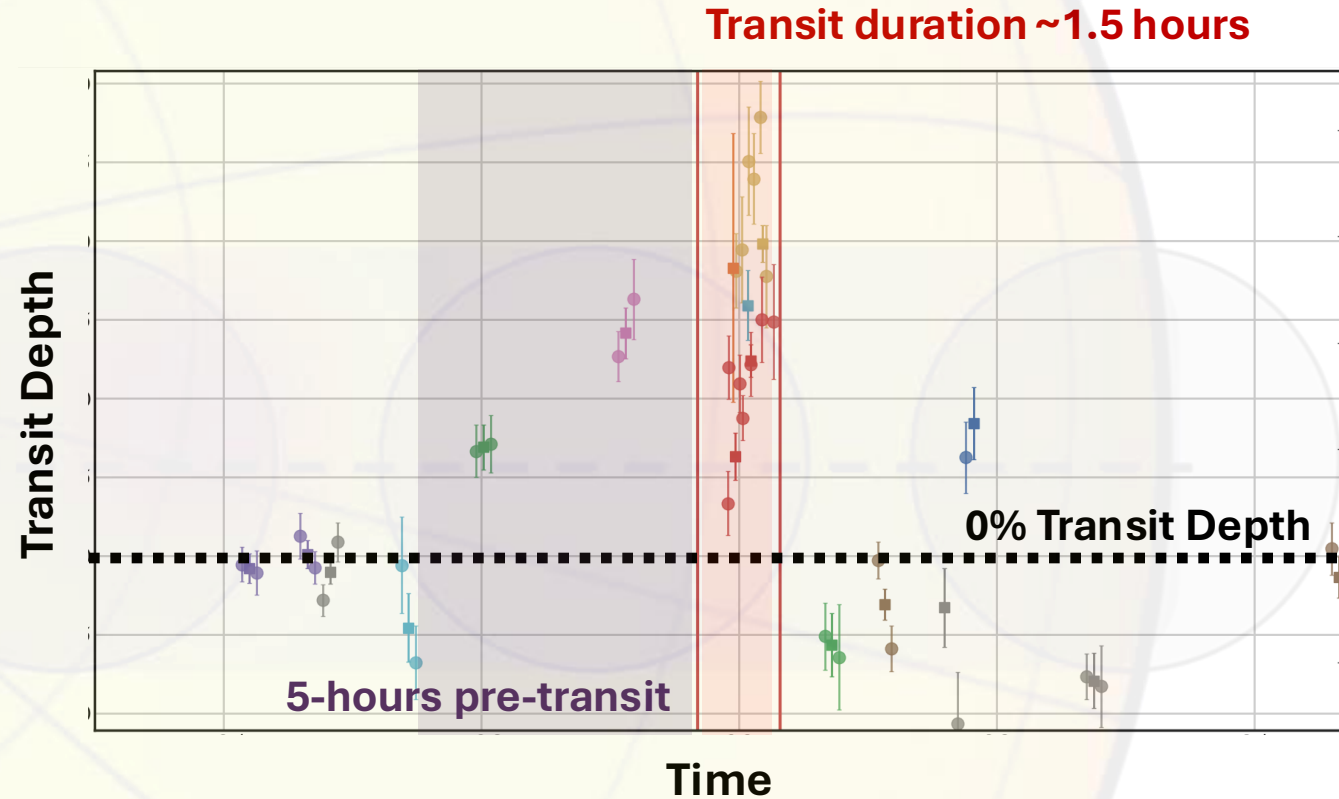
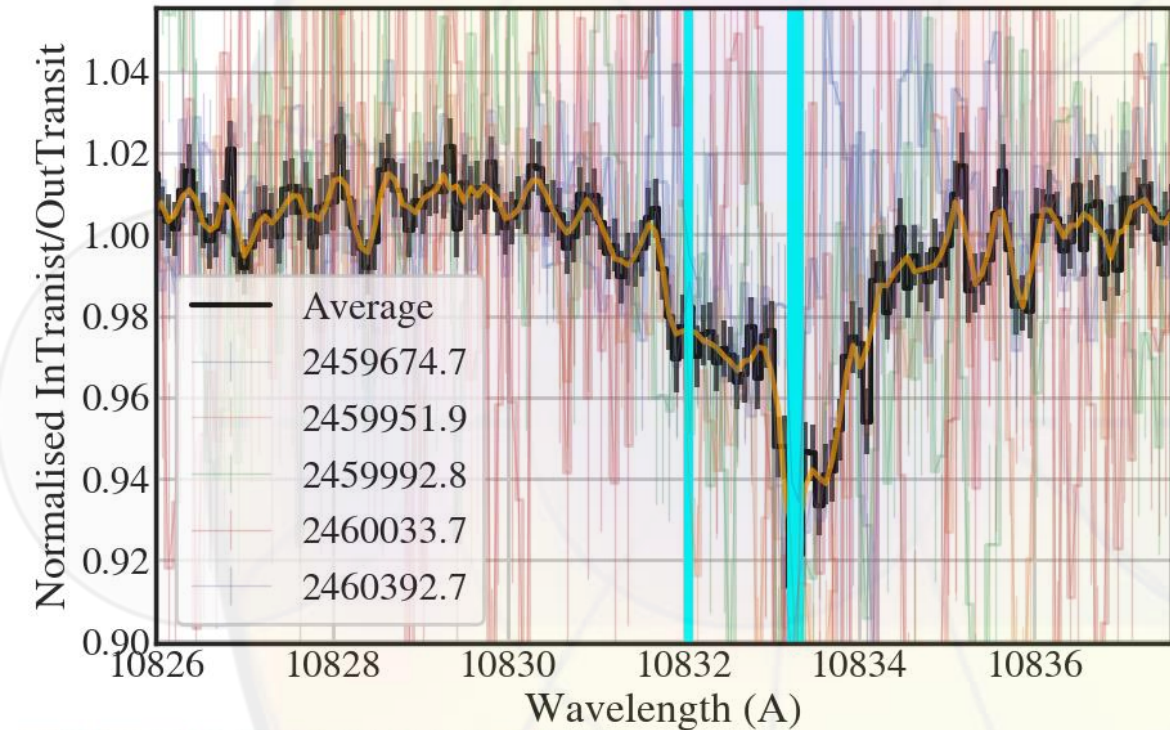
# Follow-up with out-of-transit HPF observations show a 5-hour pre-transit helium tail



Helium analysis by Joe Ninan

Ninan, Libby-Roberts et al. (In Prep)

# Follow-up with out-of-transit HPF observations show a 5-hour pre-transit helium tail



Helium analysis by Joe Ninan

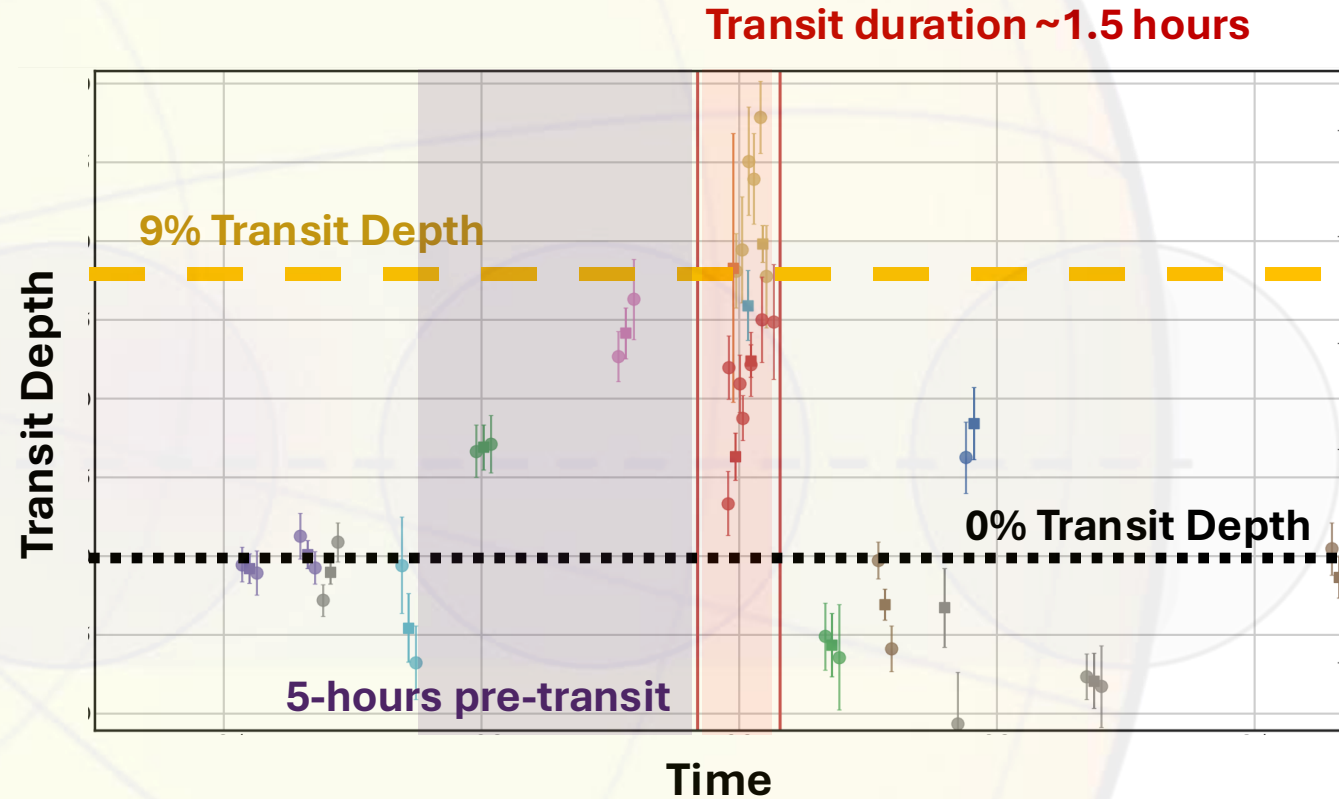
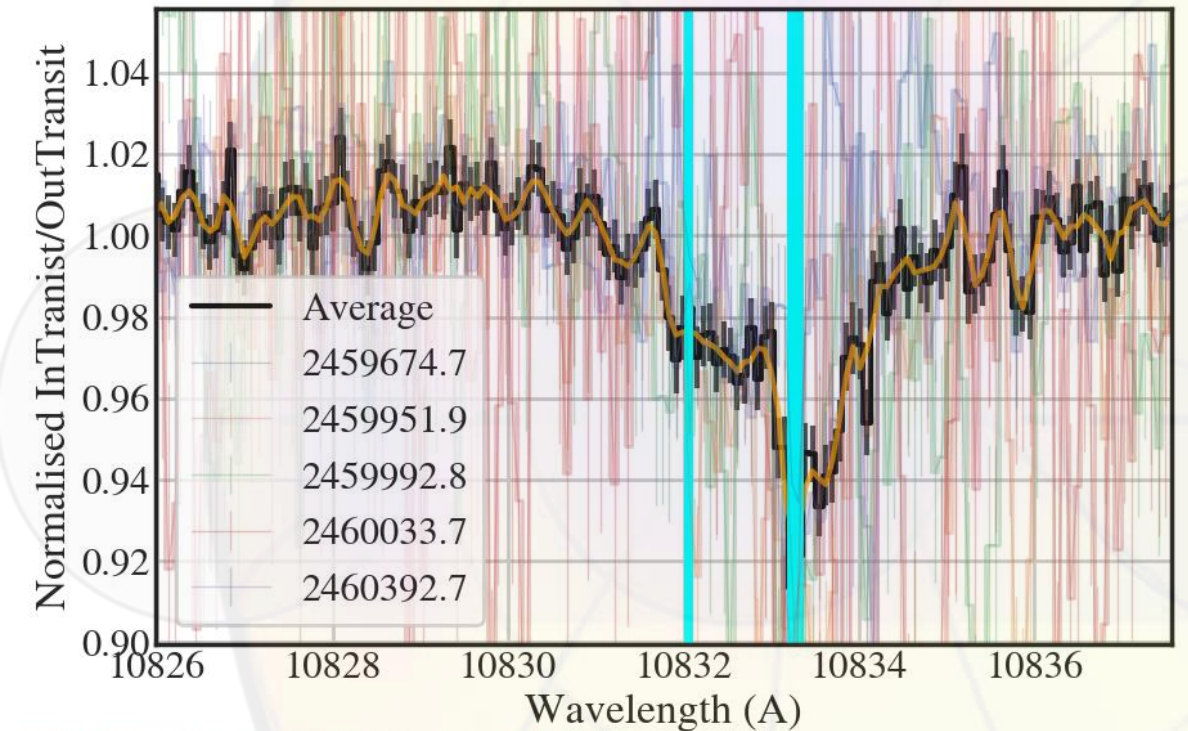
Ninan, Libby-Roberts et al. (In Prep)

Jessica Libby-Roberts

jer5346@psu.edu

Know Thy Star 2

# Follow-up with out-of-transit HPF observations show a 5-hour pre-transit helium tail



Helium analysis by Joe Ninan

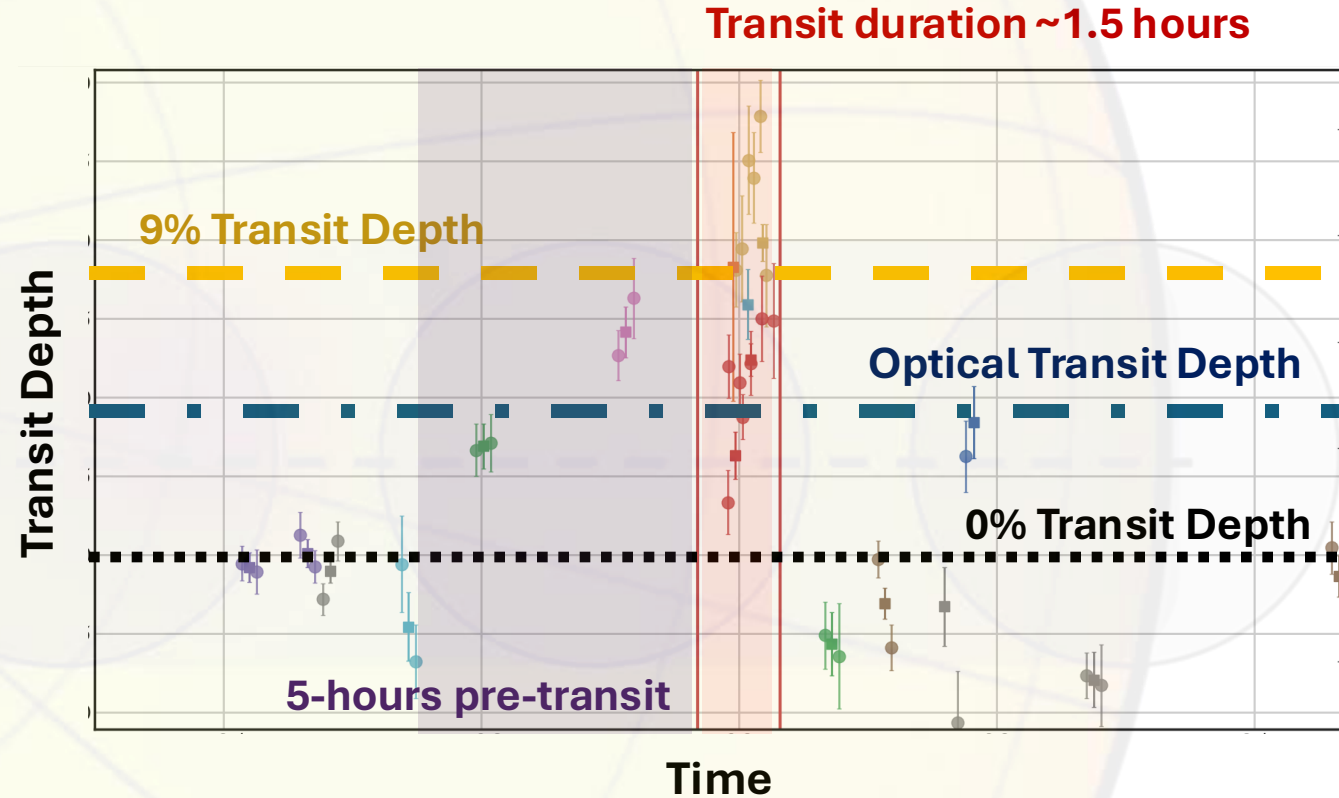
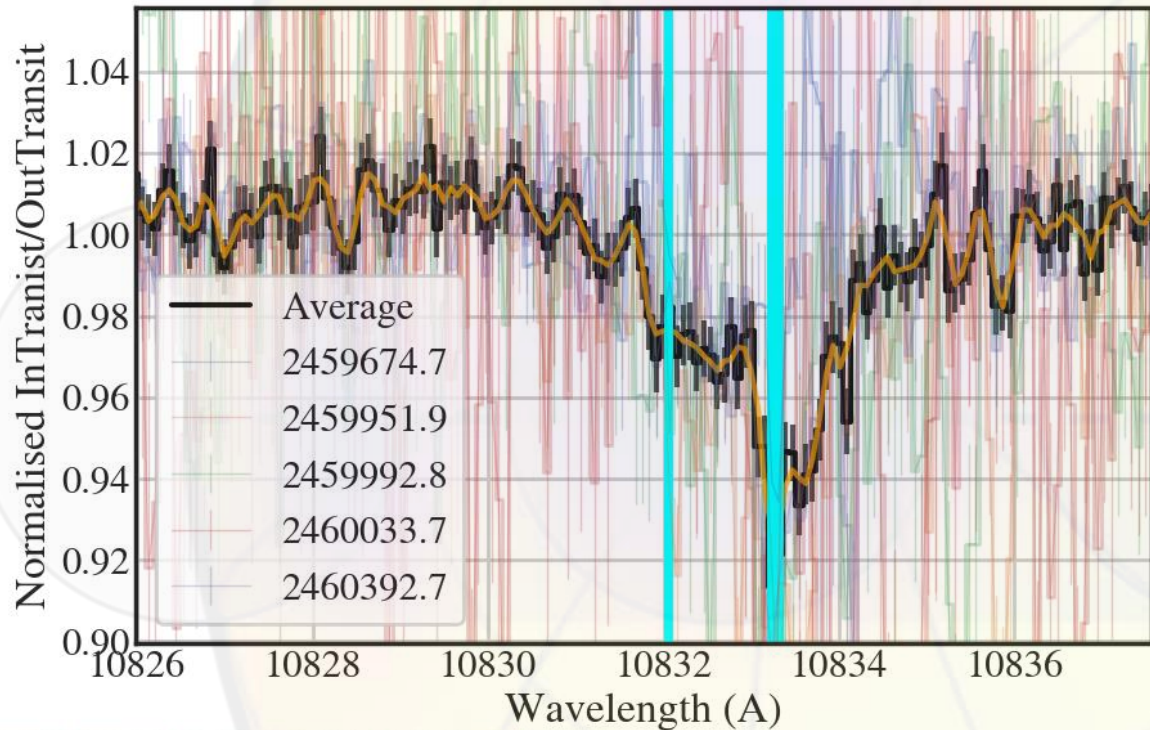
Ninan, Libby-Roberts et al. (In Prep)

Jessica Libby-Roberts

jer5346@psu.edu

Know Thy Star 2

# Follow-up with out-of-transit HPF observations show a 5-hour pre-transit helium tail



Helium analysis by Joe Ninan

Ninan, Libby-Roberts et al. (In Prep)

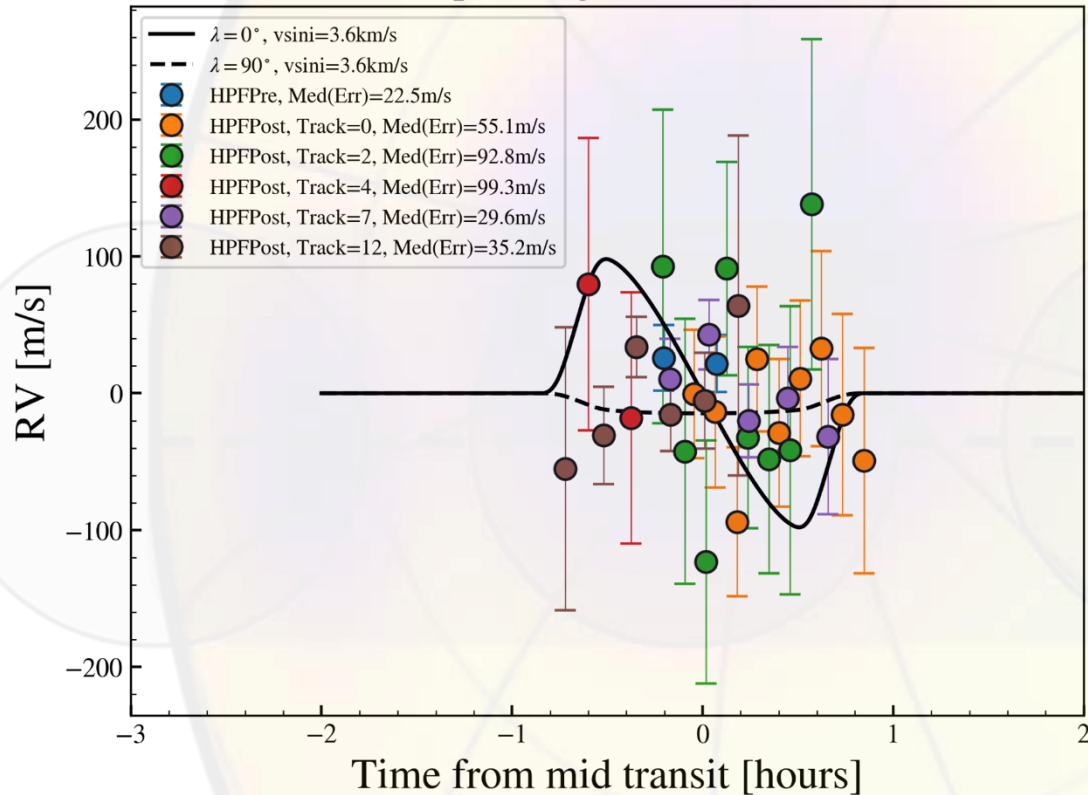
Jessica Libby-Roberts

jer5346@psu.edu

Know Thy Star 2

# High-resolution observations with HPF also provide a tentative RM signal

TOI-3884b: no attempt to adjust RV offsets between transits

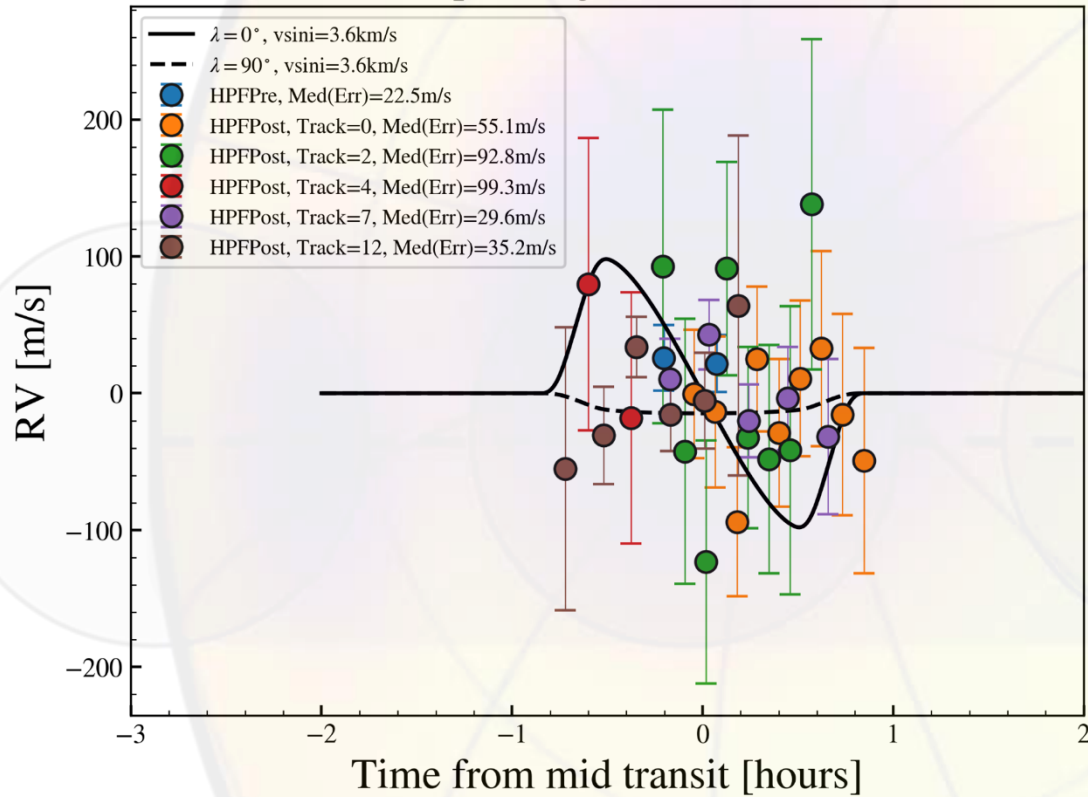


RM analysis by Gudmundur Stefansson

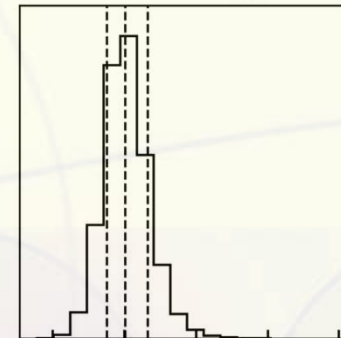
Ninan, Libby-Roberts et al. (In Prep)

# High-resolution observations with HPF also provide a tentative RM signal

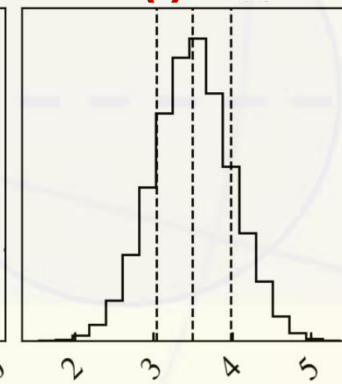
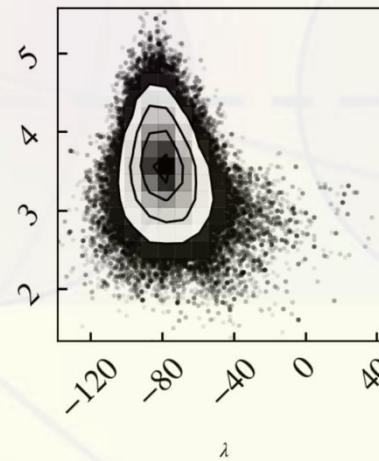
TOI-3884b: no attempt to adjust RV offsets between transits



$\tilde{\lambda} = -80 \pm 12$



$V \sin(i) = 3.5 \pm 0.5 \text{ km/s}$



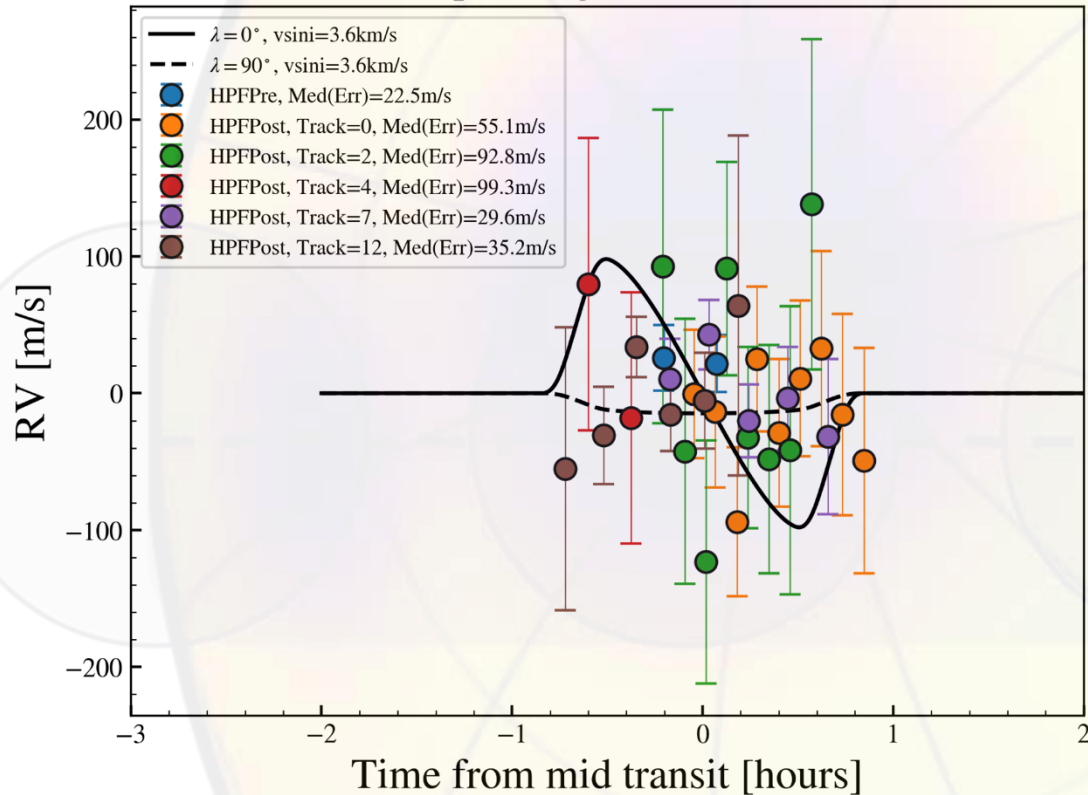
RM analysis by Gudmundur Stefansson

Ninan, Libby-Roberts et al. (In Prep)



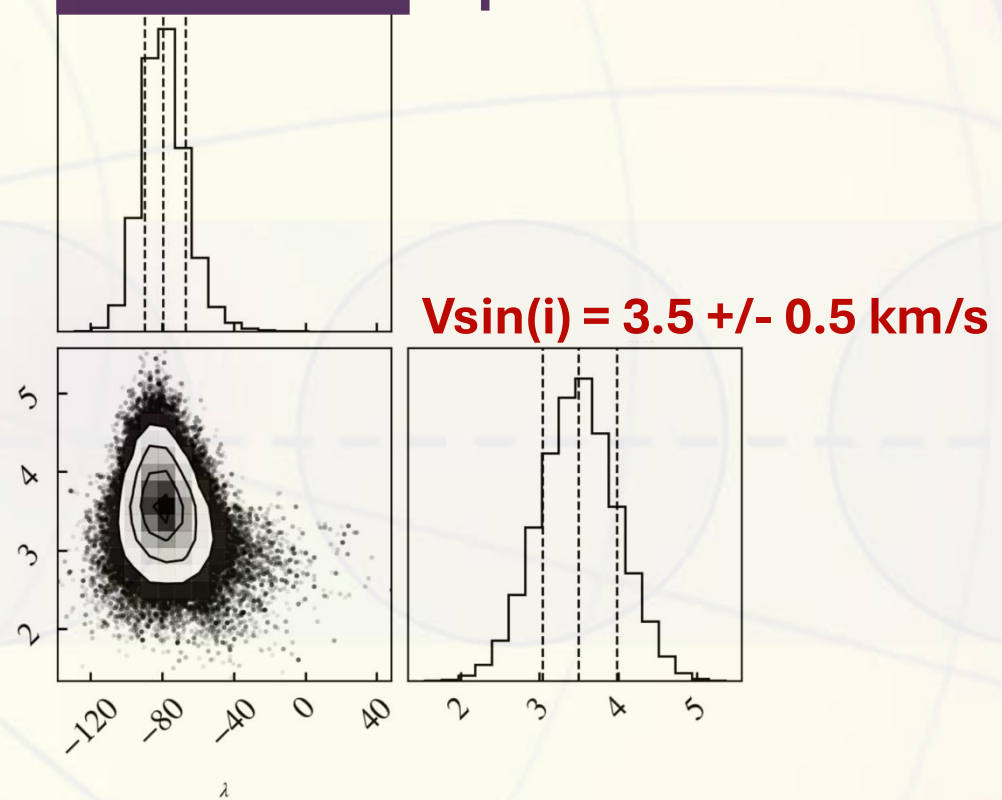
# High-resolution observations with HPF also provide a tentative RM signal

TOI-3884b: no attempt to adjust RV offsets between transits



$\tilde{\lambda} = -80 \pm 12$

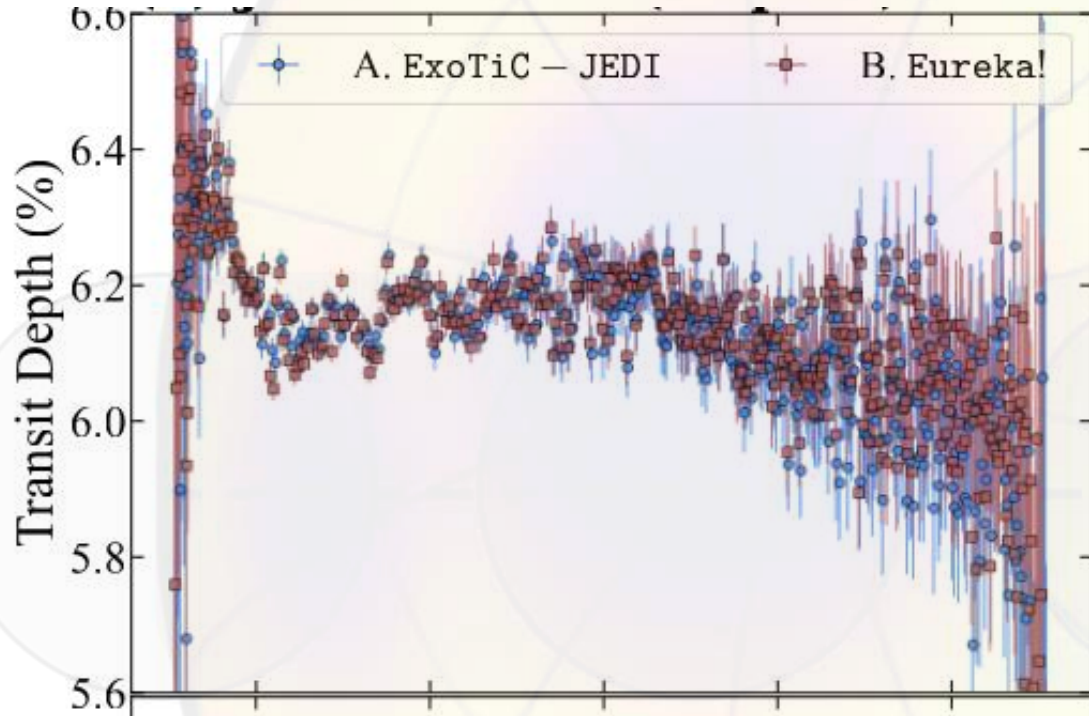
Spot Model:  $\tilde{\lambda} = -75 \pm 10$



RM analysis by Gudmundur Stefansson

Ninan, Libby-Roberts et al. (In Prep)

# Know Thy Star -> Know Thy Planet



**From JWST Observations of a Similar M4-Dwarf Star:**

**Avg Photosphere Temp: 3640 +/- 30 K**

**Avg Spot Temp: 3150 +/- 50 K**

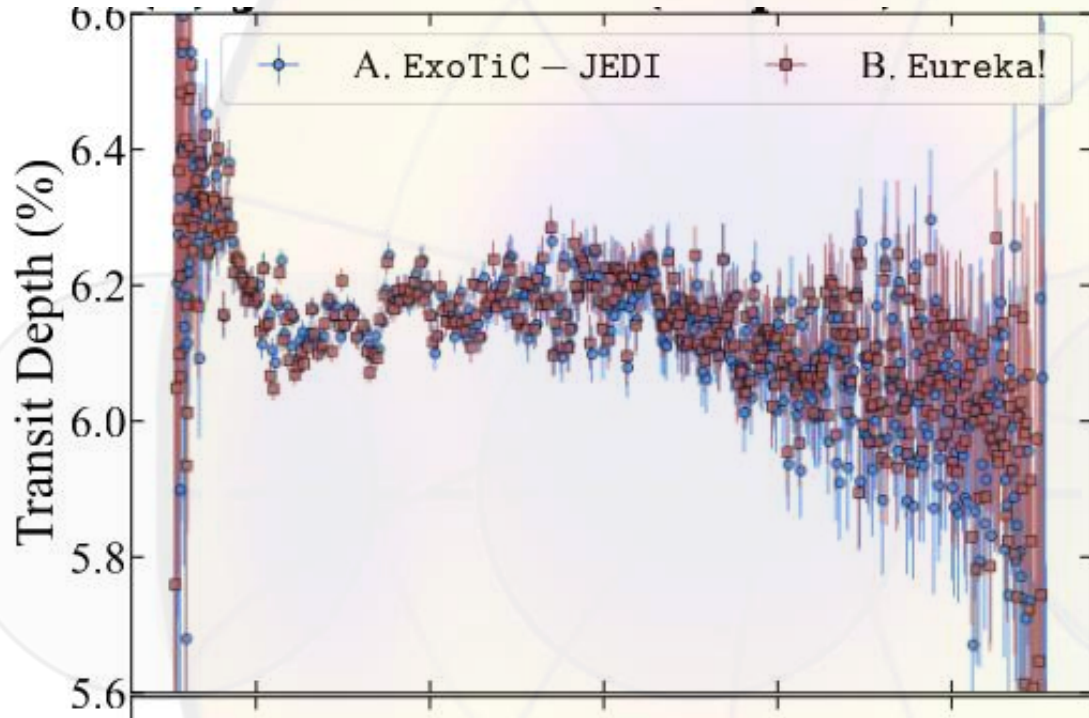
**Avg Faculae Temp: 4260 +/- 130 K**

**Spot Coverage Fraction: 13 +/- 2%**

**Faculae Coverage Fraction: 1.5 +/- 0.5%**

Canas et al. (In Prep)

# Know Thy Star -> Know Thy Planet



From JWST Observations of a Similar M4-Dwarf Star:

**Avg Photosphere Temp: 3640 +/- 30 K**

**Avg Spot Temp: 3150 +/- 50 K**

Avg Faculae Temp: 4260 +/- 130 K

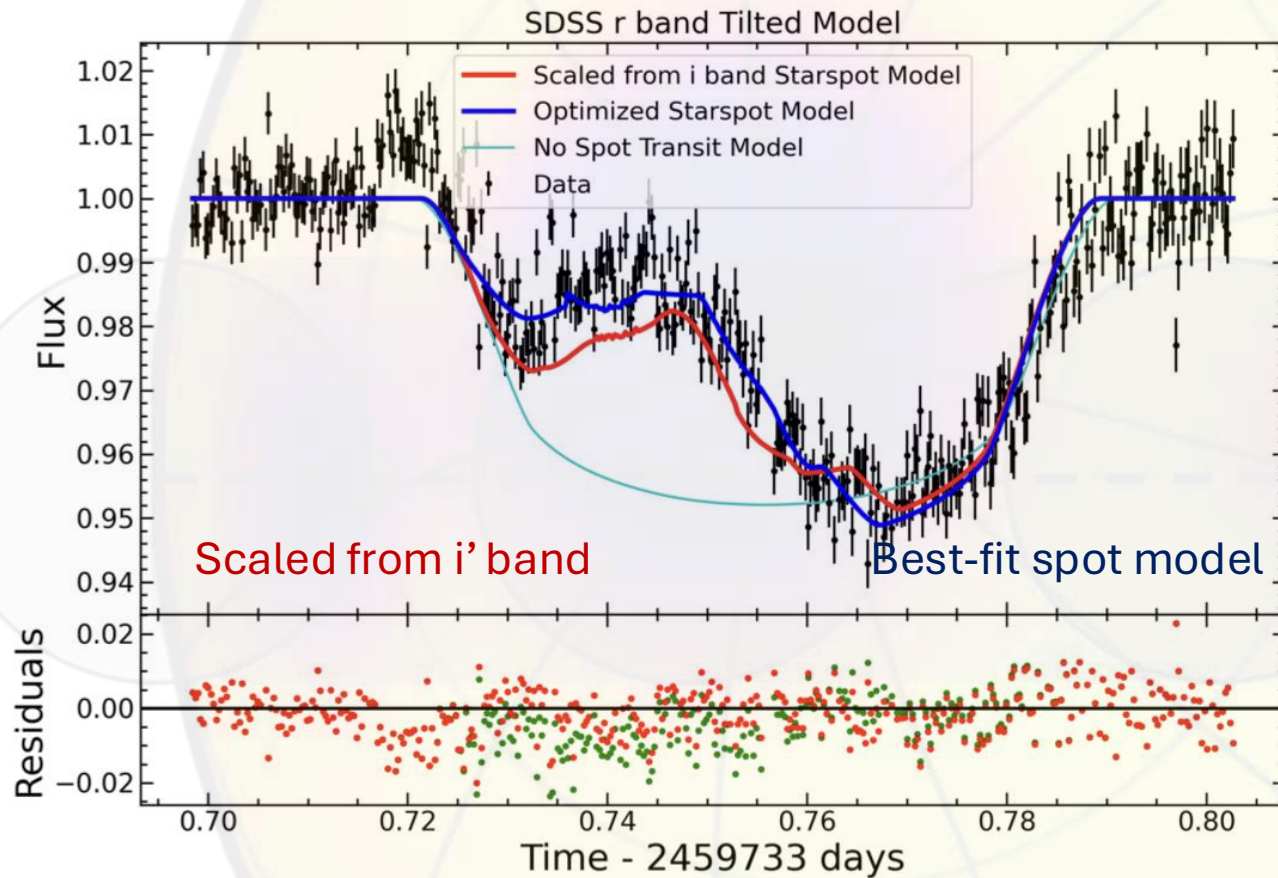
**Spot Coverage Fraction: 13 +/- 2%**

Faculae Coverage Fraction: 1.5 +/- 0.5%

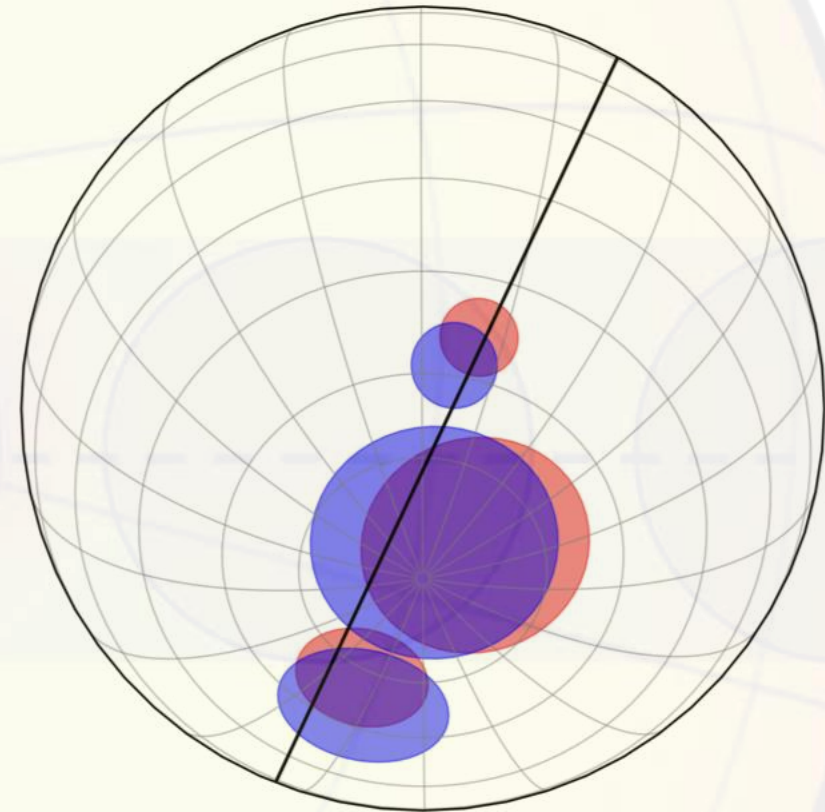
**Reported spectroscopic derived effective temperature: 3430 +/- 50 K**

Canas et al. (In Prep)

# Broadband spot observations of TOI-3884b in different bandpasses show discrepancies

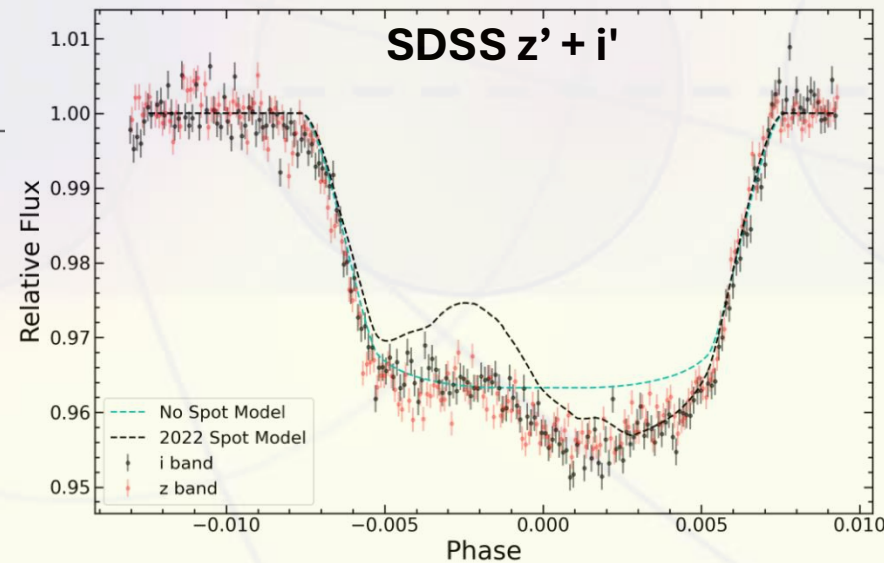
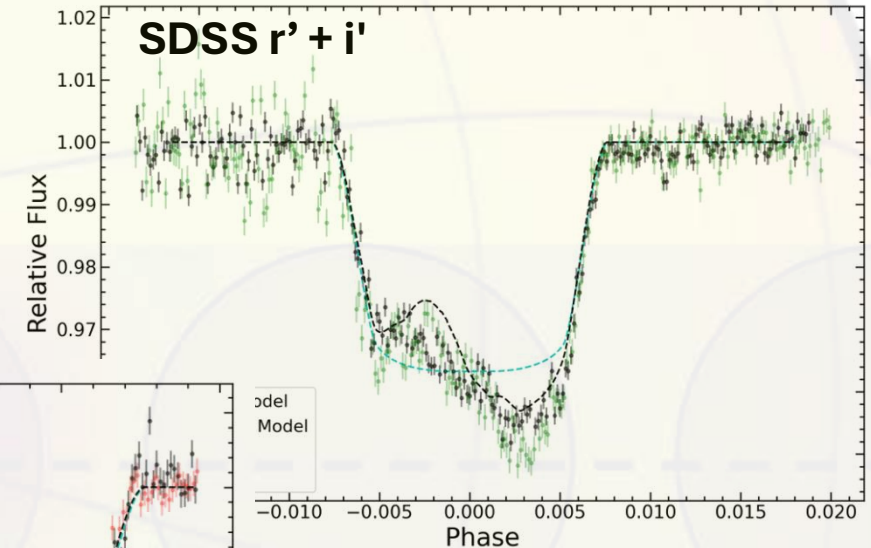
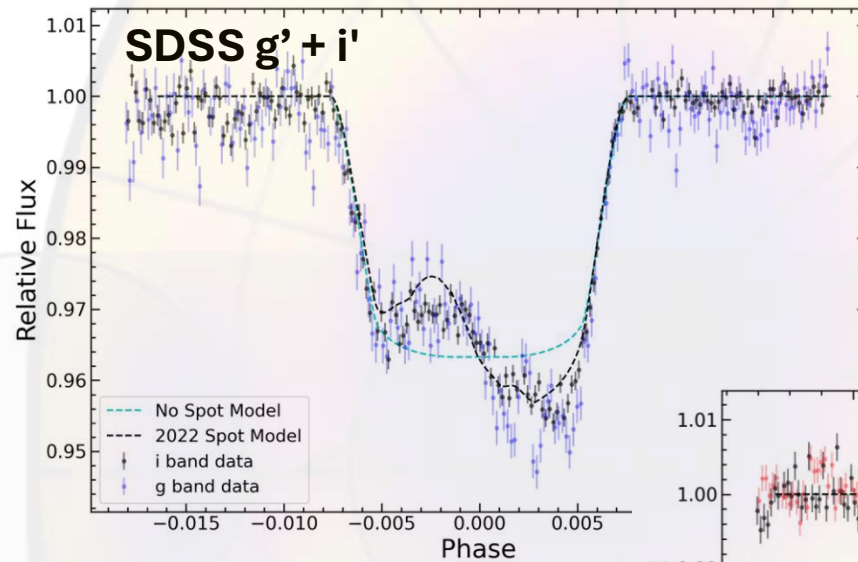


Spot Model By Maria Schutte



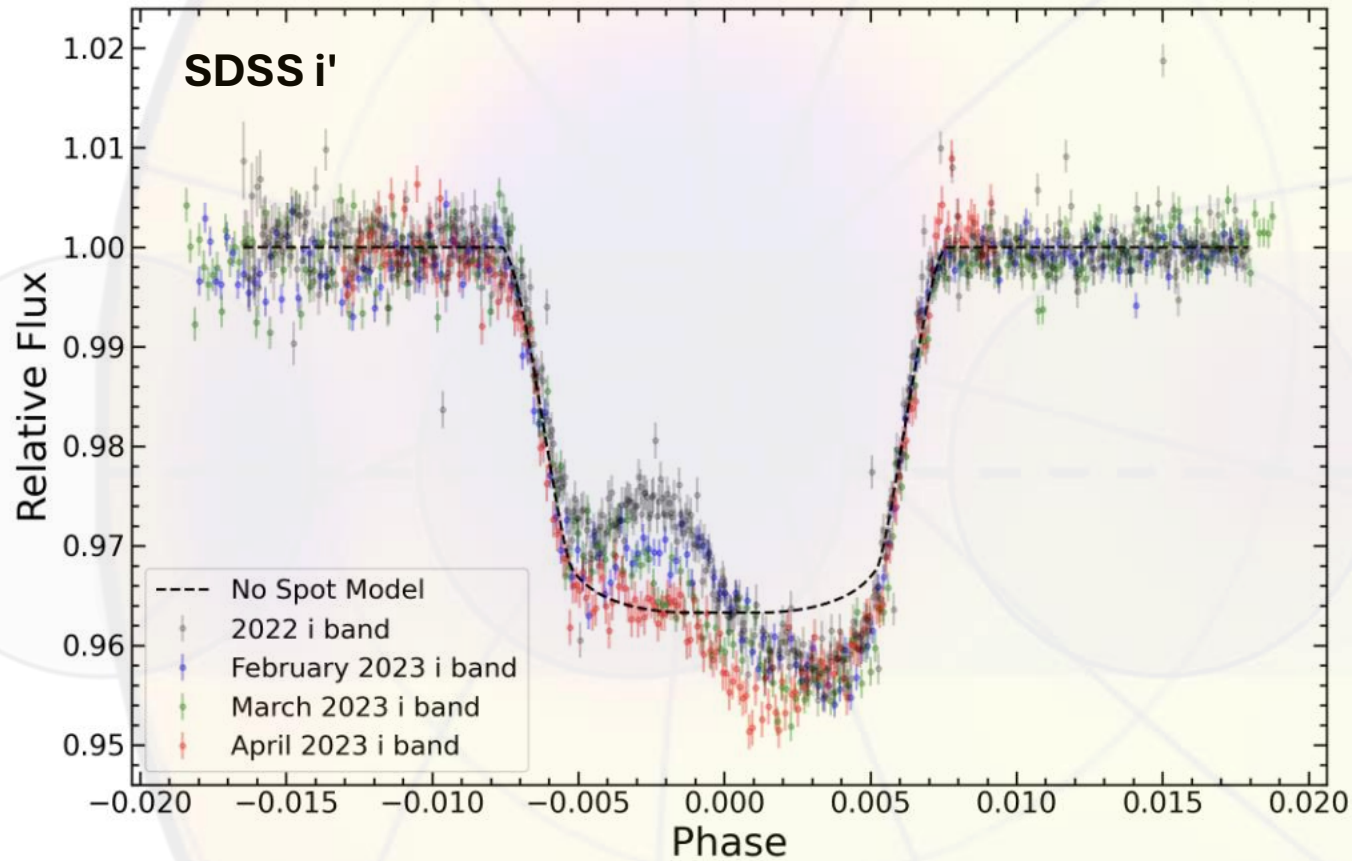
Libby-Roberts et al. (2023)

# Follow-up with Apache Point using “filter-swapping” lead to a variety of transit shapes



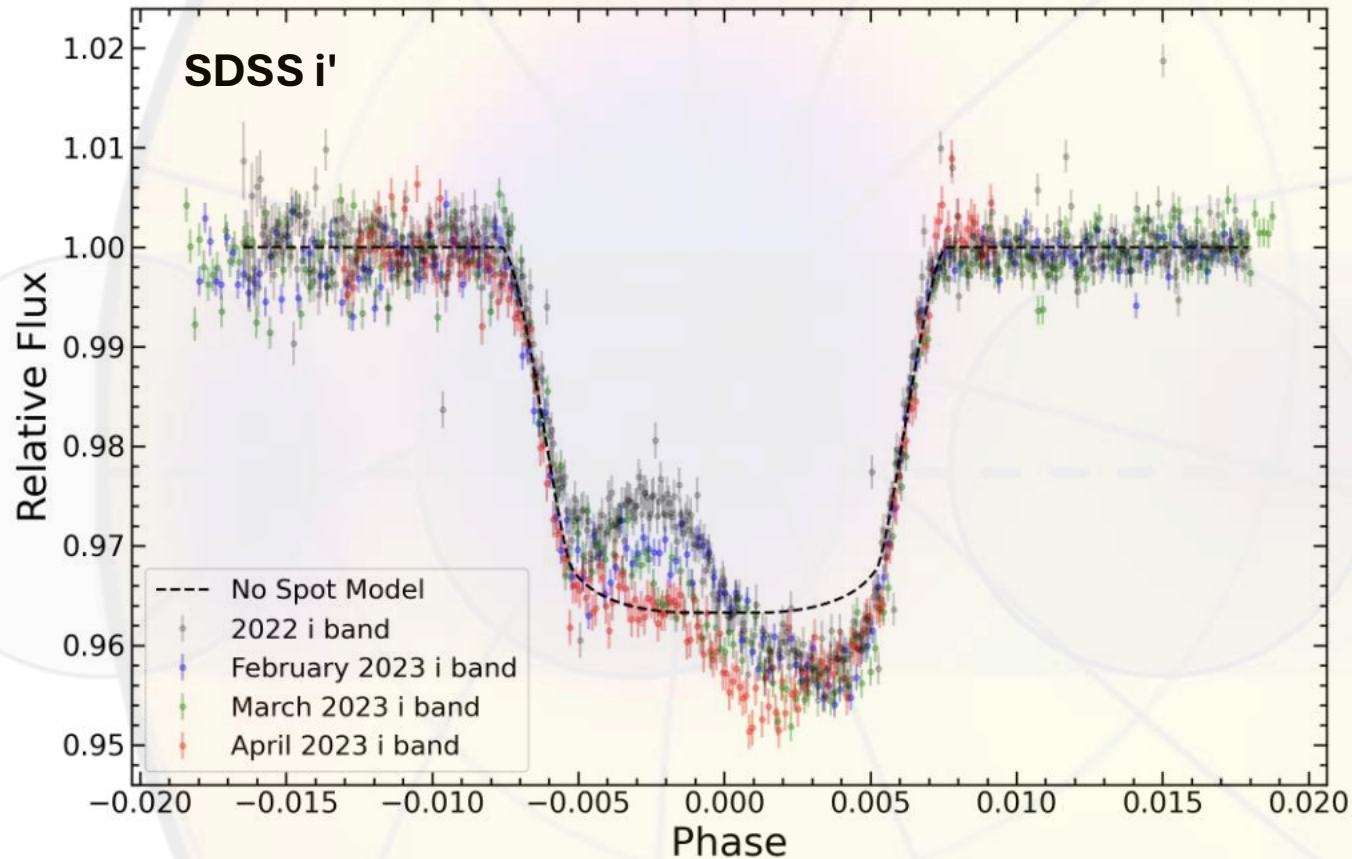
Hebb, Libby-Roberts et al. (In Prep)

A comparison of the transit in the same bandpass shows clear spot evolution on timescales  $< 1$  month



Hebb, Libby-Roberts et al. (In Prep)

A comparison of the transit in the same bandpass shows clear spot evolution on timescales  $< 1$  month



**Each transit needs to be considered separately!**

Hebb, Libby-Roberts et al. (In Prep)

# Still leaves us with the challenge of retrieving stellar properties – JWST (please do not share)!

**2 Transits with NIRISS**

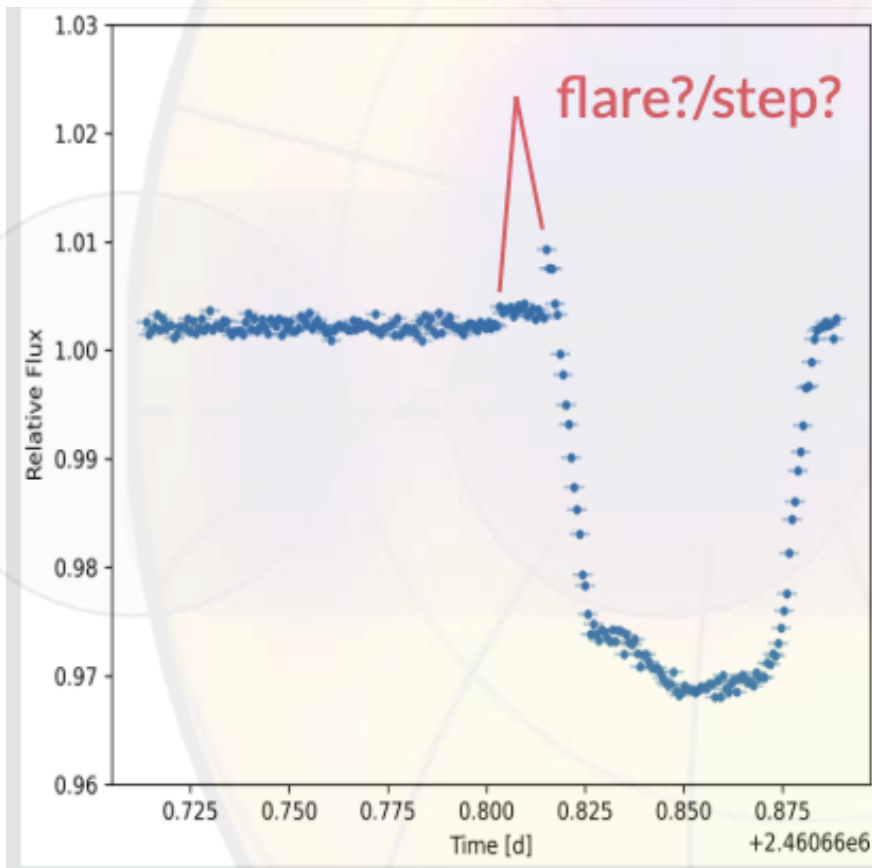
**2 Transits with NIRSpec-G395M**

PI: Catriona Murray – Murray et al. (in Prep)

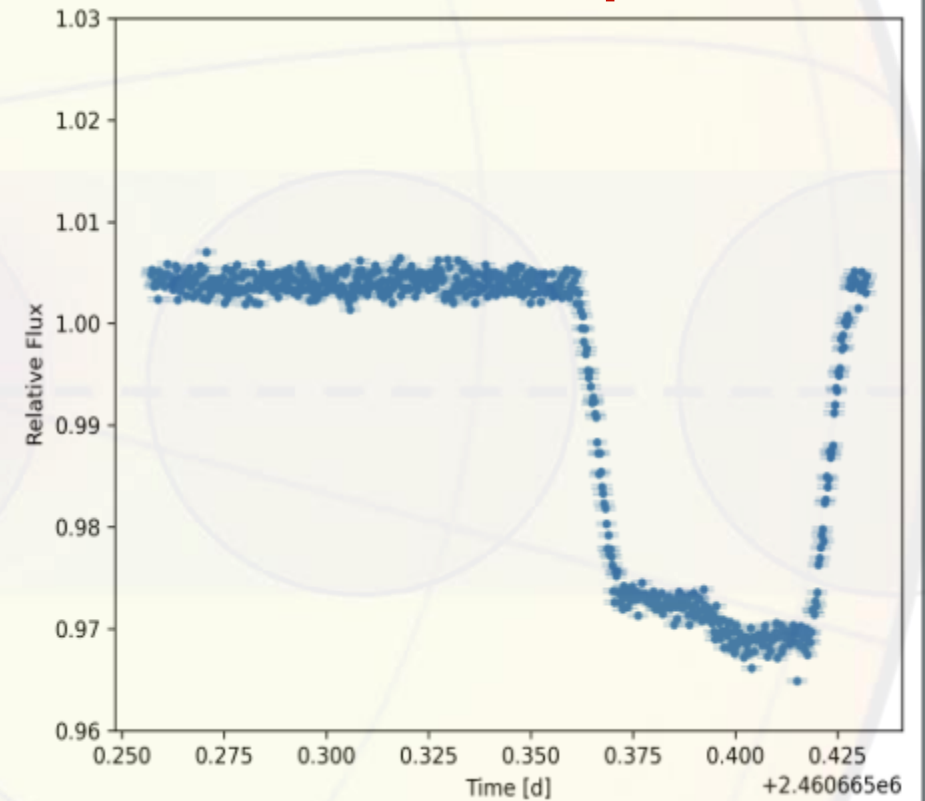


# Still leaves us with the challenge of retrieving stellar properties – JWST (please do not share)!

## 2 Transits with NIRISS



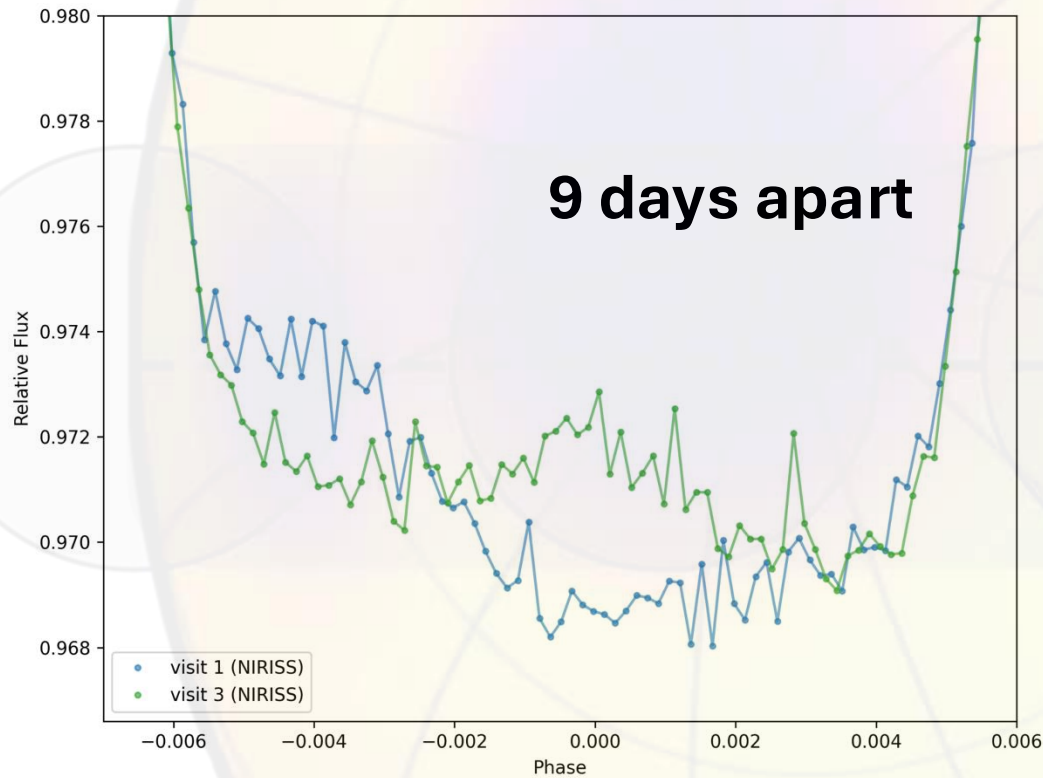
## 2 Transits with NIRSpec-G395M



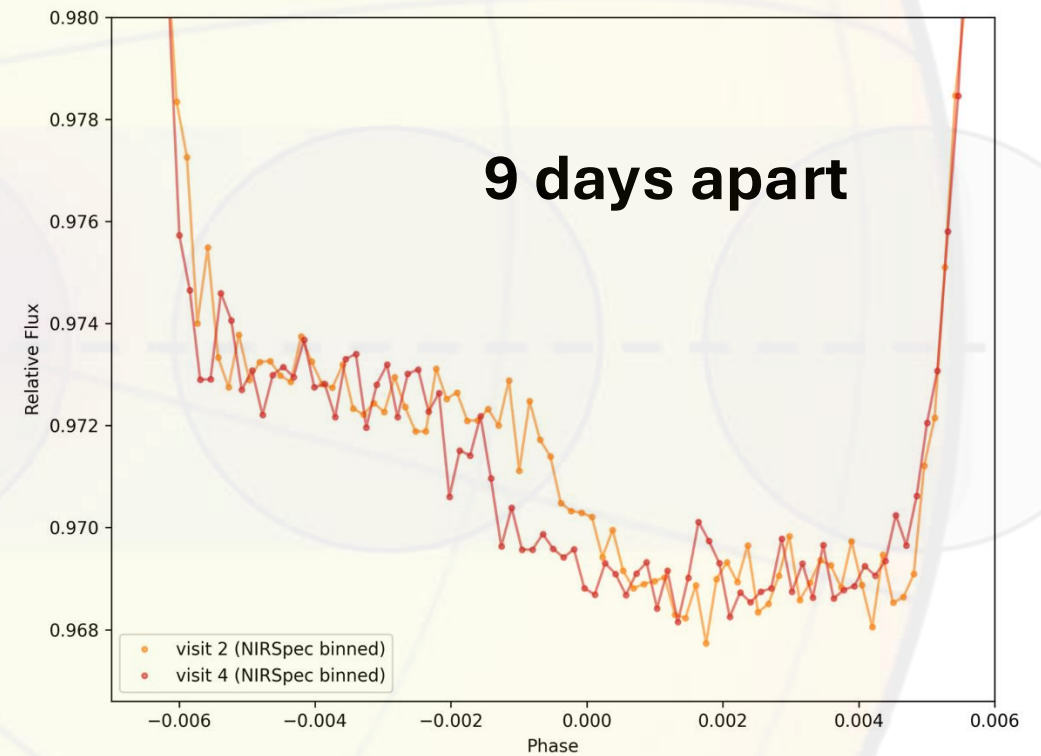
PI: Catriona Murray – Murray et al. (in Prep)

# Still leaves us with the challenge of retrieving stellar properties – JWST (please do not share)!

## 2 Transits with NIRISS



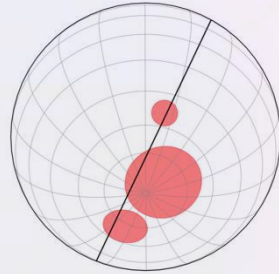
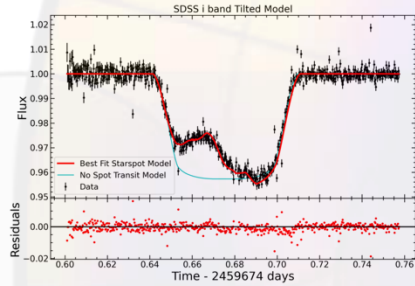
## 2 Transits with NIRSpec-G395M



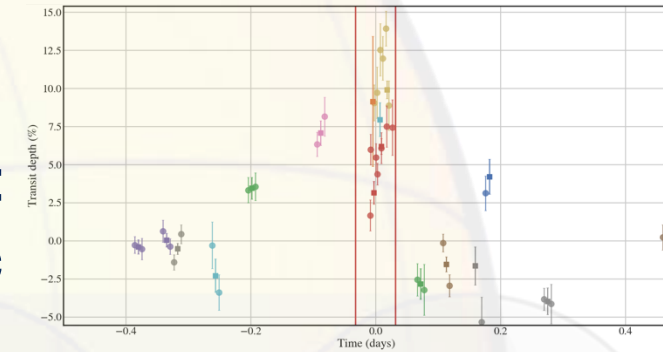
PI: Catriona Murray – Murray et al. (in Prep)

# Conclusions:

**TOI-3884b is a Super-Neptune on a polar orbit transiting the same pole spot on its M4-Dwarf**



**We detect a clear helium detection pre- and in-transit from atmospheric escape**



**New JWST observations will enable exciting insights into this unique system**

**There is clear spot evolution on the timescale of days**

