The Transit Age:

Precise Main Sequence Planet Host Ages in the Era of Gaia and JWST

Zafar Rustamkulov

Venus' transit duration refined the value of the AU, constraining the Sun's mass

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Know Thy Star, Know Thy Planet Zafar Rustamkulov

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Kepler's 3rd law + density of a sphere



A planet's transit duration is linked to the stellar bulk density

$$\rho_* = \frac{3\pi}{GP^2} \frac{a^3}{R_*^3} \qquad \qquad \frac{a}{R_*} = \frac{1P}{\pi T}$$

* For circular orbits

From homology, changes to the stellar core are reflected as changes to the envelope

$$\dot{\rho_*} \propto \frac{1}{\dot{\mu}_{\rm core}}$$

The core helium fraction grows with age

A constraint of the bulk density mirrors the changing helium fraction of the shrinking core

Stars inflate with age













WASP-39 (Faedi+ 2011)

9 + 3/-4 Gyr
230 ± 80 pc
0.93 ± 0.09 M_☉
1.00 ± 0.25 R_☉



Main sequence ages are quite uncertain (approx. 50%) Also, distances pre-Gaia were uncertain by >>>10%!

Why are stellar ages hard to measure?

- Stars change slowly
- We need precise constraints of mass, radius, temp., comp.
- Techniques are full of biases/systematic uncertainties

Why do we care about them?

- Might be relevant for getting at the hot Jupiter migration and inflation problems...
- Curious to see how atmospheres and interiors change



The stellar SED constrains the temperature and bolometric

The distance constrains the stellar luminosity and radius





We use the *isochrones* package to fit our input data with the MIST grid of MESA stellar models







2/3/25

Isochrone fitting gives us an initial estimate of the

Applying the JWST density cut to the posterior constrains



Applying the JWST density cut to the posterior constrains



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We did the same thing with a well-studied seismic Kepler LEGACY binary and got concordant ages





BD+45 A/B



What are the relevant systematic uncertainties?

- Photometric/astrometric zero-point offsets
- Differences between stellar models
- Model calibration uncertainties
- Uncertainties in stellar physics (core overshoot, mixing length)
- Unknowe if initial anliabs of cite of ractional age uncertainty floor of 15%

Gyrochronology is in tension with some of our ages



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We can get hundreds of planet ages with single JWST transits



Conclusion

- HD 189733 shows excess angular momentum for its age, indicating 0.03 AU of inward migration

- WASP-39 b is not inflated due to youth

- There may be a preliminary trend in planet density vs. fractional age

- We can get the ages of hundreds of planets with JWST

- The upcoming SPHEREx mission will revolutionize stellar Firefighter characterization (1% radii!!!)

Thank you:

David Sing Kevin Schlaufman Daniel Thorngren Stephen Schmidt Alejandro Ross Jacob Hamer Guangwei Fu Chris Wang

Conference Organizers SOC Firefighters *Isochrones* preserves the multicovariate posterior network

