## **Reflected Light from Giant Exoplanets**

**Caroline Morley** UC Santa Cruz Mark Marley Nikole Lewis Roxana Lupu Jonathan Fortney Michael Line Kerri Cahoy

Image credit: NASA/JPL/University of Arizona



geometric albedo



wavelength









degeneracy between methane abundance and continuum opacity: need both weak and strong bands

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## Kepler photometry allowed us to infer inhomogeneous clouds for the first time.



Demory et al. 2013

Theoretical Albedo Spectra: general approach

1D radiative-convective equilibrium model:

temperature, composition



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1D radiative-convective equilibrium model:

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coupled cloud model: cloud tau, scattering,

asymmetry





The temperature structure (set by stellar flux) controls the clouds.



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## A space coronagraph opens up a totally different class of planets for atmospheric characterization.



Credit: WFIRST-AFTA Interim Report

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RV targets span temperature range from alkali, to water, to ammonia, to methane clouds.



Figure from Nikole Lewis RV targets span temperature range from alkali, to water, to ammonia, to methane clouds.

HD 62509b (warm, alkali clouds)

HD 99492c (cold, ammonia clouds)

> Figure from Nikole Lewis



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Huge range of spectra possible (not just scaled Jupiters!)



Higher metallicity widens and deepens molecular features: can constrain metallicity!













#### R~70 adequately samples several methane features.



We can apply powerful retrieval techniques to low SNR data to constrain CH<sub>4</sub>, clouds, etc. See Roxana's



spectrum



Figures from Roxana Lupu

See Roxana's poster here!!!









*orbital information:* temperature M sin(i) — M





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NASA, ESA, and R. Soummer (STScl)



#### limits on radius



NASA, ESA, and R. Soummer (STScI)



orbital information: temperature M sin(i) M Iimits on gravity









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limits on gravity



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limits on radius

orbital information:

temperature

 $M sin(i) \longrightarrow M$ 

European Southern Observatory - ESO

phase information: makes interpreting spectra much easier



NASA, ESA, and R. Soummer (STScl)



phase information: makes interpreting spectra much easier

orbital information:

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 $M sin(i) \longrightarrow M$ 

limits on radius

Information-rich set of objects

limits on gravity

European Southern Observatory - ESO

Space coronagraph gives us a catalog of RV planets that spans wide unexplored  $T_{eff}$  space.



## Conclusions

- Albedo spectra finally poised to provide powerful constraints on planet properties
- Can retrieve methane abundance, cloud locations, cloud albedos for Jupiter-like planets
- Critical "catalog" for years to come
- RV sample provides context for new discoveries