## Exoplanets: Characterization

Jupiter, as seen from the JUNO mission

#### Methods to detect exoplanets

- Radial velocity
  - (motion of star in our line-of-sight)
- Transit photometry
- Direct imaging
- Astrometry (motion of star on sky)
- Microlensing
- Transit Timing Variation



-20

-30

-40

-20

-10

0

Hours from transit minimum

20

10

30

40





- Most common systems have Super-Earths
- Cold Jupiters (like solar system): not too unusual
- Hot Jupiters: rare but easy to detect

## Exoplanets are common!



# Methods to characterize exoplanets (atmosphere+composition)

- **Density:** transit+radial velocity
- Atmospheres:
  - Primary or secondary transit
  - Direct imaging
  - Both cases: spectra or multi-band photometry
- Orbital line variations: challenging
  - beyond today's discussion
- Astrometry: very hard, unused to date
- Transit timing variations and Microlensing: useless





## **Exoplanet** Populations







Planet size (transit) and mass (radial velocity): density/composition

#### Mass and Radius of Kepler-138 Planets



#### **Exoplanet Radius vs. Distance from Star**



**Distance from Star** 

## Are terrestrial planets habitable?



Planet temperature: stellar irradiation, atmosphere



Star with mass  $\frac{1}{10}$  M<sub>Sun</sub>

Star with mass  $\frac{1}{2} M_{Sun}$ 

Solar System

#### The greenhouse effect





#### α: albedo = reflectance Ice (and clouds) reflects energy = cooler planet

Blackbody emission: hotter objects emit at higher energies (=shorter wavelengths)

Peak of blackbody:





- Molecules in Earth's atmosphere block detection of same molecules from exoplanet
  - "opposite" of greenhouse effect

• Often need space observations!



- Planets are cool
- Need infrared telescopes!







## Terrestrial exoplanets in habitable zones





Relative scale of Earth



Star and orbits shown in scale Planets enlarged approximately 7,600x

### **Current Potentially Habitable Exoplanets**

Ranked in Order of Similarity to Earth



## Atmosphere detection methods

#### Eclipse:

Removing "star" from "star plus planet" flux reveals the planet's thermal emission or albedo:

Transmission:

Planet's apparent size at different wavelengths reveals atmospheric opacity and composition.

#### **Direct Imaging:**

Spatially resolving planet from star allows measurement of thermal emission or albedo.



### Phase Curves:

Total system light throughout an orbit constrains atmospheric circulation and/or composition.





## Exoplanet atmospheres!



Transmission studies of atmospheres

Earth: 6400 km radius, ~10-100 km atmosphere

Tiny signal!



#### Atmosphere detection methods





#### Different wavelengths probe different layers in atmosphere





 $10^{-}$ 

 $10^{-}$ 

Complex atmospheric models: testable predictions for different abundances (C/O ratio) and atmospheric properties





## Atmospheres and types of planets



terrestrial planets: small rocky worlds with thin atmospheres

giant planets: four huge gas giants, containing most of the mass of the Solar System

many very small ice/rock balls











#### Gas giants Jupiter: energy from

🕘 Earth

Saturn: energy from differentiation (heavier elements sink)

contraction (2 cm/yr)

Ice Giants Cold Large cores/small envelopes



Core (rock, ice)






## Saturn (and its rings)









Rings: water ice a few m across remnants of a moon Thousands of km across; ~10 m thick! <100 million years old

#### Shepherd moons



# The Ice Giants Uranus Neptune





#### HOT GAS GIANT EXOPLANET WASP-39 b TRANSIT LIGHT CURVE

NIRSpec | Bright Object Time-Series Spectroscopy





#### HOT GAS GIANT EXOPLANET WASP-39 b ATMOSPHERE COMPOSITION

NIRSpec | Bright Object Time-Series Spectroscopy



microns



#### HOT GAS GIANT EXOPLANET WASP-39 b ATMOSPHERE COMPOSITION







# EXOPLANET VHS 1256 b

NIRSpec and MIRI | IFU Medium-Resolution Spectroscopy











Range of spectra for directly imaged planets

Tomorrow: formation of exoplanets

# Terrestrial worlds



Venus: thick atmosphere Earth: Mars: Very nice! Very little atmosphere

#### Properties of Earth, Venus, and Mars

Property	Earth	Venus	Mars
Semimajor axis (AU)	1.00	0.72	1.52
Period (year)	1.00	0.61	1.88
Mass (Earth = 1)	1.00	0.82	0.11
Diameter (km)	12,756	12,102	6,790
Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	5.5	5.3	3.9
Surface gravity (Earth = 1)	1.00	0.91	0.38
Escape velocity (km/s)	11.2	10.4	5.0
Rotation period (hours or days)	23.9 h	243 d	24.6 h
Surface area (Earth = 1)	1.00	0.90	0.28
Atmospheric pressure (bar)	1.00	90	0.007



With enough S/N, we can detect the differences between Venus, Earth, and Mars-like exoplanets!

#### (but need high S/N in infrared)

## HISTORY OF WATER ON MARS

#### Billion years ago











2.0



3.5

1.0









GanymedeTitanMercuryCallisto5262 km5150 km4880 km4806 km



NASA/Dragonfly Titan Mission (artist image, planned for late 2020s)

### Ice worlds of Jupiter







### Ganymede

Callisto



## Enceladus: ice moon of Saturn



## Enceladus: geysers!



## Titan: the main moon of Saturn



#### **Ice-six** (tetragonal crystals)

Liquid water ocean

Normal ice  $(1_h)$ 

Surface

# **Fully differentiated dense-ocean model** Drawn to scale

Hydrous silicate core Atmosphere Lower atmosphere Thick tholin haze Upper atmosphere











#### ROCKY EXOPLANET LHS 475 b TRANSMISSION SPECTRUM

#### NIRSpec | Bright Object Time-Series Spectroscopy









# Exoplanet atmospheres!



#### EXOPLANET GJ 486 b TRANSMISSION SPECTRUM

NIRSpec Bright Object Time Series Spectroscopy



#### ROCKY EXOPLANET TRAPPIST-1 C EMISSION SPECTRA


## Futures of atmosphere studies

- JWST: mid-IR telescope, 10-20 years of discovery
  - \$10 billion USD, led by NASA+Canada/ESA
  - Most powerful astronomy facility ever built
- ARIEL (ESA)

• ELTs (Extremely Large Telescopes): next generation...

## Next class: formation of exoplanets

- Where and how do exoplanets form?
  Protoplanetar disks!
- How do different formation scenarios affect planet chemistry and habitability?



Accretion of gas and solids and C/O variability

## Next class: planet formation





Accretion of gas and solids and C/O variability