



Astrophysics: the search for exoplanets

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Detecting Exoplanets (astrophysics)

Planets that orbit stars outside of our solar system are called exoplanets. There are five methods to detect these exoplanets; four of them are indirect, one is direct. The method I used for my project is the transit method. The transit method utilizes photometry to measure the amount of light received by the telescope from a star. If the planet orbits that star in our plane of view, it causes a very small decrease in light amount when it transits (it crosses in front of the star). We are able to measure this amount of decrease and furthermore derive information about the planet such as size, orbital period, and its radius from the star if we have other characteristic information about the parent star. Through my connections with the Institute for Astronomy and Las Cumbres Observatory Telescope Network, I have been able to take observations of targets and process the transit light curves.



Libero purus sodales mauris, eu
vehicula lectus velit nec velit.