

A SuperWASP search for additional transiting planets in 24 known systems

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Accepted 2009 June 17. Received 2009 June 16; in original form 2009 May 25

ABSTRACT

We present results from a search for additional transiting planets in 24 systems already known to contain a transiting planet. We model the transits due to the known planet in each system and subtract these models from light curves obtained with the SuperWASP (Wide Angle Search for Planets) survey instruments. These residual light curves are then searched for evidence of additional periodic transit events. Although we do not find any evidence for additional planets in any of the planetary systems studied, we are able to characterize our ability to find such planets by means of Monte Carlo simulations. Artificially generated transit signals corresponding to planets with a range of sizes and orbital periods were injected into the SuperWASP photometry and the resulting light curves searched for planets. As a result, the detection efficiency as a function of both the radius and orbital period of any second planet is calculated. We determine that there is a good (>50 per cent) chance of detecting additional, Saturn-sized planets in $P \sim 10$ d orbits around planet-hosting stars that have several seasons of SuperWASP photometry. Additionally, we confirm previous evidence of the rotational stellar variability of WASP-10, and refine the period of rotation. We find that the period of the rotation is 11.91 ± 0.05 d, and the false alarm probability for this period is extremely low ($\sim 10^{-13}$).

Key words: techniques: photometric – planetary systems.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Multiple planet systems

Of the 347 presently known extrasolar planets, 90 are known to reside within multiple planet systems.¹ All of these systems, however, have been discovered by radial velocity measurements alone; none of them was discovered via the transit method, nor have any been later discovered to transit their host stars. The study of multiple planet systems enables greater understanding of theories of planet formation and migration, and affords us the opportunity to study planetary dynamics in action, as well as helping us answer fundamental questions such as ‘how common is the Solar system?’.

Planets that transit their host stars allow us to measure fundamental properties such as the planetary radius and remove much of the uncertainty on the value of the planetary mass by constraining the orbital inclination angle. This is just as true for multiple planet systems, and further properties such as dynamical evolution time-scales can be measured for transiting systems (Fabrycky 2009).

1.2 Detecting transiting multiple planet systems

It has been noted that, given that there are now in excess of 50 known transiting planets, there is a good chance that at least one of these systems may harbour additional planets which we should be able to detect (Fabrycky 2009). There are three methods for detecting further planets in known transiting systems (Fabrycky 2009), namely (i) searching for transit timing variations (TTV) or variations in other transit parameters; (ii) searching for long-term radial velocity trends and (iii) searching for additional transits.

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¹ See <http://www.exoplanet.eu>, accessed on 2009 May 11.

In a multiplanet system, one planet can have a perturbing effect upon the orbit of a second planet, the effects of which can include small variations in the timings of transits caused by the second planet, such that the transits are no longer spaced periodically (Agol et al. 2005; Holman & Murray 2005). Many searches for further planets have been conducted, and continue to be conducted, using TTV, which has great sensitivity to planets in resonant orbits with the first planet, even if the second planet has an extremely low mass.

It is also possible to infer the presence of additional planets by measuring long-term trends in other transit parameters. For instance, Coughlin et al. (2008) report observed increases in the orbital inclination, transit width and transit depth of Gl 436 b, which may indicate the presence of another planet.

In general, the discovery light curves of transiting planets, such as those produced by SuperWASP (Wide Angle Search for Planets), are of insufficient quality to measure transit timings and other parameters with the required precision to discover additional planets; predicted timing variations, for instance, are typically of the order of seconds or tens-of-seconds. Additional resources must therefore be expended to obtain high-precision light curves.

Secondly, known planets continue to be monitored for long-term trends in the radial velocity data, as is common practice with planets discovered by that means alone. Many longer-period additional planets have been found around stars around which a relatively short-period planet has been discovered by radial velocity measurements. Long-term monitoring of RV systems has yielded planets with periods of several years (the longest such period is 14.3 yr). This too requires a modest expenditure of telescope time in order to obtain radial velocity data points at suitable intervals to detect longer-period planets.

Finally, photometric monitoring of known transiting systems may reveal transits caused by a second planet in the system. The inclination angle of this second planet must be sufficiently similar to that of the first planet, that the second planet can be seen to transit its star as well as the first. This method, unlike the other two, does not necessarily require the allocation of further observing resources; instead the data archives of transit surveys can be searched for such transit signals. Such surveys often observe the same fields for several seasons, and so have a large quantity of data on known transiting systems. In this paper we present results from a search of the data archive of SuperWASP, one such wide-field transit survey (Pollacco et al. 2006).

1.3 Detecting transiting multiple planet systems by transit photometry

Only two of the 58 known (to 2009 March) transiting planets have orbital periods, P , greater than 10 d (these were both detected initially by radial velocity means and were only later discovered to transit); indeed only six transiting planets have periods longer than 5 d. This is largely due to the selection effects present in wide-field surveys: (i) in general, a relatively large number of transits are required to boost the signal-to-noise ratio sufficiently that the transit may be detected in the presence of correlated ('red') noise (Smith et al. 2006). This requirement for many transits leads to the preferential detection of short-period planets that exhibit frequent transits. (ii) The probability that a given planetary system exhibits transits is inversely proportional to the orbital semimajor axis, a , and so this again causes a bias towards the detection of short-period planets.

Any additional transiting planet is likely to orbit with a period greater than the currently known planet. Several factors militate

against the usual difficulties in detecting long-period ($P > 5$ d) planets, however. Most significantly, the probability that any second planet will transit should be greatly enhanced by the fact that there is already one transiting planet in the system. This is because the orbits of exoplanets in multiple systems are generally predicted to be close to coplanar, because such systems are believed to form from a flat disc in a similar fashion to the Solar system (e.g. Bouwman et al. 2006). In the Solar system, this results in all planetary orbits being coplanar to within a few degrees.

If we assume coplanarity to within 5° , the probability that the second planet transits is approximately equal to the ratio of the semimajor axes of the inner and outer planets, $a_{\text{in}}/a_{\text{out}}$ (Fabrycky 2009). This means, for example, the probability of a planet orbiting a solar analogue with a 10-d period is increased from about 5 to around 45 per cent if an inner transiting planet exists with a period of 3 d.

Some previous attempts have been made to detect additional transiting planets. Croll et al. (2007a,b) used the *Microvariability and Oscillations of STars (MOST)* satellite to place upper limits on the presence of additional transiting planets in two systems (HD 209458 and 189733) known to harbour a transiting exoplanet. They were able to rule out the presence of additional planets larger than about $0.2 R_J$ orbiting with periods less than 14 d for HD 209458 and planets larger than about $0.15 R_J$ orbiting with periods less than 7 d for HD 189733.

This paper reports results from an extensive search of archival SuperWASP data for additional transits of stars known to host transiting exoplanets. We provide constraints on the existence of additional transiting planets in such systems.

2 OBSERVATIONS

Time series photometry of 24 stars which host transiting exoplanets was obtained by the SuperWASP instruments, which are wide-field, multicamera survey instruments described in Pollacco et al. (2006).

15 of these planets were observed by SuperWASP-N, located at the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory on La Palma in the Canary Islands, and nine by WASP-South, at the South African Astronomical Observatory in Sutherland. The objects observed are the first 18 planetary systems discovered by SuperWASP (with the exception of WASP-9, for which follow-up observations are still ongoing) and seven similar systems discovered by other transiting planet surveys and retrospectively detected in SuperWASP data. Details of all these objects are given in Table 1. SuperWASP has an extensive archive of data on these objects. Many of them have been monitored for several observing seasons, dating back to 2004 in some cases.

3 SEARCH FOR ADDITIONAL PLANETS

To search the SuperWASP light curves for additional transits we first take all existing light curves on a particular object from the SuperWASP archive. Several light curves may exist if the star has been observed in several seasons and/or with more than one camera.

A systematic re-analysis of each of these systems was performed using all the photometric data either publicly available or held by the WASP consortium. The transits caused by the known planet were modelled using the Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) technique described by Collier Cameron et al. (2007a), which uses the analytic model of Mandel & Agol (2002) (see Table 1 for details of the parameters fitted). The resulting fitted parameters are within the joint error bars of the best published parameters. The modelled

Table 1. Planetary systems searched for additional transiting bodies. The instrument used to observe the system is indicated in column 2: ‘N’ represents SuperWASP-N on La Palma and ‘S’ represents WASP-South in South Africa. Columns 3 to 10 are the parameters of the known planet used to subtract the transits of the first planet. They are the orbital period, P , the epoch of mid-transit, t_0 , the transit duration, w , the impact parameter, b , the depth of the transit, $(R_p/R_*)^2$, the stellar density, ρ_* , the orbital inclination angle, i , and the planetary radius, R_p . Also shown is the number of data points in the light curve, n_{phot} .

Star	Obs.	MCMC fitted parameters used to subtract transits from light curves								Discovery reference
		P (d)	t_0 /HJD - 245 0000	w (d)	b	$(R_p/R_*)^2$	$\rho_*(\rho_\odot)$	i°	n_{phot}	
WASP-1	N	2.519951	3998.19239	0.1551	0.056	0.01004	0.38709	89.44	13630	Collier Cameron et al. (2007b)
WASP-2	N	2.152227	3978.60091	0.0736	0.729	0.01742	1.51264	84.80	7941	Collier Cameron et al. (2007b)
WASP-3	N	1.846833	4214.03159	0.1112	0.446	0.01067	0.59680	85.20	5167	Pollacco et al. (2008)
WASP-4	S	1.338232	4387.32776	0.0881	0.055	0.02366	1.29600	89.44	10112	Wilson et al. (2008)
WASP-5	S	1.628428	4373.99598	0.0987	0.314	0.01180	0.88028	86.85	15003	Anderson et al. (2008)
WASP-6	S	3.361010	4593.07139	0.1068	0.204	0.02071	1.70136	88.96	14083	Gillon et al. (2009)
WASP-7	S	4.954746	4133.65826	0.1555	0.183	0.00538	0.67368	89.02	24547	Hellier et al. (2009)
WASP-8	S	8.158754	4679.33741	0.1457	0.332	0.01088	1.33364	88.67	16773	Queloz et al. (in preparation)
WASP-10	N	3.092718	4299.09114	0.0944	0.225	0.02501	2.32879	88.94	8546	Christian et al. (2009)
WASP-11	N	3.722464	4473.05587	0.1066	0.065	0.01620	1.89252	89.70	8367	West et al. (2008) & Bakos et al. (2008)
WASP-12	N	1.091423	4506.79316	0.1168	0.395	0.01390	0.33880	82.24	7233	Hebb et al. (2009)
WASP-13	N	4.352999	4491.61656	0.1647	0.653	0.00886	0.28496	84.92	8661	Skillen et al. (2009)
WASP-14	N	2.243738	4555.56986	0.1145	0.488	0.00979	0.61661	85.06	6817	Joshi et al. (2009)
WASP-15	S	3.752087	4577.19424	0.1527	0.456	0.00953	0.45322	86.65	20442	West et al. (2009)
WASP-16	S	3.118600	4578.19167	0.0796	0.817	0.01208	1.13688	85.00	12237	Lister et al. (ApJ, submitted)
WASP-17	S	3.735456	4566.65221	0.1777	0.103	0.01534	0.40353	89.21	16084	Anderson et al. (in preparation)
WASP-18	S	0.941453	4600.88702	0.0895	0.336	0.00871	0.64012	84.47	8593	Hellier et al. (in preparation)
HAT-P-4	N	3.056544	4099.10073	0.1707	0.040	0.00616	0.33246	89.63	6546	Kovács et al. (2007)
HAT-P-5	N	2.787765	3871.02389	0.1220	0.019	0.00626	0.83380	89.86	9081	Bakos et al. (2007)
HAT-P-6	N	3.853041	3931.62934	0.1648	0.054	0.00568	0.46098	89.61	20718	Noyes et al. (2008)
HAT-P-7	N	2.204799	4010.72625	0.1544	0.029	0.00258	0.30042	89.65	3647	Pál et al. (2008)
TrES-2	N	2.470625	4011.98837	0.0750	0.864	0.01615	0.95940	83.46	6268	O’Donovan et al. (2006)
TrES-4	N	3.553964	4063.88015	0.1218	0.434	0.00769	0.84448	87.31	13790	Mandushev et al. (2007)
XO-4	N	4.123971	4477.65872	0.1488	0.050	0.00680	0.68468	89.70	2589	McCullough et al. (2008)

transits were then subtracted from the light curves, and the resulting residual light curves concatenated into a single residual light curve for each object.

We then search each of these residual light curves using HUNTLSTAR, a modified version of the adapted Box Least-Squares (BLS) algorithm used for routine SuperWASP transit hunting (Kovács, Zucker & Mazeh 2002; Collier Cameron et al. 2006). The HUNTLSTAR routine searches the light curve of a single object for transits, and it is able to handle large quantities of photometric data spanning multiple seasons and cameras, with a finely sampled period grid.

The light curves of a total of 24 transiting planet host stars (see Table 1 for the details of these objects) were searched for additional transits with periods of between 5 and 25 d using HUNTLSTAR. This lower limit of 5 d was chosen because, with the exception of WASP-8 b with a period of 8.16 d, all of the original planets have periods between 0.9 and 5.0 d, and so have been searched at sub-5-d periods previously. The upper limit of 25 d was chosen after consideration of the length of the observing baselines and because for this period, the orbital inclination angle, i , must be greater than about 88° in order for transits to be exhibited by a Jupiter-sized planet (Fig. 1). The probability of such a planet transiting is around 2–3 per cent assuming nothing about the system, and about 25 per cent if coplanarity to within 5° with a $P = 3$ -d planet is assumed.

A periodogram is produced for each object, and the parameters of the five strongest peaks in the periodogram are refined. The resulting candidates are loosely filtered according to the criteria usually used for SuperWASP planet hunting (Collier Cameron et al. 2006). These

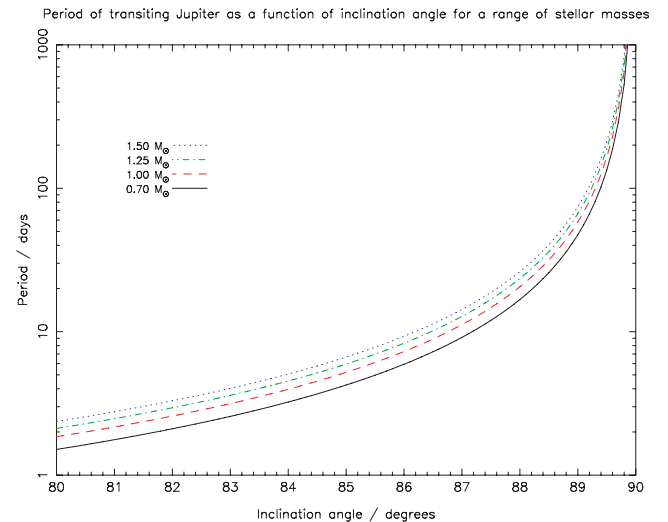


Figure 1. Plot indicating the maximum period for a planet to exhibit transits, as a function of orbital inclination angle for a range of stellar masses. The host star is assumed to be on the main sequence and the planet is assumed to be Jupiter sized.

criteria are as follows: (i) at least two transits must be detected; (ii) the reduced χ^2 of the model must be less than 2.5; (iii) the phase-folded light curve must not consist of a high proportion of gaps and (iv) the signal-to-red-noise ratio [the S_{red} statistic defined by Collier Cameron et al. (2006)] must be -5 or less. We do not

apply more strict filtering since we have a small number of objects, so the risk of false positives is small.

4 RESULTS OF SEARCH FOR ADDITIONAL PLANETS

Of the five best peaks for each of the 24 planets (120 peaks in total), 75 pass the criteria outlined in Section 3, but our initial rejection criteria lean strongly towards retaining candidates.

As we are dealing with a small number of objects, we choose not to apply further cuts on, for example, signal-to-noise ratio, but instead visually inspect all 24 periodograms and all 120 phase-folded light curves. The periodograms produced for each of the 24 stars were inspected for any strong peaks indicative of a genuine transit, and the phase-folded light curves were checked for transit-like signals. Most of the objects do not display any noteworthy periodogram peaks; Fig. 2 is a typical such periodogram, whereas Fig. 3 is a periodogram typical of a genuine transiting planet.

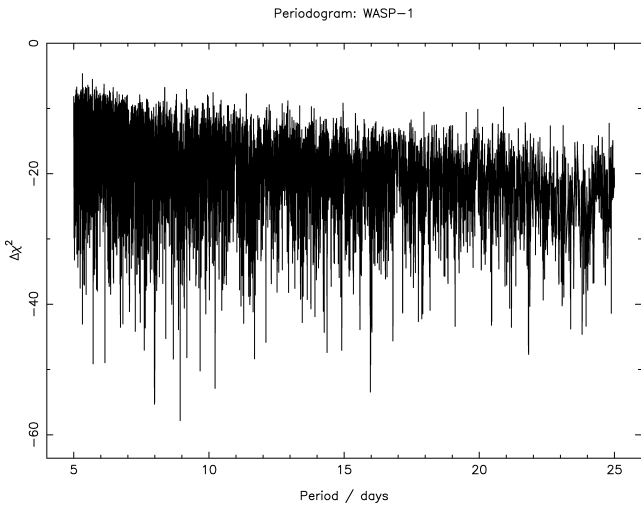


Figure 2. Periodogram output of HUNTSTAR for the residual light curve of WASP-1, after the subtraction of transits due to WASP-1 b. This is typical of the periodograms which exhibit no strong peaks.

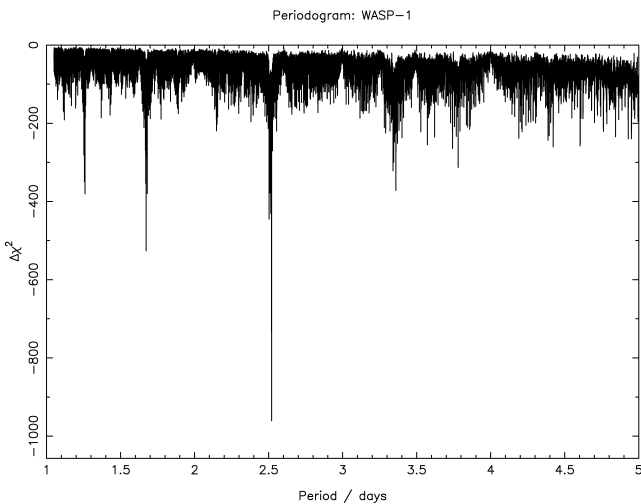


Figure 3. Periodogram output of HUNTSTAR for the unadulterated SuperWASP light curve of WASP-1. This is typical of the periodogram indicating the presence of a transiting planet, in this case WASP-1 b, which orbits with a period of about 2.52 d.

None of the phase-folded light curves displays any transit-like signal.

Five phase-folded light curves were also plotted for each object, corresponding to each of the five strongest peaks in the periodogram. These were inspected for signs of a transit at phase 0, but no such signals were observed, even in the handful of objects that exhibit at least one reasonably strong periodogram peak.

4.1 WASP-10

Although a strongish peak at about 12 d is observed in the periodogram for WASP-10 (Fig. 4), no transit is seen in the corresponding phase-folded light curve. This peak is less well-defined than the typical peak produced by planetary transits (Fig. 3). Instead, we attribute the peak to stellar rotation, the period, P_{rot} , of which is known to be about 12 d (Christian et al. 2009). We confirm the stellar rotation hypothesis by fitting a sine curve of the form $\delta + A\sin(\omega t + \theta)$, where $\omega = 2\pi/P_{\text{rot}}$ to the data (Fig. 5). The best-fitting parameters for data taken in SuperWASP-Ns 2004 and 2006 observing seasons are given in Table 2. We find the same period

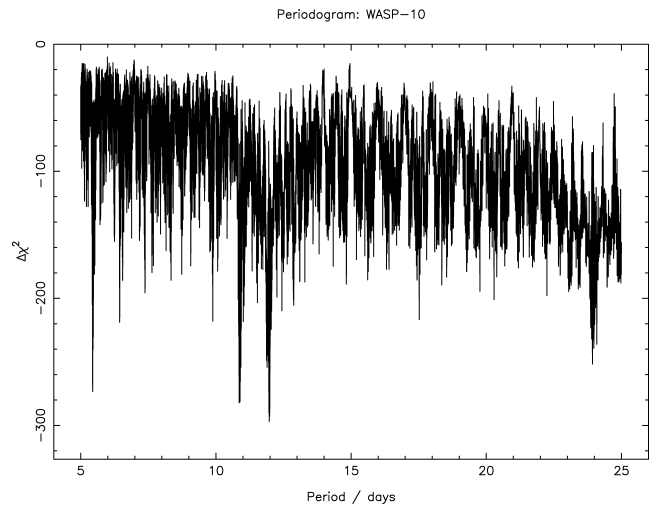


Figure 4. Periodogram output of HUNTSTAR for WASP-10. The strong peak observed at about 12 d is caused by stellar rotation with that period.

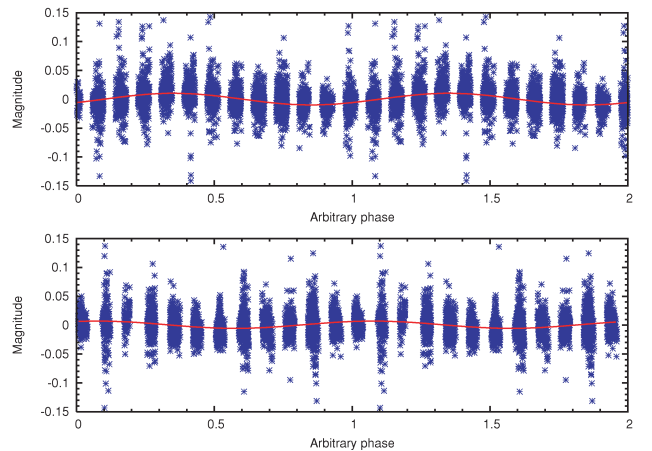


Figure 5. Stellar rotation of WASP-10. The 2004 data are phased on a period of 11.949 984 d (upper panel) and the 2006 data on a period of 11.946 772 d (lower panel). Overplotted in each case is the best-fitting model of the form $\delta + A\sin(\omega t + \theta)$; the values of δ , A and θ are given in Table 2.

Table 2. Best-fitting parameters of a sine curve fitted to the light curve of WASP-10. The parameters are described in the text.

	δ (mmag)	A (mmag)	P_{rot} (d)	θ (rad)
2004 data	0.3	10.1	11.949 984	-0.6351
2006 data	0.8	6.3	11.946 772	1.0950

of rotation (11.95 d) in both seasons of data, but both the phase of rotation and the amplitude of the variability differ between the two seasons. We also compute the auto-correlation function (Edelson & Krolik 1988) of the data; the period determined by this method is 11.84 d.

Using a generalized Lomb–Scargle periodogram, as described in Zechmeister & Kürster (2009), we are able to calculate the false alarm probability for the signal detected by sine fitting. Despite our light curve consisting of 8546 points, because of red noise the effective number of independent data points, n_{eff} , is significantly smaller. To calculate n_{eff} , the individual nights of data are shuffled, destroying the rotation signal, but maintaining the red noise. By assuming the highest peak in the resulting periodogram has a probability of 0.5, we calculate $n_{\text{eff}} = 949$. The number of independent frequencies is calculated to be 1135, according to the approximation of Cumming (2004). Using these values, and equation (24) of Zechmeister & Kürster (2009), we calculate the false alarm probability to be 3.8×10^{-13} .

This extremely low probability confirms the reality of this variation, as does the fact that very similar periods were detected in different seasons of data, and with different methods. Taking the mean of all the periods detected, we conclude that the star rotates with $P_{\text{rot}} = 11.91 \pm 0.05$. This variability is likely to be caused by starspots; such variability is not unusual amongst K dwarfs.

5 MONTE CARLO SIMULATIONS

In conclusion, none of the 24 light curves we analysed shows any evidence for further transiting planets. Although no additional planets were detected in Section 4, it is a useful exercise to quantify our ability to detect such planets, and hence to determine upper limits to the sizes and orbits of planets we have ruled out. To do this, we test our ability to detect planetary transits with various parameters, through the use of Monte Carlo simulations.

5.1 Generation of artificial light curves

The two parameters that most affect the ability of a survey such as SuperWASP to detect a planet are the size of the planet and the period of its orbit. We therefore choose to determine our ability to detect additional planets as a function of these two parameters, following an approach similar to that used by the *MOST* team to place upper limits on the presence of additional companions in the HD 209458 and HD 189733 systems (Croll et al. 2007a,b).

We take the residual light curves described in Section 3 and inject artificial transits into them, using the small planet approximation of

Mandel & Agol (2002). The inputs to the Mandel & Agol (2002) model are the stellar mass, stellar radius, effective stellar temperature (T_{eff}), stellar limb-darkening parameters and the planet radius and orbital inclination angle. We use values of M_* , R_* and T_{eff} taken from <http://exoplanet.eu> web site and the non-linear limb-darkening coefficients of Claret (2000), and we adopt an orbital inclination of 89° . Model planetary transits are injected at a range of 15 different orbital periods and 10 different planetary radii, giving a grid of 150 models (see Table 3 for all values of P and R_p). 100 different light curves are created for each of these points in $P - R_p$ space, each with a randomly generated epoch of mid-transit, t_0 .

5.2 Searching for injected transits

Each of the 15 000 light curves generated for each object is searched for transits by HUNT1STAR, in exactly the same way as were the real data (Section 3). The detection efficiency for a planet of a given size and orbital period is determined by the fraction of transits recovered for planets of those characteristics.

Whilst we visually inspected the periodograms and five best light curves of each of the 24 planets when searching the real data (Section 4), this is clearly an unfeasible proposition for 15 000 light curves per object. Instead, for light curves identified as candidates by HUNT1STAR, we require that the injected period, or an alias thereof, and the injected epoch of mid-transit are successfully recovered in at least one of the five best periodogram peaks. To do this, we define the statistic

$$\eta = \frac{|P_{\text{meas}} - P_{\text{inj}}|}{P_{\text{inj}}}, \quad (1)$$

where P_{meas} and P_{inj} are the orbital periods measured by HUNT1STAR, and injected into the light curves, respectively. We then require $\eta < 0.001$ (corresponding to a detection at the injected period), or $0.4995 < \eta < 0.5005$ or $-0.0005 < \eta^* < 0.0005$, where $\eta^* = \text{rint}(\eta) - \eta$ (corresponding to detections at an alias of the injected period). These thresholds were designed to encapsulate clearly defined populations of objects clustered around $\eta = 0$, $\eta = 0.5$ and $\eta = 1, 2, \dots$. Furthermore, we require that $\Delta t_0 \leq 0.10$ d, where $\Delta t_0 = |t_{0\text{inj}} - t_{0\text{meas}}|$, and $t_{0\text{inj}}$ and $t_{0\text{meas}}$ are the injected and measured epochs of mid-transit, respectively.

Periodograms and phase-folded light curves for several of the injected transits detected in this manner were inspected in the same fashion as the real data (Section 3), in order to ensure that these objects could have been detected without the prior knowledge of the orbital period. The periodogram and recovered light curve of one such injected transit are shown in Fig. 6.

5.3 Results of simulations

5.3.1 WASP-1

The results of our simulations of extra planets in the WASP-1 system are presented in a series of two-dimensional cuts through the parameter space (Figs 7 and 8). Fig. 7 shows detection efficiency plotted against the radius of the simulated additional planets for a

Table 3. Model planet parameters used in simulations. 10 different planetary radii and 15 periods give a total of 150 combinations.

Periods used (d):														
5.100	6.529	7.957	9.386	10.814	12.243	13.671	15.100	16.529	17.957	19.386	20.814	22.243	23.671	25.100
Radii used (R_p):														
0.40	0.55	0.70	0.85	1.00	1.15	1.30	1.45	1.60	1.75					

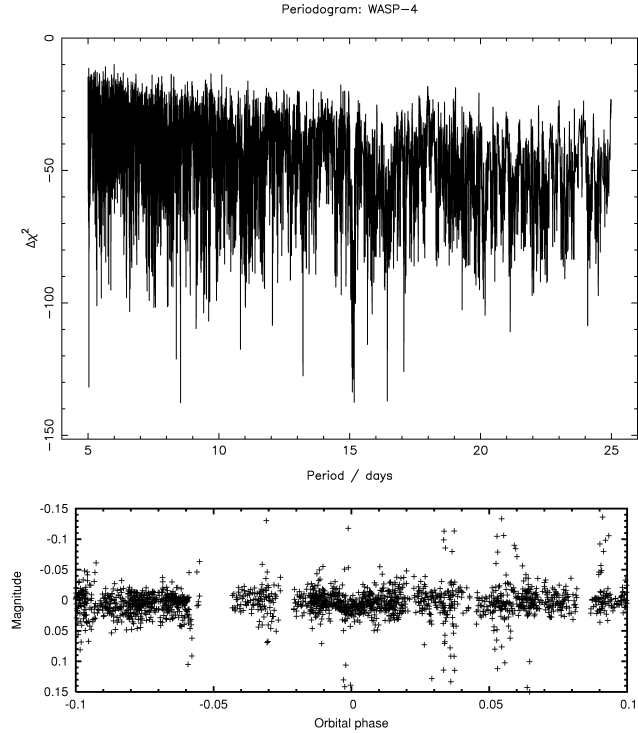


Figure 6. An example of an artificial transit which is successfully recovered in our simulations. Shown are the HUNT1STAR results from transits corresponding to a planet with $P = 15.100$ d and $R_p = 0.85 R_J$, which were injected into the WASP-4 light curve. The planet is detected with $P = 15.10138$ d in the strongest peak of the periodogram (upper panel). The light curve, folded on the recovered period using the recovered epoch of mid-transit, exhibits a clear transit at phase = 0 (lower panel).

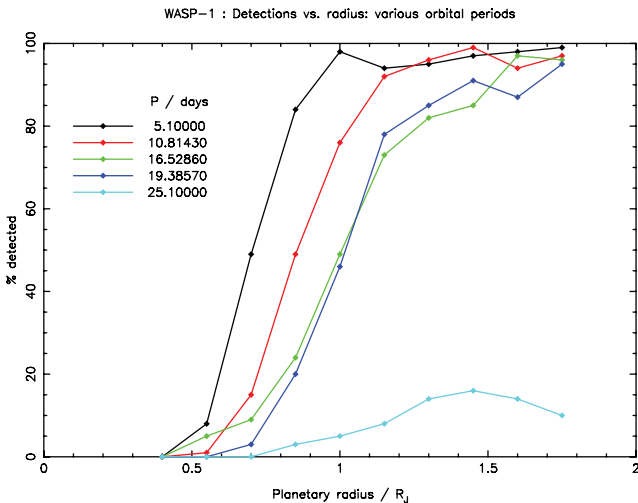


Figure 7. WASP-1 simulation results (i). Detection efficiency as a function of planetary radius for a second planet orbiting WASP-1 for several orbital periods.

variety of orbital periods, whereas in Fig. 8, detection efficiency is shown as a function of orbital period for a range of orbital periods.

The full data set is shown as a contour map in Fig. 9, although the results from the models with periods of 7.957 and 17.957 d are excluded as they are very close to an integer number of days. The sharp drops in detection efficiency observed at these periods (Fig. 8) are manifestations of the well-known 1 d alias phenomenon, which

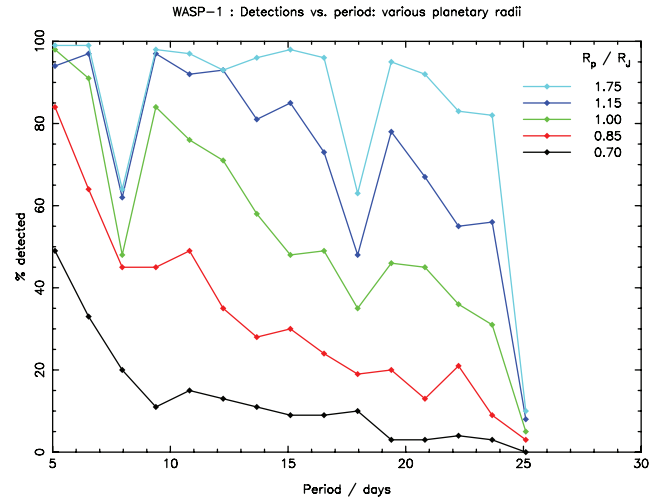


Figure 8. WASP-1 simulation results (ii). Detection efficiency as a function of orbital period for a second planet orbiting WASP-1 for several planetary radii.

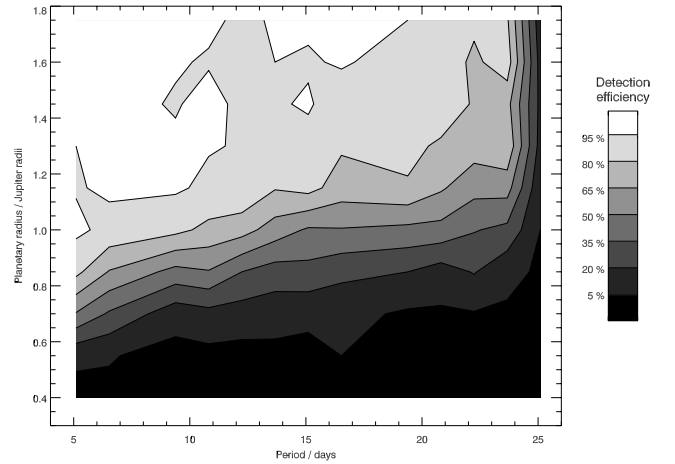


Figure 9. WASP-1 simulation results (iii). Contour map showing detection efficiency as a function of orbital period and planetary radius.

can cause either a sharp reduction or sharp increase in detection ability at periods which are almost exactly an integer number of days (e.g. Smith et al. 2006).

5.3.2 Other systems

Similar simulations were conducted for several of the 24 systems which were searched for additional transits in Section 3. Contour plots of the same type as Fig. 9 were also produced for these systems, although not all of them are shown here for reasons of space. Our ability to detect additional planets in these other systems is very similar to that for WASP-1; there are variations in detection efficiency, but this correlates with the length of the original light curve. There are more data on WASP-1 than most of the other objects – 13630 data points spanning the 2004, 2006 and 2007 observing seasons. At the other extreme is HAT-P-4, which has a significantly shorter SuperWASP light curve, comprising just 6546 data points, a few hundred of which are from 2006, with the rest from 2007. The contour plot for HAT-P-4 is shown in Fig. 10, where it can be seen that the detection efficiency is poorer, particularly at relatively long periods, than for WASP-1 (Fig. 9).

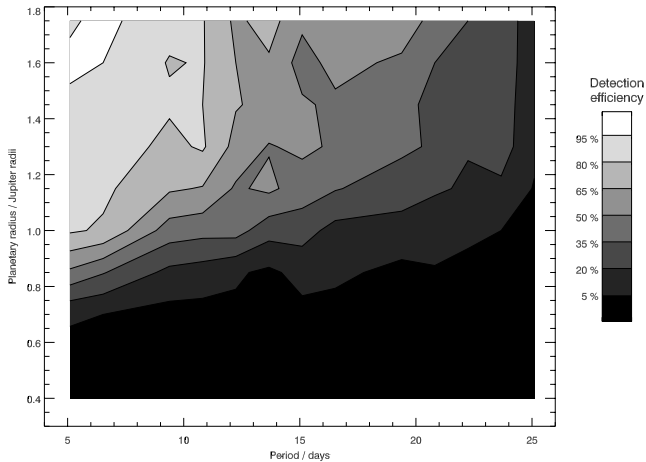


Figure 10. HAT-P-4 simulation results. Contour map showing detection efficiency as a function of orbital period and planetary radius.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Limits of simulations

When considering the reliability of the upper limits established in Section 5.3, an obvious question to ask is ‘could systems in which multiple planets exhibit transits have been detected by SuperWASP (and HAT, TrES and XO) in the first place?’. Although objects which exhibit photometric variability are generally rejected as planet candidates, we argue that systems with a sub-5-d transiting planet and a further transiting planet with a period greater than 5 d would be unlikely to be rejected. In general, very few transits caused by the longer-period planet would be present in the discovery light curve and that, combined with the shallow depth of planetary transits, would prevent the candidate from failing tests designed to eliminate variable stars. This is borne out by simulations conducted on light curves containing the transits caused by two planets, where the HUNT1STAR algorithm was still able to detect the inner planet, despite the presence of additional transits.

In particular, we take the example of additional transits corresponding to a large, fairly short-period planet ($P = 12.243$ d; $R_p = 1.45 R_J$) which had been successfully recovered by HUNT1STAR when injected into the residual WASP-4 light curve (Section 5). These same artificially generated transits were injected into the unmodified WASP-4 b light curve, in order to ascertain whether WASP-4 b could still be detected. WASP-4 b was indeed still detected, with only a very slightly reduced signal-to-red-noise value (-13.390 compared to -13.564).

6.2 Lack of detections

It has been suggested that the lack of transiting multiple planet systems is perhaps surprising given the prevalence of RV multiple systems. Specifically, Fabrycky (2009) notes that 11 companion planets are known to exist in the systems with the 33 shortest period planets. An apparently similar sample of transiting planets, however, contains no systems with known additional planets. Although Fabrycky (2009) does acknowledge the existence of observational biases which could partly explain this lack of transiting multiple planet systems, we argue that a careful examination of the characteristics of the known RV multiple planet systems reveals that the dearth of such systems is not surprising.

Of the 28 known multiple planet systems, only four have an inner planet which might reasonably have been detected by a wide-field transit survey, i.e. has $P < 5$ d and $M_p \sin i > 0.2 M_J$, suggesting a radius large enough to be detected. None of these systems contains further planets with periods conducive to detection by means of transits; the second planet from the star orbits with $P > 95$ d in each of the four cases.² In other words, there is currently no multiple planet system of the kind we have demonstrated we are able to detect at present with SuperWASP known by RV studies. This does not, of course, mean that such systems do not exist, or that we should not look for them, especially given the low expenditure and potentially high reward involved.

7 CONCLUSIONS

We conducted a search for additional planets, with periods between 5 and 25 d, orbiting 24 stars known to harbour a transiting hot Jupiter, using SuperWASP photometry to search for additional transits. No planets were detected, so in order to place upper limits on the existence of such planets, we performed Monte Carlo simulations of planets of various sizes, and with various orbital periods. The results of these simulations suggest that, for objects like WASP-1 with three seasons of SuperWASP photometry, we have a good chance (>50 per cent) of detecting Saturn-sized ($R_S = 0.843 R_J$) planets out to about 10 d, and a sporting chance of detecting such planets with longer periods (there is an ~ 20 per cent chance of detecting a Saturn analogue in a 20-d orbit). These detection thresholds improve with increasing planet radius (up to about $1.2 R_J$), and are lower for stars, like HAT-P-4, with fewer data.

We are able to detect planets larger than about Saturn size, and with periods up to ~ 20 d with reasonable efficiency. As expected, the main factor affecting detectability is the time span of the light curve used to search for additional transits.

7.1 Future prospects

As our simulations (Section 5.3) demonstrated, the longer the span of the light curve, the greater our sensitivity to longer-period planets. As transit surveys continue to observe some of the known planets, our ability to detect additional transits in these systems will increase. Another possibility for increasing the number of available photometric data points is to share data between transit surveys, as suggested by Fleming et al. (2008).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

AMSS acknowledges the financial support of a UK PPARC/STFC studentship. The SuperWASP Consortium consists of astronomers primarily from the Queen’s University Belfast, St Andrews, Keele, Leicester, The Open University, Isaac Newton Group La Palma and Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias. The SuperWASP Cameras were constructed and operated with funds made available from Consortium Universities and the UK’s Science and Technology Facilities Council. We acknowledge the use of software from the Condor Project (<http://www.condorproject.org/>) to run the Monte Carlo simulations. This research has made use of the NASA/IPAC/NEoS Star and Exoplanet Data base, which is operated by the Jet

² The four systems are HIP 14810, Ups And, HD 187123 and HD 217107; the second planets in these systems orbit with periods of 95, 241, 3810 and 4210 d, respectively.

Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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