Extreme Precision in Radial Velocity IV



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MINERVA-Red

The discoveries of the Earth-sized exoplanets orbiting Proxima Centauri and Trappist-1 lend further support to the theory that terrestrial planets may be common around low-mass stars. Since low-mass stars are intrinsically faint at optical wavelengths, obtaining the meter-per-second Doppler precision necessary to detect their Earth-sized planetary companions remain a challenge for instruments designed to observe Sun-like stars. To study these "redder"stars, new spectrometers must be developed. We describe the MINERVA-Red spectrometer and a novel, ultra-high-cadence observing approach aimed at detecting and characterizing planets orbiting the closest low-mass stars to the Sun. In order to characterize the impact of astrophysical noise on our radial velocity measurements, we will gather simultaneous photometry (ugriz, Halpha, Hbeta, Calcium H&K), which will provide a substantial dataset for studying the short-term line and continuum photometric variability in cool stars. We will present photometric results from this robotic observatory and the current status of the spectrograph.

Authors: Prof. BLAKE, Cullen (University of Pennsylvania); Mr SLISKI, David (University of Pennsylvania); Dr HALVERSO, Samuel (MIT); Dr EASTMAN, Jason (Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics); Ms BAKER, Ashley (University of Pennsylvania); Prof. JOHNSON, John (Harvard University); Prof. WITTENMYER, Rob (University of Southern Queensland)

Presenter: Mr SLISKI, David (University of Pennsylvania)

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