

# WFCAM Transit Survey: search for planets around cool stars



Image credit: J. Pinfield

Brigitta Sipőcz  
University of Hertfordshire

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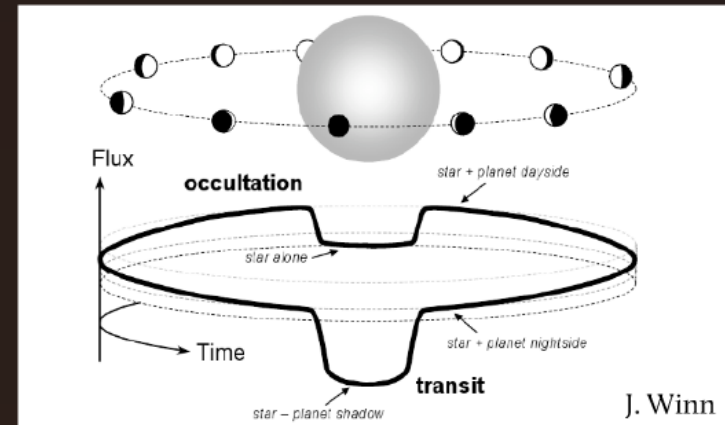
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# Outline

- Motivation: M dwarf & planet background
- the WFCAM Transit Survey
- the M dwarf sample
- Results
- Conclusions and future prospects

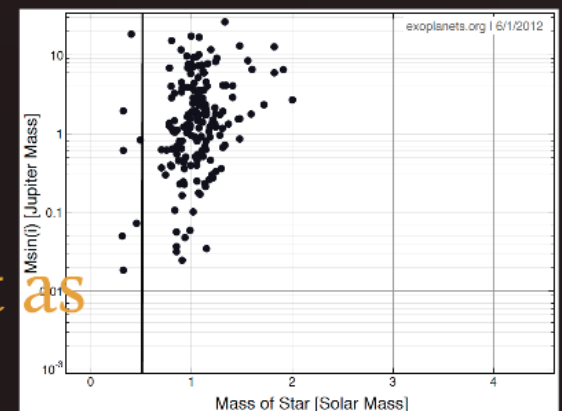
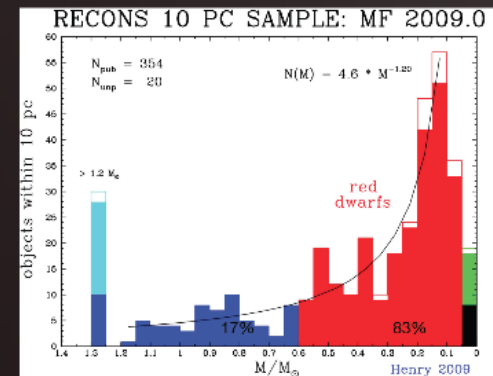
# Transiting planets

- Resolves  $\sin i$  ambiguity
  - planet mass
- Transit depth linked directly to planet radius
  - planet density
- low geometric probability
  - a survey needs many targets  $\rightarrow$  wide field cameras
- Transmission spectroscopy



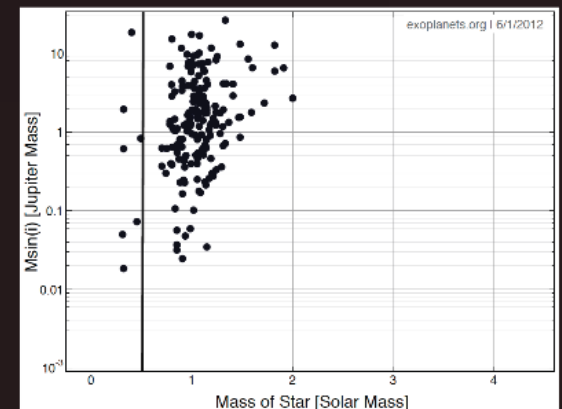
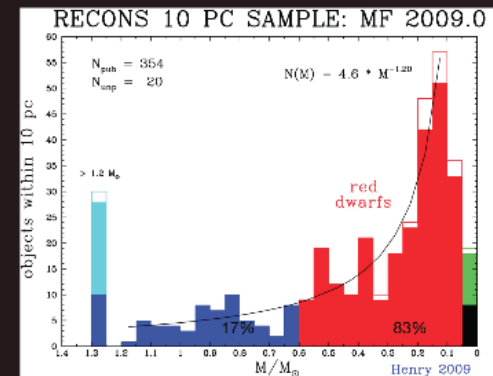
# M dwarfs and their planets

- theories predict different M dwarf planet distributions
- Core accretion
  - low mass host  $\rightarrow$  low mass disk
  - lack / fewer gas giants, but rocky planets are common
- Gravitational instability
  - giant formation may be as efficient as around more massive stars



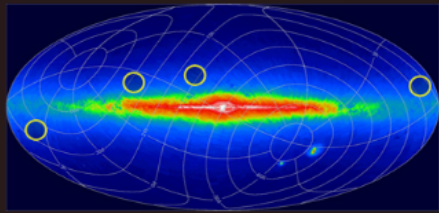
# M dwarfs and their planets

- M dwarfs dominate the stellar population
  - lower primary mass
    - higher RV signature
  - smaller stellar radius
    - better sensitivity for smaller planets
  - marketing argument: habitability
    - habitable zone is closer to the star
- spectral energy peak in infrared
- faint objects



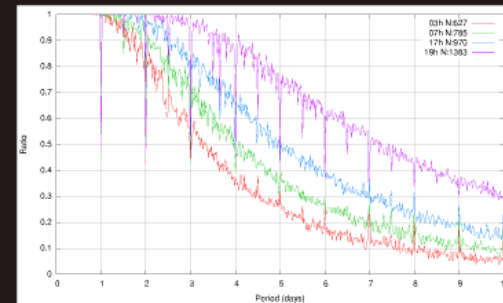
# WFCAM Transit Survey

- UKIRT queue scheduled, poor sky backup survey
- Planets around M dwarfs & low mass binaries, M dwarf variability, cool WDs, etc.
- 4 fields of 106'x53' FOV with 0.4" pixels



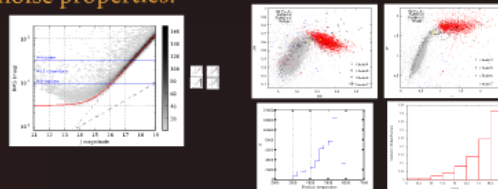
name	centre RA, DEC	galactic	No. epochs	stellar objects	M dwarfs
19	19.58+36.44	70.03+07.83	1263	59270	6495
17	17.25+03.74	24.94+23.11	948	13343	2482
07	07.09+12.94	202.89+08.91	756	21224	3135
03	03.65+39.23	154.99+12.99	591	15159	3498

WTS fields summary as of 2012 Aug, listed numbers are for J<17

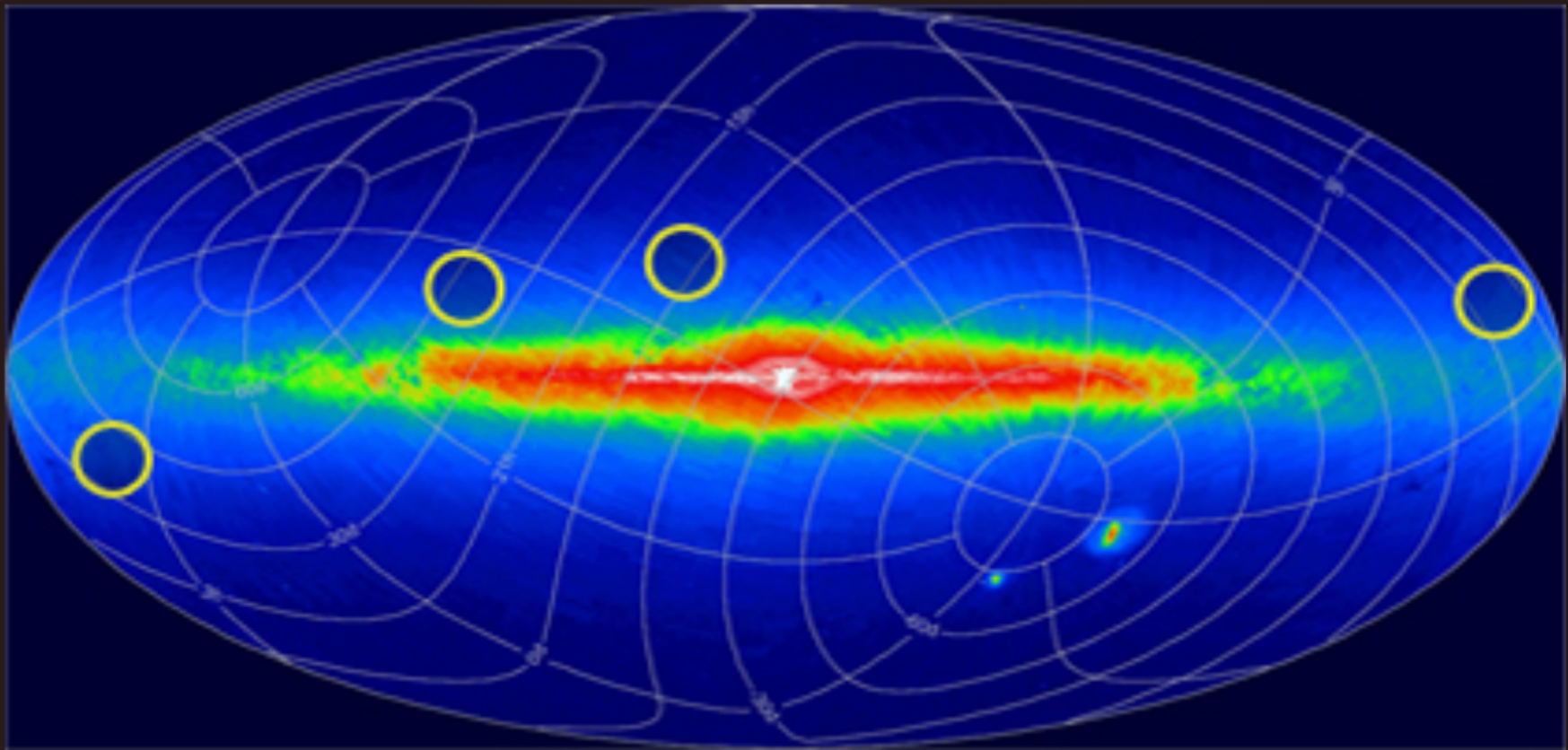


- a total of ~15000 M dwarfs in WTS (J<17 mag)

- SED fitting (grizZYJHK)/colour-colour cuts
- model dependency (200-300K)  
ongoing work to improve the sample and to add kinematics
- noise properties:



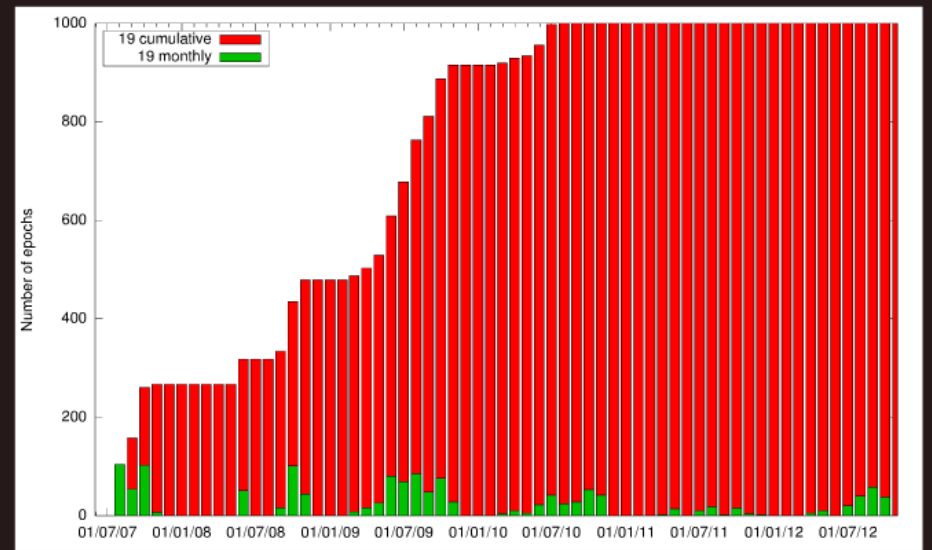
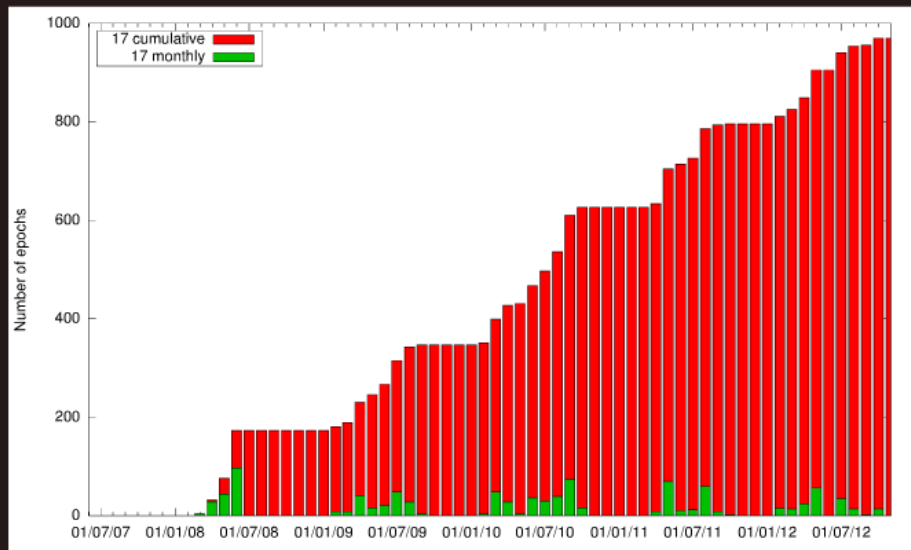
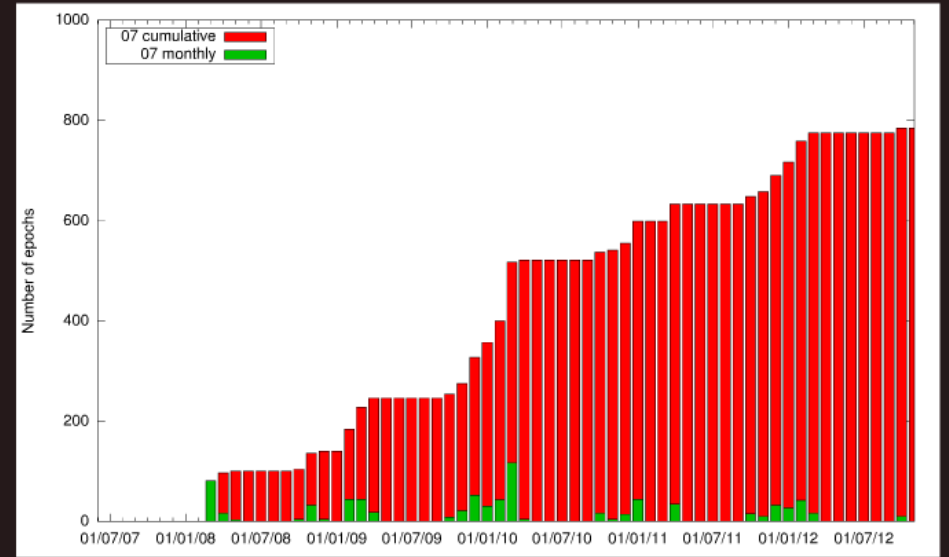
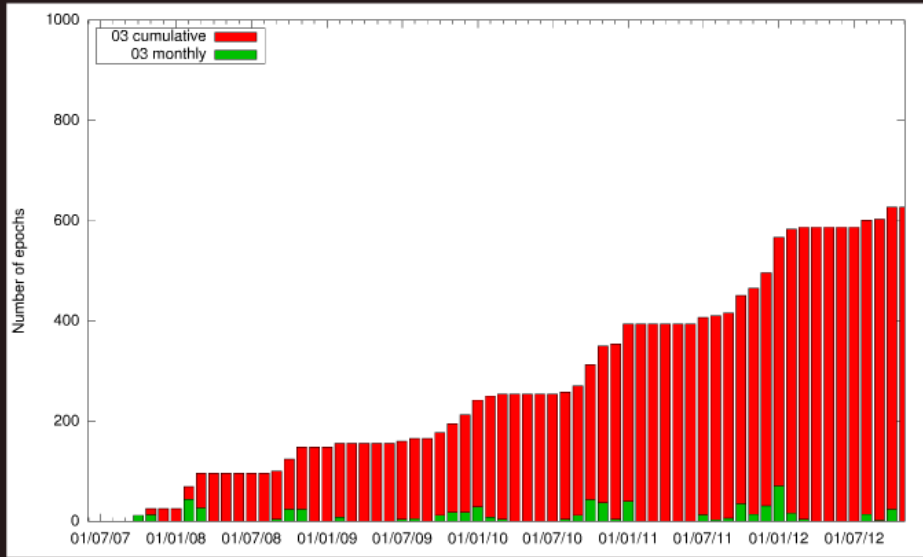




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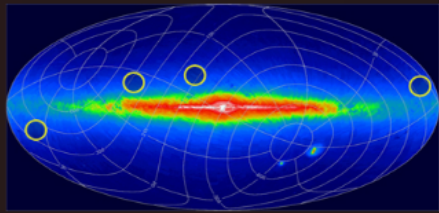
WTS fields summary as of 2012 Aug, listed numbers are for  $J < 17$





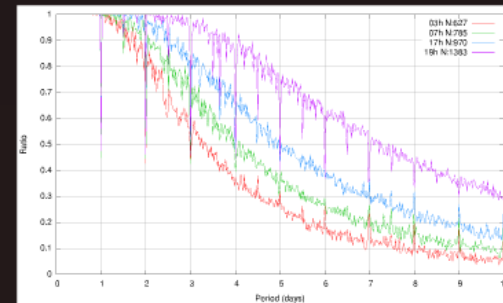
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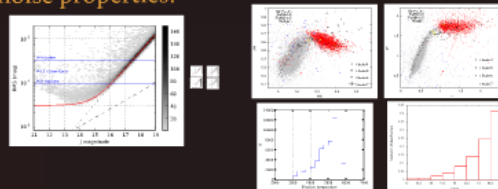
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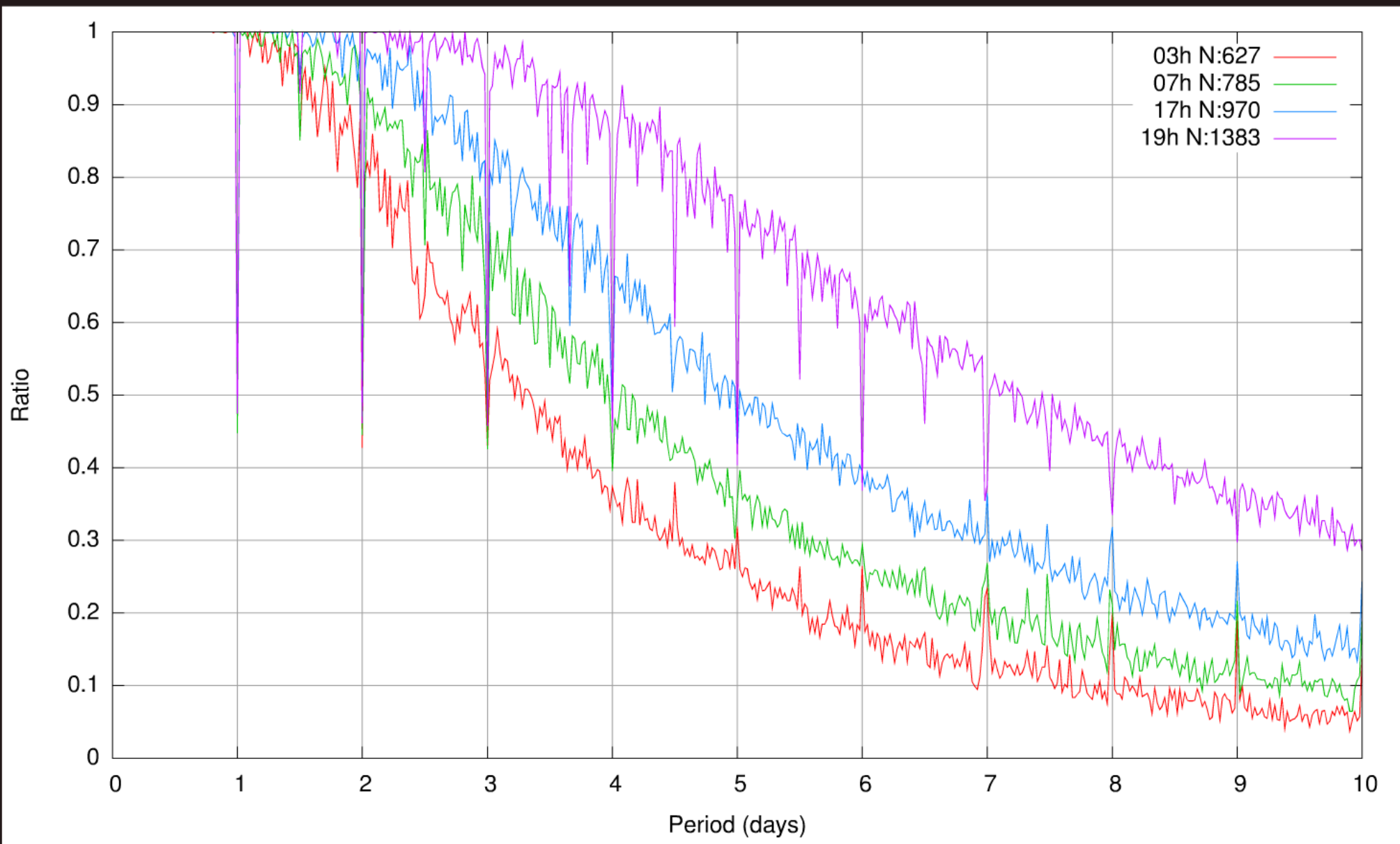
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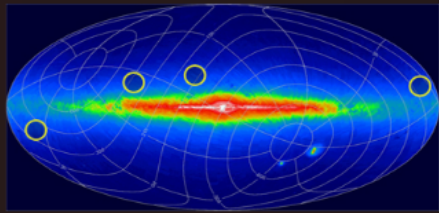
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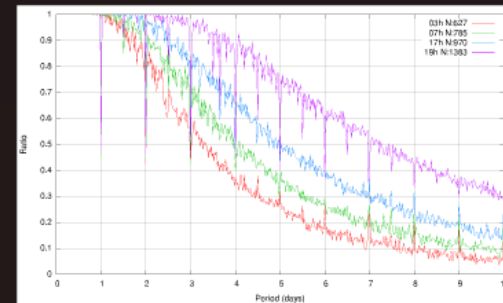
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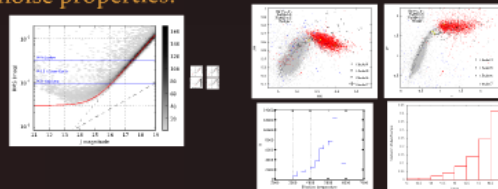
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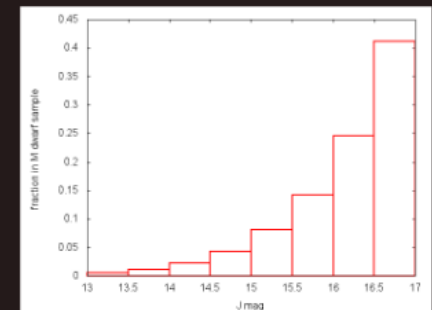
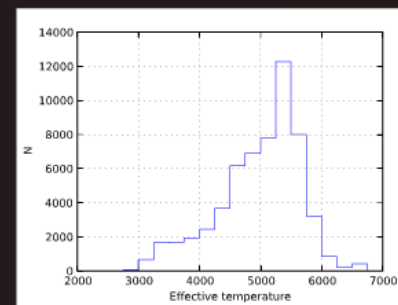
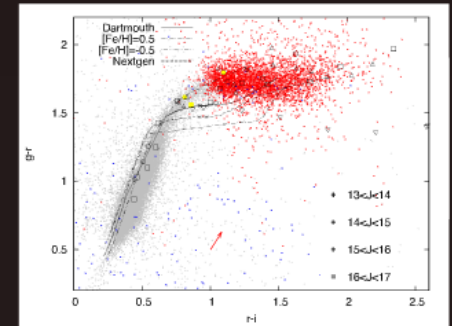
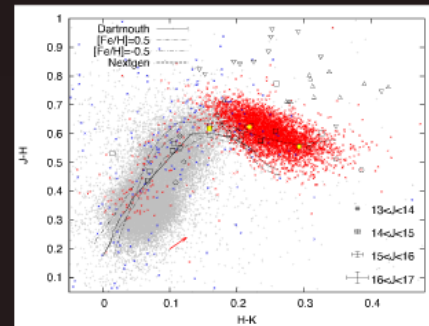
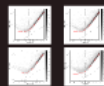
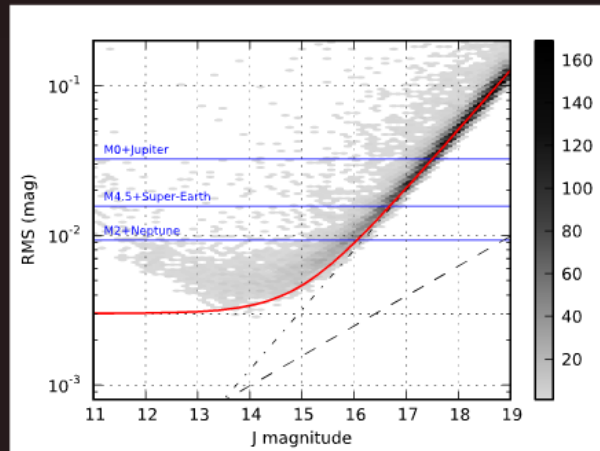
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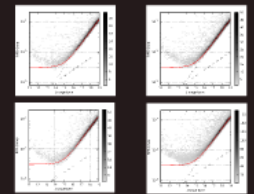
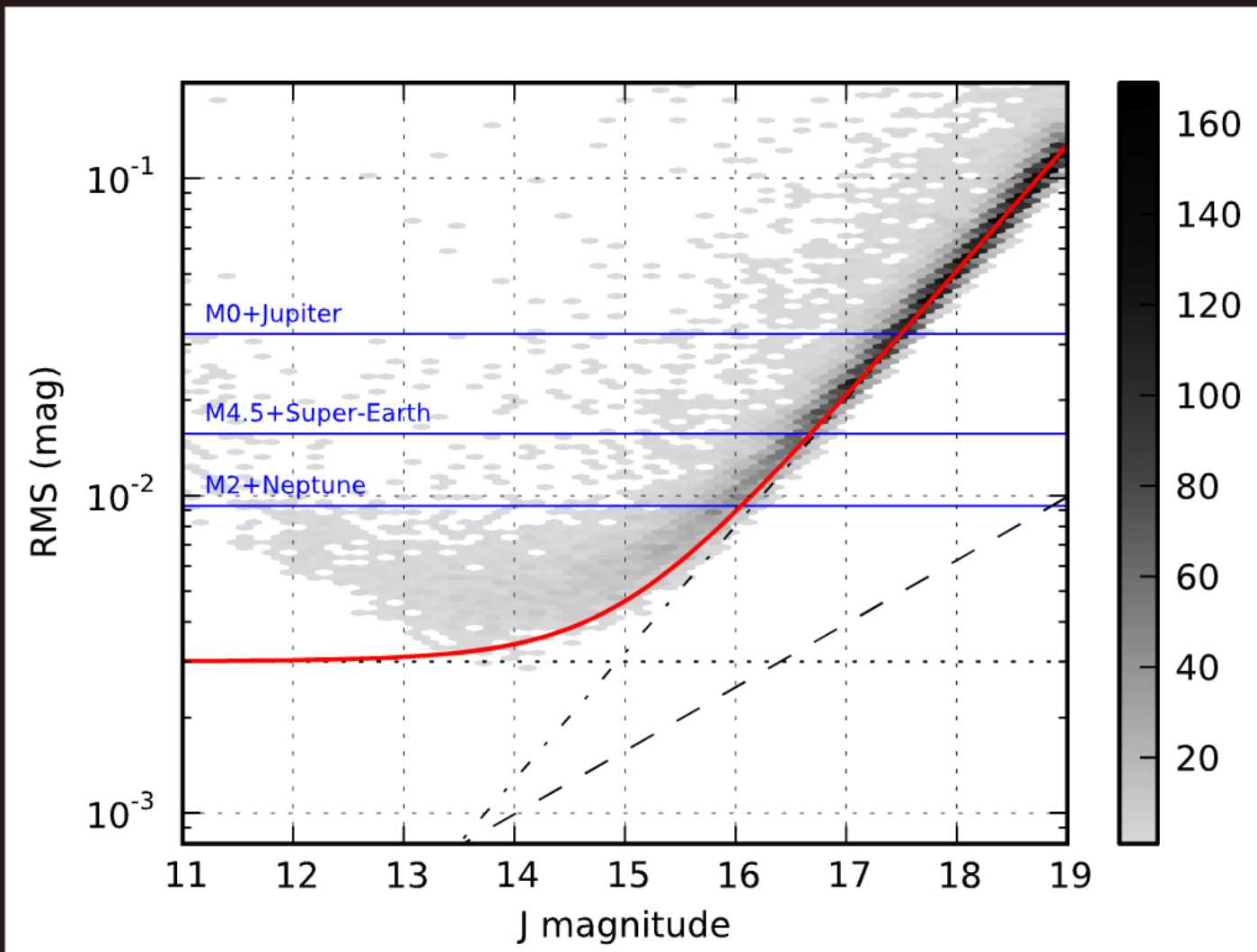
# M dwarfs in WTS

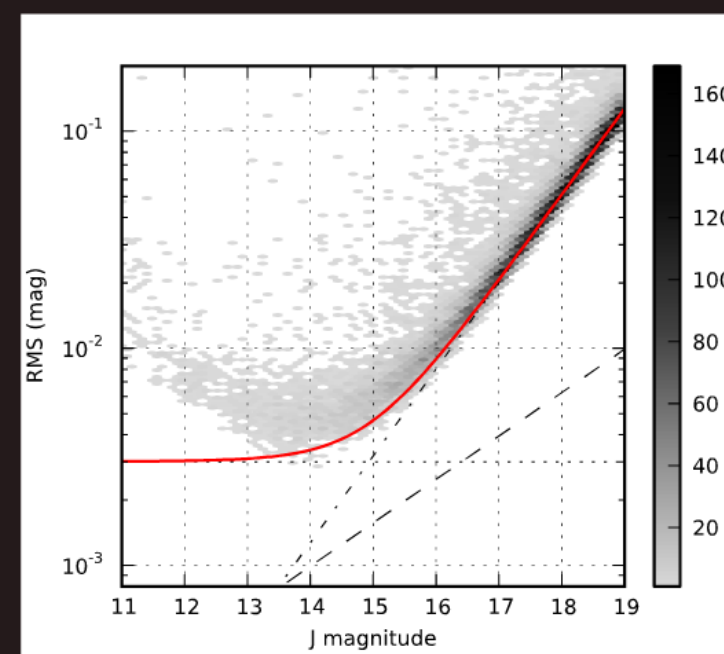
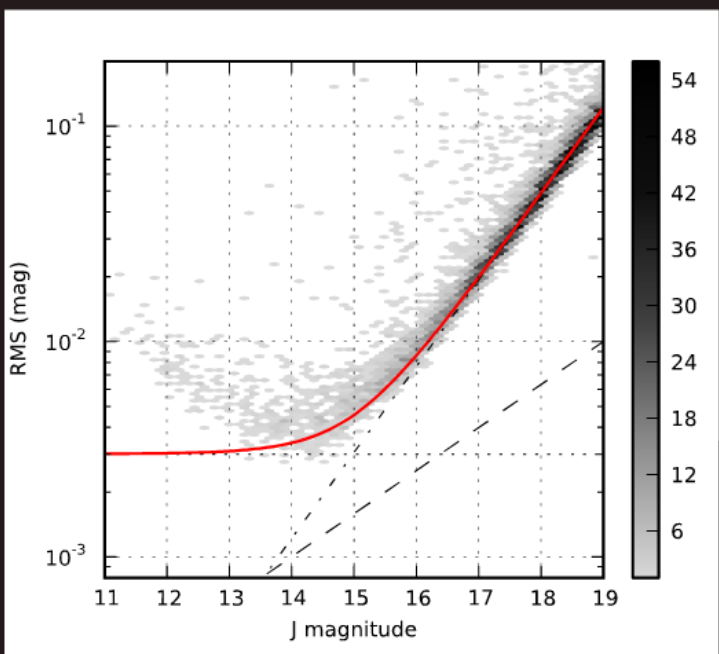
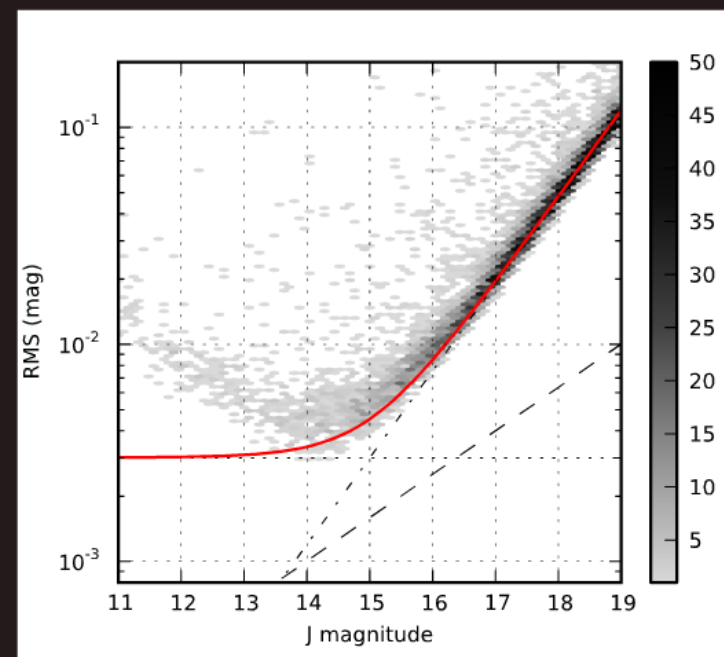
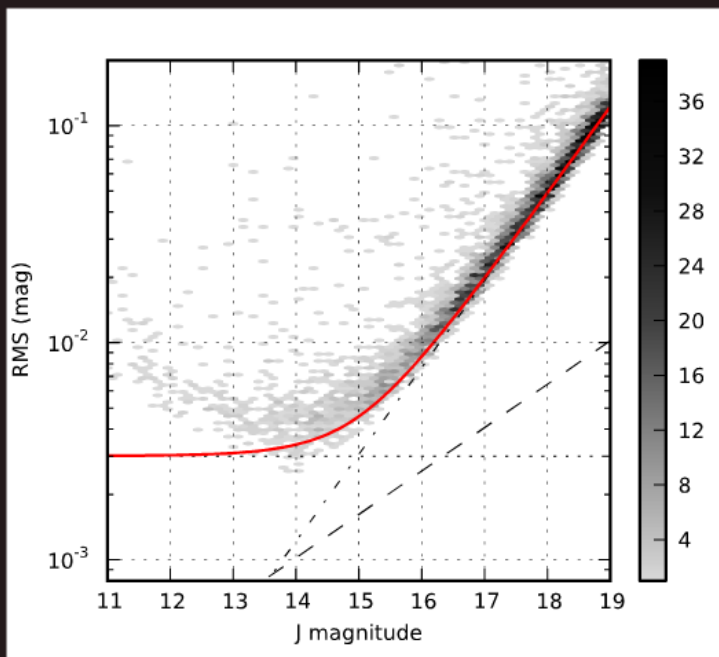
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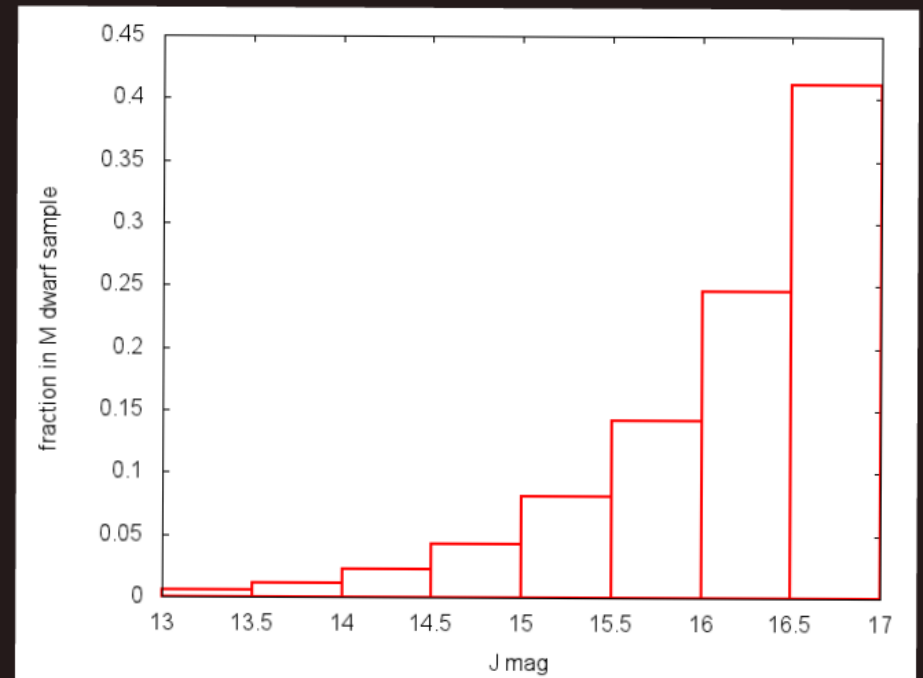
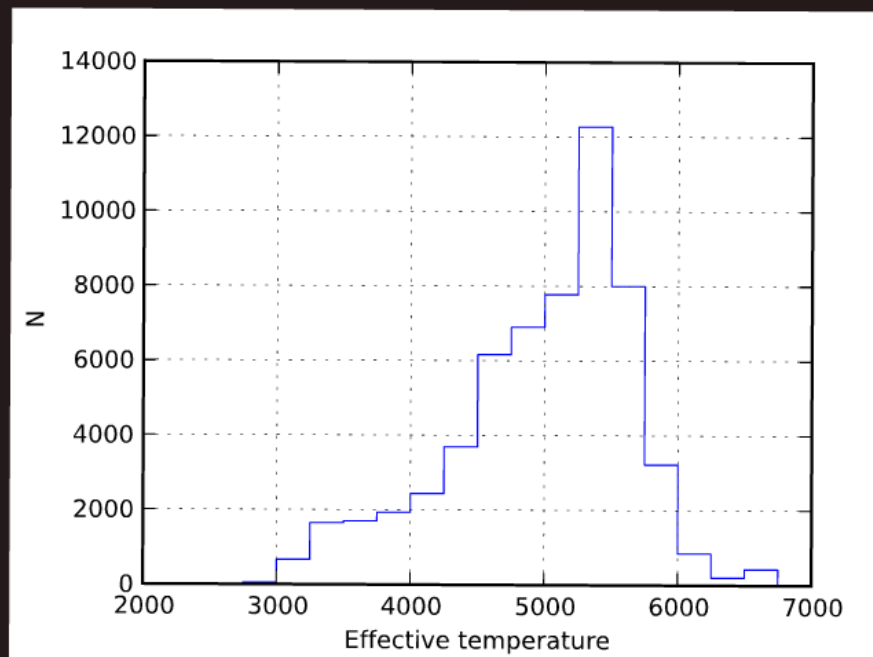
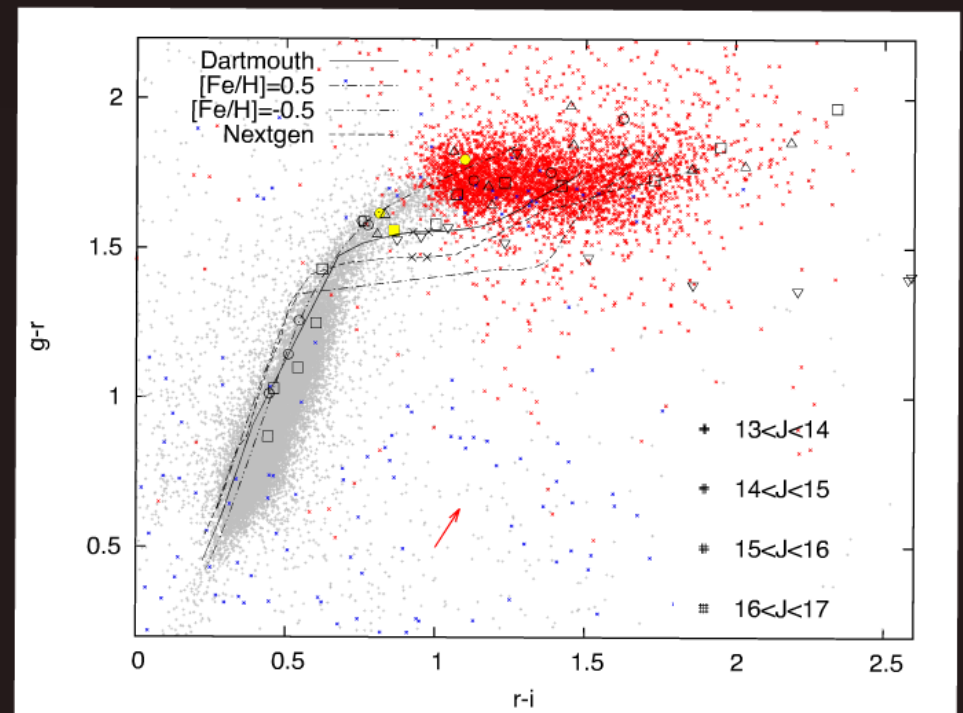
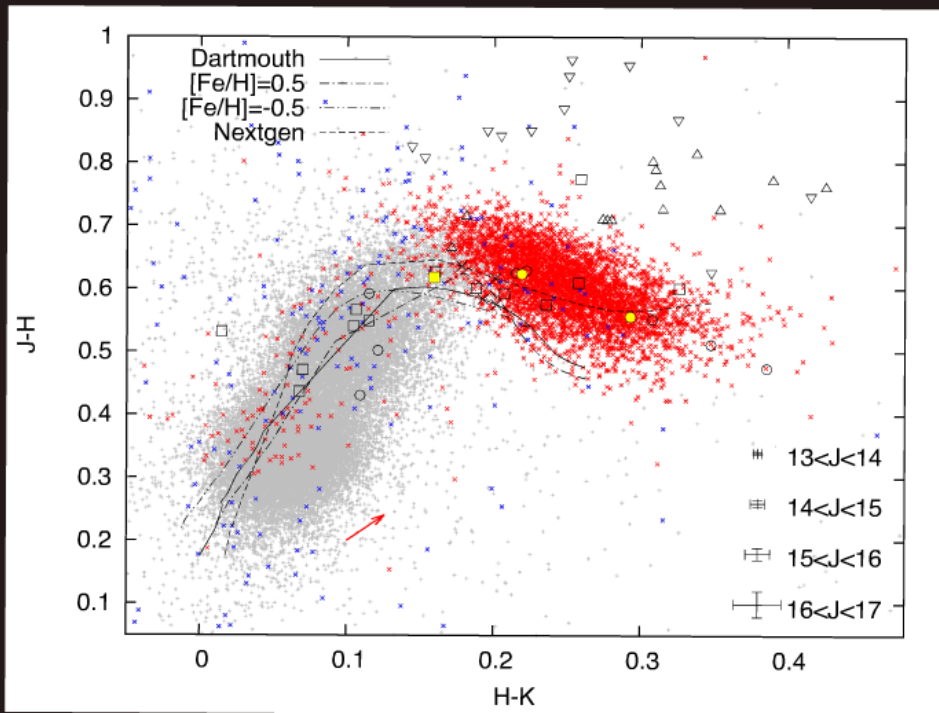


- noise properties:









# Automating candidate selection

- simulation helps fine tuning the candidate selection
- introduce a method for candidate selection which eliminates the least objective parts (e.g. massive eyeballing)
- capable of fast regeneration of candidates with a new lc release
- introduce a system which does NOT cut, but score
  - two types of scores:
    - detection score (quality of detection)
    - planet/EB score

# Detection score (sD)

- should reflect the quality of the detection
- data available for automated scoring:

• WFCAM + SDSS photometry → SED fitting



Star: temperature and radius

• WFCAM J light curve → BLS



Detection: period, depth, duration, number of transits, in-transit points, etc.

# Planet score (sP)

- should reflect the planet likeness of the target
- derived properties available for automated scoring:

- WFCAM + SDSS photometry
- WFCAM J light curve



- planet radii vs temp
- star radius from BLS

Host star radius estimation from BLS

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{R}_s &= \hat{R}_p \frac{P}{P_p} \left( \frac{F_p}{F_s} \right)^{-1/2} \\ R_s &= \frac{P^{2/3} (M_p + M_s)^{1/3} k_p^{-1/2} \sqrt{e} \cos i}{R_p \sqrt{1 - e \cos^2 i}} \times \text{CONST}_{\text{BLS}} \\ \text{assuming } M_p \ll M_s \text{ and } M_s = R_s \\ R_s &= \left( \frac{P^{2/3} M_p^{1/3} \sqrt{e}}{0.07552 J} \right) \end{aligned}$$

# Follow-ups

## Initial data

- WTS J-band light curves: input for BLS  $\rightarrow$  period and epoch
- Multicolor photometry: WFCAM and SDSS colours  $\rightarrow$  Teff/spectral type

## Candidates

- < 10 high priority planet candidates, all but two are rejected during follow-ups
- candidate tracking system

## Follow-up photometry

- using 2 m class telescopes (INT, LT, ESO 2.2m, ...)
- confirmation of the transit and its wavelength independence
- improving ephemeris and planetary model



## Low-res spectroscopy

- using 4m class telescopes (WHT, CAHA 3.5m, TNG, ...)
- spectral typing, identifying blends, solving binary systems

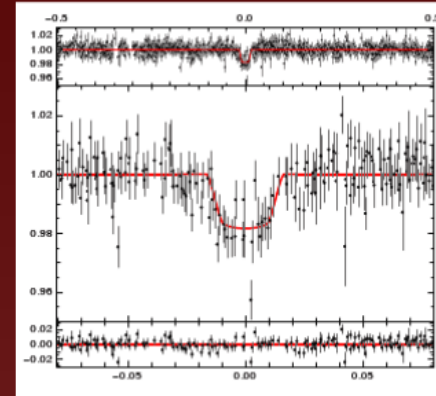
## High-res spectroscopy

- using HDS on the Hobby-Eberly Telescope, HiRES on Keck I
- RV measurements and characterization of the planet host

# Planets in the WTS

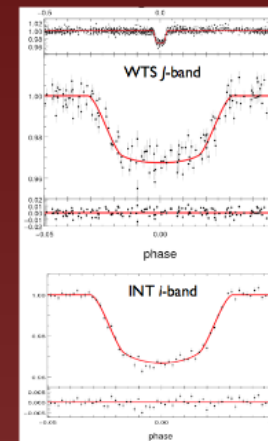
- **WTS-1b** (Michele Cappetta's talk)

$T_{\text{eff}} \sim 6250 \text{ K}$   
 $P = 3.352 \text{ days}$   
 $R \sim 1.60 \text{ R}_J$   
 $M \sim 4.03 \text{ M}_J$   
 $J = 15.3 \text{ mag}$



- **WTS-2b** (Jayne Birkby's talk)

$T_{\text{eff}} \sim 4900 \text{ K}$   
 $P = 1.0187 \text{ days}$   
 $R \sim 1.35 \text{ R}_J$   
 $M \sim 1.08 \text{ M}_J$   
 $J = 13.9 \text{ mag}$



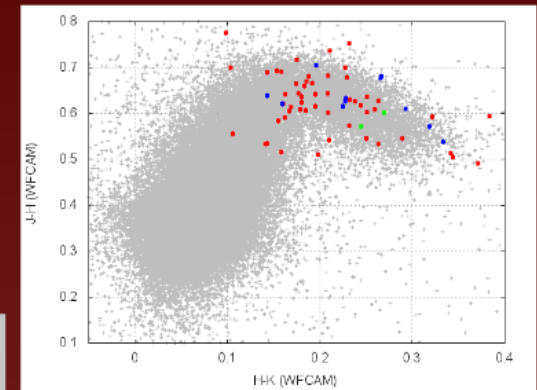
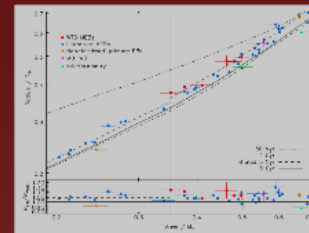
- **M dwarf hot Jupiters** (Gábor Kovács' talk)

Using the null detection, sample size, simulated sensitivity -> upper limit on occurrence ratios

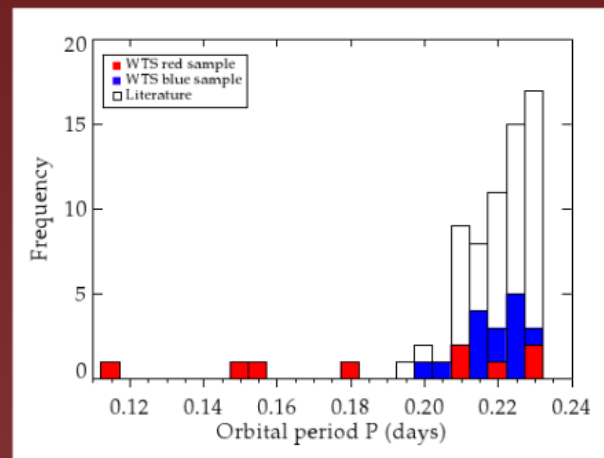
# Eclipsing binaries

- Resolved radii and mass of EBs
- ~70 low mass pairs, 14 have spectroscopy

- 3 resolved systems published  
(Birkby et al., 2012)



- Ultra short period eclipsing binaries (Nefs et al., 2012)





# Summary & conclusions

- WTS provides multi-epoch photometry (3mmag at bright end ; 2% at J=17)  
astrometry (5 years, ~10mas/epoch)  
→ Future plan to publish both the photometry and astrometry catalogues
- ground based infrared surveys with poor-sky, irregular observing patterns are capable of finding exoplanets  
WTS-1b & WTS-2b
- no hot Jupiters in the 19hr field M dwarf sample  
upper limit of on short period giant planets occurrence
- follow-up is very hard for such deep surveys

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