

**EPOXI**

# EPOXI (EPOCH)

Drake Deming  
Planetary Systems Laboratory  
Goddard Space Flight Center



**JPL**



## History

Origin of EPOXI

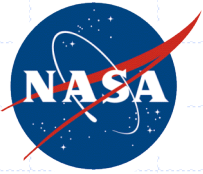
(I'll explain the funny name)

EPOXI transit science

What systems we will observe

How we can achieve high S/N

Opportunities for participation



EPOXI

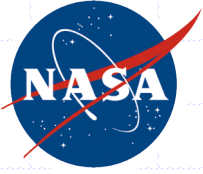
## Announcement of Opportunity for NASA's Discovery program (April, 2005):

"Under this AO, a science investigation that uses an existing NASA space asset, such as the Deep Impact and Stardust spacecraft, may be proposed as an mission of opportunity.."



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**EPOXI**

Extrasolar Planet Observations and  
Characterization (EPOCH)

Deep Impact eXtended Investigation (DIXI)

**EPOXI = EPOCH + DIXI**

M. A'Hearn (UMD) is EPOXI P.I.

Phase-2 selection, July 2007



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# The EPOCh Science Team

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Drake Deming (GSFC), EPOCh Principal Investigator  
David Charbonneau (Harvard), Deputy P.I.

Don Hampton (U. Alaska)

Tilak Hewagama (UMD)

Matt Holman (SAO)

Marc Kuchner (GSFC)

Timothy Livengood (NCESS)

Vikki Meadows (U. Wash)

Alfred Schultz (GSFC)

Sara Seager (M.I.T.)

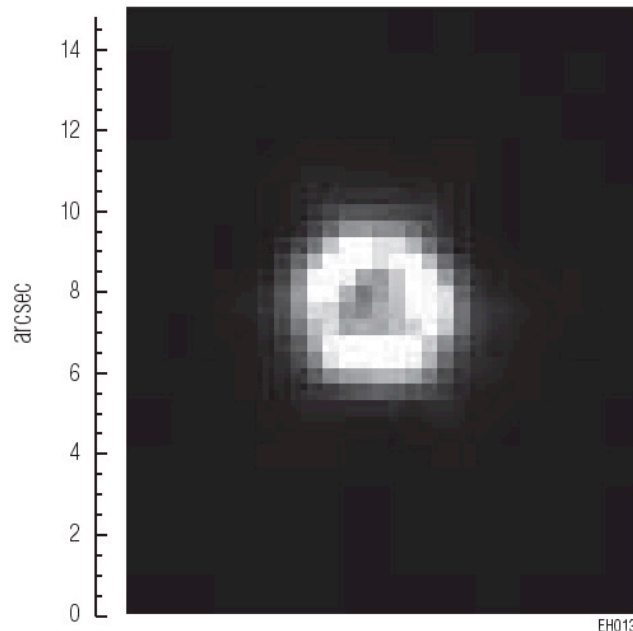
Joseph Veverka (Cornell)

Dennis Wellnitz (UMD)

Carey Lisse (APL)

Jeffrey Pederty (GSFC)

# EPOCH Transit Science



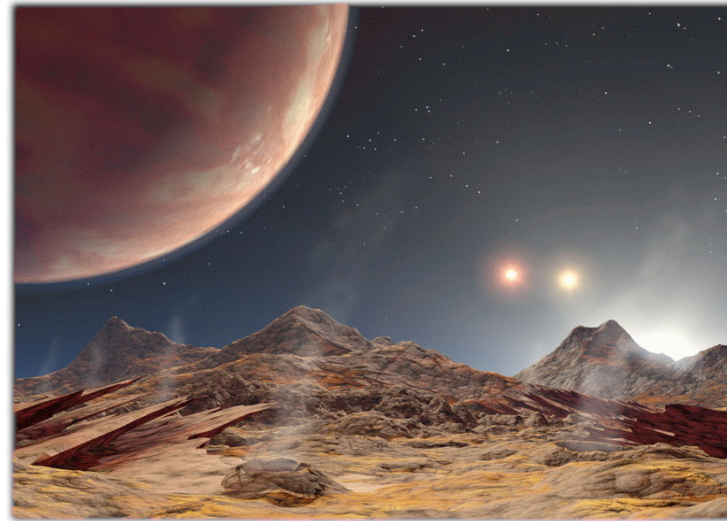
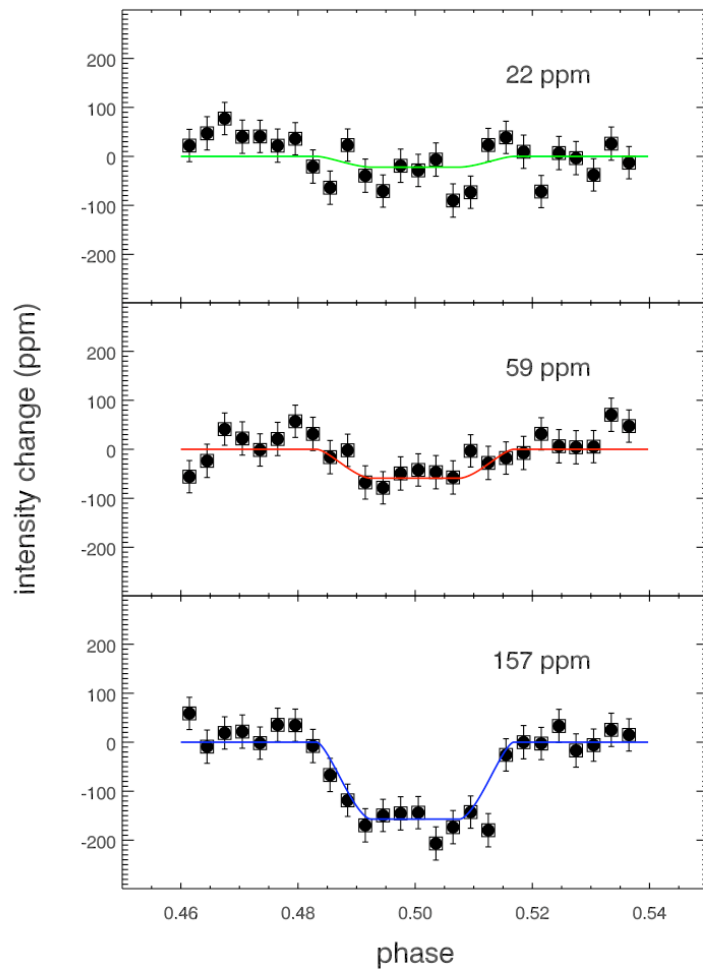
- Photometry using Deep Impact's 30-cm telescope, 350-950 nm band
- Image de-focus & heliocentric orbit facilitate high precision
- 51 arcsec FOV - 128 x 128 subarray

Observations Jan - May, 2008

Giant planet transiting systems, bright, and mainly not targeted by Kepler

- Reflected light at secondary eclipse
- Search for rings and moons
- Direct search for transits of terrestrial planets
- *Transit timing search* for terrestrial planets

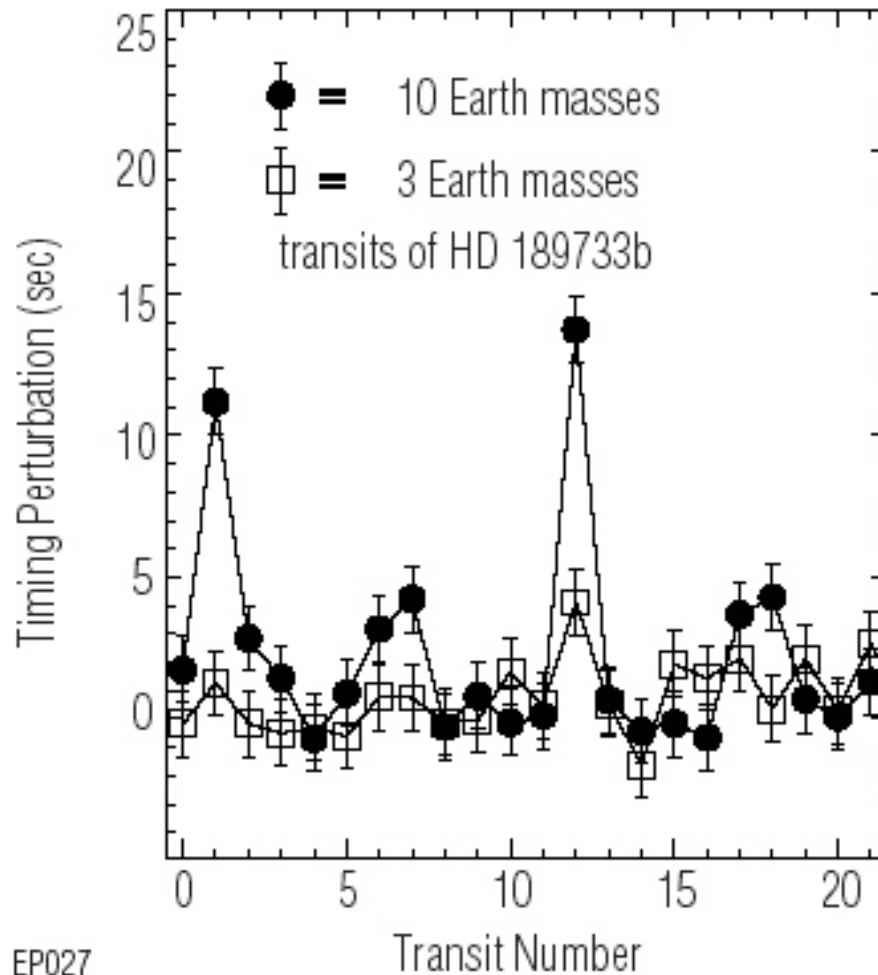
# Searching for terrestrial planet transits...



EPOCH searches planetary systems *already known to have giant planets, with edge-on orbital planes*

*...theory predicts terrestrial planets trapped in low order mean motion resonances*

# Another way to detect small planets



Giant planet transit timing provides an indirect search for terrestrial planets - including ones that do not transit

EP027



## What systems EPOCH will observe...

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Three bright ( $V < 13$ ) systems

Update of targets was anticipated

Original (Phase-2) targets (& comment):

XO-1 (deep transit)

TrES-2 (in Kepler field)

HD 189733 (bright)

Updates:

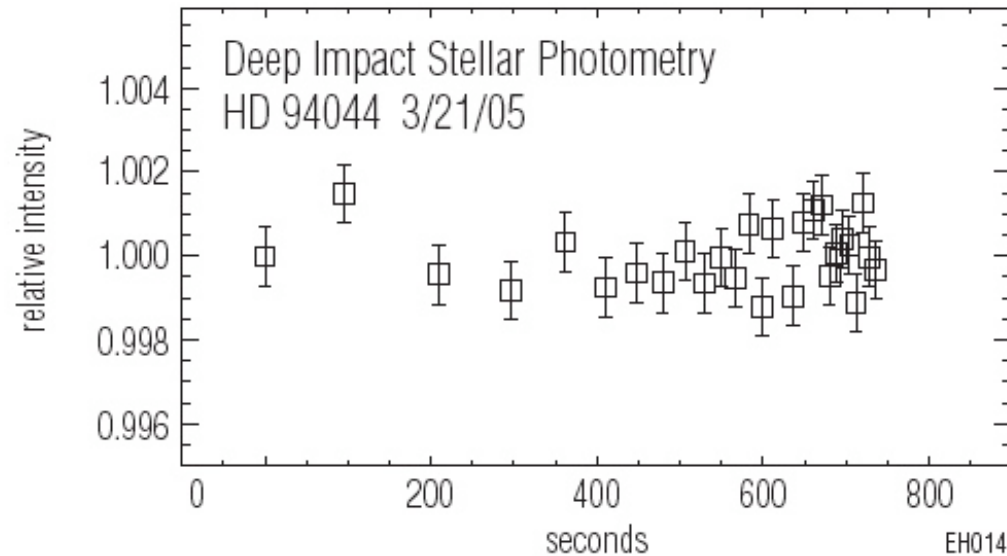
HD 189733 is dropped

possible additions:

GJ 436, TrES-3, TrES-4, XO-2, etc.

## We project 80% of photon-limited S/N

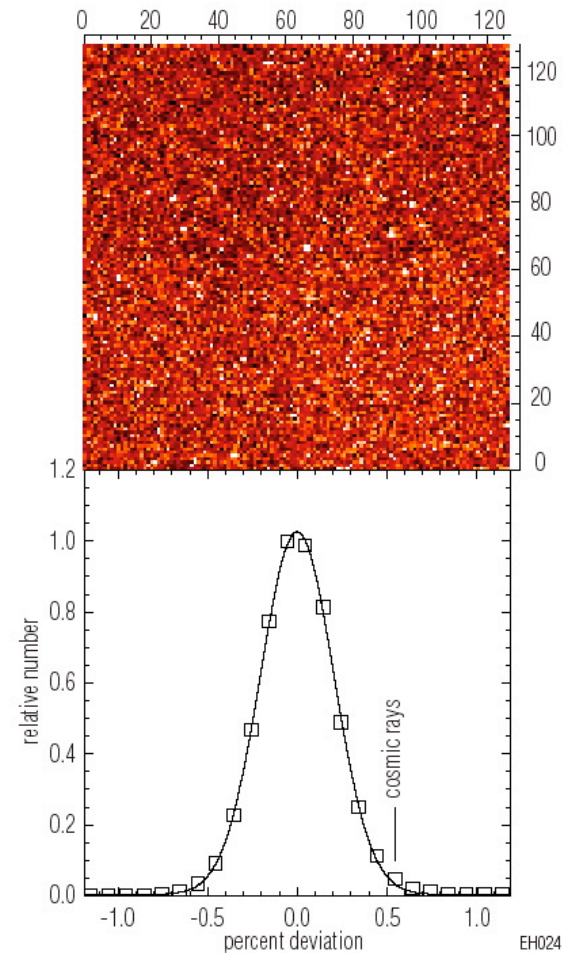
- ❑ No specific photometric test during the prime mission
- ❑ Heliocentric orbit and defocus help a lot
- ❑ One quasi- time series shows photon-limited Gaussian noise
- ❑ Principal source of non-photon errors are energetic particles
- ❑ There is an on-board stim lamp to monitor flat-fielding



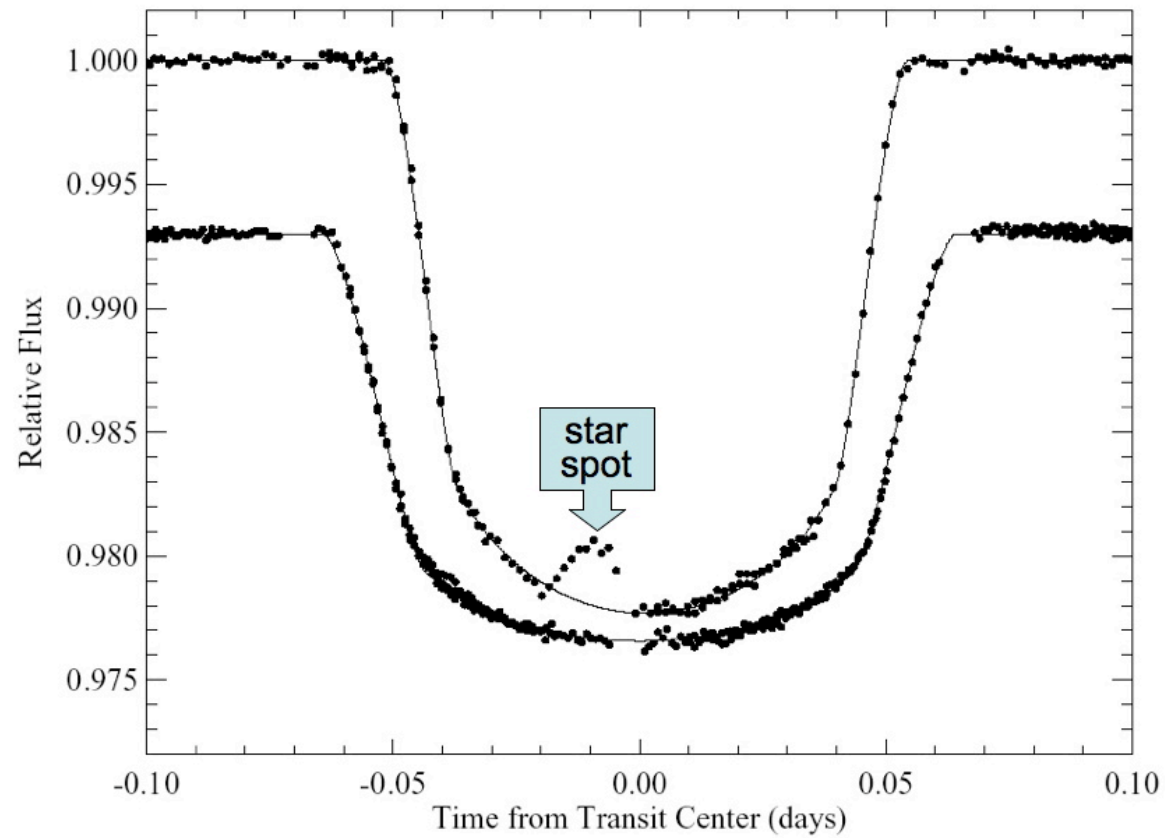
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# Flat-fielding calibration

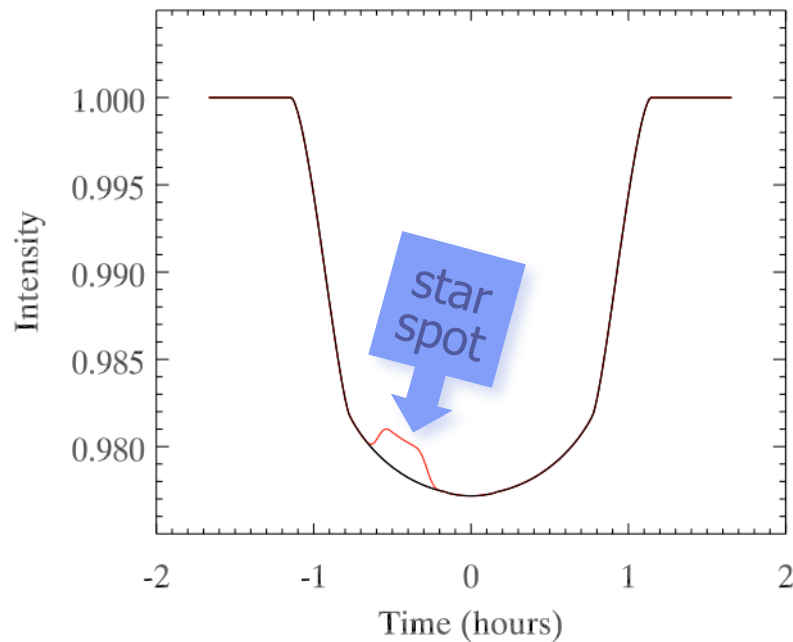
- ❑ Precision  $\sim 32$  ppm by ground flats
  - Stability monitored by the stim lamp
- ❑ Final corrections using the data:
  - 160,000 images total,  $\sim 1600$  per spatial position
  - $\sim 1$  ppm final corrected flat field precision
  - Any changes are likely to be spatially broad



## Star spot correction

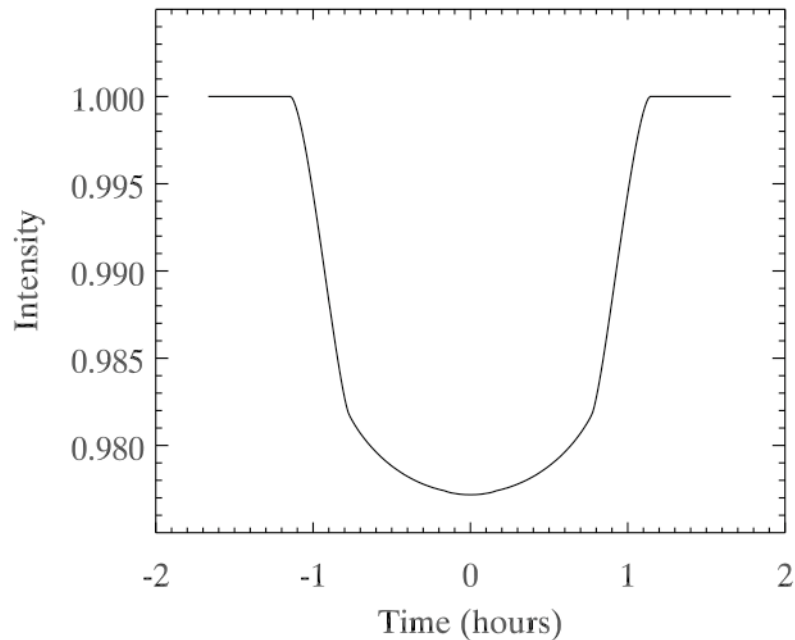


# Star spots can affect transit timing



A numerical transit-  
across-spot simulation

# Correcting for star spots



spot at the limb  
is foreshortened

scaling the spot closer  
to disk center removes  
the limb spot to within  
the photon noise

## Opportunities for participation

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No participating scientist program, but:  
data will be public quickly  
Discovery DAP should provide funding

We are hiring a postdoc  
(at CfA w/Charbonneau)