



The Virtual Astronomy Classroom: New Frontiers in Science Education

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Abstract

The digital revolution has transformed astronomy education through the Virtual Observatory, creating dynamic, accessible learning environments that transcend traditional classroom limitations. By integrating real-time data, like Gaia, Kepler, TESS, SDSS, virtual astronomy classrooms empower students worldwide to explore the cosmos regardless of geographic or socioeconomic barriers. These tools not only enhance engagement through hands-on experimentation with actual astronomical datasets but also cultivate critical STEM skills like data analysis and computational thinking. As the Virtual Observatory bridges the gap between cutting-edge research and education, it represents a paradigm shift in science pedagogy—democratizing access to the universe while preparing a new generation of learners for data-driven discovery. This innovative approach redefines astronomy education as an immersive, boundaryless experience, where every student can participate in the scientific process under the same "digital sky".



-
- We live an era of multi-wavelength astronomy
 - Various ground based and space surveys ranging from gamma rays, X-rays, ultraviolet, optical, and infrared to radio bands has brought astronomy into the big data era.
 - Astronomical data is already amounting to petabytes and increasing with the advent of new instruments.
 - Astronomy has evolved from “hypothesis-driven”, data poor to a data rich science
-



OUR TEAM



Dr Priya Hasan

Asst Professor

(Astronomy /Physics)

Prof S N Hasan

Professor

(Mathematics/Astronomy)

Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, India

IVOA June 2025 Interoperability Meeting, Univ of Maryland



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Results of Extraordinary call for COVID-19 related proposals

In May 2020, the IAU Office of Astronomy for Development Issued an [Extraordinary Call for Proposals](#) that could use astronomy in any form to help mitigate some of the impacts caused by COVID-19. Together with the African Astronomical Society and African Planetarium Association, more than 800,000 ZAR (about 40,000 Euros) in grants have been awarded to 43 projects around the world that use various aspects of astronomy and the astro community to help communities suffering the negative impacts of COVID-19.

Summaries of projects are listed below (in alphabetical order). For more information on any of the projects, write to [info \(at\) astro4dev.org](mailto:info@astro4dev.org).

Astronomy from Archival Data

India and all over the world

The project will train students to use the high-quality astronomy data from various facilities. Participants will be shown step-by-step techniques of accessing and analysing astronomy data from the Internet, introduced to virtual observatory tools and programming techniques, and supported to formulate and develop projects. The training will include special sessions on report writing, publishing and presenting in scientific journals. More info at: <https://shristiastro.com/astronomy-from-archival-data/>

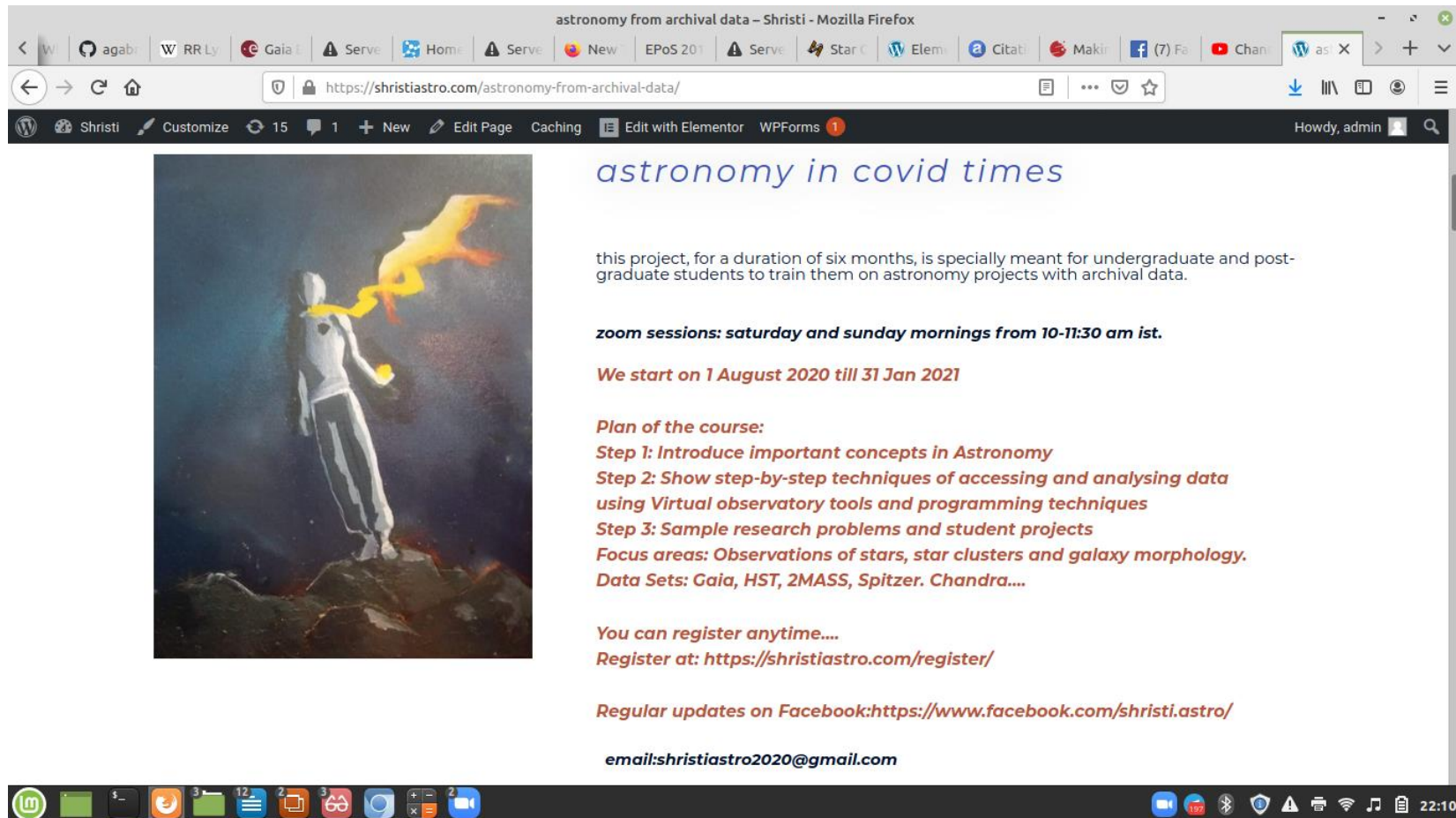


915 RESPONSES

INDIA, PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH, SRILANKA, NEPAL, GERMANY, ITALY, UK, USA, SA,
NIGERIA, BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, GHANA, COLUMBIA, BRAZIL, MEXICO, PHILIPENES,
INDONESIA, THAILAND, MALAYSIA, CHINA, JAPAN...
23..COUNTRIES

SOMETHING THAT STUDENTS WANT!!!

A TOUR OF OUR WEBSITE.... [HTTPS://SHRISTIASTRO.COM/](https://shristiastro.com/)





MODUS OPERANDI

- Virtual teaching has been there for a while..now a serious option to consider
- Website designing and maintenance
- Social Media
- Contact: Telegram, Email
- Feedback: Homework, Quizzes, Polls
- Variety of Speakers: Mark Taylor, Sushan Konar, Luisa Rebull, Bruno Merin, Deborah Baines, Tim Hamilton, Ajit Kembhavi, Avinash Deshpande, Kaustubh Waghmare, Tarun Deep Saini...



OFFICE OF ASTRONOMY FOR DEVELOPMENT



science & innovation
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CATEGORY ARCHIVES: ASTRO SPRINT

2021, ASTRO SPRINT, CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA, GLOBAL

Overview: Astro Sprint

POSTED ON JANUARY 5, 2021 BY MASTERUSER



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2021

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ASTRO
SPRINT

2021

About the Project

Workshops

Forum

Links and resources

Who we are

IVOA June 2025 Interoperability Meeting, Univ of Maryland

Schedule and zoom link details...

ENTERPRISE

26th, 27th & 28th March
Online Zoom Sessions.

Warp Drive your way to
Research in Astronomy!

Enter



DISCOVERY (21-31 AUGUST 2021)

Enter

Register >

We are planning sessions on weekends & weekdays from
21-31 August to distribute the talks. Most days you have 1,
2 or maximum 3 talks on a day....to not overload u

Here is the [schedule](#)

The Zoom link is: Topic: AstroSprint: Discovery

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5760546150...>

Meeting ID: 576 054 6150

Passcode: HAS2020

We will also be live streaming on :

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ShristiAstronomy>

The registration link is:

<https://forms.gle/PZZkaP11BYFY8yjC8>



NEXT GENERATION

3-5 June 2022
HYBRID MODE
MAULANA AZAD
NATIONAL URDU
UNIVERSITY,
HYDERABAD



[Register](#)

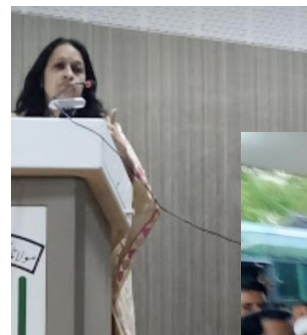
AstroSprint: The Next Generation

3-4 June 2022



Hybrid mode
20 recorded lectures
Stars, pulsars, star clusters,
galaxies, AGN....
Projects ongoing
Publications, posters

Very good response





The HR diagram with LCO-2

30 October 2021
10-12 am IST



We plan a short online workshop on observations with the Las Cumbres Observatory to observe Star Clusters and plot their HR diagrams. This program is planned for serious amateur and young aspiring professional astronomers.

This is a follow-up of the earlier workshop held. Participants will learn how to plot HR diagrams for Star Clusters.

The registration link is:

<https://forms.gle/npXuri4HYBheo4Fc6>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/shristiastronomy>

Contact us at +91 9866619519 or

priya.hasan@gmail.com.

More details at: <https://shristiaastro.wordpress.com/the-hr-diagram-with-lco/>

Contact: Priya Hasan, S N Hasan, MANUU, Hyd
+91 9866619519, priya.hasan@gmail.com



Twenty-five telescopes at seven sites around the world working together as a single instrument >



The HR diagram with LCO

(2 -3 October 2021)



We plan a two-day online workshop on observations with the Las Cumbres Observatory to observe Star Clusters and plot their HR diagrams. This program is planned for serious amateur and young aspiring professional astronomers. We shall have detailed presentations on magnitude scales, extinction, photometry and HR diagrams. There will be hands-on sessions on using the Aperture Photometry Tool (APT) and TopCat and participants will learn how to plot HR diagrams for Star Clusters.

The registration link is:

<https://forms.gle/bR2jkZfZGbVvKPe6>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/shristiastronomy>

Contact us at +91 9866619519 or

priya.hasan@gmail.com.

More details at: <https://shristiaastro.wordpress.com/the-hr-diagram-with-lco/>

Contact: Priya Hasan, S N Hasan, MANUU, Hyd
+91 9866619519, priya.hasan@gmail.com



Twenty-five telescopes at seven sites around the world working together as a single instrument >



Online Workshop on Stellar Photometry with LCO

2-4 pm IST, 8-9 October 2022

Las Cumbres Observatory



Topics to be covered:
Photometry Basics
Standard Magnitudes
BANZAI pipeline of LCO
Hands-on session with Topcat, Jupyter Notebooks

Resource persons:

Priya & Najam Hasan

The registration link

<https://forms.gle/7NoWkVwMry1ah8>

Contact priya.hasan@gmail.com for queries



University of Sharjah

Dec 2022



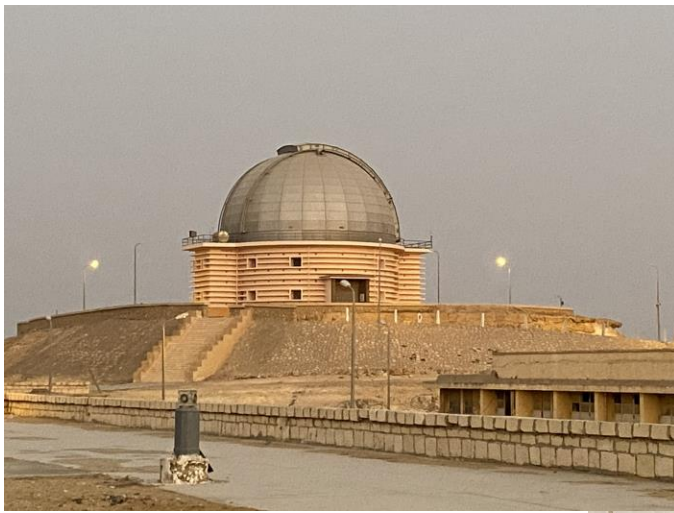
Workshops

- May 24, 2022, “Stars and HR Diagram”, The Bush School, Seattle, Washington, USA. Online Workshop by Priya Hasan
- **2 -3 October 2021**, The HR diagram with LCO. Online Workshop by Priya Hasan and S N Hasan.
- **30 October 2021**, The HR diagram with LCO-2. Online Workshop by Priya Hasan and S N Hasan.
- **8 - 9 October 2022**: Stellar photometry with LCO. Online Workshop by Priya Hasan and S N Hasan.
- **STELLAR PHOTOMETRY AND HR DIAGRAMS WITH SOO and LCO**, Wed. 21 to Fri. 23 Dec. 2022

Sharjah Academy for Astronomy, Space Sciences and Technology,
UoS, UAE

- May 2023, AstroEdu, Workshop on LCO Observations





Third Advanced ArAS School for Astrophysics in the Kottamia Astronomical Observatory, Egypt, on September 15-22, 2023.





- The 2nd International Science Conference “Science and Industry”, which will be held during October 14-15, 2024 in Culture and Arts Building, Helwan University, Egypt.

- Third Advanced ArAS School for Astrophysics in the Kottamia Astronomical Observatory, Egypt, October 18-24, 2024.



No	ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME
1	Courtesy call on the administration: Dean, HOD, Faculty	23 October 2023	09:00 – 10:00
2	Postgraduate workshop in astronomy	25-27 October 2023	09:00 – 17:00
3	Staff workshop: Hands on training	30 October to 01 November 2023	09:00 – 17:00
4	Public lecture: Machine learning based on Gaia	3 November 2023	10:00 – 11:00
5	Workshop3: Open mode development of MSc resources	4 – 9 November 2023	10:00 – 17:00
6	Public lecture: Quantifying Galaxy Morphology	8 November 2023	10:00 – 11:00
7	Departure of experts	10 November 2023	08:00



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Virtual Observatory – Office of Astronomy for Development Special Grant



Other Workshops

IAU GA, ***Virtual Observatory Tools for Students and Educators*** workshop

M. Allen, M. Baumann, B. Berriman, **P. Hasan**, M. Marchand, P. Sharma, P. Whitelock, 2024

IAU GA, **Remote Telescopes FM 10**

Nagpur, India, 2023, 2024

Mathura, 2023

SPPU University, Anand, India 2024

Nehru Planetarium, Delhi, April 2025

Science Cases

Exoplanets: Kepler and TESS data

Star Clusters: HR diagrams with Gaia

1D Galaxy Morphology: Isophotes

Observations with LCO

CCD Data Analysis with astropy

Analyzing interstellar reddening and calculating synthetic photometry
with astropy

Computing Galactic Orbits of Stars with Gala

https://archive.stsci.edu/prepds/kepler_hlsp/

Accessing Data:



Kepler HLSP

Below are README files describing version 1.0 HLSP data:

[README_dtr.txt](#) describing the files containing time series of detrended, normalized stellar fluxes of individual target stars as observed by NASA's Kepler Mission.

[README_rvb.txt](#) describing the files containing time series of radial velocity and spectral line bisector span for ground-based spectroscopic observations of individual target stars that have been observed by NASA's Kepler Mission.

Click on the target name to see more information and a quick-look plot. Click on the filenames to download txt files. You may also download via anonymous ftp from archive.stsci.edu. cd /pub/hlsp/kepler_hlsp/

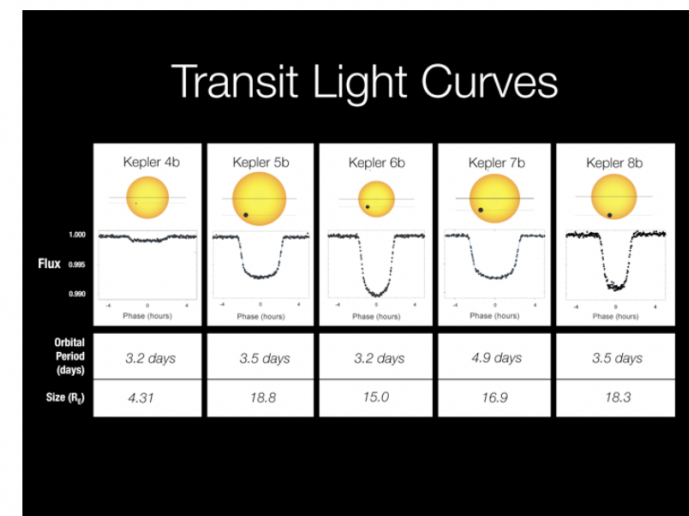


Illustration from [Bill Borucki's Jan 2010 AAS Presentation](#)

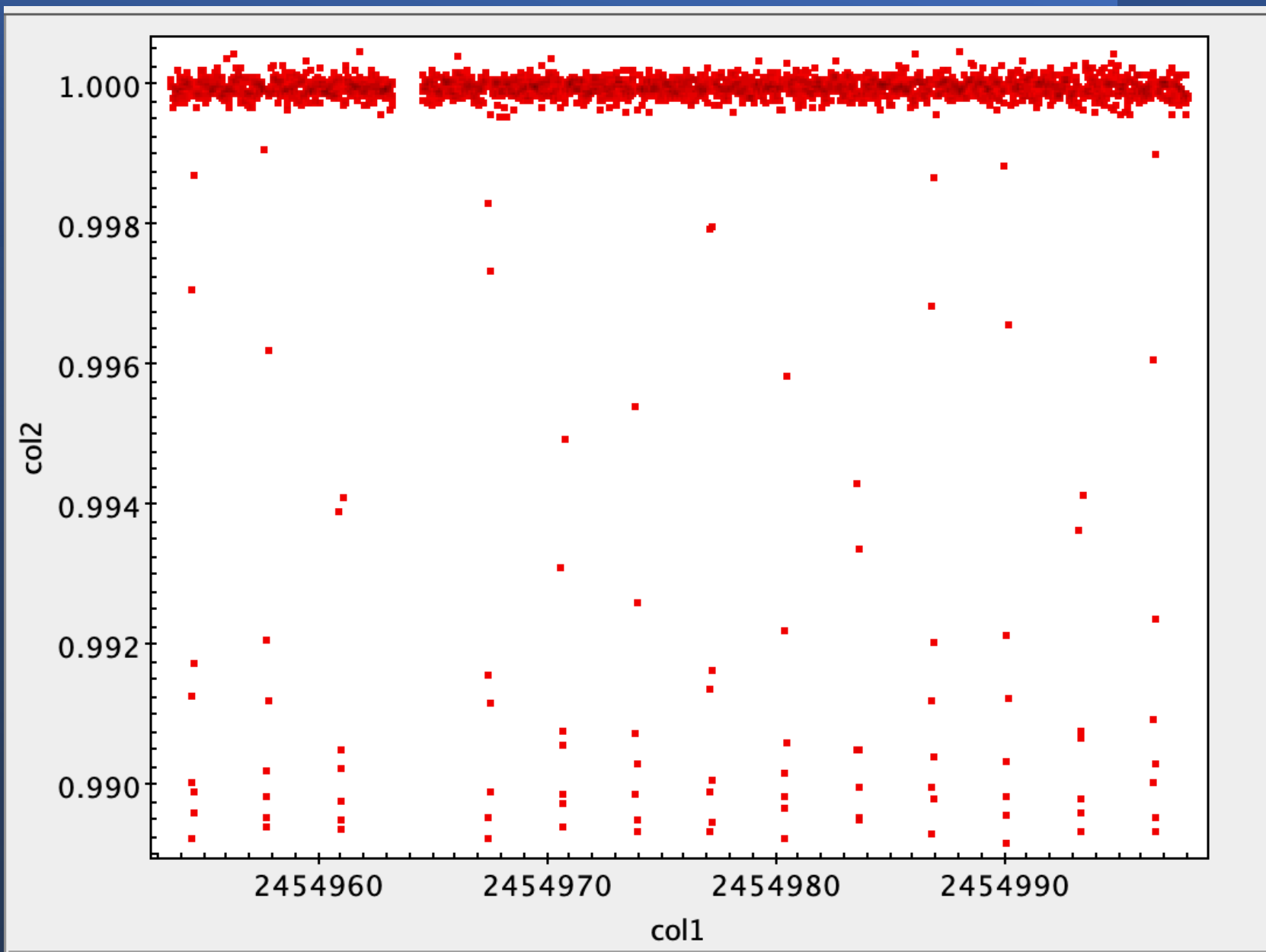
The First Five Targets

Target	Kepler Time Series	Ground Based Time Series
KPLR10874614 Kepler-6b	hlsp_exo_kepler_phot_KPLR10874614_kep_v1.0_dtr.txt	hlsp_exo_kepler_spec_KPLR10874614_wide_v1.0_rvb.txt
KPLR11853905 Kepler-4b	hlsp_exo_kepler_phot_KPLR11853905_kep_v1.0_dtr.txt	hlsp_exo_kepler_spec_KPLR11853905_wide_v1.0_rvb.txt
KPLR5780885	hlsp_exo_kepler_phot_KPLR5780885_kep_v1.0_dtr.txt	hlsp_exo_kepler_spec_KPLR5780885_wide_v1.0_rvb.txt

Open in Topcat

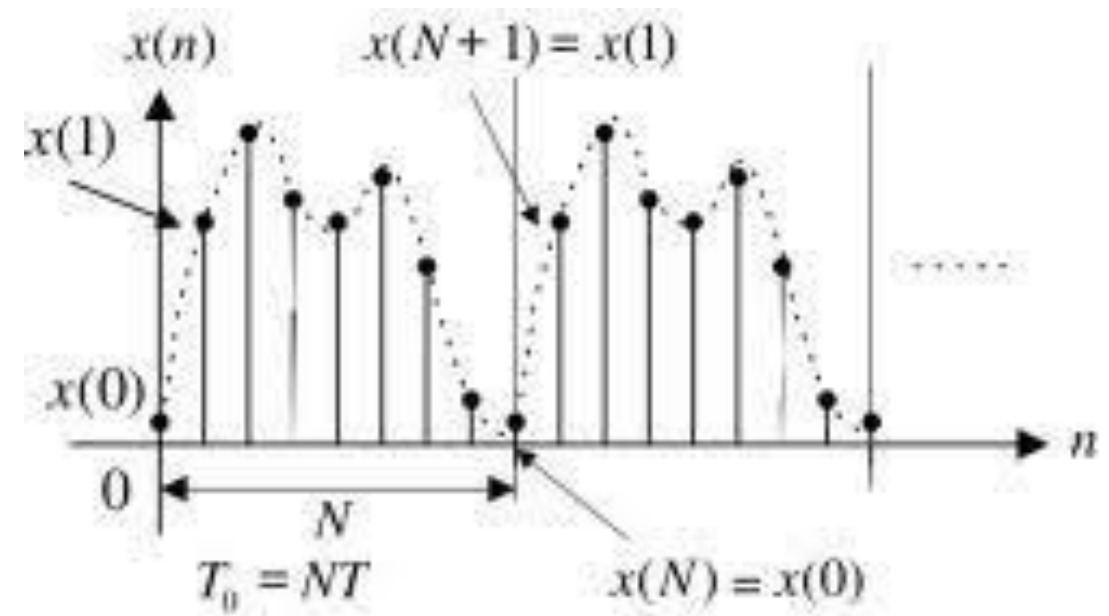
- Julian Date
- Flux
- The **Julian day number** (JDN) is the integer assigned to a whole solar day in the Julian day count starting from noon [Universal Time](#), with Julian day number 0 assigned to the day starting at noon on Monday, January 1, [4713 BC](#), [proleptic Julian calendar](#) (November 24, 4714 BC, in the [proleptic Gregorian calendar](#)), a date at which three multi-year cycles started (which are: [Indiction](#), [Solar](#), and [Lunar](#) cycles) and which preceded any dates in [recorded history](#).^[a]
- For example, the Julian day number for the day starting at 12:00 [UT](#) (noon) on January 1, 2000, was 2 451 545.

	col1	col2	r
1	2.454954E6	1.00007	
2	2.454954E6	0.99999	
3	2.454954E6	0.99998	
4	2.454954E6	0.99983	
5	2.454954E6	0.99982	
6	2.454954E6	0.99969	
7	2.454954E6	0.99998	
8	2.454954E6	0.99987	
9	2.454954E6	0.99994	
10	2.454954E6	0.99978	
11	2.454954E6	0.99993	
12	2.454954E6	0.99988	
13	2.454954E6	1.00023	
14	2.454954E6	0.99999	
15	2.454954E6	0.99974	
16	2.454954E6	0.99991	

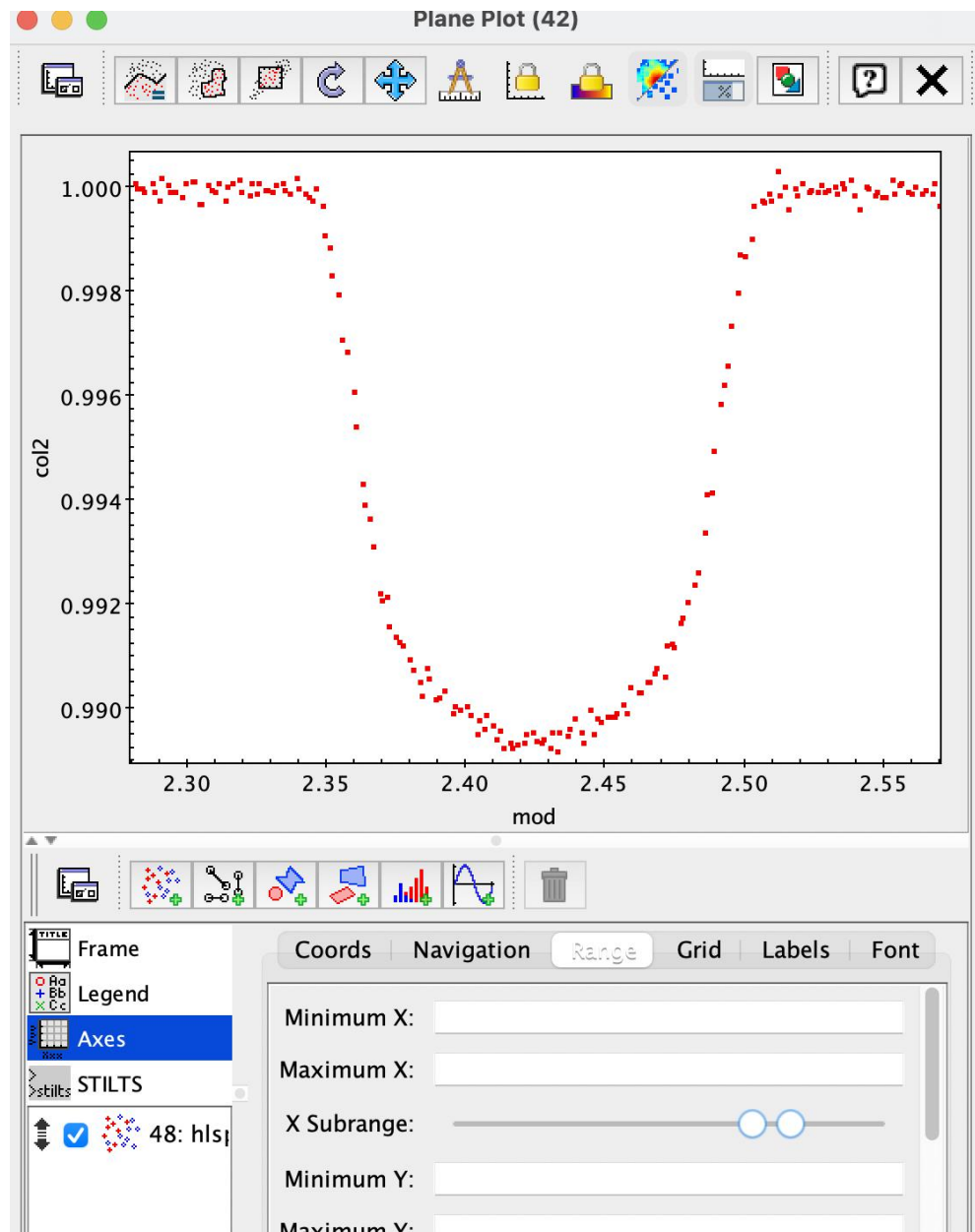


Folding functions $\text{mod}(y,P)$

C6 fx =MOD(A6,B6)			
	A	B	C
1	Number	Divisor	MOD Result
2	12	3	0
3	12	5	2
4	15	-3	0
5	-10	3	2
6	23	-5	-2
7			



Light curve
(folded)
 $P=3.2346$
 $\text{mod}(\text{col1}, 3.2346)$



Measuring the Distance from the Star to the Planet

$$a = \left[G \mathcal{M}_* \left(\frac{P}{2\pi} \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

Recall Kepler's Third Law,

$$P^2 \propto a^3,$$

where P is the planet's orbital period, and a is its semi-major axis (for a circular orbit, this will be the orbital radius).

$$\frac{a^3}{P^2} = \frac{G(\mathcal{M}_* + \mathcal{M}_p)}{4\pi^2},$$

where \mathcal{M}_* is the mass of the host star, \mathcal{M}_p is the mass of the planet, and G is Newton's gravitational constant.

If $\mathcal{M}_p \ll \mathcal{M}_*$ (the star is much more massive than the planet), then $\mathcal{M}_* + \mathcal{M}_p \approx \mathcal{M}_*$, and

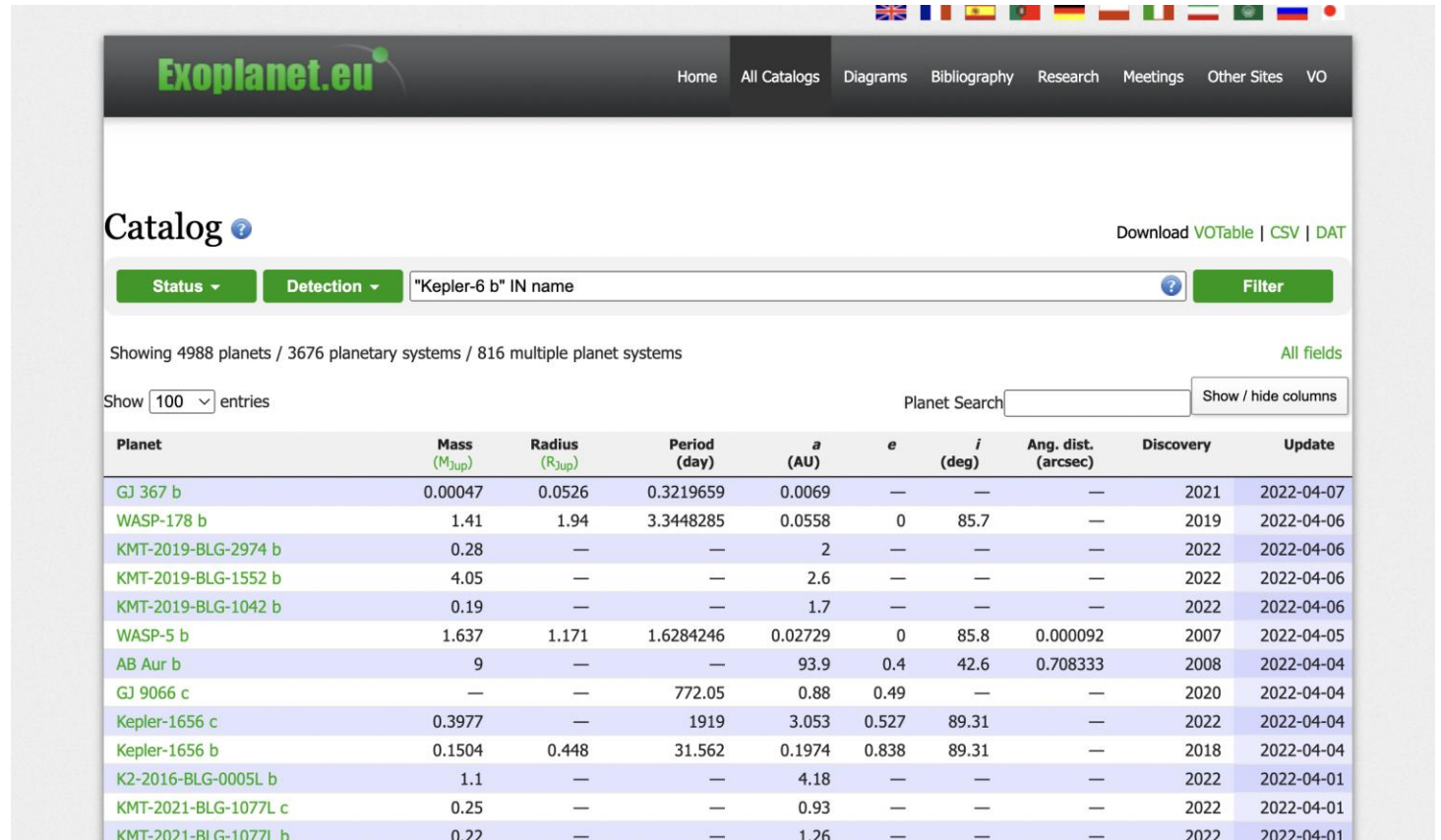
$$\frac{a^3}{P^2} = \frac{G\mathcal{M}_*}{4\pi^2}$$

$$a^3 = G\mathcal{M}_* \frac{P^2}{4\pi^2}$$

$$a^3 = G\mathcal{M}_* \left(\frac{P}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

For M_* . The Extrasolar Planets Encyclopaedia

<http://exoplanet.eu/>



The screenshot shows the Exoplanet.eu website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo and links for Home, All Catalogs, Diagrams, Bibliography, Research, Meetings, Other Sites, and VO. Below the navigation bar, the 'Catalog' section is displayed. It includes a search bar with the text 'Kepler-6 b' IN name and a 'Filter' button. Below the search bar, it shows 'Showing 4988 planets / 3676 planetary systems / 816 multiple planet systems'. There is a 'Show 100 entries' dropdown and a 'Planet Search' input field. A table of exoplanets is displayed with columns: Planet, Mass (M_{Jup}), Radius (R_{Jup}), Period (day), a (AU), e , i (deg), Ang. dist. (arcsec), Discovery, and Update. The table lists 15 planets, including GJ 367 b, WASP-178 b, KMT-2019-BLG-2974 b, KMT-2019-BLG-1552 b, KMT-2019-BLG-1042 b, WASP-5 b, AB Aur b, GJ 9066 c, Kepler-1656 c, Kepler-1656 b, K2-2016-BLG-0005L b, KMT-2021-BLG-1077L c, and KMT-2021-BLG-1077L b.

Planet	Mass (M_{Jup})	Radius (R_{Jup})	Period (day)	a (AU)	e	i (deg)	Ang. dist. (arcsec)	Discovery	Update
GJ 367 b	0.00047	0.0526	0.3219659	0.0069	—	—	—	2021	2022-04-07
WASP-178 b	1.41	1.94	3.3448285	0.0558	0	85.7	—	2019	2022-04-06
KMT-2019-BLG-2974 b	0.28	—	—	2	—	—	—	2022	2022-04-06
KMT-2019-BLG-1552 b	4.05	—	—	2.6	—	—	—	2022	2022-04-06
KMT-2019-BLG-1042 b	0.19	—	—	1.7	—	—	—	2022	2022-04-06
WASP-5 b	1.637	1.171	1.6284246	0.02729	0	85.8	0.000092	2007	2022-04-05
AB Aur b	9	—	—	93.9	0.4	42.6	0.708333	2008	2022-04-04
GJ 9066 c	—	—	772.05	0.88	0.49	—	—	2020	2022-04-04
Kepler-1656 c	0.3977	—	1919	3.053	0.527	89.31	—	2022	2022-04-04
Kepler-1656 b	0.1504	0.448	31.562	0.1974	0.838	89.31	—	2018	2022-04-04
K2-2016-BLG-0005L b	1.1	—	—	4.18	—	—	—	2022	2022-04-01
KMT-2021-BLG-1077L c	0.25	—	—	0.93	—	—	—	2022	2022-04-01
KMT-2021-BLG-1077L b	0.22	—	—	1.26	—	—	—	2022	2022-04-01

Star data

Star

Kepler-6

Name **Kepler-6**

Distance **597.14 (-5.16 $+5.16$) pc**

Spectral type—

Apparent
magnitude V —

Mass **1.21 (-0.04 $+0.04$) M_{Sun}**

Age **3.8 (± 1.0) Gyr**

Effective
temperature **5647.0 (± 44.0) K**

Radius **1.39 (-0.03 $+0.02$) R_{Sun}**

Metallicity
[Fe/H] **0.34 (± 0.04)**

Measuring the Size of the Planet

$$R_p = \text{factor} * R_*$$

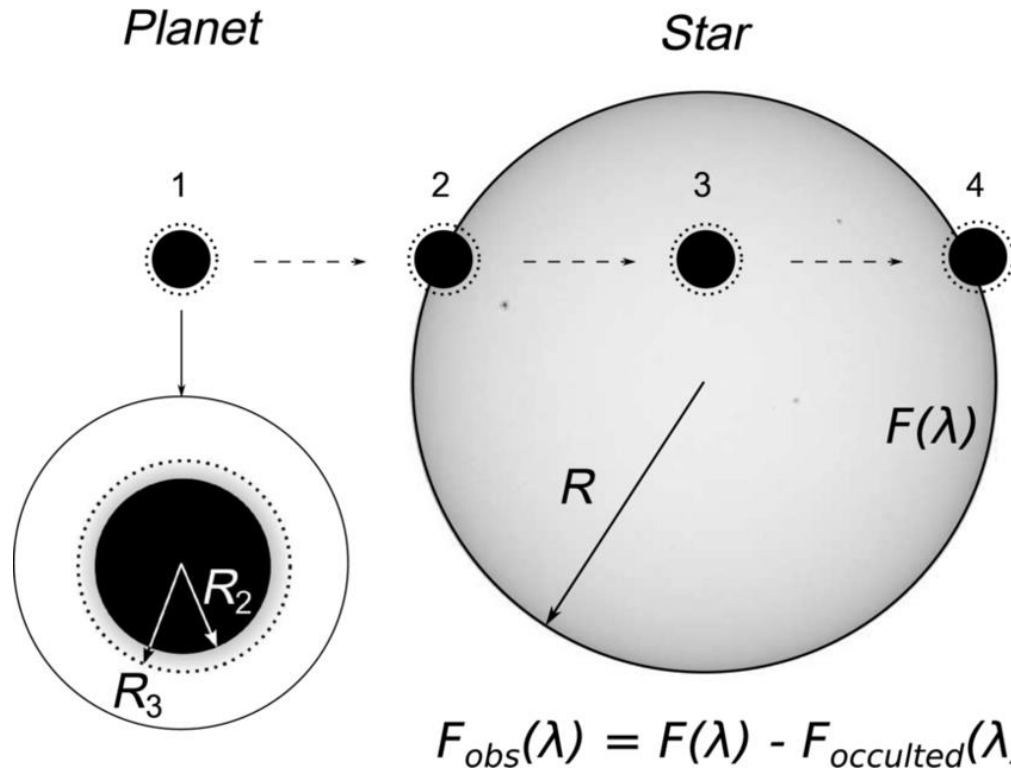
$$\frac{F_{\text{tot}} - F_{\text{trans}}}{F_{\text{tot}}} = \frac{A_p}{A_*}.$$

Since both the star and the planet are circular, we can write their area in terms of radius, $A = \pi r^2$. Substituting this in and simplifying the left hand side,

$$1 - \frac{F_{\text{trans}}}{F_{\text{tot}}} = \frac{\pi R_p^2}{\pi R_*^2}$$

$$R_p = R_* \sqrt{1 - \frac{F_{\text{trans}}}{F_{\text{tot}}}}$$

Calculating the Temperature of the Planet



$$L_{em} = \sigma T_p^4 4\pi R_p^2. \quad L_{abs} = (1 - \alpha) \sigma T_*^4 \frac{R_*^2}{a^2} \pi R_p^2$$

$$L_{abs} = (\text{absorption coefficient}) \times F_{inc} A_{cross}$$

$$L_{em} = L_{abs}$$

$$\sigma T_p^4 4\pi R_p^2 = (1 - \alpha) \sigma T_*^4 \frac{R_*^2}{a^2} \pi R_p^2$$

The σ and πR_p^2 cancel out on both sides.

$$T_p^4 = \frac{1}{4} (1 - \alpha) T_*^4 \frac{R_*^2}{a^2}$$

Solving for T_p ,

$$T_p = T_* \left[(1 - \alpha) \frac{R_*^2}{a^2} \right]^{\frac{1}{4}},$$

Getting the Planet's Mass and density From Radial Velocity

$$\mathcal{M}_p = \frac{v_{*, \text{ max}}}{\sin i} \sqrt{\frac{a \mathcal{M}_*}{G}}$$

$$P^2 = \frac{4\pi^2}{GM_*} a^3$$

from P, we get a and (knowing M_*) V_p :

$$V_p = \sqrt{\frac{GM_*}{a}}$$

then, conservation of momentum:

$$M_p V_p = M_* V_*$$

we can get M_p

$$M_p = M_* \left(\frac{V_*}{V_p} \right)$$

but we really get $M_p \sin(i)$

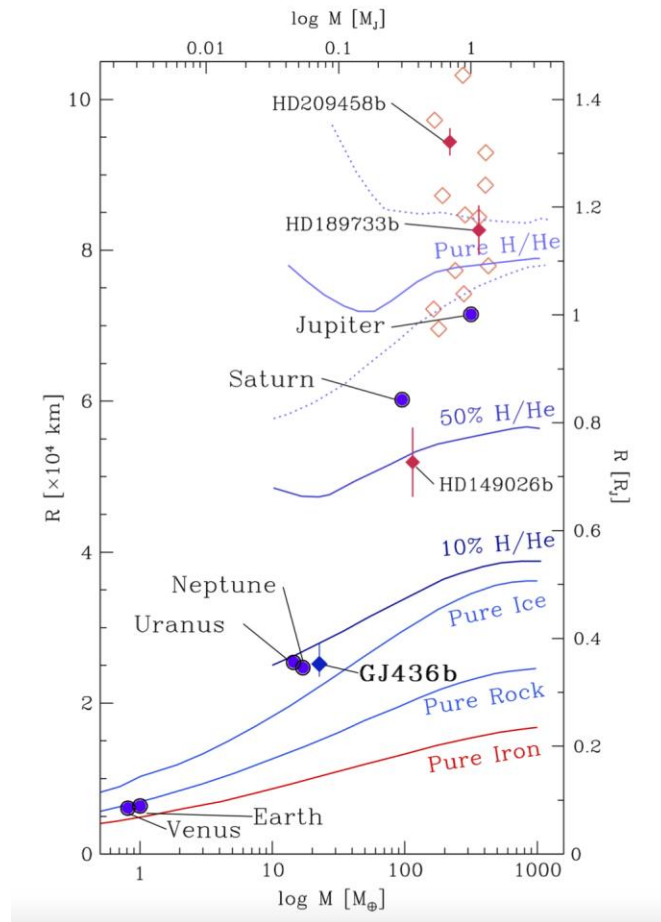
$$M_p \sin i = M_* \left(\frac{V_* \sin i}{V_p} \right)$$

Density

$$\rho_p = \frac{\mathcal{M}_p}{(4/3) \pi r_p^3}.$$

Planet composition

Gillon 2007



Plotting HR Diagrams with Gaia



GAIA
The Milkyway Mapper
Dr. Priya Hasan,
MANUU, Hyderabad

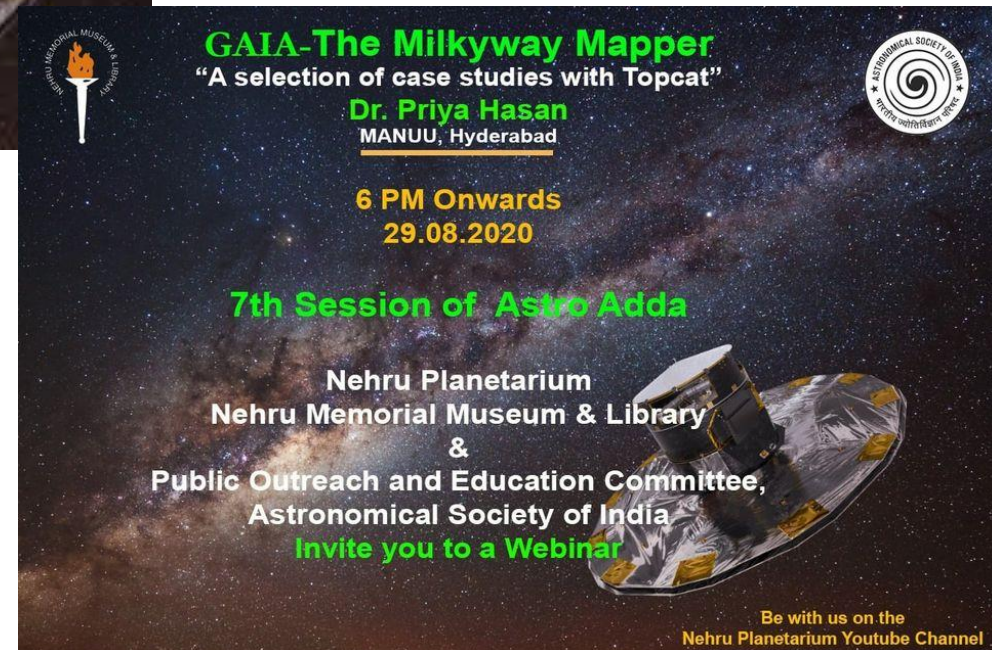
6 PM Onwards
28.07.2020

Nehru Planetarium
Nehru Memorial Museum & Library
&
Public Outreach and Education Committee,
Astronomical Society of India

Invite you to a Webinar

Be with us on the
Nehru Planetarium Youtube Channel

The poster features a background image of the Gaia satellite in space, with the Milky Way galaxy visible. Logos for the Nehru Memorial Museum & Library and the Astronomical Society of India are in the top corners.



GAIA-The Milkyway Mapper
“A selection of case studies with Topcat”
Dr. Priya Hasan
MANUU, Hyderabad

6 PM Onwards
29.08.2020

7th Session of Astro Adda

Nehru Planetarium
Nehru Memorial Museum & Library
&
Public Outreach and Education Committee,
Astronomical Society of India

Invite you to a Webinar

Be with us on the
Nehru Planetarium Youtube Channel

This poster is similar to the one above but for a later date. It includes the same background image of the Gaia satellite and Milky Way, and the same logos.

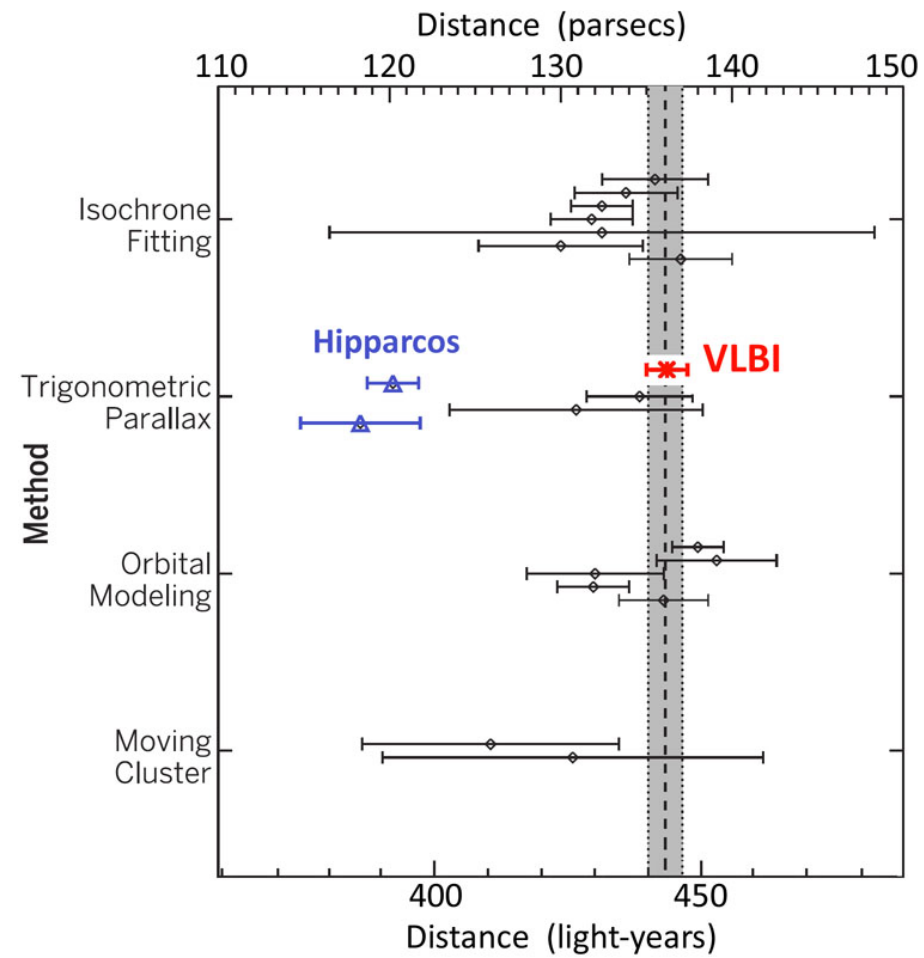
Pleiades distance problem (M45)

-
- Ground-based methods had consistently shown that the Pleiades lie about 435 light-years (133 parsecs) away.

According to Hipparcos, the cluster has a distance of just 392 light-years (120.2 parsecs), supposedly with an error of less than 1%

Courtesy: Mark Taylor, TOPCAT and how to use it for Gaia, Gaia DR1 Workshop, ESAC, Madrid.





Pleiades Distance

TOPCAT

TOPCAT = Tool for OPerations on Catalogues And Tables

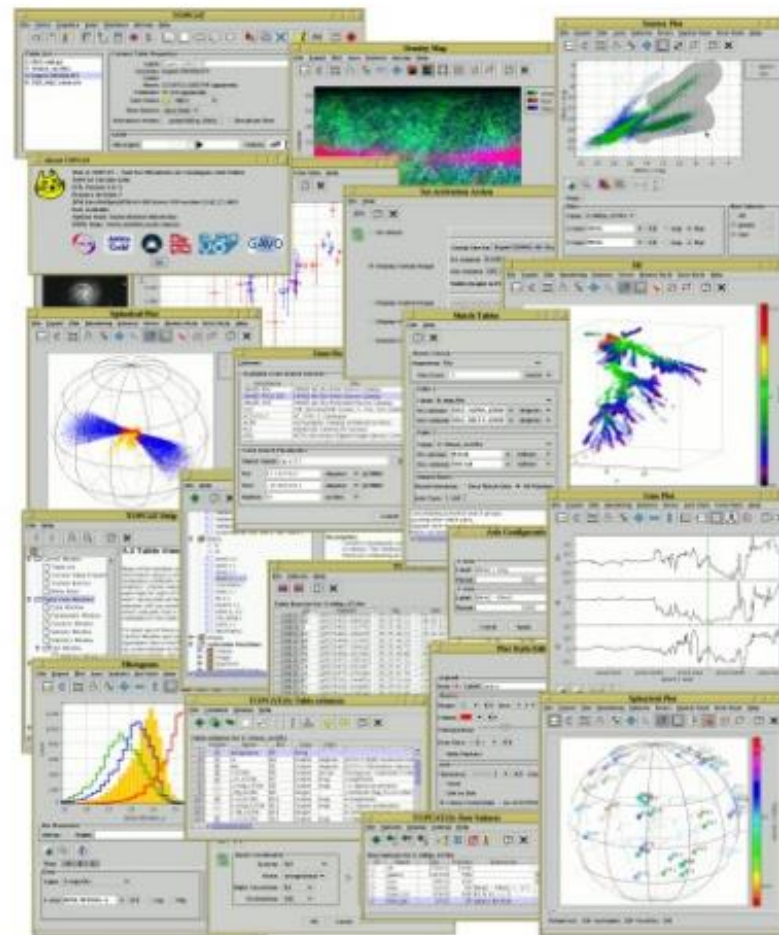
Capabilities:

- Does stuff with tables
- Talks to the *Virtual Observatory*

Help is available:

- Comprehensive [HTML](#) / [PDF](#) user manual
- **Help for Window**  button on every window
- Email support:
 - ▷ on list: topcat-user@bristol.ac.uk
 - ▷ in person: m.b.taylor@bristol.ac.uk
- Acknowledgement: 2005ASPC..347...29T

<http://www.starlink.ac.uk/topcat/>



Cone Search

WindowColumnsRegistryInteropHelp

Available Cone Services

Registry:

Keywords:

Match Fields: ☒ Short Name ☒ Title ☒ Subjects ☒ ID ☒ Publisher ☐ Descr

☒ Accept Resource Lists

Short Name	Title
ia	ARI's Cone Search Service for the last Gaia Data Release (DR2)
R2	Gaia DR2 at ESA
R2 CS	GAIA DR2 ConeSearch
ght SCS	Gaia DR2-light Cone Search
R2	Gaia Source Catalogue DR2
	Gaia DR2 (Gaia Collaboration, 2018)
	Distances to 1.33 billion stars in Gaia DR2 (Bailer-Jones+, 2018)

AccessURL	Description	Version
https://gea.esac.esa.int/ta...		

Resource Count: 63

Cone Parameters

Cone URL:

Object Name:

RA: (J2000)

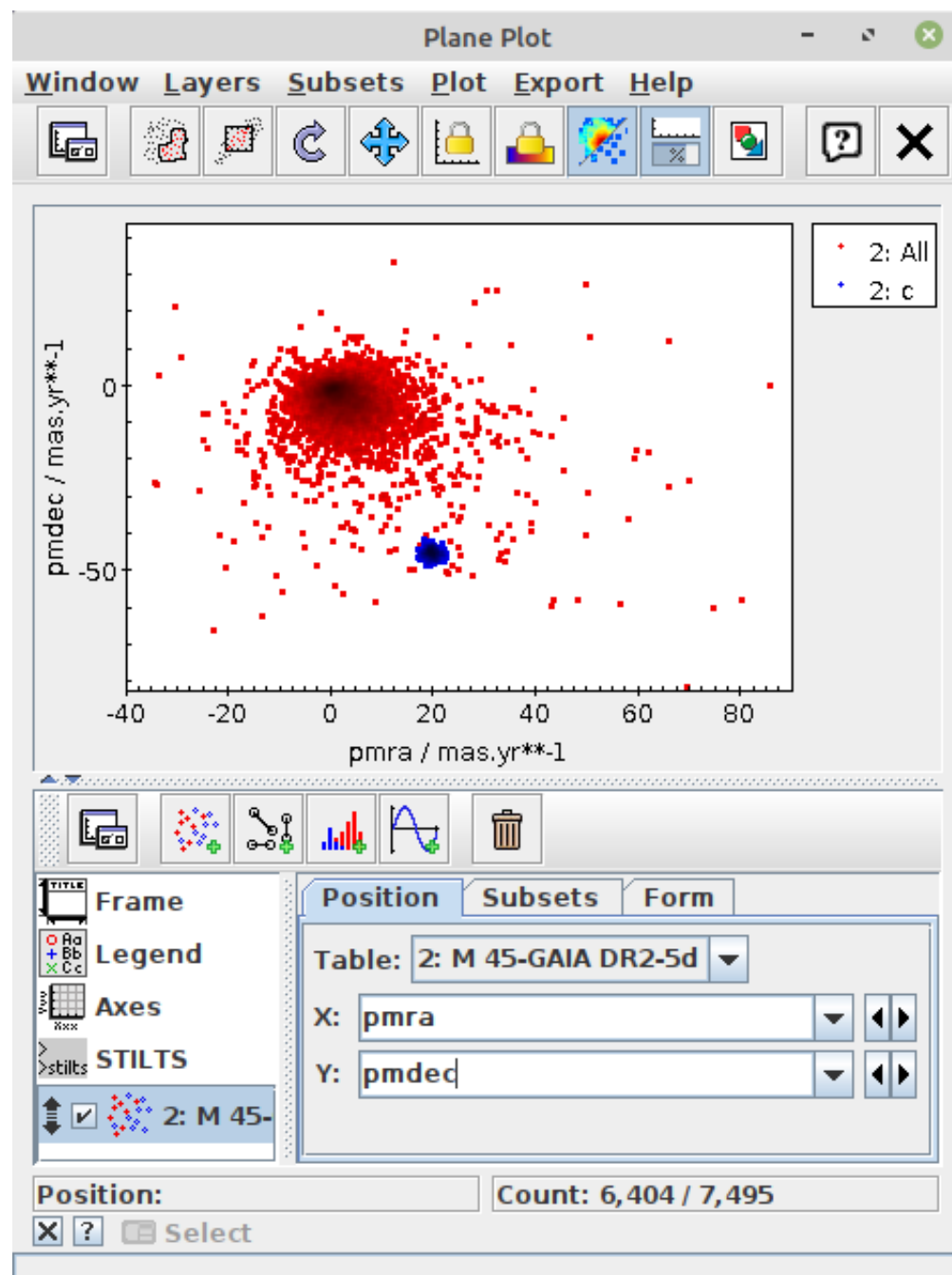
Dec: (J2000)

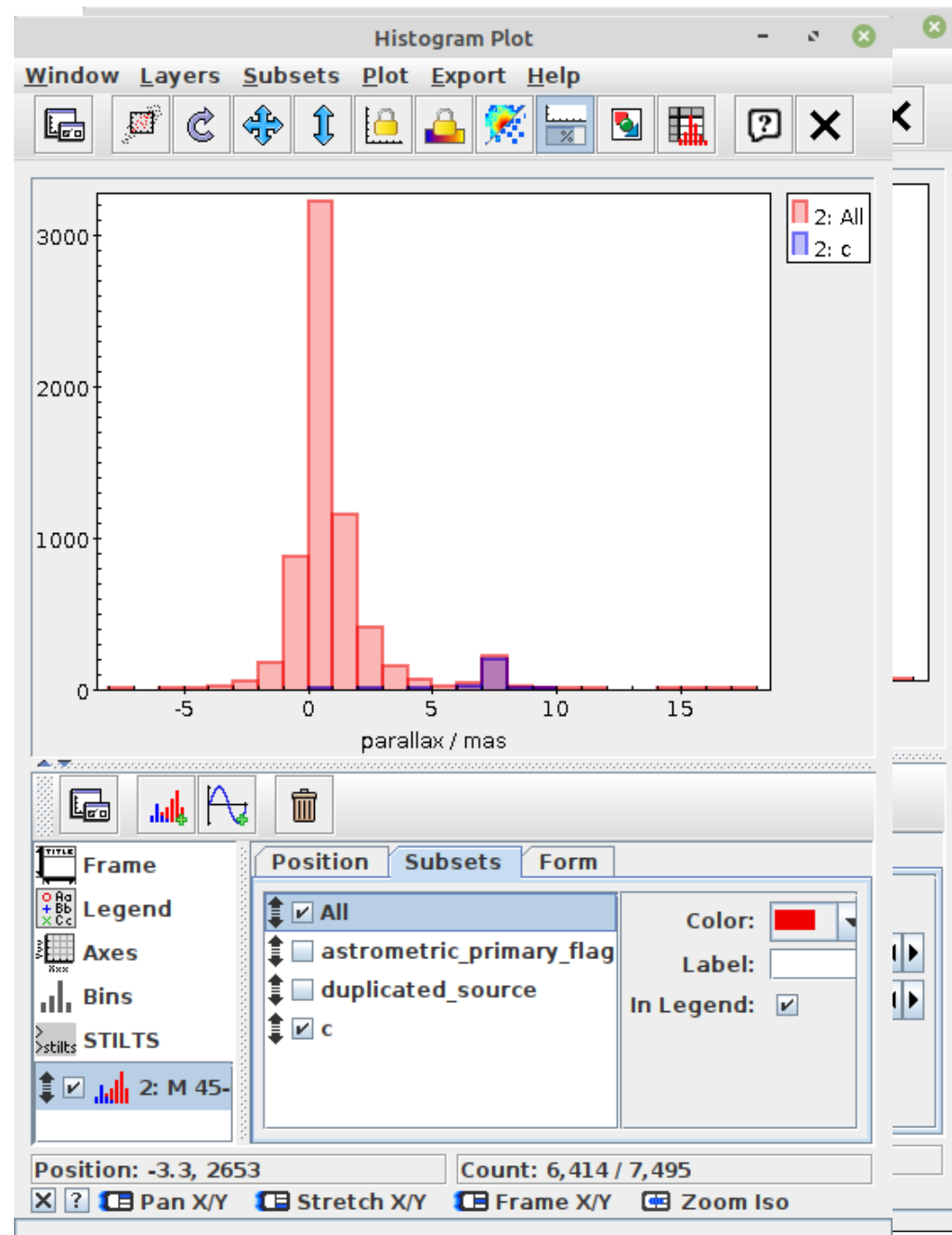
Radius:

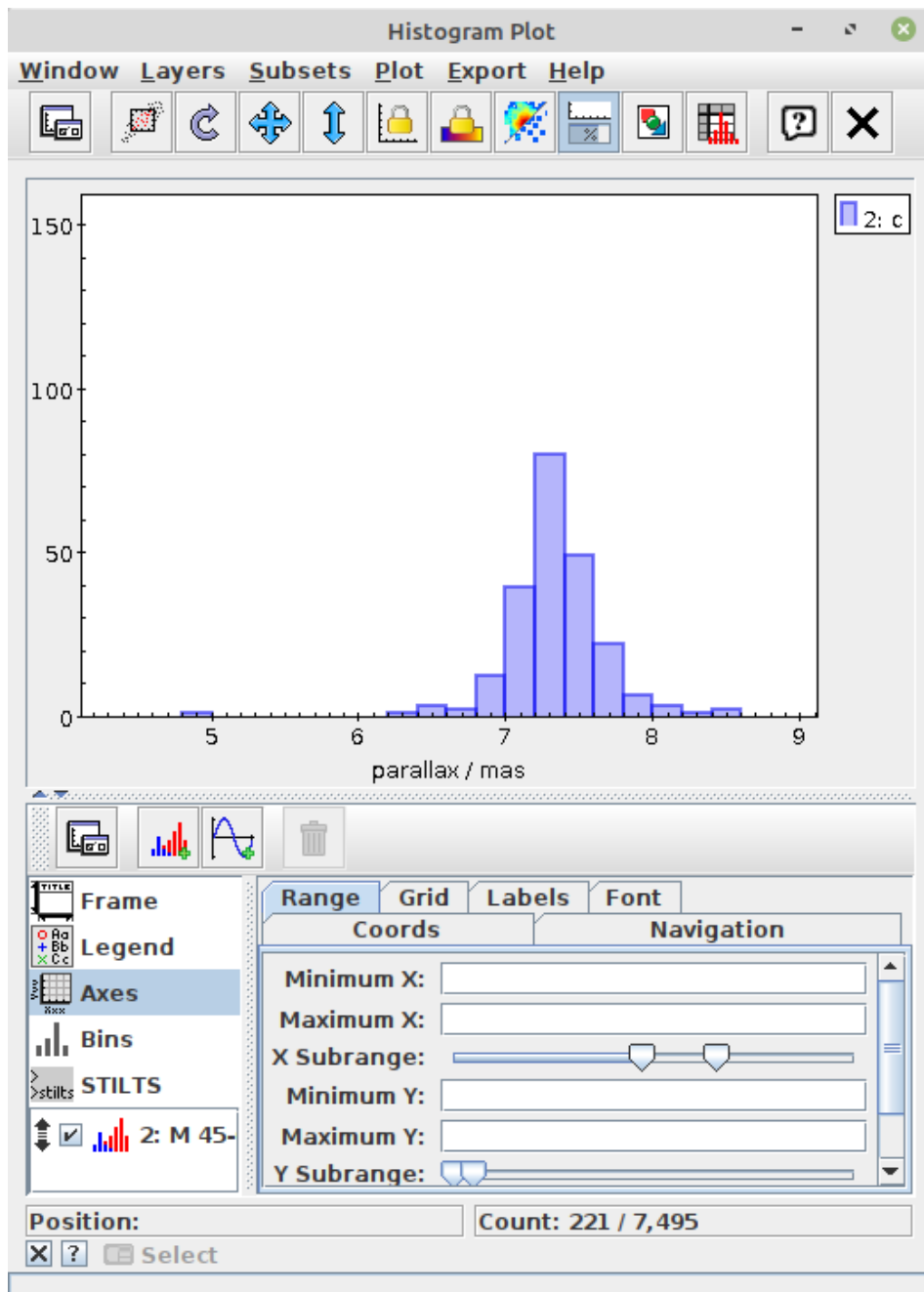
Verbosity:

☒ Accept Sky Positions

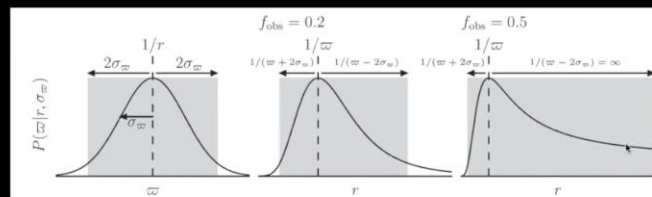
OK








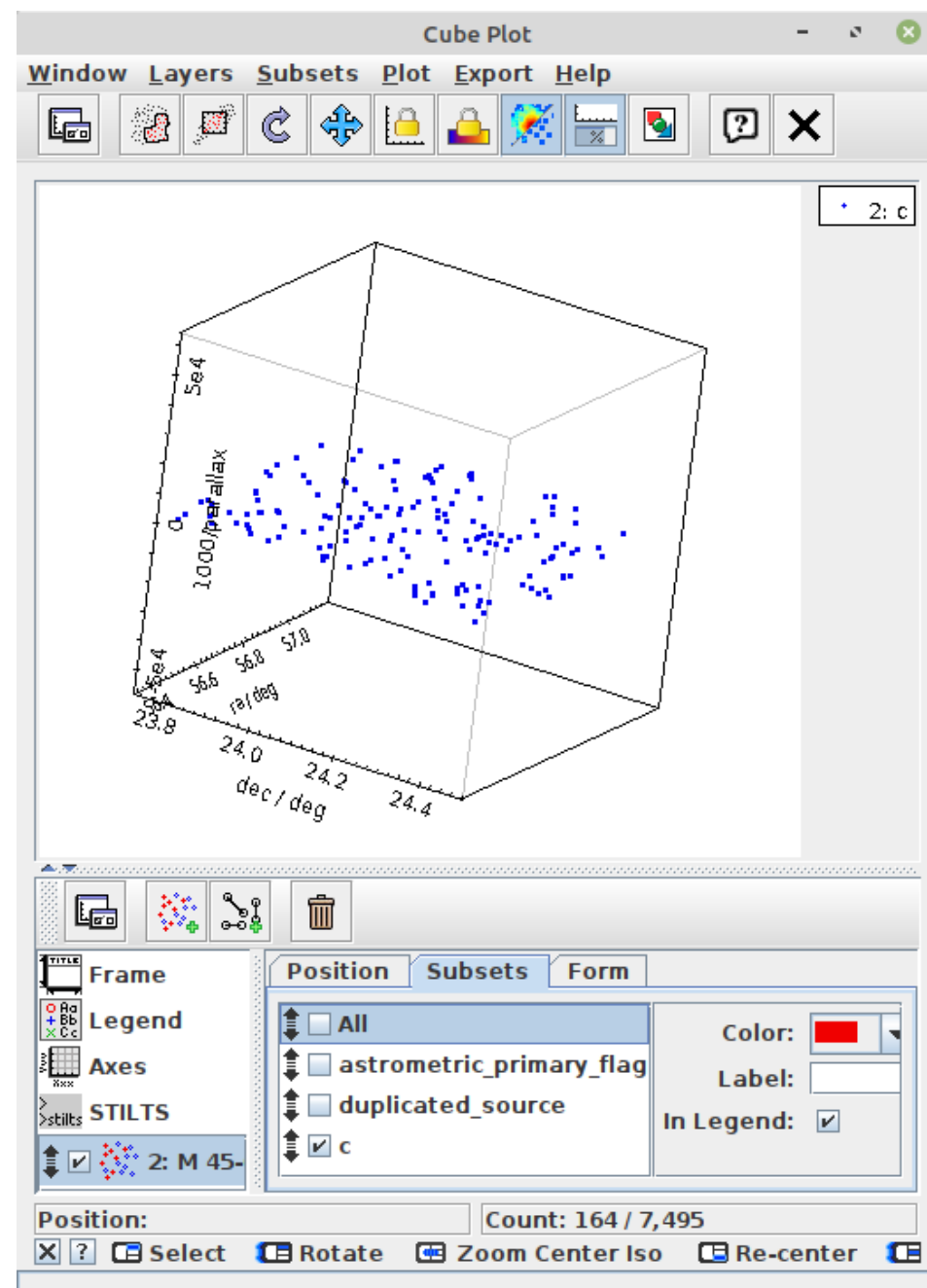


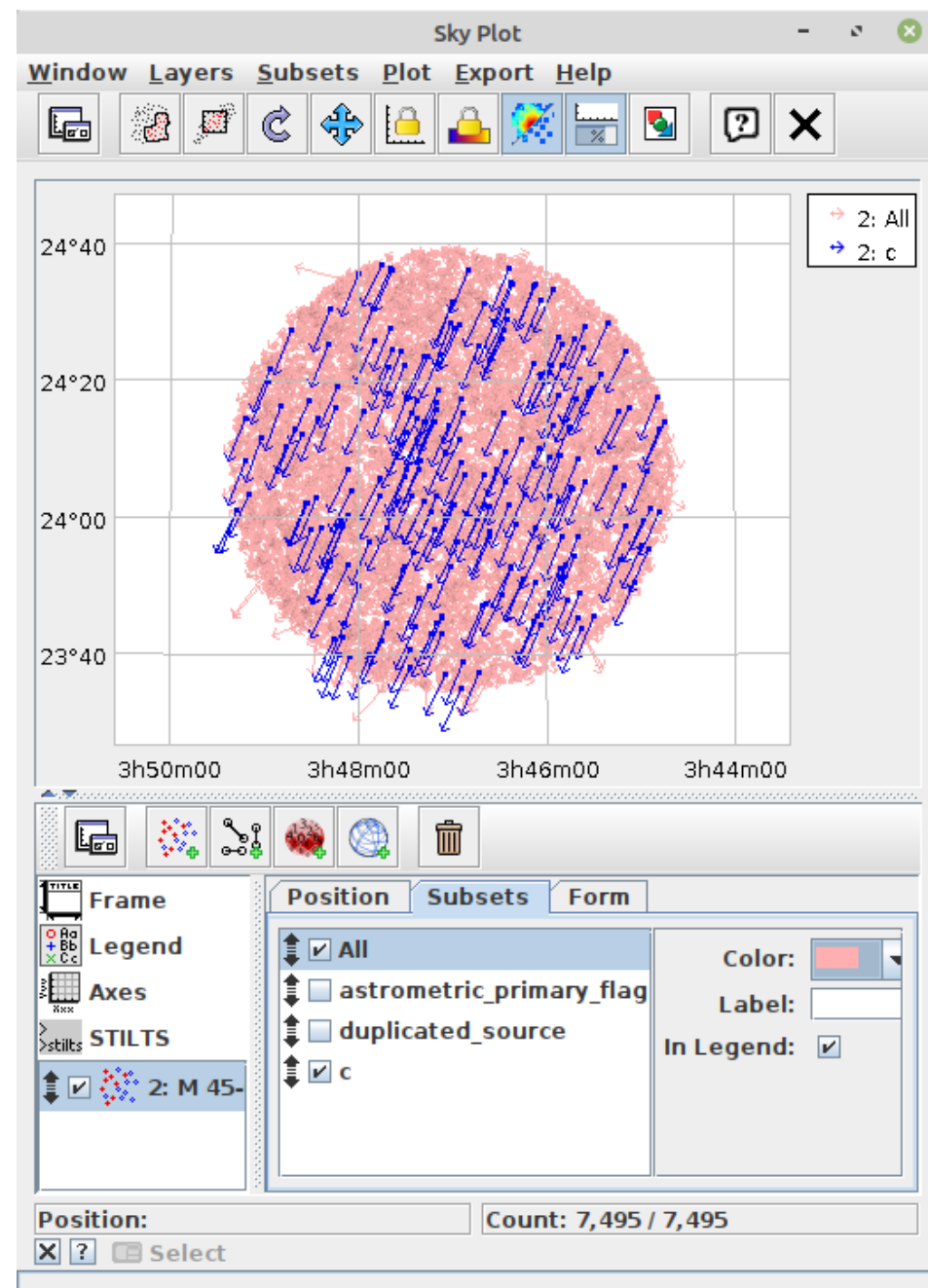


WARNING: (ALMOST) *NEVER* INVERT PARALLAX!



TOPCAT(2): Row Statistics			
Window Export Statistics Display Help			
    			
Row Statistics for 2: M 45-GAIA DR2-5d			
Name	Mean	SD	
dist	0.33153	0.135047	
solution_id	1.63572E18	0.	
designation			G
source_id			
random_index	8.03996E8	4.89958E8	
ref_epoch	2015.5	0.	
ra	56.7202	0.269111	
ra_error	0.170321	0.179815	
dec	24.1173	0.259005	
dec_error	0.105053	0.116226	
parallax	7.31204	0.667127	
parallax_error	0.189652	0.202046	
parallax_over_error	74.534	56.9131	
pmra	19.7714	1.09229	
pmra_error	0.371743	0.417055	
pmdec	-45.3702	1.29892	
pmdec_error	0.242754	0.271062	
ra_dec_corr	0.145823	0.142298	
ra_parallax_corr	0.132565	0.217436	
<div>Subset for calculations: c</div>			







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Dr Priya Hasan

Dr Priya Hasan did her Integrated Masters in Physics specialising in Astrophysics from the Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia in 1996. She did her PhD in Astronomy at Osmania University, Hyderabad in 2004. She did post-doctoral research in France and IUCAA, Pune. She was awarded the Women Scientist Award by Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi in 2006. The US Consulate, Hyderabad selected her for the International Visitors Leadership Program in 2011 to visit and deliver lectures at select universities in the US like MIT, Harvard, CalTech, etc. She has presented her work in various conferences in India, Europe and US and in the United Nations, Vienna. Her research interests are in observational astronomy, star formation, star clusters and galaxies. At present she collaborates with groups in India, Europe, US and Egypt. Priya recently visited The Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, USA on a Summer Internship Program of the International Astronomical Union. She is a member of the International Science Driven Team of the Thirty Meter Telescope. Priya is actively involved in olympiads, public outreach and science popularisation programs for children and adults and has worked on various projects with the IAU-OAD, US Consulate Hyderabad, etc. At present she is an Assistant Professor in Physics at the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad. She is the co-Chair of the Women in Astronomy Working Group of the International Astronomical Union. She was the Secretary of the Public Outreach and Education Committee, Astronomical Society of India. She is a Regional Astronomy Education Coordinator of the IAU Office of Astronomy for Education.

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