

High-resolution spectroscopic detection of sodium in the atmosphere of KELT-11b A long-transiting inflated sub-Saturn

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Context :

KELT-11b is an exoplanet with very favourable parameters for atmospheric characterization: bright host star (V=8), with a light and hot atmosphere, but it transits its host star for 7 hours. Due to the Earth daily cycle, high-resolution spectroscopy from ground-based observations is restricted to exoplanets that transit their host star for less than 5 hours, because of the need to have many in-transit spectra to extract the planetary signal and out-of-transit spectra to build a high signal-to-noise baseline.

Methods

To overcome the long transit issue, we observed the KELT-11 system in the visible with the HARPS spectrograph mounted on the ESO 3.6m telescope in La Silla in two sets of three nights in a row: before, during and after the transit, with the same calibration frames for each night in a set. We obtained 122 intransit spectra and 222 out-of-transit spectra. This huge amount of data allows us to build a high signalto-noise out-of-transit master.

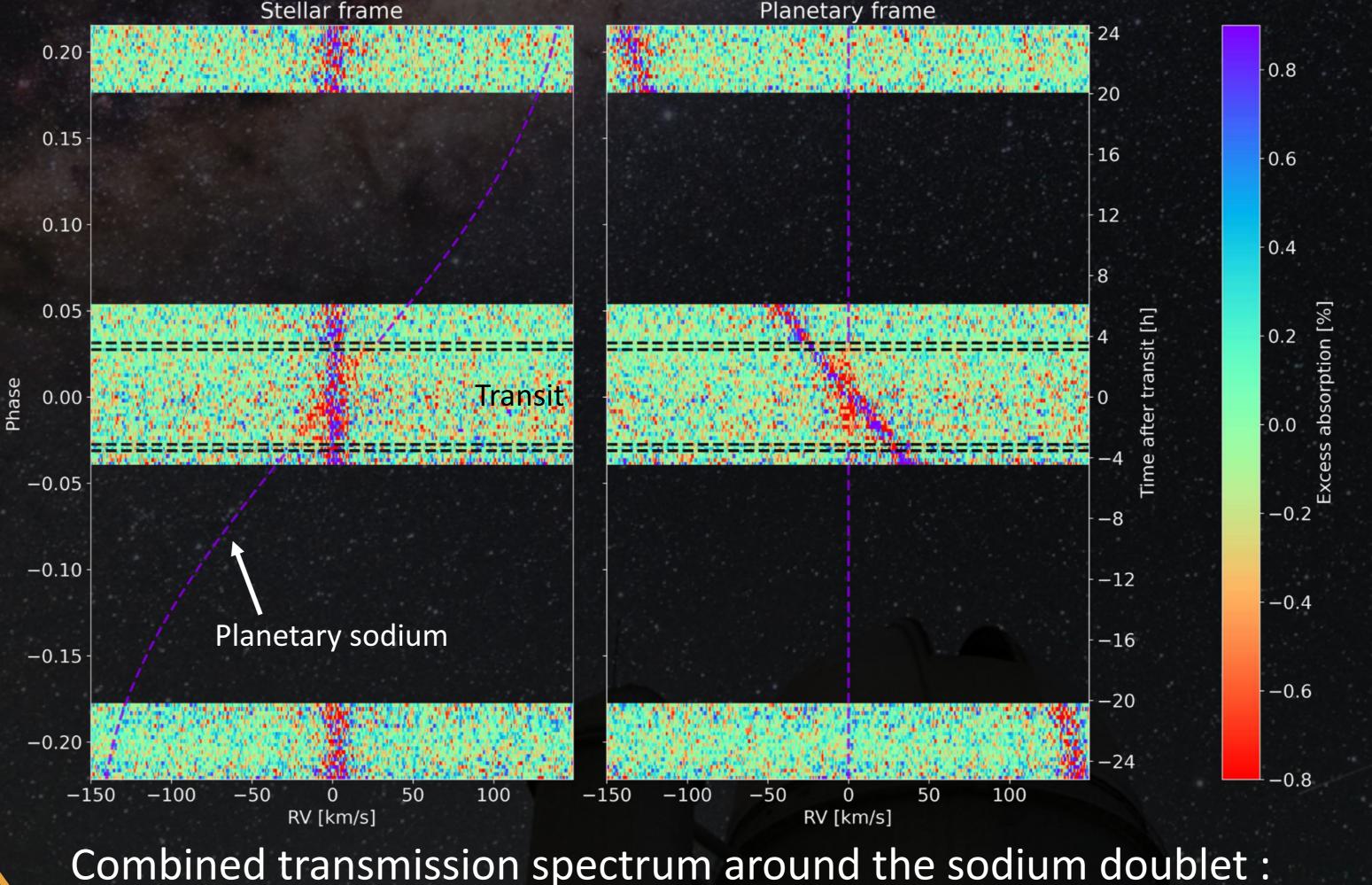
From these spectra, we compute the combined transmission spectrum following these steps:

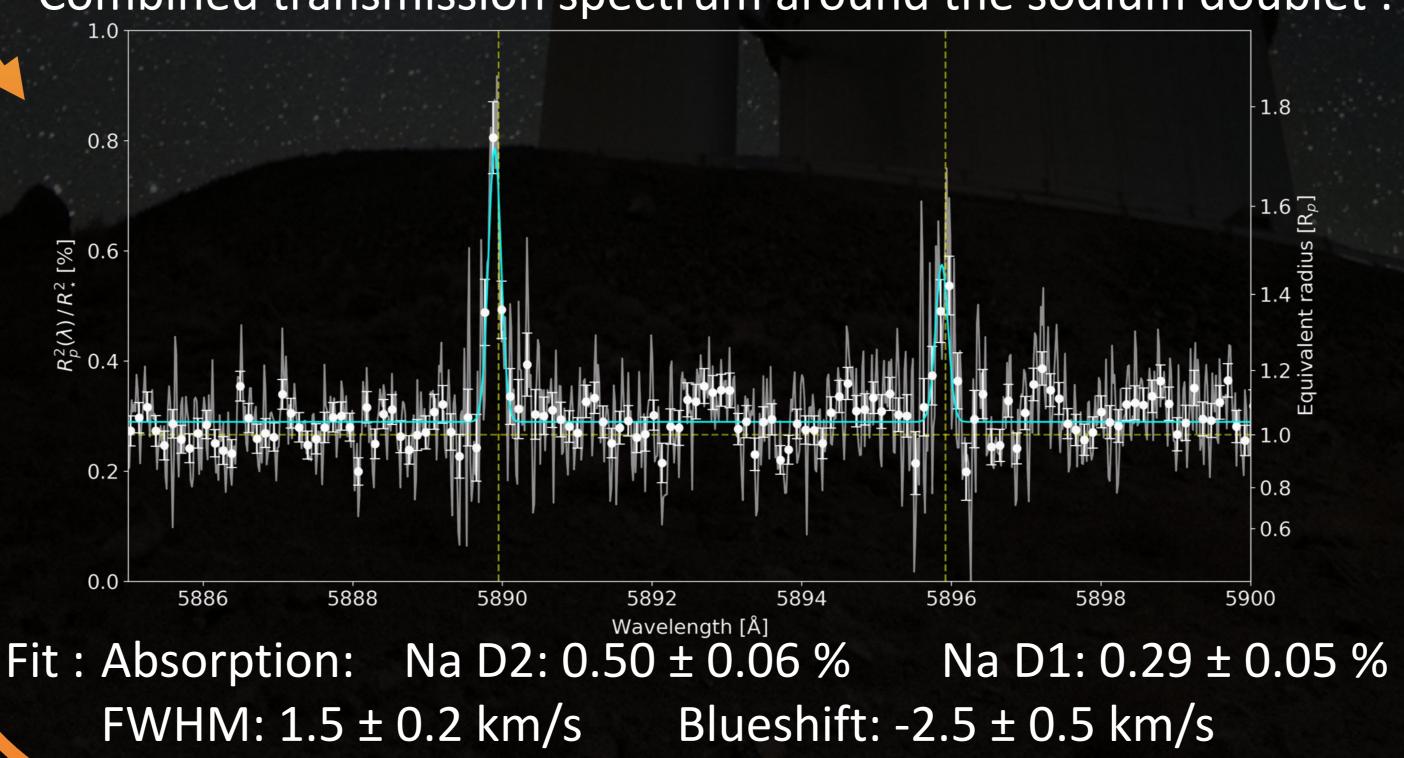
- 1. Telluric correction with Molecfit
- 2. Master-out computation for each set of data
- 3. Individual spectra and master normalization
- 4. Individual transmission spectra computation
- 5. Shift each spectrum to planetary rest-frame
- 6. Limb-darkening correction
- 7. Weighted average if individual spectra
- 8. Relative absorption calculation

We then analyse the absorption around the sodium doublet (at 5890 and 5986 Å) from the atmosphere of KELT-11b. These lines in the visible range have a large cross-section and are thus very suitable for detection.

Results:

Individual transmission spectra binned in phase, where the sodium absorption lines from the doublet have been co-added :

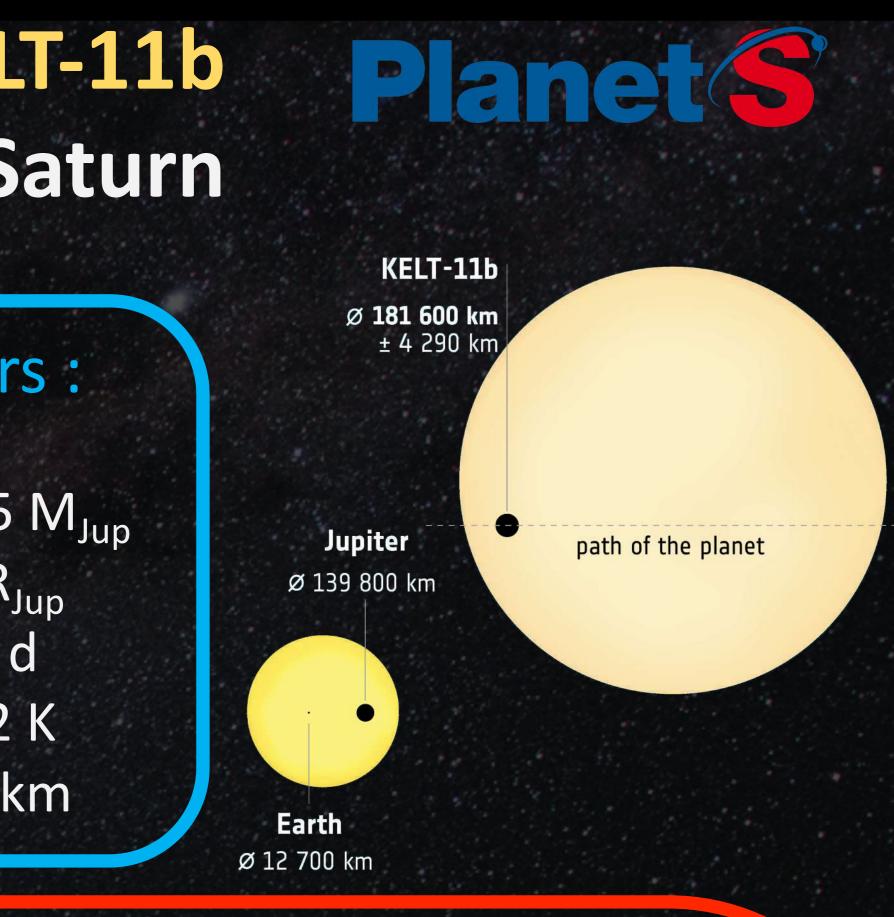




Parameters:

- $M = 0.205 M_{lup}$
- $R = 1.35 R_{lup}$
- P = 4.736 d
- $T_{eq} = 1712 \text{ K}$
- H = 2763 km

- that can be characterized.
- lines respectively.
- 5.44 ± 0.97 km/s.



• KELT-11b is an extremely inflated sub-Saturn orbiting a bright star and as such is a prime choice for atmospheric characterization.

• Its long transit of 7 hours makes it difficult for ground-based observations. Therefore, the system is observed for three days in a row: before, during and after the transit, in order to gather many in- and out-of-transit spectra.

• This method of combining 3 nights shows promising results and is robust, albeit risky. It allows us to compute a high signal-to-noise merged transmission spectrum, and also extends the field of exoplanet atmospheres

• During the transit of KELT-11b, an excess absorption of sodium of 0.50% (8 σ) and 0.29% (6 σ) is detected, for the D2 and D1

 Analysis of the RM effect shows that its host star is a slow rotator and that KELT-11b is in a near-polar orbit (-77.86 ± 2.36 degrees). Wind modelling finds day-to-night side winds of