ZODIACAL EXOPLANETS IN TIME (ZEIT). IV.
SEVEN TRANSITING PLANETS IN THE PRAESEPE CLUSTER

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ABSTRACT

Open clusters and young stellar associations are attractive sites to search for planets and to test theories of planet formation, migration, and evolution. We present our search for, and characterization of, transiting planets in the 800 Myr old Praesepe (Beehive, M44) Cluster from K2 light curves. We identify seven planet candidates, six of which we statistically validate to be real planets, the last of which requires more data. For each host star, we obtain high-resolution NIR spectra to measure its projected rotational broadening and radial velocity, the latter of which we use to confirm cluster membership. We combine low-resolution spectra with the known cluster distance and metallicity to provide precise temperatures, masses, radii, and luminosities for the host stars. Combining our measurements of rotational broadening, rotation periods, and our derived stellar radii, we show that all planetary orbits are consistent with alignment to their host star’s rotation. We fit the K2 light curves, including priors on stellar density to put constraints on the planetary eccentricities, all of which are consistent with zero. The difference between the number of planets found in Praesepe and Hyades (8 planets, ∼800 Myr) and a similar data set for Pleiades (0 planets, ∼125 Myr) suggests a trend with age, but may be due to incompleteness of current search pipelines for younger, faster-rotating stars. We see increasing evidence that some planets continue to lose atmosphere past 800 Myr, as now two planets at this age have radii significantly larger than their older counterparts from Kepler.

Key words: planetary systems – planets and satellites: detection – planets and satellites: dynamical evolution and stability – stars: fundamental parameters – stars: low-mass – open clusters and associations: individual (M44)

1. INTRODUCTION

Stellar clusters are unique sites to test theories of planet formation and evolution. Because they consist of chemically homogenous (or nearly homogeneous, Liu et al. 2016) stellar populations, planets in clusters facilitate statistical studies of exoplanet properties (e.g., occurrence, period, size) while controlling for changes due to host star metallicity (e.g., Buchhave et al. 2012; Mann et al. 2013b; Neves et al. 2013). Common and well-measured age, metallicity, and distance help yield more precise determinations of stellar parameters for cluster members than is generally possible for field stars, often providing a proportional improvement in planet parameters. The comparatively well-constrained ages available for clusters compared to field stars (e.g., Cargile et al. 2014; Schneider et al. 2014; Dahm 2015) also facilitate studies of planetary evolution. To this end, young (<1 Gyr) clusters are particularly useful because planetary systems undergo the most change in the first few hundred megayears (e.g., Adams & Laughlin 2006; Raymond et al. 2009). The Kepler mission (Borucki et al. 2010) has found thousands of (candidate) planets (e.g., Mullally et al. 2015). However, target stars in the Kepler-prime mission are generally older than 1 Gyr, and most have poorly constrained ages (Batalha et al. 2010; Walkowicz & Basri 2013; Silva Aguirre et al. 2015), making them less useful for evolutionary studies. Planets in young stellar clusters could fill this gap.

Because of their scientific value, open clusters have long been targeted for exoplanet searches (e.g., Cochran et al. 2002; Mocic et al. 2002; Aigrain et al. 2007; van Saders & Gauld 2011). Despite numerous surveys, only a handful of planets in open clusters were discovered prior to Kepler (e.g., Lovis & Mayor 2007; Quinn et al. 2012), and none were significantly smaller or less massive than Jupiter. These early searches were generally only sensitive to Jovian planets on close orbits, which are intrinsically rare (e.g., Johnson et al. 2010; Fressin et al. 2013; Gaidos et al. 2013). Most nearby clusters (<200 pc) are younger than 1 Gyr, and thus their members are noisier (in terms of radial velocity (RV) and photometric variation) than their older counterparts (Paulson et al. 2004; Reiners et al. 2010; Crockett et al. 2012), which complicates the detection and characterization of any planetary signal. Because of brightness limitations, studies of more distant, older clusters were limited to brighter F-, G-, and early-K-type members, which removes >70% of the potential targets and makes detecting even a few planets unlikely. Though recent improvements in sensitivity may enable RV surveys to detect down to Neptune-mass objects on close orbits in the coming years (Quinn et al. 2014; Malavolta et al. 2016).

The Kepler spacecraft can detect the much more common Earth-to-Neptune-size planets (Jenkins et al. 2010), which has enabled the discovery of two planets smaller than Neptune in the open cluster NGC6811 (Meibom et al. 2013). However, NGC6811 is ∼1 Gyr old, and resides at a distance of 1100 pc,
which provides limited temporal information and makes follow-up difficult. The Kepler-prime field contains no open clusters that are significantly younger or closer than NGC6811 within which to search for planets.

The repurposed Kepler mission, K2, (Howell et al. 2014) provides a unique opportunity to revisit open clusters for planet searches. So far K2 has observed Praesepe, Hyades, M35, and Pleiades, the young star-forming regions Upper Scorpius and ρ Ophucus, and older clusters M67 and Ruprecht 147. K2 observations of Taurus-Auriga and visits to Hyades, Upper Scorpius, and Praesepe are planned for future campaigns. They span ages of ∼2 to 800 Myr, supplying an unparalleled data set to explore planetary (and stellar) evolution. These groups are all sufficiently close (<200 pc) to search for planets around the more numerous M-dwarf members. Furthermore, because K2 is sensitive to super-Earth and Neptune-size planets (Dressing & Charbonneau 2013; Petigura et al. 2013; Gaidos et al. 2016) around most target stars (e.g., Crossfield et al. 2016; Vanderburg et al. 2016) the expected planet yield is much higher than earlier surveys.

To take full advantage of the K2 data set, we launched the ZodiacaL Exoplanets in Time (ZEIT) survey. Our aims are to identify, characterize, and explore the statistical properties of planets in nearby young clusters and star-forming regions utilizing both K2 light curves and a suite of ground-based instruments for follow-up. Our long-term goal is to gain a better understanding of the evolution of planets from infancy (<10 Myr) to maturity (>1Gyr), including changes in their physical properties, dynamics, and atmospheres. Thus far, we have identified two planets, one in the ∼800 Myr old Hyades cluster (Mann et al. 2016a), and one in the ∼11 Myr old Upper Scorpius OB association (Mann et al. 2016b; see also, David et al. 2016a, 2016b, who independently discovered both systems). Our search of the ∼125 Myr old Pleiades cluster data turned up only a single planet, which is more likely to be a young field star with Pleiades-like kinematics than a true cluster member (Gaidos et al. 2017). These planets represent important age benchmarks and can be used to improve our understanding of planetary evolution, but the inclusion of only two planets is insufficient for statistical work.

Here we present our search for, and characterization of, planets in the Praesepe cluster (also known as the Beehive cluster and M44). In total, we find seven planet candidates, which we follow-up with ground-based spectroscopy and adaptive optics imaging of the host stars (Section 2). We combine these data with literature photometry and astrometry to constrain the properties (mass, radius, etc.) of each host star and confirm their membership to Praesepe (Section 3). In Section 4, we describe our fit of the transit light curves in order to constrain planetary properties, including eccentricity. We use publicly available software to assess the false-positive probability of each system in Section 5, with which we confirm the

![Figure 1](image1.png)  
**Figure 1.** Detection limits (5σ) as a function of separation for the four targets with AO imaging and NRM interferometry. The top axis shows the separation in au assuming a distance of 182 pc. The region probed by non-redundant aperture masking is marked with a dotted–dashed line, while the region probed by imaging is solid. The contrast limits are approximately flat for separations >3'', but due to finite chip size are incomplete as a function of azimuthal angle.

![Figure 2](image2.png)  
**Figure 2.** Proper motions (top) and positions (bottom) of likely Praesepe members from Kraus & Hillenbrand (2007). An estimate of the (projected) physical scale is shown in the center plot based on the distance to the cluster. Targets not observed by K2 are shown in gray. Planet hosts are shown as blue stars. Plot edges cut off some (<5%) members to better show detail in the core.
planetary nature of six out of seven planet candidates. We conclude in Section 6 with a discussion of the dynamical state, frequency, and size of the Praesepe and Hyades planets when compared to significantly older systems.

2. OBSERVATIONS AND DATA REDUCTION

2.1. K2 Observations and Transit Identification

From 2015 April 27 to 2015 October 31 (Campaign 5), K2 observed ~900 known members of the Praesepe cluster. Owing to the loss of two reaction wheels, the Kepler spacecraft drifts on <day timescales (Van Cleve et al. 2016). To correct the pointing, Kepler’s thrusters fire every ~6 hr. However, during the drift and subsequent thruster fire, stellar images will drift with respect to the detector. Combined with variations in the pixel sensitivity, this drift generates changes in total measured flux from a given star as a function of centroid position.

Multiple methods have been implemented to mitigate or remove noise from K2 drift. We utilized both “K2SFF” (Vanderburg & Johnson 2014) and “K2SC” (Aigrain

### Table 1: Global Parameters

| Parameter   | Value       | Source                                      |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Age (Myr)   | 790 ± 30 Myr| Brandt & Huang (2015), Boesgaard et al. (2013), Netopil et al. (2016) |
| [Fe/H]      | 0.14 ± 0.04 | Yang et al. (2015), Taylor (2006)          |
| E(B-V) (mag)| 0.027 ± 0.004| van Leeuwen (2009)                         |
| Distance (pc)| 181.5 ± 6.0|                                            |
et al. 2016) corrected light curves for all targets. K2SFF curves were corrected for noise due to telescope drift by correlating flux measurements with the spacecraft’s pointing. K2SFF curves were derived using Gaussian Process regression to model changes that depend on the target’s position (flat field variability) and time (stellar variability) simultaneously. We also extracted our own light curves, following the method of Vanderburg & Johnson (2014), but including a simultaneous fit for stellar variability with a lower (1 day) cutoff on the stellar rotation period than allowed by Vanderburg & Johnson (2014). Some Praesepe-age M dwarfs will have rotation periods shorter than this (Douglas et al. 2014), but K2 long-cadence observations yield too few data points for significantly shorter period cutoffs, and fitting out variation on ~1 hour timescales runs the risk of removing or altering long-duration transits.

We downloaded (or extracted from the pixel data) light curves for all Praesepe members given in Kraus & Hillenbrand (2007) observed by K2 from the Barbara A. Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST). We ran a box least-squares (Kovács et al. 2002) search for transits on each light curve after correcting for stellar variability. Additional details on our search method are given in Gaidos et al. (2017). Eclipsing binaries were identified visually for separate analysis (A. L. Kraus et al., in preparation). Other artifacts from poorly corrected stellar variability, flares, or red noise are flagged by identifying changes in the transit shape and depth with time, comparing the planet candidate’s orbital period to the stellar rotation period, and examining the transit by eye (though no candidates were rejected through visual examination alone). We used our own curves to verify that candidate signals were not artifacts of the reduction process. If a planet was identified in K2SFF or K2SC light curves and not in our curves we re-extracted the relevant light curve, manually locking the stellar rotation correction to the value derived from a Lomb–Scargle periodogram, and removing outliers manually. It is infeasible to repeat this process for all target stars, but it is simple to do it on the few with potential signals. In this way, all candidate signals were eventually identified with our own light curve.

In total, seven planet candidates survived our vetting process. Four of these planets have been previously identified by earlier analyses of the K2 data (Barros et al. 2016; Libralato et al. 2016; Pope et al. 2016), two of which were recognized as orbiting Praesepe members (Libralato et al. 2016), and one of which was characterized in detailed and confirmed to be planetary by Obermeier et al. (2016).

For each of the candidates, we extracted a new light curve after the transit was identified. Re-extraction was done because corrections for K2 pointing drift and stellar variability may incorrectly fit or otherwise negatively affect the transit

![Figure 5](image-url) Phase-folded light curve of EPIC 211901114b from K2 (black points). The best-fit (highest likelihood) transit model is shown as a red line and an estimate of the photometric errors on each point is shown in the bottom right in blue.
Table 3
Planet/Transit-fit Parameters

| Parameter          | K2-100b | K2-101b | K2-102b | K2-103b | K2-104b | EPIC 211901114b | K2-95b |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|--------|
| Period (days)      | 1.673915 ±0.000011 | 14.677303 ±0.000824 | 9.915651 ±0.001194 | 21.169687 ±0.016136 | 1.974189 ±0.001100 | 1.648932 ±0.000721 | 10.135097 ±0.000498 |
| $R_p/R_*$         | 0.0267 ±0.0005 | 0.0247 ±0.0002 | 0.0169 ±0.0010 | 0.0335 ±0.0015 | 0.0365 ±0.0029 | 0.1913 ±0.0103 | 0.0771 ±0.0021 |
| $T_o$ (BJD-2400000) | 57144.067009 ±0.000027 | 57152.681250 ±0.000224 | 57139.654880 ±0.005538 | 57123.237873 ±0.004260 | 57140.380977 ±0.002522 | 57140.832559 ±0.002000 | 57140.740773 ±0.002111 |
| Density ($\rho_p$) | 2.24 ±0.34 | 2.21 ±0.41 | 2.65 ±0.72 | 2.86 ±0.60 | 3.48 ±1.26 | 4.71 ±0.58 | 3.59 ±0.70 |
| Impact Parameter  | 0.31 ±0.02 | 0.32 ±0.02 | 0.32 ±0.22 | 0.31 ±0.22 | 0.38 ±0.26 | 1.11 ±0.11 | 0.32 ±0.22 |
| Duration (hr)      | 1.61 ±0.02 | 3.32 ±0.09 | 2.68 ±0.16 | 3.47 ±0.14 | 1.44 ±0.14 | 0.57 ±0.04 | 2.64 ±0.08 |
| $a/R_*$           | 7.82 ±0.44 | 32.97 ±0.23 | 26.9 ±0.22 | 45.67 ±0.11 | 10.0 ±2.7 | 9.8 ±0.4 | 30.2 ±1.8 |
| Inclination (degrees) | 87.1 ±29 | 89.5 ±0.7 | 89.3 ±0.9 | 89.6 ±0.5 | 87.9 ±0.7 | 85.3 ±0.7 | 89.4 ±0.4 |
| $R_p^e$ (R$_e$)   | 3.53 ±0.12 | 2.00 ±0.1 | 2.0 ±0.1 | 2.2 ±0.1 | 1.9 ±0.1 | 9.6 ±0.8 | 3.7 ±0.2 |

External stellar density prior; uniform priors on $\sqrt{r}$ $\sin \omega$, $\sqrt{r}$ $\cos \omega$

| Period(days)       | 1.673916 ±0.000012 | 14.677280 ±0.000828 | 9.915615 ±0.001195 | 21.169689 ±0.016136 | 1.974189 ±0.001100 | 1.648932 ±0.000721 | 10.135097 ±0.000498 |
| $R_p/R_*$         | 0.0269 ±0.0007 | 0.0247 ±0.0002 | 0.0170 ±0.0012 | 0.0335 ±0.0015 | 0.0365 ±0.0029 | 0.1913 ±0.0103 | 0.0771 ±0.0021 |
| $T_o$ (BJD-2400000) | 57144.067230 ±0.000037 | 57152.681350 ±0.000224 | 57139.654880 ±0.005538 | 57123.237873 ±0.004260 | 57140.380977 ±0.002522 | 57140.832559 ±0.002000 | 57140.740773 ±0.002111 |
| Density ($\rho_p$) | 0.71 ±0.10 | 2.07 ±0.26 | 2.15 ±0.27 | 2.98 ±0.40 | 4.58 ±0.62 | 5.03 ±0.32 | 4.84 ±0.23 |
| Impact Parameter  | 0.43 ±0.29 | 0.35 ±0.25 | 0.43 ±0.24 | 0.38 ±0.13 | 0.37 ±0.33 | 0.32 ±0.30 | 0.32 ±0.30 |
| Duration (hr)      | 1.55 ±0.33 | 3.23 ±0.56 | 2.66 ±0.52 | 3.20 ±0.60 | 1.27 ±0.21 | 1.23 ±0.21 | 2.28 ±0.31 |
| $a/R_*$           | 6.23 ±0.8 | 32.5 ±2.1 | 25.3 ±1.1 | 46.7 ±9.8 | 11.0 ±2.4 | 33.2 ±5.8 | 33.2 ±5.8 |
| Inclination (degrees) | 85.1 ±3.3 | 89.4 ±0.4 | 89.0 ±0.6 | 89.5 ±0.3 | 88.0 ±1.4 | 89.4 ±0.4 | 89.4 ±0.4 |
| Eccentricity      | 0.24 ±0.19 | 0.10 ±0.18 | 0.10 ±0.18 | 0.18 ±0.29 | 0.10 ±0.47 | 0.16 ±0.19 | 0.16 ±0.19 |
| $\omega$ (degrees) | 29 ±31 | 0 ±152 | -1 ±136 | 0 ±156 | 0 ±155 | -2 ±157 | -2 ±157 |
| $R_p^e$ (R$_e$)   | 3.5 ±0.12 | 2.0 ±0.1 | 1.3 ±0.1 | 2.7 ±0.2 | 1.9 ±0.1 | 3.7 ±0.2 |

Notes:
- Duration, $a/R_*$, and inclination are not fit as part of the MCMC; they are calculated from the fit parameters after the run is complete.
- For EPIC 211901114 the transit duration is unresolved, so we fix $e$ and $\omega$ to zero while simultaneously applying the Gaussian prior on $\rho_p$. Only one fit is done on this system.
- $b$ BJD is given in Barycentric Dynamical Time (TBD) format.
- $c$ Planet radius is derived using our stellar radius from Section 3.
(Grunblatt et al. 2016). Once the transit is identified, we can include this in the fit to eliminate or mitigate systematic errors introduced this way. Following Becker et al. (2015) and Mann et al. (2016a), we simultaneously fit for low frequency variations from stellar activity, *Kepler* flat field (drift), and the transits of each system using a least-squares minimization. Both stellar variability and the effect of errors in detector response were modeled as splines as a function of time and centroid position with breakpoints every 0.2 days and 0°4, respectively. We used the re-extracted and flattened light curves for measuring transit properties (Section 4), but used light curves with only basic processing (flat field/drift correction) for measuring stellar rotation periods.

2.2. Optical Spectra from SNIFS

On 2016 January 17 (UT), we obtained an optical spectrum of each target with the SuperNova Integral Field Spectrograph (SNIFS; Aldering et al. 2002; Lantz et al. 2004) on the University of Hawai’i 2.2 m telescope on Maunakea. SNIFS covers 3200–9700 Å simultaneously with a resolution of $R \approx 700$ and $R \approx 1000$ in the blue (3200–5200 Å) and red (5100–9700 Å) channels, respectively. Exposure times varied from 60 to 1800s, providing a typical $S/N = 90$ per resolving element near 6500 Å. ThAr arcs were taken before or after each observation, which helps to extract the spectrum and improve the wavelength solution. Bias, flat, dark correction and cosmic-ray rejection, construction of the data cubes, and extraction of the one-dimensional spectrum are described in detail in Aldering et al. (2002). We observed spectrophotometric standards throughout the night, which were used in conjunction with a model of the atmospheric absorption above Maunakea to telluric correct and flux calibrate the spectrum. More details on our observing and reduction methods can be found in Mann et al. (2015).

2.3. Near-infrared Spectra with SpeX

During the nights of 2016 January 29, February 21, or March 5 (UT), we obtained a spectrum of each target with the near-infrared (NIR) spectrograph SpeX, mounted on the Infrared Telescope Facility on Maunakea. Observations were taken in cross-dispersed (SXD) mode with the 0°3 slit, yielding a resolution of $\approx$2000 with complete coverage from 0.7–2.5 μm. Each target was placed on two positions (A and B) on opposite ends of the slit. After each integration, the object was nodded following an ABBA pattern. Image differences (A–B) were used to subtract emission from the atmosphere. Integration times varied based on the brightness of the target, but all were capped at 120s per exposure to mitigate atmospheric variations. For fainter targets, more ABBA sequences were taken until the desired $S/N$ was reached. For all targets, we obtained an $S/N$ per resolving element of $>60$ in the center of the $H$ and $K$ bands. Internal flat and arc lamps and A0V standards were observed for each target at a similar airmass and sky position as the target. Individual spectra were reduced, extracted, and stacked using the *SpecTool* package (Cushing et al. 2004). Telluric correction and flux calibration were applied using the A0V standard and the *xtellcor* package (Vacca et al. 2003).

2.4. High-resolution Spectra with IGRINS

We observed each of the seven planet hosts during the nights of 2016 February 24 or April 21 (UT) with the Immersion Grating Infrared Spectrometer (IGRINS, Park et al. 2014; Mace et al. 2016) on the 2.7 m Harlan J. Smith telescope located at McDonald Observatory. IGRINS uses a silicon immersion grating (Yuk et al. 2010) to achieve high resolving power ($R \approx 45,000$) and simultaneous coverage of both $H$ and $K$ bands (1.48–2.48 μm) on two separate Hawaii-2RG detectors. IGRINS is stable enough to achieve RV precision of $\approx 40$ m s$^{-1}$ by using telluric lines for wavelength calibration.
Due to a higher false-positive probability (see Section 5) and a transit shape consistent with a grazing eclipsing binary, we obtained three additional epochs of one target (EPIC 211901114). These were taken on 2016 October 10–12 (UT) with IGRINS on the Discovery Channel Telescope.

All observations were taken following commonly used strategies for point-source observations with IGRINS. To briefly summarize, each target was placed at two positions along the slit (A and B), taking an exposure at each position in an ABBA pattern as with the SpeX observations. Exposure times varied based on the target’s $K_s$ magnitude, but were capped at 600s to avoid saturation of sky emission lines. For the faintest targets, additional ABBA sequences were taken until the required S/N was achieved. To help remove telluric lines, A0V standards were observed following the same pattern. Enough A0V standards were taken to ensure there

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**Figure 7.** Distributions and correlations between $\rho$, $e$, $b$, and $R_p/R_h$ for the six systems, where $e$ was allowed to float (so EPIC 211901114 is excluded). The gray regions contain 68%, 95%, and 99.7% of the points (from darkest to lightest). MCMC steps with $b < 0$ are allowed in our MCMC, but the posteriors are symmetric about $b = 0$, so we instead show $|b|$. The red dashed lines mark the statistical mode and the blue dotted–dashed blue lines correspond to the median of each distribution. Plot ranges exclude a small fraction of the points (<1%), so more clarity can be seen in the main distribution.
and the Keck II laser was not operational during these two nights.

All observations were taken with the facility imager, NIRC2, on Keck II atop Maunakea. Vertical angle mode was used for both imaging and NRM observations, always utilizing the smallest pixel scale (9.952 ± 0.002 mas/pix). Imaging was taken with the $K'$ or $K_s$ (for K2-100) filter and masking with the nine-hole mask. After AO loops closed on each target, we took four to eight images, adjusting coadds and integration time based on the brightness of the target. For NRM, we took six interferograms, each with an integration time of 20 s and a single coadd.

Data reduction and analysis was done following Kraus et al. (2016). To summarize, each frame was linearized and corrected for distortion using the NIRC2 solution from Yelda et al. (2010), then dark and flat corrected using calibration data taken the same night. We interpolated over “dead” and “hot” pixels, which were identified from superflats and superdarks built from data spanning 2006 to 2013. Pixels with flux levels >10σ above the median of the eight adjacent pixels (cosmic rays) were replaced with the median. We searched for faint and wide companions in the AO imaged by first subtracting an azimuthal median PSF model. Close-in companions were identified by first constructing and subtracting a best-fit PSF of another (single-star) taken on one of the two observing nights. All images of a given target were stacked, and searched for companions using 40 mas radius apertures centered on each pixel. Detection limits were determined from the standard deviation of the flux among all apertures.

Reduction of masking observations follows the appendix of Kraus et al. (2008). To remove systematics, the observation of each target was paired with a calibration observation of another nearby member of Praesepe or known single-star calibrator taken from Hartkopf et al. (2001). Binary system profiles were then fit to the closure phase to produce detection limits. More details on the reduction of masking data can be found in Kraus et al. (2008) and Kraus et al. (2016).

Detection limits (in terms of contrast ratio) as a function of separation constructed from the combination of masking and imaging for the four targets observed are shown in Figure 1. Owing to the edges of the detector the azimuthal coverage is not complete past ≈3″ depending on where the object was placed on the detector. Only one target had a significant detection; the images of K2-100 show a faint ($\Delta K' = 5.830 \pm 0.010$) companion at a separation of 1017.7 ± 1.6 mas and a position angle of 98.623 ± 0.090 degrees. The companion is close enough to land in the selected K2 aperture (pixel size = 9.952/10). However, for any physical $K_P - K$ (i.e., a star that is sufficiently blue and faint would land outside the Galaxy) the fainter star is too faint to account for, or significantly dilute the transit depth of K2-100, and was therefore ignored.

### 3. Stellar Parameters

**Common parameters for all targets:** for each of the seven planet hosts, we assume a common [Fe/H], reddening, distance, and age. We adopt [Fe/H] = 0.14 ± 0.04, which encompasses measurements from the literature derived from high-resolution spectra of FGK stars (Boesgaard et al. 2013; Yang et al. 2015; Netopil et al. 2016) and any chemical inhomogeneities as observed in similar clusters (≈0.02 dex in Hyades, Liu et al. 2016). We adopt a reddening of $E(B-V) = 0.027 \pm 0.004$ mag measured by Taylor

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Figure 8. Radial velocities for EPIC 211901114 phased to the candidate planet’s orbital period. Gray points are repeated points. The expected variation due to Neptune, Jupiter, and 3xJupiter mass planets are shown as teal, blue, and red lines, all assuming circular orbits.

Figure 9. Correlation between $\omega$ and $e$ for K2-101b following the shading scheme of Figure 7. The blue dashed line marks where $\rho_k^{\text{HR}} \approx \rho_k$ and $e = 0$, a region where large values of $e$ are allowed with minimal impact on the transit shape.

was at least one standard taken within 0.1 airmasses and 1 hr (of time) of every target.

The IGRINS spectra were reduced using version 2.1 of the publicly available IGRINS pipeline package (Lee 2015), which includes flat-fielding, background removal, order extraction, distortion correction, wavelength calibration, and basic telluric correction using the AOV standards and an A star atmospheric model. Spectra without telluric corrections applied were preserved and used to improve the wavelength solution and provide a zero-point for the RVs.

### 2.5. Adaptive Optics Imaging and Aperture Masking

During the nights of 2016 March 19, and March 22, (UT), we observed four of the seven planet hosts (K2-100, K2-101, K2-102, and K2-103) using natural guide star (NGS) adaptive optics (AO) imaging (Wizinowich et al. 2000) and non-redundant aperture masking (NRM). The three other targets (K2-95, K2-104, and EPIC 211901114) are too faint for NGS,

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8 https://github.com/igrins/plp
Because the cluster is relatively compact (1σ ≈ 2 pc), and cluster and circumstellar gas (and dust) have been dispersed, reddening variation between targets should be smaller than measurement uncertainties. van Leeuwen (2009) measure a Hipparcos-based distance of 181.5 ± 6.0 pc to the core of Praesepe, which we use for each of the individual stars. As with reddening, the distance error is large enough to account for the scatter in individual object distances due to the finite size of the cluster core. This distance is consistent with independent measurements for Praesepe (e.g., Gáspár et al. 2009). Main-sequence turnoff and isochrone fitting suggest an age for Praesepe and Hyades of 600–700 Myr (Perryman et al. 1998; Salaris et al. 2004), but accounting for the effects of rotation and revisions to the solar metallicity scale suggest an older age of ≈800 Myr (Brandt & Huang 2015). For our analysis, we adopted the older age of 790 ± 30 Myr from Brandt & Huang (2015). Global parameters are summarized in Table 1.

Radial velocities: RVs were determined from the IGRINS data as explained in Mann et al. (2016a) and G. N. Mace et al. (2016, in preparation). To briefly summarize, we used telluric lines to improve the wavelength solution and provide a fixed zero-point across all observations. We then cross-correlated each IGRINS spectra against 150–230 spectra of RV standards with similar spectral types to the target. The final assigned RV and error is the robust mean and standard error of the cross-correlation across all templates. For targets with multiple measurements, we used the weighted mean of the measurements. For absolute RVs, errors are limited by the zero-point error of 153 m s⁻¹, which is due to limits on the RV precision of the templates.

Membership in Praesepe: all planet hosts are included in the Praesepe membership catalog of Kraus & Hillenbrand (2007) with membership probabilities of ≥97%. However, Kraus & Hillenbrand (2007) calculations use only proper motions and photometry. RVs derived from our IGRINS spectra enable the calculation of more precise, three-dimensional probabilities. We first measured each target’s photometric distance by comparing available optical and NIR photometry against the solar metallicity isochrones from Dotter et al. (2008). We drew position and proper motion information from UCAC4 ( Zacharias et al. 2013) or SDSS (Ahn et al. 2012), where available. We then computed Galactic UVW kinematics by combining these data with the RVs. Membership probabilities were calculated following the Bayesian framework of Rizzuto et al. (2011). We drew Praesepe UVW kinematics from van Leeuwen (2009) and values for field stars from Malo et al. (2013). We selected a membership prior equal to the ratio of the number of stars in Praesepe to the number of field stars in the same region of the sky. To this end, we constructed a Praesepe CMD from APASS or SDSS r − 2MASS K color of Praesepe members identified by Kraus & Hillenbrand (2007). We considered all stars with r < 17, within 8° of the Praesepe core, and 5σ of the Praesepe color–magnitude diagram (CMD); those not in the Kraus & Hillenbrand (2007) catalog, we assigned as field stars and those in Kraus & Hillenbrand (2007) we assigned as members, ignoring the individual membership probabilities for simplicity. The resulting Bayesian membership probabilities were >99.9% for all seven planet hosts.

RVs have not been measured for the majority of cluster members (especially low-mass members), so instead of UVW we show positions and proper motions of planet hosts and cluster members in Figure 2, and CMD positions in Figure 3. All planet hosts are consistent with the kinematics and position of the cluster, and all planet hosts have CMD positions consistent with the single-star cluster sequence.

Effective temperatures: we compared our dereddened spectra to a grid of BT-SETTL CIFIST stellar atmosphere models⁹ (Allard et al. 2012). For the four M dwarfs in the sample, we mask out regions where models poorly reproduce observed spectra as detailed in Mann et al. (2013a), and for all stars we mask out regions of high telluric contamination. We included five nuisance parameters to deal with small errors in the wavelength and flux calibration of SNIFS and SpeX (see

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⁹ https://phoenix.ens-lyon.fr/Grids/BT-Settl/CIFIST2011
Gaidos et al. 2014; Mann et al. 2015, for more details). We estimated errors due to uncertainties in the reddening by repeating the fitting process over the range of $E(B - V)$ values (0.027 ± 0.004) and find the change in $T_{\text{eff}}$ is negligible compared to other errors.

Our model-fitting method reproduces M-dwarf temperatures measured from long-baseline optical interferometry (Boyajian et al. 2012b; Mann et al. 2013a). For the three warmer stars, we tested our method using a similar sample FGK dwarfs with interferometric temperatures from Boyajian et al. (2012a), which we also used to estimate the errors on our method and test for systematic offsets. Our final $T_{\text{eff}}$ values for the planet hosts are also consistent with those derived from color–$T_{\text{eff}}$ relations from Mann et al. (2015) for the M dwarfs and from Ramírez & Meléndez (2005) and Pinsonneault et al. (2012) for FGK dwarfs.

We estimated $T_{\text{eff}}$ for other cluster members using available APASS, 2MASS, and Tycho-2 (Høg et al. 2000) photometry of likely members and the color–$T_{\text{eff}}$ relations from Mann et al. (2015) for the M dwarfs and from Ramírez & Meléndez (2005) and Pinsonneault et al. (2012) for FGK dwarfs.

Luminosities for the cluster population were estimated using the cluster distance and $r$-band bolometric corrections from Mann et al. (2015) or $V$-band bolometric corrections from Vandenberg & Clem (2003). We excluded FGK stars lacking a $V$ magnitude and M dwarfs lacking an $r$ magnitude. We use these luminosities and our $T_{\text{eff}}$ values (above) to create an H–R diagram of the cluster, including the planet hosts, which we show in Figure 3 alongside the model H–R diagram from Baraffe et al. (2015).

Rotation periods: following the procedures described in Gaidos et al. (2017), we attempted to compute rotation periods for 908 Praesepe candidates observed by K2. We downloaded K2SFF light curves, which we normalized and fit and subtracted off a second-order polynomial fit to each using robust methods. Rotation periods were calculated using both a Lomb–Scargle periodogram (Scargle 1981) and the autocorrelation function (ACF). The ACF value, if available, was preferred over the Lomb–Scargle value because the former is more robust to changes in light curve shape (McQuillan et al. 2013). Because the distributions of star spots often generate a second harmonic of the rotation period in the light curve, only the first and second peaks in the ACF were considered, and the higher of the two peaks was selected as the rotation period. To obtain a refined estimate of the period, a Gaussian function was fit to the ACF around the peak. Rotation periods <35 days were successfully estimated for 738 stars, including all seven host stars; other stars exhibited no significant periodic variability or ambiguous period. We exclude another 37 stars due to questionable $r$ or $K$ magnitudes.

From the remaining 701 stars, 27 have independent rotation period measurements from Agüeros et al. (2011), only one of which differs from our own measurements by more than expected errors. We show the distribution of rotation periods of the 701 stars with mass and color in Figure 4.

$v_{\sin i_*}$: projected rotational velocities were measured using our high-resolution IGRINS data. We obtained a BT-SETTL model spectrum for each target consistent with the stellar parameters derived above. The model spectra were broadened by a Gaussian to match the instrument profile, which we measured from width of the telluric lines, as described in Mann et al. (2016a). For each IGRINS order with $S/N > 20$, we simultaneously fit for $v_{\sin i_*}$ and five other nuisance parameters to handle flux calibration, wavelength calibration, and imperfectly corrected telluric lines. We assumed a microturbulent velocity of 1.5 km s$^{-1}$ for all stars, and linear limb-darkening coefficients derived from PHOENIX models (see Section 4) matching the parameters of each target. After fitting, we identify large $\geq$5σ outliers in the residuals, which we mask out and repeat the process. Most of these outlier regions appear to be missing/erroneous lines in the model spectra or poorly corrected tellurics.

For our final $v_{\sin i_*}$, we adopted the robust weighted mean and standard error across all orders. Based on a comparison between our own measurements of $v_{\sin i_*}$ and those in the literature of the same young stars (e.g., Mermilliod et al. 2009; Dahm et al. 2012) we add an additional systematic error of 0.6 km s$^{-1}$. We attribute this extra error to poorly understood systematics, such as micro- or macroturbulence, improperly corrected instrumental broadening, and imperfect limb-darkening corrections. Because of the limiting resolution of the spectrograph, we consider measurements below 2.6 km s$^{-1}$ to be upper limits, which is the case for three targets. Based on
their radii and rotation periods, all three have equatorial velocities below this limit, so only upper limits are expected. Sky projected stellar inclination: \( i_\ast \) can be compared to the planetary inclination \( i \) measured from the transit (usually \( \pm 90^\circ \)) as a probe of the planetary spin–orbit alignment. This in turn can be used to probe the formation or dynamical history of the planetary system. While this method is not as accurate as measurements from asteroseismology (e.g., Huber et al. 2013) or Rossiter–McLaughlin (e.g., Narita et al. 2010), it is still sufficient to identify highly misaligned systems and can provide meaningful constraints when applied to populations of planet hosts (e.g., Walkowicz & Basri 2013). Furthermore, \( v \sin i_\ast \) and \( P_\text{rot} \), and therefore \( i_\ast \), are generally more easily measured in rapidly rotating stars like those in this study. We calculate \( i_\ast \) from \( v \sin i_\ast \), \( P_\text{rot} \), and \( R_\ast \) using the formalism from Morton & Winn (2014). For targets with only upper limits on \( v \sin i_\ast \), we do not attempt to derive \( i_\ast \). We ignored effects from differential rotation. To handle regions where \( v \sin i_\ast > V_\text{eq} \) (which is unphysical), we converted \( v \sin i_\ast \) and \( V_\text{eq} \) to a posterior in \( \cos(i_\ast) \). In all other cases, the resulting \( i_\ast \) posteriors only provide lower limits on \( i_\ast \) because they are all consistent with spin–orbit alignment.

A summary of all derived stellar parameters and errors is given in Table 2.

4. TRANSIT FITTING

We fit all \( K2 \) light curves with a Monte Carlo Markov Chain (MCMC) as described in Mann et al. (2016a), which we briefly summarize here. We used the emcee Python module (Foreman-Mackey et al. 2013) to fit the model light curves produced by the batman package (Kreidberg 2015) using the Mandel & Agol (2002) algorithm. Following Kipping (2010), we oversampled and binned the model to match the 30-minute \( K2 \) cadence. We sampled the planet-to-star radius ratio \( (R_\text{P}/R_\ast) \), impact parameter \((b)\), orbital period \((P)\), epoch of the first transit mid-point \((T_0)\), bulk stellar density \((\rho_\ast)\), two parameters that describe the eccentricity and argument of periastron \((\sqrt{e} \sin \omega \text{ and } \sqrt{e} \cos \omega)\), and two (quadratic) limb-darkening parameters \((q_1 \text{ and } q_2)\).

We assumed a quadratic limb-darkening law and use the triangular sampling method of Kipping (2013) in order to uniformly sample the physically allowed region of parameter space. We applied a prior on limb-darkening derived from the Husser et al. (2013) atmospheric models, calculated using the LDTK toolkit (Parviainen & Aigrain 2015), which enabled us to account for errors in stellar parameters. For this, we used the filter and CCD transmission function for Kepler from the Kepler science center\(^{10}\) and stellar parameters and errors derived in Section 3. Errors on the limb-darkening coefficients were broadened to account for model uncertainties (estimated by comparing limb-darkening parameters from different model grids). Typical resulting errors on \( a_1 \) and \( a_2 \) were 0.08 and 0.04, respectively.

For each system (excluding EPIC 211901114b, see below), we ran two MCMC fits. For the first, we fixed \( e \) and \( \omega \) to zero, and used a uniform prior on \( \rho \), and for the second fit we allowed \( \sqrt{e} \sin \omega \) and \( \sqrt{e} \cos \omega \) to float from 0 to 1 under uniform priors and put a Gaussian prior on \( \rho \) using our stellar parameters from Section 3. In both cases, \( \rho \) is forced to be >0, but has no upper bound.

\(^{10}\) http://keplergo.arc.nasa.gov/CalibrationResponse.shtml

For EPIC 211901114b, the transit duration is comparable to or less than the Kepler long-cadence integration time (30 minutes, see Figure 5). The light curve can therefore provide only an upper limit on transit duration (or a lower limit on stellar density for \( e = 0 \)) without additional constraints. To mitigate this, we fit the transit with \( e \) and \( \omega \) fixed at zero and simultaneously apply a Gaussian prior on \( \rho \). Since the planet could be truly eccentric, assuming \( e = 0 \) may bias the resulting fit parameters. However, even with the \( e = 0 \) constraint, the final transit-fit parameters are still highly uncertain, so it is unavoidable if we want to make any inferences about the planet. We urge caution when interpreting the transit fit for this system.

All MCMC fits were allowed to explore \( |b| < 1 + R_\text{P}/R_\ast, P \) from 0 to 35 days, \( R_\text{P}/R_\ast \) from 0 to 0.5, and \( T_0 \) within \( P/2 \) of the initial value, under uniform priors. For all targets, \( R_\text{P}/R_\ast > 0.5 \) is conservatively ruled out by the lack of a second set of lines in our IGRINS spectrum and their locations on a color–magnitude diagram (Figure 2). All parameters were initialized to the values from our BLS search (Section 2.1), which are based on a Levenberg–Marquardt fit to the light curve (Markwardt 2009). MCMC chains were run using 150 walkers, each with 150,000 steps including a burn-in phase of 15,000 steps that was stripped from the final posteriors. Examination of the final posterior distribution suggests our selected numbers of steps, walkers, and burn-in length are more than sufficient for convergence.

We report the transit-fit parameters in Table 3. For each parameter, we report the median value with the errors as the 84.1 and 15.9 percentile values (corresponding to 1\( \sigma \) for Gaussian distributions). The model light curves with the best-fit models for six of the seven systems shown in Figure 6, with EPIC 211901114 shown in Figure 5. We also show the distributions and correlations for a subset of parameters \((\rho, \epsilon, b, \text{ and } R_\text{P}/R_\ast)\) in Figure 7 (excluding EPIC 211901114b) with the median and statistical mode for each parameter marked.

5. FALSE-POSITIVE ANALYSIS

We estimated the likelihood that a given candidate is a true planet using the vespa software (Morton 2012, 2015). vespa considers three astrophysical false-positive scenarios; background eclipsing binaries, bound eclipsing binaries, hierarchical eclipsing systems, and each of the three but at double the reported period. vespa then compares the likelihood of each false-positive scenario to that of a planet accounting for the shape and depth of the transit, the properties of the star, and external constraints from our AO imaging (where available). All FPP values are listed in Table 3.

With the exception of EPIC 211901114b, all candidates are assigned false-positive probabilities (FPP) of <1\%, effectively confirming their planetary nature. EPIC 211901114b was initially assigned an ambiguous FPP of 36\%, owing primarily to a high probability of being an eclipsing binary (34\%). This is consistent with our own transit-fit posterior, which does not rule out a stellar or brown dwarf radius (>1\( R_\odot \)). Our IGRINS-derived RV measurements are consistent with no variation, ruling out any companion >5 Jupiter masses at 5-sigma at the planet candidate’s orbital period and assuming a circular orbit (Figure 8). This reduces the FPP to (2\%), entirely due to the possibility that the signal is from a hierarchical eclipsing binary. The IGRINS spectra show only one set of lines and there is no evidence of an unresolved binary in the CMD.
position of EPIC 211901114, but these cannot rule out a companion eclipsing binary significantly fainter than the primary ($\Delta K > 3$ mags). For now, we conservatively consider EPIC 211901114b unconfirmed, pending additional AO observations or higher cadence transit observations.

vespa does not consider false positives due to instrumental correlated (“red”) noise, which may be significant for K2, nor does it consider stellar variability (spots), which is non-negligible for such young stars. We reject the first scenario for a number of reasons. First, with the exception of EPIC 211901114, all light curves show a transit-like shape, with a visible limb-darkened ingress, egress, and flattening bottom. The bottom of K2-104’s light curve appears more V-shaped due to a short duration and significant limb-darkening, but this is consistent with expectations given the period and stellar parameters. Furthermore, none of the planets have orbital periods consistent with an alias of the K2 drift or thruster fire timescale. Lastly, all planets are detected in at least two of the publicly available reduced K2 light curves: K2SC (Aigrain et al. 2016), EVEREST (Luger et al. 2016), and/or K2SFF (Vanderburg & Johnson 2014), and all are detected in our own extracted curves. This consistency suggests that no signal is an artifact of the data reduction process.

We similarly reject the possibility that these signals are due to stellar variability. Flaring can be seen on some host light curves, including near transit, but all transits are detected even when data points near stellar flares are removed. The transit durations and shapes are inconsistent with any reasonable spot pattern. Most importantly, no planet has a period consistent with an alias of the measured rotation period and, indicating that the two signals are independent of each other.

Another scenario not directly considered by our vespa analysis is a blended planet, i.e., a bound or background star with a transiting planet creating the signal. In the case of a bound companion, or background star that is a member of the cluster, the planet would still orbit a member of Praesepe, so we do not consider these false positives. However, our derived planet parameters would be incorrect due to incorrect stellar parameters and significant uncorrected dilution from the primary star. For a non-cluster member as the transit source, analysis of Kepler planet candidates suggests cases of background transiting planets are intrinsically rare (1%–4% Fressin et al. 2013). In either case, the star with the planet (bound or background) would need to be similar in brightness to the target to reproduce the transit depth, and would likely be seen as a higher CMD position, a second set of lines in the IGRINS spectra, or a companion in the AO/NRM data if available.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1. The Dynamical State of Close-in Planets at $\approx$800 Myr

All systems are consistent with zero or low eccentricities ($\approx 0.2$) and alignment with their host star’s rotation. This matches findings for the Hyades planet (K2-25b, David et al. 2016a; Mann et al. 2016a). Of the seven systems (including K2-25b, but excluding EPIC 211901114b) EPIC K2-100b has the transit-fit posterior most consistent with a non-zero $e$, but can be reconciled with a larger impact parameter (see Figure 7). Similarly, all $v \sin i_b$ measurements are within expectations (given uncertainties) for spin–orbit aligned systems. Even those with only upper limits on $v \sin i_b$ are expected to have equatorial velocities well below IGRINS resolution.

Unfortunately, our eccentricity measurements are all quite coarse (typical errors of 0.1–0.2), making it difficult to rule out small but non-zero eccentricities. However, the distribution of $e$ with $\omega$ in the transit-fit posteriors suggests the underlying eccentricity distribution of all systems is smaller than when considering each system individually. The value of $\rho^\text{circ}$ derived from a transit light curve assuming zero eccentricity versus letting $e$ float will differ by a factor that depends on $\omega$ and $e$ (Seager & Mallén-Ornelas 2003; Kipping et al. 2012):

$$\rho^\text{circ} \approx \left( \frac{1 + e \sin \omega}{(1 - e^2)^{1/2}} \right)^3 \rho_\star.$$  \hfill (1)

The factor in front of $\rho_\star$ can be $\approx 1$ for $e \approx 0$ or when $\sin \omega \approx (1 - e^2)^{1/2} - 1$. Thus fits to the light curve of a transiting planet with $e_{\text{true}} = 0$ can often yield answers with $e_{\text{measured}} \gg 0$ at specific values of $\omega$, especially in the presence of red and white noise (Pont et al. 2006; Gazak et al. 2012). This effect can be seen in our own fit posteriors, of which we show an example in Figure 9. A similar pattern is seen in all fits where $e$ is not fixed to zero: values of $e \gg 0$ tend to be clustered around specific values of $\omega$ that keep the transit observables unchanged. For near-circular orbits $\omega$ should be $\approx$random, so the true $e$ distribution is likely smaller than the combined posteriors imply.

A solution to this is to generate simulated $e$ and $\omega$ distributions and compare them to the distribution of $\rho_{\text{transit}}/\rho_\star$ derived from our fits with $e = 0$ and our stellar parameters from Section 3, similar to the procedure in Van Eylen & Albrecht (2015). Assuming a Rayleigh distribution for $e$ and a uniform distribution in $\omega$, we can set an upper limit on the Rayleigh scale parameter ($\sigma_e$) of 0.26 at 95%. A more sophisticated treatment would also account for the selection bias in favor of higher eccentricity systems (Kipping 2014), but this effect is smaller than current errors. Additional systems and higher cadence ground-based transit photometry would provide significantly improved constraints.

The spin–orbit alignment measurements, similar to measurements of $e$, provide only rough constraints. For the four systems where we detect $v \sin i_b$ broadening the measurements are consistent with alignment. Although $v \sin i_b$ is too small to detect in the other three systems, non-detection is expected based on their rotation periods and radii. Higher resolution observations would help with the missing systems, and measurements of the Rossiter–McLaughlin effect could provide significantly stronger constraints on spin–orbit alignment (e.g., Narita et al. 2010). In cases where the Rossiter–McLaughlin effect is too small to detect (due to small $v \sin i_b$ and transit depth) it may be possible to measure spin–orbit alignment by observing spot-crossing events (e.g., Nutzman et al. 2011).

Studies of transiting planets around older ($\gtrsim 1$ Gyr) stars from Kepler suggests Earth- to Neptune-size planets have small ($\lesssim 0.1$) eccentricities (Hadden & Lithwick 2014; Van Eylen & Albrecht 2015), and their orbits are generally aligned with their host star (e.g., Walkowicz & Basri 2013). However, after dissipation of the protoplanetary gas disk, planet–planet scattering can drive super-Earth- to Neptune-size planets to large eccentricities ($\gtrsim 0.4$) and spin–orbit misalignment on $\sim$100 Myr timescales (e.g., Chatterjee et al. 2008; Kennedy & Kenyon 2008). While coarse, our findings suggest that such
scattering or other highly disruptive events in young planetary systems are not the norm, and at 800 Myr systems may be as dynamically settled as their old counterparts.

Another tool used to probe the dynamical state of planetary systems is the number of multiplanet systems, which provides constraints on the level of mutual inclination of planets (e.g., Ballard & Johnson 2016). We detect no multiplanet system, yet approximately 22% of Kepler systems are known to harbor multiple planets (Batalha 2014). This suggests that, of the 8 systems in Hyades and Praesepe, we should have found 1.8 multiplanet systems, with a Poisson probability of 17% of detecting none. If we cut the Kepler sample on S/N, period, and host star properties to simulate a K2-like survey of Praesepe (P < 35 days, fewer detected transits, only dwarf stars, etc.) then the fraction of multiples drops to 16%, and the Poisson probability increases to 28% of finding no multiplanet systems. So there is not a statistically significant deficit of multiples and we can draw no useful conclusions about the mutual inclination distribution of young planets at this time.

6.2. Why Are There So Few Planets in the Pleiades?

There is a notable difference in the number of planets detected in the ≃800 Myr old Praesepe and Hyades clusters (8 planets) versus in the ≃125 Myr old Pleiades cluster (0 planets, Gaidos et al. 2017). This is despite the fact that the target samples are similar in number (≃1000 targets in Praesepe + Hyades and ≃1000 in Pleiades), spectral type distribution, and metallicity. Furthermore, Pleiades is closer than Praesepe (136 pc versus 181 pc), and hence similar mass stars are statistically brighter. It is possible that we are seeing signatures of planetary migration on 0.1–1 Gyr timescales, but the differences are not yet statistically significant.

The difference in number of planets detected between the clusters may instead be due to faster and higher amplitude rotation for younger Pleiades stars, which can be difficult to remove and complicate the detection of short-period planets. A planet injection test assuming a Kepler-like population done by Gaidos et al. (2017) indicates this is at least partially to blame for the lack of detections in Pleiades. Typical rotation periods in Pleiades are 1 day < Prot < 10 days for the range of spectral types probed by K2 (Covey et al. 2016). We detect three planets around stars with Prot < 10 days in Praesepe, but none around stars with Prot < 4 days (Figure 4). However, many fast rotating stars (Prot < 4 days) in Praesepe are likely to be tidally locked binaries (Douglas et al. 2016), around which close-in planets are significantly less common (Wang et al. 2014; Kraus et al. 2016). So the lack of detections around the fastest rotators is not conclusive.

A more detailed injection/recovery test across all nearby young clusters/star-forming regions (Upper Scorpius, Hyades, Pleiades, and Praesepe) to better constrain our completeness as a function of rotation period (and other stellar properties) would be useful, particularly when combined with the additional K2 observations of Hyades planned for Campaign 13. TESS is also expected to survey nearby young stars and clusters (Stassun et al. 2014) and could shed significant light on this difference.

6.3. Are Young Planets Larger Than Their Older Counterparts?

Mann et al. (2016a) found that the ≃800 Myr old Hyades planet K2-25b has an unusually large radius when compared to other transiting planets from Kepler given its host star mass and incident flux. Higher-mass stars have larger disk masses (Andrews et al. 2013; Pascucci et al. 2016) and hence are more likely to harbor large planets (e.g., Johnson et al. 2010; Mulders et al. 2015), and planets that receive more flux from their host star may lose their atmospheres faster (we use bolometric flux as a proxy for high-energy flux). Thus such large planetary radii suggest that, at this age, close-in planets around M dwarfs may still be losing atmosphere due to interaction with their host star.

We show a comparison of planet size as a function of host star mass and incident flux for M-dwarf planets drawn from transit surveys in Figure 10. Stellar and planetary parameters for Kepler systems are taken from Gaidos et al. (2016), MEarth systems from Anglada-Escudé et al. (2013) and Berta-Thompson et al. (2015), the Hyades system from Mann et al. (2016a), and the Upper Scorpius system from Mann et al. (2016b). Planets identified through RV surveys are not included because they have different selection criteria and observational biases, though GJ 436b and GJ 3470b are notable because they also have relatively large radii (≃4R⊕) despite orbiting old (>1 Gyr) stars (von Braun et al. 2012; Biddle et al. 2014). GJ 436b, interestingly, also shows evidence of an evaporating atmosphere (Ehrenreich et al. 2015).

Excluding EPIC 21190114b, whose parameters are poorly constrained, only one target of six, K2-95b, is significantly larger than the R p ∼ M s sequence from Kepler, with a radius of 3.7 ± 0.2 R⊕ and host star mass of M s = 0.430 ± 0.02 M⊙, as noted by Obermeier et al. (2016). Although K2-95b looks like less of an outlier given its level of incident flux. The other planets around M dwarfs are less remarkable in terms of their size. The more typical size for K2-95b may be due to a much higher level of flux from the host star stripping the atmosphere away faster than 800 Myr. Close-in ≃1R⊕ planets, which are common in the Kepler M-dwarf sample (Dressing & Charbonneau 2013, 2015), are likely missing from our sample due to detection limits; Praesepe targets are statistically more distant/faint than those observed by Kepler (Gaidos & Mann 2013), and the shorter observing window yields fewer transits and S/N. It is still suggestive that 2–3 (depending on the status of EPIC 211901114b) of the 5 known planets orbiting <800 Myr old M dwarfs are large compared to 1–2 planets out of 90 orbiting old M dwarfs in the Kepler-prime field. Mass determinations of these planets would be useful to determine if they have lower densities than their older counterparts, which would favor a scenario where close-in planets continue to lose atmosphere past 800 Myr.

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