TESS Reveals a Short-period Sub-Neptune Sibling (HD 86226c) to a Known Long-period Giant Planet

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Abstract

The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite mission was designed to find transiting planets around bright, nearby stars. Here, we present the detection and mass measurement of a small, short-period (∼4 days) transiting planet around the bright (V = 7.9), solar-type star HD 86226 (TOI-652, TIC 22221375), previously known to host a long-period (∼1600 days) giant planet. HD 86226c (TOI-652.01) has a radius of 2.16 ± 0.08 R_J and a mass of 7.25 ± 1.12 M_J, based on archival and new radial velocity data. We also update the parameters of the longer-period, not-known-to-transit planet, and find it to be less eccentric and less massive than previously reported. The density of the transiting planet is 3.97 g cm⁻³, which is low enough to suggest that the planet has at least a small volatile envelope, but the mass fractions of rock, iron, and water are not well-constrained. Given the host star brightness, it is interesting candidate for transmission spectroscopy to further refine its composition.

Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts: Exoplanet astronomy (486); Exoplanet systems (484)

Supporting material: machine-readable tables

1. Introduction

The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) was launched in 2018 April and has proven to be a successful planet-finding machine, with more than 1100 new planet...
candidates having been detected so far. Compared to the Kepler mission, which ended in 2018, the TESS mission is observing much brighter stars, the brightest of which have already been targeted in radial-velocity (RV) surveys that stretch back a decade or more. The increased overlap between TESS and RV programs has allowed for faster validation of transiting planet candidates and immediate constraints on their masses (e.g., Huang et al. 2018; Dragomir et al. 2019; Dumusque et al. 2019). In turn, archival RV observations of TESS targets allow for more efficient vetting of the best planets for atmospheric spectroscopy. The initial interpretation of atmospheric observations requires at least ±50% mass precision, and more detailed analysis requires even higher-precision (±20%) mass measurements (Batalha et al. 2019).

Such atmospheric observations are especially important for deducing the composition of planets in the “super-Earth” to “sub-Neptune” range, which are the most common type of planet with orbital periods shorter than ~100 days (Howard et al. 2012; Fressin et al. 2013; Fulton et al. 2017). Mass and radius measurements alone suggest intrinsic atmospheric scatter in the 1–4 $R_{\oplus}$ planet mass–radius relation (e.g., Weiss & Marcy 2014; Wolfgang et al. 2016). Planets in this region of the mass–radius parameter space have degenerate distributions between core, mantle, water envelope, and/or H/He envelope—especially for planets larger than ~1.6 $R_{\oplus}$ (Rogers 2015), there is a range of combinations of iron, silicates, water, and gas that can match mass and radius measurements (Valencia et al. 2007; Adams et al. 2008; Rogers & Seager 2010). Interior structure models of small planets that incorporate constraints on the bulk refractory abundances of the host star have been shown to improve constraints on mantle composition, relative core size, ice mass fraction, etc., depending on the type of model and size of planet being modeled (Bond et al. 2010; Carter-Bond et al. 2012a, 2012b; Dorn et al. 2015, 2017; Wang et al. 2019), although counter-examples of different planet and host star abundance ratios certainly exist (e.g., Santerne et al. 2018). Transmission and/or emission observations provide an additional window into the atmospheric compositions of small planets (Miller-Ricci et al. 2009; Benneke & Seager 2012; Morley et al. 2015; Diamond-Lowe et al. 2018) and even their surfaces (Demory et al. 2016; Koll et al. 2019; Kreidberg et al. 2019).

Understanding the diversity in compositions of super-Earth and sub-Neptune exoplanets is important for tracing where and when they formed in protoplanetary disks, and for comparing their formation processes to those thought to have occurred in the solar system. For example, in our Solar System, Jupiter likely trapped solid material in the outer disk and created an inner mass deficit (Lambrechts et al. 2014; Krijt et al. 2017), thereby limiting the masses of the inner planets (O’Brien et al. 2014; Batygin & Laughlin 2015). Jupiter’s growth and possible migration are also thought to have scattered carbonaceous chondrite bodies inward, possibly delivering water and other volatile species to the Earth (Alexander et al. 2012; Marty 2012; O’Brien et al. 2018). Could analogous processes have happened in exoplanetary systems? How would this impact the compositions of inner super-Earth and sub-Neptune planets? From studies combining Kepler and long-term RV data, it appears that about one-third of small planets (1–4 $R_{\oplus}$ or 1–10 $M_{\oplus}$ inside 0.5 au) have an outer giant planet companion (0.5–20 $M_{\text{Jup}}$ and 1–20 au), and that cool giant planets almost always have inner small planet companions (Zhu & Wu 2018; Bryan et al. 2019). To investigate whether outer giant exoplanets have a similar influence on inner small planets as they do in our solar system, we can look for compositional differences between small inner planets that have outer giant planet companions versus those that do not.

In this paper, we describe the TESS detection of a small planet (~2 $R_{\oplus}$) around the solar-type star HD 86226, a system already known from RV studies to host a long-period giant planet. TOI-652.01 (HD 86226c) is a ~4 days-period planet on the border between super-Earths and sub-Neptunes as defined by the “radius gap” identified by Fulton et al. (2017). We also present a mass measurement of HD 86226c, and use all of the existing RV data to update the parameters of the known, ~1600 day period giant planet. In Section 2, we begin by reviewing what is known about the star and previously detected planet, and then in Section 3, we detail the new or newly analyzed observations from TESS, Las Cumbres Observatory, All Sky Automated Survey (ASAS), ASAS for SuperNovae (ASAS-SN), Southern Astrophysical Research (SOAR) Telescope, CORALIE, and Planet Finder Spectrograph (PFS). We present our analysis of the transit and RV observations in Section 4, and our results in Section 5. Finally, we discuss several interpretations of our results and summarize our conclusions in Section 6. Overall, HD 86226c is an excellent candidate for atmospheric studies that can help address multiple small planet formation questions.

### Table 1

| HD 86226 Catalog Information |
|-------------------------------|
| HIP ID | 48739 |
| TIC ID | 22221375 |
| TOI ID | 652 |
| R.A.$^\circ$ | (J2000) 09°56′29.84′′ |
| Dec.$^\circ$ | (J2000) −24°05′57.80′′ |
| $\mu$$_x$ | (mas yr$^{-1}$) −177.11 ± 0.09 |
| $\mu$$_y$ | (mas yr$^{-1}$) 46.87 ± 0.08 |
| $e^2$ | (mas) 21.86 ± 0.050 |
| RV | (km s$^{-1}$) 19.56 ± 0.19 |
| $v sin i$ | (km s$^{-1}$) 2.4–4 |
| SpT$^f$ | G2 V |
| V$_{r}$$^g$ | 8.004 ± 0.013 |
| $R_p$–$V$$_f$$^g$ | 0.699 ± 0.03 |
| log($R_{\text{keq}}$)$^h$ | −4.95 |

**Notes.**

$^a$ Gaia Collaboration et al. (2018).

$^b$ Nordström et al. (2004).

$^c$ Marmier et al. (2013).

$^d$ Glezofci & Gacininski (2005).

$^e$ Also consistent with PFS measurement.

$^f$ Esa (1997b).

$^g$ Heg et al. (2000).

$^h$ Arriagada (2011).

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33 NASA Exoplanet Archive, accessed 2020 February 20.
This star was included in the original Geneva-Copenhagen Survey (GCS) of the solar neighborhood (Nordström et al. 2004), combining new RV measurements with existing *uvby*β photometry, Hipparcos/Tycho-2 parallaxes, and proper motions to derive stellar parameters, kinematics, and Galactic orbits for a magnitude-limited sample of almost 16,700 F and G dwarfs. These derivations were subsequently improved with new Hipparcos parallaxes (Holmberg et al. 2009) to update the absolute magnitudes, ages, and orbits, and by using the infrared method (Casagrande et al. 2011) to update the stellar effective temperatures, metallicities, and ages. The final stellar parameters in the GCS reported by Casagrande et al. (2011) for HD 86226 are as follows: $T_{\text{eff}} = 5928 \pm 81$ K, $\log g = 4.45$ dex, $^{34}$ [Fe/H] = 0.0 dex, $^{34}$ $M_* = 1.05^{+0.03}_{-0.02} M_\odot$, and Age = 3.31$^{+0.09}_{-0.23}$ Gyr (using the BASTI isochrones, but the result is similar with Padova isochrones). Interestingly, Datson et al. (2012, 2015) conducted a focused study of solar analogues in the GCS, and confirmed that HD 86226 is not a solar twin, given the significantly greater differences in its measured absorption line equivalent width (EW) values versus those measured from the solar spectrum. HD 86226 is included in the SWEET-Cat catalog of stellar parameters for stars with planets (Santos et al. 2013), with the following parameters derived from high-resolution, high-signal-to-noise ratio FEROS spectra based on the EWs of Fe I and Fe II lines, as well as the iron excitation and ionization equilibrium: $T_{\text{eff}} = 5947 \pm 21$ K, $\log g = 4.54 \pm 0.04$ dex, [Fe/H] = 0.02 $\pm$ 0.02 dex. The most recently published stellar parameters of HD 86226 come from Maldonado et al. (2018) in their investigation of the compositional differences between stars hosting hot and cool gas giant planets. They reported $T_{\text{eff}} = 5854 \pm 13$ K, $\log g = 4.36 \pm 0.03$ dex, [Fe/H] = −0.05 $\pm$ 0.01 dex, as well as abundances of C, O, Na, Mg, Al, Si, S, Ca, Sc, Ti, V, Cr, and Mn. Along with their parameters, the Hipparcos V magnitudes (Esposito 1997a) and parallaxes (van Leeuwen 2007) and PARSEC isochrones (Bressan et al. 2012), Maldonado et al. computed the mass, radius, and age of HD 86226 to be $M_* = 1.00 \pm 0.01 M_\odot$, $R_* = 1.02 \pm 0.04 R_\odot$, and Age = 4.64 $\pm$ 1.51 Gyr.

HD 86226 was also part of the long-term Magellan planet search program, initiated with the MIKE (Bernstein et al. 2003) spectrograph on Magellan II fitted with an iodine absorption cell (Marcy & Butler 1992; Butler et al. 1996). With 13 RV observations from MIKE data spanning 6.5 yr, Arriagada et al. (2010) reported the detection of HD 86226 b, a 1534 $\pm$ 280 days planet with an RV semi-amplitude $K = 37 \pm 15$ m s$^{-1}$ and a moderately high eccentricity of 0.73 $\pm$ 0.21. The authors inferred the minimum mass of the planet to be $M_p \sin i = 1.5 \pm 1.0 M_{\oplus}$ (assuming $M_* = 1.02 M_\odot$). However, an additional 65 RV observations from the CORALIE planet search (Udry et al. 2000) published in Marmier et al. (2013) revealed that the long-period giant planet was less massive and less eccentric than previously thought. Those authors found $K = 15.3 \pm 1.7$ m s$^{-1}$, $e = 0.15 \pm 0.09$, $P = 1695 \pm 58$ days, and $M_p \sin i = 0.92 \pm 0.10 M_{\oplus}$ (assuming $M_* = 1.06 \pm 0.03 M_\odot$).

There have been no published updates to the planet parameters of HD 86226 b since Marmier et al. (2013). However, Mugrauer & Ginski (2015) included the star in a search for nearby stellar and substellar companions to known exoplanet host stars using the adaptive-optics imager NACO on the Very Large Telescope (VLT) at ESO’s Paranal Observatory. With their $K$ band observations, the authors ruled out companions of $\geq 53 M_{\oplus}$ between 12 and 387 au around HD 86226.

### 3. New Observational Characterization of HD 86226

#### 3.1. Photometry

Here, we describe the details of the new photometric observations. Section 4 contains the analysis of these observations.

##### 3.1.1. TESS

A new transiting planet candidate around HD 86226, TOI-652.01, was detected by the TESS Science Processing Operations Center (SPOC) pipeline (Jenkins et al. 2016) and announced in 2019 May. The TESS short-cadence (2 minute) photometry was collected in Sector 9 (spanning 25.3 days from 2019 February 28 to 2019 March 26) using Camera 2. We downloaded the short-cadence lightcurve file from the Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST), extracted the systematics-corrected photometry (PDCSAP FLUX; Stumpe et al. 2012, 2014; Smith et al. 2012), removed data points flagged as having low quality as well as out-of-transit 5σ outliers, and normalized the lightcurve to have a mean value of unity outside of the transits (based on the period and transit duration reported in the SPOC Data Validation Report Summary for TOI-652.01).

We detrended the lightcurve by modeling the low-order variability with a simple low-amplitude sine function, and then dividing by the sine function, which was derived by the following procedure. We masked the transits of TOI-652.01, then calculated a Lomb–Scargle ($L$–$S$) periodogram from the resulting lightcurve to determine the variability period and its error from the location and width of the highest $L$–$S$ periodogram peak. The variability amplitude, error, and epoch were determined from the best-fitting sine function to the lightcurve, at the period determined from the $L$–$S$ periodogram. The best-fit variability period is $6.4 \pm 0.7$ days with an amplitude of $79 \pm 3$ ppm, as shown in Figure 1. We found that removing this variability reduced the binned photometry $\chi^2_{\text{red}}$ from 7.42 to 1.83 and rms from 65 to 34 ppm in the ($L$–$S$ period) phase-folded lightcurve with 100 bins, comparable to the rms of $\sim 31$ ppm for the 10th percentile of the least noisy TESS lightcurves of similarly bright stars in Sector 9. To check the 10 nearest stars in the short-cadence mode during Sector 9, ranging from between 484″ and 3000″ away from TOI-652, and detected no similar variability, although we cannot reject the possibility that the variability signal originates from a nearby diluted object. The period of the variability in TOI-652 is not near the reaction wheel desaturation events that happened every 3.125 days, and it is very close to perfectly sinusoidal, unlike the expected desaturation events. We conclude that the variability signal is likely of astrophysical origin, possibly half the rotation period or originating from another nearby diluted star. Our analysis of the ground-based photometry and activity indices below do not shed conclusive light on the signal’s origin.

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34 No error provided.  
35 No error provided.  
56 TESS Data Release Notes for S9, https://archive.stsci.edu/missions/tess/doc/tess_drn/tess_sector_09_drn11_v04.pdf.
We computed the box-fitting least squares (BLS) (Kovács et al. 2002) periodogram of the detrended TESS lightcurve and independently detected a periodic transit signal at 3.98 days with a transit depth of 360 ppm and a signal-to-noise ratio of 20. This signal corresponds to TOI-652.01, reported by the SPOC pipeline. Next, we masked the detected transits and recomputed the BLS to search for any additional transiting planets in the system. The residual BLS periodogram peaks were all below 5σ and none of the main residual peaks revealed a transit-like signal when phase folding the lightcurve at the corresponding periods; this is consistent with the Data Validation Report, which failed to find evidence of any additional transiting planet signatures in the lightcurve. In Figure 2, we show the TESS photometry with transits of TOI-652.01 marked in the left panel, and our BLS-detected transit in the right panel.

The Data Validation Report shows that TOI-652.01 passes all validation tests (such as the odd–even transit depth test for eclipsing binaries, the ghost diagnostics for scattered light, and the bootstrap false alarm test), except the centroid test of the difference image between the mean out-of-transit and in-transit images. The pixel response function centroid in the difference image relative to the TIC position and relative to the out of transit centroid are both offset by 12″ (5σ) and in the same direction. However, the centroid offsets were likely caused by a slight saturation of the bright $T_j = 7.4$ target, and because there are no known stars near the subpixel centroid displacement, it is reasonable to assume that the transit events happen on the target.

The optimal photometric extraction mask was roughly two pixels in radius, and consisted of 17 pixels in total. Besides our target, seven other, much fainter stars were also located within the extraction mask and therefore contributed to the combined flux.
The SPOC performs a correction for crowding and for the finite flux fraction of the target star’s flux in the photometric aperture using the point-spread functions (PSFs) recovered during TESS commissioning; for TOI 652, this CROWDSAP value is 0.9985, indicating that the total contamination ratio based on the local background stars in the TIC is 0.15%. Among the seven contaminating stars, only one star (TIC 22221380, 38′9 away) was bright enough (T = 14.88) that it could be responsible for the observed 360 ppm transit depths in the combined flux if it were an eclipsing binary with eclipse depths of 36%. However, the odd–even transit depth and the centroid tests did not indicate that TIC 22221380 was the likely source of the observed periodic brightness dips. The Las Cumbres observations described in 3.1.2 also rule out an eclipse on TIC 22221380. Moreover, the RV follow-up observations (Section 3.3), which excluded TIC 22221380, revealed that the planetary signal comes from the main target, TIC 22221375. The small contamination from the nearby stars has been accounted for by the Presearch Data Conditioning (PDC) pipeline module (Jenkins et al. 2016), which corrects for the dilution effect and also for any spilted flux of the target outside the photometric extraction mask.

3.1.2. Las Cumbres Observatory: Sinistro

We acquired ground-based time-series follow-up photometry of a full transit of TOI-652.01 on UTC 2019 May 15 in z-short band from a Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope (LCOGT) 1.0 m telescope (Brown et al. 2013) at Sidings Spring Observatory. We used the TESS Transit Finder, which is a customized version of the Tapir software package (Jensen 2013), to schedule the observations. The 4096 × 4096 LCO SINISTRO cameras have an image scale of 0′′389 pixel−1, resulting in a 26′ × 26′ field of view. The 269 minute observation used 70 s exposure times, resulting in 162 images. The images were calibrated by the standard LCOGT BANZAI pipeline and the photometric data were extracted using the AstroImageJ (AIJ) software package (Collins et al. 2017). Since the transit depth of TOI-652.01 is too shallow to generally detect with ground-based photometric follow-up observations, we saturated the target star in order to enable a search of the faint nearby Gaia DR2 stars for nearby eclipsing binary events that could have produced the TESS detection in the irregularly shaped TESS aperture that generally extends ∼1′ from the target star. A neighboring star that is fully blended in the TESS aperture and that is fainter than the target star by 8.6 magnitudes in TESS band and that has a 100% eclipse could produce the TESS reported flux deficit at mid-transit. We therefore searched all stars within 2.5 that have a delta-magnitude <9 for deep eclipse events occurring within 3σ of the predicted time of transit center. All such nearby stars had lightcurves consistent with being flat with rms values less (by at least a factor of eight) than the eclipse depth required to produce the TESS detection in each of the stars. By process of elimination, we conclude that the TESS detected transit is indeed occurring in TOI-652.01, or a star so close to TOI-652.01 that it was not detected by Gaia.

3.1.3. ASAS and ASAS-SN

We found archival V-band photometry of HD 86226 from the ASAS37 (Pojmanski 1997) and from the ASAS-SN (Shappee et al. 2014) database.38 There are 660 ASAS measurements from 2000 November 21 to 2009 December 3. We selected the data flagged as “A” and “B,” indicating the highest-quality measurements; data flagged as either “C” or “D” were automatically discarded. After performing a 3σ clipping rejection, we ended up with 615 useful observations. ASAS-SN data spans from 2014 May 7 to 2018 July 5, with a total of 279 observations. In this case, we only performed the sigma-clipping process, yielding 274 measurements.

For both the ASAS and ASAS-SN photometry, we then applied the GLS periodogram to search for periodic signals embedded in the data that could be related to the rotation period of the star. We defined a grid of 20,000 period samples from 0.5 to 1000 days, evenly spaced in frequency space. The significance threshold levels were estimated in both cases by running 10,000 bootstraps on the input measurements via the Python module astropy.stats.false_alarm_probability().39 Figures 3 and 4 show the time series and GLS periodograms for the ASAS and ASAS-SN photometry, respectively. In both cases, the power spectrum shows a peak at ∼78 days, with the ASAS photometry also showing a peak slightly longward of 100 days. However, we caution that this should not necessarily be interpreted as the rotation period of HD 86226; given its solar-like parameters, we expect its period to be closer to 20–30 days (McQuillan et al. 2014). Arriagada (2011) reported a rotation period of 25 days from analysis of chromospheric activity indicators (S-indices; see Section 3.3.2) of HD 86226, derived from their Magellan II/MIKE observations. In our analysis of the ASAS and

37 http://www.astrouw.edu.pl/asas/?page=aasc&catsrc=asas3
38 https://asas-sn.osu.edu
39 https://docs.astropy.org/en/stable/time_series/lombscargle.html
ASAS-SN ground-based photometric data, we do not detect any significant peaks in the periodogram at/close to 25 days. Given the typical precision of the ASAS and ASAS-SN photometry (0.02–0.04 mag), we do not expect to detect the 79 ppm, 6.4 days TESS signal described in Section 3.1.1.

3.1.4. WASP-South Photometry

WASP-South is the southern station of the WASP transit-search survey (Pollacco et al. 2006), and consisted of an array of eight cameras observing fields with a typical cadence of 10 minutes. The field of HD 86226 was observed over spans of 150 nights each year in 2007 and 2008, during which WASP-South was equipped with 200 mm, f/1.8 lenses, and then again in 2013 and 2014, equipped with 85 mm, f/1.2 lenses. In all, 45,000 photometric observations were obtained. We searched the data for any rotational modulation using the methods from Maxted et al. (2011). We do not find any significant periodicity in the range 2–100 days, with a 95% confidence upper limit on the amplitude of 2 mmag (Figure 5).

3.2. High-resolution Imaging with SOAR

With a very wide PSF (~1'), the TESS photometry may include flux from previously unknown nearby sources, including potential stellar companions, which can dilute the observed transit signal, resulting in an underestimated planetary radius. We searched for close companions to HD 86226 with speckle imaging on the 4.1 m SOAR telescope (Tokovinin 2018) on 2019 May 18 UT. Observations were performed in the Cousins-I passband, similar to that of the TESS observations. No nearby stars were detected within 3′ of the planetary host, and the data are able to place an upper limit of 3σ 6 for any companions outside of 0′/5 of the star. Within that separation, the data do not rule out brighter (ΔI < 6) unresolved companions. The 5σ detection sensitivity and autocorrelation function of the latter observations are shown in Figure 6.

3.3. Spectroscopy

Here, we describe the details of the new RV observations. Section 4 contains the analysis of these observations to derive the mass of TOI-652.01 (hereafter HD 86226c).

### Table 2

| BJD       | RV     | ΔRV  | Hα-index |
|-----------|--------|------|----------|
| (−2450000) | (−19700 m s⁻¹) | (m s⁻¹) |           |
| 7024.75050 | 60.88  | 3.02 | 0.187    |
| 7038.86008 | 59.01  | 4.06 | 0.190    |
| 7118.65993 | 59.31  | 6.58 | 0.187    |
| 7143.58148 | 67.54  | 2.99 | 0.187    |
| 7430.82012 | 49.40  | 10.94 | 0.188    |
| 7459.76333 | 58.61  | 4.43 | 0.189    |
| 7739.79877 | 54.72  | 3.64 | 0.189    |

(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.)

3.3.1. Euler/CORALIE

HD 86226 has been monitored by the high-resolution spectrograph CORALIE (Queloz et al. 2001) on the Swiss 1.2 m Euler telescope in La Silla Observatory, Chile, starting in 1999 March. Since the report by Marmier et al. (2013), 27 new CORALIE spectra have been acquired, making for a total of 78 RVs spanning 20 yr. The instrument underwent major upgrades in 2007 and 2014, which introduced offsets into the RV scale. For this reason, the CORALIE data presented in this study are treated as having come from three different instruments: CORALIE98, CORALIE07, and CORALIE14. The present version, CORALIE14, has a resolving power of R ~ 60,000 and is fed by two fibers: one 2″ diameter on-sky science fiber encompassing the star, and another that can either be connected to a Fabry–Pérot etalon for simultaneous wavelength calibration (used in the case of HD 86226) or on-sky for background subtraction of the sky flux. For bright stars such as HD 86226, CORALIE14 can reach its noise floor precision of 3 m s⁻¹.

We computed RVs for each epoch by cross-correlating the spectra with a binary G2 mask (Pepe et al. 2002). Bisector span, FWHM, and activity indicators were computed as well using the standard CORALIE DRS. All the new RVs presented here come from CORALIE14 and are presented in Table 2. The periodogram of Hα activity index values (Boisse et al. 2009)
41 Periodograms for HD 86226c acquired with PFS. The estimated parameters of HD 86226c met the criteria for inclusion in the target list of the Magellan–TESS Survey (MTS), a TESS follow-up program to measure the masses of $\sim 30 R_{\oplus} \lesssim 3 R_{\odot}$ planets to construct an unbiased mass–radius relation and investigate the relationship between small planet density and insolation flux, host star composition, and system architecture. More details of the survey will be published in a forthcoming paper (J. Teske et al. 2020, in preparation). We include in this publication a total of 105 individual spectra spanning $\sim 9.4$ yr, from 2010 January 2 Jan 2019 May 24; as a result of HD 86226c being included in MTS, our observing cadence increased during the 2019 May observations.

4. Analysis

4.1. Stellar Characterization

We used EXOFASTv2 (Eastman et al. 2013; Eastman 2017) to fit an spectral energy distribution (SED) and the MIST stellar evolutionary models (Dotter 2016) to determine the stellar parameters, as shown in Figure 8. We used spectroscopic priors on the effective temperature and [Fe/H] of 5854 ± 50 K and $-0.05 \pm 0.08$ dex, respectively, from Maldonado et al. (2018), rounding their quoted uncertainties up to account for systematic error floors. We also applied a parallax prior of 21.943 ± 0.060 mas from Gaia DR2 (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2018), after applying the 0.082 mas systematic offset determined by Stassun & Torres (2018) and an upper limit on the V-band extinction of 0.15097 mag from Schlafly & Finkbeiner (2011). The SED fit was performed using an SED fitting code (Eastman et al. 2019) that interpolates the 4D grid of log g, $T_{\text{eff}}$ [Fe/H], and extinction grid from C. Conroy et al. 2020, (in preparation) to determine the bolometric corrections in each of the observed bands, summarized in Table 4. This version of the code is more accurate than the currently public version for wide bandpasses like Gaia because it accounts for the detailed shape of the filter. Note that the SED fitting takes into account

4.2. Mass Function and Orbital Parameters

These fits place limits on the minimum mass of any remaining prospective companions, as listed in Table 5. Using these limits, we determine the mass function of HD 86226 (Figure 9) using the method of Deming et al. (2013). Using the equation

$$f(M) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{dM}{dM_{\text{min}}},$$

we calculate the mass function using the mass limits determined above, which is shown in Figure 9. The shape of the mass function for HD 86226 is consistent with that of HD 189733 (Deming et al. 2013), another rapidly rotating star that has also been monitored for chromospheric activity.

Table 3: PFS Radial Velocities for HD 86226

| BJD⁴ | RV  | $\sigma_{RV}$ | S-index | Note |
|------|-----|---------------|---------|------|
| 5198.80046 | 4.20 | 1.64 | 0.165 | PFS1 |
| 5198.80272 | 9.66 | 1.79 | 0.171 | PFS1 |
| 5252.70830 | 5.98 | 1.59 | 0.157 | PFS1 |
| 5256.67966 | 3.18 | 1.45 | 0.193 | PFS1 |
| 5339.53760 | 12.55 | 1.47 | 0.159 | PFS1 |
| 5339.54366 | 14.21 | 1.29 | 0.161 | PFS1 |
| 5581.81336 | 3.98 | 1.42 | 0.165 | PFS1 |

Note.

⁴ These dates were converted from MJD_{UTC} to BJD_{TDB} using PEXO (Feng et al. 2019).

This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.

Given the low signal-to-noise in the blue part of the CORALIE spectrum, we chose to use Hα as our activity metric, instead of the S-index derived from Ca II H and K lines.

http://waps.cfa.harvard.edu/MIST/model_grids.html#bolometric
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Figure 8. SED (top, see Table 4) and fit to MIST stellar evolutionary model (bottom) for HD 86226. Resulting parameters are listed in Table 5.

Table 5
Median Values and 68% Confidence Interval for HD 86226, Created Using EXOFASTv2 Commit Number 86bb5c9

| Parameter | Units | Values |
|-----------|-------|--------|
| Stellar Parameters: | | |
| $M_\text{bol}$ | Mass ($M_\odot$) | 1.019 ± 0.061 |
| $R_\text{eff}$ | Radius ($R_\odot$) | 1.053 ± 0.026 |
| $L_\text{bol}$ | Luminosity ($L_\odot$) | 1.180 ± 0.016 |
| $\rho_\odot$ | Density (g cm$^{-3}$) | 1.226 ± 0.091 |
| $\log g$ | Surface gravity (dex, with $g$ in cm s$^{-2}$) | 4.400 ± 0.029 |
| $T_\text{eff}$ | Effective Temperature (K) | 5863 ± 48 |
| $\text{[Fe/H]}$ | Metallicity (dex) | 0.018 ± 0.007 |
| $\text{[Fe/H]}_0$ | Initial metallicity$^a$ | 0.040 ± 0.055 |
| Age | Age (Gyr) | $4.6_{-2.7}^{+3.2}$ |
| EEP | Equal evolutionary point$^b$ | 361 ± 28 |
| $A_V$ | $V$-band extinction (mag) | 0.05 ± 0.03 |
| $\sigma_{\text{SED}}$ | SED photometry error scaling$^c$ | $1.7_{-0.3}^{+0.5}$ |
| $\omega$ | Parallax (mas) | 21.94 ± 0.06 |
| $d$ | Distance (pc) | 45.57 ± 0.12 |

Notes.
$^a$ This is the birth metallicity of the star, which is the input to the theoretical model. The measured surface metallicity evolves throughout the life of the star. For more details, see Choi et al. (2016).
$^b$ This represents a uniform basis to describe the evolution of all stars, such that each phase of stellar evolution is represented by a fixed number of points. For more details, see Dotter (2016) and Choi et al. (2016).
$^c$ Errors in the broadband photometry (Table 4) are scaled by this factor, which essentially enforces the model has a $\chi^2$/dof $= 1$.

photometric and spectroscopic data (e.g., Holmberg et al. 2009; Casagrande et al. 2011; Marmier et al. 2013; Santos et al. 2013; Gaia Collaboration et al. 2018), although we note that our parameters place HD 86226 closer to spectral type G1 V versus G2 V (Pecaut & Mamajek 2013).

4.2. Transit Modeling

First, we wanted to further constrain the orbital period and center-of-transit time of HD 86226c. Using the exoplanet photometry and RV analysis code juliet (Espinoza et al., 2018), we modeled the transit lightcurve from Section 3.1.1 with the priors defined in Table 6, based on our initial BLS periodogram and the reported TESS SPOC pipeline results. We tried incorporating an additional correlated noise term in the form of a squared-exponential (SE) Gaussian process (GP) kernel, but found the models to be indistinguishable based on the model evidences ($\Delta \ln Z < 1$). This makes sense, given the low level of activity of the star. Moving forward, we only account for white noise in the TESS lightcurve modeling for HD 86226c, although we keep the additional “jitter” term ($\sigma_{\text{TESS}}$) added in quadrature to the reported photometric uncertainties to represent any residual signal.

4.3. RV Detection

Next, we reanalyzed the available RV observations accounting for the inner transiting planet in addition to the already known Jupiter-like companion, and searched for possible additional planet signals. Figure 9 shows the Generalized Lomb–Scargle (GLS; Lomb 1976; Scargle 1982; Zechmeister & Kürster 2009) of the complete RV data set presented in Section 3.3. For each panel, we compute the theoretical false alarm probability (FAP) as described.
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Table 6
Priors Used in TESS Photometry-only Fits with juliet

| Parameter                          | Prior                          | Description                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| no GP                              |                               |                                                  |
| Planet orbit parameters            |                               |                                                  |
| $P$                                 | $\mathcal{N}(3.9852, 0.01)$   | Period of HD 86226c (d)                          |
| $t_0$                              | $\mathcal{N}(2548543.2458, 0.01)$ | Center-of-transit time for HD 86226c (d)          |
| $a$                                | $\mathcal{N}(12.5, 48)$       | Scaled semimajor axis ($a/R_*$) of orbit for HD 86226c |
| $r_1$                              | $t(0, 1)$                      | Parameterization of $p$ and $b$ for HD 86226c    |
| $r_2$                              | $t(0, 1)$                      | Parameterization of $p$ and $b$ for HD 86226c    |
| $e$                                | $0$ (fixed)                    | Eccentricity of orbit for HD 86226 (c)           |
| $\omega$                           | $90$ (fixed)                   | Argument of periastron passage of HD 86226 (c)   |
| TESS photometry parameters         |                               |                                                  |
| $q_1$                              | $t(0, 1)$                      | Quadratic limb-darkening parameterization$^a$    |
| $q_2$                              | $t(0, 1)$                      | Quadratic limb-darkening parameterization$^a$    |
| $\sigma_{\text{TESS}}$             | $\mathcal{N}(0.01, 1000)$     | Dilution factor for TESS photometry              |
| $M_{\text{TESS}}$                  | $\mathcal{N}(1, 100)$         | Relative out-of-transit target flux for TESS photometry |
| $\omega_{\text{TESS}}$             | $\sigma_{\text{TESS}}$        | Offset relative flux for TESS photometry         |
| Additional priors for squared-exponential GP kernel |                               |                                                  |
| GP$_1$                             | $\mathcal{U}(1, 100)$         | Amplitude of the GP (ppm)                         |
| GP$_{10}$                          | $\mathcal{U}(1, 100)$         | Inverse (squared) length-scale/normalized amplitude |

Notes. The labels $\mathcal{U}$, $\mathcal{N}$, and $\mathcal{J}$ represent uniform, normal, and Jeffrey’s (log-normal) distributions, respectively

$^a$ Here, $p$ is the planet-to-star radius ratio and $b$ is the impact parameter of the orbit. The juliet parameterization was proposed by Espinoza (2018) and only allows for physically possible values (i.e., $b < 1 + p$); see reference for details. We also defined the minimum and maximum planet-to-star radius ratios to be 0 and 1, respectively.

$^b$ We also tried allowing these parameters to float, only requiring that $e < 1$, and found no significant difference in the planet orbital period or center-of-transit time.

$^c$ From Kipping (2013), the transformations from $(q_1, q_2)$ to the quadratic limb-darkening coefficients $(u_1, u_2)$ are $q_1 = (u_1 + u_2)^2$ and $q_2 = 0.5 u_1 \times (u_1 + u_2)^{-1}$.

Figure 9. GLS periodogram of the RV data set presented in Section 3.3 of HD 86226. Red vertical line indicates the period of the known planet detected from RVs ($P = 1700 \pm 60$ days as measured by Marmier et al. (2013)) while the blue vertical line indicates the period of the transiting candidate reported by the TESS SPOC pipeline ($P = 3.98$ days). Top panel: GLS of the complete RV data set after fitting from the individual RV offsets. Middle panel: GLS of the RV residuals after fitting a sinusoid to the highest peak in the top panel, corresponding to the known Jupiter-like planet. Bottom panel: GLS of the RV residuals after fitting with a sinusoid the highest peak in the middle panel, corresponding to the transiting planet alerted by TESS. Horizontal lines show the FAP levels of 10% (short-dashed line), 1% (long-dashed line), and 0.1% (dotted–dashed line) for each panel.

Table 7
Model Comparison of RV-only Fits with juliet

| Model | Prior $P_{\text{planet}}$ (day) | GP kernel | $\Delta \ln Z$ |
|-------|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 0pl   | $\cdots$                        | SE        | 45.8          |
| 1pl   | $\mathcal{U}(1350, 1750)$       | SE        | 15.0          |
| 2pl   | $\mathcal{U}(1350, 1750)$       | SE        | 0.6           |
| 1pl+GP| $\mathcal{U}(1350, 1750)$       | SE        | 14.2          |
| 2pl+GP| $\mathcal{U}(1350, 1750)$       | SE        | 0.0           |

Note. The prior labels $\mathcal{U}$ and $\mathcal{N}$ represent a uniform and a normal distribution, respectively. The final model used for the joint fit is marked in boldface (see Section 4.3 for details about the selection of the final model).

signature of the known long-period planet (fit with a Keplerian orbit) from the RVs, we find that the peak at $P = 3.98$ days increased in significance and surpassed the FAP = 0.1% threshold, meaning that the planet might have been detected using the RV data even without any knowledge of the transit signal. After accounting for the signals produced by the two planets, no significant peaks remain in the periodogram.

We used juliet to perform a systematic model comparison analysis and computed the Bayesian model log evidence (ln Z) using the dynesty package (Speagle 2020). As in Luque et al. (2019), we consider a model to be moderately favored over another if the difference in its ln Z is greater than two, and strongly favored if it is greater than five. If models are indistinguishable ($\Delta \ln Z < 2$), the one with fewer degrees of freedom is preferred.

Table 7 shows the different models tested to fit the RV data together with the orbital period priors and the corresponding ln Z values. The rest of the priors of the fits are uniform and

in Zechmeister & Kürster (2009), and show the 10%, 1%, and 0.1% levels. As seen in the top panel, the highest peak in the GLS corresponds to the known long-period planet, although the peak is wide and asymmetric meaning that its period is not well-constrained. However, the second highest peak in the periodogram is at $P = 3.98$ days, with a FAP < 10%, corresponding to the reported transiting candidate from TESS data. Removing the RV
uninformative; the eccentricity and argument of periastron are sampled through the parameterization $\sqrt{e} \sin(\omega)$, $\sqrt{e} \cos(\omega)$ with boundaries between $-1$ and $1$. First, we note that including the transiting planet in the fit proves the evidence of the model significantly, again suggesting that the transiting planet could have been detected using the RV data alone. To account for additional systematics or correlated noise in the data, we include in the model an SE GP kernel. Since including a GP leads to an insignificant improvement in the model, we conclude that the simpler, two-planet model is the one that best describes the RV data.

4.4. Joint Transit+RV Fitting

We jointly analyzed the transit photometry and RV time series using the juliet package, which as mentioned above allows the user to fit the photometric time series and the RVs from multiple instruments at the same time. We set up a two-planet model consisting of a nontransiting planet and a transiting planet with parameters from the TESS alert. The priors for the orbital parameters for this joint fit were chosen according to the information from the previous transit-only and RV-only analyses (see Sections 4.2 and 4.3), except that we allowed the eccentricity of HD 86226c to be a free parameter, using a normal distribution between 0 and 1 truncated at 0.2 (thus, $e > 0.2$ is allowed at much lower probability). We performed the joint fit using the Dynamic Nested Sampling algorithm via the Python module dynesty (Speagle & Barbary 2018; Speagle 2020).

5. Results

The joint transit and RV fit (Section 4.4) is shown in Figure 10, and the resulting parameters are tabulated in Table 8; all of the planet parameters have the relevant stellar parameter errors propagated. The final derived radius for HD 86226c is $2.16 \pm 0.08 R_\oplus$, and the final derived mass is $7.25^{+1.17}_{-1.12} M_\oplus$. At a period of $4 \pm 4$ days, this planet is hot ($T_{eq} = 1311 \pm 28$ K), making it typical of the TESS small ($R_\star < 0.5 R_\odot$) planets that have been detected thus far, which have a mean $T_{eq}$ of $1270$ K. In Figure 11, we show a comparison of HD 86226c and other detected planets for which the mass and radius have been measured; this figure is discussed further in Section 6.1. In terms of mass and radius, HD 86226c most resembles K2-146c (represented by a bold pentagon symbol behind the star symbol in 11), Kepler-18 b, Kepler-289 b, and Kepler-48 d (represented by pale squares in the plot), but all of these other planets’ host stars are $V > 13$ mag. HD 86226c has the same radius and nearly the same insolation flux as $\rho$ Men c at $2.04 R_\odot$, $4.82 M_\odot$ (Gandolfi et al. 2018; Huang et al. 2018), but is $1.5 \times$ as massive.

5.1. Stellar Variability

Our analysis of the photometry in Section 3 does not give a clear measurement of the rotation period of HD 86226, which is perhaps to be expected, given only one sector of TESS data ($\sim$28 days). From the TESS photometry, the best-fit variability period is $6.4 \pm 0.7$ days, but with a low amplitude of $79 \pm 3$ ppm. Given the lower precision of the ground-based photometric measurements, we do not see this variability in the WASP-South data, nor do we see peaks at such a short period in the ASAS or ASAS-SN GLS periodograms (Figures 3 and 4); these data seem to indicate the most power at $\gtrsim 80$ days. The S-index and H$\alpha$ variability time series also show the most significant power at longer periods, although with a larger number of distinct peaks than are present in the ASAS or ASAS-SN photometry. In any case, given the resemblance of HD 86226 to the Sun in temperature and age (see Table 5), it is unlikely that its rotation period is as short as six days—or the planet orbital period of four days (e.g., McQuillan et al. 2014).

Recent work by Nava et al. (2020) shows that, due to the uneven and evolving nature of magnetic active regions in the atmospheres of stars, signals related to magnetic activity can cause significant peaks in the RV periodograms that do not correspond to the stellar rotation period or even its harmonics. This is true even when the active region lifetime is much greater than the rotation period, such that one would expect the rotation signal to dominate. The authors caution that spurious periodogram peaks are inherent in RVs across many different distributions of stellar activity, such that spurious power could be added at planet periods and thus contributed to inaccurate mass determinations. Detailed exploration of different magnetic activity models, similar to what Nava et al. did for K2-131 and Kepler-20, would provide an additional test on the robustness of our derived masses, but is beyond the scope of this paper.

We also checked for linear correlations between the H$\alpha$ activity and CORALIE RV measurements (Figure 12, top) and the S-index activity and PFS RV measurements (Figure 12, bottom). While there are slight positive correlations in both cases, they are not significant as determined by the Pearson (testing a linear relationship) and Spearman rank (testing a monotonic relationship) correlation coefficients, which are $r = 0.10 \pm 0.4$ and $\rho = 0.13$ ($p$-value $= 0.24$, sample size $= 88$) for CORALIE, and $r = 0.18 \pm 0.2$ and $\rho = 0.3$ ($p$-value $= 0.02$, sample size $= 58$) for PFS, respectively. Here, the errors on the $r$ values were determined via jackknife resampling.

6. Discussion and Conclusions

6.1. Interior Composition Estimates for HD 86226c

To explore the range of possible compositions of HD 86226c, we modeled the interior considering a pure iron core, a silicate mantle, a pure water layer, and a H–He atmosphere. The thickness of the planetary layers were set by defining their masses and solving the structure equations. To obtain the transit radius, we follow Guillot (2010) and evaluate where the chord optical depth $\tau_{ch}$ is 2/3. We followed the thermodynamic model of Dorn et al. (2017), with the equation of state (EOS) of the iron core taken from Hakim et al. (2018); the EOS of the silicate mantle is calculated with PERPLE_X (Connolly 2009), using the thermodynamic data of Stixrude & Lithgow-Bertelloni (2011); and the EOS for the H–He envelope is calculated assuming protosolar composition, based on the semi-analytical H/He model of Saumon & Chabrier (e.g., Saumon et al. 1995, SCvH). For water, we used the QEOS of Vazan et al. (2013) for low pressures and that of Seager et al. (2007) for pressures above 44.3 GPa. Our input values for the model were the derived planet mass, radius, and the stellar abundances from Maldonado et al. (2018). Figure 11 shows

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42 Squared-exponential (SE) GP kernel of the form $k_{ij} = \sigma_{GP,RV}^2 \exp(-c_0 t_i - c_j)^2$.

43 From ExoFOP-TESS, https://exofop.ipac.caltech.edu/tess/, accessed on 2020 April 1.
M–R curves tracing compositions of pure iron, Earth-like, silicate, and pure water. The silicate composition line is computed with the oxides Na$_2$O–CaO–FeO–MgO–Al$_2$O$_3$–SiO$_2$, and the Mg/Si and Fe/Si ratios of the Earth’s mantle. The water line corresponds to a surface pressure of 1 bar, which corresponds to water worlds without water vapor atmospheres. As shown in Figure 11, there are several small planets following the Earth-like composition with relatively small dispersion up to about 7 $M_\oplus$. HD 86226c lies slightly above the silicate composition line, suggesting that it is richer in water or volatile elements like H–He than most of the planets below 7 $M_\oplus$ detected so far. Therefore, it might represent a new type of terrestrial planet that differs significantly from Earth in terms of bulk composition.

We then used a generalized Bayesian inference analysis with a nested sampling scheme (e.g., Buchner et al. 2014) to quantify the degeneracy between interior parameters and produce posterior probability distributions. The interior parameters that were inferred include the masses of the pure iron core, silicate mantle, water layer, and H–He atmospheres. We assumed the Fe/Si and Mg/Si ratios inside the planet are the same as the ratios observed in the stellar photosphere: 0.79 and 1.15, respectively, from Maldonado et al. (2018). Table 9 lists the inferred mass fractions of the core, mantle, water layer, and H–He atmosphere from our structure models. We found that HD 86226c has a H–He envelope of $4.6 \times 10^{-4} M_\oplus$ and thickness of 0.39$R_\oplus$. The other three constituents of the planet have relative mass fractions between 32% and 35% with large uncertainties (see Table 9). This regime of the M–R relation is strongly degenerate, and therefore even with more precise mass and/or radius measurements, it would not be possible to significantly improve the estimate of the mass ratio between the

Figure 10. Results from our joint fit for a two-planet model using juliet. Top: Phased-folded lightcurve from TESS photometry (blue points) and transit model (black solid line) for the inner planet. Red points show binned photometry using a bin of 0.005 in phase. Residuals are shown in the bottom panel. Bottom: Phase-folded RV curves for the two planets orbiting HD86226 (c on the left and b on the right). Solid back curves show the best-fit Keplerian model for each planet, with light blue shading to represent the 68%, 95%, and 99% posterior credibility bands. White circles show the RVs in 0.1 phase bins. Data include CORALIE98 (orange), CORALIE07 (red), CORALIE14 (purple), MIKE (blue), PFS1 (dark blue), and PFS2 (maroon). Residuals to the RV fit are shown in the bottom panels, with the same symbol representation.
Table 8

Planetary Properties for HD 86226b and c

| Property                  | HD 86226c | HD 86226b |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Fitted Parameters         |           |           |
| $\rho_v$ (kg m$^{-3}$)    | $1233^{+26}_{-28}$ | $128^{+30}_{-25}$ |
| $P$ (days)                | $3.98442 \pm 0.00018$ | $1628^{+22}_{-19}$ |
| $\tau_0$ (BDTJD−2450000) | $8543.2539 \pm 0.0007$ | $7308^{+41}_{-31}$ |
| a/Rs                      | $10.11^{+0.07}_{-0.08}$ | $12^{+2}_{-3}$ |
| $b$                       | $0.63^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$ | $0.69^{+0.03}_{-0.03}$ |
| K (m s$^{-1}$)            | $2.89^{+0.46}_{-0.45}$ | $7.74^{+0.69}_{-0.70}$ |
| $\beta$ (deg)             | $86.45^{+0.26}_{-0.16}$ |                |
| $e$                       | $0.075^{+0.065}_{-0.068}$ | $0.059^{+0.062}_{-0.059}$ |
| $\omega$ (deg)            | $196^{+60}_{-96}$ | $225^{+84}_{-135}$ |
| Derived Parameters        |           |           |
| $M_p$                     | $7.25^{+11}_{-10}$ M$_E$ | $0.45^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$ M$_J$ |
| $R_p$ ($R_E$)              | $2.16 \pm 0.08$ |                |
| $a$ (au)                   | $0.049 \pm 0.001$ | $2.73 \pm 0.06$ |
| $T_D$ (hr)                 | $3.12^{+0.05}_{-0.05}$ |                |
| $\rho_\text{p}$ (g cm$^{-3}$) | $3.97^{+0.78}_{-0.73}$ |                |
| $T_{\text{eq}}$ (K)       | $1311 \pm 28$ | $176 \pm 4$ |
| Instrumental Parameters   |           |           |
| $M_{\text{TESS}}$ (ppm)   | $0.0000068 \pm 0.0000023$ |                |
| $e_{\text{TESS}}$ (ppm)   | $133.57^{+401}_{-188}$ |                |
| $i_{\text{TESS}}$         | $0.33^{+0.29}_{-0.28}$ | $12^{+2}_{-3}$ |
| $\gamma_{\text{TESS}}$    | $0.38^{+0.35}_{-0.25}$ |                |

| Instrument                | $\mu$ (m s$^{-1}$) | $\sigma_{\mu}$ (m s$^{-1}$) | $N_{\text{det}}$ |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| COR98                     | 197440.77^{+1.79}_{-1.72} | 7.87^{+1.41}_{-1.38} | 12 |
| COR07                     | 197394.44^{+1.72}_{-1.77} | 7.22^{+1.01}_{-0.98} | 50 |
| COR14                     | 197615.52^{+2.24}_{-2.22} | 5.06^{+1.37}_{-1.03} | 24 |
| MIKE                      | $-4.57^{+1.15}_{-1.01}$ | $4.21^{+2.99}_{-2.88}$ | 13 |
| PFS1                      | $-4.41^{+0.63}_{-0.62}$ | $4.27^{+0.58}_{-0.54}$ | 44 |
| PFS2                      | $-6.43^{+0.78}_{-0.73}$ | $1.70^{+1.35}_{-0.30}$ | 23 |

Notes.

a Equilibrium temperature estimated considering Bond Albedo $A_B = 0$.
b Instrumental jitter term added in quadrature to measurement errors listed in Tables 2 and 3, to produce the error bars shown in Figure 10, bottom panel.

core, mantle, and water layer. Atmospheric characterization will be crucial to better constrain the volatile envelope ratio and composition.

6.2. Potential for Atmospheric Characterization of HD 86226c

Figure 13 shows the position of HD 86226c in the radius–insolation space. The planet is located toward the edge of the hot Neptune desert (Szabó & Kiss 2011; Beaugé & Nesvorný 2013; Mazeh et al. 2016), making it an interesting target to study the processes leading to this dearth of planets (e.g., Brunini & Cionco 2005; Helled et al. 2016; Owen & Lai 2018). It is not located within the desert, however, which makes it more likely that the planet retained its atmosphere despite the intense radiation from the star (Owen & Jackson 2012; Lopez & Fortney 2014; Owen & Wu 2013; Jin et al. 2014; Lopez 2017). The detection of an escaping envelope, or a stringent upper limit, could add a valuable data point along the edge of this desert. To date, atmospheric studies have only been conducted for a small number of exoplanets in this regime, such as GJ 436 b (Butler et al. 2004), GJ 3470 b (Bonfils et al. 2012), and HAT-P-11 b (Bakos et al. 2010). The escaping atmospheres of exoplanets have been previously detected using the cross-correlation function technique and high-resolution spectroscopic data obtained during transit (Hoeijmakers et al. 2018; Nortmann et al. 2018). The escaping envelope could be observed via the He I triplet in the infrared (Seager & Sasselov 2000; Turner et al. 2016; Oklopcić & Hirata 2018; Oklopcić 2019) and the Balmer series of H I in the visible range (Jensen et al. 2012; Cauley et al. 2017; Jensen et al. 2018; Yan & Henning 2018; Casasayas-Barris et al. 2019). Additionally, if sodium exists in its neutral state in the exoplanet atmosphere, it can be a tracer for the upper layers up to the thermosphere of the planet (Redfield et al. 2008). The size of the planet (transit depth of ~400 ppm in the TESS bandpass) makes the use of a large aperture telescope necessary for such high-resolution, ground-based observations of its atmosphere.

HD 86226c is observable from the Southern Hemisphere and is thus a prime target for ESPRESSO at the VLT. ESPRESSO’s wavelength range covers both the Na and H$\alpha$ spectral features. Using ESO’s tools to calculate necessary exposure times for a signal to noise of 100 per exposure, one could achieve up to 29 exposures during one transit. Comparing with similar observations performed with ESPRESSO (Chen et al. 2020), we estimate that the sodium feature, if it exists, can be detected at the 5σ level by combining three transits. Additionally, metals (e.g., Mg, Ti, Fe) could also be searched for in the atmosphere of HD 86226c, thanks to ESPRESSO’s blue wavelength coverage. Searching for near-infrared water features in the atmosphere of HD 86226c is also feasible right now with CRIRES+ at the VLT (Follert et al. 2014), and will be in the future with the HIRES optical-to-NIR spectrograph at the E-ELT (Marconi et al. 2016).

Tracing the potentially escaping volatile envelope of HD 86226c is also possible via the Lyα line. Due to the close proximity (45.57 pc) and the solar-type host star, any potential Lyα signal should be detectable with space-borne spectrographs despite absorption by the interstellar medium, as has been detected for similarly sized planets in the past, most notably GJ436 b (Kulow et al. 2014; Bourrier et al. 2015, 2016; Ehrenreich et al. 2015; Lavie et al. 2017). The planet’s size makes the study of these lines challenging with the Hubble Space Telescope (detection limits were simulated with the Pandex Exposure Time Calculator46). However, HD 86226c is a potential target for James Webb Space Telescope in the future, not only to trace the upper atmosphere but also to search for a potential water feature in the infrared with NIRSpec.

6.3. HD 86226c: Another Small Planet with a Jupiter Analog

As discussed in the introduction, there is growing evidence that some percentage (~30%–40%) of stars hosting small planets also host a larger, longer-period planet. This observation is intriguing because it suggests that the presence of outer gas giant planets does not hinder the formation of inner smaller planets, and in fact may facilitate the growth of some subset of small planets. Whether there are differences in the properties of small planets that have or do not have giant planet companions is thus an interesting—but still open—question.
To place HD 86226c in context, we compared its properties to those of the planets in the Bryan et al. (2019, hereafter B19) sample, which consists of systems with at least one confirmed planet with either a mass between 1 and 10 \( M_\oplus \) or a radius between 1 and 4 \( R_\oplus \), depending on the detection technique. Each of the 65 systems in the B19 sample have at least 10 published RV data points across a baseline of at least 100 days, allowing the authors to search for long-period giant companions (with either resolved orbits or statistically significant linear trends). However, we note that the sensitivity to long-period companions is different, on average, for those systems with the inner planet detected via RV versus transit. For example, B19’s data and analysis would typically be sensitive to a 1 \( M_{\text{Jup}} \) planet at about 6 au in the RV case, but only out to about 1.5 au for the typical transit case. The RV-detected systems have greater sensitivity because they typically have a longer baseline of RV data (see Figure 5 in B19), therefore the sample of small planets detected via transit that have giant planet companions could be artificially small. Given the existing RV data on HD 86226, it would be included in the RV sample of B19.

When we restricted the B19 sample to only planets with measured masses within \( \pm 2\sigma \) of HD 86226c’s mass, there were 22 planets that also had measured radii, 17 that did not show evidence of a giant planet companion (“without companion” sample), and five that did (“companion” sample). In the top panel of Figure 14, we show how HD 86226c compares in radius to these 22 similar-mass planets from B19. HD 86226c’s radius is just above the median radius of the “with companions” sample (\( R_p = 2.04 \ R_\oplus \); blue vertical line). Interestingly, the top panel of Figure 14 may point toward a potential difference in size between small planets with and without giant planet companions—it appears that small planets without giant planet companions (green distribution, \( \bar{R}_p = 1.48 \ R_\oplus \)) may generally extend to smaller radii.

In the bottom panel of Figure 14, we show a comparison of host star metallicities ([Fe/H]; taken from B19). Planets with masses similar to that of HD 86226c that have a giant planet companion (in blue) are skewed toward higher host star [Fe/H] ([Fe/H] = 0.30 dex) versus those without giant planet companions (in green, [Fe/H] = 0.10 dex). B19 also found evidence in their full sample that planets without giant companions orbited lower-metallicity host stars than planets with giant companions. If host star [Fe/H] is a proxy for protoplanetary disk material content, then perhaps small planets are larger in systems with giant planet companions because there was more material around to form the core faster and thus more readily acquire an atmosphere (Dawson et al. 2015; Owen & Murray-Clay 2018). This is in contrast to Buchhave et al. (2018), who found that stars hosting Jupiter analogs (1.5–5.5 au, \( e < 0.25 \), \( 0.3–3 \) \( M_\text{J} \) planets) are on average closer to solar metallicity ([Fe/H] = 0). Based on numerical simulations, Buchhave et al. suggested that metal-rich systems form multiple Jupiter analog planets, leading to planet–planet interactions and therefore eccentric cool or circularized hot Jupiter planets. In the case of HD 86226c, Figure 14 also shows that its host star [Fe/H] is below both the “with companion” and “without companion” median values—even though HD 86226c has a long-period giant planet companion, its host star [Fe/H] is \( \sim 0 \). Again, we note that some of the “without companion” sample may actually contain small planets with companions, if they remain undetected due to lack of RV data. Perhaps this contributes to the difference between the metallicity of HD 86226 and that of host stars of other similar-mass small planets with companions.

Figure 11. Visualization of where HD 86226c (bold-outlined star symbol) falls among other detected planets in terms of its mass and radius. Circle symbols correspond to planets with errors in radius and mass similar to those of HD 86226c (\( \sigma_R = 0.1 \ R_\oplus \) and \( \sigma_M = 1.2 \ M_\oplus \) errors), with masses measured via RV observations. Pentagon symbols correspond to planets with the same \( \sigma_R \) and \( \sigma_M \) limits, but with masses measured via transit-timing observations. Bold-outlined circles and pentagons correspond to multiplanet systems. Fainter background squares correspond to the remaining planets with lower-precision mass and radius measurements from either RV or TTV observations. Colored curves represent estimates of different bulk compositions—\( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) (light blue dotted), silicate (dark blue dashed–dotted, no iron), Earth-like (purple dash), and pure iron (dark blue solid). See Section 6.1 for details on the interior modeling.

Figure 12. Illustration of where HD 86226c (bold-outlined star symbol) falls among other detected planets in terms of its mass and radius. Circle symbols correspond to planets with errors in radius and mass similar to those of HD 86226c (\( \sigma_R = 0.1 \ R_\oplus \) and \( \sigma_M = 1.2 \ M_\oplus \) errors), with masses measured via RV observations. Pentagon symbols correspond to planets with the same \( \sigma_R \) and \( \sigma_M \) limits, but with masses measured via transit-timing observations. Bold-outlined circles and pentagons correspond to multiplanet systems. Fainter background squares correspond to the remaining planets with lower-precision mass and radius measurements from either RV or TTV observations. Colored curves represent estimates of different bulk compositions—\( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) (light blue dotted), silicate (dark blue dashed–dotted, no iron), Earth-like (purple dash), and pure iron (dark blue solid). See Section 6.1 for details on the interior modeling.
Thus far, we have only compared HD 86226c to the B19 planets having measured masses within \(\pm 2\sigma\) of HD 86226c. Given this small subset, we wanted to see if the same trends with radius and host star metallicity held in the full sample. In Figure 15, top panel, HD 86226c is again slightly above the median radius of the “with companion” sample. In this figure, we see that full sample of radii of planets without companions (green) tends to be shifted toward radii slightly smaller (\(R_p = 1.62\ R_\oplus\)) than those of planet with companions (blue; \(R_p = 1.98\ R_\oplus\)). A comparison of the B19 planets with radii \(<4 \ R_\oplus\) to the full sample of known planets with \(<4 \ R_\oplus\) 47

\[\text{Table 9} \]
Inferred Interior Structure Properties of HD 86226c

| \(M_{\text{core}}/M_{\text{total}}\) | 0.35\(\pm0.06\) |
| \(M_{\text{mantle}}/M_{\text{total}}\) | 0.33\(\pm0.24\) |
| \(M_{\text{water}}/M_{\text{total}}\) | 0.32\(\pm0.21\) |
| \(M_{\text{atm}}/M_{\text{total}}\) | 0.000062\(\pm0.000027\) |

Figure 12. Top: Correlations between RVs and \(H_\alpha\) index from CORALIE. Bottom: Correlations between RVs and S-index \((S_{MW})\) values from PFS. On each plot, we have subtracted the mean value of both RV and the activity indices.

Figure 13. Insolation flux relative to Earth as a function of planet radius, extracted from the NASA Exoplanet Archive. Data are presented in a fashion similar to that in Fulton et al. (2017) and Fulton & Petigura (2018). Shading represents point density, showing the different populations of sub-Neptunes and super-Earths, with dense populations shown in darker shades. Light area in the upper left of the plot indicates the hot Neptune desert. HD 86226c is shown as a green star toward the edge of the desert.

Figure 14. Comparison of HD 86226c (purple, with shading corresponding to \(1\sigma\) errors) to planets within \(\pm 2\sigma\) of its mass from the B19 sample. Top: Green histogram (vertical line) represents the distribution (median) of the radii of planets without giant planet companions. Blue histogram (vertical line) represents the distribution (median) of the radii of planets with giant planet companions. Bottom: Green histogram (vertical line) represents the distribution (median) of the host star metallicities of planets without giant planet companions. Blue histogram (vertical line) represents the distribution (median) of the host star metallicities of planets with giant planet companions.

47 Retrieved from the NASA Exoplanet Archive on 2020 February 27.
showed no significant difference in their radii distributions, so we do not expect this result to be heavily biased by the B19 sample selection.

In the bottom panel of Figure 15, we plot the full B19 sample of host star metallicities. Here, the means of the “no companion” (green, [Fe/H] = −0.04 dex) and “companion” (blue, [Fe/H] = 0.14 dex) samples are shifted to lower values but have roughly the same offset as the mass-restricted sample above. The metallicity of HD 86226 falls in between “with” and “without” companion host star median [Fe/H] values. Again, a comparison of the B19 planets with radii <4 R_⊕ to the full sample of known planets with <4 R_⊕ showed no significant difference in their host star metallicity distributions, so the B19 sample is not biased toward higher or lower host star metallicities.

In the analysis above, there are hints that small planets without giant planet siblings typically have a wider radius distribution, extending to smaller radii. A full statistical treatment including potential biases in the sample is beyond the scope of this work. However, it is interesting to consider the following questions: if small planets in systems with giant planets are systematically larger, what is the origin of this difference? Is it just an effect of higher metallicity enabling the formation of bigger planets, as suggested above? Or, perhaps there is something specifically related to the formation and evolution of a giant planet in the system that makes the small planets larger? A survey searching for giant planet companions to small planets with host stars in a limited [Fe/H] range would isolate one effect (host star [Fe/H]) while letting the other (presence of giant planet companion) vary, and thus could potentially help address the origin of the size difference in small planets. In such a survey, it would also be important to consider the potential effects of the host star irradiation over time on the size of the small planets. Given its low host star metallicity, size, and presence of an outer companion, HD 86226c may be important in addressing potential differences in the population of small planets with giant companions versus those without.

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