Multi-filter Transit Observations of HAT-P-3b and TrES-3b with Multiple Northern Hemisphere Telescopes

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Abstract

We present a photometric follow-up of transiting exoplanets HAT-P-3b and TrES-3b, observed by using several optical and near-infrared filters, with four small-class telescopes (D = 36–152 cm) in the Northern Hemisphere. Two of the facilities present their first scientific results. New 10 HAT-P-3b light curves and new 26 TrES-3b light curves are reduced and combined by filter to improve the quality of the photometry. Combined light curves fitting is carried out independently by using two different analysis packages, allowing the corroboration of the orbital and physical parameters in the literature. Results find no differences in the relative radius with the observing filter. In particular, we report for HAT-P-3b a first estimation of the planet-to-star radius $R_p/R_*$ = 0.1112$^{+0.0025}_{-0.0026}$ in the $B$ band which is coherent with values found in the $VRI'JH$ filters. Concerning TrES-3b, we derive a value for the orbital period of $P = 1.3061862 \pm 0.0000001$ days which shows no linear variations over nine years of photometric observations.

Key words: planets and satellites: fundamental parameters – (stars:) planetary systems

1. Introduction

The literature of exoplanetary transit observations started with the works of Charbonneau et al. (2000) and Henry et al. (2000), who separately confirmed radial velocity shifts of the star HD 209458 (Vogt et al. 1994; Baranne et al. 1996) due to the presence of its companion HD 209458 b. Since then, big efforts have been made to build up ground-based survey projects such as WASP (Pollacco et al. 2006); HAT (Bakos et al. 2004) and its implementation HATSouth in the Southern Hemisphere (Bakos 2011; Penev et al. 2011); TrES (Alonso et al. 2007); XO (McCullough et al. 2005); KELT (Pepper et al. 2007); and the recent NGTS (Wheatley et al. 2013).

Among the current and forthcoming dedicated space-based programs, we mention Kepler (Borucki et al. 2010), PLATO (Rauer et al. 2014), and TESS (Ricker et al. 2010), as well as the European CHEOPS mission (Fortier et al. 2014), which will help to infer and characterize the exoplanetary population, and which also has the ambition to detect exomoons (Simon et al. 2015) and other interesting features. Such a huge amount of data can benefit from useful online databases such as ETD (Poddaný et al. 2010) and exoplanets.eu (Schneider et al. 2011) to help astronomers in programming their observations or defining the best candidates for an independent follow-up.

In this framework, we have recently shown (Ricci et al. 2015) the adequacy of the San Pedro Mártir—Observatorio
Astrónomico Nacional (OAN-SPM) facilities, located in northwest Mexico, as a valid resource in the Northern Hemisphere for the follow-up of exoplanetary transits, particularly that of hot Jupiters. The survey, which started in 2014 (Ricci et al. 2014) and is still ongoing, has allowed, to date, the observation of a total of 30 transiting exoplanetary systems\(^\text{18}\), mainly with the 84 cm telescope, achieving good quality light curves in several filters, most of them through the Johnson’s VRI filters.

In this paper, we focus on two objects: the Jupiter-sized HAT-P-3b and the grazing transiting planet TrES-3b, which we present in Sections 2.1 and 2.2, respectively. Moreover, we will present data from other sites by using not only OAN-SPM survey data, but also light curves obtained from the following facilities: the Observatorio de la Universidad de Monterrey (UDEM) in the state of Nuevo Léon, Mexico; the Telescopio Carlos Sánchez (TCS) at the Observatorio del Teide (OT) in Tenerife, Spain, provided with Wide-FastCAM, a new concept of fast camera with a wide field of view (FoV); and the Osservatorio Astronomico Regionale Parco Antola, comune di Fasca (OARPAF) in northern Italy. All of the telescopes and the relative instruments involved in our observations are described in Section 3.1. In particular, Wide-FastCAM is a new instrument, and OARPAF is a new facility, and we present their first scientific results. In Sections 3.2 and 4 we focus on observations and data reduction of HAT-P-3b and TrES-3b. Conclusions are described in Section 5.

2. Targets

2.1. HAT-P-3

In the framework of the HATNet survey, Torres et al. (2007) discovered HAT-P-3b, a Jupiter-size planet with a period of 2.899703 ± 0.000054 days, which was the smallest of the 18 transiting extrasolar planets known at that time, with a planet radius \(R_p = 0.890 ± 0.046 R_J\), where \(R_J\) stands for the radius of Jupiter. HAT-P-3b immediately appeared to be metal-rich, with a content representing 75 Earth masses \(M_{\oplus}\), (or, in Jupiter masses, 0.24 \(M_J\)). Radial velocity measurements allowed authors to estimate a planetary mass of \(M_p = 0.599 ± 0.026 M_J\), and found a distance between planet and parent star of 0.03894 ± 0.00070 au, assuming no orbital eccentricity.

System parameters with an improved precision were then updated by Gibson et al. (2010) by fitting seven light curves obtained after performing aperture photometry on short-exposure (4–5 s), wide-band filter (500–700 nm) Liverpool Telescope data. Particular attention was given to possible Earth-mass planets in the inner and outer 2:1 orbital resonance, but the lack of evidence of transit timing variations (TTVs) excluded this hypothesis. Furthermore, Nascimbeni et al. (2011, 2012) refined the orbital parameters and ephemerides with a timing accuracy of 11 s, demonstrating the potential of the observing and reduction strategy of the TASTE\(^\text{19}\) survey.

The anomalous radius of HAT-P-3b, smaller than a pure hydrogen-helium planet suggested the presence of a heavy-element core estimated to be 100 \(M_{\oplus}\). This was the subject of the investigation of Chan et al. (2011, 2012), who observed the target in the \(i\) and \(z\) bands, again finding no deviations in the timing of eclipses. Chan et al. (2011) found a period of \(P = 2.8997360 ± 0.0000020\) days, a planet-to-star radius ratio of \(R_p/R_\star = 0.1063 ± 0.0020\), an orbital inclination of \(i = 87.07 ± 0.55\), and a scaled semimajor axis of \(a/R_\star = 10.39 ± 0.49\), adopting a circular orbit. An additional follow-up at Kitt Peak National Observatory was carried out by Sada et al. (2012), while Southworth (2012) conducted a homogeneous study of more than 30 extrasolar planets including HAT-P-3b, based on all available data sets in the literature. The authors found a larger stellar radius (0.947\(±0.025 M_\odot\)) and pointed out that further photometric monitoring was needed to get rid of the discrepancy between the data sets of Torres et al. (2007); Gibson et al. (2010); Nascimbeni et al. (2011), and Chan et al. (2011). Finally, a space-based investigation of secondary eclipses in 3.6–4.5 \(\mu\)m spectral bands of the Spitzer Space Telescope was carried out by Todorov et al. (2013), finding inefficiencies in heat redistribution, but letting the scenario open about thermal inversion in the atmosphere. Moreover, Todorov et al. (2013) found the eccentricity of HAT-P-3b consistent with zero.

2.2. TrES-3b

TrES-3b is a massive transiting hot Jupiter discovered by O’Donovan et al. (2007) and confirmed by radial velocity measurements. The authors derived a period of \(P = 1.30619 ± 0.00001\) days, a semimajor axis of \(a = 0.0226 ± 0.0013\) au and a near-grazing inclination value of \(i = 82.15 ± 0°.21\). The mass of the planet is estimated to be \(M_p = 1.92 ± 0.23 M_J\) in front of a stellar mass of \(M = 0.9 ± 0.15 M_\odot\), while the planet radius is \(R_p = 1.295 ± 0.081 R_J\). de Mooij & Snellen (2009) reported a temperature of the planet of \(T = 2040 ± 185\) K by measuring the thermal emission in the \(K\) band using secondary eclipse observations which were carried out with the William Herschel Telescope, which complemented the space-based observations of the Spitzer Telescope.

The same value was found by de Mooij & Snellen (2011). de Mooij & Snellen (2009) also suggest that the planet is in a non-circular orbit. Measurements of the radius of the planet in the \(K\) band do not significantly differ from the results obtained with optical observations.

Many follow-ups were carried out by several groups in optical and ultraviolet (UV) bands (Turner et al. 2011; 19\ The Asiago Search for Transit timing variations of Exoplanets.}
Jones et al. 2012; Smith et al. 2012; Váňko et al. 2012; Walker-LaFollette et al. 2012). In particular, Turner et al. (2013) did not detect any early ingress in UV as predicted by Vidotto et al. (2011), resulting in an abnormally small strength of the magnetic field. The observations in the near-infrared by de Mooij & Snellen (2009), and the near-UV by Turner et al. (2013), do not show differences in the value of the radius of the planet.

An attempt to calculate TTVs was made for the first time by Thakur et al. (2013), using 32 transits in the existing literature, and five new transits. Authors use dynamic models to suggest the presence of an additional outer planet close to the 1:2 resonance with an estimated mass in terms of Earth masses, $\approx 100 M_\oplus$. The result contradicts that found by Kundurthy et al. (2013), which observed an additional set of 11 transits in the framework of the Apache Point Survey of Transit Lightcurves of Exoplanets (APOSTLE), excluding the possibility of other planets and confirming the system’s parameters but with reduced error bars. Finally, transit times of TrES-3b were updated by Maciejewski et al. (2013), whose results also support no TTVs.

3. Observations

3.1. Facilities

Observations presented in this paper were carried out by using four different telescopes located in the Northern Hemisphere. A summary of their characteristics is shown in Table 1.

- The first telescope is the OAN-SPM 84 cm. It provides a set of instruments that can be mounted according to the observational needs, among which MEXMAN, a wide-field imager already successfully tested for the observation and characterization of exoplanets using the transit method (Ricci et al. 2015).
- The second telescope is the UDEM 36 cm, a LX200GPS college telescope located close to the city of Monterrey, Mexico, and classed with a minor planet center code of 720. It is available for student training and has been active for almost 10 years in the field of exoplanetary transit observations Ramón-Fox & Sada (2013); Sada & Ramón-Fox (2016).
- The third telescope, the TCS, is a 152 cm equatorial Cassegrain telescope located at the OT and managed by the Astrophysics Institute of Canary Islands (IAC), Spain. This telescope is provided with different instruments. One of them, FASTCAM, allows quasi-diffraction limited real-time observations using the Lucky Imaging technique, the implementation of the instrument being targeted to high temporal resolution up to tens of images per second (Oscoz et al. 2008). Despite these advantages, FASTCAM is limited (Murga et al. 2010) by its $20^\prime\times 20^\prime$ FoV.
- For this reason, an implementation of the FASTCAM detector with a wider FoV was carried out: WIDE-FASTCAM offers a $1024 \times 1024$ px EMCCD array and an optical design (Murga et al. 2014) to provide observers with an $\approx 8 \times 8^\prime$ FoV. We used WIDE-FASTCAM for our observations to test its small readout time and low electronic noise. Linearity tests on the camera on flat-field images show that the instrument works in the linear regime between 1700 and 4000 counts (Velasco et al. 2016, 2017). During the observations, we took care to tune the exposure time accordingly.
- The fourth telescope is the alt-azimuthal OARPAF 80 cm, located near Mt. Antola in Northern Italy, and whose scientific activity is managed by the physics department (DIFI) of the University of Genova, Italy. The telescope was designed by the Astelco company to foresee a double focal station: the first, provided with a field rotator, is dedicated to scientific observations and is currently equipped with an air-cooled SBIG STL 11000M camera and a standard $UBVRI$ Johnson filter wheel (Federici et al. 2012); the second is dedicated to occult observations by amateurs.

### Table 1

| Telescope        | OAN-SPM | UDEM | IAC-TCS | OARPAF |
|------------------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| Diameter         | cm      | 84   | 36      | 152    | 80     |
| Focal ratio      | $f/D$   | 15.0 | 10.0    | 13.8   | 8      |
| Latitude         | $\deg$ | 31°22′39″ | 25°40′07″ | 28°18′01″ | 44°55′27″ |
| Longitude        | $\deg$ | 115°27′49″ | 100°18′31″ | 16°30′35″ | 55°47′47″ |
| Instrument       | MEXMAN  | SBIG STL-1301 | WIDE-FASTCAM | SBIG STL 11000M |
| CCD size         | $\mu m$ | 2048 × 4612 | 1280 × 1024 | 1024 × 1024 | 2048 × 1336 |
| Resolution       | arcsec/px | 0.25 | 1.0     | 0.30   | 0.29   |
| Field of View    | arcmin | 8.4 × 19.0 | 21.3 × 17.1 | 8 × 8   | 10 × 10 |
| Gain             | $e^-$/ADU | 1.8  | 2.3     | 0.10   | 0.4    |
| Read Out Noise   | $e^-$  | 4.8  | 16      | 2.7 $e^0$ | 12     |

20 http://www.iac.es/telescopes/pages/es/inicio/telescopios/tcs.php
21 https://www.difi.unige.it/it/ricerca/altri-progetti/osservatorio-monte-antola
22 http://www.astelco.com
Pointing and positioning of the secondary mirror are controlled using the proprietary AstelOS software, provided by the constructor, on a dedicated Linux machine, while the image data capture is managed by the MaxIm software. The time stamp is obtained via a global positioning system (GPS) device. The instrument was controlled using the proprietary AstelOS software. The time stamp is obtained via a global positioning system (GPS) device. The image data capture is managed by the MaxIm software.

Concerning TrES-3b, we obtained three complete light curves in the R band at OAN-SPM, and two in the I band. Except for the first I light curve, we used the defocused photometry method described in detail by Southworth et al. (2014) and in previous papers of the series. We also present 18 UDEM transits: six with the V filter, five with the Rc filter, six in the Ic band, and finally one in the z′ band. Additional z′ data come from KPNO (two curves). An additional curve in the z′ band comes from the KPNO-VCT operator Steven Peterson (StPr) using his private observatory, and located close to the KPNO facilities. TCS also observed the target one night by using WIDE-FASTCAM and short-exposure images of 1 s each, in the K band. Finally, one observation with the K filter was carried out at OARPAF. We carefully checked that the targets and reference stars were not relaying too close to hot or bad pixels or bad lines of devices, nor at the edge of their FoV. We also used a 2 × 2 binning for our observations in OAN-SPM, UDEM and OARPAF, windowing the devices in order to minimize the readout time. OAN-SPM, UDEM, and OARPAF telescopes were also slightly defocused in order to spread the point spread function over a large number of pixels, allowing longer exposure times, a shorter total readout time, and reducing errors due to pixel response or flat-field correction problems.

### 3.2. Targets

We carried out four observations of HAT-P-3b at OAN-SPM in nearly full-moon conditions in 2014 over a period spanning five months and using three filters: two with the R filter, one with the I filter, and the final one with the V filter. Except for the first R observation, we were able to follow the target for roughly five hours. We also obtained six transits from UDEM taken with the Ic filter between 2009 and 2013. Moreover, we also aggregated four already published observations from Sada et al. (2012): two light curves from the Kitt Peak National Observatory (KPNO) 200 cm telescope observed with the JH filter, and one light curve from the KPNO Visitor Center Telescope (KPNO-VCT) 51 cm telescope with the B filter and one curve from the same telescope with the Sloan z′ filter. A log of HAT-P-3b observations is shown in Table 2.

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A log of TrES-3b observations is shown in Table 3.
4. Data Analysis

Images of both targets were debiased and flat-field corrected. We used the aperture photometry technique to obtain light curves. In particular, we used the defot routine (Southworth et al. 2010) written in the IDL language that we modified to work with FITS headers generated by the OAN-SPM, TCS, and OARPAF telescopes, while UDEM data were reduced using independent custom IDL routines. OAN-SPM and OARPAF images were not aligned, as we decided to calculate and follow, for each image, the centroid of the target and that of the reference stars, by using a cross-correlation method that we re-implemented in defot. For the OARPAF data coming from an Alt-Az telescope, we set up a rotation tracking subroutine to correct for the residual rotation of the field due to eventual errors in the alignment between the optical axis, the derotator, and the CCD center.

Several field stars were tested to find a reference from which performing differential photometry, and for both HAT-P-3b and TrES-3b we chose a number between two and eight non-saturated reference stars with count values as close as possible to those of the target, also taking into account sky conditions and availability.

A first-order trend in light curves was removed with the technique described by Ramón-Fox & Sada (2013) to get rid of airmass effects. Timestamps of the light curve points were converted to the dynamical time-based system (BJD_TDB), applying the transformation given by Eastman et al. (2010).

Data were then combined by using the procedure described by Sada & Ramón-Fox (2016). Using this procedure, we obtained a total of seven combined curves for HAT-P-3b for each one of the following filters: B (one curve from KPNO-VCT), V (one curve from OAN-SPM), R (two curves from OAN-SPM), I (one curve from OAN-SPM), Rc (six curves from UDEM), z′ (one curve from KPNO-VCT), and JH (two curve from KPNO).

The same technique was applied to TrES-3b data and we obtained a total of six combined curves in the different filters as follows: V (six curves from UDEM), R (three curves from OAN-SPM, one from TCS, and one from OARPAF), Rc (five curves from OAN-SPM), Ic (two curves from OARPAF), z′ (two curves from OAN-SPM), J (two curves from OAN-SPM), and Ic (six curves from UDEM).

Light curves were fitted with EXOFAST (Eastman et al. 2012, 2013). A value of the inclination i, of the semimajor axis in terms of the host star radius a/R*, of the mid-time T_mjd, and of the radius of the planet in terms of the host star radius R_p/R* were fitted for each combined curve. An independent light curve fitting was performed by using the IDL software Transit Analysis Package (TAP) implemented by Gazak et al. (2011). Both software use a Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) method to find best fit parameters for the Mandel & Agol (2002) model.

Differing from EXOFAST, TAP allows fitting together, or separately, a set of parameters linking their value with a lock matrix. Thus, it was possible to simultaneously fit a unique value of the inclination i and of the scaled semimajor axis a/R* for all combined curves, a different Mid-time T_mjd value for each light curve, and a scaled planet radius R_p/R* value for each of the different observing filter.

4.1. HAT-P-3b

In fitting procedures, we fixed the period: P = 2.8997382 days (Sada et al. 2012), and we supposed a circular orbit (eccentricity e = 0, argument of periastron ω = 0). Concerning limb darkening, for EXOFAST fitting we used interpolated values from Claret (2000) with the following parameters: T_w = 5224 ± 69 K, log g = 4.58 ± 0.03, and [Fe/H] = 0.41 ± 0.08 (Torres et al. 2007, 2012); while for TAP fitting, we used an online tool (Eastman et al. 2012, 2013) that interpolates atmosphere models of Claret & Bloemen (2011).
Fit results obtained with EXOFAST are shown in Figure 1 and in Table 4. In particular, weighted means obtained with EXOFAST are consistent with those of Nascimbeni et al. (2011): EXOFAST obtain $i = 86.73^{+0.11}_{-0.10}$ against 86.75$^{+0.10}_{-0.10}$ of Nascimbeni et al. (2011); $a/R_*=10.13^{+0.11}_{-0.11}$ against 10.12$^{+0.32}_{-0.32}$; and $R_p/R_*=0.1093^{+0.0005}_{-0.0005}$ against 0.1094$^{+0.0011}_{-0.0011}$. TAP calculates a unique value for the first two parameters: the inclination $i = 86.27^{+0.28}_{-0.18}$ and the scaled semimajor axis $a/R_*=9.65^{+0.28}_{-0.18}$, which are slightly different from EXOFAST and Nascimbeni et al. (2011) results, but in agreement within 3$\sigma$. A visual comparison between EXOFAST and TAP fit values of the scaled planet radius $R_p/R_*$ is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2 also show additional TAP fit solutions obtained by fixing $i$ and $a/R_*$ found by Chan et al. (2011) and Nascimbeni et al. (2011), and fitting only a separate value of $R_p/R_*$ for each observing filter. The figure gives evidence of the fact that we find no significant radius variation with the observing filter. Figure 3 shows the calculated mid-times.

### 4.2. TrES-3b

We used the same technique applied for HAT-P-3b fitting for what concerns TrES-3b limb darkening with following parameters: $\log(g_*) = 4.571 \pm 0.006$ (Southworth 2011), $T_*=5650 \pm 75$ K, and $[Fe/H]_*= -0.19 \pm 0.08$ (Sozzetti et al. 2009).

EXOFAST fit results of TrES-3b are shown in Figure 4 and in Table 5.

While performing the TAP fit, we fitted a unique value of $i$ and $a/R_*$ for all combined curves, and we fitted separately a value of $R_p/R_*$ for each considered filter. TAP results show good agreement with the EXOFAST weighted averages of $i$ and $a/R_*$: $i = 81.70^{+0.17}_{-0.22}$ of TAP against 81.63$^{+0.20}_{-0.23}$ of EXOFAST, and $a/R_*=5.885^{+0.068}_{-0.080}$ of TAP against 5.903$\pm$0.062 of EXOFAST. Results are slightly lower than, but in agreement with, the values provided by Kundurthy et al. (2013): $i = 81.86^{+0.28}_{-0.26}$ and $a/R_*=5.91^{+0.05}_{-0.05}$. Concerning $R_p/R_*$, we have differences between the two fit procedures which are within $-2\sigma$ (for the $V$ filter) and $+1\sigma$ (for the $I$ filter).

Comparisons of $R_p/R_*$ between different filters show a maximum absolute variation of 2.9$\sigma$ between $V$ and $R$ curves in EXOFAST results, which are not confirmed by TAP results (0.04$\sigma$). We then assume no $R_p/R_*$ variations with the observing filters, and we consider average results finding good agreement between fit procedures: $R_p/R_*=0.1662^{+0.0081}_{-0.0050}$ for EXOFAST and 0.1667$^{+0.0047}_{-0.0035}$ for TAP, against the value of 0.1649 $\pm$ 0.0015 provided by Kundurthy et al. (2013) in the $r'$ band (see Figure 5).

Figure 5 also shows additional TAP fit solutions obtained by fixing $i$ and $a/R_*$ found by Kundurthy et al. (2013) and (Turner et al. 2013), and fitting only a separate value of $R_p/R_*$ for each observing filter.

Mid-times fit linearly a period of $P = 1.3061862 \pm 0.0000001$ days (see Figure 6). Scatter of calculated values of $T_{\text{mid}}$ corresponds to variations of $\approx 4$ minutes peak-to-valley.
mostly ruled by UDEM data, which is reduced to \( \approx 1 \) minute peak-to-valley while considering OAN-SPM, OARPAF, and TCS data. Calculated mid-times show no significant linear variation of the period with the time and our sampling does not allow us to search for periodic variations in the 1:2 resonance as in the work of Thakur et al. (2013).

5. Conclusions

We obtained 10 new exoplanetary transit observations of HAT-P-3b in the \( BVRIz'\) bands, and 26 new observations of TrES-3b in the \( VRIz'\) bands, which confirmed the potential adequacy of small-size telescopes (36–152 cm) for this research topic. In particular, the new OARPAF observatory and the new instrument WIDE-FASTCAM at TCS can provide reliable photometric observations in the framework of ground-based exoplanetary transit follow-ups.

The simultaneous fit of light curves, carried out in multiple observing bands by several telescopes, allowed us to achieve orbital and physical parameters which corroborate results of Nascimbeni et al. (2011) for what concerns HAT-P-3b, and of Kundurthy et al. (2013) for what concerns TrES-3b.

We also report specific values of \( R_p/R_\star \) in multiple optical and near-infrared bands, and a first estimation of this parameter in the \( B \) band for HAT-P-3b which is coherent with our values provided by using other filters.
We find that observing filters do not significantly influence the determination of the relative radius of HAT-P-3b and TrES-3b. This result confirms the relative radius of HAT-P-3b estimated by near-infrared band observations (de Mooij & Snellen 2009), and the relative radius of TrES-3b estimated by UV observations (Turner et al. 2013) in the literature.

Mid-times of TrES-3b fit a $P = 1.3061862 \pm 0.0000001$ days, finding no significant nonlinear variations of the period over $\approx 9$ years of photometric observations. Further observations are planned to discriminate eventual $R_p/R_*$ variations with the observing filter and to extend $T_{\text{mid}}$ information to estimate TTVs.

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Facilities: OAN-SPM 84 cm (MEXMAN), UDEM 80 cm, TCS 152 cm (WIDE-FASTCAM), OARPAF 80 cm.

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