FROM HOT JUPITERS TO SUPER-EARTHS VIA ROCHE LOBE OVERFLOW

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ABSTRACT

Through tidal dissipation in a slowly spinning host star, the orbits of many hot Jupiters may decay down to the Roche limit. We expect that the ensuing mass transfer will be stable in most cases. Using detailed numerical calculations, we find that this evolution is quite rapid, potentially leading to the complete removal of the gaseous envelope in a few gigayears, and leaving behind an exposed rocky core (a “hot super-Earth”). Final orbital periods are quite sensitive to the details of the planet’s mass–radius relation and to the effects of irradiation and photo-evaporation, but could be as short as a few hours or as long as several days. Our scenario predicts the existence of planets with intermediate masses (“hot Neptunes”) that should be found precisely at their Roche limit and in the process of losing mass through Roche lobe overflow. The observed excess of small single-planet candidate systems observed by Kepler may also be the result of this process. If so, the properties of their host stars should track those of the hot Jupiters. Moreover, the number of systems that produced hot Jupiters could be two to three times larger than one would infer from contemporary observations.

Key words: planetary systems – planets and satellites: gaseous planets – planet–star interactions – stars: evolution – stars: general

Online-only material: color figures

1. INTRODUCTION

Our current understanding of tidal dissipation in solar-like stars suggests that the orbits of the shortest-period hot Jupiters are rapidly decaying, driven by Darwin instability (e.g., Rasio & Ford 1996). How these giant planets reached their current orbits is still a matter of debate. In Valsecchi & Rasio (2014a, hereafter VR14a), we demonstrated that, including the effects of inertial wave dissipation (Lai 2012), stellar tides can account for the observed distribution of misalignments between the stellar spin and the planetary orbital angular momentum (e.g., Winn et al. 2010; Albrecht et al. 2012). Moreover, orbital decay naturally explains the presence of hot Jupiters with orbital separations $a$ less than twice the Roche limit separation $2 a_R$ (Valsecchi & Rasio 2014b, hereafter VR14b). These results support a high-eccentricity migration scenario for the formation of hot Jupiters (Rasio & Ford 1996; Wu & Murray 2003; Ford & Rasio 2006; Fabrycky & Tremaine 2007; Nagasawa et al. 2008; Jackson et al. 2008; Matsumura et al. 2010; Wu & Lithwick 2011; Naoz et al. 2011; Plavchan & Bilinski 2013).

Several previous studies have considered the fate of giant planets that reach $a_R$. Trilling et al. (1998) investigated stable mass transfer (hereafter MT) from a giant planet to its stellar host when the latter is still young and rapidly spinning as one way of halting disk migration and producing a hot Jupiter. Chang et al. (2010) studied the orbital expansion resulting from Roche lobe overflow (hereafter RLO) of young hot Jupiters inside the magnetospheric cavity of a protoplanetary disk to explain the absence of low-mass giant planets within $\sim 0.03 \text{ AU}$. Many investigations have simply assumed that whenever a planet reaches $a_R$, it is quickly destroyed and its material is accreted by the star (Jackson et al. 2009; Metzger et al. 2012; Schlaufman & Winn 2013; Teitler & Königl 2014; Zhang & Penev 2014). This could yield a detectable transient signal (e.g., Metzger et al. 2012) and, if the star is spun up significantly through accretion (Jackson et al. 2009; Teitler & Königl 2014; Zhang & Penev 2014), it could perhaps explain the claimed paucity of short-period planets around rapidly rotating stars (McQuillan et al. 2013; Walkowicz & Basri 2013). Certainly current observations (e.g., Table 1 in VR14b and references therein) suggest that the host stars of hot Jupiters close to $a_R$ are all slow rotators.

As a natural continuation of our previous work (VR14; VR14b), we have used a standard binary MT model to investigate the evolution of a hot Jupiter undergoing RLO. In particular, we focus here on the evolution of the planetary mass and orbital separation during stable MT. Indeed, for typical systems where a hot Jupiter orbits a solar-like star, we expect the MT to be dynamically stable. Based on Sepinsky et al. (2010), the initial mass stream leaving the planet near the inner Lagrange point L1 will not impact the surface of the star, so MT will proceed through an accretion disk. This is the standard case for close binary stars with a very small donor-to-accretor mass ratio, and it is indeed expected to be dynamically stable (Metzger et al. 2012). This is also in agreement with Lai et al.’s (2010) detailed study for WASP-12.

As in our previous work, we use full stellar evolution models and a detailed treatment of tidal dissipation. In what follows, $M_{pl}$, $R_{pl}$, and $M_*$ are the planetary mass, radius, and core mass, respectively. The stellar mass, radius, spin (orbital) frequency, and main-sequence lifetime are $M_*$, $R_*$, $\Omega_*$ ($\Omega_{\text{MS}}$), and $t_{\text{MS}}$, respectively, while the orbital period is $P_{\text{orb}}$, and the mass ratio is $q = M_{\text{pl}}/M_*$.

2. OBSERVATIONAL MOTIVATION

This study is partly motivated by the excess of Kepler single-candidate systems with sizes less than a few Earth radii ($R_{\oplus}$) and $P_{\text{orb}}$ less than a few days that was seen in Steffen & Farr (2013). They noted a significant excess of isolated hot super-Earth- or sub-Neptune-size planets, stating that they might be a small-planet analog of the hot Jupiters. Figure 1 shows a histogram comparing the orbital period distribution of Kepler objects of interest (KOIs) with sizes $< 5 \ R_{\oplus}$ and $P_{\text{orb}} < 10 \text{ days}$ for single- and multi-planet systems
using data from the Quarter 8 (Q8) catalog (Burke et al. 2014). Both a Kolmogorv–Smirnov test and an Anderson–Darling test yield p-values $\sim 10^{-7}$, indicating a significant difference between the period distributions of single- and multi-planet systems in this regime. False positive signals are unlikely to have any impact on the statistical significance of this excess (see Steffen & Farr 2013 for a discussion).

Also shown in Figure 1 is the distribution of $P_{\text{orb}}$ and $R_{\text{pl}}$ for Kepler single-planet candidate systems (generated through standard Gaussian smoothing using Silverman’s rule—default options in Mathematica). One can identify the island of hot Jupiters centered near three days and 1 $R_\oplus$ as well as the peak near one day and 1 $R_\oplus$. This excess population of low-mass single planets is the one we are trying to explain here, as these objects could be the remnants of hot Jupiters that have lost their envelopes through RLO.

3. ORBITAL EVOLUTION MODEL

Our assumptions are based on the properties of observed hot Jupiters close to $a_\oplus$ (VR14b). We consider circular orbits and assume that the star is slowly rotating ($\Omega_\star \ll \Omega_\star$) and the stellar spin aligned with the orbital angular momentum—consistent with the majority of systems with solar-type stars. We assume the planet to be tidally locked. Our models (VR14; VR14b) can account for stellar wind mass loss and magnetic braking, but these mechanisms do not impact our results significantly and we omit them for simplicity. Another mechanism that might affect the evolution of the tightest hot Jupiters is photo-evaporation (e.g., the bright HD 209458b might be shedding mass through this mechanism; Vidal-Madjar et al. 2004). Murray-Clay et al. (2009) quoted a maximum mass-loss rate of $3.3 \times 10^{-10}$ g s$^{-1}$ and noted that a hot Jupiter cannot lose a significant fraction of its mass via photo-evaporation at any stage during its lifetime. We included this upper limit in our models before the envelope is completely lost and found that indeed most of the orbital evolution is not significantly affected. Therefore, we do not consider photo-evaporation further here (but see Section 6).

We account for the host star evolution using MESA (version 4798; Paxton et al. 2011, 2013) as in VR14. Our variables are $a$, $\Omega_\star$, $M_{\text{pl}}$ (donor), and $M_\star$ (accretor), and their evolution is described by

$$\dot{a} = \dot{a}_{\text{tid}} + \dot{a}_{\text{MT}},$$

$$\dot{\Omega}_\star = \dot{\Omega}_{\star, \text{tid}} + \dot{\Omega}_{\star, \text{evol}},$$

$$\dot{M}_{\text{pl}} = \dot{M}_{\text{pl,MT}},$$

$$\dot{M}_\star = \dot{M}_{\star,\text{MT}}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)-(4)

The subscripts “tid,” “MT,” and “evol” refer to tides, MT, and stellar evolution, respectively. The terms entering Equation (1) can be derived from the system’s total angular momentum,

$$L = G^{1/2}(M_\star + M_{\text{pl}})^{-1/2} M_\star M_{\text{pl}} a^{1/2},$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)

where $G$ is the gravitational constant, as follows. Let $\beta$ represent the fraction of mass lost by the planet and accreted onto the star via MT, then

$$\dot{M}_{\star,\text{MT}} = -\beta \dot{M}_{\text{pl,MT}}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (6)

The total change in $L$ is given by

$$\frac{\dot{L}}{L} = \left[ \frac{\beta - 1}{2(M_\star + M_{\text{pl}})} + \left( \frac{1}{M_{\text{pl}}} - \frac{\beta}{M_\star} \right) \right] \dot{M}_{\text{pl,MT}} + \frac{(\dot{a}_{\text{MT}} + \dot{a}_{\text{tid}})}{2a},$$

or

$$\frac{\dot{L}}{L} = \frac{1}{L} (\dot{L}_{\text{MT}} + \dot{L}_{\text{tid}}),$$  \hspace{1cm} (7)-(8)

where $\dot{L}_{\text{MT}}$ and $\dot{L}_{\text{tid}}$ represent the change in $L$ with respect to the system center of mass. Following the standard binary star treatment (e.g., Rappaport et al. 1982), we assume that the angular momentum carried onto the accretion disk is returned to the orbit via tidal torques (e.g., Priedhorsky & Verbunt 1988). Thus, $\dot{a}_{\text{MT}}$ can be derived introducing the angular momentum parameter $\alpha$ defined as

$$\dot{L}_{\text{MT}} = \alpha \dot{M}_{\text{pl,MT}} (1 - \beta) L \frac{(M_\star + M_{\text{pl}})}{M_\star M_{\text{pl}}}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (9)

From Equations (7) and (8), it follows that

$$\frac{\dot{a}_{\text{MT}}}{a} = -2 \frac{\dot{M}_{\text{pl,MT}}}{M_{\text{pl}}} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{q} \right),$$

where $q$ is the mass ratio of the system.

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**Figure 1.** Upper panel: probability densities of orbital period for single KOIs (gray) and multiple KOIs (outline) for planets with sizes less than 5 $R_\oplus$. These distributions are unlikely to be from the same parent distribution, primarily due to the excess of single-planet systems with orbits near one day. Lower panel: the distribution of planet sizes and orbital periods for single KOI systems. The hot Jupiter and hot super-Earth populations are visible as peaks near 10 $R_\oplus$ and three days and one day, respectively.
where we have set $\beta = 1$ (conservative MT, where $\alpha$ is irrelevant) for simplicity. In the limit of large $q$, the final $a-M_{\text{pl}}$ relation is independent of $\alpha$ and $\beta$ (i.e., the details of the MT process), as they only affect the duration of the RLO phase. For $\vartheta_{\text{tid}}$, we treat stellar tides in the weak-friction approximation (Zahn 1977, 1989), as in VR14 and VR14b. Specifically, we assume that the tidal perturbation is dissipated via eddy viscosity operating in the stellar convection zone (Equations (1), (4), (6), and (7) in VR14). For the reduction in the efficiency of tides at high tidal forcing frequencies, we use the linear theory of Zahn (1966), which is consistent with recent numerical results (Penev et al. 2007). As we consider only sub-synchronous configurations ($\Omega_c/\Omega_0 < 1$), tidal dissipation leads to orbital decay.

The planetary mass evolution due to RLO is derived as in Rappaport et al. (1982), where this phase begins when the planet fills its Roche lobe (of radius $R_L$), and continues as long as $R_{\text{pl}} = R_L$. For large $q$ (Paczyński 1971),

$$R_L = a \left( \frac{2}{3q^3} \right)^{1/3} (1 + q)^{-1/3}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (11)

To determine $M_{\text{pl,MT}}$, a mass–radius relation is needed. Detailed models suggest that the thermal timescale of typical hot Jupiters is $\sim 1$ Myr (e.g., Figure 2 in Spiegel & Burrows 2012), while the RLO timescales $M_{\text{pl}}/M_{\text{pl,MT}}$ computed here are almost always $\gg 1$ Myr. Therefore, we assume that throughout RLO, the planet remains in thermal equilibrium (but see Section 6). We have used two different approximations for the planet: a simple $n = 1$ polytrope, corresponding to a constant radius independent of mass, and more realistic models with rocky cores, fitted to the results of Batygin & Stevenson (2013) and Fortney et al. (2007). Specifically, we consider models with core masses $M_c = 1 M_\oplus, 3 M_\oplus, \text{and} 10 M_\oplus$.

For the low envelope masses reached near the end of the RLO phase, we also qualitatively consider the effects of strong irradiation, as modeled in detail by Batygin & Stevenson (2013). Note that the simple $n = 1$ polytrope is actually a reasonably good approximation for large envelope masses, as detailed models show a nearly constant radius as a function of mass (e.g., Figure 3 in Batygin & Stevenson 2013 or Figure 8 in Fortney et al. 2007 for the high-mass end). Below we denote the 1 $M_\oplus, 3 M_\oplus, \text{and} 10 M_\oplus$ core-mass models as “J1e,” “J3e,” and “J10e,” respectively. We denote the irradiated 3 $M_\oplus$ core-mass model as “J3ei.” These are shown in Figure 2 and are described by the following equations in Earth units.

For J1e and J3e,

$$R_{\text{pl}} = A e^{-\frac{a_{\text{pl}}}{n_{\text{pl}}}} + M_{\text{pl}}^\frac{1}{3} \left( 1 - M_{\text{pl}}^{0.07} e^{-\frac{a_{\text{pl}}}{n_{\text{pl}}}} \right) + \frac{M_{\text{pl}}^2}{100 + M_{\text{pl}}^2},$$  \hspace{1cm} (12)

where, for J1e (J3e), $A = 5.2 (5.5), B = 5 (70), C = 2.7 (3), \text{and} D = 3 \times 10^5 [(1 \times 10^8)]$. For J3ei,

$$R_{\text{pl}} = 11.6 e^{-\frac{a_{\text{pl}}}{n_{\text{pl}}}} + M_{\text{pl}}^\frac{1}{3} \left( 1 - M_{\text{pl}}^{0.07} e^{-\frac{a_{\text{pl}}}{n_{\text{pl}}}} \right) + \frac{10 M_{\text{pl}}^{2.5}}{5 \times 10^5 + M_{\text{pl}}^{1.6}},$$  \hspace{1cm} (13)

while, for J10e, we take

$$R_{\text{pl}} = 7.5 e^{-\frac{a_{\text{pl}}}{n_{\text{pl}}}} + M_{\text{pl}}^\frac{1}{3} \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{a_{\text{pl}}}{n_{\text{pl}}}} \right).$$  \hspace{1cm} (14)

Here we have assumed a constant density profile ($R_{\text{pl}} \propto M_{\text{pl}}^{1/3}$) below the core mass. The above expressions all have a maximum at $M_{\text{pl,max}} \simeq 1 M_\oplus$. We use the fits in Equations (12)–(14) for $M_{\text{pl}} < M_{\text{pl,max}}$ and consider a constant radius profile for $M_{\text{pl}} \geq M_{\text{pl,max}}$.

Setting $R_{\text{pl}} = R_L$ yields

$$\frac{M_{\text{pl,MT}}}{M_{\text{pl}}} = \frac{\dot{M}_{\text{pl}}}{\frac{\dot{M}}{n}} = \frac{\dot{a}_{\text{pl}}}{\frac{2\pi}{n}} - \frac{1}{q} + \frac{1}{2}$$  \hspace{1cm} (15)
for a polytrope of index \( n \), where \( \xi = \frac{\mathrm{d} \ln R_{\text{pl}}}{\mathrm{d} \ln M_{\text{pl}}} = (n-1)/(n-3) \). A more complicated expression exists for our detailed models and it can be generalized to any mass–radius relation. Hereafter, when mentioning the polytrope, we assume \( n = 1 \ (\xi = 0) \). Rappaport et al. (1982) note that a necessary condition for stable MT is that the denominator in Equation (15) be positive. For non-conservative MT, the condition for stability reduces to \( \alpha(1 - \beta) < (5/6) + (\xi/2) \) when \( q \gg 1 \). If mass is lost from the system with the specific angular momentum of the donor (\( \alpha = 1 \)), the RLO phase is stable if \( \beta \gtrsim 0.17 \) for the polytrope. The parameter space for stability widens for more realistic planetary models with core, provided that \( \xi > 0 \) (neglecting irradiation). The case \( \alpha = 1 \) and \( \beta < 1 \) might occur because of tidally enhanced mass loss through photo-evaporation (Jackson et al. 2010; Leitzinger et al. 2011) or magnetically controlled outflows from the planet (Adams 2011; Cohen & Glocer 2012).

In addition, we check for stellar RLO (Eggleton 1983) and stop our calculation whenever it occurs, as it will lead to rapid engulfment of the planet’s remnant by the star.

A trivial relation for \( a \) as a function of \( M_{\text{pl}} \) is obtained in the limit \( q \gg 1 \). Combining Equations (1), (10), and (15), and considering a polytrope, we find

\[
\frac{a}{a_0} = \left( \frac{M_{\text{pl}}}{M_{\text{pl,0}}} \right)^{-1/3}, \tag{16}
\]

where the subscript “0” denotes the values at the onset of RLO. An analogous expression can be derived for our detailed models.

4. EXAMPLES

We now illustrate how hot Jupiters can naturally evolve into lower-mass planets. We take a 2 \( M_\odot \) hot Jupiter (so that \( M_{\text{pl}} \) is in the plateau of Figure 2). For all models we compute \( R_{\text{pl}} \) from the maxima of Equations (12)–(14), giving \( \simeq 1.2 \) \( R_\odot \). The host star has a mass of 1 \( M_\odot \) and solar metallicity. Our initial conditions are \( a = 1.5 a_R \simeq 0.016 \) AU \( (P_{\text{orb}} \simeq 0.65 \) days) and \( \Omega_\ast = 0.1 \Omega_\odot \) (our results change little varying \( \Omega_\ast/\Omega_\odot \) between 0-0.15, consistent with observations). We start the orbital evolution (arbitrarily) when the stellar age is 0.3 \( t_{\text{MS}} \) \((\sim 3 \) Gyr) and consider both conservative and non-conservative MT, with \( \alpha = 1 \) for the latter. For the non-conservative MT case, we illustrate extreme examples with \( \beta = 0.2 \) for the polytrope, J1e, J3e, and J10e, and \( \beta = 0.4 \) for J3ei. These values are at the limit for MT stability (Equation (15)). As shown in Figure 3, prior to MT the orbit decays fast as tides remove orbital angular momentum to spin up the star. After only \( \sim 4 \) Myr RLO begins and the orbit now expands. For the polytrope and J3ei models, the flat mass–radius relation (Figure 2) leads to significant orbital expansion. For J3ei the orbit expands as long as MT dominates over tides. Eventually, as the star approaches the end of the main sequence, the increase in \( R_\ast \) and the dependence of \( \alpha_{\text{tid}} \) on \( (R_\ast/a)^6 \) (Equations (1) and (4) in VR14) cause tides to take over the MT and the system to evolve more rapidly. The evolution stops when stellar RLO begins (denoted with “\( \bigstar \)”). The evolution differs for J1e, J3e, and J10e. In fact, while MT always causes some orbital expansion at the onset of RLO, tides take over sooner when the mass–radius relation steepens. The orbit begins to shrink, consuming the planet faster. If the MT is conservative, the evolution stops because of stellar RLO. The same is true for non-conservative MT, but the cores of J3e and J10e are exposed prior to stellar RLO (marked by “\( \Box \)”). For J10e in particular, once the core is exposed, \( a \) remains constant, as expected for a constant density model \( (R_{\text{pl}} \propto M_{\text{pl}}^{1/3}) \). Even without magnetic braking, at the end of the calculation the star is spinning at less than 10% break-up in all cases.

5. COMPARISON WITH OBSERVATIONS

Figure 4 shows the mass and orbital period of the known single planets with observationally inferred \( M_{\text{pl}} \), \( R_{\text{pl}} \), and \( P_{\text{orb}} \) (NASA Exoplanet Archive, 2014 April 25), and the evolutionary tracks of Figure 3. While most of the mass is lost within a few gigayears, the orbital evolution slows down as the orbit expands (see also Figure 3, right), and it eventually accelerates when tides dominate over MT.

Varying the initial \( M_{\text{pl}} \) while using the same initial conditions and planetary models, the orbital evolution begins and ends at different \( P_{\text{orb}} \), but it continues along the same tracks displayed in Figure 4 (e.g., starting with a higher \( M_{\text{pl}} \), once \( M_{\text{pl}} \) drops to 2 \( M_\oplus \), the evolutionary tracks overlap). Furthermore, varying \( M_\ast \) between 0.5 \( M_\odot \)–2 \( M_\odot \) (typical for Kepler targets) changes the duration of the various phases displayed in Figure 4, but it does not affect the shape of the evolutionary tracks significantly. In our examples the evolution prior to RLO lasts only \( \sim 4 \) Myr, which may seem at odds with the observed hot Jupiters close to \( a_\odot \). However, the evolutionary timescales can easily vary over several orders of magnitude depending both on the star under consideration as well as the assumed tidal efficiency. For instance, the pre-RLO phase for a host star of 0.5 \( M_\odot \) lasts several tens of megayears because of the smaller \( R_\ast \). Furthermore, debate still exists on whether the reduction in the effectiveness of tides at high tidal forcing frequencies should be
described by a linear (adopted here) or quadratic prescription (Goldreich & Nicholson 1977). The latter yields longer orbital
tracks. Clearly, more mass measurements in this short orbital
period and small mass regime would provide an important test
of those cores directly.

Core-less Jupiters (modeled here as simple $n = 1$ polytropes)
would appear as very low-density planets at orbital periods of
a few days and with sizes near their Roche lobe. An absence
of such planets would imply that most or all gas giants that
form in systems capable of producing hot Jupiters have rocky
cores. Observationally, if the excess hot Earths comes from hot
Jupiters, then the host stars of these populations should have
similar properties. Specifically, their metallicities and masses
should be somewhat higher than solar.

Depending on the details of the planetary interior, the orbital
evolution timescales could be long enough that it might be
possible to observe planets currently undergoing RLO. As
shown by Lai et al. (2010), the resulting accretion disk could
produce line absorption of stellar radiation, time-dependent
obscuration of the starlight, and an earlier ingress for planetary
transits.

Here we adopted simplified models for the planets,
assuming thermal equilibrium throughout and using simple fits
to published mass–radius relations. We also neglected photo-
evaporation, even though it could play an important role in the
evolution of highly irradiated super-Earths and sub-Neptunes
(e.g., Batygin & Stevenson 2013; Lopez & Fortney 2013, and
references therein). For example, it could naturally explain the
density contrast observed in Kepler-36 (Lopez & Fortney 2013).
If, near the end of the evolution, mass loss from the planet were
significantly enhanced through photo-evaporation, this could
lead to orbital expansion, potentially slowing down MT, or even
completely halting RLO. Magnetic fields and stellar winds, also
ignored here, may well play a role in both enhancing photo-
evaporation and in channeling or entraining the MT flow (Cohen
& Glocer 2012), questioning whether the MT really proceeds
through an accretion disk, with all the angular momentum being
returned to the orbit. Finally, even though we assumed that the
planet’s spin remains tidally locked throughout the evolution,
the synchronous rotation cannot be strictly maintained as the
orbit changes significantly. This could lead to significant tidal
heating, potentially advancing the onset of RLO (Hansen 2012)
and enhancing mass loss. These various effects will have to
be studied carefully in future work, which could combine the
simple treatment of orbital evolution and tides introduced here
with more detailed models of the planet (e.g., using MESA, as
in Batygin & Stevenson 2013). This approach, to use detailed
models for the donor in MT calculations which are computed
self-consistently as RLO proceeds, has been applied success-
fully for many years in calculations of interacting binary stars
(e.g., Madhusudhan et al. 2008).

6. DISCUSSION

Our simple model naturally leads to planets similar in
orbital period and mass to known systems hosting very hot
sub-Neptunes and super-Earths. Additionally, the wide range of
masses and orbital periods covered by our evolutionary tracks
suggest that, considering a variety of planetary interior models,
the excess short-period, Earth-sized planets seen in the Kepler
data (Steffen & Farr 2013) could be explained as being the
remnant planet cores from hot Jupiters that went through RLO
and lost their gaseous envelopes. One implication is that the
number of systems that have ever had a hot Jupiter is likely to
be about three times larger than what one would infer directly
from observations, since the number of single hot Earths and
super-Earths in the Kepler data is nearly twice the number of
hot Jupiters. If correct, these results suggest that many Jovian
planets have rocky cores and give a means to study the properties
of those cores directly.

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