HATS-18B: AN EXTREME SHORT-PERIOD MASSIVE TRANSITING PLANET SPINNING UP ITS STAR

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ABSTRACT

We report the discovery by the HATSouth network of HATS-18b: a 1.980 ± 0.077 M⊕, 1.337+0.102−0.079 RJ planet in a 0.8378 day orbit, around a solar analog star (mass 1.037 ± 0.047 M☉ and radius 1.020+0.057−0.031 RJ) with V = 14.067 ± 0.040 mag. The high planet mass, combined with its short orbital period, implies strong tidal coupling between the planetary orbit and the star. In fact, given its inferred age, HATS-18 shows evidence of significant tidal spin up, which together with WASP-19 (a very similar system) allows us to constrain the tidal quality factor for Sun-like stars to be in the range of 6.5 ± log10(Q/J2) ≤ 7 even after allowing for extremely pessimistic model uncertainties. In addition, the HATS-18 system is among the best systems (and often the best system) for testing a multitude of star–planet interactions, be they gravitational, magnetic, or radiative, as well as planet formation and migration theories.

Key words: planetary systems – planets and satellites: detection – planets and satellites: gaseous planets – stars: individual (HATS-18) – stars: rotation – techniques: photometric

Supporting material: machine-readable tables

1. INTRODUCTION

Hot Jupiters, gas giant planets with orbital periods shorter than a few days, are among the easiest extrasolar planets to detect through either transit or radial velocity (RV) searches (to date, the two most productive methods). In spite of that, the sample of these planets is rather small, showing that they are intrinsically rare. Among those, giant planets with extreme short-period orbits, say under one day, are the easiest to detect yet the most scarce. In fact, out of the 4696 candidate planet Kepler objects of interest (KOI) on the NASA exoplanet archive,11 only 229 have a radius of at least 6 Earth radii (approximately half the radius of Jupiter) and orbital periods shorter than five days, and of those, only 41 have a periods shorter than one day. This, combined with the fact that these planets are expected to be the KOIs with the highest chance of being false positives (see Fressin et al. 2013) and have the highest probability to transit, and that none of the transiting ones should be missed by Kepler, demonstrates how unusual these planetary systems are.

On the other hand, this exotic population of planets, especially the ones transiting their stars, is very valuable, since it pushes theories of planet formation, structure, and evolution, as well as planet–star interactions to the limit (see Ida & Lin 2008; Albrecht et al. 2012; Penev et al. 2012; Dawson & Murray-Clay 2013; Ginzburg & Sari 2015). In addition, the deep and frequent transits and large RV signals of these objects make them the easiest to carry follow-up studies on, thus enhancing their power to constrain theories even further.

We report the discovery by the HATSouth transit survey (Bakos et al. 2013) of HATS-18b: a very short period (0.8378 day), massive (1.980 ± 0.077 M⊕) extrasolar planet around a star very similar to our Sun (mass 1.037 ± 0.047 M☉, radius 1.020+0.057−0.031 RJ, and effective temperature 5600 ± 120 K). Due to the proximity of the planet to its host star, this system provides one of the best laboratories for testing theories of star–planet interactions and planet formation. In fact, we argue that HATS-18 shows signs of being tidally spun-up by the planet, and that modeling this effect for this system alone constrains the tidal dissipation efficiency of the host star to better than an order of magnitude even with very generous assumptions on possible formation scenarios or model parameter uncertainties. Furthermore, we show that expanding such models to the few other very short period systems, should drastically improve that constraint. Furthermore, such modeling may begin to disentangle some of the
very poorly understood physics behind tidal dissipation by measuring its dependence on various system properties.

The layout of the paper is as follows. In Section 2 we describe the discovery and follow-up observations used to confirm HATS-18b as a planet. In Section 3, we outline the combined photometric and spectroscopic analysis performed and give the inferred system properties. In Section 4, we place HATS-18 in the context of other extremely short period exoplanet systems. In Section 5, we derive constraints on the tidal quality factor for stars similar to the Sun by modeling HATS-18 and WASP-19’s orbital and stellar spin evolution, and we conclude with a discussion in Section 6.

2. OBSERVATIONS

2.1. Photometry

2.1.1. Photometric Detection

The star HATS-18 (Table 3) was observed by HATSouth instruments between UT 2011 April 18 and UT 2013 July 21 using the HS-2, HS-4, and HS-6 units at the Las Campanas Observatory in Chile, the High Energy Spectroscopic Survey site in Namibia, and Siding Spring Observatory in Australia, respectively. A total of 5372, 3758, and 4008 images of HATS-18 were obtained with HS-2, HS-4, and HS-6, respectively. The observations were obtained through a Sloan r filter with an exposure time of 240 s. The data were reduced to trend-filtered light curves using the aperture photometry pipeline described by Penev et al. (2013) and making use of External Parameter Decorrelation (EPD; Bakos et al. 2010) and the Trend Filtering Algorithm (TFA; Kovács et al. 2005) to remove systematic variations. We searched for transits using the Box Least Squares (Kovács et al. 2002) algorithm, and detected a \(P = 0.8378\) day periodic transit signal in the light curve of HATS-18 (Figure 1; the data are available in Table 1). After detecting the signal, we re-applied the TFA filter, this time in signal-reconstruction mode, so as to obtain an undistorted trend-filtered light curve. The per-point root mean square residual combined filtered HATSouth light curve (after subtracting the best-fit model transit) is 0.015 mag, which is typical for a star of this magnitude.

2.1.2. Photometric Follow-up

We obtained follow-up light curves of HATS-18 using the LCOGT 1 m telescope network. An ingress was observed on UT 2015 July 18 with the SBIG camera and a Sloan i filter on the 1 m at the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO). A total of 33 images were collected at a median cadence of 201 s. A full transit was observed on UT 2016 January 22 with the sinistro camera and a Sloan i filter on the 1 m at Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory. A total of 61 images were collected at a median cadence of 219 s. For the record, we also note that a full transit was observed on UT 2016 January 3 with the SBIG camera on the 1 m at SAAO; however, due to tracking and weather problems, we were unable to extract high-precision photometry from these images, and therefore do not include these data in our analysis. For details of the reduction procedure used to extract light curves from the raw images see Penev et al. (2013). The follow-up light curves are shown, together with our best-fit model, in Figure 2, while the data are available in Table 1. The per-point precision of the SBIG observations is 2.5 mmag, while the per-point precision of the sinistro observations is 1.7 mmag.

2.2. Spectroscopy

Spectroscopic follow-up observations of HATS-18 were carried out with WiFeS on the ANU 2.3 m telescope (Dopita et al. 2007) and with FEROS on the MPG 2.2 m (Kaufer & Pasquini 1998).

A total of three spectra were obtained with WiFeS between UT 2015 February 28 and UT 2015 March 2, two at a resolution of \(R \equiv \Delta \lambda/\lambda = 7000\), and one at \(R = 3000\). These
data were reduced and analyzed following the procedure described by Bayliss et al. (2013). The $R = 3000$ spectrum was used to estimate the spectral type and surface gravity of HATS-18 (we find that it is a G dwarf), while the $R = 7000$ spectra were used to rule out an RV variation greater than $5 \text{ km s}^{-1}$.

We obtained six $R = 48,000$ spectra with FEROS between UT 2015 June 12 and UT 2015 June 20. These were reduced to high-precision RV and spectral line bisector span (BS) measurements following Jordán et al. (2014), and were also used to determine high-precision atmospheric parameters (Section 3). The RVs show a clear $K = 415.2 \pm 10.0 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ sinusoidal variation in phase with the transit ephemeris (Figure 3; the data are provided in Table 2), confirming this object as a transiting planet system. The BSs exhibit significant scatter, as is typical for a faint $V = 14.067 \pm 0.040$ mag star, but are uncorrelated with the RVs. The scatter is also well below the level expected if this were a blended stellar eclipsing binary system (Section 3).

3. ANALYSIS

We analyzed the photometric and spectroscopic observations of HATS-18 to determine the parameters of the system using the standard procedures developed for HATNet and HATSouth (see Bakos et al. 2010, with modifications described by Hartman et al. 2012).

High-precision stellar atmospheric parameters were measured from the FEROS spectra using ZASPE (Brahm et al. 2016). The resulting $T_{\text{eff}}$, and $\text{[Fe/H]}$ measurements were combined with the stellar density $\rho_{*}$ determined through our joint light curve and RV curve analysis, to determine the stellar mass, radius, age, luminosity, and other physical parameters, by comparison with the Yonsei-Yale ($Y^{2}$; Yi et al. 2001) stellar evolution models (see Figure 4). This provided a revised estimate of $\log g_{*}$, which was fixed in a second iteration of ZASPE. Our final adopted stellar parameters are listed in Table 3. We find that the star HATS-18 has a mass of $1.037 \pm 0.047 M_{\odot}$, a radius of $1.020^{+0.057}_{-0.031} R_{\odot}$, and is at a reddening-corrected distance of $645_{-26}^{+28} \text{ pc}$.

We simultaneously carried out a joint analysis of the high-precision FEROS RVs (fit using a Keplerian orbit) and the HS and LCOGT 1 m light curves (fit using a Mandel & Agol 2002 transit model with fixed quadratic limb-darkening coefficients taken from Claret 2004) to measure the stellar density, as well as the orbital and planetary parameters. This analysis makes use of a differential evolution Markov Chain Monte Carlo procedure (DEMCMC; ter Braak 2006) to estimate the posterior parameter distributions, which we use to determine the median parameter values and their 1σ uncertainties. The results are listed in Table 4. We find that the planet HATS-18b has a mass of $1.980 \pm 0.077 M_{\oplus}$ and a radius of $1.337_{-0.049}^{+0.102} R_{\oplus}$. We fit the data both assuming a circular orbit, and allowing for a non-zero eccentricity. We find that the observations are consistent with a circular orbit: $e = 0.063 \pm 0.049$, with a 95% confidence upper limit of $e < 0.166$, and therefore adopt the parameters that come from assuming a circular orbit (we also find that the Bayesian evidence for the circular orbit model is higher than the evidence for the free-eccentricity model).

3.1. Ruling Out Blended Models

In order to rule out the possibility that HATS-18 is a blended stellar eclipsing binary system, we carried out a blend analysis of the photometric data following Hartman et al. (2012). We find that all blend models tested can be rejected based on the

**Figure 2.** Unbinned follow-up transit light curve of HATS-18 obtained with telescopes from the LCOGT 1 m network. Our best fit is shown by the solid lines. The residuals from the best-fit model are shown below in the same order.

**Figure 3.** Top panel: high-precision RV measurements from MPG 2.2 m/FEROS together with our best-fit orbit model. Zero phase corresponds to the time of mid-transit. The center-of-mass velocity has been subtracted. Second panel: velocity $O - C$ residuals from the best-fit model. The error bars include the jitter, which is varied in the fit. Third panel: bisector spans (BS). Note the different vertical scales of the panels.
photometry alone with 3.5σ confidence. Moreover, the blend models that come closest to fitting the photometry (those that cannot be rejected with greater than 5σ confidence) yield simulated RVs that are not at all similar to what we observe (i.e., the simulated blend-model RVs do not show a sinusoidal variation in phase with the photometric ephemeris). We conclude that HATS-18 is not a blended stellar eclipsing binary system, and is instead a transiting planet system.

3.2. Photometric Rotation Period

The light curve of HATS-18 shows a clear signature of stellar spin variability. In Figure 5, we show the Lomb–Scargle periodogram of the HATSouth discovery light curve of HATS-18, with observations during transits removed, as well as the light curve as a function of the best-fit spin period (9.8 days) phase. In order to get a handle on the uncertainty in the stellar spin period, we split the light curve into nine segments, each containing three spin periods and fit for the rotation period in each segment separately and adopt the standard deviation of the individual measurements as the period uncertainty. The resulting spin period estimate is \( P_{\text{rot}} = 9.8 \pm 0.4 \) days.

4. COMPARISON TO OTHER SHORT PERIOD SYSTEMS

Due to its very short orbital period and relatively high planetary mass, the HATS-18 system is ideal for testing theories of star–planet interactions, whether those occur through radiation, gravity, or magnetic fields. Figures 6–8 show a comparison between the present sample of giant planets (mass at least 0.1 \( M_J \)) in orbital periods shorter than two days and the HATS-18 system in a number of parameters related to the strength of various star–planet interactions that have been suggested to occur.

The possible magnetic interactions (and hence their observable effects) are expected to grow in strength the deeper the planet is in its star’s magnetic field and the stronger the field is. In general, stars with surface convective zones are expected to have much stronger magnetic fields than stars with surface radiative zones, since in the former case some form of convectively driven dynamo is expected to operate in the stellar envelope. Furthermore, the dynamo is expected to generate a larger field for faster rotating stars, hence the two readily observable quantities to compare in order to gauge the observability of magnetic star–planet interactions are the size of the orbit relative to the stellar radius \( (a/R_*) \) and the stellar spin period. From Figure 6, we see that HATS-18 is among the three surface convective zone systems (HATS-18, WASP-19 and OGLE-TR-56) whose error bars are consistent with having the smallest \( a/R_* \) and among those it has the shortest stellar spin period (inferred either from its projected spin velocity, or the observed rotational modulation in its light curve).

Another rather dramatic effect of star–planet interactions is for the stellar irradiation/wind to drive outflows from the planet. Clearly this process will occur more readily for planets closer to filling their Roche radius and for hotter planets. Figure 7 plots the ratio of the planetary to the Roche radius for each system against the equilibrium effective temperature for the planet (assuming a perfect blackbody) for the same sample of planets as in Figure 6. Again, HATS-18 is among the planets with the most favorable parameters, though in this case there is a cluster of very-hot, very small Roche ratio planets around surface radiative zone stars, for one of which (WASP-12b) outflows have been claimed (see Fossati et al. 2010; Haswell et al. 2012).

The most direct way of detecting tidal interactions between a star and its companion planet is to see the orbital decay due to tidal dissipation in the star. This is most readily accomplished through observing the resulting deviation from a linear mid-

Table 2

| BJD (2,457,100+) | RV \( ^a \) (m s\(^{-1} \)) | \( \sigma_{RV} \) \( ^b \) (m s\(^{-1} \)) | BS \( ^a \) (m s\(^{-1} \)) | \( \sigma_{BS} \) | Phase | Instrument |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| 85.64999        | −389.04         | 21.00           | 66.0            | 24.0            | 0.274         | FEROS      |
| 86.50430        | −391.04         | 20.00           | 19.0            | 21.0            | 0.294         | FEROS      |
| 88.59324        | 424.96          | 20.00           | −24.0           | 22.0            | 0.787         | FEROS      |
| 90.51136        | −207.04         | 15.00           | 41.0            | 16.0            | 0.076         | FEROS      |
| 91.49572        | −420.04         | 17.00           | −10.0           | 18.0            | 0.251         | FEROS      |
| 93.58965        | 407.96          | 17.00           | 149.0           | 18.0            | 0.750         | FEROS      |

Notes.

\( ^a \) Relative RVs, with \( \gamma_{RV} \) (see Table 3) subtracted.

\( ^b \) Internal errors excluding the component of astrophysical/instrumental jitter considered in Section 3.

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

Figure 4. Comparison between the measured values of \( T_{\text{eff}} \), and \( \rho_\star \) (from ZASPE applied to the FEROS spectra, and from our modeling of the light curves and RV data, respectively), and the \( Y^2 \) model isochrones from Yi et al. (2001). The best-fit values (dark filled circle), and approximate 1σ and 2σ confidence ellipsoids are shown. The values from our initial ZASPE iteration are shown with the open triangle. The \( Y^2 \) isochrones are shown for ages of 0.2 Gyr, and 1.0 to 14.0 Gyr in 1 Gyr increments.

Figure 7 plots the ratio of the planetary to the Roche radius for each system against the equilibrium effective temperature for the planet (mass at least 0.1 \( M_J \)) in orbital periods shorter than two days and the HATS-18 system in a number of parameters related to the strength of various star–planet interactions that have been suggested to occur.
transit time ephemeris. Detecting this effect will provide a direct measurement of the tidal dissipation efficiency of the parent star: the least constrained parameter in tidal interactions.

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### Table 3: Stellar Parameters for HATS-18

| Parameter | Value | Source |
|-----------|-------|--------|
| R.A. (h:m:s) | 1°35'49.92 | 2MASS |
| Decl. (d:m:s) | -29°09'21.76 | 2MASS |
| R.A.p. | 2.7 ± 1.2 | 2MASS |
| m. (mas yr⁻¹) | -4.4 ± 1.2 | 2MASS |
| GSC ID | 6664-00410 | ZASPE |
| 2MASS ID | 11354977-299216 | ZASPE |
| Spectroscopic Properties | T_eff (K) 5600 ± 120 | ZASPE |
| | [Fe/H] 0.280 ± 0.080 | ZASPE |
| | v sin i (km s⁻¹) 6.23 ± 0.47 | ZASPE |
| Photometric Properties | B (mag) 14.870 ± 0.060 | APASS |
| | V (mag) 14.067 ± 0.040 | APASS |
| | g (mag) 14.407 ± 0.020 | APASS |
| | r (mag) 13.854 ± 0.030 | APASS |
| | i (mag) 13.77 ± 0.15 | APASS |
| | J (mag) 12.736 ± 0.026 | 2MASS |
| | H (mag) 12.382 ± 0.028 | 2MASS |
| | K (mag) 12.289 ± 0.028 | 2MASS |
| Derived Properties | M_v (M_☉) 1.037 ± 0.047 | ZASPE |
| | R_v (R_☉) 0.012 ± 0.001 | ZASPE |
| | log g, (cgs) 4.436 ± 0.034 | ZASPE |
| | ρ_v (g cm⁻³) 1.38 ± 0.12 | Chromatic solutions |
| | ρ_i (g cm⁻³) 1.37 ± 0.23 | Chromatic solutions |
| | L_v (L_☉) 0.93 ± 0.13 | ZASPE |
| | M_v (mag) 4.94 ± 0.17 | ZASPE |
| | M_K (mag,ESO) 3.281 ± 0.099 | ZASPE |
| | Age (Gyr) 4.2 ± 2.2 | ZASPE |
| | A_v (mag) 0.076 ± 0.076 | ZASPE |
| | Distance (pc) 645 ± 23 | ZASPE |
| | P_νe, (days) 9.8 ± 0.4 | HATSouth light curve |

### Table 4: Parameters for the Transiting Planet HATS-18b

| Parameter | Value |
|-----------|-------|
| Light Curve Parameters | P (days) 0.83784340 ± 0.00000047 |
| | T_c (BJD) 2457089.90589 ± 0.000026 |
| | T_e = T_d (days) 0.07886 ± 0.00083 |
| | a/R_☉ 0.0101 ± 0.0001 |
| | z/R_☉ 29.09 ± 0.26 |
| | R_p/R_☉ 0.1347 ± 0.0019 |
| | b = a cos i/R_☉ 0.20 ± 0.11 |
| | i (deg) 85.5 ± 1.8 |
| Limb-darkening Coefficients | c_1, i (linear term) 0.3097 |
| | c_2, i (quadratic term) 0.3143 |
| | c_2, r 0.4124 |
| | c_3, r 0.2959 |
| RV Parameters | K (m s⁻¹) 415.2 ± 10.0 |
| | a 0.07 ± 0.06 |
| Planetary Parameters | M_p (M_☉) 1.980 ± 0.077 |
| | R_p (R_☉) 1.337 ± 0.049 |
| | C (M_p, R_p) 0.36 |
| | ρ_p (g cm⁻³) 1.02 ± 0.13 |
| | log g_p (cgs) 3.435 ± 0.035 |
| | a (au) 0.01761 ± 0.00027 |
| | T_0 (K) 2600 ± 59 |
| | Ω 0.0498 ± 0.0033 |
| | ϵ (F) (10⁷ erg s⁻¹ cm⁻²) 4.07 ± 0.48 |

Notes:

- ZASPE = “Zonal Atmospherical Stellar Parameter Estimator” method for the analysis of high-resolution spectra applied to the FEROS spectra of HATS-18. These parameters rely primarily on ZASPE, but also have a small dependence on the iterative analysis incorporating the isochrone search and global modeling of the data, as described in the text.
- Isochrones+ρ_v+ZASPE = Based on the Y² isochrones (Yi et al., 2001), the stellar density used as a luminosity indicator, and the ZASPE results.
- We list two values for ρ_i. The first value is determined from the global fit to the light curves and RV data, without imposing a constraint that the parameters match the stellar evolution models. The second value results from restricting the posterior distribution to combinations of ρ_v+T_eff,+[Fe/H] that match to a Y² stellar model.
- Total V band extinction to the star determined by comparing the catalog broadband photometry listed in the table to the expected magnitudes from the isochrones+ρ_v+ZASPE model for the star. We use the Cardelli et al. (1989) extinction law.

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Notes.

- For each parameter, we give the median value and 68.3% (1σ) confidence intervals from the posterior distribution. Reported results assume a circular orbit.
- Reported times are in Barycentric Julian Date calculated directly from UTC, without correction for leap seconds. T_c: Reference epoch of mid-transit that minimizes the correlation with the orbital period. T_e: total transit duration, time between first to last contact; T_d: ingress/egress time, time between first and second, or third and fourth contact.
- Reciprocal of the half duration of the transit used as a jump parameter in our MCMC analysis in place of a/R_☉. It is related to a/R_☉ by the expression z/R_☉ = a/R_☉(2π(1 + c sin ω))/(ρ√1 - b²√1 - c²) (Bakos et al., 2010).
- Values for a quadratic law, adopted from the tabulations by Claret (2004) according to the spectroscopic (ZASPE) parameters listed in Table 3.
- The 95% confidence upper limit on the eccentricity. All other parameters listed are determined assuming a circular orbit.
- Error term, either astrophysical or instrumental in origin, added in quadrature to the formal RV errors. This term is varied in the fit assuming a prior that is inversely proportional to the jitter. We find that the jitter is consistent with zero, and thus give the 95% confidence upper limit.
- Correlation coefficient between the planetary mass M_p and radius R_p determined from the parameter posterior distribution via C(M_p, R_p) = (⟨M_p − ⟨M_p⟩⟩⟨R_p − ⟨R_p⟩⟩)/σ(M_p, R_p), where ⟨⟩ is the expectation value operator, and σ_i is the standard deviation of parameter x_i.
- Planet equilibrium temperature averaged over the orbit, calculated assuming a Bond albedo of zero, and that flux is re-radiated from the full planet surface.
- The Safronov number is given by Θ = (V esc/V tan)^2 = (a/R_☉)(M_p/M_☉) (see Hansen & Barman 2007).
- Incoming flux per unit area, averaged over the orbit.
involving stars and giant planets. Figure 8 shows that HATS-18b is the planet around a convective envelope star with the largest expected shift in mid-transit time after a decade.

5. HOST STAR SPIN-UP AND A MEASUREMENT OF $Q$

Given that HATS-18 has an age consistent with the age of the Sun, and that it is very close to solar mass, its spin period should be close to that of the Sun or to the recently measured rotation periods in the 4.2 Gyr old open cluster M 67 (Barnes et al. 2016): $P_{rot, \star} \approx 30$ days, even if the stellar age were at the lower end of the estimated error bar (2.2 Gyr), the expected spin period is $P_{rot, \star} = 8.3 \pm 0.8$ days, which is consistent with the photometrically determined rotation period of $P_{rot, \star} = 9.8 \pm 0.4$ days. This much faster spin rate is close to what is observed for solar mass stars in clusters with ages around 600 Myr: the 550 Myr old M37 (Hartman et al. 2009), the 580 Myr old Praesepe (Agúeros et al. 2011; Delorme et al. 2011; Kovács et al. 2014), and the 625 Myr old Hyades (Delorme et al. 2011). A natural
explanation for this apparent discrepancy is suggested by the fact that the HATS-18 system contains a very short period giant planet, which should have experienced some orbital decay due to tidal dissipation in the star. The angular momentum taken out of the planetary orbit as it shrinks is deposited in the star and hence the star is spun-up. The fact that we see evidence for this tidal spin-up, means that we can use it to measure the tidal dissipation properties of the star. In this section, we describe a method for carrying out such a measurement and show the resulting constraints.

5.1. The Tidal and Stellar Spin Model

Stars like HATS-18 continuously lose angular momentum throughout their lifetime by magnetically imparting angular momentum to the wind of charged particles launched from their surfaces. As a result, in order to relate the stellar tidal dissipation efficiency to the observed stellar spin, we need to model this angular momentum loss simultaneously with the tidal spin-up.

There are a number of options for modeling the tidal evolution and the angular momentum loss. However, in an effort to keep the number of model parameters small while constructing a consistent model, we will use the tidal evolution formulation of Lai (2012) and assume a constant value for $Q'$, where $Q$ is the fraction of tidal energy lost in one orbital period, and $k_2$ is the Love number of the star. Note that, while tidal dissipation in the planet may be more efficient than in the star, it will quickly result in a circular orbit and planetary spin synchronized with the orbit, which will make the tidal deformation of the planet static and hence not subject to dissipation. Furthermore, assuming constant dissipation efficiency is clearly not physical. In particular, the dissipation should vanish ($Q' = \infty$) when the tidal frequency approaches zero and increase gradually as the frequency moves away from zero. However, for tidal frequencies near that observed for HATS-18, the dissipation is expected to become less efficient as the frequency increases. Since there is currently no agreement on the expected dependence of $Q'$ on frequency and other parameters, we do not have a choice but to assume $Q' = \text{const}$. In practice, the way to interpret the results is that the $Q'$ measured by our analysis is appropriate for the currently observed state of the system analyzed, since the observed spin-up of the host star is overwhelmingly dominated by the very recent tidal evolution (see Figure 9).

We will model the star as consisting of two distinct zones: the surface convective envelope and the radiative core, and all tidal dissipation will be assumed to occur in the envelope. As a result, any angular momentum lost by the orbit will be deposited exclusively in the convective zone of HATS-18. This will tend to drive differential rotation between the core and the envelope, which will in turn be suppressed by, at present not well understood, coupling processes, but its efficiency is reasonably constrained by observations (see Irwin et al. 2007; Gallet & Bouvier 2015; Amard et al. 2016). The model for the evolution of the stellar spin tracks a single value for the spin of each zone and allows for angular momentum exchange between the core and the envelope and for angular momentum loss due to the stellar wind. The particular formulation we will use is given in detail in Irwin et al. (2007).

The loss of angular momentum from the convective envelope due to the wind is given by

$$\frac{dJ_{\text{conv}}}{dt} = K \omega_{\text{conv}} \min(\omega_{\text{conv}}^2, \omega_{\text{sat}}^2) \left( \frac{R_*}{R_{\odot}} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{M_*}{M_{\odot}} \right)^{-1/2}.$$

(1)

Where $K$ and $\omega_{\text{sat}}$ are parameters for the efficiency of the coupling of the convective zone rotation to the wind, $J_{\text{conv}}$ is the angular momentum of the convective zone, $\omega_{\text{conv}}$ is the angular velocity of the convective zone, and $\frac{R_*}{R_{\odot}}$ and $\frac{M_*}{M_{\odot}}$ are the radius and mass of the parent star in solar units respectively.

In addition, angular momentum is exchanged between the radiative core and convective envelope by mass exchange and by a torque driving the two zones toward solid body rotation:

$$\frac{dJ_{\text{conv}}}{dt} = -\left( \frac{dJ_{\text{rad}}}{dt} \right)_{\text{coup}} = \frac{1}{\tau_c} \frac{I_{\text{conv}} J_{\text{rad}} - I_{\text{rad}} J_{\text{conv}}}{I_{\text{conv}} + I_{\text{rad}}} - \frac{2R_{\text{rad}}^2}{3 M_{\text{conv}}} \left( \frac{dM_{\text{rad}}}{dt} \right) \omega_{\text{conv}}$$

(2)

where $J_{\text{rad}}$ is the angular momentum of the radiative core, $I_{\text{conv}}$ and $I_{\text{rad}}$ are the moments of inertia of the convective and radiative zones, respectively, $M_{\text{rad}}$ and $R_{\text{rad}}$ are the mass and outer radius of the radiative zone, and $\tau_c$ is a model parameter giving the timescale on which the core and the envelope converge to solid body rotation.
Finally, we will use YREC tracks (Demarque et al. 2008) for the evolution of the stellar quantities \( I_{\text{conv}}, I_{\text{rad}}, R_*, M_{\text{rad}}, \) and \( R_{\text{rad}} \).

The combined orbital and stellar spin evolution described above was computed using a more general version of the POET code (Penev et al. 2014), which, among other things, allows following the evolution for systems in which the stellar spin is misaligned with the orbit.

5.2. Method

Given values for all model parameters, in order to fully specify the evolution of the system, we need to choose appropriate boundary conditions. Clearly, the observed state of the system provides those, but if we wish to use the observed stellar spin to constrain \( Q_* \), we must find independent spin boundary conditions. Fortunately, rotation periods for stars in young open clusters have been widely measured. Conveniently, as long as the stellar spin-down parameters are chosen to reproduce the observed evolution of stellar spin with age in open clusters, it makes very little difference which particular cluster we choose to start the evolution from. This is because for reasonable tidal dissipation rates, only a very tiny fraction of the orbital evolution occurs in the first few hundred megayears, and as a result, the stellar spin evolution hardly differs from that of an isolated star. This is very fortunate, since our results will not depend on the formation mechanism of HJs. Whether they form very early through disk migration, or much later through high-eccentricity migration, will have only a negligible effect on the final stellar spin. Example evolutions of HATS-18, using the nominal parameters from Tables 3 and 4, adding the planet at ages 10 Myr, 133 Myr, and 1 Gyr are shown in Figure 9. In all cases, the evolution was started with the spin the star would have if it evolved only under the influence of angular momentum loss to stellar wind, and the initial orbital period of the planet was selected to reproduce the currently observed orbital period at the current age. We can see that, as expected, the effect of the age at which the planet migrates to its short period orbit on the stellar spin is utterly negligible compared to the uncertainty of the measurement. In addition, Figure 9 also shows that the effect of assuming a frequency dependent tidal dissipation is relatively small, with even quite steep dependence on period \( Q_* \propto P^2 \) or \( Q_* \propto P^{-2} \) reproducing the currently observed stellar spin to within 2\( \sigma \) of the measured value, as long as \( \log_{10}(Q_*) = 7.3 \) at the observed tidal period for HATS-18 (0.46 days).

For the constraint derived below, we used the combined spin periods for M 50 (Irwin et al. 2009) and the Pleiades (Hartman et al. 2010), since the two clusters are very close in age, have consistent period distributions, and together provide a large sample of stars for which the spin period has been measured. We assumed a starting age of 133 Myr for all evolutions, close to the one estimated for the above clusters.

In order to constrain the value of the tidal dissipation parameter \( Q_* \) defined above, fully accounting for the posterior distributions of the measured HATS-18 system properties, we will follow the following procedure.

1. Select a random step from the converged DEMCMC chain, thus getting values for the present age of the HATS-18 system as well as the stellar and planetary masses and the stellar radius.

2. Randomly select one of the stars from the Pleiades/M 50 with a measured rotation period that has a mass within 0.1\( M_\odot \) of the randomly selected stellar mass above and use its spin period as the initial spin for the calculated evolution.

3. Select a random value for \( \log_{10}(Q_*) \) from a uniform distribution in the range (5, 9).

4. Find an initial orbital period, such that starting the evolution at an age of 133 Myr with the above parameters and evolving to the randomly selected present system age, results in the observed orbital period (the comparatively tiny uncertainty in the current orbital period is ignored).

5. Assume a normal distribution for the measured stellar spin period at the present age and evaluate the distribution at the resulting stellar spin period with the above evolution to get \( p(Q_*) \).

Repeating the above steps multiple times allows us to build a cumulative distribution function (CDF) for \( \log_{10}(Q_*) \) by summing up all \( p(Q_*) \) values up to a particular \( \log_{10}(Q_*) \). The number of iterations was chosen such that doubling their number did not result in significant changes in the CDF.

Finally, the entire procedure was repeated for a number of assumptions about the parameters of the spin model in order to investigate the sensitivity of the constraint to these parameters. In addition, even though planets around stars with surface convective zones appear to be well aligned with their host star’s spin, it is possible that they form with a wide range of obliquities, which then decay on a timescale that is short compared to the tidal orbital decay for typical planets, but it may not be short compared to the orbital decay for HATS-18. In order to investigate the impact this could have on the results, we also considered the most extreme possible case of starting the star spinning in exactly the opposite direction to the orbit and evolving to a presently assumed prograde state. The particular set of parameters considered is given in Table 5. The “nominal” and “retrograde” models use the parameters for the stellar spin evolution, which best fit the observed spin periods of open clusters (Irwin et al. 2007). An important point to note is that the change in parameter values away from the nominal model, for the other cases considered, do not represent actual uncertainties. In fact, all of these changes are in dramatic conflict with observations, demonstrating that very large changes in the models are required to make appreciable changes to the inferred \( Q_* \) constraint. A more appropriate treatment, which accounts properly for the shifts in the model parameters allowed by the cluster data, is beyond the scope of this paper, but the range of models considered demonstrates the robustness of the results presented here.

In addition to HATS-18, we carried out the steps outlined in the previous section for WASP-19. This is another one of the three planetary systems whose measured semimajor axis to stellar radius ratio is consistent with being the smallest, and hence can be expected to have its host star spun up due to tidal dissipation. Indeed, it also seems to be spinning faster than expected for its age. In fact, Tregloan-Reed et al. (2013) observed the planet transiting in front of what appears to be the same star spot, on two consecutive nights, which allowed them to measure WASP-19’s spin period to be 11.76 ± 0.09 days, while the discovery paper (Hebb et al. 2010) quoted a photometrically detected rotation period of 10.5 ± 0.2 days. Neither of these periods is consistent with the isochronal
constraint that the system is older than 1 Gyr (Hebb et al. 2010).

In order to make the results from HATS-18 and WASP-19 as comparable as possible, we used the same set of isochrones and the same fitting procedure to derive an isochronal age for WASP-19 of 8 ± 3 Gyr. Furthermore, both stars have masses very close to solar, which means we do not need to worry about dependences of the various model parameters on the stellar mass. Finally, a proper DEMMC fit to the WASP-19 observations is not available, so unlike for HATS-18, we simply assume the relevant parameters for WASP-19 from the literature and use a Normal distribution with the quoted uncertainties. The particular values we employed were taken from Tregloan-Reed et al. (2013) and are consistent with the rest of the literature: $M_*=0.904\pm0.045M_\odot$, $R_*=1.004\pm0.018R_\odot$, $M_{pl} = 1.114 \pm 0.04M_\odot$, and we adopted the Tregloan-Reed et al. (2013) stellar spin period of 11.76 ± 0.09 days and orbital period of $P = 0.788840 \pm 0.0000003$ days.

5.3. Results

In order to generate plots of the probability density functions (PDF) derived by the procedure described above, we fit a smoothing bicubic spline to the cumulative distribution with a tiny amount of smoothing in order to suppress numerical oscillations when taking the derivative. Figure 10 shows the PDF derived for $\log_{10}(Q_i^f)$ for HATS-18 and WASP-19 with the various models of Table 5. The constraints obtained for $Q_i^f$ are given in the last column of that table. The confidence interval was derived by evaluating the inverse CDF for $\log_{10}(Q_i^f)$ at 15.87% and at 84.13%.

Since most of the orbital decay happens at late times when the star is evolving only very slowly on the main sequence, it is a very good approximation to assume a non-evolving star with the present properties in the last gigayear or so of the evolution. As a result, as long as the star is started with the spin predicted by angular momentum loss in the absence of a planet, the results are only very slightly sensitive to the exact stellar evolution models used. In particular, this means that the exact stellar age determined by matching the evolution models to the present star has only a very small effect on the results.

Clearly, parametrizing tidal dissipation by a single number ($Q_i^f$ in our case) is a gross oversimplification of the physics involved. In reality, $Q_i^f$ should depend on the stellar mass, the tidal frequency, and the stellar spin. This can affect the results in two ways: first, it could be one way to explain the different results obtained for the two systems, and second, even for a single system, the spin of the star and the tidal frequency evolve, thus different tidal dissipation will operate at different times during the system’s past. However, for the two planetary systems considered, all these parameters are currently almost identical. Furthermore, due to the strong dependence of the rate of orbital decay on the planet–star separation, and the fact that angular momentum loss is faster for faster spinning stars, only the most recent part of the evolution of the systems matters (as demonstrated in Figure 9).

So even though the past spin histories of the two stars may have been somewhat different (due to the different planetary masses), this has a relatively small impact on the results. In addition, since the evolution is dominated by the latest stages, strictly speaking, the constraints derived here give the tidal quality factor for parameters close to the currently observed ones (a stellar mass of approximately $1M_\odot$, for orbital periods of approximately 0.8 days and for stellar spin periods of about 10 days). Finally, this also means that the formation mechanism for the planets is irrelevant for the derived constraints. While it is true that starting the orbital evolution later, if planet migration is delayed, can decrease the amount of angular momentum added to the star, this is a totally negligible effect (see Figure 9).

Disentangling the dependence of the tidal dissipation on some of these quantities may be possible by performing similar analyses on a larger number of exoplanet systems, ideally all currently known extremely short period ones. In addition, orbital circularization and spin synchronization in open cluster binaries is able to probe much longer orbital periods than is feasible with extrasolar planets.

6. DISCUSSION

HATS-18 is an extremely short-period planet that is among the best targets for testing theories of planet–star interactions. In fact, the host star, like a number of other extremely short period giant-planet hosts (e.g., WASP-19 above, WASP-103 (Gillon et al. 2014), OGLE-TR-113 (Bouchy et al. 2004)) appears to be spinning too fast for its age. HATS-18 is the best system to-date for constraining the stellar tidal dissipation by assuming that the extra stellar angular momentum was
delivered by tidal decay of the orbit. In fact, we applied this method to the two exoplanet systems whose host stars should have been spun up the most, and which have very similar properties, to derive tight constraints on the stellar tidal quality factor at least in the regime applicable to those systems. In fact, if both of these planets are assumed to have formed in orbits well aligned with their parent star’s spin, there is only a very narrow range around $\log_{10}(Q') = 7$ for which the present spin period of both stars is at least marginally consistent with the expected degree of spin-up. This tight constraint will also apply if planets form with a wide range of initial obliquities, but are quickly re-aligned by some process that operates on timescales short compared to the orbital decay. On the other hand, if planets are assumed to form with a wide range of obliquities, and if at least for the extremely short periods of HATS-18 and WASP-19, the timescale for orbital decay is shorter than any processes that tend to align the orbit with the stellar equator, it is plausible that WASP-19 started out in a well aligned orbit, while HATS-18 was significantly misaligned in which case, $6.5 < \log_{10}(Q') < 7$. Clearly, a more systematic effort to analyze all suitable exoplanet systems and properly account for the stellar angular momentum loss uncertainties is bound to yield very meaningful constraints on the stellar tidal dissipation, as well as how it changes with various system properties.

These constraints do not match the recently suggested detection of orbital decay in WASP-12 (Maciejewski et al. 2016), which would correspond to a tidal quality factor of $Q' = \sqrt{2.5 \times 10^4}$. However, the authors of that study point out that at present the observed period change is still marginally consistent with apsidal precession. Furthermore, as we pointed out above, the tidal quality factor is not expected to be the same across different systems, and WASP-12 differs from both HATS-18 and WASP-19 in several important respects: it has a hotter star, with only a minimal surface convective zone, and it appears to be spinning significantly slower. Both of these properties are expected to impact the tidal dissipation. The same measurement is also within reach for HATS-18b. For example, after 28 years, the time of arrival of HATS-18b transits will have shifted by 60 s if $\log_{10}(Q') = 107$ due to tidal orbital decay, thus making it feasible to measure.

As we argued in Section 4, extremely short period planets like HATS-18 provide a fantastic laboratory to test a range of interactions between the planet and the star, and hence, expanding this sample is extremely valuable for the study of extrasolar planets.

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Figure 10. Top: the PDF of $\log_{10}(Q')$ from the HATS-18 system parameters. The various lines correspond to the models from Table 5 with the models for which the angular momentum loss parameters match the best fit of the stellar rotation rates in open clusters plotted with thicker lines. Middle: the same as the first panel, but using WASP-19 system parameters. Bottom: all the curves from the previous two plots together with HATS-18 plotted with solid lines, and WASP-19 with dashed.
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