The Warm Neptunes around HD 106315 Have Low Stellar Obliquities

George Zhou1,4 ©, Joseph E. Rodriguez1 ©, Andrew Vanderburg2,5 ©, Samuel N. Quinn1 ©, Jonathan Irwin1 ©, Chelsea X. Huang3 ©, David W. Latham1 ©, Allyson Bieryla1 ©, Gilbert A. Esquerdo1 ©, Perry Berlind1 ©, and Michael L. Calkins1 ©

1 Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, 60 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 USA; george.zhou@cfa.harvard.edu
2 Department of Astronomy, The University of Texas at Austin, 2515 Speedway, Stop C1400, Austin, TX 78712, USA
3 Department of Physics, and Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research, M.I.T., Cambridge, MA 02139, USA
4 Hubble Fellow.
5 Sagan Fellow.

Received 2018 May 6; revised 2018 June 27; accepted 2018 June 29; published 2018 August 10

Abstract

We present the obliquity of the warm Neptune HD 106315c measured via a series of spectroscopic transit observations. HD 106315c is a 4.4 \( R_{\text{Earth}} \) warm Neptune orbiting a moderately rotating late F star with a period of 21.05 days. HD 106315 also hosts a 2.5 \( R_{\text{Earth}} \) super-Earth on a 9.55 day orbit. Our Doppler tomographic analyses of four transits observed by the Magellan/MIKE, HARPS, and TRES facilities find HD 106315c to be in a low stellar obliquity orbit, consistent with being well aligned with the spin axis of the host star at \( \lambda = -10^{\circ}9^{\circ}3.6 \). We suggest, via dynamical \( N \)-body simulations, that the two planets in the system must be coplanar, and thus are both well aligned with the host star. HD 106315 is only the fourth warm Neptune system with obliquities measured. All warm Neptune systems have been found in well aligned geometries, consistent with the interpretation that these systems are formed in situ in the inner protoplanetary disk, and also consistent with the majority of Kepler multi-planet systems that are in low obliquity orbits. With a transit depth of 1.02 mmag, HD 106315c is among the smallest planets to have been detected in transit spectroscopy, and we discuss its detection in the context of TESS and the next generations of spectrographs.

Key words: planets and satellites: dynamical evolution and stability – planets and satellites: individual (HD 106315)

1. Introduction

The Kepler mission unveiled a population of super Earths and Neptunes in periods of 10–200 days that occupy more than 50% of Sun-like stars (e.g., Dong & Zhu 2013; Fressin et al. 2013). With no analogs in our own solar system, we are beginning to question the peculiarities of our own existence (e.g., Batygin & Laughlin 2015). We now think that some of these planets were potentially formed in situ in the inner protoplanetary disk. In this scenario, the rocky cores of these planets may have formed at distances of \(~1\) au, and migrated inward before the dissipation of the inner disk to accrete a substantial (\(\gtrsim 10\%\)) gaseous envelope (e.g., Lee et al. 2014; Boley et al. 2016), forming the systems of super Earths and Neptunes we observe.

The system obliquity—the angle between the orbit normal and the spin axis of the host star—is a tracer for the early history of close-in planets. In particular, the obliquities of hot Jupiters exhibit a wide distribution of angles (especially for those not thought to be influenced by star-planet tidal interactions, e.g., Winn et al. 2010a; Albrecht et al. 2012), suggesting that some of these planets were thrown inward following earlier dynamical episodes.

Many hot Neptunes in close-in orbits have been found to be in highly misaligned orbits. Transit spectroscopic and star-spot crossing observations showed HAT-P-11b to be in a 4.9-day polar orbit about a K4V star (Bakos et al. 2010; Winn et al. 2010b; Hirano et al. 2011; Sanchis-Ojeda & Winn 2011); the lack of consecutive spot crossing events in the 5.7-day period super Neptune WASP-107b system led Dai & Winn (2017) to infer that the planet must reside in a misaligned orbit; similarly, recent spectroscopic observations of the 2.5-day period hot Neptune GJ 436b found it to also orbit in a polar geometry (Bourrier et al. 2018).

In contrast, the systems of warm Neptunes we have surveyed so far are all well aligned to the spins of their host stars. Spectroscopic transit observations by Albrecht et al. (2013) found Kepler-25c, a 4.48 \( R_{\text{Earth}} \) 12-day period Neptune to be well aligned with its F star host. Additional measurements of the stellar spin inclination via asteroseismology found that the host star Kepler-25 is not inclined with our line of sight (Benomar et al. 2014; Campante et al. 2016), consistent with a low obliquity plane for both planets in the system. Further asteroseismology analyses of the warm Neptune systems Kepler-50 and Kepler-65 found them both to be consistent with the aligned geometry as well (Chaplin et al. 2013).

Is this the start of a dichotomy distinguishing warm Neptune systems and single close-in Neptunes in obliquity? Measuring the obliquities of transiting Neptunes is a challenging endeavor given that the transit depth is shallower by an order of magnitude compared to equivalent Jovian systems. While the Kepler mission found numerous warm Neptune systems, few orbit bright enough stars for further examination of their obliquities. With photometry from the K2 survey, the F star HD 106315 was identified to host two planets, a 2.51 \( \pm 0.12 \) \( R_{\text{Earth}} \) 12.6 \( \pm 3.2 \) \( M_{\text{Earth}} \) super-Earth at 9.55-day period, and a 4.31 \( \pm 0.23 \) \( R_{\text{Earth}} \) 15.2 \( \pm 3.7 \) \( M_{\text{Earth}} \) Neptune at 21.06-day period (Barros et al. 2017; Crossfield et al. 2017; Rodriguez et al. 2017). Key system parameters from literature are listed in Table 1. The brightness (\( V_{\text{mag}} = 9.004 \)) and rotation (\( v \sin i = 12.9 \pm 0.4 \) km s\(^{-1}\)) of HD 106315 makes the system ideal for follow-up observations. In this paper, we present spectroscopic observations of the transits of HD 106315c, gathered from three independent facilities, covering four events, to measure the projected obliquity of the system.
2. Spectroscopic Observations and Analysis

Time series spectroscopic observations during transit can yield the projected obliquities of the orbiting planet. During the transit, the planet occults the rotating stellar surface, successively blocking different velocity components of the stellar line profile. To map this spectroscopic transit, we monitor for changes in the line profile for signatures of this transiting shadow (McLaughlin 1924; Rossiter 1924; Collier Cameron et al. 2010a, 2010b). By modeling the track of the planetary shadow over the course of a transit, we can infer the projected angle between the orbit normal and the stellar spin axis. Spectroscopic transits of planets have yielded the projected obliquities of more than 100 planetary systems to date.

The detectability of the spectroscopic transit is directly proportional to the transit depth induced by the planet, and the projected rotational broadening of the star. As such, with a depth of 0.102%, the transit HD 106315c is the shallowest of all successful spectroscopic transit measurements to date. The following sections describe the four transit observations gathered from the MIKE/Magellan, HARPS, and TRES facilities that were used in our analyses. Figure 1 shows the combined Doppler tomographic map of these observations, yielding a detection of the planetary transit.

2.1. Spectroscopic Transit of HD 106315c from MIKE

We observed a partial spectroscopic transit of HD 106315c on 2018 March 01 with the Magellan Inamori Kyocera Echelle (MIKE; Bernstein et al. 2003) on the 6.5 m Magellan Clay telescope, located at Las Campanas Observatory, Chile. To achieve the highest spectroscopic resolution possible, the observations were performed with the 0.035 slit, yielding a resolution of $\lambda/\Delta\lambda = R = 65000$ in the red arm of the spectrograph (4900–10000 Å) and $R = 85000$ in the blue arm (3200–5000 Å). A total of 81 observations were made over the time period of 03:03–09:08 UTC (covering orbital phases 0.997 to 1.009, with the transit being from phase 0.9953 to 1.0047), with the target staying below airmass 1.7, and seeing of $\sim 1''$, throughout the observations. Each observation was a 200 s integration in the blue and red cameras. Wavelength calibration is provided via ThAr arc lamp exposures taken every $\sim 30$ minutes. Flat field calibrations were obtained in the afternoon via a quartz lamp and a diffuser. The observations were reduced using the Carnegie CarPy package (Kelson et al. 2000; Kelson 2003).

To measure the planetary transit signal, we derive stellar line profiles for each observation via a least-squares deconvolution technique against a synthetic spectral template (Donati et al. 1997). A non-rotating infinite resolution template matching the spectral classification of HD 106315 is synthesized via the SPECTRUM code (Gray & Corbally 1994) using the ATLAS9 atmosphere models (Castelli & Kurucz 2004). The stellar line profile, derived using the deconvolution technique, is the kernel that convolves the synthetic template to the observation and contains contributions from the stellar rotational broadening, non-rotating broadening effects such as macroturbulence, and broadening due to the instrument profile. To derive a high signal-to-noise broadening profile for each spectrum, we perform deconvolutions over individual orders spanning 4900–6200 Å in wavelength, and then weighted-average the resulting line profile kernels based on the signal-to-noise of the derived line profiles from each order.

2.1.1. Correction of Instrument Profile Variations Via Telluric Features

Since MIKE is a slit-fed spectrograph, the instrumental line spread function is subject to variations induced by the target star’s position on the slit. As the star “wobbles” on the slit due to variable seeing and guiding errors, the spectroscopic instrument profile changes in shape and velocity. In addition, thermal and pressure fluctuations can also induce changes in the instrument profile. These variations traditionally prohibit slit-based spectrographs from achieving radial velocity precision of better than $\sim 200$ m s$^{-1}$ without additional corrections (Figure 2), and in our case completely wash out the spectroscopic signal of a 1 mmag planetary transit. Similar instrument profile variations were discussed in Albrecht et al. (2013) regarding the Doppler tomographic detection of Kepler-25c. To correct for these variations, we take inspiration from early precise radial velocity spectroscopists and make use of the telluric water features to correct for the instrument profile variations (Griffin 1973; Griffin & Griffin 1973).

To correct for instrument profile variations during the transit, we search for a kernel that convolves the instrument profile of each observation to that of a template spectrum. The instrument profile of each observation is assumed to be the line profile of the telluric absorption features, derived from a least-squares deconvolution over the unsaturated telluric water features at 7900–8100 Å and 7000–7100 Å against an artificial $R = 10^9$ template synthesized with the ESO Skylapse Sky Model Calculator (Moehler et al. 2014). We then choose the broadest instrument profile during the night as the template, and fit for an asymmetric Gaussian kernel that would convolve the instrument profile of each observation to that of the template. The asymmetric Gaussian kernel is parameterized by two width terms ($\sigma_{\text{left}}$, $\sigma_{\text{right}}$), a height scaling factor, and a velocity offset. The kernel parameters are fitted for with a Markov chain Monte Carlo process, using the module emcee (Foreman-Mackey et al. 2013). At each iteration, the trialed kernel is convolved

| Table 1
| Key Literature Properties of HD 106315 System$^a$

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| Planets b|         |
| Period (days) | 9.55385±0.00095 |
| $M_p$ ($M_{\text{Earth}}$) | 12.6±3.2 |
| $R_p$ ($R_{\text{Earth}}$) | 2.5±0.12 |
| Planets c|         |
| Period (days) | 21.0580±0.0022 |
| $M_p$ ($M_{\text{Earth}}$) | 15.2±3.7 |
| $R_p$ ($R_{\text{Earth}}$) | 4.31±0.27 |

Note. $^a$ All parameters from Rodriguez et al. (2017) except for planet masses from Barros et al. (2017) and parallax from Gaia DR2.
with the telluric profile, and the resulting “corrected” profile is compared against the template profile, with the goodness of fit used to maximize the likelihood. The best-fit asymmetric Gaussian kernel is then convolved with the stellar broadening kernel. This correction removes the large point-to-point “jumps” in the instrument line profile and associated velocities, but a smoothly varying trend remains, possibly due to intrinsic variations in the telluric lines over the night as a function of water content and observational airmass. Since we do not expect to observe any velocity variation during the transit within our detection limits, we shift each observed stellar line profile to rest by fitting for their velocity variations with a fourth-order polynomial. The telluric profiles and corrections are derived using spectra from red arm of MIKE, and the same corrections are applied to spectra from both the blue and red arms. The velocities derived from the stellar line profiles before and after the telluric and polynomial corrections are plotted in Figure 2, and the line profile variations, as well as the telluric correction, are shown in Figure 3. We note that at times the telluric lines do not represent the instrument profile well, and as such, the velocity and line profile corrections we apply exhibit systematic offsets. These correction imperfections are labeled in Figure 2 and correspond with poorly corrected line profile residuals in Figure 3, near phase 0 and phase 0.008.

2.2. Spectroscopic Transit of HD 106315c from TRES

One full transit of HD 106315c was obtained with the Tillinghast Reflector Echelle Spectrograph (TRES; Furesz 2008), on the 1.5 m telescope at the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory, Arizona, USA. TRES is a fiber-fed echelle spectrograph with a wavelength coverage of 3900–9100 Å, spanning 51 echelle orders at a resolution of $R = 44000$. A total of 36 observations were obtained on 2017 April 20. Each observation consists of three consecutive exposures, totalling 450 s integration time, combined to reduce the impact of cosmic rays. Wavelength solutions are provided by ThAr lamp exposures that bracket each observation. The observations are reduced as per Buchhave et al. (2010).

The line profile analysis of the TRES transit largely follows the process described in Zhou et al. (2016a). Line profiles are derived from order-by-order least-squares deconvolutions over 34 orders spanning the spectral range 3900–6250 Å. The spectral template used in the convolution is the same as that used for the MIKE analyses, generated with the ATLAS9 non-rotating synthetic templates. TRES is a fiber-fed echelle spectrograph typically capable of measuring radial velocities.
at the 10 m s\(^{-1}\) level (Quinn et al. 2014), and as such, no telluric corrections were necessary in the processing of the TRES observations. The resulting line profile variations measured by TRES are shown in Figure 4.

In addition to the full transit observed on 2017 April 20, 30 other TRES observations were obtained of HD 106315. These included series of observations taken near transit on 2017-03-09 that were obtained in poor conditions, and not used in the Doppler tomographic analyses, as well as a set of spectra taken out of transit presented in Rodriguez et al. (2017). These observations are used in the line broadening profile analyses described in Section 2.3.1.

2.3. Archival Spectroscopic Transits of HD 106315c from HARPS

Transits of HD 106315c were observed with the High Accuracy Radial Velocity Planet Searcher (HARPS; Mayor et al. 2003) on the ESO 3.6 m telescope at La Silla Observatory, Chile. HARPS is a fiber-fed echelle spectrograph with a spectral resolution of \(R = 115000\), and a wavelength coverage of 3780–6910 Å. Two transits were observed with HARPS: one on 2017 March 9 consisting of 75 exposures with 350 s integration times, and one on 2017 March 30, consisting of 47 exposures with 500 s integration times. On both nights, the observations covered the entire transit events. The reduced two-dimensional (2D) echelle spectra were obtained from the public ESO archive.

Line broadening kernels from the HARPS observations were derived via a least-squares deconvolution, similar to that performed on the MIKE observations. The spectra were deconvolved against a set of ATLAS9 non-rotating spectral templates over the spectral range of 3980–5490 Å, yielding a series of line broadening kernels. Because HARPS is a highly stabilized fiber-fed spectrograph, the line profiles were free of systematic variations. The line profile variations measured by the combined HARPS observations are shown in Figure 5.

### 2.3.1. Measuring Line Broadening Velocities

An accurate measurement of the line broadening velocities help us constrain the spectroscopic transit model, and in turn yields a more accurate measurement of the spin–orbit angle of the planet. We consider the effects of rotational broadening, macroturbulence, and instrumental broadening in our fitting of the line profiles. We adopt the analytical prescriptions for

---

**Figure 3.** Doppler tomographic maps showing the stellar line profile variations observed by MIKE during the partial transit on 2018 March 01, phase binned at intervals of 0.0005 (15 minutes, ~5 exposures). The observations span from mid-transit to post-egress. The left panels show the uncorrected stellar line profile variations. The central panels show the modeled instrument profile corrections derived from variations in the telluric water features. The right panels show the corrected stellar line profiles. The top panels show the observations from the red arm of MIKE, the bottom panels show the blue arm observations. Though the corrections are not perfect, we can distinguish the planetary transit through the center of the stellar line profile in the corrected data set. The modeled velocity of the planetary shadow is marked by the dashed line to aid the eye. Imperfections exist between the telluric model and the observed stellar profile. These imperfections, seen as red noise affecting the data set, are at the same location as the velocity offsets marked in Figure 2.
rotational line broadening and radial-tangential macroturbulence as per Gray (2005). The broadening kernel is derived from an integration over the stellar disk, since radial-tangential macroturbulence is spatially dependent. As per Gray (2005), we assume a fixed linear limb-darkening coefficient of 0.5572 for the stellar disk, interpolated from tables in Claret & Bloemen (2011) to the near white light Kepler band. Since the disk integration is computationally intensive, we compute a grid of line broadening profiles spanning \( v \sin i_\text{rot} \) values of 2 to 100 km s\(^{-1}\) at steps of 1 km s\(^{-1}\) and macroturbulence values of 1 to 20 km s\(^{-1}\) at steps of 0.5 km s\(^{-1}\). At each step in the fit minimization, we interpolate within the grid to the desired rotational and macroturbulent broadening values, and then convolve the interpolated line broadening kernel with a Gaussian kernel representing the instrument profile.

We fit for the macroturbulence and rotational broadening values of each out of transit spectrum obtained with MIKE, TRES, and HARPS. The MIKE out-of-transit observations yielded a rotational broadening velocity \( v \sin i_\text{rot} = 13.22 \pm 0.16 \text{ km s}^{-1} \), and a macroturbulent broadening velocity of \( v_{\text{macro}} = 6.8 \pm 1.7 \text{ km s}^{-1} \), with the uncertainties measured from the scatter in the measured broadening velocities from exposure to exposure. Similarly, an analysis of 23 existing out of transit TRES observations yielded \( v \sin i_\text{rot} = 13.07 \pm 0.10 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) and \( v_{\text{macro}} = 6.20 \pm 0.55 \text{ km s}^{-1} \), while the HARPS out-of-transit observations yielded \( v \sin i_\text{rot} = 12.945 \pm 0.036 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) and \( v_{\text{macro}} = 6.20 \pm 0.20 \text{ km s}^{-1} \). The rotational and macroturbulent broadening velocities from each instrument agree to within 1σ. However, we still expect that the Gaussian approximation for the instrument profile is not perfect, and systematic uncertainties are not accounted for in this analysis. To inflate our uncertainties, we take the maximum deviation between the derived values from the instruments as our uncertainties, and the mean value as our adopted broadening velocities. Our adopted values for the remainder of our analyses are \( v \sin i_\text{rot} = 13.08 \pm 0.28 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) and \( v_{\text{macro}} = 6.40 \pm 0.60 \text{ km s}^{-1} \).

3. Doppler Tomographic Analysis and Modeling

We make use of the individual Doppler tomographic transits and K2 photometry in our modeling of HD 106315c. To derive a consistent set of system parameters, we employ global fit that simultaneously models the K2 transit light curves and the Doppler tomographic observations. The transit light curves are described by a Mandel & Agol (2002) model. The Doppler tomographic signal is modeled by a 2D integration of the stellar surface occulted by the planet (following Johnson et al. 2014; Zhou et al. 2016b), incorporating variations in the projected velocity, limb darkening, and radial-tangential macroturbulence.

Our model fits for the orbital period (\( P \)), transit centroid (\( T_0 \)), planet-star radius ratio (\( R_\text{p}/R_* \)), normalized semimajor axis (\( a/R_* \)), transit inclination (\( \text{inc} \)), projected spin–orbit angle (\( \lambda \)), and rotational broadening (\( v \sin i_\text{rot} \)). We also fit for the broadening of the planetary shadow due to the macroturbulence \( v_{\text{macro}} \) on the stellar surface under the projected shadow of the planet in our transit model. We also incorporate the Dartmouth evolutionary tracks (Dotter et al. 2008), spectroscopic stellar parameters for effective temperature (\( T_\text{eff} \)), metallicity ([Fe/H]), and the Gaia DR2 parallax (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2018) to constrain the system parameters simultaneous to the model fitting (as per Seager & Mallén-Ornelas 2003; Sozzetti et al. 2007). Gaussian priors are enforced on the \( T_\text{eff} \), log g, [Fe/H], \( v \sin i_\text{rot} \), and \( v_{\text{macro}} \) parameters based on their spectroscopic properties from Rodriguez et al. (2017). We also apply Gaussian priors on the parameters \( P \) and \( T_0 \) based on the analyses of Lendl et al. (2017), who observed an additional
Uniform priors are applied to all other free parameters. We hold \( \sigma / R_p \) \((-0.43, 0.42)\) and \( \text{inc} (^\circ) \) \((0.056, 0.056)\), \( \omega (^\circ) \) \((-10.95, 10.95)\) \(\text{HARPS Priors} \), and \( \nu \text{sin} i_{\text{rot}} (\text{km s}^{-1}) \) \((13.00, 0.28)\)

The models are initiated with the two planets having a uniform distribution of mutual inclinations. The semimajor axes and masses for the model systems are drawn from Gaussian distributions of both planets in HD 106315 are well aligned with the respective stellar properties and photometric filters. Quadratic limb-darkening parameters are also assumed in the modeling of the Doppler tomographic signal, with the bandpass assumed to be equivalent to that of the \( \text{Kepler} \) band. The best-fit parameters and posteriors are explored through a Markov invariant ensemble sampler \( \text{EMCEE} \) \citep{Foreman-Mackey2013} and are tabulated in Table 2. In addition, we also report the results of fits using the Doppler tomographic observations from each independent instrument in Table 2.

For the combined data set, we calculate the fraction of times both planets remain in the transit configuration for more than 10% of the time. Systems with high mutual inclination system, we conclude that the orbit is consistent with a well aligned orbit. The significance of the Doppler tomographic detection can be estimated by aligning the planetary shadow during each transit along its predicted velocity based on our best-fit model. Figure 6 shows the averaged planetary shadow for each of the observations, and for the combined data set. We find that the planetary shadow is detected at a significance of \( 7.8\sigma \) over the four spectroscopic transits. In fact, the Doppler tomographic signal is detected in each data set, at \( 2.8\sigma \) and \( 2.7\sigma \) for the HARPS observations on 2017 March 09 and 30, at \( 2.6\sigma \) with the TRES observation on 2017 April 20, at \( 3.3\sigma \) with the red arm of the \text{MIKE/Magellan} observation on 2018 March 01, and at \( 6.7\sigma \) using the observations from the blue arm of \text{MIKE/Magellan}.

### 4. Discussion

#### 4.1. Dynamical Constraints on the System Mutual Inclination

Though both the in situ and in-disk migration scenarios predict well aligned planetary systems with low mutual inclinations, it is possible to excite the mutual inclinations of compact systems via exterior Jovian planets \citep[e.g.,][]{Becker2017, Huang2017, Mustill2017}. Our Doppler tomographic observations constrain the spin–orbit angle of HD 106315c, the largest planet in the system. The inner planet, HD 106315b, is too small for spectroscopic transit follow-up by the current generation of instruments. Despite this, we can still constrain the obliquity and mutual inclination of the system via dynamical arguments.

It is difficult for a system of Neptunes with a large mutual inclination to maintain a constant transit node. We setup a series of \( N \)-body models of the HD 106315 system with the \text{REBOUND} tool \citep{Rein2012} to investigate the impact of mutual inclination on the transit configuration. We initiate 5000 models of the system, starting with configurations where both planets transit, and measure the fraction of times the systems remain in this alignment given an initial mutual inclination. The models are initiated with the two planets having a uniform distribution of mutual inclinations. The semimajor axes and masses for the model systems are drawn from Gaussian distributions about their published values from \citet{Barros2017}. Given the lack of a strict constraint on the eccentricity of the two planets, we draw eccentricities from uniform distributions based on the \( 1\sigma \) upper limits given in \citet{Barros2017}, with \( \kappa(0, 0.2) \) for planet b, and \( \kappa(0, 0.37) \) for planet c, with the argument of periastron \( \omega \) drawn from a uniform distribution of \( \kappa(0, 2\pi) \).

We allow the \( N \)-body models to run for \( 10^5 \) years and calculate the fraction of times both planets remain in the transit configuration from our line of sight. Figure 7 shows the timescale of this dual-transit configuration as a function of the initial mutual inclination of the system. Only those systems with initial mutual inclinations <5° remain in the dual-transit configuration for more than 10% of the time. Systems with larger initial mutual inclinations tend to precess out of the dual-transit geometry within \(~100\) years. Given the rapid fall off of the dual-transit timescale at higher mutual inclinations, and the slow a-priori geometric likelihood of observing dual transits in a high mutual inclination system, we conclude that the orbit normals of both planets in HD 106315 are well aligned with the spin axis of the host star. However, if the system does have a significant mutual inclination, we expect to detect precession of the orbits via transit duration variations, and eventually, the disappearance of transits, within the decades timescale.

| Parameter | Global | MIKE/Magellan | TRES | HARPS | Priors |
|-----------|--------|---------------|------|--------|--------|
| Period (days) | 21.05603±0.00022 | 21.05607±0.00031 | 21.05697±0.00048 | 21.05689±0.00037 | (21.05683, 0.00053) |
| \( T_0 \) (BJD) | 2457611.13292 ± 0.00087 | 2457611.13317±0.00085 | 2457611.13295±0.00090 | 2457611.13293±0.00091 | (2457611.1313, 0.0045) |
| \( R_p/R_* \) | 0.03266±0.00032 | 0.03265±0.00033 | 0.032618±0.00032 | 0.032620±0.00033 | \( U \) |
| \( \omega / R_* \) | 24.79±0.43 | 24.89±0.41 | 24.99±0.44 | 25.06±0.43 | \( U \) |
| \( \text{inc} (^\circ) \) | 88.304±0.057 | 88.323±0.056 | 88.337±0.057 | 88.340±0.062 | \( U \) |
| \( \lambda (^\circ) \) | −10.95±10.95 | −15.7±4.4 | 21±21 | 11.8±4.9 | \( U \) |
| \( \nu \text{sin} i_{\text{rot}} (\text{km s}^{-1}) \) | 13.00±0.28 | 12.57±0.56 | 13.08±0.29 | 13.15±0.28 | (13.08, 0.28) |
| \( \nu \text{max} (\text{km s}^{-1}) \) | 7.07±0.50 | 6.48±0.56 | 6.14±0.61 | 6.73±0.51 | (6.40, 0.60) |
| \( T_{\text{eff}} (K) \) | 6244±51 | 6246±50 | 6253±53 | 6258±51 | (6251, 52) |
| [Fe/H] (dex) | −0.27±0.07 | −0.28±0.07 | −0.27±0.083 | −0.259±0.080 | (−0.27, 0.08) |

**Note.** Adopted values are in bold.
We note that our $N$-body model assumes a three-body system. The possibility of a third outer planet was noted in Crossfield et al. (2017), though Barros et al. (2017) saw no evidence for additional planets in the HARPS radial velocities. For an external companion to influence the mutual inclination of planets b and c, it needs to be close-in enough to break the coupling between the inner planets. The coupling of planets b and c under the influence of an external companion can be estimated as per Lai & Pu (2017, Equation (12)). We estimate that planet b and c can be considered coupled ($\epsilon_{12} \ll 1$) for external planets as massive as 15 $M_{\text{Earth}}$ at semimajor axes beyond 0.4 au (92 day period). Saturn massed companions will need to be beyond 0.75 au for the inner planets to remain coupled.

4.2. The Obliquities of Warm Neptune Systems

HD 106315 is an F-star hosting a system of two planets, a super-Earth in a 9.55 day orbit, and a Neptune in a 21.06 day orbit. We presented a series of Doppler tomographic observations for the transits of the warm Neptune HD 106315c, finding its projected spin–orbit axis to be well aligned with the spin axis of the host star. From these observations, and dynamical arguments presented in Section 4.1, we find the planets in the HD 106315 system likely inhabit low obliquity, low mutual inclination orbits.

HD 106315 is only the ninth multi-planet transiting system to have the obliquity of at least one planet measured. Figure 8 shows these nine systems in the context of all multi-planet transiting systems. Spectroscopic transits and analyses of spot crossing events have been performed on a number of Jovian-sized planets in the multi-planet systems, including KOI-94 (Hirano et al. 2012; Albrecht et al. 2013), Kepler-30 (Sanchis-Ojeda et al. 2012), WASP-47 (Sanchis-Ojeda et al. 2015), and Kepler-9 (Wang et al. 2018), finding these to be well aligned systems. The warm Neptune systems Kepler-25 (Albrecht et al. 2013; Benomar et al. 2014; Campante et al. 2016), Kepler-50, Kepler-60 (Chaplin et al. 2013), and HD 106315 all inhabit low obliquity orbits too. The Kepler-56 system, with two warm Jupiters, is the only system found to be misaligned via asteroseismology (Huber et al. 2013).

In the hot-Jupiter obliquity distribution, planets orbiting stars cooler than the Kraft break (Kraft 1967, 1970) tend to be found in low obliquity orbits, while those orbiting hotter stars exhibit a wide distribution of angles (e.g., Winn et al. 2010a; Albrecht et al. 2012). Numerous mechanisms have been posed to explain this trend. Tidal interactions between the convective envelope of cool stars and the strong gravitational pull of close-in massive planets can re-align the spin axis of the outer envelope of the host star (e.g., Lai 2012; Rogers & Lin 2013; Xue et al. 2014). Torquing of the inner disk by massive exterior inclined companions may also occur (e.g., Batygin 2012; Lai 2014), and realignment of the disk of cooler disks around
In this context, the warm Neptune systems Kepler-25, Kepler-50, Kepler-65, and HD 106315 all orbit F stars close to the Kraft break, and are all found to be in well-aligned orbits. Their obliquities are shown as a function of orbital period in Figure 9. For comparison, in the hot-Jupiter sample, 17 planets orbit stars with $6000 < T_{\text{eff}} < 6300 \text{ K}$, of which four (24%) are found in misaligned geometries. The Neptunes in the multi-planet systems are all too distant, and too low-mass, to have influenced the spins of their host stars tidally. In the in situ formation scenario, we should expect all of these Neptune systems to be found in well aligned orbits barring the torquing of the protoplanetary disk. As such, these warm Neptunes systems around F stars are perfect laboratories to test the validity of this disk torquing mechanism. It is also interesting to note that the only other transiting Neptunes to have obliquities directly measured, the hot-Neptunes HAT-P-11b (Winn et al. 2010b; Hirano et al. 2011; Sanchis-Ojeda & Winn 2011), WASP-107b (Dai & Winn 2017), and GJ 436b (Bourrier et al. 2018), were all found in highly misaligned orbits around cooler stars (Figure 9). In all three cases, the low mass of the planets means the tidal realignment timescale is long despite their shorter orbital periods. If this trend holds, we may be seeing a dramatically different early history for hot and warm Neptunes.

We note that a dichotomy of properties exists between single-planet systems and multi-planet systems in eccentricity (Xie et al. 2016) and obliquity (Morton & Winn 2014). The warm and hot-Jupiter populations also differ in multiplicity rates (Steffen et al. 2012; Huang et al. 2016): warm Jupiters are more likely to be found with exterior and interior companions than hot Jupiters. The pathways that led to these dichotomies are not yet clear. Hot Jupiters that have dynamically migrated inward are likely to exhibit a variety of obliquities and may also have disrupted any inner planetary systems (Mustill et al. 2015). These hot Jupiters may also have formed in situ, and then underwent dynamical evolution that torqued the inner hot Jupiter’s obliquity to be misaligned to that of the outer planets (Batygin et al. 2016; Spalding & Batygin 2017). Differentiating between these scenarios will require additional

cooler stars may happen more quickly than those around hotter stars, leading to the observed distribution (Zanazzi & Lai 2017).
radial velocity follow-up of existing single-planet hot-Jupiter and Neptune systems (e.g., Yee et al. 2018) or to search for non-transiting inner gas giants to compact multi-planet systems.

4.3. Future Prospects

The intrinsically small radius ratios of Neptune systems make spectroscopic determination of obliquities difficult. HD 106315c is among the smallest planets to have its obliquity directly measured. Systems of Neptunes around bright, relatively rapidly rotating stars like HD 106315 are optimal for such observations. Luckily, we can expect to rapidly build on the obliquities of the four warm Neptune systems and two hot Neptunes in the near future.

With the recent successful launch of the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS, Ricker et al. 2016), we will soon see thousands of new planets to be found around bright, hot stars. We expect TESS to find 35 multiple transiting planetary systems orbiting stars brighter than $T_{\text{mag}} < 10$ and hotter than $T_{\text{eff}} > 6500$ K, totalling 77 planets in multi-planet systems during its first year of operations (Huang et al. in-prep). Of these, 39 planets in these transiting multi-planets will be of Neptune size ($2 < R_p < 6 R_{\text{Earth}}$) and suitable for further follow-up. In addition, we expect 217 Neptunes in single-planet systems around similarly bright stars from the first year of TESS observations. A comparative sample of these populations will help us map the formation pathways of close-in Neptune-sized planets.

As we have shown, stable instrument profiles are essential in easily tracing the spectroscopic transits of smaller planets. Luckily, a new generation of stable, highly precise spectrographs on large telescopes are coming online. Figure 10 shows the expected Doppler tomographic signal of planets in the HD 106315 system as measured by ESPRESSO utilising one unit of the 8 m Very Large Telescopes (Pepe et al. 2014) and G-CLEF on the 24 m Giant Magellan Telescope (Szentgyorgyi

---

Figure 10. Simulated Doppler tomographic signals of the HD 106315 system with the next generations of spectrographs. The top panels show simulated signals of the super-Earth HD 106315b as observed from three transits from ESPRESSO and a single transit with G-CLEF. The bottom panels show the simulated signals for the warm Neptune HD 106315c, as observed from single transits with ESPRESSO and G-CLEF. The detection significance is indicated on the titles of each sub-panel.
et al. 2012). We expect the Doppler tomographic signal of Neptune-sized planets around stars brighter than $V_{\text{mag}} = 10$ to be detectable with a single transit from ESPRESSO at the $3\sigma$ significance, while $\sim 2R_{\text{Earth}}$ super Earths like HD 106315b will require spectrographs on the upcoming generation of giant segmented mirror telescopes for clear detections from single transits. The detectability of the spectroscopic transits increases linearly with rotation of the host star. For a system around an equivalent host star rotating at $v \sin i = 25$ km s$^{-1}$, we expect a 4.7σ detection of planet b from three ESPRESSO transits.

We thank the referee for their comments and suggestions, which have improved the quality of this manuscript substantially. We thank Jessica Mink for running the TRES pipeline and maintaining the TRES archive. We acknowledge Andrew H. Szentgyorgyi, Gabor Fűrész, and John Geary, who played major roles in the development of the TRES instrument. The modeling in this paper was performed on the Smithsonian Institution High Performance Cluster (SI/HPC). Simulations in this paper made use of the REBOUND code which can be downloaded freely at http://github.com/hannorein/rebound. Work by G.Z. is provided by NASA through Hubble Fellowship grant HST-HF2-51402.001-A awarded by the Space Telescope Science Institute, which is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., for NASA, under contract NAS 5-26555. Work performed by J.E. R. was supported by the Harvard Future Faculty Leaders Postdoctoral fellowship. Work by A.V. is performed in part under contract with the California Institute of Technology/Jet Propulsion Laboratory funded by NASA through the Sagan Fellowship Program executed by the NASA Exoplanet Science Institute. Work by C.H. is supported by the Juan Carlos Torres Fellowship.

**Facilities: Magellan:** Clay (MIKE), FLWO: 1.5 m (TRES), ESO:3.6 m (HARPS).

**ORCID iDs**

George Zhou https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4891-3517
Joseph E. Rodriguez https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8812-0565
Andrew Vanderburg https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7246-5438
Samuel N. Quinn https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8964-8377
Chelsea X. Huang https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0918-7484
David W. Latham https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9911-7388
Allison Bieryla https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6637-5401
Michael L. Calkins https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2830-5661

**References**

Albrecht, S., Winn, J. N., Johnson, J. A., et al. 2012, ApJ, 757, 18
Albrecht, S., Winn, J. N., Marcy, G. W., et al. 2013, ApJ, 771, 11
Bakos, G. Á., Torres, G., Pál, A., et al. 2010, ApJ, 710, 1724
Barros, S. C. C., Gosselin, H., Lillo-Box, J., et al. 2017, A&A, 608, A25
Batygin, K., & Laughlin, G. 2015, PNAS, 112, 4214
Bessent, F., Zanazzi, J. J., & Lai, D. 2017, arXiv:1712.07655
Birch, B., Silvester, I., & Wambsganss, J. 2014, ApJ, 836, 105
Biermann, L., Zuckerman, B., & Shkolnik, E. L. 2019, ApJ, 880, 8
Bouchy, F., Pepe, F., Lo Curto, G., et al. 2009, A&A, 501, 901
Bouchy, F., Pepe, F., Santos, N. C., et al. 2005, A&A, 443, 1091
Bright, R. P., & Winn, J. N. 2014, ApJ, 790, 30
Buchhave, L. A., Bakos, G. Á., Hartman, J. D., et al. 2010, ApJ, 720, 1118
Campante, T. L., Lund, M. N., Kusdzewicz, J. S., et al. 2016, ApJ, 819, 85
Campante, T. L., Lund, M. N., Kusdzewicz, J. S., et al. 2016, ApJ, 819, 85

**Zhou et al.**