

# The highly inflated giant planet WASP-174b\*

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Context. The transiting exoplanetary system WASP-174 was reported to be composed by a main-sequence F star (V = 11.8 mag) and a giant planet, WASP-174b (orbital period  $P_{\rm orb} = 4.23$  days). However only an upper limit was placed on the planet mass (<1.3  $M_{\rm Jup}$ ), and a highly uncertain planetary radius (0.7–1.7  $R_{\rm Jup}$ ) was determined.

Aims. We aim to better characterise both the star and the planet and precisely measure their orbital and physical parameters.

Methods. In order to constrain the mass of the planet, we obtained new measurements of the radial velocity of the star and joined them with those from the discovery paper. Photometric data from the HATSouth survey and new multi-band, high-quality (precision reached up to 0.37 mmag) photometric follow-up observations of transit events were acquired and analysed for getting accurate photometric parameters. We fit the model to all the observations, including data from the TESS space telescope, in two different modes: incorporating the stellar isochrones into the fit, and using an empirical method to get the stellar parameters. The two modes resulted to be consistent with each other to within  $2\sigma$ .

Results. We confirm the grazing nature of the WASP-174b transits with a confidence level greater than  $5\sigma$ , which is also corroborated by simultaneously observing the transit through four optical bands and noting how the transit depth changes due to the limb-darkening effect. We estimate that  $\approx 76\%$  of the disk of the planet actually eclipses the parent star at mid-transit of its transit events. We find that WASP-174b is a highly-inflated hot giant planet with a mass of  $M_p = 0.330 \pm 0.091~M_{Jup}$  and a radius of  $R_p = 1.435 \pm 0.050~R_{Jup}$ , and is therefore a good target for transmission-spectroscopy observations. With a density of  $\rho_p = 0.135 \pm 0.042~g~cm^{-3}$ , it is amongst the lowest-density planets ever discovered with precisely measured mass and radius.

**Key words.** planetary systems – stars: fundamental parameters – stars: individual: WASP-174 – techniques: photometric – techniques: radial velocities – methods: data analysis

#### 1. Introduction

After almost 20 yr of initially pioneering and then systematic operations, ground-based surveys, based on single or on an array of small automated telescopes or telephoto lenses, have made

a huge contribution to the discovery of exoplanets. They open the way to current and next generation space-telescope surveys for transiting exoplanets. Nevertheless, the work of robotic telescopes is far from finished as they are exceptionally well-suited to detecting hot giant planets. Given that hot giant planets are known to be relatively rare from both RV surveys (Mayor et al. 2011; Wright et al. 2012) and transit surveys (Fressin et al. 2013; Fulton & Petigura 2018), in order to discover such planets it

<sup>\*</sup> The reduced lightcurves are only available at the CDS via anonymous ftp to cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr (130.79.128.5) or via http://cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr/viz-bin/cat/J/A+A/633/A30

is necessary to scan the sky with wide-field instruments that are sensitive to various ranges of stellar magnitudes. For this purpose, nearly 10-yr long observational campaigns have been carried out by ground based observatories, equipped with small automated telescopes (e.g. Bakos et al. 2004; Pollacco et al. 2006; Pepper et al. 2007). More recently, this approach of multiple, wide-field, small aperture telescopes has been adopted from a space environment with the successful TESS<sup>1</sup> mission (Ricker et al. 2015).

The formation, evolution and possible migration of hot giant exoplanets are complex phenomena, due to many interacting astrophysical processes. Observational constraints are thus necessary to discriminate the best theoretical models among the competing ones that have been proposed. A large sample of giant exoplanets, whose physical properties are well known, is needed for obtaining good statistics, and very accurate measurements of their mass and radius is crucial for this purpose. However, the complete characterization of an exoplanetary system requires, in many cases, additional observational data and modeling.

Recently, the WASP team announced the discovery of a transiting exoplanet orbiting the star WASP-174 (Temple et al. 2018), whose main parameters are summarised in Table 1. This planetary system was reported as composed by a F6V star and a near-grazing transiting planet, which rotates on a moderately misaligned and (assumed) circular orbit in 4.23 days, but with only an upper limit on the mass  $(M_p < 1.3 M_{Jup})$  due to the relatively low precision of the radial velocity measurements over most of the orbital phase  $(>50 \,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}})$ . Also the radius of the planet was difficult to constrain precisely  $(0.7 < R_p/R_{Jup} < 1.7)$ , because the transit is either grazing or near-grazing and does not show the second and third contact points. The planetary nature of the planet was in fact confirmed by taking a continuous series of spectra during a transit event with the HARPS high-resolution spectrograph and performing the Doppler tomographic method (Temple et al. 2018).

Similar to the case of WASP-67b (Hellier et al. 2012), WASP-174b seems to satisfy the criterion for a grazing transiting planet, that is  $b + (R_p/R_\star) > 1$ , where b is the impact parameter. In a such grazing orbit, the second and third contact points are missing and the transit light curve has a V shape, similar to that of an eclipsing binary. Consequently the photometric parameters, like  $R_p/R_\star$  and b, are difficult to constrain and we need very high-quality light curves to reduce the uncertainties to levels similar to those of the other well-studied, non-grazing, transiting exoplanets ( $\leq 20\%$ ).

WASP-174b was detected independently as a candidate transiting planet from HATSouth<sup>2</sup> survey<sup>3</sup>, and thus we have observations dating back to 2011 for discovery photometry and 2014 for follow-up spectroscopy and photometry. Here, we use these

**Table 1.** Astrometric, photometric and spectroscopic parameters for WASP-174.

Quantity	This work	Source	
Cross-identifications			
2MASS-ID	13031055-4123053	2MASS	
GSC-ID	7781-00928	GSC	
GAIA-ID	6139403446074853376	Gaia DR1	
GAIA-ID	6139403450370668800	Gaia DR2	
TIC	102192004	TESS	
Astrometric properties			
RA (J2000)	13 <sup>h</sup> 03 <sup>m</sup> 10.563 <sup>s</sup>	Gaia DR2	
Dec (J2000)	-41° 23′ 05.412″	Gaia DR2	
$\mu_{\rm RA}~({\rm mas~yr^{-1}})$	$0.043 \pm 0.071$	Gaia DR2	
$\mu_{\rm Dec} \ ({\rm mas\ yr}^{-1})$	$-5.784 \pm 0.112$	Gaia DR2	
Parallax (mas)	$2.411 \pm 0.060$	Gaia DR2	
Photometric properties	S		
G (mag)	$11.6826 \pm 0.0003$	Gaia DR2	
BP (mag)	$11.9495 \pm 0.0009$	Gaia DR2	
RP (mag)	$11.2753 \pm 0.0010$	Gaia DR2	
B (mag)	$12.30 \pm 0.10$	APASS	
V (mag)	$11.790 \pm 0.060$	APASS	
g (mag)	$12.00 \pm 0.10$	APASS	
r (mag)	$11.677 \pm 0.090$	APASS	
i (mag)	$11.56 \pm 0.12$	APASS	
J (mag)	$10.845 \pm 0.027$	2MASS	
H (mag)	$10.599 \pm 0.024$	2MASS	
K (mag)	$10.579 \pm 0.021$	2MASS	
W1 (mag)	$10.530 \pm 0.022$	WISE	
W2 (mag)	$10.561 \pm 0.021$	WISE	
W3 (mag)	$10.510 \pm 0.064$	WISE	
W4 (mag)	8.964	WISE	
Spectroscopic properti	es		
$T_{\mathrm{eff}\star}$ (K)	$6400 \pm 100$	Temple et al. (2018)	
[Fe/H]	$0.090 \pm 0.090$	Temple et al. (2018)	
$v \sin i \text{ (km s}^{-1}\text{)}$	$16.50 \pm 0.50$	Temple et al. (2018)	

observations, in conjunction with other data, including TESS data, to perform a comprehensive study of the WASP-174 system, which allows us to much better characterize the physical parameters of this planetary system.

### 2. Observations

#### 2.1. The HAT South survey

HATSouth (Bakos et al. 2013) is a three-station network of ground-based, automated wide-field telescopes. The stations are placed in the southern hemisphere, on three different continents (South America, Africa and Australia). Each station hosts two units composed of a single mount, on which four 18 cm Takahashi astrographs are placed; 24 telescopes in total. Each of the six units can monitor a region on the celestial sphere of  $8^{\circ} \times 8^{\circ}$ . The large separation in longitude of the three stations allows us to monitor the same stellar field for 24 h per day without interruptions, except for bad weather. The images are recorded by Apogee U16M Alta CCD cameras, automatically calibrated and then stored in the HATSouth archive at Princeton University. Aperture photometry is performed for extracting light curves, which are then analysed with the aim to find periodic

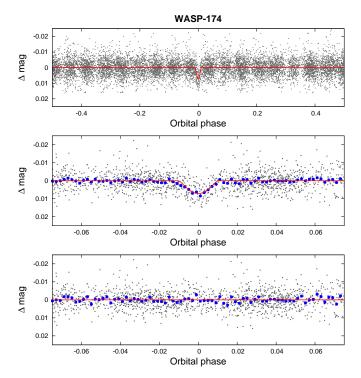
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The HATSouth network is operated by a collaboration consisting of Princeton University (PU), the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA), the Australian National University (ANU), and the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC). The station at Las Campanas Observatory (LCO) of the Carnegie Institute is operated by PU in conjunction with PUC, the station at the High Energy Spectroscopic Survey (H.E.S.S.) site is operated in conjunction with MPIA, and the station at Siding Spring Observatory (SSO) is operated jointly with ANU. Based on observations made with the MPG 2.2 m Telescope at the ESO Observatory in La Silla. Based in part on observations made with TESS, the facilities of the Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope, the Perth Exoplanet Survey Telescope, and the 3.9 m Anglo-Australian Telescope at SSO.

http://hatsouth.org/

**Table 2.** Summary of photometric observations from the HATSouth survey.

Instrument/field	Date(s)	# Images	Cadence (s)	Filter	Precision (mmag)
HS-2.2/G700	2011 Apr 26–2012 Jul 30	4409	321.3	r	5.6
HS-4.2/G700	2011 Jul 8–2012 Jul 29	3815	328.5	r	4.9
HS-6.2/G700	2012 Jan 5-2012 Jul 31	1464	303.2	r	5.2



**Fig. 1.** Phase-folded unbinned HATSouth light curves for WASP-174. *Top panel*: full light curve, while *middle panel*: light curve zoomed-in on the transit. The solid line shows the model fit to the light curve. The residuals of the fit are shown in the *bottom panel*. The dark filled circles in the *bottom panels* show the light curves binned in phase with a bin size of 0.002.

signals due to transiting exoplanets. Finally, the most promising candidates undergo spectral reconnaissance, radial-velocity (RV) measurements and precise photometric follow-up observations with larger telescopes to confirm they are real exoplanets. The entire process is exhaustively described, step by step, in Bakos et al. (2013) and summarised in most of the previous works of the HATSouth team<sup>4</sup>.

## 2.2. Photometric detection

WASP-174 (aka 2MASS 13031055-4123053, aka HATS700-010) was observed, through a Sloan-r filter, by the HATSouth telescopes between April 2011 and July 2012 (see Table 2 for details). The subsequent analysis of its light curve, which is plotted in Fig. 1, resulted in a typical transiting-planet signal with a period of  $\approx$ 4.23 days. WASP-174 was thus flagged as planetary-system candidate and underwent follow-up observations for confirming its planetary nature.

#### 2.3. Spectroscopic observations

We acquired 16 RV measurements of WASP-174 by using the FEROS high-resolution spectrograph at the MPG 2.2 m telescope. Comprehensive details about the instrument, data reduction, and corresponding RV extracting method can be found in the previous works of the HATSouth team (see footnote #3), and are largely based on the CERES pipeline (Brahm et al. 2017). Details concerning the observations are summarized in Table 3, while the values of the RV measurements are reported in Table A.1 together with those from HARPS and Coralie taken from Temple et al. (2018). The phase-folded RVs of WASP-174 are plotted in Fig. 2 together with bisector spans (BS). The measurement of the Rossiter-McLaughlin effect by Temple et al. (2018) is highlighted in Fig. 3 (see discussion in Sect. 4).

#### 2.4. Photometric follow-up observations

Broad-band photometric follow-up observations of several transit events of WASP-174b were also obtained with larger telescopes (see Table 4), with the aim to obtain a better determination of the photometric parameters. In particular, a complete transit was simultaneously observed with the AAT 3.9 m and PEST 0.3 m telescopes and another complete transit was recorded with the LCOGT 1 m.

More recently, we obtained high-quality, optical light curves of another transit event, by using the GROND multi-band camera mounted on the MPG 2.2 m telescope at the ESO Observatory in La Silla, during a photometric night with good seeing ( $\approx 0.5''$ ). GROND is an instrument which is capable of simultaneous observations in four optical (similar to Sloan g', r', i', z') and three NIR (J, H, K) passbands (Greiner et al. 2008). It was conceived for observing transient events, but it turned out to be an optimum instrument for monitoring planetary transits too (e.g. Mohler-Fischer et al. 2013). Several points were cut from the final light curves due to tracking issues before and after the transit. Again, details about the telescopes and data reduction are reported in the previous works of the HATSouth team (for the GROND-data reduction, see also Mancini et al. 2019). The corresponding light curves can be examined in Fig. 4.

### 2.5. Limb darkening and transit depth

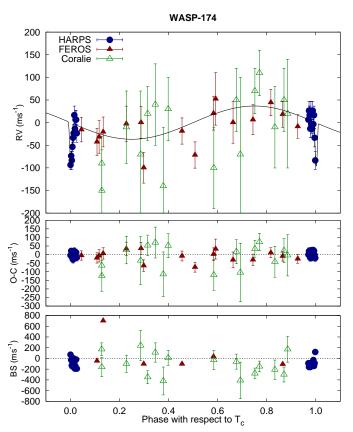
We plotted the four optical GROND light curves superimposed in Fig. 5 to highlight the differences of the transit depth among the four passbands. For normal transiting-planet systems, in which the orbital inclination is  $\approx 90^{\circ}$  and it is possible to precisely measure the timings of the four contact points, it is well known that the transit depth gradually decreases moving from blue to red bands (e.g. Knutson et al. 2007); actually, the limb radiation of a star is characteristically cooler than that from its centre and, hence, is slightly redder. Here, instead, we observe the opposite effect. Since WASP-174b is a grazing transiting

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The complete list of the HATSouth discovery papers is available on http://hatsouth.org/planets/

Table 3. Summary of spectroscopy observations.

Instrument	Date(s)	# Spec.	Res. power $(\lambda/\Delta\lambda)$	<i>S/N</i> range <sup>(a)</sup> (km s <sup>-1</sup> )	$\gamma_{ m RV}^{~(b)} \ ({ m km  s^{-1}})$	RV precision (c)
MPG 2.2 m/FEROS	2014 June–2015 April	16	48000	41–114	$4.9256 \pm 0.0068$	31

**Notes.** (a) S /N per resolution element near 5180 Å. (b) This is the zero-point RV from the best-fit orbit. (c) This is the scatter in the RV residuals from the best-fit orbit.



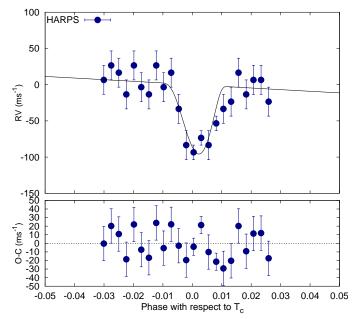
**Fig. 2.** Phased high-precision RV measurements for WASP-174. The instruments used are labelled in the plots. *Top panel*: phased measurements together with our best-fit model. Zero-phase corresponds to the time of mid-transit. The center-of-mass velocity has been subtracted. The solid line shows the best-fitting model (see discussion in Sect. 3). *Second panel*: velocity O-C residuals from the best fit. *Third panel*: bisector spans (BS). Note the different vertical scales of the panels.

planet, during its transits it only covers the limb of its parent start, which is fainter in blue than in red wavelengths, resulting in shallower eclipses in the bluest bands for this system. This behavior is similar to that of WASP-67b, another grazing transiting planet (Mancini et al. 2014) (see also Perryman et al. 2018, pag. 224).

#### 2.6. TESS photometry

WASP-174 was also observed by TESS (Ricker et al. 2015) during Sector 10 of its primary mission. Near continuous observations of the target star from 2019-03-29 to 2019-04-22 were obtained through Camera 2, CCD 3 of the spacecraft, and downlinked via the ~30 min cadenced Full Frame Images (FFI).

The light curve was extracted using the calibrated FFIs from the TESS Science Processing Operations Center (Jenkins et al. 2016). A cut out of  $10 \times 10$  pixels around the target star was



**Fig. 3.** Zoom of Fig. 2 to highlight our fit of the 23 HARPS RVs, which were taken by the WASP team during a transit event (Temple et al. 2018), and the moderately misalignment of the orbit of WASP-174b.

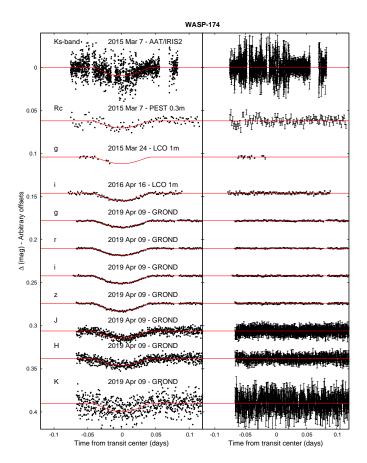
downloaded via the *TESScut* tool from the Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST) archives. Aperture photometry was performed using the *lightkurve* package (Barentsen et al. 2019), with the aperture manually selected to best avoid the  $T_{\rm mag}=12.7$  variable star 24.5" away from WASP-174. The light curve was detrended via a set of cubic splines, fitted with the known transits and spacecraft momentum dumps masked out. Finally, the light curve was adjusted for third light blending due to nearby stars via the TIC-6 catalogue (Stassun et al. 2018). The last step was necessary, because this nearby 12.7-mag star is somewhat variable, causing contamination on the WASP-174 star. While no clear hints of occultation are present, a very clear transit signal was obtained (Fig. 6), which is in close agreement to the transits presented in the previous sections.

### 3. Physical properties

The observational data, which were presented in the previous section, were modeled to refine the main physical properties of the WASP-174 system. The modeling was performed following the procedure described in detail in Hartman et al. (2019) with a few modifications that we discuss here. We carry out a joint fit of the available light curves, RV observations, broad-band catalog photometry, and spectroscopically determined stellar atmospheric parameters using a Differential Evolution Markov chain Monte Carlo (DEMCMC) procedure. We constrain the physical

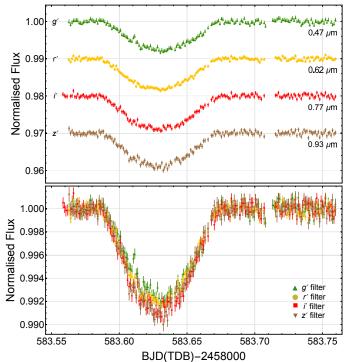
Table 4. Summary of photometric follow-up observations.

Telescope/instrument	Date(s)	# Images	Cadence (s)	Filter	Precision (mmag)
AAT 3.9 m/IRIS2	2015 Mar 07	1758	6	$K_{\rm s}$	8.26
PEST 0.3 m	2015 Mar 07	198	132	$R_{\rm c}$	3.68
LCOGT 1 m/SBIG	2015 Mar 24	15	212	g	1.08
LCOGT 1 m/sinistro	2016 Apr 16	112	129	$\ddot{i}$	1.00
MPG 2.2 m/GROND	2019 Apr 10	177	90	g'	0.47
MPG 2.2 m/GROND	2019 Apr 10	175	90	r'	0.37
MPG 2.2 m/GROND	2019 Apr 10	178	90	i'	0.44
MPG 2.2 m/GROND	2019 Apr 10	175	90	z <b>'</b>	0.52
MPG 2.2 m/GROND	2019 Apr 10	741	22	J	2.67
MPG 2.2 m/GROND	2019 Apr 10	741	22	H	3.10
MPG 2.2 m/GROND	2019 Apr 10	741	22	K	8.30
TESS	2019 Mar 29–Apr 04	975	1800	TESS filter	1.17



**Fig. 4.** Unbinned transit light curves for WASP-174. The dates of the events, filters and instruments used are indicated. Light curves following the first are displaced vertically for clarity. Our best fit from the global modeling is shown by the solid lines. The residuals from the best-fitting model are shown on the right-hand-side in the same order as the original light curves. Note the precision of the GROND light curves, which have point-to-point scatters between 0.37 and 0.52 mmag.

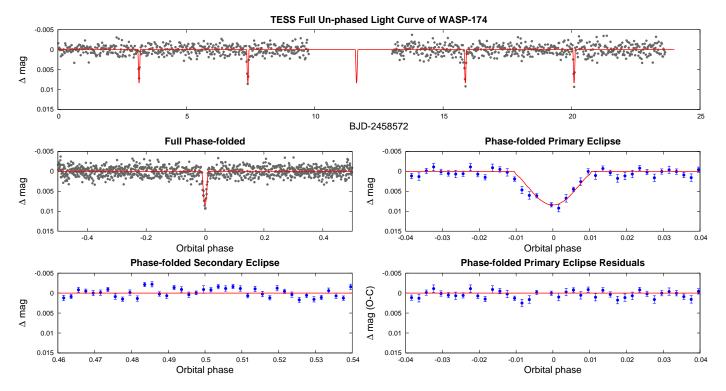
parameters of the star (and planet) using two different methods: (1) an isochrone-based method where we use the PARSEC stellar evolution models (Marigo et al. 2017) and perform an interpolation within a pre-computed grid of these isochrones at each step in the Markov chain using the stellar effective temperature, density and metallicity (which are varied in the fit) as look-up



**Fig. 5.** Simultaneous four optical light curves of a transit of WASP-174b obtained with GROND. *Top panel*: individual light-curves with arbitrary offsets for clarity. *Bottom panel*: all light-curves superimposed for comparison purposes. The passbands and their central wavelengths are labelled. Note how the transit light curve shape changes with wavelength. Contrary to higher-inclination transiting planetary systems, the transit in the g' band is shallower than the other bands, because the transit is grazing and the limb darkening is stronger at bluer wavelengths. The same effect was observed in only another case, that is WASP-67b (Mancini et al. 2014).

parameters; (2) an empirical model where we use the stellar radius (determined from the temperature and luminosity, which is constrained primarily by the *Gaia* observations) and density to empirically determine the stellar mass. In this paper we differ from Hartman et al. (2019) in using a newer version of the PAR-SEC models obtained through the CMD v3.2 web-interface<sup>5</sup>,

<sup>5</sup> http://stev.oapd.inaf.it/cgi-bin/cmd



**Fig. 6.** TESS light curve of WASP-174 and our best fit from the global modeling (solid lines). The full un-phased light curve is plotted in the *top panel*. *Left-hand middle panel*: full phase-folded light curve, while *left-hand bottom panel*: phase-folded light curve zoomed-in on the transit, while *right-hand bottom panel*: corresponding residuals from the best-fitting model.

adopting an updated set of bolometric corrections for the Gaia DR2 photometric bandpasses (Maíz Apellániz & Weiler 2018), and incorporating infrared photometry from the WISE mission (Cutri et al. 2014) into the fit as well. Incorporating the WISE photometry allows for a more direct constraint on the extinction  $A_V$ , whereas this was previously constrained primarily through the MWDUST 3D dust model of the Galaxy (Bovy et al. 2016). We still use the MWDUST model as a prior, but it is less informative on the value than in our previous analyses. To model the Rossiter-McLaughlin effect observed in the HARPS measurements presented by Temple et al. (2018), which we fit in the joint analysis (see Fig. 3), we use the ARoME package (Boué et al. 2013), utilizing the modeling branch appropriate for RV observations obtained through the cross-correlation function (CCF) method. In fitting the TESS light curve, the model is integrated over the 30 min full-frame image exposure time. We also fit the detrended TESS light curve, rather than detrending simultaneously with the fit, see Fig. 6.

One other difference from Hartman et al. (2019) is that we allow the quadratic limb darkening coefficients to vary in the fit, whereas previously we held them fixed to theoretically expected values. Here we allow them to vary, but use the tabulations from Claret et al. (2012, 2013) and Claret (2018) to place Gaussian priors on their values.

The stellar parameters for the star and the planet are shown in Tables 5 and 6, respectively. We reported both the isochrone- and empirical-model results and compared them with those from the discovery paper. The results from the two models are consistent with each other to within  $2\sigma$ , with the isochrone models being somewhat more precise. We adopt the sets of parameters coming from the isochrone model as the final ones for consistency with our previous works, for which the isochrone was always

**Table 5.** Derived stellar parameters for WASP-174.

Quantity	This	Temple et al. (2018)	
	Isochrone (fiducial)	Empirical	
$T_{\mathrm{eff}\star}$ (K)	$6399 \pm 68$	$6376 \pm 59$	$6400 \pm 100$
[Fe/H]	$0.060 \pm 0.060$	$0.013 \pm 0.073$	$0.09 \pm 0.09$
$v \sin i \text{ (km s}^{-1}\text{)}$	$16.24 \pm 0.53$	$16.35 \pm 0.51$	$16.5 \pm 0.5$
$M_{\star}~(M_{\odot})$	$1.240 \pm 0.038$	$1.303 \pm 0.090$	$1.27 \pm 0.06$
$R_{\star} (R_{\odot})$	$1.347 \pm 0.018$	$1.365 \pm 0.032$	$1.3 \pm 0.1$
$\log g_{\star}$ (cgs)	$4.273 \pm 0.010$	$4.281 \pm 0.020$	$4.35 \pm 0.05$
$\rho_{\star}  (\mathrm{g  cm^{-3}})$	$0.716 \pm 0.022$	$0.715^{+0.037}_{-0.028}$	$0.85 \pm 0.28$
$L_{\star}$ $(L_{\odot})$	$2.73 \pm 0.16$	$2.77 \pm 0.15$	_
Age (Gyr)	$2.20\pm0.52$	$1.46^{+1.84}_{-0.80}$	$1.65 \pm 0.85$
$A_V$ (mag)	$0.114 \pm 0.044$	$0.079^{+0.038}_{-0.028}$	_
Distance (pc)	$406.8 \pm 6.6$	$413.2 \pm 9.0$	_

**Notes.** Both the isochrone- and empirical-model results are reported and compared with those from the discovery paper.

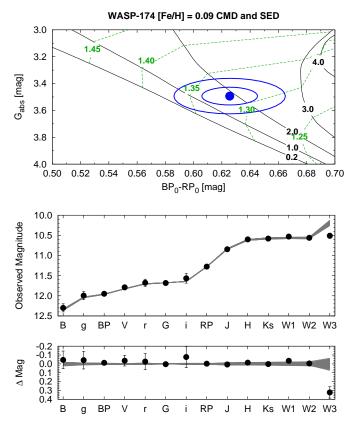
our default fiducial model. The location of WASP-174 on the absolute G-magnitude versus Gaia DR2 BP - RP color in illustrated in Fig. 7 (top panel), while the broadband spectral energy distribution (SED) fits to the observed bands is plotted in the bottom panel of the same figure.

Our analysis gives a grazing solution with a confidence greater than  $5\sigma$ , that is  $b + (R_p/R_\star) = 1.0628 \pm 0.0094$ , which is larger than 1 and, therefore, indicates that the transits of WASP-174b are grazing. Using plane geometry and circle-circle

Table 6. Orbital and planetary parameters for WASP-174b.

Parameter	This	Temple et al. (2018)	
	Isochrone (fiducial)	Empirical	
Light curve parameters			
P (days)	$4.2337005 \pm 0.0000018$	$4.2337006 \pm 0.0000017$	$4.233700 \pm 0.000003$
$T_c$ (BJD)	$2458545.52660 \pm 0.00014$ $0.08726 \pm 0.00065$	$2458545.52661 \pm 0.00013$ $0.08739 \pm 0.00073$	$2457465.9322 \pm 0.0005$
$T_{14}$ (days) $a/R_{\star}$	$8.789 \pm 0.088$		$0.084 \pm 0.002$
		$8.78^{+0.15}_{-0.12}$	_
$\zeta/R_{\star}$	$43.1 \pm 2.2$	$42.6^{+4.8}_{-2.8}$	_
$R_p/R_{\star}$	$0.1098 \pm 0.0030$	$0.1100 \pm 0.0044$	_
$R_p^2/R_\star^2$	_	_	$0.0089 \pm 0.0003$
$b^2$	$0.908^{+0.011}_{-0.013}$	$0.907^{+0.019}_{-0.018}$	_
$b \equiv a \cos i / R_{\star}$	$0.9530^{+0.0060}_{-0.0066}$	$0.9523^{+0.0100}_{-0.0095}$	$0.92 \pm 0.03$
i (deg)	$83.780 \pm 0.096$	$83.77 \pm 0.15$	$84.5 \pm 0.6$
Limb-darkening coefficients (a)			
$c_1, g$	$0.39 \pm 0.13$	$0.40 \pm 0.13$	_
$c_2, g$	$0.21 \pm 0.15$	$0.22 \pm 0.15$	_
$c_1, r$	$0.30 \pm 0.12$	$0.29 \pm 0.12$	_
$c_2, r$	$0.18 \pm 0.14$	$0.21 \pm 0.14$	_
$c_1, R$	$0.24 \pm 0.15$	$0.22 \pm 0.14$	_
$c_2, R$	$0.20 \pm 0.17$	$0.25 \pm 0.18$	_
$c_1, i$	$0.18 \pm 0.11$	$0.20 \pm 0.10$	_
$c_2, i$	$0.13 \pm 0.14$	$0.14 \pm 0.12$	_
$c_1, z$	$0.129 \pm 0.089$	$0.141 \pm 0.091$	_
$c_2, z$	$0.20 \pm 0.12$	$0.19 \pm 0.12$	_
$c_1, J$	$0.26 \pm 0.13$	$0.29 \pm 0.13$	_
$c_2, J$	$0.30 \pm 0.15$	$0.28 \pm 0.16$	_
$c_1, H$	$0.35 \pm 0.13$	$0.32 \pm 0.13$	_
$c_2, H$	$0.23 \pm 0.16$	$0.29 \pm 0.16$	_
$c_1, K$	$0.142_{-0.099+0.142}$	$0.16 \pm 0.11$	_
$c_2, K$	$0.19 \pm 0.16$	$0.18 \pm 0.15$	_
$c_1$ , TESS	$0.19 \pm 0.12$	$0.17 \pm 0.11$	_
$c_2$ , TESS	$0.10 \pm 0.14$	$0.11 \pm 0.15$	_
RV properties			
$K \text{ (m s}^{-1})$	$36.1 \pm 9.8$	$38.4 \pm 9.1$	_
e	0	0	0
RV jitter FEROS (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	< 6.0	<6.1	_
RV jitter HARPS (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	<2.8	<12.6	_
RV jitter CORALIE (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	<19.2	<25.7	_
Planetary parameters			
$M_{\rm p}~(M_{\rm Jup})$	$0.330 \pm 0.091$	$0.366 \pm 0.088$	<1.3
$R_{\rm p} (R_{ m Jup})$	$1.437 \pm 0.050$	$1.462 \pm 0.075$	$1.2 \pm 0.5$
$C(M_{\rm p},R_{\rm p})$	-0.00	0.15	_
$\rho_{\rm p}~({\rm gcm^{-3}})$	$0.135 \pm 0.042$	$0.143^{+0.047}_{-0.033}$	_
$\log g_{\rm p}$ (cgs)	$2.59 \pm 0.13$	$2.63 \pm 0.12$	_
a (au)	$0.05503 \pm 0.00056$	$0.0560^{+0.0012}_{-0.0016}$	$0.0555 \pm 0.0009$
	$1528 \pm 17$	$1521 \pm 19$	$1557 \pm 14$
$T_{\rm eq}$ (K)			1 <i>331</i> ± 14
Θ	$0.0203 \pm 0.0056$	$0.0214 \pm 0.0051$	_
$\log_{10}\langle F \rangle$ (cgs)	$9.089 \pm 0.019$	$9.085 \pm 0.021$	_

**Notes.** Both the isochrone- and empirical-model results are reported and compared with those from the discovery paper. <sup>(a)</sup> A quadratic law was used and the LD coefficients were allowed to vary, but with Gaussian priors adopted from the tabulations by Claret et al. (2012, 2013) and Claret (2018).



**Fig. 7.** Top panel: color-magnitude diagram of WASP-174 compared to theoretical isochrones (black lines) and stellar evolution tracks (green lines) from the PARSEC models interpolated at its metallicity, which was spectroscopically determined. The stellar mass of each evolution track is reported in green in solar mass units, while the black numbers denote the age of of each isochrone in Gyr. The blue circle shows the measured reddening- and distance-corrected value from *Gaia* DR2, together with  $1\sigma$  and  $2\sigma$  confidence regions (blue lines). Bottom panels: broadband spectral energy distribution (black points) as photometrically measured through the observed filters, compared with model SEDs (gray lines), followed by the O–C residuals from the best-fit model.

intersection formulae (Lillo-Box et al. 2015), we estimate that roughly 76% of the planetary disc transits the parent star at each mid-transit time. Specifically,  $A_{\rm ecl}/A_{\rm p}=0.76\pm0.12$ , where  $A_{\rm p}$  is the full area of the disk of the planet, while  $A_{\rm ecl}$  is the area of the part of the planetary disk that actually eclipses the parent star.

With our new data, we are able to constrain the mass and radius of the planet. Based on the results from the isochrone model, we find that WASP-174b has  $M_{\rm p}=0.330\pm0.091\,M_{\rm Jup}$  and  $R_{\rm p}=1.437\pm0.050\,R_{\rm Jup}$ , and is therefore a very low-density, inflated hot giant planet with  $T_{\rm eq}=1528\pm17\,\rm K$ . It is worth noting that the empirical model points towards a planet with greater gravity and density, even though the differences versus the fiducial parameters are within the error bars.

#### 4. Summary and discussion

In this paper we have refined the physical parameters of the transiting planetary system WASP-174, which was a HAT-South transiting planet candidate at the time its discovery was announced by the WASP team in Temple et al. (2018). In particular, using the data from the HATSouth survey and those from spectroscopic and photometric follow-up observations, we were able to confirm that the WASP-174b is transiting in front of its

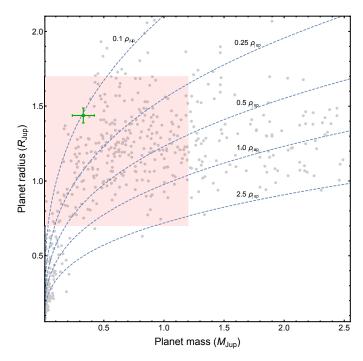


Fig. 8. Masses and radii of the known transiting extrasolar planets. The plot is restricted to exoplanets with values of the mass until  $2.5\,M_{\rm Jup}$  and radius until  $2.0\,R_{\rm Jup}$ . Grey points denote values taken from the Transiting Extrasolar Planet Catalogue (TEPCat)<sup>6</sup>, (Southworth 2011). Their error bars have been suppressed for clarity. The green point with error bars refers to the position of WASP-174b in the diagram (this work), compared to the possible values of the two parameters reported in the discovery paper (light-red box; Temple et al. 2018). Dotted lines show where density is 2.5, 1.0, 0.5, 0.25 and  $0.1\,\rho_{\rm Jup}$ .

parent star every  $\approx 4.2$  days and the semi-major axis of its orbit is  $\approx 0.055$  au. We also confirm the main characteristics of the host star, a F6 V dwarf star with  $M_{\star} = 1.240 \pm 0.038 \, M_{\odot}$  and  $R_{\star} = 1.347 \pm 0.018 \, R_{\odot}$  (Table 5). Most importantly, we were able to obtain a much better characterization of the physical parameters of the exoplanet WASP-174b with respect to the values reported in Temple et al. (2018), see Table 6 and Fig. 8.

Moreover, while Temple et al. (2018) were not able to precisely distinguish between a grazing or near-grazing solution, we have found that  $b + (R_p/R_\star) > 1$  at more than  $5\sigma$  confidence level, which definitively points towards a grazing nature for the WASP-174b transits. We have estimated that at mid-transit roughly 76% of the planetary disk eclipses the host star. The grazing scenario is also suggested by observing the shape and the depth of the grazing transits of WASP-174b (see Fig. 5) that change with the wavelength in a reverse way with respect to normal cases of a planetary transit, where the disk of the planet is entirely inside the disk of its parent star. Here, instead, the transits are grazing and the planet covers only the limb of the star, causing an increasing of the transit depth moving from blue to red bands.

Having measured the RV phase curve of the parent star (see Fig. 2), we have also determined that the mass of WASP-174b is  $M_{\rm p}=0.330\pm0.091\,M_{\rm Jup}$ , which, together with a more precise measurement of its radius,  $R_{\rm p}=1.437\pm0.050\,R_{\rm Jup}$ , indicates that WASP-174b is an extremely low-density giant planet at the border between Saturn- and Jupiter-type planets (Fig. 9). The

<sup>6</sup> Available at http://www.astro.keele.ac.uk/jkt/tepcat/

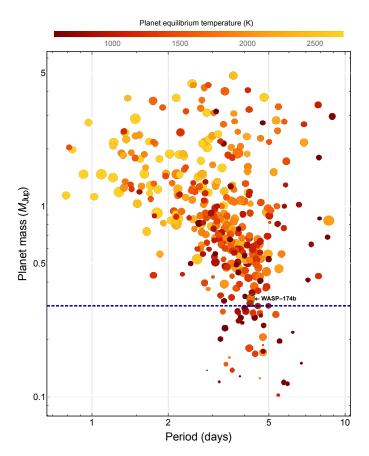


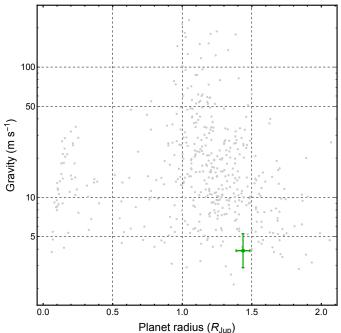
Fig. 9. Mass-period diagram of all known transiting hot giants, i.e. transiting exoplanets in the mass range  $0.1~M_{\rm Jup} < M_{\rm p} < 5~M_{\rm Jup}$  and with an orbital period  $\leq 10$  days. The planets are represented by circles, whose size is proportional to their radius. Color indicates equilibrium temperature. The error bars have been suppressed for clarity. The positions of WASP-174b is highlighted. Data taken from TEPCat. The horizontal dashed line indicates the mass limit of Jupiter planets  $(0.3~M_{\rm Jup})$  according to the definition given by Hatzes & Rauer (2015).

inflated size of WASP-174b is evident from Fig. 8. Figures 10 and 11 show its position in the radius-gravity and mass-density diagrams of the currently known transiting exoplanets. In the latter diagram, the position of the planet is compared with five different theoretical models, taken from Fortney et al. (2007), having different core of heavy-elements: 0, 10, 25, 50, and 100 Earth mass. The models were estimated for a planet at 0.045 au from a parent star, with an age of 3.16 Gyr. WASP-174b has a density comparable with the model related to core-free planets.

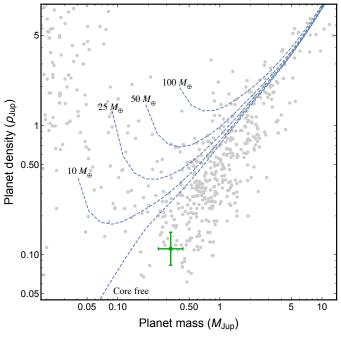
Since WASP-174b is a very inflated planet, it could be a favorable target for probing its atmosphere through the transmission spectroscopy method. An estimation of the expected signal of its transmission spectrum,  $A_{\rm abs}$ , can be generally obtained by deriving the contrast in area between the annular region of the planetary atmosphere and that of the star, during a transit event. This can be obtained from the characteristic length scale of the planetary atmosphere (see e.g. Bento et al. 2014), i.e.

$$A_{\rm abs} = \frac{\pi (R_{\rm p} + H)^2 - \pi R_{\rm p}^2}{\pi R_{\rm +}^2}.$$
 (1)

In the latter equation H is the pressure scale height of the planetary atmosphere, that is  $H = k_{\rm B}T_{\rm eq}/\mu_{\rm m}\,g_{\rm p}$ , where  $k_{\rm B}$  is Boltzmann's constant and  $\mu_{\rm m}$  is the mean molecular weight, for which the value of 2.3 amu is usually adopted for giant-planet

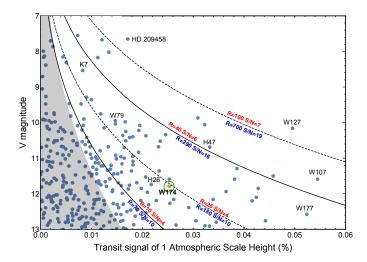


**Fig. 10.** Radius-gravity diagram of the currently known transiting exoplanets with precisely measured mass and radius. The grey points denote values taken from TEPCat. Their error bars have been suppressed for clarity. The position of WASP-174b is shown in green with error bars.

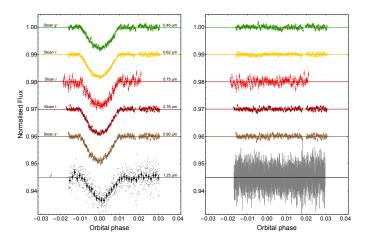


**Fig. 11.** Mass-density diagram of the currently known transiting exoplanets with precisely measured mass and radius. The grey points denote values taken from TEPCat. Their error bars have been suppressed for clarity. The position of WASP-174b is shown in green with error bars. Four planetary models, with various heavy-element core masses (10, 25, 50, and 100 Earth mass) and another without a core are plotted for comparison. They were estimated for a planet at 0.045 au from a parent star with an age of 3.16 Gyr (Fortney et al. 2007).

atmospheres dominated by  $H_2$  and He (Lecavelier des Etangs et al. 2008). Because of the transits of WASP-174b are grazing, we have to slightly modify Eq. (1) for this planet in order to take into account that only a portion of its atmosfere can absorb the



**Fig. 12.** Parent-star *V* magnitude as a function of the expected transmission spectral signal of 1 atmospheric scale height for transiting exoplanets. Data are taken from TEPCat. The curves are adopted from Sing (2018) and give an indication of constant values for S/N and spectral resolution (see also Heng & Winn 2015). The numbers in red and blue refer to HST and JWST, respectively. The region of the diagram in which exoplanetary atmospheres are unobservable, due to low S/N, is marked in gray. The position of WASP-174 is highlighted together with those of other selected transiting exoplanets.



**Fig. 13.** Left-hand panel: complete light curves recorded by the LCOGT/sinistro (i) and MPG 2.2 m/GROND (i', r', i', z', J) are plotted together with the best-fitting models, which were obtained fixing all the parameters except  $R_p/R_{\star}$ . Right-hand panel: residual from the best fit models for the corresponding filters.

light coming from the parent star. This portion is just equal to  $A_{\text{ecl}}/A_{\text{p}}$  and, therefore, we have

$$A_{\rm abs} = \frac{\pi (R_{\rm p} + H)^2 - \pi R_{\rm p}^2}{\pi R_{\star}^2} \left( \frac{A_{\rm ecl}}{A_{\rm p}} \right). \tag{2}$$

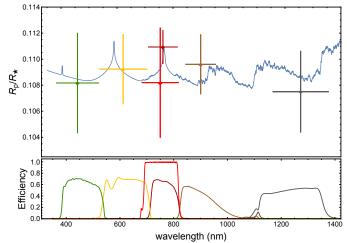
Assuming that  $H \ll R_p$ , then Eq. (2) is simply

$$A_{\rm abs} = \frac{2R_{\rm p}k_{\rm B}T_{\rm eq}}{\mu_{\rm m}\,g_{\rm p}R_{\star}^2}\left(\frac{A_{\rm ecl}}{A_{\rm p}}\right). \tag{3}$$

In order to compare the relative signal-to-noise of WASP-174b with those of the other transiting exoplanets, we plotted the absorption signal,  $A_{abs}$ , against the magnitude of the host

**Table 7.** Values of  $R_p/R_{\star}$  for each of the passbands.

Telescope	Filter	λ (nm)	$R_{ m p}/R_{\star}$	
MPG 2.2 m MPG 2.2 m LCGOT 1 m MPG 2.2 m MPG 2.2 m	Sloan g' Sloan r' Sloan i Sloan i' Sloan z'	459 622 754 764 899	$0.1082 \pm 0.0038$ $0.1092 \pm 0.0027$ $0.1082 \pm 0.0042$ $0.1109 \pm 0.0013$ $0.1096 \pm 0.0023$	
MPG 2.2 m MPG 2.2 m MPG 2.2 m MPG 2.2 m	J H K	1240 1647 2170	$0.1090 \pm 0.0023$ $0.1075 \pm 0.0031$ $0.0996 \pm 0.0029$ $0.0958 \pm 0.0089$	



**Fig. 14.** Variation of the planet/star radius ratio with wavelength. The colors are the same as in Fig. 4. The vertical bars represent the errors in the measurements and the horizontal bars show the FWHM transmission of the passbands used. The observational points are compared with an atmosphere model from Fortney et al. (2010). The transmission curve for the Sloan *i* filter and the total efficiencies of the GROND filters are shown in the bottom panel.

stars in Fig. 12. We can see that the expected atmospheric signal for WASP-174b during its transits, in terms of expected S/N, is similar to that of HAT-P-26b, for which evidences of water has been convincingly found with the HST (Wakeford et al. 2017). WASP-174b is, therefore, another interesting closein giant planet, whose atmospheric composition can be probed via the transmission-spectroscopy technique.

Exploiting our multi-band photometric observations, we attempted to estimate an observational transmission spectrum of WASP-174b. Following the general approach, we made a new fit of each of our complete light curves, which were obtained with the LCGOT/sinistro and the MPG 2.2 m/GROND facilities, including the NIR data, and fixing the parameters to the values reported in Table 6, with the exception of  $R_p/R_\star$ , whose uncertainties were estimated by performing 20 000 Monte Carlo simulations.

The light curves and the best-fitting models are plotted in Fig. 13, with the exception of the H and K light curves, because the lower values that we obtained from them are not physically justifiable (the data are simply too noisy to extract reliable results).

The values of  $R_p/R_{\star}$  are reported in Table 7 and shown in Fig. 14, where the vertical errorbars represent the relative errors in the measurements and the horizontal errorbars are

related to the FWHM transmission of the passbands used. Just for illustration, we also plotted a model atmosphere calculated by Fortney et al. (2010) for a giant planet with a surface gravity of  $g_{\rm p}=10\,{\rm ms^{-2}}$ , a base radius of 1.25  $R_{\rm Jup}$  at 10 bar, and  $T_{\rm eq}=1000\,{\rm K}$ . Clearly, the quality of the data do not allow to characterize the transmission spectrum of WASP-174b and we can only conclude that our observational points do not indicate any large variation of the radius of the planet and are compatible with a flat transmission spectrum. More accurate data are required for effectively studying the atmospheric composition of WASP-174b.

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# Appendix A: Additional table

Table A.1. Relative radial velocities and bisector spans for WASP-174.

BJD (2 450 000+)	$RV^{(a)}$ (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	$\sigma_{\mathrm{RV}}^{}}$ (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	$BS$ $(m s^{-1})$	$\sigma_{ m BS} \ ({ m m  s^{-1}})$	Phase	Instrument	Reference
6823.67496	-84.77	34.00	-35.00	11.00	0.299	FEROS	This work
6836.57529	39.93	90.00	110.00	180.00	0.346	Coralie	Temple et al. (2018)
6841.49461	-56.77	29.00	-29.00	9.00	0.508	FEROS	This work
6842.49523	21.23	33.00	-3.00	10.00	0.744	FEROS	This work
6845.50411	-3.77	29.00	-20.00	9.00	0.455	FEROS	This work
6847.50175	6.23	26.00	-21.00	9.00	0.927	FEROS	This work
6850.61870	15.23	46.00	19.00	13.00	0.663	FEROS	This work
6851.47603	33.23	29.00	-79.00	9.00	0.865	FEROS	This work
6852.50485	-27.77	30.00	48.00	10.00	0.108	FEROS	This work
6852.61136	-5.77	33.00	18.00	10.00	0.133	FEROS	This work
6854.51539	35.23	37.00	-36.00	11.00	0.583	FEROS	This work
6855.50546	59.23	29.00	-3.00	9.00	0.817	FEROS	This work
6856.46921	-0.77	27.00	53.00	9.00	0.045	FEROS	This work
7072.73839	-90.07	60.00	170.00	120.00	0.127	Coralie	Temple et al. (2018)
7225.57596	12.23	39.00	18.00	12.00	0.228	<b>FEROS</b>	This work
7233.57458	-16.77	36.00	-20.00	11.00	0.117	FEROS	This work
7235.58577	67.23	58.00	-144.00	15.00	0.592	FEROS	This work
7238.53027	15.23	35.00	-42.00	11.00	0.287	<b>FEROS</b>	This work
7461.57183	-4.80	20.00	-90.00	40.00	0.970	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.58250	15.20	20.00	-160.00	40.00	0.972	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.59338	5.20	20.00	-90.00	40.00	0.975	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.60425	-24.80	20.00	-160.00	40.00	0.976	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.61514	15.20	20.00	-150.00	40.00	0.980	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.62571	-14.80	20.00	-100.00	40.00	0.983	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.63669	-24.80	20.00	-120.00	40.00	0.985	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.64726	15.20	20.00	-100.00	40.00	0.988	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.65792	-14.80	20.00	-30.00	40.00	0.990	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.66870	5.20	20.00	-140.00	40.00	0.993	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.67958	-44.80	20.00	-90.00	40.00	0.995	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.69035	-94.80	20.00	120.00	40.00	0.998	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.70102	-104.80	10.00	70.00	20.00	0.000	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.71180	-84.80	10.00	-30.00	20.00	0.003	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.72258	-94.80	20.00	-130.00	40.00	0.005	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.73346	-64.80	10.00	-150.00	20.00	0.008	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.74380	-44.80	20.00	-100.00	40.00	0.010	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.75489	-34.80	20.00	-0.00	40.00	0.013	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.76557	5.20	20.00	-100.00	40.00	0.016	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.77655	-24.80	20.00	-190.00	40.00	0.018	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.78701	-4.80	20.00	-150.00	40.00	0.021	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.79799	-4.80	20.00	-20.00	40.00	0.023	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7461.80887	-34.80	20.00	-190.00	40.00	0.026	HARPS	Temple et al. (2018)
7888.59786	-10.07	90.00	-210.00	180.00	0.833	Coralie	Temple et al. (2018)
7890.51593	-70.07	140.00	240.00	280.00	0.286	Coralie	Temple et al. (2018)
7894.50253	-10.07	80.00	-100.00	160.00	0.228	Coralie	Temple et al. (2018)
7903.60566	-140.07	130.00	-420.00	260.00	0.378	Coralie	Temple et al. (2018)
7905.68911	49.93	70.00	-300.00	140.00	0.870	Coralie	Temple et al. (2018)
7917.56797	49.93	70.00	-60.00	140.00	0.676	Coralie	Temple et al. (2018)
7924.50566	19.93	60.00	-350.00	120.00	0.315	Coralie	Temple et al. (2018)
7951.50653	-70.07	170.00	-410.00	340.00	0.692	Coralie	Temple et al. (2018)
7954.49510	29.93	70.00	10.00	140.00	0.398	Coralie	Temple et al. (2018)
7959.51703	-100.07	90.00	-30.00	180.00	0.585	Coralie	Temple et al. (2018)
7973.49257	19.93	120.00	170.00	240.00	0.886	Coralie	Temple et al. (2018)
7974.51884	-150.07	90.00	-160.00	180.00	0.128	Coralie	Temple et al. (2018)

**Notes.** <sup>(a)</sup>The zero-point of these velocities is arbitrary. An overall offset  $\gamma_{rel}$  fitted independently to the velocities from each instrument has been subtracted. <sup>(b)</sup>Internal errors excluding the component of astrophysical jitter considered in the joint analysis (Sect. 3).