Dealing with the activity signal

- 1. Pre-whitening
- 2. Trend fitting
- 3. Floating chunk offset



$$M = 2.1 \pm 0.1 M_{J}$$

Cleaned with Period04

Lehmann et al. 2015

A simulated activity signal from SOAP:



Can we Pre-whitening an activity signal?

"I question the validity of using a multi-sine component to fit the underlying activity signal."



A continuous function can be represented by a linear combination of basis functions. Sine functions form a basis.

Gaps in the data and noise complicates the process and makes pre-whitening (Fourier Component Analysis) tricky.



variations with multi-sine components

CoRoT-7 RVs



Transiting Superearth with a 0.85-d orbital period













Data – f1 – f2 – f3 –f4





What are these frequencies?

 $0.043 \, 1/d = 23.2 \, d = stellar rotation period$

 $0.094 \ 1/d = 10.6 \ d = Prot/2$

 $0.110 \ 1/d = 9 \ d = Planet (?)$

 $0.270 \ 1/d = 3.7 \ d = Planet (?)$

 $0.170 \ 1/d = 5.9 \ d = Planet (???)$



0.17 + 1.0 = 1.17 c/d

→ 0.85 d = orbital period of CoRoT-7b

This is the one day alias

If you want to detect a period at 0.85 d do not make only one measurement per night!





Best fit solution (#3)

P = 3.7 d K = 5.03 m/s



P = 9.03 d K = 6.23 m/s



THE LICK–CARNEGIE EXOPLANET SURVEY: A 3.1 M_{\oplus} PLANET IN THE HABITABLE ZONE OF THE NEARBY M3V STAR GLIESE 581







Figure 3. From top to bottom, power spectra of the residuals to the 0-, 1-, 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, and 6-planet solutions, respectively. The horizontal lines in each periodogram roughly indicate the 0.1%, 1.0%, and 10.0% false-alarm probability (FAP) levels from top to bottom.

Figure 5. Phased reflex barycentric velocities of the host star due individually to the planets at 3.15 days, 5.37 days, 12.9 days, 37 days, 67 days, and 433 days from the all-circular fit of Table 2. Filled (red) hexagon points are from Keck while filled (blue) triangles are from HARPS.

Stellar Activity Masquerading as Planets in the Habitable Zone of the M dwarf Gliese 581

Paul Robertson^{1,2}, Suvrath Mahadevan^{1,2,3}, Michael Endl⁴, Arpita Roy^{1,2,3}



A 67-d RV period was attributed to a planet in the "habitable zone". This is probably the signature of stellar activity

 $H\alpha$ variations from Robertson et al.





Scarge Periodogram of the $\mbox{H}\alpha$ residual variations





Local trend filtering

Two approaches: Pre-whitening and local trend filtering...



Gaps in the data and noise complicates the process and makes pre-whitening (Fourier Component Analysis) tricky.

...with consistent results



Our closest neighbor: an Earth mass planet around Alpha Centauri B (?)

Xavier Dumusque^{1,4}, Francesco Pepe¹, Christophe Lovis¹, Damien Ségransan¹, Johannes Sahlmann¹, Willy Benz², François Bouchy^{1,3}, Michel Mayor¹, Didier Queloz¹, Nuno Santos^{4,5} and Stéphane Udry¹



 $Msini = 1.13 M_{Earth}$

Is Alpha Cen Bb really there?

Orbital Motion of Binary



The Fourier Amplitude Spectrum of α Cen B



Binary motion removed



$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Pre-whitening of the RVs of} \\ \alpha \ \textbf{Cen B} \end{array}$



Pre-whitening α Cen B

ν	Р	K	Comment
(1/d)	(days)	(m/s)	
0.0259	38.6	1.69	f _{rot}
0.0013	763.4	1.15	f_2
0.0816	12.25	1.05	2f _{rot}
0.1045	9.57	0.84	f ₃
0.0060	165.8	0.97	
0.0663	15.8	0.71	
0.033	101.11	0.67	
0.0784	12.75	0.77	
0.3090	3.24	0.41	α Cen Bb?

 $\sigma = 1.19 \text{ m/s}$

The sum of the first 8 frequencies is our "activity signal"

Pre-whitened result





Fourier

P = 3.2356 ± 0.0001 d

 $K = 0.42 \pm 0.08 \text{ m/s}$

FAP = 0.4 %

Dumusque et al.

P = 3.2357 ± 0.008 d

 $K = 0.51 \pm 0.04 \text{ m/s}$

FAP = 0.02 %

Result is consistent with Dumusque et al. result



Simulations show that α Cen Bb should have been detected with much higher significance







Local Trend Fitting

Exploit the fact that you know two time scales: the rotation period (38 d) and the orbital period of the planet (3.2 d). Assume that the spot distribution does not change in one rotation. Fit the the "local" variations of the activity over a short time span Δt :

$$\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{planet}} < \Delta \mathsf{t} < \mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{rotation}}$$

Try to avoid large data gaps, use data on consecutive nights when possible

Local Trend Fitting



red line: trend fit, blue: planet orbit



Relative Radial Velocity (m/s)





Planet signal is not present! It should have been found with high significance

The Power Behavior of the Real and Simulated Data



A Simulated Data Set



Scargle periodogram of residuals after removing activity signal.

A Nice planet detection...



The Simulated Data:

- 1. Took activity signal: multi-sine fit without the planet signal
- 2. Sampled this the same way as the data
- 3. Added random noise (σ = 2 m/s)
- 4. Filtered the data using pre-whitening

"Science is a way of trying not to fool yourself. The first principle is that you must not fool yourself, and you are the easiest person to fool."

Richard Feynman

Floating Chunk Offset Periodogram

For short period planets we can use a trick



Each night the orbital motion of the planet is part of a sine-curve. We just have to stich the segments together as long as the rotation period is much longer than the orbital period

Let's try this on CoRoT-7b (known orbital period)



A least squares solution with period fixed to transit period



Zero point offset and phase are the only free parameters. The period is kept fixed \rightarrow transit phase recovered!

The Floating Chunk Offset Periodogram

1) Search for periods much shorter than the stellar rotational period

- 2) For periods less than about a day most of the variations on a given night are due to the planet and represent a segment of the orbit (sine curve)
- 3) RV contribution from activity, long-period planets, systematic errors (long term) is constant
- 4) For a given trial period, vary the nightly offset until you have a good fit to the sine function. Look at χ^2
- 5) Vary period and minimize χ^2
- 6) Only works if you have good sampling (N>2) on a given night

RV variations from a simulated activity signal



Activity signal with P_{rot}
= 12 d plus harmonics
but different for each
epoch
Amplitude 20 m/s but

•Amplitude ~20 m/s, but varies from epoch to epoch

$$P_{Planet} = 0.35 d$$

K = 1.5 m/s
 $\sigma = 2.4 m/s$

FCO of the simulated data



FCO acts as a high pass filter:



FCO Periodogram of CoRoT-7b Radial Velocities



Application to Kepler-78b



0.8

1.0

The RV variations are dominated by the activity



The FCO Periodogram of the Kepler-78 RVs (HARPS + Keck)



The orbital curve of Kepler-78b using only data with $N \ge 3$ observations per night



 $M=1.31\pm0.24~M_{Earth}$

Summary

- Pre-whitening can be an effective tool for filtering out the activity signal, BUT check your results with other methods.
- Local trend fitting can check pre-whitening results, but only for proper periods (Fourier speak: planet orbit has a high frequency and you are fitting low frequencies to the activity)
- The FCO periodogram/method is an effective high pass filter that can detect ultra-short period (< 1 d) planets with orbital periods less than the rotation period of the star (or harmonics) Need a phase change of ~ 0.1 in one night, and orbital period ~ 1/10 shortest period harmonic of rotation
- Good time sampling is important