Precision Radial Velocities for Nearby Planetary Systems

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Three Challenges for Ground-based RVs

Stellar photospheric velocities



Telluric contamination



Unstable instrumentation

EXtreme PREcision Spectrograph (EXPRES)

An experiment to disentangle stellar photospheric velocities from orbital velocities induced by exoplanets



Davis et al. 2017

4.3 m Discovery Channel Telescope Lowell Observatory, Happy Jack AZ, USA







Five-port instrument cube with deployable tertiary mirrors allows for partial night cadence of science targets, 60 total nights per year



51 Peg



EXPRES Radial Velocities of 51 Peg



Menlo Systems Laser Frequency Comb

- 14 GHz mode spacing = comb line every ~12 pixels
- Science observations are bracketed by LFC exposures
- Long term stability of several cm/s



Fiber Agitation

Not agitated fibers:



Agitated fibers:



See Petersburg et al. 2017



Chromatic Barycentric Corrections

Wavelength dependence in atmospheric attenuation



EXPRES records this with the exposure meter spectrograph



Blackman et al. 2017

Chromatic Barycentric Corrections

Stellar flux changing during exposure



Radial Velocity Error due to Color Effect



Telluric Contamination

Telluric lines "move" across the spectrum because of barycentric motion, and line depth changes! See talk 303.02 by Allen Davis on Wednesday.



Leet et al. (in prep)

EXPRES Science Goals

- RV survey of nearby GK stars
- Transit follow-up
- Transit spectroscopy
- Rossiter-McLaughlin Effect





