

Near-infrared transmission spectrum of the warm-Uranus GJ 3470b with the Wide Field Camera-3 on the *Hubble* Space Telescope[★]

D. Ehrenreich¹, X. Bonfils², C. Lovis¹, X. Delfosse², T. Forveille², M. Mayor¹, V. Neves^{2,3,4}, N. C. Santos^{3,4}, S. Udry¹, and D. Ségransan¹

¹ Observatoire de l'Université de Genève, 51 chemin des Maillettes, 1290 Sauverny, Switzerland
e-mail: david.ehrenreich@unige.ch

² Université Joseph Fourier-Grenoble 1, CNRS-INSU, Institut de Planétologie et d'Astrophysique de Grenoble (IPAG), UMR 5274, BP 53, 38041 Grenoble, France

³ Departamento de Física e Astronomia, Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade do Porto, rua do Campo Alegre, 4169-007 Porto, Portugal

⁴ Centro de Astrofísica, Universidade do Porto, rua das Estrelas, 4150-762 Porto, Portugal

Received 14 March 2014 / Accepted 6 August 2014

ABSTRACT

The atmospheric composition of super-Earths and Neptunes is the object of intense observational and theoretical investigations. Transmission spectra recently obtained for such exoplanets are featureless in the near infrared. This flat signature is attributed to the presence of optically-thick clouds or translucent hazes. The planet GJ 3470b is a warm Neptune (or Uranus) detected in transit across a bright late-type star. The transit of this planet has already been observed in several band passes from the ground and space, allowing observers to draw an intriguing yet incomplete transmission spectrum of the planet atmospheric limb. In particular, published data in the visible suggest the existence of a Rayleigh scattering slope – making GJ 3470b a unique case among the known Neptunes, while data obtained beyond 2 μm are consistent with a flat infrared spectrum. The unexplored near-infrared spectral region between 1 μm and 2 μm , is thus the key to understanding the atmospheric nature of GJ 3470b. Here, we report on the first space-borne spectrum of GJ 3470, obtained during one transit of the planet with the Wide Field Camera-3 (WFC3) on board the *Hubble* Space Telescope (HST), operated in stare mode. The spectrum covers the 1.1–1.7 μm region with a resolution of ~ 300 ($\Delta\lambda \sim 4$ nm). We retrieve the transmission spectrum of GJ 3470b with a chromatic planet-to-star radius ratio precision of 0.09% (about half a scale height) per 40 nm bins. At this precision, the spectrum appears featureless, in good agreement with ground-based and *Spitzer* infrared data at longer wavelengths, pointing to a flat transmission spectrum from 1 μm to 5 μm . We present new simulations of possible theoretical transmission spectra for GJ 3470b, which allow us to show that the HST/WFC3 observations rule out cloudless hydrogen-rich atmospheres ($>10\sigma$) as well as hydrogen-rich atmospheres with tholin haze ($>5\sigma$). Adding our near-infrared measurements to the full set of previously published data from 0.3 μm to 5 μm , we find that a cloudy, hydrogen-rich atmosphere can explain the full transmission spectrum: the tentative Rayleigh slope in the visible and the flat near-infrared spectrum can be both reproduced if the water volume mixing ratio is lower at the terminator than predicted by equilibrium thermochemistry models.

Key words. techniques: spectroscopic – planets and satellites: atmospheres – planetary systems

1. Introduction

1.1. What is the nature of exoplanets with masses between super-Earths and Neptunes?

Exoplanets with measured masses and sizes similar to our ice giants, Uranus and Neptune, are still rare among the bestiary of nearly 300 known and confirmed transiting exoplanets ($\sim 30\%$ of all confirmed exoplanets). Prototypical examples are the warm Neptunes GJ 436b (Butler et al. 2004) and HAT-P-11b (Bakos et al. 2010). The epithet warm is used in reference to the equilibrium temperature of these objects, between 500 K and 1 000 K, which is cooler than the typical temperatures of hot Jupiters.

With the discovery of super-Earths such as GJ 1214b (Charbonneau et al. 2009) or HD 97658b (Dragomir et al. 2013; Van Grootel et al. 2014), a mass continuum is observed from 1 M_{\oplus} to 20–30 M_{\oplus} . This low-mass continuum seems to stop at

$\sim 30 M_{\oplus}$, with a gap extending up to the mass of Saturn that is attributed to the runaway accretion of gas in the core accretion model of planet formation (e.g. Mordasini et al. 2009).

Planets at the extremities of the apparent low-mass continuum should, however, bear significant differences in their structures and formation history. For once, telluric planets should be dominated by their solid cores while Neptune-like objects are dominated by their envelopes of gas (H/He) and volatiles (water is generally considered the dominant volatile species, although see other possibilities in Hu & Seager 2014). Consequently, a transition is expected between these two different structures. This transition is not driven by the planet mass alone, as the detection of low-density super-Earths, such as Kepler-11f (Lissauer et al. 2011), would tend to show.

One important feature in this core-to-envelope transition is the presence or absence of hydrogen and helium from the envelope (e.g. Miller-Ricci & Fortney 2010). Observationally, this is a critical point because a H/He-rich atmosphere has a small mean

[★] Appendices are available in electronic form at <http://www.aanda.org>

molar mass μ and thus a high atmospheric scale height ($\propto \mu^{-1}$). In a clear atmosphere (cloud- or haze-free), a high atmospheric scale height favours the detection of absorption from volatile molecules (mainly water) in the near-infrared transmission spectrum of the planetary atmosphere, which can be retrieved during a planetary transit (Seager & Sasselov 2000). On the contrary, envelopes devoid of H/He but dominated by the volatile molecules in question, have scale heights typically an order of magnitude smaller than H/He-rich envelopes, and should present flatter transmission spectra.

Practically, this spectral discrimination between H/He-rich and volatile-rich planets is complicated by the presence of high-altitude clouds or hazes, which effectively hide the molecules in the lower atmosphere and produce near-infrared transmission spectra dominated by Mie scattering (Ehrenreich et al. 2012; Howe & Burrows 2012), i.e. flat. While it should be theoretically possible to infer the presence of scattering from transmission spectra extending from the blue (~ 400 nm) down to the infrared (~ 2 μm), in practice it is difficult to collect such data. Broad-band spectra have nevertheless been obtained for the most studied exoplanets, the hot Jupiter HD 209458b (Sing et al. 2008; Deming et al. 2013) and HD 189733b (Pont et al. 2013; Huitson et al. 2012) using the STIS and WFC3 spectrographs on board the *Hubble* Space Telescope. These spectra are clearly affected by scattering. The recent WFC3 transmission spectrum of HD 209458b by (Deming et al. 2013) shows a smaller-than-expected absorption of the water molecular band around 1.38 μm . This is attributed to scattering by hazes, although in the case of HD 209458b the scattering slope increasing towards short wavelengths seems less steep than in the case of HD 189733b (Deming et al. 2013).

The 1.38 μm water band, known as the φ band separating the *J* and *H* near-infrared windows in the Earth atmosphere, has been searched for in the transmission spectrum of GJ 1214b (Charbonneau et al. 2009), a low-density (1.9 g cm^{-3}) low-mass ($6.6 M_{\oplus}$) planet transiting a late M dwarf (Berta et al. 2012). The HST/WFC3 spectroscopic data of (Berta et al. 2012) show that the transmission spectrum of GJ 1214b is flat, within the ~ 1000 ppm error bars (in R_p/R_*), between 1.1 μm and 1.7 μm (as confirmed by Benneke & Seager 2013). Additional ground-based (Bean et al. 2010, 2011; Crossfield et al. 2011; Croll et al. 2011) and *Spitzer* (Désert et al. 2011) measurements unveil a flat, featureless transmission spectrum from 0.6 μm to 4.5 μm , pointing at either a high-molecular-weight envelope or the presence of high-altitude haze masking the spectral features of the underlying atmospheric species in a hydrogen-rich atmosphere (Rogers & Seager 2010; Miller-Ricci & Fortney 2010; Miller-Ricci Kempton et al. 2012; Nettelmann et al. 2011).

Recently, Kreidberg et al. (2014) have reported on a near-infrared transmission spectrum of GJ 1214b obtained from the combination of a dozen of transits observed with HST/WFC3. Taking advantage of the co-addition of $\sim 4\times$ more data and an increased observing efficiency compared to Berta et al. (2012), these authors have been able to extract a transmission spectrum with a resolution of about 70 at the exquisite precision of ~ 30 ppm per spectral bin. This data set has allowed Kreidberg et al. (2014) to rule out both a hydrogen-dominated atmosphere and a volatile-rich atmosphere dominated by water at a significant level, making it highly probable that clouds are responsible for the flatness of the transmission spectrum. In the case of the warm Neptune GJ 436b, Knutson et al. (2014) rule out a cloud-free hydrogen-dominated atmosphere based on HST/WFC3 spectroscopy.

1.2. The case of GJ 3470b

In order to understand the class of warm exoplanets intermediate between super-Earths and Neptunes, and in the perspective of the rise of future instruments dedicated to probe exoplanetary atmospheres in this wavelength range (in particular the *James Webb* Space Telescope), it is essential to obtain observational insights on new transiting members of this family of objects, and determine whether flat spectra are the rule or the exception.

The planet GJ 3470b (Bonfils et al. 2012) is one such object, more massive than super-Earths like GJ 1214b or HD 97658b, but lighter than a warm Neptune like GJ 436b. The planet was discovered around a M1.5 dwarf during a velocimetric campaign with the HARPS spectrograph and detected in transit with the TRAPPIST, Euler, and NITES telescopes. A high-quality transit light-curve has been subsequently obtained with *Spitzer* (Demory et al. 2013, the planetary parameters we will refer to in the following derive from the *Spitzer* data analysis).

GJ 3470b is close to Uranus (δ) in terms of mass with $M_p = 13.9 \pm 1.5 M_{\oplus}$ (vs. $M_{\delta} = 14.505 M_{\oplus}$), yet it is significantly less dense ($\rho_p = 0.72 \pm 0.13 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$) than the Solar System ice giant ($\rho_{\delta} = 1.27 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$), owing to a larger radius ($R_p = 4.83 \pm 0.22 R_{\oplus}$ vs. $R_{\delta} = 3.968 R_{\oplus}$). The planet is of course warmer than Uranus, with an equilibrium temperature of $T_p \sim 600$ K (for an albedo of 0.3) owing to its semi-major axis of $a_p = 0.035$ AU.

The planet has been recently observed in several optical to near-infrared photometric bands (*g'*, *R*, *I*, and *J*) with the 50 cm and 188 cm telescopes at Okayama Astrophysical Observatory, allowing Fukui et al. (2013) to claim significant variations in the reconstructed broad-band transmission spectrum, and thus for (a hint for) a cloud-free atmosphere. This conclusion has, however, been challenged by Crossfield et al. (2013): these authors use the new MOSFIRE spectrograph installed at the Keck I telescope to produce a transmission spectrum of GJ 3470b between 2.09 μm and 2.36 μm . Combining these data with the broad-band measurements of Fukui et al. (2013) at shorter wavelengths and Demory et al. (2013) at 4.5 μm , Crossfield et al. (2013) conclude to a flat transmission spectrum, suggestive of the presence of high-altitude haze or (extremely) high metal-rich composition, much like GJ 1214b.

Nascimbeni et al. (2013) announced two additional measurements of GJ 3470 planet-to-star radius ratio, obtained from simultaneous transit observations in the near-ultraviolet and near-infrared with the Large Binocular Telescope (LBT). In contrast with the conclusion of Crossfield et al. (2013), the LBT data points are compatible with a steep slope of the transmission spectrum in the visible. Nascimbeni et al. (2013) attribute this slope to scattering by haze, basing their claim on the scaling of a theoretical transmission spectrum calculated for an atmosphere covered by a high-altitude haze of tholins (Howe & Burrows 2012). While such a model could produce a flat transmission spectrum in the infrared (for a given set of haze properties) and a steep rise in the optical, the scaled version of this model as presented by Nascimbeni et al. (2013), seems unable to reconcile both data sets.

In this paper, we present the first space-borne measurement of GJ 3470b transmission spectrum. The HST/WFC3 spectrum ranges from 1.1 μm to 1.7 μm , exploring the 1.38 μm water band and providing a direct comparison with the work of Berta et al. (2012) for GJ 1214b. This spectral region bridges the gap between the studies of Nascimbeni et al. (2013) and Fukui et al. (2013) on one hand, and Crossfield et al. (2013) and Demory et al. (2013) on the other hand. It additionally overlap with the

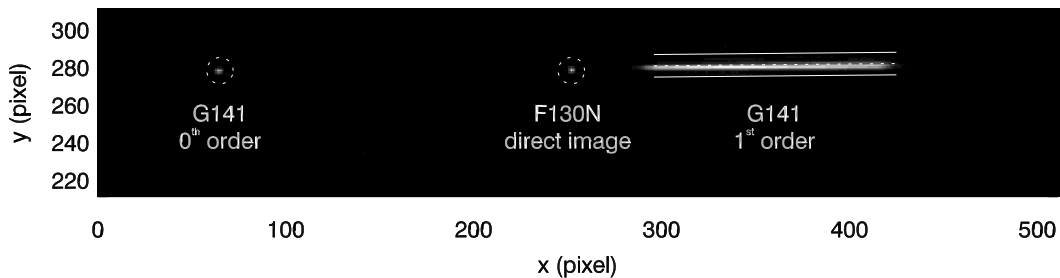


Fig. 1. Example of a WFC3/G141 spectral image with the undispersed stellar image (0th order and 1st-order spectrum). The associated F130N direct image is superimposed. The spectral trace is shown by a dotted line that extends in the dispersion direction over a wavelength range 1.1–1.7 μm . The plain lines above and below the trace show the width of the extraction region.

J-band measurement of Fukui et al. (2013), which anchors these authors claim for a transparent atmosphere.

We present the HST/WFC3 observations in Sect. 2 and the data processing and analysis in Sect. 3. The broad-band near-infrared radius of GJ 3470b and the transmission spectrum obtained are detailed in Sect. 4. In Sect. 5, we discuss our results with respect to those previously obtained and provide a theoretical interpretation based on dedicated calculations of transmission spectra for several atmospheric models.

2. HST/WFC3 observations

We obtained director’s discretionary time to observe one transit of GJ 3470b with HST/WFC3 (programme GO/DD 13064) on 2013-Feb.-07. The visit was split between 5 HST orbits (one orbit lasts for 96 min). During each HST orbit, the target star was visible for about 52 min; it was occulted by the Earth during the remaining time, yielding gaps in the light curve. The observation timing has been set so that all observations in the third HST orbit would be acquired while GJ 3470b is fully transiting, i.e. between the second and third contact of the transit (GJ 3470b fully transits for 1.6 h). Observations during the first two HST orbits have been acquired before the first contact and observations during the last two HST orbits have been acquired after the fourth contact of the transit, providing an adequate baseline to fit the transit light curve. However, no data have been obtained during the transit egresses (between the first and second contacts or the third and fourth contacts).

The observations are grism slit-less spectroscopy. They consist in series of exposures taken with the G141 grism of WFC3 infrared channel (WFC3/IR) in stare mode. One example is shown in Fig. 1. The grism provides a spectral coverage of 1.1–1.7 μm , including the 1.38 μm band of water with a resolution of ~ 300 . WFC3/IR exposures are obtained in MULTIACCUM mode, i.e. they are built from multiple non-destructive readouts of the Teledyne HgCdTe detector (Dressel 2010).

Because GJ 3470 is a bright source in the near-infrared ($J = 8.8$, $H = 8.2$), these WFC3 observations have a poor duty cycle, as already reported by Berta et al. (2012) in the case of GJ 1214. Large overheads result from serial downloads of the WFC3 image buffer, during which new exposures cannot be started. The image buffer can only hold two full-frame images, therefore windowing of the detector is mandatory to minimise the number of buffer downloads. On the other hand, we wanted to keep the target image (0th order) together with the first-order spectrum on the images. This was possible using a 512×512 subarray (GRISM512). The RAPID sampling sequence advised for bright targets was used to enhance the observing efficiency, while the number of samplings NSAMP was set to 3 to

avoid saturation. These settings yield an effective exposure time of 2.559 s, which is $\sim 70\%$ of the detector saturation time. Two batches of 32 exposures and one batch of 6–9 exposures, separated by 11 min serial buffer dumps could have been acquired during each HST orbit. (The target acquisition prevented us from acquiring a third batch of exposure during the first HST orbit.) In total, we obtained 350 exposures.

For each orbit, the batches of spectroscopic G141 exposures are flanked by two direct images of the star obtained with the F130N narrow filter obtained with one sampling (NSAMP = 1) of the RAPID sampling sequence, yielding an integration time of 0.85 s.

The resulting observing efficiency of this programme is 6%, to be compared with the 10% obtained by Berta et al. (2012) in the case of GJ 1214 – a fainter target accounting for the slightly higher efficiency. We note that after this observing programme was designed, a new mode for WFC3/IR grism spectroscopy referred to as scanning mode has been made available, that allows much more efficient observations (Deming et al. 2013; Kreidberg et al. 2014; Knutson et al. 2014).

3. Data treatment and analysis

The data analysis of these HST/WFC3 data is similar in many respects to the treatment of GJ 1214 HST/WFC3 by Berta et al. (2012). Our starting point for the analysis is the flat-fielded (FLT) images produced by CALWF3, the WFC3 pipeline. The analysis follows the steps described below.

3.1. Extraction of the stellar spectra

3.1.1. Identification of cosmic ray hits

We fit the value of each pixel through our 350 images with a fourth-order polynomial of the frame number. The residuals of the fit are then compared to the standard deviation of the time series obtained for each pixel: at any time, a pixel with a value that is more than four times the standard deviation is considered to be hit by a cosmic ray. The pixel value is replaced by the value of the fit at this instant. The number of pixels hit by cosmic rays as a function of time is represented in Fig. 2. This method allowed us to identify an average of 17.8 pixels affected by cosmic rays per image. Since an image results from a 2.559 s exposure, this number translates into a fraction of 2.7% of an image (512 pixels) affected by cosmic rays per 1000 s. This number is consistent with the 1.5–3% per 1000 s estimated by Riess (2002) for the Advanced Camera for Surveys on board HST.

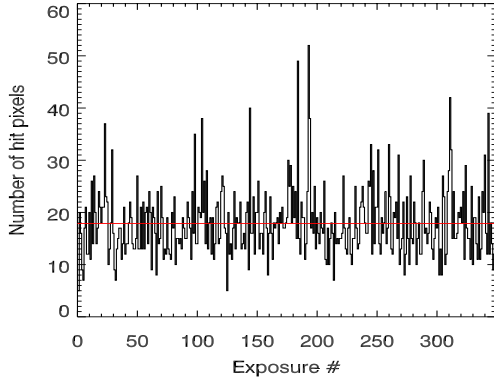


Fig. 2. Number of pixels hit by cosmic rays as a function of the exposure number (i.e. time). The horizontal red line shows the average value of 17.8 pixels throughout the whole sequence.

3.1.2. Identification of bad pixels

Continuously bad pixels, in contrast with transient cosmic rays, are flagged by the WFC3 pipeline and their positions are stored in the quality information provided for each exposure. We consider that bad pixels include pixels with quality flag corresponding to bad detector pixel (flag = 4), unstable photometric response (flag = 32), and bad or uncertain flat value (flag = 512).

Two bad pixels flagged as having an unstable response appear in most images right over the spectral trace at positions of (331, 279) and (331, 280). At this location, we indeed find a flux spike in most spectra. This creates an artifact in the spectrum at a wavelength of about $1.26 \mu\text{m}$, hence we will discard data from this spectral channel in the remaining of this analysis. Apart from this effect, a careful eye-analysis of our raw images and spectra did not reveal any significant feature that could be due to bad pixels in our extraction windows.

3.1.3. Spectral extraction

Wavelength calibration. The wavelength calibration is based on the determination of the spectral trace location in the grism images. This location does itself depend on the position $(x_{\text{ref}}, y_{\text{ref}})$ of the star in the direct images. The star position is determined with a two-dimensional Gaussian fit to the direct image for each HST orbit. (The variation in the centroid position of the direct image is at most 0.2 pixel in x and y .) Once these positions are obtained, the (x, y) coordinates of the spectral trace in the grism images are then given by

$$y - y_{\text{ref}} = DYDX_0 + DYDX_1(x - x_{\text{ref}}), \quad (1)$$

where the values of $DYDX_0$ and $DYDX_1$ are taken for the +1st-order spectrum from Kuntschner et al. (2009, see their Table 1). We found that depending on the considered HST orbit, the wavelength calibration can be offset by as much as ~ 0.2 pixel. Before comparing or co-adding spectra obtained during different HST orbits, it is therefore important to interpolate them on a common reference wavelength vector. We chose the first exposure of the second HST orbit as our reference.

Extraction of the 1st-order spectra. In each image, the raw 1st-order spectrum is extracted along the spectral trace. For each detector column along the trace, the flux f is calculated as the sum of the flux f_i in all pixels located in the extraction box centred on the trace y location. We found that the signal-to-noise is optimised with an extraction box width of 13 pixels. The error on the flux σ_f is obtained as the quadratic sum of the errors σ_{f_i}

estimated for each pixel by the WFC3 pipeline. The 350 raw spectra are shown in Fig. 3 (top panel).

3.1.4. Wavelength-dependent flat fielding

The WFC3 pipeline does not apply flat-field corrections for grism images. In order to perform this task, we obtained a reference flat-field cube for WFC3/G141 observations¹. The coefficients from the cube are used to calculate the flat-field image following (Kummel et al. 2011, Sect. 6.2). The flat-field image contains a handful of zeros, that we replace by the median of the 8 neighbouring pixels to avoid troubles at the division level. The flat-field image is shown in Fig. 4. All grism images are then divided by the wavelength-dependent flat-field images.

3.1.5. Background subtraction

For each flat-fielded exposure, the background is extracted one hundred pixels above and below the 1st-order spectrum, along traces parallel to the spectral trace. The width of the extraction window (along the y axis) at both locations is equal to the width of the spectral extraction window. The background value along the spectral trace is taken as the average of the background values extracted above and below the spectrum, before being subtracted to it. The background-subtracted, flat-fielded spectra are shown in Fig. 3 (bottom panel).

3.1.6. Flux calibration

The measurements reported here are essentially differential, therefore a flux calibration is not needed to calculate the transmission spectrum of the planet. However, it is useful to perform the flux calibration to compare our spectrum of GJ 3470 to model spectra and determine important stellar properties, such as the limb-darkening profile of the stellar surface. A mean uncalibrated GJ 3470 spectrum is calculated as the average of the 350 background-subtracted, flat-fielded spectra. The flux-calibrated, mean spectrum is obtained by dividing the mean uncalibrated spectrum by the wavelength-dependent G141 sensitivity, which is obtained from the WFC3/G141 calibration and reference files web page² and interpolated to our wavelength solution. The mean flux-calibrated spectrum is shown in Fig. 5, together with a stellar atmosphere PHOENIX model from the Göttingen Spectrum Library³ (Husser et al. 2013). The model parameters are a stellar effective temperature $T_{\text{eff}} = 3600 \text{ K}$, a surface gravity $\log g = 4.5$, and a metallicity $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = 0.0$. These values are chosen as close as the grid of PHOENIX models allows to the stellar parameters derived by Demory et al. (2013): $T_{\text{eff}} = 3600 \pm 100 \text{ K}$, $\log g = 4.66 \pm 0.03$, and $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = 0.2 \pm 0.1$. By rescaling the model spectra to a distance of 33 pc – somewhat farther than the values reported by Bonfils et al. (2012, 25.2 pc) and Demory et al. (2013, 30.7 pc) – we obtain a reasonable match to the measured spectrum.

¹ www.stsci.edu/hst/wfc3/analysis/grism_obs/calibrations/wfc3_g141.html

² See footnote 1.

³ http://phoenix.astro.physik.uni-goettingen.de/?page_id=82

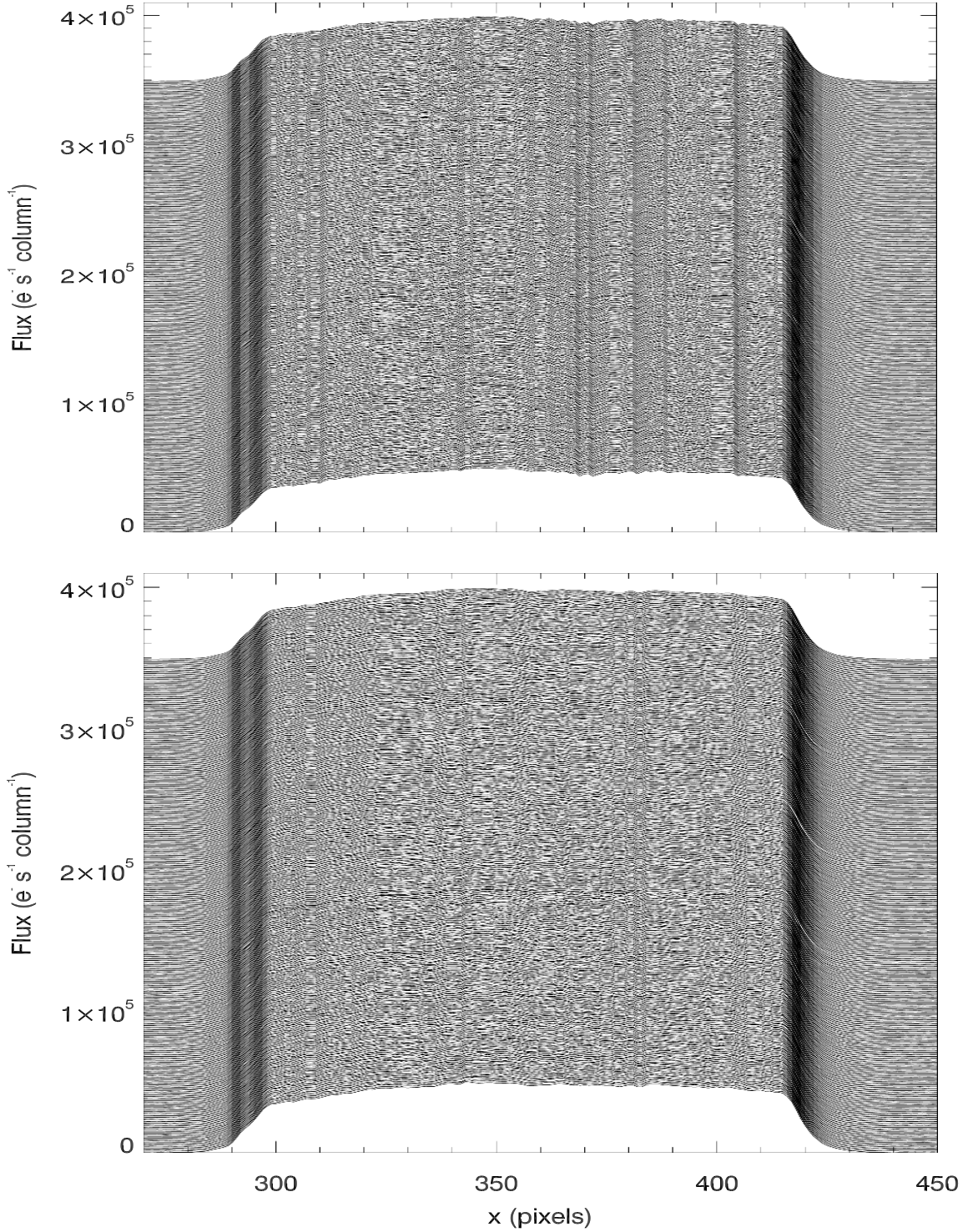


Fig. 3. The 350 spectra extracted from the grism images. The spectra are offset in flux for clarity. *Top panel:* spectra extracted from the raw images. *Bottom panel:* spectra extracted from the flat-fielded, background subtracted images.

3.1.7. Raw white light curve

The white light photometric time series is obtained by integrating the background-subtracted, flat-fielded stellar spectrum between 1.15 and 1.65 μm , for each exposure.

The raw white light curve is shown in Fig. 6. The raw light curve is affected by systematic effects, among which the most salient is a rapid flux rise at the beginning of each batch of exposures. This pattern, known as the fish hook (Deming et al. 2013),

is reproducible between one exposure batch to the other, for all HST orbits, as shown by Figs. 7 and 8, where the white light curve is phase-folded over one HST orbit and one batch of exposures, respectively.

3.1.8. Raw chromatic light curves

In order to measure the planetary radius at different wavelengths, hence producing a transmission spectrum, it is necessary to

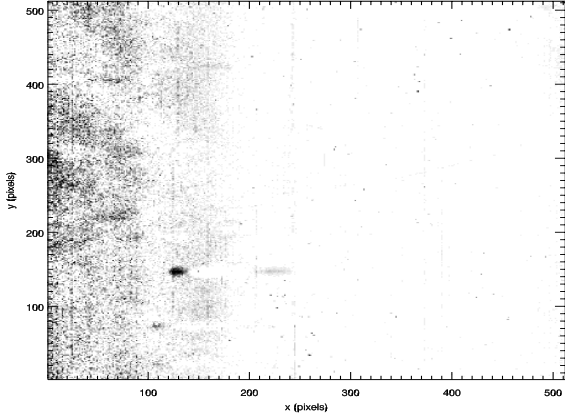


Fig. 4. Wavelength-dependent flat-field image. The scale is linear and ranges between -4.2 to $+6.4 \text{ e}^- \text{ s}^{-1}$ (black to white, respectively).

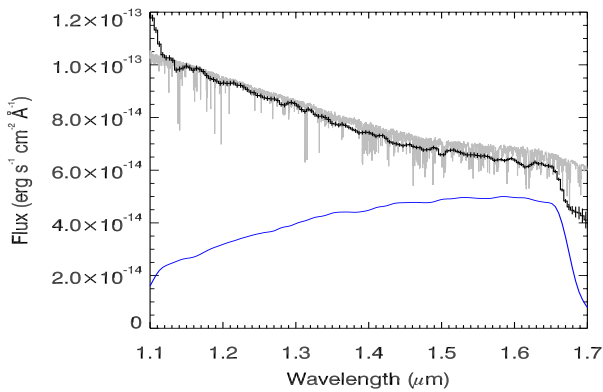


Fig. 5. Mean flux-calibrated spectrum of GJ 3470 (black line). A PHOENIX model spectrum with $T_{\text{eff}} = 3600 \text{ K}$ and $\log g = 4.5$ is shown in grey. Finally, the WFC3/G141 sensitivity is shown by the blue curve (arbitrary units).

obtain photometric time series at different wavelengths. The classical approach for WFC3/G141 data is first to bin the spectrum, then to obtain chromatic light curves for each wavelength bin. In fact, efficiently extracting the full set of transit parameters (planet-to-star radius ratio, system scale, impact parameter, limb-darkening coefficients) for each wavelength bin demands high-signal-to-noise light curves. Higher signal-to-noise ratios require larger bins, which can inevitably lead to ignore any wavelength-dependent systematic effect. As we will see, however, our analysis needs only to extract the wavelength-dependent planet-to-star radius ratio (R_p/R_\star). For this purpose, it is sufficient (in terms of signal-to-noise ratio) to obtain a light curve for each (unbinned) spectral channel and fit a transit model to each light curve to obtain the R_p/R_\star value at this wavelength. The transmission spectrum (R_p/R_\star vs. λ) can then be rebinned to increase the signal-to-noise. In our case, we found that both approaches lead to similar results, although the uncertainties in the final transmission spectrum appear to be closer to a Gaussian distribution when data binning occurs in the last steps of the reduction. This approach is the one we will present in the following.

3.2. Data analysis

3.2.1. Stellar limb-darkening

An important issue with the data set discussed here is that the time series provide no information about the transit egresses.

Therefore, the limb-darkening profile of the star cannot be significantly constrained from fits to the white or chromatic light curves. Meanwhile, we expect not to be overly sensitive to any remaining uncertainties in the limb-darkening correction, since the transit is not grazing and the stellar spectrum at those wavelengths is relatively featureless compared to that of a later-type star such as GJ 1214 (where a strong water absorption occurs; Berta et al. 2012). We were nevertheless careful in relying onto an adapted limb-darkening law and a realistic set of priors for the limb-darkening coefficients. For that purpose, we modelled the stellar atmosphere with the PHOENIX model (Husser et al. 2013) used in Sect. 3.1.6 for the flux calibration, with stellar parameters $T_{\text{eff}} = 3600 \text{ K}$, $\log g = 4.5$, and $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = 0.0$.

The specific intensity profile table was retrieved from the Göttingen Spectrum Library. It contains the stellar intensity values for 78 angles (μ) and for 25 500 wavelengths. It thus allows the retrieval of 25 500 limb-darkening profiles, one for each wavelength bin. We extracted the profiles corresponding to the wavelength range covered with WFC3/G141 and binned them in wavelength by a factor of 100, yielding 77 limb-darkening profiles with 78 angle values each. These profiles are shown in Fig. 9 with the profile integrated over the whole WFC3/G141 band pass. These profiles show a steep decrease below $\mu \sim 0.1$, which cannot be easily modelled with the classical non-linear, quadratic, or square-root limb-darkening laws. This is because the modelled stellar radius ($\mu = 0$) is chosen to encompass all the stellar flux at all wavelengths provided by the PHOENIX model. For most wavelengths in the visible and near-infrared, the stellar surface will be found at higher values of μ (T.-O. Husser, pers. comm.). As also done by Berta et al. (2012), we thus cropped the profiles in Fig. 9 and considered that the stellar surface ($\mu = 0$) is reached at the angle where the central intensity $I(1)$ has decreased by a factor of $\exp(1)$. This leaves 37 values of μ per profile. The resulting 77 profiles are plotted in Fig. 10 (top panel).

The profiles were fit with a square-root law, where the last two coefficients c_3 and c_4 of the non-linear limb-darkening law are set to zero, yielding a profile described by

$$\frac{I(\mu)}{I(1)} = 1 - c_1(1 - \mu^{\frac{1}{2}}) - c_2(1 - \mu). \quad (2)$$

The residuals are shown in the bottom panel of Fig. 10. A quadratic limb-darkening law (where $c_1 = c_3 = 0$) would provide a marginally less-good fit, although this would not affect our results. We checked that the results do not depend on the chosen stellar atmosphere model, by trying out models with different effective temperatures in the $\pm 100 \text{ K}$ uncertainty range derived by Demory et al. (2013), and by varying the surface gravity by ± 0.5 .

The coefficients of the square-root limb-darkening law (c_1 and c_2) are represented as a function of wavelength in Fig. 11. The values of the coefficients for each wavelength channel are then obtained through interpolation.

3.2.2. Correction of instrumental systematics with the out-of-transit data

We experimented with several methods to correct for the systematic effects in the white and chromatic light curves. The first method is based on the reasonable assumption that the systematics are reproducible between successive HST orbits within one HST visit. It consists in dividing the in-transit measurements by a HST-orbital-phase-dependent correction template

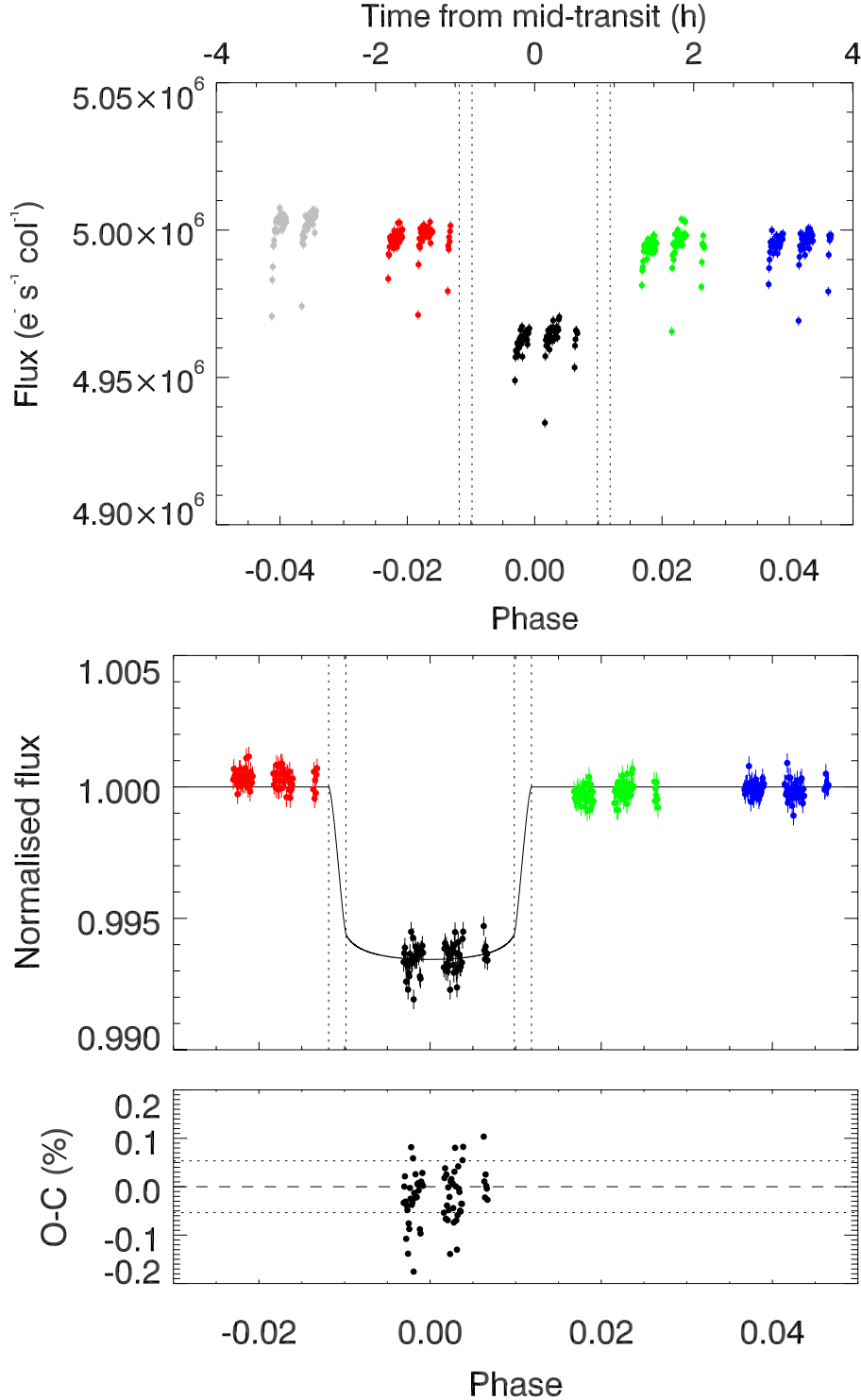


Fig. 6. *Top panel:* Raw white light curve of GJ 3470. Photometric points obtained during each HST orbit are shown in a different colour. The transit contacts of GJ 3470b are indicated by vertical dashed lines. *Middle panel:* corrected white light curve of GJ 3470. The systematics in the in-transit (third) HST orbit (black dots) have been corrected by dividing the fluxes by a correction template, built as the mean of the second (red dots) and fourth (green dots) HST orbits (which are shown here also divided by this correction template). The black curve is the best fit to the corrected white light curve. *Bottom panel:* observed minus calculated values (O–C). The two horizontal dotted lines indicate the standard deviation of the residuals in the in-transit (third) HST orbit.

calculated as the mean of the out-of-transit (OOT) measurements obtained before and after transit. This is the so-called divide-oot procedure (Berta et al. 2012; Wilkins et al. 2014; Ranjan et al. 2014). The first HST orbit in a visit is traditionally dismissed at this stage because of enhanced systematics

resulting from telescope settling and readjusting to a new pointing (e.g. Wilkins et al. 2014). In our case, first-orbit exposures are also slightly offset in phase from the other HST orbits, as can be seen in Fig. 7, because of the guide star acquisition procedure in the first orbit. Furthermore, no third exposure batch

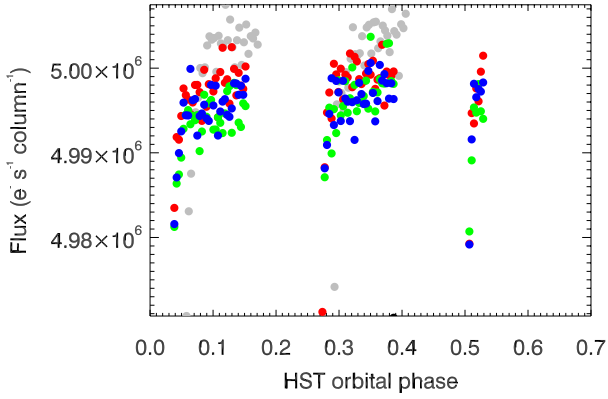


Fig. 7. Raw light curve of GJ 3470 phase-folded over one HST orbit (96 min). The different colours refer to the different orbits, following the same convention as in Fig. 6.

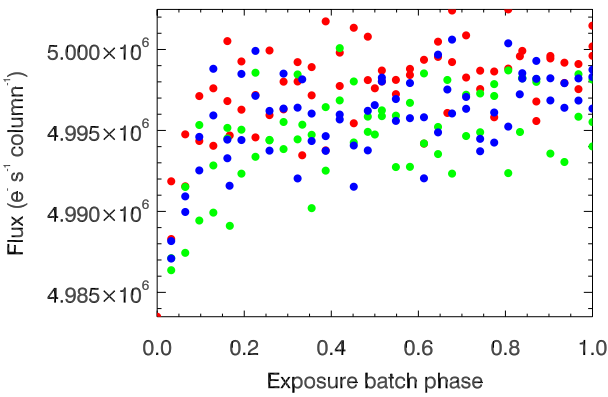


Fig. 8. Raw light curve of GJ 3470 phase-folded over a batch of exposures. The different colours refer to the different orbits, following the same convention as in Fig. 6. The first orbit is not shown here.

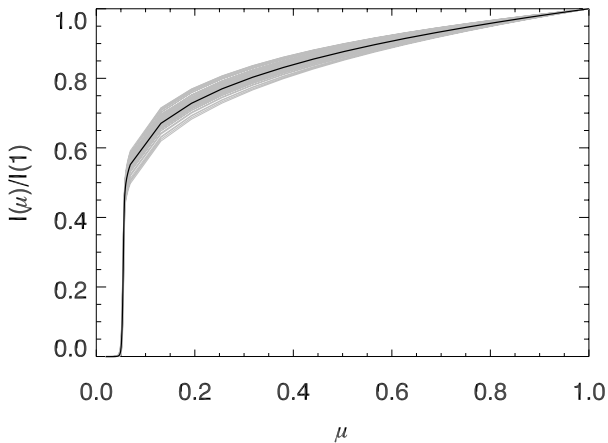


Fig. 9. Limb-darkening profiles for the PHOENIX stellar atmosphere model ($T_{\text{eff}} = 3600$ K, $\log g = 4.5$, $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = 0.0$) The grey curves are the profiles obtained for 78 wavelength values across the WFC3/G141 band pass. The black line is the limb-darkening profile integrated over this band pass.

was recorded during the first orbit because of this acquisition. We thus discarded the first HST orbit for the remaining of this analysis. Visit-long effect, such as an increasing ramp of the exposure levels, could be problematic when averaging structures on a per-HST-orbit basis (Wilkins et al. 2014). In our case, however, no significant ramp is observed in the raw white light curve

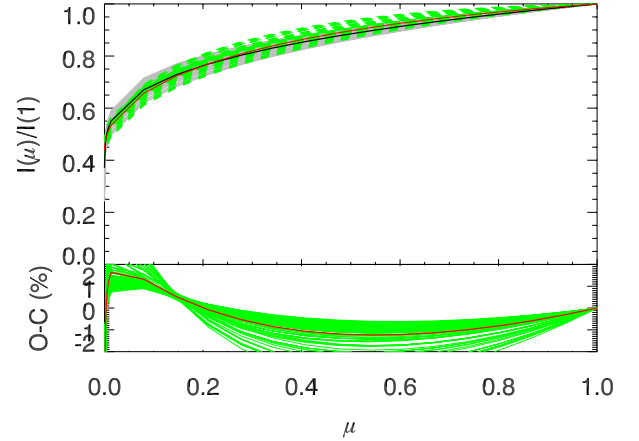


Fig. 10. *Top panel:* same as in Fig. 9, except that the stellar surface ($\mu = 0$) is taken where the specific intensity has dropped by a factor of $\exp(1)$. The green dashed curves are the best fits to the wavelength-dependent profiles in grey. The solid red line is the best fit to the integrated limb-darkening profile (black line). *Bottom panel:* observed minus calculated values of the wavelength-dependent profiles (green curves) and the integrated profile (red curve).

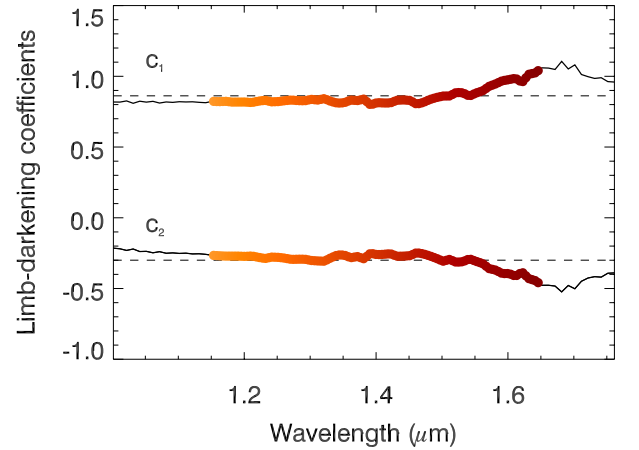


Fig. 11. Wavelength-dependent limb-darkening coefficients c_1 (top curve) and c_2 (bottom curve) for the square-root law. The horizontal dashes show the values of c_1 and c_2 obtained from the fit to the limb-darkening profile integrated over the whole WFC3/G141 band pass. The coloured dots are the values of the coefficients interpolated over each wavelength bin.

(Fig. 6, top panel), making it possible to construct the correction template as the average of HST orbits 2, 4, and 5.

The errors on the correction template is calculated as a function of time, as the quadratic mean of the errors on averaged HST orbits. They are propagated to the corrected (divided) flux of the in-transit measurements. The results can be seen in Fig. 6 for the white light curve. In this figure, the corrected data obtained before and after transit are shown; however they are not used in the fitting procedure described below. In fact, the correction template is built from these out-of-transit data, therefore these corrected HST orbits do not contain any information regarding any remaining systematic effects, contrary to the corrected in-transit (third) HST orbit.

White light curve. We adjusted the corrected white light curve with a transit model based on the occultn1 set of routines by Mandel & Agol (2002) and a least-square minimisation algorithm based on the Levenberg-Marquardt technique

(C. Markwardt’s MPFIT⁴). The only free parameter is the planet-to-star radius ratio (R_p/R_\star). The impact parameter (b) and the system scale (a_p/R_\star) have been fixed to the values determined by Demory et al. (2013) from the *Spitzer* 4.5 μm light curve ($b = 0.4$, $a_p/R_\star = 13.46$). The limb-darkening coefficients of the square-root law are fixed to the values obtained for the specific intensity profile integrated over the whole WFC3/G141 band pass (see Sect. 3.2.1), $c_1 = 0.862$ and $c_2 = -0.300$.

Chromatic light curves. The same procedure used for the white light curve was carried out on the raw chromatic light curves: a correction template was calculated for each light curve in order to deal with any potential wavelength-dependent effects. We found, however, that calculating a correction template for each spectral channel or using the correction template calculated from the white light curve throughout all channels makes little difference in the final result. Since the white light curve correction template has a higher signal-to-noise ratio than the per-channel templates, choosing the former propagates less noise into the transmission spectrum. The corrected chromatic light curves are shown in Fig. A.1. Each light curve was fitted with the transit model described above. Here again, we only set the planet-to-star radius ratio as a free parameter (since we are only interested in the wavelength-dependent variation of this parameter). The impact parameter and system scale are fixed to the same values as for the white light curve fit. The limb-darkening coefficients are fixed to the values determined in Sect. 3.2.1 and plotted in Fig. 11. We verified that the error bars on the radius ratios yielded by the fitting procedure are similar to those obtained through a $\Delta\chi^2$ analysis. For each spectral channel, we rescaled the uncertainty obtained by the value of the reduced χ^2_v .

3.2.3. Correction of instrumental systematics with the white light curve

Wilkins et al. (2014) propose a differential method to obtain a transmission spectrum from WFC3/G141 stare mode data. The method consists in, just after spectral extraction, dividing the flux in each spectral channel at a given time by the white flux integrated over the whole spectrum at the same time (albeit not including the considered spectral channel). This has the advantage to correct for any time correlation in the data, not only including the hook effect (which mostly depends on HST orbital phase for a given flux level per pixel), but also other possible effects such as the motions of the spectrum over time caused by the spacecraft jitter. The disadvantage of the method is to produce normalised light curves which are not transit light curves any more (the white transit light curve has been corrected out), and thus are not as straightforward to model and adjust as in the divide-oot method. However, the differential spectral signature of the planetary atmosphere δF is conserved in the ratio between the in-transit HST orbit and the out-of-transit HST orbits. Since we do not observe the transit egresses, it is tempting simply to integrate all in-transit exposures and divide by the integration of all out-of-transit exposures, $\delta F(\lambda) = F_{\text{in}}/F_{\text{out}}$. This is done at the cost of assuming that limb-darkening has no strong effect on our results (which is the case here). The differential measurements obtained with this method are added to the white light curve radius ratio to yield the chromatic radius ratio measurements, $k(\lambda) = \sqrt{1 - \delta F(\lambda) + (R_p/R_\star)^2}$. The uncertainties $\sigma_{k(\lambda)}$

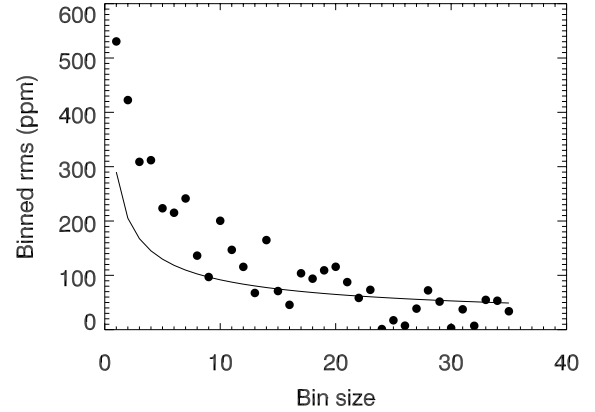


Fig. 12. Binned rms of the residuals from the white light curve in Fig. 6 obtained with the divide-oot method. The plain curve shows how the binned rms should behave if they were Gaussian ($\propto 1/\sqrt{N}$). The theoretical shot noise of the unbinned residuals is ~ 300 ppm.

are propagated following

$$\sigma_{k(\lambda)} = \frac{\sqrt{\delta F(\lambda)^2 + (2R_p/R_\star \sigma_{R_p/R_\star})^2}}{2k(\lambda)}. \quad (3)$$

We found that this method yields similar results to the divide-oot method (Sect. 3.2.2). It does so, remarkably, without performing any light curve fitting or limb-darkening correction (see Fig. 13).

4. Results

4.1. Broad-band near-infrared radius of GJ 3470b

The best fit to the white light curve obtained from the divide-oot method (see Fig. 6, middle panel) is obtained for a planet-to-star radius ratio of $R_p/R_\star = (7.848 \pm 0.037)\%$. The quoted uncertainty has been rescaled to take into account the χ^2 value of 140 for 70 degrees of freedom (reduced $\chi^2_v = 2.0$). The root mean square (rms) of the residuals, which are plotted in the bottom panel of Fig. 6, is 526 ppm. Figure 12 shows that binning the residual rms by an increasing factor N yields values compatible with what would be obtained assuming Gaussian noise dominated by shot noise ($\propto 1/\sqrt{N}$). At low N , however, the observed noise is above the shot noise (by a factor of 1.75); this is possibly caused by remaining systematics or correlated noise between adjacent spectral channels.

The broad-band radius ratio corresponding to the WFC3/G141 band pass and derived from our measurements is in agreement (1.4σ) with, and of similar precision to the photometric value of $(7.798^{+0.046}_{-0.045})\%$ obtained at 4.5 μm with *Spitzer* (Demory et al. 2013). Adopting the stellar radius of $R_\star = 0.568 \pm 0.037$ derived by these authors, we find that GJ 3470b has a near-infrared radius of $R_p = 4.86 \pm 0.32 R_\oplus$.

The aim of this work is to provide constraints on the atmosphere of the planet. To this purpose, it is already interesting to compare the broad-band measurements obtained with HST at 1.1–1.7 μm and *Spitzer* at 4.5 μm : the fact that the measurements are compatible to 1.4σ hint at a flat transmission spectrum between these wavelengths. In the section below, we explore the spectroscopic measurements to determine whether this is indeed the case.

⁴ <http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/idl.html>

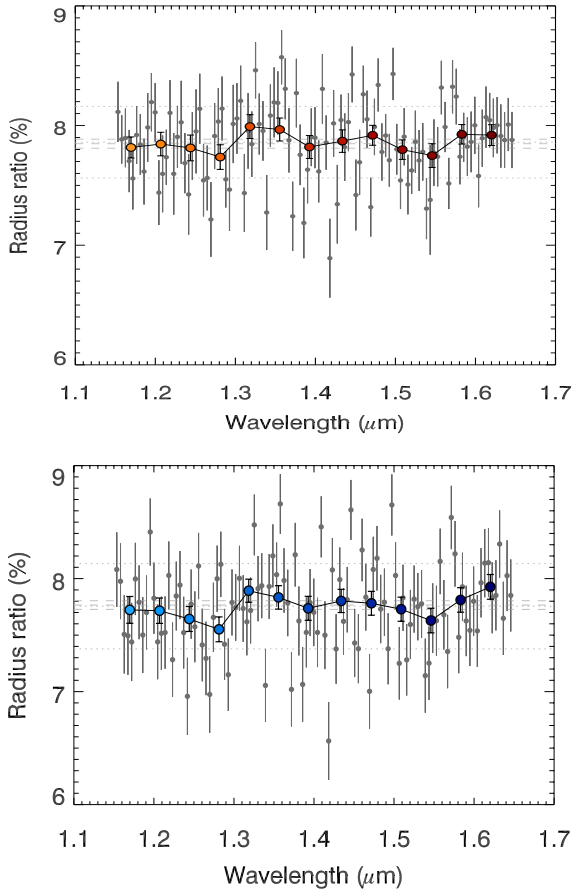


Fig. 13. WFC3/G141 transmission spectrum of GJ 3470b unbinned (grey dots) and binned by 8 (large coloured dots), obtained with the divide-out (*top panel*) and differential (*bottom panel*) methods. The dotted horizontal lines indicate the mean and standard deviation values. The broad-band radius ratio from the white light curve and its 1σ uncertainty are shown by dashed horizontal lines.

4.2. Transmission spectrum of GJ 3470b from 1.1 to 1.7 μm

The transmission spectrum of GJ 3470b results from (i) the radius ratios obtained by fitting each chromatic light curve or (ii) the differential flux measurements obtained from the white-light-transit corrected time series, depending on the method used (divide-out or differential, respectively). Both methods yield similar results (cf. Fig. 13 and Table B.1) and in the following we will focus on the results of the divide-out procedure. The transit fits to all spectral channels are shown in the left panel of Fig. A.1, with their residuals in the right panel. The values of the radius ratio, reduced χ^2_{ν} , and rms of the residuals are listed as a function of wavelength in Table B.1. The mean rms of the residuals is 3659 ppm per ~ 4.6 nm wide spectral channel.

The WFC3/G141 transmission spectrum of GJ 3470b is plotted in Fig. 13 as the radius ratio variations against wavelength. At the level of uncertainty obtained on the chromatic radius ratio measurements (938 ppm for 37 nm wide spectral bins), the spectrum appears featureless. As can be seen in Fig. 13, the broad-band radius ratio (the dashed horizontal line) provides a good straight-line approximation to the spectrum.

5. Discussion

5.1. Comparison with other measurements

5.1.1. Review of measurements available in the literature

Since the recent discovery of GJ 3470b, several measurements of its radius has been obtained from the near-ultraviolet to the infrared. All measurements reported in the literature are plotted in Fig. 14.

A set of photometric measurements of GJ 3470b was first obtained by Fukui et al. (2013). These authors observed the transit in four broad bands (green points in Fig. 14) spread in the optical (g' , R_c , and I_c) and near-infrared (J), with the ISLE instrument on the 188 cm telescope of the Okayama Astrophysical Observatory (J band) and the 50 cm MITSuME telescope (optical bands), set at the same location. The precision of these data increases towards the red. With the 188 cm telescope, Fukui et al. (2013) obtained a good precision on the planet-to-star radius ratio, $(7.577^{+0.072}_{-0.075})\%$ at $\sim 1.2 \mu\text{m}$, where a direct comparison with our data set is possible (see Sect. 5.1.2).

Crossfield et al. (2013) measured the transit of GJ 3470b with the MOSFIRE multi-object spectrograph on the Keck I telescope. They obtained a transmission spectrum in the K band, ranging from $2.09 \mu\text{m}$ to $2.36 \mu\text{m}$ (violet points in Fig. 14). These authors have also observed in the red optical with GMOS on Gemini-North; however, as they regard this latter data set as of poor quality (Crossfield et al. 2013; and I. Crossfield, pers. comm.), we will not discuss the GMOS data.

Nascimbeni et al. (2013) obtained transit measurements in two bands, one in the near-ultraviolet around 357.5 nm (the 37.5 nm wide U_{spec} band) and the other in a 20 nm band centred on 963.5 nm, thus flanking the whole optical domain. They observed simultaneously in these two bands with the LBC camera on the Large Binocular Telescope, and measured remarkably different planet-to-star radius ratios: $(8.21 \pm 0.13)\%$ and $(7.484^{+0.052}_{-0.048})\%$ in the UV and near-IR, respectively. These authors interpret this difference as the signature of a scattering process in the planetary atmosphere, which they claim should be cloud-free and with a low mean molecular weight.

Finally, as mentioned above, Demory et al. (2013) measured the planet-to-star radius ratio to be $(7.798^{+0.046}_{-0.045})\%$ in the $4.5 \mu\text{m}$ channel of *Spitzer*/IRAC.

5.1.2. Comparison of J -band measurements

As can be seen in Fig. 14, our HST/WFC3 measurements lie above the J -band measurement of Fukui et al. (2013) at $R_p/R_*(J) = (7.577 \pm 0.072)\%$. Integrating the WFC3/G141 transmission spectrum over the J band, we find a mean radius ratio of $(7.7837 \pm 0.0357)\%$, i.e. 3σ (with the uncertainty of Fukui et al. 2013) to 6σ (with our uncertainty) higher than the ratio previously measured by Fukui et al. (2013) in this band. We emphasise that our WFC3 spectrum yields an integrated value over the J band which is similar to the value obtained over the H band, on the red side of the φ water band. As we will see in the next section, atmospheric models could not easily explain a significant difference between the J and H bands.

Besides statistics, this $>3\sigma$ discrepancy could be due to unseen systematics in either data sets or astrophysical variations. This second possibility could in turn be the result of intrinsic stellar variations such as the presence of one or several (non-transited) stellar spots, which would have artificially increased the transit depth during the HST observations. Fukui et al. (2013) estimated the level of stellar variability needed to explain a

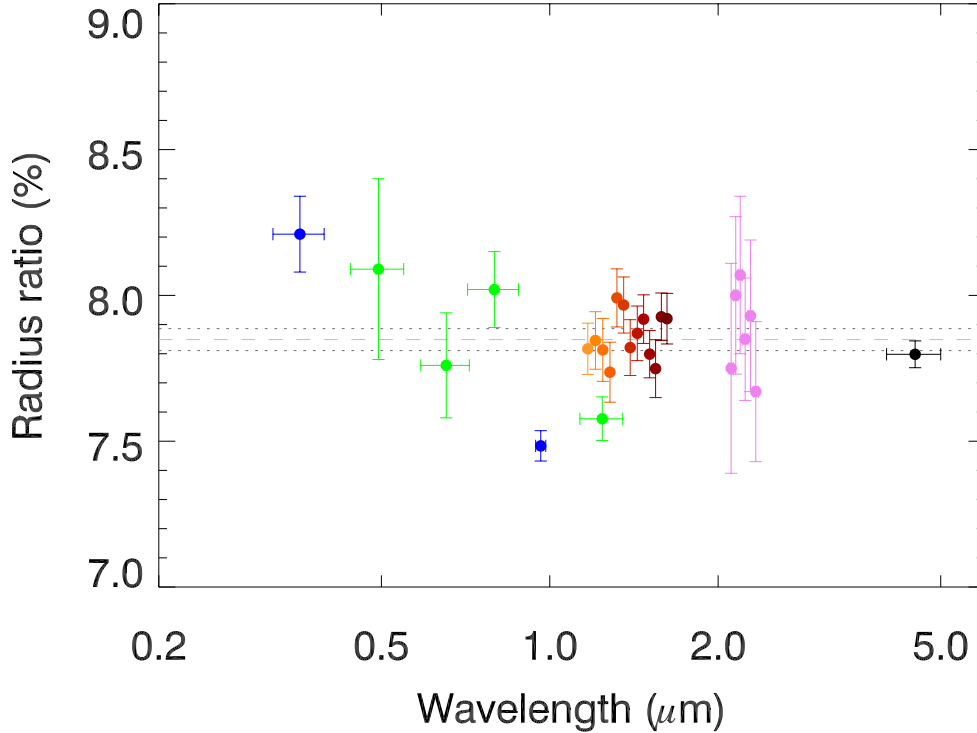


Fig. 14. Transmission spectrum of GJ 3470b from the near ultraviolet to the infrared, with all published values reported: LBT measurements at 357.5 and 963.5 nm (blue; [Nascimbeni et al. 2013](#)), OAO telescopes visible and near-infrared broad-band measurements (green; [Fukui et al. 2013](#)), near-infrared HST/WFC3 spectroscopic measurements (orange to dark red; this work), Keck/MOSFIRE narrow-band measurements (violet; [Crossfield et al. 2013](#)), and *Spitzer*/IRAC broad-band photometry at 4.5 μm (black; [Demory et al. 2013](#)). The dashed and dotted lines show the white light curve radius ratio and its $\pm 1\sigma$ uncertainty, respectively.

difference in R_p/R_\star : the difference of $\Delta R_p/R_\star = (0.21 \pm 0.09)\%$ between our *J*-band measurement and that of [Fukui et al. \(2013\)](#) could be explained by a $\sim 5.5\%$ variability in the stellar flux. However, a two-month photometric survey of GJ 3470 in the *I_c* band led [Fukui et al. \(2013\)](#) to the conclusion that with a peak-to-peak variability of $\sim 1\%$, the star should not be that active.

Another tantalising possibility is weather variations in the planetary atmosphere, in particular regarding the cloud coverage at the terminator: the observations of [Fukui et al. \(2013\)](#) could have been made under clear sky conditions at the limb of GJ 3470b (a scenario that these authors are actually proposing), whereas our observations would have taken place under covered conditions. To explain a 0.21% difference in R_p/R_\star , the optically thick radius of GJ 3470b should change by $0.21\%R_\star \approx 1150$ km, or ~ 1.8 atmospheric scale heights, which cannot be excluded. On the other hand, observing a similar behaviour for all points along the terminator seems a rather ad-hoc condition.

5.1.3. Flat spectrum in the infrared

While the other photometric measurements available cannot be directly compared to our data, they draw a dichotomic spectrum, where all measurements towards the red side of our data set are consistent with a flat spectrum, whereas the more scattered measurements towards the blue hint at an increasing slope typical of a light scattering process. The WFC3 spectrum thus plays a pivotal role in understanding the atmosphere of GJ 3470b.

The *K*-band radius ratio obtained by [Crossfield et al. \(2013\)](#) is $(7.89^{+0.21}_{-0.19})\%$, at 0.2σ from our white radius ratio (using their error bars). Their binned spectrum is also flat within the error bars. In addition, the *Spitzer*/IRAC broad-band photometric point at 4.5 μm ([Demory et al. 2013](#)) is, as stated

above, in agreement to 1.4σ with our broad-band measurement. Therefore, the HST/WFC3, Keck/MOSFIRE, and *Spitzer*/IRAC data are compatible with a flat transmission spectrum for GJ 3470b from ~ 1 to 5 μm .

5.2. Transmission spectrum model

We will first focus on our HST/WFC3 observations and attempt to determine whether it is possible to derive significant constraints on the atmospheric nature of GJ 3470b from this data set alone. Then, we will consider the full set of measurements described in the previous section, and see how the pivotal WFC3 data set can allow us to better understand the dichotomic nature of the transmission spectrum (slope increasing towards the blue below 1 μm , flat spectrum above 1 μm).

To these purposes, we compute theoretical transmission spectra for GJ 3470b, based on the radiative transfer model described in [Ehrenreich et al. \(2006\)](#). The code performs one-dimensional, single-scattering radiative transfer in grazing (limb) geometry across an atmospheric model, which structure and composition are user-specified. It calculates photo-absorption cross sections from atomic and molecular line lists (all molecules present in the HITRAN data base; [Rothman et al. 2009](#)), Rayleigh scattering from refractive indices for the main possible carriers (H_2 , H_2O , CO_2 , and N_2), and the effect of clouds and hazes.

All the models discussed here are based on simulated atmospheres for GJ 3470b. The atmospheric structure is calculated under the assumptions of perfect gas mixture in hydrostatic equilibrium with an isothermal temperature profile at 615 K. The code computes and integrates the opacities along the line of sight starting upward from a reference level set to 10 bar. The different

Table 1. Atmospheric models computed in the present work.

Model	X_{H_2}	$X_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$	X_{CH_4}	Clouds (mbar)	Tholin hazes			χ^2_ν		Figs.
					r_m (μm)	n (cm^{-3})	p (mbar)	WFC3 data ($\nu = 12$)	All data ($\nu = 24$)	
Cloud-covered	–	–	–	<10	–	–	–	8.53	67.2	15, 16
Pure Rayleigh	1	0	0	–	–	–	–	12.3	92.7	16
	1	0	0	100	–	–	–	8.59	24.9	16
	1	0	0	10	–	–	–	8.51	11.6	16
H_2 -rich	1	1%	0.1%	–	–	–	–	237	352	15, 17
	1	1%	0	–	–	–	–	108	213	15, 17
	1	100 ppm	0	–	–	–	–	58.6	147	15, 17
	1	100 ppm	0	100	–	–	–	12.4	69.2	15, 17
	1	100 ppm	0	10	–	–	–	9.27	66.1	15, 17
	1	1 ppm	0	100	–	–	–	8.26	59.4	17
H_2O -rich	100 ppm	1	0	–	–	–	–	8.79	73.1	15, 17
Hazy H_2	1	100 ppm	0	–	0.1	1000	100–1	26.0	135	18
	1	100 ppm	0	–	0.1	1000	0.1–0.001	33.8	218	–
	1	100 ppm	0	–	0.1	100	100–1	59.6	318	15, 18
	1	100 ppm	0	–	0.1	100	0.1–0.001	126	943	–
	1	100 ppm	0	–	0.1	10	100–1	51.9	199	18
	1	100 ppm	0	–	0.1	10	0.1–0.001	56.9	468	–
	1	100 ppm	0	–	0.5	10	100–1	24.9	99.6	18
	1	100 ppm	0	–	0.5	10	0.1–0.001	33.8	116	18

models corresponds to different compositions of the gas mixture, expressed in volume mixing ratios (VMR, noted X), and various properties for clouds and hazes.

We distinguish between clouds and hazes along the following lines: *clouds* are considered here as a uniform, optically thick layer with an achromatic behaviour. This means that only species absorbing or scattering light above the cloud layer can yield a spectroscopic signature in the otherwise flat transmission spectrum. On the other hand, *hazes* are modelled as a vertical distribution of droplets (or grains) with characteristic sizes and size distribution widths, number densities, and altitude (or pressure) ranges. The different possible natures of haze (e.g. sulfuric acid, tholins, acetylene, etc.) are characterised by different wavelength-dependent complex refractive indices. Because tholins have been advanced as a possible solution to fit GJ 3470b’s transmission spectrum (Nascimbeni et al. 2013), we will only consider *tholin* haze in the following.

The full set of models and their parameters are listed in Table 1. We consider several families of models:

- *Cloud-covered atmosphere*: an atmosphere covered by a high-altitude (<10 mbar) cloud layer. The transmission spectrum of this model is simply represented by a straight line. It remains flat whatever the atmospheric properties are beneath the cloud layer.
- *Pure-Rayleigh atmospheres*: pure hydrogen (H_2) atmospheres, where the only spectral signature is due to Rayleigh scattering. These models can be clear (no clouds) or cloudy, with a cloud layer at different pressure levels (100 mbar and 10 mbar).
- *H_2 -rich, metal-poor atmospheres*: clear or cloudy H_2 -rich ($X_{\text{H}_2} \sim 1$) atmospheres with small amounts of minor gases. The minor gases have a strong impact on the transmission spectrum because of their photo-absorption cross-sections: we mainly consider water vapour in various VMRs (1%, 100 ppm, and 1 ppm). Cloud layers are also added at different pressure levels (100 mbar and 10 mbar). In one of these models, we add methane ($X_{\text{CH}_4} = 0.1\%$) to reproduce the

thermal-equilibrium composition of a thick atmosphere with $\text{C/O} < 1$ and $T \approx 600$ K (Hu & Seager 2014).

- *H_2O -rich atmosphere*: a pure water atmosphere (and no clouds).
- *Hazy- H_2 atmospheres*: a set of H_2 -rich, metal-poor atmospheres with haze layers. The haze layers have different properties (particle size, particle density, and pressure range) and refractive indices corresponding to Titan tholins (Khare et al. 1984).

As increasing evidence of flat exoplanet transmission spectra are unveiled (e.g. Kreidberg et al. 2014; Knutson et al. 2014), it becomes more and more obvious that scattering effects should be dealt with when modelling these transmission spectra. Mie scattering by hazes has often been advanced as an efficient way to flatten a transmission spectrum, and it sometimes does as in the case the acid sulfuric haze on Venus (Ehrenreich et al. 2012). In this work, we have considered a haze of tholins instead of sulfuric acid droplets, because it is the haze model stressed by Nascimbeni et al. (2013, see their Fig. 2c) as providing the best fit to the radius ratio measurements of GJ 3470b known at the time of their publication.

Nascimbeni et al. (2013) rescaled transmission spectrum models calculated by Howe & Burrows (2012) for a $10 M_\oplus$ planet with an equilibrium temperature of 700 K (Howe & Burrows’ closest grid point to GJ 3470b; V. Nascimbeni, pers. comm.). Because the atmospheric scale height scales linearly with temperature and is inversely proportional to surface gravity and mean molar mass of the atmosphere, it is certainly fine to rescale a transmission spectrum model to a planet with a different set of such parameters, as long as we can consider the atmosphere is in hydrostatic equilibrium and the VMRs of the different absorbing or (Rayleigh) scattering gases are constant. *We caution, however, that this may not be appropriate when dealing with droplet or particle hazes.* In fact, the vertical structure of the haze layer (number density, pressure range) and the intrinsic parameters of the haze particles (size and size distribution width) are not following hydrostatic equilibrium. In other words, the haze properties driving the haze scattering signature, such as

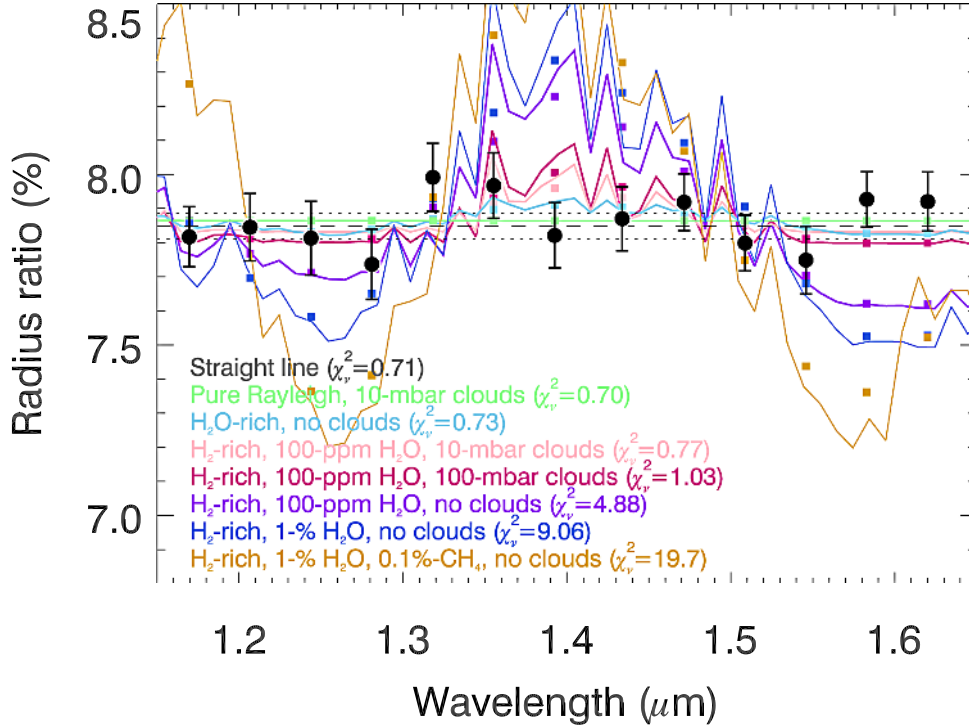


Fig. 15. WFC3/G141 transmission spectrum of GJ 3470b (same as in Fig. 13) vs. several transmission spectrum models. The white light curve radius ratio and its $\pm 1\sigma$ uncertainty are represented by the horizontal dashed and dotted lines, respectively.

the particle size and number density, cannot be scaled with the density or partial pressure p_i of gases, which follow the hydrostatic law $p_i = p_{\text{ref}} \exp(-z/H)$, where p_{ref} is the pressure at the reference level, z is the altitude, and H is the atmospheric scale height. Instead of rescaling models existing for other planets, we have computed the scattering signature of haze layers for the set of haze parameters detailed in Table 1.

5.2.1. Interpretation of the HST/WFC3 data

The modelled transmission spectra are over-plotted on the WFC3 data in Fig. 15. The different models are adjusted to the data using a least-square approach where the only free parameter is an offset in R_p/R_* . The χ^2 values are reported in the penultimate column of Table 1.

Our data are inconsistent with all models predicting a strong contrast between the J and H bands on the one hand, and the region separating those two bands on the other hand (where the $1.38 \mu\text{m}$ water band is). In such models, the contrast is due to the photo-absorption of water, which effect is favoured in atmospheres with low mean molar masses, i.e. with large scale heights. Extra absorbers, such as methane, can also increase the absorption if, at a given wavelength, they have larger cross sections than water (and are located as high as water or above in the atmosphere).

Among all the tested models, the H_2 -rich model with 1% of H_2O and 0.1% of CH_4 is the most realistic in terms of composition because it follows the predictions of Hu & Seager (2014, see their Fig. 7, upper left panel) for a $\sim 600\text{-K}$ planet with a thick, hydrogen-rich, $\text{C/O} < 1$ atmosphere in thermal equilibrium. This model also predicts the largest contrast in the WFC3 band; it yields a χ^2 of 237 for $\nu = 12$ degrees of freedom, and is thus inconsistent with the WFC3 data to the $\sqrt{\chi^2} = 15\sigma$ level.

All other H_2 -rich models are methane-free, which reduces the predicted contrast with the J and H bands. However, the observed transmission spectrum is sufficiently flat to exclude a cloudless, H_2 -rich atmosphere with 1% of water ($\chi^2 = 108$, $\nu = 12$) with a good confidence level (10σ). We found that lowering the thermochemistry equilibrium VMR of water by two orders of magnitude (to $X_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 100$ ppm) does not sufficiently decrease the amplitude of the water band. This latter model ($\chi^2 = 58.6$, $\nu = 12$) is also significantly (8σ) excluded by our data.

Only models yielding less contrasted transmission spectra can provide good fits to the data. There are mainly two ways to flatten the transmission spectrum: (i) adding cloud layers and (ii) significantly increasing the mean molar mass of the atmosphere, by turning minor species into major components.

- (i) An efficient way to flatten the transmission spectrum of H_2 -rich atmospheres is to introduce a cloud layer. The quality of the fit with the H_2 -rich, 100 ppm H_2O model significantly improves for a cloud layer set at 100 mbar (~ 2000 km above the 10 bar level; $\chi^2 = 12.4$ for $\nu = 12$) and 10 mbar (~ 3000 km above the 10 bar level; $\chi^2 = 9.3$ for $\nu = 12$). Setting the cloud top at even lower pressures will eventually suppress the water band; however it is unknown whether optically-thick clouds could exist at these low-pressure levels. A model with very high clouds would produce a perfectly flat transmission spectrum. The best-fit straight-line model yields a $\chi^2 = 8.5$ for $\nu = 12$. We emphasise that the atmosphere could have any possible compositions below such a high-altitude cloud, and we would not be able to discriminate between any of them.

We found that contrary to clouds, tholin haze layers are unable to flatten the transmission spectrum in the WFC3 band pass. The best (flattest) results, with $\chi^2 \approx 25$ for $\nu = 12$, are obtained for large particle sizes ($0.5 \mu\text{m}$) or high particle

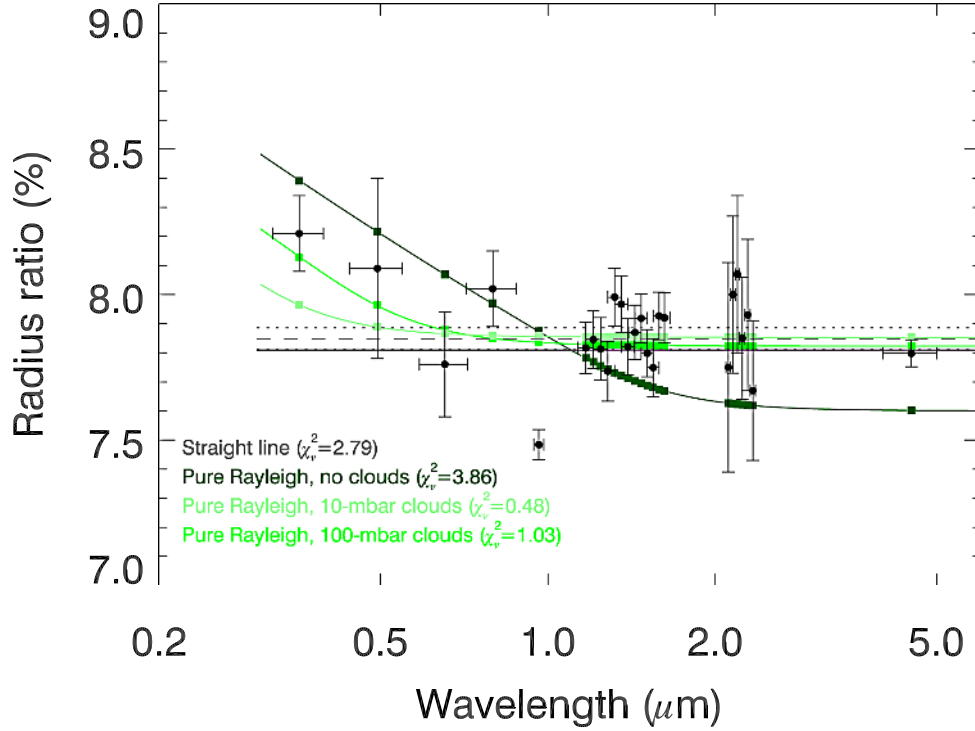


Fig. 16. Simple transmission spectrum models: straight-line (thick grey horizontal line) and pure-Rayleigh's (green curves) vs. all radius ratio measurements of GJ 3470b (black dots; same as in Fig. 14). Squares show the models value over the measurement band passes. The WFC3 broad-band radius ratio and its 1σ uncertainty are represented by the dashed and dotted lines, respectively.

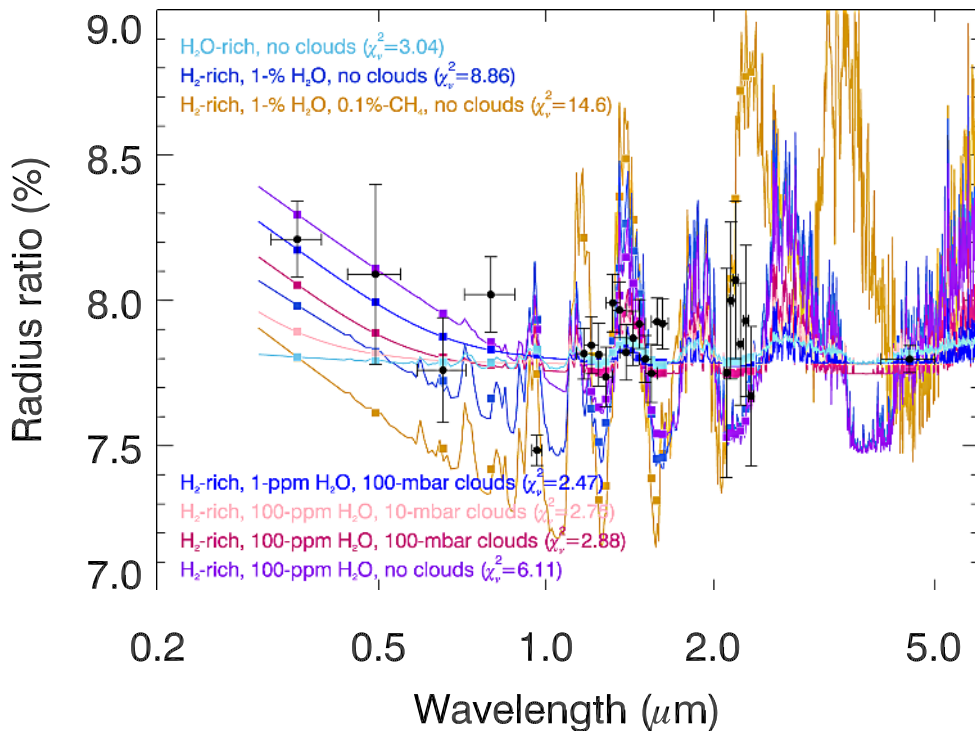


Fig. 17. Same as Fig. 16 with water-rich and water-poor (with or without clouds) transmission spectrum models.

density (1000 cm^{-3}) located at relatively high pressures (between 100 mbar and 1 mbar) in the atmosphere.

- (ii) The cloudless water-rich model, where the VMR of water is set to 99.99%, also provides a good fit to the WFC3/G141

data ($\chi^2 = 8.8$ for $\nu = 12$). This is because the atmospheric scale height in this model is $\mu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}/\mu_{\text{H}_2} = 9$ times smaller than in the H_2 -rich models, efficiently decreasing the amplitude of the absorption features. We note, however, that

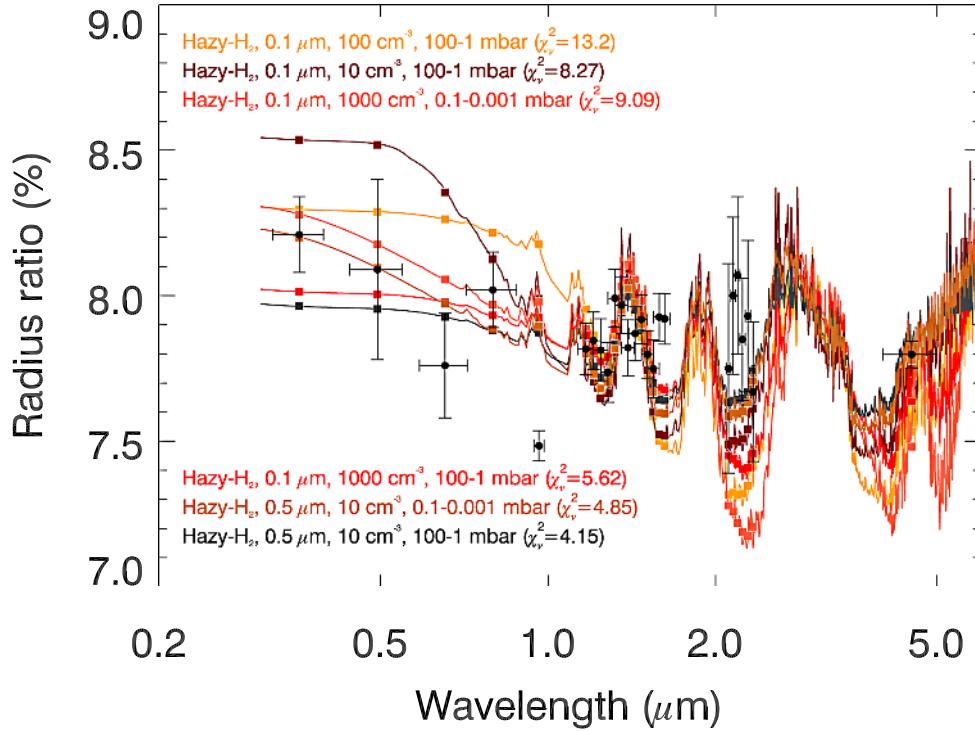


Fig. 18. Same as Fig. 16 with hazy hydrogen-rich models.

according to Hu & Seager (2014), an almost 100%-water atmosphere is unlikely, as large H_2O VMRs ($X_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} \gtrsim 10\%$) also require larger hydrogen VMRs ($X_{\text{H}_2} \gtrsim 10\%$) than the value we have considered ($X_{\text{H}_2} = 0.01\%$). For very low X_{H_2} , the atmosphere would in fact be dominated by O_2 or CO_2 ($\text{C/O} \lesssim 0.5$) or by CH_4 ($\text{C/O} \sim 1$) at the considered temperature (Hu & Seager 2014, see their Fig. 7). The net effect of having more hydrogen in a water-rich atmosphere is to decrease the mean molar mass, and thus to increase the scale height and the expected water absorption feature. This could make a water-rich model more inconsistent with our data. On the other hand, a hydrogen-poor atmosphere dominated, as stated above, by gases heavier than water vapour (O_2 , CO_2) or having equivalent molar mass (CH_4), will have an atmospheric scale height lower or equal, respectively, to our water-rich model. Therefore, such atmospheric compositions are expected to yield even more flat transmission spectra in the wavelength range covered by our WFC3 measurements. Hence, CO_2 -rich or O_2 -rich atmospheres would also yield transmission spectra fully consistent with the WFC3/G141 spectrum.

5.2.2. Interpretation of the full transmission spectrum

We now consider the full set of R_p/R_* measurements for GJ 3470b (Fig. 14) and compare it with the models discussed above. We again fit the data by adjusting a vertical offset to the different models. Figures 16 to 18 show a comparison of all these data with our models. The idealistic models (cloud-covered and pure-Rayleigh) are shown in Fig. 16. Figure 17 shows the different H_2 -rich models with minor species and the H_2O -rich model, and Fig. 18 shows the hazy- H_2 models.

As detailed above in Sect. 5.1, the data are consistent with a flat transmission spectrum between $1 \mu\text{m}$ and $5 \mu\text{m}$, whereas

there is a trend for a increasing slope towards short wavelengths below $1 \mu\text{m}$.

All models predicting non-flat infrared spectra are inconsistent with the data collected beyond $1 \mu\text{m}$. This excludes the models with tholin hazes (Fig. 18), which do not hide the water or methane molecular signatures and thus yield $\chi^2 \geq 100$ for $\nu = 24$ (see Table 1). Cloudless H_2 -rich models with minor species (Fig. 17) are also ruled out: these models predict strong water and/or methane signatures in the infrared, yielding $147 < \chi^2 < 352$ for $\nu = 24$. Adding clouds to the H_2 -rich, 100 ppm H_2O model helps in obtaining better fits ($\chi^2 = 69.2$ and 66.1 for $\nu = 24$, for cloud top at 100 mbar and 10 mbar, respectively), as this reduces the amplitude of the molecular signatures. For these models, Rayleigh scattering towards short wavelengths yields a slope similar to that suggested by data collected in the visible. These models, however, are not flat enough beyond $1 \mu\text{m}$ to satisfyingly match the infrared data.

On the other hand, the models tested above in Sect. 5.2.1 to yield a flat infrared spectrum, consistently yield a flat spectrum in the visible. Increasing the VMR of minor species (water or methane, both with a molar mass of 18 g mol^{-1}) would eventually lead to shrink the atmospheric scale height and compress all spectroscopic signatures, including the Rayleigh scattering slope towards short wavelengths. This is why the H_2O -rich model (sky blue curve in Fig. 17), which provided a good fit to the WFC3 data only ($\chi^2 = 8.8$ for $\nu = 12$), does not work as well when the full set of data is considered ($\chi^2 = 73.1$ for $\nu = 24$). Similarly, the cloud-covered model producing a straight-line transmission spectrum is not favoured either when all the data are considered ($\chi^2 = 67.2$ for $\nu = 24$), because of the increasing slope towards short wavelength suggested by the optical measurements. With the achieved level of precision, it is fair to say that we cannot distinguish between a cloudy H_2 -rich atmosphere with $X_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 100 \text{ ppm}$, a pure water atmosphere, or a cloud-covered atmosphere yielding a completely flat

transmission spectrum. All these models yield $\chi^2 \approx 70$ ($\nu = 24$). Consequently, none of these models satisfyingly fit both visible and infrared data.

Obtaining a better match between models and observations would be achieved by an atmospheric model producing a featureless spectrum in the infrared while preserving a Rayleigh slope in the visible. One possibility, that we are now going to explore, would be to further reduce the VMR of H₂O in the H₂-rich atmospheres with minor gases and clouds. The decrease in VMR would have to be significant in order to sufficiently attenuate the molecular signatures, because of the analytical degeneracy between the abundance of a species and the total pressure (Lecavelier des Etangs et al. 2008): we have tested the case of a cloudy model (clouds at 100 mbar) with an extremely low VMR of water (1 ppm), for which we indeed obtain a decreased χ^2 of 59.4 ($\nu = 24$), with respect to the previously tested model with $X_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 100$ ppm and clouds at the same altitude (see Fig. 17).

Such H₂-rich atmospheres with extremely low or no amount of water are what we call the pure-Rayleigh H₂ atmospheres. These ideal models, plotted in Fig. 16, actually yield the best fits to the whole data set because they are flat beyond 1 μm while featuring a Rayleigh slope in the visible. The amplitude of the slope depends on the presence and altitude of clouds. For cloud layers at 100 and 10 mbar, pure-Rayleigh H₂ models yield χ^2 of 24.9 and 11.6, respectively (for $\nu = 24$), which is a significant improvement with respect to the previously tested models.

While pure-Rayleigh H₂ atmospheres represent a good match to the available data, they are not necessarily physically or chemically realistic. In fact, having no or extremely low (<1 ppm) amounts of water in a H₂-rich ($X_{\text{H}_2} > 0.9$) atmosphere is at odds (by ~ 4 orders of magnitude) with the predictions of the photo- and thermochemical model of Hu & Seager (2014). According to these authors, the water VMR could be lower than 1 ppm if $X_{\text{H}_2} \lesssim 0.7$ and $\text{C/O} > 2$. This would result in a significantly increased amount of methane ($X_{\text{CH}_4} \gtrsim 10\%$), involving strong spectroscopic signatures in the infrared, inconsistent with the data, as the H₂-rich model with $X_{\text{CH}_4} = 0.1\%$ suggests (golden curve in Fig. 17). The Hu & Seager (2014) carbon-rich models also predict large amounts of hydrocarbon species, such as ethylene (C₂H₄) and acetylene (C₂H₂), which may produce hazes with refraction indices different from the tholin haze we have tested. The effect of such hazes on the transmission spectrum remains to be evaluated, even though the transmission signature of a haze of acetylene has been tested by Howe & Burrows (2012) for GJ 1214b. These authors concluded that “for polyacetylene particles of any size, the wavelength dependence is weak at short wavelengths”, suggesting that such a haze cannot account for the tentative slope observed on GJ 3470b transmission spectrum.

One way to understand a significant depletion of water deduced from a transmission spectrum such as the one obtained for GJ 3470b (scattering slope in the visible, flat in the infrared) is to consider that such spectra only probe the terminator regions of the planet. We speculate that if the heat redistribution in the planetary atmosphere is not efficient (meaning that the atmospheric advection timescale is lower than the radiative timescale), then the terminator would represent the boundary between the hot illuminated side of the planet and the cold night side. As such, the evening terminator could be the place where water condenses and snow flakes settle down to pressure ranges below the optically thick level. Water vapour VMR could increase again to the predicted values after the atmospheric circulation brings it passed the morning terminator. If the visible slope of GJ 3470b

spectrum is observationally confirmed, this hypothesis could be tested with three-dimensional, global circulation models.

6. Conclusion

In this work, we have presented the first space-borne transmission spectrum of GJ 3470b, a warm, Uranus-mass exoplanet. The near-infrared spectroscopic measurements of the WFC3/G141 extend from 1.1 μm to 1.7 μm , covering the *J* and *H* photometric band passes as well as the 1.38 μm water absorption separating them. The WFC3/G141 data, obtained in stare mode, offer a planet-to-star radius ratio precision of $\sim 0.09\%$ per ~ 40 -nm bin. The data show no sign of the water band at 1.38 μm and are significantly inconsistent ($>10\sigma$) with models where it is prominent, such as a cloudless H₂-dominated atmosphere. Our results are indeed consistent, within the error bars, with a featureless spectrum.

Our simulations of theoretical transmission spectra for GJ 3470b show that the HST/WFC3 data could be compatible with: (i) a cloudy hydrogen-rich atmosphere with trace amounts of water (<100 ppm); (ii) a pure water atmosphere, or (iii) a cloud-covered atmosphere, with high-altitude optically thick clouds (<10 mbar). This leads us to advance that the transmission spectrum of GJ 3470b is flat in the infrared, akin to what is seen – with a higher precision – for the warm super-Earth GJ 1214b (Kreidberg et al. 2014) and the warm Neptune GJ 436b (Knutson et al. 2014).

Meanwhile, GJ 3470b stands out with respect to these two exoplanets because the full set of its available measurements, from the near-ultraviolet to the infrared, points to a dichotomic transmission spectrum: flat beyond 1 μm (as demonstrated by the present work) but with a tentative slope rising towards shorter wavelengths in the optical⁵. We ruled out tholin haze as a good candidate to explain this spectroscopic behaviour. Instead, we found that the only atmospheric model able to satisfyingly match the data is a cloudy hydrogen-rich atmosphere with an extremely low water VMR (<1 ppm) or so-called pure Rayleigh model. Such an atmosphere, however, challenges the one-dimensional thermo- and photo-chemical models (e.g. Hu & Seager 2014) predicting much higher water VMRs ($\sim 1\%$).

An optical transmission spectrum of GJ 3470b would be extremely valuable in order to assess the reality of the tentative spectral slope, and thus the possibility that the atmosphere of this exoplanet is water-depleted at the terminator. On the other hand, if the spectral slope is ruled out by new observations in the optical, then increasing the precision on the near-infrared measurements, by observing additional transits with a much higher duty cycle (as made possible by the WFC3 scan mode), would allow discriminating between a cloudy atmosphere and a water-rich atmosphere, similarly to what has been achieved for GJ 1214b and GJ 436b (Kreidberg et al. 2014; Knutson et al. 2014).

Acknowledgements. D.E. is grateful to T.-O. Husser for his help with the use of the stellar atmosphere library, I. Crossfield and T. Barman for discussions related to the transmission spectrum of the planet. The authors would like to thank the anonymous referee for his or her time spent reviewing the manuscript. This work has been carried out within the frame of the National Centre for Competence in Research “PlanetS” supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). D.E., C.L., S.U., and D.S. acknowledge the financial support of the SNSF. X.B. acknowledges funding from the European

⁵ After this paper was refereed, we became aware of the study by Biddle et al. (2014), who have re-analysed the published ground-based measurements. This work add credence to the Rayleigh slope, which fully supports our conclusions.

Research Council under the ERC Grant Agreement n. 337591-ExTrA and from the French Agence National de la Recherche (ANR) under programme ANR-12-BS05-0012 “Exo-Atmos”. N.C.S. acknowledges the support from the European Research Council/European Community under the FP7 through Starting Grant agreement number 239953. N.C.S. was also supported by Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT) through the Investigador FCT contract reference IF/00169/2012 and POPH/FSE (EC) by FEDER funding through the program “Programa Operacional de Factores de Competitividade – COMPETE”. Finally, the authors would like to thank the Space Telescope Science Institute Director M. Mountain for awarding Director’s Discretionary Time to this project, and the programme coordinator Tricia Royle for, as always, a flawless implementation of the observations.

References

- Bakos, G. Á., Torres, G., Pál, A., et al. 2010, *ApJ*, 710, 1724
- Bean, J. L., Miller-Ricci Kempton, E. M.-R., & Homeier, D. 2010, *Nature*, 468, 669
- Bean, J. L., Désert, J.-M., Kabath, P., et al. 2011, *ApJ*, 743, 92
- Benneke, B., & Seager, S. 2013, *ApJ*, 778, 153
- Berta, Z. K., Charbonneau, D., Désert, J.-M., et al. 2012, *ApJ*, 747, 35
- Biddle, L. I., Pearson, K. A., Crossfield, I. J. M., et al. 2014, *MNRAS*, 443, 1810
- Bonfils, X., Gillon, M., Udry, S., et al. 2012, *A&A*, 546, 27
- Butler, R. P., Vogt, S. S., Marcy, G. W., et al. 2004, *ApJ*, 617, 580
- Charbonneau, D., Berta, Z. K., Irwin, J., et al. 2009, *Nature*, 462, 891
- Croll, B., Jayawardhana, R., Miller-Ricci Kempton, E. M.-R., Fortney, J. J., & Murray, N. 2011, *ApJ*, 736, 78
- Crossfield, I. J. M., Barman, T., & Hansen, B. M. S. 2011, *ApJ*, 736, 132
- Crossfield, I. J. M., Barman, T., Hansen, B. M. S., & Howard, A. W. 2013, *A&A*, 559, A33
- Deming, D., Wilkins, A., McCullough, P. R., et al. 2013, *ApJ*, 774, 95
- Demory, B.-O., Torres, G., Neves, V., et al. 2013, *ApJ*, 768, 154
- Désert, J.-M., Bean, J., Miller-Ricci Kempton, E., et al. 2011, *ApJ*, 731, L40
- Dragomir, D., Matthews, J. M., Eastman, J. D., et al. 2013, *ApJ*, 772, L2
- Dressel, L. 2010, *Wide Field Camera 3 Instrument Handbook, Version 3.0* (Baltimore: STScI)
- Ehrenreich, D., Tinetti, G., Lecavelier des Etangs, A., Vidal-Madjar, A., & Selsis, F. 2006, *A&A*, 448, 379
- Ehrenreich, D., Vidal-Madjar, A., Widemann, T., et al. 2012, *A&A*, 537, L2
- Fukui, A., Narita, N., Kurosaki, K., et al. 2013, *ApJ*, 770, 95
- Howe, A. R., & Burrows, A. S. 2012, *ApJ*, 756, 176
- Hu, R., & Seager, S. 2014, *ApJ*, 784, 63
- Huitson, C. M., Sing, D. K., Vidal-Madjar, A., et al. 2012, *MNRAS*, 422, 2477
- Husser, T. O., Wende-von Berg, S., Dreizler, S., et al. 2013, *A&A*, 553, A6
- Khare, B. N., Sagan, C., Arakawa, E. T., et al. 1984, *Icarus*, 60, 127
- Knutson, H. A., Benneke, B., Deming, D., & Homeier, D. 2014, *Nature*, 505, 66
- Kreidberg, L., Bean, J. L., Désert, J.-M., et al. 2014, *Nature*, 505, 69
- Kummel, M., Walsh, J., Kuntschner, H., & Bushouse, H. 2011, *aXe User Manual version 2.3* (Baltimore: STScI)
- Kuntschner, H., Bushouse, H., Kummel, M., & Walsh, J. R. 2009, *ST-ECF Instrument Science Report WFC3-2009-17*, 17
- Lecavelier des Etangs, A., Pont, F., Vidal-Madjar, A., & Sing, D. 2008, *A&A*, 481, L83
- Lissauer, J. J., Fabrycky, D. C., Ford, E. B., et al. 2011, *Nature*, 470, 53
- Mandel, K., & Agol, E. 2002, *ApJ*, 580, L171
- Miller-Ricci, E., & Fortney, J. J. 2010, *ApJ*, 716, L74
- Miller-Ricci Kempton, E., Zahnle, K., & Fortney, J. J. 2012, *ApJ*, 745, 3
- Mordasini, C., Alibert, Y., Benz, W., & Naef, D. 2009, *A&A*, 501, 1161
- Nascimbeni, V., Piotto, G., Pagano, I., et al. 2013, *A&A*, 559, A32
- Nettelmann, N., Fortney, J. J., Kramm, U., & Redmer, R. 2011, *ApJ*, 733, 2
- Pont, F., Sing, D. K., Gibson, N. P., et al. 2013, *MNRAS*, 432, 2917
- Ranjan, S., Charbonneau, D., Désert, J.-M., et al. 2014, *ApJ*, 785, 148
- Riess, A. 2002, *Instrument Science Report ACS 2002-07*, 7
- Rogers, L. A., & Seager, S. 2010, *ApJ*, 716, 1208
- Rothman, L. S., Gordon, I. E., Barbe, A., et al. 2009, *J. Quant. Spectr. Rad. Transf.*, 110, 533
- Seager, S., & Sasselov, D. D. 2000, *ApJ*, 537, 916
- Sing, D. K., Vidal-Madjar, A., Désert, J.-M., Lecavelier des Etangs, A., & Ballester, G. 2008, *ApJ*, 686, 658
- Van Grootel, V., Gillon, M., Valencia, D., et al. 2014, *ApJ*, 786, 2
- Wilkins, A. N., Deming, D., Madhusudhan, N., et al. 2014, *ApJ*, 783, 113

Appendix A: Chromatic transit light curves

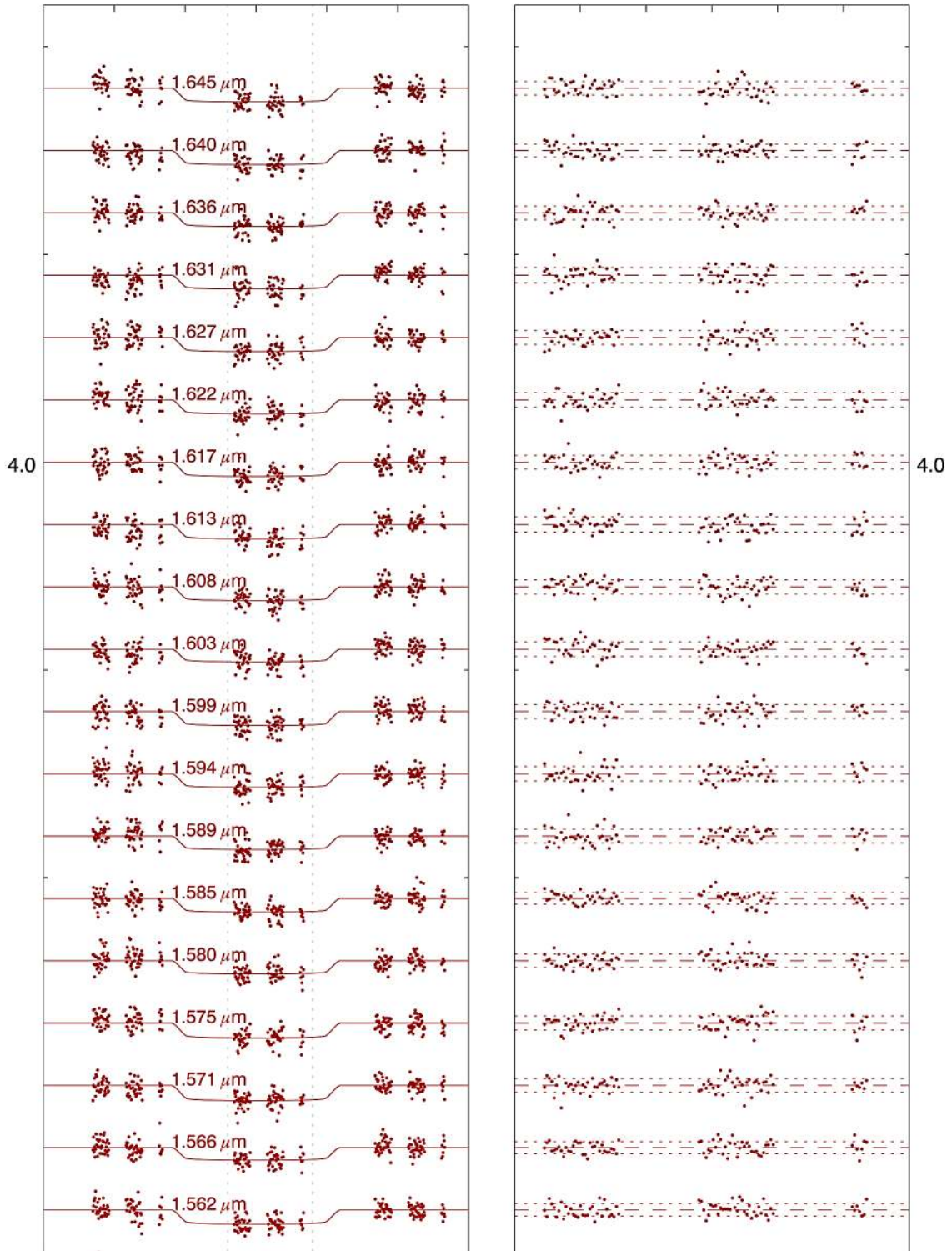


Fig. A.1. *Left panel:* the 107 corrected chromatic light curves of GJ 3470. Data points in all three HST orbits shown (2–4) have been divided by the correction template. The light curves have been offset in flux for clarity. The plain curves are best-fit transit models superimposed to each time series. The grey vertical dotted lines indicate the phase coverage shown in the *right panel*, where the residuals are plotted. In this panel, the horizontal dashed lines show the zero levels and the dotted lines show the one-standard-deviation levels of the residuals for the in-transit (third) HST orbit only.

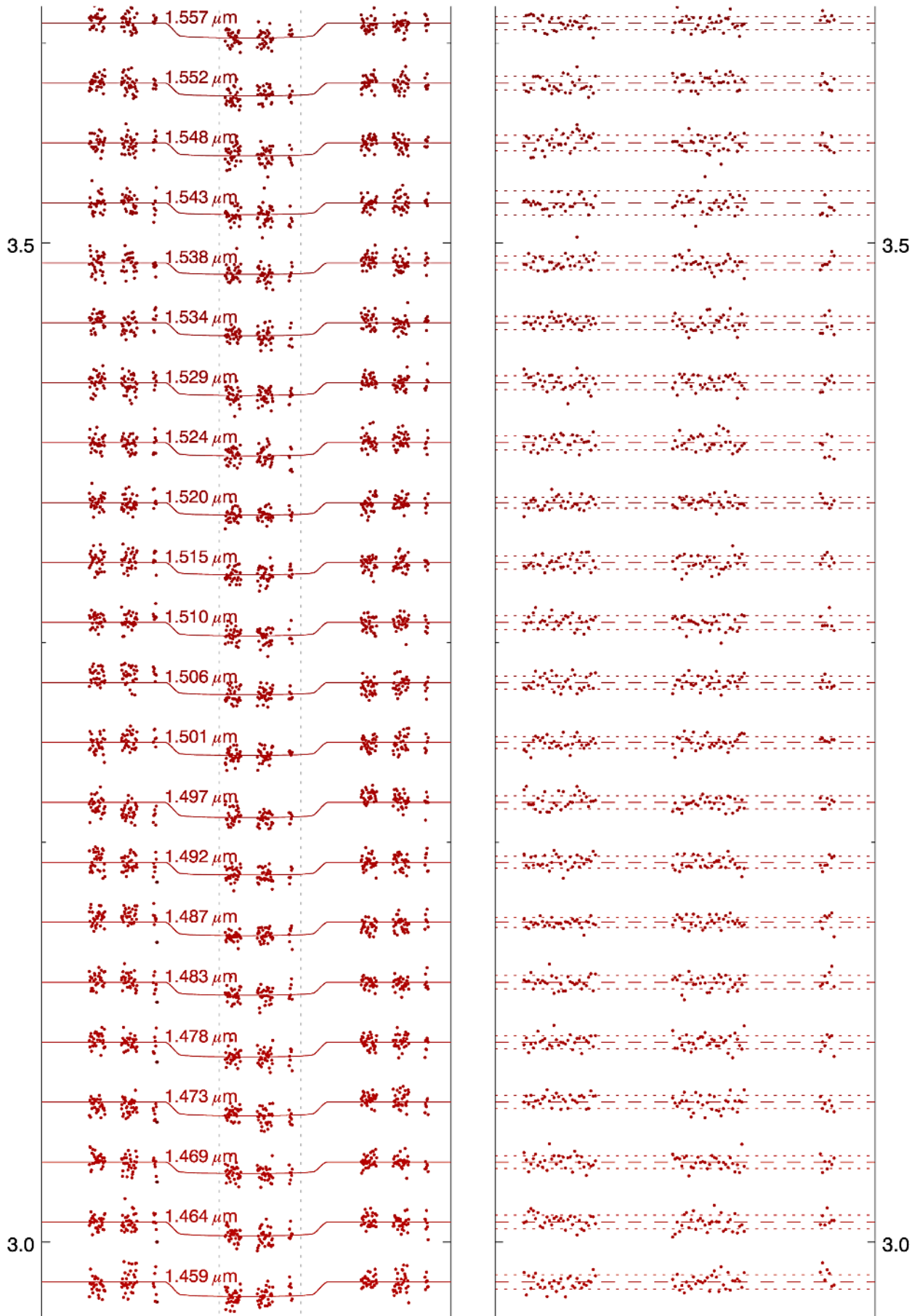


Fig. A.1. continued.

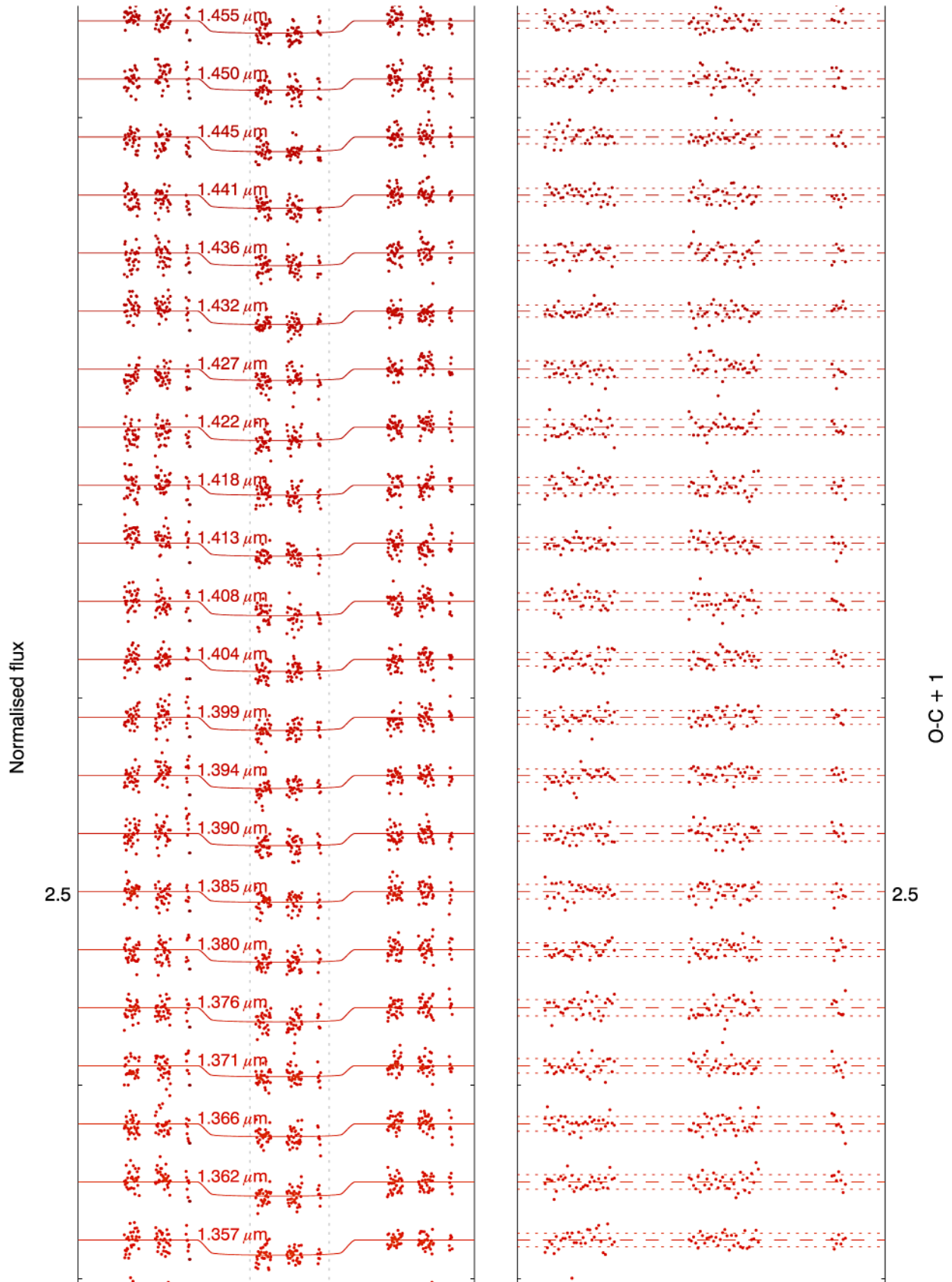


Fig. A.1. continued.

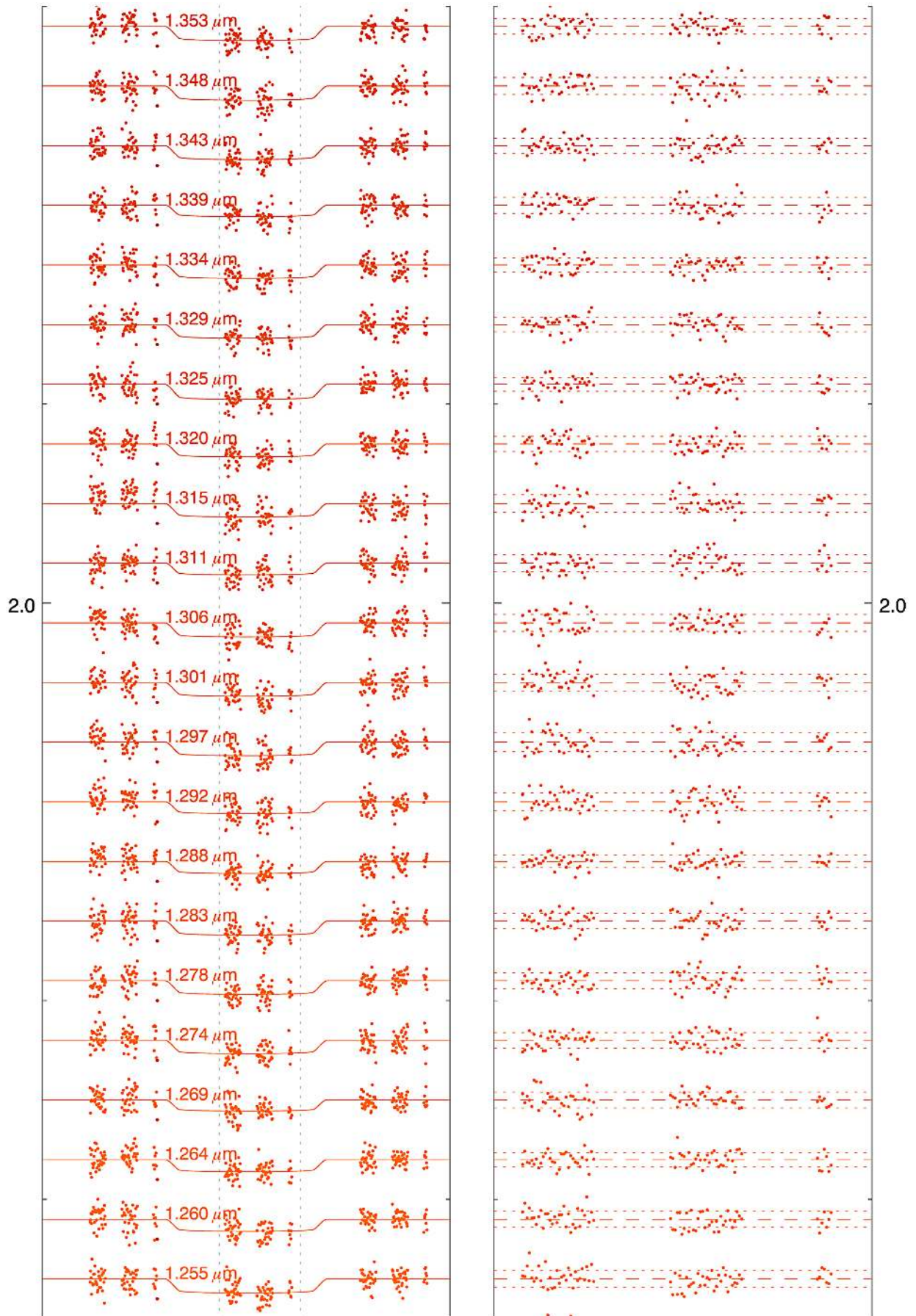


Fig. A.1. continued.

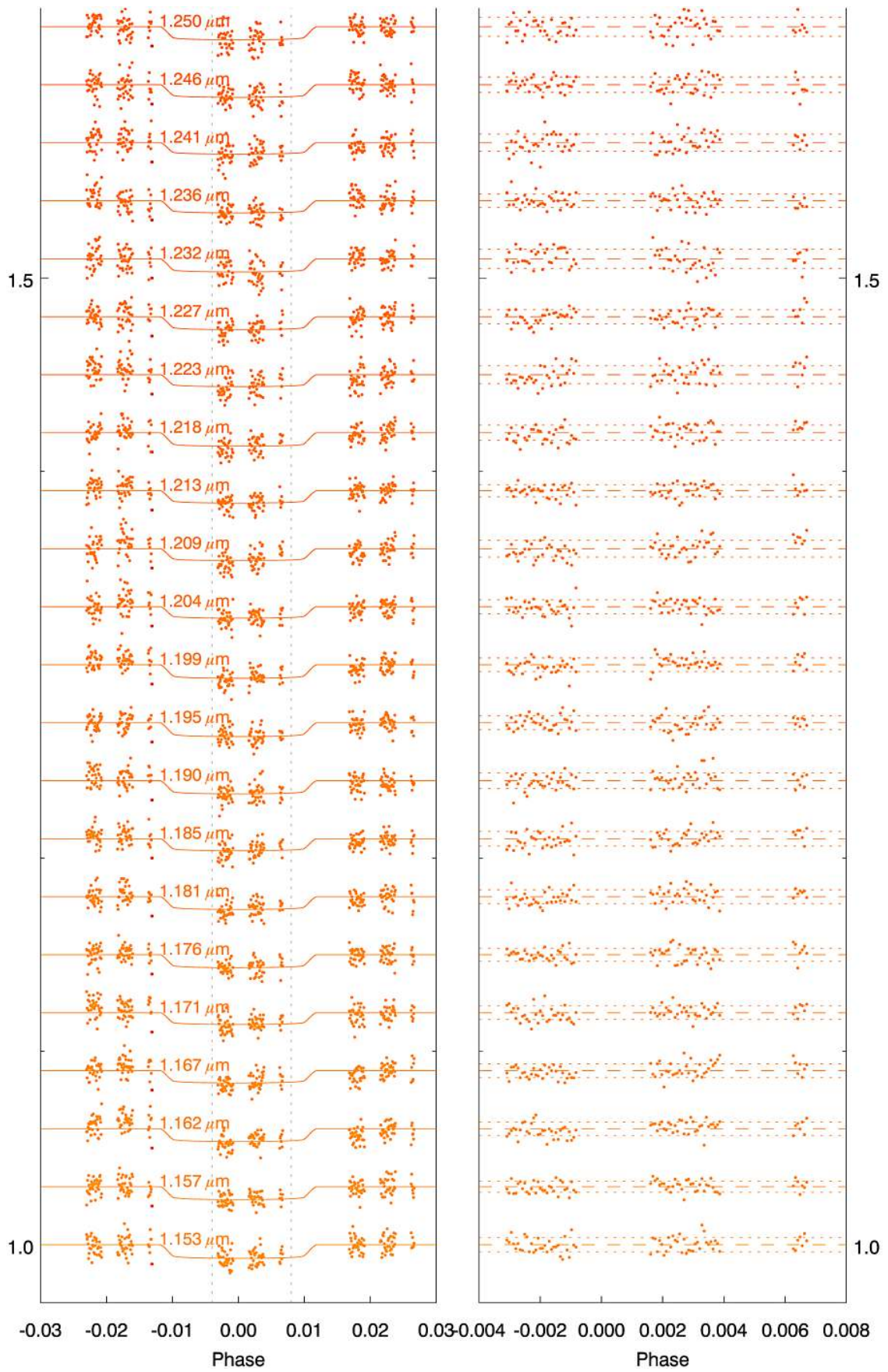


Fig. A.1. continued.

Appendix B: Transmission spectrum data

Table B.1. Transmission spectrum of GJ 3470b.

Wavelength (μm)	Out-of-transit data correction (Sect. 3.2.2)			Differential correction (Sect. 3.2.3)
	R_p/R_\star (%) [σ_{R_p/R_\star}]	Light curve fit χ^2_ν ($\nu = 70$)	Flux residual rms (ppm)	R_p/R_\star (%) [σ_{R_p/R_\star}]
1.153	8.114 [0.251]	0.92	3652	8.080 [0.330]
1.157	7.884 [0.202]	0.56	2850	7.976 [0.334]
1.162	7.896 [0.244]	0.86	3444	7.506 [0.346]
1.167	7.703 [0.260]	0.93	3575	7.493 [0.345]
1.171	7.557 [0.258]	0.91	3492	7.439 [0.345]
1.176	7.921 [0.240]	0.87	3402	7.997 [0.319]
1.181	7.841 [0.254]	0.96	3556	7.790 [0.326]
1.185	7.615 [0.275]	1.08	3742	7.501 [0.336]
1.190	7.984 [0.287]	1.31	4091	7.700 [0.326]
1.195	8.195 [0.243]	1.00	3555	8.412 [0.296]
1.199	8.110 [0.244]	1.01	3538	7.826 [0.315]
1.204	7.439 [0.270]	1.05	3588	7.440 [0.330]
1.209	7.596 [0.320]	1.57	4345	7.515 [0.324]
1.213	7.735 [0.230]	0.86	3171	7.522 [0.320]
1.218	8.105 [0.273]	1.33	3953	8.027 [0.301]
1.223	7.596 [0.341]	1.84	4617	7.282 [0.328]
1.227	7.905 [0.258]	1.15	3637	7.846 [0.304]
1.232	8.027 [0.346]	2.13	4951	7.942 [0.301]
1.236	7.686 [0.251]	1.03	3442	7.521 [0.317]
1.241	7.424 [0.335]	1.73	4434	6.958 [0.341]
1.246	7.828 [0.283]	1.36	3946	7.773 [0.306]
1.250	7.950 [0.351]	2.18	4969	7.573 [0.313]
1.255	8.140 [0.293]	1.58	4247	8.111 [0.293]
1.260	7.542 [0.301]	1.43	4046	7.412 [0.321]
1.264	7.561 [0.270]	1.17	3644	7.293 [0.325]
1.269	7.215 [0.312]	1.42	4002	6.974 [0.339]
1.274	7.912 [0.276]	1.36	3883	7.657 [0.306]
1.278	8.033 [0.279]	1.43	3982	7.998 [0.293]
1.283	8.141 [0.267]	1.35	3867	8.126 [0.288]
1.288	7.550 [0.235]	0.92	3159	7.418 [0.312]
1.292	7.464 [0.343]	1.97	4553	7.149 [0.320]
1.297	8.013 [0.327]	2.08	4657	7.789 [0.292]
1.301	8.059 [0.295]	1.70	4226	7.745 [0.295]
1.306	8.206 [0.294]	1.72	4278	8.002 [0.287]
1.311	7.435 [0.325]	1.75	4288	7.735 [0.295]
1.315	7.955 [0.316]	1.95	4461	7.617 [0.296]
1.320	7.844 [0.273]	1.43	3804	7.717 [0.291]
1.325	8.461 [0.234]	1.19	3520	8.475 [0.269]
1.329	8.012 [0.254]	1.26	3627	7.911 [0.288]
1.334	7.955 [0.248]	1.19	3521	7.937 [0.287]
1.339	7.273 [0.313]	1.59	4063	7.054 [0.322]
1.343	8.083 [0.260]	1.35	3752	7.930 [0.287]
1.348	8.193 [0.292]	1.74	4273	8.201 [0.278]
1.353	8.189 [0.263]	1.42	3851	8.034 [0.284]
1.357	8.571 [0.226]	1.14	3455	8.661 [0.263]
1.362	8.306 [0.254]	1.36	3761	7.983 [0.285]
1.366	7.876 [0.269]	1.35	3779	7.784 [0.294]
1.371	7.241 [0.288]	1.31	3733	7.019 [0.327]
1.376	8.271 [0.286]	1.66	4224	8.211 [0.281]
1.380	7.755 [0.253]	1.12	3497	7.625 [0.305]
1.385	7.185 [0.294]	1.31	3775	7.063 [0.330]
1.390	7.631 [0.280]	1.34	3825	7.524 [0.309]
1.394	7.902 [0.241]	1.08	3403	7.787 [0.296]
1.399	7.898 [0.255]	1.22	3597	7.701 [0.298]
1.404	7.616 [0.258]	1.16	3518	7.523 [0.306]
1.408	8.306 [0.289]	1.76	4297	8.458 [0.270]
1.413	7.857 [0.226]	1.00	3185	7.499 [0.300]
1.418	6.891 [0.329]	1.61	4059	6.563 [0.344]
1.422	8.018 [0.278]	1.53	3989	8.076 [0.281]
1.427	7.342 [0.328]	1.79	4303	7.377 [0.308]
1.432	8.046 [0.212]	0.89	3053	7.991 [0.284]
1.436	7.819 [0.281]	1.54	3937	7.621 [0.293]

Table B.1. continued.

Wavelength (μm)	Out-of-transit data correction (Sect. 3.2.2)			Differential correction (Sect. 3.2.3)
	R_p/R_\star (%) [σ_{R_p/R_\star}]	Light curve fit χ^2_ν ($\nu = 70$)	Flux residual rms (ppm)	R_p/R_\star (%) [σ_{R_p/R_\star}]
1.441	8.028 [0.242]	1.18	3483	7.813 [0.289]
1.445	8.427 [0.233]	1.18	3517	8.607 [0.265]
1.450	7.419 [0.296]	1.53	3929	7.430 [0.301]
1.455	7.692 [0.272]	1.38	3744	7.379 [0.305]
1.459	8.261 [0.239]	1.19	3535	8.253 [0.276]
1.464	8.052 [0.239]	1.10	3446	7.835 [0.295]
1.469	7.318 [0.245]	0.96	3218	7.002 [0.330]
1.473	7.988 [0.235]	1.02	3362	8.080 [0.290]
1.478	8.339 [0.221]	0.99	3305	8.179 [0.285]
1.483	7.779 [0.239]	1.00	3326	7.730 [0.302]
1.487	7.916 [0.180]	0.60	2544	7.791 [0.297]
1.492	7.709 [0.220]	0.85	3034	7.379 [0.314]
1.497	8.431 [0.218]	0.97	3282	8.651 [0.270]
1.501	7.801 [0.211]	0.78	2940	8.027 [0.292]
1.506	7.541 [0.238]	0.95	3209	7.250 [0.320]
1.510	7.906 [0.239]	1.08	3380	7.829 [0.293]
1.515	7.506 [0.249]	1.05	3336	7.280 [0.315]
1.520	7.624 [0.196]	0.66	2672	7.594 [0.305]
1.524	7.865 [0.259]	1.22	3632	7.819 [0.296]
1.529	7.707 [0.254]	1.14	3493	7.751 [0.297]
1.534	7.780 [0.240]	1.03	3337	7.776 [0.299]
1.538	7.305 [0.255]	1.01	3331	7.141 [0.327]
1.543	7.378 [0.458]	3.29	6086	7.251 [0.325]
1.548	7.773 [0.277]	1.34	3853	7.649 [0.308]
1.552	7.739 [0.247]	1.05	3422	7.627 [0.309]
1.557	8.317 [0.223]	0.98	3315	8.152 [0.290]
1.562	7.987 [0.209]	0.80	2985	7.679 [0.307]
1.566	7.515 [0.213]	0.72	2860	7.354 [0.324]
1.571	8.324 [0.222]	0.94	3281	8.541 [0.280]
1.575	8.242 [0.232]	1.02	3400	8.219 [0.290]
1.580	7.739 [0.230]	0.89	3165	7.480 [0.318]
1.585	7.902 [0.204]	0.72	2860	7.927 [0.301]
1.589	7.823 [0.244]	1.02	3391	7.625 [0.311]
1.594	7.863 [0.253]	1.11	3531	7.542 [0.315]
1.599	8.002 [0.238]	1.00	3381	7.799 [0.307]
1.603	7.578 [0.261]	1.08	3510	7.537 [0.317]
1.608	7.894 [0.239]	0.94	3340	7.963 [0.306]
1.613	8.069 [0.255]	1.11	3654	8.137 [0.302]
1.617	8.044 [0.227]	0.87	3248	8.141 [0.302]
1.622	7.980 [0.244]	0.99	3459	7.830 [0.314]
1.627	8.002 [0.235]	0.95	3342	7.851 [0.310]
1.631	7.912 [0.264]	1.13	3698	8.306 [0.297]
1.636	7.878 [0.231]	0.85	3224	7.648 [0.323]
1.640	8.008 [0.221]	0.79	3140	8.025 [0.313]
1.645	7.879 [0.234]	0.85	3260	7.850 [0.319]