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Radial velocity confirmation of a hot super-Neptune discovered by TESS with a warm Saturn-mass companion

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ABSTRACT

We report the discovery and confirmation of the planetary system TOI-1288. This late G dwarf harbours two planets: TOI-1288 b and TOI-1288 c. We combine TESS space-borne and ground-based transit photometry with HARPS-N and HIRES high-precision Doppler measurements, which we use to constrain the masses of both planets in the system and the radius of planet b. TOI-1288 b has a period of $2.699835^{+0.000004}_{-0.000003}$ d, a radius of 5.24 ± 0.09 R_{\oplus}, and a mass of 42 ± 3 M_{\oplus}, making this planet a hot transiting super-Neptune situated right in the Neptunian desert. This desert refers to a paucity of Neptune-sized planets on short period orbits. Our 2.4-yr-long Doppler monitoring of TOI-1288 revealed the presence of a Saturn-mass planet on a moderately eccentric orbit $(0.13^{+0.07}_{-0.09})$ with a minimum mass of 84 ± 7 M $_{\oplus}$ and a period of 443^{+11}_{-13} d. The five sectors worth of TESS data do not cover our expected mid-transit time for TOI-1288 c, and we do not detect a transit for this planet in these

Key words: techniques: photometric - techniques: radial velocities - planets and satellites: detection.

1 INTRODUCTION

As the tally of exoplanets has now surpassed 5000, we can make more informed inferences about planet formation and evolution. A wealth of architectures and different planet types have been discovered, some of which are quite different from the planets found in the Solar System. We first learned about giant planets on short period orbits, the so-called hot Jupiters, which have been found in abundance, owing to their detection bias. The Kepler space mission (Borucki et al. 2010) showed us that while super-Earths appear to be quite common (Howard et al. 2010a; Mayor et al. 2011), we see a significant dearth

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of Neptune mass planets on short period orbits, a paucity referred to as the Neptunian 'desert' (Mazeh, Holczer & Faigler 2016).

In addition to this paucity, studies on the planetary initial mass function (e.g. Mordasini et al. 2009) have found a minimum in the mass range where super-Neptunes reside, namely from around $30 \, \mathrm{M}_{\oplus}$ to 70 M_{\oplus} . This valley has been interpreted as the division between planets dominated by solids and gas giants that have undergone runaway gas accretion (Ida & Lin 2004). Finding and characterizing planets in this mass range could therefore help shed light on why some proto-planets undergo runaway accretion while others do

Most of the super-Neptunes were detected by Kepler around relatively faint stars, meaning that precise mass determinations exist only for a few of these (e.g. Kepler-101b, Bonomo et al. 2014). The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS; Ricker et al. 2015) along with ground-based efforts have now detected more of these super-Neptunes in brighter systems for which precise radial velocities (RVs) are more viable, enabling both radius and mass

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Table 1. System parameters. Catalogue IDs, coordinates, and magnitudes for the TOI-1288 system.

Parameter	Value	Name
TIC^a	365733349	
Gaia DR3 ^b	2245652826430109184	
TYC^c	4255-1629-1	
$\alpha (J2000)^b$	20:52:40.09	Right ascension (R.A.)
$\delta (J2000)^b$	+65:36:31.59	Declination (Dec.)
$\mu_{\alpha} \; (\text{mas yr}^{-1})^b$	43.496 ± 0.017	Proper motion R.A.
$\mu_{\delta} \; (\text{mas yr}^{-1})^b$	-68.775 ± 0.017	Proper motion Dec.
ϖ (mas) ^b	8.720 ± 0.013	Parallax
$RV (km s^{-1})^b$	-68.1 ± 0.6	Radial velocity
G^{b}	10.4507 ± 0.0018	Gaia G magnitude
$B_{\rm P}^{\ b}$	10.855 ± 0.006	Gaia B _P magnitude
$R_{\rm P}^{\ b}$	9.873 ± 0.003	Gaia R _P magnitude
V^{c}	10.44 ± 0.04	Tycho V magnitude
B^{c}	11.38 ± 0.07	Tycho B magnitude
J^{d}	9.19 ± 0.02	2MASS J magnitude
H^{d}	8.84 ± 0.03	2MASS H magnitude
K^{d}	8.78 ± 0.02	2MASS K magnitude

Notes. ahttps://exofop.ipac.caltech.edu/tess/.

determinations. Therefore, we can also determine the bulk density and make inferences about the composition. A way to gain more insight into the composition and potential migration is through atmospheric studies, which have also been used as a means to rule out certain mechanisms, for instance, as in Vissapragada et al. (2022) in which photoevaporation is ruled out as the mechanism responsible for shaping the upper edge of the Neptunian desert.

Here, we report on the discovery and characterization of the TOI-1288 planetary system. In this system, we have discovered a hot super-Neptune, TOI-1288 b, with an outer Saturn mass companion, TOI-1288 c. These planets are hosted by a late G dwarf.

The paper is structured as follows. In Section 2, we describe our observations, which include ground-based photometry as well as that from TESS. We have also acquired speckle and adaptive optics (AO) imaging to search for blended companions. In addition, we have carried out extensive spectroscopic follow-up to confirm and characterize this planetary system. In Section 3, we present our analysis of the data in which we model the photometry and spectroscopy jointly. The results are presented in Section 4, and we discuss them in Section 5. Finally, we give our conclusions in Section 6.

2 OBSERVATIONS

The TOI-1288 system has been observed with different space- and ground-based facilities, including both photometric and spectroscopic observations, as well as high-resolution imaging. System parameters for TOI-1288 are summarized in Table 1.

2.1 Photometry

TESS observed TOI-1288 during Sectors 15, 16, 17, 18, and 24 (2019 August 15 to November 27, and 2020 April 16 to May 13). This candidate was identified by the Science Processing Operation Center (SPOC; Jenkins et al. 2016) team at the NASA Ames Research Center, who searched the light curves, which are extracted through simple aperture photometry (SAP; Twicken et al. 2010; Morris

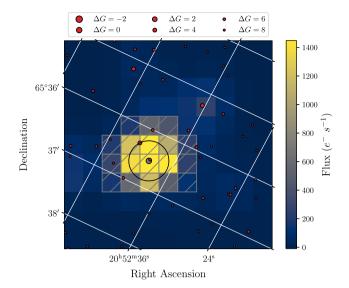


Figure 1. TESS image of TOI-1288. Cutout of a TESS image of TOI-1288 from Sector 15. The red dots denote *Gaia* sources with their sizes scaled to the difference in G magnitude to TOI-1288. The grey dot denotes the position of TOI-1288. The hatched area shows the aperture mask we used to create the light curves, and the black circle illustrates the separation to the brightest nearby star at \sim 23 arcsec.

et al. 2020) and processed using the Presearch Data Conditioning (PDC; Smith et al. 2012; Stumpe et al. 2012, 2014) algorithm. The SPOC team searches the PDCSAP light curves for transit-like signals with an adaptive, noise-compensating matched filter (Jenkins 2002; Jenkins et al. 2010) using a pipeline that iteratively performs multiple transiting planet searches and stops when it fails to find subsequent transit-like signatures above the detection threshold of a signal-tonoise ratio (SNR) of 7.1. The results were published in the Data Validation Report (DVR; Twicken et al. 2018; Li et al. 2019), and as the light curve shows a \sim 0.25 per cent dip occurring every 2.7 d with an SNR of around 62, it was identified as a TESS Object of Interest (TOI; Guerrero et al. 2021) and given the ID TOI-1288. The results of the difference image-centroiding test were also presented in the DVR, which located the source of the transit signal to within 1.3 ± 2.6 ″ in the Sector 14-26 multisector transit search.

An independent search for transit signals was performed using the Détection Spécialisée de Transits (DST; Cabrera et al. 2012) pipeline on the PDCSAP light curves. A transit signal with orbital period of 2.70 ± 0.02 d and a transit depth of $\sim\!0.25$ per cent was detected, consistent with the signal detected by the SPOC pipeline.

Fig. 1 displays the TESS image in the immediate vicinity of TOI-1288 with nearby Gaia DR3 sources (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2022). All the TESS photometry from Sectors 15-18 and Sector 24 is displayed in Fig. 2, where we show the background-corrected light curve at the top. This was done using the RegressionCorrector implemented in lightkurve (Lightkurve Collaboration et al. 2018). Overplotted in grey is a model light curve created using batman (Kreidberg 2015) with transit parameters stemming from an initial fit. We used this to remove the transit signal before removing outliers from the light curve. In the middle light curve, the transits are removed, and we have applied a Savitzky-Golay filter (Savitzky & Golay 1964) to temporarily filter the light curve. We then removed outliers through sigma clipping at 5σ ; these outliers are highlighted in red. Finally, in the bottom light curve we have re-injected the transits to the unfiltered light curve as we want to account for any trend while fitting, as described in Section 3.

^bGaia Collaboration et al. (2022).

^cHøg et al. (2000).

^dCutri et al. (2003).

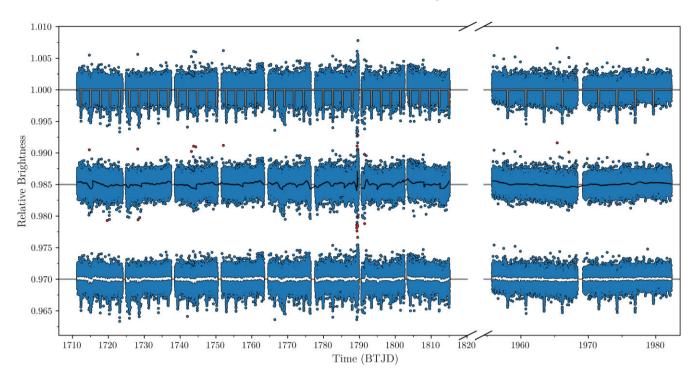


Figure 2. TESS photometry. The light curve at the top shows the background-corrected light curve. The grey line is a transit model created from parameters stemming from an initial fit. The transit model has been used to temporarily remove the transit in the light curve shown in the middle. Here, the grey line shows a Savitzky–Golay filter (as implemented in Lightkurve Collaboration et al. 2018) used to filter and detrend the data for outlier rejection. The red points are outliers removed through a 5σ sigma clipping. The TESS data with outliers removed and the transits re-injected are shown in the light curve at the bottom. The white line is the GP we use to detrend the data (see Section 3).

2.1.1 Light curve follow-up

We acquired ground-based time series follow-up photometry of TOI-1288 as part of the TESS Follow-up Observing Program (TFOP; Collins 2019)¹ using various facilities as listed in Table B1 from October 2019 to September 2021. This is done in an attempt to (1) rule out or identify nearby eclipsing binaries as potential sources of the detection in the TESS data, (2) detect the transit-like events on target to confirm the depth and thus the TESS photometric deblending factor, (3) refine the TESS ephemeris, and (4) place constraints on transit depth differences across optical filter bands. We used the TESS Transit Finder, which is a customized version of the Tapir software package (Jensen 2013), to schedule our transit observations. The images were calibrated and the photometric data were extracted using the AstroImageJ (AIJ) software package (Collins et al. 2017), except the Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope (LCOGT; Brown et al. 2013) images, which were calibrated by the standard LCOGT BANZAI pipeline (McCully et al. 2018), and the Multicolor Simultaneous Camera for studying Atmospheres of Transiting exoplanets (MuSCAT; Narita et al. 2015) data, which were extracted using the custom pipeline described in Fukui et al. (2011).

The individual observations are detailed in Table B1 and the light curves are shown in Fig. A1. All photometric apertures exclude flux from all known *Gaia* DR3 stars near TOI-1288, except the TESS-band 16.4 magnitude neighbour 1.5 arcsec southwest, which is nominally too faint to be capable of causing the detection in the TESS photometric aperture (individual follow-up photometric apertures are listed in Table B1). Transit events consistent with the

TESS TOI-1288 b transit signal were detected in each light curve and are included in the joint model described in Section 3.

2.2 Speckle/AO imaging

Nearby sources that are blended in the aperture mask used for the photometry can contaminate the light curve and alter the measured radius; it is thus important to vet for close visual companions. Furthermore, a close companion could be the cause of a false positive if the companion is itself an eclipsing binary (Ciardi et al. 2015). We therefore collected both AO and speckle imaging. The observations are described below and summarized in Table 2.

2.2.1 WIYN/NESSI

On the nights of 2019 November 17 and 2021 October 29, TOI-1288 was observed with the NESSI speckle imager (Scott 2019), mounted on the 3.5-m WIYN telescope at Kitt Peak, AZ, USA. NESSI simultaneously acquires data in two bands centred at 562 nm and 832 nm using high-speed electron-multiplying CCDs (EMCCDs). We collected and reduced the data following the procedures described in Howell et al. (2011). The resulting reconstructed image achieved a contrast of $\Delta mag \approx 5.75$ at a separation of 1 arcsec in the 832-nm band (see Fig. 3).

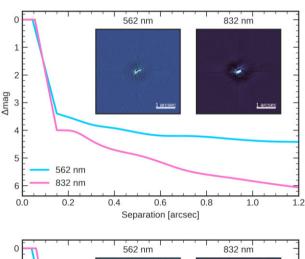
On both nights, we detected a companion at a separation of \sim 1.2 arcsec, however, only in the 832-nm filter. Additionally, on the night of 2021 October 29, the pipeline detected a companion at a separation of 0.065 arcsec (position angle of 313° and Δ mag = 2.57). However, this companion is close to the detection limit (Scott 2019), and the fit that produced it relied on image elongation (as opposed to being

¹https://tess.mit.edu/followup

Table 2. Companions detected in Speckle, AO, and *Gaia.* ρ and Δ are the separation and the difference in magnitude from the central target (host), respectively. θ is the position angle from the brighter of the targets to the fainter component, measured from North through East. Star 1 is the brighter companion and star 2 the fainter one. The uncertainties for ρ and θ for the 'Alopeke data are estimated to be around 5 mas and 1 deg, respectively, while the uncertainties for Δ mag come out to around 0.5 mag for the closer companion and 1 mag for the fainter one.

Date (UT)	Star	ρ (arcsec)	Δ (mag)	θ (deg)	Type	Filter	Instrument	Telescope
2019-11-08	1	1.152	4.77 ± 0.03	289.3	AO	Br-γ	NIRI	Gemini
2019-11-08	2	1.579	5.88 ± 0.04	207.7	AO	Br-γ	NIRI	Gemini
2019-11-17 ^a	1	1.123	5.90	289.5	Speckle	832 nm	NESSI	WIYN
2020-06-09 ^a	1	1.172	5.94	289.5	Speckle	832 nm	'Alopeke	Gemini
2021-06-24 ^a	1	1.256	6.4	292.0	Speckle	832 nm	'Alopeke	Gemini
2021-06-24 ^a	2	1.516	6.8	211.7	Speckle	832 nm	'Alopeke	Gemini
2021-10-22 ^a	1	1.233	5.92	293.4	Speckle	832 nm	'Alopeke	Gemini
2021-10-22 ^a	2	1.468	7.34	212.3	Speckle	832 nm	'Alopeke	Gemini
2021-10-29 ^a	1	1.282	5.48	293.6	Speckle	832 nm	NESSI	WIYN
2022-05-14 ^a	1	1.306	5.83	293.5	Speckle	832 nm	'Alopeke	Gemini
2022-05-14 ^a	2	1.443	7.90	214.3	Speckle	832 nm	'Alopeke	Gemini
Epoch=2016.0	2	1.74	6.41	198	Photometry	G	-	Gaia

Note. Observations were also carried out in the 562-nm filter, but the companions were not detected in this filter.



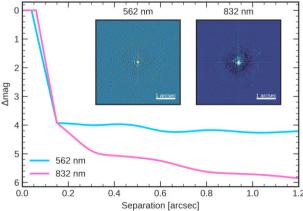


Figure 3. WIYN/NESSI contrast curves from 2019 (top) and 2021 (bottom). Two filter speckle imaging contrast curves for TOI-1288 from NESSI. The insets show the reconstructed 562-nm and 832-nm images with 1-arcsec scale bars.

fully separated from the primary), which is possible to get from a mismatch between the science target and the (single) comparison star. Furthermore, it was not detected in the 2019 November 17 data (despite being of higher quality), nor was it detected in any of the

other speckle or AO images (see below). We therefore conclude that the inner companion is a spurious detection most likely caused by a data artefact.

2.2.2 Gemini/'Alopeke

TOI-1288 was observed with the 'Alopeke speckle instrument on the Gemini North telescope, HI, USA, (Scott et al. 2021) on 2020 June 9, 2021 June 24, 2021 October 22, and 2022 May 14 (all dates in UT). Observations were obtained simultaneously in two narrowband filters centred at 562 nm (width = 54 nm) and at 832 nm (width = 40 nm). Between six and seven sets of 1000×0.06 s exposures were collected and then reduced with the standard reduction pipeline using Fourier analysis (see, e.g. Howell et al. 2011, for an overview). The reduced data products include reconstructed images and 5σ contrast curves. TOI-1288 was very faint in most data sets and even not detected in one of them at 562 nm. At 832 nm, in addition to the primary star, a faint ($\Delta M \sim 5.9$) companion was detected at a projected separation of $\sim 1.2^{''}-1.3^{''}$ in the data from 2020 June 9, 2020 June 24, 2021 October 22, and 2022 May 14. An even fainter $(\Delta M \sim 7)$ companion was detected at a separation of $\sim 1.4^{''}-1.5^{''}$ in the data from 2020 June 24, 2021 October 22, and 2022 May 14.

2.2.3 Gemini/NIRI

We collected AO images of TOI-1288 with the Gemini Near-Infrared Imager (NIRI; Hodapp et al. 2003) on 2019 November 8. We collected nine science frames, each with an exposure time of 6.8 s, and dithered the telescope by $\sim\!\!2$ arcsec between each frame, thereby allowing for the science frames themselves to serve as sky background frames. The target was observed in the Br- γ filter centred at 2.166 $\mu\rm m$. Data processing consisted of bad pixel removal, flat fielding, and subtraction of the sky background. We then aligned the frames based on the position of the primary star and coadded the images.

The total field of view is around 26'' square, with optimum sensitivity in the central $\sim 22''$ square. We again identified two visual candidates in the field of view. The brighter companion is at a separation of 1.152'', a position angle of 289.3° counter-clockwise of north, and is 4.77 ± 0.03 mag fainter than the host in the Br- γ

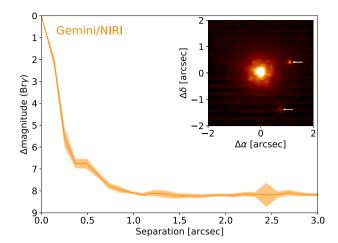


Figure 4. Gemini/NIRI contrast curve. AO imaging contrast curve for TOI-1288. The inset shows the reconstructed Br- γ image with the two detected companions highlighted.

band; the fainter companion is at a separation of 1.579'', a position angle of 207.7° counter-clockwise of north and is 5.88 ± 0.04 mag fainter than the host.

We measured the sensitivity of our observations as a function of radius by injecting fake companions and scaling their brightness such that they could be detected at 5σ . The contrast sensitivity is 5.56 mag fainter than the host at a separation of 250 mas, and 8.1 mag fainter than the host in the background limited regime, beyond $\sim 1^{\prime\prime}$ from the target. The contrast sensitivity as a function of radius and a high-resolution image of the star are shown in Fig. 4; we show the curve for the inner 3 $^{\prime\prime}$ only, but note that the data are sensitive to candidates within 13 $^{\prime\prime}$ in all directions. From our speckle and AO imaging, we have thus identified two nearby companions.

2.2.4 Gaia

As is also apparent from Fig. 1, one of the two aforementioned companions is also detected by *Gaia* DR3. The position of this *Gaia* companion is in good agreement with it being the fainter of the two companions seen in the Gemini 'Alopeke and AO observations. This is most likely also the companion seen in the light-curve follow-up in Section 2.1.1. The *Gaia* detection is summarized in Table 2 along with the speckle and AO observations.

2.2.5 Are the companions bound?

In the following, we will be referring to the brighter companion as star 1, and the fainter companion as star 2. To test whether these companions are bound, we study the positions of the host and the candidate companion in colour-magnitude diagrams (CMDs), loosely following the method outlined in Hirsch et al. (2017). We used the measured photometry in the 832-nm and Br- γ filters for star 1, and the *Gaia G* and Br- γ filters for star 2. In each case, we used the stellar parameters and uncertainties of the host (τ_{\star} , [Fe/H], log g, and d from the spectral energy distribution (SED) fit in Table 3) to generate a set of 1000 randomly sampled isochrones. For each filter pair, we determined a companion CMD position from the set of isochrones based on the Δ -magnitude of the companion in each filter and then calculated a weighted average of these measurements. This can then be compared to the observed CMD position of the companion as seen in Fig. A2. For star 1, the observed and predicted positions agree to

within 0.3σ , which could indicate that these objects are bound. This is further supported by their relative proximity on the sky. However, this could also be chance alignment for a background star with the right colour profile (Hirsch et al. 2017). For star 2, the observed and predicted CMD positions do not match, with a disagreement of $3.5\,\sigma$. This strongly suggests that star 2 is a background star and is not physically bound to the TOI-1288 system.

In Fig. 5, we show the relative positions of the companions detected in Speckle/AO and the one detected in Gaia. Evidently, the detected companions seem to be moving over the time span covered by the different observations in a similar direction, which is more or less opposite to the proper motion of TOI-1288. This clearly suggests that neither of the two companions are bound and are likely background stars. Finally, we note that the Gaia position is an average of different scans taken from 2014 July to 2017 May (for DR3) and might be less reliable. Furthermore, the reason that only the fainter companion was detected in the Gaia data could be that at an earlier epoch TOI-1288 and the brighter companion star were likely closer on the sky, and it would thus have been more difficult for *Gaia* to detect this companion. However, as seen in the speckle/AO observations, due to the proper motion of TOI-1288, the separation between TOI-1288 and this background star is increasing, meaning that it might be possible to detect it in future data releases.

2.3 High-resolution spectroscopy

2.3.1 FIES

We performed high-resolution ($R\!=\!67\,000$) reconnaissance spectroscopy of TOI-1288 using the FIber-fed Echelle Spectrograph (FIES; Frandsen & Lindberg 1999; Telting et al. 2014) mounted at the Nordic Optical Telescope (NOT; Djupvik & Andersen 2010) at Roque de los Muchachos Observatory, La Palma, Spain. The FIES spectra were extracted following Buchhave et al. (2010), and stellar parameters were derived using the stellar parameter classification (SPC; Buchhave et al. 2012, 2014) tool. The resulting parameters are tabulated in Table 3.

2.3.2 HARPS-N

We acquired 57 high-resolution ($R=115\,000$) spectra of TOI-1288 utilizing the High Accuracy Radial velocity Planetary Searcher for the Northern hemisphere (HARPS-N; Cosentino et al. 2012) attached at the 3.58-m Telescopio Nazionale Galileo (TNG), also located at Roque de los Muchachos Observatory. The spectra were collected between 2019 November 19 and 2022 May 23. We set the exposure time to 1200–2700 s based on the sky conditions and scheduling constraints, which led to a median SNR of \sim 60 per pixel at 550 nm. We used the second fibre of the instrument to monitor the sky background.

The HARPS-N spectra were reduced and extracted using the dedicated Data Reduction Software (DRS; Lovis & Pepe 2007) available at the telescope. The DRS also provides the full width at half-maximum and the bisector inverse slope of the cross-correlation function, which was obtained by cross-correlating the observed Échelle spectra against a G2 numerical mask. In this work, we used the Template-Enhanced Radial velocity Re-analysis Application (Anglada-Escudé & Butler 2012) to extract precise RV measurements, along with additional activity indicators (namely, the $H\alpha$, S-index, and Na D indexes).

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Table 3. Stellar parameters for TOI-1288. The stellar parameters from our spectral analyses and stellar modelling in Section 2.3, Section 2.3.5, and Section 2.3.6. We also list the *Gaia* measurements.

Parameter	Name	SME	SED	Spec-Match	$SPC+BASTA^e$	Gaia DR3
$T_{ m eff}$	Effective temperature (K)	5123 ± 62	5225 ⁺²³ ₋₂₇	5220 ± 110	5367 ± 50	5300+20
$\log g$	Surface gravity	4.23 ± 0.09	4.24 ± 0.09	4.36 ± 0.12	4.36 ± 0.10	$4.447^{+0.010}_{-0.006}$
[Fe/H]	Iron abundance	0.10 ± 0.11	0.07 ± 0.09	0.30 ± 0.09	0.18 ± 0.08	$0.15^{+0.02}_{-0.03}$
[Ca/H]	Calcium abundance	0.15 ± 0.09	_	_	_	_
[Na/H]	Sodium abundance	0.25 ± 0.12	_	_	_	_
$v\sin i_{\star}$	Projected rotation velocity $(km s^{-1})$	1.3 ± 1.2	-	_	<2	-
ζ	Macro-turbulence (km s ⁻¹)	3.0^{a}	_	_	_	_
ξ	Micro-turbulence (km s ⁻¹)	0.83^{b}	_	_	_	_
d	Distance (pc)	_	114.7 ± 0.7	_	$112.8^{+1.6}_{-1.4}$	114.677 ± 0.013
R_{\star}	Stellar radius (R_{\odot})	_	$1.010^{+0.015}_{-0.014}$	1.09 ± 0.18	$0.95^{+0.03}_{-0.02}$	-
M_{\star}^{c}	Stellar mass (M_{\odot})	_	$0.89^{+0.04}_{-0.02}$	0.90 ± 0.08	$0.91^{+0.04}_{-0.05}$	_
M_{\star}^{d}	Stellar mass (M_{\odot})	_	$0.65^{+0.14}_{-0.13}$	_	_	_
L_{\star}	Luminosity (L_{\odot})	_	0.68 ± 0.02	_	0.65 ± 0.03	_
A_V	V band extinction	_	$0.014^{+0.015}_{-0.009}$	_	_	_
$ au_{\star}$	Age (Gyr)	-	$12.1_{-3.1}^{+1.4}$	10.05 ± 0.17	$9.8^{+4.7}_{-3.8}$	_

Notes. aRelation from Doyle et al. (2014).

 $^{^{}e}$ $T_{\rm eff}$, log g, [Fe/H], and $v \sin i_{\star}$ are from SPC. The rest have been derived using BASTA.

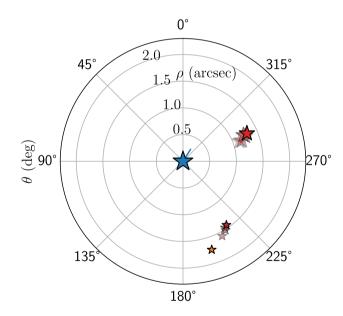


Figure 5. Sky positions of blended companions. The blue star denotes TOI-1288, while red stars are the relative positions for the companions detected in the Spekle/AO images. Their sizes are scaled according to their relative brightness with the larger stars corresponding to ΔBr - $\gamma = 4.77$ and the smaller one corresponding to ΔBr - $\gamma = 5.88$. The transparent trails show how the companions move relative to TOI-1288 as a function of time with the opaque being the most recent position. The orange star is the relative position of the companion detected by Gaia, which is most likely the fainter companion. The blue line shows the proper motion of TOI-1288 over the course of 3.5 yr.

2.3.3 HIRES

We also gathered 28 spectra with the High Resolution Echelle Spectrometer (HIRES; Vogt et al. 1994) mounted on the 10-m Keck-1 at the Keck Observatory, Hawai'i, USA. Observations were carried

out between 2019 December 10 and 2021 October 11 with exposure times varying from 280 to $1000 \, \mathrm{s}$ depending on sky conditions, resulting in a median SNR of ~ 72 near the spectral centre of the image. The spectra were obtained with the iodine cell in the light path, and the RV extraction followed the standard HIRES forward-modelling pipeline (Howard et al. 2010b).

2.3.4 Periodogram analysis

All the RVs are shown in Fig. 6 and tabulated in Table B2. In Fig. 7, we have calculated the generalized Lomb-Scargle (GLS; Lomb 1976; Scargle 1982) periodogram. Evidently, the \sim 2.7 d transiting signal is also detected in the RVs, where a peak at this frequency clearly exceeds the false-alarm probabilities (FAPs; at 0.1 per cent, 1 per cent, and 10 per cent). We also see a significant peak at much lower frequencies with a period of around 443 d, which we ascribe to the presence of a further out companion. Seeing the 443-d signal, we searched the TESS light curve for additional transits using the box least squares (Kovács, Zucker & Mazeh 2002) algorithm after removing the transits from planet b (\sim 2.7 d) but found no evidence for additional transiting signals.

We also detected another low-frequency long period peak in the GLS, which seems to be a long-term trend in the RVs. We have furthermore created GLS periodograms for the activity indicators from the HARPS-N spectra shown in Fig. 8. Evidently, the star is inactive and the 2.7 d and 443 do not coincide with any appreciable peak in these metrics, meaning that they are unlikely to come from stellar activity.

2.3.5 Stellar modelling using SME and SED

In addition to the FIES reconnaissance spectroscopy, we also made use of our HARPS-N observations to derive stellar properties.

^bRelation from Bruntt et al. (2010).

^cSED estimate is from MIST isochrones.

^dSED estimate is from log g and R_{\star} .

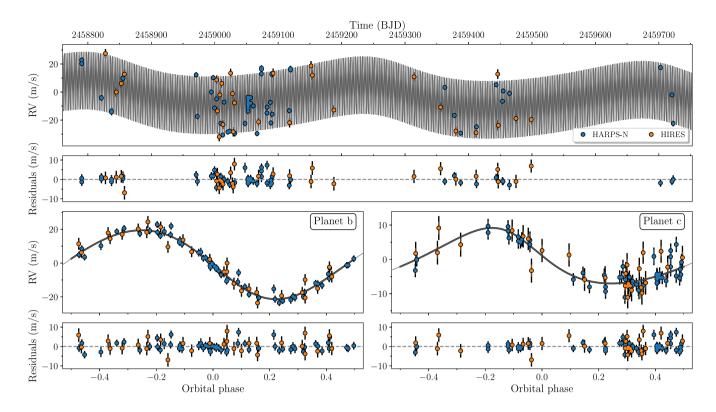


Figure 6. Radial velocities of TOI-1288. *Top:* The HARPS-N (blue) and HIRES (orange) radial velocities as a function time. The grey model shows the combined signal for planets b and c as well as a long-term trend. *Bottom left:* The radial velocities phased to the period planet b with the signal from planet c and the long-term trend subtracted with the best-fitting model overplotted. *Bottom right:* The radial velocities phased to the period of planet c with the signal from planet b and the long-term trend subtracted with the best-fitting model overplotted.

We used co-added HARPS-N spectra with the software SME² (Spectroscopy Made Easy; Valenti & Piskunov 1996; Piskunov & Valenti 2017), a tool for fitting observations to synthetic spectra. A detailed description of the modelling can be found in Fridlund et al. (2017) and Persson et al. (2018). For this star, we held the microand macro-turbulent velocities, v_{mic} and v_{mac} , fixed in the modelling to 0.83 km s^{-1} (Bruntt et al. 2010) and 3.0 km s^{-1} (Doyle et al. 2014), respectively. The synthetic spectra were computed with the stellar atmosphere grid Atlas12 (Kurucz 2013), and the atomic and molecular line data were taken from VALD³ (Ryabchikova et al. 2015). Our best model found an effective temperature of $T_{\rm eff}$ = 5123 \pm 62 K, an iron abundance of [Fe/H] = +0.10 \pm 0.11, a surface gravity of $\log g_{\star} = 4.23 \pm 0.09$, and a projected rotational velocity of $v\sin i_{\star} = 1.3 \pm 1.2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. These results were checked with the empirical code SpecMatch-Emp (Yee, Petigura & von Braun 2017) and were found to agree within 1 σ .

Using the SME results as priors, we modelled the stellar radius with ARIADNE⁴ (Vines & Jenkins 2022) fitting broad-band photometry to the SED. The fitted bandpasses were the Johnson B and V magnitudes (APASS), GB_PR_P (eDR3), JHK_S magnitudes (2MASS), WISE W1-W2, and the Gaia eDR3 parallax. The final radius was computed with Bayesian Model Averaging from the four fitted atmospheric models grids Phoenix v2 (Husser et al. 2013), BtSettl (Allard, Homeier & Freytag 2012), Castelli &

Kurucz (2004), and Kurucz (1979) atmospheric model grids. The final stellar radius was found to be $1.010 \pm 0.015~R_{\odot}$, and the stellar mass $0.895^{+0.042}_{-0.023}~M_{\odot}$ interpolated from the MIST (Choi et al. 2016) isochrones. The stellar parameters are summarized in Table 3.

2.3.6 Stellar modelling using BASTA

As an independent measure for the stellar parameters, we also modelled the star using the BAyesian STellar Algorithm⁵ (BASTA; Silva Aguirre et al. 2015; Aguirre Børsen-Koch et al. 2022). We ran BASTA using the spectroscopic parameters from the SPC analysis $(T_{\text{eff}}, [Fe/H], \log g)$ as input along with the *Gaia* magnitudes $(G_{BP}R_P)$ and parallax. BASTA's approach to fitting the magnitudes and parallax is described in section 4.2.2 in Aguirre Børsen-Koch et al. (2022), where bolometric corrections are applied using the tables by Hidalgo et al. (2018), and the reddening is calculated through the dust map by Green et al. (2019). BASTA uses these values as constraints when fitting to a grid of BaSTI (a Bag of Stellar Tracks and Isochrones; Hidalgo et al. 2018) isochrones, where we opted for a science case that included diffusion, convective core overshooting, and mass loss (see section 3.1 in Aguirre Børsen-Koch et al. 2022). The resulting values are tabulated in Table 3 and are generally consistent with the other parameters, although BASTA found a slightly smaller stellar radius as the fit seemed to prefer a slightly larger value for log g compared to the SME and SED

²http://www.stsci.edu/~valenti/sme.html

³http://vald.astro.uu.se

⁴https://github.com/jvines/astroARIADNE

⁵https://basta.readthedocs.io/en/latest/index.html

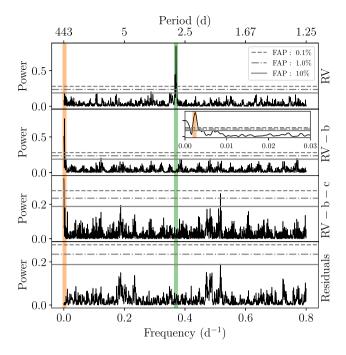


Figure 7. Generalized Lomb-Scargle diagram. The GLS created from the RVs in Table B2. *Top:* The GLS after subtracting the systemic velocities for HARPS-N and HIRES. The periods from Table 4 for planet b (green) and planet c (orange) are shown as the vertical lines. The dashed, dashed—dotted, and solid horizontal lines are the 0.1 per cent, 1 per cent, and 10 per cent FAPs, respectively. *Upper middle:* The GLS after subtracting the signal from planet b. The inset shows a close-up around the period of planet c. *Lower middle:* The GLS after subtracting both the signals from planets b and c. *Lower:* The GLS after subtracting both the signals from planets b, c, and the long-term trend.

In the following, we will be using stellar parameters coming from the SED. Therefore, derived quantities such as the planetary radius and masses will be calculated from the SED parameters.

3 ANALYSIS

In our modelling, we included both planets, where only parameters for planet b are constrained by the photometry, given we have not detected any transits of planet c. We modelled the transits using batman, where we accounted for the correlated noise in the light curve using Gaussian Process (GP) regression as implemented in celerite (Foreman-Mackey et al. 2017). We made use of the Matèrn-3/2 kernel, which is characterized by two hyper parameters: the amplitude, A, and the time-scale, τ . This model is shown at the bottom of Fig. 2.

In addition to the RV signals from planets b and c, we included a first-order acceleration parameter, $\dot{\gamma}$, to account for the long-term trend. Instead of stepping in e and ω , our Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) sampling was stepping in $\sqrt{e}\cos\omega$ and $\sqrt{e}\sin\omega$ for both planets. Furthermore, we were stepping in the sum of the limb-darkening coefficients, q_1+q_2 , while keeping the difference fixed. All stepping parameters and their priors are listed in Table 4.

As seen in Fig. 1 (see also Fig. A3 for a DSS2 image of the field), there are multiple stars in the TESS aperture mask. Therefore, we added a dilution term in the MCMC, where we included only the contribution from all sources brighter than $\Delta G = 5$, meaning

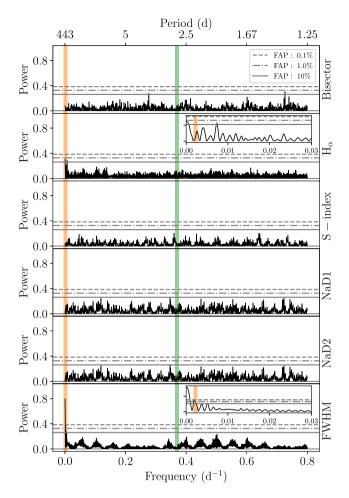


Figure 8. Generalized Lomb-Scargle diagram for activity indicators. The GLS created from the activity indicators from the HARPS-N spectra. From top to bottom, we show the GLS for the bisector, H_{α} , S-index, NaD1, NaD2, and full width at half-maximum. Symbols have the same meaning as in Fig. 7.

that only the contribution from the south-eastern star at a separation of ${\sim}23$ arcsec (Fig. 1) was included. We thus did not consider the contribution from the much closer companions. The brightest of the two is found at $\Delta Br\text{-}\gamma=4.77\pm0.03$ and from our measurements in Table 2, it is clear that both companions seem to be redder than TOI-1288, meaning that the differences in magnitude are even larger in the TESS passband.

The total flux as a function of time is thus $F(t) = (F_1(t) + F_2)/(F_1 + F_2)$, where $F_1(t)$ is the in-transit flux and F_1 is the out-of-transit flux for TOI-1288, and F_2 is the flux from the contaminating source at \sim 23 arcsec. The flux from the contaminating source is then included as a fraction of TOI-1288, F_1/F_2 , which in magnitude translates to Δ mag = $-2.5\log{(F_2/F_1)}$. As the TESS passband is very close to the *Gaia* R_P passband, we used the difference in this passband as a proxy for the difference between TOI-1288 and the 23-arcsec neighbour in the TESS passband. Thus, we sampled the dilution as a Gaussian prior with $\Delta R_P = \Delta$ TESS = 4.41 ± 0.02 . The photometric apertures from the ground-based facilities are small enough (Table B1) so that this source does not contaminate those light curves. As such, no dilution factors were included for these.

We sampled the posteriors for the transit and orbital parameters using MCMC sampling utilizing the EMCEE package (Foreman-

Table 4. MCMC results. The median and high posterior density at a confidence level of 0.68. Subscripts b and c denote parameters for planets b and c, respectively. \mathcal{U} denotes that a uniform prior was applied during the run.

Parameter	Name	Prior	Value
Stepping parameters			
P_{b}	Period (days)	\mathcal{U}	$2.699835^{+0.000004}_{-0.000003}$
T _{0, b}	Mid-transit time (BTJD ^a)	\mathcal{U}	1712.3587 ± 0.0002
$(R_{\rm p}/R_{\star})_{\rm b}$	Planet-to-star radius ratio	\mathcal{U}	0.0476 ± 0.0005
$(a/R_{\star})_{b}$	Semimajor axis-to-star radius ratio	\mathcal{U}	8.5 ± 0.4
K_{b}	Velocity semi-amplitude (m s ⁻¹)	\mathcal{U}	$20.7^{+0.4}_{-0.5}$
$\cos i_{\rm b}$	Cosine of inclination	\mathcal{U}	$0.030^{+0.012}_{-0.030}$
$(\sqrt{e}\cos\omega)_{\rm b}$		\mathcal{U}	$-0.19^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$
$(\sqrt{e}\sin\omega)_{\rm b}$		\mathcal{U}	$0.16^{+0.07}_{-0.06}$
$P_{\rm c}$	Period (days)	\mathcal{U}	443^{+11}_{-13}
T _{0, c}	Mid-transit time (BTJD)	\mathcal{U}	1883^{+12}_{-14}
$K_{\rm c}$	Velocity semi-amplitude (m s ⁻¹)	\mathcal{U}	$7.6_{-0.6}^{+0.5}$
$(\sqrt{e}\cos\omega)_{\rm c}$		\mathcal{U}	$0.15^{+0.19}_{-0.15}$
$(\sqrt{e}\sin\omega)_{\rm c}$		\mathcal{U}	$0.28^{+0.14}_{-0.13}$
γHARPS-N	Systemic velocity HARPS-N (m s^{-1})	\mathcal{U}	$7.7^{+0.8}_{-0.7}$
$\sigma_{ m HARPS-N}$	Jitter HARPS-N (m s ⁻¹)	\mathcal{U}	1.9 ± 0.3
γHIRES	Systemic velocity HIRES (m s ⁻¹)	\mathcal{U}	$6.2^{+0.9}_{-1.0}$
$\sigma_{ m HIRES}$	Jitter HIRES (m s ⁻¹)	\mathcal{U}	3.4 ± 0.6
γ	Linear trend (m $s^{-1} d^{-1}$)	\mathcal{U}	-0.0088 ± 0.0017
Derived parameters			10.014
e_{b}	Eccentricity	_	$0.064^{+0.014}_{-0.015}$
$\omega_{ m b}$	Argument of periastron (°)	_	139^{+13}_{-17}
$i_{ m b}$	Inclination (°)	-	$88.3^{+1.7}_{-0.7}$
b_{b}	Impact parameter	_	$0.26^{+0.10}_{-0.24}$
$e_{\rm c}$	Eccentricity	-	$0.13^{+0.07}_{-0.09}$
$\omega_{ m c}$	Argument of periastron (°)	-	63^{+30}_{-33}
T _{14, b} Physical parameters ^b	Transit duration (hours)	-	$2.37_{-0.03}^{+0.05}$
T _{eq,b} c	Equilibrium temperature (K)	_	1266 ± 27
$R_{\rm p,b}$	Planet radius (R_{\oplus})	_	5.24 ± 0.09
$M_{ m p,b}$	Planet mass (M_{\oplus})	-	42 ± 3
$\rho_{ m p,b}$	Planet density (g cm ⁻³)	-	1.3 ± 0.5
$(M_{\rm p}\sin i)_{\rm c}$	Lower value for planet mass (M_{\oplus})	_	84 ± 7

Notes. Barycentric TESS Julian Date (BTJD) is defined as BJD-2457000.0, BJD being the Barycentric Julian Date.

Mackey et al. 2013). Our likelihood function is defined as

$$\log \mathcal{L} = -0.5 \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[\frac{(O_i - C_i)^2}{\sigma_i^2} + \log 2\pi \sigma_i^2 \right], \tag{1}$$

where N indicates the total number of data points from photometry and RVs. C_i represents the model corresponding to the observed data point O_i . σ_i represents the uncertainty for the ith datum, where we add a jitter term in quadrature and a penalty in the likelihood for the RVs. To our likelihood in equation (1), we add our priors $\sum_{j=1}^{M} \log \mathcal{P}_j$, \mathcal{P}_j being the prior on the jth parameter, and this sum constitutes the total probability.

4 RESULTS

The results from our MCMC are summarized in Table 4 and Table B3. In Fig. 9, we show the TESS light curve phase-folded on the transits of planet b along with the best-fitting model. Light curves from all photometric observations can be found in Fig. A1. We find a planet-to-star radius ratio of 0.0476 \pm 0.0005, which given the stellar radius from the SED analysis in Table 3 yields a radius of 5.24 \pm 0.09 R_{\oplus} . With a period of just 2.699835 $^{+0.0000004}_{-0.000003}$ d, TOI-1288 b is thus a hot super-Neptune.

Shown in Fig. 6 are the best-fitting models for the RVs for both planets b and c. This two-planet model is heavily favoured over a one-planet model according to the Bayesian information criterion (BIC, Δ BIC = 104). To get a measure of the mass for both planets,

^bFrom the SED stellar parameters in Table 3.

^cFollowing Kempton et al. (2018).

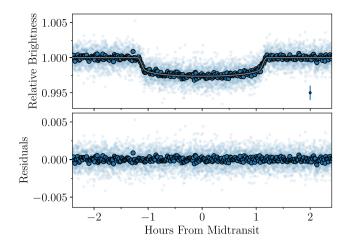


Figure 9. TESS light curve of TOI-1288 b. The GP detrended TESS data from Fig. 2 showing the phase-folded transits of planet b. We show the data binned in larger, solid points, while the unbinned data are shown with smaller, more transparent points. The datum with error bar is not an actual measurement but illustrates the median of the uncertainties of all data. The grey line is the best-fitting model.

we use the relation

$$M_{\rm p} \sin i = \frac{K\sqrt{1 - e^2}}{28.4 \,\mathrm{m \, s^{-1}}} \left(\frac{P}{1 \,\mathrm{yr}}\right)^{1/3} \left(\frac{M_{\star}}{\mathrm{M}_{\odot}}\right)^{2/3} \,,$$
 (2)

where we can get only a lower limit for the mass of planet c as we do not know the inclination. For planet b, we find a mass of $42\pm3~M_{\oplus}$, which combined with the radius yields a bulk density of $1.3\pm0.5~g~cm^{-3}$. For planet c, we find a lower limit for the mass of $84\pm7~M_{\oplus}$.

For the long-term trend, we have found a value for $\dot{\gamma} = -0.0086 \pm 0.0019 \,\mathrm{m \, s^{-1} \, d^{-1}}$. This first-order acceleration parameter constitutes a lower limit for the semi-amplitude through $(t_{\rm f} - t_{\rm i}) \times \dot{\gamma}/2$ with $t_{\rm f}$ and $t_{\rm i}$ being the final and first timestamps. Following the Monte Carlo approach in Kane et al. (2019) (see also Pepper et al. 2020), we used our measured value for $\dot{\gamma}$ to calculate the lower limit for the companion inducing this long-term trend as a function of orbital separation. Namely, we solved

$$K \le \sqrt{\frac{G}{a_{\rm B}(1 - e_{\rm B}^2)}} \frac{M_{\rm B} \sin i_{\rm B}}{\sqrt{M_{\rm B} + M_{\star}}} \tag{3}$$

for M_B at each a_B with e_B being drawn from a β -distribution and $\cos i_B$ from a uniform distribution.

In Fig. 10, we show the resulting distributions for each orbital separation, here converted to a sky-projected separation. We furthermore show the observed position of the brightest of the two companions, star 1, detected in speckle and AO, $\it if$ it were bound to TOI-1288. From our analysis in Section 2.2.5, and its position in the CMD in Fig. A2, this companion would most likely have been an M-dwarf with a mass of around 0.2 M_{\odot} . While this is a lower limit for the mass and could be consistent with the mass we have estimated for star 1, the median is around two orders of magnitude lower at the position for star 1. We should thus in most cases have detected a much more significant drift, if it were due to star 1. Therefore, it seems more likely that the drift we are seeing is coming from another planetary companion.

Finally, we note that the *Gaia* Renormalized Unit Weight Error statistic for TOI-1288 is 1.17. For a good single-star fit, one would expect it to be around 1, whereas a value of \gtrsim 1.4 could suggest that

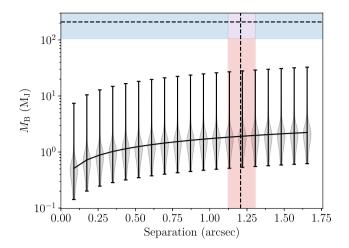


Figure 10. Lower mass limit for an additional bound companion. The violin plot shows the resulting distribution for the mass of the companion for a given separation (here converted to sky-projected separation using the distance from Table 1). The solid black curve is the median mass for each separation. The vertical red band spans the range of the speckle and AO measurements for the separation of star 1 (Table 2), while the dashed vertical line is the median of these. The horizontal blue band spans the range from $0.1~M_{\odot}$ to $0.3~M_{\odot}$ with $0.2~M_{\odot}$ shown with the dashed line.

the source is non-single or otherwise problematic for the astrometric solution. The slight departure could be because the *Gaia* astrometry is seeing the orbital motion induced by this long-term RV companion.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Location in the Neptunian desert

We have found TOI-1288 b to be a hot super-Neptune with an equilibrium temperature of 1266 \pm 27 K (estimated from Kempton et al. 2018, assuming zero albedo and full day-night heat redistribution). In Fig. 11, we plot the radius (left, in Earth radii) and mass (right, in Jupiter masses) of TOI-1288 b as functions of orbital period. Evidently, TOI-1288 b falls right in the hot Neptunian desert reported by Mazeh et al. (2016). Mazeh et al. (2016) mention two processes that could account for the upper boundary. First, if the planet had migrated through the disc, then stopped at the upper boundary of the desert due to a decrease in density in the disc as it moves inwards, the inner radius of the disc might be related to its mass and consequently the planetary mass. Therefore, the central hole in the disc would be smaller in a more massive disc and hence allow for a more massive planet. Alternatively, the atmosphere of a planet moving horizontally in the diagram, i.e. migrating, might be stripped of its atmosphere due to the stellar irradiation, resulting in a smaller, lower mass planet.

In Vissapragada et al. (2022), the upper boundary of the desert was investigated by looking at the metastable helium feature in the atmospheres of the planets, which could be a tracer for any outflows. They found that this upper boundary is stable against photoevaporation, meaning that a different mechanism must be responsible for tracing out this upper edge. This is in-line with the findings of Owen & Lai (2018) in which they argue that if photoevaporation is responsible for the upper boundary, we should see a lot of sub-Jovian mass planets in the mass—period plane at very short periods, which we do not. Rather, they argue that the upper boundary is caused by high-eccentricity migration.

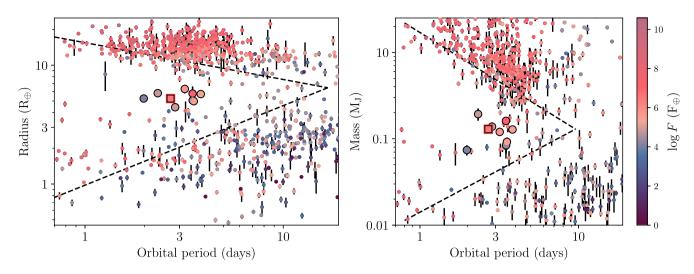


Figure 11. The hot Neptunian desert reported in Mazeh et al. (2016) shown as dashed lines. Planets (as of September 2022) from the TEPCat catalogue of 'well-studied transiting planets' (Southworth 2011, https://www.astro.keele.ac.uk/jkt/tepcat/allplanets-noerr.html) with uncertainties smaller than 30 per cent in radius (left) and mass (right). The points are colour coded according to the incident flux, which is truncated at F = 1 F_{\oplus}. TOI-1288 b is shown as the large square with a red outline. The large circles denote the closest eight planets to TOI-1288 b in the radius-period parameter space, with their position highlighted in the mass–radius diagram as well.

On the other hand, Owen & Lai (2018) do find that the lower boundary could be explained by photoevaporation. This photoevaporation that leaves behind a rocky core has furthermore been used to explain the dearth of *hot super-Earths* (e.g. Sanchis-Ojeda et al. 2014; Lundkvist et al. 2016). An alternative explanation for the lower boundary of the desert could be that as the separation increases, so does the Hill sphere of the planetesimal, the orbital path, and the dust-to-gas ratio, meaning that the core mass is increased towards the end of the first stage of formation. This would then result in more massive planets at larger separations (Mazeh et al. 2016).

What is clear from Fig. 11 is that the upper boundary is much more well-defined than the lower boundary. However, even if the lower boundary would be at larger radii, TOI-1288 b is still found in a very deserted area. In Fig. 11, we have highlighted eight planets that are the closest to TOI-1288 b in the radius-period (distance here measured in units of $(R_{\oplus}^2 + \text{days}^2)^{1/2}$) plane; *Kepler*-101 b (Bonomo et al. 2014), HATS-7 b (Bakos et al. 2015), TOI-532 b (Kanodia et al. 2021), TOI-674 b (Murgas et al. 2021), TOI-1728 b (Kanodia et al. 2020), NGTS-14Ab (Smith et al. 2021), WASP-156 b (Demangeon et al. 2018), and K2-55 b (Crossfield et al. 2016). Some key parameters (Southworth 2011, from https://www.astro.keele.ac.uk/jkt/tepcat/all planets-noerr.html) for these systems are summarized in Table 5 along our parameters for TOI-1288 b.

Obviously, the planets are similar in terms of period and radius, but they also have quite similar masses, and thus densities. The most striking difference in Fig. 11 is the insolation, which is dictated by the spectral type ($T_{\rm eff}$) of the stellar host. In this context, it is worth noting that the overabundance of large planets with high insolation compared to at smaller radii in Fig. 11 merely reflects that it is easier to detect a larger planet around a larger (hotter) star. This is apparent from Fig. A4 and also what is seen in Szabó & Kálmán (2019).

A clustering of Neptune-sized planets with equilibrium temperatures of around 2000 K has been reported in Persson et al. (2022), which begs the question whether there could be an island of stability in the desert. However, this might also be a selection effect, and more planets in this parameter space are needed to establish this. It is an intriguing idea, and if an island of stability could exist for these slightly smaller planets on more irradiated orbits, maybe a

Table 5. Closest radius-period neighbours. The eight planets closest to TOI-1288 b in terms of radius and period (with distance in units of $(R_{\oplus}^2 + \text{days}^2)^{1/2})$.

	P	F^{a}	$R_{\rm p}$	$M_{ m p}$	$ ho_{ m p}$	SpT
	(d)	(F_{\oplus})	(R_{\oplus})	(M_{\oplus})	(ρ_{\oplus})	
TOI-1288 b	2.6998	630	5.6	41	0.24	G
TOI-532 b	2.327	119	5.8	61	0.31	M
TOI-674 b	1.977	57	5.3	24	0.17	M
Kepler-101 b	3.488	1260	5.8	51	0.26	G
HATS-7 b	3.185	288	6.3	38	0.15	K
TOI-1728 b	3.492	72	5.1	27	0.21	M
NGTS-14Ab	3.536	240	5.0	29	0.25	K
WASP-156 b	3.836	186	5.7	41	0.24	K
K2-55 b	2.849	130	4.4	44	0.5	K

Note. ^aFrom $(\rho_{\star}/\rho_{\odot})^{-2/3}(P/1 \text{ yr})^{-4/3}(T_{\text{eff}}/5777 \text{ K})^4$.

similar island exists for TOI-1288 b and its neighbours, who are slightly bigger and less irradiated. It could also be a strip of pseudo stability in the desert, or it might just reflect the aforementioned less well-defined lower boundary of the desert.

5.2 Internal structure and atmosphere

In the mass–radius diagram in Fig. 12, we compare TOI-1288 b to models with different compositions. The models are taken from Zeng, Sasselov & Jacobsen (2016) and Zeng et al. (2019). Evidently, TOI-1288 b can be described as a rocky core with a gaseous envelope at high irradiation. Probing the atmosphere of the planet through transmission spectroscopy could naturally help reveal atmospheric features but can also provide valuable constraints on the internal structure.

We observed a transit of planet b on the night of 2020 June 11 using the HARPS-N spectrograph. The RVs from this night can be seen around orbital phase 0.0 in the lower left panel of Fig. 6, but due to the slow rotation of the star ($v\sin i_{\star} = 1.3 \pm 1.2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$), we do not see the Rossiter–McLaughlin (RM; Rossiter 1924; McLaughlin 1924) effect. For an aligned configuration, a decent approximation

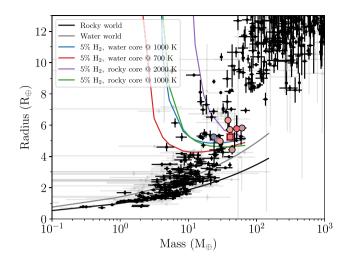


Figure 12. Mass–radius diagram. Planets from the same catalogue as in Fig. 11, but now for planets with uncertainties on both mass and radius of less (more) than 30 per cent shown as black (grey) dots. Solid lines are composition models from Zeng et al. (2016) and Zeng et al. (2019). TOI-1288 b is again shown as the large (coloured) square with the similar (R_p , P) planets shown with large circles.

for the amplitude is given by $0.7\sqrt{1-b^2}(R_P/R_\star)^2 v \sin i_\star$, which comes out to just shy of 2 m s⁻¹ for TOI-1288 b.

We none the less ran an MCMC where we included the RM effect (using the code by Hirano et al. 2011). We excluded the photometry and instead applied Gaussian priors to P_b , $T_{0,b}$, $(R_p/R_\star)_b$, $(a/R_\star)_b$, and i_b using the values in Table 4 and for $v\sin i_\star$ from the SME value in Table 3. We also applied Gaussian priors to the macro- and microturbulence as well as the sum of the limb-darkening coefficients (values estimated from Bruntt et al. 2010; Claret & Bloemen 2011; Doyle et al. 2014, respectively), while applying a uniform prior to the sky-projected obliquity, λ_b . The rest followed the same approach as the run in Section 3. The resulting value for the projected obliquity was $\lambda_b = 70^{+110}_{-100}{}^{\circ}$, meaning that it is unconstrained.

Following Kempton et al. (2018), we can calculate the transmission spectroscopic metric (TSM) to assess the feasibility of transmission spectroscopy for TOI-1288 b. The TSM is given by

$$TSM = H \times \frac{R_{\rm p}^3 T_{\rm eq}}{M_{\rm p} R_{\star}^2} \times 10^{-m_J/5} \,, \tag{4}$$

where m_J is the apparent magnitude of the host in the J band and H is a scale factor related to the size of the planet. For TOI-1288 b, H is 1.15, while the planet, stellar, and system parameters are listed in Table 4, Table 3 (SED), and Table 1, respectively. This yields a TSM of \sim 87, which is just below the suggested cutoff for follow-up efforts in Kempton et al. (2018).

While – according to this metric – TOI-1288 b is not a high-priority target for JWST (Gardner et al. 2006), we still investigate what JWST might be able to detect if it were to do transmission spectroscopy. We simulated the spectrum of TOI-1288 b using petitRADTRANS (Mollière et al. 2019, 2020) assuming a cloud-free, isothermal model at 1266 K. We used PandExo (Batalha et al. 2017) to simulate the JWST data for four different instruments. For each, we assumed a total of four transits with a 4-hr baseline each. The resulting spectrum is shown in Fig. 13. For this most likely quite optimistic scenario, JWST should be able to detect several molecular species, such as H₂O, CH₄, and CO₂ (if present).

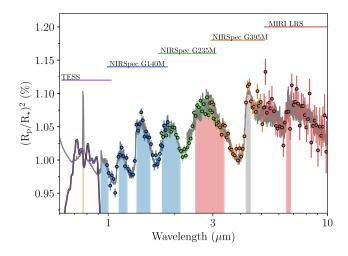


Figure 13. Simulated JWST observations. A simulated transmission spectrum of TOI-1288 b in grey using petitRADTRANS. The coloured error bars are simulated JWST data from PandExo of different instruments with their wavelength coverage shown by the horizontal coloured lines and with the names of the instrument shown above. We also show the TESS transmission curve in purple. Some atomic and molecular species are highlighted in the coloured areas with K, H₂O, CH₄, and CO₂ shown with yellow, blue, red, and grey, respectively.

5.3 Outer companions

According to the Web TESS Viewing Tool,⁶ TOI-1288 is (at the time of writing) being re-observed in Sectors 56-58 (beginning in September 2022 and ending in November 2022). These additional sectors should help refine the transit parameters of planet b. While our current estimate for the period and ephemeris of planet c suggests that a transit occurred (of course, depending on the inclination) on July 2022, the uncertainties are rather large, so it is worthwhile to be on the lookout for a potential transit of planet c.

Zhu & Wu (2018) and Bryan et al. (2019) found an excess of cold Jupiters in systems harbouring super-Earths/sub-Neptunes with the former stating that stars with super-Earths have roughly a 3 times higher cold Jupiter fraction compared to field stars. Furthermore, they found that this cold Jupiter fraction rises to about 60 per cent for stars with [Fe/H] > 0.1. Given the metallicity we find for TOI-1288 of 0.07 ± 0.09 from the SED (median from all measurements in Table 3 is 0.15), it is perhaps not too surprising that we are seeing a cold gas giant in this system. This strong correlation between super-Earths and cold Jupiters suggests that they are not competing for the same solid material, which Zhu & Wu (2018) argue disfavours theories invoking large-scale migration.

On the other hand, TOI-1288 b is a bit larger than the planets in the aforementioned studies and might have a gaseous envelope. In line with the discussion above, hot Neptunes are in danger of losing their atmospheres, especially while their stars are young and active (e.g. Lopez, Fortney & Miller 2012). Kozai–Lidov cycles and high-eccentricity migration can deliver Neptune-sized planets on short period orbits past this active stage (~100 Myr) for the star (Dawson & Johnson 2018). Interactions between TOI-1288 b and c could therefore be responsible for transporting TOI-1288 b to its current position. Subsequent tidal interactions with the star could then have dampened the eccentricity to the current value

⁶https://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/tess/webtess/wtv.py

 $(0.064^{+0.014}_{-0.015})$, which compared to Earth's orbit (\sim 0.016) is still significant.

To assess whether planet c can influence the dynamics of the inner, planetary system as we see it today, we calculated the planet–star coupling parameter, $\epsilon_{\star 1}$, given in Lai, Anderson & Pu (2018), which is a measure for whether an outer companion can cause the orbit of the inner planet to precess. For this, we used the approximation in their equation (24), which is made for the case of a hot Jupiter with a gas giant companion at a separation of around 1 AU. While not exactly the case here, the approximation can still provide us with some qualitative insights.

As we need to know the stellar rotation period, $P_{\rm rot}$, for this, we searched the TESS light curve using the autocorrelation method (McQuillan, Aigrain & Mazeh 2013); however, we did not detect any signs of stellar rotation. Instead, we estimated $P_{\rm rot}$ from the age, $\tau=10.05$ Gyr (Table 3), and colour, B-V=0.94 (Table 1), using the relation in Mamajek & Hillenbrand (2008), which yields a rotation period of 64 d. From this, we get $\epsilon_{\star 1} \sim 0.5$ suggesting a strong coupling between TOI-1288 b and the star. However, it is not too far from the resonant regime of $\epsilon_{\star 1} \sim 1$, meaning that excitation of the spin-orbit angle, the obliquity, could be possible.

In addition to TOI-1288 c for which we have constrained the orbit and thus the mass to some extent, we also see evidence for what could be a companion on an even wider orbit. However, for the time being we can only make rather crude inferences about the characteristics of this companion as was done in Section 4, namely Fig. 10. For instance, if this companion were on a 10-yr coplanar (with respect to TOI-1288 b) orbit, it would have a mass of around 0.3 M_J. To decipher the dynamic influence from this companion on the architecture would require continued RV monitoring to trace out the orbit.

6 CONCLUSIONS

Here, we presented the discovery of multiple planets in the TOI-1288 system. Using photometry from TESS as well as ground-based telescopes, we have determined that the transiting planet TOI-1288 b is a super Neptune (5.24 \pm 0.09 R_{\oplus}) on a short period orbit (2.699835 $^{+0.000004}_{-0.000003}$ d). TOI-1288 b thus joins the growing population of super Neptunes that despite the drought have settled in the Neptunian desert. We have characterized the planet in terms of mass through intensive RV monitoring with the HARPS-N and HIRES spectrographs, where we find a mass of 42 \pm 3 M_{\oplus} .

Combining the radius and mass for TOI-1288 b, we find that the planet can be described as a rocky core with a gaseous envelope at high radiation. Similar compositions are found for the planets most identical to TOI-1288 b in terms of orbital period and radius, meaning that the internal structure and composition might be a crucial premise for survival in the desert. Atmospheric studies of occupants in and around the desert could help shed light on the processes, such as photoevaporation, shaping this region. TOI-1288 b is a well-suited candidate for such studies.

Furthermore, from our RV monitoring we also found evidence for an additional companion in the TOI-1288 system with an orbital period of 443^{+11}_{-13} d. We find a lower mass of $84\pm7~M_{\oplus}$, meaning that if this companion is close to being coplanar with TOI-1288 b, it would be a Saturn–mass planet. TOI-1288 c might have been responsible for transporting TOI-1288 b from a further out orbit to its present day location, for instance, through high-eccentricity migration. Finally, we detect hints of a long-term RV trend possibly caused by another body in the TOI-1288 system.

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Exploration Program and built at the NASA Ames Research Center by Steve B. Howell, Nic Scott, Elliott P. Horch, and Emmett Quigley. Data were reduced using a software pipeline originally written by Elliott Horch and Mark Everett. 'Alopeke was mounted on the Gemini North telescope of the international Gemini Observatory, a program of NSF's OIR Lab, which is managed by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) under a cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation on behalf of the Gemini partnership: the National Science Foundation (United States), National Research Council (Canada), Agencia Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo (Chile), Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (Argentina), Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia, Inovações e Comunicações (Brazil), and Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute (Republic of Korea). E.K. and S.A. acknowledge the support from the Danish Council for Independent Research through a grant no. 2032-00230B. CMP and JK gratefully acknowledge the support of the Swedish National Space Agency (SNSA; DNR 2020-00104). MSL would like to acknowledge the support from VILLUM FONDEN (research grant 42101) and The Independent Research Fund Denmark's Inge Lehmann program (grant agreement no.: 1131-00014B). This work is partly supported by JSPS KAKENHI grant numbers JP17H04574, JP18H05439, JP20K14521, JP19K14783, and JP21H00035, JST CREST grant number JPMJCR1761, the Astrobiology Center of National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS) (grant number AB031010). DH acknowledges support from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (80NSSC21K0652). KWFL was supported by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft grants RA714/14-1 within the DFG Schwerpunkt SPP 1992, Exploring the Diversity of Extrasolar Planets. KKM acknowledges support from the New York Community Trust Fund for Astrophysical Research. Parts of the numerical results presented in this work were obtained at the Centre for Scientific Computing, Aarhus https://phys.au.dk/forskning/faciliteter/cscaa/. This research made use of Astropy, a community-developed core PYTHON package for Astronomy (Astropy Collaboration et al. 2013, 2018, 2022). This research made use of Astroquery (Ginsburg et al. 2019). This research made use of TESS cut (Brasseur et al. 2019). This research has made use of 'Aladin sky atlas' developed at CDS, Strasbourg Observatory, France (Bonnarel et al. 2000; Boch & Fernique 2014).

DATA AVAILABILITY

The radial velocities underlying this article are available in its online supplementary material.

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⁷http://www.astropy.org

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Supplementary data are available at MNRAS online.

suppl_data

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APPENDIX A: FIGURES

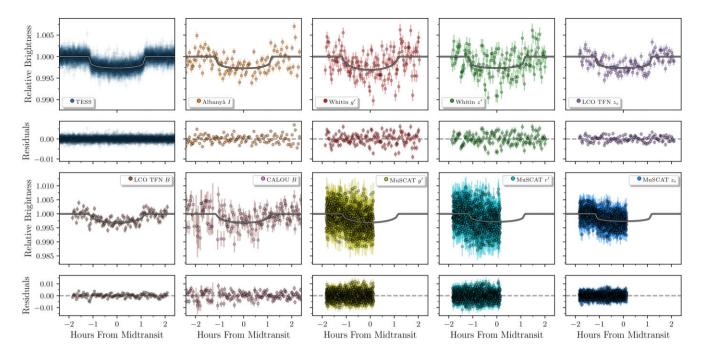


Figure A1. Light curves of TOI-1288 b. The phase-folded transits of planet b from all the different photometers. The TESS light curve (top left) is the GP detrended data from Fig. 2. The grey lines are the best-fitting models.

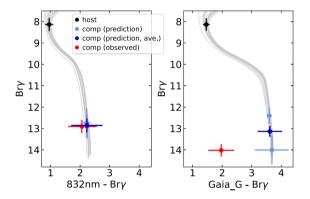


Figure A2. Colour-magnitude diagrams for TOI-1288. Comparison of observed photometry with predicted photometry for both candidate companions. In each case, we show the CMD position of the host (black), the predicted position of a bound companion based on each measured Δ mag (light blue) and the weighted average of these predictions (dark blue), and finally the observed CMD position of the companion (red). The clear disagreement for star 2 (right) indicates that this is a background object, while the relative agreement between the red and dark blue points for star 1 (left) could indicate a bound companion. As discussed in Section 2.2.5, this is not the case.

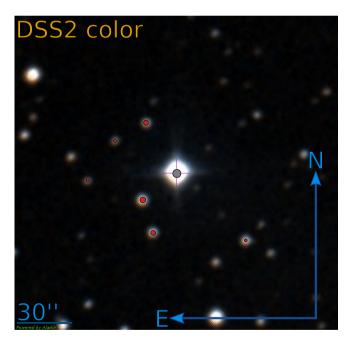


Figure A3. DSS2 image of TOI-1288. The field around TOI-1288 as seen by the Digitized Sky Survey (DSS2). TOI-1288 is marked with the grey dot, and the red dots are the stars within the aperture in Fig. 1 using the same (relative) scaling for the marker sizes.

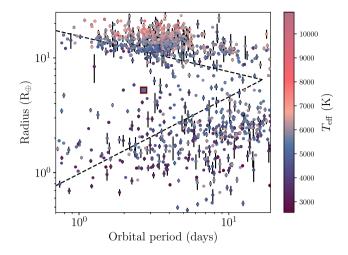


Table B2. Radial velocities. The epochs, RVs, and errors from the HARPS-N and HIRES observations. This table is available in its entirety online.

Epoch BJD _{TDB}	$_{ m m\ s^{-1}}^{ m RV}$	$\sigma_{ m RV}$ m s ⁻¹	Instrument
D3D IDB	111 3	111 5	
2458790.340214	-68045.93	1.21	HARPS-N
2458790.359751	-68048.67	1.27	HARPS-N
2458821.330149	-68073.51	1.16	HARPS-N
	:	:	:
•	•	•	•
2459702.697487	-68051.86	0.90	HARPS-N
2458827.739873	32.38	1.22	HIRES
2458844.755499	4.83	1.28	HIRES
2458852.719975	11.01	1.28	HIRES
:	:	:	:
•	•		•
2459498.888082	-14.75	1.51	HIRES

Figure A4. The hot Neptunian desert as in Fig. 11, but with the colour coding done in the host star effective temperature.

APPENDIX B: TABLES

Table B1. Ground-based photometry. Information on our ground-based photometric observations.

Photometric aperture							
Observatory	Location	Aperture (m)	(arcsec)	UTC date	Filter	Coverage	
LCOGT ^a -TFN	Tenerife, Spain	1.0	5.8	2021-09-18	z-short ^b	Full	
LCOGT-TFN	Tenerife, Spain	1.0	5.8	2021-09-18	B	Full	
Whitin	Massachusetts, USA	0.7	8.0	2020-11-15	$z^{'}$	Full	
Whitin	Massachusetts, USA	0.7	8.0	2020-11-15	$g^{'}$	Full	
Ca l'Ou ^c	Catalonia, Spain	0.4	6.7	2021-05-14	B	Full	
Albanyà d	Catalonia, Spain	0.4	12.2	2019-12-02	I_{c}	Full	
$MuSCAT^e$	Okayama, Japan	1.88	5.4	2019-10-31	Sloan g	Ingress	
MuSCAT	Okayama, Japan	1.88	5.4	2019-10-31	Sloan r'	Ingress	
MuSCAT	Okayama, Japan	1.88	5.4	2019-10-31	z-short ^b	Ingress	

Notes. ^aLas Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope (LCOGT; Brown et al. 2013).

^bPan-STARRS z-short.

^cObservatori de Ca l'Ou, Sant Martí Sesgueioles.

 $[^]d$ Albanyà Observatory.

^eMulticolor Simultaneous Camera for studying Atmospheres of Transiting exoplanets (MuSCAT; Narita et al. 2015).

Table B3. Limb-darkening coefficients. The limb-darkening coefficients for our MCMC using a quadratic limb-darkening law. We stepped in the sum of the coefficients with a Gaussian prior $(\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma))$, while keeping the difference fixed $(\mathcal{F}(c))$. The initial values were found from the tables in Claret (2017) for the case of TESS and Claret & Bloemen (2011) for the rest of the filters.

Parameter	Name	Prior	Value
Stepping para	meters		
δΜ	Dilution	$\mathcal{N}(4.41, 0.02)$	$4.410^{+0.021}_{-0.019}$
$(q_1 + q_2)_1$	Sum of limb-darkening coefficients TESS	$\mathcal{N}(0.6184, 0.1)$	0.57 ± 0.05
$(q_1 + q_2)_1$	Sum of limb-darkening coefficients TESS	$\mathcal{N}(0.6184, 0.1)$	0.57 ± 0.05
$(q_1 + q_2)_2$	Sum of limb-darkening coefficients Albanyà I	$\mathcal{N}(0.6611, 0.1)$	$0.67^{+0.10}_{-0.09}$
$(q_1 + q_2)_3$	Sum of limb-darkening coefficients Whitin g'	$\mathcal{N}(0.804, 0.1)$	$0.86^{+0.03}_{-0.07}$
$(q_1 + q_2)_4$	Sum of limb-darkening coefficients Whitin z'	$\mathcal{N}(0.5544, 0.1)$	0.57 ± 0.10
$(q_1 + q_2)_4$ $(q_1 + q_2)_5$	Sum of limb-darkening coefficients LCO TFN z-short	$\mathcal{N}(0.5544, 0.1)$ $\mathcal{N}(0.5544, 0.1)$	0.57 ± 0.10 0.53 ± 0.09
$(q_1 + q_2)_6$	Sum of limb-darkening coefficients LCO TFN B	$\mathcal{N}(0.8402,0.1)$	$0.95^{+0.03}_{-0.05}$
$(q_1 + q_2)_7$	Sum of limb-darkening coefficients CALOU B	$\mathcal{N}(0.8402, 0.1)$	$0.95^{+0.03}_{-0.05}$
$(q_1 + q_2)_8$	Sum of limb-darkening coefficients MuSCAT g'	$\mathcal{N}(0.804, 0.1)$	$0.87^{+0.03}_{-0.08}$
$(q_1 + q_2)_9$	Sum of limb-darkening coefficients MuSCAT r'	$\mathcal{N}(0.712,0.1)$	0.72 ± 0.10
$(q_1 + q_2)_{10}$	Sum of limb-darkening coefficients MuSCAT z-short	$\mathcal{N}(0.5544, 0.1)$	0.72 ± 0.10 0.56 ± 0.10
Fixed parame	~	24 (0.00 : 1,011)	0.00 ± 0.10
$(q_1 - q_2)_1$	Difference of limb-darkening coefficients TESS	$\mathcal{F}(0.1598)$	
$(q_1 - q_2)_2$	Difference of limb-darkening coefficients Albanyà I	$\mathcal{F}(0.2025)$	
$(q_1 - q_2)_3$	Difference of limb-darkening coefficients Whitin g'	$\mathcal{F}(0.79)$	
$(q_1 - q_2)_4$	Difference of limb-darkening coefficients Whitin z'	$\mathcal{F}(0.209)$	
$(q_1 - q_2)_5$	Difference of limb-darkening coefficients LCO TFN z-short	$\mathcal{F}(0.209)$	
$(q_1 - q_2)_6$	Difference of limb-darkening coefficients LCO TFN B	$\mathcal{F}(0.9002)$	
$(q_1 - q_2)_7$	Difference of limb-darkening coefficients CALOU B	$\mathcal{F}(0.9002)$	
$(q_1 - q_2)_8$	Difference of limb-darkening coefficients MuSCAT g	$\mathcal{F}(0.79)$	
$(q_1 - q_2)_9$	Difference of limb-darkening coefficients MuSCAT r'	$\mathcal{F}(0.4344)$	
$(q_1-q_2)_{10}$	Difference of limb-darkening coefficients MuSCAT z-short	$\mathcal{F}(0.209)$	
Derived parar			0.04 0.00
$(q_1)_1$	Linear limb-darkening coefficient TESS		0.36 ± 0.02
$(q_1)_1$	Quadratic limb-darkening coefficient TESS		0.20 ± 0.02
$(q_1)_2$	Linear limb-darkening coefficient Albanyà I		0.44 ± 0.05
$(q_2)_2$	Quadratic limb-darkening coefficient Albanyà I		0.23 ± 0.05
$(q_1)_3$	Linear limb-darkening coefficient Whitin g		$0.824^{+0.016}_{-0.034}$
$(q_2)_3$	Quadratic limb-darkening coefficient Whitin g'		$0.034^{+0.016}_{-0.034}$
$(q_1)_4$	Linear limb-darkening coefficient Whitin z		0.39 ± 0.05
$(q_2)_5$	Quadratic limb-darkening coefficient Whitin z'		0.18 ± 0.05
$(q_1)_5$	Linear limb-darkening coefficient LCO TFN z-short		0.37 ± 0.05
$(q_2)_5$	Quadratic limb-darkening coefficient LCO TFN z-short		0.16 ± 0.05
$(q_1)_6$	Linear limb-darkening coefficient LCO TFN B		$0.926^{+0.014}_{-0.026}$
$(q_2)_6$	Quadratic limb-darkening coefficient LCO TFN B		$0.026^{+0.014}_{-0.026}$
$(q_1)_7$	Linear limb-darkening coefficient CALOU B		$0.927^{+0.014}_{-0.027}$
$(q_2)_7$	Quadratic limb-darkening coefficient CALOU B		$0.027^{+0.014}_{-0.027}$
$(q_1)_8$	Linear limb-darkening coefficient MuSCAT g		$0.828^{+0.017}_{-0.038}$ $0.038^{+0.017}_{-0.038}$
$(q_2)_8$	Quadratic limb-darkening coefficient MuSCAT g		
$(q_1)_9$	Linear limb-darkening coefficient MuSCAT r'		0.57 ± 0.05
$(q_2)_9$	Quadratic limb-darkening coefficient MuSCAT r		0.14 ± 0.05
$(q_1)_{10}$	Linear limb-darkening coefficient MuSCAT z-short		0.38 ± 0.05
$(q_2)_{10}$	Quadratic limb-darkening coefficient MuSCAT z-short		0.17 ± 0.05

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