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Zodiacal Exoplanets in Time (ZEIT). VII. A Temperate Candidate Super-Earth in the Hyades Cluster

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Abstract

Transiting exoplanets in young open clusters present opportunities to study how exoplanets evolve over their lifetimes. Recently, significant progress detecting transiting planets in young open clusters has been made with the *K2* mission, but so far all of these transiting cluster planets orbit close to their host stars, so planet evolution can only be studied in a high-irradiation regime. Here, we report the discovery of a long-period planet candidate, called HD 283869 b, orbiting a member of the Hyades cluster. Using data from the *K2* mission, we detected a single transit of a super-Earth-sized ($1.96 \pm 0.12 R_{\oplus}$) planet candidate orbiting the K-dwarf HD 283869 with a period longer than 72 days. As we only detected a single-transit event, we cannot validate HD 283869 b with high confidence, but our analysis of the *K2* images, archival data, and follow-up observations suggests that the source of the event is indeed a transiting planet. We estimated the candidate's orbital parameters and find that if real, it has a period $P \approx 100$ days and receives approximately Earth-like incident flux, giving the candidate a 71% chance of falling within the circumstellar habitable zone. If confirmed, HD 283869 b would have the longest orbital period, lowest incident flux, and brightest host star of any known transiting planet in an open cluster, making it uniquely important to future studies of how stellar irradiation affects planetary evolution.

Key words: planetary systems – planets and satellites: detection – stars: individual (HD 283869)

1. Introduction

The study of stars in clusters has been a cornerstone of stellar astrophysics for over a century (e.g., Russell 1914; Shapley 1917). Because clusters contain coeval stellar populations with uniform ages, compositions, and formation histories, it is possible to study stars while controlling for these variables, determine how stars of different masses appear and evolve, and understand cases where stellar evolution took unconventional paths. Stars in open clusters have enabled studies of, among other phenomena, stellar mergers (Leiner et al. 2016), mass transfer (Geller & Mathieu 2011), rotation (Barnes 2007), and magnetic activity (Stern et al. 1981).

Now that the detection of exoplanets has gone from unproven (Struve 1952; Campbell & Walker 1979) to achievable (Campbell et al. 1988; Latham et al. 1989; Mayor & Queloz 1995; Butler et al. 1997; Cochran et al. 1997), to routine (Rowe et al. 2014; Morton et al. 2016; Mayo et al. 2018) over the last few decades, fundamental questions about the formation and evolution of exoplanets are becoming pertinent. Since the very first discoveries, exoplanets have been found with orbits (Mayor & Queloz 1995; Cochran et al. 1997; Naef et al. 2001) and interior structures/compositions (Charbonneau et al. 2009; Masuda 2014) different from those of our own solar system planets, in tension with

traditional planet formation theories (e.g., Boss 1995). As the number of detected exoplanets grows, increasingly sophisticated analyses are beginning to yield insights into these surprising features of the exoplanet population (e.g., Dawson et al. 2015; Rogers 2015).

As astronomers begin to tackle fundamental questions about the origin and evolution of exoplanets, it stands to reason that the study of exoplanets in clusters may be similarly foundational to the study of stars in clusters. Studying a coeval planet population within a cluster could isolate trends in planet properties as a function of stellar mass (Cochran et al. 2002), while comparisons between different clusters and field populations could reveal how planet demographics depend on birth environment and how they change over time (Meibom et al. 2013; Mann et al. 2016a).

Recently, significant progress has been made detecting exoplanets in clusters. Some of the earliest discoveries came from radial velocity (RV) searches of cluster members (Lovis & Mayor 2007; Sato et al. 2007; Quinn et al. 2012), which were generally only sensitive to giant planets. Searches for transits were originally unfruitful (Gilliland et al. 2000; Burke et al. 2006; Pepper et al. 2008)¹¹ but found success after the launch of the *Kepler* space telescope, which detected two sub-Neptunes in the billion-year-old NCG 6811 cluster during its

⁹ NASA Sagan Fellow.

¹⁰ NASA Hubble Fellow.

¹¹ The lack of detections from transit surveys of clusters was not entirely expected (see, e.g., van Saders & Gaudi 2011; Masuda & Winn 2017).

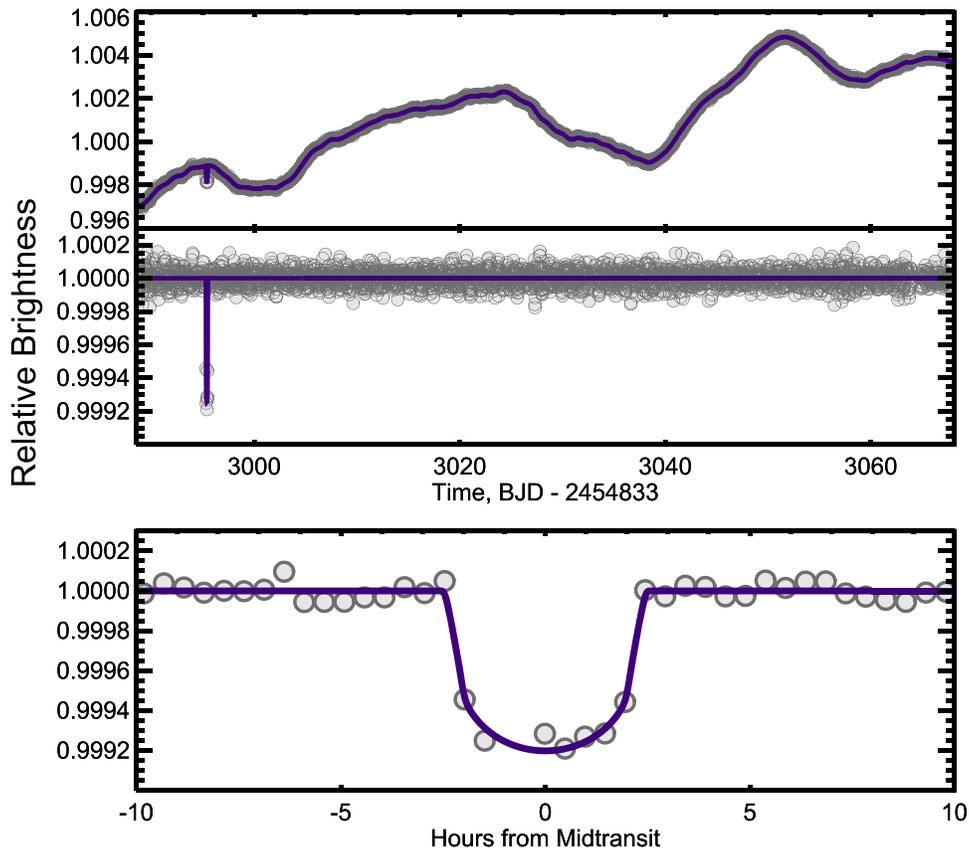


Figure 1. Top panel: systematics-corrected *K2* light curve of HD 283869. Gray circular points are the individual *K2* long-cadence flux measurements and the purple curve is the best-fit low-frequency variability and transit model. The star shows variability with a period of about 37 days—significantly longer than most other Hyades members of this mass—and a single-transit event at time $\text{BJD} - 2454833 \approx 2995$. Middle panel: *K2* light curve with stellar variability removed. The transit signal is clearly visible, significant at the $\approx 20\sigma$ level. Bottom panel: zoom-in of the flattened *K2* light curve with best-fit transit model overlaid. The signal is consistent with the transit of a super-Earth-sized exoplanet with an orbital period of about 100 days.

original mission (Meibom et al. 2013). The turning point for detecting planets in clusters came when the failure of a second reaction wheel ended the original *Kepler* mission and forced the spacecraft to point toward the ecliptic plane to maintain stable pointing (Howell et al. 2014). Fortunately, a wealth of nearby and well-studied clusters and associations, including the Hyades, Praesepe, Pleiades, M67, Ruprecht 147, and Upper Scorpius, happen to lie near the ecliptic plane, making *Kepler*’s extended *K2* mission well suited for detecting small transiting planets around these well-characterized stars. *K2* has fulfilled that promise with the detection of four planets in the Hyades (David et al. 2016a; Mann et al. 2016a, 2018; Ciardi et al. 2018; Livingston et al. 2018), six planets and one candidate in Praesepe (Libralato et al. 2016; Obermeier et al. 2016; Mann et al. 2017), one planet in Upper Scorpius (David et al. 2016b; Mann et al. 2016b), one planet in the Cas Tau association (David et al. 2018), and one planet in Ruprecht 147 (Curtis et al. 2018).

The sample of small transiting planets in open clusters is already showing intriguing patterns, perhaps hinting that planets in young clusters may be less dense than their older counterparts (Mann et al. 2016a, 2017; Obermeier et al. 2016). However, the inferences that might be made about the existing population of planets in open clusters are limited by the sample. Because of its short observing baseline, *K2* is most sensitive to planets in periods less than about 40 days, so the known small transiting cluster planets tend to orbit close to their host stars

and be highly irradiated. Meanwhile, although RV surveys have detected some long-period, cool planets, these objects are quite massive. Currently, there are no known small planets in temperate orbits around stars in open clusters, making it impossible to study the evolution and properties of planets in low-irradiation regimes.

Here, we report the detection of a long-period transiting planet candidate around the bright ($V = 10.6$, $K = 7.7$, $Kp = 10.1$) Hyades member HD 283869. We detected a single-transit event in *K2* Campaign 13 observations of HD 283869, with a depth, duration, and shape corresponding to a super-Earth in a roughly 100-day orbit around a K-dwarf stellar host. If the candidate is eventually confirmed to be real, it would be the first known temperate small planet in an open cluster. Our paper is organized as follows: In Section 2, we describe the *K2* discovery observations and both archival and follow-up data on HD 283869. Though we do not validate that the candidate is indeed an exoplanet with high confidence, our analysis of *K2* data, spectroscopy, and imaging suggests this is likely the case. In Section 3, we perform an analysis to determine stellar and planetary parameters under the assumption that the single-transit event we see is indeed due to an exoplanet. In Section 4, we discuss the uniqueness of the candidate around HD 283869 and explore the path toward confirming the transits to enable further study.

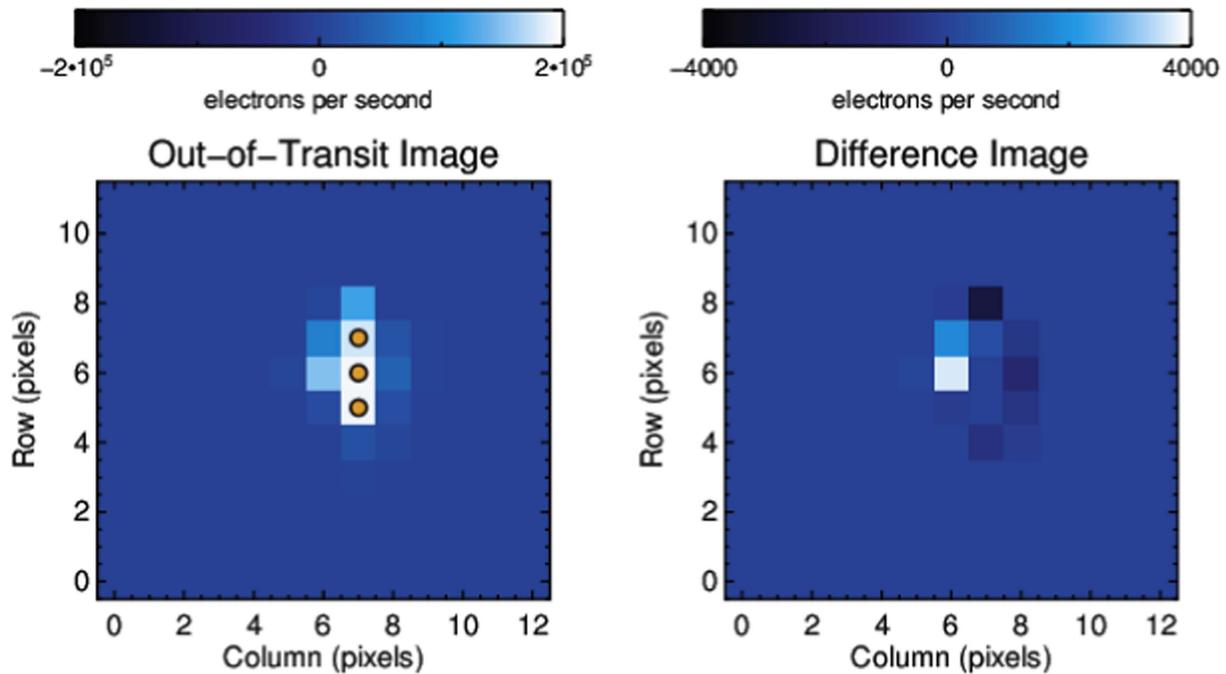


Figure 2. Difference image analysis for the candidate transit event around HD 283869. Left panel: out-of-transit image taken shortly after transit when *Kepler* was at nearly the same position in its roll as during the middle of the candidate transit event. The orange dots mark three saturated pixels (with electron fluxes greater than about $1.6 \times 10^5 \text{ s}^{-1}$, van Cleve & Caldwell 2016). Right panel: difference image calculated by subtracting a *K2* image taken during the transit from the out-of-transit image. While difference images for saturated stars observed by *Kepler* are tricky to interpret, the source of the transit is on target. The morphology of the difference image is consistent with a genuine transit of HD 283869.

2. Observations

2.1. *K2* Light Curve

Kepler observed part of the Hyades cluster, including HD 283869, designated EPIC 248045685, during the 13th campaign of its extended *K2* mission between 2017 March 8 and May 27. After the data were downlinked from the spacecraft, they were processed by the *K2* mission pipeline and released to the public. We downloaded the calibrated target pixel files from the Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes, produced light curves, and removed systematic errors caused by *Kepler*'s unstable pointing using the method described by Vanderburg & Johnson (2014). We searched the processed light curves for transits using a Box-Least-Squares algorithm (Kovács et al. 2002; Vanderburg et al. 2016b). Even though our transit search algorithm is designed to identify periodic phenomena, it detected a single, high signal-to-noise¹² transit-like dip in the brightness of HD 283869. The dip had a depth of about 800 ppm, a duration of about 4.6 hr, and a shape characterized by a rounded bottom and short ingress and egress times, consistent with the transit of a small exoplanet.

Upon identifying the transit-like event, we re-processed the *K2* light curve by fitting a systematics model simultaneously with the long-timescale variability of the star and a single transit of a long-period planet (see Vanderburg et al. 2016b, for details). Our final *K2* light curve is shown in Figure 1. The *K2* light curve is dominated by a long-period signal, which we think is likely astrophysical and could be related to stellar rotation. We measured a period of about 37 ± 2 days in the *K2* light curve using both an autocorrelation function and

Lomb-Scargle analysis. If this period is in fact the rotation period of the star, then HD 283869 is an anomalously slow rotator for a star of its mass and age; most single Hyades and Praesepe members with similar masses have rotation periods of about 10–15 days. We discuss this point further in Section 4. When the long-period signal is removed, the dip is clearly visible by eye near the beginning of the *K2* light curve.

While *K2* data are typically quite reliable, occasionally single events like the one we detect in the light curve of HD 283869 can be caused by instrumental phenomena. We therefore subjected the single dip to a battery of tests to rule out various scenarios that we have observed to cause similar signals in *K2* data in the past. In particular, we confirmed that there were no changes to the scattered background light (perhaps caused by a bright solar system object moving across *Kepler*'s focal plane¹³) during the 4.6 hr transit-like event. We also confirmed that the dip was not a residual of our correction for systematics caused by *K2*'s repeated drifting motion and thruster corrections. The dip spanned two drift periods and took place while *Kepler* was oriented in a part of its roll that was well-characterized by our “self flat field” systematics correction. We also inspected the light curves of the two other stars¹⁴ observed by *K2* within 5 arcmin of HD 283869 and found no similar simultaneous dips, indicating that the transit-like-event was not caused by some wide-reaching detector anomaly. We performed standard *K2* pixel-level tests (see,

¹³ For an example of such a scenario, see Figure 4(b) of Vanderburg (2014), which shows a spurious single transit-like event caused by an increase in scattered background light as the planet Jupiter moved out of *Kepler*'s focal plane.

¹⁴ In particular, <https://archive.stsci.edu/prepds/k2sff/html/c13/ep248053336.html> and <https://archive.stsci.edu/prepds/k2sff/html/c13/ep248053424.html>.

¹² We estimate the signal-to-noise of the dip is roughly 21.

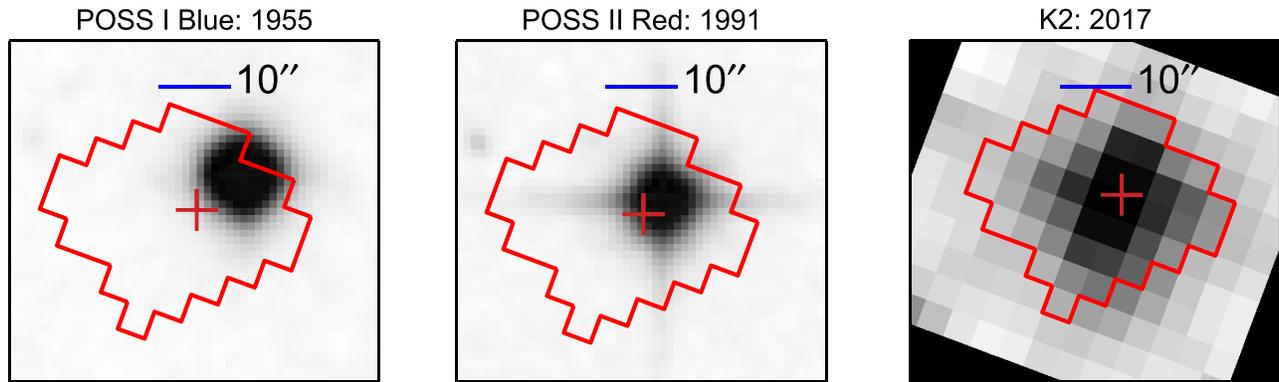


Figure 3. Archival imaging of HD 283869. In these images, the outline of the K2 photometric aperture is shown as a red polygon and the present-day position of HD 283869 is shown as a red cross near the center of the images. The 10'' blue horizontal line near the top of the images shows the scale. Left panel: image from the POSS I survey taken in 1955 on a photographic plate with a blue-sensitive emulsion. Middle panel: image from the POSS II survey taken in 1991 on a photographic plate with a red-sensitive emulsion. Right panel: summed image from the Campaign 13 K2 observations. The high proper motion of HD 283869 makes it possible to exclude bright background companions at the star’s present-day location.

e.g., Vanderburg et al. 2016b; Mayo et al. 2018) and confirmed that the apparent position of the star did not shift appreciably during the transit-like event both by difference image analysis (see Figure 2) and analysis of measured image centroids.¹⁵ Finally, we showed that the shape and depth of the transit remained the same when the photometric aperture used to extract the light curve was changed.

Based on these tests, we conclude that the transit-like event we see is probably caused by some astrophysical phenomenon in the direction of HD 283869, and throughout the rest of the paper, we proceed under this assumption. In Sections 2.2 and 2.3, we go further and argue that that the most likely explanation for the dip in the light curve of HD 283869 is that the star is indeed transited by a small, long-period exoplanet, but we do not go so far as to attempt to validate the signal as being caused by a genuine exoplanet with high confidence. Instead, given the difficulty of ruling out all possible false positive scenarios for single-transit events, we consider the likely source of the signal to be a “planet candidate,” which it will remain until it is confirmed by the detection of additional transits or through precise Doppler monitoring (e.g., Vanderburg et al. 2015). For convenience, throughout the rest of the paper, we refer to the planet candidate as HD 283869 b.

2.2. Spectroscopy

HD 283869 is a well studied star thanks to its long-suspected Hyades membership. Here, we make use of extensive archival observations and some new observations taken after we identified the planet candidate orbiting HD 283869.

After being identified as a candidate Hyades member by photometric and proper motion surveys, HD 283869 was observed spectroscopically three times between 1974 and 1980 with the Radial Velocity Spectrometer at the Coudé focus of the 5.1 m Palomar Hale telescope (Griffin et al. 1988) as part of a survey to identify true Hyades members among previously

identified candidates. The three RV measurements from this survey had a mean velocity of $39.6 \pm 0.17 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ on the IAU system¹⁶ (with no variations at the 500 m s^{-1} level), suggesting kinematics consistent with Hyades membership.¹⁷

Some of us began observing HD 283869 in 1991 as part of an RV survey of Hyades members using the CfA Digital Speedometers on the 1.5 m Wyeth Reflector at Oak Ridge Observatory in the town of Harvard, MA and on the 1.5 m Tillinghast Reflector at Fred L. Whipple Observatory on Mt. Hopkins, AZ (Stefanik et al. 1985). We obtained a total of 17 observations with the CfA Digital Speedometers between 1991 and 2006, all but two of which came from Oak Ridge Observatory. The RV time series shows no convincing evidence for astrophysical variability at the 300 m s^{-1} level, and a periodogram search reveals no strong periodicities. The mean velocity of the 17 Digital Speedometer observations is $39.7 \pm 0.13 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ on the IAU scale. There is no significant velocity difference between the CfA observations and the Palomar observations taken two decades earlier.

More recently, we observed HD 283869 with the Tillinghast Reflector Echelle Spectrograph (TRES), the high-resolution successor to the CfA Digital Speedometers on the 1.5 m telescope at Mt. Hopkins. We obtained one observation in 2011 October and two other observations in 2017 September after we identified the planet candidate. We measured relative radial velocities between the three TRES observations using methods developed by Buchhave et al. (2010). We detect a possible 80 m s^{-1} RV shift between the observation taken in 2011 and the two observations taken in 2017, but the formal confidence of this shift is only about 2σ , and we do not consider it significant. When placed on the IAU scale, the average of the three TRES RVs is $39.84 \pm 0.1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, where the uncertainty is dominated by the transfer onto the IAU system. We adopt this value for the absolute RV.

¹⁵ With a *Kepler*-band magnitude of 10.15, the image of HD 283869 is saturated in the K2 images, which can confuse diagnostics like image centroid shifts and difference images. Nevertheless, with the difference image analysis, we are able to show that the source of the transit is cospatial with HD 283869, and we are able to confirm that the shift in image centroids (transverse to the spacecraft roll) during transit is less than about 2 mas compared to the spacecraft position in the two days surrounding the transit.

¹⁶ Griffin et al. (1988) measured a mean velocity of 40.3 km s^{-1} . We offset the Griffin et al. (1988) velocities to the IAU system by applying a correction of -0.84 km s^{-1} between the Griffin et al. (1988) system and the CfA Digital Speedometer system, which we derived from observations of constant-velocity targets in common between the Griffin et al. (1988) and CfA programs. Once the velocities were on the CfA system, we shifted them to the IAU system by applying a correction of $+0.14 \text{ km s}^{-1}$.

¹⁷ The mean Hyades RV is $39.3 \pm 0.25 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ with a velocity dispersion is 2.8 km s^{-1} (Mermilliod et al. 2009).

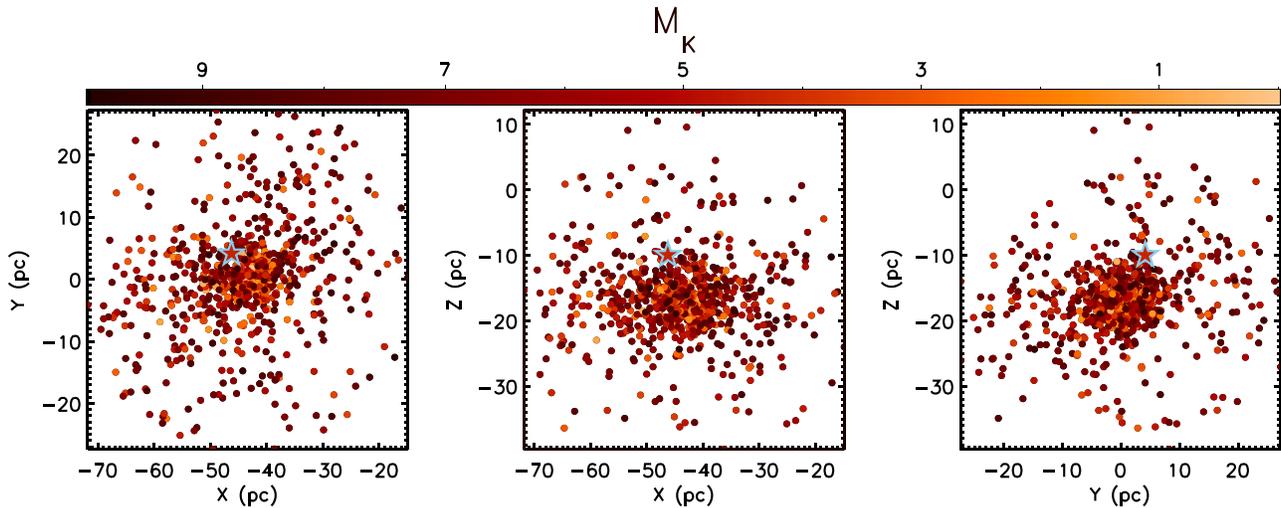


Figure 4. Galactic coordinates of HD 283869 in relation to other known Hyades members. HD 283869 is shown as a gray star, while the other members are shown as colored circular points, with the color corresponding to each star’s absolute K -band magnitude. HD 283869’s position is near the edge of the Hyades core, well within the larger distribution of Hyades members.

The most precise existing RV observations of HD 283869 were conducted as part of a survey to detect giant planets in the Hyades using the High Resolution Echelle Spectrograph (HIRES) on the 10 m Keck I telescope on Maunakea, HI (Cochran et al. 2002; Paulson et al. 2004). HD 283869 was observed six times between 1998 and 2003 with typical uncertainties of about 5 m s^{-1} . We placed limits on radial acceleration on HD 283869 by fitting the six HIRES RV measurements with a linear model while allowing for an RV “jitter” term. We found no statistically significant acceleration, measuring a best-fit slope of about $3 \pm 2 \text{ m s}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$, roughly the acceleration induced by either a Jupiter mass planet at 5 au, or a $0.1 M_{\odot}$ M-dwarf at 50 au. Significantly closer or more-massive objects than this must be nearly face-on in order to escape detection.

All in all, four decades of spectroscopic observations of HD 283869 show no evidence for RV variations, placing strong limits on the presence of binary companions. The lack of detected RV variations show definitely that HD 283869 is not a short-period eclipsing binary, eliminating that false positive scenario for the planet candidate. The RV constraints also place limits on the presence of distant companions that might be eclipsing systems themselves, decreasing the likelihood of a hierarchical eclipsing binary false positive scenario.

2.3. Imaging

We used a combination of archival imaging and newly acquired high angular resolution images to search for visual companions to HD 283869. We first inspected images taken in the original Palomar Observatory Sky Survey (POSS) on a photographic plate with a blue-sensitive emulsion to search for stationary background objects close to the present-day position of HD 283869. Since HD 283869 was observed by POSS in 1955, its apparent position in the sky has moved by about 9 arcsec, making it possible to search for stationary background stars near the its present-day position (see Figure 3). In a blue-sensitive plate, the saturated point-spread function of HD 283869 extends near its present-day position 9 arcsec away, and we see no evidence for any elongation that might hint at a background star in the present-day location of HD 283869. We estimate based on the other nearby faint stars

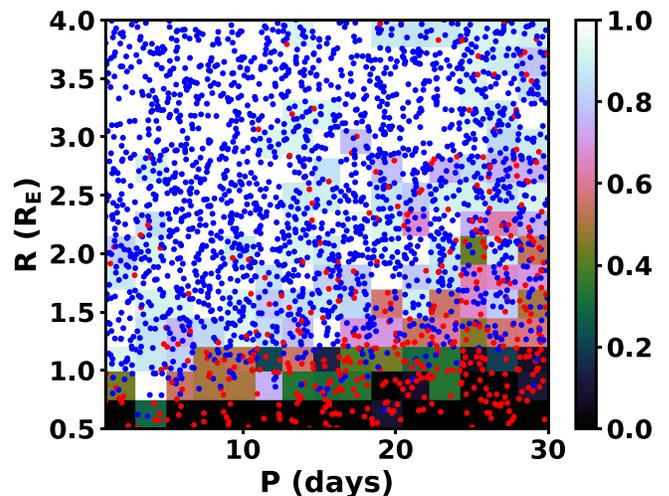


Figure 5. Sensitivity to additional transiting planets around HD 283869. We show the orbital periods and planet radii of our injected planets as circular points in the plot; blue points represent planets that we successfully recovered with our notch-filter pipeline, and red points indicate planets that we did not recover. The plot background color shows the fraction of recovered planets in each region of parameter space.

in the POSS image that if there was a star brighter than about 18th magnitude at the present-day position of HD 283869, we would have seen it. Because we see no such star close to the present-day position of HD 283869, we can exclude background stars about six magnitudes fainter in blue bandpasses. We also searched for wide co-moving binary companions using the Hot Stuff for One Year catalog (Altmann et al. 2017). We identified no other stars out to a distance of 900 arcsec (about 40000 au projected distance) brighter than $R \approx 19$ (corresponding to roughly $0.1 M_{\odot}$ M-dwarfs) with a proper motion consistent with HD 283869. Finally, we queried the *Gaia* DR2 database for sources near HD 283869 (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2016b, 2018). *Gaia* identified three very faint point sources within the $K2$ photometric aperture at distance of $3''.7$, $9''.2$, and $12''.8$. These point sources are too faint for *Gaia* to have measured proper motions or parallaxes, so we cannot ascertain

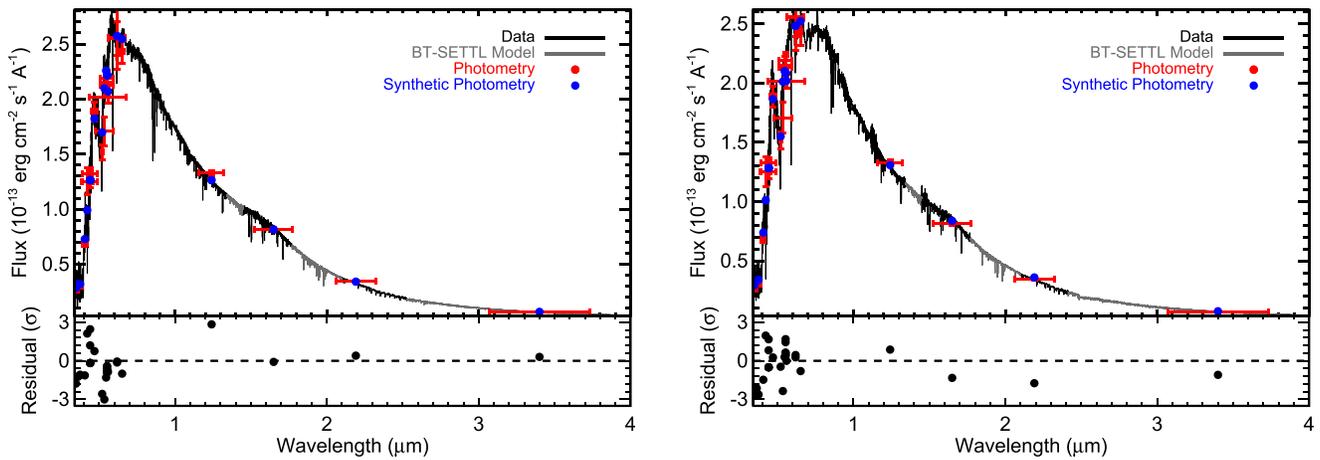


Figure 6. Spectral energy distribution of HD 283869 as a function of wavelength with the two best-fit templates (black, K5 on the left, and K7 on the right). Gray regions represent BT-SETTL models, which are used to fill in gaps in the templates. Literature photometry is shown in red, with vertical errors representing measurement uncertainties and horizontal errors an approximation of the filter width. Blue points represent synthetic photometry derived from the template spectrum. The bottom panel shows the residuals between observed and synthetic photometry in units of standard deviations. The K5 gives a slightly better fit (reduced χ^2 of 1.7 and 2.0).

whether any of them are physically associated with HD 283869 or if they are background objects. All three of these stars have *Gaia*-band *G* magnitudes fainter than $G = 19.4$, too faint to have caused the 700 ppm transit signal we observed on HD 283869. Evidently, there are no widely separated stars near HD 283869 that could have contributed the transit signal we see.

After identifying the planet candidate, we observed HD 283869 with two speckle imaging instruments: the NN-Explore Exoplanet Stellar Speckle Imager (NESSI) on the 3.5 m WIYN telescope on Kitt Peak in Arizona, and ‘Alopeke on the 8 m Gemini-N telescope on Maunakea, HI. NESSI and ‘Alopeke both work by taking many short (40–60 ms) exposures of a target star simultaneously in two optical narrow bands. The short exposures freeze out atmospheric turbulence, resulting in sub-images that can be reconstructed using Fourier techniques to produce diffraction-limited images over small fields of view. We observed with NESSI in 40 nm wide filters centered at 562 and 832 nm and with ‘Alopeke in similar filters centered at 562 and 880 nm.¹⁸ We reduced the data using the method described by Howell et al. (2011) and detected no nearby companions in any of the reconstructed images. The strongest constraints at small angular separations are placed by ‘Alopeke; we can exclude stars 4.4 magnitudes fainter at angular separations of 0.1 arcsec (or projected distances of 5 au). The NESSI images are deeper than the ‘Alopeke images due to observing conditions and contribute the strongest constraints at larger angular distances. The NESSI data at 832 nm exclude stars about 5.8 magnitudes fainter at this wavelength at distances of about 1 arcsec, or projected distances of 50 au.

The constraints we place on background objects and visual companions from archival and speckle imaging further limit false positive scenarios, making it more likely that the planet candidate around HD 283869 is indeed a transiting exoplanet. Therefore, throughout the rest of this paper, we perform analyses assuming that HD 283869 is single and that the candidate transit event is indeed caused by a transiting exoplanet.

¹⁸ Due to poor weather conditions for our observation with ‘Alopeke, only the image taken with the 880 nm filter was usable.

3. Analysis

3.1. Membership in the Hyades

HD 283869 has a long history of being associated with the Hyades cluster. Griffin et al. (1988) measured an RV for HD 283869 consistent with Hyades membership, but they flagged it as a possible member, citing inconsistencies in literature proper motion measurements as a source of doubt. More recently, Perryman et al. (1998) and Röser et al. (2011) assigned HD 283869 membership using updated astrometric parameters from *Hipparcos* (ESA 1997) and the PPMXL catalogs, respectively.

We reassessed the case for HD 283869’s membership in the Hyades. First, we note that there is solid evidence for HD 283869’s membership based on its position and proper motion. HD 283869 is located near the outskirts of the Hyades core (see Figure 4), and the star’s space velocity is toward the cluster’s convergence point. (The star has a velocity of 23.7 km s^{-1} parallel to the cluster’s convergence point and only 1.3 km s^{-1} perpendicular to the convergence point, Röser et al. 2011.) Using the methods described by Rizzuto et al. (2011) and Rizzuto et al. (2015), and the Hyades cluster model from Rizzuto et al. (2017), we calculate a membership probability greater than 99%. This calculation does not take into account the measured RV (consistent with Hyades membership) and the fact that HD 283869 falls right on the Hyades main sequence in a color–magnitude diagram. Including this additional information brings the membership probability to near unity. Although HD 283869 has a slightly discrepant proper motion perpendicular to the cluster convergence point (larger than all but a handful of other known members) and might have an anomalously long rotation period (see Section 4.2), the preponderance of the evidence suggests that it is indeed a Hyades member.

3.2. Limits on Additional Transiting Planets

We placed limits on additional (short-period) transiting planets by performing injection/recovery tests following the procedure outlined by Rizzuto et al. (2017). We injected 4000 transit signals with randomly chosen planet and orbital

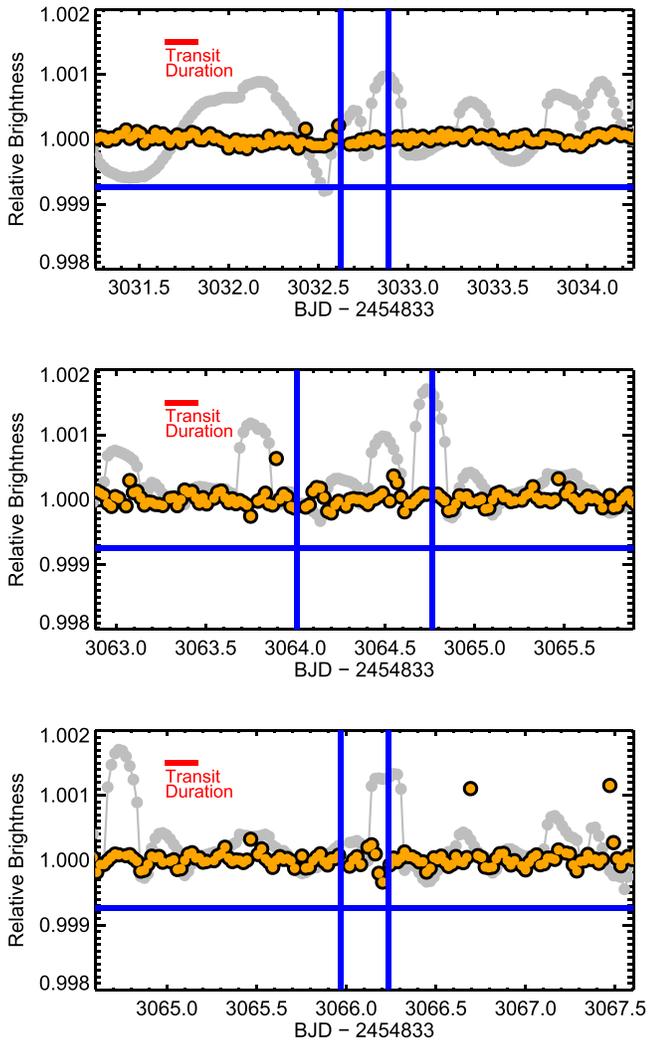


Figure 7. *K2* light curve during periods when the spacecraft lost fine-pointing control. Each panel shows both the systematics-corrected *K2* light curve (orange) and the raw *K2* light curve convolved with the shape of HD 283869 b’s transit (gray) to partially average over the uncorrected *K2* roll systematics. We show the raw *K2* light curve in addition to the more precise systematics-corrected light curve to demonstrate that no plausible transit signals were absorbed by the systematics correction in these poorly constrained parts of the flat field. The periods when *K2* lost fine-pointing control are interior to the two horizontal blue lines, and the depth of HD 283869 b’s transit is shown with the horizontal blue line. The duration of HD 283869 b’s transit is shown as a red horizontal line in the upper left-hand corner of each panel. There are no signals in either the raw or systematics-corrected light curves during the periods without fine-pointing control consistent with a second transit of HD 283869 b.

parameters into the light curve of HD 283869 and attempted to recover them with the “notch-filter” pipeline described by Rizzuto et al. (2017). Our results are shown in Figure 5. We find that we are generally sensitive to sub-Earth-sized planets in short-period ($\lesssim 5$ days) orbits and somewhat sensitive to Earth-sized planets out to periods of about 25 days. If there are other similarly sized planets orbiting interior to HD 283869 b, then there must be some misalignment between the planets’ orbits.

3.3. Stellar Parameters

We used the Stellar Parameter Classification (SPC; Buchhave et al. 2012, 2014) method to determine the effective temperature, surface gravity, and equatorial rotational velocity of HD 283869

from the three TRES spectra. We ran SPC while fixing the metallicity to the cluster metallicity; we used a value of $+0.15$ that is an average of several previous determinations (Paulson et al. 2003; Dutra-Ferreira et al. 2016). Averaging the results for each of the three spectra, we measure a temperature $T_{\text{eff,SPC}} = 4686 \pm 50$ K, surface gravity $\log g_{\text{SPC}} = 4.70 \pm 0.1$, and we place an upper limit on the star’s projected equatorial rotation velocity of about 2 km s^{-1} . We measure an average Mt. Wilson activity R'_{HK} indicator from our three TRES spectra of $R'_{\text{HK}} = -4.77 \pm 0.05$ using the procedure described by Mayo et al. (2018).

We estimated the luminosity of HD 283869 using the parallax from *Gaia* DR1 (21.05 ± 0.29 mas, Gaia Collaboration et al. 2016a)¹⁹ and fitting empirical templates to the available photometry, following the procedure from Mann et al. (2015, 2017), which we briefly describe here. We first downloaded archival photometry from the literature, including JHK_S from the Two Micron All Sky Survey (Skrutskie et al. 2006), B_T and V_T from Tycho-2 (Høg et al. 2000), H_p from *Hipparcos* (van Leeuwen et al. 1997), UBV from the General Catalogue of Photometric Data (Mermilliod et al. 1997), BV and r' from the AAVSO All-Sky Photometric Survey (Henden et al. 2012), r' from the Carlsberg Meridian Catalogue (Muiños & Evans 2014), and $W1 W2 W3 W4$ from the *Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer* (Wright et al. 2010).

We converted literature photometry to fluxes using the appropriate filter profile and zero-point (e.g., Cohen et al. 2003; Bessell & Murphy 2012; Mann & von Braun 2015). Utilizing spectra from the IRTF Cool Stars Library (Cushing et al. 2005; Rayner et al. 2009) and CONCH-SHELL catalog (Gaidos et al. 2014), we found the best-fit spectral template by comparing these fluxes to values derived from these spectra, allowing the mean flux level of the template to float (Figure 6). We filled in regions of high telluric contamination and those not covered by our templates using BT-SETTL models (Allard et al. 2011). Given that the star is within the “Local Bubble,” reddening is likely to be negligible (Lallement et al. 2003) and was not included in our analysis. The final bolometric flux was taken to be the integral over all wavelengths of the best-fit template and model, scaled to match the photometry. Interpolating between templates gave a negligible improvement in the fit (improvement in reduced χ^2 of < 0.1). Uncertainty on the bolometric flux was calculated by accounting for errors in the individual magnitudes, zero-points, and differences between templates. This procedure yielded a bolometric flux of $2.61 \pm 0.05 \times 10^{-9} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$. Combined with the *Gaia* DR1 parallax (21.05 ± 0.29 mas), this gave a luminosity of $0.182 \pm 0.006 L_{\odot}$.

To determine other stellar parameters, we interpolated this luminosity onto the Mesa Isochrones and Stellar Tracks (Choi et al. 2016; Dotter 2016) and Dartmouth Stellar Evolution Program (Dotter et al. 2008), using the canonical Hyades age (600–800 Myr Perryman et al. 1998; Brandt & Huang 2015; Martín et al. 2018) and metallicity ($\simeq 0.15$, Liu et al. 2016). Accounting for differences between the two model grids, and errors on the input parameters, this procedure gives $T_{\text{eff}} = 4655 \pm 55$ K, $R_* = 0.664 \pm 0.023 M_{\odot}$, and $M_* = 0.742 \pm 0.023 M_{\odot}$. This T_{eff} is consistent with the value derived from the TRES spectrum. We also obtained a

¹⁹ Recently, a more precise parallax for HD 283869 was included in *Gaia* DR2 of 21.003 ± 0.054 mas. We confirmed that the stellar parameters and uncertainties derived using this new parallax remain consistent within errors, and the uncertainties in stellar parameters, which are dominated by systematic errors in stellar evolutionary models, were unchanged.

Table 1
System Parameters for HD 283869

Parameter	Value		68.3% Confidence Interval Width	Comment
<i>Other Designations</i>				
EPIC 248045685				
HIP 22271				
BD+25 733				
<i>Basic Information</i>				
R.A.	04:47:41.80			A
Decl.	+26:09:00.8			A
Proper Motion in R.A. [mas yr ⁻¹]	113.42	±	0.18	A
Proper Motion in decl. [mas yr ⁻¹]	-83.83	±	0.12	A
Absolute Radial Velocity [km s ⁻¹]	39.84	±	0.1	B
Distance to Star [pc]	47.51	±	0.65	A
V-magnitude	10.60	±	0.012	A
K-magnitude	7.72	±	0.03	A
Kepler-band <i>Kp</i> magnitude	10.15			A
Mt. Wilson R_{HK}^L	-4.77	±	0.05	B
<i>Stellar Parameters</i>				
Mass M_* [M_\odot]	0.74	±	0.03	C
Radius R_* [R_\odot]	0.66	±	0.03	C
Luminosity L_* [L_\odot]	0.182	±	0.006	C
Limb-darkening u_1	0.570	±	0.062	D, E
Limb-darkening u_2	0.043	±	0.068	D, E
log g_{SPC} [cgs]	4.7	±	0.1	B
Metallicity [M/H]	0.15	±	0.03	F
T_{eff} [K]	4655	±	55	C
$v \sin i$ [km s ⁻¹]	<2			B
<i>HD 283869 b</i>				
Orbital Period, P [days]	106		+74 -25	C, D
Radius Ratio, R_p/R_*	0.0272	±	0.0012	C, D
Scaled semimajor axis, a/R_*	129		+55 -22	C, D
Orbital inclination, i [deg]	89.744		+0.131 -0.085	C, D
Transit impact parameter, b	0.64		+0.13 -0.31	C, D
Transit Duration, t_{14} [hr]	4.600	±	0.097	D
Time of Transit t_t [BJD]	2457828.3869	±	0.0011	D
Planet Radius R_p [R_\oplus]	1.96	±	0.13	C, D
$T_{\text{eq}} = T_{\text{eff}}(1 - \alpha)^{1/4} \sqrt{\frac{R_p}{2a}}$ [K]	255		+38 -44	B, C, D, G

Note. A: Parameters come from the EPIC catalog (Huber et al. 2016) and *Gaia* Data Release 1 (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2016a). B: Parameters come from analysis of the three TRES spectra. C: Parameters come from measuring the bolometric flux and luminosity using archival photometry and the *Gaia* parallax, and interpolating the measured stellar luminosity onto Hyades-age isochrones as described (Section 3.3). D: Parameters come from analysis of the *K2* light curve (Section 3.4) with priors on the orbital period imposed (Section 3.5). E: Gaussian priors of imposed on u_1 and u_2 centered on 0.644 and 0.096, respectively, with width 0.07. F: The stellar metallicity is assumed to be the cluster metallicity. G: The equilibrium temperature T_{eq} is calculated assuming albedo α uniformly distributed between 0 and 0.7 and perfect heat redistribution.

consistent radius using the Stefan–Boltzmann relation with the TRES T_{eff} and above luminosity, and a consistent mass using the empirical mass–luminosity relation from Henry & McCarthy (1993), suggesting that the model-derived parameters are reasonable for this star.

3.4. Transit Light Curve

We determined transit parameters by fitting the *K2* light curve with a Mandel & Agol (2002) model²⁰ using a Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) algorithm with affine invariant ensemble sampling (Goodman & Weare 2010). Often, when astronomers fit transits, they parameterize planetary orbits with physical variables such as the orbital inclination i or the ratio of

the planet’s semimajor axis to the stellar radius a/R_* . The large uncertainties and covariances in the orbital elements of singly transiting planets make it difficult for MCMC explorations to converge in situations like that of HD 283869. Therefore, instead of using a physical parameterization, we fit the *K2* light curve in terms of variables directly related to the shape of the transit. In particular, we fit the transit in terms of the planet-star radius ratio, R_p/R_* , the full duration of the transit from first to fourth contact, t_{14} , the time of transit center t_t , the transit impact parameter, b , and linear and quadratic limb-darkening coefficients, u_1 and u_2 . We also fit for a “jitter” term describing the uncertainty in the flux in each *K2* long-cadence data point. We imposed priors requiring both the transit duration and the flux uncertainty term to be greater than zero and requiring the impact parameter to be between 0 and $1 + R_p/R_*$. We imposed informative Gaussian priors on u_1 and u_2 , centered on the values interpolated from limb-darkening models (0.644 and

²⁰ We accounted for the 29.4-minute *Kepler* long-cadence integration time by oversampling the model light curve by factor of 30 and performing a trapezoidal integration.

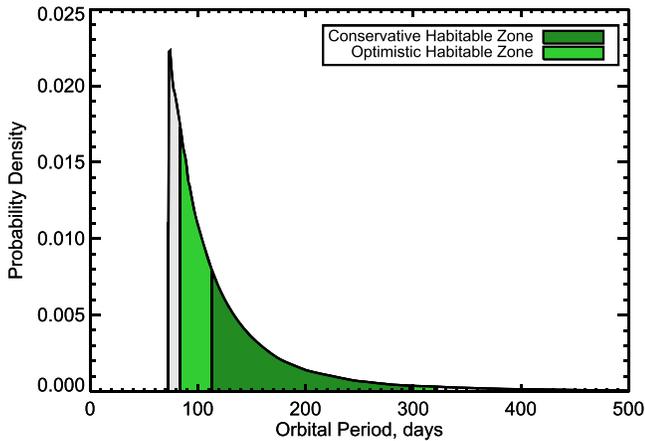


Figure 8. Constraints on the orbital period of HD 283869 b. The black curve shows the probability distribution of the orbital period from our analysis in Section 3.5. The light green and dark green shaded regions represent orbits that fall in the optimistic and conservative circumstellar habitable zones, respectively (Kopparapu et al. 2013). Despite our weak constraint on orbital period, we can say fairly confidently that if real, HD 283869 b is temperate, with a 71% chance of orbiting within the star’s habitable zone and a 99% upper limit on equilibrium temperature of 327 K.

0.096 for u_1 and u_2 , respectively, Claret & Bloemen 2011) with widths of 0.07 (roughly matching the level of agreement between models and observations, Müller et al. 2013). We explored parameter space with 100 walkers, which we evolved for 10000 steps each, discarding the first half for burn-in.

3.5. Orbital Period

Because we only observed a single transit of the planet candidate HD 283869 b, the candidate’s orbital period is not well determined. We therefore estimated the orbital period of HD 283869 b using a simplified version of the method described by Vanderburg et al. (2016a). We began by taking the posterior samples from our MCMC analysis of the *K2* light curve described in Section 3.4, which include 500,000 individual samples of the parameters $\{R_p/R_*, t_{14}, b\}$. To estimate the orbital period of the planet, we took each set of these parameters drawn from the posterior, randomly drew samples of the eccentricity e and argument of periastron ω from the joint distribution described by Kipping (2013, 2014), and calculated the orbital period P by evaluating the following equation:²¹

$$P = \left[\frac{t_{14}(GM_*\pi/4)^{1/3}}{\sqrt{(R_p + R_*)^2 - b^2R_*^2}} \frac{1 + e \cos(\omega)}{\sqrt{1 - e^2}} \right]^3 \quad (1)$$

where G is the gravitational constant, M_* is the stellar mass, R_p is the planetary radius, and R_* is the stellar radius. The resulting distribution of possible orbital periods for HD 283869 b peaks at about 40 days, with long tails extending to short periods inside of 10 days and long periods well beyond one year.

The duration, impact parameter, and planet-star radius ratio are not the only information we have at our disposal about the orbital period of HD 283869 b. We can also place constraints

²¹ This equation can be derived by simplifying Equation (2) from Vanderburg et al. (2016a) if the scaled semimajor axis $a/R_* \gg 1$, a safe assumption for long-period transiting planet candidates like HD 283869 b.

based on the fact that the planet candidate only transited once during the 80 days of *K2* observations. In particular, because the single transit occurred just about 8 days after the beginning of the *K2* observations, and no other similar dips occurred during the rest of the observing campaign,²² the candidate’s orbital period must be longer than about 72 days. We accounted for this by discarding all samples of the transit parameters and orbital periods with periods less than this minimum allowed period.

We also took into account the probability that we would detect the transit of a long-period planet at all in our observations. When the orbital period of a planet is longer than the duration of observations, there is no guarantee that the transit will take place while observations are taking place. For orbital periods longer than the duration of observations B , the probability \mathcal{P} of detecting a transit decreases as

$$\mathcal{P} = (B + t_{14})/P \quad \text{for } P > B + t_{14}. \quad (2)$$

We took this additional prior into account by randomly selecting whether to discard individual samples for periods longer than the observing baseline with a probability described by Equation (2).

We use the surviving samples to estimate both orbital and transit parameters for HD 283869 b. The parameters are summarized in Table 1 and the orbital period probability distribution is shown in Figure 8. Most likely, the orbital period is not much longer than the minimum allowed period of 72 days; our analysis yields $P = 106^{+74}_{-25}$ days.²³ Interestingly, given the luminosity and temperature of HD 283869, there is a fairly high likelihood that HD 283869 b orbits in the host star’s habitable zone. 71% of the surviving orbital period samples fall within the optimistic habitable zone as calculated by Kopparapu et al. (2013), and 36% of the surviving samples fall within the conservative habitable zone. The equilibrium temperature of HD 283869 b is about 255^{+38}_{-44} K, which would make it the first temperate planet found in an open cluster.

4. Discussion

4.1. Uniqueness of HD 283869 b

If confirmed to be real, HD 283869 b would stand out among transiting planets in open clusters. With a *K*-band magnitude $K = 7.7$, HD 283869 would be the brightest star to host a transiting planet in a cluster, making detailed further studies possible. The brightness and slow rotation of HD 283869 make it well suited for precise RV observations (though a detection of HD 283869 b may have to wait for advances in the treatment of stellar activity, see Section 4.3), and the brightness in the infrared and the fairly small size of the host star could make future transit transmission spectroscopy observations possible.

What sets HD 283869 b apart from the population of transiting planets in clusters is its long orbital period and low-irradiation environment. The longest-period validated transiting planet in a cluster is *K2*-136 d (Mann et al. 2018), which, with a period of 25.6 days, is the outermost planet in a

²² While *Kepler* observations during Campaign 13 were uninterrupted, our default light curve reduction excluded data from several short periods of time when the spacecraft briefly lost fine-pointing control. We re-reduced the *K2* light curve while including these data and confirmed that no transits occurred during these gaps (see Figure 7).

²³ The orbital period is not particularly sensitive to the choice of eccentricity prior. If we assume the planet’s orbit is circular, we find $P = 99^{+50}_{-20}$ days.

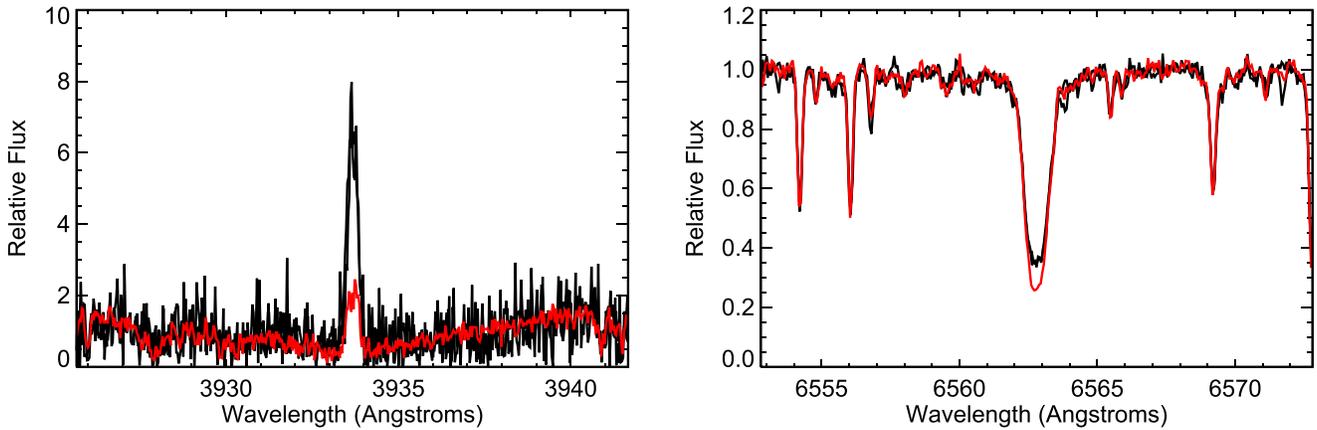


Figure 9. Activity indicators of HD 283869 compared to other Hyades stars of similar mass from TRES spectra. The left plot shows the Ca II K line in the ultraviolet, and the right plot shows H- α . In both plots, spectra of HD 283869 are shown in red, while the spectra of the other Hyades stars (HD 286572 and HD 286789) are shown in black. HD 283869 is less active than other Hyades stars in both activity indices, but especially so in Ca II.

three-planet system. HD 283869 b likely has an orbital period more than three times longer than K2-136 d. HD 283869 b would also be the transiting cluster planet that receives the least stellar irradiation. HD 283869 b receives $1.2^{+0.5}_{-0.6}$ times the flux received by the Earth, four times less flux than is received by K2-103, the present record holder.

The combination of its young age, proximity, and low-irradiation make HD 283869 b an intriguing target for studying the development of small, temperate planets. At an age of roughly 600–800 million years, HD 283869 b may still be evolving into its mature state. Radius evolution models calculated by Lopez & Fortney (2014) for super-Earths with hydrogen-rich envelopes predict that in the absence of photoevaporation, if HD 283869 b has a hydrogen-rich envelope, its radius will contract somewhere between 5% and 10% between now and maturity at an age of about 5 Gyr. Comparisons of the density of HD 283869 b to similar planets around older field stars could test these models. Observations of HD 283869 b might otherwise reveal surprises; other transiting planets discovered in the Hyades and Praesepe like K2-25 b and K2-95 b seem to be larger than their counterparts around mature stars (Mann et al. 2016a, 2017; Obermeier et al. 2016), indicating that processes like atmospheric evaporation may still be taking place. If transit observations of HD 283869 b show evidence for atmospheric loss, HD 283869 b might be the progenitor of an even smaller temperate planet, and potentially an early version of a rocky habitable-zone planet.

4.2. Evidently Slow Rotation

In Section 2.1, we identified a possible 37-day rotation period for HD 283869, which is considerably longer than the rotation periods of stars of similar mass and age in the Hyades and the similarly aged Praesepe open cluster. At face value, this is surprising. Several groups (Douglas et al. 2016, 2017; Rebull et al. 2017) have used *K2* data to measure rotation periods of Hyades and Praesepe stars and found tight period–mass relations for single stars in these clusters, with high ($\approx 85\%$) recovery fractions. A few other Hyades-age stars show longer-period variability than their peers, including the Praesepe member EPIC 211974724 with a 35-day period (Agüeros et al. 2011; Douglas et al. 2017), but it is unclear whether these long rotation periods are actually reliable. HD 283869 also appears unusually inactive in spectroscopic indicators. For HD 283869, $R'_{HK} = -4.77$, while the median R'_{HK}

for Hyades stars is -4.47 with a scatter of 0.09 (Mamajek & Hillenbrand 2008). We compare the Ca II K line for HD 283869 with those of similar Hyades stars in Figure 9. While HD 283869’s H- α equivalent width is not easily distinguished from other Hyades-age stars in low-resolution spectra obtained by Douglas et al. (2014), inspection of high-resolution spectra of some of these stars shows HD 283869 is less active in H- α as well (see Figure 9).

One possibility for explaining the longer-period variability on HD 283869 and others like EPIC 211974724 is that we view these stars nearly pole-on and the variability timescale is dominated by the spot evolution timescale/activity lifetime rather than the stellar rotation period. This interpretation is consistent with our upper limit on the projected rotational velocity of about 2 km s^{-1} . Interestingly, if true, this explanation would imply that the planet candidate, HD 283869 b, has an orbit significantly misaligned from its host’s spin axis. A pole-on viewing geometry could also potentially explain the lower spectroscopic activity indicators as well if fewer active regions are visible from our line of sight.

Another more mundane possibility is that the long-period variability is instrumental in origin, and the true activity signal of HD 283869 is undetectable in the presence of long-timescale instrumental systematics. We think this explanation is unlikely. While *Kepler* and *K2* data do exhibit long-term systematics due to differential velocity aberration, the morphology of the long-term signal in the HD 283869 light curve does not match typical instrumental signals in *K2* data. If the signal were instrumental, its amplitude would be unusually high for a star of this brightness. Additionally, the amplitude and morphology of the signal does not depend on the size or shape of the photometric aperture used to extract the light curve. The long-period signal is large enough that it should be detectable in ground-based observations that could clarify its origin.²⁴

4.3. Recovering and Confirming the Planet Candidate

Confirming HD 283869 b and determining its orbital period with RV follow-up will be quite challenging. We estimate a planet mass of about $6.5 \pm 2 M_{\oplus}$ using the probabilistic mass–radius relationship from Wolfgang et al. (2016), which

²⁴ The 35-day period detected on the Praesepe star EPIC 211974724 has already passed this test; the signal was detected both in *K2* and ground-based observations separated by 5 years, effectively ruling out instrumental artifacts (Agüeros et al. 2011; Douglas et al. 2017).

corresponds to an RV semiamplitude of about $1.0 \pm 0.4 \text{ m s}^{-1}$. While some short-period²⁵ exoplanets with RV semiamplitudes this small have been detected, such small signals push against the limits of existing instrumentation and analysis techniques. Detecting such a small RV semiamplitude in the presence of the high-amplitude stellar activity signals expected for Hyades-age stars will be very difficult. Even in the optimistic case that HD 283869 has an unusually slow rotation period of 37 days, given the amplitude of photometric variations observed during the *K2* observations, we estimate the stellar activity would induce up to 6–8 m s^{-1} peak-to-peak RV variations. Detecting the smaller signal of HD 283869 b in radial velocities may not be possible until instrumentation and analysis techniques have advanced.

The most straightforward path to confirming the transit signal and precisely measuring the orbital period of HD 283869 b is photometric monitoring to detect additional transits. The candidate’s long orbital period and shallow depth make it infeasible to detect from the ground, so space-based monitoring is required. NASA’s recently launched *Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite* (*TESS*) mission (Ricker et al. 2015) will not observe HD 283869 during its two-year prime mission because it lies too close to the ecliptic plane, but it could observe HD 283869 in an extended mission. In particular, some of the extended mission concepts proposed by Bouma et al. (2017) observe the ecliptic plane for periods of time ranging from 14 days to up to 112 days. If one of these longer ecliptic pointings were to be adopted as a *TESS* extended mission, it could detect a transit of HD 283869 b. The orbital period of the planet is probably just a bit longer than the 72-day minimum allowed orbital period, and *TESS* should be able to detect a transit of HD 283869 b with a signal-to-noise ratio of about 11 (Jaffe & Barclay 2017; Stassun et al. 2017). The confirmation of a habitable-zone super-Earth in an open cluster would be a strong example of how *K2*–*TESS* synergy can strengthen the legacy of both missions.

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We wish to recognize and acknowledge the very significant cultural role and reverence that the summit of Maunakea has always had within the indigenous Hawaiian community. We are most fortunate to have the opportunity to conduct observations from this mountain. We are also honored to be permitted to conduct observations on Iolkam Du’ag (Kitt Peak), a mountain within the Tohono O’odham Nation with particular significance to the Tohono O’odham people.

Facilities: *Kepler/K2*, FLWO:1.5 m (TRES, CfA Digital Speedometers), WIYN (NESSI), Gemini:Gillett (‘Alopeke), ORO:Wyeth (CfA Digital Speedometers), *Gaia*, Exoplanet Archive, MAST, CDS, ADS.

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²⁵ The long orbital period of HD 283869 poses an additional challenge. Most advances in treating stellar activity signals have been for exoplanets with orbital periods shorter than the stellar rotation period (e.g., Haywood et al. 2014).

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