

Scottish Exoplanet & Brown Dwarf Community Meeting

27th April 2015 University of St Andrews













PROGRAMME SUMMARY

10:00 Arrival and Welcome Coffee.

10:30 Welcome: Dr Ch. Helling & Dr B. Biller

Morning Session in Lecture Theatre C. Chair: Guillaume Laibe

10:35 Post-doc presentations 1

Aurora Sicilia-Aguilar, Eric Lopez, Annelies Mortier & Craig R. Stark

PhD Talks

10:50 Johanna Vos, University of Edinburgh.

The First Search for Exoplanet Weather

11:10 Kirstin Hay, University of St Andrews.

Is the eccentric WASP-118 system misaligned?

11:30 Graham Lee, University of St Andrews.

Nucleation & Cloud Formation in HD 189733b

MSc Project Presentation

11:50 Guy Brett-Robertson & Kenneth Wood, University of St Andrews.

Monte Carlo Simulations of Cosmic Ray Air Showers in the Atmospheres of Jupiter and Brown Dwarfs

12:00 Discussion.

12:30 Lunch in Physics Concord – Tables along the windows are reserved for the meeting

Afternoon session in Lecture Theatre C, Chair: Annelies Mortier

14:00 Post-doc presentations 2

Guillaume Laibe, Irena Vorgul, Raphaëlle Haywood & Paul B. Rimmer

PhD Talks

14:15 Jack Yates, University of Edinburgh.

Investigating habitability and biosignatures with models of the Earth system

14:35 Lisa T. Lehmann, University of St Andrews.

Simulation of non-potential azimuthal magnetic fields using a bipole model

14:55 Gabriella Hodosán, University of St Andrews.

Lightning on exoplanets and brown dwarfs: What can we learn from Solar System planets?

15:15 Maria Rodriguez Barrera, University of St Andrews.

A reference study of plasma and magnetic characteristics for M-dwarf, Brown Dwarfs and Giant Gas Planets

MSc Project Presentation

15:35 Patrick Sandquist & Guillaume Laibe, University of St Andrews.

Modern models for dust settling in discs

- 15:45 Discussion
- 16:15 Coffee and Conclusions
- 17:00 End of Meeting

DETAILED PROGRAMME

10:00, Arrival & Welcome Coffee (Physics Concord)

10:30, Welcome

Dr. Christiane Helling & Dr. Beth Biller

Morning Session (Lecture Theatre C)

Chair: Guillaume Laibe

10:35, Post-doc Presentations [3 min each]

Aurora Sicilia-Aguilar HERSCHEL: CONNECTING PROTOSTARS, DISKS AND

STAR-FORMING REGIONS

Eric Lopez UNDERSTANDING THE COMPOSITIONS AND EVOLUTION

OF SUB-NEPTUNES AND SUPER-EARTHS

Annelies Mortier HARPS-N SPECTROSCOPY – THE HUNT FOR EARTHS

Craig R. Stark ATMOSPHERIC NON-EQUILIBRIUM PLASMA PROCESSES

PhD Student Talks [15+5min each]

10:50 Johanna Vos THE FIRST SEARCH FOR EXOPLANET WEATHER

Abstract: Periodic variability due to rotation and patchy cloud cover has been detected in L and T brown dwarfs, with considerably higher variability amplitudes observed at the L/T transition. Directly imaged planets occupy the same temperature regime as L and T type brown dwarfs and are likely to exhibit similar variability. We are currently conducting the first survey of weather patterns on free-floating young planetary mass objects with NTT SOFI. We aim to discover and characterise variability in these objects and to constrain the fraction that show periodic variability due to rotationally modulated patchy cloud cover. A comparison of our survey with surveys of field brown dwarfs will provide insight into the effects of surface gravity on cloud structure. Here I will present some preliminary results from this survey.

11:10 Kirstin Hay IS THE ECCENTRIC WASP-118 SYSTEM MISALIGNED?

Abstract: WASP-118b is a newly discovered hot Jupiter in a near 4 day orbit around its mid F stellar host. The high eccentricity of the orbit (e=0.45) suggests that it may be in the final stages of tidal circularisation following a period of eccentricity oscillations driven by the Kozai mechanism. In this talk, I will present a summary of the planetary parameter fitting techniques used, and the current evidence for a high spin-orbit misalignment. I will also discuss how the obliquity can be measured, and where this particular system sits in the hot Jupiter distribution.

Abstract: Context. Recent observations of HD 189733b suggest that the exoplanet has a cloud/haze component in its atmosphere. The presence of cloud/haze has an effect on the local thermo- dynamic and chemical properties of the atmosphere. Unlike Earth, where cloud condensation nuclei are provided by the upward motion of sand or ash, in hot Jupiters these condensation seeds form from the gas phase. The rate at which these seeds form is determined by the local thermodynamic conditions and the chemical composition of the local gas phase. Since hot Jupiters have different thermodynamic conditions from their dayside to nightside faces we expect them to exhibit locally and globally different cloud structures. This has implications on interpreting observations of the atmosphere, which probe different atmospheric regions and depth.

Aims. Inspired by mineral cloud modelling efforts for Brown Dwarf atmospheres, we present spatially varying kinetic cloud model structures for HD 189733b.

Methods. We follow a 2-model approach using results from a 3D global radiation-hydrodynamic atmospheric simulation of HD 189773b (Dobbs-Dixon & Agol 2014) as input for our kinetic cloud formation model.

Results. We present cloud maps for HD 189733b based on a kinetic cloud formation model, and we demonstrate how the cloud structure changes locally and globally tracing the local thermodynamics of the atmosphere The calculated cloud properties show variations in composition, size and number density of cloud particles which are strongest between the dayside and nightside. We show the impact of cloud on the local gas composition and C/O ratio. The cloud particles scattering properties suggest that they would sparkle/reflect a midnight blue colour at optical wavelengths.

11:50, MSc Project Presentation

MONTE CARLO SIMULATIONS OF COSMIC RAY AIR SHOWERS
IN THE ATMOSPHERES OF JUPITER AND BROWN DWARFS

Guy Brett-Robertson & Kenneth Wood

12:00, Discussion

12:30, Lunch (*Physics Concord*)

Tables along the windows are reserved for the meeting

Afternoon Session (Lecture Theatre C)

Chair: Annelies Mortier

14:00, Post-doc Presentations [3 min each]

Guillaume Laibe PLANET FORMATION, DUST AND SPH

Irena Vorgul CYCLOTRON EMISSION AND FLASH IONISATION EVENTS

IN BROWN DWARF ATMOSPHERES

Raphaëlle Haywood BREAKING THE ACTIVITY BARRIER IN EXOPLANET

MASS DETERMINATIONS

Paul B. Rimmer AMINES AMINES EVERYWHERE: PREBIOTIC SYNTHESIS

IN EXOPLANET ATMOSPHERES

PhD Student Talks [15+5min each]

14:15 Jack Yates INVESTIGATING HABITABILITY AND BIOSIGNATURES WITH MODELS OF THE EARTH SYSTEM

Abstract: The Earth system comprises the atmosphere, the seas and oceans, various geologic processes and the biosphere, each of which is mutually interacting with the others. Decades of high resolution, high cadence observations of the Earth have allowed us to model the Earth system with good accuracy and predictive power. State of the art models are highly optimised and highly modular, which makes them amenable to adaptation. In astrobiology, the gold standard for habitability is the Earth (unsurprisingly). Alternative biochemistries have been proposed, but to date there is no good evidence that anything other than carbon- and water-based life is viable. Naturally, then, if we're looking for life in the universe, we're looking for planets like the Earth. In my project I will be using and adapting Earth system models (or advances in Earth system modelling) in order to investigate the habitability of exoplanets. I will also be looking at the detectability of hypothetical life in these environments through spectral biosignatures. In this talk I'll briefly describe the approach behind my project and some of our research questions and aims.

14:35 Lisa T. Lehmann SIMULATION OF NON-POTENTIAL AZIMUTHAL MAGNETIC FIELDS USING A BIPOLE MODEL

Abstract: Non-potential magnetic fields are detected on many cool stars, although their origin is as yet not fully understood. They often appear as a uni-directional ring of azimuthal field. We explore the possibility that this is a resolution effect: could small spots (below the resolution limit), produce the same net line-of-sight field as a ring of azimuthal field? To do this, we simulate non-potential azimuthal magnetic field structures by covering a star with simple bipoles. By considering several bipole configurations varied by different resolutions in velocity space, we explore the effect of resolution on the recovered line of sight field.

14:55 Gabriella Hodosán LIGHTNING ON EXOPLANETS AND BROWN DWARFS: WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM SOLAR SYSTEM PLANETS?

Abstract: Large-scale electrostatic discharges (i.e. lightning) have been observed in the Solar Sys- tem. Apart from Earth there are direct detections from Jupiter and Saturn and indirect (only radio) detection from Uranus and Neptune. Recent observations made by the Venus Explorer revealed radio signals that may be related to lightning. Observations indicate that clouds form on extrasolar planets and brown dwarfs (BDs). The conditions in these clouds may be good for lightning to occur, which can be a main ionization process in these atmospheres. The aim of this study is to apply the information that have been gathered from lightning observations from Earth, Jupiter and Saturn, on potential discharge characteristics on extrasolar objects. We focus on lightning climatology studies, which help us explore the global variations in lightning occurrence. Earth is a fair analogy for rocky or ocean planets while Jupiter and Saturn resemble giant planets and brown dwarfs. Using the statistical studies show the role Solar System planets in characterizing extrasolar bodies.

15:15 Maria Rodriguez Barrera A REFERENCE STUDY OF PLASMA AND MAGNETIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR M-DWARFS, BROWN DWARFS AND GIANT GAS PLANETS

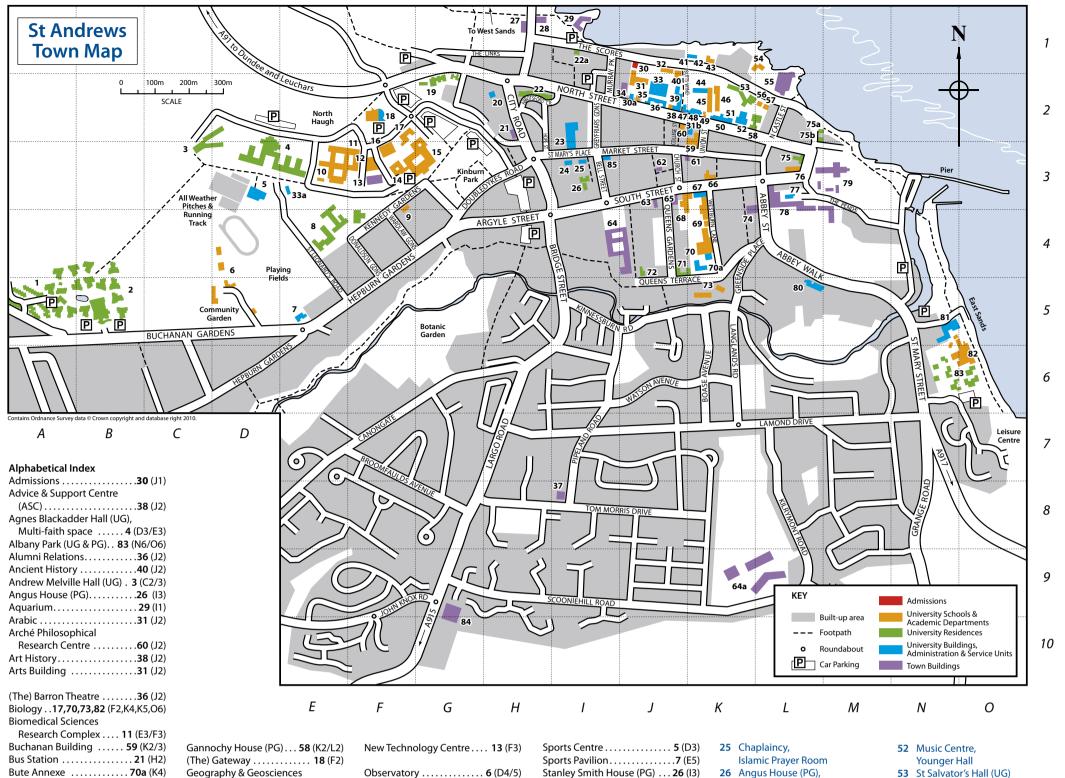
Abstract: Radio and X-ray emission from ultra-cool objects such as brown dwarfs and extrasolar planets have been observed. Such observations suggest that a magnetised plasma is present in the atmospheres of such ultra-cool objects. The aim of this study is to identify which ultra-cool objects, M-dwarfs, brown dwarfs and planets, are most susceptible to possess a magnetised plasma by thermal processes. We study a set of fundamental plasma and magnetic coupling parameters as the theoretical framework to analyse the ionisation and magnetic coupling state of ultra-cool atmospheres.

15:35, MSc Project Presentation
MODERN MODELS FOR DUST SETTLING IN DISKS
Patrick Sandquist & Guillaume Laibe

15:45, Discussion

16:15, Coffee and Conclusions (Physics Concord)

17:00, End of Meeting



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