

Titel

Exoplanets, a hunt for distant worlds.

Teacher

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Introduction to the lesson

Dear student,

You have most likely looked up at the night sky and seen countless stars. From there, you might think, "Are there planets orbiting them, like the Sun?" The answer to that is yes.

Over the last 30 years, more and more planets outside our own solar system, or exoplanets as we call them, have been discovered. You might even have heard or read that a new planet has been found again, because since the first exoplanet was discovered in 1992, over 5700 exoplanets have been found.

Exoplanets are not as easy to find as you might think. It is rarely mentioned how scientists find an exoplanet. Maybe you've heard that they have used "Radial velocity," but what on earth is that?

This is exactly what we will find the answer to in this lesson! We will work with the most widespread method for detecting exoplanets, *the transit method*. We will test the method on real data, and in the end, we will be able to define what characterizes an exoplanet, and whether it might even support life.

Preparation

Before we meet, you don't need to do anything at all.

But if it's a clear evening, I suggest you go outside and take a look at the stars - just for five minutes. It never hurts.