

Maintaining the Ephemeris of 20 CoRoT Planets: Transit Minimum Times and Potential Transit Timing Variations

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Abstract We present 33 transit minimum times of 20 transiting planets discovered by the CoRoT space mission. These have been obtained from ground-based observations since the mission's end in 2012, with the objective to maintain the ephemeris of these planets and to identify potential transit time variations. Twelve of the observed planets are in the CoRoT fields near the galactic center and the remaining eight planets are in the fields near the anticenter. We detect indications for significant transit timing variations in the cases of CoRoT 3b, 11b, 13b, 27b. For two more planets (CoRoT 18b and 20b) we conclude that timing offsets in early follow-up observations led to ephemerides in discovery publications that are inconsistent with timings from follow-up observations in later epochs. In the case of CoRoT-20b, this might be due to the influence from a further non-transiting planet. We also note that a significant majority (23 of 33) of our reported minimum times have negative O–C values, albeit most of them are within the expected uncertainty of the ephemeris. All acquired light curves are available at the Strasbourg Astronomical Data Center (CDS).

1. Introduction

CoRoT was the first satellite mission with a principal dedication to extrasolar planets (Baglin *et al.* 2006; Auvergne *et al.* 2009), having led to the discovery of 37 transiting planets to date (Deleuil *et al.* 2018, with Moutou *et al.* 2013 for a more detailed overview of the first 23 planets). The mission was active in the years 2008–2012 and pointed to 24 different fields which were all within two circular zones with a radius of about 7 degrees, called the “CoRoT Eyes.” One of them was near the galactic center (centered at 18^h 50^m, 0° in equatorial coordinates) and the other one near the anticenter (at 6^h 50^m, 0°). The 24 pointings acquired during the lifetime of CoRoT had durations of varying lengths, of 24 to 153 days, and the precision of the ephemeris predicting the times of future transit events is limited accordingly. In particular, planets detected during the short pointings or planets with transits of low signal-to-noise might become “lost” within a few years, due to uncertainties in the timing of transits that are exceeding 3 hours (Deeg *et al.* 2015; see also Dragomir *et al.* 2020 for a similar concerns regarding the current TESS and the previous Kepler/K2 missions). This error was considered the maximum permissible in order to observe a transit reliably during a night with a predicted transit. Given this danger of future transits of the CoRoT planets becoming unobservable in practice, but with the objective to revise the CoRoT planets for the presence of eventual transit timing variations (TTVs), two projects to re-observe their transits from the ground were initiated. The results from the first one were recently published by Raetz *et al.* (2019, hereafter R+19), covering CoRoT-5b, 8b, 12b, 18b, 20b, and 27b. In this contribution we provide further transit timings of all of them (except CoRoT-5b) and of another 16 CoRoT planets, and indicate potential TTVs. We note that that the TESS mission (Ricker *et al.* 2015) will provide further transit timings which can then be contrasted against the presented ephemeris. CoRoT anticenter planets were observed in TESS sectors 6 and 7 in winter 2018/2019 and will be observed again in sectors 33 and 34 scheduled for winter 2020/2021, while TESS pointings to the CoRoT center fields are still to be scheduled and will happen at earliest in spring 2022. In particular, we expect that the transit timings presented here—between the CoRoT and eventual TESS observations—will be useful to check if linear ephemerides describe well the transit times or if changing planet orbital periods fit better to the observations. A joint analysis of the ground-based timings presented here and elsewhere, together with those from CoRoT and TESS, is the subject of a forthcoming paper (Klagyivik *et al.*, in prep).

2. Observations and analysis

The light curves that have been used for the transit times reported here were acquired with a variety of telescopes, as listed in Table 1. Unless indicated otherwise, CCD imaging in R filters was used, with temporal resolutions that were appropriate to the given target, ranging from 10 seconds to 3 minutes, and the light curves were obtained using the observers’ particular photometry software. The extraction of the transit’s mid-time, T_c , from the light curves was however performed consistently

by an experienced member of our team (HJD), employing the following considerations:

Usually, ground-based transit timings are being derived from light curves that include both transit ingress and egress. For example, nearly all light curves which are collected in the Exoplanet Transit Database (ETD; Poddany *et al.* 2010) are from full transits. However, for about half of the cases reported in this communication, the timings are based on partial transits that include only ingress or egress. This difference arose from a combination of limited observing windows and the uncertainty in the predicted transit times. In the cases of incomplete transits, the moments of first (T_1) or last contact (T_4) were derived by visual inspection of the light curves, given that these contacts are the features in a transit light curve that can most reliably be recognized. The trustworthiness of each determination of T_1 or T_4 was evaluated from a comparison of our ground-based light curves against those from CoRoT, considering the following factors:

- The overall noise of the light curve and clearness of recognizing an in- or egress.
- The slope of the in- or egress in comparison to the CoRoT light curves.
- The time-difference between the observed and the predicted moment of T_1 or T_4 , considering the expected prediction error.
- In cases where a complete in- or egress was observed, the duration of the in/egress and the amplitude of the transit were also evaluated against CoRoT curves.

Only detections considered as secure are included in this communication. For partial transits, their center-times, T_c , were then derived as :

$$T_c = T_1 + T_{14}/2 \text{ or } T_c = T_4 - T_{14}/2, \quad (1)$$

where T_{14} is the duration of an entire transit, for which the values that were reported in the planets’ discovery publications were used (see Table 2 for references). If our ground-observations included both T_1 and T_4 , the times T_c were derived from averaging T_1 and T_4 . In cases with well recognizable in- and egress slopes or for full transits, T_c was derived using the bisected chord method, unless noted otherwise in Table 1.

Error estimates of T_c are based on visual estimations of an acceptable range for T_1 or T_4 values, combined with the errors of $T_{14}/2$ that have been reported in the literature, or—for the full transits—considering the range of acceptable results from the bisected chord method.

It was attempted to write and use a specific pipeline to recognize the moments of T_1 or T_4 and to determine their values and errors. Due to the large variety of light curves in terms of S/N, transit coverage, and temporal resolution, this effort did not however provide results of sufficiently consistent reliability. Since most results reported here are based only on in- or egress observations, the use of more sophisticated methods for the determination of T_c for the cases of fully observed transits was then also discarded.

3. Results and discussion of individual systems

Table 1 lists the transit times, T_c , that have been observed in this project, together with their error, σ_{T_c} , and the type of transit that was observed: I = ingress (T_1), E = egress (T_4), B = both an in- and egress was observed at least partially, F = full transit observed. Times are indicated in barycenter-corrected universal time. Furthermore, we indicate cycle numbers and O–C residuals against the ephemerides that are compiled in Table 2. The next column, S/N_{O-C} , is an indicator for the relevance of an O–C residual, in terms of the number of “sigmas.” The noise N corresponds to the expected uncertainty of the transit time T_c , based on the period and epoch error of a given ephemeris. N is then obtained by the error-sum of the timing measurement error and the uncertainty of the ephemeris:

$$S/N_{O-C} = (O-C) / \sqrt{(\sigma_{T_c}^2 + \sigma_{\text{eph}}^2)} \quad (2)$$

where

$$\sigma_{\text{eph}}^2 = \sigma_E^2 + (E\sigma_p)^2,$$

with σ_E and σ_p being the ephemeris’ epoch and period errors from Table 2, and E being the cycle number. The next column indicates the telescopes used and the rightmost one provides references to further T_c values that we are aware of. For entries from ETD, in some cases (indicated in Table 1) we list only the number of timings with ETD’s quality indicator of $DQ \leq 3$, meaning good to excellent curves.

Large values of S/N_{O-C} should only be considered as first indicators for potential TTVs; these are discussed in the notes to the individual systems that follow below. S/N_{O-C} is not a reliable indicator for TTVs because the errors of the ephemeris in the literature did not only depend on quantifiable parameters which are relevant for an ephemeris’ precision (transit depth, in/egress duration, photometric noise, length of coverage; Deeg 2015; Deeg and Tingley 2017), but they were also derived using a variety of different methods. This led to significant inconsistencies among their reported errors, as was pointed out by Deeg and Tingley (2017).

Below we provide comments on all systems observed, in the order of their listing in Table 1. Plots of light curves for all timing measurements of Table 1 (except for previously published curve by the Euler 1.2 m of CoRoT-18b, which was not obtained by our team) are shown in the Appendices, whereas the corresponding tabulated light curves are available at the VizieR service of the Strasbourg Astronomical Data Center (CDS) via anonymous ftp to [cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr](ftp://cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr) (130.79.128.5) or via <http://cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr/viz-bin/qcat?J/other/JAVSO>.

3.1. Discussion of individual systems

CoRoT-2b For this system, ETD currently lists timings from over 90 follow-up observations, with more than half of them being considered of good to excellent data quality, using ETD’s data quality (DQ) indicator of 3 or lower as reference. All of these timings line up very well and are within an O–C of ± 0.01 d against the ephemeris of Alonso *et al.* (2008), of which our measurement is no exception. CoRoT-2b counts also with a

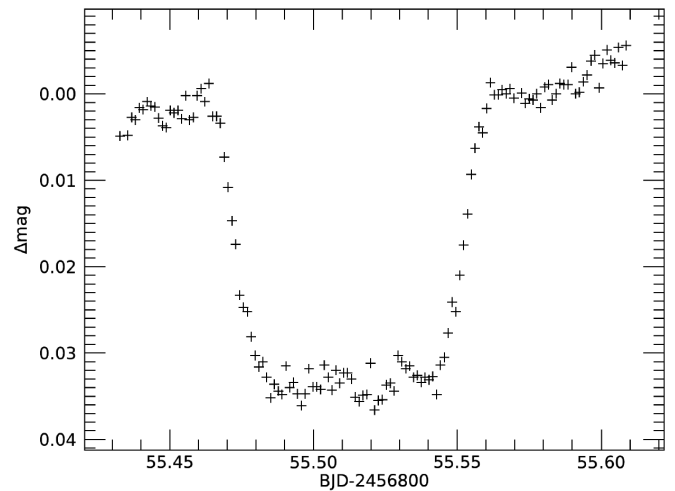


Figure 1. Light curve of a transit of CoRoT-2b acquired with the IAC80 on 2014 Jul 16. The vertical axis is in uncalibrated relative magnitudes. This plot is similar to those shown in the Appendices for all transits observed for this work.

few which pre-discovery timings obtained about 2 years before the CoRoT observations (Rauer *et al.* 2010). Our light curve taken with the IAC80 (Figure 1) has been analyzed many times in a university course using the TAP (Gazak *et al.* 2012) transit analyzer with a multi-parametric MCMC chain, from which the T_c value in Table 1 has been derived.

CoRoT-3b In data acquired with the 10.4-m Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC) on 2017 Aug 20, the transit appears 2.25 hours earlier than predicted from the ephemeris of Deleuil *et al.* (2008). An alternative ephemeris derived from the same original CoRoT data by Triaud *et al.* (2009) leads to a similar offset, with the GTC transit being 2.11 h too early. In either case, the deviation in the transit time is much larger than the uncertainty of CoRoT-3b’s ephemeris, which was ± 6 resp. ± 4 minutes in Aug 2017. The ETD database provides three timing values taken in 2009, 2010, and 2017, which do not indicate any deviation in periodicity. A revision of the underlying light curves in ETD however led us to the conclusion that these are of too low quality for the provision of meaningful estimates of the transit times, as they lack any well recognizable partial or full transits. This target does therefore exhibit likely transit timing variations and should be re-observed with priority, with results from TESS being awaited.

CoRoT-8b A first analysis of our transit times showed a significant deviation from the ephemeris published in CoRoT-8b’s discovery paper (Bordé *et al.* 2010), which incidentally claimed the potential presence of transit timing variations. An error in the ephemeris by Bordé *et al.* was then found, with its T_0 being ~ 85 minutes earlier than the first transit in the CoRoT data. Also, R+19 published a revised ephemeris based on their own follow-up observations (Table 1) plus the full set of CoRoT transits. Against these revised ephemeris, our transit-timing acquired with the IAC80 is within the expected uncertainties.

CoRoT-9b After discovery of this planet (Deeg *et al.* 2010), a further transit was observed by CoRoT itself in a dedicated pointing on 2011 Jul 4, which was observed simultaneously by the Spitzer mission in the $4.5\mu\text{m}$ band (Bonomo *et al.* 2017). The mid-transit times, T_c , differ between the CoRoT and the Spitzer observation by only 104 seconds, which implies that

Table 1. Observed transit center times. They are indicated in barycenter corrected universal time.

CoRoT Planet	T_c (BJD _{UTC} - 2400000)	σ_{T_c} (d)	Type	Cycle (E)	O-C (d)	S/N_{O-C}	Telescope, Reference ¹	Reference to Further T_c values
<i>Center Field</i>								
2b	56855.51267	0.00036	F	1502	-0.0035	-1.4	IAC80	>90 T_c in ETD
3b	57986.46160 ²	0.00130	B	870	-0.0938	-20.6	GTC	
8b	56885.53000	0.00300	B	426	-0.0047	-1.1	IAC80	2 T_c in R+19; 2 T_c in ETD (DQ \leq 3)
9b	56889.89534	0.00330	E	16 ³	0.0056	1.6	LCO 2M-FTN; LCO 1M-SSO	
10b	56868.43692	0.00700	E	196	-0.0643	-1.6	IAC80	
11b	56828.41800	0.00500	E	745	-0.0368	-3.8	WISE 0.46m	3 T_c in ETD
16b	56834.63000	0.00800	F	357	-0.0442	-0.6	IAC80	
16b	56861.38200	0.00800	F	362	-0.0535	-0.7	LCO 1M-SAAO	
17b	56852.49700	0.01000	F	512	-0.0795	-0.5	LT	
27b	56810.47029	0.00500	E	297	-0.0837	-4.5	IAC80	
27b	56853.37729	0.00500	E	309	-0.0806	-4.2	STELLA	
29b	56075.23000	0.00700	F	113	0.0006	0.1	LCO 2M-FTN	2 T_c in Pallé <i>et al.</i> (2016)
29b	56853.43500	0.00500	B	386	0.0000	0.0	IAC80 (Cabrera <i>et al.</i> 2015)	2 T_c in Pallé <i>et al.</i> (2016)
30b	56861.48000	0.00500	F	132	0.0388	1.2	IAC80 (Bordé <i>et al.</i> 2020)	
36b	55814.17090	0.00400	E	28	0.0032	0.8	WISE 1m	
36b	56864.45890	0.00500	E	215	0.0000	0.0	IAC80	
<i>Anticenter Field</i>								
4b	57021.48092	0.00700	E	313	-0.1249	-1.1	IAC80	
12b	56997.60750	0.00500	E	919	0.0098	0.8	IAC80	3 T_c in R+19; 6 T_c in ETD
12b	57099.41510	0.00110	F	955	0.0079	0.6	LT	3 T_c in R+19; 6 T_c in ETD
13b	57046.42800	0.00300	F	559	-0.0523	-3.1	IAC80	
14b	57019.54396	0.01000	F	1476	-0.0441	-0.2	IAC80	
14b	57084.57000	0.00300	F	1519	-0.0401	-0.2	Danish 1.54m	
14b	57087.59500	0.00400	F	1521	-0.0393	-0.2	Danish 1.54m	
15b	57061.06708	0.01000	I	754	-0.0052	-0.2	LCO 1M-SSO	
15b	57789.42240 ²	0.00090	F	992	-0.0155	-0.5	GTC	
18b	55589.63389 ⁴	0.00000	F	141	-0.0044	-17.8	Euler 1.2m (Hebrard <i>et al.</i> 2011)	4 T_c in R+19; 3 T_c in ETD (DQ \leq 3)
18b	57056.50700	0.00300	F	946	-0.0008	-0.3	IAC80	4 T_c in R+19; 3 T_c in ETD (DQ \leq 3)
20b	55515.55635	0.00200	I	27	-0.0111	-4.9	WISE 1m (Deleuil <i>et al.</i> 2012)	2 T_c in R+19; 3 T_c in ETD
20b	56633.99030	0.00200	F	148	-0.0019	-0.7	LCO 2M-FTN	
37b	55913.57646	0.01030	I	3	-0.0048	-0.5	WISE 0.46m	
37b	55953.67150	0.00390	I	5	0.0006	0.2	IAC80	
37b	56334.52250	0.00320	I	24	0.0000	0.0	IAC80	

¹ The full names of the telescopes are provided in the acknowledgements. A reference is only given if the observation has been reported previously.² Light curve obtained from white-light fluxes of a time-series of spectra taken with the GTC's OSIRIS instrument using the R1000R grism. T_c and its error was derived from a multi-parametric fit of the transit (Nespral 2019).³ Cycle number in the ephemeris by Bonomo *et al.* (2017), which is based on a reobservation by Spitzer on 2010 Jun 18. The cycle number would be 24 in the original ephemeris by Deeg *et al.* (2010), which counts from the first CoRoT transit. See also discussion of CoRoT-9b.⁴ Reconstructed T_c value, based on the ephemeris by Hébrard *et al.* (2011) and a light curve from the Euler 1.2m provided in the same paper; see text to CoRoT-18b.

transit mid-times have little dependence on the wavelength. These observations covered a baseline between the first and last transit of 3.1 years and permitted Bonomo *et al.* the derivation of an ephemeris of improved precision. This ephemeris however has an epoch (T_0) that was reset to another transit that they observed with Spitzer on 2010 Jun 18.

Due to the long orbital period, the transits of CoRoT-9b last 8.1 hours with in/egresses of about 1 hour, implying that transit features are difficult to detect due to the slowly varying flux-levels. The light curve of a transit on 2014 Aug 20 was acquired first with the 2-m LCO telescope on Mt. Haleakala, Hawaii, followed by the 1-m LCO telescope at Siding Springs, Australia, using in both cases a PanSTARRS i-band filter. While the 2-m telescope generated a featureless flat light curve—having fallen completely into the central part of the transit—the curve from the 1-m telescope showed an egress, which was modeled in detail using the UFIT/UTM transit modeler (Deeg 2014). This

software employs a Monte-Carlo Markov Chain (MCMC) algorithm, in which we kept the transit model fixed to the values given in the CoRoT-9b discovery paper (Deeg *et al.* 2010) while leaving only three parameters free. These were the mid-time of the transit and the offset and slope of the off-transit flux-level as a function of time. The best shows an excellent agreement between the model and the data (Figure 2), and indicates a T_c that is only 8 minutes later than predicted by the ephemeris of Bonomo *et al.* (2017).

CoRoT-10b Our T_c value listed in Table 1 is the first successful reobservation of CoRoT-10b (discounting an unreliable entry in ETD) and shows a moderate 1.6-sigma deviation from the original ephemeris by Bonomo *et al.* (2010). 10b was one of the CoRoT planets which was in danger of getting “lost” (Deeg *et al.* 2015) and our reobservation permits a dramatic increase in the precision of its ephemeris. A new derivation of the period has therefore been included in Table 2.

Table 2. Ephemeris of planets mentioned in this work.

CoRoT Planet	T_0 ($BJD-2400000$)	σ_T (d)	P (d)	σ_p (d)	Source
<i>Center field</i>					
2b	54237.53562	0.00014	1.7429964	1.7E-06	Alonso <i>et al.</i> 2008
3b*	54283.13940	0.00030	4.2568000	5.0E-06	Deleuil <i>et al.</i> 2008
3b	54283.13388	0.00025	4.2567994	3.5E-06	Triaud <i>et al.</i> 2009
8b	54239.03317	0.00049	6.2124450	7.0E-06	R+19
9b	54603.34470	0.00010	95.2738000	1.4E-03	Deeg <i>et al.</i> 2010
9b*	55365.52723	0.00037	95.2726560	6.8E-05	Bonomo <i>et al.</i> 2017
10b*	54273.34360	0.00120	13.2406000	2.0E-04	Bonomo <i>et al.</i> 2010
10b	54273.34360	0.00120	13.2402720	3.6E-05	T_0 : Bonomo <i>et al.</i> 2010; P: this work
11b	54597.67900	0.00030	2.9943300	1.1E-05	Gandolfi <i>et al.</i> 2010
16b	54923.91380	0.00210	5.3522700	2.0E-04	Ollivier <i>et al.</i> 2012
17b	54923.30930	0.00360	3.7681000	3.0E-04	Csizmadia <i>et al.</i> 2011
27b	55748.68400	0.00100	3.5753200	6.0E-05	Parviainen <i>et al.</i> 2014
29b*	55753.11500	0.00100	2.8505700	6.0E-06	Cabrera <i>et al.</i> 2015
29b	55753.11500	0.00100	2.8505616	7.2E-06	T_0 : Cabrera <i>et al.</i> 2015; P: Pallé <i>et al.</i> 2016
30b	55665.51460	0.00120	9.0600500	2.4E-04	Bordé <i>et al.</i> 2020
36b	55656.90480	0.00049	5.6165307	2.3E-05	T_0 : S. Grziwa (priv.com.); P: this work
<i>Anticenter Field</i>					
4b	54141.36416	0.000890	9.20205000	3.7E-4	Aigrain <i>et al.</i> 2008
7b	54398.07756	0.000600	0.85359159	6.0E-7	Barros <i>et al.</i> 2014
12b*	54398.62707	0.000360	2.82804200	1.3E-5	Gillon <i>et al.</i> 2010
12b	54398.62771	0.000240	2.82805268	6.5E-7	R+19
13b	54790.80910	0.000600	4.03519000	3.0E-5	Cabrera <i>et al.</i> 2010
14b	54787.66940	0.005300	1.51214000	1.3E-4	Tingley <i>et al.</i> 2011
15b	54753.56080	0.001100	3.06036000	3.0E-5	Bouchy <i>et al.</i> 2011
18b	55321.72412	0.000180	1.90006930	2.8E-6	Hébrard 2011
18b*	55321.72565	0.000240	1.90009000	5.0E-7	R+19
20b	55266.00010	0.001400	9.24285000	3.0E-4	Deleuil <i>et al.</i> 2012
20b*	55266.00160	0.001000	9.24318000	9.0E-6	R+19
24b	54789.61100	0.006000	5.11340000	6.0E-4	Alonso <i>et al.</i> 2014
24c	54795.38030	0.026500	11.75900000	6.3E-3	Alonso <i>et al.</i> 2014
37b	55853.44678	0.000330	20.04482300	1.3E-4	T_0 : D. Gandolfi (priv. comm.); P: this work

* If more than one ephemeris is given, the starred one is used for the O–C residuals of Table 1.

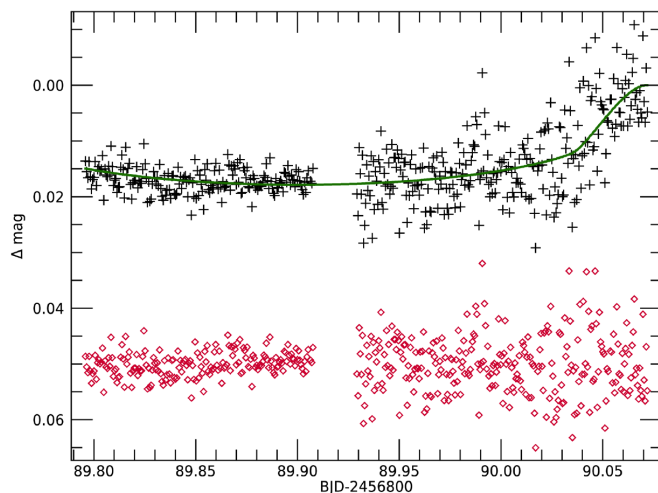


Figure 2. Light curve of a partial transit of CoRoT-9b observed on 2014 Aug 20 with the 2-m LCO telescope at Haleakala Observatory, Hawaii and the 1-m LCO telescope at Siding Springs, Australia (crosses; left section from the 2-m and right one from the 1-m), with the best fit of a transit-model (solid line) to the 1-m data. A slight slope in the LCO 1-m data that was originally present has been removed from both data and model fit. The 2-m LCO observations were not used in the fit but were shifted in Δ mag for an optimal agreement with the transit model. The square symbols (red in electronic version) are the residuals, which are offset downwards by 0.05mag for better visibility.

CoRoT-11b Relative to the ephemeris in the discovery paper by Gandolfi *et al.* (2010), our timing from 2014 June 19 taken with the 0.46-m telescope of WISE observatory, Israel, is early by 53 minutes, which is 3.8 times larger than the uncertainty implied by that ephemeris.

The ETD and TRESCA databases contain three further transits of good quality taken in 2011 and 2012, which corroborate transit times that are about 4 sigma earlier than implied by the Gandolfi *et al.* ephemeris. A revision of that ephemeris, which was entirely based on CoRoT transits acquired between 2008 Apr 15 and Sep 7, does not reveal any source for this discrepancy. CoRoT-11b might therefore be a case of a real transit timing variation.

CoRoT-16b The light curves underlying our two timing measurements in Table 1, if taken individually, would not have been of sufficient quality for inclusion in that table, given their noisiness which is due to the target's faintness ($R_{\text{mag}}=15.5$). An overlay of both light curves (Figure 3) indicates however a good agreement between the two, showing a correct transit duration of 0.1 d and depth of 1%, therefore warranting their inclusion. We note that the transits occur about 0.05 d or 70 min before the predicted transit times, using the ephemeris of the CoRoT-16b discovery paper (Ollivier

et al. 2012). This deviation is however smaller than the ephemeris' 1-sigma uncertainty of ± 103 minutes at the epoch of our observations.

CoRoT-17b The transits of this planet are difficult to observe, due to their shallowness of $\sim 0.4\%$ and the target's faintness ($R_{\text{mag}}=15.3$). CoRoT-17b was observed 3 times within a few weeks at the Liverpool 2-m telescope, on 2014 Jun 9, Jul 13, and Jul 28. Similar to CoRoT-16b, the individual transits were not of sufficient quality, but a combination of them (Figure 4) shows a feature that is reasonably close to the expected transit duration ($4.7 \text{ h} = 0.195 \text{ d}$) and depth (0.4%) to be considered a very likely detection. The value of T_c given in Table 1 was derived from the combined light curve (black line in Figure 4) and was assigned to 2014 Jul 13, which was the best of the three data sets. This T_c is 1.9 h earlier than indicated by the ephemeris from CoRoT data (Csizmadia *et al.* 2011), but is well within the ephemeris' uncertainty of $\pm 3.7 \text{ h}$ at the epoch of our observations.

CoRoT-27 Both our light curves (Figure 5), acquired on 2014 Jun 1 and 2014 Jul 14, show a likely detection of an egress that is about 2.0 h earlier than predicted by the discovery paper's ephemeris (Parviainen *et al.* 2014), corresponding to a 4.5-sigma deviation against the ephemeris' uncertainty of $\pm 25 \text{ min}$ at that epoch. R+19 report two later observing attempts from June 2016, which did not detect the transit at all. From this non-detection they conclude that "the transit must have happened at least 3.9 h earlier or 4.5 h later" (relative to Parviainen's ephemeris). If we extrapolate our deviation of 2.0 h to the epoch of R+19's observations, they should have detected the transits at 3.3 h earlier, well within their observing window. We therefore expect that CoRoT 27b has a notable transit timing variation with an increasingly non-linear offset relative to Parviainen's ephemeris.

CoRoT-29b This planet was among the targets to be observed for the project reported here, but its follow-up concluded in time for inclusion into the CoRoT-29b discovery publication (Cabrera *et al.* 2015). The T_c from the IAC80 observations on 2014 Jul 14 ($E=386$) was therefore used in the derivation of the ephemeris by Cabrera *et al.* A light curve of the observation from the LCO's 2-m FTN telescope at $E=113$ is also shown in that paper, but without quoting any T_c , which has therefore been included in Table 1. Two further transit timings, acquired with the GTC on 2014 Jul 31 and 2015 Aug 7 for a spectrophotometric study, have been published by Pallé *et al.* (2016). From these, they provide an updated orbital period (included in Table 2), which is also in good agreement with our T_c measures.

CoRoT-30b Transit observations of this planet were acquired within the project reported here, but similar to CoRoT-29b, they arrived in time to have been reported in the planet's recent discovery publication (Bordé *et al.* 2020). However, Bordé *et al.*'s principal ephemeris (their Table 6) is only based on model fits to CoRoT data and does not take the IAC80 observation from 2014 Jul 22 ($E=132$) into account. They note however that the inclusion of the T_c from that observation increases the precision of the planet's period, arriving at 9.060347(39) days.

CoRoT-36b (CoRoT-ID 652345526, UCAC2 34324554, at R. A. $18^{\text{h}} 31^{\text{m}} 00.26^{\text{s}}$ Dec. $+07^{\circ} 11' 00.3''$ J2000) is a Jupiter-sized

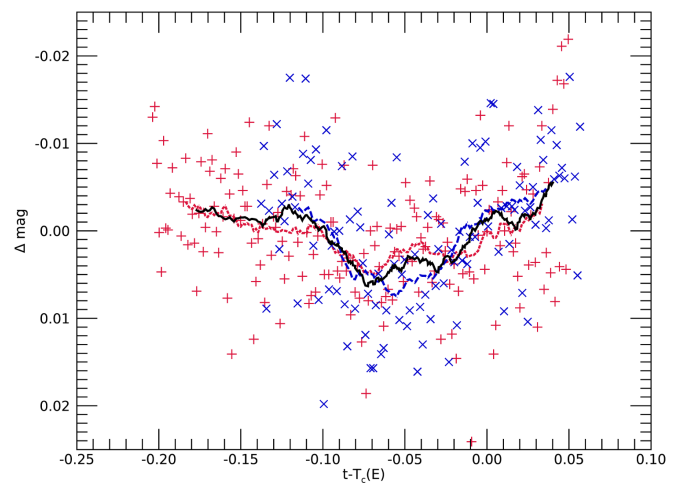


Figure 3. Superposition of light curves of CoRoT-16b transits observed on 2014 Jun 26 (crosses, red in electronic version) with the IAC80 and on 2014 Jul 22 (\times -symbols, blue) with the LCO 1m at SAAO, in this case using a PanSTARRS i-band filter. The dotted red and the dashed blue lines are boxcar smoothings over 25 points of the individual light curves, while the solid black line is a smoothing of the combination of both curves. The horizontal axis indicates the time in days, relative to the predicted transit time $T_c(E)$ from the ephemeris of Ollivier *et al.* (2012), with $E = 357$ and 362.

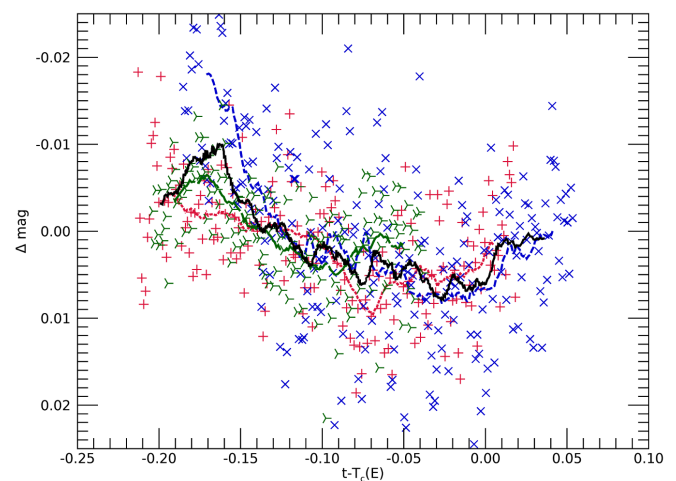


Figure 4. Similar to Figure 3, showing transits of CoRoT-17b observed on 2014 Jun 9 (crosses, red), 2014 Jul 13 (\times -symbols, blue) and 2014 Jul 28 (tri-star symbols, green). The corresponding smoothed light curves are dotted, short dashed and long-dashed, respectively, while the solid black line is the combined smoothed light curve. In all three nights, the airmass was increasing during the observation, which is the likely source for the general slope that is common to all three data sets.

planet with a period of 5.6 days that has been included among the 37 CoRoT planets that are quoted in the overview paper by Deleuil *et al.* (2018), although a detailed publication is still pending (Grziwa *et al.* in prep). The ephemeris given in Table 2 has been determined from a T_0 based on CoRoT data (Grziwa 2020) and from the IAC80 timing on 2014 Jul 25 ($E = 215$).

CoRoT-4b Our T_c value obtained from an egress is the first published reobservation of CoRoT-4b (Aigrain *et al.* 2008, with a more detailed description in Moutou *et al.* 2008) and is within the expected timing error of the original ephemeris.

CoRoT-12b For this planet numerous ground-based follow-up observations exist, as its 1.9% deep transits are relatively easy to observe. Considering our T_c , those from R+19, and the

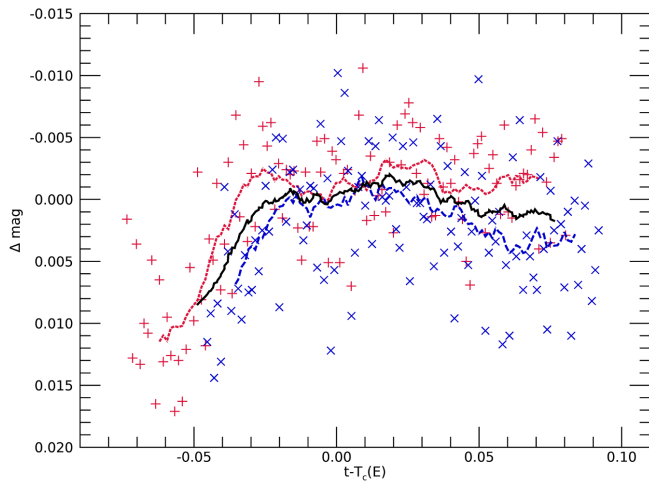


Figure 5. Similar to Figure 3, but for CoRoT-27b observed with the IAC80 on 2014 June 1 (crosses, red) and the STELLA 1m telescope on 2014 July 14 (×-symbols, blue), with the combined smoothed light curve being in solid black. Both transits are significantly earlier than predicted from the ephemeris of Parviainen *et al.* (2014), causing coverage of the egress only. The smoothing of the curves has been over 15 points.

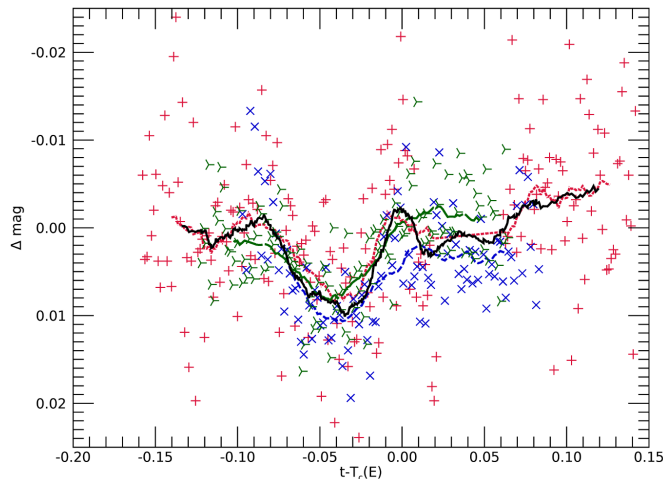


Figure 6. Similar to Figure 3, showing transits of CoRoT-14b observed with the IAC80 on 2014 Dec 27 (red crosses, with dotted smoothed curve) and the Danish 1.54-m telescope on 2015 Mar 2 (blue ×-symbols, smoothed short-dashed line) and on 2015 Mar 5 (green tri-stars, smoothed long-dashed line), with the combined smoothed curve in solid black.

good-quality ones from ETD (DQ of 3 or better), they are all well described by the original ephemeris of Gillon *et al.* (2010) or by the revised one of R+19. We note that Gillon *et al.* hinted at potential TTVs with an amplitude of ~ 1 minute and a period of ~ 68 days. Unfortunately, the precision of the ground-based follow up is not sufficient to corroborate the further presence of this feature.

CoRoT-13b The T_c value obtained from the light curve (Figure 5) is 76 minutes early versus the ephemeris of the discovery paper (Cabrera *et al.* 2010), which corresponds to 3.1 times its uncertainty at the observation’s epoch, indicating potential TTVs.

CoRoT-14b Three transits of good quality were observed with the IAC80 and the Danish 1.54-m telescope (Figure 6). They were about 1 h earlier than predicted by the discovery ephemeris of Tingley *et al.* (2011), but are well within the

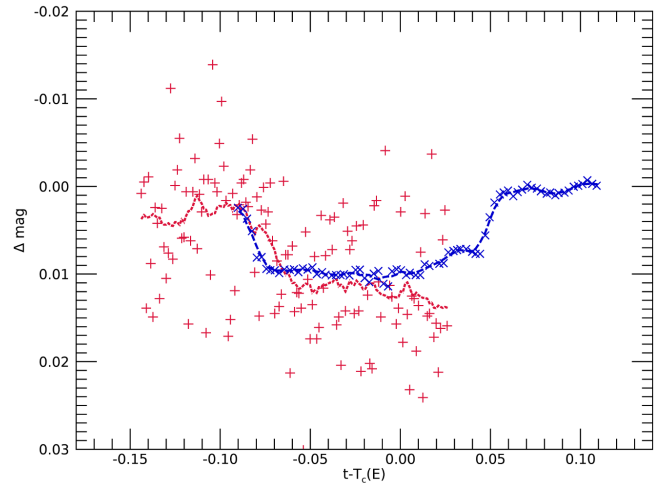


Figure 7. Similar to Figure 3, showing transits of CoRoT-15b acquired with the 1-m LCO telescope (crosses, red) and the 10.4-m GTC (×-symbols, blue). For the GTC data, the smoothed line (dashed) was generated with a boxcar smoothing over only 5 points. Due to the very different noise-characteristics, we refrain from showing the combined curve.

ephemeris’ uncertainty of 4.6 to 4.7 h at the observations’ epochs.

CoRoT-15b The light curve of an ingress was acquired on 2015 Feb 7 with the 1-m LCO telescope at SSO and a nearly complete transit was acquired on 2017 Feb 4 with the 10.4-m GTC. The GTC light curve was derived from the white-light summation of spectra that were taken with the R1000R filter for a study of transit spectroscopy (Nespral 2019). Both transits (Figure 7) agree well with the ephemeris of Bochy *et al.* (2011).

CoRoT-18b Our transit observed on 2015 Feb 2 (E=946) with the IAC80 is 28 minutes behind the ephemeris in the discovery paper (Hébrard *et al.* 2011). The very small uncertainty in their quoted period, given the short CoRoT pointing from 2010 Mar 5 to 29, is explained by them from follow-up observations made with the Euler 1.2-m telescope about eight months later (on 2011 Jan 28 at E=141), which were used to refine their ephemeris. We note that for unspecified reasons, Hébrard’s ephemeris has a zero-epoch on 2010 May 5, well past the coverage by CoRoT, while the first transit observed by CoRoT corresponds to E=−32.

With the small period-uncertainty by Hebrard *et al.*, the lateness of our IAC80 timing of 28 minutes translates into an error of 7.6 sigma against their ephemeris. However, good-quality entries in ETD (of $DQ \leq 3$) as well as the four timings acquired by R+19 all show a similar trend of being late by 7 to 8 sigma against Hebrard’s ephemeris. These offsets, both in terms of their absolute sizes and in terms of their significance, diminish greatly however if the revised ephemeris of R+19 is employed, against which our IAC80 timing is early by only 1 minute. We note that Hebrard *et al.* do not indicate the T_c of their Euler observations at E=141, but using their ephemeris (see also their Figure 3) we can reconstruct its value (see entry in Table 1). This T_c is now 6 minutes or 17.8 sigma early against the ephemeris by R+19. However, given that all further published timings, over the range of E=714 to 1865, agree well with the R+19 ephemeris, the Euler 1.2-m timing seems to be an outlier and the presence of significant timing variations is unlikely.

CoRoT-20b Our timing obtained with the LCO 2-m telescope is within 3 minutes of the refined ephemeris of R+19, who had two later timing measurements at their disposal. Three further timings from low-quality light curves are also available in ETD. We note that the original ephemeris of Deleuil *et al.* (2012) was already based on a ground-based timing taken with the 1-m WISE telescope, whose T_c value has been included in Table 1. However, this timing has a significant offset against the ephemeris by R+19. Rey *et al.* (2018) provide evidence from radial velocity follow-up for a further non-transiting planet c with an orbital period of 1,675 days on an eccentric orbit. They also imply that planet c should induce TTVs on planet b whose amplitude of a few minutes would vary with the period of planet c (see their Figure 7). Such variations are at the limit of the precision of the current ground-timings, albeit the poor fit of the WISE timing (with an offset by 16 minutes) against the later timings might be related to planet c . A more thorough analysis of all available timings together with those from TESS should be the subject of further work.

CoRoT-37b (CoRoT-ID 617963863, TYC 4792-1886-1) is a planet transiting an F4 star in the young cluster NGC 2232, with an orbital period of 20 days (Gandolfi *et al.*, in prep). It was announced as CoRoT-32b in several conferences in 2013 and 2014. Under that denominator it was also mentioned in refereed papers by Guenther *et al.* (2013) and Hatzes (2014), while a dedicated publication is still pending. In the overview of CoRoT detections by Deleuil *et al.* (2018) however it is mentioned as CoRoT-37b. The reason for the change in numbering was a publication by Bouffleur *et al.* (2018), which assigned the name CoRoT-32 to an unrelated system (CoRoT 223977153, UCAC2 34993171). The ephemeris given in Table 2 has been derived from a linear fit using a T_0 derived from CoRoT data (Gandolfi 2020) and from the T_c of the follow-up observations given in Table 1.

In the following, we comment on several more CoRoT planets that are not included in Table 1:

CoRoT-7b Ground observations of the very shallow (0.032% deep, Leg er *et al.* 2009) transits of this Super-Earth are extremely challenging. They were intended on 2010 Jan 15 and 2013 Jan 15, both times with the 10.4-m GTC and the OSIRIS imager, using a strongly defocused point-spread function, without obtaining reliable transit detections. After the initial discovery in mission data acquired between October 2007 and March 2008, CoRoT observed this planet in a further pointing from January to March 2012. An ephemeris from this reobservation was published by Barros *et al.* (2014), with greatly improved precision over the original one by Leg er *et al.* (2009).

CoRoT-24b and c This multiplanet system was never attempted to be reobserved by us, given the unlikely recovery of reliable transits due to their shallowness, 0.15% for b and 0.26% for c (Alonso *et al.*, 2014), and the very large timing uncertainties, which in 2014 were already ± 5.5 h and ± 24 h for the two planets.

CoRoT-19b, 22b, 23b, 26b, 31b Transits of these planets were also observed, but the resulting light curves remained inconclusive, mostly due to being too noisy for the expected transit depth, showing features that are incompatible with

a transit, or being too short to be of discriminatory value. The remaining CoRoT-planets had failed observations due to weather or technical issues or our inability to schedule their observation.

4. Conclusions

Table 1 provides 33 ground-based timing measurements from 20 exoplanet systems. Of them, six systems have timings with $S/N_{O-C} > 3$, that is, the observed deviation from the ephemeris was more than 3 times the expected uncertainty. We consider four of these systems (CoRoT-3b, 11b, 27b, 13b) to display indications for potential TTVs. For these systems, further timing measurements over longer epochs will be needed to corroborate such a diagnostic. In the other two cases, CoRoT 18b and 20b, the planets' original ephemeris (H brard *et al.* 2011 and Deleuil *et al.* 2012, respectively) were based not only on the CoRoT data but also on early ground follow-up timings that are included in Table 1. In both cases, our follow-up at later epochs (and for 18b, also further timings from ETD) provide timings that are consistent with the linear ephemeris which R+19 had derived from their own follow-up timings. In these revised ephemerides, the notable outlier is the early ground-based observation that had influenced the discovery ephemeris. In the case of CoRoT-20b, this discrepancy might have arisen from TTVs with amplitudes that vary on time-scales of years and which are induced by a long-periodic non-transiting planet. A more thorough analysis of these case is required however in order to ascertain that the early timing outliers could have been caused by the presence of further planets.

Of further note is that a large majority, 23 out of the 33 entries in Table 1, has timings that are earlier than expected, with negative O–C values. This would correspond to periods that are (or are becoming) shorter than the ephemeris periods. However, no corresponding systematics in timings from Kepler planets without identified TTVs (see Rowe and Thompson 2015, Holczer *et al.* 2016, Kane *et al.* 2019 for planets identified with TTVs) have been reported, while such a trend, if real, should have been found in the Kepler mission data, given Kepler's much longer temporal coverage and higher photometric precision. We surmise therefore that our mostly negative O–C values could be the result of some unrecognized systematics that affected many of the original ephemeris derivations from the CoRoT data.

In all cases, we are awaiting a recovery of transits of most of the CoRoT planets in data from TESS and from future ground and space missions, which will maintain the legacy of the planets that were discovered by the first space mission dedicated to exoplanets.

5. Acknowledgements

This work is based on observations of the following telescopes (also provided are the acronyms used in Table 1): IAC80: 80-cm telescope of the Instituto de Astrof sica de Canarias at Teide Observatory, Tenerife, Spain. We thank the night operators at Teide Observatory for the acquisition of several of the listed observations. LCO: 1-m telescopes of

the Las Cumbres Observatory, at Siding Springs Observatory, Australia (SSO), and at the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO), and the 2-m Faulkes Telescope North (FTN) at Haleakala Observatory, Hawaii. WISE: Tel-Aviv University 0.46-m and 1-m telescopes at WISE Observatory, Israel. LT: 2-m Liverpool Telescope of the Liverpool John Moores University, at the Roque Muchachos Observatory, La Palma, Spain. Danish 1.54-m telescope at ESO's La Silla Observatory. GTC: 10.4-m GTC telescope at Roque Muchachos Observatory, La Palma, Spain. We thank the staff of GTC for their support during queue observations. STELLA: 1.2-m STELLA-WiFSIP telescope of the Leibniz-Institut für Astrophysik Potsdam, at the Teide Observatory, Tenerife, Spain. Both Teide Observatory and Roque Muchachos Observatory are observatories of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias.

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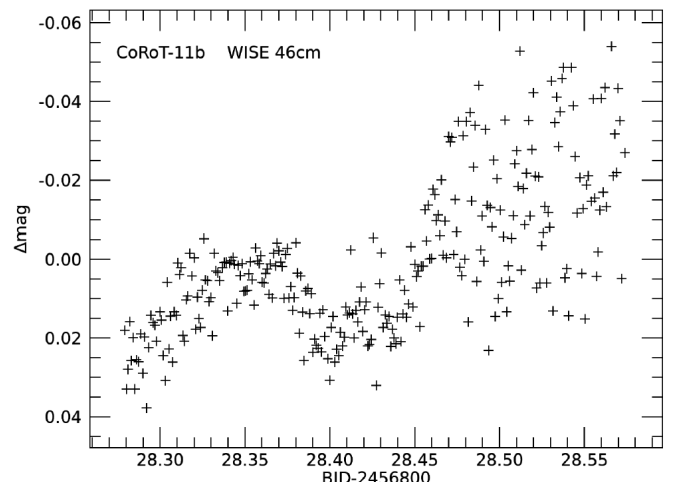
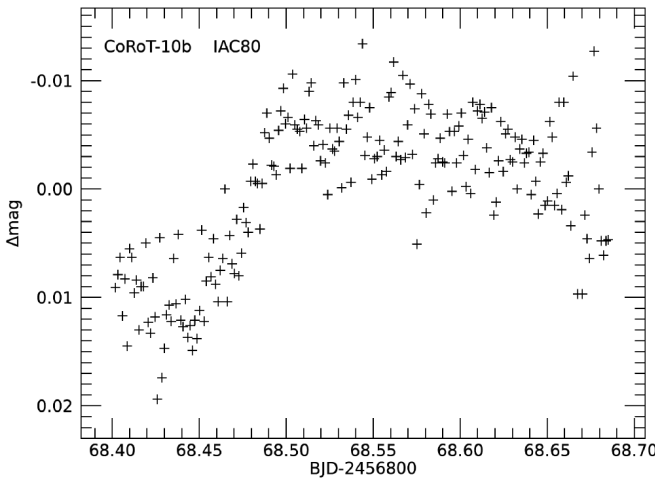
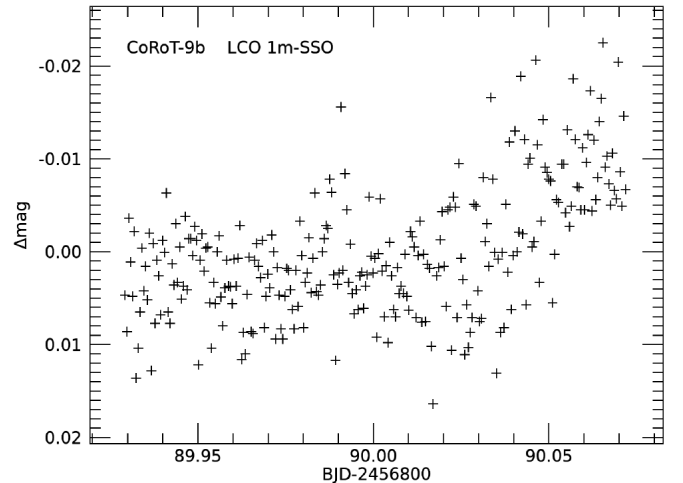
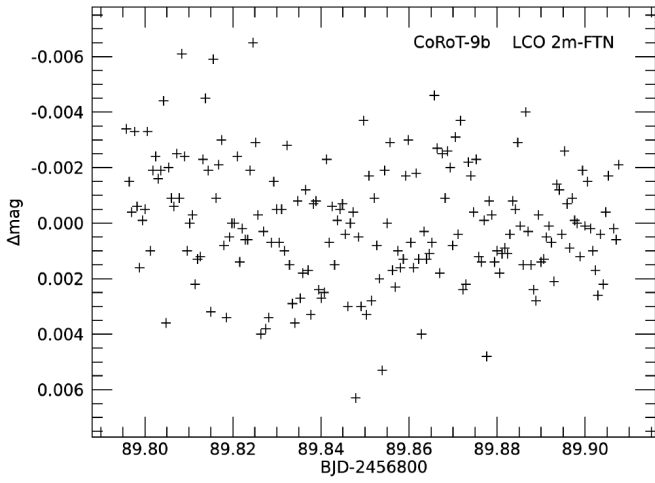
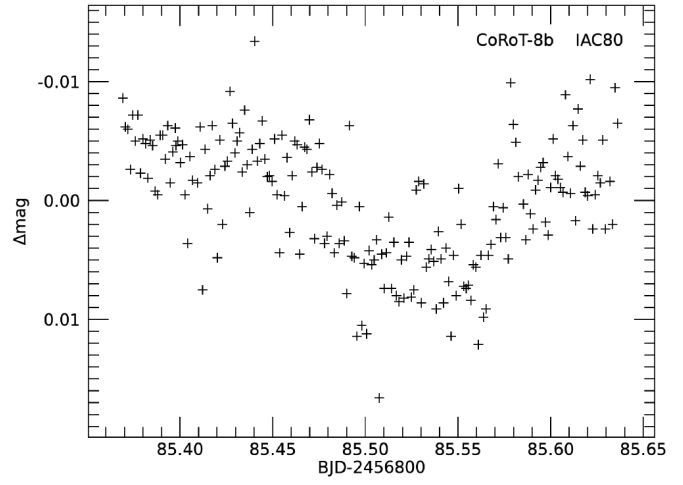
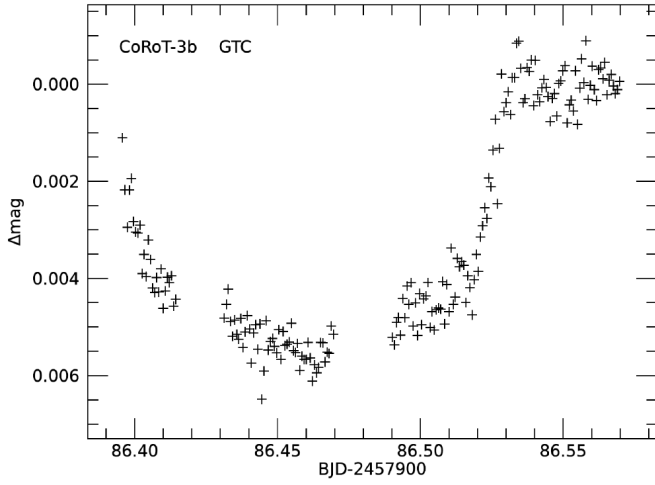
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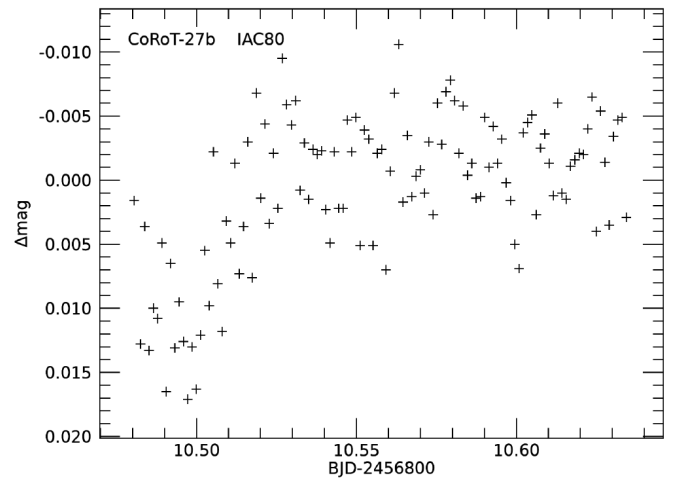
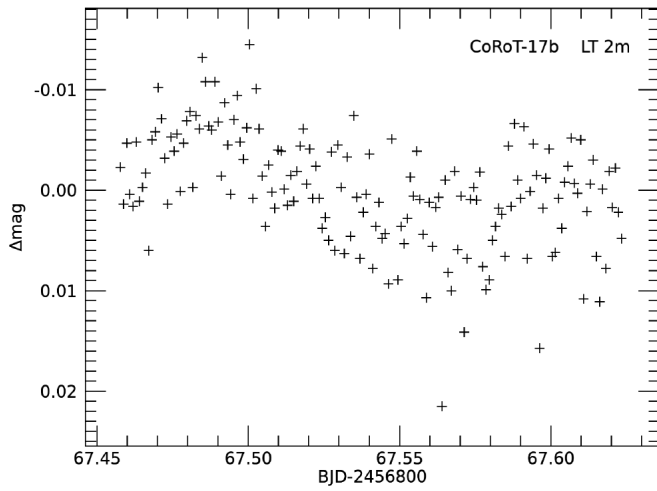
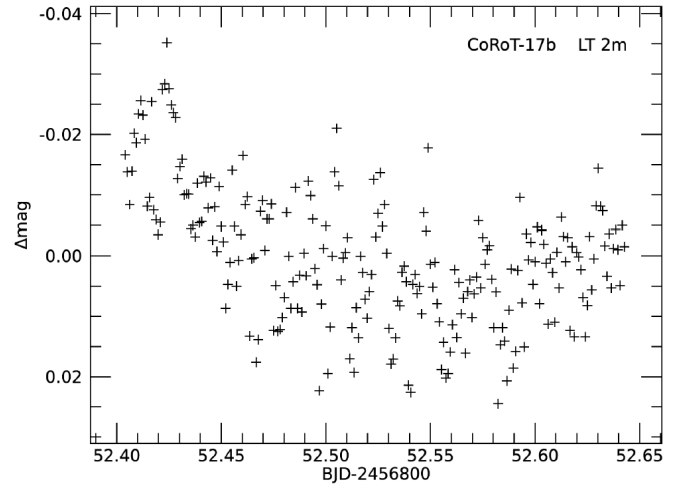
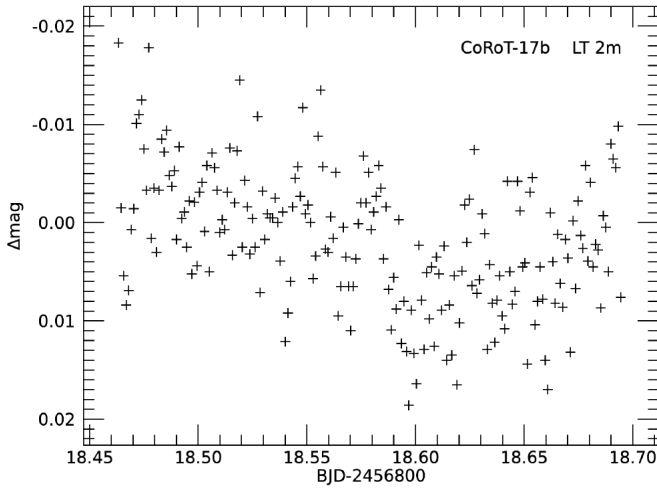
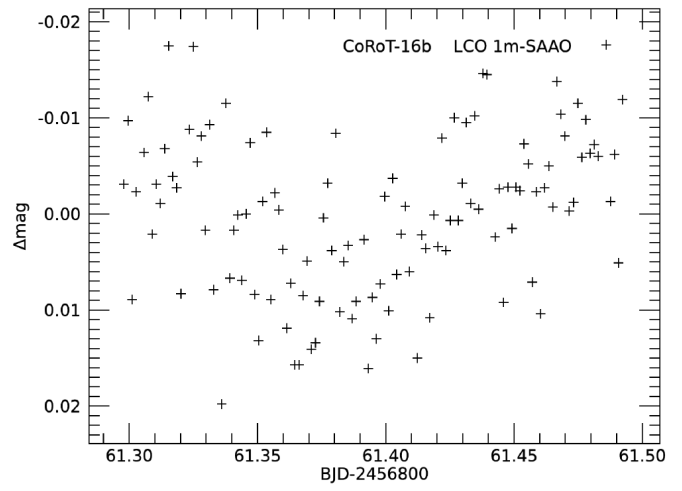
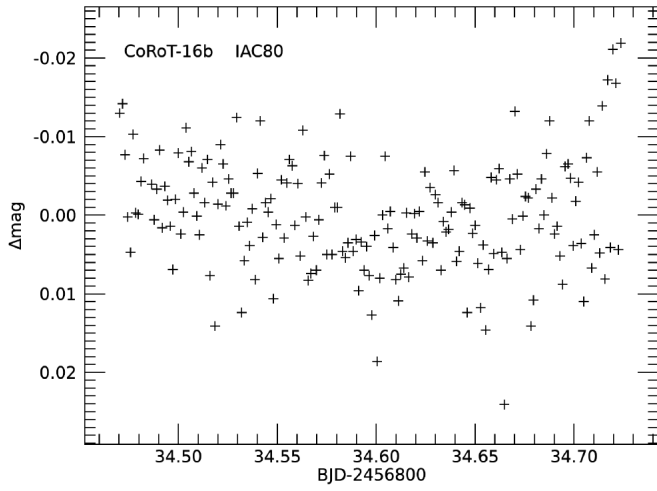
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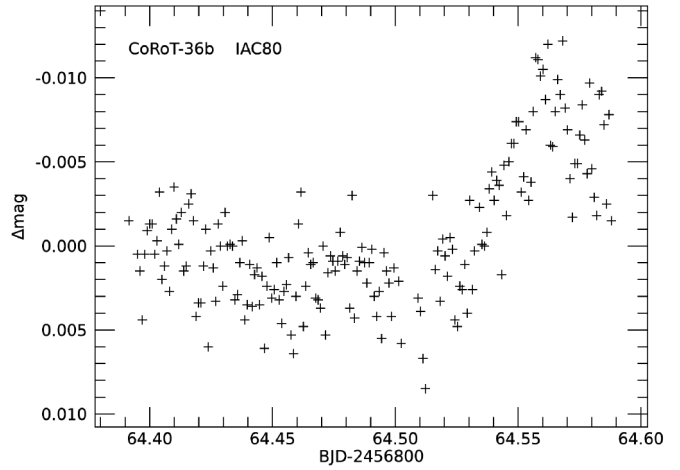
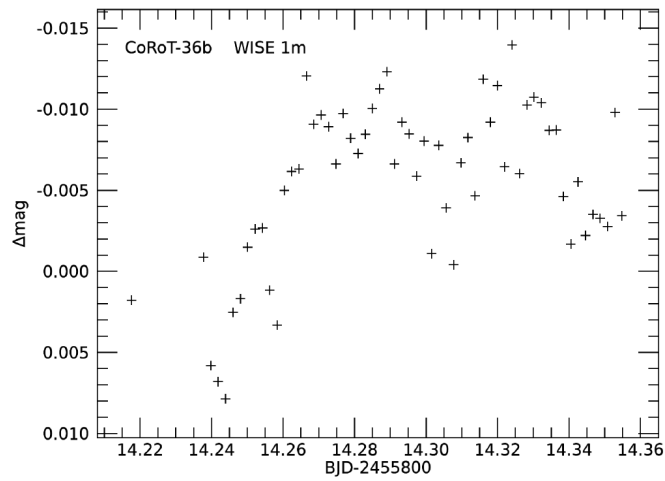
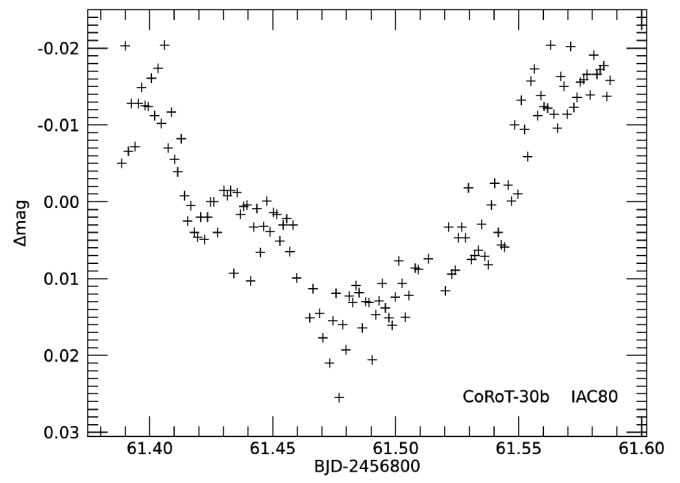
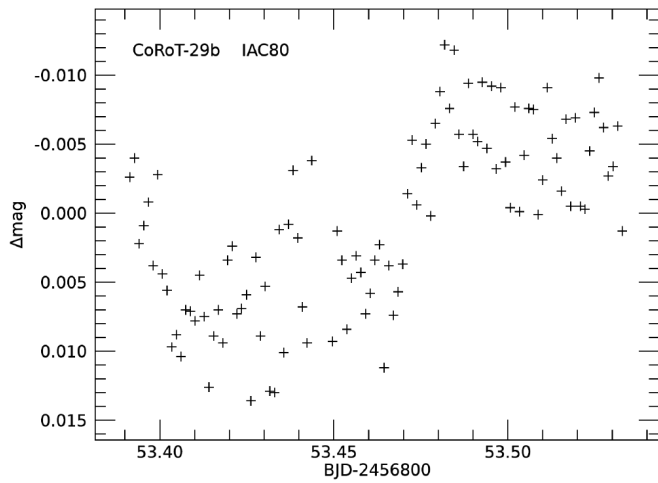
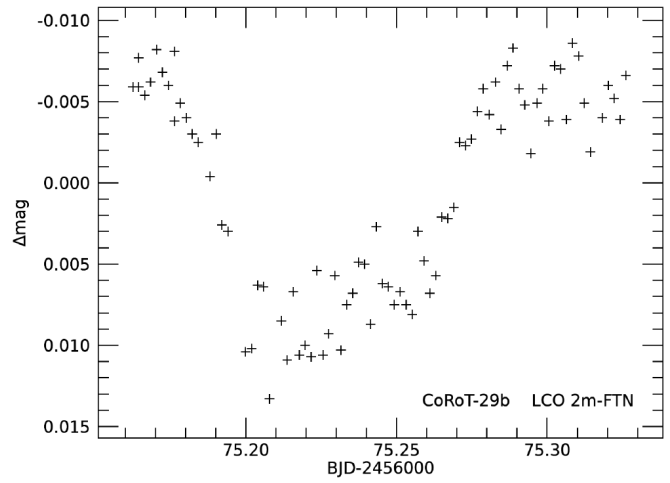
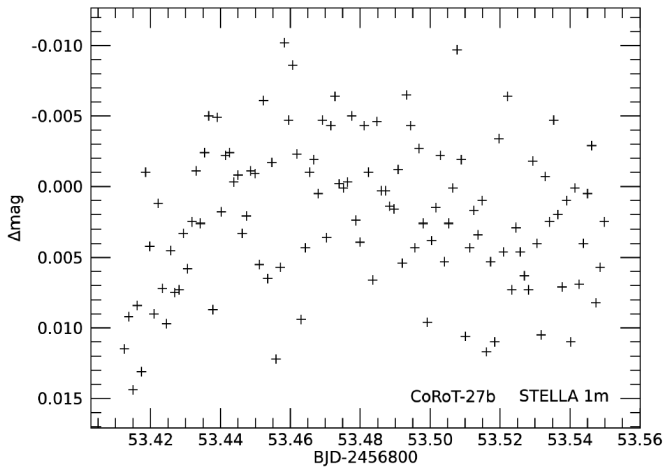
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Appendix A: Transit light curves of CoRoT planets in the galactic center field.

The light curves are ordered first by planet number and then by the BJD. The telescope used is also indicated.







Appendix B: Transit light curves of CoRoT planets in the galactic anticenter field.

The light curves are ordered first by planet number and then by the BJD. The telescope used is also indicated.

