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# A new mass and radius determination of the ultra-short period planet K2-106b and the fluffy planet K2-106c <sup>\*</sup>

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## ABSTRACT

Ultra-short period planets have orbital periods of less than one day. Since their masses and radii can be determined to a higher precision than long-period planets, they are the preferred targets to determine the density of planets which constrains their composition. The K2-106 system is particularly interesting because it contains two planets of nearly identical masses. One is a high density USP, the other is a low-density planet that has an orbital period of 13 days. Combining the Gaia DR3 results with new ESPRESSO data allows us to determine the masses and radii of the two planets more precisely than before. We find that the USP K2-106 b has a density consistent with an Earth-like composition, and K2-106 c is a low-density planet that presumably has an extended atmosphere. We measure a radius of  $R_p = 1.676^{+0.037}_{-0.037} R_\oplus$ , a mass of  $M_p = 7.80^{+0.71}_{-0.70} M_\oplus$  and a density of  $\rho = 9.09^{+0.98}_{-0.98} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  for K2-106 b. For K2-106 c, we derive  $R_p = 2.84^{+0.10}_{-0.08} R_\oplus$ ,  $M_p = 7.3^{+2.5}_{-2.4} M_\oplus$ , and a density of  $\rho = 1.72^{+0.66}_{-0.58} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ . We finally discuss the possible structures of the two planets with respect to other low-mass planets.

**Key words:** planetary systems – planets and satellites: composition – planets and satellites: fundamental parameters – planets and satellites: individual K2-106b and K2-106c – stars: fundamental parameters – stars: late-type

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Ultra-short period planets (USPs) are an enigmatic subset of exoplanets with orbital periods less than one day. USPs are the focus of many research programs because their masses and radii can easily be determined with high precision. This stems from large radial-velocity (RV) amplitudes and easy detection of a large number of transits. The first USP, and the first rocky exoplanet discovered, was CoRoT-7 b (Léger et al. 2009).

Low-mass USPs (lmUSPs) are particularly interesting

to study, because they can not have extended hydrogen atmospheres. This is because any hydrogen atmosphere would be quickly eroded by X-ray and extreme UV radiation from the host star (Fossati et al. 2017a; Kubyskhina et al. 2018). They are thus often referred to as bare rocks. Measurements of their densities thus allow us to draw conclusions about the internal structure of rocky planets. Planets without an H/He atmosphere can have masses up to  $25 M_\oplus$  (Otegi et al. 2020). We therefore define lmUSPs as planets with  $P_{\text{orb}} < 1$  day, and  $M_p < 25 M_\oplus$ . Currently 35 USPs have been discovered in the mass range between 1 and  $25 M_\oplus$ .

Another reason to study lmUSPs is that their formation is still being debated with several possible scenarios (Uzsoy et al. 2021). One scenario is that lmUSPs are the remnant cores of gas-giants that lost their atmospheres due to photo-

<sup>\*</sup> Based on observations made with ESO Telescopes at the La Silla Paranal Observatory under programme 0103.C-0289(A).

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evaporation, or Roche-lobe overflow (Mocquet et al. 2014; Armstrong et al. 2020). TOI-849 b has been suggested to be a remnant of a gas giant, because it has a mass of  $39.1_{-2.6}^{+2.7} M_{\oplus}$ , and a density of  $\rho = 5.2_{-0.8}^{+0.7} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  (Armstrong et al. 2020). However, not all gas-giant USPs evaporate, as has been shown by the discoveries of WASP-18b (Hellier et al. 2009), WASP-19b (Hebb et al. 2010), and NGTS-10b (McCormac et al. 2020).

A second scenario is that ImUSPs have developed through mass accretion in the innermost part of the protoplanetary disk (Petrovich et al. 2019). Because ImUSPs should be bare rocks, one would expect that they should all have densities consistent with the abundances of rock-forming elements of their host stars. However that is not the case, it looks like that ImUSPs are more diverse. The theoretical mass-radius-relation has recently been derived for rocky and for volatile rich planets by Otegi et al. (2020).

We can define three classes of low-mass planets:

- A) Planets with densities that are lower than that of a planet with Earth-like core to-mantle-ratio.
- B) Planets whose density is consistent with an Earth-like core-to-mantle ratio.
- C) Planets with densities that are higher than for a planet with an Earth-like core-to-mantle ratio.

Given that the composition of planets is only inferred from the density measurement, we prefer to classify the planets based only on their density, rather than their inferred composition.

Gas-giant USPs fall into class-A but WASP-18b, WASP-19b and NGTS-10b have more than  $25M_{\oplus}$ , and are thus not ImUSPs. Examples for class-A ImUSPs are 55 Cnc e (Crida et al. 2018), and WASP-47 e (Vanderburg et al. 2017). They can also have masses below two  $M_{\oplus}$  (Leleu et al. 2022). Class-A ImUSPs can also have longer orbital periods. Examples for class-A planets that are not USPs are K2-3 b,c (Damasso et al. 2018; Kosiarek et al. 2019; Diamond-Lowe et al. 2022), and HD 219134 b (Vogt et al. 2015; Motalebi et al. 2015; Ligi et al. 2019; Dorn et al. 2019).

There are mainly two possibilities what class-A planet could be. One is that they contain low density material like water ice, or Aluminium-rich minerals. Dorn et al. (2019) showed that Ca-, Al-rich minerals may be enhanced in ImUSPs that formed close to the star.

Another possibility is that class-A planets have hybrid atmospheres (Tian & Heng 2023). The outgassing hypothesis is plausible, because USPs are likely to have lava oceans (Briot & Schneider 2010; Barnes et al. 2010). Close-in rocky planets could also have exospheres like Mercury (Elkins-Tanton 2008; Mura et al. 2011).

There is indirect evidence that at least some class-A planets could have an atmosphere. Infrared observations of 55 Cnc e show that the hottest point is not at the substellar point, but east of it. This can best be explained by an atmosphere (Angelo & Hu 2017). Ridden-Harper et al. (2016) and Tsiaras et al. (2016) claimed to have detected the atmosphere directly, but this was not confirmed by Esteves et al. (2017) and Taberner et al. (2020). HST observations of  $\pi$  Men c showed that it has a hybrid atmosphere (García Muñoz et al. 2021). In contrast to 55 Cnc e, phase curves of the ImUSP K2-141 b do not show any significant thermal hotspot offset. A rock vapour model and a 1D turbu-

lent boundary layer model both fits well to the observations (Zieba et al. 2022).

At the present stage it is not known what the structure and composition of class-A planets is. We thus prefer to define the planets on the basis of their density, rather than composition.

Because class-C planets have a high density, they must have relatively large cores. However, the main issue for many USPs is that the density measurements are not precise enough to conclude whether they are class-B, or class-C.

Possibly the best case for a class-C planet is the USP GJ367 b (Lam et al. 2021; Goffo et al. 2023). Although Brandner et al. (2022) obtained a smaller mass and larger radius for the planet than Lam et al. (2021) and Goffo et al. (2023), this planet still falls in to class-C.

Other examples for class-C planets are K2-229 b, (Santerne et al. 2018), and HD80653 b (Frustagli et al. 2020). Although the masses of KOI 1843.03 and K2-137b have not been determined yet, the Roche limit implies mean densities of  $\rho_p > 7 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  for KOI 1843.03 (Rappaport et al. 2013), and  $\rho_p > 6.4 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  for K2-137b (Smith et al. 2018), respectively. KOI 1843.03 and K2-137b must therefore be class-C planets. A disputed case is K2-106 b.

Like class-A planets, class-C planets can also have orbital periods longer than one day. An example for a class-C planet that is not a USP is HD 137496 b (Azevedo Silva et al. 2022).

There is thus evidence that class-C planets exist but how did they form? An interesting case is the Kepler-107 system, because the inner planet is in class-B, and the outer in class-C. Because of this unusual architecture, Bonomo et al. (2019) argue that Kepler-107c is the result of a giant impact that removed the outer layers of the planet.

Does this mean that all class-C planets are the result of impact stripping? This is not the case. Reinhardt et al. (2022) investigated how mantle stripping by giant impacts changes the composition of planets. Adibekyan et al. (2022) showed that the iron-mass fraction of planets is on average higher than that of the primordial values, and Scora et al. (2020) studied the composition of rocky exoplanets in the context of the composition of the stars. The result is that the composition of rocky planets spans a much wider range than that of stars. Super-Mercuries and super-Earths appear to be two distinct groups of planets. Mantle stripping alone thus can not explain all class-C planets, formation and stripping both play a role.

Previous studies thus have shown that all three classes exist amongst USPs as well as for planets with longer periods. Studying USPs has the advantage that we can measure their masses and radii more precisely. USPs may have atmospheres but extended H/He atmospheres have not yet been found amongst ImUSPs.

Unfortunately, masses and radii of only a few USPs have been determined accurately enough to categorize them (Plotnykov & Valencia 2020). The most recent radius- and mass-distribution of USPs has been published by Uzsoy et al. (2021). However, not only accurate measurements are important, it is also important which theoretical mass-radius relation is used. For example, it makes a difference whether we use the relation from Wagner et al. (2011), Hakim et al. (2018), or Zeng et al. (2019). Thus, up to now there are only

few planets that can be firmly categorised. Any additional object is important.

K2-106 b is a particularly interesting planet, because it orbits a relatively bright star, it is one of the most massive rocky USPs known, and contradicting density measurements have been published (Sinukoff et al. 2017; Guenther et al. 2017a; Dai et al. 2019; Singh et al. 2022; Rodríguez Martínez et al. 2022, 2023). It could thus either be of class-A, or B. K2-106 b was discovered by Adams et al. (2017) using K2-data. Previous mass, radius and density values that were derived for K2-106 b are given in Table 1.

Another interesting property of K2-106 b is that it has a very high maximum geometric albedo of  $0.9 \pm 0.3$ , and a maximum dayside temperature of  $3620^{+56}_{-53}$  K (Singh et al. 2022). A lava ocean of that temperature is expected to have a high albedo (Rouan et al. 2011). K2-106 c has the same mass as K2-106 b, but a lower density.

The mass and radius measurements can now be significantly improved. The radius of the star was originally determined using Gaia DR1, or by the analysis of stellar spectra. The improvement when using Gaia DR3 compared to DR1 is quite significant. The Gaia DR1 parallax was  $3.96 \pm 0.78$  mas and the parallax from Gaia DR3 is  $4.085 \pm 0.018$  mas (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2021). Additional transits were observed by TESS, and we have obtained additional spectra with ESPRESSO. The ESPRESSO spectra have a higher resolution, a higher S/N, and a much higher radial velocity (RV) accuracy. The higher resolution and the higher S/N allows to determine the mass, and radius of the star to a higher accuracy. The new data allows to find out, whether K2-106 b is in class-A, or in class-B.

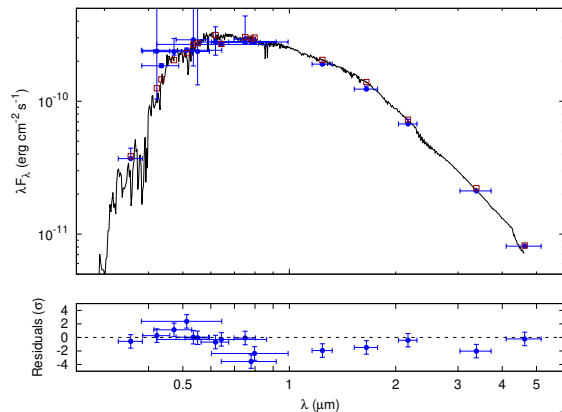
## 2 OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS

In the following sections we present new determinations of the fundamental parameters of the host star and compare them with previous estimates.

### 2.1 Mass, radius and other stellar parameters derived from stellar magnitudes and Gaia DR3 parallax

The combination of Gaia parallax with broad-band photometry allows one to determine the radius of a star (see, e.g., Stassun et al. 2018). The parallax of K2-106 is reported to be  $\pi = 4.085 \pm 0.018 \mu\text{as}$  in the Gaia Data Release 3 (Gaia DR3; Gaia Collaboration et al. 2021).

Using the SED-fitting algorithm ARIADNE<sup>1</sup> (spectral energy distribution Bayesian model averaging fitter; Vines & Jenkins 2022), we obtain the parameters given in Table 4. With ARIADNE we derive  $R_* = 1.039^{+0.025}_{-0.023} R_\odot$  and  $M_* = 1.046^{+0.046}_{-0.053}$  using the MIST isochrones. ARIADNE uses the following magnitudes for K2-106: 2MASS J, H, K, Johnson V, B, Tycho B, V, Gaia G, Rp, Bp, SDSS g', r', i', WISE, W1, W2, and TESS. Since the SDSS z' magnitude is a clear outlier, we did not include it in the fit. ARIADNE uses a number of different stellar models (Phoenix V2 (Brott & Hauschildt 2005), BT-Models (<https://osubdd.ens-lyon.fr/phoenix/>), and the Kurucz



**Figure 1.** Spectral energy distribution and the fit obtained with ARIADNE. The lower panel shows the residuals.

models (Castelli & Kurucz 1993; Kurucz 1993). Shown in Fig. 1 are the Kurucz models together with the photometric measurements. The SED fit shows that it is a main-sequence star. The values obtained with are listed in Table 2.

We also determine the mass and radius, as well as other stellar parameters using the ISOCHRONES code (Morton 2015) using with the MESA isochrones (Dotter 2016; Choi et al. 2016). This method utilizes a multimodal nested sampler *multinest* (Feroz & Hobson 2008; Feroz et al. 2009, 2019) to sample 1000 live points with following input and errors of the values:  $T_{\text{eff}} = 5493$  K [5433 to 5553 K],  $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = -0.11$  [-0.11 to +0.11], parallax: 4.085 mas [4.035 to 4.135 mas] and using the brightness values listed in Table 3. Instead of B and V we used the Gaia values because they are more precise. We also tried out using the B and V instead of the Gaia values but did not find a significant difference. This global fit takes the respective uncertainties into account, and the value derived can exceed the uncertainty of a specific input value. Figure 2 shows the mass and radius-values of the host star obtained in this work with the literature. With ISOCHRONES we derive  $R_* = 0.990 \pm 0.012 R_\odot$  and  $M_* = 0.913 \pm 0.024$ .

The radius of the star can also be obtained by combining the Gaia parallax and the 2MASS photometry (Skrutskie et al. 2006) as described in Guenther et al. (2021). Using this method, we obtain  $R_* = 0.989 \pm 0.022 R_\odot$ . This method has the advantage that it is less affected by interstellar absorption, because it uses only infrared colours. However, the extinction should not play a significant role given that the star has a galactic longitude and latitude of  $l = 123.3^\circ$  and  $b = -52.1^\circ$ , and a distance of  $244.8 \pm 1.1$  pc.

We also determined the stellar mass and radius using the on-line version of EXOFASTv1 (Eastman et al. 2013)<sup>2</sup>. The mass of the star as obtained with  $\chi^2$  fitting algorithm is  $M_* = 0.96 \pm 0.01 M_\odot$  and with the MCMC algorithm we obtained  $M_* = 0.96^{+0.05}_{-0.04} M_\odot$ . For the stellar radius, we derive  $R_* = 0.92 \pm 0.17 M_\odot$  with  $\chi^2$  fitting algorithm, and  $R_* = 1.00^{+0.04}_{-0.04}$  with the MCMC. As shown in Table 4, these values are also in agreement with other values for mass and radius, derived in this work.

<sup>1</sup> Available at <https://github.com/jvines/astroARIADNE>

<sup>2</sup> <https://exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu/cgi-bin/ExoFAST/nph-exofast>

**Table 1.** Radius, mass, and density of K2-106 b from the literature

Rp [ $R_{\oplus}$ ]	Mp [ $M_{\oplus}$ ]	density [ $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ ]	reference
$1.82^{+0.20}_{-0.14}$	$9.0 \pm 1.6$	$8.57^{+4.64}_{-2.80}$	Sinukoff et al. (2017)
$1.46 \pm 0.14$	-	-	Adams et al. (2017)
$1.52 \pm 0.16$	$8.36^{+0.96}_{-0.94}$	$13.1^{+5.4}_{-3.6}$	Guenther et al. (2017b)
$2.31 \pm 0.16$	-	-	Livingston et al. (2018)
$1.712 \pm 0.068$	$7.72^{+0.80}_{-0.79}$	$8.5 \pm 1.9$	Dai et al. (2019)
$1.6 \pm 0.1$	-	-	Adams et al. (2021)
$1.71^{+0.069}_{-0.057}$	$8.53 \pm 1.02$	$9.4^{+1.6}_{-1.5}$	Rodríguez Martínez et al. (2023)
$1.725 \pm 0.039$	$8.21^{+0.76}_{-0.74}$	$8.77^{+1.00}_{-0.94}$	Bonomo et al. (2023)

**Table 2.** Properties of the host star derived from Gaia data and using from Gaia using ARIADNE and from ISOCHRONES

Parameter	Gaia	ARIADNE	ISOCHRONES
RA (J2000.0) <sup>(1)</sup>	00:52:19.1		
DE (J2000.0) <sup>(1)</sup>	+10:47:40.91		
pm RA [mas/yr] <sup>(1)</sup>	$61.01 \pm 0.02$		
pm RA [mas/yr] <sup>(1)</sup>	$2.06 \pm 0.01$		
RV [km s <sup>-1</sup> ] <sup>(1)</sup>	$-14.79 \pm 0.56$		
Parallax [mas] <sup>(1)</sup>	$4.09 \pm 0.02$		
Distance [pc]	$244.8 \pm 1.1$		
$R_{*}$ [ $R_{\odot}$ ]		$1.039^{+0.025}_{-0.023}$	$0.990 \pm 0.012$
$M_{*}$ [ $M_{\odot}$ ]		$1.046^{+0.046}_{-0.053}$ (2)	$0.913 \pm 0.024$
$T_{\text{eff}}$ [K]		$5493^{+57}_{-61}$	$5578 \pm 46$
Luminosity [ $L_{\odot}$ ]		$0.885^{+0.057}_{-0.054}$	
log(g)		$4.421^{+0.076}_{-0.068}$	$4.26^{+0.08}_{-0.08}$
[Fe/H]		$-0.11^{+0.11}_{-0.11}$	$-0.005 \pm 0.059$
Extinction Av		$0.098^{+0.040}_{-0.044}$	$0.219 \pm 0.038$

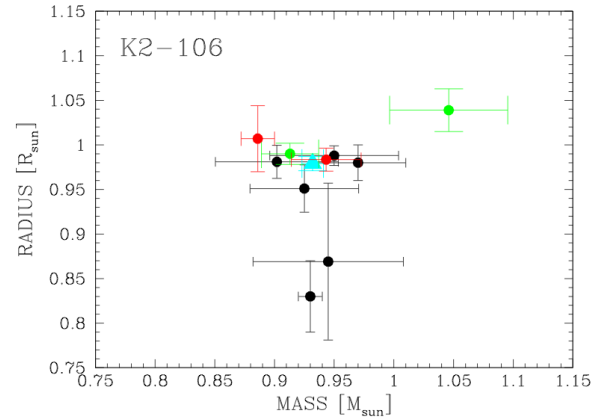
(1) Gaia DR3 2582617711154563968; (2) Mass derived by interpolating MIST isochrones;

**Table 3.** Brightness of the star

band	mag
V	$12.58 \pm 0.26$
B	$12.10 \pm 0.21$
Gaia G	$11.9438 \pm 0.0028$
Gaia BP	$12.3315 \pm 0.0028$
Gaia RP	$11.3935 \pm 0.0038$
Tycho B_T'	$12.67 \pm 0.26$
Tycho V_T'	$12.16 \pm 0.21$
SDSS g'	$12.629 \pm 0.010$
SDSS r'	$12.0262 \pm 0.0095$
SDSS i'	$11.812 \pm 0.0100$
TESS	$11.457 \pm 0.078$
J	$10.77 \pm 0.023$
H	$10.454 \pm 0.026$
Ks	$10.344 \pm 0.021$
WISE 1	$10.299 \pm 0.023$
WISE 2	$10.355 \pm 0.021$
WISE 3	$10.380 \pm 0.091$

## 2.2 Mass, radius and other stellar parameters derived from ESPRESSO spectra

We acquired 23 spectra of K2-106 using the ESPRESSO spectrograph (Pepe et al. 2014, 2021) at the VLT UT3 (Meli-



**Figure 2.** Mass and radius of the star. Values from the literature (black), average value from the literature (blue triangle), the new value derived from ESPRESSO spectra (red), and the new value from Gaia EDR3 using ARIADNE (MIST isochrones) and ISOCHRONES (green).

pal) as part of program 0103.C-0289(A). The spectra were obtained from August 8<sup>th</sup> 2019 to November 16<sup>th</sup> 2019. We used the high-resolution mode which gives a resolving power

**Table 4.** Radius, mass, temperature and  $\log(g)$  of the host star from the literature and derived in this work

$R_*$ [ $R_\odot$ ]	$M_*$ [ $M_\odot$ ]	$T_{\text{eff}}$ [K]	$\log(g)$	[Fe/H] dex	reference
$0.83 \pm 0.04$	$0.93 \pm 0.01$	$5590 \pm 51$	$4.56 \pm 0.09$	$0.025 \pm 0.02$	Adams et al. (2017)
$0.869 \pm 0.088$	$0.945 \pm 0.063$	$5470 \pm 30$	$4.53 \pm 0.08$	$-0.025 \pm 0.05$	Guenther et al. (2017b)
$0.98 \pm 0.02$	$0.97 \pm 0.04$	$5617 \pm 86$	$4.45 \pm 0.03$	$0.13 \pm 0.06$	Livingston et al. (2018)
$0.981^{+0.019}_{-0.018}$	$0.902^{+0.057}_{-0.046}$	$5496 \pm 46$	$4.42 \pm 0.05$	$0.06 \pm 0.03$	Dai et al. (2019)
$0.95 \pm 0.05$	-	$5613 \pm 39$	$4.60 \pm 0.07$	$0.01 \pm 0.01$	Adams et al. (2021)
$0.951^{+0.027}_{-0.026}$	$0.925^{+0.049}_{-0.042}$	$5598^{+80}_{-78}$	$4.449^{+0.031}_{-0.029}$	$0.096^{+0.060}_{-0.058}$	Singh et al. (2022)
$0.988 \pm 0.011$	$0.950^{+0.060}_{-0.048}$	$5532 \pm 62$	-	$0.11 \pm 0.05$	Bonomo et al. (2023)
$0.979 \pm 0.008$	$0.932 \pm 0.009$	$5535 \pm 18$	$4.46 \pm 0.02$	$0.022 \pm 0.008$	average of Literature values
$1.007^{+0.050}_{-0.024}$	$0.886^{+0.014}_{-0.014}$	$5344 \pm 60$	$4.26^{+0.08}_{-0.08}$	$-0.03 \pm 0.05$	ESPRESSO <sup>(1)</sup>
$0.983 \pm 0.013$	$0.943 \pm 0.029$	$5488 \pm 60$	$4.28 \pm 0.20$	$0.04 \pm 0.08$	ESPRESSO <sup>(2)</sup>
$1.039^{+0.025}_{-0.023}$	$1.05^{+0.19}_{-0.17}$	$5493^{+57}_{-61}$	$4.421^{+0.076}_{-0.068}$	$-0.11 \pm 0.11$	SED + Gaia DR3 <sup>(3)</sup>
$1.039^{+0.025}_{-0.023}$	$1.046^{+0.046}_{-0.053}$	$5493^{+57}_{-61}$	$4.421^{+0.076}_{-0.068}$	$-0.11 \pm 0.11$	SED + Gaia DR3 <sup>(4)</sup>
$0.989 \pm 0.022$	-	-	-	-	2MASS + Gaia DR3 <sup>(5)</sup>
$0.990 \pm 0.012$	$0.913 \pm 0.024$	$5578 \pm 46$	$4.408 \pm 0.017$	$-0.05 \pm 0.06$	ISOCRONES
$0.993 \pm 0.008$	$0.907 \pm 0.011$	$5491 \pm 28$	$4.402 \pm 0.016$	$-0.02 \pm 0.03$	average this work

<sup>(1)</sup> Mass and radius calculated from modelling the ESPRESSO spectra using the Kurucz ATLAS12 models and the MESA isochrones. See Section 2.2 for details. <sup>(2)</sup> Mass and radius calculated using ESPRESSO spectra, the FeI, FeII lines and the WIDTH radiative transfer code. See Section 2.2 for details. <sup>(3)</sup> Mass calculated directly from the star's  $\log g$  and  $R_*$ ; <sup>(4)</sup> Mass derived by interpolating MIST isochrones; <sup>(5)</sup> Method described in Guenther et al. (2021).

of  $\lambda/\Delta\lambda \sim 140\,000$ . The spectra cover the wavelength range from 3782 Å to 7887 Å. All calibration frames were taken using the standard procedures of this instrument. The spectra were reduced and extracted using the dedicated ESPRESSO pipeline.

We derived new values for  $T_{\text{eff}}$ ,  $\log(g)$  and [Fe/H] using the six ESPRESSO spectra with the highest S/N ratio using the same method as described in Osborne et al. (2023); Osborn et al. (2023); Deeg et al. (2023b); Georgieva et al. (2023); Lam et al. (2023); Persson et al. (2022); Serrano et al. (2022); Georgieva et al. (2021); Fridlund et al. (2020); Smith et al. (2019). We fixed the micro- and macro-turbulence to  $v_{\text{mic}} = 0.9 \pm 0.1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and  $v_{\text{mac}} = 1.70 \pm 0.35 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , using the relations given by Doyle et al. (2014) and Bruntt et al. (2010), respectively. Fitting the  $H_\alpha$  profile using Kurucz ATLAS12 models and spectra models, (Kurucz 2013) we find  $T_{\text{eff}} = 5344 \pm 60 \text{ K}$ . This corresponds to a spectral type G9 V, according to the mean dwarf stellar color and effective temperature sequence<sup>3</sup> from Pecaut et al. (2012).

The projected rotation velocity of the star is  $v \sin i_* = 2.7 \pm 0.4 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , which gives a statistical age of  $1.3^{+0.6}_{-0.3} \text{ Gyrs}$  (Maldonado et al. 2022). The  $v \sin i$  has been determined using unblended FeI lines. The activity index  $\log(R'_{\text{HK}})$  was already published in Guenther et al. (2017a). On average it is  $\log(R'_{\text{HK}}) = -5.04 \pm 0.19$ , which gives a statistical age of  $7.4^{+3.0}_{-3.4} \text{ Gyrs}$  (Mamajek & Hillenbrand 2008). Based on CaIHK-index K2-106 is an old, inactive star.

At first glance it appears that the relatively rapid rotation of the star contradicts the low  $\log(R'_{\text{HK}})$  index and the old age derived. However, the stellar spin-down can be affected by close-in planets (Benbakoura et al. 2019; Ilic et al.

2022; Guo 2023). A star hosting a close-in planet thus may rotate faster than a star without close-in planets.

Many planet host stars also have an abnormally low level Ca II H&K emission which is interpreted as a signature of atmospheric mass-loss from planets rather than a low activity level, or an old age of the host star (Haswell et al. 2012; Staab et al. 2020; Barnes et al. 2023). Given that both, the rotation velocity, and the Ca II H&K flux can be affected by a close-in planet, it is not surprising that we obtain contradicting results for the ages from these parameters.

Although the radius determination using Gaia parallax is expected to be more accurate, we also determined the  $\log(g)$  using Ca I, Mg I and Na I as an independent test. Determining the radius of a star from  $\log(g)$  is less accurate than either using the stellar density derived from the light-curve fit, or the radius determined by combining the distance of the star combined with the SED. However, comparing the stellar density obtained from the spectral analysis with that obtained from the light-curve fitting of the star is a good test of the spectral analysis (Guenther et al. 2012). The results of these tests are discussed in Section 2.3. Using Ca I we derive  $\log(g) = 4.20 \pm 0.06$ , using Mg I  $\log(g) = 4.26 \pm 0.08$ , and using Na I  $\log(g) = 4.2 \pm 0.04$ . Given the temperature of this star, the value derived from the Mg I is the most accurate. We obtain the element abundances of iron [Fe/H] =  $-0.03 \pm 0.05$  (dex), calcium [Ca/H] =  $-0.03 \pm 0.05$  (dex), sodium [Na/H] =  $0.00 \pm 0.05$  (dex), and magnesium [Mg/H] =  $-0.03 \pm 0.05$  (dex).

Using  $T_{\text{eff}}$ ,  $\log(g)$  and [Fe/H] derived spectroscopically, the Bayesian estimation of stellar parameters, and the MESA isochrones (da Silva et al. 2006; Rodrigues et al. 2014, 2017) we obtain  $R_* = 1.007^{+0.050}_{-0.024} R_\odot$ , and  $M_* = 0.886^{+0.014}_{-0.014} M_\odot$ . The mass and radius of the star derived spectroscopically and using SED-fitting are independent from each other,

<sup>3</sup> Available at [https://www.pas.rochester.edu/~emamajek/EEM\\_dwarf\\_UBVIJHK\\_colors\\_Teff.txt](https://www.pas.rochester.edu/~emamajek/EEM_dwarf_UBVIJHK_colors_Teff.txt).

since we used  $T_{\text{eff}}$  and  $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$  only as priors for the SED fitting.

We also made a second analysis of the ESPRESSO spectra. Adding up all ESPRESSO spectra, weighted by their signal-to-noise ratio, we obtain a spectrum with a S/N of 228. We then obtained the equivalent width of the FeI and FeII lines from the ispec framework (Blanco-Cuaresma et al. 2014; Blanco-Cuaresma 2019). The equivalent width are the fitted the ATLAS (LTE) model atmospheres (Kurucz 2005), SYNTHE suite stellar atmosphere modeling code and WIDTH radiative transfer code to derive chemical abundances (Sbordone et al. 2004).

From this analysis we obtain  $T_{\text{eff}} = 5488 \pm 60 \text{ K}$ ,  $\log(g) = 4.28 \pm 0.2$  and  $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = 0.04 \pm 0.08$ . Converting again these values into the mass, radius and age of the star gives  $M_* = 0.943 \pm 0.029 M_{\odot}$ , and  $R_* = 0.983 \pm 0.013 R_{\odot}$  and  $7.3 \pm 2.0 \text{ Gyrs}$ . Using these parameters gives a distance of  $d = 244.6 \pm 2.9 \text{ pc}$  in perfect agreement with the distance determined by Gaia. Both mass and radius values derived in this section are shown as a red points in Figure 2.

### 2.3 Comparing the new mass and radius determination of the host star with previously determinations

As mentioned above, the mass, radius and temperature of the host star has already been determined previously (Adams et al. 2017; Simukoff et al. 2017; Guenther et al. 2017a; Dai et al. 2019; Adams et al. 2021; Singh et al. 2022; Rodríguez Martínez et al. 2023). How do the new values compare to the previous determinations? The mass, radius,  $T_{\text{eff}}$  and,  $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$  from the literature and derived in this work are given Table 4.

In Figure 2 we compare the mass and radius measurements obtained for the host star from the literature (black points individual measurements, blue triangle average), with the spectroscopic determination (red points), and with the values obtained using ARIADNE and ISOCHRONES (green points).

Since ARIADNE and ISOCHRONES take advantage of the accurate distance determination obtained in Gaia DR3, these values are the preferred ones. Some of the previous determinations are based on Gaia DR1, or Gaia DR2, and thus have larger errors compared Gaia DR3.

There is another possibility to verify the mass and radius derived for the star. As explained in Section 2.6, the density of the star can also be derived from light-curve fitting. Comparing the stellar density derived from the light-curve and stellar modelling thus is an excellent test.

### 2.4 The radii of the planets in respect to the radius of the host star

#### 2.4.1 Analysis of the K2 and TESS light curves

As the name already indicates, K2-106 was originally found in the K2 survey. 136 transits were obtained during the K2-mission. Up to now, only 12 transits have been observed with the TESS satellite. The cadence time of K2 data is 30 minutes. We super-sampled the transit model by a factor of 10 to account for the K2 long-cadence data as described in (Kipping 2010; Barragán et al. 2019a). The quality of the TESS light-curves is much lower than those obtained in

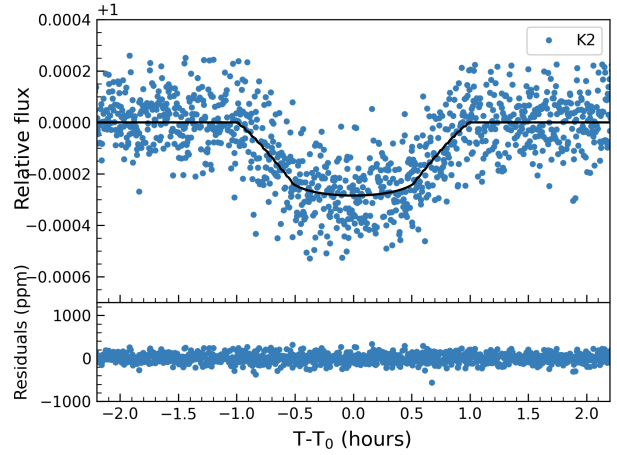


Figure 3. Phase folded light-curve obtained with K2 of K2-106 b, after removing a few outlier using a  $3 \sigma$  clipping.

the K2 mission. We therefore use only the K2 data for the radius determination, and the K2 together with the TESS for the ephemeris. There are several ways how to extract the light-curves, how to remove the instrumental effects and how to remove stellar activity. The star is, however, quite inactive. We tried out the light curves provided by Vanderburg & Johnson (2014), and those obtained with the K2SC algorithm (Aigrain et al. 2016)<sup>4</sup>.

Figure 5 shows the values obtained for the two light curves with, and without using the stellar density derived as an informative prior (See Section 2.6 for details). Both light-curves gave consistent results, but the errors are smaller for the K2SC data.

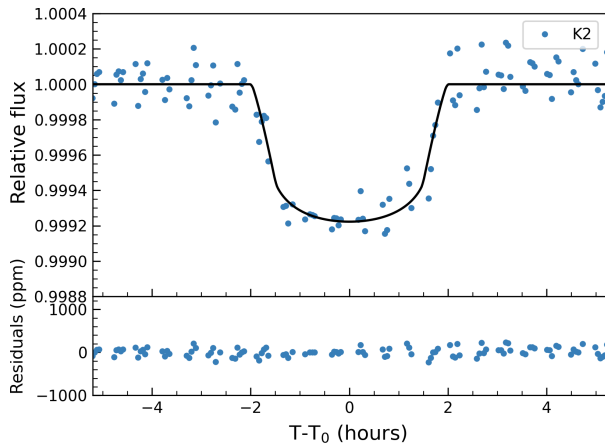
As described in detail in Section 2.6, we model the light-curves and the RV curve together. We included a photometric jitter term in the fit to account for instrumental noise that is not included in the nominal error bars. The photometric jitter term for K2 is  $\sigma_{\text{K2}} = 0.0000882 \pm 0.0000018$ . Figure 3 and Figure 4 show the fit to the phase folded light-curves using the combined model. Outliers were removed using  $3 \sigma$  clipping criterion.

The RV-measurements are discussed in Section 2.5. The off-sets between different instruments and their jitter terms are given in Table 5, and Table 6.

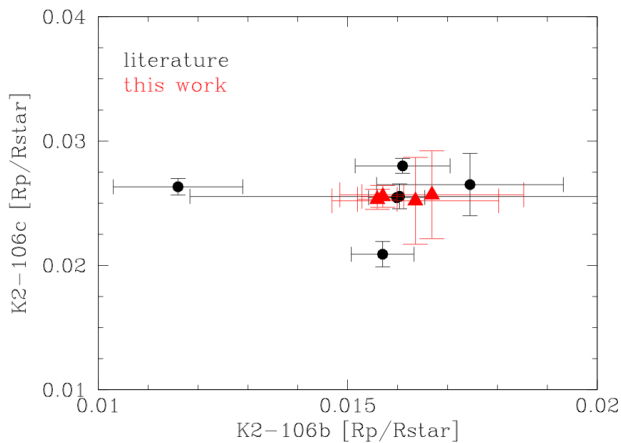
#### 2.4.2 Comparing the ratio of the radius of the planets to the host star with previous determinations

Figure 5 shows the previous determinations of the ratio of the radii of the planets to the radius of the host star. The black points are values taken from the literature (Guenther et al. 2017a; Adams et al. 2017; Simukoff et al. 2017; Dai et al. 2019; Singh et al. 2022; Rodríguez Martínez et al. 2022). Since Dai et al. (2019) and Singh et al. (2022) did not publish the values for K2-106 c we simply used the average  $R_p/R_{\text{star}}$ -values for K2-106 c from the literature to show the values for K2-106 b in this figure. The ratio of the radius of K2-106 b to the host star is within the errors the same. Using

<sup>4</sup> <https://archive.stsci.edu/prepds/k2sc/>



**Figure 4.** Phase folded light-curve obtained with K2 of K2-106 c after removing a few outlier using a  $3\sigma$  clipping.

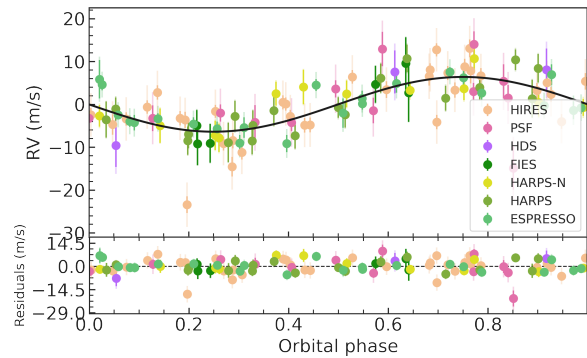


**Figure 5.** Ratio of the radius of the planets K2-106 b and K2-106 c to the radius of the host star. Values from the literature (black), and the values derived in this work (red triangle).

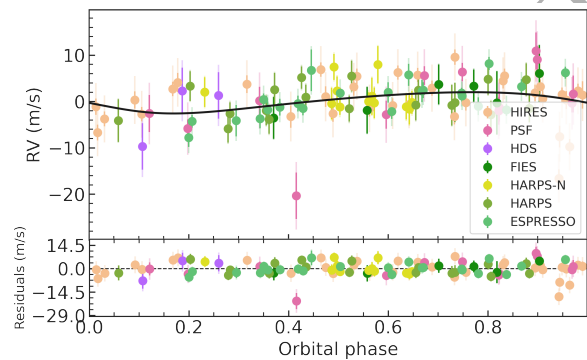
the variance as the error it is  $R_{K2-106b}/R_{star} = 0.0160 \pm 0.0006$ , and  $R_{K2-106c}/R_{star} = 0.0270 \pm 0.0009$ , respectively. We also show the radius-ratios derived in Section 2.4.1 as red points. The new determinations of the ratios of the radii of the planets to the host stars are in line with the previous determinations.

## 2.5 RV measurements obtained with ESPRESSO combined with previous measurements

We obtained 23 new RV-measurements of K2-106 with the ESPRESSO spectrograph that were reduced and extracted using the dedicated ESPRESSO pipeline (Pepe et al. 2021). The RVs were determined by using a cross-correlation method with a numerical mask that corresponds to a G8 star. The RVs were obtained in the usual manner by fitting a Gaussian function to the average cross-correlation function (CCF) (Baranne et al. 1996; Pepe et al. 2021). The data reduction pipelines of this instrument also provides the



**Figure 6.** Phase-folded RV-curve of K2-106 b.



**Figure 7.** Phase-folded RV-curve of K2-106 c.

absolute RV. The median error for the ESPRESSO data is  $1.7 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ . For comparison, the 32 HARPS spectra that we used previously had a median error of  $3.2 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ , the 13 PSF spectra  $3.0 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ , the three HDS spectra  $5.0 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ , and the 6 FIES spectra  $4.8 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  (Guenther et al. 2017a).

Because our main interest is the mass determination of the inner planet K2-106 b, we decided to take several spectra per night when possible. The RV-values obtained with ESPRESSO are listed in Table 5.

In order to combine the RVs obtained previously with the ESPRESSO data, we determined instrumental off-sets between the instruments and the jitter-terms. The off-sets and jitter-terms are listed in Table 6. The accuracy of the RVs obtained with ESPRESSO is higher than that of the other instruments but the high jitter term indicates that the star was a bit more active during ESPRESSO observations. Figures 6,7 show the phase-folded RV-curves of K2-106b and K2-106c, respectively.

## 2.6 Radii and masses of the two planets

The mass and radius of the host star are key factors for the determination of the masses and radii of planets. As explained in Sections 2.3, 2.2, and 2.1, we obtained six different sets of stellar parameters. However, if we do not count 2MASS-Gaia DR3 method, because it gives only the radius of the star, and the value derived directly from the  $\log(g)$  and  $R_*$ , we have obtained four new values for the mass and radius of the star.

We determined the masses and radii of the planets



**Table 5.** Radial velocities obtained with ESPRESSO

BJD <sub>TDB</sub> -2 450 000	RV [km s <sup>-1</sup> ]	FWHM [km s <sup>-1</sup> ]	BIS [km s <sup>-1</sup> ]	S/N
8703.75031525	-15.8276 ± 0.0034	7.46347 ± 0.0067	-0.0931 ± 0.0067	29.4
8704.91475462	-15.8232 ± 0.0018	7.48160 ± 0.0038	-0.0952 ± 0.0037	43.5
8705.75671620	-15.8180 ± 0.0045	7.49173 ± 0.0089	-0.0965 ± 0.0089	24.7
8707.81075258	-15.8176 ± 0.0022	7.48481 ± 0.0044	-0.0923 ± 0.0044	38.9
8707.90836233	-15.8198 ± 0.0016	7.48639 ± 0.0032	-0.0876 ± 0.0032	47.6
8708.74798097	-15.8278 ± 0.0017	7.48843 ± 0.0035	-0.0877 ± 0.0035	45.4
8709.77704796	-15.8243 ± 0.0011	7.48605 ± 0.0023	-0.0883 ± 0.0023	61.2
8709.79036694	-15.8258 ± 0.0013	7.48668 ± 0.0025	-0.0921 ± 0.0025	56.6
8717.72563374	-15.8264 ± 0.0021	7.47178 ± 0.0042	-0.0896 ± 0.0042	40.1
8717.82099476	-15.8283 ± 0.0013	7.48843 ± 0.0026	-0.0926 ± 0.0026	54.5
8718.74229989	-15.8179 ± 0.0017	7.48184 ± 0.0033	-0.0882 ± 0.0033	46.8
8718.87715170	-15.8248 ± 0.0015	7.48387 ± 0.0030	-0.0945 ± 0.0030	50.1
8719.86954645	-15.8157 ± 0.0011	7.48672 ± 0.0021	-0.0907 ± 0.0021	62.3
8721.69988499	-15.8153 ± 0.0024	7.50070 ± 0.0048	-0.0895 ± 0.0048	36.7
8724.71755081	-15.8268 ± 0.0016	7.48293 ± 0.0033	-0.0960 ± 0.0033	47.2
8777.68002329	-15.8223 ± 0.0013	7.48530 ± 0.0026	-0.0950 ± 0.0026	50.5
8782.52691959	-15.8355 ± 0.0020	7.47913 ± 0.0040	-0.0942 ± 0.0040	36.8
8782.61367352	-15.8262 ± 0.0014	7.49631 ± 0.0028	-0.0957 ± 0.0028	46.9
8784.63761295	-15.8291 ± 0.0018	7.48978 ± 0.0036	-0.0915 ± 0.0036	54.6
8788.76247468	-15.8275 ± 0.0024	7.50070 ± 0.0048	-0.0898 ± 0.0048	32.4

**Table 6.** Off-sets and jitter-terms

Instrument	off-set [m s <sup>-1</sup> ]	jitter [m s <sup>-1</sup> ]
HIRES	-22.22 <sup>+0.88</sup> <sub>-0.88</sub>	4.79 <sup>+0.74</sup> <sub>-0.60</sub>
PSF	0.63 <sup>+1.77</sup> <sub>-1.85</sub>	5.36 <sup>+2.07</sup> <sub>-1.68</sub>
HDS	24.28 <sup>+4.84</sup> <sub>-4.57</sub>	3.94 <sup>+9.48</sup> <sub>-3.21</sub>
FIES	98.92 <sup>+2.32</sup> <sub>-2.36</sub>	1.24 <sup>+2.48</sup> <sub>-0.95</sub>
HARPS-N	-15736.08 <sup>+1.09</sup> <sub>-1.10</sub>	1.37 <sup>+1.43</sup> <sub>-1.01</sub>
HARPS:	-15732.63 <sup>+0.83</sup> <sub>-0.85</sub>	1.31 <sup>+1.21</sup> <sub>-0.95</sub>
ESPRESSO:	-15823.74 <sup>+0.73</sup> <sub>-0.73</sub>	2.74 <sup>+0.70</sup> <sub>-0.56</sub>

using the PYANETI-code (Barragán et al. 2019a, 2022a). PYANETI performs a multiplanet radial velocity and transit data fitting. The code uses a Bayesian approach combined with a Markov chain Monte Carlo sampling to estimate the parameters of planetary systems. We added a photometric and an RV jitter term to account for instrumental noise not included in the nominal uncertainties. We used the standard set up previously used in other articles (Barragán et al. 2019b, 2022b, 2023; Georgieva et al. 2021; Serrano et al. 2022; Persson et al. 2022). A good sampling is assured using a number of chains which is at least as twice as the amount of parameters. We sampled the parameter space using 500 Markov chains. We created the posterior distributions using the last 5000 iterations of the converged chains with a thin factor of 10. We used the convergence test developed by Gelman & Rubin (1992), as described in Barragán et al. (2019b). This approach leads to a distribution of 250 000 points for each model parameter per distribution. The best estimates and their 1- $\sigma$  uncertainties were taken as the

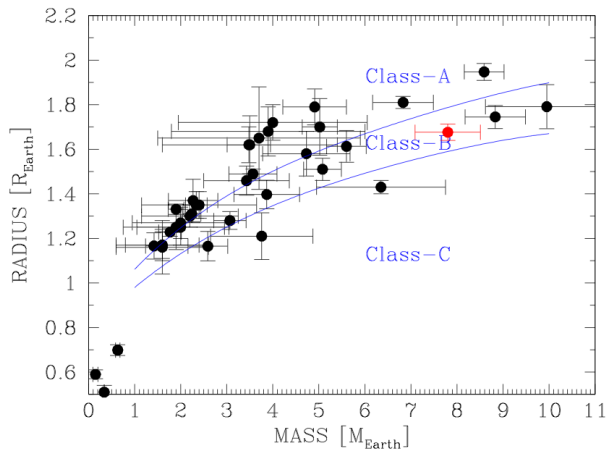
median and the 68% limits of the credible interval of the posterior distributions.<sup>5</sup>

We obtained the density of the star from the light-curve without using stellar density as informative prior and also using the stellar density as an uninformative prior. We did not find any significant difference between the two. Using the stellar density obtained with ISOCHRONES as a informative prior we obtain from the light-curve modelling of the inner planet a stellar density of  $\rho_{\text{star}} = 1.349^{+0.089}_{-0.089} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ . We did the same analysis using the stellar density from ARIADNE as informative prior. In this case we obtain  $\rho_{\text{star}} = 1.348^{+0.116}_{-0.106} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ . The difference is insignificant but the errors are larger if we use the ARIADNE values.

We can also compare the stellar density derived from the light-curve with the stellar density derived from the four methods described in Sections 2.1 and 2.2. This is possible, because the density of the star can be derived from the light-curve without knowing the mass and radius of the host star (Sandford & Kipping 2017). We find that the difference is smallest for the stellar parameters obtained using ISOCHRONES. The stellar density derived from the mass and radius using ISOCHRONES is  $\rho_{\text{star}} = 1.327^{+0.060}_{-0.058} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ . With ARIADNE we obtain  $\rho_{\text{star}} = 1.315^{+0.116}_{-0.106} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ . In Section 2.5 we also derived the mass and radius of the star using the stellar parameters derived from the ESPRESSO spectra. Using these values we obtain densities of  $1.22^{+0.17}_{-0.09} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  and  $1.40 \pm 0.07 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  for the star, respectively.

The difference between the density derived from the

<sup>5</sup> In Barragán et al. (2019b), they defined convergence as when chains have a scaled potential factor  $\hat{R} = \sqrt{[W(n-1)/n + B/n]/W} < 1.02$  for all the parameters (Gelman et al. 2004), where B is the 'between-chain' variance, W is the 'within-chain' variance, and n is the length of each chain.



**Figure 8.** Mass-Radius diagram for USPs. The red point is K2-106 b. The dark blue lines are the lower and upper limits for planets an Earth-like core radius fraction calculated by (Hakim et al. 2018). The upper line represents a core which is composed of 80% iron and 20% other elements, and a mantle that is made of  $\text{MgSiO}_3$ . The lower curve is a pure Fe core with a  $\text{FeSiO}_3$  mantle.

four sets of stellar parameters, and from the light-curve fitting are thus small, especially for the stellar model derived from ISOCHRONES. The mass and radius derived from ISOCHRONES matches also the average mass and radius values of the star from the literature best. Because the errors for the stellar model from ISOCHRONES are also smaller, we adopt these values. However, we will still discuss in Section 3 if it makes a difference if we use one of the other sets of stellar parameters.

The difference between stellar density from ISOCHRONES as an informative prior or as an uninformative prior are insignificant. If we use stellar density from ISOCHRONES as an informative prior, we find for the inner planet:  $R_p = 1.780^{+0.065}_{-0.061} R_\oplus$  versus  $R_p = 1.767^{+0.062}_{-0.060} R_\oplus$  and  $M_p = 8.61^{+0.84}_{-0.83} M_\oplus$  versus  $M_p = 8.58^{+0.83}_{-0.80} M_\oplus$ .

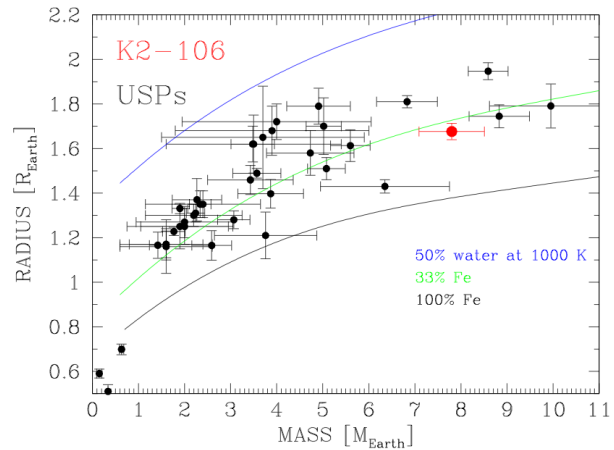
The results obtained for the two planets are listed in Table 7. The phase-folded light-curves are shown in Figures 3, and 4. The RV-curves are displayed in Figures 6, and 7. The posterior distributions of the parameters are shown in Figure A1, and A2.

### 3 DISCUSSION

The K2-106 system is one of the best systems for measuring the densities of low-mass planets, but what precision has been achieved?

The first error source is the radius and the mass of the host star. Some of the previous studies of this system have used older versions of the Gaia measurements. The Gaia DR3 measurements of the radius significantly improves the accuracy. We have determined the radius and the mass of the star using four different methods. The values from the literature and our new values are given in Table 4.

The density of the inner planet derived with ARIADNE is  $8.25^{+1.15}_{-1.02} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ . With ISOCHRONES we obtain  $9.09^{+0.98}_{-0.98} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ . Within the errors, the two values are the



**Figure 9.** Classical mass-radius diagram for USPs. The red point is K2-106 b, the other points are the other USPs listed in Table 8. The mass-radius compositions for 100% iron (black line), 33% iron (green line) and 50% water at 1000 K (blue line) are taken from Zeng et al. (2019).

same. Taking the variance of the two values, the precision with which the density of the inner planet could be determined is 6.9%. The density of K2-106 b has now been determined to a higher precision than for most other low-mass USPs.

If we want to assess the nature of a planet we also have to take the errors of the theoretical models into account. Hakim et al. (2018) argue that it is not known what the exact composition of the core and mantle of an exoplanet is. They calculate the mass-radius diagram for planets with a Mercury-like, Earth-like, and Moon-like core-to-mantle fraction using four different mantle and six different core compositions. A planet with the highest density has pure Fe core and a  $\text{Fe}_2\text{SiO}_3$  mantle. A rocky planet with the lowest density has a core that contains 80% iron, and 20% Aluminium and other light elements, and a  $\text{MgSiO}_3$  mantle. In this model, planets with an Earth-like core-to-mantle ratio thus can have different densities, depending on the exact composition of the core and the mantle. We define as a class-B planet, a planet that has the same core-to-mantle ratio as the Earth allowing for different compositions of the core and the mantle.

Fig.8 shows the mass-radius measurements for known USPs including K2-106 b. The lines indicate the maximum and minimum radius for planets with the core-to-mantle ratios as the Earth. Fig.9 shows the classical mass-radius diagram for USPs using the models published by Zeng et al. (2019). Many USPs fall into the regime of Class-B planets, but there are also many that are in Class-A.

K2-106 b is in Class-B, but this does not mean that K2-106 b must be Earth-like. Even if it would have a similar composition as the Earth, an USP is always unlike the Earth. For example, USPs have lava oceans, because of the radiative heating by the host star (Briot & Schneider 2010; Barnes et al. 2010). Furthermore, USPs are not only radiatively heated but also tidally, magnetically, by flares and by CMEs from the host star (Kislyakova et al. 2017; Bolmont et al. 2020; Lanza 2021; Grayver et al. 2022). It is thus plausible that many lmUSPs have lava oceans and thus out-

**Table 7.** Parameters K2-106 b and K2-106 c

Parameter	K2-106 b	K2-106 c
$T_0$	$2457394.00907^{+0.00067}_{-0.00069}$	$2457405.7320^{+0.0016}_{-0.0016}$
P [days]	$0.5713127 \pm 0.0000055$	$13.33989^{+0.00068}_{-0.00070}$
e	0.0	$0.17^{+0.11}_{-0.13}$
b	$0.24^{+0.11}_{-0.14}$	$0.53^{+0.20}_{-0.20}$
a/R <sub>*</sub>	$2.855^{+0.065}_{-0.065}$	$23.32^{+0.50}_{-0.53}$
R <sub>p</sub> /R <sub>*</sub> , K2	$0.01553^{+0.00029}_{-0.00028}$	$0.02659^{+0.00080}_{-0.00073}$
i [deg]	$85.2^{+2.9}_{-2.4}$	$88.62^{+0.40}_{-0.17}$
a/R <sub>*</sub> , K2	$2.855^{+0.061}_{-0.065}$	$23.32^{+0.50}_{-0.52}$
a [AU]	$0.01314^{+0.00032}_{-0.00034}$	$0.1073^{+0.0026}_{-0.0027}$
depth, K2 [ppm]	$241.0^{+9.0}_{-8.7}$	$693^{+47}_{-36}$
T <sub>tot</sub> [h]	$1.540^{+0.033}_{-0.031}$	$3.661^{+0.078}_{-0.073}$
T <sub>full</sub> [h]	$1.487^{+0.034}_{-0.033}$	$3.389^{+0.075}_{-0.085}$
T <sub>in/eg</sub> [h]	$0.026^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	$0.130^{+0.041}_{-0.028}$
K [m s <sup>-1</sup> ]	$6.36^{+0.57}_{-0.57}$	$2.14^{+0.74}_{-0.69}$
M <sub>p</sub> [M <sub>⊕</sub> ]	$7.80^{+0.71}_{-0.70}$	$7.32^{+2.49}_{-2.38}$
R <sub>p</sub> , K2 [R <sub>⊕</sub> ]	$1.676 \pm 0.037$	$2.84^{+0.10}_{-0.08}$
ρ <sub>p</sub> [g cm <sup>-3</sup> ]	$9.09 \pm 0.98$	$1.72^{+0.66}_{-0.58}$
T <sub>eq</sub> <sup>(1)</sup> [K]	$2299^{+36}_{-35}$	$804^{+13}_{-12}$
λ <sup>(2)</sup>	$15.3^{+1.5}_{-1.4}$	$24^{+8}_{-8}$
Insolation [F <sub>⊕</sub> ]	$4656^{+300}_{-274}$	$70^{+5}_{-4}$

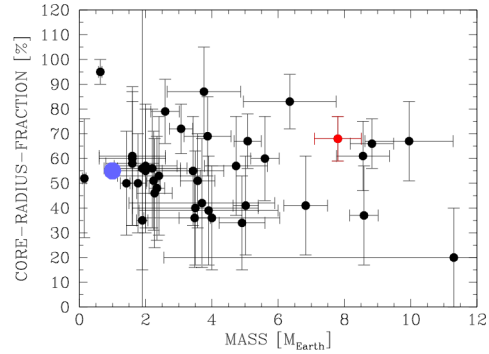
(1)  $T_{\text{eq}} = T_{\text{eff}} \sqrt{\frac{R_*}{2a}} (1 - A_B)^{1/4}$ , using an albedo  $A_B=0$ ; (2) λ: Jeans escape parameter (Fossati et al. 2017b).

gassed, or hybrid atmospheres. Such an atmosphere would then contain heavier, non-volatile elements. For example, Bower et al. (2022) showed that the atmospheres of planets with lava oceans should be carbon-rich. This means that although K2-106 b is an class Class-B planet, it does not have to have the same structure, and composition as the Earth. For example, K2-106 b could have a core that is larger than that of the Earth, and an atmosphere. At the present stage, we do not even know whether K2-106 b is simply a bare rock, or a planet with a lava-ocean and an atmosphere.

Thus, additional observations are needed to find out what kind of a planet it is. First of all, we need to find out, whether it has a lava ocean and an atmosphere, or not. Zilinskas et al. (2022) have studied the observability of evaporating lava worlds, and Ito et al. (2015) have calculated the spectrum of an atmosphere composed of gas-species from a magma ocean. Phase curves of K2-106 b obtained with the JWST would allow to find out if there is a lava ocean and an atmosphere. Transit observations obtained with the JWST, or with CRIRES<sup>+</sup> would also allow us to find out what the composition of the atmosphere is, if the planet has one.

However, using a three-layer interior structure mode Suissa et al. (2018) have shown that planets with very different compositions can have the same bulk density. Thus, even if K2-106b has no atmosphere, this does not mean that it must have an Earth-like composition. There are still other possibilities. Observations alone can not rule out all other possibilities, and an improved formation theory is need to narrow down the possibilities.

To put K2-106b into perspective, Table 8 and Figure 8 show all known ImUSPs with radius- and mass-determination. The dark blue lines in Figure 8 are the lower and upper limits for planets with Earth-like composition from Hakim et al. (2018). For comparison we also show the

**Figure 10.** The core-radius fraction versus the mass of the planet. No correlation between the mass of the planet and CRF is seen. The red point is K2-106 b, the blue point the Earth.

classical mass-radius diagram using the models from Zeng et al. (2019) in Figure 9.

Using the HARDCORE model provided by NASA (Suissa et al. 2018), we also calculate the marginal core radii fraction (CRF). Figure 10 shows the marginal core radii fraction for all known ImUSPs. The red symbol is K2-106 b. No relation between the marginal core radius fraction and the mass is seen. We also mark the position of the Earth as a blue dot, although the Earth is not an USP.

K2-106 c has the same mass as K2-106 b but a radius of  $2.84^{+0.10}_{-0.08} R_{\oplus}$ . This planet thus is likely to have an extended atmosphere. Such planets are often called mini-Neptunes, which is a bit misleading. They are not like Neptune, as their atmospheres contain only a few percent of the masses of the planets. For example, a Hydrogen rich atmosphere containing 1-2% of the mass of K2-106 c would fit the data

**Table 8.** Properties of USPs with  $M_p \leq 25 M_\oplus$  that have mass and radius measurements

name	mass [ $M_\oplus$ ]	radius [ $R_\oplus$ ]	period [days]	a [AU]	CRF [%]	references
TOI-731 b	$0.15^{+0.07}_{-0.04}$	$0.59 \pm 0.02$	0.322	0.0069	$52 \pm 24$	Giacalone et al. (2022)
KOI-4777 <sup>2</sup>	$\leq 0.34$	$0.51 \pm 0.03$	0.412	0.0069	< 100	Cañas et al. (2022)
GJ367 b	$0.633 \pm 0.050$	$0.699 \pm 0.024$	0.322	0.0071	$95 \pm 5$	Goffo et al. (2023)
GJ1252 b	$1.42 \pm 0.18$	$1.166^{+0.061}_{-0.058}$	0.548	0.0128	$50 \pm 21$	Serrano et al. (2022)
TOI-500 b	$1.6^{+1.3}_{-0.7}$	$1.16 \pm 0.12$	0.548	0.0128	$61 \pm 28$	Giacalone et al. (2022)
TOI-1442 b	$1.6^{+1.1}_{-0.5}$	$1.17 \pm 0.06$	0.409	0.0071	$58 \pm 25$	Giacalone et al. (2022)
TOI-2290 b	$1.6^{+1.4}_{-0.6}$	$1.17 \pm 0.07$	0.386	0.0086	$60 \pm 27$	Giacalone et al. (2022)
Kepler-78 b	$1.77^{+0.24}_{-0.25}$	$1.228^{+0.019}_{-0.018}$	0.355	0.01	$50 \pm 20$	Dai et al. (2019)
GJ806 b	$1.90 \pm 0.17$	$1.331 \pm 0.023$	0.926	0.0844	$35 \pm 20$	Palle et al. (2023)
TOI-539 b	$1.9^{+1.6}_{-0.7}$	$1.25 \pm 0.10$	0.310	0.0089	$56 \pm 26$	Giacalone et al. (2022)
TOI-833 b	$2.0^{+1.5}_{-0.6}$	$1.27 \pm 0.07$	1.042 <sup>(3)</sup>	0.0171	$55 \pm 25$	Giacalone et al. (2022)
TOI-2445 b	$2.0^{+1.2}_{-0.7}$	$1.25 \pm 0.08$	0.371	0.0064	$57 \pm 25$	Giacalone et al. (2022)
TOI-206 b	$2.2^{+1.4}_{-0.7}$	$1.30 \pm 0.05$	0.736	0.0112	$56 \pm 24$	Giacalone et al. (2022)
TOI-561 b	$2.24 \pm 0.20$	$1.31 \pm 0.04$	1.066 <sup>(3)</sup>	0.0204	$51 \pm 20$	Brinkman et al. (2022)
TOI-1807 b	$2.27^{+0.49}_{-0.58}$	$1.37^{+0.10}_{-0.09}$	0.549	0.0135	$46 \pm 22$	Peng et al. (2022)
LTT3780 b	$2.34^{+0.24}_{-0.23}$	$1.35 \pm 0.06$	0.768	0.0120	$48 \pm 21$	Nowak et al. (2020)
TOI-1263 b	$2.4^{+1.7}_{-0.8}$	$1.35 \pm 0.06$	1.021 <sup>(3)</sup>	0.0185	$53 \pm 24$	Giacalone et al. (2022)
K2-229 b	$2.59 \pm 0.43$	$1.165 \pm 0.066$	0.584	0.0131	$79 \pm 13$	Santerne et al. (2018)
TOI-431 b	$3.07 \pm 0.35$	$1.28 \pm 0.04$	0.490	0.012	$72 \pm 10$	Osborn et al. (2021)
TOI-1685 b	$3.43 \pm 0.93$	$1.459 \pm 0.065$	0.669	0.0116	$55 \pm 22$	Hirano et al. (2021)
TOI-1416 b	$3.48 \pm 0.47$	$1.62 \pm 0.08$	1.067 <sup>(3)</sup>	0.0190	$36 \pm 20$	Deeg et al. (2023a)
TOI-2260 b	$3.5^{+2.5}_{-1.3}$	$1.62 \pm 0.13$	0.352	0.0097	$40 \pm 23$	Giacalone et al. (2022)
Kepler-10 b	$3.57^{+0.51}_{-0.53}$	$1.489^{+0.023}_{-0.021}$	0.837	0.0172	$51 \pm 19$	Dai et al. (2019)
TOI-1242 b	$3.7^{+2.9}_{-1.5}$	$1.65 \pm 0.23$	0.381	0.0097	$42 \pm 26$	Giacalone et al. (2022)
TOI-1238 b	$3.76^{+1.15}_{-1.07}$	$1.21^{+0.11}_{-0.10}$	0.764	0.0139	$87 \pm 18$	González-Álvarez et al. (2022)
TOI-1444 b	$3.87 \pm 0.71$	$1.397 \pm 0.064$	0.470	-	$69 \pm 16$	Dai et al. (2021)
TOI-2411 b <sup>(4)</sup>	$3.9^{+2.8}_{-1.7}$	$1.68 \pm 0.11$	0.783	0.0144	$39 \pm 22$	Giacalone et al. (2022)
TOI-1075 b	$4.0^{+2.7}_{-1.4}$	$1.72 \pm 0.08$	0.604	0.0118	$36 \pm 21$	Giacalone et al. (2022)
CoRoT-7 b	$4.73 \pm 0.95$	$1.58 \pm 0.10$	0.854	0.0172	$57 \pm 20$	Haywood et al. (2014)
TOI-1634 b	$4.91^{+0.68}_{-0.70}$	$1.790^{+0.080}_{-0.081}$	0.989	0.0155	$34 \pm 19$	Cloutier et al. (2021)
HD3167 b	$5.02 \pm 0.38$	$1.70^{+0.18}_{-0.074}$	0.960	0.0186	$41 \pm 20$	Christiansen et al. (2017)
K2-141 b	$5.08 \pm 0.41$	$1.51 \pm 0.05$	0.280	-	$67 \pm 11$	Malavolta et al. (2018)
HD80653 b	$5.60 \pm 0.43$	$1.613 \pm 0.071$	0.720	0.0166	$60 \pm 17$	Frustagli et al. (2020)
Kepler-407 b	$6.35 \pm 1.4$	$1.43 \pm 0.03$	0.669	-	$83 \pm 11$	Marcy et al. (2014)
WASP-47 e	$6.83 \pm 0.66$	$1.810 \pm 0.027$	0.790	0.0173	$41 \pm 20$	Vanderburg et al. (2017)
K2-106 b	$7.80^{+0.71}_{-0.70}$	$1.676^{+0.037}_{-0.037}$	0.571	0.0131	$68 \pm 9$	This article
55 Cnc e	$8.59 \pm 0.43$	$1.947 \pm 0.038$	0.737	0.0154	$37 \pm 20$	Crida et al. (2018)
HD213885 b	$8.83^{+0.66}_{-0.65}$	$1.745^{+0.051}_{-0.052}$	1.008 <sup>(3)</sup>	0.0201	$66 \pm 10$	Espinoza et al. (2020)
TOI-1075 b	$9.95^{+1.36}_{-1.30}$	$1.791^{+0.081}_{-0.116}$	0.605	0.0118	$67 \pm 16$	Essack et al. (2023)
K2-266 b <sup>(5)</sup>	$11.3^{+11}_{-6.5}$	$3.3^{+1.8}_{-1.3}$	0.658	0.0131	$20^{+30}_{-20}$	Rodriguez et al. (2018)

<sup>(1)</sup> Marginal core radius fraction (CRF<sub>marg</sub>) (Suissa et al. 2018); <sup>(2)</sup> Although the mass of this planet has not been determined yet, we include it in the table because the upper limit of the mass is very small; <sup>(3)</sup> Strictly speaking this planet is not an USP. We also include planets with orbital period between 1.0 and 1.1 days to make sure that we list all USPs even if there is still a small error of the period.

<sup>(4)</sup> TOI-2290 b=TOI-2411 b; <sup>(5)</sup> This planet has unusually large errors that puts it outside Fig.8.

(Zeng et al. 2019). We thus prefer to call such objects C-class planets instead.

The K2-106-system is very interesting, because it contains two planets of almost the same mass but different density. What can we say about the possible formation scenarios? Most of the USPs in Table 8 are in multiple systems. Because hot Jupiters are lonely, it is unlikely that any of the planets in a system is a remnant core of a gas giant. Since most USPs are either in class-B, or class-C there is currently no evidence that they have an unusual composition. Perhaps, they form just like planets at larger distances.

The mass and radius of K2-106 c is  $M_p = 7.3^{+2.5}_{-2.4} M_\oplus$  and  $R_p = 2.84^{+0.10}_{-0.08} R_\oplus$ . The radius thus is significantly

larger than that of USPs with similar masses. This planet thus presumably has an hybrid or Hydrogen rich atmosphere. The fact that one planet has an atmosphere, and the other does not, can be explained with core-powered mass-loss (Lopez & Fortney 2013; Ginzburg et al. 2018), or atmospheric evaporation due to the XUV-radiation from the host star (Erkaev et al. 2007; Fossati et al. 2017a; Kubyskhina et al. 2018; Lalitha et al. 2018; Kubyskhina et al. 2018; Poppenhaeger et al. 2021). More complicated mechanisms are not needed to explain why the inner planet does not have an extended atmosphere whereas the outer planet does, even if both planets formed from similar material.

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**DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT**

The data underlying this article are available in the ESO Science Archive Facility <http://archive.eso.org/cms.html> and from the Barbara A. Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST).

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## APPENDIX A: POSTERIOR PARAMETERS

ORIGINAL UNEDITED MANUSCRIPT

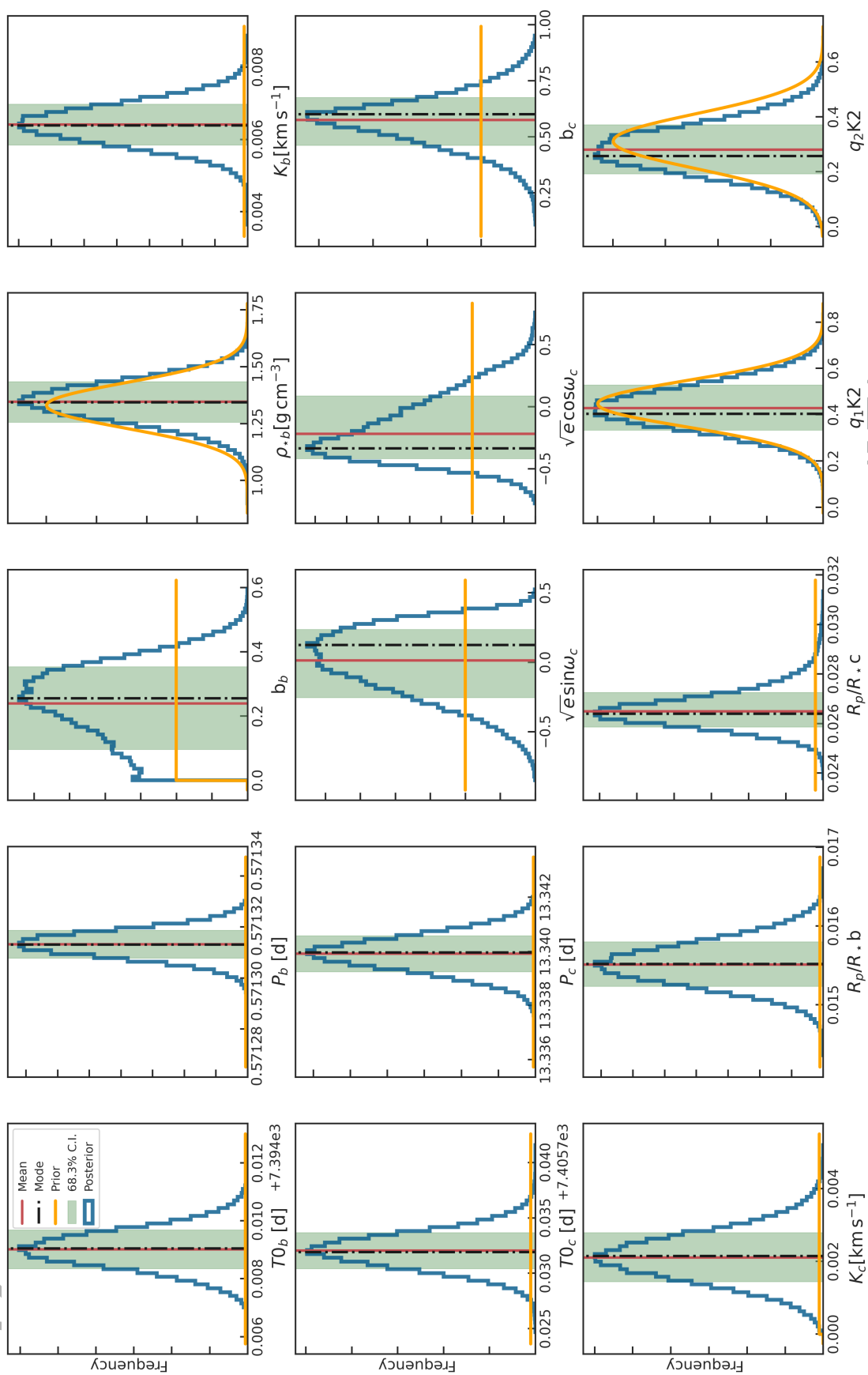
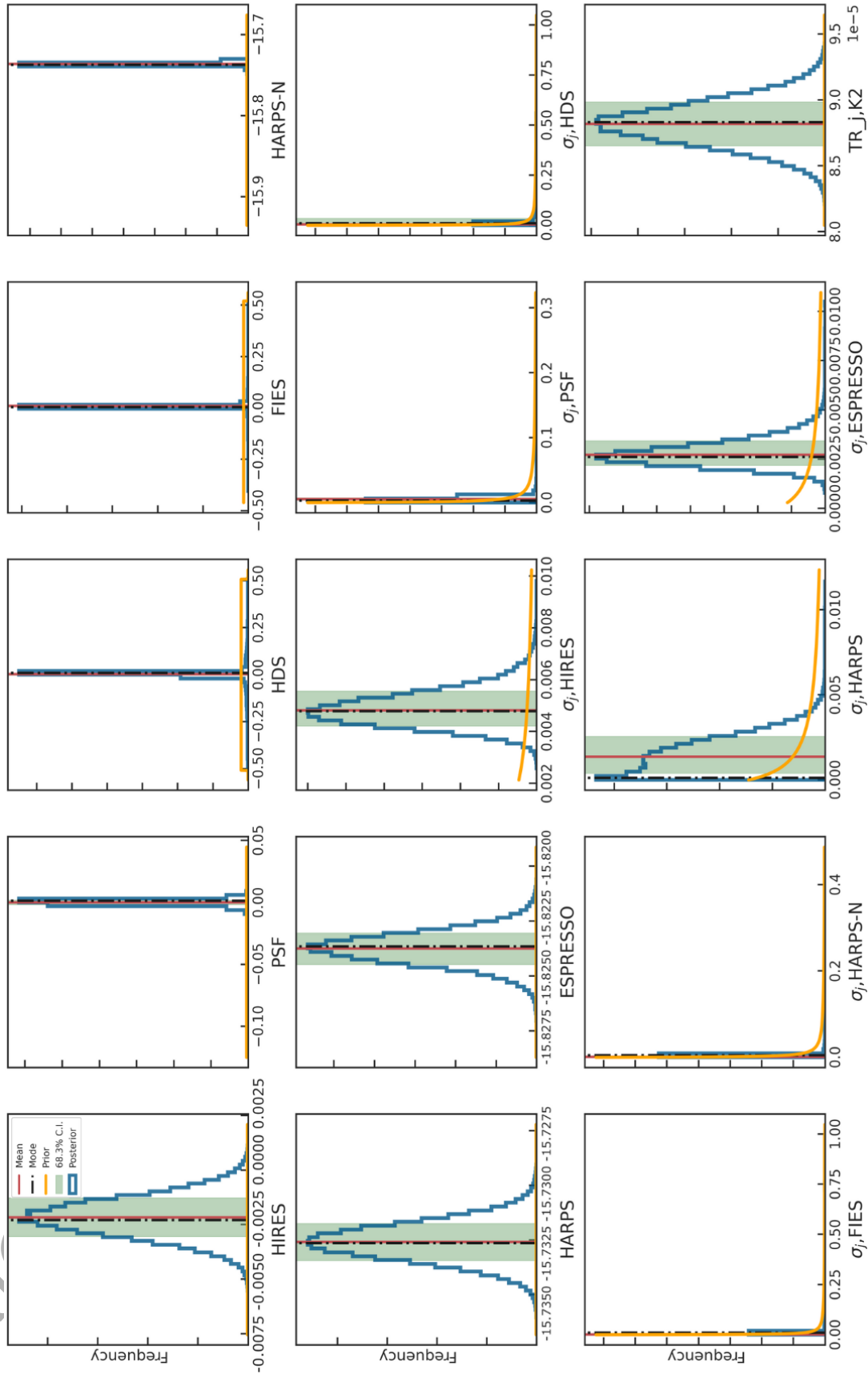


Figure A1. Posterior distributions of the fitted parameters for the best-fit model discussed in section 2.6 (Continued on next page).





**Figure A2.** Posterior distributions of the fitted parameters for the best-fit model discussed in section 2.6.