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Rapid contraction of giant planets orbiting the 20 million-years old star V1298 Tau

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Current theories of planetary evolution predict that infant giant planets have large radii and very low densities before they slowly contract to reach their final size after about several

hundred million years.^[1,2] These theoretical expectations remain untested to date, despite the increasing number of exoplanetary discoveries, as the detection and characterisation of very young planets is extremely challenging due to the intense stellar activity of their host stars.^[3,4] However, the recent discoveries of young planetary transiting systems allow to place initial constraints on evolutionary models.^[5-7] With an estimated age of 20 million years, V1298 Tau is one of the youngest solar-type stars known to host transiting planets: it harbours a multiple system composed of two Neptune-sized, one Saturn-sized, and one Jupiter-sized planets.^[8,9] Here we report the analysis of an intense radial velocity campaign, revealing the presence of two periodic signals compatible with the orbits of two of its planets. We find that planet b, with an orbital period of 24 days, has a mass of 0.64 Jupiter masses and a density similar to the giant planets of the Solar System and other known giant exoplanets with significantly older ages.^[10,11] Planet e, with an orbital period of 40 days, has a mass of 1.16 Jupiter masses and a density larger than most giant exoplanets. This is unexpected for planets at such a young age and suggests that some giant planets might evolve and contract faster than anticipated, thus challenging current models of planetary evolution.

V1298 Tau is a relatively bright ($V = 10.1$) very young K1 star with a mass of $1.170 \pm 0.060 M_{\odot}$, a radius of $1.278 \pm 0.070 R_{\odot}$, an effective temperature of 5050 ± 100 K, and solar metallicity (see Table [1](#)). It is the physical companion of the G2 star HD 284154. Based on their position in color-magnitude diagrams, isochrone inference, rotation period, lithium abundance, and X-ray emission, the pair belongs to the Group 29 stellar association^[12] and has an age of 20 ± 10 Myr.

V1298 Tau was observed by Kepler’s “Second Light” K2 mission.^[13] The analysis of the K2 data, covering 71 days of continuous observations, revealed the presence of four transiting planets in the system.^[9] The three inner planets (b, c, and d) were determined to have orbital periods of 24.1396 ± 0.0018 , 8.24958 ± 0.00072 and 12.4032 ± 0.0015 days, and radii of $0.916^{+0.052}_{-0.047}$, $0.499^{+0.032}_{-0.029}$, and $0.572^{+0.040}_{-0.035} R_{\text{Jup}}$ (i.e. Jupiter radii). The fourth planet, e, was identified with only a single transit event, with a radius of $0.780^{+0.075}_{-0.064} R_{\text{Jup}}$ and orbital period estimated to be between 40 and 120 days. A previous study constrained the mass of V1298 Tau b to be smaller than $2.2 M_{\text{Jup}}$ ^[14]

(i.e. Jupiter masses).

To measure the planetary masses, we performed an intensive spectroscopic campaign collecting more than 260 radial velocity (RV) measurements of V1298 Tau, using the high spectral resolution spectrographs HARPS-N, CARMENES, SES, and HERMES between April 2019 and April 2020. We derived RVs with a median internal uncertainty (1σ) of 9 m s^{-1} (HARPS-N), 15 m s^{-1} (CARMENES), 50 m s^{-1} (HERMES), and 117 m s^{-1} (SES), partially caused by the rapid rotation of this young star. The combination of data coming from all four spectrographs proved convenient for monitoring the stellar activity, which causes a dispersion of the measurements of more than 200 m s^{-1} , as expected given the young age of the star. However, the different wavelength coverage of each instrument and the varying response of V1298 Tau’s activity in the blue and red wavelengths – due to the different contrast of active regions at different wavelengths – introduced an additional complexity to the analysis of the RVs. We approached this issue allowing different amplitudes in the stellar model for the instruments with different spectral ranges. To better monitor the changes caused by stellar activity, we performed contemporaneous *V*-band photometry with a cadence of 1 observation every 8 hours using the Las Cumbres Observatory (LCOGT) network.^[15] We obtained 250 measurements with a typical precision of 10 parts per thousand (ppt). The data showed variations of up to 60 ppt, almost twice as large as those found in the K2 data. This is not surprising for a spot-dominated photosphere, as the Kepler passband is more extended towards red wavelengths, where the spot contrast is smaller.

To mitigate the effects of the stellar activity on the RV data of V1298 Tau, we opted for a global model combining the K2 photometry, RV, and one contemporaneous activity proxy, which in our case is the LCOGT photometry. We relied on a Gaussian processes (GP) regression,^[16] that benefits from an adequate observing cadence, like the one provided by the LCOGT data, to account for the stellar activity contribution. The model uses the K2 photometry to constrain the planetary orbital periods, phases and radii. To take advantage of the photometric follow-up, we shared several hyperparameters between the RV and LCOGT time series. We used the LCOGT photometry and the RVs to constrain the timescales and amplitudes of the activity variations during our observing

campaign, and the RVs to measure the masses of the planets. We added four Keplerian components to the RV model, representing the planets four known transiting planets.

We obtained significant measurements of the RV semi-amplitudes induced by planet b of 41 ± 12 m s⁻¹, and by planet e of 62 ± 16 m s⁻¹. For the two inner-most planets, c and d, we can only set upper limits of 22 m s⁻¹ and 25 m s⁻¹ with a 99.7% confidence, respectively. Planet e was originally detected with a single transit, insufficient for the accurate measurement of its orbital period.^[9] Using the RV data, we obtained the detection at a period of 40.2 ± 1.0 d, on the short end of the range expected from the transit duration.^[17] If this period is correct, the K2 mission missed transits right before and after its campaign by just a few days. We measured the orbital eccentricities for planets b and e to be of 0.13 ± 0.07 and 0.10 ± 0.09 respectively. Figure I shows the phase-folded curves of the RV signals attributed to planets b and e. The analysis of the RV and photometry during the 2019–2020 campaign yielded a stellar rotation period of 2.9104 ± 0.0019 days, with a semi-amplitude in RV of about 250 m s⁻¹, and of 5% of the flux in the V-band photometry. Our analysis of the K2 data yielded orbital periods, times of transit, and relative radii consistent with the discovery paper.^[8] Table S1 in the methods section shows the complete summary of our results, including all the alternative methods that we tested. We note that the determination of the period of planet e comes almost exclusively from the spectroscopic analysis. The new TESS observations of V1298 Tau (Sectors 43 and 44, September – October 2021) will provide an opportunity to detect a new transit of the planet, further solidifying its orbital period.

We derived the masses of the planets b and e to be 0.64 ± 0.19 M_{Jup} and 1.16 ± 0.30 M_{Jup}, respectively, that, together with their orbital distances and the star’s effective temperature, place them both in the category of warm Jupiters. For the same planets we derived radii of 0.868 ± 0.056 R_{Jup} and 0.735 ± 0.072 R_{Jup}, respectively, compatible with previous measurements.^[8] We derived densities of 1.20 ± 0.45 g cm⁻³ and 3.6 ± 1.6 g cm⁻³, respectively. V1298 Tau b occupies a position in the mass-radius diagram compatible with the old giant planets of the Solar System (Figure 2). Planet e is more compact and lies in a less populated region of the mass-radius diagram, resembling dense giant planets like HATS-17 b^[10] and Kepler-539 b.^[11] For the two smaller planets,

c and d, we calculated 3σ upper limits on their masses of $0.24 M_{\text{Jup}}$ and $0.31 M_{\text{Jup}}$, respectively, which set upper limits to the densities of 3.5 g cm^{-3} and 2.4 g cm^{-3} , respectively. The combination of the masses of all the pairs in the system are Hill-stable. Table 2 shows the final planetary parameters adopted for the system.

Core accretion models of planetary evolution predict planets of $\sim 20 \text{ Myr}$ to be at the early stages of their contraction phase, showing very large radii and low densities.^{[1][18][19]} Our results indicate that V1298 Tau b and e deviate from this picture. Figure 2 shows the position of the planets orbiting V1298 Tau in a mass-radius diagram compared to the known population of exoplanets. Similar to the case of AU Mic b^[7] – the only other exoplanet of similar age with a mass measurement – the mass-radius relation of the planets orbiting V1298 Tau resembles that of the planets of our Solar System and of the general population of known transiting exoplanets. However, in contrast to the case of AU Mic b, the planets V1298 Tau b and e seem incompatible with the expected population derived from these models of evolution of planetary systems. Figure 3 shows the planets orbiting V1298 Tau with the expected population of exoplanets orbiting $1 M_{\odot}$ stars at the ages of 20 Myr and 5 Gyr (simulation NG76^[20] using the Bern model^[1]) and with the mass-radius tracks coming from other different models.^{[18][19]} According to current theories these planets cannot reach this mass-radius configuration until hundreds of Myr later. Considering their densities, it is not expected that the planets orbiting V1298 Tau will contract significantly in the future due to evaporation.^[21] Our result suggests that some giant planets reach a mass-radius configuration compatible with the known mature population of exoplanets during their first $20 \pm 10 \text{ Myr}$ of age.

An alternative explanation to the characteristics of V1298 Tau b and e could be offered by an extreme enrichment in heavy elements compared to giant planets of the Solar System and the general population of transiting exoplanets.^[22] A fraction of heavy elements of 40–60% and 60–80% of the mass of planets b and e would partially reconcile our results with the core-accretion evolutionary models.^{[1][18][19]} This enrichment would correspond to 3–20 times the fraction of heavy elements of Jupiter for V1298 Tau b, and 5–25 times for V1298 Tau e. Such high metallicities are not expected for planets orbiting stars with solar metallicity. Figure 3 shows the planets orbiting

V1298 Tau with the mass-radius tracks derived for core-heavy exoplanets at the ages of 20 ± 10 Myr and the age of the Solar System. The models for core-heavy exoplanets predict the planets will keep contracting, moving them to a region of the parameter space in which there are no known field exoplanets. If giant planets with such high metallicities existed, and this scenario were correct, it would suggest that the two planets formed further away from their host star, possibly at separations of several astronomical units, consistent with those observed in protoplanetary disks imaged by ALMA, and experienced large-scale migration and accretion of planetesimals.^[24] Previous studies have shown that Neptune-sized exoplanets can be found in short orbits at the age of 10 Myr.^[5] The original discovery of V1298 Tau b^[9] also pointed in the same direction for planets with Jupiter radii. The V1298 Tau system provides strong evidence that planets with masses similar to Jupiter can reach close-in orbits within the first 20 ± 10 Myr.

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de Andalucía (CSIC). Based on data obtained with the STELLA robotic telescopes in Tenerife, an AIP facility jointly operated by AIP and IAC. This work makes use of observations from the LCOGT network. Based on observations made with the Nordic Optical Telescope, owned in collaboration by the University of Turku and Aarhus University, and operated jointly by Aarhus University, the University of Turku and the University of Oslo, representing Denmark, Finland and Norway, the University of Iceland and Stockholm University at the Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos, La Palma, Spain, of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias.

Author Contribution A.S.M. wrote the main text of the manuscript. A.S.M, V.J.S.B., J.I.G.H, M.R.Z.O and C.d.B. wrote the methods section of the manuscript. A.S.M. and M.D. performed the radial velocity analysis. N.L., A.S., V. J. S. B., G. M., R. R., S. B., C.C.G., A.S.M., M.D., P. J. A. and M. W. coordinated the acquisition of the radial velocities. V. J. S. B., F.M., E.P., H.P. and E.E.B coordinated the acquisition of the photometry. A.S.M., B.T.P., F.F.B and T.G. performed the extraction of radial velocities. F.M. performed the extraction of the photometry. V.J.S.B., M.R.Z.O., J.I.G.H., C.d.B., H.M.T., D.S.A., N.L. and E.L.M. determined the stellar properties of V1298 Tau and HD 284154. R.C., A.M., D.T. contributed to the discussion on planetary evolution. R.R.L, A.S., M.R.Z.O., V.J.S.B and G.L. organised the collaboration between the different teams. M.D., A.S., S.B., G.M., S.D., R.C., L.M., V.D., D.L., F.M., D.T., A.M. are members of the GAPS consortium. P.J.A., J.A.C, A.Q., A.R., I.R, M.R.Z.O, V.J.S.B., J.I.G, H., N.L and R.R.L are members of the CARMENES consortium. L.M. participated in the discussion of stellar activity. T.G., K.G.S. and M.W. are members of the STELLA consortium. All authors were given the opportunity to review the results and comment on the manuscript.

Author Information The authors declare that they have no competing financial interests. Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to A.S.M. (email: asm@iac.es).

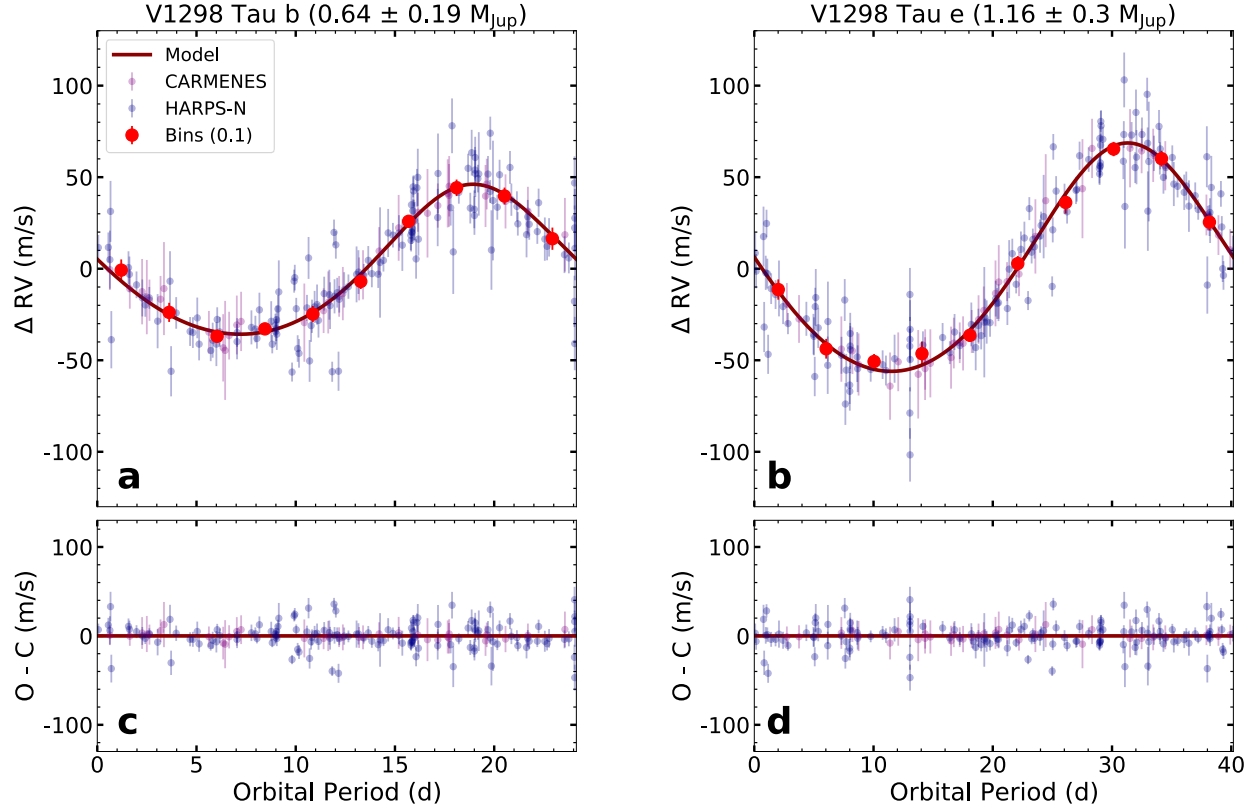


Figure 1: **Phase-folded plots of the RV signals for the two planets of the V1298 Tau planetary system with significant mass measurements.** *a*: Phase-folded representation of the best-fitting Keplerian orbit (red line) for V1298 Tau b. *b*: Same for V1298 Tau e. *c* and *d*: Residuals after the fit for both cases. For a better visualisation, only HARPS and CARMENES data have been included. The large red dots show the data binned every 1/10th of the orbit. In all cases, 1σ error bars (internal RV uncertainties) of the measurements are shown.

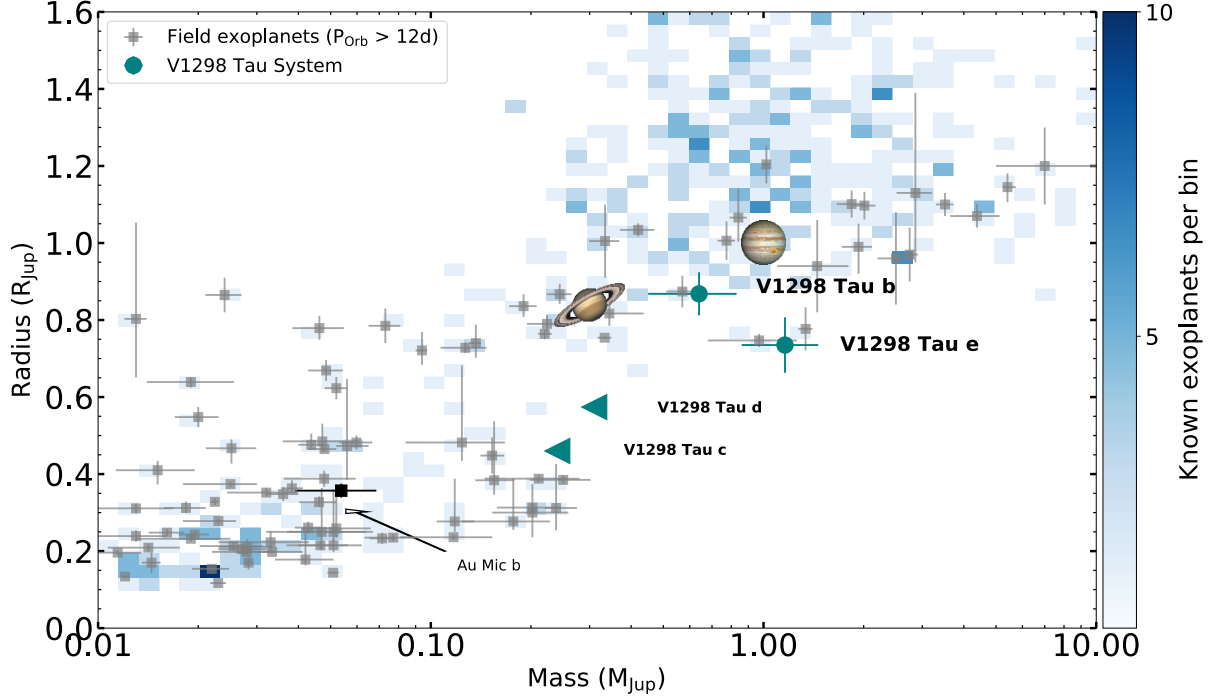


Figure 2: **Planets of V1298 Tau in the context of the known planets.** Histogram of the masses and radii of known planets for which the two parameters are determined with a precision better than 33%. The planets orbiting V1298 Tau are highlighted in teal symbols, with their 1σ error bars. The left-pointing arrows show the upper limits for the masses of V1298 Tau c and d. Jupiter and Saturn have been added for comparison. The planets at orbital periods longer than 12 days are shown with dark-grey symbols.

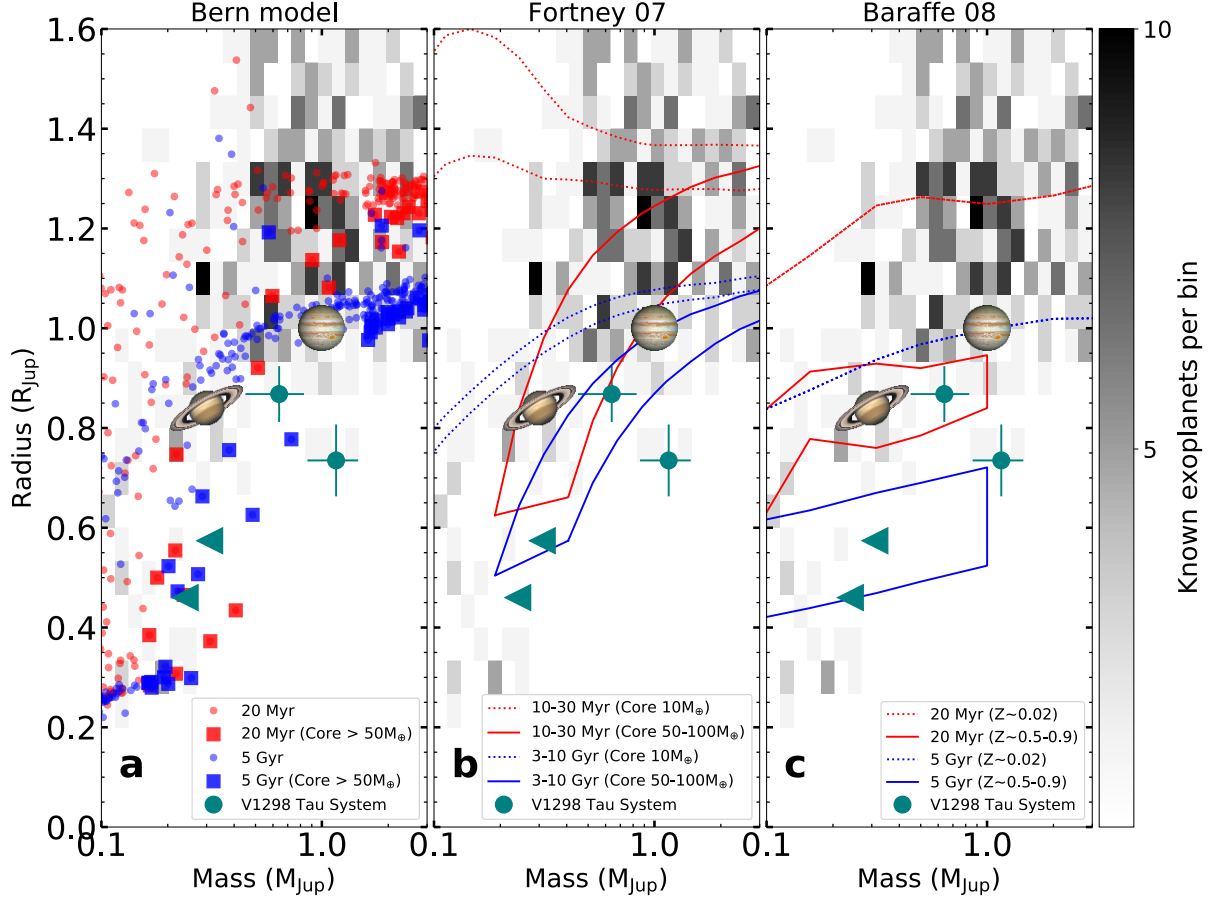


Figure 3: **Planets of V1298 Tau in the context of the models of planetary evolution.** *a*: Masses and radii of the planets orbiting V1298 Tau, with their 1σ error bars, compared to the expected planetary population orbiting stars with solar mass and metallicity at 20 Myr and 5 Gyr.^[20] Core-heavy planets have been highlighted. *b*: Masses and radii of the planets orbiting V1298 Tau compared to the mass radius-tracks from Fortney et al. for planets with light and heavy-cores ($50 - 100 M_{\oplus}$).^[18] *c*: Masses and radii of the planets orbiting V1298 Tau compared to the mass radius-tracks by Baraffe et al. 2008 for planets with light and enriched cores ($Z \sim 0.5 - 0.9$).^[19] The left-pointing arrows show the upper limits for the masses of V1298 Tau c and d. All panels show the histogram of the known population of exoplanets, and the positions of Jupiter and Saturn, as reference points.

Table 1: Stellar parameters of V1298 Tau and its wide companion HD 284154, with their 1σ uncertainties

Parameter	V1298 Tau	HD 284154	Reference
RA [h m s]	04 05 19.59	04 05 14.35	26
Dec [$^{\circ}$ ' '']	+20 09 25.6	+20 08 21.5	26
$\mu_{\alpha} \cos \delta$	5.23 ± 0.13	5.04 ± 0.12	26
μ_{δ} [mas a $^{-1}$]	-16.08 ± 0.05	-16.32 ± 0.05	26
Parallax [mas]	9.214 ± 0.05	9.202 ± 0.060	26
Distance [pc]	108.5 ± 0.7	108.7 ± 0.7	26
Spectral type	K1	G2	27 28
V [mag]	10.12 ± 0.05	8.51 ± 0.02	29
G [mag]	10.0702 ± 0.0007	8.3561 ± 0.0005	26
J [mag]	8.687 ± 0.023	7.287 ± 0.020	30
K [mag]	8.094 ± 0.021	6.947 ± 0.026	30
U [km s $^{-1}$]	-12.63 ± 0.03	-12.90 ± 0.64	This work
V [km s $^{-1}$]	-6.32 ± 0.06	-6.32 ± 0.10	This work
W [km s $^{-1}$]	-9.19 ± 0.06	-9.49 ± 0.28	This work
Age [Myr]	20 ± 10	20 ± 10	This work
Luminosity [$L_{\odot}$]	0.954 ± 0.040	4.138 ± 0.040^1	This work
Effective temperature [K]	5050 ± 100	5700 ± 100	This work
Mass [$M_{\odot}$]	1.170 ± 0.060	1.28 ± 0.06^2	This work
Radius [$R_{\odot}$]	1.278 ± 0.070	1.477 ± 0.082^2	This work
Rotation period [d]	2.91 ± 0.05	...	This work
$v \sin i$ [km s $^{-1}$]	23.8 ± 0.5	10 ± 1	This work
[Fe/H] [dex]	0.10 ± 0.15	0.05 ± 0.15	This work

1: Corresponds to the binary system.

2: Measurement for each individual component assuming an equal-mass binary.

Table 2: Planetary parameters for the V1298 Tau system.

Parameters show 1σ uncertainties. Upper and lower limits show the 99.7% confidence interval. T0 given in BJD - 2450000.

Parameter	V1298 Tau b	V1298 Tau c	V1298 Tau d	V1298 Tau e
P_{orb} [d]	24.1399 ± 0.0015	8.24892 ± 0.00083	12.4058 ± 0.0018	40.2 ± 1.0
T_0 [d]	7067.0486 ± 0.0015	7064.2801 ± 0.0041	7072.3907 ± 0.0063	7096.6226 ± 0.0031
a [au]	0.1719 ± 0.0027	0.0841 ± 0.0013	0.1103 ± 0.0017	0.2409 ± 0.0083
R_p/R_*	0.0698 ± 0.0024	0.0371 ± 0.0019	0.0464 ± 0.0020	0.0583 ± 0.0040
R_p [R_{Jup}]	0.868 ± 0.056	0.460 ± 0.034	0.574 ± 0.041	0.735 ± 0.072
Incl. [Deg]	> 88.7	> 87.5	> 88.3	> 89.0
K_{RV} [m s^{-1}]	41 ± 12	< 22	< 25	62 ± 16
e	0.134 ± 0.075	< 0.30	< 0.20	0.10 ± 0.091
m [M_{Jup}]	0.64 ± 0.19	< 0.24	< 0.31	1.16 ± 0.30
ρ [g cm^{-3}]	1.20 ± 0.45	< 3.5	< 2.4	3.6 ± 1.6

Methods

1 DATA

1.1 HARPS-N and CARMENES RVs.

HARPS-N^[31] is a fibre-fed high resolution échelle spectrograph installed at the 3.6 m Telescopio Nazionale Galileo of the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory (La Palma, Spain). It has a resolving power of 115 000 over a spectral range of 360–690 nm and is contained in a temperature- and pressure-controlled vacuum vessel to avoid spectral drifts due to temperature and air pressure variations. It is equipped with its own pipeline, providing extracted and wavelength-calibrated spectra, as well as RV measurements and other data products, such as cross-correlation functions and the bisector of their line profiles. We obtained 132 observations between 2019 and 2020: 72 of those measurements under Spanish time and the remaining 60 in the context of the GAPS programme,^{[32][33]} a long-term, multi-purpose, observational programme aimed to characterise the

global architectural properties of exoplanetary systems. On-source integration times were typically set to 900 – 1200 s. Using the HARPS-N data, we obtained the S_{MW} ,^[34] $\text{H}\alpha$,^[35] Na I ^[36] and TiO ^[37] chromospheric indicators.

The CARMENES instrument^[38] consists of a visual (VIS) and near-infrared (NIR) spectrographs covering 520 – 960 nm and 960 – 1710 nm with a spectral resolution of 94 600 and 80 400, respectively¹⁹. It is located at the 3.5 m Zeiss telescope at the Centro Astronómico Hispano Alemán (Almería, Spain). We extracted the spectra with the CARACAL pipeline, based on flat-relative optimal extraction.^[39] The wavelength calibration that was performed by combining hollow cathode lamps (U-Ar, U-Ne, and Th-Ne) and Fabry-Pérot etalons. The instrument drift during the nights is tracked with the Fabry-Pérot in the simultaneous calibration fibre. We obtained 35 observations between 2019 and 2020.

RVs for HARPS-N and CARMENES were obtained using *SERVAL*. This software builds a high signal-to-noise template by co-adding all the existing observations, and then performs a maximum likelihood fit of each observed spectrum against the template, yielding a measure of the Doppler shift and its uncertainty. We obtained typical RV precisions of 9 and 15 m s^{-1} for HARPS and CARMENES VIS measurements. For CARMENES NIR measurements we obtained a typical RV precision of 55 m s^{-1} . We measured an RMS of the RVs of 260 m s^{-1} , 197 m s^{-1} , and 195 m s^{-1} for the HARPS-N, CARMENES VIS, and CARMENES NIR respectively. Contrary to what was expected, the CARMENES NIR RVs showed no significant reduction in dispersion compared to the VIS RVs. These NIR data show a large difference in precision compared to the visible arm and adds no new temporal information. We opted to avoid increasing the complexity of the model and relied exclusively on the RVs coming from the visible arm.

1.2 HERMES RVs.

The High-Efficiency and high-Resolution Mercator Échelle Spectrograph (HERMES)^[40] is installed at the 1.2m Mercator telescope at the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory (La Palma, Spain).

The spectra were automatically processed by the HERMES pipeline, but later we derived our own RV measurements by cross-correlating the spectra with a K1 synthetic template^[41] taken from the HARPS-N reduction pipeline. This made the effective wavelength range used for the RV calculation similar to the HARPS-N wavelength range. We obtained 35 measurements during 18 individual winter nights in 2019 – 2020, with the goal of monitoring the shape of the activity variations. We obtained a typical RV precision of 55 m s^{-1} per observation and an RMS of the RVs of 294 m s^{-1} .

1.3 SES RVs.

The STELLA échelle spectrograph (SES)^[42] is a high resolution spectrograph installed at the 1.2m STELLA telescope at the Teide Observatory (Tenerife, Spain) . It has a resolving power of 55 000 over a wavelength range of $390 - 870 \text{ nm}$ ^[20]. RVs were obtained by the automatic reduction pipeline, by cross-correlating the spectra with a synthetic stellar template^[41] with a temperature of 5000K. We obtained 61 epochs spread across 3 months, during the winter of 2019–2020, with the goal of following the activity variations of V1298 Tau. We obtained a typical RV precision of 117 m s^{-1} per observation and an RMS of the RVs of 309 m s^{-1} .

1.4 LCOGT *V*-band photometry.

We observed V1298 Tau with the 40 cm telescopes of the Las Cumbres Observatory (LCOGT)^[25]. The 40 cm telescopes are equipped with a $3\text{k} \times 2\text{k}$ SBIG CCD camera with a pixel scale of 0.571 arcsec providing a field of view of $29.2 \times 19.5 \text{ arcmin}$.

We observed V1298Tau in the *V*-band every 8h over 4 months, during the winter of 2019–2020. The raw images were reduced by LCO’s pipeline BANZAI and aperture photometry was performed on the calibrated images using AstroImageJ.^[43] For each night, we selected a fixed circular aperture in AstroImageJ and performed aperture photometry on the target and 5 reference stars

of similar brightness. We obtained 250 V -band measurements with a typical precision of 0.5% in relative flux.

1.5 K2 photometry.

As complementary data to the spectroscopic dataset, we downloaded the available photometric light curve obtained by the Kepler Space Telescope *K2* mission¹³ from the Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST). This photometric dataset was taken in the long cadence mode, characterised by 30-min integration time. We adopted the EVEREST 2.0⁴⁴ light curve, which corrects for *K2* systematics using a variant of the pixel-level decorrelation method.⁴⁵ This time-series covers a time-span of about 71d (one Kepler quarter) from 2015 February 8 to 2015 April 20, which corresponds to the *K2* Campaign 4.

1.6 FIES spectroscopy.

We took a single exposure of 2100s of HD 284154 with the high-resolution ($R \approx 67\,000$) FIES spectrograph at the 2.6m-NOT telescope of the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory (La Palma, Spain). Observations made on 18 August 2020.

2 Stellar parameters of V1298 Tau

2.1 Membership to Group 29.

V1298 Tau is the low-mass companion of the warmer, G0-type star HD 284154 at a projected separation of 97.7 arcsec (or 10600 AU at the distance of the system). The pair belongs to the recently identified Group 29,¹² which is a young, sparse association of coeval stars in the Taurus

region, all of which share very similar proper motions and distances based on the Tycho-Gaia astrometric catalog (TGAS).^[46,47] Using updated trigonometric parallaxes and other astrometric determinations provided by the Gaia Data Release 2²⁶, we confirm that both V1298 Tau and HD 284154 are proper motion companions located at a distance that is compatible with that of the Group (see table 1). The Galactic velocities U, V, W of V1298 Tau and HD 284154 completely overlap with the distribution of the space motions of Group 29 members, thus providing additional support to the membership of V1298 Tau and HD 284154 in this association.

2.2 Effective temperature, surface gravity and metallicity of V1298 Tau.

We derived the stellar parameters and metallicity of V1298 Tau using the high-resolution HARPS-N spectra. The extracted, blaze-corrected 2D spectra were corrected for barycentric velocity (varying from $+10.8$ to -30.4 km s⁻¹) and for RV (varying from $+14.4$ to $+15.7$ km s⁻¹) and normalised to unity order by order with a third-order polynomial using our own IDL-based automated code.^[48] All orders of all spectra were co-added and merged with a wavelength step of 0.01 Å per pixel. The resulting 1D spectrum shows a signal-to-noise ratio of $\sim 107, 222, 284, 412$ and 391 at $4200, 4800, 5400, 6000$, and 6600 Å, respectively.

Using the same automated code, we normalised and combined the HARPS-N spectra from our RoPES RV program^[49] of three other stars (HD 220256, HD 20165 and ϵ Eri) with similar spectral types to be used as comparison stars. We compared the HARPS-N spectra of these templates with that of V1298 Tau to derive the projected rotation velocity of V1298 Tau. To reduce the computing load we restricted the calculation to the spectral range 5355 – 5525 Å and performed a Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) simulation with 5000 chains implemented in `emcee`.^[50] The mean stellar projected rotation velocity of V1298 Tau obtained from the three templates is 23.8 ± 0.5 km s⁻¹, which is consistent with the measurement derived from the stellar radius and rotation period (22.2 ± 1.3 km s⁻¹).

To estimate the stellar parameters of V1298 Tau (T_{eff} and $\log g$, and metallicity, $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ ^[4]), we used three different codes, which allowed us to check the consistency of the results. First, we used the FERRE code^[51] with a grid of synthetic spectra^[52] with a micro-turbulence velocity fixed at $\xi_{\text{mic}} = 1.5 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ to fit the HARPS-N spectrum of V1298 Tau, providing $T_{\text{eff}}/\log g/A(\text{Fe}) = 5010/4.48/7.20$ (note that the canonical solar Fe abundance is $A_{\odot}(\text{Fe}) = 7.50$ ^[53]). For comparison, we also analysed the HARPS-N spectrum of the star ϵ Eri and the Kurucz solar ATLAS spectrum,^[54] both broadened with a rotation profile of 24 km s^{-1} , obtaining $T_{\text{eff}}/\log g/A(\text{Fe}) = 5085/4.91/7.24$ and $= 5912/4.74/7.31$, respectively. FERRE uses a running mean filter to normalise both synthetic and observed spectra and fits a wide spectral range of the HARPS-N spectrum (4500–6800 Å), masking out the Balmer and NaID lines, which for the young V1298 Tau star could show their cores in emission. Taking the analysis of the Solar ATLAS as the solar reference, this method #1 gives $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = -0.11$ as the metallicity of V1298 Tau. We suspect that slightly low metallicity is related to the relatively high microturbulence adopted for the grid of synthetic spectra.^[52] The expected microturbulent velocity should be $\xi_{\text{mic}} = 0.85 \text{ km s}^{-1}$,^[55] so this may be the reason why the derived metallicity with this method appears to be slightly lower than the solar value.

Second, we used the SteParSyn code (Tabernero et al. 2021, in preparation), a Bayesian code that uses a synthetic grid of small spectral regions of 3 Å around 95 Fe lines with a fixed $\xi_{\text{mic}} = 0.85 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. The result of this second method is 5041/4.24/7.62 a metallicity $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = +0.16$.

Third, we implemented a Bayesian python code that compares the observed spectrum with a synthetic spectrum in the spectral range 5350 – 5850 Å (see Figure 4). We performed a Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) simulation with 5000 chains implemented in emcee.^[50] We used a small 3x3x3 grid of synthetic spectra with values $T_{\text{eff}}/\log g/A(\text{Fe})$ of 4750 – 5250/3.5 – 4.5/7.0 – 8.0 and steps of 250 K / 0.5 dex / 0.5 dex, computed with the SYNPLE code, assuming a micro-turbulence $\xi_{\text{mic}} = 0.85 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, and ATLAS9 model atmospheres with solar α -element abundances^[56] ($[\alpha/\text{Fe}]=0$), and the same linelist as in method #1. This method #3 delivered $T_{\text{eff}}/\log g/A(\text{Fe}) = 5071/4.25/7.44$ and a metallicity $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = +0.07$ for V1298 Tau (the result for the broadened so-

^a $A(X) = \log[N(X)/N(\text{H})] + 12$ and $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = A(\text{X}) - A_{\odot}(\text{X})$ with $\text{X} = \text{Fe}$

lar ATLAS is 5753/4.48/7.37).

Taking into account the slightly different results from the three different methods we adopted the values $T_{\text{eff}}/\log g/[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = 5050 \pm 100/4.25 \pm 0.20/+0.10 \pm 0.15$ for V1298 Tau. Finally, we checked the derived effective temperature by applying the implementation of the InfraRed Flux Method (IRFM^[57]). Using the available photometry in the infrared bands JHK_S from the Two Micron All-Sky Survey (2MASS³⁰) and the Johnson V magnitude from the AAVSO Photometric All-Sky Survey (APASS^[58]), and adopting $E(B - V) = 0.061$ from the dust maps^[59] corrected^[60] using the distance of 108 pc to V1298 Tau⁴⁰, we applied the IRFM to obtain a $T_{\text{IRFM}} = 5047 \pm 66$ K, in agreement with the spectroscopic value. Assuming an extinction $E(B - V) = 0.024 \pm 0.015$ ¹¹, we got $T_{\text{IRFM}} = 4947 \pm 67$ K, and 4928 ± 67 K for $E(B - V) = 0$.

2.3 Effective temperature, surface gravity and metallicity of HD 284154.

HD 284154 is resolved as a double-lined spectroscopic binary (see Figure 5), which has been identified as a wide binary of V1298 Tau.^[47] Using the FIES spectrum, we estimated a RV difference of $\delta RV = 43.6 \pm 1.0$ km s⁻¹ between the two stellar components, an identical stellar rotation of $V_{\text{rot}} = 10 \pm 1$ km s⁻¹ derived from the double-peaked cross-correlation function (CCF) of the observed FIES spectrum cross-correlated with a mask of isolated and relatively strong Fe lines. Assuming both binary components have the same mass (see below), the center-of-mass RV is $+14.8 \pm 0.7$ km s⁻¹, perfectly compatible with the center-of-mass RV of V1298 Tau.

We applied method #3 to derive the stellar parameters and metallicity of both stellar components of HD 284154. We assumed both stars have the same luminosity and origin, and therefore the same stellar mass and metallicity. We then generated a grid of synthetic spectra in the parameter range $T_{\text{eff}}/\log g/\text{A}(\text{Fe})$ of 5500 – 6000/3.5 – 4.5/7.0 – 8.0 and steps of 250 K / 0.5 dex / 0.5 dex, with a fixed $\xi_{\text{mic}} = 0.95$ km s⁻¹, and adding the fluxes of each component separated by $\delta RV = 43.6$ km s⁻¹ (see Figure 5). We obtained $T_{\text{eff}}/\log g/[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = 5700 \pm 100/4.35 \pm 0.20/+0.05 \pm 0.15$ for HD 284154.

2.4 Lithium abundance.

We used the MOOG code^[61] and ATLAS9 model atmospheres to derive the lithium abundances of V1298 Tau and HD 284154 (see Figure 6), with the approximation of local thermodynamical equilibrium (LTE). We applied the non-LTE corrections^[62] to get a Li abundance of $A(\text{Li}) = 3.43 \pm 0.15$ and 3.24 ± 0.15 , for V1298 Tau and HD 284154, respectively, roughly consistent with the solar meteoritic value.^[53]

2.5 Masses, radii and luminosities.

We determined the bolometric luminosity of both V1298 Tau and HD 284154 by transforming the observed magnitudes into bolometric magnitudes using *Gaia* distances and colour-bolometric corrections.^[63] We confirmed that the obtained values (shown in Table 1) are fully compatible at the $1-\sigma$ level with those derived from the integration of the photometric spectral energy distributions using the Virtual Observatory Spectral Energy Distribution Analyzer^[64] (VOSA) tool for the stellar effective temperatures. The radius of each star was then obtained from the Stefan-Boltzmann equation; we split the luminosity of HD 284154 in two identical parts to account for its nearly equal mass binary nature and arbitrarily augmented the error in the luminosity determination of each component by a factor of two. Masses were obtained from the comparison of the derived effective temperatures and bolometric luminosities with various stellar evolutionary models available in the literature.^[65,67] All models are consistent within the error bars. Uncertainties in the mass determination account for the temperature and luminosity uncertainties and also for the dispersion of the results from the different models including models with slightly different metallic composition. We obtain mass and radius estimates of $1.170 \pm 0.060 M_{\odot}$ and $1.278 \pm 0.070 M_{\odot}$ for V1298 Tau, and $1.28 \pm 0.06 R_{\odot}$ and $1.477 \pm 0.082 R_{\odot}$ for each of the stars of HD 284154. All values are provided in Table 1. We additionally inferred the stellar parameters for V1298 Tau and HD 284154 from stellar evolution models using a Bayesian inference method.^[68] This Bayesian analysis makes use of the PARSEC v1.2S library of stellar evolution models.^[67] It takes the absolute G magnitude

(using the parallax), and the colour $G_{BP}-G_{RP}$ from *Gaia* DR2⁴⁰, and assumes solar metallicity, with $[Fe/H] = 0.00 \pm 0.20$, returning theoretical predictions for other stellar parameters. For HD 284154 it was assumed that this binary (whose *Gaia* photometry was corrected by adding 0.7526 mag) is in the pre-main sequence phase due to the expected youth of the association. For V1298 Tau we obtained a $\text{Log } L$ of -0.040 ± 0.009 , an effective temperature of 4929 ± 32 K, a mass of $1.17 \pm 0.03 M_{\odot}$, a radius of $1.310 \pm 0.027 R_{\odot}$ and a $\log g$ of 4.271 ± 0.028 . For HD 284154 we obtained a $\text{Log } L$ of 0.299 ± 0.009 , an effective temperature of 5699 ± 55 K, a mass of $1.263 \pm 0.013 M_{\odot}$, a radius of $1.45 \pm 0.04 R_{\odot}$ and a $\log g$ of 4.218 ± 0.020 .

2.6 Age estimation.

Figure 7 shows that the photometric sequence of Group 29 is compatible with the isochrones of 10-30 Myr. This photometric sequence of Group 29 is sub-luminous compared to that of the Upper Scorpius association, and is very similar to that of the Beta Pictoris moving group. This suggests that the Group 29 and, hence, the V1298 Tau system, is older than the Upper Scorpius association (5-11 Myr¹⁰) and has a similar age to Beta Pictoris (20 ± 10 Myr⁶⁹). The rotation period of V1298 Tau (2.865 ± 0.012 d⁹) points in a similar direction. It fits perfectly with stars with similar spectral types of very young associations such as Rho Ophiuchus, Taurus, Upper Scorpius and the Taurus foreground population,⁷⁰ with ages in the range of 1–30 Myr, but rotates faster than stars of similar spectral types in open clusters such as the Pleiades (~ 110 Myr⁷¹) or Praesepe (600-800 Myr⁷²). The lithium content of V1298 Tau also allows to constrain its age, since this element is destroyed in low-mass stars on timescales of tens of million years. Comparing the equivalent width of the lithium line of V1298 Tau (400 mÅ) with that of stars in open clusters and young moving groups of different ages,⁷³ we can conclude that the lithium content of V1298 Tau is compatible with an age of 1 – 20 Myr, and is larger than in stars in open clusters such as IC 2391 and IC 2602, with estimated ages of 35 – 50 Myr.⁷⁴ V1298 Tau exhibits an X-ray emission of $4.58^{+1.71}_{-1.44} 10^{30}$ erg s⁻¹,⁷⁵ compatible with a stronger activity than the stars in the Pleiades,^{76,77} and has a UV excess ($NUV-J = 8.15 \pm 0.05$ mag), characteristic of stars younger than ~ 100 Myr.⁷⁸ In addition,

employing the same Bayesian inference method used in the previous section,^[68] we also obtained estimates for the ages of V1298 Tau and HD 284154 of 9 ± 2 Myr and 13 ± 4 Myr, respectively. Using all the previous results, we can constraint the age of V1298 Tau to be 20 ± 10 Myr.

3 Modelling

We fitted the K2 photometry, LCOGT photometry and RV time-series simultaneously, and modelled the activity signals in RV and the LCOGT photometry using Gaussian Processes (GP) with `celerite`.^[79] We used a variation of the quasi-periodic Kernel described in equation 56 of the original `celerite` article, with the explicit addition of a second mode at half the rotation period (PQP2 from now on):

$$k(\tau) = \frac{A^2}{2+C} \left[e^{-\tau/L_1} \left(\cos\left(\frac{2 \cdot \pi \tau}{P_{\text{rot}}}\right) + (1+C) \right) + \Delta^2 \cdot e^{-\tau/L_2} \left(\cos\left(\frac{4 \cdot \pi \tau}{P_{\text{rot}}}\right) + (1+C) \right) \right] + (\sigma^2(t) + \sigma_j^2) \cdot \delta_\tau \quad (1)$$

where A represents the covariance amplitude, P_{rot} is the rotation period, L_1 and L_2 represent the timescale of the coherence of the periodicity at the rotation period and its first harmonic, Δ represents the scaling in amplitude of the variability at the first harmonic of the rotation period, and C the balance between the periodic and the non-periodic components. The equation also includes a term of uncorrelated noise (σ), independent for every instrument, added quadratically to the diagonal of the covariance matrix to account for all un-modelled noise components, such as uncorrected activity or instrumental instabilities. δ_τ is the Kronecker delta function, and τ represents an interval between two measurements, $t - t'$. This Kernel behaves similarly to the classical quasi-periodic Kernel.^[80] The base version of this `celerite` Kernel was successfully used to model the variations of Proxima Centauri to the level of the instrumental precision.^[81] To model the activity variations in the K2 photometry we used a combination of two simple harmonic oscillators (SHO) centred at the rotation period of the star and its first harmonic. This Kernel has been shown to appropriately model the photometric variations of V1298 Tau⁹. The SHO Kernel is described in

equation 2. To better constrain the behaviour of the GP in its description of the activity-induced RV variations, some of the hyper-parameters are shared between the GP of the LCOGT photometry and the RV ²⁶. The period and timescales of coherence of the variability are shared parameters, while the amplitudes and mix factors are independent. As activity signals are known to have a chromatic dependence ^{15,83}, we split the dataset by instruments and gave independent amplitudes of the activity signals to each instrument. The analysis considered a zero-point value and a noise term (jitter) for each dataset as free parameters to be optimised simultaneously, with the exception of the K2 data. For the K2 data we opted to manually include the white-noise component given in the discovery paper.^[17] The K2 observations were obtained in 2017, while the LCOGT and RV data was obtained during 2019 and 2020. As the activity is not expected to remain stable after such a long time, we used two groups of hyper-parameters for the two different observing campaigns. We measure the final planetary parameters by fitting transits of the K2 lightcurve using the `pytransit` package,^[82] with quadratic limb darkening,^[83] and Keplerian orbits implemented with `Radvel`^[84] in the RVs.

$$k(\tau) = A^2 e^{-\tau/L} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \cosh(\nu 2\pi\tau/P_{rot}) + \frac{P_{rot}}{2\pi\nu L} \sinh(\nu 2\pi\tau/P_{rot}), P_{rot} > 2\pi L \\ 2(1 + \frac{2\pi\tau}{P_{rot}}), P_{rot} = 2\pi L \\ \cos(\nu 2\pi\tau/P_{rot}) + \frac{P_{rot}}{2\pi\nu L} \sin(\nu 2\pi\tau/P_{rot}), P_{rot} < 2\pi L \end{array} \right\} + (\sigma^2(t) + \sigma_j^2) \cdot \delta_\tau \quad (2)$$

with $\nu = (1 - (2L/P_{rot})^{-2})^{1/2}$.

To sample the posterior distribution and obtain the Bayesian evidence of the model (i.e. marginal likelihood, $\text{Ln}Z$) we relied on Nested Sampling^[85] using `dynesty`.^[86] We initialised a number of live points equal to $N \cdot (N + 1)/2$, with N being the number of free parameters.

We detected the signals corresponding to planets b and e (figure 1) and derived upper limits for the amplitudes of the signals corresponding to planets c and d (Figure [10](#)). This was our most significant model, with a measured $\text{Ln}Z$ of -4472 . To confirm our results we repeated the analysis described above using the combination of two simple harmonic oscillators (SHO) to model the RV and LCOGT variations. We obtained a similar result, with larger amplitude for planet b and

smaller uncertainties, but larger RMS of the residuals. This model proved to be less significant (LnZ of -4549). We also attempted to confirm the results using the Quasi-periodic GP Kernel to model the activity variations in the RV and LCOGT data, implemented using `George`⁸⁷ (Eq. 3). Previous studies have found it effective to study young stars.⁸⁸ In this case we obtain lower amplitudes for the signals attributed to planets *b* and *e*, and higher for planet *c*. This was the least favoured of the models we tested (LnZ of -4563). For the most favoured model (PQP2) we tested the difference between having 4 planetary components in the RV, 2 planetary components (*b* and *e*) and no planetary components. We found that a model with 2 Keplerian components in the RV is much more likely than a model with no planetary signals, with a $\Delta \text{LnZ} > 25$ (false alarm probability $< 0.1\%$), and also more much likely than a model with only planet *b*, with a $\Delta \text{LnZ} > 20$ (false alarm probability $< 0.1\%$). The model with 4 Keplerian components is less significant than the model with 2 Keplerian components, which is not surprising considering we could not detect the RV signals of planets *c* and *d*.

$$k(\tau) = A^2 \cdot \exp \left[-\frac{\tau^2}{L} - \frac{\sin^2(\pi\tau/P_{\text{rot}})}{2\omega^2} \right] + (\sigma^2(t) + \sigma_j^2) \cdot \delta_\tau \quad (3)$$

As the results coming from the different GP models are slightly different, we performed simulations to test the accuracy of the amplitude measurements in this particular case. To do that we subtracted the detected planetary signals from the RV to create an "activity-only" dataset. Following the same procedure as with our original RV dataset, we tested that all the models recovered amplitudes that are consistent with zero at the periods of the planets. Later we injected planetary signals at different amplitudes to study the behaviour of every model. The results were very similar to what we had already found. The PQP2 Kernel recovered the amplitudes of the signals corresponding to planets *b* and *e* within a 5% accuracy for amplitudes larger than 20 m s^{-1} . The model showed a tendency to underestimate the amplitudes of planets *c* and *d* by a 20 % margin for amplitudes smaller than 20 m s^{-1} . The combination of two SHO Kernels consistently overestimated the amplitude of planet *b*, while underestimating the amplitudes of the three remaining signals. The model using this Kernel also recovered smaller uncertainties for the Keplerian am-

plitudes in all scenarios. The QP accurately recovered the amplitudes of planets c and d, and it strongly underestimated the amplitudes of the signals corresponding to planets b and e, sometimes by a 50% margin. This is not a fully unexpected behaviour, as the more flexible GP Kernels have a higher rate of false negatives.⁸⁹ Figure 8 shows the comparison between the injected and recovered planetary amplitudes using the three GP Kernels. The PQP2 Kernel provided the best consistent results for all the tested combinations.

To further test our results we opted for a different approach based on the correlation of the RVs with the photometric data. In spot-dominated stars, the activity-induced RV variations are correlated with the gradient of the flux⁸³. This correlation can be used to detrend the data from stellar activity. As we do not have simultaneous, but contemporaneous, photometry, we calculated the gradient from the model of the photometry. We modelled the rotation using a third order polynomial against the derivative of the flux. A first attempt left some residual power at the first harmonic of the rotation period, which led us to include a sinusoidal component at that period. Our activity model is then defined as:

$$RV_{rot} = C1 \cdot \frac{dFlux}{dt} + C2 \cdot \left(\frac{dFlux}{dt} \right)^2 + C3 \cdot \left(\frac{dFlux}{dt} \right)^3 + A_{rot} \cdot \sin\left(4 \cdot \pi \frac{(t - T0)}{P_{rot}}\right) \quad (4)$$

where T0 was parametrised as $JD_0 + P_{rot} \cdot \phi$, with $JD_0 = 2458791.627$.

Using this model we recovered a very similar solution as with the mixture of two SHO Kernels, although with much larger residuals. We detected the presence of the planets V1298 Tau b and e, and measured upper limits for the amplitudes of planets c and d. We measure the amplitude of planet e to be much larger than what was found with the GP models, which might be caused by the Keplerian model absorbing some unmodelled activity.

Table ED 3 shows the parameters used in the fit, the datasets involved in fitting every parameter, the priors and the results obtained for the different models tested and Figure 11 shows the corner plot of the parameters of the most significant model. Figure 9 shows the RV with the best fit model for the raw data, activity-filtered data, planet-filtered data and residuals, along with the GLS