Variable Tidal Dissipation From Exoplanet Observations

Kaloyan Penev, Luke Bouma & Joshua Winn

(Princeton University)



- Many exoplanet hosts spin faster than single stars of the same age.
- Initial differences in spin get wiped out by magnetic wind spin-down.
- Tidal coupling with planetary orbit naturally provides angular momentum.
- Amount of spin-up probes present-day tidal dissipation in the star.
- Very weak sensitivity to:
 - Planet formation mechanism and initial conditions.
 - Spin-down model parameters.
 - Possibly different dissipation in the past



- At short tidal periods match constraints from exoplanet inspiral.
- At long periods match constraints from binary star and exoplanet circularization.
- In misaligned systems, many tidal frequencies are active simultaneously ullet
 - Obliquity dissipates due to term with $P_{tide} = P_{spin} / 2$
 - Orbit decays due to term with $P_{tide} = P_{orb} / 2$
 - The frequency dependence above explains observed obliquities with no free parameters

