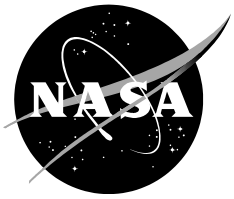
NASA/TM—2020—5003309



TESS Data Release Notes:
Sector 24, DR35

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June 4, 2020

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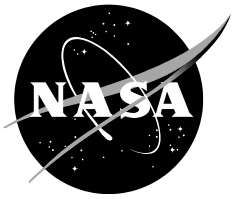

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Acknowledgements

These Data Release Notes provide information on the processing and export of data from the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS). The data products included in this data release are full frame images (FFIs), target pixel files, light curve files, collateral pixel files, cotrending basis vectors (CBVs), and Data Validation (DV) reports, time series, and associated xml files.

These data products were generated by the TESS Science Processing Operations Center (SPOC, Jenkins et al., 2016) at NASA Ames Research Center from data collected by the TESS instrument, which is managed by the TESS Payload Operations Center (POC) at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The format and content of these data products are documented in the Science Data Products Description Document (SDPDD)[1]. The SPOC science algorithms are based heavily on those of the Kepler Mission science pipeline, and are described in the Kepler Data Processing Handbook (Jenkins, 2019).[2] The Data Validation algorithms are documented in Twicken et al. (2018) and Li et al. (2019). The TESS Instrument Handbook (Vanderspek et al., 2018) contains more information about the TESS instrument design, detector layout, data properties, and mission operations.

The TESS Mission is funded by NASA's Science Mission Directorate.

This report is available in electronic form at
https://archive.stsci.edu/tess/

[1] https://archive.stsci.edu/missions/tess/doc/EXP-TESS-ARC-ICD-TM-0014.pdf
[2] https://archive.stsci.edu/kepler/manuals/KSCI-19081-003-KDPH.pdf

1 Observations

TESS Sector 24 observations include physical orbits 55 and 56 of the spacecraft around the Earth. Data collection was paused for 0.92 days between the orbits to download data. In total, there are 25.57 days of science data collected in Sector 24.

Table 1: Sector 24 Observation times

	UTC	TJD[a]	Cadence #
Orbit 55 start	2020-04-16 06:55:19	1955.78990	524401
Orbit 55 end	2020-04-28 20:17:19	1968.34684	533442
Orbit 56 start	2020-04-29 18:21:18	1969.26628	534104
Orbit 56 end	2020-05-12 18:41:18	1982.28017	543474

[a] TJD = TESS JD = JD - 2,457,000.0

The spacecraft was pointing at RA (J2000): 261.4516°; Dec (J2000): 63.1181°; Roll: 317.2624°. Two-minute cadence data were collected for 20,000 targets, and full frame images were collected every 30 minutes. See the TESS project Sector 24 observation page[3] for the coordinates of the spacecraft pointing and center field-of-view of each camera, as well as the detailed target list. Fields-of-view for each camera and the Guest Investigator two-minute target list can be found at the TESS Guest Investigator Office observations status page[4].

1.1 Notes on Individual Targets

Three bright stars (Tmag $\lesssim$ 1.8) with large pixel stamps were not processed in the photometric pipeline. Target pixel files with raw data are provided, but no light curves were produced. The affected TIC IDs are 329269366, 219827143, and 255909448.

Eight target stars (279979429, 283819432, 334487469, 341873045, 354379201, 441804568, 2022481918, 2022482049) are blended with comparably bright stars—the contaminating flux for these objects is very large, and the resulting photometry for such targets is expected to be unreliable.

One star (274221477) is close enough to bleed trail from a brighter star that the photometry is likely unreliable.

1.2 Spacecraft Pointing and Momentum dumps

As in Sector 14, the pointing in Sector 24 was set at +85 degrees in ecliptic latitude so that Camera 2 and Camera 3 straddle the ecliptic pole. Camera 1 and Camera 4 were both used for guiding in orbit 55 and orbit 56.

Spacecraft operations has been slowly increasing the time between momentum dumps while monitoring the response of the attitude control system and resulting pointing jitter. There are no momentum dumps in orbit 1 of Sector 24. However, anomalously high pointing jitter was observed for the last 3–4 days of that orbit. The effect is similarly to the jitter

[3] https://tess.mit.edu/observations/sector-24

[4] https://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/tess/status.html

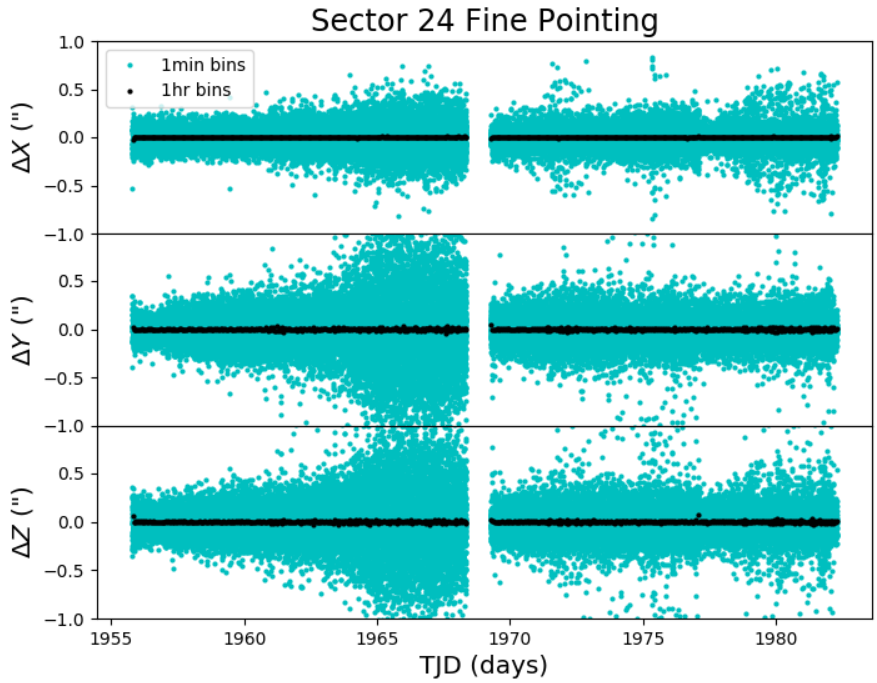

Figure 1: Guiding corrections based on spacecraft fine pointing telemetry. The jitter towards the end of orbit 1 is higher than observed in previous sectors. The delta-quaternions from each camera have been converted to spacecraft frame, binned to 1 minute and 1 hour, and averaged across cameras. Long-term trends (such as those caused by differential velocity aberration) have also been removed. The ΔX/ΔY directions represent offsets along the the detectors' rows/columns, while the ΔZ direction represents spacecraft roll.

observed in Sector 23, except that the peak-to-peak amplitude gradually ramps up to 1.5 arcseconds (on 2 minutes timescales) and lasts for several days. In orbit 2 of Sector 24, operations introduced a momentum dump that brought the jitter amplitude down to a level similar to previous sectors. The effect of the anomalous jitter is described in more detail in §2. Figure 1 summarizes the pointing performance over the course of the sector based on Fine Pointing telemetry.

1.3 Scattered Light

Figure 2 shows the median value of the background estimate for all targets on a given CCD as a function of time. Figure 3 shows the angle between each camera's boresight and the Earth or Moon—this figure can be used to identify periods affected by scattered light and the relative contributions of the Earth and Moon to the image backgrounds.

In Sector 24, the Earth is a significant source of scattered light throughout both orbits.

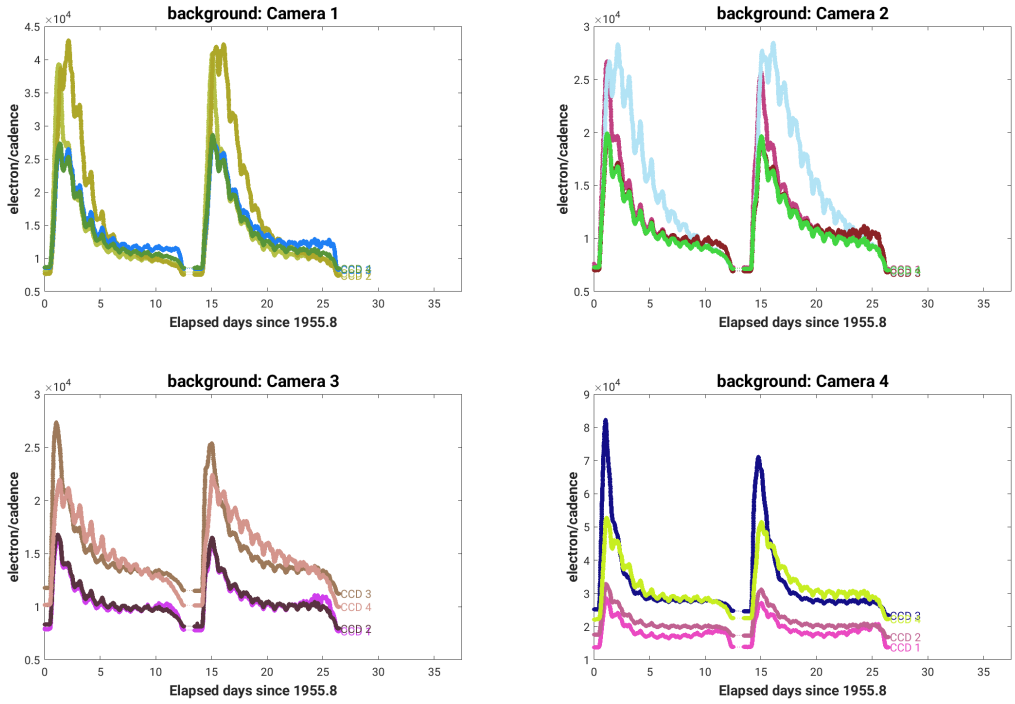

Figure 2: Median background flux across all targets on a given CCD in each camera. The changes are caused by variations in the orientation and distance of the Earth and Moon.

2 Data Anomaly Flags

See the SDPDD (§9) for a list of data quality flags and the associated binary values used for TESS data, and the TESS Instrument Handbook for a more detailed description of each flag.

The following flags were not used in Sector 24: bits 1, 2, 7, 9, and 11 (Attitude Tweak, Safe Mode, Cosmic Ray in Aperture, Discontinuity, Cosmic Ray in Collateral Pixel).

Cadences marked with bits 3, 4, 6, and 12 (Coarse Point, Earth Point, Reaction Wheel Desaturation Event, and Straylight) were marked based on spacecraft telemetry.

Cadences marked with bit 5 and 10 (Argabrightening Events and Impulsive Outlier) were identified by the SPOC pipeline. Bit 5 marks a sudden change in the background measurements. In practice, bit 5 flags are caused by rapidly changing glints and unstable pointing at times near momentum dumps. Bit 10 marks an outlier identified by PDC and omitted from the cotrending procedure.

Cadences marked with bit 8 (Manual Exclude) are ignored by PDC, TPS, and DV for cotrending and transit searches. In Sector 24, these cadences were identified using spacecraft telemetry from the fine pointing system. All cadences with pointing excursions >10.5 arcsec (0.5 pixel) were flagged for manual exclude. This is a larger threshold than used in previous sectors, which accommodates the anomalously high pointing jitter at the end of orbit 1. Overall, a similar fraction of cadences were flagged with bit 8 in Sector 24 as in previous data releases. Using these manual exclude flags, the quality of the final data products is very

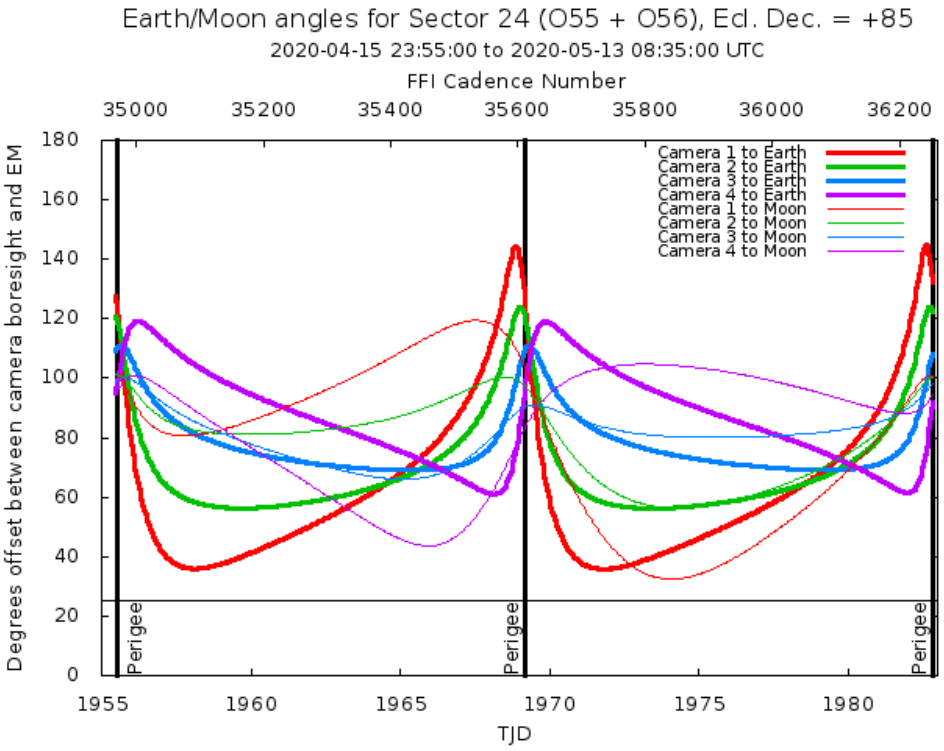

Figure 3: Angle between the four camera boresights and the Earth/Moon as a function of time. When the Earth is within $\sim 25°$ of a camera's boresight, transiting planet searches may be compromised by high levels of scattered light. At larger angles, up to $\sim 35°$, scattered light patterns and complicated structures may be visible. At yet larger angles, low level patchy features may be visible. Scattered light from the Moon is generally only noticeable below $\sim 35°$. This figure can be used to identify periods affected by scattered light and the relative contributions of the Earth and Moon to the background. However, the background intensity and locations of scattered light features depend on additional factors, such as the Earth/Moon azimuth and distance from the spacecraft.

similar to previous sectors (see §4). Figure 4 also shows an assessment of the performance of the cotrending based on the final set of manual excludes.

In Sector 24, the predicted stray light flag (bit 12, value 2048) is disabled for the 2-minute data products. Instead, the scattered light exclude flag (bit 13, value 4096) identifies cadences at which individual targets are affected by scattered light. The predicted stray light flag (bit 12) continues to be marked in the FFIs and flags times when the Earth/Moon are near the camera FOVs and may interfere with guiding or saturate the detectors. We strongly recommend that users inspect the FFI data before removing images marked with bit 12, because this bit is set based on predictions from mission planning and is known to be conservative with respect to the quality of data usable for analysis.

If the Earth/Moon interference is strong enough to saturate the detector, all targets on a CCD slice will be affected and the data are unusable. Cadences with bad calibrations due to saturation are now explicitly marked with bit 15 (value 16384, "Bad Calibration Exclude"). For some cadences, the majority of targets on a CCD may be flagged for scattered light and not enough valid data remains to derive cotrending basis vectors in PDC. No systematic

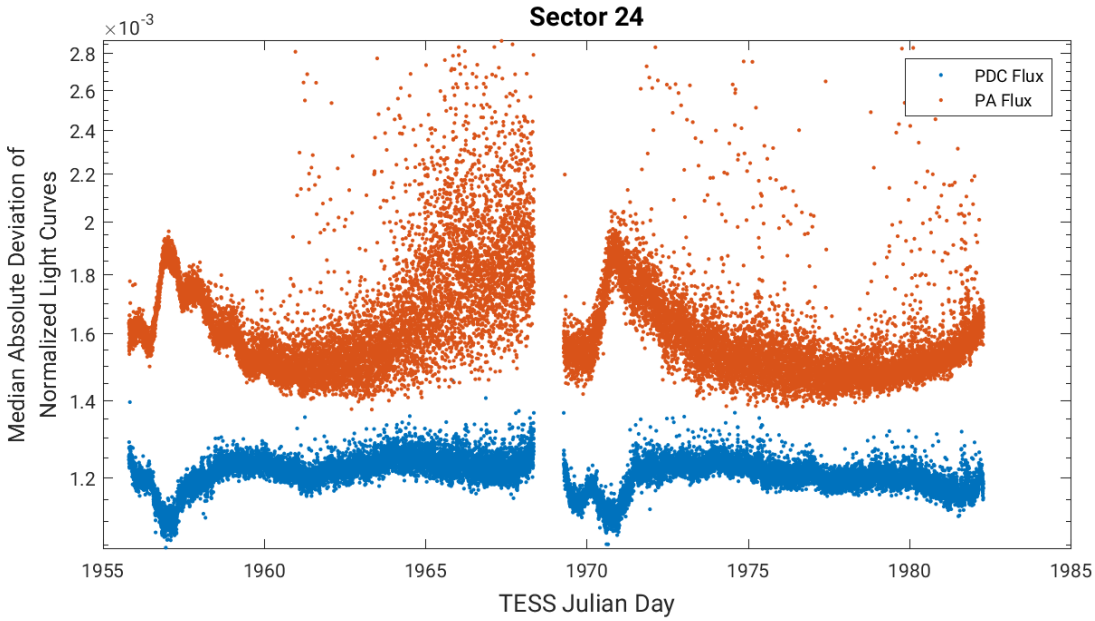

Figure 4: Median absolute deviation (MAD) for the 2-minute cadence data from Sector 24, showing the performance of the cotrending after identifying Manual Exclude data quality flags. The MAD is calculated in each cadence across stars with flux variations less than 1% for both the PA (red) and PDC (blue) light curves, where each light curve is normalized by its median flux value. The scatter in the PA light curves is much higher than that for the PDC light curves, and the outliers in the PA light curves are largely absent from the PDC light curves due to the use of the anomaly flags.

error correction can be applied at these times. This situation is identified by bit 16 (value 32768, "Insufficient Targets for Error Correction Exclude").

FFIs were only marked with bits 3, 6 and 12 (Course Point, Reaction Wheel Desaturation Events and Straylight). Only one FFI is affected by each momentum dump. There are no WCS coordinates for FFIs that coincide with momentum dumps.

3 Anomalous Effects

3.1 Smear Correction Issues

The following columns were impacted by bright stars in the science frame, and/or upper buffer rows, and/or lower science frame rows, which bleed into the upper serial register resulting in an overestimated smear correction.

- Camera 1, CCD 2, Column 91, Star 2 Herculis
- Camera 2, CCD 4, Column 715, Star HD 142176
- Camera 2, CCD 3, Column 1193, Star HD 143078
- Camera 3, CCD 2, Column 451, Star Delta Draconis

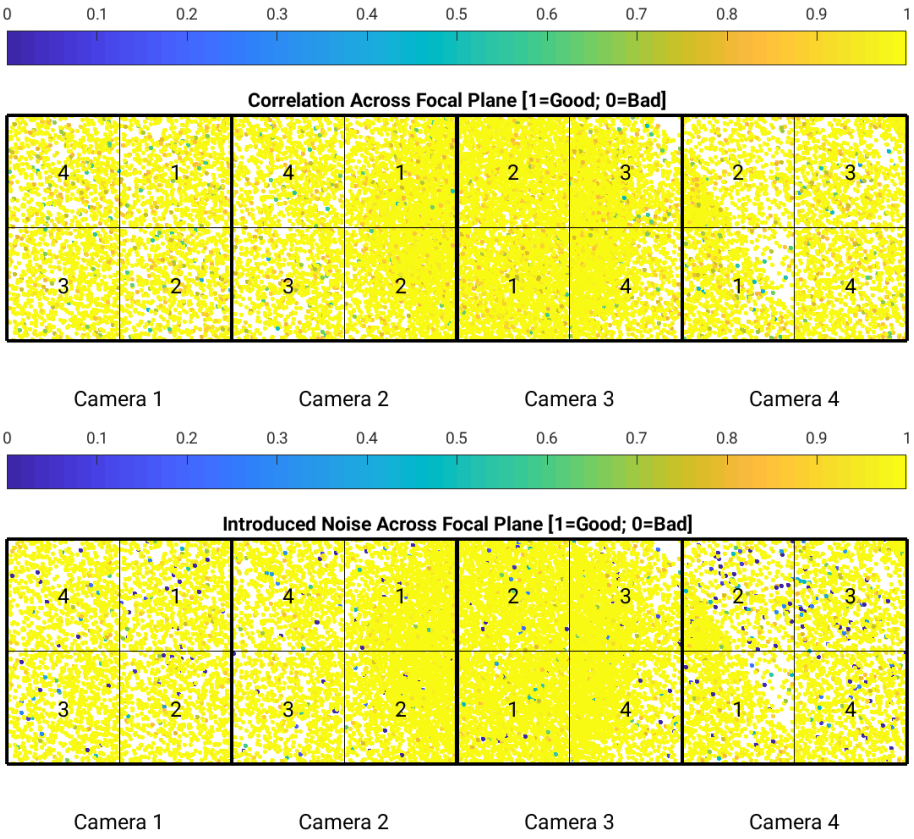

Figure 5: PDC residual correlation goodness metric (top panel) and PDC introduced noise goodness metric (bottom panel). The metric values are shown on a focal plane map indicating the camera and CCD location of each target. The correlation goodness metric is calibrated such that a value greater than 0.8 means there is less than 10% mean absolute correlation between the target under study and all other targets on the CCD. The introduced noise metric is calibrated such that a value greater than 0.8 means the power in broad-band introduced noise is below the level of uncertainties in the flux values.

3.2 Fireflies and Fireworks

Table 2 lists all firefly and fireworks events for Sector 24. These phenomena are small, spatially extended, comet-like features in the images—created by sunlit particles in the camera FOV—that may appear one or two at a time (fireflies) or in large groups (fireworks). See the TESS Instrument Handbook for a more complete description.

4 Pipeline Performance and Results

4.1 Light Curves and Photometric Precision

Figure 5 gives the PDC goodness metrics for residual correlation and introduced noise on a scale between 0 (bad) and 1 (good). The performance of PDC is very good and generally uniform over most of the field of view. Figure 6 shows the achieved Combined Differential

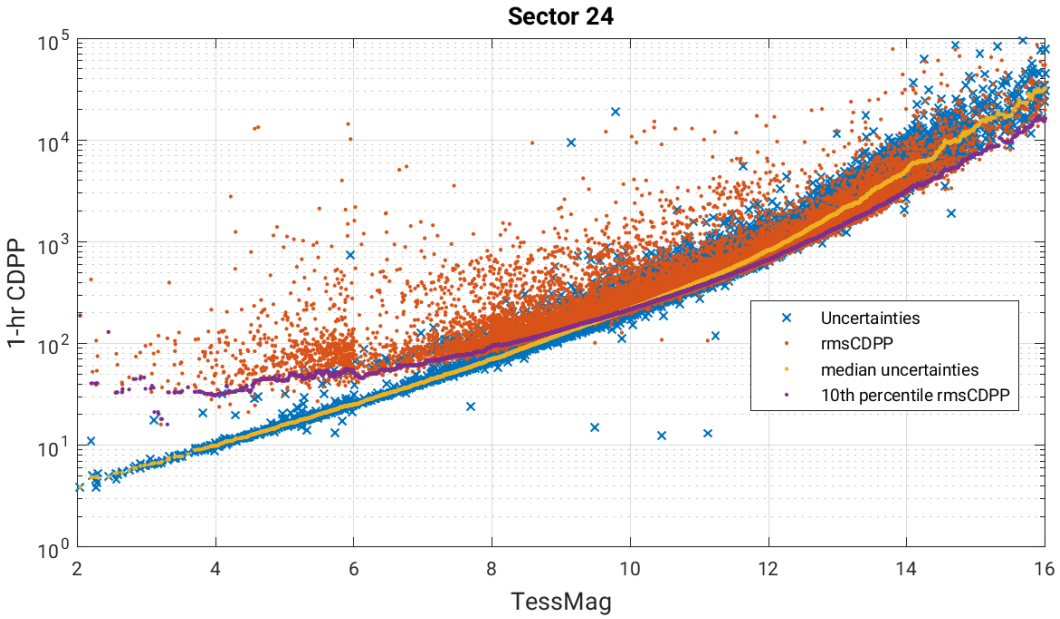

Figure 6: 1-hour CDPP. The red points are the RMS CDPP measurements for the 19997 light curves from Sector 24 plotted as a function of TESS magnitude. The blue x's are the uncertainties, scaled to 1-hour timescale. The purple curve is a moving 10th percentile of the RMS CDPP measurements, and the gold curve is a moving median of the 1-hr uncertainties.

Table 2: Sector Fireflies and Fireworks

FFI Start	FFI End	Cameras	Description
2020107072919	2020107075919	2, 3	Fireflies
2020112165919	2020112172919	2	Firefly
2020120235919	2020121002919	1, 2, 3, 4	Firefly
2020125105919	2020125115919	3	Firefly

Photometric Precision (CDPP) at 1-hour timescales for all targets.

4.2 Transit Search and Data Validation

In Sector 24, the light curves of 19997 targets were subjected to the transit search in TPS. Of these, Threshold Crossing Events (TCEs) at the 7.1 σ level were generated for 956 targets.

We employed an iterative method when conducting the Sector 24 transit search. The top panel of Figure 7 shows the number of TCEs at a given cadence that exhibit a transit signal from an initial run of TPS. The 3-σ peaks were used to define deemphasis weights for a second run of TPS, the results of which are shown in the bottom panel of Figure 7. The final set of TCEs and the results reported here are based on the second run of TPS. The values of the adopted deemphasis weights are provided in the DV timeseries data products for targets with TCEs.

The top panel of Figure 8 shows the distribution of orbital periods for the final set of

TCEs found in Sector 24. The vertical histogram in the right panel of Figure 8 shows the distribution of transit depths derived from limb-darkened transiting planet model fits for TCEs. The model transit depths range down to the order of 100 ppm, but the bulk of the transit depths are considerably larger.

A search for additional TCEs in potential multiple planet systems was conducted in DV through calls to TPS. A total of 1491 TCEs were ultimately identified in the SPOC pipeline on 956 unique target stars. This is a somewhat larger number of TCEs compared to previous sectors, and is largely driven by background binary systems associated with the significant crowding in Camera 4 (the field-of-view of Camera 4 includes the Galactic plane).

Table 3 provides a breakdown of the number of TCEs by target. Note that targets with large numbers of TCEs are likely to include false positives.

Table 3: Sector 24 TCE Numbers

Number of TCEs	Number of Targets	Total TCEs
1	545	545
2	314	628
3	78	234
4	12	48
5	6	30
6	1	6
–	956	1491

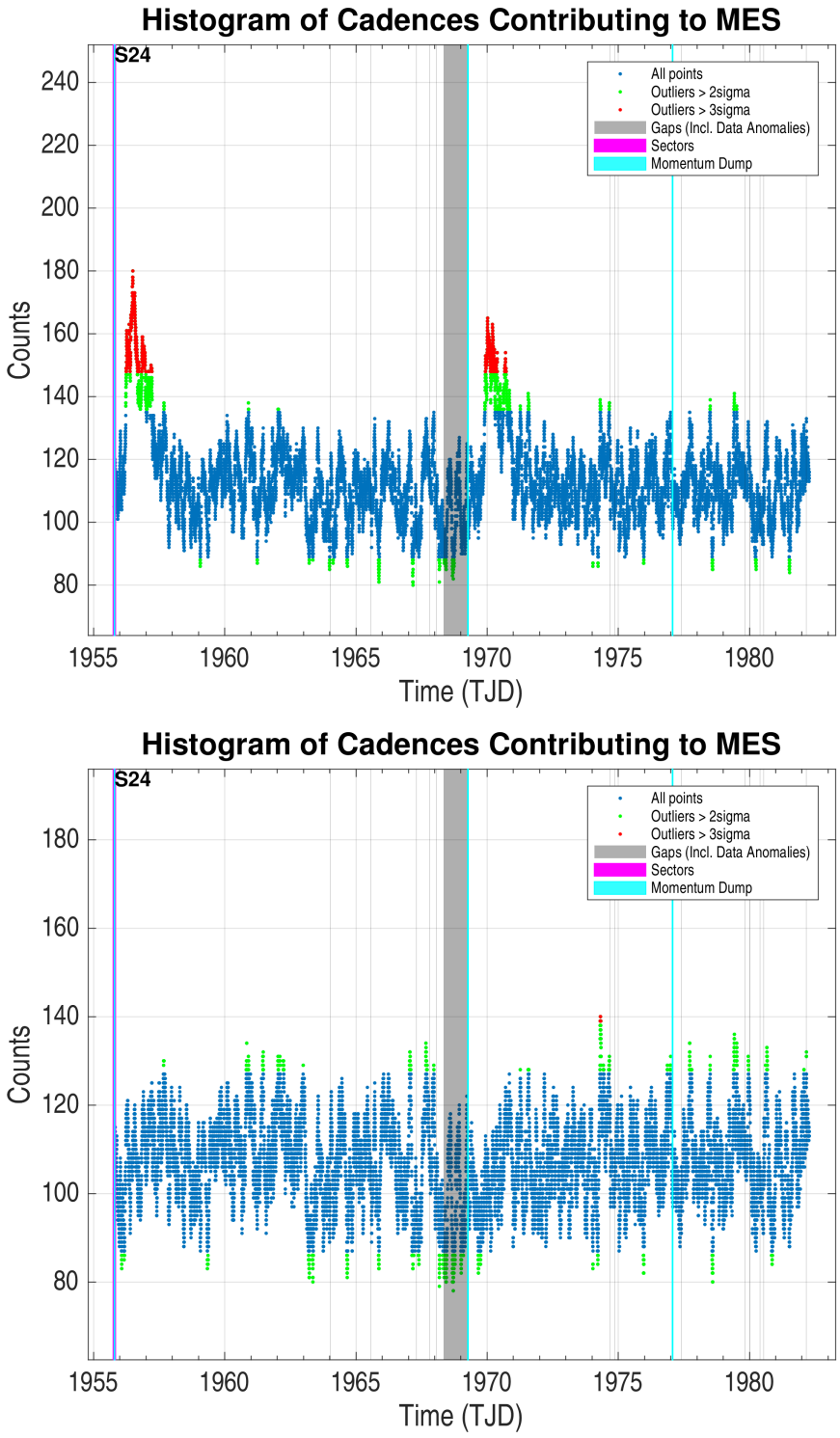

Figure 7: Top panel: Number of TCEs at a given cadence exhibiting a transit signal, based on an initial run of TPS. Any isolated peaks are caused by single events that result in spurious TCEs. These peaks were used to define deemphasis weights that suppress problematic epochs for the transit detection statistics in a second iteration of TPS. Bottom panel: Results from the second run of TPS.

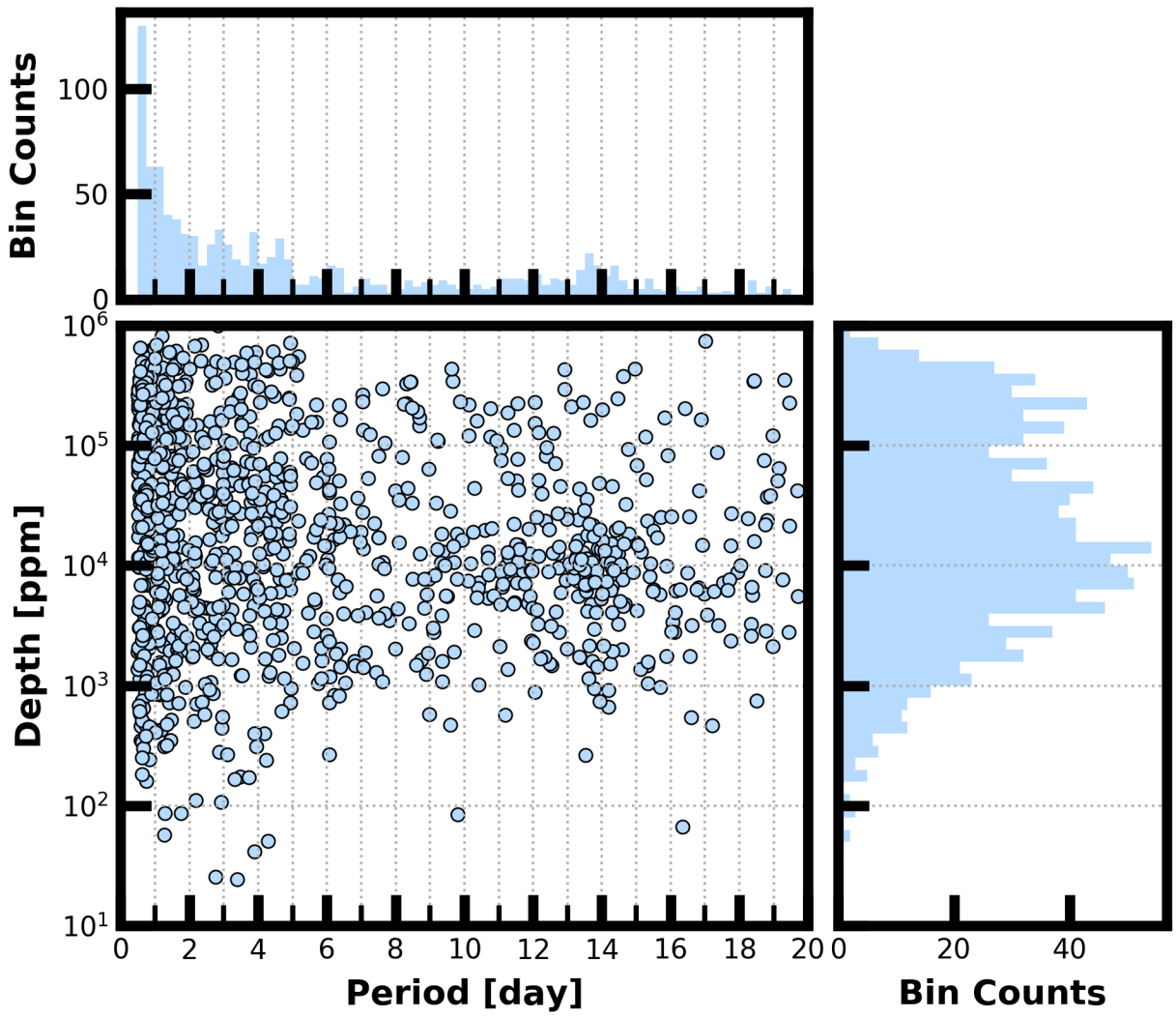

Figure 8: Lower Left Panel: Transit depth as a function of orbital period for the 1491 TCEs identified for the Sector 24 search. For enhanced visibility of long period detections, TCEs with orbital period <0.5 days are not shown. Reported depth comes from the DV limb-darkened transit fit depth when available, and the DV trapezoid model fit depth when not available. Top Panel: Orbital period distribution of the TCEs shown in the lower left panel. Right Panel: Transit depth distribution for the TCEs shown in the lower left panel.

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Acronyms and Abbreviation List

BTJD Barycentric-corrected TESS Julian Date

CAL Calibration Pipeline Module

CBV Cotrending Basis Vector

CCD Charge Coupled Device

CDPP Combined Differential Photometric Precision

COA Compute Optimal Aperture Pipeline Module

CSCI Computer Software Configuration Item

CTE Charge Transfer Efficiency

Dec Declination

DR Data Release

DV Data Validation Pipeline Module

DVA Differential Velocity Aberration

FFI Full Frame Image

FIN FFI Index Number

FITS Flexible Image Transport System

FOV Field of View

FPG Focal Plane Geometry model

KDPH Kepler Data Processing Handbook

KIH Kepler Instrument Handbook

KOI Kepler Object of Interest

MAD Median Absolute Deviation

MAP Maximum A Posteriori

MAST Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes

MES Multiple Event Statistic

NAS NASA Advanced Supercomputing Division

PA Photometric Analysis Pipeline Module

PDC Pre-Search Data Conditioning Pipeline Module

PDC-MAP Pre-Search Data Conditioning Maximum A Posteriori algorithm

PDC-msMAP Pre-Search Data Conditioning Multiscale Maximum A Posteriori algorithm

PDF Portable Document Format

POC Payload Operations Center

POU Propagation of Uncertainties

ppm Parts-per-million

PRF Pixel Response Function

RA Right Ascension

RMS Root Mean Square

SAP Simple Aperture Photometry

SDPDD Science Data Products Description Document

SNR Signal-to-Noise Ratio

SPOC Science Processing Operations Center

SVD Singular Value Decomposition

TCE Threshold Crossing Event

TESS Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite

TIC TESS Input Catalog

TIH TESS Instrument Handbook

TJD TESS Julian Date

TOI TESS Object of Interest

TPS Transiting Planet Search Pipeline Module

UTC Coordinated Universal Time

WCS World Coordinate System

XML Extensible Markup Language