



# **TESS Data Release Notes:**

## **Sector 38, DR55**

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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 \(SDPDD\)](#)<sup>1</sup>. 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, 2020](#)).<sup>2</sup> 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/>

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<sup>1</sup><https://archive.stsci.edu/missions/tess/doc/EXP-TESS-ARC-ICD-TM-0014-Rev-F.pdf>

<sup>2</sup><https://archive.stsci.edu/kepler/manuals/KSCI-19081-003-KDPH.pdf>

# 1 Observations

TESS Sector 38 observations include physical orbits 83 and 84 of the spacecraft around the Earth. Data collection was paused for 0.96 days between the orbits to download data. In total, there are 25.74 days of science data collected in Sector 38.

Table 1: Sector 38 Observation times

	UTC	TJD <sup>a</sup>	Cadence #
Orbit 83 start	2021-04-29 08:21:04	2333.84945	796604
Orbit 83 end	2021-05-11 19:57:04	2346.33278	805592
Orbit 84 start	2021-05-12 19:01:04	2347.29389	806284
Orbit 84 end	2021-05-26 01:11:03	2360.55083	815829

<sup>a</sup> TJD = TESS JD = JD - 2,457,000.0

The spacecraft was pointing at RA (J2000): 195.7176°; Dec (J2000): −67.8307°; Roll: 139.3519°. See the TESS project [Sector 38 observation page](#)<sup>3</sup> for the coordinates of the spacecraft pointing and center field-of-view of each camera. Fields-of-view for each camera can be found at the TESS Guest Investigator Office [observations status page](#).<sup>4</sup> The detailed target list for both 2-minute and 20-second data, as well as the Guest Investigator target lists, can be found at the [Sector 38 observation page](#) and the [observations status page](#).

## 1.1 Update to the TIC

The TESS Input Catalog (TIC) was updated to v8.2 for data processing in Sector 38. The TIC v8.2 update identifies newly discovered **ARTIFACT** and **DUPLICATE** sources that were not flagged in the v8.0/8.1 revisions of the TIC. TIC stars labeled **ARTIFACT** are not stars, but rather non-astrophysical objects caused by diffraction spikes, image ghosting, bleed trails, or other similar phenomena. A TIC star labeled **DUPLICATE** is effectively an exact copy of of another TIC star: the other TIC star is called the “parent” and is considered the ‘official’ entry for that star. The detailed description of these labels can be found in the MAST archives.

The Sector 38 targets were selected using TIC v8.1 and processed with TIC v8.2. As a result, several dozen targets identified in TIC v8.2 as **DUPLICATE** or **ARTIFACT** were processed. For newly flagged **ARTIFACT** sources, target pixel files are produced, but no light curves or DV products are produced. For **DUPLICATE** sources, if the “parent” TIC ID was not also a target, target pixel files, light curves, and DV products are produced using the **DUPLICATE** TIC ID in the file name. If the “parent” was also observed, the full set of target pixel files, light curves, and DV products are produced for the parent, but only target pixel files are produced for the **DUPLICATE**. These target pixel files do not include a background correction.

In total, there were 9 **ARTIFACT** and 56 **DUPLICATE** sources selected in Sector 38 with no light curves or DV products. A table of the TIC IDs without light curves, their flags, and

<sup>3</sup><https://tess.mit.edu/observations/sector-38>

<sup>4</sup><https://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/tess/status.html>

parent star TIC IDs (for which light curves exist) is given in Appendix A as well as in a supplemental file<sup>5</sup>.

## 1.2 Notes on Individual Targets

For the 20-second cadence data, one bright star (471011144) with a large pixel stamp was not processed in the photometric pipeline. For the 2-minute cadence data, 13 bright stars ( $T_{\text{mag}} \lesssim 1.8$ ) with large pixel stamps were not processed in the photometric pipeline. Target pixel files with original and calibrated pixel data are provided, but no light curves were produced. Note that the TPF files do not include a background correction for stars without light curves. Furthermore, cosmic rays are not identified in pixel data for 20-second target stars without light curves. The affected TIC IDs of the 2-minute data are 272314138, 255559489, 399646462, 471011144, 471011145, 38877693, 128116539, 440960978, 179323446, 262834160, 314113726, 328329822, 290794924.

Six target stars (404768847, 300015238, 261862960, 177635952, 261862960, 300015238) 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.

Three stars (255560740, 272482277, 450568600) are close enough to the bleed trail from a brighter star that the photometry is likely unreliable.

Two targets (336343562, 440953551) have disjoint apertures in order to avoid bleed trails from brighter stars and likely have unreliable photometry.

## 1.3 Spacecraft Pointing and Momentum dumps

Camera 4 alone was used for guiding in orbit 83 of Sector 38. Both Cameras 1 and 4 were used for guiding in orbit 84. A single momentum dump was performed halfway through each orbit. Figure 1 summarizes the pointing performance over the course of the sector based on Fine Pointing telemetry.

## 1.4 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 38, there is scattered light for most of both orbits.

# 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.

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<sup>5</sup>[https://archive.stsci.edu/missions/tess/catalogs/targetinfo/tess\\_sector\\_38\\_drn55\\_artdupnolc\\_v01.txt](https://archive.stsci.edu/missions/tess/catalogs/targetinfo/tess_sector_38_drn55_artdupnolc_v01.txt)

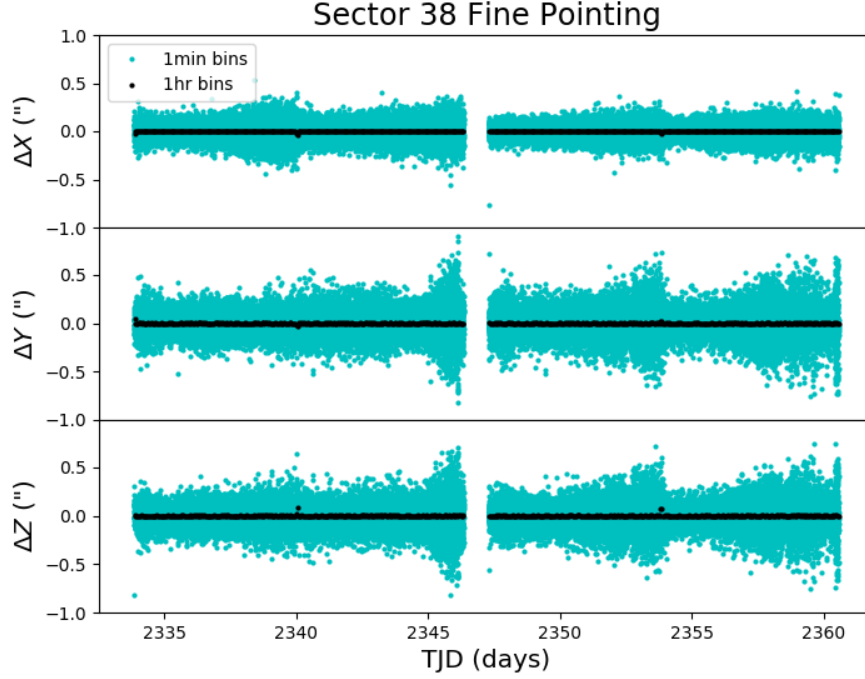


Figure 1: The delta-quaternions from each camera have been converted to spacecraft frame, binned to 1 minute and 1 hour, and averaged across cameras. Long-term trends (such as those caused by differential velocity aberration) have also been removed. The  $\Delta X/\Delta Y$  directions represent offsets along the the detectors' rows/columns, while the  $\Delta Z$  direction represents spacecraft roll.

The following flags were not used in Sector 38: bits 1, 2, and 9 (Attitude Tweak, Safe Mode, and Discontinuity).

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.

The 20-second data mode includes cadences marked with bit 7 and 11 (Cosmic Ray in Optimal Aperture and Cosmic Ray in Collateral Pixel). These flags indicate cadences affected by cosmic rays that are removed by the pipeline, and can be found in both the TPF and LC files. The data provided in the archive products are corrected for cosmic rays, and a FITS table extension in the TPF and Collateral Pixel File details the cosmic rays identified and removed by the pipeline at the pixel level.

Cadences marked with bit 8 (Manual Exclude) are ignored by PDC, TPS, and DV for cotrending and transit searches. In Sector 38, these cadences were identified using spacecraft telemetry from the fine pointing system. All cadences with pointing excursions  $>7$  arcsec (0.3 pixel) were flagged for manual exclude. Figure 4 also shows an assessment of the performance

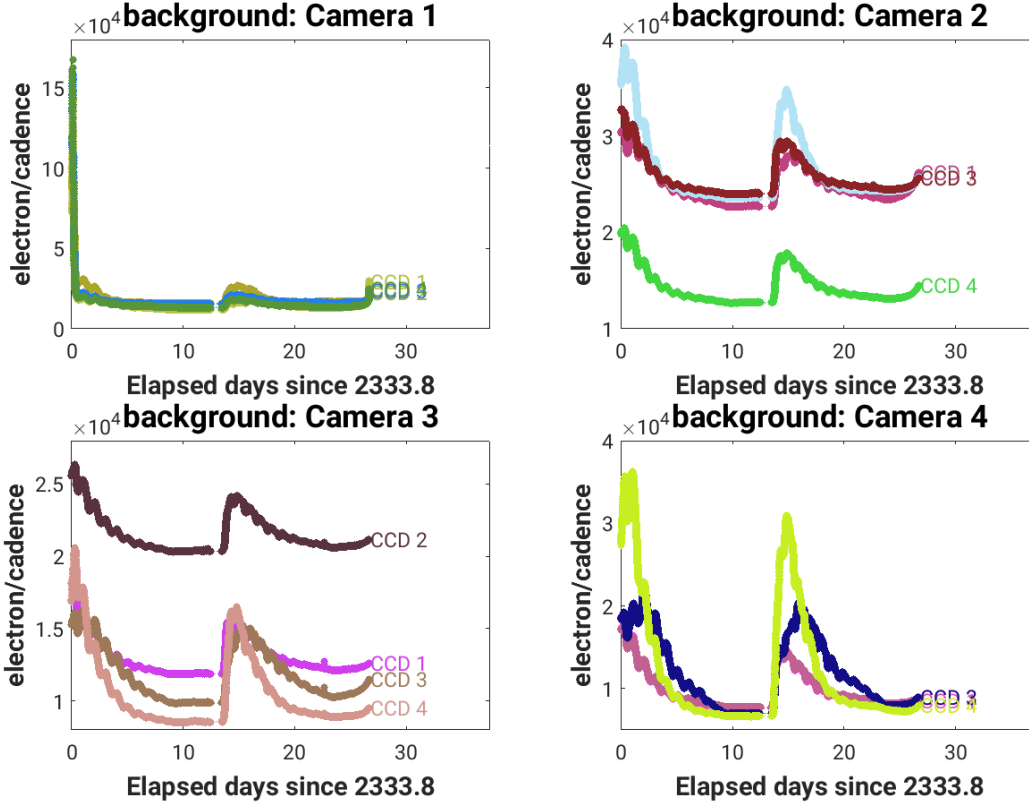


Figure 2: Median background flux across all targets on a given CCD in each camera. The changes are caused by variations in the orientation and distance of the Earth and Moon.

of the cotrending based on the final set of manual excludes.

The predicted stray light flag (bit 12, value 2048) is 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.

The predicted stray light flag (bit 12) is disabled for the 2-minute and 20-second data products. The scattered light exclude flag (bit 13, value 4096) identifies cadences at which individual targets are affected by scattered light

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 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, 8, 12, and 15 (Coarse Point, Reaction Wheel Desaturation Events, Manual Exclude, Straylight, and Bad Calibration Exclude). Only one FFI is affected by each momentum dump. There are no WCS coordinates for FFIs that



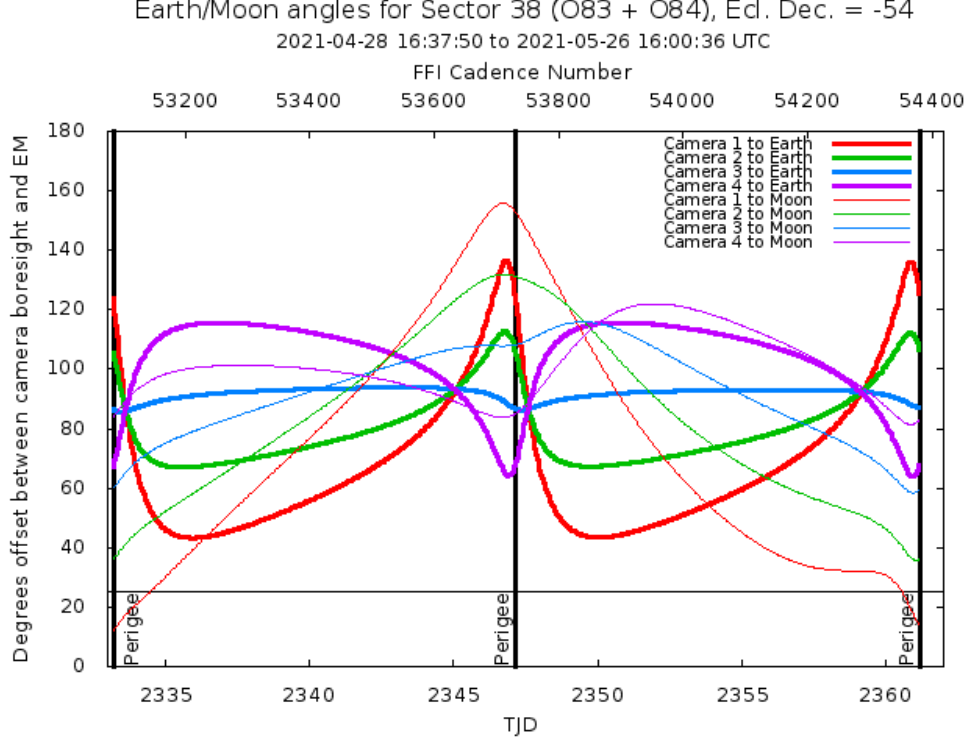


Figure 3: Angle between the four camera boresights and the Earth/Moon as a function of time. When the Earth is within  $\sim 25^\circ$  of a camera's boresight, transiting planet searches may be compromised by high levels of scattered light. At larger angles, up to  $\sim 35^\circ$ , scattered light 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  $\sim 35^\circ$ . 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.

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 bled into the upper serial register resulting in an overestimated smear correction.

- Camera 1, Ccd 2, Column 245 - Star Alpha Lupi
- Camera 2, Ccd 2, Column 942 - Star Alpha Centauri
- Camera 4, Ccd 1, Column 1862 - Star HD 39475

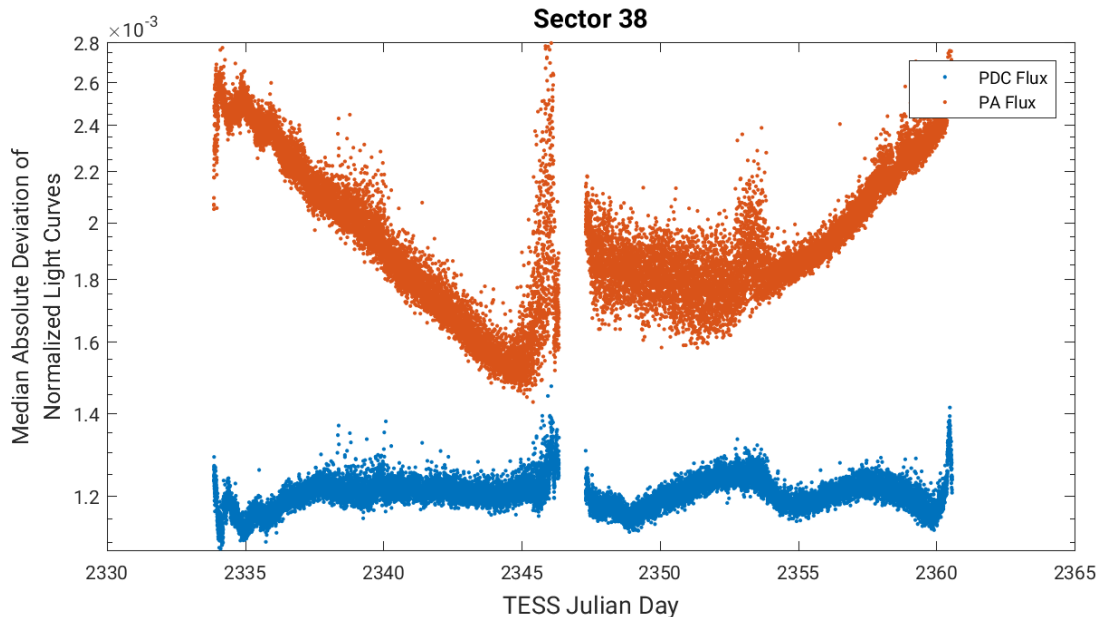


Figure 4: Median absolute deviation (MAD) for the two-minute cadence data from Sector 38, showing the performance of the cotrending after identifying Manual Exclude data quality flags. The MAD is calculated in each cadence across stars with flux variations less than 1% for both the PA (red) and PDC (blue) 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.

- Camera 4, Ccd 2, Column 1180 - Star Alpha Pictoris
- Camera 4, Ccd 3, Column 1012 - Star HD 49076
- Camera 4, Ccd 3, Column 1510 - Star HD 45796
- Camera 4, Ccd 4, Column 157 - Star Epsilon Doradus
- Camera 4, Ccd 4, Column 1996 - Star HD 25938

### 3.2 Fireflies and Fireworks

Table 2 lists all firefly and fireworks events for Sector 38. 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.

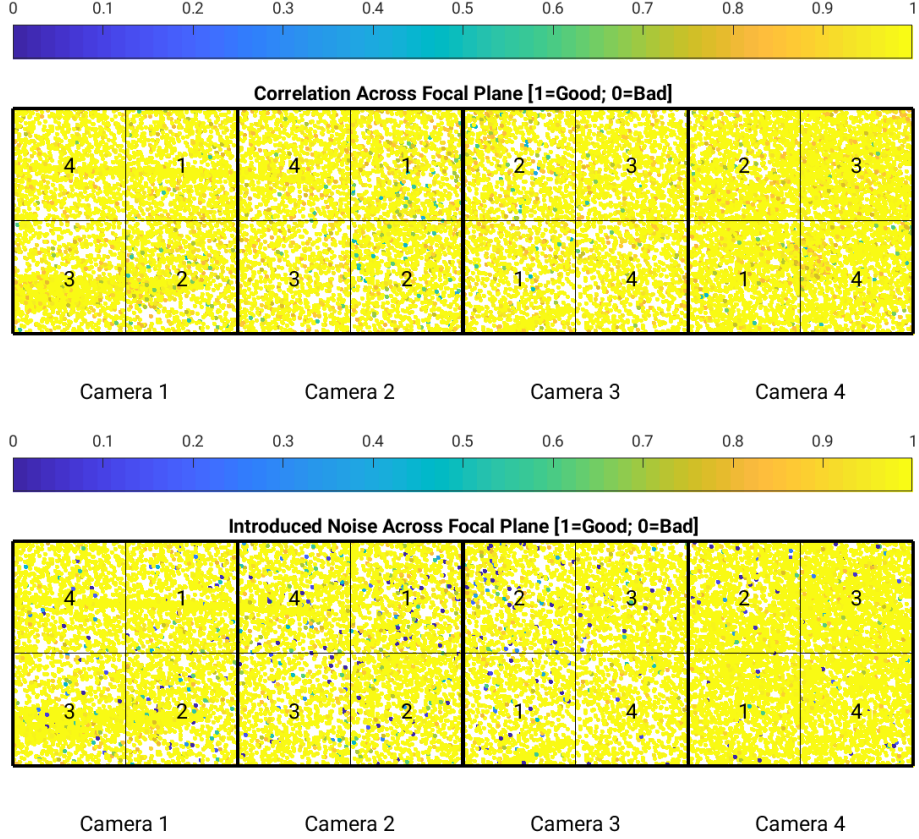


Figure 5: PDC residual correlation goodness metric (top panel) and PDC introduced noise goodness metric (bottom panel) for the two-minute cadence data. The metric values are shown on a focal plane map indicating the camera and CCD location of each target. The correlation goodness metric is calibrated 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.

## 4 Pipeline Performance and Results

### 4.1 Light Curves and Photometric Precision

Figure 5 gives the PDC goodness metrics for the two-minute cadence data, with residual correlation goodness and introduced noise goodness shown 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 Photometric Precision (CDPP) at 1-hour timescales for all two-minute targets.

### 4.2 Transit Search and Data Validation

In Sector 38, the two-minute light curves of 19922 targets were subjected to the transit search in TPS. Of these, Threshold Crossing Events (TCEs) at the  $7.1\sigma$  level were generated for

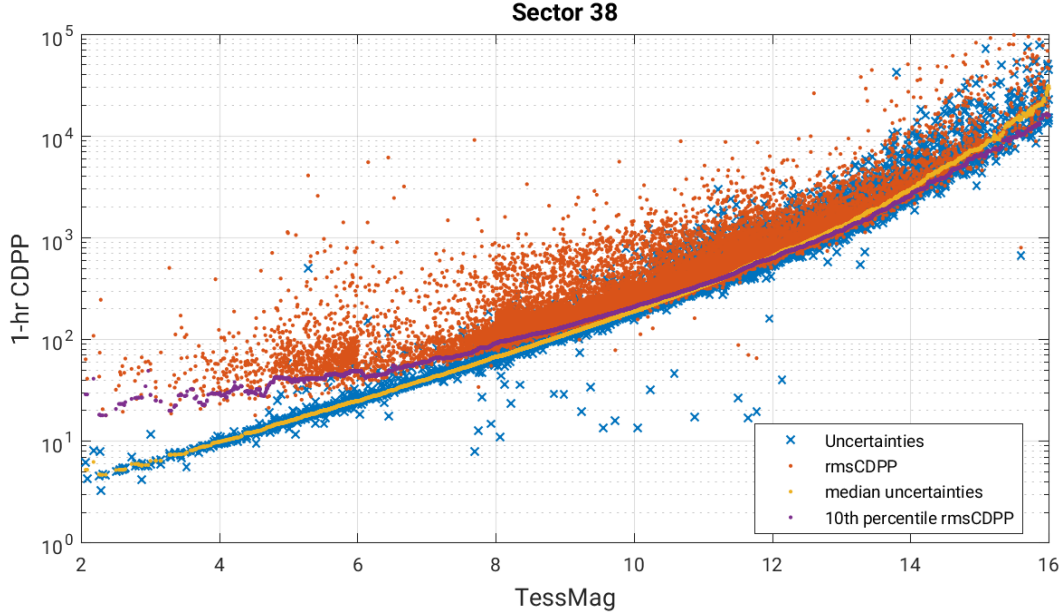


Figure 6: 1-hour CDPP. The red points are the RMS CDPP measurements for the 19922 light curves from Sector 38 plotted as a function of TESS magnitude. The blue x’s are the uncertainties, scaled to 1-hour timescale. The purple curve is a moving 10th percentile of the RMS CDPP measurements, and the gold curve is a moving median of the 1-hr uncertainties.

Table 2: Sector Fireflies and Fireworks

FFI Start	FFI End	Cameras	Description
2021130125904	2021130134904	1	Fireflies
2021132200904	2021132201904	1	Firefly
2021133003904	2021133005904	1,2	Fireworks
2021139214904	2021139215904	3	Firefly
2021141234904	2021141235904	1,2,3,4	Fireworks

1569 targets.

We employed an iterative method when conducting the Sector 38 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  $3\text{-}\sigma$  peaks were used to define de-emphasis 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 de-emphasis 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 38. 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 2287 TCEs were ultimately identified in the SPOC pipeline on 1569 unique target stars. 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 38 TCE Numbers

Number of TCEs	Number of Targets	Total TCEs
1	1027	1027
2	418	836
3	88	264
4	24	96
5	8	40
6	4	24
–	1569	2287

## Appendix A

The following table lists TIC IDs of Sector 38 targets that were flagged as **ARTIFACT** or **DUPLICATE** in v8.2 of the TIC. For all **DUPLICATE** sources, the parent star was observed and data products for the parent should be used. For the tabulated targets, target pixel files (without background subtraction) are available, but light curves and DV products are not available.

Table 4: Sector 38 **ARTIFACT** and **DUPLICATE** Sources Without Light Curves

TIC ID	Disposition	Parent TIC ID
438816209	<b>ARTIFACT</b>	None
311838201	<b>ARTIFACT</b>	None
454542043	<b>ARTIFACT</b>	None
307435285	<b>ARTIFACT</b>	None
277025286	<b>ARTIFACT</b>	None
272429505	<b>ARTIFACT</b>	None
349765573	<b>ARTIFACT</b>	None
350345734	<b>ARTIFACT</b>	None
382099937	<b>ARTIFACT</b>	None
1052669346	<b>DUPLICATE</b>	159197295
1055540348	<b>DUPLICATE</b>	365714263
1174374790	<b>DUPLICATE</b>	160059455
1153701123	<b>DUPLICATE</b>	335452175
1154626342	<b>DUPLICATE</b>	307525994
1172055696	<b>DUPLICATE</b>	442615457
1175170993	<b>DUPLICATE</b>	7958125

1175735713	DUPLICATE	464680263
1054773682	DUPLICATE	107615807
1055641614	DUPLICATE	60868905
1176007927	DUPLICATE	48228593
1176133308	DUPLICATE	46937
1176537766	DUPLICATE	146816
976942547	DUPLICATE	450827144
1012412298	DUPLICATE	342721199
1121747911	DUPLICATE	258708320
1121965222	DUPLICATE	259424304
1042640024	DUPLICATE	446356458
1045658573	DUPLICATE	208791781
1047826265	DUPLICATE	419943828
1049425449	DUPLICATE	329296696
954686803	DUPLICATE	357468855
955210093	DUPLICATE	360946710
957424540	DUPLICATE	335001650
1003457120	DUPLICATE	418616237
1003843902	DUPLICATE	418385999
1005005237	DUPLICATE	396693868
1104778329	DUPLICATE	402726344
905806736	DUPLICATE	399195694
906129712	DUPLICATE	399149882
906427792	DUPLICATE	392244914
907007356	DUPLICATE	295570470
910280575	DUPLICATE	280514622
911984593	DUPLICATE	390760531
917004504	DUPLICATE	305892425
958526150	DUPLICATE	405081305
976001213	DUPLICATE	308633483
843245247	DUPLICATE	452604247
843283157	DUPLICATE	452591868
844588625	DUPLICATE	372313154
846550604	DUPLICATE	362937274
847861543	DUPLICATE	378035923
724107963	DUPLICATE	392013575
842776931	DUPLICATE	388238508
904264399	DUPLICATE	395011859
765325999	DUPLICATE	349376367
765419969	DUPLICATE	167552090
765444982	DUPLICATE	349154302
765561912	DUPLICATE	349683698
804804891	DUPLICATE	272429506
734548585	DUPLICATE	350744311
737163462	DUPLICATE	150357613

737165368	DUPLICATE	150391195
650429704	DUPLICATE	237923291
684767046	DUPLICATE	55745232
733027940	DUPLICATE	149248196

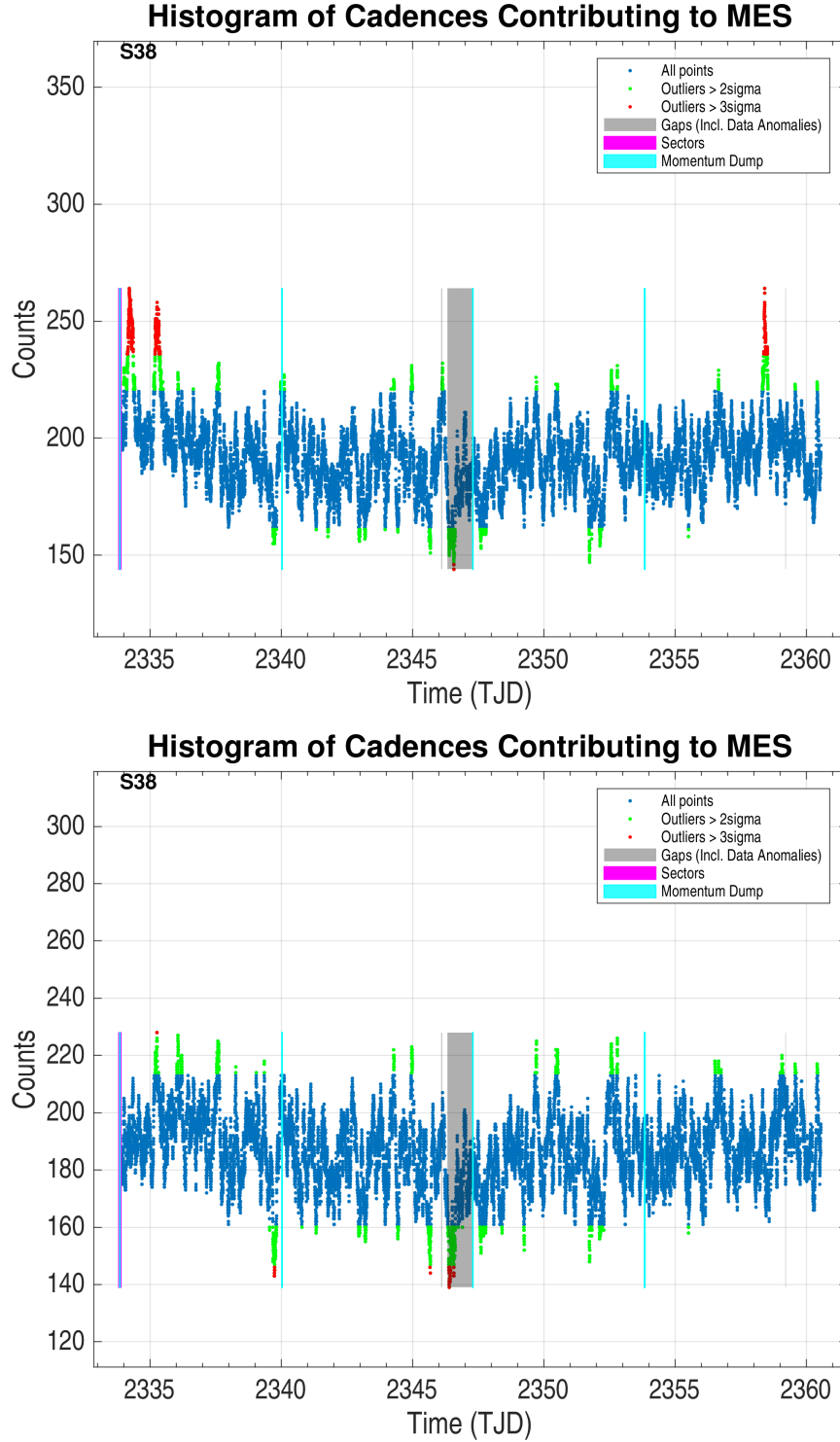


Figure 7: Top panel: Number of TCEs at a given cadence exhibiting a transit signal, based on an initial run of TPS. Any isolated peaks are caused by single events that result in spurious TCEs. These peaks were used to define de-emphasis weights that suppress problematic epochs for the transit detection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



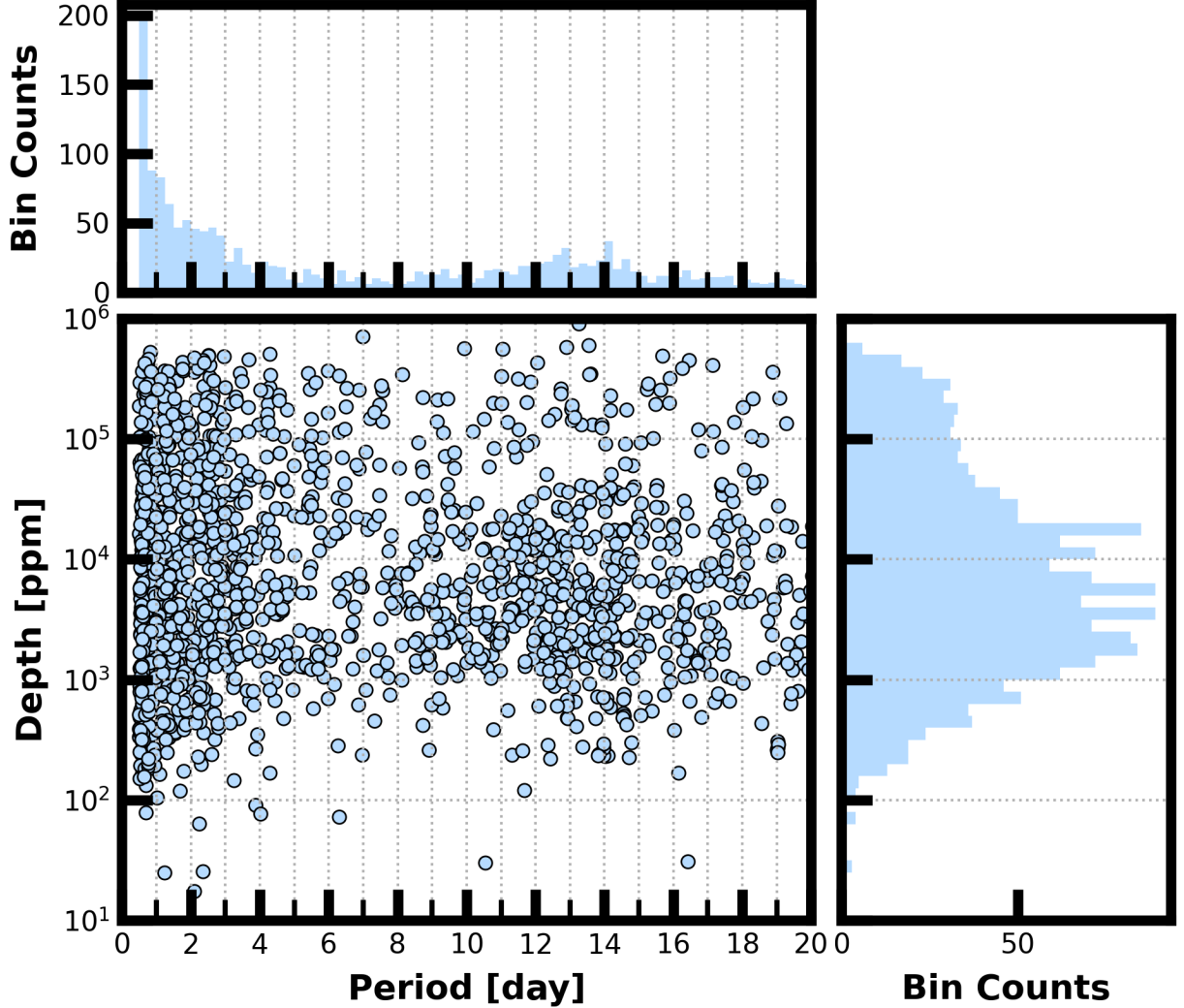


Figure 8: Lower Left Panel: Transit depth as a function of orbital period for the 2287 TCEs identified for the Sector 38 search. For enhanced visibility of long period detections, TCEs with orbital period  $< 0.5$  days are not shown. Reported depth comes from the DV limb-darkened transit fit depth when 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