

Hubble detects a transiting planet

If an extrasolar planet's orbit around a star is tilted nearly edge-on to Earth, the planet will periodically pass in front of its star. This event is called a transit. Hubble cannot see the planet directly but can measure a slight drop in the star's brightness. The amount of dimming and length of the transit yield clues that it really is a planetary transit, rather than being a companion star. The planetary-transit observing technique allows Hubble to search for planets far across the galaxy.

