THE K2-ESPRINT PROJECT IV. A HOT JUPITER IN A PROGRADE ORBIT WITH A POSSIBLE STELLAR COMPANION

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THE K2-ESPRINT PROJECT IV. A HOT JUPITER IN A PROGRADE ORBIT WITH A POSSIBLE STELLAR COMPANION

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ABSTRACT

We report on the detection and early characterization of a hot Jupiter in a three-day orbit around K2-34 (EPIC 212110888), a metal-rich F-type star located in the K2 Cycle 5 field. Our follow-up campaign involves precise radial velocity (RV) measurements and high-contrast imaging using multiple facilities. The absence of a bright nearby source in our high-contrast data suggests that the transit-like signals are not due to light variations from such a companion star. Our intensive RV measurements show that K2-34b (EPIC 212110888b) has a mass of 1.773 ± 0.086M_J, confirming its status as a planet. We also detect the Rossiter–McLaughlin effect for K2-34b and show that the system has a good spin–orbit alignment (λ = −1°10). High-contrast images obtained by the HiCIAO camera on the Subaru 8.2 m telescope reveal a faint companion candidate (CC) (2m_H = 6.19 ± 0.11 mag) at a separation of 0.36. Follow-up observations are needed to confirm that the CC is physically associated with K2-34. K2-34b appears to be an example of a typical “hot Jupiter,” albeit one which can be precisely characterized using a combination of K2 photometry and ground-based follow-up.

Key words: planets and satellites: detection – stars: individual (EPIC 212110888, K2-34) – techniques: photometric – techniques: radial velocities – techniques: spectroscopic

1. INTRODUCTION

Hot Jupiters have been subjected to intensive studies of their orbits and atmospheres. When one imagines a “typical” hot Jupiter, one would think of a jovian planet orbiting a relatively metal-rich solar-type star within three days. Many other characteristics of hot Jupiters have been discussed in the literature, including the inflation of their radii when the insolation from the central stars becomes strong (e.g., Fortney et al. 2010, pp. 397–418). Hot Jupiters, at least around relatively cool stars (T_∗ eff ≲ 6200 K), generally have circular orbits aligned with their host stars’ equators (Winn et al. 2010; Albrecht et al. 2012). Moreover, hot Jupiters are generally isolated up to a certain distance from their host stars (Steffen et al. 2012) with the exception of WASP-47 (Becker et al. 2015), but are likely to have some “friend(s)” at longer orbital separations. These friends are outer planetary and/or stellar companions, and have been revealed by long-term RV monitoring and high-contrast imaging campaigns (e.g., Knutson et al. 2014; Neveu Van Malle et al. 2015; Ngo et al. 2015). However, such intensive studies have not settled the serious issues of both the origin of hot Jupiters and their properties, and we have not reached a consensus on the formation and evolution of hot Jupiters.

The Kepler satellite’s second mission, K2, has provided new opportunities to search and characterize transiting planets including hot Jupiters. K2 has already discovered many outstanding systems including possibly rocky planets around cool dwarfs (Crossfield et al. 2015; Petigura et al. 2015) and a disintegrating minor planet around a white dwarf (Vanderburg et al. 2015). To find and characterize the unique planetary systems detected by K2, we initiated the new collaboration Equipo de Seguimiento de Planetas Rocosos Interpretando sus Transitos (ESPRINT), which has already confirmed/validated a disintegrating rocky planet (ESPRINT I: Sanchis-Ojeda et al. 2015), small planets around solar-type stars (ESPRINT II; Van Eylen et al. 2016), and a super-Earth/mini-Neptune around a mid-M dwarf, for which intensive follow-up studies are expected (ESPRINT III; Hirano et al. 2016).

In this paper, we report the discovery and early characterization of a hot Jupiter, detected by our pipeline applied to the K2 Cycle 5 field stars. Our target, K2-34 (EPIC 212110888), is an F-type star with an effective temperature of 6200 K, as inferred from its colors. The top part of Table 1 summarizes the properties of K2-34 as collected from the SDSS and 2MASS.

15 NASA Sagan Fellow.
image of K2-34 from the MAST website. The production of detrended K2 light curves by our collaboration was described in detail in the ESPRINT I paper (Sanchis-Ojeda et al. 2015). We then searched the light curves for transiting planet candidates with a box-least-squares routine (Kovács et al. 2002; Jenkins et al. 2010) using the optimal frequency sampling described by Ofir (2014). K2-34 was clearly detected with a signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) of 15.5. A linear ephemeris analysis of the individual transits yielded a best-fit period of 2.995637 ± 0.000011 days and a mid-transit time of $T_{0} = 2457141.35116 ± 0.00015$ (BJD). Figure 1 plots the full reduced light curve; the deep transits (marked by red lines) are clearly visible.

2.2. High Dispersion Spectroscopy

2.2.1. TNG/HARPS-N

In order to confirm the planetary nature of K2-34b detected above, we observed K2-34 with TNG/HARPS-N for precise RV measurements on 2015 November 18–25 UT as part of the observing program CAT15B_79. HARPS-N (Cosentino et al. 2012) is a fiber-fed, echelle, thermally stable spectrograph in a vacuum, located on TNG at the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory on La Palma, Spain. It covers the visible wavelength range between 383 nm and 693 nm with a resolving power of $R = 115,000$. TNG/HARPS-N RV measurements and their uncertainties were obtained with the G2 cross-correlation mask using the DRS pipeline, which is based on the weighted cross-correlation function (CCF) method (Pepe et al. 2002). Thirteen RV measurements collected during the TNG/HARPS-N run allowed us to confirm the planetary nature of K2-34b, and to designate the target for a spectroscopic transit observation from Mauna Kea on November 27 in order to measure the RM effect of the system. Our TNG/HARPS-N measurements are presented in Table 2.

2.2.2. Subaru/HDS

We also observed K2-34 with Subaru/HDS for precise RV measurements on 2015 November 26–28 UT and 2016 February 2 UT. We employed the standard I2a setup with Image Slicer #2, covering the spectral region between 493–759 nm with $R = 85,000$ (Tajitsu et al. 2012). For the precise RV measurements, we used the iodine (I2) cell and had the stellar light transmit through that cell to imprint the rich absorption lines of I2 in the stellar spectra. On November 27, a spectroscopic transit was visible from Mauna Kea, and we took that opportunity to measure the RM effect of the system, covering the whole transit of K2-34b (~2 hr). On the same night, we obtained the stellar spectrum without the I2 cell for a template in the RV analysis as well as for the detailed spectroscopic characterization of K2-34. During twilight, we also obtained a flat-lamp spectrum transmitted through the I2 cell so that we could estimate the instrumental profile (IP) of HDS on that observing night. During the November run, we had some clouds throughout the week on Mauna Kea, and the typical photon counts of the raw spectra were about half of what we had initially expected.

We reduced the raw data in a standard manner using the IRAF package to extract the wavelength-calibrated, one-dimensional (1D) spectra. The S/N of the 1D spectra was typically 60 per pixel. We then input the I2-in spectra into the RV pipeline to extract the relative RV values with respect to

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<td>$T_{\text{eff}}$ (K)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>log $g$ (dex)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$\xi$ (km s$^{-1}$)</td>
<td>0.15 ± 0.04</td>
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<td>$V \sin I$ (km s$^{-1}$)</td>
<td>5.65 ± 0.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>$\zeta_{\text{K}}$ (km s$^{-1}$)</td>
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(Spectroscopic Parameters)

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<tr>
<td>$R_{\star}$ (R$_{\odot}$)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$\rho_{\star}$ ($\rho_{\odot}$)</td>
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(Derived Parameters by $Y^2$ Isochrone)
the I₂-out template spectrum. The RV analysis for Subaru/HDS is described in detail in Sato et al. (2002, 2012). The resulting RV values are listed in Table 3 along with their uncertainties.

We measured the equivalent widths for the Fe I and Fe II lines of the I₂-out template spectrum, making it possible to estimate the atmospheric parameters of K2-34. As described in Takeda et al. (2002, 2005), we estimated the stellar effective temperature $T_{\text{eff}}$, surface gravity $\log g$, metallicity [Fe/H], and microturbulent velocity $\xi$ from the excitation and ionization equilibria. We also measured the projected rotational velocity of the star by convolving a theoretically synthesized spectrum with the rotation plus macroturbulence broadening kernel (the radial-tangential model: Gray 2005) and the IP of HDS. Following Hirano et al. (2012, 2014), we adopted the empirical relation by Valenti & Fischer (2005) for the macroturbulent velocity $\zeta_{\text{RT}}$ as

$$\zeta_{\text{RT}} = \left(3.98 + \frac{T_{\text{eff}} - 5770 \, \text{K}}{650 \, \text{K}}\right) \text{km s}^{-1}. \quad (1)$$

The results of these measurements are summarized in the second part of Table 1.

To estimate the physical parameters of the star, we converted the atmospheric parameters into mass and radius (and density), employing two different methods. We first used the empirical relations for stellar mass and radius derived by Torres et al. (2010), which is based on physical parameters measured using detached binaries. We also converted the atmospheric parameters using the Yonsei–Yale (Y²) isochrone model (Yi et al. 2001). For both cases, we ran Monte Carlo simulations to estimate the uncertainties for the physical parameters by randomly generating the sets of atmospheric parameters assuming Gaussian errors. Since the uncertainties for atmospheric parameters listed in Table 1 are all statistical errors, we quadratically added a systematic error of 40 K for the effective temperature to account for the systematics estimated by Bruntt et al. (2010), who compared the luminosity-based effective temperatures with the spectroscopically measured values as presented here. The resulting parameters, including their uncertainties, are summarized in the bottom parts of Table 1. The mass and radius estimated by the two techniques are consistent with each other within 1σ. Since the uncertainties for the empirical mass and radius take into account the systematic errors in the empirical relation, we use those estimates for the rest of this paper.

2.3. High-contrast Imaging

We obtained high-contrast images of K2-34 to search for stellar companions, and to exclude the possibility that the transit signal is a false positive from a background eclipsing binary. Our data, described below, consist of L1 observations with the FastCam camera and AO imaging with HiCIAO on the Subaru Telescope.

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**Table 2**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>BJD</th>
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**Table 3**

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**Note.** Only “Relative RVs” are obtained from the RV analysis with the I₂ cell, and values in this table are different from the absolute RVs listed in Table 2.
2.3.1. TCS/FastCam LI Observations

On 2015 November 15 UT, 20,000 individual frames of K2-34 were collected in the I-band using FastCam (Oscoz et al. 2008) at TCS in the Observatorio del Teide, Tenerife, with a 50 ms exposure time for each frame. FastCam is an optical imager with a low noise EMCCD camera which allows one to obtain speckle-featuring non-saturated images at a fast frame rate (see Labadie et al. 2011).

In order to construct a high resolution, diffraction limited, long-exposure image, the individual frames were bias subtracted, aligned, and co-added using a LI algorithm (see Law et al. 2006). The LI selection is based on the brightest speckle in each frame, which has the highest concentration of energy and represents a diffraction limited image of the source. Those frames with a larger count number at the brightest speckle are the best ones. The percentage of the best frames chosen depends on the natural seeing conditions and the telescope diameter and is based on a trade between a sufficiently high integration time, given by a higher percentage, and a good angular resolution, obtained by co-adding a smaller amount of frames. Figure 2 presents the high resolution image constructed by co-addition of the 30% of the best frames, i.e., with 300 s total exposure time. The combined image achieved \( \Delta m_I = 3.8 - 4.0 \) at 1\(^{\prime}\)0, and no bright companion was detectable in the images within 1\(^{\prime}\)0.

2.3.2. Subaru/HiCIAO Observations

We used AO imaging on the Subaru Telescope to rule out the presence of a background eclipsing binary at smaller angular separations and to search for faint stellar companions. Our observations were conducted on 2015 December 30 UT using the AO system AO188 (Hayano et al. 2010) and the high-contrast near-infrared camera HiCIAO (Suzuki et al. 2010). Using K2-34 as a natural-guide star, we acquired 60 dithered frames with individual integration times of 15 s for a total integration time of 900 s. The point-spread functions (PSFs) of the primary star in these images were intentionally saturated within typically 0\(^{\prime}\)07, to search for faint companions. We also took unsaturated images with a 9.74\% neutral-density filter to verify the star’s position and flux. We obtained images of the globular cluster M5 for astrometric calibration.

2.3.3. HiCIAO Data Reductions

We reduced our HiCIAO data using the ACORNS pipeline, described in Brandt et al. (2013). We removed correlated read noise, masked hot pixels, flat-fielded, and corrected instrumental distortion by comparing images of the globular cluster M5 with archival data from the Hubble Space Telescope. We then aligned the images, but did not apply high-contrast algorithms to suppress diffraction starlight.

We combined all the saturated images to find a faint companion candidate (CC) around K2-34 (see Figure 3). However, the CC appears to be embedded in the bright halo of the primary star’s PSF. To suppress the halo, we applied high-pass filter to each saturated image after image registration. We used a median filter with a width of four PSF FWHM (1 FWHM \( \approx 54 \) mas), subtracting the filtered image from each of our original frames. The lower panel of Figure 3 displays the combined image, on which the CC is clearly detected. We measure a centroid of the CC and estimate the separation and position angles between the CC and primary star to be 361.3 \( \pm \) 3.5 mas and 206\(^{\circ}\)77 \( \pm \) 0\(^{\circ}\)62, respectively. The CC’s position was measured in the frames where the primary star’s PSF is saturated. We corrected the primary star’s centroids using the unsaturated frames whose acquisitions were interspersed through the data-acquisition sequence for the saturated frames.

We performed aperture photometry for the CC on the combined, high-pass-filtered image shown in the bottom panel of Figure 3. It is notable that the high-pass filter decreases the flux of the CC. We estimated and recovered the flux loss (\( \sim 35\% \)) based on the reductions for the images with injected artificial sources. We measure a final, corrected H-band contrast of \( \Delta m_H = 6.19 \pm 0.11 \) mag. This brightness contrast was derived using the primary star’s flux in the unsaturated frames, for which a simultaneous photometry of the primary star and CC is prohibited. Then, the variation of AO correction is attributed to the photometry uncertainty, and we consider that the error term related to this variation is represented by the scatter of the photometry of unsaturated PSFs.

3. GLOBAL ANALYSIS

The high-contrast images by TCS/FastCam (in the I-band) and Subaru/HiCIAO (in the H-band) show no nearby source bright enough to cause a transit-like signal as deep as 0.7\%. A background eclipsing binary, even if it achieved the maximum possible occultation (50\%), would need to be no more than \( \sim 70 \) times (\( \sim 4.6 \) mag) fainter than K2-34. Our observations, combined with SDSS archival images, confirm that no such sources exist between 0\(^{\prime}\)2 and 20\(^{\prime}\). It is still possible that a relatively bright binary companion is present within 0\(^{\prime}\)2 from K2-34, but visual inspection of the HDS spectrum did not show any secondary peak as shown in Figure 4. Along with the fact that the observed RVs clearly show the presence of a planet-sized companion, whose RV variation is synchronous with the predicted phase from the K2 transits, we conclude that the periodic dimming seen in the K2 light curve is associated with a jovian planet orbiting K2-34.

Here, we attempt to simultaneously fit the K2 light curve with the RVs observed by HARPS-N and HDS. The fitting procedure is similar in many aspects to those described in Hirano et al. (2015) and Sato et al. (2015). We use the

Figure 3. HiCIAO $H$-band image of K2-34 showing its CC. Top: combined image before applying a high-pass filter; the stretch is logarithmic. A faint CC can be seen at a projected separation of $0.756$ to the southwest. Bottom: combined image after the high-pass filter; the stretch is linear. The CC is nearly 300 times fainter in the $H$ band than the primary star.

Figure 4. Part of K2-34's spectrum taken by Subaru/HDS. No secondary peak is visible in the spectrum.

where $f_{\text{LC,obs}}^{(i)}$, $v_{\text{HDS,obs}}^{(i)}$, and $v_{\text{HARPS,obs}}^{(i)}$ are $i$th observed K2 flux, HDS RV value, and HARPS RV value, and $\sigma_{\text{LC}}^{(i)}$, $\sigma_{\text{HDS}}^{(i)}$, and $\sigma_{\text{HARPS}}^{(i)}$ are their errors, respectively. To compute the model flux $f_{\text{LC,mod}}^{(i)}$ observed by K2, we integrate the transit model by Ohta et al. (2009) over the cadence of the K2 observation ($\sim 29.4$ minutes).

For the RV model, we adopt the following equations:

$$v_{\text{HARPS,mod}} = K \cos(f + \omega) + \gamma_{\text{HARPS}},$$

$$v_{\text{HDS,mod}} = K \cos(f + \omega) + \gamma_{\text{HDS}},$$

where $K$, $f$, $\omega$, $\gamma_{\text{HDS}}$, and $\gamma_{\text{HARPS}}$ are the RV semi-amplitude, true anomaly, orbital eccentricity, argument of periastron, and RV offsets for the HDS and HARPS data sets, respectively. Since the HDS data set covered a complete transit of K2-34b, we introduce the velocity anomaly term $\Delta v_{\text{RM}}$ due to the RM effect for that data set only. We adopt the analytic formula by Hirano et al. (2011), in which $\Delta v_{\text{RM}}$ is computed in terms of the projected rotational velocity $V \sin \iota$. For other spectroscopic parameters that appear in Equation (16) of Hirano et al. (2011), we assume the Gaussian and Lorentzian widths of $\beta = 2.7 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ and $\gamma = 1.0 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, and the macroturbulent velocity of $\xi_{\text{RT}} = 4.5 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ as in Section 2.2.2. We here neglect the convective blue-shift (Shporer & Brown 2011), since its impact is small enough ($\lesssim 3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ at the most) compared with the internal errors of Subaru/HDS RV data ($\sim 10 \text{ m s}^{-1}$).

Assuming that the likelihood is proportional to $\exp(-\chi^2/2)$, we run a Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) simulation to estimate the global posterior distribution of the fitting parameters. The fitting parameters in our model are orbital period $P$, time of the transit center $T_{c,0}$, scaled semimajor axis $a/R_\star$, transit impact parameter $b$, planet-to-star radius ratio $R_p/R_\star$, and limb-darkening parameters $u_1$ and $u_2$ for the K2 data set, assuming a quadratic law, $e \cos \omega$, $e \sin \omega$, $K$, $V \sin \iota$, the projected obliquity $\lambda$, $\gamma_{\text{HDS}}$, and $\gamma_{\text{HARPS}}$. Among these, $P$, $T_{c,0}$, $a/R_\star$, $b$, $R_p/R_\star$, $e \cos \omega$, $e \sin \omega$, are related to both the light curve and RV data sets, but the others are for RV data only (except the limb-darkening coefficients). Since limb-
darkening coefficients are weakly constrained from the K2 transit curve, we put weak Gaussian priors on \( u_1 + u_2 \) and \( u_1 - u_2 \), with their centers being 0.65 and 0.08, respectively, and dispersions of 0.20, based on the theoretical values by Claret & Bloemen (2011) for the Kepler band. The RM velocity anomaly \( \Delta v_{\text{RM}} \) also weakly depends on the limb-darkening coefficients. The RV precision and sparse time sampling of the Subaru/HDS data set, however, make the fit of those coefficients almost impossible, and we opted to fix them at \( u_{1,\text{RM}} = 0.43 \) and \( u_{2,\text{RM}} = 0.28 \) based on the theoretical values for the V-band (Claret & Bloemen 2011). We note that we allow the orbital period to vary rather than fix it at the value from the light curve analysis alone. In this way, the ephemeris of K2-34b is globally determined from the light curve and RV data, and the uncertainty in modeling the RM effect reflects the uncertainty of the period.

We use our customized code (e.g., Hirano et al. 2015) to perform the global fit, in which Equation (2) is first minimized by the Nelder–Mead simplex method (e.g., Press et al. 2002) and then the step size for each parameter is iteratively optimized, before running 10^7 MCMC steps to estimate the global posterior. Since the accurate uncertainty for each flux value in K2 data is difficult to infer, we scaled \( \sigma_{\text{LC}} \) so that the reduced \( \chi^2 \) for the K2 data set becomes approximately unity. We take the median, 15.87, and 84.13 percentiles of the marginalized posterior for each fitting parameter to provide the best-fit value and its uncertainties, which are listed in Table 4. The observed data along with the best-fit models are displayed in Figures 5–7, for the phase-folded K2 light curve, orbital RVs, and RM velocity anomaly, respectively.

The best-fit model indicates that K2-34b is a typical hot Jupiter in a three day, prograde orbit (\( \lambda = -1.10^{+1.0}_{-0.9} \) degrees). Based on the best-fit model parameters in the global fit as well as K2-34’s physical parameters, we also compute K2-34b’s physical and orbital parameters, including the planet mass \( M_p \), radius \( R_p \), density \( \rho_p \), orbital inclination \( i_o \), and semimajor axis \( a \). The result is also summarized in Table 4; the planet is consistent with a slightly inflated jovian planet, in a circular orbit (within 1\( \sigma \)). The stellar density from the transit curve alone is estimated to be \( \rho_*/\rho_\odot = 0.448^{+0.066}_{-0.065} \), which agrees with the spectroscopically measured stellar density (Table 1) with 1.4\( \sigma \), reinforcing the idea that K2-34b is indeed transiting the F star.

The residual of the RM velocity anomaly in Figure 7 seems to exhibit a possible time-correlated noise, where each RV residual could be correlated with the adjacent ones. To test if this is the case or not, we computed Pearson’s correlation coefficient \( r_0 \) between the adjacent RV residual values in
We detected the velocity anomaly during the transit observed by HDS on November 27, with 3.6σ significance. Modeling of the RM effect implies that the orbit of K2-34b is prograde with respect to the stellar spin; we estimate the best-fit value for the projected obliquity as $\lambda = -1^\circ.1 \pm 0^\circ.1$. To verify our result, we also tested the global fit with a Gaussian prior distribution for $V \sin I_*$ based on the spectroscopically measured value, and obtained a fully consistent result ($\lambda = -1^\circ.1 \pm 0^\circ.1$). This small obliquity is consistent with the well-known finding that stars cooler than $T_{\text{eff}} = 6250$ K generally have a small obliquity, while hotter ones tend to be misaligned (e.g., Winn et al. 2010). K2-34’s effective temperature is $T_{\text{eff}} = 6087 \pm 38$ K, which is close to the alignment/misalignment divide, making it an important sample for future statistical analyses on observed obliquities.

K2-34 is located around an edge of the main sequence in the $T_{\text{eff}}$–$\log g$ plane (Figure 8). This region of stellar evolution has fewer measurements of the stellar obliquity. One possible channel for the formation of hot Jupiters is dynamical processes (e.g., planet–planet scatterings) followed by tidal interactions between planets and their hosts (e.g., Fabrycky & Tremaine 2007; Nagasawa & Ida 2011). Tidal interactions also tend to damp the stellar obliquity, but the precise timescale of this obliquity damping is not known and is believed to depend on the stellar type (Winn et al. 2010; Xue et al. 2014). In this context, a comparison between the timescales for the obliquity damping by tides and actual system ages could become an important clue. Considering that ages are generally better constrained for the slightly evolved, but still hot stars such as K2-34 than for their cooler counterparts, more obliquity measurements for those stars will provide additional insight into the tidal evolution of hot Jupiters.

It would be also of interest to discuss the observed obliquity in terms of host star’s mass. Spalding & Batygin (2015) described that an alternative explanation for the observed trend of stellar obliquity is that magnetic star–disk torques act to damp non-zero stellar obliquities of less massive stars. Since the magnetic field of massive stars ($M_\star \gtrsim 1.2 M_\odot$) is much weaker by an order of magnitude, the stellar obliquity, which could be primordially enhanced by e.g., an outer companion, is

4. DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY

We have conducted intensive follow-up observations for a hot-Jupiter candidate, K2-34b, which was detected by our pipeline in an analysis of K2 field 5 stars. Our RV follow-up, along with the absence of a bright nearby source ($\Delta m < 6$) in the high-contrast images, confirm the planetary nature of K2-34b; we have determined the mass and radius of the planet to be $M_p = 1.773 \pm 0.086 M_J$ and $R_p = 1.44 \pm 0.16 R_J$, respectively. Its central star, K2-34, is a relatively metal-rich, F-type star, which is typical of hot-Jupiter hosts.
preserved and a spin–orbit misalignment is likely observed around those stars (see Figure 1 in Spalding & Batygin 2015). Provided that K2-34’s mass is 1.31–1.37M⊙, the low obliquity in this system could be a new exception to the observed dependence of stellar obliquity on the stellar mass.

AO imaging using Subaru/HiCIAO has revealed a possible companion with ∆m_H = 6.19 at a separation of 0″36. If this faint source is indeed bound to K2-34, the projected distance between the two components is estimated as ∼200 au assuming a distance to K2-34 of ∼590 pc based on its apparent and estimated absolute magnitudes. One can also estimate the absolute magnitude of the hypothetical stellar companion as M_H = 8.4 mag using an isochrone (e.g., Dotter et al. 2008), which corresponds to a mid-M dwarf whose mass is ∼0.2M⊙. The absolute Kepler magnitude of this CC is also estimated as M_Kp = 11 − 12 mag. Considering K2-34′s absolute magnitude of M_Kp = 3.0, we can safely neglect the impact of dilution in the K2 transit curve (≪ 5 × 10⁻⁴). If this CC is indeed bound to K2-34, it also satisfies a general trend that hot Jupiters have outer giant planets and/or stellar companions (e.g., Knutson et al. 2014; Neveu Van Malle et al. 2015; Ngo et al. 2015), but future follow-up observations are required to prove the physical association by checking the common proper motion and/or detecting the CC in a different observing band.

The relative brightness of the host star (e.g., m_i = 11.52 mag) makes K2-34b a good target for further follow-up to characterize its atmosphere. With the period so close to three days (2.995654 ± 0.000018 days), however, transit follow-ups from the ground are only possible around a certain longitude on the Earth for long intervals. This in turn means that its transits are visible every three days at certain observatories, and unusually accurate characterization may be possible through repeated observations of transits.

This paper is based on observations made with the Italian Telescopio Nazionale Galileo (TNG) operated on the island of La Palma by the Fundación Galileo Galilei of the INAF (Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica) at the Spanish Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos of the Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias. We also provide observations with the 1.52 m Carlos Sanchez Telescope operated on the island of Tenerife by the Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias in the Spanish Observatorio del Teide. This paper is also based on data collected at Subaru Telescope, which is operated by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan. We acknowledge the support for our Subaru HDS observations by Akito Tajitsu and Kentaro Aoki, support scientists for the Subaru/HDS. We also acknowledge the support by Hikaru Nagumo, Jun Hashimoto, and Jun-Ichi Morino for our Subaru observations, and David Lafrenière, who generously provided us his source code for ADI data reductions. The data analysis was in part carried out on common use data analysis computer system at the Astronomy Data Center, ADC, of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan. PyFITS and PyRAF were useful for our data reductions. PyFITS and PyRAF are products of the Space Telescope Science Institute, which is operated by AURA for NASA. Our analysis is also based on observations made with the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope, and obtained from the Hubble Legacy Archive, which is a collaboration between the Space Telescope Science Institute, the Space Telescope European Coordinating Facility (ST-ECF/ESA) and the Canadian Astronomy Data Centre (CADC/NRC/CSA). T.H. and M.K. are supported by Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) Fellowship for Research (No. 25-3183 and 25-8826). A.F. acknowledges support by the Astrobiology Center Project of National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS) (Grant Number AB271009). This work was performed, in part, under contract with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) funded by NASA through the Sagan Fellowship Program executed by the NASA Exoplanet Science Institute. N.N. acknowledges support by the NAOJ Fellowship, Inoue Science Research Award, and Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (A) (No. 25247026) from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan. M.T. acknowledges support by Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (No.15H02063). G.N., E.P., S.V., J.P.A., and I.R. acknowledge support from the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO) and the Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional (FEDER) through grants ESP2013-48391-C4-1-R and ESP2014-57495-C2-2-R. We acknowledge the very significant cultural role and reverence that the summit of Mauna Kea has always had within the indigenous people in Hawai‘i.

Facilities: Subaru (HDS, HiCIAO), TNG (HARPS-N), Sanchez (FastCam).

Note Added. After completing the work described herein, we became aware of the independent discovery and characterization of K2-34b by Lillo-Box et al. (2016). Our measurements of the stellar and planetary properties are in agreement with theirs.

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