## Using stellar oscillations to probe their interiors

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#### 1. What causes stars to oscillate?



# Convection excites the oscillations by shaking the star











#### Convection at the surface of the Sun





#### 2. How do we measure stellar oscillations?

### Method A: brightness variations





### NASA Kepler Mission

launched March 2009



#### Transit of an exoplanet:



# Two examples of oscillating stars discovered by *Kepler*



#### 2. How do we measure stellar oscillations?

#### Method B: velocity variations



### **Doppler shifts**









#### Doppler observations of the star mu Herculis with SONG



#### 3. What can we learn about stars?





### Stellar oscillations are standing sound waves



#### Stellar oscillations are standing sound waves



## stars can oscillate simultaneously in many modes





Oscillations in the Sun (sped up 300,000 times)

# 3. What can we learn about stars?3a: measuring the sizes of stars



#### ... which is important for transiting exoplanets

Brightness



# 3b: measuring internal rotation of stars





#### 3c: measuring the ages of stars





emporary drops in brightness caused by planetary transits. This first-ever spaceborne all-sky transit survey will identify planets ranging from Earth-sized o gas giants, around a wide range of stellar types and orbital distances. No

ground-based survey can achieve this feat.





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