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Tuning in to star-planet interactions at radio wavelengths

Kavanagh, R.D.

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2 | Tuning in to the radio environment of HD189733b

2.1 Abstract

We present stellar wind modelling of the hot Jupiter host HD189733, and predict radio emission from the stellar wind and the planet, the latter arising from the interaction of the stellar wind with the planetary magnetosphere. Our stellar wind models incorporate surface stellar magnetic field maps at the epochs Jun/Jul 2013, Sep 2014, and Jul 2015 as boundary conditions. We find that the mass-loss rate, angular momentum-loss rate, and open magnetic flux of HD189733 vary by 9%, 40%, and 19% over these three epochs. Solving the equations of radiative transfer, we find that from 10 MHz–100 GHz the stellar wind emits fluxes in the range of 10^{-3} – $5 \mu\text{Jy}$, and becomes optically thin above 10 GHz. Our planetary radio emission model uses the radiometric Bode’s law, and neglects the presence of a planetary atmosphere. For assumed planetary magnetic fields of 1–10 G, we estimate that the planet emits at frequencies of 2–25 MHz, with peak flux densities of $\sim 10^2 \text{ mJy}$. We find that the planet orbits through regions of the stellar wind that are optically thick to the emitted frequency from the planet. As a result, unattenuated planetary radio emission can only propagate out of the system and reach the observer for 67% of the orbit for a 10 G planetary field, corresponding to when the planet is approaching and leaving primary transit. We also find that the plasma frequency of the stellar wind is too high to allow propagation of the planetary radio emission below 21 MHz. This means a planetary field of at least 8 G is required to produce detectable radio emission.

2.2 Introduction

Low-mass stars ($0.1 - 1.3 M_{\odot}$) lose mass throughout their entire lives in the form of quiescent stellar winds. These stars also exhibit magnetic activity at their surfaces, and are observed to undergo variations in magnetic field strength (e.g. Fares et al., 2017) and polarity reversals over time (e.g. Donati et al., 2008a; Boro Saikia et al., 2016). The Zeeman Doppler imaging (ZDI) technique, used to reconstruct large-scale surface stellar magnetic fields (Donati et al., 1997), has revealed that magnetically active stars exhibit complex magnetic topologies that can vary as

rapidly as a few rotation periods (Boro Saikia et al., 2015), over one magnetic cycle (Fares et al., 2009; Boro Saikia et al., 2016), and over evolutionary timescales (Petit et al., 2008; Vidotto et al., 2014). These variations in field strength, both over time and across the stellar surface, drive stellar wind outflows that vary in strength over different timescales (Nicholson et al., 2016).

As the stellar wind propagates out into the interplanetary environment, the variations of its properties are most strongly felt by close-in exoplanets (orbital distances $a < 0.5$ au). These exoplanets form a large proportion of the detected planets orbiting low-mass stars. At such close proximity, these planets are likely to be subjected to much harsher wind conditions from the host star than those experienced by the solar system planets (Vidotto et al., 2015). For example, close-in hot Jupiters have been observed to exhibit extended atmospheres, which is shaped by the interaction of the stellar wind with the planetary atmosphere (Lecavelier des Etangs et al., 2012; Bourrier & Lecavelier des Etangs, 2013; Bourrier et al., 2016). The presence of close-in planets may also enhance the magnetic activity of the host star, both through tidal and magnetic interactions (Cuntz et al., 2000; Ip et al., 2004; Shkolnik et al., 2008).

Stellar winds are believed to power exoplanetary radio emission, similarly to what occurs in the solar system for Earth, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. This radio emission occurs via the Cyclotron Maser instability (see Treumann, 2006), wherein energetic electrons spiral through planetary magnetic field lines towards polar regions of strong magnetic field. This emission process has also been observed for low-mass stars (Bingham et al., 2001; Llama et al., 2018). The process for planets is powered by the dissipation of the magnetic flux of the stellar wind on the magnetosphere of the planet. As close-in exoplanets are likely to be subjected to more energetic winds, it is expected that radio emission occurs for these planets at higher powers (Zarka et al., 2001). If detectable, this would serve as a new direct detection method for exoplanets, show that exoplanets are magnetised, and also act as a method to probe the stellar wind of the host star. So far, there has yet to be a conclusive detection of exoplanetary radio emission, despite numerous efforts (Smith et al., 2009; Lazio et al., 2010b; Lecavelier des Etangs et al., 2013; Sirothia et al., 2014; O’Gorman et al., 2018).

However, the detection of planetary radio emission could be inhibited due to dense stellar winds, which can absorb emission at radio wavelengths (Vidotto & Donati, 2017). The winds of low-mass stars are known to be sources of radio emission, arising through thermal free-free processes (Panagia & Felli, 1975; Wright & Barlow, 1975; Güdel, 2002; Ó Fionnagáin et al., 2019a), which depend on both the density and temperature of the wind. By the same process, the wind can self-absorb the generated free-free radio emission if the optical depth is high enough. As a result, if a planet emitting its own radio emission orbits through regions of the wind that are optically thick to the planetary frequency, the planetary emission will also be absorbed.

In this paper, we investigate the radio environment of HD189733b, which orbits the main-sequence K2V star HD189733. As part of the MOVES (Multiwavelength Observations of an eVaporating Exoplanet and its Star, PI: V. Bourrier) collaboration, we model the wind of the star using surface magnetic field maps presented in

Table 2.1: Planetary and stellar parameters of HD189733b and its host star.

Parameter	Value
Star:	
Stellar mass ($M_{\star}$) ¹	0.78 $M_{\odot}$
Stellar radius ($R_{\star}$) ¹	0.76 $R_{\odot}$
Rotational period (P_{rot}) ²	11.94 days
Distance (d) ³	19.8 pc
Planet:	
Planetary mass (M_{p}) ⁴	1.13 M_{Jup}
Planetary radius (R_{p}) ⁴	1.13 R_{Jup}
Orbital distance (a) ¹	8.8 $R_{\star}$
Orbital period (P_{orb}) ¹	2.2 days
1: Llama et al. (2013); 2: Fares et al. (2010); 3: Gaia Collaboration et al. (2018); 4: Stassun et al. (2017)	

Fares et al. (2017), and calculate the radio emission from the stellar wind and planetary magnetosphere. Due to the close proximity of the planet to its host star, the system has been the subject of many star-planet interaction studies (Fares et al., 2010; Cauley et al., 2018). The host star is also very active. Its magnetic field has been observed to vary in unsigned average field strength from 18 to 42 G over a 9 year period (Fares et al., 2017). This short-term variation (~ 1 year), in combination with the small orbital distance of the planet and strong stellar magnetic field, is likely to power time-varying radio emission from the planet that could be orders of magnitudes larger than those from planets in the solar system. The variations of the stellar wind properties at the planetary orbit could also lead to variations in the UV transit lightcurve over time (Lecavelier des Etangs et al., 2012; Bourrier & Lecavelier des Etangs, 2013; Llama et al., 2013).

The layout of this paper is as follows: in Section 2.3, we present our modelling and radio emission calculation of the wind of HD189733. Then, in Section 2.4 we calculate the planetary radio emission. We investigate different scenarios where the planetary radio emission may be unable to propagate out of the planetary system in Section 2.5. We discuss our findings in Section 2.6, and then present a summary and conclusions in Section 2.7.

2.3 Stellar wind of HD189733

2.3.1 Modelling the stellar wind

To model the wind of HD189733, we use the 3D magnetohydrodynamical (MHD) code BATS-R-US (Powell et al., 1999; Tóth et al., 2012), modified by Vidotto et al. (2012). BATS-R-US has been used to model stellar wind outflows in the context of low-mass and planet-hosting stars (e.g. Vidotto et al., 2012; Llama et al., 2013; Cohen et al., 2014; Alvarado-Gómez et al., 2016; Ó Fionnagáin et al., 2019a).

BATS-R-US solves the ideal set of MHD equations, for conservation of mass,

magnetic flux, momentum, and energy respectively:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u}) = 0, \quad (2.1)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\mathbf{B} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u}\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}) = 0, \quad (2.2)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho \mathbf{u}) + \nabla \cdot \left[\rho \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u} + \left(p + \frac{B^2}{8\pi} \right) \mathbf{I} - \frac{\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}}{4\pi} \right] = \rho \mathbf{g}, \quad (2.3)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\varepsilon + \nabla \cdot \left[\left(\varepsilon + p + \frac{B^2}{8\pi} \right) \mathbf{u} - \frac{(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{B})\mathbf{B}}{4\pi} \right] = \rho \mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{u}. \quad (2.4)$$

These equations are solved for a plasma with a mass density ρ , velocity $\mathbf{u} = \{u_x, u_y, u_z\}$, magnetic field $\mathbf{B} = \{B_x, B_y, B_z\}$, and thermal pressure p . Here, $\mathbf{I}$ is the identity matrix, and ε is the total energy density:

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\rho u^2}{2} + \frac{p}{\gamma - 1} + \frac{B^2}{8\pi}, \quad (2.5)$$

where γ is the polytropic index.

The inputs of BATS-R-US are the stellar mass $M_\star$ and radius $R_\star$, which provide the surface gravity $\mathbf{g}$, coronal base temperature T_0 and number density n_0 , rotational period P_{rot} , and surface magnetic field map. In our wind simulations, we make the following assumptions:

1. The wind is an ideal gas: $p = nk_{\text{B}}T$, where $n = \rho/(\mu m_{\text{p}})$ is the number density, k_{B} is Boltzmann's constant, and T is the temperature. Here, μm_{p} is the mean mass per particle.
2. The wind is composed of fully ionised hydrogen, so we adopt a value of $\mu = 0.5$.
3. The wind is polytropic: $p \propto \rho^\gamma$.

Provided that we have derived values for the stellar mass, radius, and rotational period, we are left with the following free parameters in our models: T_0 , n_0 , and γ . For the coronal base temperature T_0 , we adopt a value of 2×10^6 K, which is typical for the coronae of K stars (Johnstone & Güdel, 2015). For the base number density n_0 , we assume 10^{10} cm^{-3} . We take $\gamma = 1.1$ for the polytropic index, which is similar to the effective adiabatic index of the solar wind (Van Doorselaere et al., 2011). This set of parameters produce a mass-loss rate of $\sim 3 \times 10^{-12} M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$ for HD189733, which is in the range of inferred mass-loss rates for active K stars (see Wood, 2004; Jardine & Collier Cameron, 2019; Rodríguez et al., 2019).

To simulate the wind variability of HD189733, we implement surface magnetic field maps obtained for the star at different epochs, which were reconstructed from observations by Fares et al. (2017) using the ZDI technique. The maps implemented were obtained at the epochs Jun/Jul 2013, Sep 2014, and Jul 2015,

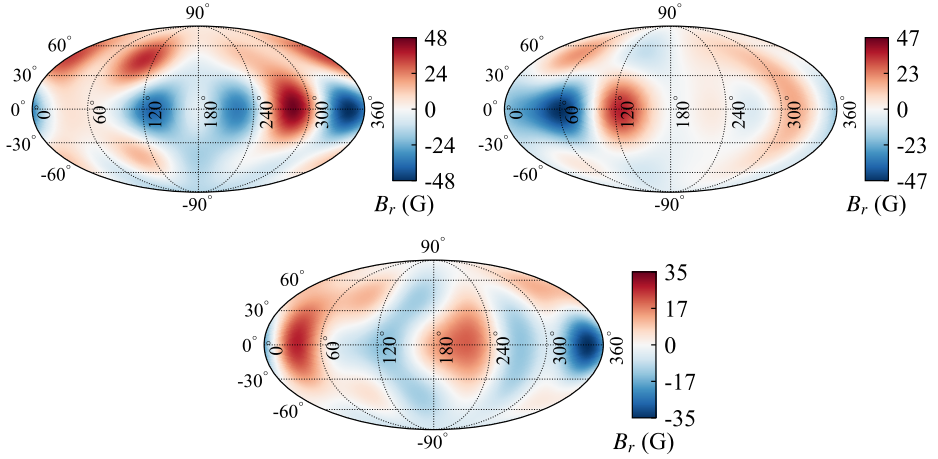


Figure 2.1: Mollweide projections of the radial surface magnetic field of HD189733 at the three epochs Jun/Jul 2013 (top left), Sep 2014 (top right), and Jul 2015 (bottom), which were reconstructed from observations by Fares et al. (2017). We implement these as boundary conditions in our stellar wind simulations.

and are shown in Figure 2.1. These maps allow us to estimate the yearly variability of the stellar wind properties and the planetary radio emission. The field strength at these epochs are also some of the largest observed for the star, for which we expect should drive strong radio emission from the planet. We simulate the wind with a grid that extends from $-20 R_{\star}$ to $+20 R_{\star}$ along the x , y , and z axes, with the star at the centre. To solve for the magnetic field in the wind, we fix the radial component B_r based on the ZDI map at each epoch, and assume an outflow or ‘float’ condition for meridional B_{θ} and azimuthal B_{ϕ} components, where we take their derivative with respect to the radial coordinate to be zero. We also incorporate adaptive mesh refinement in our grid. Our grid resolution ranges from $\sim 0.01 R_{\star}$ to $0.3 R_{\star}$, with the finest resolution occurring in the region from $1 R_{\star}$ to $2 R_{\star}$. This is equivalent to a refinement level of 10 quoted in Nicholson et al. (2016), and has a total of 39 million cells. Nicholson et al. (2016) investigated the effects of increasing the grid resolution to a refinement level of 11 on the derived global wind properties, and obtained marginally more accurate results. Given that the large number of cells in a grid of this size (~ 300 million) is very computationally expensive, we adopt a refinement level of 10 in this work.

With everything in place, we set our simulation to run until a steady state is obtained. We take this to be the point where various global wind properties such as the mass-loss and angular momentum-loss rates vary by $< 1\%$ between iterations. The stability of these values as a function of distance from the star also indicates that a steady state has been obtained. When these conditions are satisfied, we take the wind model to be complete.

2.3.2 Stellar wind variability of HD189733

From our simulations, we derive the global wind properties of HD189733 at Jun/Jul 2013, Sep 2014, and Jul 2015, as described by Vidotto et al. (2015). The mass-loss rate $\dot{M}$ of the star is calculated as:

$$\dot{M} = \oint_S \rho u_r dS, \quad (2.6)$$

where S is a spherical surface above the stellar surface at a specified distance. The angular momentum-loss rate of the star $\dot{J}$ is calculated as the flux of angular momentum through S :

$$\dot{J} = \oint_S \left[-\frac{\varpi B_\varphi B_r}{4\pi} + \varpi u_\varphi \rho u_r \right] dS, \quad (2.7)$$

where $\varpi = (x^2 + y^2)^{1/2}$ is the cylindrical radius. The unsigned open magnetic flux of the stellar wind Φ_{open} is:

$$\Phi_{\text{open}} = \oint_S |B_r| dS. \quad (2.8)$$

We compute $\dot{M}$, $\dot{J}$, and Φ_{open} at concentric spherical surfaces S around the star from $10 R_\star$ to $20 R_\star$, and take the average value in this region. Our computed values are listed in Table 2.2. We find that the wind properties of HD189733 vary over time in response to its changing magnetic field topology, with the mass-loss rate, angular momentum-loss rate, and open magnetic flux varying by 9%, 40%, and 19% respectively over the three modelled epochs, relative to the maximum over the three epochs. These results are comparable to those found by other stellar/solar wind models (Vidotto et al., 2012; Nicholson et al., 2016; Réville & Brun, 2017), wherein small variations in $\dot{M}$ (>20%) and large variations in $\dot{J}$ (~50-140%) are seen over timescales of half to multiple magnetic cycles.

As we implement magnetic field maps with complex topologies in our wind simulations, we find that the wind of HD189733 is inhomogeneous. This can be seen in the profiles of the radial wind velocity in Figure 2.2. As a result, the planet experiences a non-uniform wind as it progresses through its orbit. Table 2.3 lists the average values of various wind properties at the planetary orbit at $8.8 R_\star$, as well as their min/max values in the orbit. We find that the particle number density and velocity of the wind relative to the motion of the planet vary from 29-37% and 25-32% respectively throughout the orbit across the three epochs. These variations are likely to be observable in the UV transit of the planet (Lecavelier des Etangs et al., 2012; Bourrier & Lecavelier des Etangs, 2013). From a previous transit of the planet in 2011, Bourrier & Lecavelier des Etangs (2013) derived a stellar wind velocity of 200 km s^{-1} and density of 10^6 cm^{-3} for HD189733 at the planetary orbit, based on the Lyman- α absorption from the extended atmosphere of the planet in the saturation regime. These values are in good agreement with the stellar wind properties at the planetary orbit in our models. Our temperature however is a factor of ~ 30 higher than their derived value of $3 \times 10^4 \text{ K}$. The cause

Table 2.2: Global wind properties derived for HD189733 in Jul/Jul 2013, Sep 2014, and Jul 2015. The values listed are the mass-loss rate $\dot{M}$, angular momentum-loss rate $\dot{J}$, unsigned open magnetic flux Φ_{open} , and unsigned magnetic flux at the surface Φ_0 .

Epoch	$\dot{M}$ ($10^{-12} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$)	$\dot{J}$ (10^{31} erg)	Φ_{open} (Φ_0)	Φ_0 (10^{23} Mx)
2013	3.2	5.5	0.39	4.5
2014	3.0	5.2	0.48	3.0
2015	2.9	3.3	0.40	2.7

of this discrepancy could be due the fact that our models do not consider detailed heating and cooling mechanisms for the stellar wind (Vidotto & Bourrier, 2017).

We also calculate the average value of the magnetic field strength at the orbit of the planet for each epoch. We find that the ambient field around the planet at the three epochs are 62.1, 55.6, and 44.6 mG respectively, which are about twice the values calculated using the potential field source surface method (PFSS) (Fares et al., 2017). This is due to the assumption in the PFSS method that the stellar magnetic field is in its lowest energy state, which neglects that the stellar wind stresses on the stellar magnetic field lines. From the total pressure values (ram, thermal, and magnetic pressures) listed in Table 2.3, we also see that HD189733b is subjected to a wind pressure that varies by over 2 orders of magnitude throughout its orbit and over time.

In Figure 2.2 we also show that at each epoch the planet orbits outside of the Alfvén surface, where the wind poloidal velocity equals the Alfvén velocity: $v_A = B_{\text{pol}}/\sqrt{4\pi\rho}$ (B_{pol} is the poloidal magnetic field strenght of the stellar wind). This means the planet is orbiting in the ram pressure-dominated region of the wind. As a result, we do not expect any magnetic star-planet interactions (SPI) at these epochs, as information cannot propagate back to the star (Shkolnik et al., 2008; Lanza, 2012). However, due to the variability of the stellar magnetic field, there may be epochs in which the planet orbits inside the Alfvén surface, and is in direct connection to the star. During these epochs, the planet may induce hot chromospheric spots in the star. For instance, Cauley et al. (2018) recently reported Ca II K modulations with a period coinciding with the planetary orbital period of 2.2 days in Aug 2013, implying that magnetic SPI may have occurred at this epoch.

2.3.3 Radio emission from the stellar wind

We calculate the free-free radio emission of the stellar wind of HD189733, implementing the numerical code developed by Ó Fionnagáin et al. (2019a). In this model, we solve the equations of radiative transfer for our wind models, assuming that it emits as a blackbody. The equations are solved for the line of sight of an observer placed at $x = -\infty$, looking towards the star. The choice of the direction of the line of sight has negligible effects on the results of our calculations. We compute the free-free radio spectrum for the wind of HD189733 in the frequency range of 10 MHz to 100 GHz. In this region, we find that there are negligible dif-

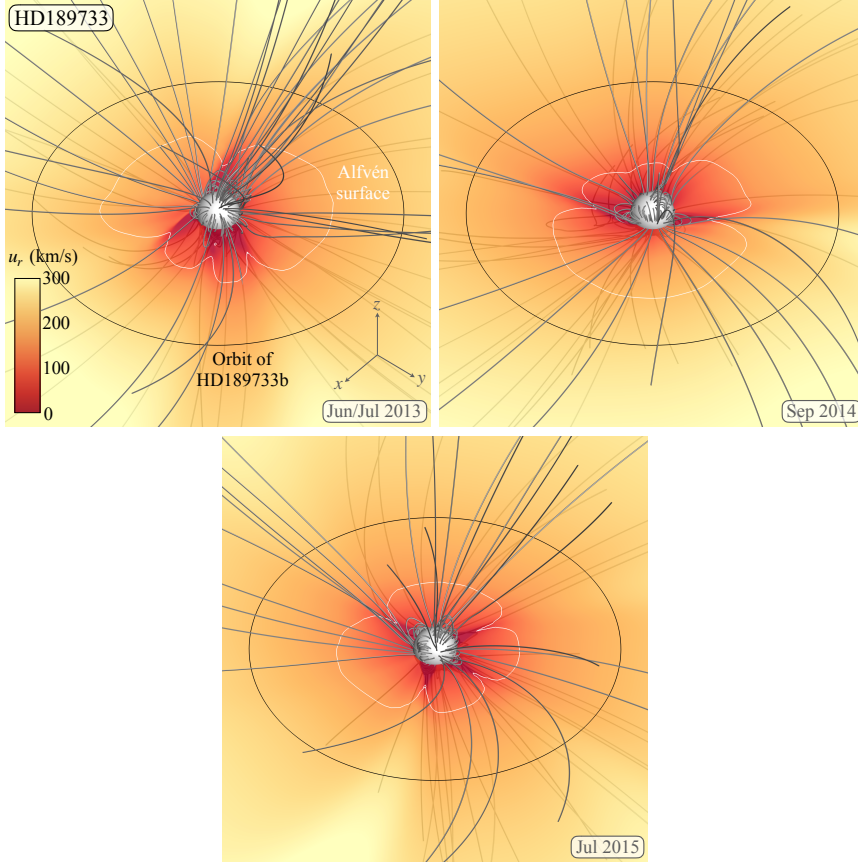


Figure 2.2: Simulated stellar wind of HD189733 in Jun/Jul 2013 (top left), Sep 2014 (top right), and Jul 2015 (bottom). Grey lines show the large-scale structure of the magnetic field of HD189733, which is embedded in the stellar wind. Profiles of the radial velocity (u_r) of the stellar wind in the orbital plane of the planet are shown. The orbit at $8.8 R_\star$ is shown with a black circle, and Alfvén surfaces are shown in white. The orientation in each panel is the same.

Table 2.3: Average stellar wind parameters of HD189733 at the planetary orbit for each modelled epoch. The values listed are the particle number density n , velocity in the reference frame of the planet Δu , magnetic field strength B , temperature T , and total pressure p_{tot} of the stellar wind. The values quoted in square brackets are the min/max value of each parameter throughout the orbit, respectively.

Epoch	$\langle n \rangle$ (10^6 cm^{-3})	$\langle \Delta u \rangle$ (km s^{-1})	$\langle B \rangle$ (mG)	$\langle T \rangle$ (10^6 K)	$\langle p_{\text{tot}} \rangle$ ($10^{-4} \text{ dyn cm}^{-2}$)
2013	4.0 [3.3, 5.2]	235 [188, 270]	62.1 [2.2, 84.9]	1.03 [0.94, 1.22]	1.71 [<0.01, 2.87]
2014	3.8 [3.0, 4.7]	220 [183, 271]	55.6 [1.9, 79.1]	0.97 [0.93, 1.17]	1.37 [<0.01, 2.49]
2015	3.7 [3.2, 4.5]	212 [196, 260]	44.6 [3.9, 57.8]	0.95 [0.92, 1.05]	0.86 [0.01, 1.33]

ferences between the fluxes for each epoch. Figure 2.3 shows the spectra calculated for Jun/Jul 2013. The flux densities calculated range from $\sim 10^{-3}$ to $5 \mu\text{Jy}$. At such low flux densities, this emission is unlikely to be detected with current radio telescopes. However, future developments, such as the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), are likely to allow for the detection of this emission from low mass stars, such as HD189733 (see Section 2.6).

We also find that the wind of HD189733 becomes optically thin at 10 GHz. For frequencies less than this, regions of the wind are optically thick, which become larger towards lower frequencies. Inside these regions or ‘radio photospheres’, the wind will self-absorb its own emission. In addition to this, if the planet emits cyclotron emission and orbits within the radio photosphere for the emitted frequency, this emission would also be absorbed by the stellar wind. We investigate this scenario in Section 2.5.1.

We note that the free-free radio emission from the stellar wind depends on the density profile of the wind, which is determined by coronal base density n_0 , a free variable in our simulations. We discuss the effects of a lower density wind on the radio emission in the Appendix.

2.4 Predicting planetary radio emission from HD189733b

To predict the planetary radio emission from HD189733b, we follow the description by Vidotto & Donati (2017) (see also works by Zarka, 2007). Pressure balance between the stellar wind (ram, thermal, and magnetic) and the planet (magnetic) pressures gives us the size of the planetary magnetopause R_m :

$$R_m = 2^{1/3} \left[\frac{(B_p/2)^2/8\pi}{\rho \Delta u^2 + p + B^2/8\pi} \right]^{1/6} R_p, \quad (2.9)$$

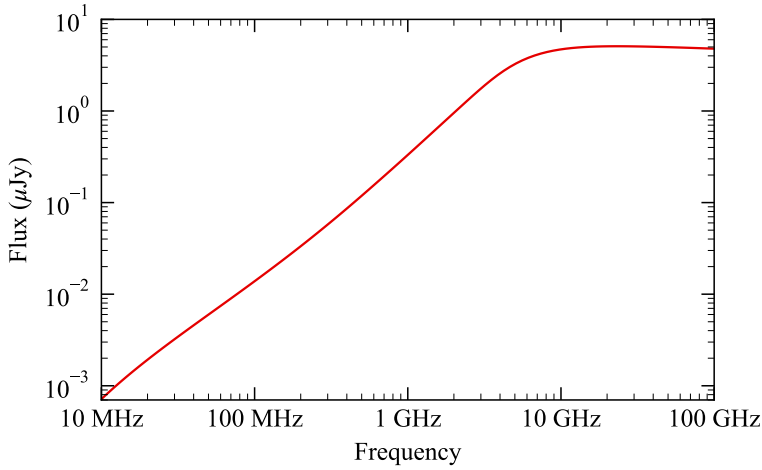


Figure 2.3: Free-free radio emission spectra of the stellar wind of HD189733 at Jun/Jul 2013. There are negligible differences between the wind spectra for the three modelled epochs.

where B_p is the strength of the dipolar planetary magnetic field at the poles, R_p is the planetary radius, and Δu is the magnitude of the relative velocity between the wind u and Keplerian velocity of the planet u_K : $\Delta u = u - u_K$, $u_K = \sqrt{GM_*/a}$. Note that we neglect the ram and thermal components of the planetary pressure. In our model, the radio emission arises from polar cap regions at co-latitudes α_0 from the poles:

$$\alpha_0 = \sin^{-1} \left[\left(\frac{R_p}{R_m} \right)^{1/2} \right]. \quad (2.10)$$

Assuming an aligned dipolar planetary magnetic field, the field strength at this co-latitude is:

$$B(\alpha_0) = \frac{B_p}{2} (1 + 3 \cos^2 \alpha_0)^{1/2}. \quad (2.11)$$

Radio emission then occurs via the Cyclotron Maser instability at a maximum frequency of:

$$f_c = 2.8 \left(\frac{B(\alpha_0)}{1 \text{ G}} \right) \text{ MHz}. \quad (2.12)$$

The polar cap region where this emission originates forms a hollow cone with solid angle ω :

$$\omega = 8\pi \sin \alpha_0 \sin \frac{\delta\alpha}{2}, \quad (2.13)$$

where $\delta\alpha$ is the thickness of the cone. We adopt a value of $\delta\alpha = 17.5^\circ$, which is the estimated thickness for Jupiter's emission cone (Zarka et al., 2004).

Combining all this gives us an expression for the radio flux received from the system. The magnetic power dissipated by the wind onto the magnetosphere of

the planet is given by:

$$P_B = \frac{B_\perp^2}{4\pi} \Delta u \pi R_m^2, \quad (2.14)$$

where $B_\perp$ is the magnitude of the magnetic field of the stellar wind perpendicular to the vector $\Delta \mathbf{u}$. In our model, we compute this as:

$$B_\perp = \sqrt{B^2 - \left(\frac{\mathbf{B} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{u}}{\Delta u} \right)^2}. \quad (2.15)$$

The flux density received by an observer at a distance $d = 19.8$ pc is then given by:

$$\Phi_{\text{radio}} = \frac{\eta_B P_B}{d^2 \omega f_c}. \quad (2.16)$$

Here, η_B is the efficiency ratio for the magnetic power dissipated onto the planetary magnetosphere, which we take as the solar system value of 2×10^{-3} (Zarka, 2007). This constant arises from the radiometric Bode's law. Numerical studies have found that the radiometric Bode's law is appropriate for estimating radio emission from hot Jupiters (Varela et al., 2018), while some have suggested that it may overestimate the flux densities for close-in planets (Nichols & Milan, 2016). If this is indeed the case, the values we obtain here should be treated as upper limits. As we demonstrate in Section 2.5, there are several scenarios where in fact propagation of planetary radio emission may not be possible.

In the above equations we use the velocity, density, pressure, and magnetic field of the stellar wind at the planetary orbit, obtained from our wind models presented in Section 2.3.2. In our calculations, we assume planetary magnetic field strengths of $B_p = 1, 5,$ and 10 G, which covers the range of values predicted for extrasolar gas giants (Zaghoo & Collins, 2018). Table 2.4 shows the calculated cyclotron frequency, magnetopause size, and co-latitude of the polar cap of HD189733b, as a function of planetary magnetic field strength. We find that these three quantities vary by small amounts throughout the orbit and between the three epochs for a given field strength. The flux densities of the radio emission however varies by around two orders of magnitude throughout the orbit. The variations of the fluxes calculated for $B_p = 10$ G throughout the orbit of the planet, and the peak fluxes at each epoch for different planetary field strengths, are shown in Figure 2.4. In the top panel of Figure 2.4, we see that the flux density goes to zero at points in the orbit where $B_\perp = 0$ in the stellar wind (see Equation 2.14). We also see a general trend towards lower peak fluxes from Jun/Jul 2013 to Jul 2015 in the bottom panel of Figure 2.4. This correlates to the trend in the average magnetic field strength of the wind at the planetary orbit shown in Table 2.3.

Comparing to recent work, Zaghoo & Collins (2018) estimated a flux of ~ 20 mJy at a peak cyclotron frequency of 20 MHz for HD189733b. Our peak flux densities are ~ 5 times larger than theirs, which is likely due to their assumption for the stellar wind power, which they extrapolated from the solar wind. As we have shown in Section 2.3.2, the wind strength of HD189733 is much stronger than the solar wind. As a result, we expect that HD189733b receives a higher magnetic energy from the wind of its host star, and thus higher fluxes will be emitted.

Table 2.4: Emitted cyclotron frequency, magnetopause size, and co-latitude of the polar cap of HD189733b, calculated for different planetary magnetic field strengths. These values only vary by small amounts through the orbit and between each epoch.

B_p (G)	f_c (MHz)	R_m (R_p)	α_0 ($^\circ$)
1	2	1.6	53
5	12	2.7	38
10	25	3.3	33

Our findings tell us that while the flux density of the planetary emission is sensitive to inhomogeneities in the stellar wind, the frequency of the emission is not. The combination of these two results could allow for planetary radio emission to be easily distinguished from other sources of radio emission in the system, such as the stellar wind. The fluxes and frequencies calculated for HD189733b also place it within the detection limit of LOFAR. We discuss this further in Section 2.6.

2.5 Propagation of the planetary radio emission

While we have made predictions about the planetary radio emission for different assumed magnetic field strengths, the question remains: can the emission propagate out of the planetary system? We discuss different scenarios where propagation may not be possible below.

2.5.1 Free-free absorption in the stellar wind

One scenario where the planetary radio emission may not propagate from the system is if the planet orbits inside the radio photosphere of the star. From the model utilised in Section 2.3.3, we calculate the boundary of the photospheres of the stellar wind for the calculated cyclotron frequencies of 2, 12, and 25 MHz, which we chose as they correspond to planetary field strengths of 1, 5, and 10 G (see Table 2.4). The radio photosphere is defined as the point where the optical depth $\tau = 0.399$ (Panagia & Felli, 1975).

Figure 2.5 shows a 3D view of the radio photosphere of the wind of HD189733 at 25 MHz for Jun/Jul 2013, as viewed by an observer at $x = -\infty$. The radio photosphere is paraboloidal in shape. Inside the region enclosed by the surface shown, emission at 25 MHz will be absorbed by the stellar wind. We see that part of the planetary orbit is embedded in this region. In Figure 2.6, we show the boundaries of these regions for the three epochs at 2, 12, and 25 MHz in the orbital plane of the planet. The thickness of these boundaries at each frequency arises from the different positions of the radio photosphere for the three epochs. From the boundaries, we find that the planetary radio emission can propagate for 41% of the orbit at 12 MHz, and 67% at 25 MHz. The planet’s orbit is fully embedded in the region of the wind that is optically thick at 2 MHz. This frequency is below the ionospheric cutoff of the Earth’s atmosphere. As the radio flux densities of the planet are several orders of magnitude higher than those of the stellar wind (see

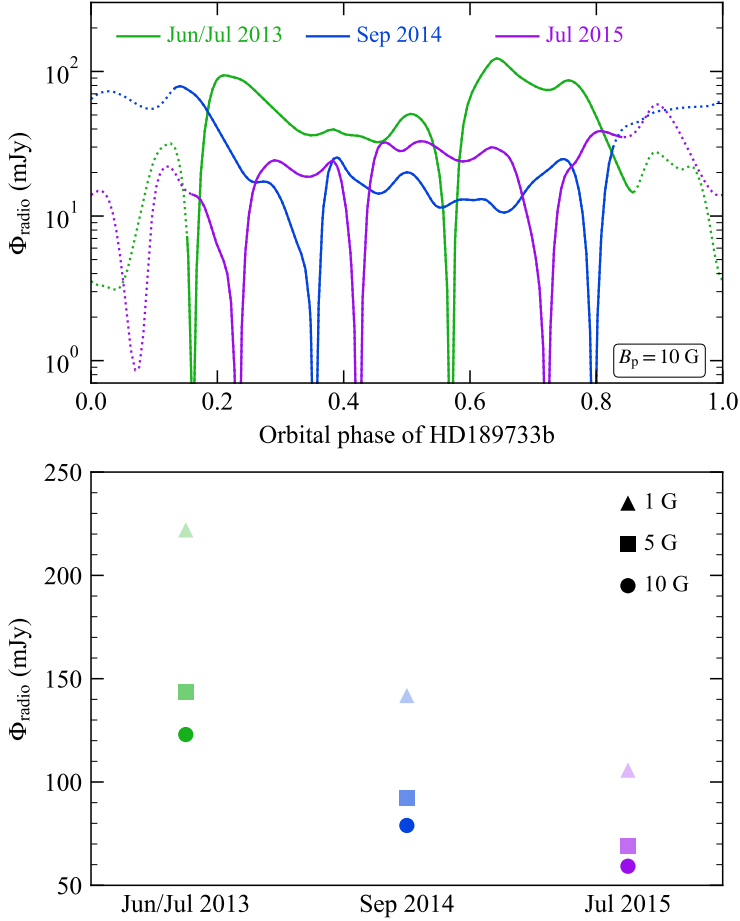


Figure 2.4: *Top*: Variations of the planetary radio flux throughout the orbit of HD189733b for the three epochs, for a field strength of $B_p = 10$ G. The dotted segment of each line represents the region of the orbit where the planetary radio emission at 25 MHz, corresponding to a planetary field strength of 10 G, cannot propagate through the stellar wind (see Section 2.5.1). *Bottom*: Peak radio flux densities calculated for HD189733b, for planetary field strengths of 1, 5, and 10 G at each epoch.

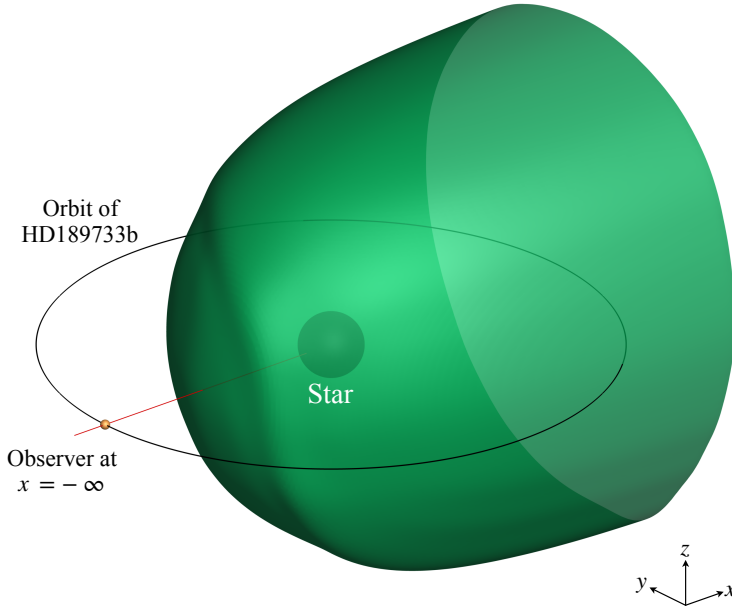


Figure 2.5: Radio photosphere of the stellar wind of HD189733 at 25 MHz for Jun/Jul 2013, as viewed by an observer at $x = -\infty$. The region enclosed by the surface is where planetary radio emission at 25 MHz cannot propagate without being absorbed. The red line illustrates the line connecting the planet to the star seen by the observer. Note that the size of the photosphere, star, planet and its orbit are to scale here. The radio photosphere extends back to $x = 10 R_{\star}$.

Figure 2.8), it could be that even after the planetary emission is attenuated inside the radio photosphere of the stellar wind, a fraction of the planetary emission may still escape.

The fraction of the orbit where the emission can propagate unattenuated to an observer at Earth corresponds to when the planet is approaching and leaving primary transit. This may be a useful signature to search for in other exoplanetary radio surveys. Indeed, Smith et al. (2009) reported a non-detection of HD189733b during secondary transit, the region where we expect the wind to be optically thick for frequencies below 10 GHz. We note however that the frequency range of their observations correspond to planetary field strengths of ~ 100 G, which is likely to be too strong for a hot Jupiter planet such as HD189733b (see Zaghoo & Collins, 2018). It is clear however that detection of planetary radio emission is more favourable for higher frequencies, which correspond to strong planetary magnetic field strengths. We caution that the size of the radio photosphere at a specific frequency scales with the density of the stellar wind, which is a free variable in our model. The effects of varying the density on the size of these regions are discussed in the Appendix.

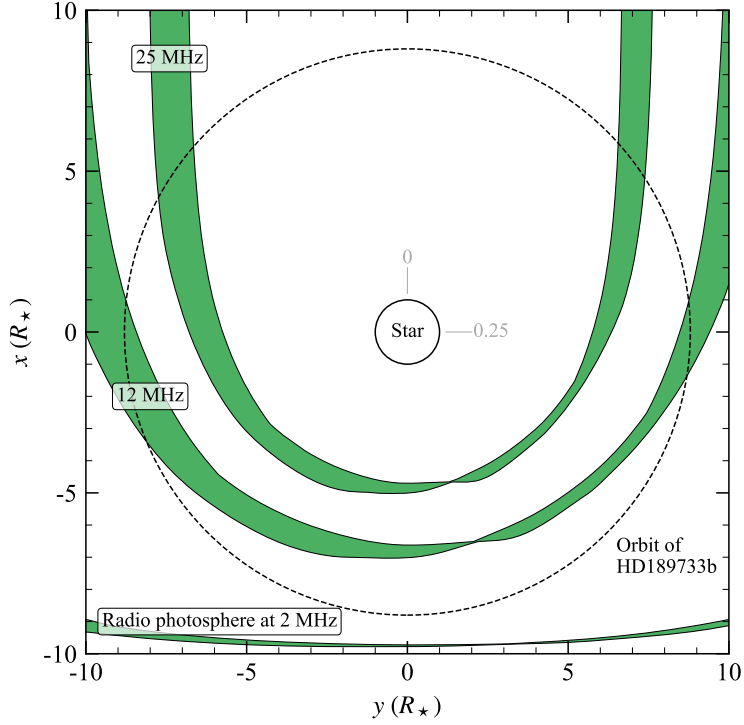


Figure 2.6: Radio photospheres of the stellar wind at the calculated frequencies of 2, 12, and 25 MHz, in the orbital plane of the planet. The planetary orbit is shown as a black dashed circle, and the star is shown in the centre. Orbital phases of 0 and 0.25 are marked near the star. In our calculation, the observer is looking along the x -axis in the positive direction.

2.5.2 Plasma frequency of the stellar wind

Another process by which the planetary emission may not be able to escape the system is if the cyclotron frequency is less than the plasma frequency of the stellar wind at the planetary orbit. The plasma frequency is defined as:

$$f_p = 9 \times 10^{-3} \sqrt{\frac{n_e}{1 \text{ cm}^{-3}}} \text{ MHz.} \quad (2.17)$$

where n_e is the number density of free electrons. We take this to be equal to the number density of protons in our wind, as it is fully ionised.

Neglecting the presence of the planetary atmosphere, the radio emission can propagate out from the polar emission region. However, if the emitted frequency is below the plasma frequency of the stellar wind it meets, the planetary radio emission will be reflected back and hence will not propagate out of the planetary system. This is the same process which prevents sources of radio emission below 10 MHz from penetrating the Earth's ionosphere. Figure 2.7 shows the plasma frequency of the stellar wind at the planetary orbit for the three modelled epochs. We find that only cyclotron frequencies above ~ 21 MHz will be able to propagate through the stellar wind for the entirety of the orbit at the three modelled epochs. This requires a minimum planetary field strength of ~ 8 G, based on the values listed in Table 2.4.

We note that the plasma frequency of the stellar wind will also scale with the wind density. For a wind that is 10 times less dense, the plasma frequency of the wind is reduced by a factor of $\sqrt{10}$, thus lowering the minimum planetary field strength required for the planetary emission to propagate to ~ 3 G.

2.5.3 Generation of cyclotron emission in an extended atmosphere

Another potential issue for the detection of planetary radio emission is the planetary atmosphere itself. Recently, Weber et al. (2018) suggested that while close-in hot Jupiters are exposed to more energetic winds that could boost their radio emission, they also receive much higher XUV fluxes from their host stars. As a result, their atmospheres extend far out from the planet and have a higher free electron density. From Equation 2.17, this means that the plasma frequency of the atmosphere becomes very large. Therefore, a planetary field strength of hundreds of G would be required for the generated cyclotron frequency to be above the plasma frequency of the atmosphere. They suggest however that supermassive hot Jupiters may be more suitable targets for detection of planetary radio emission. As their atmospheres would be more tightly bound, the free electron density drops off more sharply with distance from the planet, and thus the radio emission can be generated above the plasma frequency of the atmosphere.

In our planetary radio emission model, we do not account for the presence of a planetary atmosphere, and so we were unable to test the predictions of Weber et al. (2018). Recently however, Daley-Yates & Stevens (2018) modelled the MHD equations of both the stellar and planetary winds of a solar-type star host to a

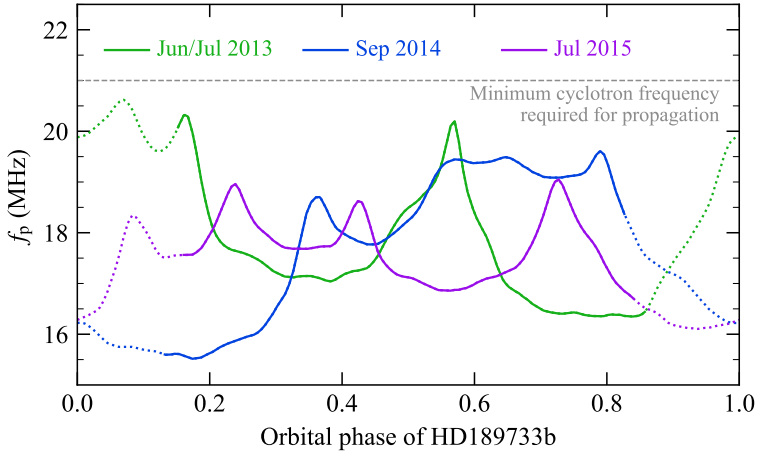


Figure 2.7: Variations of the plasma frequency of the stellar wind at the planetary orbit for each modelled epoch. The minimum cyclotron frequency of ~ 21 MHz required for the planetary emission to propagate through the stellar wind is marked with a grey dashed line. The dotted line segments illustrate where the planetary radio emission is absorbed by the stellar wind at 25 MHz (see Section 2.5.1).

hot Jupiter-type planet. They found that the generated cyclotron frequency in the planetary magnetosphere was at least a factor of 10 lower than the plasma frequency throughout the planetary atmosphere. As it is expected that the atmosphere of HD189733b is extended (Lecavelier des Etangs et al., 2012; Bourrier & Lecavelier des Etangs, 2013), it could prevent the generation of cyclotron emission in the case of HD189733b.

2.6 Detection potential with current and future radio telescopes

From our calculations of the radio emission from the planetary magnetosphere and the wind of the host star, it is clear that their radio signatures are very different. For the planet, it emits at a constant single frequency for a given planetary field strength, with the flux of its emission varying from ~ 1 to 10^2 mJy as it progresses through its orbit. The stellar wind on the other hand emits at much lower fluxes across a range of frequencies. In the region of 10 MHz to 100 GHz, the wind fluxes range from $\sim 10^{-3}$ to $5 \mu\text{Jy}$. Therefore, the peak flux from the wind emission is four orders of magnitude smaller than the peak flux of the planet. As a result, it should be straightforward to distinguish between the planetary and wind emission.

Figure 2.8 shows a comparison between the predicted fluxes from the planet and wind of the host star, along with the sensitivities of LOFAR and SKA2. We see that for a planetary field strength of 5 G, the corresponding cyclotron frequency of 12 MHz is below the lower frequency limit of LOFAR quoted by

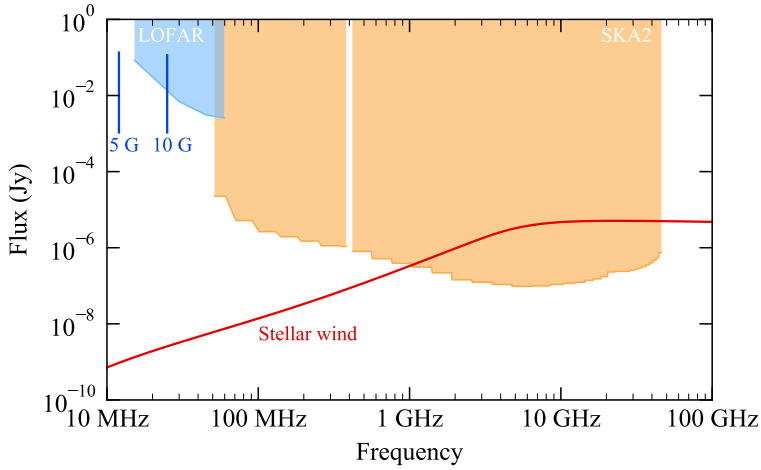


Figure 2.8: Comparison of the predicted radio flux densities and frequencies of HD189733b, for assumed planetary field strengths of 5 and 10 G, and the stellar wind of its host star. The peak planetary flux density shown is the max over the three epochs for a given field strength, with a lower limit set of 1 mJy. The stellar wind spectrum is the same as shown in Figure 2.3. The sensitivities of LOFAR and SKA2 for a 1 hour integration time are also shown, adapted from Grießmeier et al. (2011) and Pope et al. (2019) respectively.

Grießmeier et al. (2011). However, we determined in Section 2.5 that propagation of emission below 21 MHz is unlikely. For the stellar wind, we see that SKA2 is likely to have sufficient sensitivity to determine at which frequency it becomes optically thin. If so, this would allow for the base density of the stellar wind n_0 to be constrained, and consequently the mass-loss rate of the star (see Appendix).

We note that there are likely additional sources of radio emission in planetary system, such as thermal emission from the stellar chromosphere (Villadsen et al., 2014; Fichtinger et al., 2017). However, we do not investigate this in this work.

2.7 Summary & Conclusions

In this work we have characterised the radio environment of the hot Jupiter HD189733b. For its host star HD189733, we performed 3D MHD simulations of its wind, implementing surface magnetic field maps at the epochs Jun/Jul 2013, Sep 2014, and Jul 2015, which were reconstructed from observations. We used our models to calculate the wind variability of HD189733, and determined that the mass-loss rate, angular momentum-loss rate, and open magnetic flux vary by 9%, 40%, and 19% over this period respectively. We also found from our wind models that the planet experiences a non-uniform wind as it progresses through its orbit, with the wind velocity and particle number density varying by 29-37% and 25-32% respectively over the three modelled epochs. Temporal variations were observed in the extended atmosphere of HD189733b (Lecavelier des Etangs et al., 2012), which

could arise from interactions with a variable stellar wind (Bourrier & Lecavelier des Etangs, 2013). Our derivation of the stellar wind properties at the planetary orbit for different epochs will thus be useful to the interpretation of our MOVES observations of the upper planetary atmosphere.

Using the numerical code developed by Ó Fionnagáin et al. (2019a), we calculated the free-free radio spectrum of the wind of HD189733. We found that it emits at low fluxes of 10^{-3} to $5 \mu\text{Jy}$ in the frequency range of 10 MHz to 100 GHz. While it is unlikely that this could be detected with current radio telescopes, future endeavours such as SKA are likely to have the sensitivity required to characterise the radio emission from the winds of stars such as HD189733. If detectable, the mass-loss rate of star could be constrained.

Our wind models provided us with the local wind properties at the planetary orbit, which in turn we used to calculate the planetary radio emission. For assumed planetary field strengths of 1, 5, and 10 G respectively, we found that the planet emits at frequencies of 2, 12, and 25 MHz, with little variation in these values over the modelled period and the orbit of the planet. The emitted flux density however varies from 1 to 10^2 mJy in our calculations. Therefore, a frequency corresponding to a field strength $\gtrsim 10$ G places HD189733b within the detection limit of LOFAR.

We investigated if our predicted planetary radio emission could propagate, and found that HD189733b orbits in and out of regions where the planetary emission will be absorbed by the stellar wind. For the calculated cyclotron frequencies of 12 and 25 MHz, we found that propagation can only occur for 41% and 67% of the orbit respectively. The fraction of the orbit where propagation is possible corresponds to when the planet is approaching and leaving primary transit of the host star. This could be useful information in planning radio observing campaigns of exoplanetary systems. However, as the radio flux densities of the planet are several orders of magnitude higher than those of the stellar wind, some of the planetary emission may still escape even after being attenuated in the stellar wind. We also determined that the plasma frequency of the stellar wind at the planetary orbit is too high for propagation to occur below 21 MHz at the three modelled epochs. In addition to this, the planetary atmosphere itself may prevent the generation of radio emission, as has been recently suggested by Weber et al. (2018).

To conclude, our work has shown that the most favourable candidates for detection of planetary radio emission are hot Jupiters with large magnetic field strengths, orbiting inactive stars with low density winds.

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Appendix: Radio emission and absorption for a lower density stellar wind

The free-free radio emission spectrum of the stellar wind depends on the density. The density profile is primarily determined by the coronal base density in our wind simulations n_0 , which is a free variable. To see the effect of a lower density wind on the free-free radio spectrum of HD189733, we divide our density values from the wind simulations by a factor of 10.

Figure 2.9 shows the comparison of the spectrum shown in Figure 2.3 and the spectrum calculated for the lower base density wind. We find that the lower density wind becomes optically thin at 1 GHz, as opposed to 10 GHz for the higher density wind. We also see that for the lower density wind, the radio flux densities are 1-2 orders of magnitude smaller than those for the $n_0 = 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ wind. So, detection of free-free emission from the stellar wind of HD189733 is more favourable if it has a denser wind. However, the fluxes calculated for the higher density wind are still quite small. While it is unlikely that this could be detected with current radio telescopes, it is expected that future developments such as SKA will allow for radio emission from the winds of nearby low mass stars to be detected (see Ó Fionnagáin et al., 2019a). By determining the frequency at which the wind becomes optically thin, the mass-loss rate of the star could be constrained.

We also show the planetary flux densities for 5 and 10 G in Figure 2.9, which have been scaled for the lower density stellar wind. Assuming the planet remains orbiting in the ram-pressure dominated regime for the lower density wind, the planetary radio flux scales with $n_0^{-1/2}$ (Vidotto & Donati, 2017). The frequency of the planetary emission has a very small dependence on the stellar wind density, as the magnetopause size R_m scales with $n_0^{-1/6}$ in this regime (see Equations 2.9 to 2.12).

The sizes of the radio photospheres of the wind will also depend on the wind density. Figure 2.10 shows the boundaries of these regions at the three calculated cyclotron frequencies in the orbital plane of the planet for the lower density wind. We see that for a lower density, the regions the planet orbits through where wind is optically thick to the cyclotron frequencies are smaller compared to those shown in Figure 2.6 at a given frequency. Therefore, contrary to the wind radio emission, detection of planetary radio emission is more favourable for planets orbiting stars with low density winds.

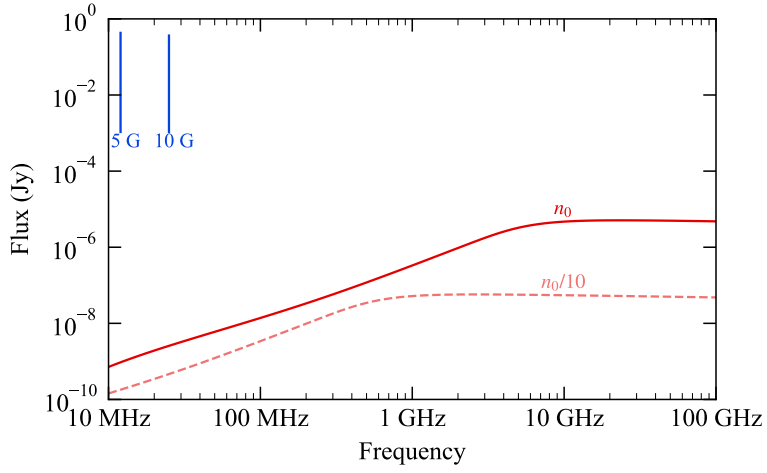


Figure 2.9: Comparison of the free-free radio spectrum of the stellar wind of HD189733 from Figure 2.3 (n_0), with a stellar wind that has a density which is a factor of 10 lower ($n_0/10$). The planetary flux densities for assumed field strengths of 5 and 10 G are also shown in the upper left corner. The peak values of the planetary fluxes have been scaled for the lower density stellar wind from those shown in Figure 2.8.

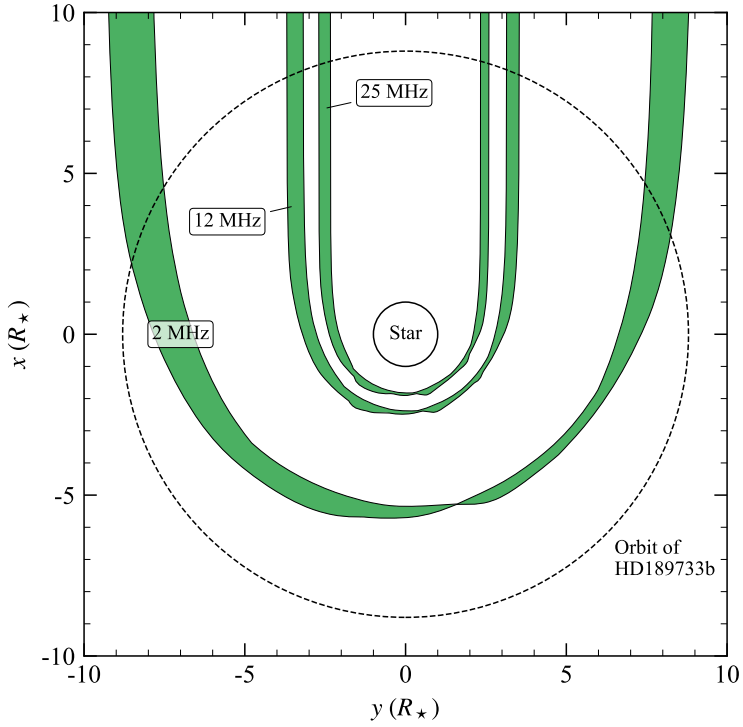


Figure 2.10: Radio photospheres of the stellar wind of HD189733, for a stellar wind that is a factor of 10 lower in density. The sizes of the radio photospheres of the lower density wind at a given frequency are smaller compared to those shown in Figure 2.6.