

# Kilometer-precise (U1) Umbriel physical properties from the multichord stellar occultation on 2020 September 21

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ESOP42 – 42ND EUROPEAN  
SYMPOSIUM ON OCCULTATION  
PROJECTS

Armagh Observatory and Planetarium,  
Ireland, September 16th, 2023

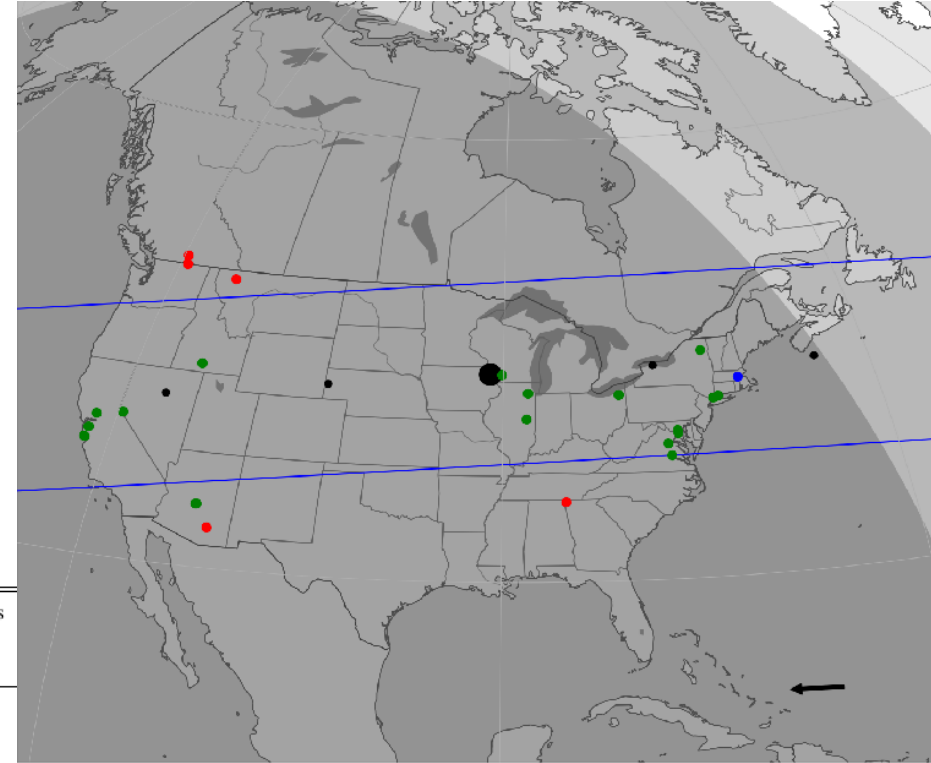
# Presentation topics

- Scientific context
- Observations
- Photometry
- Ingress and egress occultation instants
- Limb fittings
- Results: shape, size, density, albedo, position, ...
- Atmosphere limits
- Umbriel strong variation of limb on both hemispheres

- Uranus and Neptune-type ice giants may be typical representatives of a common class of exoplanets, yet they are the least explored planets in the Solar System (only 1 flyby in 1986 by Voyager 2, which observed the southern hemisphere of the planets and moons)
- Uranus is a rich system and good laboratory for Planetology: 5 moons, 13 moonlets, complex ring system, ...
- Main moons' surfaces are formed of H<sub>2</sub>O ice, carbon-based ices including CO<sub>2</sub> and nitrogen-based ices such as NH<sub>3</sub> (recent geological activity?)
- Moons' true constituents (oceans?) are not known
- A launch window opportunity will occur in 2030–2034 due to a favorable gravity assist configuration by Jupiter, allowing a probe to reach the system before its 2050 equinox, after which the northern hemisphere will again become inaccessible (space missions are now being proposed/investigated)
- Comparison between the currently visible northern hemisphere with southern hemisphere results by Voyager 2 is essential to guide the investigations by such space missions.
- In this context, a successful campaign was carried out in 21 September 2020 at the USA and Canada for the observation of a stellar occultation by Umbriel with 19 positive chords

Occulted star

Epoch 2020-09-21 08:24:36.000 UTC  
 Source ID Gaia DR3 75195604519240064  
 Star position <sup>(1)</sup>  $\alpha = 02^h 30^m 28.^s 84657 \pm 0.0873$  mas  
 $\delta = 14^{\circ} 19' 36'' .3762 \pm 0.0860$  mas  
 Magnitudes <sup>(2)</sup> R =  $13.474 \pm 0.002$ ; G =  $13.779 \pm 0.002$   
 B =  $14.183 \pm 0.002$ ; J =  $11.904 \pm 0.021$   
 H =  $11.412 \pm 0.023$ ; K =  $11.323 \pm 0.022$   
 Absolute G magnitude = 3.214443  
 RUWE <sup>(3)</sup> 1.11  
 Apparent diameter <sup>(4)</sup> 0.0246 mas = 0.339 km  
 Star class <sup>(5)</sup> Main sequence dwarf or sub-giant G-type star



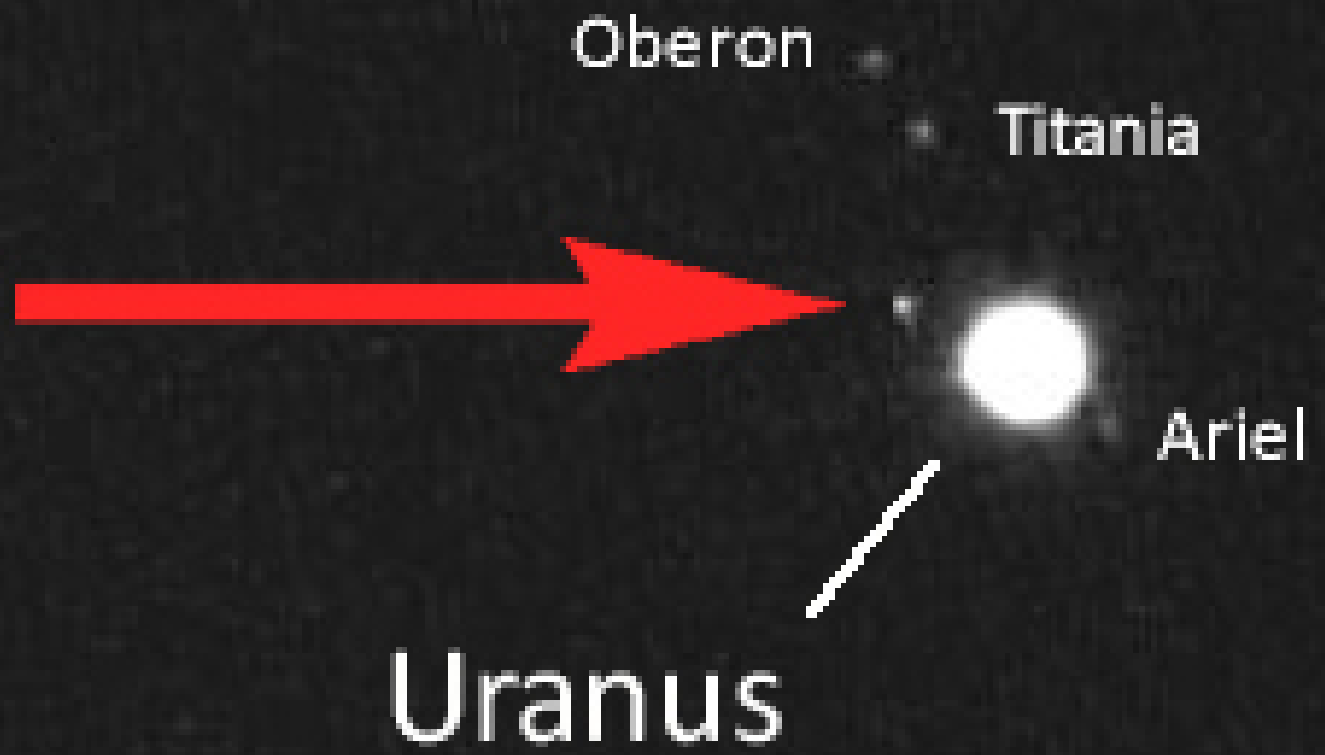
Umbriel

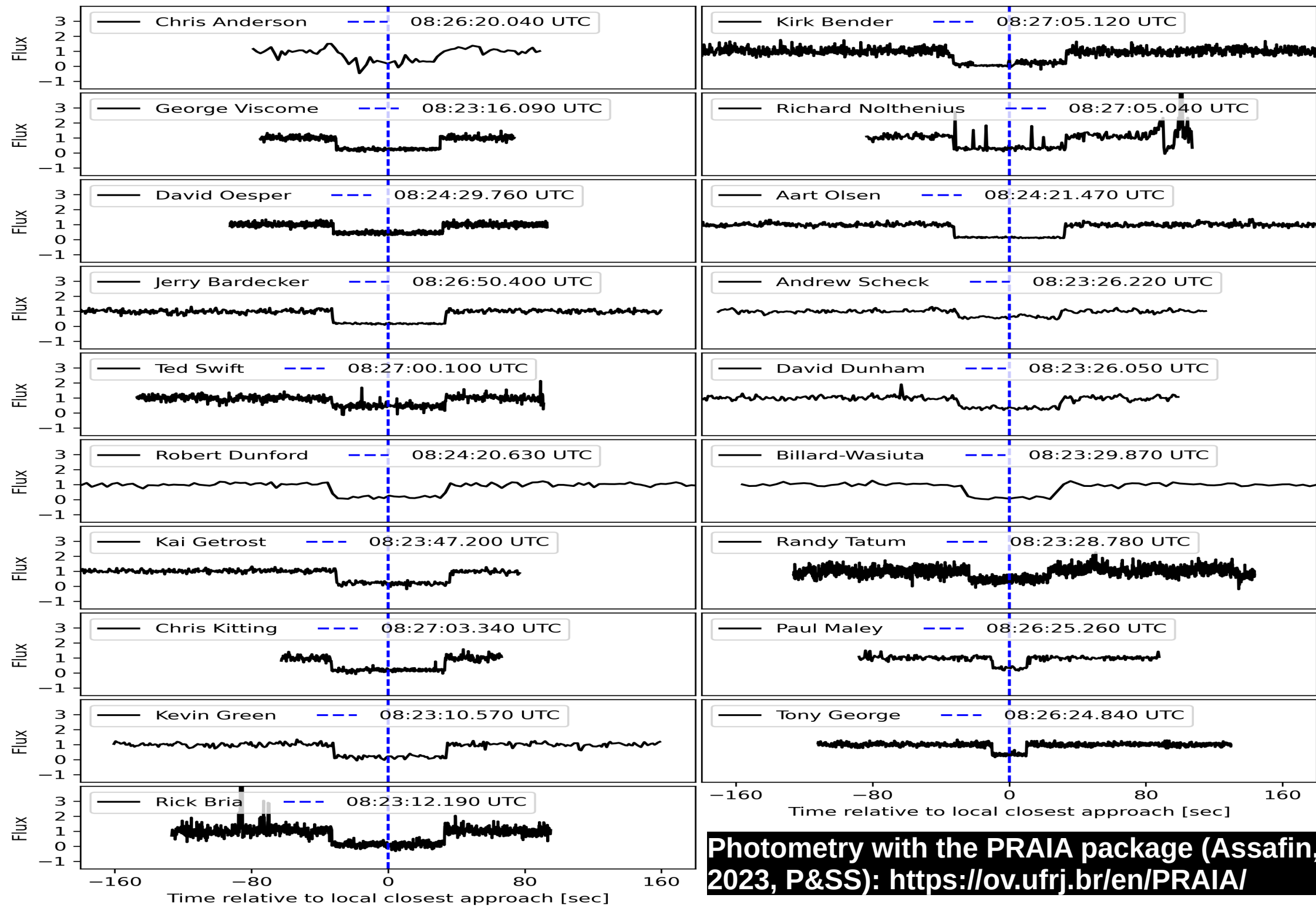
Ephemeris <sup>(6)</sup> DE435/URAI11  
 Geocentric distance 19.0194591323518 au  
 Apparent velocity  $17.2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  (relative velocity Umbriel - star)  
 Apparent magnitude <sup>(7)</sup> V = 14.978  
 Mass <sup>(8)</sup>  $(1.275 \pm 0.028) \times 10^{21} \text{ kg}$   
 Rotation period <sup>(9)</sup> 4.144 days  
 Pole <sup>(10)</sup> RA =  $17^h 08^m 55.^s 6624$   
 Dec =  $-15^{\circ} 02' 00'' .809$   
 Position angle <sup>(11)</sup> P = 145.082 deg  
 Aspect angle <sup>(12)</sup>  $\zeta = 38^{\circ} 16' 24'' .82$  (north pole)  
 Sub-observer point <sup>(13)</sup> Longitude =  $204^{\circ} 20' 04'' .518$   
 at Umbriel Latitude =  $+51^{\circ} 43' 35'' .183$   
 Sub-Uranus point <sup>(14)</sup> Longitude =  $1^{\circ} 04' 17'' .394$   
 at Umbriel Latitude =  $-0^{\circ} 11' 08'' .356$

Observer	Latitude (° ' ''), Longitude (° ' ''), Altitude (m)	D(cm), f/, Detector, Format	Observation (UTC) Start (08:mm:ss), End (08:mm:ss)	Exp. time (s), Cycle time (s), Time device	Status
Dave Gamble, CAN	+49 35 34.000, -119 41 55.900, 522	45.70, 04.5, 1, FITS	19:00 - 29:00	0.11300, 0.11300, GPS	N
Peter Debra Ceravolo, CAN	+49 00 32.000, -119 21 47.000, 1097	28.00, 05.0, 1, FITS	24:00 - 28:00	0.35000, 0.35141, GPS	N
William Hanna, USA	+48 23 38.730, -114 12 43.960, 979	27.94, 10.0, 1, FITS	21:37 - 30:03	1.00000, 1.00235, GPS	N
Chris Anderson, USA	+42 35 01.800, -114 28 13.200, 1120	60.00, 12.8, 4, AVI	22:48 - 30:15	2.06832, 2.06930, GPS	P
Steve Messner, USA	+44 29 57.500, -093 07 45.080, 289	45.00, 03.0, 3			O
George Viscome, USA	+44 15 40.140, -074 00 25.460, 596	36.83, 06.0, 2, FITS	19:31 - 25:38	0.17500, 0.17630, GPS	P
David Oesper, USA	+42 57 36.900, -090 08 31.100, 390	30.50, 03.3, 3, AVI	09:00 - 36:10	0.12800, 0.13310, GPS	P
James Bean, USA					O
Dennis diCicco, USA	+42 21 01.000, -071 23 21.000, 43	40.60, 20.0, 5	20:01 - 28:00	0.25000, 0.25000, NTP	L
Jerry Bardecker, USA	+38 53 23.500, -119 40 20.300, 1524	30.48, 10.0, 3, AVI	23:15 - 29:30	0.03330, 0.03330, GPS	P
Ted Swift, USA	+38 33 08.260, -121 47 08.140, 18	20.00, 10.0, 3, AVI	24:30 - 28:30	0.26400, 0.26700, GPS	P
Robert Dunford, USA	+41 45 32.400, -088 07 00.010, 230	35.56, 01.9, 1, FITS	18:52 - 28:46	3.00000, 3.00070, GPS	P
Kai Getrost, USA	+41 35 06.100, -081 04 45.720, 348	25.40, 10.0, 1, FITS	20:01 - 28:06	0.50000, 0.50030, GPS	P
Chris Kitting, USA	+37 38 48.840, -122 02 09.096, 189	25.40, 04.7, 3, AVI	23:00 - 30:30	0.26640, 0.26670, GPS	P
Kevin Green, USA	+41 10 15.900, -073 19 39.300, 87	35.60, 07.7, 1, SER	18:39 - 27:18	1.00000, 1.00220, GPS	P
Rick Bria, USA	+41 04 01.000, -073 41 30.000, 118	35.50, 07.2, 3, AVI	20:00 - 26:05	0.13320, 0.13320, GPS	P
Kirk Bender, USA	+37 03 27.470, -122 07 23.200, 555	20.32, 10.0, 3, AVI	23:30 - 31:00	0.26640, 0.26700, GPS	P
Richard Nolthenius, USA	+37 01 04.120, -122 04 45.310, 341	20.32, 06.3, 3, AVI	23:10 - 30:00	0.52800, 0.53390, GPS	P
Aart Olsen, USA	+40 05 12.400, -088 11 46.300, 224	50.00, 04.0, 6, AVI	19:27 - 29:27	0.40000, 0.40000, GPS	P
Andrew Scheck, USA	+39 08 59.070, -076 53 13.330, 120	20.00, 06.3, 7, MOV	20:36 - 24:51	0.99000, 1.00050, GPS	P
David Dunham, USA	+38 59 12.745, -076 52 08.880, 46	41.00, 04.4, 1, FITS	20:01 - 25:04	1.00000, 1.00050, GPS	P
Barton Billard & Myron E. Wasiuta, USA	+38 20 02.000, -077 42 38.000, 96	10.20, 07.0, 1, FITS	20:51 - 26:51	4.00000, 4.00172, GPS	P
John Moore, USA					T
Randy Tatum, USA	+37 35 42.576, -077 33 02.484, 77	30.00, 10.0, 8, AVI	21:22 - 26:16	0.10000, 0.10000, NTP	P
Paul Maley, USA	+33 48 42.858, -111 57 07.974, 654	28.00, 05.0, 3, AVI	24:57 - 27:55	0.53280, 0.53390, GPS	P
Tony George, USA	+33 49 00.100, -111 52 07.300, 843	30.00, 03.3, 3, AVI	24:30 - 28:30	0.13320, 0.13390, GPS	P
Ned Smith, USA	+34 52 30.000, -085 28 15.600, 210	63.50, 03.2, 1, FITS	20:14 - 28:13	1.00000, 1.00011, GPS	N
Norman Carlson, USA	+32 25 53.140, -110 44 43.940, 2391	23.50, 00.5, 9 AVI	23:28 - 30:00	0.13340, 0.13340, NTP	N
Roger Venable, USA					O

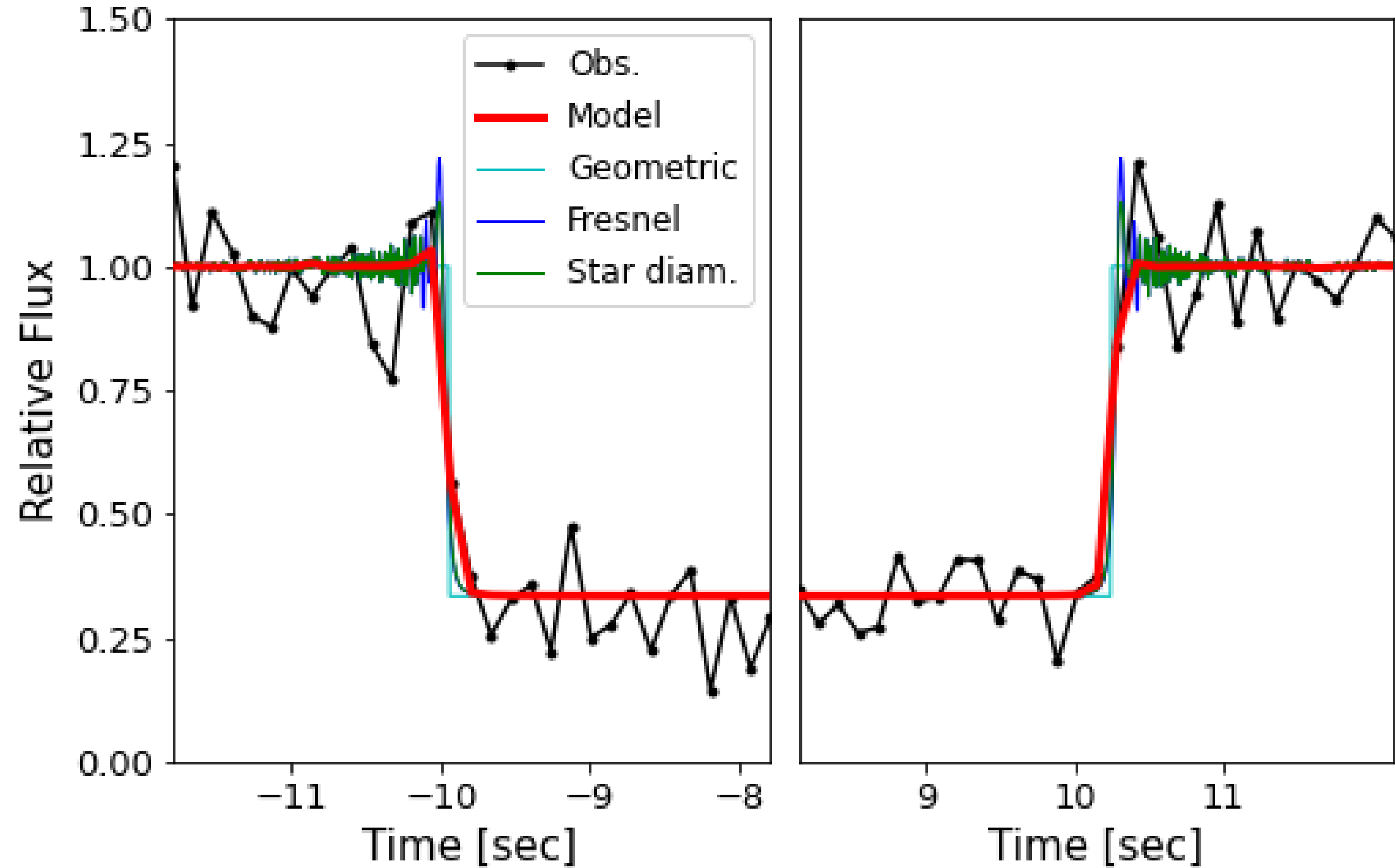
Notes. D(cm) = diameter. f/ = focal ratio. Status: P = positive, N = negative, L = video recording lost, T = technical problems, O = overcast. Detectors: 1 = QHY 174, 2 = QHY 174M, 3 = Watec 910HX, 4 = Watec 120N+, 5 = Celestron Skyris 618M, 6 = Watec 910BD, 7 = Mallincam, 8 = ZWO ASI224MC, 9 = RunCam Night Eagle Astro. Chords ordered from north to south in the sky plane.

UCAC4 522-004083





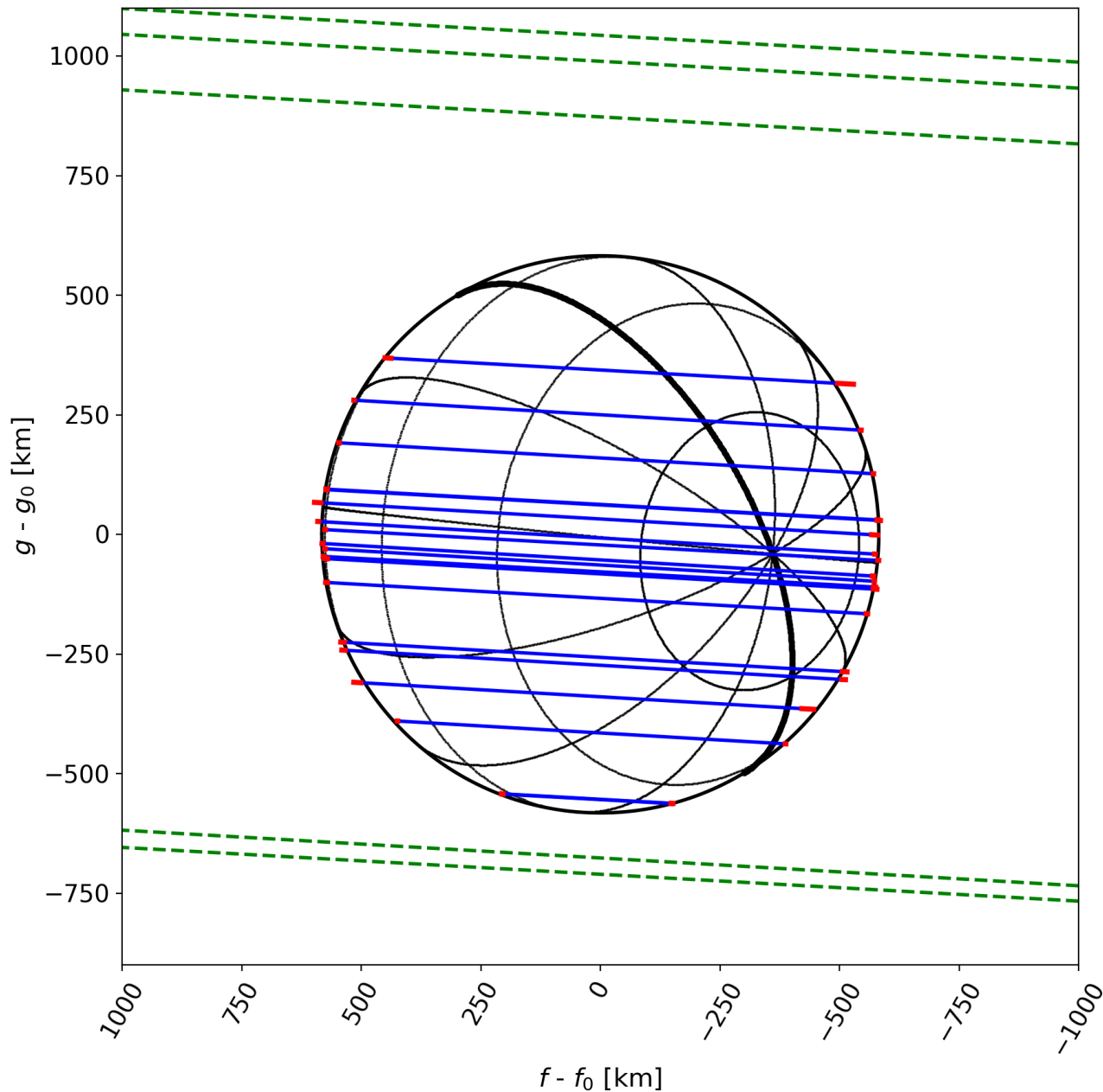
**Photometry with the PRAIA package (Assafin, 2023, P&SS): <https://ov.ufrj.br/en/PRAIA/>**



Observer	Ingress		Egress		Chord length (km)	(O-C) <sub>IN</sub> (km)		$\sigma$ (flux)	Coro Cal
	(08:mm:ss.s)	$\sigma$ (s) $\sigma$ (km)	(08:mm:ss.s)	$\sigma$ (s) $\sigma$ (km)		Circle Ellipse	Circle Ellipse		
Anderson	25:51.712	0.943 16.220	26:46.677	0.357 6.140	945.398 ± 17.343	+18.346 ± 16.439 19.533	-5.560 ± 6.225 -5.722	0.13	N N
Viscome	22:45.657	0.028 0.482	23:46.549	0.023 0.396	1047.342 ± 0.623	+3.662 ± 0.488 +4.602	+4.105 ± 0.401 +3.940	0.10	N C
Oesper	23:57.557	0.022 0.378	25:01.655	0.024 0.413	1102.486 ± 0.560	+1.833 ± 0.384 +2.502	-3.412 ± 0.419 -3.489	0.11	C C
Bardecker	26:17.330	0.066 1.135	27:23.519	0.069 1.187	1138.451 ± 1.642	-2.417 ± 1.151 -2.034	-1.557 ± 1.203 -1.460	0.11	C C
Swift	26:26.857	0.187 3.216	27:33.196	0.065 1.118	1141.031 ± 3.405	+0.217 ± 3.260 +0.597	-2.140 ± 1.133 -2.040	0.14	C C
Dunford	23:47.455	0.373 6.416	24:54.651	0.385 6.622	1155.771 ± 9.220	-2.138 ± 6.724 -1.846	+12.690 ± 2.970 +12.852	0.10	C C
Getrost	23:14.272	0.047 0.808	24:21.048	0.047 0.808	1148.547 ± 1.143	-7.269 ± 0.821 -7.086	+8.724 ± 0.821 +8.976	0.09	C C
Kitting	26:29.916	0.047 0.808	27:36.347	0.051 0.877	1142.613 ± 1.193	+0.923 ± 0.819 +1.073	-6.404 ± 0.889 -6.113	0.15	C C
Green	22:37.692	0.085 1.462	23:43.770	0.053 0.912	1136.542 ± 1.723	-5.969 ± 1.483 -5.904	-0.355 ± 0.925 +0.010	0.11	C C
Bria	22:39.130	0.031 0.533	23:45.047	0.038 0.654	1133.772 ± 0.844	-1.692 ± 0.541 -1.650	-5.146 ± 0.663 -4.751	0.18	C C
Bender	26:31.960	0.133 2.288	27:38.105	0.073 1.256	1137.694 ± 2.610	+1.211 ± 2.319 +1.226	-1.633 ± 1.273 -1.198	0.19	N C
Nolthenius	26:31.794	0.206 3.543	27:37.742	0.180 3.096	1134.306 ± 4.705	+3.326 ± 3.592 +3.332	-5.914 ± 3.140 -5.464	0.35	C C
Olsen	23:49.104	0.092 1.582	24:53.865	0.118 2.030	1113.889 ± 2.574	-1.102 ± 1.607 -1.206	-0.412 ± 2.062 +0.170	0.10	C C
Scheck	22:56.083	0.283 4.868	23:56.284	0.214 3.681	1035.457 ± 6.103	+3.751 ± 3.943 +3.484	+2.744 ± 3.739 +3.660	0.07	N C
Dunham	22:55.982	0.210 3.612	23:55.951	0.202 3.474	1031.467 ± 5.012	+10.195 ± 3.668 +9.919	+7.622 ± 3.529 +8.576	0.14	C C
Billard-Wasiuta	23:03.893	0.711 12.229	23:57.896	0.414 7.121	928.852 ± 14.151	-15.204 ± 12.424 -15.484	+13.803 ± 7.235 +14.912	0.08	C N
Tatum	23:05.211	0.030 0.516	23:51.710	0.033 0.568	799.783 ± 0.767	+2.691 ± 0.524 +2.481	-5.068 ± 0.577 -3.785	0.25	N C
Maley	26:14.879	0.073 1.256	26:35.260	0.099 1.703	350.553 ± 2.116	+0.606 ± 1.276 +0.974	-1.399 ± 1.731 -0.163	0.09	C C
George	26:14.606	0.018 0.310	26:34.791	0.020 0.344	347.182 ± 0.463	+0.461 ± 0.315 +0.836	-1.078 ± 0.350 +0.156	0.09	C C



**Limb fittings: SORA package (Gomes-Júnior et al., 2022, MNRAS): <https://github.com/riogroup/SORA>**



$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(r_{i,obs} - r_{i,cal})^2}{\sigma_i^2 + \sigma_{model}^2}$$

Circular limb

Radius	$R = 582.4 \pm 0.8$ km (1-sigma)
Ephemeris offsets	$f_c = -23.7 \pm 0.8$ km $g_c = -169.4 \pm 1.9$ km
Limb parameter	$\sigma_{model} = 4.2$ km
$\chi^2$ per degree of freedom	1.077

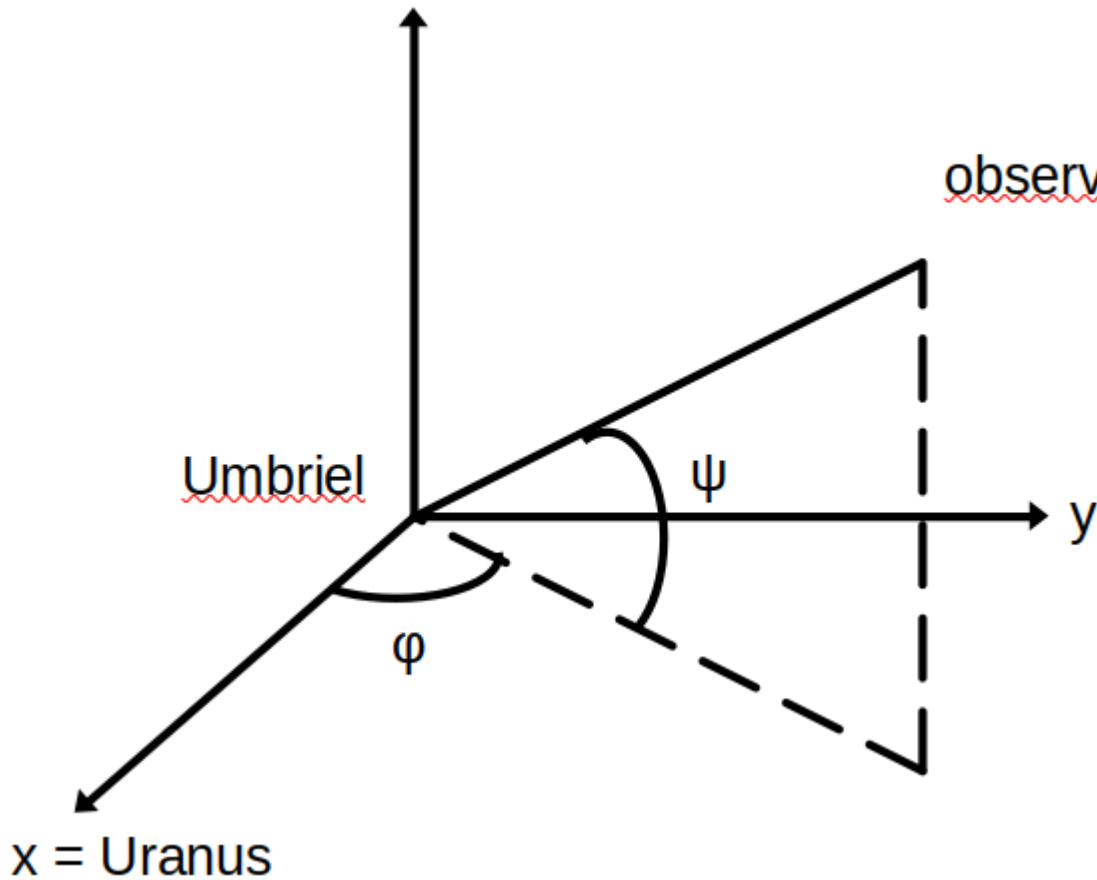
Elliptical limb

Position angle <sup>(1)</sup>	$P = 145.082$ deg (fixed)
Apparent semi-major axis	$a' = 582.6 \pm 1.1$ km (1-sigma)
Apparent oblateness	$\epsilon' = 0.003 \pm 0.003$ (1-sigma)
Apparent equivalent radius <sup>(2)</sup>	$R'_{eq} = 581.7 \pm 2.0$ km
Ephemeris offsets <sup>(3)</sup>	$f_c = -23.7 \pm 0.9$ km $g_c = -169.5 \pm 2.0$ km
Limb parameter	$\sigma_{model} = 4.3$ km
$\chi^2$ per degree of freedom	1.104

$z =$  north rotation pole

observers

Umbriel



**Apparent ellipse to true ellipsoid  $a > b = c$**

$$\frac{1}{a'^2} = \frac{r + s^{1/2}}{2t}, \quad \frac{1}{c'^2} = \frac{r - s^{1/2}}{2t}$$

$$r = (c^2 - a^2) \cos^2 \psi \cos^2 \varphi + a^2 + c^2$$

$$t = (c^4 - a^2 c^2) \cos^2 \psi \cos^2 \varphi + a^2 c^2$$

$$s = a^4 (1 - \cos^2 \psi \cos^2 \varphi)^2 +$$

$$c^4 \cos^2 \psi (\cos^2 \psi + 2 \sin^2 \psi \sin^2 \varphi - 2 \cos^2 \varphi) +$$

$$2a^2 c^2 (\cos^4 \psi \sin^2 \varphi \cos^2 \varphi - \sin^2 \psi) +$$

$$2a^2 c^2 \cos^2 \psi (\sin^2 \psi \cos^2 \varphi - \sin^2 \varphi) +$$

$$c^4 (1 - \cos^2 \psi \sin^2 \varphi)^2$$

# Results

$$\text{Volume} = \frac{4 \pi R^3}{3}$$

$$\text{Density} = \frac{\text{mass}}{\text{volume}}$$

$$\text{Surface gravity} = \frac{G M}{R^2}$$

$$\text{Escape velocity} = \sqrt{\frac{2 G M}{R}}$$

$$\text{Geometric albedo } p = \left(\frac{au}{R}\right)^2 10^{0.4(H_\odot - H)}$$

$(\alpha, \delta) \leftarrow \text{limb fitting}$

*atmosphere limits*  $\leftarrow$  light curve fitting by atmosphere model using ray tracing

## Umbriel physical characteristics from occultation

Radius	$R = 582.4 \pm 0.8 \text{ km}$
Limb parameter	$\sigma_{\text{model}} = 4.2 \text{ km}$
Density (sphere)	$\rho = 1.54 \pm 0.04 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$
Surface gravity	$0.251 \pm 0.006 \text{ m s}^{-2}$
Escape velocity	$0.541 \pm 0.006 \text{ km s}^{-1}$
Geometric albedo (sphere)	$p_V = 0.26 \pm 0.01$
Aspect angle	$\zeta = 38^\circ 16' 24''.82$ (north pole)
Isothermal CO <sub>2</sub> atmosphere at $T = 70 \text{ K}$	surface pressure = $13 - 72 \text{ nbar}$ ( $1-3\sigma$ upper limits)

## Upper limits on putative Umbriel ellipsoid from occultation

True semi-major axis	$a = 584.9 \pm 3.8 \text{ km}$
True semi-minor axes	$b = c = 582.3 \pm 0.6 \text{ km}$
True oblateness	$\epsilon = 0.004 \pm 0.008$
True equivalent radius <sup>(1)</sup>	$R_{\text{eq}} = 583.6 \pm 2.2 \text{ km}$

## Astrometry occultation data

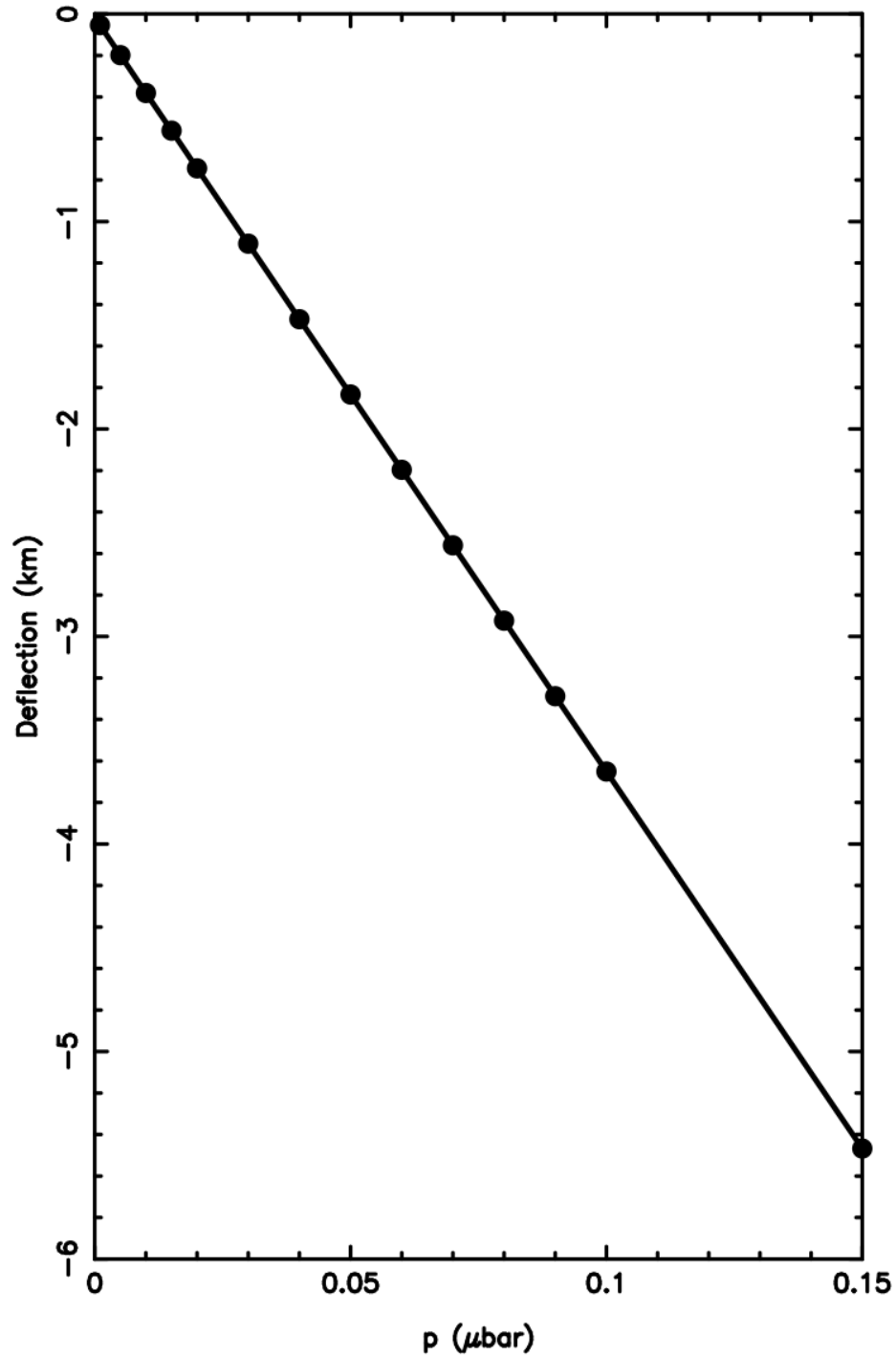
Ephemeris offsets <sup>(2)</sup> (mas)	$\Delta\alpha \cos \delta = -1.7 \pm 0.1 \text{ mas}$ $\Delta\delta = -12.3 \pm 0.2 \text{ mas}$
Ephemeris offsets <sup>(2)</sup> (km)	$\Delta\alpha \cos \delta = -23.7 \pm 0.8 \text{ km}$ $\Delta\delta = -169.4 \pm 1.9 \text{ km}$
Geocentric ICRS position at epoch	$\alpha = 02^h 30^m 28.^s 84556 \pm 0.1 \text{ mas}$ $\delta = 14^\circ 19' 36''.5836 \pm 0.2 \text{ mas}$
Reference occultation epoch	2020-09-21 08:24:36.000 UTC

## Voyager II 1986 observations

Radius (Voyager II, 1986)	$R = 584.7 \pm 2.8 \text{ km}$ (Thomas 1988)
Limb topography (Voyager II, 1986)	$\pm 5.0 \text{ km}$ (Fig. 3 in Thomas 1988)
Aspect angle with the Sun <sup>(3)</sup>	$\zeta = 8^\circ$ (south pole)

# Atmosphere limits

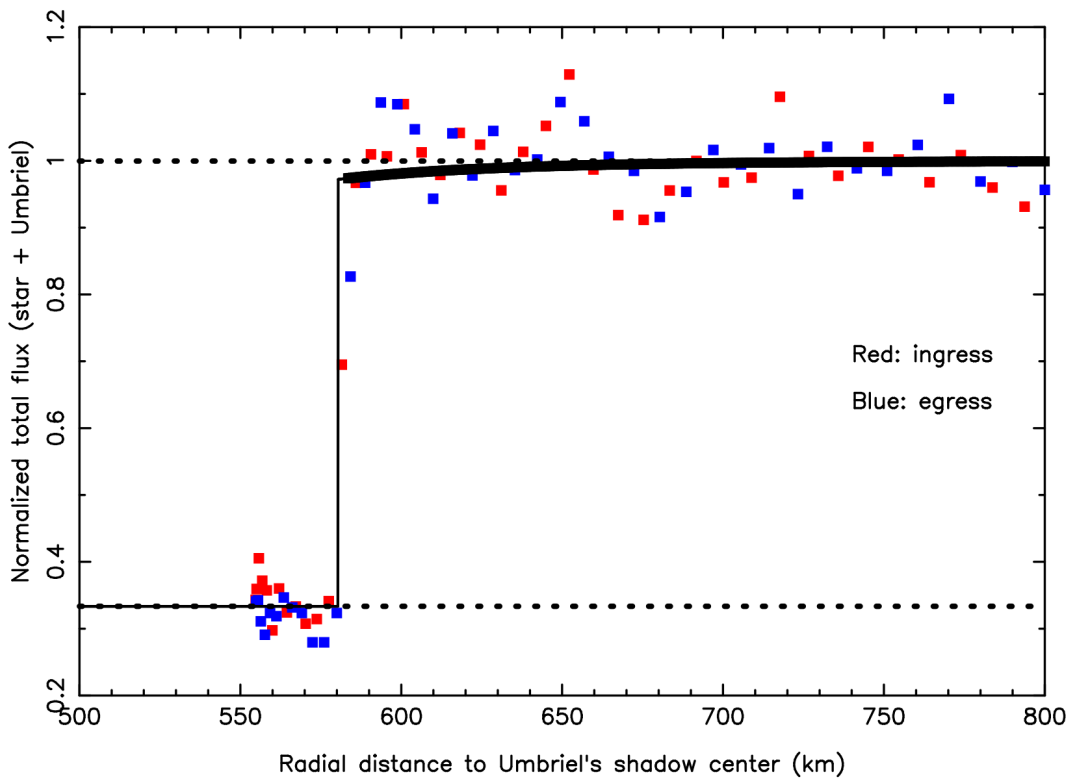
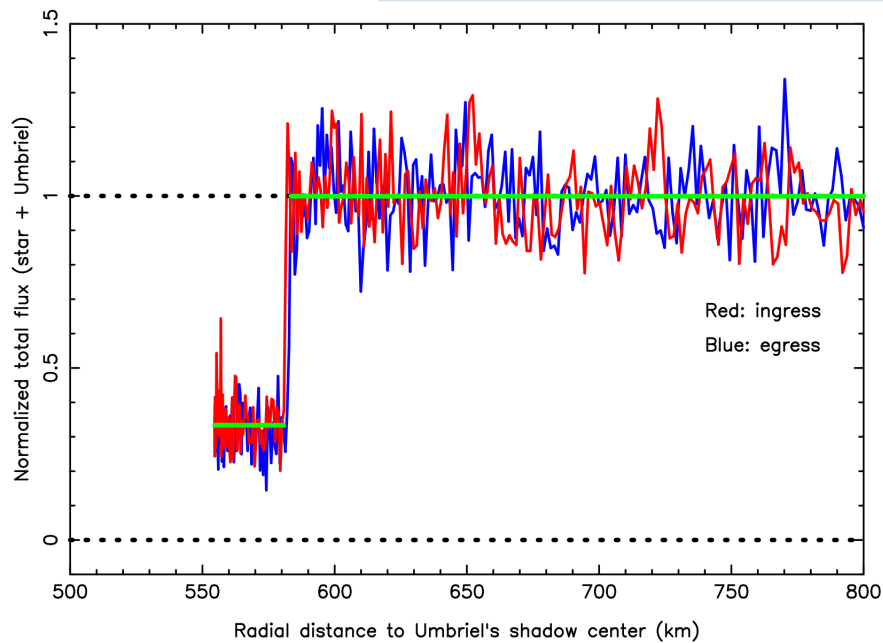
Isothermal CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere  
at  $T = 70$  K



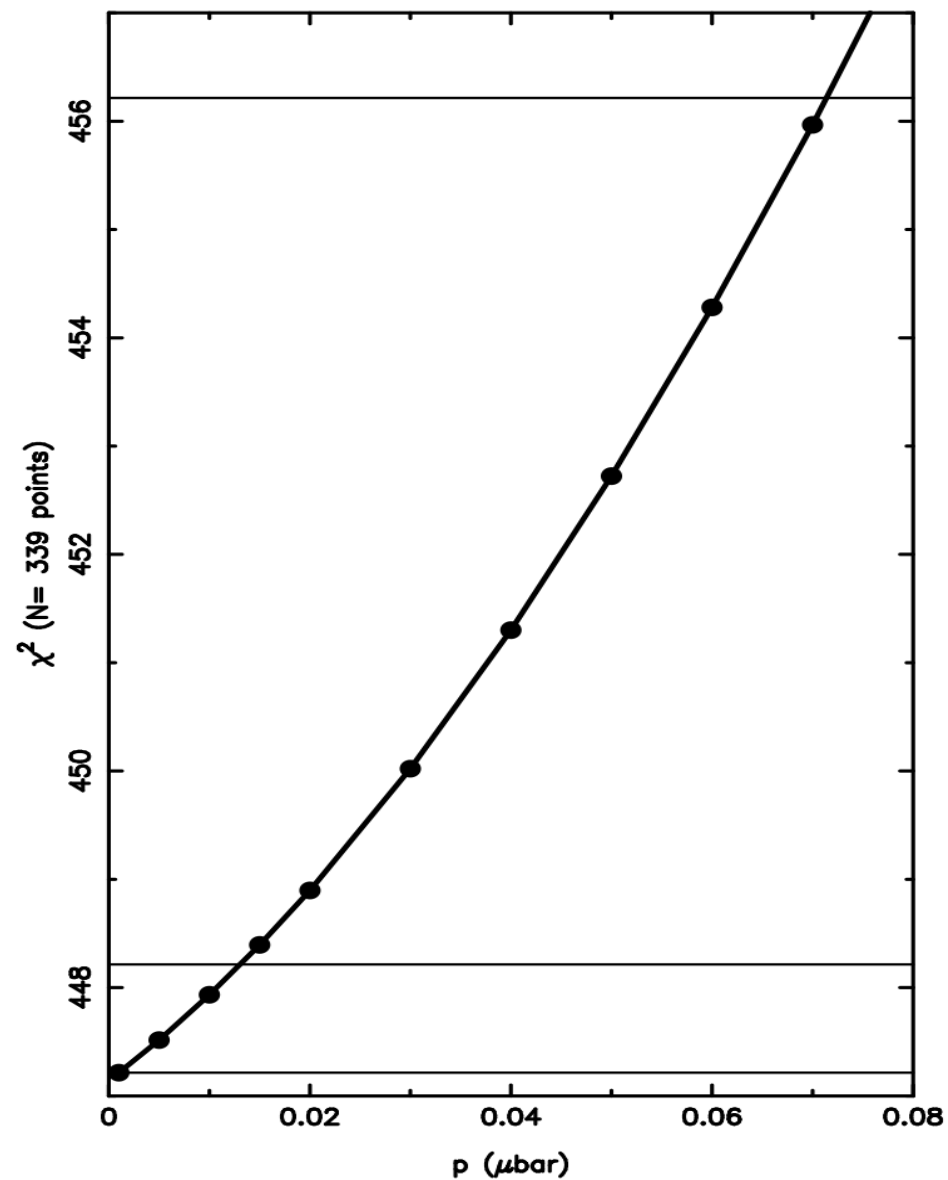
$$R_{occ} - R_{V2} = -2.3 \pm 2.9 \text{ km} \Rightarrow 1 \sigma \text{ upper limit} < 5.2 \text{ km}$$

p = 150 nbar

# Atmosphere limits



Isothermal CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere  
at  $T = 70$  K

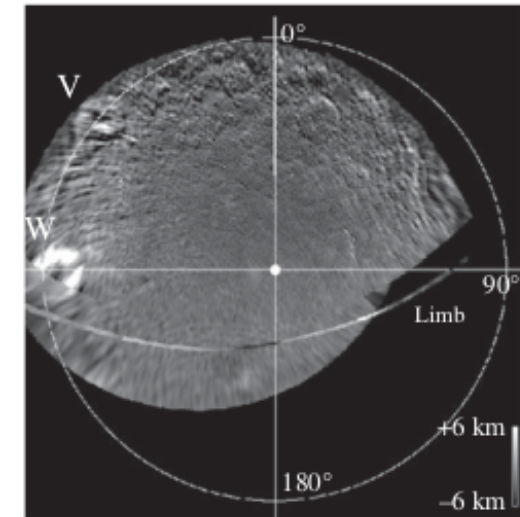
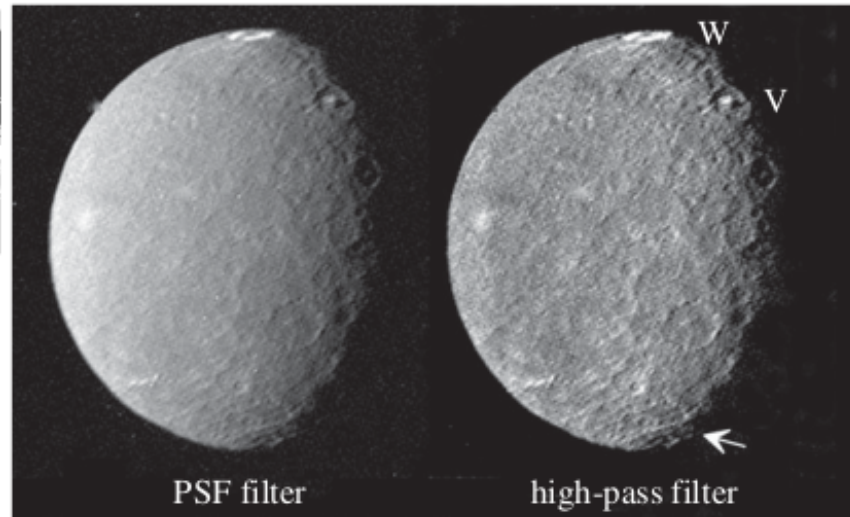
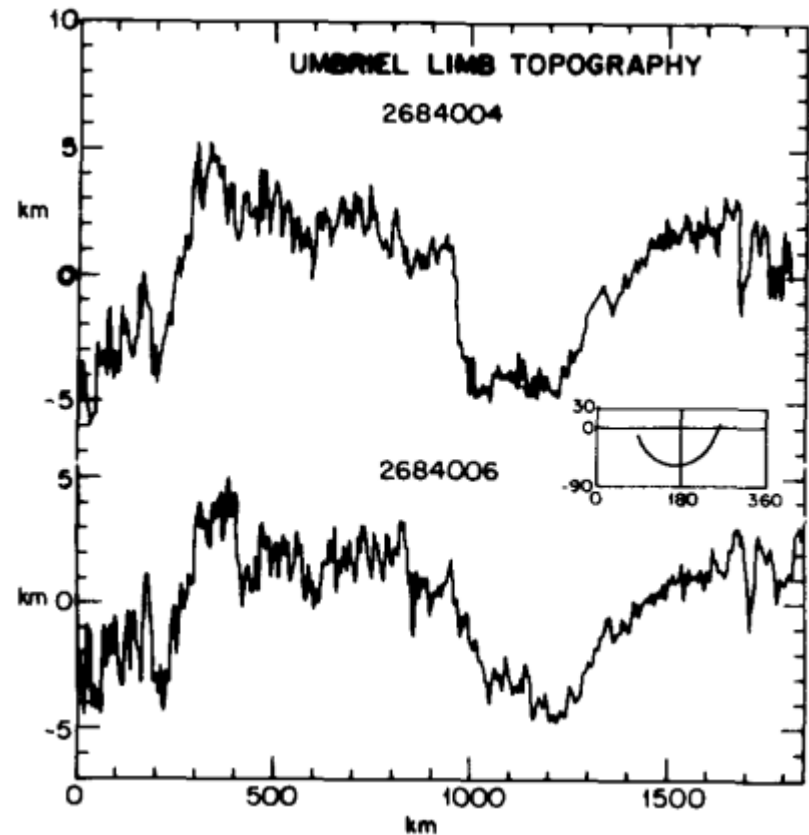


Isothermal CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere  
at  $T = 70$  K

surface pressure = 13 – 72 nbar  
(1–3 $\sigma$  upper limits)

# Umbriel strong limb variation at both hemispheres

## Voyager 2 measurements of the southern hemisphere



Left: P.C. Thomas (Icarus 1988). Above: photoclinometry by P.M. Schenk & J.M. Moore (Philosophical Transactions A, 2020)

This occultation probed the northern hemisphere  
==> Limb parameter = 4.2 km consistent with Voyager 2

## Kilometer-precise (UII) Umbriel physical characteristics from the multichord stellar occultation on 2020 September 21

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### ABSTRACT

We report the results of the stellar occultation by (UII) Umbriel on September 21st, 2020. The shadow crossed the USA and Canada, and 19 positive chords were obtained. A limb parameter accounted for putative topographic features in the limb fittings. Ellipse fittings were not robust. Only upper limits were derived for the true size/shape of a putative Umbriel ellipsoid. The adopted spherical solution gives radius =  $582.4 \pm 0.8$  km, smaller/close to  $584.7 \pm 2.8$  km from Voyager II. The obtained apparent semi-major axis of  $582.6 \pm 1.1$  km and oblateness of  $0.003 \pm 0.003$  result in a true semi-major axis of  $584.9 \pm 3.8$  km, semi-minor axes of  $582.3 \pm 0.6$  km and true oblateness of  $0.004 \pm 0.008$  for a putative ellipsoid. The geometric albedo was  $p_V = 0.26 \pm 0.01$ . A mass of  $(1.275 \pm 0.028) \times 10^{21}$  kg gives a density of  $\rho = 1.54 \pm 0.04$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>. The surface gravity is  $0.251 \pm 0.006$  m s<sup>-2</sup> and the escape velocity  $0.541 \pm 0.006$  km s<sup>-1</sup>. Upper limits of 13 and 72 nbar (at  $1\sigma$  and  $3\sigma$  levels, respectively) were obtained for the surface pressure of a putative isothermal CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at  $T = 70$  K. A milliarcsecond precision position was derived:  $\alpha = 02^h 30^m 28.^s 84556 \pm 0.1$  mas,  $\delta = 14^\circ 19' 36''.5836 \pm 0.2$  mas. A large limb parameter of 4.2 km was obtained, in striking agreement with opposite southern hemisphere measurements by Voyager II in 1986. Occultation and Voyager results indicate that the same strong topography variation in the surface of Umbriel is present on both hemispheres.

**Key words:** planets and satellites: individual: (UII) Umbriel – occultations

**THANKS !!**