



## Could CoRoT-7b a remnant of an evaporated gas or ice giant?

Martin Leitzinger (1), Petra Odert (1), Helmut Lammer (2), Yuri Kulikov (3), Guenther Wuchterl (4), Mario Guarcello (5), Guiseppina Micela (5), Maxim Khodachenko (2), Joerg Weingrill (2), and Arnold Hanslmeier (1)

(1) University of Graz, Institute of Physics, IGAM, Graz, Austria (martin.leitzinger@aon.at), (2) Space Research Institute, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Graz, Austria, (3) Polar Geophysical Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Murmansk, Russia, (4) Thueringer Landessternwarte, Tautenburg, Germany, (5) INAF, Osservatorio Astronomico, Palermo, Italy

We investigate the thermal mass loss of the CoRoT discovery CoRoT-7b (4-7 earth masses) using an energy limited approach with proper heating efficiencies considering Roche-Lobe effects and exosphere formation times. We place hypothetical exoplanets with characteristics of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune at the orbital distance of CoRoT-7b (0.017AU) and study the influence of the mean planetary density on the thermal mass loss. We find that if we let evolve a hydrogen-rich Jupiter or Saturn class object, these can not loose such an amount of mass that CoRoT-7b would result in a rocky residue. Even if we start with a hydrogen-rich hot Uranus or Neptune type object, the remaining mass after two Gyr (estimated age of the host star) is not comparable to the mass of CoRoT-7b. If we assume unrealistic but possible starting parameters for a hydrogen-rich low density Sub-Neptune class object, a remaining mass of CoRoT-7b would be possible. Anyway, the most likely scenario is that of CoRoT-7b starting as a rocky planet possibly loosing a thin hydrogen atmosphere.