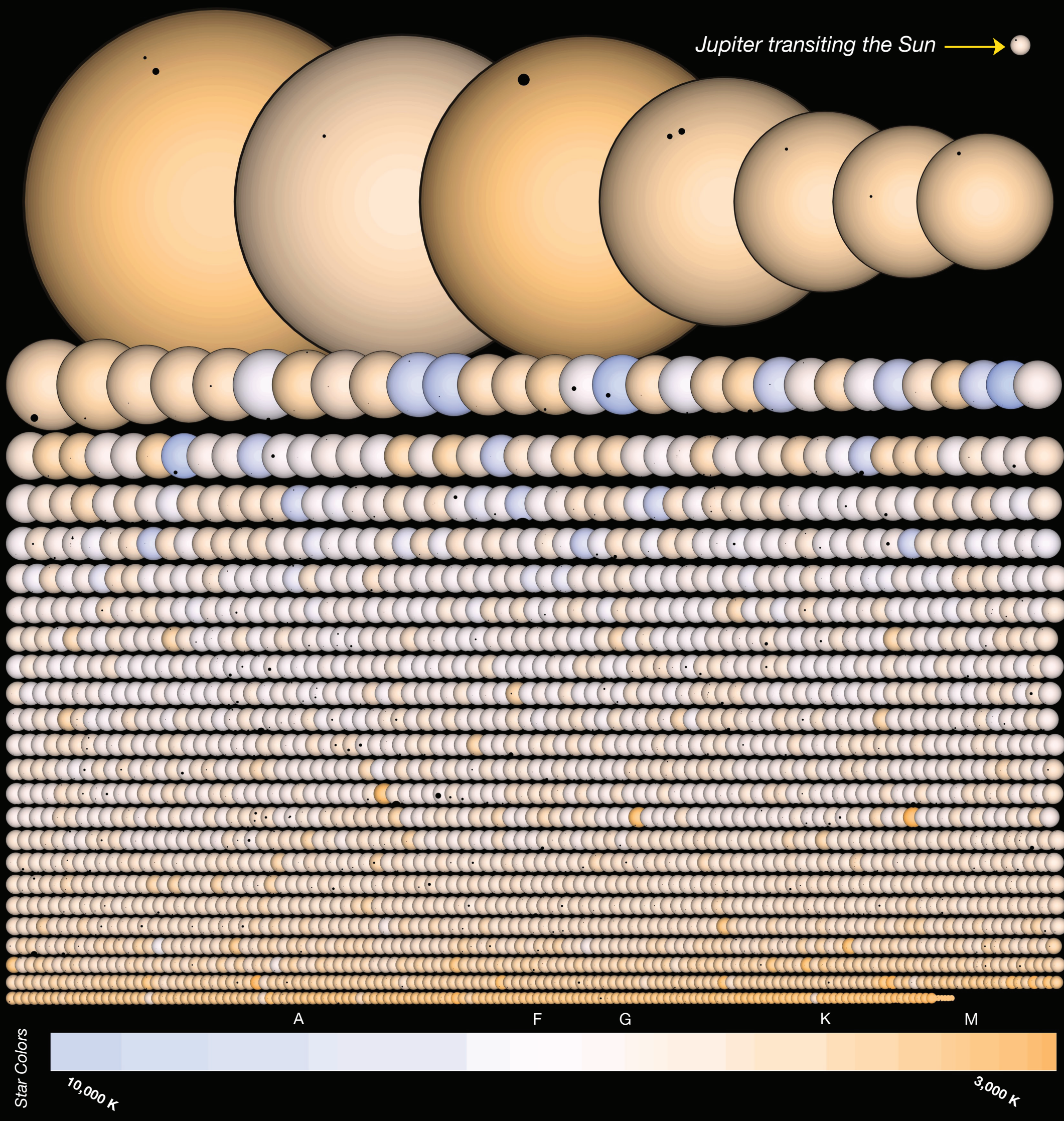
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

KEPLER'S PLANET CANDIDATES

2,740 AS OF JANUARY, 2013



Jason Rowe, NASA Ames Research Center and SETI Institute

Using NASA's planet-hunting Kepler spacecraft, astronomers have discovered 2,740 planet candidates orbiting 2,036 other suns in a search for Earth-size worlds. The search began in 2009. Kepler monitors a rich star field for planetary transits, which cause a slight dimming of starlight when a planet crosses the face of its star. In "Kepler's Planet Candidates," the systems are ordered by star diameter. The star's color represents its temperature as shown in the lower scale, and the letters (A, F, G, K, M) designate star types. The simulated stellar disks and the planet silhouettes are shown at the same scale, with saturated star colors. Look carefully: some systems have multiple planets. For reference, Jupiter is shown transiting the Sun. Higher resolutions of this graphic are available at http://Kepler.NASA.gov/images/graphics

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