SpiKeS: Precision Warm Spitzer Photometry of the Kepler Field

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ABSTRACT

The ~ 200,000 targets monitored for photometric variability during the *Kepler* prime mission include the best-studied group of stars in the sky, due both to the extensive time history provided by *Kepler* and to the substantial amounts of ancillary data provided by other investigators or compiled by the *Kepler* team. To complement this wealth of data, we have surveyed the entire *Kepler* field using the 3.6 and 4.5μ m bands of the Warm *Spitzer Space Telescope*, obtaining photometry in both bands for almost 170,000 objects. We demonstrate relative photometric precision ranging from better than ~ 1.5% for the brighter stars down to slightly greater than ~ 2% for the faintest stars monitored by *Kepler*. We describe the data collection and analysis phases of this work and identify several stars with large infrared excess, although none that is also known to be the host of an exoplanetary system. The final catalog resulting from this work will be available at the NASA Exoplanet Archive.

Keywords: catalogs — surveys — stars: general

1. INTRODUCTION

During its 4 year prime mission (May 2009 - May 2013), the *Kepler* spacecraft (Borucki et al. 2010) produced highly precise time series photometry for over 175,000 stars, mostly main sequence dwarfs of types F, G, and K, and for other astronomical targets of all types. These data, together with the ancillary data about the stars available at the NASA Exoplanet Archive, and the wealth of additional data produced by surveys of the *Kepler* field at wavelengths from the X-ray into the mid-infrared, make these the best-studied group of stars in the sky. In addition to the prime application of the *Kepler* data, which is to search the light curves for transiting exoplanets, the *Kepler* data have been used for numerous papers on astrophysical phenomena ranging from asteroseismology to reverberation mapping of active galactic nuclei (e.g. Ciardi et al. 2011; Mushotzky et al. 2011; Yu et al. 2018).

The work described here adds to the data on the *Kepler* field high precision photometry of the entire field using the 3.6 and 4.5μ m bands of the Warm *Spitzer Space Telescope*'s Infrared Array Camera (IRAC) (Werner et al. 2004; Fazio et al. 2004). This project is labelled SpiKeS, which stands for the *Spitzer Kepler S* urvey. We have surveyed the entire *Kepler* field in Cygnus, which the spacecraft observed for 45 consecutive months, but not any of the areas studied by the successor K2 mission. We succeeded in achieving our objective, which was to achieve a measurement precision on the brightness of the *Kepler* stars better than the absolute calibration uncertainty of the *Spitzer* data, estimated to be ~ 2.4% (Carey et al. 2012; Bohlin et al. 2011). This was done through precise reduction of the images obtained by *Spitzer*. There is a separate *Spitzer* Science Center effort to combine all 16 years of IRAC data into super

mosaics with a corresponding source list (tentatively titled the Warm Mission *Spitzer* Enhanced Imaging Products (WM-SEIP)) to give a mission catalog of images, targets, and photometry. The user can explore this database and then, if desired, dive deeper into removing remaining systematic uncertainties for objects of interest. Overall, we expect similar results for photometry from SpiKeS and WM-SEIP, but SpiKeS will be superior in its precision due to a more refined treatment of the systematic uncertainties. Unlike SpiKeS, the WM-SEIP will include most of the \sim 13 million sources in the *Kepler* Input Catalog, and not just the \sim 200,000 monitored for planets by *Kepler* and included in SpiKeS.

The applications of this and the other data being accumulated on the *Kepler* field are limited only by astronomers' imagination. However, the principal interest of the SpiKeS team, as illustrated below, was to search for infrared excesses which could in principle be due either to circumstellar dust or to cool companions of the *Kepler* stars. In addition, precise spectral energy distribution (SED) fitting of the SpiKeS and other data, combined with distances measured by *Gaia* (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2016, 2018), as has been done by Berger et al. (2020), can lead to improved estimates of the radii of exoplanet host stars, which, in combination with the measured transit depths, can also yield the best possible determinations of exoplanet radii.

A note on nomenclature may prove helpful as we discuss our work. The stars for which *Kepler* reported high cadence light curves are referred to as *Kepler* Targets. The *Kepler* Input Catalog, or KIC, from which the *Kepler* Targets were drawn, includes ~ 13 million objects. Although essentially all of these targets are included in SpiKeS measurements of the entire *Kepler* field, our focus is on the ~ 200,000 of these – the *Kepler* Targets - which have been monitored continually by *Kepler*. In this paper all data described and discussed refer either to the *Kepler* Targets or to a subsample of the *Kepler* Targets, and all magnitudes are on the Vega scale ¹. Finally, the plots below include a small number of *Kepler* Targets which are not giant or normal dwarf stars (e.g. galaxies or white dwarfs). We are confident that their presence does not compromise the conclusions of this work

In Section 2, we describe the experimental design and the data reduction approach; we had to develop novel data reduction procedures because of the brightness of many of the observed stars and the fact that, in most cases, only three observations of a particular star were taken. In Section 3, we present the results, including a comparison of two separate epochs of observations of a $2.5^{\circ} \times 2.5^{\circ}$ Kepler Test Tile (KTT) and other comparisons which validate our experimental design, uncertainty determination, and absolute photometry. In section 4, we report the results of a preliminary search for infrared excesses amongst the observed stars, which identified several stars showing substantial excess emission. The results of the work are summarized in Section 5.

The paper also includes several Appendices. Appendix A presents our approach to data analysis, including treatment of systematic effects and elimination of outlying measurements. These include a seldom addressed issue (a column pull-up due to bright sources) which led to overestimates of the flux from a small fraction of the observed stars. Appendices B and C present details related to the execution and scheduling of the observations. In Appendix D we discuss evidence for variability amongst the *Kepler* Targets.

The Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) mission (Wright et al. 2010) included the *Kepler* field in its all-sky survey. The WISE data on the *Kepler* field have been analyzed and discussed by Kennedy & Wyatt (2012). Their main objective was to search for excesses in WISE bands 3 and 4 at 12 and 22μ m, but they do discuss WISE photometry of the *Kepler* field in the shorter wavelength bands at 3.4 and 4.6μ m, roughly analogous to the Warm *Spitzer* bands. In Appendix E we compare *Spitzer* and WISE photometry of the *Kepler* Targets. Our principal conclusion is that because the *Spitzer* pixels are one-tenth the angular area of WISE's, there are an appreciable number of sources reported as single by WISE which prove to be double when observed by *Spitzer*. In Appendix F, we present and discuss an HR diagram for the observed stars, using absolute magnitudes based on distances derived from *Gaia*.

2. OBSERVATIONS

We began this work with a pilot project in January 2013, during *Spitzer* Cycle 9 [PID 90100] by observing a *Kepler* Test Tile (KTT) which is one of twenty-one $2.5^{\circ} \times 2.5^{\circ}$ sectors into which the full *Kepler* field is divided. The test field is centered at $\alpha = 292.765220^{\circ}$ and $\delta = 42.08020^{\circ}$ (J2000).

2.1. AOR construction

¹ The Vega based magnitude zero points for the IRAC camera are IRAC1= 280.9 Jy and IRAC2=179.7 Jy

The experimental design of the pilot project allowed complete coverage of the KTT with both the 3.6 and the 4.5μ m IRAC 256 × 256 pixel arrays, which view adjacent ~ 5' × 5' fields of view on the sky with ~ 1.2" pixels and a point source FWHM ~ 1.8 - to - 2.0". The observations of the tile were carried out using the IRAC mapping mode in array coordinates, so that the scans and steps were parallel to rows or columns of the arrays. They were planned by dividing the tile into a series of strips of size ~ 0.5° × 2.5°. An Astronomical Observation Request (AOR) – a script which defines a *Spitzer* observation - was constructed for each strip which mapped it in both IRAC bands by scanning in the long direction along one side of the strip, stepping just under one array-width perpendicular to the long direction, and returning and repeating until the tile was completely covered. To achieve the complete coverage of the KTT, the five AORs were chained together to observe the full tile in consecutive *Spitzer* observations, which took a total of 22 hours. The combined strips are slightly larger than the KTT because the *Spitzer* FOV rotates on the sky over time.

The selected integration time was 12s, and the telescope was moved by a little less than a third of a $\sim 5' \times 5'$ field of view in the scan direction between integrations. Thus, most stars were observed three times, resulting in an integration time of 31.2s, when the overhead due to Fowler sampling is subtracted, as discussed in section 2.4.2 of the IRAC Handbook². However, the overlap between adjacent scans and AORs led to a few stars being observed up to as many as ten times, as summarized in Appendix B. We applied severe quality checks during the data reduction process (Appendix A), so that in the end some sources – both in the pilot project and in the final survey discussed below - had only one (or perhaps even zero) useful observations in a particular *Spitzer* band (Appendix B). Only measurements which survived these quality checks are included in the figures or calculations presented in this paper. Similarly, only such high quality measurements are included in the archival data stored at the NASA Exoplanet Archive. However, the SpiKeS archive will contain data on all *Kepler* Targets, including those for which SpiKes provides a measurement at only one [or perhaps neither of] the IRAC bands. This will put the wealth of ancillary data [see Table 4 below] on all Kepler targets into a single, readily accessible database.

The success of the pilot project, which reached our desired photometric precision, encouraged us to propose to observe the entire *Kepler* field using the same methodology. This main survey was designed similarly to the pilot survey so that each *Kepler* tile was observed as continuously as *Spitzer*'s scheduling constraints permitted. We observed all 21 *Kepler* tiles, including a re-observation of the KTT. The repeat of the KTT was critical in allowing us to quantify the precision of our photometry. In the main survey, the observations of a particular tile were typically spread over 2 or 3 days, interrupted as *Spitzer* slewed away to carry out other observations. The AORs had to be designed to accommodate this spread. The full-field proposal was accepted [PID 10067] and executed, primarily in 2014, according to the schedule compiled in Appendix C.

2.2. Data Reduction and Source Extraction

The pilot project served as a proving ground for the data reduction techniques subsequently adopted for the entire project. In both cases, the data on a given tile was pipeline-processed and calibrated by the *Spitzer* Science Center (SSC) and made available to the investigator team for further analysis. The *Kepler* Targets include stars brighter than $10^{\rm th}$ magnitude in the two IRAC bands (IRAC1 denotes the 3.6µm band and IRAC2 the 4.5µm band), and almost all of the *Kepler* Targets are brighter than $15^{\rm th}$ magnitude in both IRAC1 and IRAC2. The nominal saturation limit, according to the IRAC Handbook, for our observations is 10.1 at IRAC1 and 9.4 at IRAC2. However, this is a very conservative limit because it assumes that a star is centered on the saturating pixel. In our effort to provide a reliable database, we have used a flag generated for saturated pixels in the reduction pipeline (IRAC Handbook Section 7.2.1) to remove saturated sources from our catalog. Note also that the SSC pipeline applies a correction to pixels which approach saturation. A few sources in our final catalog are above the nominal saturation limit. Because saturated sources are the brightest sources, they are well measured by WISE with high precision and so a good record of their near infrared flux exists.

Because of the brightness of the stars, the main source of statistical noise for many of our observations was shot noise in the stellar photons rather than fluctuations in the celestial background (which sets the sensitivity limit for *Spitzer*'s deep surveys for faint objects). In this regime, when the stellar photon-limited S/N can exceed 100:1, *Spitzer* observations become limited by systematic effects which are not dominant in observations of fainter targets. We

² IRAC Handbook available at https://irsa.ipac.caltech.edu/data/SPITZER/docs/irac/

therefore employed the additional data reduction steps recommended by the SSC to reduce systematic effects which were corrected in the individual frames as outlined below and described in detail in Appendix A.

The first step in the analysis of the data on a given tile was to form a mosaic of the pipeline-processed and calibrated data provided by the SSC, using the MOPEX tool available at the SSC. The mosaic was then analyzed using SExtractor (Bertin & Arnouts 1996) to identify point sources. Positional association of these point sources with sources in the KIC allowed us to identify the sources seen by IRAC with those previously identified in the *Kepler* field. Positional agreement to within 2" (larger than the positional uncertainty of the SpiKeS data) was required to establish a match. The mosaics were not suitable for precision photometry because they did not incorporate corrections for the systematic effects discussed in detail in Appendix A. Also described in Appendix A are the steps we took to reject outlying measurements, even though in some cases this led to there being no valid measurements for a star at a particular wavelength, because we felt that accuracy was more important than completeness. Appendix B tallies the number of stars with 0, 1, 2, etc. usable observations for the entire survey.

Following the preparation and analysis of the mosaics, all the individual Corrected BASIC Calibrated Data (CBCD: see Section 5.2 of IRAC Instrument Handbook) frames in which a particular star appeared were identified (usually three but could be up to ten as noted above). Then photometry was done on the star in each CBCD frame using the IDL routine aper.pro with a 2 pixel (2.4") photometry radius and 12-20 pixel radius sky annulus, and the aperture correction recommended by the SSC was applied. The corrections described in Appendix A were applied to determine the flux for that stellar image. The final value for the flux of each star was the median of its individual measurements from the CBCD frames, which makes the magnitudes we report robust against the influence of outlying measurements as the number of measurements per star increases. Some stars were affected by nearby bright sources, but this effect was not the same for both channels. Using techniques described in Appendix A, we have identified which measurements are suspect and eliminated them from the final catalog.

We estimate the uncertainty in the first measurements of the KTT as follows. We first combine in quadrature the statistical noise of the individual measurements of a given star, as reported by aper.pro, and divide this sum by the number of observations. Because the scatter in the flux determinations for individual stars was generally greater than the expectation based on the statistical noise in each measurement, it was clear that the overall uncertainty in the measurements of the brightest stars was dominated by systematic effects. We accordingly determined the systematic uncertainty for the KTT tile at each wavelength by identifying the 100 brightest stars with 3 or more valid measurements in each band in the KTT and calculating the median absolute deviation (MAD) of each individual star's measurement set. We then set the global systematic uncertainty to the median value of these 100 MADs, and combined it in quadrature with the statistical uncertainty to determine the measurement error for each star. The final uncertainty using this technique was less than the 2.4% calibration uncertainty that we had set as our objective, which encouraged us to propose the complete survey.

3. DATA VALIDATION

3.1. Establishing the final uncertainties with repeated observations of the Kepler Test Tile

Repeating the observations of the KTT in the full *Kepler* field survey allowed us an important opportunity to assess the precision of our photometry. This was particularly important because we found that we were limited by systematic effects which are difficult to quantify in a single visit to a tile. Figure 1 shows histograms of R = F1/F2 in three magnitude ranges for both IRAC1 and IRAC2, where F1 is the flux measured for a particular star at epoch 1 and F2 the flux measured at epoch 2, following the recipe given in the previous section. The data shown are for 10,742 *Kepler* Targets in the KTT that were detected in both IRAC1 and IRAC2 in both epochs. The widths of the distributions were determined by fitting a Gaussian distribution to the histograms. Note that the ratioing procedure shown in the histograms of Figure 1 increases the dispersion by the square root of two over that of a single determination.

The fitted Gaussian sigma values (divided by the square root of two) for each wavelength band and each magnitude bin are given in the "internal uncertainties" columns of Table 1, which adds the 13-14 magnitude bin to the data shown in Figure 1. These values reflect the variability of the systematic corrections to the observed flux between the two measurements of the KTT as well as the noise due to Poisson fluctuations of the stellar and sky background photon rates. These values exceed the uncertainties in the measurements of the stellar fluxes at a single epoch. That is, the epoch-to-epoch variation is greater than expected from the measurement at a single epoch. We attribute this to variations in the systematic corrections applied separately to the data at each epoch. We therefore use the internal uncertainties as the basis for an estimate of the uncertainty in the flux determinations for each magnitude range for



Figure 1. Histogram showing distribution of IRAC1 (a) and IRAC2 (b) flux ratios for *Kepler* Targets in the *Kepler* Test Tile (KTT) from two independent measurements separated by one year. Histograms are shown for three magnitude ranges.

the entire survey. These values are used, for example, in many of the figures presented below. Note that even for the faintest sources, the "internal uncertainty" is smaller than the overall IRAC absolute calibration uncertainty of $\sim 2.4\%$ (Carey et al. 2012). For practical applications, the Table 1 "internal uncertainties" should be used when comparing

fluxes within this catalog. When using our data together with data taken in other bands, as is done in fitting stellar models, the 2.4% calibration uncertainty should be added in quadrature, leading to the overall uncertainties given in the "external uncertainties" columns.

Magnitude Bin	No. Per Bin	Internal Fr	actional Flux Uncertainty	External Fr	actional Flux Uncertainty
		$\rm IRAC1^{a}$	$IRAC2^{a}$	$\rm IRAC1^{b}$	$\rm IRAC2^{b}$
10 - 11	870	0.015	0.012	0.028	0.027
11 - 12	1550	0.017	0.014	0.029	0.028
12 - 13	2769	0.018	0.017	0.030	0.029
13 - 14	4777	0.021	0.023	0.032	0.033

Table 1. Uncertainties per Magnitude Bins

NOTE—a: The Internal Uncertainties give the median one-sigma measurement precision for stars of different magnitude ranges based on the repeatability of observations of 10,742 *Kepler* Targets in the *Kepler* Test Tile (KTT) when compared between two epochs. We use these uncertainties for all *Kepler* Targets in our full sample in each magnitude bin, and they can be used for comparing fluxes within this catalog. **b**: The External Uncertainties are the quadrature sums of the internal uncertainties with the 2.4% IRAC calibration uncertainty, and should be used when comparing our measurements with those made in other spectral bands.

The result of the above steps is a final catalog with 174,667 sources having one or more valid measurements at IRAC1 and 179,896 with one or more valid measurements at IRAC2 [see Appendix B]. A total of 169,828 sources, or about 88% of all *Kepler* Targets, have valid measurements in both bands. There are 7,249 objects with no IRAC observations in either IRAC1 or IRAC2. The majority of those sources (5344) are saturated in the IRAC data. The other objects with no reported SpiKeS measurements are distributed uniformly in magnitude. Of the 7,249 *Kepler* Targets without SpiKeS measurements reported, there are 6,804 that DO have WISE observations, leaving only 445 *Kepler* Targets that do not have any 3-to-5 μ m observations by recent space-based missions.

3.2. Cross comparison of stellar colors for the two epochs of the Kepler Test Tile (KTT)

Further evidence for the quality of the photometry and insight into the nature of the *Kepler* Targets is presented in Figure 2, where we compare the [IRAC1 - IRAC2] color measured at the two epochs for the KTT in four magnitude ranges between 10th and 14th magnitude. Histograms showing the colors measured at each epoch are projected on the appropriate axes. The error bars in these figures are based on the data shown in Table 1. The axes have been truncated to maintain clarity while eliminating a handful of very red sources, presumably active galaxies, or highly evolved or very cool stars, from the discussion.

For the brighter stars, shown in the top two plots of Figure 2, the points in the color-color diagram stretch out along a line with slope = 1. We expect that main sequence stars will be slightly red in this color index, and attribute the blueward peak or extension to giant stars, including red clump giants, which are expected to be both common and slightly blue in the IRAC bands as they are in the WISE bands (Li et al. 2016; Chen et al. 2014, see also the HR diagram in Appendix F). This identification is validated by the appearance of the corresponding histogram for fainter stars; the extension due to giants is not seen at all for stars with IRAC1 magnitudes fainter than 12 [bottom row of Figure 2]. This occurs because the giants are ~ 1000 times more luminous than main sequence stars of similar color; at the fainter magnitudes, we would see giants only if they lay high above the galactic plane, where such stars are expected to be relatively rare. We estimate that ~ 37% of the *Kepler* Targets brighter than 12th magnitude at 3.6 and 4.5μ m have giant-like colors and do not lie on the main sequence. This is consistent both with the log(g) values of the sources in the Mathur et al. (2017) database, and with the luminosities derived from *Gaia* distances (see appendix F).

Finally, note that in Figure 2 the dispersion of the data is consistent with the errors shown in Table 1, particularly when it is borne in mind that reddening variations across the field, not accounted for in our analysis, could increase the measured dispersion in [IRAC1 - IRAC2] at a single epoch. The reddening estimates in the KIC suggest an average A_V of ~0.5 in the KTT. Taking the reddening curve of Rieke & Lebofsky (1985), this suggests that the distribution of [IRAC1 - IRAC2] colors would be widened by more than 0.02, which is significant on the scales of Figure 2. 2.



Figure 2. IRAC1-IRAC2 colors are compared for the two epochs of measurement of the *Kepler* Test Tile (KTT). This plot includes all sources within the IRAC1 magnitude range indicated in the upper left of each plot at both epochs of the pilot program. The two lobes seen in the upper left plot (10 < IRAC1 < 11) are due to dwarf stars [to the red] and giant stars [to the blue]. The one-sigma uncertainty is given by the bar for each magnitude range and is the same for both axes. The histograms on each axis show the one-dimensional numerical distribution which is hidden by the crowding of the data points.

3.3. KIC 8462852

An additional measure of the precision of the photometry is possible because the unusual *Kepler* light curve of KIC 8462852, also known as Boyajian's star (Boyajian et al. 2016), called attention to our data. Table 2 shows a comparison between our SpiKeS pipeline measurements and those of Marengo et al. (2015), who analyzed the SpiKeS photometry on this star with a methodology similar to ours but differing in detail. For example, they carried out aperture photometry with a 3 pixel radius and a sky annulus extending from 3 to 7 pixels, as opposed to our photometry with a

2 pixel radius and a sky annulus from 12 to 20 pixels. The excellent agreement (Table 2) of the Marengo et al. (2015) reduction with our pipeline reduction of the same data highlights the accuracy and the precision of our results.

Table 2. Comparison of Two Independent Photometric Measurements of SpiKeSdata on KIC 8462582

	IRAC1 mag	IRAC2 mag
Photometry from Marengo et al. (2015)	$10.477 {\pm} 0.0059$	$10.437 {\pm} 0.0107$
SpiKeS pipeline	$10.485{\pm}0.015$	$10.449 {\pm} 0.012$

3.4. Absolute Calibration Uncertainty and Model Comparison

We have used our measurements of well-characterized standard stars in the *Kepler* field, known as the "gold" and "platinum" stars, to provide an independent assessment of the quality of *Spitzer*'s absolute calibration. These stars are part of a larger initial sample of 2,000 *Kepler* Targets selected by the *Kepler* Asteroseismic Science Consortium (KASC) based on their measure of stellar oscillations (Chaplin et al. 2011, 2014; Huber et al. 2011; Verner et al. 2011). To provide the best possible assessment of the calibration, we consider the 67 gold and platinum stars that are detected by SpiKeS in both *Spitzer* IRAC1 and IRAC2, that have two or more measurements in each band, and that are reliably below the IRAC1 and IRAC2 saturation levels. We compare predicted and measured IRAC fluxes for these stars.

To carry out the IRAC flux comparison, we adopt a synthetic stellar photosphere model (NextGen model) to predict the stellar emission. The stellar properties (i.e. effective temperature T_{star} , log(g), extinction coefficient A_V , metallicity, stellar radius, etc.) are obtained from the CKS (California Kepler Survey; Petigura et al. 2017), and/or the DR25 (Mathur et al. 2017) stellar catalogues. The wavelength dependence of interstellar extinction is accounted for by assuming a reddening law of $R_V = 3.1$ in Draine (2003), which accounts for graphite and astronomical silicate grains. Following the lead of Fulton & Petigura (2018), we then pin the stellar model to the 2MASS K_s band photometry (Two Micron All-Sky Survey; Skrutskie et al. 1995), and over-plot the IRAC and WISE measurements for comparison. Thus, Figure 3 shows the reddened model photospheres for four representative standard stars, along with our SpiKes measured photometry on each. The excellent agreement of the extrapolated stellar model with the SpiKeS data allows us an independent method to assess the uncertainties in the Spitzer calibration.

We have repeated this analysis for each of the 67 gold and platinum stars in our sample. To quantify the accuracy of the SpiKes flux measurements, we predict the expected IRAC1 and IRAC2 fluxes for each standard star by convolving the IRAC filter response functions with each reddened stellar photosphere model (as was done in preparing Figure 3), and compare these predictions to the *Spitzer* measurements as calibrated by the SSC. We find that the SpiKeS photometric measurements are in excellent agreement with the predictions. Figure 4 presents histograms of the 67 standard stars as seen by IRAC1 and IRAC2 as a function of the difference between the predicted flux from the stellar model and the observed flux divided by the predicted photosphere flux. Note that the mean of the offset is close to zero for both bands and that the width of the distribution is less than 2.4% in both cases, These results are consistent with the claimed accuracy of the overall *Spitzer* calibration, which was established by a similar process, also involving 2MASS data, but using A stars and K giants as the standard stellar spectra. Our results show that the same accuracy can be achieved by using NextGen models as the stellar templates.

The good agreement between models and data indicates that we should be able to detect small IRAC1 and IRAC2 excesses around stars in the *Kepler* field. Note that none of the 67 *Kepler* standard stars studied here show signs of excess emission in the IRAC wavebands.

4. SEARCHING FOR INFRARED EXCESSES

Here we report the initial results of a search for large infrared excesses in the SpiKeS data. A more comprehensive analysis extending towards smaller excesses will be presented separately.

4.1. A Search for Infrared Excesses in the Full Sample of Kepler Targets



Figure 3. Four sample SEDs of very well-studied *Kepler* standard stars with SpiKeS photometry demonstrate excellent agreement with expectation from the stellar photospheres. KIC 3547794 (upper-left) is the hottest star, where KIC 7277317 (upper-right) is the coolest star in this standard star sample. The agreement extends across a broad range of reddening factors. For example, the star on the bottom-right, KIC 10593626, has the lowest extinction ($A_V \sim 0.1$) in this standard star sample, where the star on the bottom-left, KIC 8099517, has the largest reddening effect, with A_V of ~ 0.5 . The WISE Photometry (teal circles) is included for comparison with the SpiKeS measurements. Data like this on a total of 67 Kepler standard-star targets have been used to verify the accuracy of the *Spitzer* calibration.

In many cases, the infrared excess produced either by circumstellar dust warmer than 300K or by a cool companion would have a roughly thermal spectrum and thus might be seen in both IRAC1 and IRAC2. To test this idea, and to show the full scope of the SpiKeS data, we show in Figure 5 a J-IRAC1 vs J-IRAC2 color-color plot for the full sample of 169,741 *Kepler* Targets from the full survey for which we have data in both *Spitzer* bands and J data from 2MASS. The vast majority of the stars in the plot lie on the main sequence, which covers the range -0.2 < J-IRAC1 < 1.3 for dwarf stars with spectral types B through M (Pecaut & Mamajek 2013)³. Objects identified as giants based on log(g) < 1.5 in the Mathur et al. (2017) database are color-coded teal in this figure. Many can be seen as the lower fork lying below the main sequence for J-IRAC1> 1.0.

As is shown in Figure 5, sources in the sparse extension to the upper right (red in both J - IRAC1 and J - IRAC2) are frequently identified in SIMBAD as IR excess galaxies that have a great deal of warm dust. Many of the stars lying

³ See updated table at https://www.pas.rochester.edu/~emamajek/EEM_dwarf_UBVIJHK_colors_Teff.txt



Figure 4. Kepler standard stars confirm the absolute calibration accuracy of the SpiKeS photometry. The histograms show the offset between the model-predicted photosphere flux and the actual IRAC1 (upper panel in blue) and IRAC2 (lower panel in red) measurements, in units of the ratio of the difference in flux over the predicted photosphere values, with bin size of 0.0125. The 67 Kepler standard stars have a $<3\sigma$ offset, with mean values of -0.0088 in IRAC1 and 0.0025 in IRAC2, and dispersion between .02 and .023, which reflects the accuracy of the SpiKes flux measurements and the validity of the Spitzer calibration (see text).

in the sparse extension to the lower left (blue in both J – IRAC1 and J – IRAC2) are listed as binary stars in SIMBAD; it is possible that they varied in the ~ 20 years between the 2MASS measurement and our *Spitzer* measurement. We expect an equal number of sources that varied such that their colors extend to the upper right (red in both J – IRAC1 and J – IRAC2); however, these would be moving along the main sequence and not be easily identifiable on this plot. In Appendix D we show that fewer than 1% of the *Kepler* Targets varied significantly over the ~ 1 yr interval between the two measurements of the KTT, but the number of possible longer term variables suggested by Figure 5 is far less than 1% of the entire sample.

Figure 6 is a zoomed in version of Figure 5, concentrating on the main sequence and the giant branch. The position in this diagram of the Be star KIC 6954726, a previously known Be star identified as having an infrared excess in the first observation of the KTT, and of BD +20 307, a GOV binary [not in the *Kepler* field but discussed further below] known from *IRAS* data to have a strong infrared excess (Song et al. 2005), calls our attention to stars lying above the main sequence in this diagram. This is the region of color-color space reached by adding, to a main sequence star, blackbody emission with a temperature between $\sim 300K$ and $\sim 750K$ as might be produced by warm dust or a massive substellar companion. In the hope of finding additional strong excesses, we have examined in detail the SEDs of ~ 40 stars that lie in the region above the main locus of stars in Figure 6 and identified several interesting examples:



Figure 5. J-IRAC1 v J-IRAC2 for all SpiKeS targets with reliable measurements at both bands. Giants with log(g) < 1.5 based on data in Mathur et al. (2017) are identified as teal points. The region where galaxies have significant representation is noted on the upper right.

the intrinsically very red star KIC 9655667 and the star KIC 3852667, which appears to have a very strong excess attributable to dust. The fitted SEDs for these stars as well as the Be star KIC 6954726 are shown in Figure 7, and their properties are summarized in Table 3.

KIC #	Other ID	SpType	$\operatorname{Dist}[\operatorname{pc}]$	N_{obs}	$F_{excess,I1}/F_{\star}$	$F_{excess,I2}/F_{\star}$
3852667	TYC 3134-254-1	A0Ib	15,160	3	1.16	2.26
6954726	EM* StHA 166	B2.5Ve	4,170	3	0.92	1.37
9655667	2MASS J19374305 + 4621555	M4	290	4	-	-

Table 3. Properties of Stars Shown With SEDs in Figure 6

The star KIC 6954726 (StHA 166; V = 11.76 mag) in the KTT is a known Be star (Stephenson 1986; Balona et al. 2011) and shows clear evidence for an infrared excess in the SpiKeS data (Figure 7). The WISE photometry for this star is flagged as being possibly contaminated by the nearby bright star HD 184875 ($\sim 100''$ separation), so it would have been dropped from the IR excess search of Kennedy & Wyatt (2012). However, the WISE photometry is in good agreement with SpiKeS. Because this is a known Be star, it is likely that the infrared excess is due to free-free emission as is seen for other Be stars (Woolf et al. 1970; Dyck & Milkey 1972; Chen et al. 2016).

KIC 3852667 has the strongest infrared excess we have found amongst stars monitored by *Kepler* which can be confidently attributed to emission from circumstellar dust. This star, classified as an A supergiant in the KIC, has



Figure 6. The inner region of the J-IRAC1, J-IRAC2 color-color plot is shown. Here we highlight the location of the three extreme IR excess sources from Table 3 as well as the IR excess star BD +20 307 (note that it is not in the *Kepler* FOV) as an illustration of the direction in which main sequence stars with near infrared thermal excesses would move in this color space. Teal points are giants selected based on log(g) < 1.5.

not been well-studied, so the origin of the dust producing the 3.6 and 4.5μ m excess is uncertain. If it is associated with the star rather than an unseen companion, it has $T_{dust} = 925K$ and is located at a distance ~0.5 AU from the star with a dust mass of $M_{dust} = 0.75M_{Moon}$. As shown in figure 7, this star is detected very solidly in bands 3 and 4 [12 and 22μ m] of the WISE survey. In fact the SED of KIC 3852667 is very similar to that of BD+20 307, which shows a modest excess at 3 to 5μ m and a much larger excess at 12 and 25μ m (Song et al. 2005). The implications of this similarity are discussed further below.

One of our objectives in carrying out the SpiKeS survey was to search for cool companions – such as brown dwarfs or very late M stars - of main sequence stars. In this regard, it is possible in principle that the ~ 900 K excess reported for KIC 3852267 could be due to such a companion. However, in this case, the star, at a temperature of $\sim 10,000$ K, is so much warmer than the putative companion that the latter would have to be much larger than the star to account for the observed excess radiation. Paradoxically, the best chance for finding a cool companion would be to look for excess emission around an M star, where the ratio of the emission from the companion to that from the star would be largest.

Also shown in Figures 6 and 7 are the colors and fitted spectrum of the star KIC 9655667. This is an M4 dwarf with a temperature of 3100K. The low temperature and the strong molecular bands in its fitted spectrum (Figure 7) mean that its photospheric colors alone place it in the region of our color-color plot occupied by main sequence stars with excess emission due to circumstellar dust.

We call attention to BD+20 307 in part because Kennedy & Wyatt (2013) observe that 12μ m excesses as large as that seen in this star, which has $L_{IR}/L_{star} > 0.04$, occur with a frequency of 1 in 10,000 among mature main sequence stars. As is shown in Figure 6, and can also be seen in data from Song et al. (2005) and Meng et al. (2015), BD+20 307 also shows emission above the stellar photosphere at 3.6 and 4.5μ m. Such excess emission in the short wavelength

IRAC bands occurs only infrequently around mature main sequence stars; it is gratifying that our color-color plot successfully identifies a star with known excess emission at 3.6 and 4.5μ m. While the 12μ m excess frequency of 1 in 10,000 may be different at $3-5\mu$ m, deriving the frequency at the shorter wavelengths would yield information about the typical dust temperatures in these extreme systems, e.g. a similar detection rate would imply that BD+20 307-like dust distributions are typical for giant impact debris around Sun-like stars (as found tentatively by Wyatt et al. 2017).

Song et al. (2005) argue that the grains responsible for the 3.6 and 4.5μ m emission, and those producing the very marked silicate feature responsible for the 12μ m excess, will have very short lifetimes around a solar-type star such as BD+20 307. They suggest that the radiating dust is produced by cataclysmic collisions which destroyed an asteroid with diameter ~ 300Km (see also Meng et al. 2015). It is plausible that the dust around KIC 3852667, which also shows a pronounced 12 and 25μ m excess, is produced by a similar event. In the future, we will search the SpiKeS data for cases where excess emission as seen by *Spitzer* at 3.6 and 4.5μ m is accompanied by strong emission in the WISE 12μ m band; these could be further instances of this scenario.



Figure 7. SED fits to a selection of sources that are above the main locus of points in Figure 6. a: KIC 3852667 is an example of warm dust around an A type supergiant star. b: KIC 6954726 is the previously identified Be star. c: KIC 9655667 is a cool red M type star.

In looking for infrared excesses, we also consider planet-host stars targeted in the Robo-AO Kepler Planetary Candidate Survey (Ziegler et al. 2017). We consider planet host stars that have been observed by Robo-AO and shown to not have companions between 0.5" and 4.0" thus raising the likelihood that a detected excess would be from dust

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and not from a companion. We performed a detailed SED analysis (as described in Section 3.4) on 252 out of 332 of these stars, for which updated stellar parameters are known from the references listed in Section 3.4 and that are detected below the IRAC1 & IRAC2 saturation levels. We found all SEDs for this sample of stars to be photospheric in the IRAC wavebands to within 10%.

We caution the reader that a star lying in the region above the main sequence (Figure 6) has to be examined in detail before any conclusions can be drawn about a possible infrared excess. This is illustrated by the red star KIC 965567, discussed earlier, which lies in this region based on its photospheric colors alone (see Figures 6 and 7). Note also that many candidate IR excess sources identified by their location in the J-IRAC1 v J-IRAC2 figure proved to have close companions in the *Spitzer* images. Although the main target in those closely spaced sources may indeed have an IR excess, we cannot without further work rule out contamination by the close companion. We have also found that image artefacts which have slipped through our vetting process can, albeit infrequently, mimic infrared excesses. Finally, contamination due to a background galaxy is another possible source of false positives in a search for infrared excesses.

5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

We have presented a new catalog of *Spitzer* 3.6 micron (IRAC1) and 4.5 micron (IRAC2) infrared photometry of nearly all the stars monitored by *Kepler* during its 4 year prime mission. By applying corrections at the individual exposure level we have achieved a photometric precision better than the nominal *Spitzer* calibration uncertainty of 2.4%. For the purposes of comparison between sources within this survey, the uncertainties are 1.2-to-2.3%, depending on the brightness of the sources. These uncertainties are derived from a comparison of more than 10,000 sources in a *Kepler* Test Tile (KTT) which was observed in two epochs and allowed for a an estimation of the systematic effects in the data. In all, we report photometry of almost 170,000 sources in both IRAC bands.

We have shown that the SpiKeS data can be fit with very high accuracy by stellar models. This has allowed us to verify independently the claimed 2.4% accuracy of the *Spitzer* calibration. We have shown a few examples of stars with infrared excesses, but further work is needed to identify robustly the population of stars with excesses, or to test whether the finding of Kennedy & Wyatt (2012) that 1 in 10,000 main-sequence stars host bright mid IR excesses also applies to near IR excesses. In total, we have fit models to SpiKeS and other data for 360 Kepler targets, 67 Kepler standard stars, 41 stars that lie in the region above the main locus of stars in Figure 6, and 252 planet-host stars targeted in the Robo-AO Kepler Planetary Candidate Survey, and claim infrared excesses $\gtrsim 10\%$ in only two, one of which is a previously known Be star. The other is an A0 supergiant.

We have compared our measurements to those from WISE (see Appendix E). Spitzer's higher resolution has allowed us to separate out sources whose fluxes were combined in the lower resolution WISE beam. We estimate that the Spitzer photometry will be more reliable than that from WISE for ~ 2% (~4000) of the sources seen by both missions; WISE sources suspected to be contaminated in this fashion are flagged in the catalog accompanying this work. Ultimately, precise SED fitting of the SpiKeS and other data, combined with distances measured by Gaia, may lead to improved estimates of the radii of exoplanet host stars, and of the radii of transiting exoplanets.

The final reduced data can be accessed from the NASA Exoplanet $Archive^4$ and it will contain both our final photometry, and other data for each *Kepler* Target from Mathur et al. (2017), WISE, 2MASS, NASA Exoplanet Archive (NASA-EA), and *Gaia* (Table 4). This will allow us and others to pursue further investigation into lower level infrared excesses and also stellar and exoplanetary properties.

⁴ The final data will be available at the NASA Exoplanet Archive after April 2021 at the following URL: https://exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu/docs/spikes.html

 Table 4. SpiKeS Table Columns

Column Header	Description
Kepid (KIC)	KepID [KIC number]
KOI (NASA-EA):	Kepler Obejct of Interest Number
ra (KIC)	RA J2000
dec (KIC)	Dec J2000
I1 flux (SpiKeS)	IRAC1 flux density [mJy]
I1 unc (SpiKeS)	IRAC1 uncertainty [mJy]
I1 mag (SpiKeS)	IRAC1 magnitude
I1 mag unc (SpiKeS)	IRAC1 magnitude uncertainty
I1 n obs (SpiKeS)	IRAC1 number of observations
I2 flux (SpiKeS)	IRAC2 flux density [mJy]
I2 unc (SpiKeS)	IRAC2 uncertainty [mJy]
I2 mag (SpiKeS)	IRAC2 magnitude
I2 mag unc (SpiKeS)	IRAC2 magnitude uncertainty
I2 n obs (SpiKeS)	IRAC2 number of observations
SpiKeS Flags (SpiKeS)	Flags from SpiKeS survey
kepmag (KIC)	Kepler-band magnitude
kmag err (KIC)	Kepler magnitude uncertainty
tm designation (2MASS)	2MASS designation
jmag (2MASS)	J band magnitude
jmag err (2MASS)	J band error
hmag (2MASS)	H band magnitude
hmag err (2MASS)	H band error
kmag (2MASS)	Kshort band magnitude
kmag err (2MASS)	Kshort band error
ALLWISE	WISE All-Sky Release Catalog name
RAJ2000 (AllWISE)	RA J2000 [Deg]
DEJ2000 (AllWISE)	Dec J2000 [Deg]
W1mag (AllWISE)	W1 magnitude
W2mag (AllWISE)	W2 magnitude
W3mag (AllWISE)	W3 magnitude
W4mag (AllWISE)	W4 magnitude
e W1mag All(WISE)	Mean W1 magnitude error
e W2mag (AllWISE)	Mean W2 magnitude error
e W3mag (AllWISE)	Mean W3 magnitude error
e W4mag (AllWISE)	Mean W4 magnitude error
ID (AllWISE)	Unique WISE source ID
cc flags (AllWISE)	Contamination and confusion flag
ext flg (AllWISE)	Extended source flag
var fig (AllWISE)	Variability flag
qph (AllWISE)	Photometric quality flag
angDist (AllWISE)	Angular separation from SpiKeS source [arcsec]

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 Table 4. SpiKeS Table Columns

Column Header	Description		
CatWISE CatWISE release Catalog name			
RAJ2000 (CatWISE)	RA J2000 [Deg]		
DEJ2000 (CatWISE)	Dec J2000 [Deg]		
W1mag (CatWISE)	W1 magnitude		
W2mag (CatWISE)	W2 magnitude		
e W1mag (CatWISE)	Mean W1 magnitude error		
e W2mag (CatWISE)	Mean W2 magnitude error		
teff (Mathur et al.)	Stellar Effective Temperature [Kelvin]		
teff err1 (Mathur et al.)	Temperature error $+$ [Kelvin]		
teff err2 (Mathur et al.)	Temperature error - [Kelvin]		
logg (Mathur et al.)	Stellar Surface Gravity $[log_{10}(cm * sec^{-2})]$		
logg err1 (Mathur et al.)	$log(g) \operatorname{error} +$		
logg err2 (Mathur et al.)	log(g) error -		
feh (Mathur et al.)	Stellar Metallicity		
feh err1 (Mathur et al.)	FeH error +		
feh err2 (Mathur et al.)	FeH error -		
mass (Mathur et al.)	Stellar Mass [Solar Masses]		
mass err1 (Mathur et al.)	Mass error +		
mass err2 (Mathur et al.)	Mass error -		
radius (Mathur et al.)	Stellar Radius [solar radii]		
radius err1 (Mathur et al.)	Stellar radius error +		
radius err2 (Mathur et al.)	Stellar radius error -		
dens (Mathur et al.)	Stellar Density [gm/cm**3]		
dens err1 (Mathur et al.)	Stellar density error +		
dens err2 (Mathur et al.)	Stellar density error -		
av (Mathur et al.)	Av Extinction [mag]		
av err1 (Mathur et al.)	$Av \ error \ +$		
av err2 (Mathur et al.)	Av error -		
Gaia id	Unique Gaia identifier		
RA ICRS (Gaia)	Barrycentric RA J2015.5		
DE ICRS (Gaia)	Barrycentric Dec J2015.5		
rest (Gaia)	Bailer-Jones+ 2018 estimated distance [pc]		
b rest (Gaia)	Lower bound on the confidence interval of the estimated distance [pc]		
B rest (Gaia)	Upper bound on the confidence interval of the estimated distance [pc]		
rlen (Gaia)	Length scale used in the prior for the distance estimation [pc]		
ResFlag (Gaia)	Result flag		
ModFlag (Gaia)	Number of modes in the posterior		
parallax (Gaia)	Absolute stellar parallax [mas]		
parallax error (Gaia)	Standard error of parallax [mas]		
pmra (Gaia)	Proper motion in right ascension direction [mas/yr]		
pmra error (Gaia)	Standard error of proper motion in right ascension direction [mas/yr]		
pmdec (Gaia)	Proper motion in declination direction [mas/yr]		
pmdec error (Gaia)	Standard error of proper motion in declination direction [mas/yr]		
angDist (Gaia)	Angular separation from SpiKes sources [arcsec]		

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$\bigcirc 2020$

Software: Astropy (Astropy Collaboration et al. 2013, 2018), TOPCAT (Taylor 2005), SExtractor (Bertin & Arnouts 1996)

APPENDIX

A. PHOTOMETRIC CORRECTIONS

A.1. Systematic effects

Because we were hoping to do $\sim 1\%$ photometry on stars as bright as 10^{th} magnitude, we had to deal with several systematic effects which do not materially influence *Spitzer* photometry of faint objects but become important for bright stars which could be photon noise limited with an uncertainty considerably less than 1%.

- 1. Intrapixel sensitivity variations (the pixel phase effect). The signal received from a star can vary by as much as ~ 8% and ~ 3% for IRAC1 and IRAC2, respectively, depending on where the centroid of the stellar image falls in the 1.2" × 1.2" pixel. This variation is due to intrapixel spatial variations in effective quantum efficiency. For the pixel phase effect, the centroid of the image on the array is determined by the SSC software box_centroid.pro. The SSC provides an IDL routine (pixel_phase_correct_gauss.pro) for correcting this effect as a function of location on the pixel which is an average over the array but does not tabulate such a recipe separately for each of the 65,000+ pixels in each IRAC array. We use this average correction in our analysis.
- 2. Array-location-dependent photometric corrections for compact sources with stellar spectral slopes. This correction is required to compensate for the fact that IRAC is flat-fielded using the zodiacal background, which is not valid for compact sources with star like spectral energy distributions. It also responds to the fact that the filter effective wavelength varies across the array. This effect can change the inferred flux by 1.3% on average, with the effect increasing to $\sim 5\%$ for stars at the edge of the array in IRAC1, and $\sim 8\%$ in IRAC2. The correction consists of 2-d arrays provided by the SSC in FITS format, This correction also removes the photometric effect of the spatial distortions across the IRAC arrays.

A.2. Outlier Rejection

For individual photometric measurements on each CBCD image, we have used the 2 pixel radius which is the smallest photometry aperture that has aperture corrections determined for it by the SSC. This was done to have the least impact by bad pixels and cosmic ray hits within the photometry aperture. Any image that had a bad pixel from the bad pixel mask (generated by the SSC's pipeline) within the 2 pixel radius aperture was eliminated in keeping with our efforts to have a high reliability catalog: data from the star in question were not reported for that CBCD. This was done BEFORE the medianing process and so sometimes reduced the number of observations from the planned three visits from the survey strategy. See Appendix B for the final numbers.

Another set of outliers were discovered when comparing our data to 2MASS data (in this case K_s – IRAC1 v K_s – IRAC2). These sources had near zero color in one color axis but extreme color on the other axis. A similar effect was seen when the WISE data were compared to the SpiKeS data. For a given star, the IRAC1-WISE1 flux ratio would be close to zero, while IRAC2-WISE2 indicated a major discrepancy between the two missions, or vice versa.

After examination of the images for these outliers we have found that these sources are affected by nearby very bright sources in one channel. This artefact, a column pull-up that remains on the array after a very bright source has been observed at that location, was previously identified by the SSC but is rare and is not corrected for in the pipeline processing like other artefacts⁵. Note that a column-pull down effect also exists which *is* corrected for in the SSC pipeline processing.

So to have a final catalog of high quality photometric measurements, we have decided to exclude the photometry for the affected channel. We have accomplished this by excluding the IRAC2 datum for cases where the WISE1-IRAC1 color is near zero and the WISE2-IRAC2 color is significantly (5σ from the mean) displaced from zero, and the same for the IRAC1 datum when the WISE2-IRAC2 color is near zero but the WISE1-IRAC1 color is 5σ from the mean.

The net result of the outlier rejection is a final catalog with 174,667 sources measured at IRAC1; 179,896 measured at IRAC2; and 169,828 sources with both IRAC1 and IRAC2 photometry.

 $^{^5}$ See sections 5.2.4 and 7.2.4 in the IRAC Instrument Handbook <code>https://irsa.ipac.caltech.edu/data/SPITZER/docs/irac/iracinstrumenthandbook/</code>

B. SUMMARY OF THE NUMBER OF USABLE MEASUREMENTS PER *KEPLER* TARGET AT EACH OF THE TWO IRAC BANDS FOR THE FULL SURVEY [PID 10067].

Number of Measurements	IRAC1	IRAC2	
	Number/Percent	Number/Percent	
0	17,317/9%	12,088/6%	
1	$13,\!843/7\%$	$15,\!915/8\%$	
2	$29,\!665/15\%$	38,015/20%	
3	$104,\!051/54\%$	$103,\!172/54\%$	
4	20,916/11%	18,429/10%	
5	$3,\!282/2\%$	2,780/1%	
6	$2,\!455/1\%$	$1,349/{<}1\%$	
7-10	$455/{<}1\%$	$236/{<}1\%$	
Total	$191,\!984/100\%$	$191,\!984/100\%$	

 Table B.1. Number of usable measurements per Kepler Target

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C. JOURNAL OF OBSERVATIONS FOR PID 10067

Name	Center RA	Center Dec	Observation Start - End
	J2000	J2000	UT
Tile 2	281.912740	43.439774	2013-12-21 01:30:43 - 2013-12-22 08:24:31
Tile 3	284.289690	41.200925	2013-12-22 19:24:15 - 2013-12-24 01:12:53
Tile 4	286.506490	38.917202	2014-11-28 01:15:00 - 2014-11-29 04:06:54
Tile 6	282.519590	47.459067	2013-12-25 01:47:33 - 2013-12-26 07:05:40
Tile 7	285.054680	45.201847	2013-12-27 03:24:25 - 2013-12-28 09:07:08
Tile 8	287.391890	42.892913	2014-12-04 23:36:35 - 2014-12-06 00:56:16
Tile 9	289.562980	40.539820	2013-12-28 17:06:02 - 2013-12-29 23:12:19
Tile 10	291.582260	38.151037	2013-12-29 23:13:46 - 2013-12-31 07:06:55
Tile 11	285.905820	49.198153	2013-12-31 07:55:48 - 2014-01-01 14:36:05
Tile 12	288.390390	46.873261	2014-12-07 20:08:11 - 2014-12-08 23:41:58
Tile 13	290.667160	44.496534	2014-01-02 22:13:18 - 2014-01-04 04:09:00
Tile 14*	292.765220	42.080201	$2014\text{-}01\text{-}04\ 04\text{:}19\text{:}27\ \text{-}\ 2014\text{-}01\text{-}05\ 16\text{:}27\text{:}09$
Tile 15	294.707160	39.626466	2014-01-05 20:15:49 - 2014-01-07 01:20:16
Tile 16	289.529890	50.834433	2014-12-20 13:34:58 - 2014-12-21 18:42:55
Tile 17	291.935230	48.441523	2014-10-04 00:05:30 - 2014-10-05 05:05:15
Tile 18	294.121620	46.002749	2014-10-06 21:29:23 - 2014-10-08 05:24:24
Tile 19	296.123050	43.525787	$2014\text{-}12\text{-}26\ 08\text{:}38\text{:}46\ \text{-}\ 2014\text{-}12\text{-}27\ 13\text{:}50\text{:}44$
Tile 20	297.966030	41.015652	2015-01-05 18:02:54 - 2015-01-06 22:49:08
Tile 22	295.693870	49.894773	$2015\text{-}01\text{-}30\ 17\text{:}19\text{:}11\ \text{-}\ 2015\text{-}01\text{-}31\ 23\text{:}30\text{:}47$
Tile 23	297.760040	47.397734	2015-01-11 12:01:32 - 2015-01-12 17:48:36
Tile 24	299.639180	44.868238	$2015\text{-}01\text{-}17\ 17\text{:}25\text{:}00\ \text{-}\ 2015\text{-}01\text{-}18\ 15\text{:}14\text{:}27$

Table C.1. Journal of Observations for PID 10067

NOTE— *The PID 90100 observations of Tile 14 took place on 2013-01-09 02:42:50 - 23:33:02

D. STELLAR VARIABILITY

The consistency of the photometry allows us to make statements about the inherent infrared variability of the $\sim 11,000$ sources monitored by *Kepler* in the *Kepler* Test Tile (KTT) and then extend that to the expected variation over all *Kepler* tiles.

We took the difference between the Epoch 1 and Epoch 2 flux measurements between 9th and 14th mags and there were 131 (1.2%) IRAC1 sources and 112 (1.1%) IRAC2 sources that had a 3σ or greater difference between the two epochs. Our expectation is that any physically real variability would have affected both the IRAC1 and the IRAC2 channels in a similar direction. Of the sources that varied, only 23 (0.2%) had the same sign for their difference where both channels got fainter or both channels got brighter between the two epochs. Based on this result from the KTT, then, over the entire 21 *Kepler* tiles, only about ~ 400 sources will have varied at the 3σ level over one year's time. This sets a conservative upper limit of < 1% for sources that were affected by variability which changed their flux by more than 3σ . This small number is likely a result of primarily choosing stable main sequence stars as the bulk of the sources for *Kepler* to monitor.

E. COMPARISON WITH WISE

The WISE mission surveyed the entire sky at wavelengths of 3.4, 4.6, 12, and 22μ m (known as bands WISE1-4). WISE1 and WISE2 are very similar to IRAC bands 1 and 2, so here we compare our SpiKeS photometry to WISE, drawing in part on the study by Kennedy & Wyatt (2012) of the WISE measurements of the *Kepler* field.

This comparison illuminates some important features of the Spikes data. WISE has a 40 cm telescope and 3.4 and 4.6μ m arrays with 1024 pixels, with a field of view of 47'. The pixel size is 2.5", and the beam size 6". WISE scans continuously, using a step and stare strategy incorporating a scan mirror in the focal plane to freeze each FOV on the sky for ~ 11 sec before jumping ahead to the next. Eight or more independent exposures were obtained at each point in the sky during the six month prime mission. Like Spitzer, WISE continued to operate at its two shortest bands even after cryogen depletion, first as the Near Earth Object WISE (NEOWISE) survey (Mainzer et al. 2011) and then as the NEOWISE Reactivation (NEOWISE-R) survey (Mainzer et al. 2014), all collecting data in the same fashion as the original mission. The WISE data described here come from the AllWISE catalog compiled from the first two years of the mission as a part of the WISE and NEOWISE mission phases, which includes 4 separate epochs of measurement of each star following the protocol above. The matching with the Spitzer data was done using the best match within 1" between the two catalogs. Since there are cases where there are two Spitzer sources within the WISE beam (see section E.1) the match in the SpiKeS catalog is the *Spitzer* source closest to the location assigned to the WISE source. Kennedy & Wyatt (2012) matched the AllWISE catalog to the Kepler catalog and showed that there were \sim 130K reliable sources (defined as having no cautionary flags set) at WISE1 and WISE2 while the SpiKeS matches to the Kepler catalog yield almost ~ 170 K reliable sources at IRAC1 and IRAC2. While the additional measurements available from CatWISE2020 (see below) should increase the number of reliable detections in WISE1 and WISE2, we anticipate that there will be many sources, beyond the 4,000 described below, for which WISE does not provide reliable detections while SpiKeS does.

Near the time of this paper's submission a new WISE catalog named CatWISE2020 was released combining data from the WISE, NEOWISE, and NEOWISE-R surveys (Marocco et al. 2020), spanning observations from January 2010 to December 2018. Because we use the WISE data quantitatively only for outlier rejection (Section A.2), and because the CatWISE2020 catalog fluxes agree well with the AllWISE catalog, we continue to use the data from the AllWISE catalog for comparisons with SpiKeS results. The larger number of observations in the CatWISE2020 catalog allow for an assessment of variability for the SpiKeS sources. Our assessment of the variability of sources based on the CatWISE2020 catalog's variability flags is consistent with our assessment that less than 1% of the sources are variable as also discussed in Section D.

Before comparing the AllWISE and SpiKeS data on the *Kepler* field, we should emphasize that overall the two surveys agree very well on the brightness of individual stars. This is shown by Figure 8, which compares the SpiKeS and AllWISE photometry for stars classified as dwarfs by Mathur et al. (2017) (log(g) > 4). The line is simply x = y, not a fit to the data. Overall, our comparison of *Spitzer* and AllWISE photometry is consistent with the results of a more extensive comparison at the North Ecliptic Pole between the two missions by Jarrett et al. (2011).



Figure 8. Comparison of AllWISE photometry to *Spitzer* photometry for dwarf stars (log(g) > 4). Left: IRAC1 vs WISE1. Right: IRAC2 vs WISE2. The diagonal line is x=y. The slope and offset trends reproduce those in the original *Spitzer* and WISE comparison in Jarrett et al. (2011).

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E.1. Spatial Resolution

A major advance of *Spitzer* over WISE for the study of the *Kepler* stars comes from improvements in spatial resolution. This is illustrated qualitatively in Figure 9, which compares the WISE and SpiKeS fluxes for the two epochs of the KTT. The spur to the upper right from the central concentration is produced by stars which appear brighter as seen by WISE than by *Spitzer*. This is the signature of a contaminating source in the large WISE beam, as is illustrated by *Spitzer* images of a handful of these overbright objects. From the data shown in Figure 9, we estimate that at least $\sim 2\%$ (~ 4000) of the WISE sources are double or multiple. Such contamination is reduced in the *Spitzer* data because of its smaller beam size of 1.8-2" vs the WISE beam size of 6".



Figure 9. Left: Brightness comparison of WISE and SpiKes observations for all available *Kepler* Targets in the KTT showing that there is a population of sources that have WISE fluxes brighter than *Spitzer* fluxes, leading to a spur of sources to the upper right away from zero-zero. Right: Upon individual examination most of these sources turn out to be double sources in the higher resolution *Spitzer* images. *Spitzer* has $10 \times$ better areal resolution with a 1.6'' FWHM image vs. the WISE 6" image.

E.2. Sensitivity Comparison

Like *Spitzer*, WISE will be stellar photon noise limited for observations of the brightest stars. *Spitzer's* precision for such stars is dominated by systematic effects amplified by the fact that most stars are sampled only 1-to-4 times. In the stellar photon noise limit, the two surveys should have comparable sensitivity, with *Spitzer's* larger aperture being balanced out by WISE's longer integration time. In addition, AllWISE, with a typical 8 samples/epoch, and four separate epochs of observation, and a considerably oversampled image, should suffer smaller systematic effects. Hence the reported precision of AllWISE could exceed that of *Spitzer* for the brightest stars. In fact, we found that AllWISE is somewhat more precise than *Spitzer* for stars brighter than about 12th magnitude. *Spitzer* becomes more precise at about 13th magnitude. Beyond 14th magnitude *Spitzer* is significantly more precise than AllWISE. With the additional data of CatWISE2020, the sensitivity advantage of WISE over Spitzer may extend to fainter magnitudes.

F. USING GAIA DISTANCES TO DETERMINE AN HR DIAGRAM

With the release of *Gaia* DR2 a larger and more accurate database of distances has become available for the *Kepler* Targets. We have matched the *Gaia* sources using the same approach we used for matching to the WISE sources where a 1" radius was used to associate a *Spitzer* source with a *Gaia* source. The difference here is that *Gaia* has higher resolution than *Spitzer* and so, if there was more than one *Gaia* source within the *Spitzer* beam, then the *Gaia*

source closest to the *Spitzer* source's location was associated in the SpiKeS catalog. Using the distances derived from *Gaia* by Bailer-Jones et al. (2018) we have determined absolute magnitudes for our SpiKeS sources and have plotted them in Figure 10. This infrared Hertzsprung-Russell (H-R) diagram is very similar to the optical H-R diagram of *Kepler* stars derived by Berger et al. (2020). The main parts of the H-R diagram are clearly distinguishable: the main sequence (MS), the red giant branch, the asymptotic giant branch, and the red giant clump. The MS region seems to have two distinct concentrations: a main highly dense one and a more luminous, but less dense one above it in the cooler region of the MS (J-IRAC1 of 0.6 to 1.0). This was also noted in Berger et al. (2020) and they labeled these sources as Cool MS Binaries. These are binary stars that are unresolved by *Gaia* (and also *Spitzer*) and so have a single distance associated with a point source which has a flux composed of two stars, thus its absolute magnitude is higher than would be expected from its color.



Figure 10. Using distances from *Gaia* DR2 we have generated a Hertzsprung-Russell diagram of our SpiKeS sources. The main sequence, the giant branch, the red clump giants, and the asymptotic giant branch are clearly identifiable. The asymptotic giants and the red clump giants are also distinguished based on their log(g). Also there is a concentration of sources right above the main sequence which are unresolved cool MS binaries.

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