

Editorial

A&A proudly presents a special issue devoted to the CoRoT (**C**onvection, **R**otation & planetary **T**ransits) space mission. Launched on 27 December 2006, the satellite moves in a polar circular orbit, and the CCD camera of its 27-cm telescope measures stellar-brightness variations with μmag precision in equatorial fields close to the galactic plane.

The main science goals of CoRoT are to discover exoplanets by the transit method and detect seismic waves in stars across the entire Hertzsprung-Russell diagram. Objectives also include the study of stellar activity, stellar rotation, and eclipsing multiple systems. The first results obtained with CoRoT in all these scientific areas are discussed in the pages of this exciting special issue.

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