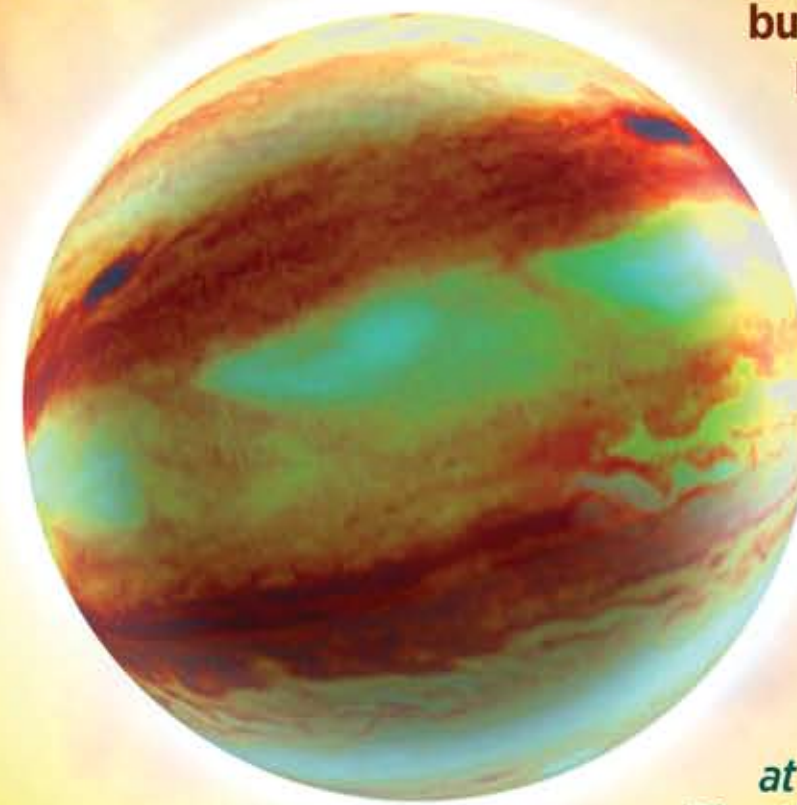


FROM DUST TO US

"We are but dust and shadows" - Horace. The Roman poet Horace was right. The Earth, along with every other planet and star in the Universe, began as particles of dust.

The planets in our solar system are typical of what you would expect to form at those distances from a star. But the very first planet discovered in another solar system told a very different story: it is a gas giant like our own Jupiter but it is much closer to its star. The planet, called 51 Pegasi, is in a hot zone where our theories say planets cannot form.



How is this possible? Astronomers from Queen Mary University of London are using maths and super-computers to understand how planets can migrate through their solar system, ending up far from where they were born.

Find out more about current research at Queen Mary University of London, on Plus, the free online mathematics magazine:

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