

# Mission operation: number of visits

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1. Position of a star depends upon:

- **5** parameters (coordinates at  $t=0$ , proper motion, parallax)
- + one planet  $\Rightarrow$  + **7** parameters ( $M_{pl}$ ,  $a$ ,  $i$ ,  $e$ , 3 angles)
- + **p** planets  $\Rightarrow$  + **7 p** "

total  $n = 5 + 7 p$     e.g.  $p = 3$ ,  $n = 26$

2.  $N$  visits  $\Rightarrow$   $2 N$  data ( $X_i + Y_i$ )

$\Rightarrow$  required:  $2 N \geq 6 + 7 p$  ,    e.g.  $p = 3$ ,  $N \geq 14$   
 $p = 5$ ,  $N \geq 20$

3. Which is best:  $N = 25$ ,  $50$ , or  $100$  (with lower  $S/N$ ) ??

- empirical rule from RV :  $2 N = 4 \times \text{nb of free parameters}$
- but at constant total time,  $N \nearrow \Rightarrow \text{fuel consumption} \nearrow$
- Probably needs simulations