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Title: Characterizing the Cool KOIs
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Abstract: I will present recent results from an ongoing ground-based survey of M dwarfs in the Kepler field with transiting planet-candidates: the Cool Kepler Objects of Interest. We have acquired near-infrared spectra of 113 Cool KOIs and use the indices and calibrations of Rojas-Ayala et al. to determine their stellar effective temperatures and metallicities, significantly augmenting published values in the literature. We have identified several giant stars, and for the dwarfs we interpolate temperature and metallicity onto low-mass star isochrones to determine stellar mass, radius, luminosity and distance, assuming main-sequence hydrogen burning. We find several Cool KOIs that warrant further investigation, including mid-M dwarfs with multiple short-period sub-Earth-sized planet candidates similar to Kepler 42. The spectra and parameters will serve as a resource for prioritizing follow-up observations and planet validation efforts for the Cool KOIs.