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# Brandt A.L. Gaches

## *Astrophysics through Astrochemistry*

### Research Interests

Astrochemistry; molecular clouds; cosmic rays; computational hydrodynamics; radioactive nuclei and planet habitability

### Education

2012-2019 **PhD Astronomy**, *University of Massachusetts*, Amherst, MA.

*Advisor* Prof. Stella Offner

*Title* The Impact of Stellar Feedback on Astrochemistry

2008-2012 **B.S. Astronomy & Physics**, *University of Arizona*, Tucson, AZ.

*Advisors* Prof. Phil Pinto & Prof. Romeel Davé

*Title* Tensor Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics

### Professional Affiliations

Sept 2022 - Cosmic Origins Fellow, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden

Sept 2019 - Postdoctoral Researcher, Universität zu Köln

Sept 2022

2019 - Member, Center for Planetary Systems Habitability, University of Texas at Austin

2017-2019 Visiting Graduate Student, University of Texas at Austin

2012-2019 Graduate Student, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

### Professional Organizations

2023- International Astronomical Union

2021- Astronomische Gesellschaft

2021- European Astronomy Society

### Publications

**Gaches**, Grassi, Vogt-Geisse, Bovolenta, Vallance, Heathcote, Padovani, Bovino, Gorai, 2024, *A&A*, 684, A41, *The Astrochemistry Low-energy Electron Cross-Section (ALeCS) database I. Semi-empirical electron-impact ionization cross-section calculations and ionization rates*

Submitted Hsu, Tan, Holdship, Xu, Viti, Wu, **Gaches**, 2023, *MNRAS* Submitted, arXiv:2308.11803, *GMC Collisions As Triggers of Star Formation. IX. Chemical Evolution*

Padovani, **Gaches**, *Cosmic Rays: Physics, Chemistry, and Computational Challenges*. Chapter in *Astrochemical Modelling: Practical aspects of microphysics in numerical simulations*, 2023, Elsevier. Editors: Stefano Bovino and Tommaso Grassi, ISBN: 9780323917469

Panessa, Seifried, Walch, **Gaches**, Barnes, Bigiel, Neumann, 2023, MNRAS, 523, 6138, *The evolution of  $\text{HCO}^+$  in molecular clouds using a novel chemical post-processing algorithm*

**Gaches**, Walch, Wünsch, Mackey, MNRAS, 522, 4674, 2023, *Tree-based solvers for adaptive mesh refinement code FLASH – IV: An X-ray radiation scheme to couple discrete and diffuse X-ray emission sources to the thermochemistry of the interstellar medium*

**Gaches**, Bialy, Bisbas, Padovani, Seifried, Walch, A&A, 2022, 664, A150, *Cosmic-ray-induced  $\text{H}_2$  line emission: Astrochemical modeling and implications for JWST observations.*

**Gaches**, Bisbas, Bialy, A&A, 2022, 658, A151, *The impact of cosmic-ray attenuation on the carbon cycle emission in molecular clouds.*

Li, P.S., Cunningham, **Gaches**, Klein, Krumholz, Lee, McKee, Offner, Rosen, Skinner, JOSS, 6(68), 3771, 2021, *ORION2: A magnetohydrodynamics code for star formation.*

**Gaches**, Walch, Lazarian, ApJL, 2021, 917, L39, *CRAFT (Cosmic Ray Acceleration From Turbulence) in Molecular Clouds*

Yun, Lee, J., Evans, Offner, Heyer, Cho, **Gaches**, Yang, Chen, Choi, Y., Lee, Y., Baek, Choi, M., Kim, Kang, Lee, S., Tetematsu, ApJ Accepted, 2021, *TIMES II: Investigating the Relation Between Turbulence and Star-forming Environments in Molecular Clouds*

Yun, Lee, J. , Choi, Evans, Offner, Heyer, **Gaches**, Lee, Y-H., Baek, Choi, Kang, Lee, S. , Tatematsu, Yang, Chen, Lee, Y., Jung, Lee, C., Cho, 2021, ApJ, 256, 16 , *TIMES I: a Systematic Observation in Multiple Molecular Lines Toward the Orion A and Ophiuchus Clouds*

Fitz Axen, Offner, **Gaches**, Fryer, Hungerford, Silsbee, 2021, ApJ, 915, 43, *Transport of Protostellar Cosmic Rays in Turbulent Dense Cores*

**Gaches**, Walch, Offner & Munker, 2020, ApJ, 898, 79, *Aluminum-26 Enrichment in the Surface of Protostellar Disks Due to Protostellar Cosmic Ray, **Featured in Sky & Telescope Magazine.***

**Gaches**, Offner & Bisbas, 2019, ApJ, 883, 190, *The Astrochemical Impact of Cosmic Rays in Protoclusters II:  $\text{Cl}$ -to- $\text{H}_2$  and  $\text{CO}$ -to- $\text{H}_2$  Conversion Factors*

Offner, **Gaches**, Holdship, 2019, ApJ, 883, 121, *Impact of Cosmic-Ray Feedback on Accretion and Chemistry in Circumstellar Disks*

**Gaches**, Offner & Bisbas, 2019, ApJ, 878, 105, *The Astrochemical Impact of Cosmic Rays in Protoclusters I: Molecular Cloud Chemistry*

**Gaches** & Offner, 2018, ApJ, 861, 87, *Exploration of Cosmic-ray Acceleration in Protostellar Accretion Shocks and a Model for Ionization Rates in Embedded Protoclusters*

**Gaches**, & Offner, 2018, ApJ, 854, 156, *A Model for the  $\text{CO}$ - $\text{H}_2$  Conversion Factor of Molecular Clouds with Embedded Star Clusters*

**Gaches**, Offner, Rosolowsky, & Bisbas 2015, ApJ, 799, 235, *Astrochemical Correlations in Molecular Clouds*

## Organization of Conferences

- Splinter “*Bridging Theory and Observations of the Interstellar Medium*” at the Annual Meeting of the Astronomische Gesellschaft 2023. Co-Convener. Sept 15, 2023.
- Conference “*The Olympian Symposium: Star formation in the era of JWST*”. SOC Member. Katerini, Greece, May 29 - June 2, 2023.

Splinter “*Impact of Cosmic Rays on the Physics and Chemistry of Dense Molecular Gas*” at the Annual Meeting of the Astronomische Gesellschaft 2021. Principle Convener. Virtual, Sept 13, 2021.

## Awards

Mary Dailey Irvine Travel Grant - 2014, 2017, 2018  
Award Winning Poster - UMass HPC Day, November 14, 2014  
AAS International Travel Grant - 2015, 2018  
Massachusetts Space Grant Fellowship, Summer 2015  
Massachusetts Space Grant Fellowship, Summer 2013  
Weaver Award for Undergraduate Research  
Glenn Purviance Scholarship in Physics  
Slipher Scholarship

## Telescope Proposals

- Col Far-Infrared Spectroscopy Space Telescope (FIRSST) NASA APEX 2023 call, proposed FIR telescope. SO3 (cores) theory/models co-lead.
- Col JWST. Accepted for 13 hours, later cancelled. *Does star formation require molecular gas?*, ID 3162. PI: Simon Glover
- Col JWST. Allocated 62 hours. *The JWST Whirlpool Galaxy Treasury*, ID 3435. PI: Karin Sandstrom
- Col ALMA. *The First Ever Low Metallicity PDR Benchmark: Revealing the CO-Dark H<sub>2</sub>*. PI: Karin Sandstrom
- Col JWST. Allocated 16 hours. *The First Ever Low Metallicity PDR Benchmark*, ID 2521. PI: Karin Sandstrom
- Col TRAO-KSP. Allocated 1451 Hours. *mapping Turbulent properties In star-forming MolEcular clouds down to the Sonic scale (TIMES)*. PI: Jeong-Eun Lee
- Co-PI IRAM 30m. Allocated 11 hours. *Probing Complex Chemistry under High Energy Irradiation in Cygnus X-3's "Little Friend"*. PIs: Lia Corrales & Brandt Gaches

## Computing allocations

NAISS The HADES Simulations. Allocated 100k CPU-hr/mo on the Dardel HPC machine. Proposal SNIC 2022/5-654. Ended Sept 2023

## Recent Research Presentations

- Talk The Olympian Symposium: Star Formation in the Era of JWST, June 1, 2023.
- Invited NASA's Universe of Learning: Science Briefing, December 1, 2022, virtual
- Invited Cosmic Rays 2: The Salt of Star Formation, Florence, Italy, November 10, 2022
- Poster From Stars to Galaxies II, Gothenburg, Sweden, June 20 - 24, 2022
- Talk Midwest Magnetic Field Workshop 2022, Virtual, May 26, 2022
- Talk Early Phases of Star Formation, Ringberg Castle, Germany, April 27, 2022
- Invited Kapteyn Institute Lunch Seminar, Virtual, April 6, 2022
- Invited Center for Astrochemical Studies Seminar, Virtual, September 27, 2021
- Talk Astrochemical Frontiers 2021, Virtual, July 5, 2021
- Talk Midwest Magnetic Field Workshop 2021, Madison, WI, Virtual, June 14, 2021
- Invited SSDC, Agenzia Spaziale Italiana, Virtual, June 10, 2021
- Webinar

- Talk ISM 2021, Virtual (Beirut), May, 2021
- Invited Talk ANU Astrocoffee, Canberra, Australia, November, 2020
- Talk ESO Conference: Threats from the surroundings. Virtual, November 2020
- Talk Astrochemistry Discussions, May 6, 2020.
- Invited Talk Seminar at the Center for Astrochemical Studies, Max-Planck-Institut für extraterrestrische Physik, Garching, Germany, January 2020

## Teaching and Mentoring Experience

### Students Co-advisor

- Master's *Daria Paul*. Subject: Radioactive nuclei transport in molecular clouds and impact on habitability.
- Bachelor's *Franziska Kern*. Subject: Impact of protostellar x-rays on dense molecular gas.
- REU *Shushmi Chowdhury*, Summer 2023, Chalmers Astrophysics & Space Sciences Supervisor Summer (CASSUM)
- REU Mentor *Jonah Chaban*. Summer 2016, University of Massachusetts Summer REU program mentor

### Teaching

- 2020 Tutorials for graduate level Star Formation Course, University of Cologne
- Summer 2016 Taught and organized lectures for the University of Massachusetts astronomy & 2017 summer school for high school students, organized by Prof. Stephen Schneider.
- Spring 2013 Lead Teaching Assistant for Team Based Learning lab, run by Prof. Stephen Schneider. Assisted and taught lab classes.
- Fall 2012 Teaching Assistant for Gen. Ed astronomy labs at University of Massachusetts - Amherst, run by Dr. Thomas Burbine. Assisted students during labs and graded assignments.

## Service

### Science Evaluation

- Journal referee: *The Astrophysical Journal*, *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, *Galaxies*, *Molecules*, *Universe*.
- Grant evaluator and panel member for NASA funding call 2023 (Details confidential)
- 2020 LOC. SFB2023+ Workshop. Universität zu Köln.
- 2020 LOC. AstroML Day. Universität zu Köln.
- 2016 - 2017 Graduate Student Senator
- 2015 Mary Dailey Irvine Travel Grant Committee - Graduate Student Representative

## Outreach

- 2022 NASA's Universe of Learning: Science Briefing, December 1, 2022
- 2021 Astronomy on Tap - Köln #8
- 2020 Astrochemistry Discussions
- 2017, 2019 Astronomy on Tap - Austin #42, #55
- Fall Physics Discovery: Physics outreach program through Flandrau Planetarium for 2011-Spring K-12 students, run by Dr. Srinivas Manne.
- 2012
- 2011-2012 Physics demonstrations at Physics Phun Night and through the Physics Bus at University of Arizona.