



In support of PhD student Ileyk El Mellah

Leuven, 18 November 2015

Dear Colleague,

With this letter, I warmly recommend PhD candidate Ileyk El Mellah, who is expected to graduate in 2016 (under supervision of Fabien Casse and Andrea Goldwurm), in his application for a postdoc position in your team. I have met Ileyk in person during research visits of Dr. Casse's team to KU Leuven, and have with great interest followed up his progress and read about his most recent research on wind accretion onto compact objects [MNRAS 454, 2657, 2015]. As evident from his CV, Ileyk has consistently been a top student throughout his education, and has taken initiative to widen his field of study through several internships (e.g. becoming actively involved with Kepler data analysis for exoplanet systems). He is performing numerical simulations using our open source MPI-AMRVAC software, where he has done independent research requiring software improvements (e.g. incorporating stretched grid functionality) that were not supported in the publicly available versions. I also note from his CV that he has been active in outreach and as teaching assistant for a variety of courses organized at his university, and am confident that he does this with great enthusiasm. The same is true for his own presentations, which he has diligently build up during his PhD research. I have informed Ileyk that when given a funding opportunity, I would gladly hire him as a postdoc researcher in my own team.

In summary, I can recommend you to consider Ileyk as a serious candidate for your advertised postdoc position, and encourage you to let him present his research work and his ambitions as a postdoc fellow in an oral presentation. He is very skilled with a fair variety of software packages and visualization tools, and is on track to start a brilliant career as a (theoretical) astrophysicist.

Sincerely,

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