Michael A. Reefe

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Michael-Reefe
Michael Reefe
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Education

Ph.D., Physics **2022 – Present**
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
Advisor: Michael McDonald

B.S., Physics | Concentration in Astrophysics **2018 – 2022**
With Honors, *Summa cum laude* GPA: 4.00
George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Research Experience

Graduate Research Fellow **Aug. 2022 – Present**
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, MA

- Modeling mid-infrared integral field unit spectroscopy for galaxies and galaxy clusters

Undergraduate Research Assistant **Sept. 2019 – July 2022**
George Mason University Fairfax, VA

- Analyzing and modeling photometric transits and spectroscopic radial velocity data to validate exoplanets and model for characteristics, i.e. planet mass, radius, and orbital period.
- Using Python coding for data analysis of integrated field unit spectroscopy and complete hardware automation of the GMU campus telescope.
- Analyzing galaxy spectra to search for active galactic nuclei via coronal line emission.

Teaching Experience

Learning Assistant **June 2020 – May 2020**
George Mason University Fairfax, VA

- Introductory electricity & magnetism course
- Attended classes and answered students' questions, helping them with problems
- Held personal office hours to work through examples
- Created a presentation to summarize the lessons learned from participating in this position.

Honors & Awards

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship **2022 – 2027**
$34,000 stipend & $12,000 educational allowance per year for 3 years. Competitive national research fellowship for prospective graduate students across all science & math disciplines that requires a detailed 3-year research proposal plan.

Dean's Award for Excellence in Academics and Research **2022**
$1,250 award. GMU College of Science award for excellence in academics and/or research.

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award **2022**
GMU Physics & Astronomy department recognition of exceptional undergraduate research.

Outstanding Graduating Senior Award **2022**
GMU Physics & Astronomy department recognition of an exceptional graduating senior.

Outstanding Learning Assistant Award **2021**
$150 award. Recognition of outstanding leadership as a learning assistant.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Scholarship **2020**
$500 award. Recognition of academic excellence for GMU students.

George Mason University Distinction Scholarship **2018 – 2022**
$2,000 per year. Merit based scholarship for academically distinguished GMU students.

Dean's List **2018 – 2022**
Cumulative GPA above 3.5 at GMU.

Refereed Publications

First & Second Author

6. **M. Reefe**, O. Alfaro, S. Foster et al. 2022: "Asynchronous object-oriented approach to the automation of the 0.8-meter George Mason University campus telescope in Python," *JATIS*, **8**, 027002
5. **M. Reefe**, R. Luque, E. Gaidos et al. 2022: "A Close-in Puffy Neptune with Hidden Friends: The Enigma of TOI 620," *AJ*, **163**, 269
4. **M. Reefe**, S. Satyapal, R. O. Sexton et al. 2022: "CLASS: Coronal Line Activity Spectroscopic Survey," *ApJ*, **936**, 140
3. **M. Reefe**, S. Satyapal, R. O. Sexton et al. 2022: "Nuclear Activity in the Low Metallicity Dwarf Galaxy SDSS J0944-0038: A Glimpse into the Primordial Universe," *arXiv e-prints*, arXiv:2211.13179
2. **M. Reefe**, R. O. Sexton, S. M. Doan et al. 2022: "CLASS Survey Description: Coronal Line Needles in the SDSS Haystack," *arXiv e-prints*, arXiv:2211.11882
1. B. L. Cale, **M. Reefe**, P. Plavchan et al. 2021: "Diving Beneath the Sea of Stellar Activity: Chromatic Radial Velocities of the Young AU Mic Planetary System," *AJ*, **162**, 295

Coauthor

11. M. El Mufti, P. P. Plavchan, H. Isaacson et al. 2023: "TOI 560: Two Transiting Planets Orbiting a K Dwarf Validated with iSHELL, PFS, and HIRES RVs," *AJ*, **165**, 10
10. R. W. Pfeifle, S. Satyapal, C. Ricci et al. 2023: "NuSTAR Observes Two Bulgeless Galaxies: No Hard X-Ray AGN Detected in NGC 4178 or J0851+3926," *ApJ*, **943**, 109
9. J. M. Wittrock, P. Plavchan, B. L. Cale et al. 2023: "Validating AU Microscopii d with Transit Timing Variations," *arXiv e-prints*, arXiv:2302.04922
8. E. A. Gilbert, T. Barclay, E. V. Quintana et al. 2022: "Flares, Rotation, and Planets of the AU Mic System from TESS Observations," *AJ*, **163**, 147
7. J. E. Rodriguez, S. N. Quinn, A. Vanderburg et al. 2022: "Another Shipment of Six Short-Period Giant Planets from TESS," *arXiv e-prints*, arXiv:2205.05709
6. J. M. Wittrock, S. Dreizler, **M. Reefe** et al. 2022: "Transit Timing Variations for AU Microscopii b and c," *AJ*, **164**, 27
5. S. W. Yee, J. N. Winn, J. D. Hartman et al. 2022: "The TESS Grand Unified Hot Jupiter Survey. II. Twenty New Giant Planets," *arXiv e-prints*, arXiv:2210.15473
4. A. Fukui, J. Korth, J. H. Livingston et al. 2021: "TOI-1749: an M dwarf with a Trio of Planets including a Near-resonant Pair," *AJ*, **162**, 167
3. A. Osborn, D. J. Armstrong, B. Cale et al. 2021: "TOI-431/HIP 26013: a super-Earth and a sub-Neptune transiting a bright, early K dwarf, with a third RV planet," *MNRAS*, **507**, 2782
2. J. Teske, S. X. Wang, A. Wolfgang et al. 2021: "The Magellan-TESS Survey. I. Survey Description and Midsurvey Results," *ApJS*, **256**, 33
1. S. Dreizler, I. J. M. Crossfield, D. Kossakowski et al. 2020: "The CARMENES search for exoplanets around M dwarfs. LP 714-47 b (TOI 442.01): populating the Neptune desert," *A&A*, **644**, A127

Conferences & Presentations

240th Meeting of the American Astronomical Soceity — **12–17 June 2022**
iPoster — Pasadena, CA
CLASS: Coronal Line Activity in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey [ADS]

TESS Science Conference II — **2–6 Aug. 2021**
Poster — Virtual
A Flexible Python Observatory Automation Framework for the George Mason University Campus Telescope [zenodo]
Poster (Coauthor)
Methods of Data Analysis on TESS Observations [zenodo]

Poster (Coauthor)
Transit Timing Variations for AU Microscopii b & c [zenodo]

GMU College of Science Undergraduate Research Colloquium **22 Apr. 2021**
Poster Virtual
Automation of TESS Follow-up Observations with the GMU Campus Telescope

237th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society **11–15 Jan. 2021**
iPoster Virtual
An Asynchronous Object-Oriented Approach to Automation of the 0.8-meter George Mason University Campus Telescope in Python [ADS]

Proposals

Contributor

Gemini Observatory: MAROON-X Instrument, 24+ nights requested	2021B
Keck Observatory: HIRES Instrument, 5 nights requested	2021B
NASA IRTF: iSHELL Instrument, 50 nights requested	2021B
Gemini Observatory: MAROON-X Instrument, 24+ nights requested	2022A

Community Outreach

Graduation Speaker **May 2022**
GMU College of Science Fairfax, VA
Chosen to be the student speaker for the College of Science's Spring 2022 graduation event.

Undergraduate Representative **Jan. 2022**
GMU Hiring Committee, for an Astronomy Professor Fairfax, VA
Attended a mock lecture and research colloquium presented by each candidate, as well as interviews, and provided feedback to the faculty hiring committee from the undergraduate student perspective.

President **July 2021 – Aug. 2022**
Spectrum Fairfax, VA
Planning talks, discussions, fundraisers, and other events, as well as managing website and budgetary concerns and working with the College of Science Faculty to improve diversity at GMU for student-led group Spectrum, which promotes the enhancement of under-represented groups in STEM.

Peer Mentor **Dec. 2020 – Aug. 2022**
Spectrum Fairfax, VA
Providing academic and personal tutoring for students in physics and astronomy at GMU through Spectrum.

Science Outreach

Graduate Student Panelist **Aug. 2022**
Aspiring Scientists' Summer Internship Program (ASSIP) Fairfax, VA
Served on a panel of graduate students for a Career Day event hosted by GMU's ASSIP program, answering high school students' questions about a career in academia.

NSF GRFP Cohort Workshop Panelist **July 2022**
GMU Office of Fellowships Fairfax, VA
Served on a panel of NSF GRFP recipients and reviewers to answer students' questions about the application and review process.

Competition Judge **Oct. 2020**
MathCounts Fairfax, VA
Scored math exams based on the answer key for middle school students participating in the competition.

Research Mentor **Summer 2020, 2021**
Aspiring Scientists' Summer Internship Program (ASSIP) Fairfax, VA
Taught high school interns about the academic research done in our group, and tutored them on how to perform it themselves to synthesize a presentable project by the end of the summer.

COMPUTER SKILLS

Python: Over 3 years of experience working with data analysis, simulations, modeling, and a full-scale automation project of the GMU telescope observations. Packages: Numpy, Numba, Scipy, Astropy, Pandas, Matplotlib, Plotly, Emcee, PyAstronomy, Corner.
MATLAB & Mathematica: 2 years of experience with numerical computations for classes.
Bash / Shell: 2 years of experience in unix terminal environments
Git: Basic source code management with Git and GitHub
Astronomy Programs: AstroImageJ, DS9
Document Creation: LaTeX, Vim, Microsoft Office

REFERENCES

Shobita Satyapal: George Mason University, Professor, Research advisor.
Peter P. Plavchan: George Mason University, Associate Professor, Research advisor.
Joseph C. Weingartner: George Mason University, Associate Professor, Academic advisor.