

# Mohammad Alvi Refat

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I am a recent graduate from the [City University of New York's \(CUNY\) Graduate Center](#) master's in astrophysics program. My current research is in studying starspots using light curve inversion techniques.

## Education

- 2023 - Present **CUNY Graduate Center**, M.S. in Astrophysics, [Thesis: Starspot Inference Using Light Curve Inversion Techniques](#).
- 2019 - 2022 **CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies**, B.S. in Computational Astrophysics, *cum laude*.
- 2017 - 2019 **Bernard M. Baruch College**.

## Research Experience

- August 2023 – Present **Starspot Inference with Light Curve Inversion Techniques**, Advisor: Dr. Lucy Lu, American Museum of Natural History.
- May 2021 – Present **Towards Mapping Brown Dwarf and Giant Exoplanet Atmospheres**, Brown Dwarfs in New York City, Advisor: Dr. Johanna Vos, American Museum of Natural History.
- Mapping the clouds of observed brown dwarfs from existing light curve data.
- May 2020 – May 2021 **Chemodynamically Characterizing the Jhelum Stellar Stream with APOGEE-2**, Sloan Digital Sky Survey Faculty And Student Team, Advisor: Dr. Allyson Sheffield, American Museum of Natural History.
- Examined the Jhelum stellar stream in order to characterize potential members using APOGEE-2. Identified one potential member of Jhelum. Resulted in publication Sheffield et al (incl. Refat), ApJ, 2021.
- Aug 2018 – May 2020 **Looking at Star Formation Through Chemistry**, AstroCom NYC, Advisor: Dr. Allyson Sheffield, American Museum of Natural History.
- Analyzed the spectra of the M-Giant star Arcturus to derive stellar spectra and chemical abundances. Normalized Echelle spectra and measured equivalent widths of spectral lines.
- Jun 2018 – Aug 2018 **Two-Point Statistics in the Star Forming ISM**, AstroCom NYC, Advisor: Dr. Chang-Goo Kim, Center for Computational Astrophysics (CCA).
- Performed a two-point correlation analysis to characterize metallicity correlation between stars and compared this to parameters such as velocity and star formation rate.

## Refereed Publications

- [1] Allyson A. Sheffield, Aidan Z. Subrahimovic, Mohammad Refat, et al. "Chemodynamically Characterizing the Jhelum Stellar Stream with APOGEE-2." In: *The Astrophysical Journal* 913.1 (May 2021), p. 39. ISSN: 1538-4357. DOI: [10.3847/1538-4357/abee93](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/abee93). URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/abee93>.

## Teaching

- Fall 2025 **Intro Physics Lecture**, Baruch College.
- Fall 2025 **Intro Physics Lab**, Baruch College.

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## Computer Skills

Advanced

◦ Python, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

Intermediate

◦ Git, Bash

Beginner

◦ HTML & CSS, MATLAB, Java

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## Academic Presentations

- 2025 **Talk**, “*Starspot Inference with Light Curve Inversion Techniques*”, CUNY Masters Graduation 2025, Simons Foundation.
- 2025 **Poster**, “*Starspot Inference with Light Curve Inversion Techniques*”, 245th American Astronomical Society Meeting, American Astronomical Society.
- 2024 **Poster**, “*Star Spots with Starry*”, The 22nd Cambridge Workshop on Cool Stars, Stellar Systems, and the Sun, University of California San Diego.
- 2023 **Poster**, “*Towards Mapping Brown Dwarf and Giant Exoplanet Atmospheres*”, Center for Computational Astrophysics Gotham Fest 2021, Center for Computational Astrophysics.
- 2023 **Poster**, “*Towards Mapping Brown Dwarf and Giant Exoplanet Atmospheres*”, 241st American Astronomical Society Meeting, American Astronomical Society.
- 2022 **Talk**, “*Towards Mapping Brown Dwarf and Giant Exoplanet Atmospheres*”, 240th American Astronomical Society Meeting, American Astronomical Society.
- 2021 **Poster**, “*Towards Mapping Brown Dwarf and Giant Exoplanet Atmospheres*”, Center for Computational Astrophysics Gotham Fest 2021, Center for Computational Astrophysics.
- 2021 **Talk**, “*Towards Mapping Brown Dwarf and Giant Exoplanet Atmospheres*”, Center for Computational Astrophysics/City University of New York/American Museum of Natural History Symposium, Center for Computational Astrophysics.
- 2021 **Poster**, “*Chemodynamically Characterizing the Jhelum Stellar Stream with APOGEE-2*”, 237th American Astronomical Society Meeting, American Astronomical Society.
- 2020 **Talk**, “*Chemodynamically Characterizing the Jhelum Stellar Stream with APOGEE-2*”, American Museum of Natural History REU Symposium, American Museum of Natural History.
- 2019 **Poster**, “*Where Were Stars Born in The Milky Way?*”, New York University Astrofest, New York University.
- 2019 **Talk**, “*Where Were Stars Born in The Milky Way?*”, American Museum of Natural History Research Experience for Undergraduates Symposium, American Museum of Natural History.
- 2018 **Talk**, “*Two-Point Statistics in the Star Forming ISM*”, Center for Computational Astrophysics Research Experience for Undergraduates Symposium, Simons Foundation.

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## References

**Prof. Allyson Sheffield**

Full Professor

CUNY LaGuardia Community College

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**Dr. Johanna Vos**

Postdoctoral Fellow

AMNH | BDNYC

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