

Simin Tong

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Protoplanetary disks, dust evolution, disk observations in multi-wavelengths, numerical simulations.

EDUCATION

University of Leicester

Ph.D., Astrophysics

Supervisor: Prof. Richard Alexander

Leicester, uk

Sept. 2022-2026 (expected)

Leiden University

*M.Sc. (cum laude), Astronomy
with 1-year Pre-Master, Astronomy*

Leiden, Netherlands

Sept. 2019- Aug.2022

Jilin University

B.Sc., Physics and LL.B., Law

Jilin, China

Sept. 2015 -Jun. 2019

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

- DAAD Research Grant (approx. \$10k) Jan.-Jun. 2026
 - Competitive 6-month grant supporting independent research.
- Leicester Future 100 Studentship 2022-
- Leiden International Tuition Fee Waiver 2020-2022
- Dean's Scholarship 2019
 - the highest honour for undergraduates at the Department of Physics, JLU
- Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Award 2019
- Outstanding Graduate in Jilin University 2019
- Chinese Academy of Sciences Undergraduate Scholarship 2017
- University Scholarship 2016-2019

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Research visits

- (Upcoming) Research visit to MPIA @Heidelberg, Germany Jan.-Jun., 2026
- Kavli Summer Program in Astrophysics 2025 @VA, US Jun.-Aug., 2025
- Secondment to SUNY, Stony Brook/CCA, Flatiron Institute @NY, US Apr.-Jul., 2024
- Summer Student at Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Academia Sinica @Taipei Jul.-Aug., 2019
- Internship at Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences @Beijing, China Jan. 2018
- Summer Student at Shanghai Astronomical Observatory @Shanghai, China Jul. 2017&2018

Summer/Winter schools

- EXHOST Summer School @Tartu, Estonia Sept., 2024
- DUSTBUSTERS Winter School II @Lyon, France Jan., 2024
- Disc and Planet Formation Summer School @Beijing, China (remote) Jul., 2022
- The 4th SKA Summer School @Shanghai, China Jul. 2018

PUBLICATIONS

First-author:

7. **Tong**, Alexander, Rosotti. Turbulence and dust fragility in protoplanetary discs. (*submitted to MNRAS*, [arXiv: 2509.24818](#))
6. **Tong**, van der Marel et al. Disk survey in the Serpens star-forming region (2025, *manuscript ready, submitted soon to A&A*)
5. **Tong & Alexander** (2025) Compact protoplanetary discs can be produced by dead zones. *MNRAS*, 537(4), 3525 [[ADS](#)]
4. **Tong**, Alexander & Rosotti (2024) A question of personalities: evolution of viscous and wind-driven protoplanetary discs in the presence of dead zones. *MNRAS*, 533(2), 1211 [[ADS](#)]

First-author, in preparation:

3. **Tong**, Ren et al. Correlations between millimeter asymmetries and near-infrared spiral arms (*in prep.*)
2. **Tong**, Alexander, Armitage. Understanding disc evolution models with population synthesis (*in prep.*)
1. **Tong**, Haworth et al. Competition between tidal truncation and external photoevaporation for externally irradiated binary systems (*in prep.*)

Minor contributions:

- Anderson et al. (2022) (incl. **Tong**) Protostellar and protoplanetary disk masses in the Serpens region. *ApJ*, 938(1), 55. [[ADS](#)]

PRESENTATION

- UKI Discs Meeting 2025 @Hatfield, UK [[Oral](#)] Sept., 2025
- Gordon Research Conference, Origins of Solar Systems @MA, US [[Poster](#)] Jun., 2025
- Group Meeting at Queen Mary University of London @London, UK May, 2025
- Midland Discs Meeting @Warwick, UK [[Oral](#)] May, 2025
- Pebbles in Plant Formation @Tokyo, Japan [[Oral](#)] (remote) Feb., 2025
- Group Meeting at Max Planck Institute for Astronomy @Heidelberg, Germany (remote) Feb., 2025
- Seminar at Purple Mountain Observatory @Nanjing, China Dec., 2024
- Group Meeting at Zhejiang University @Hangzhou, China Dec., 2024
- Seminar at Shanghai Astronomical Observatory @Shanghai, China Dec., 2024
- PDS Seminar at Tsinghua University @Beijing, China Dec., 2024
- Kavli Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics Seminar @Beijing, China Dec., 2024
- UKI Discs Meeting @Warwick, UK [[Oral](#)] Sept., 2024
- New Heights in Planet Formation @Garching, Germany [[Poster](#)] Jul., 2024
- COST Action Kick-off Meeting @Torun, Poland [[Oral](#)] Jul., 2024
- Group Meeting at the Center for Computational Astrophysics, Flatiron Institute @NY, US May, 2024
- National Astronomy Meeting 2023 @Cardiff, UK [[Poster](#)] Jul., 2023
- Midland Discs Meeting @Leicester, UK [[Oral](#)] Jun., 2023
- Protostars and Planets VII @Kyoto, Japan [[Poster](#)] Apr., 2023

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

- **Programming & tools:** PYTHON, DUSTPy, CASA, RADMC-3D; basic: FORTRAN, C, HTML & CSS
- **Languages:** English (Professional); Mandarin (Native)