

# ASHLEY CHONTOS

Institute for Astronomy  
2680 Woodlawn Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96822

achontos@hawaii.edu  
347-443-2505  
ashleyin.space

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Astronomy, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa	(expected June 2022)
Thesis: <i>Precise Stellar and Planet Properties in the Kepler, K2 &amp; TESS Era</i>	
Advisor: Daniel Huber	
M.Sc., Astronomy, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa	2018
B.Sc., Mathematics, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> , SUNY Albany	2016
Focuses: Statistics, Applied Mathematics	
Minor: Computer Science	
B.Sc., Physics, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> , SUNY Albany	2016

## PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

<i>NSF Graduate Research Fellow</i>	2018–present
<i>Research Assistant</i> , University of Hawai'i at Mānoa	2017–2018
<i>Research Assistant</i> , NASA Goddard Space Flight Center	2016
<i>Research Assistant</i> , Stanford University	2015–2016

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Asteroseismology, stellar evolution, exoplanet detection and characterization, photometry, spectroscopy, precise radial velocities, software development, computational astrophysics, post main-sequence planetary system dynamics and evolution, space telescopes, astronomical surveys.

## SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

Friends of the IfA Outreach Award	2019
ARCS (Achievement Reward for College Scientists)	2019
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	2018
Outstanding Outreach Award	2017
John C. Mather Nobel Scholar	2016

## SELECTED TALKS

Stanford KIPAC Tea Talk ( <i>invited</i> )	November 2021
University of Chicago Exoplanet Journal Club ( <i>invited</i> )	September 2021
Carnegie EPL Astronomy Seminar ( <i>invited</i> )	September 2021
TESS Science Talk, MIT ( <i>invited</i> )	September 2021
Keck Science Meeting	September 2021
TESS SciCon II	August 2021
The Good Vibrations Seminar ( <i>invited</i> )	February 2021
Yale Exoplanets & Stars Seminar ( <i>invited</i> )	September 2020
Exoplanets III, Heidelberg, Germany	July 2020
TASC5, MIT, Cambridge, USA	July 2019
TESS SciCon I, MIT, Cambridge, USA	July 2019
Kepler/K2 SciCon V, Glendale, CA	March 2019
TASC4, Aarhus, Denmark	July 2018
Columbia University Astronomy Seminar ( <i>invited</i> )	October 2017

## TEACHING, SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

---

<i>Mentor</i> for high school students through HI STAR	2017– <i>present</i>
<i>Astronomy Graduate Outreach Coordinator &amp; Volunteer</i>	2016–2020
Selected Events:	
· Punahou Speaker Series (Oahu, HI)	2018– <i>present</i>
· Boy Scouts of Hawai'i Astronomy Merit Badge (Oahu, HI)	2017, 2018, 2019
· Stem Fest (Oahu, HI)	2017, 2018, 2019
· Hawaiian Astronaut Lacy Veach Day (Oahu, HI)	2017, 2018, 2019
· Astroday (Big Island, HI)	2016, 2017a/b, 2018a/b
<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , ASTR 110: Lab, University of Hawai'i	2016
<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , ASTR 110: Lecture, University of Hawai'i	2016
<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , ICSI 124X: Lecture, SUNY Albany	2013, 2014

## PRESS COVERAGE

---

Kepler's First Exoplanet Discovery [Chontos et al. 2019]: The discovery was announced during my talk at Kepler SciCon V, which included a coordinated press release between [NASA] and [UH]. Articles featuring the science result included [CNN], [Space.com], [Universe Today], [Science News], and many others. The story made the front page of the main [Hawaiian newspaper] as well as my [hometown newspaper]. I was also invited as a guest speaker to talk about the planet on live [Hawai'i public radio].

## AWARDED TELESCOPE TIME & OBSERVING EXPERIENCE

---

<i>PI</i> , 16 nights over 4 semesters using HIRES on Keck I 10m Telescope	2019– <i>present</i>
<i>Exoplanets Orbiting Subgiants: Benchmark Systems with TESS</i>	
Co-Is: Daniel Huber, Andrew Howard, Howard Isaacson, Lauren Weiss	
<i>Co-I</i> , 4 nights in 2019B using HIRES on Keck I 10m Telescope	2018
<i>The TESS-Keck Survey of Exoplanets Orbiting Asteroseismic Host Stars</i>	
PI: Daniel Huber; Co-Is: Andrew Howard, Howard Isaacson, Lauren Weiss	
<i>Co-I</i> , 0.5 night in 2019B using HIRES on Keck I 10m Telescope	2018
<i>Spin-Orbit Alignment in Kepler's First Exoplanet System</i>	
PI: Daniel Huber; Co-I: Teruyuki Hirano	
<i>Observer</i> , 60 nights on Keck/HIRES through the California Planet Search	2018– <i>present</i>
<i>Observer</i> , 5 nights on Gemini South/GPI through the GPI Exoplanet Survey	2015

## SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS [NASA ADS]

---

**41 total: 4 first author and 12 with significant contributions, h-index=14, total citations~485**

**Chontos, A.**, Sayeed, M. and Huber, D., “pySYD: Automated Measurements of Global Asteroseismic Parameters,” *JOSS*, *in review*. [NASA ADS]

**Chontos, A.**, et al., “The TESS-Keck Survey: Science Goals and Target Selection,” *in review* (with favorable referee report). [NASA ADS]

**Chontos, A.**, Huber, D., Kjeldsen, H., et al., “TESS Asteroseismology of  $\alpha$  Mensae: Benchmark Ages for a G7 Dwarf and its M-dwarf Companion,” *ApJ*, **922**, 229 (2021). [NASA ADS]

Guerrero et al. [including **Chontos, A.**], “The TESS Objects of Interest Catalog from the TESS Prime Mission,” *ApJSS*, **254**, 39 (2021). [NASA ADS]

Huber, D., Chaplin, W., **Chontos, A.**, et al., “A Hot Saturn Orbiting an Oscillating Late Subgiant Discovered by TESS,” *AJ*, **157**, 245 (2019). [NASA ADS]

**Chontos, A.**, Huber, D., Latham, D., et al., “The Curious Case of KOI 4: Confirming Kepler's First Exoplanet Detection,” *AJ*, **157**, 192 (2019). [NASA ADS]

## REFERENCES

---

**Dr. Daniel Huber**

*Professor of Astronomy*

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

2680 Woodlawn Drive

Honolulu, HI 96822 USA

Phone: 808-956-8573

Email: huberd@hawaii.edu

Website: [ifa.hawaii.edu/~dhuber]

**Dr. Andrew Howard**

*Professor of Astronomy*

California Institute of Technology

1200 East California Boulevard

Pasadena, CA 91125 USA

Phone: 626-395-8747

Email: ahoward@caltech.edu

Website: [sites.astro.caltech.edu/~howard]

**Dr. Sara Seager**

*Class of 1941 Professor of Planetary Science*

*Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics*

*Professor of Physics*

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

54-1718 77 Massachusetts Avenue

Cambridge, MA 02139 USA

Phone: 617-253-6775

Email: seager@mit.edu

Website: [saraseager.com]

**Dr. Stephen Kane**

*Director of the Planetary Research Laboratory*

*Professor of Planetary Astrophysics*

*Professor of Physics and Astronomy*

University of California, Riverside

900 University Avenue

Riverside, CA 92521 USA

Phone: 951-827-6593

Email: skane@ucr.edu

Website: [stephenkane.net]