

# Bryson Cale

✉ [bcale@masonlive.gmu.edu](mailto:bcale@masonlive.gmu.edu) • 🌐 <https://mason.gmu.edu/~bcale/>

## Research Interests

---

- Detection and characterization of exoplanets primarily via radial velocities.
- Development of general purpose spectral extraction and RV generation codes.
- Characterization of stellar activity through radial velocity measurements.
- Development of general codes for optimization purposes in data science.

## Education

---

- **George Mason University** **Fairfax, VA**  
*Ph.D., Physics, Expected Graduation: May 2021*  
*2017-Current*  
*Areas of Study: Physics & Astronomy.*
- **Missouri State University** **Springfield, MO**  
*Master of Natural and Applied Science, Transferred after one year*  
*2016-2017*  
*Areas of Study: Physics, Astronomy, & Materials Science. Computer Science.*
- **Grinnell College** **Grinnell, IA**  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*2012-2016*  
*Areas of Study: Double Major in Physics & Mathematics.*

## Employment

---

- **George Mason University** **Fairfax, VA**  
*Graduate Research Assistant*  
*August 2017 - Current*
  - Developing codes to search for planets orbiting other stars via the radial velocity technique with a variety of spectrographs.
  - Logged > 100 partial nights of observing with the NASA Infrared Telescope Facility as lead observer.
  - Aided in the confirmation of >10 exoplanet candidates identified with the NASA *TESS* Mission.
- **George Mason University** **Fairfax, VA**  
*Academic Tutor*  
*August 2017 - Current*
  - Tutor George Mason Univ. student athletes in physics, calculus, differential equations, linear algebra, and other upper level math and physics courses.
- **Missouri State University** **Springfield, MO**  
*Graduate Teaching Assistant*  
*August 2016 - May 2017*
  - Prepared lectures for and instructed students through an introductory astronomy lab course.
  - Resource for NASA Public Observing Nights at MSU's Baker Observatory.
- **Grinnell College** **Grinnell, IA**  
*Physics Lab Teaching Assistant*  
*September 2015 - December 2015*
  - Helped students to understand the fundamentals of physics through lab experiments in an introductory lab course.

---

## Grants and Funding

---

- George Mason University Physics Department Summer Fellowship (2020), \$7.5K
- NASA Exoplanet Research Program Fellowship (XRP) (Co-I) (2019), 3-year stipend
- George Mason University Physics Department Summer Fellowship (2018), \$6K

---

## Awarded Telescope Time

---

- **2020B**: HIRES/Keck - Measuring Stellar Activity with Chromatic Radial-Velocities in the Active and Planet-Bearing Nearby M dwarf AU Mic. Co-I.
- **2020B**: CHIRON/CTIO - Measuring Stellar Activity with Chromatic Radial-Velocities in the Active and Planet-Bearing Nearby M dwarf AU Mic. Co-I.
- **2020B**: IRTF/iSHELL - Radial Velocity Follow Up of Extrasolar Planet Candidates Orbiting Cool Low Mass Stars Identified With TESS. PI.
- **2020A**: IRTF/iSHELL - Radial Velocity Follow Up of Extrasolar Planet Candidates Orbiting Cool Low Mass Stars Identified With TESS. PI.
- **2019B**: CHIRON/CTIO - Measuring Stellar Activity with Chromatic Radial-Velocities in the Active and Planet-Bearing Nearby M dwarf AU Mic. Co-I.
- **2019B**: IRTF/iSHELL - RVxTESS: Spectral Studies of M Dwarfs with Simultaneous TESS and IRTF/iSHELL Observations. Co-I.
- **2019B**: IRTF/iSHELL - Radial Velocity Follow-up of Recently Discovered Transiting Planets Orbiting the Young and Active M Dwarf AU Mic. Co-I.
- **2019B**: IRTF/iSHELL - Radial Velocity Follow Up of Extrasolar Planet Candidates Orbiting Cool Low Mass Stars Identified With TESS. PI.
- **2019A**: IRTF/iSHELL - What Lies Beyond the TRAPPIST-1 Snow Line? Constraining Long Period Neptunes with iSHELL Radial Velocity Observations. Co-I.
- **2019A**: IRTF/iSHELL - Hidden Binaries in the Beta Pictoris Moving Group. Co-I.
- **2019A**: IRTF/iSHELL - Zodiacal Exoplanets In Time: Measuring the Masses of Young Exoplanets. PI.
- **2018B**: IRTF/iSHELL - Zodiacal Exoplanets In Time: Measuring the Masses of Young Exoplanets. PI.
- **2017A**: IRTF/iSHELL - What radial velocity precision is obtainable with iSHELL and the isotopic methane gas cell? Co-I.

---

## Publications

---

- **Precise Radial Velocities of Cool Low Mass Stars With iSHELL.** First Author. Published in *Astronomical Journal*. 2019
- **Precise Near-Infrared Radial Velocities with iSHELL.** First Author. White Paper submitted to the National Academies of Science. 2018
- *The Magellan-TESS Survey I: Survey Description and Mid-Survey Results.* Co-author. Submitted to ApJ. Teske et al.
- *TOI-431/HIP 26013: A Super-Earth and a Sub-Neptune Transiting a Bright, Early K Dwarf, With a Third Planet Candidate.* Co-author. Submitted to MNRAS. Osborn et al.
- *Precise mass and radius of a transiting super-Earth planet orbiting the M dwarf TOI-1235: a planet in the radius gap?* Co-author. A&A. Bluhm et al. 2020
- *A planet within the debris disk around the pre-main-sequence star AU Microscopii* Co-author. Nature. Plavchan et al. 2020
- *Magnetism and spin-orbit alignment in the young planetary system AU Mic* Co-author. A&A. Martioli et al. 2020
- *The CARMENES search for exoplanets around M dwarfs Two planets on the opposite sides of the radius gap transiting the nearby M dwarf LP 729–54.* Co-author. A&A. Nowak et al. 2020
- *TOI 442: The CARMENES search for exoplanets around M dwarfs: TOI 442.01=LP714-47b: Populating the Neptune desert.* Co-author. A&A. Dreizler et al. 2020

- *A Hot Saturn Orbiting an Oscillating Late Subgiant Discovered By TESS* Co-author. AJ. Huber et al. 2019
- *TOI 257: A Warm Sub-Saturn on a Moderately Eccentric Orbit*. Co-author. MNRAS, responding to referees. Addison et al. 2020
- *EarthFinder Report*. NASA probe study report. Co-author. Plavchan et al. 2019
- *Exo-Transmit: An Open-Source Code for Calculating Transmission Spectra for Exoplanet Atmospheres of Varied Composition*. Co-author. PASP. Kempton et. al 2017.

## Invited Talks

---

- *iSHELL Data Processing*. PARVI Data Reduction and Tellurics Meeting. December 17, 2020

## Conference Talks

---

- *2 Years of TESS Follow-up with iSHELL*. Talk. 22<sup>nd</sup> TESS Science Team Meeting. 2020
- *Precise NIR RVs of Cool Low Mass Stars with iSHELL*. Talk. Chesapeake Bay Area Exoplanet Meeting. 2020
- *iSHELL Data Analysis*. Talk. Extreme Precise Radial-Velocities. 2017
- *Precise Radial Velocity First Light Observations With iSHELL*. Session Talk. 229<sup>th</sup> American Astronomical Society Meeting. 2017

## Poster Presentations

---

- *Precise Near Infrared Radial Velocities with iSHELL*. Poster. 235<sup>th</sup> American Astronomical Society Meeting. 2020
- *Precise Near Infrared Radial Velocities with iSHELL*. Poster. Sagan Meeting Workshop - *Did I Really Just Find an Exoplanet?*. 2018
- *Precise Near IR Radial Velocity First Light Observations With iSHELL*. Poster. 231<sup>st</sup> American Astronomical Society Meeting. 2018
- *Transiting Exoplanet Observations at Grinnell College*. Poster. 223<sup>rd</sup> American Astronomical Society Meeting. 2014

## Technical Skills

---

- **Authored Python Packages:**
  - pychell - <https://pychell.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>
  - Optimize - <https://optimize.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>
  - Robust Nelder Mead - <https://robust-nelder-mead.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>
  - Optim Parameters - <https://optimparameters.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>
- **Programming Languages:** Python, Julia, IDL (Interactive Data Language), MATLAB, C, Java (including Android Dev., LIBGDX), HTML/CSS/PHP, JavaScript (including React.js, Three.js), TypeScript, Scheme
- **Other Technologies/Methodologies:** Windows, Mac, & Linux OS, Unix Shells, Systemic Console 2, Git, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Microsoft Office, Google Docs, Streamlit GUI, Jupyter and Pluto Notebooks