

BRENDAN BOYD

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<https://biboyd.github.io/>

EDUCATION

SUNY Stony Brook University Physics & Astronomy Department <i>Graduate Student</i> <i>PhD Track in Physics with Concentration in Astronomy</i> GPA: 3.82/4.0	2020-Present
Michigan State University College of Natural Science Honors College <i>Bachelor of Science, Astrophysics</i> <i>Minors in Math and CMSE</i> GPA: 3.97/4.0	2016-2020

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Galactic Modeling Research Studying galactic simulations produced by ENZO to better understand the Circumgalactic Medium (CGM). Create synthetic spectra of the CGM to better inform observations.	2019-2020
MSU Campus Observatory Assisted in data collection and reduction using 24-inch telescope. Observed cataclysmic variables, supernovae and transiting exoplanets.	2018-2019
HAWC Research Group Studied gamma ray sources using the HAWC Observatory. Mainly worked on improving the S/N through machine learning techniques.	2016-2018

PUBLICATIONS

Boyd et al., (2020). SALSA: A Python Package for Constructing Synthetic Quasar Absorption Line Catalogs from Astrophysical Hydrodynamic Simulations. Journal of Open Source Software, 5(52), 2581, https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.02581
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant AST 248: The Search for Life in the Universe. A course designed to give an overview of the current knowledge of life outside of Earth and how we are searching for it. Topics such as habitability in our solar system, biosignatures, Fermi Paradox. Stony Brook, Fall 2020.	2020-Present
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Undergraduate Learning Assistant

2019-2020

AST 208: Planets & Telescopes. A course dedicated to learning the different observational techniques and data processing used in astronomy as well as the study of exoplanets. MSU Spring 2020.

AST 207: The Science of Astronomy. A course introducing the many concepts and techniques used in astronomy to astrophysics majors. Michigan State, Fall 2019.

ISP 205: Visions of the Universe. A survey astronomy course focusing on the modern conception of observation, stars and cosmology. Michigan State, Spring 2019.

WORK EXPERIENCE

IT Helpdesk Staff

2018-2019

Member of the Physics and Astronomy IT staff. Focused on providing immediate assistance with new installations and software issues on various OS's for researchers and faculty.

COMPUTER SKILLS

Programming:

Proficient in Python

Proficient in C++

Moderate knowledge of Mathematica

Basic knowledge of HTML

OS's:

Proficient in Linux (including terminal)

Proficient in Windows

Moderate knowledge of macOS

Machine Learning:

Experience in scikit-learn and Keras packages in Python

Experience in the methods/theories of many algorithms including SVM and PCA

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND OUTREACH

MSU Observatory Public Nights

2018

Open house events at the MSU Observatory. Taught the public about astronomy and the work done at the observatory. Assisted people with looking through telescopes.

MSU Science Festival

2017-2018

Annual event used to inform and inspire the general public. Worked a station explaining the HAWC experiment and Cosmic Rays.

Tour de Ville

2016-Present

Annual charity bicycle ride put on by the Northville Rotary Club. Help with sending mass emails for the event as well as contributing the day of the ride (e.g. setting up of rest stops along course).

HONORS AND AWARDS

Hantel Fellowship

2017, 2019

Awarded to undergraduates conducting research.

Dean's List

2016-2020

Recognized for eight semesters as a student with at least a 3.5 GPA.

REFERENCES

Available Upon Request