

Cristóbal Sifón

Profesor Auxiliar

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<https://github.com/cristobal-sifon/>

Research Interests

My research focuses on galaxy cluster physics including observable–mass scaling relations for cosmological analyses and the transformation of galaxies in and around galaxy clusters. I am also interested in intrinsic galaxy alignments, both as contaminants for cosmic shear and as a physical mechanism in their own right. I use various tools and techniques to study these phenomena, including weak gravitational lensing, spectroscopy, the exploitation of optical surveys in general, and most recently also of hydrodynamical simulations.

Collaborations: 4MOST Chilean Cluster Galaxy Evolution Survey (CHANCES) — 4MOST Hemisphere Survey (4HS) — Atacama Cosmology Telescope (ACT) — Canadian Cluster Comparison Project (CCCP) — Cerro Chajñator Atacama Telescope (CCAT) — CMB-S4 — Galaxy Cluster Mass Reconstruction Project — Kilo-Degree Survey (KiDS) — Legacy Survey of Space and Time Dark Energy Science Collaboration (LSST-DESC) — Multi-Epoch Nearby Cluster Survey (MENeCS) — Simons Observatory.

Employment

[2022 – Present] Profesor Auxiliar, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (PUCV), Chile

[2019 – 2022] Profesor Asociado, PUCV

[2016 – 2019] Postdoctoral Research Associate, Princeton University, USA

Education

[2012 – 2016] Ph.D. Astrophysics, Universiteit Leiden, The Netherlands

[2010 – 2012] M.Sc. Astrophysics, P. Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC), Chile

[2005 – 2010] B.Sc. Astronomy, PUC

Teaching & Mentoring

Graduate Research Mentoring

[2023 – Present] Javier Urrutia, PUCV: MSc thesis advisor.

[2020 – 2022] Camila Aros, PUCV: MSc thesis advisor.

[2017 – 2019] Naomi Robertson, Oxford University (UK): co-advised PhD thesis project (Advisor: Joanna Dunkley).

[2013 – 2014] Joshua Albert, Universiteit Leiden: co-advised MSc thesis project (Advisor: Huub Röttgering).

Undergraduate Research Mentoring

[PUCV] 3 Senior theses and 4 Summer projects.

[Princeton] Summer project and Junior project.

[Others] Four-month research project through the Central American-Caribbean Bridge in Astrophysics ([URL](#)).

Courses Taught

Graduate: Data Analysis (2023), Techniques of Observational Astrophysics (2022), Observational Cosmology (2020-2021)

Undergraduate: Introductory Astronomy (2024), Astronomical Instrumentation (2023), Galactic Astronomy (2021-2022), Programming (2020-2022), Cosmology (2020)

Non-Physics Major: Basic Astronomy for Engineers (2022)

Grants

[2020] ALMA-ANID Fund to hire a postdoc (**Co-PI**, 2 years, US\$77,000)

[2019] FONDECYT Iniciación research grant (**PI**, 3 years, US\$125,000)

Successful Observing Proposals (as PI)

I have been the PI of 17 successful observing proposals totalling hundreds of observing hours in optical (VLT/MUSE, Gemini-South/GMOS, VST/OmegaCAM, Blanco/DECam), near-infrared (Magellan/Fourstar, Blanco/NEWFIRM), submm (APEX/CONCERTO), and radio (GMRT, VLA) telescopes.

Observing Experience: I have spent roughly 180 hours observing with optical (Gemini South/GMOS) and near-infrared (NTT/SofI, Blanco/NEWFIRM, Magellan/Fourstar) instruments performing both imaging and spectroscopy of galaxy clusters.

Community Activity

Journals: I have served as a referee for Astronomy & Astrophysics, The Astrophysical Journal, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, and Nature Astronomy.

Telescope Allocation Committees: Canadian Astronomical Society, *Chandra* X-ray Observatory

Grant Allocation Committees: Swiss National Science Foundation, Chilean National Agency for Research and Development (ANID)

Press Articles Authored

[July 2017] *Galaxy clusters: Falling into line* (Nature Astronomy News & Views)

[July 2013] *Featured Science: Dynamical masses of galaxy clusters discovered with the Sunyaev-Zel'dovich effect* (Gemini Focus)

Outreach

[Nov. 2023] Guest in “Diálogos Cósmicos” podcast (in Spanish, available [here](#)).

[Aug. 2023] Guest in “Conversemos de Astronomía” podcast (in Spanish, available [here](#)).

[Nov. 2022] Guest in “Rockstars” podcast by Radio TXS (in Spanish, available [here](#)).

[Oct. 2022] Interview for Radio Valentín Letelier, Valparaíso, to talk about CHANCES.

[Mar. 2021] Online public talk in the context of the Chilean *Day of Astronomy* (in Spanish, available [here](#)).

[2018 – 2019] Assisted with *Public Astronomical Observations in Spanish*, Princeton University.

[2013 – 2014] Assisted with *Public Observations at the Old Observatory*, Leiden Observatory.

[2012] Co-taught an *Astronomy Course for Seniors*, PUC.

[2011] Participated in *Starry Nights*, observation nights for elementary and middle school students in social risk organized by ESO-Santiago.

[2010] Invited talk on board the “FFG14 Almirante Latorre” Chilean Navy ship, Valparaíso, Chile.

[2010] *The Universe*, a series of talks for elementary school students in social risk organized by PUC.

Technical skills

I am an experienced Python programmer and I have some familiarity with IDL and Julia. I wrote pygm0s, a Python/PyRAF pipeline to reduce Gemini-GMOS spectra which is available [here](#). I am one of the lead developers and maintainers of the galaxy-galaxy lensing pipeline used by the KiDS collaboration (written in Python, but which is not public at the moment). Other codes I have written are posted at my [github](#) page.

Other Work Experience

[2020 – 2021] Data science & Machine Learning consultant, Minera Centinela, Chile.

[2007 – 2008] Ski instructor at Homewood Mountain Ski Resort in Lake Tahoe, CA, USA. Obtained certification as *Level I Ski Instructor* by the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA).

[2006 – 2007] Ski lift operator at Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley, ID, USA.

References

- Prof. Henk Hoekstra (*PhD advisor*)
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Selected recent publications (All including **C. Sifón**)

I have co-authored 132 scientific articles intended for peer-reviewed publication, including 8 first-author papers. They have been cited more than 7,000 times and have an h -index of 46, with more than 350 citations on my first-author papers. The full list of publications can be accessed at the [SAO/NASA Astrophysics Data System](#). This document is maintained live on [github](#).

15. **C. Sifón**, J. Han, “The history and mass content of cluster galaxies in the EAGLE simulation”, 2024, [A&A](#), 686, A163, [[arXiv](#)]
14. N. C. Robertson, **C. Sifón**, and 23 colleagues, “ACT-DR5 Sunyaev-Zel’dovich Clusters: Weak Lensing Mass Calibration with KiDS”, 2024, [A&A](#), 681, 87 [[arXiv](#)]
13. K. Małek, and 24 colleagues, “Attenuation proxy hidden in surface brightness - colour diagrams. A new strategy for the LSST era”, 2024, [A&A](#), 684, A30 [[arXiv](#)]
12. W. Coulton, and 153 colleagues, “Atacama Cosmology Telescope: High-resolution component-separated maps across one third of the sky”, 2024, [Phys. Rev. D](#), 109, 063530 [[arXiv](#)]
11. M. S. Madhavacheril, and 158 colleagues, “The Atacama Cosmology Telescope: DR6 Gravitational Lensing Map and Cosmological Parameters”, 2024, [ApJ](#), 962, 113 [[arXiv](#)]
10. F. J. Qu, and 157 colleagues, “The Atacama Cosmology Telescope: A Measurement of the DR6 CMB Lensing Power Spectrum and Its Implications for Structure Growth”, 2024, [ApJ](#), 962, 112 [[arXiv](#)]
9. Dark Energy Survey Kilo-Degree Survey Collaboration, and 160 colleagues, “DES Y3 + KiDS-1000: Consistent cosmology combining cosmic shear surveys”, 2023, [The Open Journal of Astrophysics](#), 6, 36 [[arXiv](#)]
8. A. D. Hincks, and 45 colleagues, “A high-resolution view of the filament of gas between Abell 399 and Abell 401 from the Atacama Cosmology Telescope and MUSTANG-2”, 2022, [MNRAS](#), 510, 3335 [[arXiv](#)]
7. M. Hilton, **C. Sifón**, and 133 colleagues “The Atacama Cosmology Telescope: a Catalog of >4000 Sunyaev-Zel’dovich Galaxy Clusters”, 2021, [ApJS](#), 253, 3 [[arXiv](#)]
6. M. Aguena, and 24 colleagues, “CLMM: a LSST-DESC cluster weak lensing mass modeling library for cosmology”, 2021, [MNRAS](#), 508, 6092 [[arXiv](#)]
5. S. Naess, and 39 colleagues, “The Atacama Cosmology Telescope: A Search for Planet 9”, 2021, [ApJ](#), 923, 224 [[arXiv](#)]
4. J. Kim, M. J. Jee, J. P. Hughes, M. Yoon, K. HyeonHan, F. Menanteau, C. Sifón, L. Hovey, and P. Arunachalam, “Head-to-Toe Measurement of El Gordo: Improved Analysis of the Galaxy Cluster ACT-CL J0102-4915 with New Wide-field Hubble Space Telescope Imaging Data”, 2021, [ApJ](#), 923, 101 [[arXiv](#)]
3. M. Mallaby-Kay, and 59 colleagues, “The Atacama Cosmology Telescope: Summary of DR4 and DR5 Data Products and Data Access”, 2021, [ApJS](#), 255, 11 [[arXiv](#)]
2. M. S. Madhavacheril, **C. Sifón**, and 61 colleagues “The Atacama Cosmology Telescope: Weighing Distant Clusters with the Most Ancient Light”, 2020, [ApJL](#), 903, 13 [[arXiv](#)]
1. R. Herbonnet, **C. Sifón**, H. Hoekstra, Y. Bahé, R. F. J. van der Burg, J.-B. Melin, A. von der Linden, D. Sand, S. Kay, D. Barnes, “CCCP and MENeCS: (Updated) Weak-Lensing Masses for 100 Galaxy Clusters”, 2020, [MNRAS](#), 497, 4684 [[arXiv](#)]