

Cristóbal Sifón

Profesor Auxiliar

Instituto de Física, Facultad de Ciencias
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso
Casilla 4059, Valparaíso, Chile

E-mail: cristobal.sifon@pucv.cl

Phone: +56 (32) 227 4698

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

Research Interests

I focus on the interplay between luminous and dark matter using galaxy clusters as probes. Specific questions I address include observable–mass scaling relations for cosmological analyses and the transformation of galaxies in and around galaxy clusters. I use various tools and techniques, most prominently weak gravitational lensing and the Sunyaev-Zel'dovich effect, taking advantage of large-scale surveys, targeted optical and near-infrared observations, and hydrodynamical simulations.

Collaborations: 4MOST Chilean Cluster Galaxy Evolution Survey (CHANCES, *proposal Co-I*) — 4MOST Hemisphere Survey (4HS, *proposal Co-I*) — Atacama Cosmology Telescope (ACT) — Canadian Cluster Comparison Project (CCCP) — Cerro Chajnantor 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 (all at PUCV)

Graduate: Data Analysis, Techniques of Observational Astrophysics, Observational Cosmology

Undergraduate: Introductory Astronomy, Astronomical Instrumentation, Galactic Astronomy, Programming, Cosmology

Non-Physics Major: Basic Astronomy

Grants

[2024] “Núcleos Amplios para Investigación Asociativa en Inteligencia Artificial y Astrofísica (NAIA²)” (ANID-FONDEQUIP midsize equipment grant, **Co-I**, US\$400,000)

[2020] “Developing Chilean infrastructure for early imaging and analysis of extragalactic sources in cosmic microwave background surveys” (ALMA-ANID Fund to hire a post-doctoral researcher, **Co-PI**, 2 years, US\$77,000)

[2019] “Physics and Cosmological Implications of Galaxy Clusters with Optical and CMB Surveys” (FONDECYT Iniciación research grant, **PI**, 4 years, US\$125,000)

Observing Proposals and Experience

I have been the PI of 17 successful observing proposals totaling 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. I have spent roughly 180 hours observing with optical (Gemini South/GMOS, Blanco/DECam) and near-infrared (Blanco/NEWFIRM, Magellan/Fourstar, NTT/SofI) instruments performing both imaging and spectroscopy of galaxy clusters.

Community Activity

Journal referee: Astronomy & Astrophysics, The Astrophysical Journal, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 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 (past 5 years)

[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.

Technical skills

I am an experienced Python programmer. 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). Much of the functionality can be found in [profiley](#), an open-source software I wrote and maintain. 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 (in order of relevance)

- Prof. Henk Hoekstra (*PhD advisor*)
Leiden Observatory, Universiteit Leiden
Niels Bohrweg 2, NL-2333 CA Leiden, The Netherlands
Phone: +31 (71) 527 5594
E-mail: hoekstra@strw.leidenuniv.nl
 - Prof. John P. Hughes
Department of Physics and Astronomy, Rutgers University
136 Frelinghuysen Rd., Piscataway, NJ 08854, USA
Phone: +1 (848) 445 8878
E-mail: jph@physics.rutgers.edu
 - Prof. Felipe Menanteau
Department of Astronomy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
1002 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801, USA
Phone: +1 (217) 244 6297
E-mail: felipe@illinois.edu
 - Prof. David N. Spergel
Center for Computational Astrophysics, Flatiron Institute
160 Fifth Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10010, USA
Phone: +1 (646) 654 0066
E-mail: dns@astro.princeton.edu
 - Prof. L. Felipe Barrientos (*MSc advisor*)
Instituto de Astrofísica, P. Universidad Católica de Chile
Casilla 306, Santiago 22, Chile
Phone: +56 (2) 2354 4941
E-mail: barrientos@astro.uc.cl
-

Selected recent publications (All including **C. Sifón**)

I have co-authored 158 scientific articles intended for peer-reviewed publication, including 9 first-author papers. They have been cited more than 9,400 times, with more than 400 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](#).

14. Simons Observatory Collaboration, “**The Simons Observatory: Science Goals and Forecasts for the Enhanced Large Aperture Telescope**”, 2025, [arXiv:2503.00636](#) submitted to JCAP
13. **C. Sifón**, and 43 colleagues, “**CHANCES, The Chilean Cluster Galaxy Evolution Survey: selection and initial characterization of clusters and superclusters**”, 2024, [arXiv:2411.13655](#) submitted to A&A
12. M. Shirasaki, **C. Sifón**, and 15 colleagues, “**Masses of Sunyaev-Zel’dovich Galaxy Clusters Detected by The Atacama Cosmology Telescope: Stacked Lensing Measurements with Subaru HSC Year 3 data**” 2024, [PRD](#), **110**, 103006, [[2407.08201](#)]
11. **C. Sifón** and J. Han, “**The history and mass content of cluster galaxies in the EAGLE simulation**”, 2024, [A&A](#), **686**, A163, [[2312.12529](#)]
10. 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 [[2304.10219](#)]
9. W. Coulton, and 153 colleagues, “**Atacama Cosmology Telescope: High-resolution component-separated maps across one third of the sky**”, 2024, [PRD](#), **109**, 063530 [[2307.01258](#)]
8. M. S. Madhavacheril, and 158 colleagues, “**The Atacama Cosmology Telescope: DR6 Gravitational Lensing Map and Cosmological Parameters**”, 2024, [ApJ](#), **962**, 113 [[2304.05203](#)]
7. 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 [[2304.05202](#)]
6. Dark Energy Survey and Kilo-Degree Survey Collaborations, and 160 colleagues, “**DES Y3 + KiDS-1000: Consistent cosmology combining cosmic shear surveys**”, 2023, [The Open Journal of Astrophysics](#), **6**, 36 [[2305.17173](#)]
5. M. Hilton, **C. Sifón**, and 133 colleagues “**The Atacama Cosmology Telescope: a Catalog of >4000 Sunyaev-Zel’dovich Galaxy Clusters**”, 2021, [ApJS](#), **253**, 3 [[2009.11043](#)]
4. M. Aguena, and 24 colleagues, “**CLMM: a LSST-DESC cluster weak lensing mass modeling library for cosmology**”, 2021, [MNRAS](#), **508**, 6092 [[2107.10857](#)]
3. 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 [[2106.00031](#)]
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 [[2009.07772](#)]
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 [[1912.04414](#)]