Fran Bartolić

Curriculum Vitae

+44 (74) 609 22558
fb90 at st-andrews.ac.uk
fran.space
@fbartolic
fbartolic

Personal information

Nationality Croatian

Languages Croatian (Native), English (Fluent)

Education

2017–2021 (expected) **Ph.D. Astrophysics**, *University of St Andrews*, St Andrews, Scotland.

I am currently doing a PhD in Astrophysics at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. This position is a part of a new scheme with a strong focus on Data Science and transferable skills. As a part of this scheme, in the middle of my PhD I will undertake a 6 month internship in industry. The focus of my research is on modeling gravitational microlensing events with a focus on exoplanets. I am primarily interested in probabilistic inference, Bayesian statistics and Machine Learning, both in the context of astronomy and elsewhere.

2015–2017 **M.Sc. Physics with Astrophysics**, *University of Rijeka*, Rijeka, Croatia.

Cumulative GPA: 4.7/5. I spent the first three semesters doing courses in theoretical physics and astronomy. For the last semester and during the summer, I worked on a research project at Lund Observatory in Sweden.

2012–2015 **B.Sc. Physics**, *University of Split*, Split, Croatia.

Cumulative GPA: 4.5/5. I spent the last semester of my bachelor's degree at Lund University, Sweden. At Lund, I spent half the time taking courses and the other half writing a bachelor's thesis.

Research Experience

09/2017–today **Ph.D. project**, *School of Physics & Astronomy, University of St Andrews*, St Andrews, Scotland.

I am working on modeling gravitational microlensing events using Bayesian methods. The main challenge in this area is dealing with complex non-linear and degenerate parameter spaces, even the most sophisticated statistical methods regularly fail in this regime. My goal for this work is to approach the problem bottom-up, starting with simple fully Bayesian models and solving one challenging problem at the time, and writing usable open-source code in the process.

Supervisor: Dr. Martin Dominik

02/2017–09/2017 **Master's thesis project**, *Lund Observatory, Sweden*, Lund, Sweden, 30 weeks FTE work.

The title of my master's thesis is *Planets Orbiting Evolving Binary Stars*, and the subject is exoplanet dynamics. The goal of the project was to see what happens to circumbinary planets as the binary star evolves up to the *common-envelope* phase. In particular, I looked at the influence of mean-motion resonance passage on the stability of orbiting planets as the binary's orbit shrinks due to tidal interaction. I approached the problem in two ways. First, by developing an analytical Hamiltonian model of high-order resonances which can be used to estimate the change in eccentricity. Second, by using an NBODY code `REBOUND` coupled with a stellar evolution code `binary_c` to investigate the problem in detail and validate the analytical model. The long-term goal of this kind of work is to put dynamical constraints on circumbinary planet evolution during late stages of stellar evolution. This is useful because given a detection of a circumbinary planet around an evolved binary we might be able to say if it formed with the binary and dynamically evolved to its current orbit or if it formed during the late stages of binary evolution.

Supervisors: Dr. Alexander J. Mustill & Prof. Dijana Dominis Prester

07/2016–08/2016 **Summer student programme**, *Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Center*, Warsaw, Poland, 4 weeks FTE work.

I spent a month in Warsaw working on MHD simulations of accretion disks with the `PLUTO` code. During my time there I ran several non-ideal MHD simulations of accretion disks around *cataclysmic variable* stars in order to investigate the stability and structure of such disks. I also wrote Python code for visualization of the Pluto output variables in 2D axisymmetric spherical coordinates. The main skills I learned there are working with Linux systems & clusters, using a modern fluid dynamics code such as `PLUTO`, and basic physics of magnetohydrodynamics in the nonrelativistic regime.

Supervisors: Dr. Miljenko Čemeljić & Prof. Włodzimierz Kluźniak

01/2015–06/2015 **Bachelor's thesis project**, *Lund Observatory*, Lund, Sweden, 10 weeks FTE work.

In my bachelor's thesis project, *Tidal Evolution of Close-In Extra-Solar Planets*, I investigated the role of planet induced stellar tides on the orbital evolution of planets orbiting evolved stars. I wrote `C++` code which solves analytical models of the tidal interactionto see how often planets spiral into the star during late stages of stellar evolution and I compared my results with recent exoplanet observations.

Supervisors: Dr. Alexander J. Mustill & Dr. Dejan Vinković

Publications

2018 V. Bozza, E. Bachelet, **F. Bartolić**, T. M. Heintz, A. R. Hoag, and M. Hundertmark. *VBBINARYLENSING: a public package for microlensing light-curve computation.*, 479:5157–5167, October 2018. doi: 10.1093/mn-ras/sty1791

Technical skills

Programming My main language of choice is `Python`. I use it extensively together with numerical/scientific libraries `NumPy`, `SciPy` and `matplotlib`, and `Jupyter` notebooks. I am also familiar with the probabilistic programming framework `PyMC3`, which I use extensively, and machine learning frameworks `Tensorflow` and `PyTorch`. Besides Python, I also use `C/C++`, and I have used `C#` and `MATLAB` in the past.

Numerical	I am familiar with some basic numerical methods used in physics and their implementation in `C/C++` or `Python`.
Operating systems	Linux & Windows
Other	I use `Vim` as a text editor, LaTeXfor writing documents, and `VSCode` for coding. I use `Git` version control system and `GitHub` respository hosting service. I prefer to use open-source software in research whenever possible.

Awards, Competitions and Honors

2016 *Erasmus+ Internship* scholarship

2015 *Dean's Award for undergraduate academic excellence*, University of Split

2014 *Erasmus+ Exchange* scholarship

Talks

12/2018 *Automatic Differentiation*, talk at the weekly *Code & Cake* meeting, St Andrews, UK

08/2018 *Bayesian modeling of gravitational microlensing events*, ScotDIST annual conference, Glasgow, UK

05/2018 *Fitting a model to data*, talk at the weekly "Code& Cake" meeting, St Andrews, UK

04/2018 *Modeling gravitational microlensing events*, short talk at the Scottish Exoplanet/Brown Dwarf Spring meeting, St Andrews, UK

09/2017 *Dynamics of circumbinary planets and the role of mean-motion resonances*, astronomy seminar, Lund, Sweden

05/2017 *Dynamics of circumbinary planets*, Astro Journal Club presentation, Lund, Sweden

05/2015 *The Giants of Ragnarök*, bachelor's thesis public defense, Lund, Sweden

Organizational skills

2018–today Co-organiser of the weekly "Code & Cake" meeting at the School of Physics and Astronomy, University of St Andrews.

05/2017 LOC member for the *Impacts in planetary systems* conference, Lund, Sweden

04/2017 Organization of *Interstellar communication; a not-so-simple, interdisciplinary response* talk for the general public by Paul Quast

04/2017 Helped with organizing the workshops at the *Big Questions in Astrophysics* jubilee meeting in Lund, Sweden

04/2017 Organization of *The Extremely Large Telescope* talk for the general public by E-ELT programme scientist Michele Cirasuolo, Lund, Sweden

Summer schools & workshops

06/2018 *Wetton Workshop*, Planning for Surprises - Data Driven Discovery in the era of Large Data, Christ Church Oxford, UK

01/2017 *MAGIC data analysis workshop*, 3-day workshop, Rijeka, Croatia

06/2016 *Extrasolar Planets: Their Formation and Evolution , DPG Physics School*, summer school, Bad Honnef, Germany

08/2015 *Summer School on Astrophysics and Astroparticles*, summer school, Petnica, Serbia

Outreach activities

12/2018 *How to find exoplanets*, talk for the general public at the St Andrews Observatory Open Night.

2017 *ALVA astronomy club*, Board member

09/2014 *European Researchers' Night*, volunteer, Split, Croatia

04/2014 *Festival of Science*, volunteer, Split, Croatia

Supervision

Summer 2018 Drew Millard, summer student at St Andrews. I supervised him on a project on using machine learning to classify astrophysical time series data.

Teaching experience

2018 Tutor for the course *Astronomy and Astrophysics 1*, an introductory undergraduate astronomy course, University of St Andrews.