

Zhilong Franklin Wang

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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EDUCATION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY , PH.D. ASTRONOMY	AUG. 2022 - PRESENT
Advisor: Dr. Jonelle Walsh	
Project: Stellar dynamical modeling of supermassive black holes with large scale integral-field spectroscopy	
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN , B.S. ASTRONOMY, MINOR IN PHYSICS	AUG. 2018 - MAY 2022
Advisor: Dr. Xin Liu	
Thesis: Optical variability of broad-line dwarf AGNs from the Zwicky Transient Facility	

POSITIONS HELD

Texas A&M University , Graduate Research Assistant	MAY 2024 - PRESENT
Texas A&M University , Graduate Teaching Assistant/Instructor of Record	AUG. 2022 - MAY 2024
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign , Undergraduate Research Assistant	DEC. 2020 - FEB. 2023
The Chinese University of Hong Kong , Undergraduate Research Assistant	MAY 2019 - FEB. 2020

PUBLICATIONS ([LINK TO MY ADS](#))

FIRST/CO-AUTHOR:

- **Wang, Z. F.**, Burke, C. J., Liu, X., & Shen, Y. (2023). *Dwarf AGNs from variability for the origins of seeds (DAVOS): optical variability of broad-line dwarf AGNs from the Zwicky Transient Facility*. Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 521, 99. arXiv:2212.02321.

CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR:

- Oelkers, R. J. et al. **including Wang, Z. F.** (2025). *Ground-based Reconnaissance Observations of 21 Exoplanet Atmospheres with the Exoplanet Transmission Spectroscopy Imager*. The Astronomical Journal, 169, 134. arXiv:2503.03930.
- Burke, C. J. et al. **including Wang, Z. F.** (2023). *Dwarf AGNs from variability for the origins of seeds (DAVOS): Intermediate-mass black hole demographics from optical synoptic surveys*. Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 518, 1880. arXiv:2207.04092.

HONORS & AWARDS

Texas Space Grant Consortium Graduate Fellow , Texas Space Grant Consortium	DEC. 2023 - JAN. 2025
Phi Eta Sigma National Honors Society , University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	JAN. 2019 - MAY 2022
James Scholar Honors Program , University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	JAN. 2019 - MAY 2021
Nancy Chong Whitman Scholar , University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	AUG. 2019 - MAY 2020
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Dean's List , University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	FALL 2018, FALL 2020

PRESENTATIONS, TALKS, & CONFERENCES

<i>Tracing Black Hole Evolution with Red Nuggets and Compact Relics</i> , Physics Journal Club, Hong Kong University	TALK, DEC. 30, 2024
<i>Ultracompact Dwarf Galaxies: Dynamical Probes for Low-mass Black Holes</i> , Extragalactic Lunch, Texas A&M University	TALK, NOV. 21, 2024
<i>A Gemini Large & Long Program: Stellar Kinematics from Nearby Galaxies</i> , Bashfest 2023, Univ. of Texas at Austin	POSTER, OCT. 30, 2023
<i>Optical Variability of Dwarf AGNs from the Zwicky Transient Facility</i> , Extragalactic Lunch, Texas A&M University	TALK, MARCH 9, 2023

OBSERVING EXPERIENCE

W. M. Keck Observatory , Keck I, OSIRIS	2 NIGHTS, FEB. - DEC. 2024
McDonald Observatory , 2.1m Otto Struve Telescope, ETSI	7 NIGHTS, APR. 2023

McDonald Observatory, 2.7m Harlan J. Smith Telescope, VIRUS-W

3 NIGHTS, FEB. 2023

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, OUTREACH, & MENTORING

POSITIONS

Adopt-a-Physicist , Participant / Correspondent	OCT. 2024 - NOV. 2024
Mentoring & Advising Graduates in an Inclusive Community (MAGIC) , Coordinator	MAY 2024 - PRESENT
Gateway to Graduate School , Organizer	JUN. 2023 - PRESENT
Astronomy on Tap BCS , Chief Organizer and Coordinator	MAY 2023 - PRESENT

PUBLIC TALKS / MEDIA APPEARANCES

<i>Space: An Imperfect, Infinite Laboratory</i> , Astronomy on Tap, Bryan TX	FEB. 2025
<i>Graduate Student Panel</i> , Texas A&M Society of Physics Students, College Station TX	NOV. 2024
<i>What Came First, the Galaxy or the Black Hole?</i> , Texas A&M 3 Minute Thesis Competition, College Station TX	OCT. 2024
<i>Science and Beer! Astronomy on Tap in Downtown Bryan</i> (Link), KBTX News 3 at Noon, Bryan TX	OCT. 2024
<i>Stellar Dynamical Modeling for Beginners</i> , Astronomy on Tap, Bryan TX	AUG. 2024
<i>Don't Look Up!</i> , Astronomy on Tap, Bryan TX	JUL. 2024
<i>How to Weigh a Supermassive Black Hole</i> , AggieSTAAR Research Seminar for Undergraduates, College Station TX	JUN. 2024
<i>For All, Into the Starfield</i> , Astronomy on Tap, Bryan TX	MAR. 2024
<i>The Problem with Infinity</i> , Astronomy on Tap, Bryan TX	JAN. 2024
<i>Professional Stargazing: Getting Science from an Observatory</i> , Astronomy on Tap, Bryan TX	OCT. 2023
<i>Is Looking for Extraterrestrial Life Worth It?</i> , Astronomy on Tap, Bryan TX	JUN. 2023
<i>The Black Holes of Our Universe</i> , Astronomy on Tap, Bryan TX	MAR. 2023
<i>How to Weigh a Supermassive Black Hole</i> , Brazos Valley Astronomy Club, College Station TX	FEB. 2023
<i>Things That Go Bump in the Night: Killer Worlds and the Deep Unknown Dark</i> , Astronomy on Tap, Bryan TX	OCT. 2022

MENTORING

William Lande , Niles West High School → B.S. in Data Science & Astronomy at UIUC	JUN. 2021 - AUG. 2022
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EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity , Recruitment Chairman	NOV. 2020 - JAN. 2022
Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity , Chapter President	NOV. 2019 - JAN. 2021
Epsilon Eta Environmental Honors Fraternity , Volunteer	FEB. 2019 - JAN. 2020
Eco-Olympics , Volunteer, awarded a Certificate of Leadership in Environmental Stewardship and Energy Conservation	APR. 2019
Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity , Philanthropy Chairman	NOV. 2018 - DEC. 2019
Illinois Men's Rugby Football Club , Player	AUG. 2018 - DEC. 2019