

Jakob Möhrle

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EDUCATION

M.Sc. in Physics, University of Heidelberg

Supervisors: Dr. Anna de Graaff, Prof. Dr. Hans-Walter Rix

Thesis title: Galactic Velocity Dispersion on New Scales

Relevant courses include:

Galactic and Extragalactic Astronomy (Grade 1.0), Stellar Astrophysics (Grade 1.0),

Dynamics of galaxies, star clusters and planetary systems (Grade: 1.3), Cosmology

(Preliminary) Grade average: 1.5 (max: 1.0, min: 5.0)

Oct 2024 - Nov 2025

Heidelberg, Germany

B.Sc. in Physics, University of Heidelberg

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Andreas Just

Oct 2019 - July 2024

Heidelberg, Germany

Thesis title: The Search for the Star Formation Efficiency of the Pleiades Using N-body Simulations

Thesis Grade: 1.0, Grade average: 2.0 (max: 1.0, min: 5.0)

Research Projects

Master Thesis, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy

Nov 2024 - Nov 2025

Heidelberg, Germany

Supervisors: Dr. Anna de Graaff, Prof. Dr. Hans-Walter Rix

Topic: Tracing the evolution of turbulence strength and stellar/baryonic mass fractions for galaxies up to higher redshifts and lower masses than previous studies

Data: JWST high-resolution NIRSpec spectra and NIRCam photometry in wide and medium bands

- Compiled sample of 2657 high-resolution NIRSpec spectra of 1947 galaxies with photometric NIRCam coverage, as well as star formation rates SFRs and stellar masses M_* from prospector SED fits
- Fitted Sérsic profiles to each galaxy in up to 14 photometric bands using pysersic and photutils
- Constructed a custom pipeline measuring the ionized gas kinematics of >1000 high-z galaxies from 1D JWST NIRSpec spectroscopy, robustly accounting for instrumental effects as well as outflow and broad-line AGN contamination
- Investigated correlations between $\sigma_{\text{gas,int}}$, M_* , M_{bar} , M_{dyn} , SFR and morphological parameters for over 1000 galaxies and studied their evolution from $z \sim 0.5$ to $z \sim 9$

Research Internship &

Consecutive Bachelor Thesis, Astronomisches Rechen-Institut

March 2023 - Oct 2023

Heidelberg, Germany

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Andreas Just

Topic: Estimating the initial star formation efficiency SFE of the Pleiades open star cluster

Data: 3 dimensional positions and velocities of stars from Gaia EDR3

- backwards integrated the Pleiades density center to obtain initial cluster position and velocity
- ran ~ 50 N-body simulations for models with varying SFE values using ϕ -GRAPE-GPU and optimized the remaining free parameters for each SFE
- compared best fit models to observational data and evaluated physical plausibility of their formation parameters to find the most probable SFE

Skills

Languages: German (C2 - native), English (C1 - fluent), French (B2 - conversational)

Programming Languages:

Python (very good): `pysersic`, `photutils`, `emcee`, `multiprocessing`, PyTorch; C++ (basics)

Statistical Methods: MCMC, AIC/BIC, bootstrap resampling, ODR, Deep Learning methods

OS: Windows, Mac, Linux

Other: Usage of `BASH`, `LATEX`, Microsoft Office, TOPCAT

Workshops, Team Meetings & Science Talks

Rubies collaboration meeting

May 2025

Bergen, Netherlands

- gave a science talk presenting my preliminary master thesis results on galactic velocity dispersions
- learned about topics related to the Red Unknowns: Bright Infrared Extragalactic Survey (RUBIES) including LRDs, stellar pop fitting, and galactic kinematics from galaxy evolution experts in the RUBIES collaboration

Interdisciplinary School on ML and AI for Science - ETH Zürich

June 2025

Heilbronn, Germany

- presented insights on possible applications of ML and AI in astronomy
- learned about challenges of deep learning-based AI, how to apply it in astronomy and conceptual issues like validation of such learning systems

Additional Work Experience

Cashier, Heidelberg Zoo (~ 12 hours per week)

Sept 2022 - July 2025

Heidelberg, Germany

Private Tutor, Mathematics & Physics for high school students (part-time)

2021 - 2022

Heidelberg, Germany