Michael J. Zevin

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Education

Northwestern University

Evanston, IL 2014 - present

PhD Candidate

- Department of Physics and Astronomy; Research Advisor: Dr. Vicky Kalogera

- Master of Science: Awarded Fall, 2016

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Champaign, IL 2008 - 2012

Bachelor of Science

- Double Major in Astronomy and Physics, Minor in Music Performance

Research Interests

Gravitational wave astrophysics, parameter estimation, and detector characterization; binary stellar evolution, formation of compact binaries, X-ray binaries, stellar dynamics, cluster dynamics, and population synthesis; machine learning applications to astrophysical data science and citizen science.

Publications

"On the Progenitor of Binary Neutron Star Merger GW170817", LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration. *Astrophysical Journal Letters*, **850**, L40 (2017). ¹

"GW170817: Observation of Gravitational Waves from a Binary Neutron Star Inspiral", LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration. *Physical Review Letters* **119**, 16 (2017).²

"Constraining Formation Models of Binary Black Holes with Gravitational-wave Observations", Zevin, M., et al. *Astrophysical Journal* **846**, 82 (2017).

"Gravity Spy - Integrating Advanced LIGO Detector Characterization, Machine Learning, and Citizen Science", Zevin, M., et al. *Classical and Quantum Gravity* **34**, 6 (2017).

"Incorporating current research into formal higher education settings using Astrobites", Sanders, N., Zevin, M., et al.. *American Journal of Physics* **85**, 741 (2017).

"Joint Deep Multi-view Models for Glitch Classification", Bahaadini, S., Zevin, M., et al. *Proceeding for the 42nd IEEE Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing*, in press (2017).

"Astrophysical Prior Information and Gravitational-wave Parameter Estimation", Pankow, C., Zevin M., et al. 2017. *Astrophysical Journal* **834**, 154 (2017).

"Illuminating Black Hole Binary Formation Channels with Spins in Advanced LIGO", Rodriguez, C. Zevin, et al. *Astrophysical Journal Letters*, **832**, L2 (2016).

"Observation of Gravitational Waves from a Binary Black Hole Merger", Abbott, B., et al. *Physics Review Letters*, **116**, 6 (2016).

¹Chair of paper-writing team and analysis lead

²Education and Public Outreach Liaison

Presentations

- "The Role of Binary-Binary Interactions in Inducing Eccentric Black Hole Mergers", MODEST, Santorini, Greece (June 2018)
- "On the Progenitor of Binary Neutron Star Merger GW170817", APS April Meeting, Columbus, OH (April 2018)
- "From the Detected to the Detectors: Using Gravitational Waves to Enable Insights from the Stellar Graveyard & the Next Generation of Citizen Science", Oxford University SPI-MAX seminar, Oxford, UK (February 2018)
- "Revealing the Lives of Stars through the Cataclysmic Collisions of Black Holes", Seven Minutes of Science: An Interdisciplinary Symposium, Evanston, IL (April 2017)
- "The Future of Citizen Science: Coupling Crowdsourcing and Machine Learning", Detecting the Unexpected: Discovery in the Era of Astronomically Big Data, Baltimore, MD (March 2017)
- "Discriminating Formation Channels of Binary Black Hole Systems with Advanced LIGO", American Physical Society April Meeting, Washington, DC (January 2017)
- "Discriminating Formation Channels of Binary Black Hole Systems with Advanced LIGO", American Astronomical Society 229th Conference, Grapevine, TX (January 2017)
- "Astrobites: Engaging Undergraduate Science Majors with Current Astrophysical Research" (workshop & poster), American Astronomical Society 229th Conference, Grapevine, TX (January 2017)
- "Gravity Spy Integrating aLIGO detector characterization, machine learning, and citizen science", American Astronomical Society 228th Conference, San Diego, CA (June 2016)
- "Integrating aLIGO detector characterization, machine learning, and citizen science" (poster), Computational Research Day, Northwestern University (April 2016)
- "LIGO glitch classification through the combination of machine learning and citizen science", Midwest Relativity Meeting, Northwestern University (September 2015)

Awards, Grants & Honors

Avery Coonley School, Graduation Keynote Speaker
Oxford Centre for Cosmological Studies Balzan Visiting Fellow ³ Jan 2018 - Feb 2018
Illinois Space Grant Consortium Graduate Student Fellowship
Kavli Summer Program in Astrophysics Graduate Student Fellow ⁴ July 2017 - August 2017
NSF GK-12 Graduate Fellow
IDEAS Data Science Fellow
Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics, as part of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration May 2016
American Astronomical Society Media Intern
Poster competition winner - Computational Research Day at Northwestern University Apr 2016
High distinction in Physics - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign May 2012

³Research Advisor: Dr. Chris Lintott (New College, University of Oxford)

⁴Research Advisor: Dr. Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz (University of California Santa Cruz)

Affiliations & Leadership Positions

- Astrobites Administrator and Author
- ComSciCon National Organizing Committee
- LIGO Scientific Collaboration Member
- Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Council Quality of Life Chair
- American Physical Society Member
- American Astronomy Society Junior Member
- Caltech Gravitational Wave Astrophysics School (2015) Participant
- Chicago Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra Double Bassist
- Draft Week (rock band) Bass Guitarist & Keyboardist

Teaching Experience

- Northwestern University / Evanston Township High School Reach for the Stars Graduate Student Fellow (June 2017 May 2018)
 - Taught in classrooms and developed coding-based curriculum for high-school Astronomy and Astrophysics classes, as part of the NSF GK-12 Grant DGE-1007911
- Northwestern University Astronomy Teaching Assistant, REU Supervisor (Sept 2015 June 2016)
 - Lectured, graded, and ran telescope observing sessions for introductory astronomy classes, supervised undergraduate REU student Yuqi Yun and high school students on summer research projects
- Kids Science Labs Lead Teacher

(Sept 2013 - Aug 2015)

- Taught classes of 2-12 year old students in hands-on, experiential science classes, designed curriculum for science summer camps
- Adler Planetarium Science Leadership Corps Instructor, Mission Specialist (Sept 2012 Aug 2014)
 - Designed educational programs, facilitated exhibits, presented science talks, led students in high-altitude balloon launches

Outreach

- **Astrobites** Author and administrator for popular astronomy blog partnered with the AAS, which provides daily summaries of recent astronomy research articles (Nov 2014 present)
- ComSciCon Program Organizing Committee (June 2018)
- **Space Visualization Laboratory** *Deliver monthly public presentations at the Adler Planetarium for museum guests* (Apr 2014 present)
- **Astronomy on Tap Chicago** *Organize and host astronomy outreach events at bars and breweries in the Chicago-land area, which include astronomy talks and space-based trivia* (Sept 2015 present)
- Rapid Fire Research Created, organized, and chaired an annual research presentation event for Northwestern's Department of Physics and Astronomy, in which Northwestern graduate and undergraduate students give 5-minute presentations on their research, with prizes awarded for the top presentations (Sept 2016 present)
- Machine Learning Meetups Northwestern University Organize and host interdisciplinary colloquium related to data science and machine learning topics, attended by the Northwestern and greater Chicago-land community (Sept 2016 present)
- **Keynote Speaker** *Chicago Astronomical Society* (May 2017)
- Invited Speaker Avery Coonley School, Haven Middle School, Highcrest Elementary, Nettlehorst Elementary (2016-2017)
- Magazine Articles
 - The Legacy of Scientific Discovery, Northwestern Helix magazine (Jul 2016)
 - The Gravity Spy Project Machine Learning and Citizen Science, LIGO magazine (Mar 2017)
- Chicagoland Science Penpals Actively correspond with students in Chicago public schools about scientific research and science as a profession, using handwritten letters (Mar 2017 Jun 2017)
- Einstein Evenings Host Northwestern's Dearborn Observatory and give monthly presentations during observing hours on General Relativity and LIGO discoveries in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Einstein's theory (Sept 2015 Aug 2016)
- Physics of Music Classes Designed and instructed classes on the physics of music to middle school students at Chicago Public Schools (Apr 2016)
- TO ADD Take our Children to Work Day, Haven Middle School, Astronomer Evenings ()