Michael K. McCourt

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Technical Skills

Programming

* proficient in C, Ruby, Mathematica, Shell Scripts
* quickly learned enough Python to write a research paper using it
* portfolio ranges from hard-core scientific computation (e. g., adding plasma physics to an MHD code to be run on a supercomputer) to building research tools (e. g., my bibliography management tool "bibslurp.")

Modeling

* quickly translate between equations and ideas
* build simple but predictive models of complex systems, enabling new discoveries

Communication

* 1st or 2nd author of 10 scientific papers, which have been cited more than 185 times.
* Regularly complimented on the clarity of my reasoning and writing; one reviewer of a grant application thanked me for an interesting proposal; another grant proposal I authored is now used by the granting agency as the example well-written proposal.
* Invited speaker to 19 conferences and seminars

Scientific Career

Sept 2014— Aug 2015   ITC Fellow, Harvard University
* received prestigious independent research fellowship
* declined fellowship offers from Princeton University, Stanford University, and UC Santa Barbara

Aug 2008— Aug 2014   PhD Student, UC Berkeley
* recipient of both department research awards available to graduate students

* Worked in 9 different research areas, authoring papers and giving invited talks in all of them.

Education and Awards

May 2014   Ph. D. in Astrophysics, UC Berkeley

April 2014   Mary Elizabeth Uhl Prize, UC Berkeley

May 2012   The Robert J. Trumpler Graduate Student Excellence Award, UC Berkeley

Nov. 2011   Chandra Observatory theory grant tm2-13004x

May 2007   Rose Hills Foundation Award for Undergraduate Research

May 2006   VPUE Grant for Undergraduate Research, Stanford University