Oliver James Hall

ESA Research Fellow - Asteroseismology & Statistics

coordinates

oliver.hall@esa.int
github.com/ojhall94
asteronomer.com
@asteronomer
(+31)(0)614227748
ESA ESTEC, Noordwijk, NL
ORCID:
0000-0002-0468-4775

skills

Stan, PyMC3, emcee
Bayesian statistics
Hierarchical models
Asteroseismology
Jupyter Notebooks
Popular science writing
Software development
Open-source publication

programming

Python, Git
Unix, LaTeX,
SQL

languages

English, Dutch (bilingual)

open-source code

`lightkurve`
Accessible light curves

`PBJam`
Automated asteroseismology

`michael`
Speedy TESS rotation periods

positions

2020 →now **ESA Research Fellow** — European Space Research & Technology Centre, Netherlands
+ Work on Bayesian ensemble analysis problems in asteroseismology and stellar astronomy
+ Develop open-source software to elevate science of current and future ESA missions
+ Run fortnightly *Gaia*-focused meetings with scientists from Leiden University

2020 **Freelance Developer** — NumFOCUS, TX, USA
+ Developed training materials for *Kepler* and K2 users for STScI
+ Worked closely with a global team of collaborators to both write training materials and develop Lightkurve code

education

2016 →2020 **PhD** in Physics & Astronomy — University of Birmingham, UK
+ Supervisor: Dr. Guy R. Davies
+ *Thesis*: "Ensemble Asteroseismology and Hierarchical Bayesian Models: New Inferences of Astrophysics with Oscillating Stars"

2012 →2016 **M.Sci.** in Physics & Astrophysics — University of Birmingham, UK
+ 1st Class w. Honours
+ Dissertation supervisor: Prof. William J. Chaplin
+ Thesis topic: Detecting signatures of stellar activity cycles using asteroseismic frequency shifts

2006 →2012 **Gymnasium** — Gemeentelijk Gymnasium Hilversum, The Netherlands
+ 8.5/10 average across eleven subjects

selected presentations

2021 Mar **SCI-S Science Seminar** — Virtual - ESA
"Hierarchical models and asteroseismic rotation"

2021 Mar **SAC Seminar** — Virtual - Aarhus University, Denmark
"Hierarchical models and asteroseismic rotation"

2020 Feb **CSH Symposium** — Centre for Space and Habitability, Switzerland
Invited talk: "Asteroseismology & Rotational Evolution: Bayesian Inference in Stellar Astrophysics"

2020 Jan **ESA Research Fellow Jamboree** — ESA ESTEC, The Netherlands
"Asteroseismic Follow-Up of *CHEOPS* Target Hosts"

2019 Nov **Departmental Seminar** — University of Exeter, UK
"Asteroseismology & Applied Statistics"

2019 Jul **TASC5/KASC12** — MIT, MA, USA
Invited talk: "Accessible Asteroseismology with Lightkurve"

2018 Dec **Birmingham-Warwick Science Meet-Up** — University of Warwick, UK
"Testing asteroseismology with *Gaia* DR2: Hierarchical Models & the Red Clump"

2018 Jul **TASC4/KASC11** — Aarhus University, Denmark
"Testing asteroseismology with *Gaia* DR2: Luminosity of the Red Clump"

conferences & workshops

2021 Mar	Cool Stars 20.5	Virtual
2021 Feb	Streams 21 Workshop	Virtual
2020 Dec	SCI Science Workshop 13	Virtual - ESA Internal Workshop
2020 Sep	online.TESS.science	Virtual
2020 Feb	CSH Symposium (**invited**)	Centre for Space and Habitability, Switzerland
2019 Oct	T'DA 9 (**invited**)	Institute for Astronomy, HI, USA
2019 Aug	Astro Hack Week 2019	Kavli Institude for Cosmology, UK
2019 Jul	TASC5/KASC12 (**invited**)	MIT, MA, USA
2019 Jan	T'DA 8	Aarhus University, Denmark
2018 Oct	T'DA 5 (**invited**)	Ohio State University, OH, USA
2018 Jul	T'DA 4	Aarhus University, Denmark
2018 Jul	TASC4/KASC11	Aarhus University, Denmark
2018 Jun	The Wetton Workshop 2018	University of Oxford, UK
2017 Dec	T'DA 3	KU Leuven, Belgium
2017 Jul	TASC3/KASC10	University of Birmingham, UK
2017 Apr	T'DA 2	Aarhus University, Denmark
2016 Nov	Asteroseismology of stellar activity cycles	Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur, France
2016 Nov	T'DA 1	University of Birmingham, UK

posters

2021 Mar — **Cool Stars 20.5** — Virtual
+ "New asteroseismic rotation rates of Kepler dwarfs show strong agreement with weakened magnetic braking on the late-age main sequence"
+ 1-minute video 'haiku' shown during the main programme

2020 Dec — **SCI Science Workshop 13** — Virtual - ESA Internal Workshop
+ "Characterising the Red Clump standard cnalde in magnitude, colour, metallicity and alpha abundance"
+ "New asteroseismic rotation rates of Kepler dwarfs show strong agreement with weakened magnetic braking on the late-age main sequence"
+ 1-minute videos accompanying both posters

2019 Jul — **TASC5/KASC12** — MIT, MA, USA
+ "Improving gyrochronology of field stars with asteroseismic age and rotation"

2017 Jul — **TASC3/KASC10** — University of Birmingham, UK
+ "Mixture Models applied to *Kepler* backgrounds & development for TESS"

research visits

2018 Oct — **Visit to the KeplerGO office [3 weeks]** — NASA Ames Research Centre, CA, USA
+ Invited to build the **periodogram** & **seismology** modules of **Lightkurve**.

2018 Jan — **Visit to SAC [1 week]** — Aarhus University, Denmark
+ Invited to investigate & build tools for background subtraction of TESS FFIs.

grants & honours

2020 →2022	ESA Research Fellowship	ESA ESTEC, The Netherlands
2019	**£815** - Ogden Trust Alumni Fund One-Off Grants	The Ogden Trust, UK
2018	**£300** - IOP Research Student Conference Fund *(declined)*	Institute of Physics, UK
2016	**£3000** - Royal Society Partnership Grant	The Royal Society, UK
2015	Teach Physics Oustanding Intern 2015 - shortlisted	The Ogden Trust, UK

teaching & other research

2021 **LEAPS 2021 Supervisor** Virtual - The Leiden/ESA Astrophysics Program for Summer Students
+ Primary supervisor for student during a 10-week summer program
+ Jointly ran the selection process, including interviewing a shortlist

2021 →now **Student Supervision** Virtual - Leiden University
+ Helped advise masters students at the University of Leiden in an unofficial capacity.

2019 **Advanced HE - Associate Fellow (AFHEA)** Advanced HE
+ Formal acknowledgement of teaching experience and expertise

2019 **Access to Birmingham (A2B) supervisor** University of Birmingham
+ Supported applicants from disenfranchised backgrounds through the A2B scheme

2017 →2019 **2nd Year Laboratory Projects Demonstrator** University of Birmingham, UK
+ Taught students to build apparatus and understand their results
+ Marked students' work and provided constructive feedback

2016 →2019 **3rd Year Observatory Laboratory Supervisor** University of Birmingham, UK
+ Supervised students using an observatory and during data reduction
+ Helped students understand their results as well as the use of IRAF, Unix, and Python

2015 **Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)** University of Leicester, UK
+ Performed a six-week project using Python to program a robotic arm system for testing a prototype focal plane for the Cherenkov Telescope Array

2015 **Ogden Trust Teach Physics Intern** Bishop Challoner Catholic College, Birmingham, UK
+ Helped teach pupils throughout lessons, acting as a teaching assistant
+ Prepared and taught a lesson & careers workshop

outreach & engagement

2021 ***Scientist*, Skype a Scientist** Virtual
+ 2021 Apr - 1st Grade Class, East Lansdowne Elementary, USA
+ 2021 Jan - USA-based family, 5th, 3rd and Kindergarten grade

2021 Apr ***Selected Press* for Hall et al. 2021**
+ The Independent - "Old stars are not behaving as expected, scientists say"
+ Metro - "Stars spin faster as they get older, astronomers learn"

2021 Mar ***Speaker*, Astronomy on Tap Leiden** Leiden, The Netherlands
A recording of the talk is **available online.**

2019 →2021 ***Author*, Astrobites Collaboration**
+ Wrote and edited monthly summaries of astronomy papers at an undergraduate level.
+ Committee member for **Advertising**, **Moderating**, **Hiring**, **Undergraduate Engagement**, and **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion**
+ Wrote a total of 14 articles over a 2 year period
+ Article featured in AAS Nova - "Cosmic Archaeology from an Ancient Pulsating Star"

2019 ***Developer*, State of The Universe collaboration** Astro Hack Week 2019
+ Helped build and maintain an informative package for teachers and planetarium guides

2018 →2019 ***Demonstrator*, Applicant Visit Days** University of Birmingham, UK
+ Developed and taught laboratory sessions for undergraduate applicants

2016 →2017 ***Partnered Researcher*, Royal Society Partnership Grant** Bishop Challoner Catholic College, UK
+ Developed and taught a series of lessons and lab activities engaging Year 9 pupils with exoplanet characterisation and asteroseismology

community services

2020 →now **_Organiser_, LEAPS 2021 Summer Student Programme** Virtual - ESA ESTEC/Leiden University
+ Worked with researchers at the University of Leiden and ESA to organise a virtual summer research programme for a cohort of 21 students across the globe
+ Organised twice-weekly seminars and workshops in conjunction with the Amsterdam-based ASPIRE programme

2021 **_Panelist_, TESS Cycle 4** Virtual - NASA Goddard
+ Collaborated virtually with a global team of panelists to rank research proposals

2020 →now **_Scientific Reviewer_, ESA/NASA Hubble Space Telescope** ESA ESTEC, The Netherlands
+ Scientific review of papers for potential press releases and the Hubble Picture of the Day

2020 →now **_Reviewer_**
+ For The Astrophysical Journal

2020 **_LOC_, SCI Science Workshop 13** Virtual - ESA Internal Workshop
+ Organised poster viewing and social gatherings in Gather Town
+ Moderated speaker sessions

2018 →2019 **_Organiser_, 9th BEAR Conference** University of Birmingham, UK
+ Organised local annual high performance computing conference

2017 **_LOC_, TASC3/KASC11** University of Birmingham, UK
+ Helped organise 150+ attendee asteroseismology conference

2021 →now Member of the *International Astronomical Union* (IAU)
2018 →now Member of the **Lightkurve** collaboration NASA Ames Research Centre, CA, USA
2016 →now Member of the *TESS Data for Asteroseismology* (**T'DA**) collaboration
2016 →now Member of the *TESS Asteroseismic Science Consortium* (TASC)

selected publications

14 publications, of which 2 as first author, with 302 total citations. **H-index: 9**

first & second author publications:

1. **Hall, O. J.**, Davies, G. R., van Saders, J. and 9 coauthors
   Weakened magnetic braking supported by asteroseismic rotation rates of Kepler dwarfs
   Nature Astronomy, **2021**
   Summary: Made new measurements of asteroseismic rotation rates, and compared these to population models of rotational evolution to indicate the presence of weakened magnetic braking.
   doi:10.1038/s41550-021-01335-x, arXiv:2104.10919

2. **Hall, O. J.**, Davies, G. R., Elsworth, Y. P. and 9 coauthors
   Testing asteroseismology with Gaia DR2: Hierarchical models of the Red Clump
   Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, **2019**
   Summary: Constrained the luminosity of the Red Clump and the *Gaia* DR2 parallax zero-point offset simultaneously using hierarchical latent variable models.
   doi:10.1093/mnras/stz1092, arXiv:1904.07919

3. Khan, S., **Hall, O. J.**, Miglio, A., Davies, G. R., Mosser, B., Girardi, L., Montalbán, J.
   The Red-giant Branch Bump Revisited: Constraints on Envelope Overshooting in a Wide Range of Masses and Metallicities
   The Astrophysical Journal, **2018**
   Contribution: Used Mixture Models to constrain the position of the Red-Giant Branch Bump.
   doi:10.3847/1538-4357/aabf90, arXiv:1804.06669

contributing author publications:

4. Montalbán, J., Mackereth, J. T., Miglio, A. and 16 coauthors including **Hall, O. J.**
   Chronologically dating the early assembly of the Milky Way
   Accepted, **Nature Astronomy**, **2021**
   Contribution: Obtained seismic parameters for stellar sample and helped develop hierachical model.
   arxiv:2001.04653

5. Mackereth, J. T., Miglio, A., Elsworth, Y., and 30 coauthors including **Hall, O. J.**
   Prospects for Galactic and stellar astrophysics with asteroseismology of giant stars in the TESS continuous

viewing zones and beyond
Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, **2021**
Contribution: Obtained fundamental seismic parameters for stellar sample.
doi:10.1093/mnras/stab098, arXiv:2012.00140

6. Nielsen, M. B., Davies, G. R., Ball, W. H., Lyttle, A. J., Li, T., **Hall, O. J.** and 11 other coauthors
PBjam: A Python Package for Automating Asteroseismology of Solar-like Oscillators
The Astronomical Journal, **2021**
Contribution: Developed code and documentation for PBJam package
doi:10.3847/1538-3881/abcd39, arXiv:2012.00580

7. Silva Aguirre, V., Stello, D., Stokholm, A. and 75 coauthors including **Hall, O. J.**
Detection and characterisation of oscillating red giants: first results from the TESS satellite
The Astrophysical Journal, **2020**
Contribution: Obtained fundamental seismic parameters for stellar sample.
doi:10.3847/2041-8213/ab6443, arXiv:1912.07604

8. Chaplin, W., Serenelli, A. M., Miglio, A. and 83 coauthors including **Hall, O. J.**
Age dating of an early Milky Way merger via asteroseismology of the naked-eye star νIndi
Nature Astronomy, **2020**
Contribution: Advised on systematic uncertainties in spectroscopic methods.
doi:10.1038/s41550-019-0975-9, arXiv:2001.04653

9. Huber, D., Chaplin, W. J., Chontos, A and 139 coauthors including **Hall, O. J.**
A Hot Saturn Orbiting An Oscillating Late Subgiant Discovered by TESS
The Astronomical Journal, **2019**
Contribution: Checked proper use and interpretation of *Gaia* parallaxes.
doi:10.3847/1538-3881/ab1488, arXiv:1901.01643

10. Bugnet, L., García, R. A., Mathur, S., Davies, G. R., **Hall, O. J.**, Lund, M. N., Rendle, B. M.
FliPer$_{Class}$: In search of solar-like pulsators among TESS targets
Astronomy & Astrophysics, **2019**
Contribution: Aided with interpretation of systematic uncertainties on effective temperature.
doi:10.1051/0004-6361/201834780, arXiv:1902.09854

11. Bugnet, L., García, R. A., Davies, G. R., Mathur, S., Corsaro, E., **Hall, O. J.**, Rendle, B. M.
FliPer: A global measure of power density to estimate surface gravities of main-sequence solar-like stars and red giants
Astronomy & Astrophysics, **2018**
Contribution: Helped develop the FliPer metric & its machine learning implementation.
doi:0.1051/0004-6361/201833106, arXiv:1809.05105

12. Davies, G. R., Lund, M. N., Miglio, A., Elsworth, Y. P. and 13 coauthors including **Hall, O. J.**
Using red clump stars to correct the Gaia *DR1 parallaxes*
Astronomy & Astrophysics, **2017**
Contribution: Verified results found by lead authors.
doi:10.1051/0004-6361/201630066, arXiv:1701.02506

software publications:

13. Lightkurve Collaboration, Cardoso, J. V. d. M., Hedges, C., Gully-Santiago, M., Saunders, N., Cody, A-M., Barclay, T., **Hall, O. J.**, Sagear, S., Turtelboom, E., Zhang, J., Tzanidakis, A., Mighell, K., Coughlin, J., Bell, K., Berta-Thompson, Z., Williams, P., Dotson, J., Barentsen, G.
Lightkurve: Kepler and TESS time series analysis in Python
Astrophysics Source Code Library, **2018**
Contribution: Led development of the 'periodogram' and 'seismology' modules.
ascl:1812.013

white papers:

14. Khullar, G., Kholer, S., Konchady, T. and 32 coauthors including **Hall, O. J.**
Astrobites as a Community-led Model for Education, Science Communication, and Accessibility in Astrophysics
arXiv e-prints, **2019**
arXiv:1907.09496