

# SEAN C. LEWIS

Ph.D. Candidate ◊ Department of Physics ◊ Drexel University  
Disque Hall, Office No. 808 ◊ 32 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> St. ◊ Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA  
+1 · (408) · 470 · 0668 ◊ [sean.christian.lewis@drexel.edu](mailto:sean.christian.lewis@drexel.edu)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

**Computational astrophysics**, including general relativity, gravitational lensing, modified gravity, large-scale structure, 21 cm cosmology, dark energy, inflation, dark matter, radio astronomy, and gravitational waves.

## EDUCATION

---

### Drexel University

Ph.D. Student/Candidate of Physics

2017 – Present

M.S. in Physics

2019

### California Polytechnic State University

B.S. in Physics

2016

*Cum Laude*

## POSITIONS HELD

---

### Drexel University

2017 – Present

*Doctoral Teaching Fellow; Research Fellow*

Department of Physics

### California Polytechnic State University

2015 – 2016

*Research Assistant*

Department of Physics

## AWARDS AND HONORS

---

*Chambliss Astronomy Achievement Honorable Mention*, American Astronomical Society

2020

*Department of Physics Teaching Excellence Award*, Drexel University

2019

*CoAS Dean Honors List*, California Polytechnic State University

2012–2016

## RESEARCH HISTORY

---

2021–Present

### Hydrodynamical Simulation Data Structure Conversion

Developed a novel software technique for transferring simulation data from a Voronoi Mesh data structure to a block-based adaptively refined grid structure.

2018–Present

### Early Forming Massive Stars

Developed a controlled experiment using the the high performance coupled magnetohydrodynamic, radiation, and N-body software suite Torch to determine the effects of the formation time of very massive stars, an under-tested parameter space. Time series data analysis and cluster identification techniques revealed that early forming massive stars had significant effect on star cluster development and evolution.

## REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

---

3. **Lewis, S. C.**, McMillan, S. L. W., Mac Low, M-M., Cournoyer-Cloutier, C., Polak, B., Wilhelm, M. J. C., Tran, A., Sills, A., Portegies Zwart, S., Klessen R., and Wall, J. E., “*Early Forming Massive Stars Suppress Star Formation and Hierarchical Cluster Assembly*,” Submitted to ApJ (2022)

2. Cournoyer-Cloutier, C., Tran, A., **Lewis, S. C.**, Wall, J. E., Harris, W. E., Mac Low, M-M., McMillan, S. L. W., Portegies Zwart, S., and Sills, A., “*Implementing primordial binaries in simulations of star cluster formation with a hybrid MHD and direct N-body method*”, MNRAS **501**, 4464–4478 (2021) [[arXiv:2011.06105](#)]
1. Bennert, V., N., Loveland, D., Donohue, E., Cosens, M., **Lewis, S. C.**, Komossa, S., Treu, T., Malkan, M. A., Milgram, N., and Flatland, K., “*Studying the O III  $\lambda 5007$  emission-line width in a sample of  $\sim 80$  local active galaxies: a surrogate for  $\sigma$* ”, MNRAS. **481**, 138–152 (2018) [[arXiv:1808.04821](#)]

## CONFERENCES AND TALKS

---

### Contributed Talks

- “Hybrid analytic image modeling and image moments approach to gravitational lensing”  
Public talk for my Physics Ph.D. Candidacy Exam, Drexel University 4 Jun. 2020
- “Quantifying the Effects of O-type Star Formation in Embedded Stellar Clusters”  
Modest 21a Virtual Conference Jul. 2021

### Poster Presentations

- “The Effects of Early Massive Star Formation: Gas Expulsion and Cluster Dynamics”  
American Astronomical Society – 238th Conference Jun. 2021
- “The effects of O-type star formation in embedded stellar clusters.”  
American Astronomical Society – 236th Conference Jun. 2020
- “Was the first observed hypervelocity globular cluster, HVGC-1, accelerated by a supermassive binary black hole?”  
American Astronomical Society – 233rd Conference Jan. 2019
- “The mystery of a hypervelocity globular cluster: is a binary black hole to blame?”  
Drexel Emerging Graduate Scholars, Drexel University Sept. 2018

## SOFTWARE DEVELOPED

---

### Authored

- VorAMR** A robust tool that utilizes `scipy` nearest neighbor interpolation and the **AMUSE** software suite to convert output data from any Voronoi mesh data structure to input data for adaptive block-based structures. *Publicly available code written in Python.* <https://bitbucket.org/torch-sf/voramr/src/main>
- PythonOpenMPI** A generalizable utility for efficient task-based parallel programming using the `mpi4py` library. *Publicly available code written in Python.* <https://github.com/seanlabeau/PythonOpenMPI>

### Contributed

- Torch** A star cluster formation simulation software suite that couples the **AMUSE** framework with the magnetohydrodynamical code **FLASH**. *Publicly available code written in Python.* <https://github.com/apetri/LensTools>

## TEACHING

---

### Drexel University

*Teaching Assistant* (Recitation and Lab Instructor)

PHYS 100, *Preparation for Engineering Studies*

PHYS 152, *Introductory Physics I*

PHYS 154, *Introductory Physics III*

Winter: 2021, 2020, 2019

Spring: 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019

Fall: 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018

*Grader*

PHYS 131, *Survey of the Universe*

Winter 2022

PHYS 231, *Introductory Astrophysics*

Winter 2022

*Guest Lecturer*

PHYS 231, *Introductory Astrophysics*

Winter 2022

**Stony Brook University**

*Lecturer*

Della Pietra High School Applied Math Program

Spring 2017

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE**

---

**Collaborations**

External Collaborator, Dark Energy Survey (DES)

Member, Packed Ultra-wideband Mapping Array (PUMA) [Inactive]

Member, Baryon Mapping eXperiment (BMX) [Inactive]

**Working Groups**

Member, DOE Cosmic Visions Dark Energy 21 cm Working Group [Inactive]

**Outreach Activities**

Invited to appear on the Drexel University Teaching Assistant Orientation Panel, as part of the Teaching Assistant Orientation and Preparation Course GRAD T580 (17 Sep. 2020).

Gave a physics demonstration at the Kaczmarczik Lecture Series Open House, hosted by the Drexel University Department of Physics (14 Nov. 2018).

**Committee Work**

Treasurer of the Drexel University Physics Graduate Student Association (2020 – 2021).