Chang **Liu**

Undergraduate Student in Astronomy

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"Explore the universe, benefit the society."

Education

Peking University — *Beijing, China*

Undergrad in Life Sciences (Switched to Astronomy) — *Sep 2016 - Jun 2017*

- GPA 3.87/4, Rank 1/120

Peking University — *Beijing, China*

Undergrad in Astronomy — *Sep 2017 -*

- GPA 3.84/4, Rank 1/28

Some Advanced Courses

- Astrophysics: 96
- Theoretical Astrophysics - Stellar Atmospheres: 92
- Astronomical Spectroscopy: 92
- Gravitational-Wave Astrophysics (Graduate Course): 92

Standardized Tests

- TOEFL iBT: 111. Reading: 30, Listening: 30, Speaking: 25, Writing: 26
- GRE General: Verbal 151/170, Quantitative 170/170, Analytical Writing 3.5
- GRE Physics: 970/990, Percentile 93%

Skills

Programming Python, Shell/Zsh, C++, Fortran, Git

Languages Chinese, English

Softwares Photoshop, Lightroom, Illustrator, LaTeX

Experience

Department of Astronomy, Peking University — *Beijing, China*

Impact of an Active Sgr A* on the Synthesis of Prebiotic Molecules Throughout the Milky Way — *Jul 2018 - Nov 2019*

Mentors: Xian Chen & Fujun Du

- *Undergraduate Research & Training Program - National Innovation Training Program*
- Investigated the impacts of an AGN on the synthesis of prebiotic/organic molecules to indicate the potential correlation between an active supermassive black hole and both the origin and the evolution of life.
- Calculated the ionization rates of electromagnetic radiation caused by accretion of the supermassive black hole in the Milky Way with Galactic absorption considered.
- Completed the classic gas-phase network `osu_01_2007` by adding X-ray ionization and necessary grain processes important for synthesis of complex species.
- Simulated the chemical evolution of crucial precursors for interstellar prebiotic molecules with `KROME`, with the discovery of observable change in distribution for important molecules.

Astronomy Department, Caltech — *Pasadena, US*

A Systematic Search For Periodic White Dwarfs Using ZTF Data — *Jun 2019 - Aug 2019*

Mentor: Shrinivas R. Kulkarni

- *Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)*
- Explored the potential of the state-of-the-art time-domain facility - Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF) by conducting a systematic search for periodic white dwarfs with periods lying within 1-3 hr.
- Conducted a cross match between *Gaia* and ZTF, selecting $\sim$ 90,000 *Gaia* sources with enough ZTF records.
- A number of 81 sources stood out as periodic under a well-designed periodogram based on Lomb-Scargle method.
- Analyzed the shapes of light curves derived from ZTF as well as color information from *Gaia* and PanSTARRS.
- Discovered various sources of interest including an unusual strongly ellipsoidal-modulated double white dwarfs system with an extremely low-mass (ELM) component.

Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, UC Santa Cruz *Santa Cruz, US*

The Hydrodynamics of Binary Mass Transfer in Compact Binaries *Oct 2019 -*

Mentor: Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz

- *Undergraduate thesis*
- Study the stability of mass transfer in a Direct Impact mass transfer white dwarf binary with hydrodynamical simulation.
- Built a 3-body integrator in Fortran to calculate the ballistic trajectory of a particle in Roche lobe overflow in a binary system.
- Visualized the feedback of torques of the accreted materials on the orbital evolution of double white dwarfs with `yt`.
- Simulations are executed with the radiation MHD simulation code, `FLASH`.

Honors & Awards

Oct 2019	**Merit Student**, Annual honor of 2018-2019, School of Physics, Peking University
Oct 2019	**PKU Scholarship**, Annual scholarship of 2018-2019, School of Physics, Peking University
Jun 2019	**PKU Scholarship in Physics**, School of Physics, Peking University
May 2019	**National Innovation Training Program**, Undergraduate Research & Training Program
Oct 2018	**Merit Student**, Annual honor of 2017-2018, School of Physics, Peking University
Oct 2018	**Weilin Scholarship**, Annual scholarship of 2017-2018, School of Physics, Peking University
Oct 2017	**Merit Student Pacesetter (the Highest Annual Accolade)**, Annual honor of 2016-2017, School of Life Sciences, Peking University
Oct 2017	**Arawana Scholarship**, Annual scholarship of 2016-2017, School of Life Sciences, Peking University
Sept 2017	**Third Prize**, The Alumni Cup for Summer Social Practice, School of Life Sciences, Peking University
Sept 2017	**Excellent Student Union Member**, Annual honor of 2016-2017, Student Union of School of Life Sciences of Peking University

Publications

- **Liu, C.**, Chen, X. & Du, F., *Impact of an Active Sgr A* on the Synthesis of Prebiotic Molecules Throughout the Milky Way*, 2020, arXiv:2002.03086, *ApJ* submitted.

Presentation

The Project Presentation for the SURF Program, Caltech *Pasadena, US*

A Systematic Search for Periodic White Dwarfs *Aug. 2019*

Extracurricular Activity

Investigation Group on Bike-sharing in Xiamen (School of Life Science) *Xiamen, China*

Core Member *Jul. 2017*

- Investigated the present condition and analyzed the future development of several brands of shared bikes in Xiamen, China
- In charge of organizing the draft of both our investigation proposal and the report

Department of Daily Life, Student Union (School of Life Science) *Beijing, China*

Member *Sept. 2016 - Jun. 2017*

- Organized various activities to improve the life quality including organizing social mixers and designing games for the New Year Party
- Helped design a questionnaire and conducted a census on the current living and studying conditions of students in School of Life Sciences, reflected the problems to the dean and negotiated possible solutions
- In charge of *Calendar of Species* program of the WeChat public account of the Student Union; conducted popular science promotion about various plants in literary essays

References

Prof. Xian Chen *Beijing, China*

xian.chen@pku.edu.cn *The Kavli Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Peking University*

Prof. Shrinivas R. Kulkarni *Pasadena, US*

srk@astro.caltech.edu *Astronomy Department, California Institute of Technology*

Prof. Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz *Santa Cruz, US*

enrico@ucolick.org *Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, UC Santa Cruz*