

Sheila A. Sagar

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Education

Ph.D. in Astronomy

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

In Progress (Expected May 2025)

M.S. in Astronomy

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

May 2022

B.A. in Astronomy and Physics, Cum Laude

Boston University, Boston, MA

May 2020

Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Florida Dept. of Astronomy

Sept 2020 – Present, 40 Hours/Week

Advisor: Sarah Ballard

Investigating the relationship between eccentricity, stellar metallicity, and planet occurrence rate for exoplanets around M dwarfs. Developing an open-source Python package called `photoeccentric` to measure exoplanet eccentricities using Kepler light curves and stellar data.

Research Assistant, Boston University Dept. of Physics

Jan 2020 – Aug 2020, 15-40 Hours/Week

Advisors: Manher Jariwala, Andrew Duffy, Emily Allen

Measured the effectiveness of in-person, virtual, and hybrid teaching models by comparing student learning outcomes in introductory college physics labs. Developed an understanding of qualitative research methods and coding in R.

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Boston University Dept. of Astronomy

Jan 2017 – May 2020, 10-40 Hours/Week

Advisors: Philip Muirhead, Julie Skinner

Conducted an exoplanet search around small stars and ultracool dwarfs observed by K2 using the transit method and constrained planet occurrence rates based on a null result. Results described in a first-author paper accepted to the *Astronomical Journal*. Conducted a sample literature search for the PINES survey, a photometric search for transiting planets around L and T dwarfs.

Directed Studies Intern, CERN (CMS Experiment)

Jan 2019 – Jul 2019, 20-40 Hours/Week

Advisors: Jennifer Ngadiuba, Tiziano Camporesi

Improved the CMS Trigger System by training particle identification models with machine learning and testing performance of machine learning models in FPGAs using the Python package `hls4ml`. Results described in a co-authored paper accepted to *Machine Learning: Science and Technology*.

Intern, NASA Ames Research Center (Kepler/K2 Guest Observer Office)

Jun 2018 – Aug 2018, 40 Hours/Week

Advisors: Michael Gully-Santiago, Christina Hedges

Developed an exoplanet and supernova injection and recovery tool for Kepler GO's Python package `lightkurve`, a package to aid in data processing for Kepler, K2 and TESS data.

Skills

Data Science: Python (advanced); R, IDL, Java (basic)

Frameworks and Tools: Familiar with command line, Jupyter Notebooks, Git and GitHub, Slurm (HPC Job Scheduler), LaTeX (Overleaf), Keras/Tensorflow, Docker.

Selected Python Tools: emcee, PyMultiNest, dynesty, celerite, juliet, lightkurve, batman

Languages: English (native), French (basic), Indonesian (basic)

Outreach

Scientist Pen Pal, <i>Letters to a Pre-Scientist</i>	2021-2022
Mentoring Chair, <i>Graduate Astronomy Organization, University of Florida</i>	2021
Founder of BU Astronomy Dept. Undergraduate Research Symposia	2018-2020
President of Society of Physics Students (Photon), BU	2019-2020

Publications

Papers:

Tamburo, Patrick; Muirhead, Philip S.; McCarthy, Allison M.; Hart, Murdock; Gracia, David; Vos, Johanna M.; Bardalez Gagliuffi, Daniella C.; Faherty, Jacqueline; Theissen, Christopher; Agol, Eric; Skinner, Julie N.; **Sagear, Sheila**

"[The Perkins INfrared Exosatellite Survey \(PINES\) I. Survey Overview, Reduction Pipeline, and Early Results](#)" (2022)

Accepted to *The Astronomical Journal*

Di Guglielmo, Giuseppe; Duarte, Javier; Harris, Philip; Hoang, Duc; Jindariani, Sergo; Kreinar, Edward; Liu, Mia; Loncar, Vladimir; Ngadiuba, Jennifer; Pedro, Kevin; Pierini, Maurizio; Rankin, Dylan; **Sagear, Sheila**; Summers, Sioni; Tran, Nhan; Wu, Zhenbin

"[Compressing Deep Neural Networks on FPGAs to Binary and Ternary Precision with HLS4ML](#)" (2021)

Machine Learning: Science and Technology, 2, 015001

Sagear, Sheila; Allen, Emily; Duffy, Andrew; Jariwala, Manher

"[Student learning outcomes with hybrid computer simulations and hands-on labs](#)" (2020)

2020 Physics Education Research Conference Proceedings, 448-453

Sagear, Sheila A.; Skinner, Julie N.; Muirhead, Philip S.

"[Upper Limits on Planet Occurrence around Ultracool Dwarfs with K2](#)" (2020)

The Astronomical Journal, 160, 19

Software:

"[Lightkurve: Kepler and TESS time series analysis in Python](#)" (2018)

Lightkurve Collaboration, *Astrophysics Source Code Library*, ascl:1812.013

Selected Talks and Posters

Poster and Talk: "[Student learning outcomes with hybrid computer simulations and hands-on labs](#)"

Physics Education Research Conference

Jul 2020

Poster: "[Machine Learning Improvements to the CMS Trigger System](#)"

2019 Physics Congress (PhysCon), Providence, RI

Nov 2019

Poster: "[Constraining Planet Occurrence Around Ultracool Dwarfs Observed by K2](#)"

American Astronomical Society Meeting #233, Seattle, WA

Jan 2019

Poster: "[Measuring Transit Detection Efficiency in Ultracool Dwarfs and an Open Source Injection and Recovery Tool](#)"

The 20th Cambridge Workshop on Cool Stars and the Sun, Boston, MA

Aug 2018