

Mike Y. M. Lau

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Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies
OzGrav: The ARC Centre of Excellence for Gravitational Wave Discovery

Research experience

Sep 2023 – Present	Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies Croucher Research Fellow
Jan – Jun 2022	Center for Computational Astrophysics (CCA), Flatiron Institute Research Analyst as part of the CCA Pre-Doctoral Program, supervised by Dr. Matteo Cantiello and Dr. Adam Jermyn

Education

Sep 2019 – Mar 2023	PhD, Monash University Dissertation: <i>Interactions in Stellar Binaries</i> , supervised by Prof. Ilya Mandel, Prof. Daniel J. Price, and Dr. Ryosuke Hirai
Oct 2015 – Jul 2019	MMathPhys, The University of Oxford Master of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics with First Class in Parts A, B, & C Dissertation: <i>Detecting Double Neutron Stars with LISA</i> , supervised by Prof. Ilya Mandel and Prof. Philipp Podsiadlowski

Publications

Published by a peer-reviewed journal (*=key publication)

1. ***Lau, M. Y. M.**, Hirai, R., Mandel, I., Tout, C. A., *Expansion of accreting main-sequence stars during rapid mass transfer. ApJ Letters* (in press, 2024).
2. González-Bolívar, M., De Marco, O., **Lau, M. Y. M.**, Hirai, R., Price, D. J. *Common envelope binary interaction simulations between a thermally-pulsating AGB star and a low mass companion. MNRAS*, 517, 3, p.3181-3199 (2022).
3. ***Lau, M. Y. M.**, Hirai, R., Price, D. J., Mandel, I. *Common envelopes in massive stars II: The distinct roles of hydrogen and helium recombination. MNRAS*, 516, 4, p.4669-4678 (2022).
4. Renzo, M., Zapartas, E., Justham, S., Breivik, K., **Lau, M. Y. M.**, Farmer, R. J., Cantiello, M., Metzger, B. D. *Rejuvenated accretors have less bound envelopes: Impact of Roche lobe overflow on subsequent common envelope events. ApJ Letters*, 942, 2, id.L32 (2023).
5. ***Lau, M. Y. M.**, Hirai, R., González-Bolívar, M., Price, D. J., De Marco, O., Mandel, I. *Common envelopes in massive stars: Towards the role of radiation pressure and recombination energy in ejecting red supergiant envelopes. MNRAS*, 512, 4, p.5462-5480 (2022).
6. Amaro-Seoane, P., et al. (including **Lau, M. Y. M.**). *Astrophysics with the Laser Interferometer Space Antenna. Living Reviews in Relativity*, Volume 26, Issue 1, article id.2.
7. Team COMPAS: Riley, J., et al. (including **Lau, M. Y. M.**). *Rapid stellar and binary population synthesis with COMPAS. ApJ Supplement*, 258, 2, id.34, p.34 (2022).
8. Team COMPAS: Riley, J., et al. (including **Lau, M. Y. M.**). *COMPAS: A rapid binary population synthesis suite. Journal of Open Source Software*, 7, 69, id.3838 (2022).
9. Ackley, K., et al. (including **Lau, M. Y. M.**). *Neutron Star Extreme Matter Observatory: A kilohertz-band gravitational-wave detector in the global network. Publications of the Astronomical Society of Australia*, 37, id.e047 (2020).
10. **Lau, M. Y. M.**, Mandel, I., Vigna-Gómez, A., Neijssel, C. J., Stevenson, S., Sesana, A. *Detecting Double Neutron Stars with LISA. MNRAS*, 492, 3, p.3061-3072 (2020).

Submitted to a peer-reviewed journal

1. Bermúdez-Bustamante, L. C., De Marco, O., Siess, L., Price, D. J., González-Bolívar, M., **Lau, M. Y. M.**, Mu, C., Hirai, R., Danilovich, T., Kasliwal, M. M. *Dust formation in common envelope binary interactions – II: 3D simulations with self-consistent dust formation*. Submitted to *MNRAS* (2024; *arXiv:2401.03644*).
2. ***Lau, M. Y. M.**, Cantiello, M., Jermyn, A. S., MacLeod, M., Mandel, I., Price, D. J. *Hot Jupiter engulfment by a red giant in 3D hydrodynamics*. Submitted to *MNRAS* (2022; *arXiv:2210.15848*).

Selected talks

Feb 2024	Joint Franco-Australian 5th Phantom and MC-FOST Users Workshop (invited)	<i>Monash University, remote</i>
Dec 2023	Astrophysics seminar	<i>The Chinese University of Hong Kong</i>
Mar 2023	Colloquium	<i>ICRAR-Curtin, Perth</i>
Feb 2023	Phantom users workshop 2023 (LOC)	<i>Monash University</i>
Jan 2023	SESTAS meeting	<i>MPA, Garching</i>
Jan 2023	Common envelope group meeting	<i>HITS, Heidelberg</i>
Dec 2022	Gravitational Wave Physics and Astronomy Workshop (GWPAW, invited)	<i>Melbourne</i>
Jun 2022	CCA Predoctoral Program Symposium	<i>CCA, Flatiron Institute</i>
Jun 2022	Physics and Astrophysics of Common Envelope	<i>Los Alamos National Laboratory</i>
Mar 2022	CCA Stars & Compact Objects Group Meeting	<i>CCA, Flatiron Institute</i>
Dec 2021	OzGrav Data/Astro Telecon	<i>Virtual</i>
Sep 2021	Common Envelope Physics and Outcomes 2021	<i>Virtual</i>
Jul 2021	ASA Annual Meeting 2021	<i>University of Melbourne</i>
Jul 2021	EAS Annual Meeting 2021	<i>Leiden, virtual</i>
Feb 2021	LISA Workshop (invited)	<i>University of Auckland, remote</i>
Aug 2020	The 13th International LISA Symposium	<i>University of Auckland, remote</i>
Feb 2020	ANITA workshop and school 2020	<i>UNSW, Canberra</i>
Jan 2020	Gravitational Waves Group Meeting	<i>Cardiff University</i>
Jan 2020	Astrophysics Seminar	<i>University of Birmingham</i>
Dec 2019	2019 Stars in Melbourne	<i>Monash University</i>
Nov 2019	2019 OzGrav Annual Retreat	<i>Lorne, Melbourne</i>
Nov 2019	OzGrav Data/Astro Telecon	<i>Virtual</i>

Grants & awards

Apr 2023	Croucher Research Fellowship	<i>Croucher Foundation</i>
Mar 2023	Humboldt Research Fellowship (declined for Croucher Fellowship)	<i>Alexander von Humboldt Foundation</i>
Dec 2022	Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics Fellowship (declined for Croucher Fellowship)	<i>Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics</i>
Q3/4 2021	Lead chief investigator, NCI Astronomy Program computing grant (670 kSU)	<i>AAL Astronomy Supercomputer</i>
Q1/2 2021	Lead chief investigator, NCI Astronomy Program computing grant (544 kSU)	<i>AAL Astronomy Supercomputer</i>
2019 – 2022	J. L. William International PhD Scholarship	<i>Monash University</i>
2019 – 2023	Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend	<i>Monash University</i>
2019 – 2023	Monash International Tuition Scholarship (MITS)	<i>Monash University</i>
Jul 2019	Schools Prize	<i>St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford</i>
2017, 2018	Open Scholarship	<i>St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford</i>
2016	Open Exhibition	<i>St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford</i>
Aug 2015	Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence (tuition)	<i>Hong Kong Government</i>

Teaching & supervision

Nov – Dec 2021	Co-supervisor for summer undergraduate student at Monash University
Feb – Jun 2021	TA for <i>ASP3051 Relativity and Cosmology</i>
Aug – Nov 2020	Tutor for <i>ASP3162 Computational Astrophysics and the Extreme Universe</i> under the Monash University Indigenous Academic Enhancement Program
Aug – Nov 2020	IAEP tutor for <i>ASP3012 Stars and Galaxies</i>
Aug – Sep 2020	Tutor for <i>MCD1180: Introductory Physics</i> under the Monash Indigenous Access Program
Apr – Jun 2020	IAEP tutor for <i>ASP3051 Relativity and Cosmology</i>
Apr – Jun 2020	IAEP tutor for <i>MAT9004 Mathematical Foundations for Data Science</i>
Feb – Jun 2020	TA for <i>ASP1010: Earth to Cosmos—Introductory Astronomy</i>

Academic service & outreach

Feb 2023	Local organising committee for 2023 Phantom Users Workshop
Nov 2022	OzGrav Outreach Superstar Award
2022 – Present	Reviewer for Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society
2022 – Present	Reviewer for The Astrophysical Journal Letters
Oct 2019 – Present	Organiser of weekly Whiteboard Sessions at Monash University
10 Sep 2022	World Science Festival, Ipswich, Queensland
6 Jul 2021	Dark Science holiday programme, Casey Tech School (Berwick)
4 Jul 2021	Black Hole Sunday, Twisted Science Centre, Echuca, Victoria
16 Apr 2021	OzGrav Interactive tech showcase, Bendigo Discovery Science and Technology Centre
1 Dec 2019	Monash Minimizer Faire, Monash University
2018	Founder & organiser of St Edmund Hall Physics Journal Club
Aug 2017 – 2019	Academic and Scholarship Mentor at Project Access HK: Mentorship for talented, underprivileged students in Hong Kong

Software contributions

- Code development: COMPAS (rapid population synthesis), PHANTOM (smoothed particle hydrodynamics)
- Programming: MATLAB, Fortran, C++, Python