

VEDANT CHANDRA

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Professional Appointments

Graduate Student, Center for Astrophysics Harvard & Smithsonian	2021–Present
Visiting Researcher, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy	Summer, 2022
Research Intern, Space Telescope Science Institute	2020–2021
Research Assistant, Johns Hopkins University	2018–2021

Education

Harvard University	2021–Present
• A.M., Ph.D. Astronomy & Astrophysics (intended)	
Johns Hopkins University	2017–2021
• B.S. Physics & Applied Mathematics, minor in Space Sciences	

Awards & Honors

James Mills Peirce Fellowship, Harvard University	2021
Chambliss Medal, American Astronomical Society	2021
$\Sigma \Pi \Sigma$	2020
Summer Student Fellowship, JHU IDIES	2020
Provost's Undergraduate Research Award, JHU	2019
Dean's Undergraduate Research Award, JHU	2019
Dean's List 7/7 Semesters, JHU	2017–2021

Grant Allocations

STScI JWST Discretionary Fund (\$42,740)	2020
• “The Initial Mass Function of Resolved Stellar Populations in the Local Group”	
• PI: Mario Gennaro, Co-I: Vedant Chandra	
Various Undergraduate Research Grants (\$13,500)	2019–2020
• PI: Vedant Chandra, Co-Is: Nadia Zakamska, Hsiang-Chih Hwang, Kevin C. Schlafman	

Selected Press Coverage

ScienceNews Magazine	August, 2020
• “Paradoxically, white dwarf stars shrink as they gain mass”	
JHU Press Release	July, 2020
• “Johns Hopkins astrophysicists observe long-theorized quantum phenomena”	

Invited Talks

Disk Formation Workshop, UC Irvine <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “The Poor Old Heart of the Milky Way”.	September, 2022
ITC Luncheon, Harvard-Smithsonian CfA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “A Ghost in Boötes: The Least Luminous Disrupted Dwarf Galaxy”, video.	September, 2022
Milky Way Meeting, MPA Heidelberg <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “To 100 kpc and Beyond: The Outer Halo with RGB Stars”.	April, 2022
Online Meetings on Evolved Stars and Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Detection of Circumstellar Material and Rotation in a Runaway SNIa Donor”, video.	December, 2021
Institute for Advanced Study, Astrophysics Coffee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Circumstellar Material and Surface Rotation in a Runaway SNIa Donor”	October, 2021
Space Telescope Science Institute, Summer Symposium <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Fitting the Stellar Birth Function of Resolved Stellar Populations with Approximate Bayesian Computation”, 19:30 onwards.	July, 2020
Space Telescope Science Institute, Summer Symposium <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “White Dwarf Spectroscopy with Machine Learning”, 21:00 onwards.	August, 2019
Maryland Space Grant Consortium, Annual Symposium <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “White Dwarf Astronomy with Machine Learning”.	July, 2019

Poster Presentations

237th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Resolved Stellar Populations in the Era of JWST and Roman”, iPoster	January, 2021
IDIES and MINDS Annual Symposium <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Hunting for Metal-Poor Main-Sequence Stars in SDSS”, awarded Best Poster.	October, 2020
NASA HRP Investigators Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Multivariate Analysis of Human Health and Performance in Spaceflight Simulation”	January, 2020
IDIES Annual Symposium <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Characterizing White Dwarf Spectra with Neural Networks”	October, 2019
JHU DREAMS Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Hunting for Binary White Dwarf Stars with Spectroscopic Analysis”	April, 2019

Observatory Allocations

As Principal Investigator:

Anglo-Australian Telescope, 2dF+AAOmega, 3 nights <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “New Structures in the Outskirts of the Milky Way”, co-PI with Yuan-Sen Ting.	2022
Magellan Observatory, MagE, 2 nights <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Surveying the Uncharted Outer Halo with MagE”.	2022
MMT Observatory, Hectochelle, 1 night <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “A New Dwarf Galaxy Candidate in the Outskirts of the Milky Way”.	2022
Gemini Observatory, GMOS, 3 hours	2022

• “A Long-period Cataclysmic Variable in NGC 2234”.	
Gemini Observatory, GMOS, 6 hours	2022
• “A New Double-lined White Dwarf Binary from SDSS-V”.	
Gemini Observatory, GMOS, 3 hours	2022
• “A Long-Period AM CVn Binary with an Unusual Composition”.	
Magellan Observatory, MagE, 1 night	2022
• “The Uncharted Halo Beyond a Hundred Kiloparsecs”.	
Korea Microlensing Telescope, SSO, 28 nights	2021
• “Investigating the Evolution of Proto White Dwarfs”, co-PI with Yuan-Sen Ting.	
Gemini Observatory, GMOS, 3 hours	2021
• “A Short-period Double White Dwarf Binary from SDSS-V”.	
Gemini Observatory, GMOS, 2 hours	2021
• “Monitoring a Dynamic Gaseous Debris Disk around a White Dwarf”.	
Gemini Observatory, GMOS, 5 hours	2021
• “Double White Dwarf Binaries from SDSS-V”.	
Apache Point Observatory, ARCTIC, 12 hours)	2021
• “Monitoring Circumstellar Debris around a Runaway SN Ia Donor”.	
Apache Point Observatory, DIS, 2 nights	2021
• “Peculiar Hypervelocity Stars from Gaia EDR3”.	
Apache Point Observatory, DIS, 2 nights	2020
• “Time-resolved RVs of Massive WDs in Close Binary Systems”.	
As Co-Investigator/Observer:	
Magellan Observatory, MagE, 2.5 nights	2022
• “Bringing the Gaia Revolution to the Brink of our Galaxy”, PI: Rohan Naidu.	
Apache Point Observatory, DIS, 1.5 nights	2022
• “Astrophysics of Stellar Binaries”, PI: Nadia Zakamska.	
Magellan Observatory, MagE, 4.5 nights	2022
• “The progenitors of extremely low-mass white dwarfs”, PI: Kareem El-Badry.	
Apache Point Observatory, DIS, 1.5 nights	2021
• “Following up Double White Dwarf Binaries found in SDSS-V”, PI: Nadia Zakamska.	
Neils Gehrels Swift Observatory, UVOT, 1 hour	2021
• “ToO: A 99-minute WD+WD Binary”, PI: Gagik Tovmassian.	
Gemini Observatory, 8 hours	2020
• “Discovery of mass-dependent gravitational redshifts in white dwarfs”, PI: Hsiang-Chih Hwang.	
Research Mentorship	
Gautham Pallathadka (JHU PhD, WD binaries in SDSS-V)	2022-Present
Stefan Arseneau (JHU UG, gravitational redshift of binary WDs)	2022-Present
Antonella Macoretta (JHU UG, statistical gravitational redshift of WDs)	Summer, 2022

John Magardino (JHU UG, rotation in magnetic WDs)	Summer, 2020
Felix Yu (JHU UG, automated classification of WDs)	Summer, 2020
Rebecca Mosier (JHU UG, modelling physiological signals in spaceflight)	2019-2020
Jessica Nguyen (JHU UG, modelling physiological signals in spaceflight)	2019-2020
Teaching	
Teaching Assistant, 360.133 Great Books at Hopkins, JHU	Fall, 2018
Teaching Assistant, 171.101 General Physics I, JHU	Summer, 2018
Professional Service	
Referee, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society	2022-Present
Representative, Harvard Astronomy Student-Faculty Council	2021-Present
Member, Sloan Digital Sky Survey V	2020-Present
Outreach	
Head of Logistics, JHU MedHacks Hackathon	2018-2019
Volunteer, JHU Physics Spring Fair	2018-2019
Contributing Writer, space.stackexchange.com	2014-2018
References	
Charlie Conroy, Professor, Harvard University	(cconroy@cfa.harvard.edu)
Nadia L. Zakamska, Professor, Johns Hopkins University	(zakamska@jhu.edu)
Hans-Walter Rix, Director, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy	(rix@mpia.de)

15 refereed publications, 6 first-author. [h-index: 7](#).

First-Author Publications

6. **Vedant Chandra**, Charlie Conroy, Nelson Caldwell, Ana Bonaca, Rohan P. Naidu, Dennis Zaritsky, Phillip A. Cargile, Jiwon Jesse Han, Benjamin D. Johnson, Joshua S. Speagle, Yuan-Sen Ting & Turner Woody (2022)
“A Ghost in Boötes: The Least Luminous Disrupted Dwarf Galaxy”
[The Astrophysical Journal, in press](#)
5. **Vedant Chandra**, Hsiang-Chih Hwang, Nadia L. Zakamska, Simon Blouin, Andrew Swan, Thomas R. Marsh, Ken J. Shen, Boris T. Gänsicke, J.J. Hermes, Odelia Putterman, Evan B. Bauer, Evan Petrosky, Vikram S. Dhillon, Stuart P. Littlefair & Richard P. Ashley (2022)
“The SN Ia Runaway LP 398-9: Detection of Circumstellar Material and Surface Rotation”
[Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 512, 6122](#)
4. **Vedant Chandra**, Hsiang-Chih Hwang, Nadia L. Zakamska, Boris T. Gänsicke, J.J. Hermes, Axel Schwöpe, Carles Badenes, Gagik Tovmassian, Evan B. Bauer, Dan Maoz, Matthias R. Schreiber, Odette F. Toloza, Keith P. Knight, Hans-Walter Rix & Warren R. Brown (2021)
“A 99-minute Double-lined White Dwarf Binary from SDSS-V”
[The Astrophysical Journal, 921, 160](#)
3. **Vedant Chandra** & Kevin C. Schlaufman (2021)
“Searching for Low-mass Population III Stars Disguised as White Dwarfs”
[The Astronomical Journal, 161, 197](#)
2. **Vedant Chandra**, Hsiang-Chih Hwang, Nadia L. Zakamska & Sihao Cheng (2020)
“A Gravitational Redshift Measurement of the White Dwarf Mass–Radius Relation”
[The Astrophysical Journal, 899, 146](#)
1. **Vedant Chandra**, Hsiang-Chih Hwang, Nadia L. Zakamska & Tamás Budavári (2020)
“Computational Tools for the Spectroscopic Analysis of White Dwarfs”
[Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 497, 2688](#)

Second-Author Publications

2. Hans-Walter Rix, **Vedant Chandra**, René Andrae, Adrian M. Price-Whelan, David H. Weinberg, Charlie Conroy, Morgan Fouesneau, David W. Hogg, Francesca De Angeli, Rohan P. Naidu, Maosheng Xiang & Daniela Ruz-Mieres (2022)
“The Poor Old Heart of the Milky Way”
[The Astrophysical Journal, submitted](#)
1. Evan B. Bauer, **Vedant Chandra**, Ken J. Shen & J.J. Hermes (2022)
“Masses of White Dwarf Binary Companions to Type Ia Supernovae Measured from Runaway Velocities”
[The Astrophysical Journal Letters, 923, L24](#)

Co-Authored Publications

7. Jiwon Jesse Han, Charlie Conroy, Benjamin D. Johnson, Joshua S. Speagle, Ana Bonaca, **Vedant Chandra**, Rohan P. Naidu, Yuan-Sen Ting, Turner Woody & Dennis Zaritsky (2022)
“The Stellar Halo of the Galaxy is Tilted & Doubly Broken”
[The Astrophysical Journal, submitted](#)
6. Rohan P. Naidu, Charlie Conroy, Ana Bonaca, Dennis Zaritsky, Yuan-Sen Ting, Nelson Caldwell, Phillip A. Cargile, Joshua S. Speagle, **Vedant Chandra**, Benjamin D. Johnson, Turner Woody, and Jiwon Jesse Han (2022)
“Live Fast, Die α -Enhanced: The Mass-Metallicity- α Relation of the Milky Way’s Disrupted Dwarf Galaxies”
[The Astrophysical Journal, submitted](#)

5. Charlie Conroy, David H. Weinberg, Rohan P. Naidu, Tobias Buck, James W. Johnson, Phillip Cargile, Ana Bonaca, Nelson Caldwell, **Vedant Chandra**, Jiwon Jesse Han, Benjamin D. Johnson, Joshua S. Speagle, Yuan-Sen Ting, Turner Woody, and Dennis Zaritsky (2022)
“Birth of the Galactic Disk Revealed by the H3 Survey”
The Astrophysical Journal, *submitted*
4. Rohan P. Naidu, Alexander P. Ji, Charlie Conroy, Ana Bonaca, Yuan-Sen Ting, Dennis Zaritsky, Lieke A. C. van Son, Floor S. Broekgaarden, Sandro Tacchella, **Vedant Chandra**, Nelson Caldwell, Phillip Cargile & Joshua S. Speagle (2022)
“Evidence from Disrupted Halo Dwarfs that r-process Enrichment via Neutron Star Mergers is Delayed by $\gtrsim 500$ Myrs”
The Astrophysical Journal Letters, *926*, L36
3. Jiwon Jesse Han, Rohan P. Naidu, Charlie Conroy, Ana Bonaca, Dennis Zaritsky, Nelson Caldwell, Phillip Cargile, Benjamin D. Johnson, **Vedant Chandra**, Joshua S. Speagle, Yuan-Sen Ting & Turner Woody (2022)
“A Tilt in the Dark Matter Halo of the Galaxy”
The Astrophysical Journal, *934*, 14
2. Hsiang-Chih Hwang, Yuan-Sen Ting, Charlie Conroy, Nadia L. Zakamska, Kareem El-Badry, Phillip Cargile, Dennis Zaritsky, **Vedant Chandra**, Jiwon Jesse Han, Joshua S. Speagle & Ana Bonaca (2022)
“Wide binaries from the H3 survey: the thick disk and halo have similar wide binary fractions”
Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, *513*, 754
1. Evan Petrosky, Hsiang-Chih Hwang, Nadia L. Zakamska, **Vedant Chandra** & Matthew Hill (2021)
“Variability, periodicity and contact binaries in WISE”
Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, *503*, 3975

Other Published Works

[astrobites](#)

September, 2020

- “Measuring the White Dwarf Mass-Radius Relation using Thousands of Stars”