

Yingtian “Bill” Chen

Ph.D. candidate and Rackham Predoctoral Fellow

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Education

- **University of Michigan Department of Astronomy** | Ann Arbor, US
Ph.D. candidate in Astronomy and Astrophysics
M.S. in Astronomy and Astrophysics 2020 – 2026
- **Peking University School of Physics** | Beijing, China
B.S. in Physics (with honours) 2016 – 2020

Experience

- **Visiting Researcher**, MIT Kavli Institute | Cambridge, US 2019

Research Interests

Star clusters · Stellar streams · Galaxy formation · Galactic Archaeology · Computational astronomy

- Probing the structure and evolution of galaxies and star clusters via stellar streams.
- Galaxy and star cluster formation in cosmological zoom-in simulations.
- Semi-analytical modeling of star cluster evolution in galactic environment.

See [the detailed description of my research](#)

Honours and Awards

- **Rackham Conference Travel Grant** × 3, UM 2023 – 2026
- **Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship**, UM 2025
- **Rackham International Student Fellowship**, UM 2021
- **Weiming Physics Scholarship**, PKU 2020
- **Outstanding Graduate of Beijing** 2020
- **First Prize + Best speaker**, Xingcheng Forum, PKU 2019
- **Huabao Funding for Undergraduate Research Program**, PKU 2018
- **National Scholarship** 2018
- **Pacemaker to Merit Student**, PKU 2018
- **Outstanding Winner + SIAM Award**, Mathematical Contest in Modeling 2018
- **Gold Medal**, Chinese Physics Olympiad 2015

Awarded Observational Resources

- **Magellan/M2FS** 2026A, Co-PI, 2 nights 2026

Awarded Computational Resources

- **Co-PI**, ACCESS *Maximize* AST200017, awarded allocation ≈ 50,000 USD
171K SUs (≈10M CPU hours) @ TACC/Stampede3 + 256 TB @ TACC/Ranch 2025 – 2026
- **Co-PI**, ACCESS *Accelerate* AST200017, awarded allocation ≈ 30,000 USD
116K SUs (≈6M CPU hours) @ TACC/Stampede3 + 100 TB @ TACC/Ranch 2024 – 2025

Press Releases

- AAS Journal Author Series, *Yingtian (Bill) Chen on 2025ApJ...995...15C* [[link](#)] 2025
- Phys.org, *Astronomers identify dozens of stellar streams with Gaia* [[link](#)] 2025
- THU, *First direct measurements of globular cluster mass loss through stellar streams* [[link](#)] 2025

Selected Talks

- **Dissertation Talk** (confirmed), AAS 247 | Phoenix, US 2026
- **Invited Talk**, S5 telecon | Remote 2025
- **Invited Talk** × 2, DESI MWS telecon | Remote 2024 – 2025
- **Invited Seminar**, Carnegie Observatories Stream Team meeting | Remote 2025
- **Invited Seminar**, lunch talk, Penn State | University Park, US 2025
- **Conference Talk + Poster**, Gravity in the Local Group, CMU | Pittsburgh, US 2025
- **Invited Seminar**, KICP seminar, UChicago | Chicago, US 2025
- **Invited Seminar**, Nearby Universe group meeting, CCA, Flatiron Institute | New York, US 2025
- **Invited Seminar**, American Museum of Natural History | New York, US 2025
- **Lunch Talk** × 5, Astronomy grad lunch talk series, UM | Ann Arbor, US 2021 – 2025
- **Poster + Flash Talk**, DGSCS 2024, UChicago | Chicago, US 2024
- **Invited Seminar**, PKU · THU · SHNU · SHAO · SJTU · PMO · NJU · ZJU | Beijing · Shanghai · Nanjing · Hangzhou, China 2024
- **Invited Seminar**, Galaxy Formation seminar, CCA, Flatiron Institute | New York, US 2024
- **Invited Talk**, UChicago | Remote 2024
- **Invited Talk**, SMWLV Star Clusters Working Group meeting | Remote 2023
- **Conference Talk**, MODEST-23, NU | Evanston, US 2023
- **Conference Talk**, Great Lakes Clusters and Streams, UM | Ann Arbor, US 2023
- **Talk**, Seminar for undergraduate students, PKU | Beijing, China 2019
- **Talk**, Xingcheng Forum, PKU | Beijing, China 2019
- **Talk**, Seminar for theoretical physics, FDU | Shanghai, China 2019

Student Supervision

- Colin Holm-Hansen, Generating mock catalogs of stellar streams in simulated Milky Way-like galaxies (co-supervised with Oleg Gnedin), UM grad student Since 2024
- Brigitte Vazquez Segovia, Modeling subhalo interactions in the GD-1 stellar stream (co-supervised with Monica Valluri), UM grad student Since 2024

Professional Service

- **Referee of Journal Articles**, A&A · ApJ · MNRAS Since 2023
- **Conference Session Chair**, DGSCS 2024, UChicago | Chicago, US 2024
- **Conference LOC Chair**, Great Lakes Clusters and Streams, UM | Ann Arbor, US 2023
- **Organizer**, Stellar Halos Group meeting (weekly), UM | Ann Arbor, US Since 2024

Code Development

See [my GitHub profile](#)

- **Author**, [StarStream](#), Automatic detection method for stellar streams Since 2025
- **Author**, [GC_formation_model](#), Semi-analytical model of globular cluster formation Since 2023
- **Author**, [prj_plotter](#), Density projection tool for simulations using quadtree Since 2022
- **Author**, [mesh_illustris](#), Fast toolkit to analyze Illustris data with mesh Since 2021
- **Contributor**, [gala](#), Python package for galactic and gravitational dynamics Since 2024
- **Contributor**, [galax](#), JAX-based package for galactic and gravitational dynamics Since 2024
- **Contributor**, [galpy](#), Python package for galactic dynamics Since 2024
- **Contributor**, [ART](#), Simulation code using adaptive mesh refinement Since 2023
- **Public Software**, [fov_simulator](#), Simulator of camera field of view for astrophotography Since 2025

University Service

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|---|-------------|
| • Organizer , <i>Astronomy grad lunch talk series</i> (weekly) | 2024 – 2026 |
| • Organizer , <i>Build-Your-Website workshop</i> | 2025 |
| • Organizer , <i>Astrocoffee journal club</i> (bi-weekly) | 2022 – 2025 |
| • Organizer , <i>Preliminary examination preparation club</i> (weekly) | 2022 – 2025 |
| • Chair , <i>UM Chinese astronomers networking group</i> | Since 2022 |
| • Department Bread Baker (weekly) | 2021 – 2022 |

Outreach

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| • Public Talk , <i>How scientists find black holes</i> , UM museum of natural history Ann Arbor, US | 2025 |
| • Public Seminar , <i>Reductionism and holism</i> , Yuexia Space seminar series Shenzhen, China | 2021 |
| • Guest Lecturer , <i>Physics Olympiad training</i> , Chengdu Jinjiang Jiaxiang Foreign Language Senior High School Chengdu, China | 2017 |
| • Online Tutorial , <i>2D Ising model in Matlab and Python</i> , published on GitHub and Zhihu | 2019 |
| • Online Tutorial , <i>BP neural network in Matlab</i> , published on GitHub | 2018 |

Teaching

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| • Guest Lecturer , <i>Hamiltonian Mechanics</i> , UM Ann Arbor, US
Galactic Dynamics Summer Workshop | 2025 |
| • Guest Lecturer , <i>Cosmological N-body Simulations</i> , UM Ann Arbor, US
ASTRO 534: The Extragalactic Universe (grad-level cosmology) | 2025 |
| • Teaching Assistant , UM Ann Arbor, US
ASTRO 104: Alien Skies: A Tour Through the Universe
ASTRO 106: Aliens
ASTRO 115: Introductory Astrobiology: The Search for Life in the Universe | 2021 & 2024 |

Skills

High performance computing · Data analysis and visualization · Machine learning · Web development

- **Programming Languages:** C/C++ · Python · Latex · MATLAB · HTML/CSS
- **Software/Packages:** ART · AREPO · GADGET · PeTar · MPI · AGAMA · multiprocessing · NumPy · Matplotlib · SciPy · scikit-learn · PyTorch · Astropy · yt · gala · galax · galpy · Bootstrap · Git
- **Languages:** Mandarin Chinese (native) · English (fluent)

References

- **Dr. Oleg Y. Gnedin** (Ph.D. advisor), Professor, UM [✉ognedin\(at\)umich.edu](mailto:ognedin(at)umich.edu)
- **Dr. Monica Valluri**, Research Professor, UM [✉mvalluri\(at\)umich.edu](mailto:mvalluri(at)umich.edu)
- **Dr. Hui Li**, Assistant Professor, THU [✉hliastro\(at\)tsinghua.edu.cn](mailto:hliastro(at)tsinghua.edu.cn)

Publications

See the complete list of publications in ADS

- 14 in total = 10 as first author + 1 by supervised students + 3 as contributing author
- First-author citations > $170 \cdot h\text{-index} = 7$
- Total citations > $180 \cdot h\text{-index} = 8$

Publications as First Author

1. Yingtian Chen[✉], Oleg Y. Gnedin, and Adrian M. Price-Whelan, *StarStream on Gaia: Stream discovery and mass loss rate of globular clusters*, submitted to ApJS [arXiv:2510.14924] [[ADS](#)] [[press release](#)]. 2025
2. Yingtian Chen[✉], Oleg Y. Gnedin, Adrian M. Price-Whelan, and Colin Holm-Hansen, *StarStream: Automatic detection algorithm for stellar streams*, [ApJ 995, 15](#) [[press release](#)]. 2025
3. Yingtian Chen[✉], Hui Li[✉], and Oleg Y. Gnedin, *Stellar streams reveal the mass loss of globular clusters*, [ApJL 980, L18](#) [[press release](#)]. 2025
4. Yingtian Chen[✉], Monica Valluri, Oleg Y. Gnedin, and Neil Ash, *Improved particle spray algorithm for modeling globular cluster streams*, [ApJS 276, 32](#). 2025
5. Yingtian Chen[✉] and Oleg Y. Gnedin, *Galaxy assembly revealed by globular clusters*, [OJAp 7, 23](#). 2024
6. Yingtian Chen[✉] and Oleg Y. Gnedin *Catalogue of model star clusters in the Milky Way and M31 galaxies*, [MNRAS 527, 3692](#). 2024
7. Yingtian Chen[✉] and Oleg Y. Gnedin *Formation of globular clusters in dwarf galaxies of the Local Group*, [MNRAS 522, 5638](#). 2023
8. Yingtian Chen[✉] and Oleg Y. Gnedin, *Modeling the kinematics of globular cluster systems*, [MNRAS 514, 4736](#). 2022
9. Yingtian Chen, Hui Li[✉], and Mark Vogelsberger, *Effects of initial density profiles on massive star cluster formation in giant molecular clouds*, [MNRAS 502, 6157](#). 2021
10. Yingtian Chen and Bo-Qiang Ma[✉], *Novel pre-burst stage of gamma-ray bursts from machine learning*, [JHEAp 32, 78](#). 2021

Publications by *Supervised Students

11. *Colin Holm-Hansen[✉], Yingtian Chen, and Oleg Y. Gnedin, *Catalog of Mock Stellar Streams in Milky Way-like Galaxies*, submitted to OJAp [2510.09604] [[ADS](#)]. 2025

Publications as Contributing Author

12. Brandon Sike[✉], Mateusz Ruszkowski, Oleg Y. Gnedin, Yingtian Chen, et al., *Resolving star cluster formation in galaxy simulations with cosmic ray feedback*, submitted to AAS journals [2510.06134] [[ADS](#)]. 2025
13. Neil Ash[✉], Monica Valluri, Yingtian Chen, and Eric F. Bell, *Stellar bars form dark matter counterparts in TNG50*, [ApJ 976, 189](#). 2024
14. Sarah Pearson[✉], Ana Bonaca, Yingtian Chen, and Oleg Y. Gnedin, *Forecasting the population of globular cluster streams in Milky Way-type galaxies*, [ApJ 976, 54](#). 2024

Publications in Prep.

15. Micheli T. Moura[✉], Ana L. Chies-Santos, Cristina Furlanetto, Yingtian Chen, et al., *Tracing the relic nature of compact galaxies through their globular cluster systems*, to be submitted to ApJ. 2025
16. Yingtian Chen[✉], Oleg Y. Gnedin, Vadim A. Semenov, and Hui Li, *Simulating clustered star formation in the early Universe*, in prep. 2025