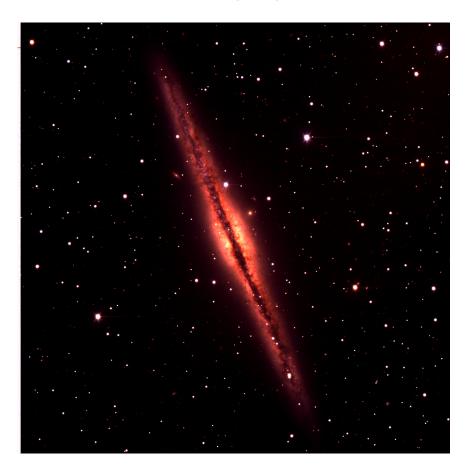
Boston University Institute for Astrophysical Research



Stunning image of the spiral galaxy NGC891, which we Earthlings view edge-on, obtained with the Discovery Channel Telescope by Professor Elizabeth Blanton and her AS710 class. The dark dust lane is clearly visible, as is a collection of hot gas clouds (bright yellow spots) near the center. The galaxy lies at a distance of about 30 million light-years.

2014-15 Bi-Annual Report

Period Covered: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015

Overview

Introduction

The mission of the Institute for Astrophysical Research (IAR) is to promote and facilitate research and education in astrophysics at Boston University. The IAR accomplishes this mission by administering research grants, enhancing the visibility of IAR members with funding agencies, coordinating the use of Boston University astrophysics facilities, promoting the design, development, and operation of Boston University instruments and telescopes, sponsoring regular seminars and occasional professional meetings, and actively engaging students of all levels in research. The primary research fields in which IAR astronomers are involved include blazars and other active nuclei of galaxies, clusters of galaxies, the formation of stars, the gaseous and ionized interstellar medium, the physical properties, evolution, and magnetic activity of stars, extrasolar planets, planet-forming disks around young stars, magnetic fields, high-energy phenomena, dark matter, and the large-scale structure of the universe.

Executive Summary

FY14 – FY 15 marked highly successful 16th & 17th years in the IAR's mission to foster research in astrophysics at Boston University. The scientific productivity of IAR astronomers remained at a high level over these two years, resulting in the publication of 104 scientific papers in the peer-reviewed literature and garnering significant interest in the popular media. In FY14 – FY15 the IAR managed 31 active research grants, the total funding for which was \$6.43M awarded to date. The amount of funds awarded for single and multi-year new grants awarded in FY14 – FY15 totaled \$4.80M.

Boston University is a permanent partner with Lowell Observatory, entitled to use of the facilities operated by the observatory in northern Arizona. The IAR manages the use of Boston University's share of observing time at the 4.3-meter-diameter Discovery Channel Telescope (DCT) in Happy Jack, Arizona, and the 1.83-meter-diameter Perkins Telescope of Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. These telescopes are vital to the research of a number of IAR faculty, scientific staff, and students. The IAR also plays a key role in instrument development for the telescopes. A number of new scientific projects that depend on observations with the DCT were initiated in FY14 – FY15, and some of the results have been published in scientific journals.

IAR members were integral to the organization of the Boston University alumni event "Experience: Space Beyond Earth," led by the BU Office of Development and Alumni Relations, at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, over the October 10-12, 2014 weekend. The 13 attending alumni enjoyed formal and informal interactions with Profs. Clemens and West, observed deep sky objects with the Discovery Channel Telescope, individually operated the Perkins Telescope, and participated in a tour of the Grand Canyon led by senior research scientist Brian Taylor.

Faculty, Staff and Leadership

Size and Organization

In FY14 – FY15, the IAR personnel included 5 full professors (Thomas Bania, Kenneth Brecher, Dan Clemens, James Jackson, and Alan Marscher), 3 associate professors (Elizabeth Blanton, Tereasa Brainerd, and Merav Opher), 3 assistant professors (Andrew West, Catherine Espaillat, and Philip Muirhead), 1 professor emeritus (Kenneth Janes), 2 senior research scientists (Dr. Svetlana Jorstad and Brian Taylor), 2 senior postdoctoral associates (Dr. Manasvita Joshi and Dr. Bryce Croll), 4 postdoctoral associates (Dr. Saurav Dhital, Dr. Laura Ingleby, Dr. Julie Skinner, and Dr. Ian Stephens), an Einstein Postdoctoral Fellow (Dr. Joseph Neilsen), a *Hubble* Postdoctoral Fellow (Dr. Philip Muirhead, who joined the faculty in FY15), a Postdoctoral Fellow for Research Abroad through the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (Dr. Mahito Sasada), and 4 visiting researchers (Drs. Iván Agudo, Kathleen Kraemer, Joshua Wing, and Andrew Mann). In addition, 23 graduate students (3 of which earned their PhD degrees) and 15 undergraduate students were actively involved in IAR research programs. Professor Espaillat, Drs. Muirhead, Stephens, Ingleby, and Wing, were all new appointments in FY14, while Professor Muirhead and Drs. Skinner, Croll, and Sasada were new appointments in FY15. Dr. Neilsen left in December 2014 to accept a *Hubble* Postdoctoral Fellowship at MIT. Karen Williamson, who obtained her MA degree in Astronomy from Boston University in 2014, serves as a research technician for the Marscher/Jorstad research group.

The IAR is administered by its director, Professor Alan Marscher (appointed through June 2015), an assistant director (Heidi Kendig), a proposal developer (Erin Reynolds), and a fiscal coordinator (Mary Gordon). The latter three personnel are shared with the Center for Space Physics. During FY14, Despina Bokios resigned as assistant director and Heidi Kendig was hired to fill the position. Zachary Grein was hired as a financial administrator, promoted after Alysson Savoie left the position in early 2014. He resigned his position in mid-2014 and was replaced by Brandon Frazho in the position of fiscal coordinator in May 2014. Mr. Frazho left after the probationary period and was replaced by Mary Gordon. Erin Reynolds was hired as the proposal developer in September 2014.

Related Professional Activities and Accomplishments

Professor Blanton is serving a three-year term (2012-15) on the Nominating Committee of the American Astronomical Society. This committee selects a slate of candidates for the various officers of the society, which is the primary professional association of astronomers in North America. In 2015, she was also appointed to a 3-year term on an American Astronomical Society committee that selects winners of the Warner and Pierce prizes for outstanding research.

Professor Clemens served a third and final one-year term as Chair of the AURA Board for 2013-14 and for a second and final three-year term as a member of that Board (ending 6/30/15). AURA manages the National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO), the National Solar Observatory (NSO), the Gemini International Observatory, the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI), and the construction of the Large Synodic Survey Telescope (LSST, in Chile) and the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST, on Haleakala in Hawaii) on behalf of the National Science Foundation. This major commitment of effort by

Prof. Clemens represented a key national leadership role serving the entire US professional astronomical community.

Prof. West serves as a co-chair of the LSST Galactic Structure and Interstellar Medium sub-group. The LSST is a major new telescope initiative, dedicated to deep, repeated surveys of the sky. "With a light-gathering power among the largest in the world, it can detect faint objects with short exposures. Its uniquely wide field of view allows it to observe large areas of the sky at once; compact and nimble, it can move quickly between images. Taking more than 800 panoramic images each night, it can cover the sky twice each week." (From the LSST website)

IAR members played a number of other important roles in service to the profession. These include reviewing proposals for observing time on telescopes, papers submitted to scientific journals, and funding proposals, serving as members on the scientific organizing committees of, and as session chairs at scientific conferences, and providing data or training to colleagues and their students from other institutions around the world.

Honors and Awards

Professor Espaillat was awarded a 5-year National Science Foundation CAREER grant in 2014. The grant, "Bridging the Gaps: Connecting Theory and Observation," will support her research on planet formation in disks around young stars.

Professor Marscher was honored with a Metcalf Award for Excellence in Teaching by Boston University at the May 2014 Commencement exercise.

Professor West has been selected as a Scialog Fellow for *Scialog: Time Domain Astrophysics: Stars and Explosions*, which includes participation in two annual Scialog Conferences. Much of the conference time will be spent in breakout discussions with the goal of identifying key research challenges and collaborative approaches that might lead to breakthroughs. **The 2015 Scialog Conference is scheduled for October 22–25 at Biosphere 2** (http://b2science.org/), located near Tucson, Arizona. As a Scialog Fellow, Prof. West will have the opportunity to present results of his research, participate in multiple small group discussions, and form small teams with other Scialog Fellows to write proposals for seed funding at the conferences. Successful proposals will describe highly innovative ideas to initiate novel collaborative projects.

Graduate student Nicholas MacDonald was honored with the "Best Student Talk" award at the annual meeting of the Canadian Astronomical Society in May 2015 Hamilton, Ontario. The talk focused on his recent publication: "Through the Ring of Fire: Gamma-ray Variability in Blazars by a Moving Plasmoid Passing a Local Source of Seed Photons" by N.R. MacDonald, A.P. Marscher, S.G. Jorstad, and M. Joshi (2015, Astrophysical Journal, vol. 804, article no. 111). A press release was associated with the talk: http://people.bu.edu/nmacdona/Press files/press.pdf.

IAR students have garnered several awards and honorable mentions at recent scientific meetings. The American Astronomical Society has awarded Chambliss Awards to graduate students Dylan Morgan (Jan. 2014), Lauren Cashman (Hon. Mention, Jan. 2014), Paul Dalba (Hon. Mention, Jan. 2014), Sadia Hoq (Hon. Mention, Jan 2014), and Brandon Harrison (Jan. 2015) and also to IAR undergraduate Kelly Blumenthal (Hon. Mention, Jan. 2014).

Facilities at Lowell Observatory

An agreement signed in 2011 makes Boston University a permanent partner with Lowell Observatory to operate the new **Discovery Channel Telescope** (DCT) and provides Boston University astronomers with guaranteed observing time on this world-class scientific facility. It also provides them with access to the Perkins Telescope by allowing the exchange of 1 DCT night for 18 nights on the Perkins Telescope (see description below). The IAR administers Boston University's role in the DCT and other Lowell Observatory telescopes, and serves as the primary unit for managing external funding of research projects that use the telescopes. The DCT is a reflecting telescope with a diameter of 4.3 meters, located at Happy Jack, Arizona, on National Forest Service land. The large light-collecting area of the telescope allows ultra-high-sensitivity observations of faint cosmic objects such as the lowest-mass stars and distant galaxies.

The other major facility of Lowell Observatory used by BU astronomers is the Perkins Telescope, a 1.83 meter (6 feet) diameter reflecting telescope located on Anderson Mesa, near Flagstaff, Arizona.

The IAR director solicits proposals for observing time from members of the BU astronomical community on a quarterly basis. The proposals are reviewed by a BU time allocation committee. Those proposals that are approved are recommended to Lowell Observatory, where the schedule is drafted. During FY14-FY15, Boston University astronomers were scheduled to observe on the DCT on 70 nights. Of these, 66 used the Large Monolithic Imager, while the other 4 used the DeVeny spectrograph. The DeVeny instrument was installed in spring 2015. A total of 300 nights were scheduled for BU observers on the Perkins Telescope during the two years. Of these, roughly half used the PRISM camera at visible wavelengths, while the other half used the Mimir near-infrared camera.

Professor Clemens serves as the BU representative on the DCT Advisory Board, which met for the first time in May 2014, and continues meeting via quarterly teleconferences. This committee represents all partner interests to Lowell Observatory for issues and operations involving the DCT. Other Board members include representatives from the University of Maryland/Goddard Space Flight Center, the University of Toledo, Northern Arizona University, and, most recently, Yale University.





Top left: Dome housing the DCT, with the Pleides star cluster above the left panel. Top right: the DCT, viewed from inside its dome.

Senior Research Scientist Svetlana Jorstad serves as the Boston University representative on the Lowell Observatory Mesa Advisory Board, which met for the first time in May 2014, and continues meeting via regular teleconferences. This committee represents partner interests to Lowell Observatory for issues and operations of astronomical facilities on Anderson Mesa, where the Perkins Telescope is located.

Senior Research Scientist Brian Taylor serves as the main support person for BU astronomers who use the Lowell Observatory facilities. In addition to scientific advice and logistical support, he performs a variety of repairs, maintenance operations, and upgrades on the telescope hardware and software systems. Over the past two years, he has implemented a climate control system that he designed and constructed for the Perkins Telescope. This system utilizes a propylene glycol chiller that has the ability to provide cooling capacities even at the low temperatures that are typical of the winters in northern Arizona. The idea is to keep the primary mirror as close as possible to the ambient temperatures throughout the night in order to provide better image quality. He also repaired the PRISM camera after it was damaged by collision with a telescope support pier. He is currently beta-testing a new data pipeline software system for observations with the PRISM camera.

Research & Scholarship

Research with the Discovery Channel Telescope

IAR members have started major projects based on observations with the DCT, some of which are discussed in the "Selected New Results from IAR Research" subsection below. A milestone was reached in March 2015, when Prof. Philip Muirhead and international collaborators published a paper in the *Astrophysical Journal* entitled "Kepler-445, Kepler-446 and the Occurrence of Compact Multiples Orbiting Mid-M Dwarf Stars." The paper is the first BU-led refereed publication to use data from the DCT. In this study, they used the Discovery Channel Telescope and NASA's Kepler Spacecraft to study exotic, compact planetary systems orbiting small stars.

Link: http://iopscience.iop.org/0004-637X/801/1/18/article

New Collaborative Research Initiatives

IAR faculty formed a number of national and international collaborations in FY14 – FY15 in order to expand their research capabilities, including access to world-class facilities.

One such collaboration, the Southern Hemisphere HII Region Discovery Survey, led by Professors Thomas Bania and John Dickey (University of Tasmania), uses the Australia Telescope Compact Array (ATCA) to discover ionized regions in the southern sky, where the bulk of such clouds are situated. The team represents several US and Australian research universities, as well as the US National Radio Astronomy Observatory. The collaboration will involve exchanges of students and postdocs. This project demonstrates new technology in the broad-band system on the ATCA, leading to future applications that may go far beyond radio astronomy to advance communication and data handling technology.

Professor Alan Marscher and Senior Research Scientist Svetlana Jorstad have joined international collaborations to study the high-energy plasma jets of blazars, powered by super-massive black holes at the centers of galaxies. They are involved in observations with the Event Horizon Telescope, an array of microwave telescopes scattered around the globe, that will probe the ultra-fine scale structure of the jets very close to their respective black holes. In another collaboration with colleagues in Spain, Germany, and Russia, they will use a Russian-launched radio dish in space, RadioAstron, as an extension of a ground-based array that will serve as a similar probe at longer wavelengths. They have also joined forces with the VERITAS telescope array in Arizona, which observes "air showers" of light emitted as very high-energy gamma rays from blazars strike the Earth's upper atmosphere. By measuring changes in the polarization of visible light with the Lowell Observatory Perkins Telescope together with detection of gamma rays by VERITAS, they hope to unravel the mystery of how the gamma rays are produced.

One of the key goals in the field of Astronomy is to understand how planets form. Full understanding can only be achieved by imaging a planet while it is still forming in its natal proto-planetary disk. However, this requires a powerful high-resolution instrument, which has yet to exist. An international consortium has emerged to build such an instrument: the Planet Formation Imager (PFI). Professor Catherine Espaillat serves as the Science Working Group leader of PFI's Protoplanet Properties and Detection team. The team's goal is to define the most exciting areas of science that will drive the instrument concept.

Professor Dan Clemens' research group has undertaken international collaborative research with two different groups in Taiwan, one in Germany, and one in Greece, all with similar goals of utilizing the unique infrared polarimetric capabilities of the Mimir instrument on the Perkins telescope to reveal and characterize weak magnetic fields in the dense molecular clouds in the Milky Way Galaxy that proceed to form stars. Graduate students in the Clemens group have hosted and trained graduate students and postdocs from these external institutions at the Perkins telescope for extended observing campaigns. A new domestic collaboration with Cornell University exploited the sensitivity of the DCT to follow the interactions of a runaway neutron star as it plows through the interstellar medium.

Selected New Results from IAR Research

Study of Planet-forming Disks around Young Stars by Professor Espaillat's Group

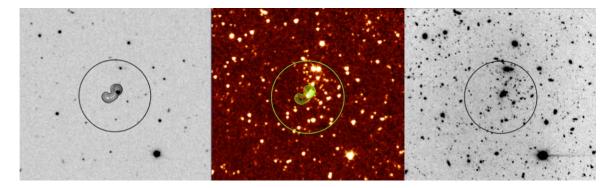
Professor Catherine Espaillat's group focuses on understanding the origin of planets. This involves better understanding protoplanetary disk structure and the star-disk connection in young objects. Of particular interest are the "transitional disks," which have inner holes and gaps in their disks that are most likely the result of young planets.

Previous observations of young stars have given us an unprecedented look at the dust evolution in the circumstellar disks surrounding these young objects. However, despite this ground-breaking progress, basic accretion and stellar properties for most of these objects remain uncertain. Prof. Espaillat is using the DCT's LMI instrument to address this gap in our knowledge by using UBVIR photometry to derive mass accretion rates, extinctions, luminosities, radii, and masses for the largest sample of young stars studied to date. Prof. Espaillat collected four nights of data with DCT in November 2013 for over 50 young stars in the star-forming regions of Taurus and Orion. Data reduction is underway and the sample will be expanded in future observing runs.

Espaillat was first-author on the first review of the field of transitional disks, which was included in the book "Protostars and Planets VI." Post-doctoral scholar Laura Ingleby, Espaillat, and collaborators also published a paper in the Astrophysical Journal regarding the variability of accretion onto the young star GM Aur, which is surrounded by a transitional disk. In particular, they found evidence that the dust in the disk is closer to the star than previously thought. Espaillat also published a first-author paper along with collaborators and graduate student Daniel Feldman combining DCT data, Spitzer IRS spectra, and a Submillimeter Array image to model in detail the faintest transitional disk observed to date. This illustrates there may be many more transitional disks that await detection with the much more sensitive ALMA instrument which recently came online. Espaillat's group also has an ongoing DCT study of ~400 young stars to measure how accretion rates evolve. This project involves graduate students Daniel Feldman and Connor Robinson.

Studies of Clusters of Galaxies by Professor Blanton and Collaborators

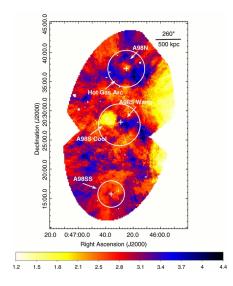
Professor Blanton and collaborators are conducting a large survey of distant clusters of galaxies called the COBRA (Clusters Occupied by Bent Radio AGN) survey. They are using bent, double-lobed radio sources (AGN) as signposts for these high-redshift systems since radio sources with these morphologies usually reside in clusters and the radio emission is easy to see to large distances. The group has followed up 651 of these sources that were not detected optically to the limit of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey in the infrared using *Spitzer*. Based on these observations, approximately 300 new distant cluster candidates have been discovered. Deep, follow-up observations in the optical with the Discovery Channel Telescope are ongoing and will be crucial for estimating the photometric redshifts of the potential clusters and studying the galaxies they contain in more detail.



Left: Sloan Digital Sky Survey r-band image with 1.4 GHz radio contours of a bent-double radio source from the COBRA survey superposed. Cluster galaxies are not detected to the limit of the SDSS. *Middle:* Infrared 3.6 um image of the same field from Professor Blanton's group's Spitzer Snapshot program. A newly discovered cluster is easily visible. *Right:* i-band image from the LMI at the Discovery Channel Telescope of the same field. The circle has a radius of 50" (more than 1 million light-years). Optical observations combined with those in the infrared are important for estimating the redshifts of the clusters in our survey as well as for studying the galaxy populations in detail. The cluster shown is at a redshift of z=0.7, so that the light we now observe left the galaxy more than 6 billion years ago.

Prof. Blanton and collaborators are studying the detailed environments of nearby groups and clusters of galaxies primarily using X-ray observations from the Chandra X-ray Observatory combined with optical and radio observations. Graduate student Rachel Paterno-Mahler led a study of the triple cluster system,

Abell 98. Through multi-wavelength analysis, it was found that two of the cluster components are bound, but the third is not. Evidence of feedback from the central radio source was seen which is a fairly uncommon observation in a merging cluster system. In a study of Abell 2443 (led by collaborator T. Clarke), they found for a shock and cold front in the cluster. Detailed analysis of X-ray and radio data revealed that the radio relic in the cluster is likely produced by shock reacceleration or adiabatic compression of fossil relativistic electrons. A study of the galaxy group NGC 5813 led by collaborator S. Randall used a very deep Chandra observation (the longest total Chandra observation for any group of galaxies to date). Analysis of the data reveals that it shows three sets of cavities or bubbles inflated by the AGN (the largest number seen in any system). In addition, each pair of cavities is associated with a shock front. The cavities and shocks result from feedback from the central AGN, with each cavity pair and associated shock representing an outburst from the AGN. In this system, heating from the shocks alone is sufficient to offset cooling of the intracluster medium (ICM). In addition, based on measured shock front widths, turbulent velocities within the ICM are constrained.



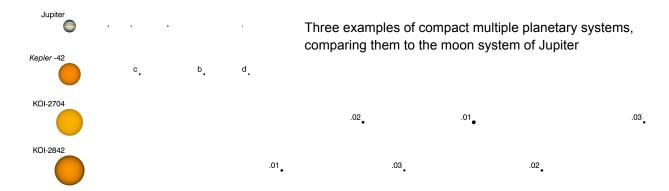
Chandra X-ray temperature map of the triple cluster system Abell 98

Study of Small Exoplanets orbiting Small Stars by Professor Muirhead's Group

Professor Philip Muirhead's group, which includes senior postdoctoral associate Bryce Croll, visiting scientist Andrew Mann, graduate students Paul Dalba, Eunkyu Han, and Mark Veyette, and BU undergraduate students Howard Chen, Zachary Hall, and Brian Healy, has been investigating small stars that contain multiple, rocky, short-period exoplanets. By following up discoveries by NASA's Kepler Mission with the the Large Monolithic Imager on the DCT, Prof. Muirhead's group has determined that 20% of the smallest main sequence stars ("mid-to-late M dwarfs") harbor such planets. These so-called "compact multiples" have more in common with the moons of Jupiter than our solar system as a whole. Studying the planets in detail reveals that planet formation around small stars is highly efficient, with the planets containing over 50% of the available metals in the stars' original protoplanetary disks. The results were published in *The Astrophysical Journal* in January of 2015 and presented that same month at the 225th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Seattle, WA.

Prof. Muirhead's group, which includes two Research Experiences for Undergraduates students from other institutions, is investigating a variety of science topics related to stars and planets, from Saturn's

atmosphere with NASA Cassini spacecraft to a search for new planets around small stars with the Perkins Telescope at Lowell Observatory.

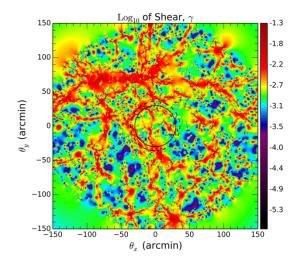


Mapping Dark Matter via Weak Gravitational Lensing by Professor Brainerd

Prof. Brainerd has continued her investigations into the locations and orientations of small satellite galaxies that have been identified using spectroscopic methods. Following on her previous study, which showed that, on average, the satellites of relatively isolated galaxies in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) tend to be radially aligned in the direction of their host galaxy on the sky, Prof. Brainerd has found that this effect is significantly stronger for blue satellite galaxies than it is for red satellites. This suggests that these particular satellites are undergoing significant Newtonian tidal distortions as they approach close to their host galaxy, causing them to "stretch" along their orbital path and inducing a large burst of star formation (making them blue). In a theoretical investigation using the Millennium Run Simulation, Prof. Brainerd has also shown that the spatial locations of spectroscopically selected satellite galaxies do not, in general, trace the dark matter halos of the host galaxies. While both the satellite distributions and the halo dark matter distributions can be fitted well by the so-called Navarro, Frenk & White (NFW) profile, Prof. Brainerd finds that the satellites of red host galaxies with stellar masses $> 10^{11}$ M_{sun} are significantly more centrally-concentrated than is the dark matter. In the case of blue host galaxies with stellar masses $> 10^{11}$ M_{sun}, Prof. Brainerd finds that the satellite galaxies are somewhat less concentrated than is the dark matter.



Example of a host galaxy – satellite galaxy pair. The alignment of the satellite galaxy with the direction between the centers of the two galaxies is apparent.



Color scale shows the logarithm of the weak lensing shear for a plane of source galaxies at redshift z = 0.4, lensed by a Monte Carlo realization of a small region of the Sloan Digital Sky survey. Note that regions of high shear (shown in red) are highly interconnected, much more so than is the underlying mass distribution. This is an effect caused by the fact that most of the background galaxies have been lensed at a weak level by many independent foreground galaxies.

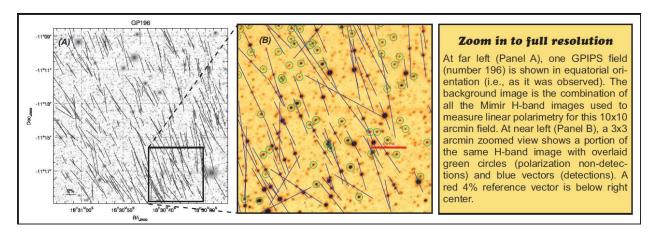
Prof. Brainerd and graduate student Brandon Harrison have begun a theoretical investigation into the accuracy with which the observed weak lensing due to galaxies (known as "galaxy-galaxy lensing") can constrain the dark matter surface mass density due to the lensing galaxies when all instances of "multiple deflections" are taken into account. The term "multiple deflections" refers to the fact that most distant galaxies have been lensed at a comparable level by two or more foreground galaxies. Brandon Harrison has constructed Monte Carlo simulations of galaxy-galaxy lensing in a large, contiguous area of the SDSS using the observed redshifts, celestial coordinates, stellar masses, and colors of the galaxies. He embeds each of the galaxies within a Cold Dark Matter halo whose properties are scaled to the observed properties of the SDSS galaxies, and he then lenses a plane of theoretical background galaxies by the foreground SDSS galaxies. In his initial comparisons of the validity of the expected relationship between the observed weak lensing shear, g(q), and the surface mass mass density, DS(q), Brandon finds that the values of DS(q) that are inferred from the weak lensing shear are about 25% lower than the actual values of DS(q) that were put in to the simulation.

Mapping of the Milky Way's Magnetic Field by Professor Clemens' Group

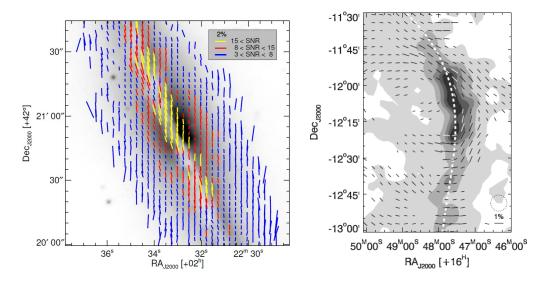
The Galactic Plane Infrared Polarization Survey (GPIPS), an eight-year observing effort with the Mimir instrument on the Perkins telescope, and conducted by Professor Clemens' group was completed in the Fall of 2013. All of the data obtained were processed to "science-quality" levels and shared with the broader astronomical community in March 2014 via a dedicated website. GPIPS contains some one million stellar polarization detections – about a multiplicative factor of 100,000 more than previously measured in this portion of the Milky Way Galaxy. The first scientific papers by outside investigators using the public GPIPS data have been submitted and should see publication later in 2015.

The Clemens Group is also actively exploiting the wealth of scientific potential contained in the GPIPS data set. PhD student Lauren Cashman is using the full GPIPS data set to test models of dust grain alignment with magnetic fields in dust clouds. She is also studying the polarization properties of stars that probe the members of a new 100-member sample of Galactic dark, molecular clouds appearing in the GPIPS survey region. PhD student Sadia Hoq has recently completed a project to obtain robust distances to Galactic star clusters, based only on available near-infrared data and a new isochrone fitting technique. She will use the distances obtained for a sample of 30 star clusters to probe the nature of changes in the Galactic magnetic field with distance and how spiral arms affect magnetic fields. She is also using deep

Mimir polarization observations to reveal the magnetic fields embedded in Infrared Dark Clouds, the most opaque clouds in our Galaxy and those that go on to form massive stars and star clusters. PhD student Jordan Montomery is using deep Mimir polarization observations to study the magnetic fields in distant galaxies that are considered analogs of our Milky Way Galaxy, so as to gain a better understanding of how the interpret the GPIPS information for the Milky Way.



Panel showing a partial zoom of one small segment of the data in the GPIPS. The linear 'sticks' or 'vectors' show the orientation on the sky of the of the magnetic field revealed by these Mimir observations. GPIPS consists of 3,237 of the 10 x 10 arcmin fields shown at left (and is too large to present here!).

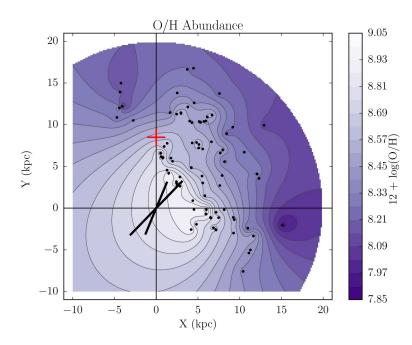


Left: Zoom-in of the Mimir-revealed magnetic field directions of the center of the edge-on Milky Way analog galaxy NGC891 (from Montgomery & Clemens 2014). Right: Mimir-based vectors reveal a magnetic field wrapping around the dense cloud condensation shown in the gray-scale, driven by interaction of the magnetic field and cloud with a nearby runaway massive hot star (from Cashman & Clemens 2014).

Finding Distant Ionized Gas Clouds and Using them to Explore our Milky Way Galaxy by Professor Bania and Collaborators

Stars with masses greater than ten times that of our Sun shine for only ~ 10 million years before they detonate in titanic supernova explosions that spew into space heavy elements forged by nuclear reactions in their cores. While they are shining, massive stars ionize the gas that surrounds them creating "H II Regions".

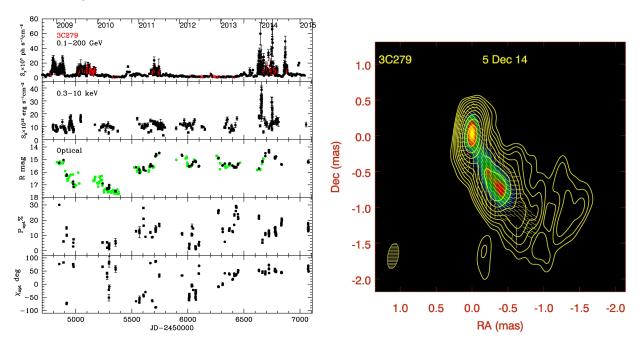
These HII regions form from gas that has been enriched in heavy elements by previous generations of massive stars. Determining the heavy element abundance of HII regions thus probes billions of years of chemical evolution in our Milky Way galaxy. Bania's research team has recently derived the first galactic scale maps of the Oxygen abundance in HII regions. These unprecedented maps show unforeseen structure in the metallicity abundance distribution: instead of the expected smooth decrease in oxygen abundance as one moves outward from the Galactic Center, Bania's team finds pockets of increased or decreased abundance in small zones scattered throughout the disk of the Milky Way. These abundance variations will set strong constraints on theories of the formation and evolution of the Galaxy. Bania's research team is comprised of his former graduate and undergraduate students: Dana Balser (NRAO CV), Loren Anderson (WVU) and Trey Wenger (UVa).



Face-on map of the Milky Way Galaxy showing the distribution of "metals" i.e. elements heavier than Helium. Metals are produced by stars during their lifetimes and expelled back into the interstellar medium during their death throes. Here, the Oxygen abundance relative to hydrogen, [O/H], map shows the effects of billions of years of Galactic chemical evolution. The black circles show the locations of HII regions and the contours/color shadings result from numerical interpolation of these data. The red cross marks the location of the Sun. The thick black lines cross at the Galactic Center and schematically mark the locations of models for the Galactic bar.

Probing the Ultra-high-energy Jets of Blazars across the Electromagnetic Spectrum by Professor Marscher, Senior Research Scientist Jorstad, and their Group

The blazar research group explores the jets of high-energy particles and magnetic field produced by supermassive (of order 1 billion times the Sun's mass) black holes accreting matter at the centers of some galaxies. The jets stream out of the galaxy's nucleus at near-light speeds and emit radiation profusely across the entire electromagnetic spectrum, with rapidly variable brightness. In order to probe the jets, Professor Marscher and Senior Research Scientist Jorstad have developed a comprehensive program to monitor changes in their brightness and polarization at microwave, infrared, visible, ultra-violet, X-ray, and gamma-ray frequencies. Their project includes monthly radio frequency observations with the Very Long Baseline Array (which produces images of the jets of blazars with angular resolution 1000 times finer than that of the Hubble Space Telescope) of a sample of 37 blazars, as well as optical polarimetric and photometric observations on the Perkins Telescope. Graduate students Michael Malmrose, Nicholas MacDonald, Karen Williamson (who became a research technician in FY15), and undergraduates Kelly Blumenthal, Adi Foord and Vishal Bala participated in the analysis of the data from these extensive observations. The data collected by the group and their collaborators are from numerous space-based observatories, such as the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope, Swift, and NuSTAR, and ground-based telescopes around the world. The goal is to answer major outstanding questions in blazar physics: the origin of the gamma-ray and X-ray emission, how the relativistic plasma jet is collimated and accelerated, and what processes are responsible for producing flux outbursts and bright knots that appear to move faster than light.



Sample graphs of flux and polarization vs. time at different frequencies (left) and VLBA image of a blazar (3C 279), where contours represent total intensity and colors indicate polarized intensity.

Marscher, Senior Postdoctoral Associate Joshi, and MacDonald have each developed a new theoretical paradigm and numerical code that attempts to explain the observational results, with all three models described in separate papers in the *Astrophysical Journal*.

Finding Planets around Other Stars by Emeritus Professor Janes and Collaborators

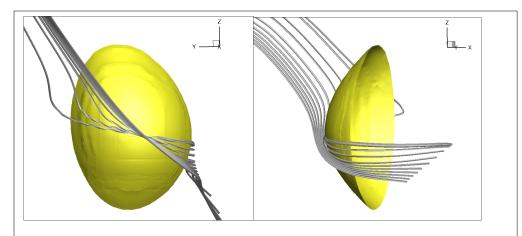
NASA's Kepler Mission is a space telescope that has been staring at one spot in the sky continuously for over four years to search about 150,000 stars for signs of orbiting extra-solar planets. Emeritus Professor Kenneth Janes has been working with members of the Kepler team to study several star clusters located in the field of view of the Kepler telescope. In addition to searching for planets around cluster stars (they have found two planets thus far), they are finding how fast stars of different ages spin, by monitoring the subtle brightness variations as starspots rotate across their surfaces. In a supporting ground-based study using the PRISM camera on the Perkins Telescope, he has developed a new Bayesian statistical procedure for finding the overall properties of the star clusters.

In a related study, supported by a NASA grant, Prof Janes has been searching the Kepler Mission catalog for pairs of stars moving together through space. These so-called common proper motion (CPM) stars are presumed to have a common origin - so they have the same chemical composition and age. With the help of the Kepler data archive, the CPM stars can be used to determine how regular the relationship is between a star's age and physical properties and its period of rotation. Observations he recently obtained at the DCT telescope support this project.

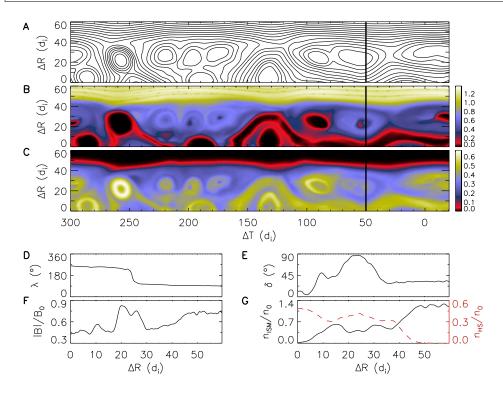
Crossing the Last Frontier of the Solar System, the Heliopause, by Professor Opher's Group

Professor Opher's group was involved in two ground- breaking papers related to the announcement in September 2013 that Voyager 1 had crossed the last frontier of the solar system, the heliopause. The first paper (Swisdak, Drake, & Opher 2013) argued that the heliopause is porous. They presented a model, based on both observations and simulations (detailed particle-in-cell and global magneto-hydrodynamics), of the heliopause (HP) as a porous, multi-layered structure threaded by magnetic fields. They suggested that Voyager 1 had crossed the HP at the end of July 2012. Soon after this paper was published, the Voyager team reached the conclusion that Voyager 1 was in interstellar space, based on the detection of radio emission (Gurnett et al. 2013).

Another major paper (Opher & Drake 2013) proposed that, regardless of its direction in the interstellar medium, near the HP the interstellar magnetic field twists in the Parker direction (solar direction). This corresponds to the observation by the Voyager team that the magnetic field outside the HP is still within ~20° of the Parker spiral direction. This work is being hotly debated. Voyager 1 is more than 1.5 astronomical units beyond the heliopause, yet the field is still very much solar-like. This difference could be due to the shape of the HP and the magnetic draping geometry, to magneto-hydrodynamic (MHD) instabilities, time variations, or to not having really crossed HP.



View at the nose of the heliosphere from the interstellar medium toward the Sun. The nose of the heliopause is shown in the yellow iso-surface. The gray field lines are the B_{ISM} wrapping and twisting around the heliopause.



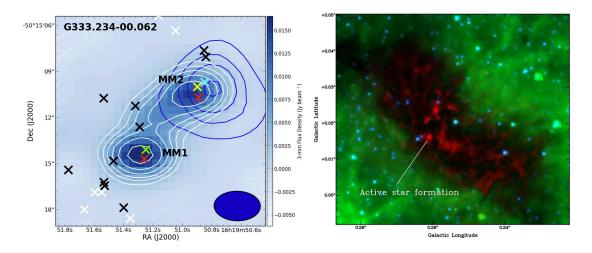
Structure of the heliopause and adjacent local interstellar medium and heliosphere at late time from a particle-in-cell simulation. In the radius/time (R/T) plane in (A) the magnetic field lines and in (B) and (C) the number density n_{LISM} (n_{HS}) of particles originally in the LISM (HS). Panels (D)–(G) are cuts along the vertical line in panels (A)–(C). In (D) λ is the angle of the magnetic field **B** in the R–T plane with respect to the R direction. In (E) δ is the angle between **B** and the R–T plane. In (F), the magnitude of R and, in (G), the number density n_{LISM} (solid) and the number density

Studies of Massive Studies of Massive Star Formation in the Milky Way Galaxy by Professor Jackson's Group

Professor Jackson, postdoctoral researcher Ian Stephens, graduate students Matthew Camarata and Taylor Hogge, BU physics Professor Scott Whitaker, and their overseas collaborators focus their research on the early stages of high-mass star formation in the Milky Way Galaxy. Although the formation of low-mass stars such as the sun is well understood, the formation of high-mass stars (more than 10 times as massive as the sun) has remained more difficult to understand. This is because high-mass stars are very rare, and because they quickly disrupt their natal environment via strong winds, radiation fields, and supernova explosions.

To help remedy this situation, the group has recently completed a large survey of dense molecular gas the raw material for star formation — toward an unprecedentedly large sample of over 3,000 high-mass star-forming gas clumps. This survey, the Millimeter Astronomy Legacy Team 90 Gigahertz Survey (MALT90) used the 22-meter diameter Mopra radio telescope near Coonabarrabran, New South Wales, Australia to map different molecular tracers toward the clumps. This survey has been essential to deduce the distances and physical properties of high-mass star-forming clumps. Two of these clumps have proved to be important targets for follow-up work with interferometers. First, in the clump G33.234-00.062, MALT90 data showed unusual ratios of the molecular lines. In follow-up observations with the Australia Telescope Compact Array radio interferometer, the group discovered that these line ratios were caused by an enormous concentration of material. Remarkably, they also discovered that this clump hosts two of the most massive known protostars (each with a mass about 100 M_o), which will eventually become "monster" high-mass stars. Second, MALT90 revealed the clump G0.253+0.016, a.k.a. "the Brick," is a very massive (\sim 10,000 M_{\odot}), centrally condensed clump that is likely to be undergoing global collapse. This clump is the coldest, most-massive clump known, and will eventually spawn not a single star, but a cluster of thousands of stars. The group's Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA) images of "the Brick" show a complex filamentary structure and hundreds of dense cores, the early seeds of star formation. Their analysis confirms that turbulence plays a dominant role in determining the structure of the clumps and the stars that eventually form from it.

Jackson and collaborators are now beginning a new survey in the northern hemisphere of dense clumps using the Green Bank Telescope. This survey, called the Radio Ammonia Mid-Plane Survey (RAMPS), will perform a survey of several square degrees of the Northern Galactic Plane using the dense-gas tracing lines of ammonia.

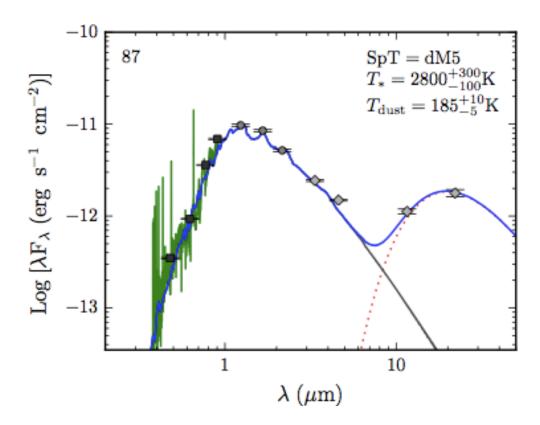


(Left) Australia Telescope Compact Array image of two "monster" cores with masses ~100 M_{\odot} . The white contours and the blue color scale indicate 3 mm dust continuum flux, the blue contours the GLIMPSE 8 μm continuum flux, and the crosses the positions of H_2O , CH_3OH , and OH masers. The monster stars are seen as the peaks in the dust continuum emission (Stephens et al. 2015). (Right) Three-color image of G0.253+0.016 (blue is 3.6 μm emission tracing stars, measured by Spitzer, green is Spitzer 8.0 μm emission tracing the bright Galactic background, while red is ALMA 3 mm emission tracing dust from the cloud's interior; the cloud has an effective radius of 2.9 pc). The position of a water maser is marked, which is evidence for active star formation. The cloud is so cold and dense that it is seen as an extinction feature against the bright IR emission from the Galaxy. Because ALMA sees through to the cloud's interior, Prof. Jackson's group and collaborators are now able to characterize its internal structure (from Rathborne et al. 2015).

Studies of Low-mass Stars by Professor West and his Research Group

As part of his NSF CAREER award, Professor West is continuing an observing campaign with the DCT to measure accurate distances to the least massive stars that are within 30 pc of the Sun. While measuring trigonometric parallaxes takes several years, the project has already led to an initial characterization of the LMI distortion correction and resulted in several proper motions measurements of binary stellar pairs, some of which host exoplanets. Postdoctoral Scholar Dr. Julie Skinner has led the research efforts for the LMI program and is now routinely observing remotely at the DCT (from Boston).

One of the highlights from the West group is the discovery of a sample of low-mass stars that have an excess of mid-infrared emission (led by graduate student Chris Theissen and published in 2014 in *The Astrophysical Journal*). These stars are all old (several billion years), and should not have any remaining warm dust left over from their formation (and the formation of planets). The cause of the infrared emission is likely recent collisions of terrestrial planets near the star. This discovery informs the census and stability of low-mass planets around low-mass stars and has spawned a new research direction for Professor West and his group.

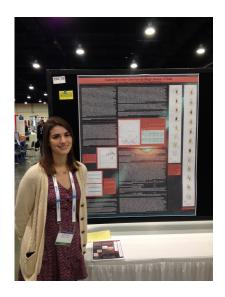


SDSS, 2MASS, and WISE observations of an old low-mass star that shows excess emission of mid-infrared light. The black solid line indicates the predicted stellar flux based on the optical and near-infrared emission. The blue solid line shows the best-fit model for a star plus warm dust disk. This excess emission is likely the signature of recent terrestrial planet collisions around low-mass stars.

Undergraduate Research and Education

Undergraduate students and now also high-school students (via the RISE program and other opportunities) routinely participate in the research programs led by IAR faculty and research scientists. The IAR considers this to be a very important component to the undergraduate majors program and as important pre-career exposure for the high-school students. Experience in world-class research is key to comprehensive preparation of our students for graduate school or post-graduation employment in the field. In return, undergraduate students support the research programs by helping to analyze the voluminous data obtained in the course of our research.

During FY14 – FY15, 15 undergraduate Boston University students were engaged in research under the direction of supervisors from the IAR faculty and research staff. Most of these involved paid internships sponsored by IAR grants and/or the Boston University Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program. Students also engaged in research through directed study courses, including senior theses for honors. A number of such students obtain significant results. In this case, they often become co-authors of papers in scientific journals and present their results at scientific meetings, especially the semi-annual American Astronomical Society meetings.



Adi Foord (2014 BA in Astronomy-and-Physics) presented her research on the blazar CTA26 at the January 2014 American Astronomical Society meeting in Washington, DC. She performed her research with Professor Marscher and senior research scientist Jorstad, completing a senior distinction thesis.

Professors Opher and West led a successful National Science Foundation proposal to operate a new "Research Experiences for Undergraduates" site-based program during three summers, starting in May 2015. The program, which focuses on studies of cosmic magnetic fields, involves both IAR and Center for Space Physics faculty, as well as postdoctoral fellows and research scientists, as mentors of students who come to Boston University for the summer, in most cases from other colleges and universities. Besides working on research carried out in various research groups in the IAR and CSP, the students attend professional development seminars and informal talks about the physics of cosmic objects by faculty and research staff.

In 2014, Adi Foord (advisors: Marscher and Jorstad) and Kolby Weisenburger (advisor: West) completed

senior distinction theses and graduated with BA degrees recognizing that they earned "Distinction in Astronomy." At the 2014 Commencement, Ms. Foord received the College Prize in Astronomy, while Ms. Weisenburger, and Ms. Kelly Blumenthal received IAR Research Prizes.

The use of the Perkins Telescope for professional-quality observations is an important part of the educational mission of the Astronomy Department and IAR. To date, over 100 undergraduates have traveled to Flagstaff to observe with the Perkins Telescope. These include undergraduate non-science concentrators (CAS AS102HP, FY103PM and CAS AS102), undergraduate science concentrators in the honors program (CAS AS203HP), observational astronomy students (CAS AS441), and senior undergraduate students who use their observations as part of their senior honor's thesis (CAS AS401/AS402).

For the past 11 spring semesters, all of the students enrolled in AS441 have participated in field trips either to the Perkins Telescope to use either Mimir or PRISM to collect data for their class projects, or to Goddard Space Flight Center, to see space hardware development and integration. For those going to the Perkins Telescope, the students each spent 2 to 3 nights operating the telescope (weather permitting). This capstone event in the training of our undergraduate astronomy students is extremely popular, and it has been highly effective for aiding the scientific and personal maturation of the students. This unique field trip experience has become a distinguishing high mark for Boston University and its undergraduate students. In addition to using the Perkins Telescope to acquire data for their course work, AS441 students enjoy experiencing some of the unique features of northern Arizona, including day trips to Meteor Crater and/or the Grand Canyon.

Professor West continued to lead the Boston University Pre-Majors Program (BU Pre-MaP). BU Pre-MaP works with first-year undergraduate students as part of the BU first-year seminar program (FY103). The program is open to all students, but recruits heavily to include students traditionally underrepresented in STEM. As a part of BU Pre-MaP, students obtain mentoring, skills and opportunities for cohort building, and participate in original research. In 2014, BU Pre-MaP completed its third year (including the first trial year in 2012). The last cohort had eight students, and the first student graduated in May 2015. Pre-MaP students traveled to Lowell observatory in April 2015 to use the Perkins telescope and assist graduate student Dylan Morgan with observations on the DCT.

Graduate Education

During FY14 – FY15, 23 graduate students carried out research in the IAR. One of the IAR graduate students – Patricio Sanhueza (advisor: Jackson) successfully defended his PhD dissertation in FY14 - FY15, while 8 students completed the requirements for their Master of Arts degree in Astronomy. One of these, Karen Williamson (advisors: Marscher and Jorstad) wrote and defended a master's thesis.

The IAR sponsors weekly astrophysics colloquia during the academic year. A pair of 2-credit graduate seminar courses, GRS AS850 and AS851, are associated with the seminar series. In these seminar courses, the graduate students learn to read and critically evaluate papers that have been published in the peer-reviewed literature.

As is the case for undergraduate education, use of the Perkins Telescope and DCT figures prominently in the Astronomy graduate education mission. This includes students enrolled in the required GRS AS710 (Observational Astronomy) course, as well as students who have used the telescope to acquire data for their research related to oral comprehensive examination projects and PhD dissertations.



Graduate students from Professor Blanton's AS710 class visit the Discovery Channel Telescope in Fall 2014.

Community Life

The IAR is a vibrant, collegial community within BU that is engaged in a wide variety of astrophysical research projects. The IAR members believe that in order to build the strongest research program, it is extremely important to foster personal interactions, both within the IAR itself and within the broader community of astronomers. The most direct method by which the IAR accomplishes this is through the sponsorship of a seminar series. During FY14 – FY 15, the IAR hosted 52 professional colloquia, 47 of which were delivered by astrophysicists from outside Boston University. Graduate students are encouraged to interact directly with the colloquium speakers by attending lunch with the speaker, having their own private question-and-answer session with the speaker after the colloquium, and joining all members of the IAR at the BU Pub after the colloquium for lively exchanges of ideas. Senior members of the IAR interact directly with the colloquium speakers through private and "group" meetings during the visit, in some cases including dinner.

In FY14 and continuing through FY15, postdoctoral associates in the IAR organized a lunch-time seminar series featuring relatively junior scientists. These visitors describe their research programs in a more intimate setting than the IAR seminars. This often leads to lively discussions about the visitor's research.

Together with the Department of Astronomy, the IAR sponsors refreshments after the Friday afternoon graduate Journal Club meetings. This provides a good opportunity for all graduate students in the Department (not just IAR students) to interact with each other and with their professors in a casual setting.

The IAR co-sponsors two annual musical events on Friday evenings that further foster a sense of community among the faculty, staff, and students. The first, dubbed "Astronomy Unplugged" and organized by IAR Director Marscher, features a party with live popular-style music performed by members of the Boston University astronomy and space physics community and friends. The second is a formal program of classical music, performed in the Tsai Auditorium by members of the Boston University astronomy and space physics community and friends.

Outreach Activities

Professor Espaillat was an invited speaker at many outreach events aimed at women and underrepresented minorities in STEM. These include Boston University's GWISE Mentoring Program Kickoff and S.E.T. in the City. She was also the invited keynote speaker at the University of Michigan's NSF-AGEP Symposium. Espaillat has also been an active mentor in the Mellon Mays Mentoring Program, which is hosted by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

In April, Professor Phil Muirhead and Senior Postdoctoral Associate Bryce Croll won a BU Arts Initiative Grant to hold an art gallery show entitled "The Art of Astrophysics." Students, staff and faculty will be encouraged to submit artwork to the show that connects creativity with the science of outer space. The show will be held in January 2016. Information is available at http://astroart.bu.edu/.

Groups of young members of the Hopi Indian community in Arizona visit the Perkins Telescope at Lowell Observatory on a regular basis. This often occurs when a Boston University astronomer is observing at the telescope, as was the case multiple times in FY13. The participants are provided with an explanation of the observing program and view images being constructed from the current observations with the telescope.

Professor West remains active in the Astronomy & Astrophysics Section of the National Society of Black Physicists (NSBP), the American Astronomical Society Committee for the Status of Minorities in Astronomy, and Boston University's Multicultural Advisory Committee.



Graduate student Jordan Montgomery (at right) showing the big 40-foot long GPIPS data display banner and answering questions after a public evening talk at the Boston Museum of Science by Professor Clemens in August 2013.

In addition to the activities listed above, IAR members engage in numerous other forms of outreach. These include, for example, talking to school children, responding to email communications from school students, and providing information to the media seeking advice on news items relating to astronomy.

"Experience: Space Beyond Earth" – Boston University Alumni Event in Flagstaff, Arizona October 11-13, 2014

Professors Clemens and West worked with members of the Office of Development and Alumni Relations to craft a new pilot program to engage BU alumni with our astronomical assets in Flagstaff and to enable our alumni to have direct and meaningful interactions with forefront researchers. The weekend-long program featured 'Astronomy 101 and 201' formal classroom presentations designed to enable the participants to get the most out of their evening time with the telescope, as well as plenty of informal opportunities to ask Clemens and West questions about astronomy and other topics. Shared meals, receptions, and dedicated hands-on time controlling the Perkins telescope, as well as eye-piece viewing through the 4.3-meter diameter DCT (something many professional astronomers have never done!) delivered an exceedingly high-quality and meaningful program that the participating alumni savored.





Left: Professor Clemens introduces BU alumni to the Perkins Telescope with a safety chat prior to the start of a night of observing. Right: BU alumni, Development Office personnel, and Senior Research Scientist Brian Taylor (at right) on their rim tour of the Grand Canyon, capping a great weekend program.

From the College of Arts and Sciences Newsletter for Spring 2015:

The trip, Experience: Space Beyond Earth, was the first in a new series of intensive educational programs offered by the BU Alumni Association. The programs aim to provide alums with access to BU sites and professors and their work worldwide. The 13 alumni on the Arizona trip ranged in age from 22 to 76 and had come from eight states. They shared an alma mater and a desire to learn.

A more anecdotal summary of the impact of this program can be found in the interview with Gerry Gitner, as related in that Newsletter article: http://www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring15/stargazer/

Press Releases and Media Coverage

Members of the IAR are involved in a variety of activities that enrich the lives of people outside the profession of astronomy. Some of this occurs via press releases and other interactions with the popular media. Members of the IAR faculty participated in several press releases during FY14 – FY15 that garnered substantial national and international attention.

Professor Blanton was a co-author of a press release: NGC 5813: Chandra Finds Evidence for Serial Black Hole Eruptions" reporting that a galaxy shows signs of activity – driven by accretion of matter onto a super-massive black hole at its center – that has recurred, with evidence for three such eruptions. The press release is displayed at http://chandra.harvard.edu/photo/2015/ngc5813/.

Upon request from an official of the Canadian Astronomical Society, graduate student Nicholas MacDonald, along with Professor Marscher and Drs. Jorstad and Joshi, composed a press release on their "Ring of Fire" model for gamma-ray flares in blazars. The press release can be found at: http://people.bu.edu/nmacdona/Press files/press.pdf.

Professor Espaillat's research on disks around young stars was highlighted in Bostonia, BU Today and the Daily Free Press.

Sponsored Grants and Contracts

In FY14 – FY15 the IAR managed 31 active research grants, the total funding for which was \$6.43M awarded to date. The amount of funds awarded for single and multi-year new grants awarded in FY14 – FY15 totaled \$4.80M. This success in securing external funding for research occurred during a time of stringent federal research budgets at the main agencies that fund research in astrophysics, NASA and the National Science Foundation. The tables below list the new and continuing grants awarded to IAR faculty and research staff.

Major New Grant Activity

New grants awarded to faculty through the IAR in FY14 – FY15 include substantial funding for various observational programs.

Professor Espaillat was a recipient of the NSF CAREER award for her project entitled "Bridging the Gaps – Connecting Theory and Observations of Planet-forming Disks and Addressing Underrepresented Populations in STEM." Prof. Espaillat's team will undertake a multi-faceted approach to address the following two major gaps in astronomy: (1) the gap between theoretical models of disk evolution and observable properties of disk structure in the aim to further understand planet formation and (2) the gap between the postdoctoral transition period and permanent positions, when women are most likely to leave the STEM fields. Prof. Espaillat and her team will bridge these gaps by extracting the most detailed observational constraints to date for theoretical disk models to further our understanding of how planets form out of disks and by creating postdoctoral mentoring programs for women in STEM to increase retention.

A new 3-year NASA Fermi Guest Investigator grant plus a concurrent National Radio Astronomy Observatory award of observing time to Professor Marscher and senior research scientist Jorstad support their program to follow variations in the gamma-ray brightness of blazars measured with data from the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope and relate them to changes seen in the jets imaged in microwaves with the Very Long Baseline Array. Other NASA grants for analysis of visible, UV, and X-ray data from the Swift satellite will support their study of multi-wavelength variations in brightness and polarization from the blazars.

Professor Philip Muirhead won a NASA Exoplanet Research Program award to conduct a coordinated observing program with the 4.3-meter Discovery Channel Telescope and Perkins 72-inch Telescope. Prof. Muirhead's team will precisely measure the sizes and masses of nearby stars in order to determine whether orbiting extrasolar planets are located in the so-called "Habitable Zone": the distance from a star at which a planet could sustain liquid water on its surface.

Professor Dan Clemens has leveraged the recently completed GPIPS project into substantial new multiyear funding from both NSF and NASA to engage in fundamental and follow-on magnetic field studies related to cloud and star formation, including additional deep observations employing both of the Mimir and PRISM instruments on the Perkins telescope.

New Grants in FY14

PI	Award Title	Sponsor	Project Start Date	Project End Date	Total Anticipated	Obligated to Date - Total
Blanton, Elizabeth	Cluster And Group Environments Of Radio Galaxies	NSF	8/1/2013	7/31/2016	\$459,314	\$307,194
Espaillat, Catherine	A Clearer View Of Dust Evolution In Proplanetary Disks	JPL	3/26/2014	9/30/2015	\$269,632	\$269,632
Jorstad, Svetlana	Probing the Most Compact Regions of Gamma-Ray Blazar Jets with Millimeter Wave Imaging	NASA	9/1/2013	8/31/2015	\$59,999	\$59,999
Jorstad, Svetlana	Multi-Frequency Observations Of Flaring Gamma-Ray Blazars	NASA	12/17/2013	12/16/2015	\$36,838	\$36,838
Jorstad, Svetlana	Multi-Wavelength Observations Of Blazar Flares	NASA	5/20/2014	5/19/2015	\$29,993	\$29,993
Jorstad, Svetlana	Gamma-ray Blazars in Quiescent vs. Active States	NASA	5/20/2014	5/19/2015	\$29,982	\$29,982
Marscher, Alan	Optical and Millimeter Photo- polarimetry of Bright Gamma-ray Blazars	NASA	9/1/2013	8/31/2014	\$19,994	\$19,994
Marscher, Alan	Testing the Wind-Jet Connection in a Black Hole Transient	Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory	7/17/2013	1/18/2015	\$10,258	\$10,097
Muirhead, Philip	Using Cassini Data on Saturn to Correctly Interpret Exoplanet Atmosphere Measurements	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	6/1/2014	8/31/2014	\$5,500	\$5,500
West, Andrew	CAREER: Probing the Extremes of Star Formation: A Census of Very Low-Mass Stars and Brown Dwarfs in the Local Neighborhood	NSF	9/1/2013	8/31/2018	\$783,585	\$397,583
West, Andrew	Characterizing the Smallest Extrasolar Planets with Kepler and the Discovery Channel Telescope	Space Telescope Science Institute	8/1/2013	6/30/2014	\$117,897	\$112,677
West, Andrew	Extracting Excellence from Traditionally Underrepresented Populations: Constraining the Formation Mechanism of Low- Mass Dwarfs and BU Pre-MaP	Research Corporation for Science Advancement	7/1/2013	6/30/2016	\$70,000	\$70,000
					\$1,892,992	\$1,349,489

Continuing Grants in FY14

PI	Award Title	Sponsor	Proje ct Start Date	Project End Date	Total Anticipa ted	Obligated to Date - Total
Bania, Thomas	Deep GLIMPSE: Exploring the Far Side of the Galaxy	JPL	8/22/2 011	9/30/20 14	\$10,000	\$10,000
Blanton, Elizabeth	X-Ray Cluster Environments Of Radio Sources	NASA	1/1/20 10	12/31/2 013	\$328,47 0	\$328,470
Blanton, Elizabeth	A Targeted, Distant (z>0.7) Cluster Survey, Using Bent, Double-Lobed Radio Sources	JPL	8/19/2 011	9/30/20 14	\$67,060	\$67,060
Brainerd, Tereasa	Theoretical Studies of Weak Gravitational Lensing	NASA	2/15/2 013	2/14/20 16	\$297,22 5	\$257,225

Clemens, Dan	Completing The Galactic Plane Infrared Polarization Survey (GPIPS)	NSF	8/1/20 09	7/31/20 14	\$906,06 0	\$905,963
Jackson, James	Herschel Dust Temperatures of High-Mass Star Forming Cores	NASA	1/19/2 012	1/18/20 16	\$315,13 0	\$315,130
Jackson, James	Malt 90: A Molecular Multi-Line Survey of High-Mass Star-Forming Cores	NSF	8/15/2 012	7/31/20 15	\$499,27 0	\$499,270
Jackson, James	Student Observing Support Application	National Radio Astronomy Observatory	9/1/20 12	2/28/20 14	\$35,000	\$34,354
Jackson, James	Infrared Dark Clouds	NSF	8/1/20 08	7/31/20 13	\$649,15 1	\$649,151
Jorstad, Svetlana	Multi-Frequency Observations of Flaring Gamma-Ray Blazars	NASA	12/1/2 012	11/30/2 013	\$99,998	\$99,867
Jorstad, Svetlana	Exploration of Gamma-Ray Blazars across the Electromagnetic Spectrum	NASA	8/1/20 11	7/31/20 13	\$96,962	\$96,962
Marscher, Alan	Thermal Emission from Hot Dust as a Source of Seed Photons for Producing Gamma-rays in Blazars	NASA	8/1/20 11	7/31/20 14	\$200,00 0	\$200,000
Marscher, Alan	Continued Comprehensive Monitoring of Gamma-Ray Bright Blazars	NASA	9/1/20 11	8/31/20 15	\$600,00 0	\$600,000
Marscher, Alan	Tracking the Evolution of Multi- Waveband Outbursts in Fermi Blazars	NASA	9/1/20 12	8/31/20 14	\$199,95 3	\$199,953
Marscher, Alan	Turbulent Extreme Multi-Zone Model for Blazar Variability	NASA	9/1/20 12	8/31/20 15	\$179,75 0	\$179,750
Marscher, Alan	Heart of Darkness: High-Resolution X-Ray Spectra of Outflows, ADAFs and Sgr A*	Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory	12/1/2 012	11/30/2 014	\$208,99 4	\$183,353
West, Andrew	Using White Dwarf-M Dwarf Pairs to Probe the Magnetic Activity and Angular Momentum Evolution of Low-Mass Stars	NSF	9/1/20 11	8/31/20 15	\$429,71 0	\$429,710
					\$5,122,7 33	\$5,056,21 8

New Grants in FY15

Pl	Award Title	Sponsor	Project Start Date	Project End Date	Total Anticipated	Obligated to Date - Total
Clemens, Dan	Infrared Mapping of Magnetic Fields in Star- Forming Regions in the Milky Way	NSF	07/01/2014	06/30/2017	\$637,919	\$637,919
Clemens, Dan	Galactic Dust Clouds, Star Formation, and Magnetic Fields	NASA	01/30/2015	01/29/2018	\$383,912	\$129,729
Espaillat, Catherine	CAREER: Bridging the gaps: Connecting theory and observations of planet-forming disks and addressing underrepresented populations in STEM	NSF	06/01/2015	05/31/2020	\$822,205	\$96,789
Espaillat, Catherine	Testing EUV Photoevaporation Models in Young Disks	Space Telescope Science Institute	03/01/2015	02/28/2018	\$50,550	\$50,550
Janes, Kenneth	Stellar Rotation: The First Billion Years - and Beyond	NASA	09/08/2014	09/07/2015	\$39,954	\$39,954

Marscher, Alan	Continued Monitoring of Gamma-ray Blazars with the VLBA at 43 GHz	NASA	09/01/2014	08/31/2017	\$600,000	\$200,000
Muirhead, Philip	Mass-Radius- Luminosity-Rotation Relationships for M Dwarf Planet-Hosting Stars in Preparation for the TESS, Gala and JWST Era	NASA	02/25/2015	02/24/2018	\$371,932	\$77,000
					\$2,906,472	\$1,231,941

Continuing Grants in FY15

PI	Award Title	Sponsor	Project Start Date	Project End Date	Total Anticipa ted	Obligated to Date - Total
Bania, Thomas	Deep GLIMPSE: Exploring the Far Side of the Galaxy	JPL	08/22/20 11	09/30/2 014	\$10,000	\$10,000
Blanton, Elizabeth	Cluster And Group Environments Of Radio Galaxies	NSF	08/01/20 13	07/31/2 016	\$459,31 4	\$307,194
Blanton, Elizabeth	A Targeted, Distant (z>0.7) Cluster Survey, Using Bent, Double-Lobed Radio Sources	JPL	08/19/20 11	09/30/2 014	\$67,060	\$67,060
Brainerd, Tereasa	Theoretical Studies of Weak Gravitational Lensing	NASA	02/15/20 13	02/14/2 016	\$297,22 5	\$257,225
Clemens, Dan	Completing The Galactic Plane Infrared Polarization Survey (GPIPS)	NSF	08/01/20 09	07/31/2 014	\$906,06 0	\$905,963
Espaillat, Catherine	A Clearer View of Dust Evolution in Proplanetary Disks	JPL	03/26/20 14	09/30/2 015	\$269,63 2	\$269,632
Jackson, James	Herschel Dust Temperatures of High-Mass Star Forming Cores	NASA	01/19/20 12	01/18/2 016	\$315,13 0	\$315,130
Jackson, James	Malt 90: A Molecular Multi-Line Survey of High-Mass Star-Forming Cores	NSF	08/15/20 12	07/31/2 015	\$499,27 0	\$499,270
Jorstad, Svetlana	Probing the Most Compact Regions of Gamma-Ray Blazar Jets with Millimeter Wave Imaging	NASA	09/01/20 13	08/31/2 015	\$59,999	\$59,999
Jorstad, Svetlana	Multi-Frequency Observations of Flaring Gamma-Ray Blazars	NASA	12/17/20 13	12/16/2 015	\$36,838	\$36,838
Jorstad, Svetlana	Multi-Wavelength Observations of Blazar Flares	NASA	05/20/20 14	05/19/2 015	\$29,993	\$29,993
Jorstad, Svetlana	Gamma-ray Blazars in Quiescent vs. Active States	NASA	05/20/20 14	05/19/2 015	\$29,982	\$29,982
Marscher, Alan	Thermal Emission from Hot Dust as a Source of Seed Photons for Producing Gamma-rays in Blazars	NASA	08/01/20 11	07/31/2 014	\$200,00 0	\$200,000
Marscher, Alan	Continued Comprehensive Monitoring of Gamma-Ray Bright Blazars	NASA	09/01/20 11	08/31/2 015	\$600,00 0	\$600,000
Marscher, Alan	Tracking the Evolution of Multi- Waveband Outbursts in Fermi Blazars	NASA	09/01/20 12	08/31/2 014	\$199,95 3	\$199,953
Marscher, Alan	Turbulent Extreme Multi-Zone Model for Blazar Variability	NASA	09/01/20 12	08/31/2 015	\$179,75 0	\$179,750
Marscher, Alan	Optical and Millimeter Photo- polarimetry of Bright Gamma-ray Blazars	NASA	09/01/20 13	08/31/2 014	\$19,994	\$19,994

Marscher, Alan	Heart of Darkness: High- Resolution X-Ray Spectra of Outflows, ADAFs and Sgr A*	Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory	12/01/20 12	11/30/2 014	\$208,99 4	\$183,353
Marscher, Alan	Testing the Wind-Jet Connection in a Balck Hole Transient	Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory	07/17/20 13	01/18/2 015	\$10,258	\$10,097
Muirhead, Philip	Using Cassini Data on Saturn to Correctly Interpret Exoplanet Atmosphere Measurements	Massachusetts Institute Of Technology	06/01/20 14	08/31/2 014	\$5,500	\$5,500
West, Andrew	Using White Dwarf-M Dwarf Pairs to Probe the Magnetic Activity and Angular Momentum Evolution of Low-Mass Stars	NSF	09/01/20 11	08/31/2 015	\$429,71 0	\$429,710
West, Andrew	CAREER: Probing the Extremes of Star Formation: A Census of Very Low-Mass Stars and Brown Dwarfs in the Local Neighborhood	NSF	09/01/20 13	08/31/2 018	\$783,58 5	\$397,583
West, Andrew	Extracting Excellence from Traditionally Underrepresented Populations: Constraining the Formation Mechanism of Low- Mass Dwarfs and BU Pre-MaP	Research Corporation for Science Advancement	07/01/20 13	06/30/2 016	\$70,000	\$70,000
					\$5,688,2 47	\$5,084,22 6

List of Scientific Publications by IAR Members

(IAR members when research was carried out are indicated in bold-face type)

Papers Published in Peer-Reviewed Scientific Journals

- 1) Anderson, L. D., **Bania, T. M.**, Balser, Dana S., Cunningham, V., **Wenger, T. V.**, Johnstone, B. M., Armentrout, W. P., The WISE Catalog of Galactic H II Regions, *The Astrophysical Journal Supplement*, 212, 1, article id. 1, 18 pp., 2014.
- 2) Aleksić, J., (182 others), **Jorstad, S., Marscher, A**., (15 others), **Agudo, I.**, et al., MAGIC gamma-ray and multi-frequency observations of flat spectrum radio quasar PKS 1510-089 in early 2012, *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, 569, id.A46, 21 pp., 2014.
- 3) Andersson, B.-G., Piirola, V., De Buizer, J., **Clemens, D**. P., Uomoto, A., Charcos-Llorens, M., Geballe, T. R., Lazarian, A., Hoang, T., Vornanen, T., Evidence for H2 Formation Driven Dust Grain Alignment in IC 63, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 775, 2, article id. 84, 16 pp., 2013.
- 4) Bally, J., Rathborne, J. M., Longmore, S. N., **Jackson, J. M**., Alves, J. F., Bressert, E., Contreras, Y., **Foster, J. B.,** Garay, G., Ginsburg, A., Johnston, K. G., Kruijssen, J. M. D., Testi, L., Walsh, A. J., Absorption Filaments toward the Massive Clump G0.253+0.016, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 795, 1, article id. 28, 19 pp., 2014.
- 5) Bardalez Gagliuffi, D. C., Burgasser, A. J., Gelino, C. R., Looper, D. L., Nicholls, C. P., Schmidt, S. J., Cruz, K., West, A. A. Gizis, J. E., Metchev, S., SpeX Spectroscopy of Unresolved Very Low Mass Binaries. II, Identification of 14 Candidate Binaries with Late-M/Early-L and T Dwarf Components, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 794, 2, article id. 143, 19 pp., 2014.
- 6) Biddle, L. I., ..., **Taylor, B. W.**, et al., Warm ice giant GJ 3470b II. Revised planetary and stellar parameters from optical to near-infrared transit photometry, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 443, 2, p. 1810-1820, 2014.
- 7) Blasi, M. G., Lico, R., Giroletti, M., Orienti, M., Giovannini, G., Cotton, W., Edwards, P. G., Fuhrmann, L., Krichbaum, T. P., Kovalev, Y. Y., **Jorstad, S.**, **Marscher, A.**, Kino, M., Paneque, D., Perez-Torres, M. A., Piner, B. G., Sokolovsky, K. V., The TeV blazar Markarian 421 at the highest spatial resolution, *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, 559, id.A75, 11 pp., 2013.
- 8) Bochanski, J. J., Willman, B., Caldwell, N., Sanderson, R., **West, A. A.** Strader, J., Brown, W., The Most Distant Stars in the Milky Way, *The Astrophysical Journal Letters*, 790, 1, article id. L5, 6 pp., 2014.
- 9) Bochanski, J. J., Willman, B., **West, A. A**., Strader, J., Chomiuk, L., Hunting the Most Distant Stars in the Milky Way: Methods and Initial Results, *The Astronomical Journal*, 147, 4, article id. 76, 13 pp., 2014.
- 10) Carnerero, M.I., ..., **Jorstad, S.G.**, ..., **Marscher, A.P.**, ..., **Taylor, B. W.**, et al., Multiwavelength Behavior of the Blazar OJ 248 from Radio to Gamma-rays, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 450, 3, p. 2677-2691, 2015.
- 11) **Cashman, L.** R., **Clemens, D. P.**, The Magnetic Field of Cloud 3 in L204, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 793, 2, article id. 126, 10 pp., 2014.

- 12) Cawthorne, T. V., **Jorstad, S. G.**, **Marscher, A. P.**, Polarization Structure in the Core of 1803+784: A Signature of Recollimation Shocks?, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 772, 1, article id. 14, 10 pp., 2013.
- 13) Chakravorty, S., Lee, J. C., **Neilsen, J**., The effects of thermodynamic stability on wind properties in different low-mass black hole binary states, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 436, 1, p.560-569, 2013.
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- 15) Clarke, T., Mroczkowski, T., Randall, S., Sarazin, C., Intema, H., Giacintucci, S., **Blanton, E.**, A Wild Ride for Abell 2443: A High Impact Velocity Merger with a Shock, Cold Front, and Relic, *The X-ray Universe 2014*, edited by Jan-Uwe Ness. Online at http://xmm.esac.esa.int/external/xmm_science/workshops/2014symposium/, id.49, 2014.
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- 17) Davidson, J. A., Li, Z.-Y., Hull, C. L. H., Plambeck, R. L., Kwon, W., Crutcher, R. M., Looney, L. W., Novak, G., Chapman, N. L., Matthews, B. C., **Stephens, I. W.,** Tobin, J. J., Jones, T. J., Testing Magnetic Field Models for the Class 0 Protostar L1527, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 797, 2, article id. 74, 18 pp., 2014.
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- 19) Fermo, R. L., **Opher, M**., Drake, J. F., Magnetic Reconnection in the Interior of Interplanetary Coronal Mass Ejections, *Physical Review Letters*, 113, 3, id.031101, 2014.
- 20) **Foster, J. B.,** Arce, H. G., Kassis, M., **Sanhueza, P., Jackson, J. M., Finn, S. C.,** Offner, S., Sakai, T., Sakai, N., Yamamoto, S., Guzmán, A. E., Rathborne, J. M., Distributed Low-mass Star Formation in the IRDC G34.43+00.24, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 791, 2, article id. 108, 17 pp., 2014.
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- 24) Hernández, J., Calvet, N., Perez, A., Briceño, C., Olguin, L., Contreras, M. E., Hartmann, L., Allen, L., **Espaillat, C.**, Hernan, R., A Spectroscopic Census in Young Stellar Regions: The σ Orionis Cluster, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 794, 1, article id. 36, 25 pp., 2014.
- 25) Hill, M. E., Decker, R. B., Brown, L. E., Drake, J. F., Hamilton, D. C., Krimigis, S. M., **Opher, M**., Dependence of Energetic Ion and Electron Intensities on Proximity to the Magnetically Sectored Heliosheath: Voyager 1 and 2 Observations, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 781, 2, article id. 94, 6pp., 2014.
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- 28) Hull, C. L. H., Plambeck, R. L., Kwon, W., Bower, G. C., Carpenter, J. M., Crutcher, R. M., Fiege, J. D., Franzmann, E., Hakobian, N. S., Heiles, C., Houde, M., Hughes, A. Meredith, L., James W., Looney, L. W., Marrone, D. P., Matthews, B. C., Pillai, T., Pound, M. W., Rahman, N., Sandell, G., **Stephens, I. W.**, Tobin, J. J., Vaillancourt, J. E., Volgenau, N. H., Wright, M. C. H., TADPOL: A 1.3 mm Survey of Dust Polarization in Star-forming Cores and Regions, *The Astrophysical Journal Supplement*, 213, 1, article id. 13, 48 pp., 2014.
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- 39) **Kay, C., Opher, M.**, Evans, R. M., Global Trends of CME Deflections Based on CME and Solar Parameters, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 805, 2, article id. 168, 20 pp., 2014.
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- 48) McClure, M. K., D'Alessio, P., Calvet, N., **Espaillat, C.**, Hartmann, L., Sargent, B., Watson, D. M., **Ingleby, L.**, Hernández, J., Curved Walls: Grain Growth, Settling, and Composition Patterns in T Tauri Disk Dust Sublimation Fronts, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 775, 2, article id. 114, 11 pp., 2013.
- 49) McClure, M. K., D'Alessio, P., Calvet, N., **Espaillat, C.**, Hartmann, L., Sargent, B., Watson, D. M., **Ingleby, L.**, Hernández, J., Curved Walls: Grain Growth, Settling, and Composition Patterns in T Tauri Disk Dust Sublimation Fronts, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 775, 2, article id. 114, 11 pp., 2013.
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