

# Alexander J. Dittmann

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## EDUCATION

2018-present Graduate study in Astronomy, University of Maryland  
2018-2020 M.S. in Astronomy, University of Maryland  
2014-2018 B.S. *with Highest Distinction* in Physics, University of Illinois  
2014-2018 B.S. *with High Distinction* in Astronomy, University of Illinois

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022-present	Research Assistant, Los Alamos National Lab, Theoretical Division	astrophysics
2020, Fall	Pre-doctoral Research Assistant, Flatiron CCA	astrophysics
2018-present	Graduate Research Assistant, University of Maryland	astrophysics
2016-2018	Research Assistant, University of Illinois	astrophysics
2016, Summer	SULI Research Assistant, General Atomics	plasma physics
2014-2015	Summer Research Assistant, Catholic University of America	nuclear physics

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2023 Andrew S. Wilson Prize for Excellence in Research  
University of Maryland, Department of Astronomy

2023 Michael J. Pelczar Award for Excellence in Graduate Study  
University of Maryland Graduate School

2022 Bruno Rossi Prize (with NICER team)  
American Astronomical Society, High Energy Astrophysics Division

2021, 2022 Outstanding Research Assistant  
University of Maryland Graduate School

2020 CCA Pre-Doctoral Fellowship  
Flatiron Institute Center for Computational Astrophysics, Fall 2020

2018 Graduate School Dean's Fellowship  
University of Maryland

2018 Stanley Wyatt Memorial Award  
University of Illinois, Department of Astronomy

## PUBLICATIONS

## Submitted

- 2023 Runaway Eccentricity Growth: A Pathway for Binary Black Hole Mergers in AGN Disks  
Calcino, J., Dempsey, A. M., **Dittmann, A. J.**, Li, H.
- 2023 The Evolution of Accreting Binaries: from Brown Dwarfs to Supermassive Black Holes  
**Dittmann, A. J.**, Ryan, G.
- 2023 The Evolution of Inclined Binary Black Holes in the Disks of Active Galactic Nuclei  
**Dittmann, A. J.**, Dempsey, A. M., Li, H.

## Journal Articles

Summary: 23 published, 10 first-author, 4 single-author.

h-index 14, 1600+ citations

- 2023 A Sensitive Search for Supernova Emission Associated with the Extremely Energetic and Nearby GRB 221009A  
Srinivasaragavan, G., **et al.**, ApJL 949, L39
- 2023 The Decoupling of Binaries from Their Circumbinary Disks  
**Dittmann, A. J.**, Ryan, G., Miller, M.C., ApJL 949, L30
- 2023 The Influence of Disk Composition on the Evolution of Stars in the Disks of Active Galactic Nuclei  
**Dittmann, A. J.**, Jermyn, A. S., Cantiello, M., ApJ 946, 56
- 2022 The Radius of PSR J0740+6620 from NICER with NICER Background Estimates  
Salmi, T., **et al.**, ApJ 941, 450
- 2022 A Survey of Disc Thickness and Viscosity in Circumbinary Accretion: Binary Evolution, Variability, and Disc Morphology  
**Dittmann, A. J.**, Ryan, G., MNRAS 513, 6158
- 2022 Effects of an Immortal Stellar Population in AGN Disks  
Jermyn, A. S., **et al.**, ApJ 929, 133
- 2022 An Analytical, Fully Relativistic Framework for Tidal Disruption Event Streams in Schwarzschild Geometry  
**Dittmann, A. J.**, MNRAS 511, 3408
- 2021 On the Terminal Spins of Accreting Stars and Planets: Boundary Layers  
**Dittmann, A. J.**, MNRAS 508, 1842
- 2021 Preventing Anomalous Torques in Circumbinary Accretion Simulations  
**Dittmann, A. J.**, Ryan, G., ApJ 921, 71
- 2021 The Radius of PSR J0740+6620 from NICER and XMM-Newton Data  
Miller, M. C., Lamb, F. K., **Dittmann, A. J.**, et al., ApJL 918, L28
- 2021 NICER Detection of Thermal X-Ray Pulsations from the Massive Millisecond Pulsars PSR J0740+6620 and PSR J1614-2230  
Wolff, M., **et al.**, ApJL 918, L26
- 2021 Accretion onto Stars in the Disks of Active Galactic Nuclei  
**Dittmann, A. J.**, Cantiello, M., Jermyn, A. S., ApJ 916, 48
- 2021 Stellar Evolution in the Disks of Active Galactic Nuclei Produces Rapidly Rotating Massive Stars  
Jermyn, A. S., **Dittmann, A. J.**, Cantiello, M., Perna, R., ApJ 914, 105

- 2021 Constraining the Neutron Star Mass-Radius Relation and Dense Matter Equation of State with NICER. III. Model and Systematics  
Bogdanov, S., **et al.**, *ApJL* 914, L15
- 2021 High-Order Multiderivative IMEX Schemes  
**Dittmann, A. J.**, *Applied Numerical Mathematics* 160, 205
- 2020 Modified Hermite Integrators of Arbitrary Order  
**Dittmann, A. J.**, *MNRAS* 496, 1217
- 2020 Star Formation in Accretion Disks and SMBH Growth  
**Dittmann, A. J.**, Miller, M. C., *MNRAS* 493, 3732
- 2019 PSR J0030+0451 Mass and Radius from NICER Data and Implications for the Properties of Neutron Star Matter  
Miller, M. C., Lamb, F. K., **Dittmann, A. J.**, et al., *ApJL* 887, L24
- 2019 Constraining the Neutron Star Mass-Radius Relation and Dense Matter Equation of State with NICER. II. Emission from Hot Spots on a Rapidly Rotating Neutron Star  
Bogdanov, S., **et al.**, *ApJL* 887, L26
- 2018 A Candidate Tidal Disruption Event in a Quasar at  $z = 2.359$  from Abundance Ratio Variability  
Liu, X., **Dittmann, A. J.**, Shen, Y., Jiang, L., *ApJ* 859, 8
- 2018 Separated kaon electroproduction cross section and the kaon form factor from 6 GeV JLab data  
Carmignotto, M., **et al.**, *PhysRevC* 97, 025204
- 2017 The Aerogel Čerenkov detector for the SHMS magnetic spectrometer in Hall C at Jefferson Lab  
Horn, T., **et al.**, *NIMA* 842, 28
- 2015 PSR J1930–1852: A Pulsar in the Widest Known Orbit Around Another Neutron Star  
Swiggum, J. K., **et al.**, *ApJ* 805, 156

## SEMINARS, COLLOQUIA, AND SYMPOSIA

- 2023 Supermassive Black Hole Binary Mergers and their Multi-Messenger Signatures, Center for Astrophysical Sciences Seminar (JHU), October 9
- 2023 Supermassive Black Hole Binary Mergers and their Multi-Messenger Signatures, Los Alamos Astrophysics Seminar (LANL), August 25
- 2023 The Decoupling of Binaries from their Circumbinary Disks, Astrophysics Seminar (Columbia), April 13
- 2023 Inclined and Eccentric Binaries in AGN Disks, Compact Objects Group Meeting (CCA), April 13
- 2023 The Decoupling of Binaries from their Circumbinary Disks, Galread (Princeton), April 10
- 2022 The Evolution of Stars and Black Holes in AGN disks, Astrophysics Seminar (GMU), November 3
- 2022 The Evolution of Stars and Black Holes in AGN disks, Physics Colloquium (GWU), October 20
- 2022 The Evolution of Stars and Black Holes in AGN disks, Transient Astronomy Meeting (UMD), September 2
- 2022 The Evolution of Stars and Black Holes in AGN disks, Los Alamos Astrophysics Seminar (LANL), August 25

- 2022 The Orbital Evolution and Appearance of Binaries Fed by Circumbinary Disks, Gravitational Astrophysics Laboratory lunch seminar (GSFC), February 24
- 2021 Neutron Star Masses and Radii from NICER Data, JSI Minisymposium on Neutron Stars and Dense Matter (UMD), December 10
- 2021 The Orbital Evolution and Appearance of Binaries Fed by Circumbinary Disks, Center for Theory and Computation Seminar (UMD), November 10
- 2021 Measuring the Heaviest Known Neutron Star: the Radius of PSR J0740 from X-ray Data, Compact Objects Group Meeting (CCA), April 22
- 2021 Circumbinary Disks, sink particles, and making simulations less sensitive to tuning parameters, Hernquist Group Meeting (CfA), March 5
- 2021 Stellar Evolution in AGN Disks, Flatiron/CCA Predoc Symposium, February 26
- 2021 Circumbinary Disks, sink particles, and making simulations less sensitive to tuning parameters, Compact Objects Group Meeting (CCA), January 28
- 2020 Stars in AGN disks, CCA lunch talk, October 1

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- 2023 Neutron Star Masses and Radii from NICER Data  
invited talk, DMV Physics of Neutron Stars Workshop, October 27
- 2023 Circumbinary Disks: from Brown Dwarfs to Major Mergers  
contributed talk, DC Consortium Astrophysics Graduate Student Conference, August 19
- 2023 Multi-messenger signatures of black hole binary-disk interactions in the LISA regime,  
contributed talk, Summer AAS, June 7
- 2023 Binary black hole accretion across the disk and gravitational wave-driven regimes,  
poster, AAS HEAD, March 27
- 2022 Promoting BIPOC and Marginalized Students to Pursue Computational Physics  
through CRANE, contributed talk by Ernesto Barraza-Valdez, *et al.*, APS DPP, October 17
- 2018 A Time-domain Analysis of Nitrogen-Rich Quasars,  
poster, Winter AAS, January 10
- 2016 Ray-tracing studies of fast waves in the lower hybrid range of frequencies,  
poster, APS DPP, November 1
- 2015 Exploring the potential for studies of the electromagnetic structure of the kaon  
at 12 GeV JLab, contributed talk, APS DNP, October 31
- 2014 The Optical Characterization of Aerogel Tiles for Cherenkov Detectors at Jefferson Lab,  
poster, APS DNP, October 10

## PUBLIC/OUTREACH

- 2023 Stars in Accretion Disks That Orbit Black Holes, National Capital Astronomers, March 11

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### University of Maryland

2020 - spring	Theoretical Astrophysics	wrote and taught discussions, graded
2020 - spring	Black Holes	graded, updated lecture material
2019 - fall	General Astronomy	presented 3 lectures, taught discussions and labs, graded
2019 - spring	General Astronomy	taught and graded discussions and labs
2018 - fall	General Astronomy	taught and graded discussions and labs

## COMPUTING

Languages	C, Python, Fortran, CUDA, IDL
Tools	git, SLURM

## SERVICE, OUTREACH, AND PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

### Journals

Referee Nature, ApJ, MNRAS

### GRAD-MAP<sup>1</sup>

Winter Workshop mentoring	N-body simulations of stellar binaries and SMBHs (2020), the perturbed circular restricted 3-body problem (2022)
Winter Workshop Python Bootcamp	Co-lead (2022, 2023), teaching (2020, 2021, 2023)
Summer Scholars mentoring	Hydrodynamical simulations of tidal disruption event streams
Summer Scholars teaching	Lectured on visualizing multidimensional data using Python and an introduction to programming in C

### CRANE<sup>2</sup>

Notebook co-author	Runge-Kutta methods, PDEs
Lecturer	Hyperbolic PDEs, the Boris push algorithm
Teaching assistant	Numerical integration, ODEs, PDEs, PIC Methods

### Undergraduate Curriculum

Introductory labs revised, restructured, and tested new labs

### LISA Consortium

Astrophysics Working Group Coordinator for ongoing Working Group project

<sup>1</sup>Graduate Resources Advancing Diversity with Maryland Astronomy and Physics, <https://www.umdgradmap.org/>

<sup>2</sup>Computational Research Access NETwork, <https://www.cranephysics.org/>