Nathan R. Sandford

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Research Interests

(Extra-)Galactic Archaeology, Galactic Chemical Evolution, Dwarf Galaxies;
Resolved Stellar Spectroscopy, Stellar Chemical Abundances, Nucleosynthesis;
Neural Networks, Bayesian Inference

Education

Ph.D., Astrophysics, University of California, Berkeley — (expected) May 2023
Advisor: Dr. Dan Weisz
Thesis: "Pushing Stellar Archaeology Farther & Fainter with Low-Resolution Spectroscopy"

M.A., Astrophysics, University of California, Berkeley — Dec 2018

B.A., Physics, *magna cum laude*, Pomona College — May 2017
Academic Advisor: Dr. Philip Choi
Research Advisor: Dr. Yu Lu
Thesis: "Exploring Gas-Phase Metallicity Gradients in Disc Galaxies: A Semi-Analytic Approach"

Research Positions

Graduate Research Assistant & NSF GRFP Fellow, UC Berkeley	2017–present
Summer Visiting Researcher, MPIA, Heidelberg	2018, 2019
Science Undergraduate Laboratory Intern, KIPAC/SLAC—Fermi-LAT Collaboration	2017
Undergraduate Research Assistant, Pomona College—KBO and NEA Survey	2016–2017
Summer Undergraduate Intern, The Carnegie Observatories	2016

Honors & Awards

NSF Graduate Research Fellow, National Science Foundation	2020–2023
Robert J. Trumpler Graduate Excellence Award, UC Berkeley	2022
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley (Astro C10)	2019
Magna Cum Laude, Pomona College	2017
The Frank Brackett, Jr., and Davida Brackett Prize, Pomona College	2017
Phi Beta Kappa, Pomona College	2016
Barry Goldwater Scholarship	2016
Tilestone Junior Physics Prize, Pomona College	2016
Tilestone Sophomore Physics Prize, Pomona College	2015
Moncrieff Astronomy Prize, Pomona College	2014
Pomona College Scholar	2013–2017

Teaching

UC Berkeley

Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education	In Progress
Graduate Student Instructor, Astro 375, *Instruction Techniques in General Astronomy*	Fall 2020, Spring 2022
Head Graduate Student Instructor, Astro C10, *Introduction to General Astronomy*	Fall 2018
Graduate Student Instructor, Astro C12, *The Planets*	Spring 2018
Graduate Student Instructor, Astro C10, *Introduction to General Astronomy*	Fall 2017

Pomona College

Student Mentor, Phys 142, *Electricity & Magnetism*	Spring 2017
Student Mentor & Lab TA, Astro 101, *Techniques in Observational Astrophysics*	Fall 2015, Fall 2016
Student Mentor, Astro 002, *Introduction to Galaxies and Cosmology*	Spring 2016
Student Mentor, Phys 101, *Foundations of Modern Physics*	Fall 2015
Lab TA, Astro 051, *Advanced Introductory Astronomy*	Spring 2015

Service

Acting Astronomy Dept. Steward, UAW-Student Researchers United	2020–present
Grad. Student Representative, UCB Astronomy Dept. Faculty Search Committee	2022
Grad. Student Representative, UCB Astronomy Dept. Climate & DEI Committee	2020–2021
Grad. Student Representative, UCB Astronomy Dept. Small Council	2020–2021
Committee Member, UCB MPS Undergraduate DEI and Advancement Task Force	2019–2020
Committee Member, UCB Astronomy Dept. Prospective Grad. Student Visit Planning Committee	2017–2020
Co-PI, Conference Organizer & UC Berkeley Rep., Osterbrock Sierra Conference	2018
Physics Department Liaison, Pomona College	2014–2017
Mentor, Pomona College Physics Cohort Program	2016
Construction Coordinator, Sierra Service Project	2014–2016
Committee Member, Pomona College Academic Affairs Team	2015
Board Member, Sierra Service Project	2012

Outreach

Astronomy Department Exposition at Cal Day, UC Berkeley	2017–2019
15th Annual Open House, The Carnegie Observatories	2016
Astronomy Department Founder's Day Exposition, Pomona College	2015
Science Night, Stork Elementary School	2014

Awarded Grants

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (3 years stipend & tuition)	2020
Co-PI, Osterbrock Mini-grant (Co-PI: Felipe Ardila, $1500),	2017
Reviving the Sierra Conference: A Collaborative Meeting For UC Astronomy Graduate Students	

Awarded Telescope Time

co-I (PI Dan Weisz): Keck/DEIMOS - 3 nights	2022B
A spectroscopic investigation of two metal-rich ultra-faint galaxies around M31	
co-I (PI Dan Weisz): Keck/ESI - 2 nights	2021B
The progenitors of extremely low-mass white dwarfs	
co-I (PI Dan Weisz): HST GO (Cycle 29) - 30 orbits	2021
The Metallicity Distribution Functions of Faint M31 Satellites	
co-I (PI Dan Weisz): Keck/LRIS, MOSFIRE - 2 nights	2020A
Characterizing Extremely Metal-Poor Massive Stars in Leo A	
co-I (PI Dan Weisz): HST GO (Cycle 28) - 23 orbits	2020
The Metallicity Distribution Functions of Quenched Field Dwarf Galaxies	
co-I (PI Dan Weisz): HST GO (Cycle 27) - 43 orbits	2019
The Metallicity Distribution Functions of Ultra-Faint Dwarf Galaxies	
*co-I (PI Dan Weisz): Keck/LRIS - 1 night	2019B
Triangulum II: Globular Cluster or Dwarf Galaxy?	
co-I (PI Dan Weisz): Keck/KCWI - 1 night	2019B
Resolved Stellar Spectroscopy and Feedback from massive stars in M33: a KCWI view	
*co-I (PI Dan Weisz): Keck/LRIS - 1 night	2019A
The Chemical Enrichment of the Pre-Reionization Fossil Galaxy Sextans	

*(* Lead investigator; graduate students cannot PI UC Keck proposals)*

Observing Experience

Keck/LRIS (3.5 nights)	2018–2021
Keck/DEIMOS (2.75 nights)	2020
Keck/NIRES (0.5 nights)	2018
Keck/MOSFIRE (0.5 nights)	2018
Craft Observational Astronomy Workshop, Lick Observatory	2017
Pomona College Table Mountain Observatory (∼30 nights)	2015–2017

Publications, Talks & Posters

Publications: (ADS Bibliography)

- **Sandford, N.**, Weinberg, D., Weisz, D. & Fu, S., "The Chemical Evolution of Pre-Reionization Relic Eridanus II," In Prep.
- **Sandford, N.**, Weisz, D. & Ting, Y.-S., "Validating Stellar Abundance Measurements from Multi-Resolution Spectroscopy," In Prep.
- Gull, M., Weisz, D., Senchyna, P., **Sandford, N.**, et al., "A Panchromatic Study of Massive Stars in the Extremely Metal-Poor Local Group Dwarf Galaxy Leo A," Submitted to ApJS.
- Fu, S. et al. (including **Sandford, N.**)., "Metallicity Distribution Function of the Eridanus II Ultra-Faint Dwarf Galaxy from Hubble Space Telescope Narrow-band Imaging," 2022, ApJ, 925, 6.
- Bundy, K. et al. (including **Sandford, N.**)., "The Keck-FOBOS spectroscopic facility: conceptual design," 2020, SPIE, 11447.
- **Sandford, N.**, Weisz, D. & Ting, Y.-S., "Forecasting Chemical Abundance Precision for Extragalactic Stellar Archaeology," 2020, ApJS, 249, 24.
- Xiang, M., Ting, Y.-S., Rix, H.W., **Sandford, N.**, et al., "Abundance Estimates for 16 Elements in 6 Million Stars from LAMOST DR5 Low-Resolution Spectra," 2019, ApJS, 245, 34.

Talks: *(*invited)*

*KICP Seminar, University of Chicago	Oct 2022
Yale Astronomy Galaxy Lunch Seminar	Sept 2022
Harvard ITC Luncheon	Sept 2022
IAUGA 2022 FM 9: Stellar Synthetic Spectra to Study Stellar Populations in the Gaia Era, Busan, KR	Aug 2022
A Comprehensive View of Galaxy Evolution from the Milky Way to I Zwicky 18, Sesto, IT	July 2022
EAS 2022 S4a: Satellite Galaxies and Tidal Streams in the Framework of Cosmological Models, Valencia, ES	June 2022
Spatially Resolved Spectroscopy with ELTs, Online	Sept 2021
Massively Parallel Large Area Spectroscopy from Space, Online	June 2021
*WMKO Science Talk	Oct 2019
UC Berkeley Astronomy Lunch Talk	Oct 2019
Small Galaxies, Cosmic Questions, Durham, UK	July 2019
UC Berkeley Grad Student / Postdoc Seminar, *The Sierra Conference: 50 Years Later*	Sept 2018
Pomona College Thesis Presentation	May 2017
Stanford SULI Research Symposium	Aug 2016

Posters:

Linking the Galactic and Extragalactic, Wollongong, NSW, Australia	Nov 2022
2021 Keck Science Meeting, San Diego, CA	Sept 2021
STScI MOS Workshop	May 2021
2020 Keck Science Meeting, San Diego, CA	Sept 2020
229th AAS Meeting, Grapevine, TX	Jan 2017
227th AAS Meeting, Kissimmee, FL	Jan 2016
Pomona College Summer Research Symposium	Sept 2015

Undergraduate Thesis:

"Exploring Gas-Phase Metallicity Gradients in Disc Galaxies: A Semi-Analytic Approach" Thesis with distinction, Pomona College	May 2017

Code Contributions

- **Sandford, N.** 2020, Zenodo:3924672
  "Chem-I-Calc: The Chemical Information Calculator"
- Prochaska, J. X. et al. (including **Sandford, N.**). 2020, Zenodo:3743493
  "PypeIt: Release 1.0.0"
- Rybizki, J. et al. (including **Sandford, N.**). 2019, ASCL:1909.006
  "ChempyMulti: Multi-star Bayesian inference with Chempy"

Skills

Computer Languages	Python, SQL/ADQL, LaTeX, bash, git
Parallel Computing	Python multiprocessing, MPI, SLURM
Machine Learning	PyTorch, Theano/Aesara
Reduction Pipelines	PypeIt
Stellar Codes	ATLAS12, SYNTHE
Chem Ev Codes	Chempy
Other Software	emcee, PyMC, pocoMC
Language	German (basic)