

Withstanding the cold: energy feedback in simulations of galaxies that include a cold interstellar medium Chaikin, E.

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- The importance of the way in which supernova energy is distributed around young stellar populations in simulations of galaxies
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 Published in MNRAS, 2022, 514, 249
- A thermal-kinetic subgrid model for supernova feedback in simulations of galaxy formation
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Co-author

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- 6. FLAMINGO: calibrating large cosmological hydrodynamical simulations with machine learning

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Curriculum Vitae

I was born on April 25th, 1995, in Kaliningrad, the largest city in the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation, an enclave between Poland and Lithuania. Before starting university, my goal was to become a musician, which is a tradition in my family. I started professionally playing piano at the age of four and graduated from a music school when I was 13. During those years, I studied music theory and played the piano on stage numerous times, including participating in international competitions. Despite my promising first steps as a musician, playing the piano was never my own choice; and as I was growing up, I gradually realized that a music career was not something I would want to pursue in the future.

After ceasing to play music, I decided to put all my focus on self-studying graphic design. The ability to create videos with synchronized music devoted to various topics truly fascinated me because this is how I could fully express myself. After a series of successful projects, I was confident that graphic design would become my career, but, like music, this was not meant to happen. The pivotal change happened to me during high school, when I became friends with a group of classmates who were eager to discuss science day and night. I started to regularly join their conversations and, surprisingly, found that talking about 'elementary particles, galaxies, black holes, and the origin of the Universe' makes me unconditionally happy and that I want to learn as much about Astronomy as possible. As I would discover later, I had always had a passion for science, which could manifest itself through me reading popular scientific journals from cover to cover or conducting scientific experiments for kids with great interest. However, it was only one year before the end of high school when it became absolutely clear to me that a career in Astronomy was what I would set out on for my future.

After finishing high school in 2013, I moved from Kaliningrad to Saint Petersburg, where I studied Astronomy as a bachelor's student at Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University. I started my first research project in the summer of 2015 with Alexander A. Kaurov who at the time was a PhD student at the University of Chicago in the United States and was offering summer research projects to undergraduate students at my university. My task was to write a code that would solve for the radial temperature profile inside a neutron star as a function of time, including general relativistic effects. While I was working on this project, I collected enough evidence that coding and solving numerical problems is what I thoroughly enjoy and that I want to continue doing so in the future. Subsequently, Alexander and I decided to make the summer project part of my bachelor's thesis research. My bachelor's thesis topic was 'Simulating thermal evolution of neutron stars with internal heaters', which I wrote under the supervision of Dmitry G. Yakovlev and Alexander D. Kaminker at Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University and Alexander A. Kaurov remotely, and which led to the publication of several scientific papers.

Having obtained a Bachelor's degree with distinction in 2017, I relocated from Russia to Germany to follow a Master's program in Astronomy at the University of Bonn. I won an Honours branch scholarship from the Bonn-Cologne Graduate School of Physics and Astronomy, which allowed me to financially support myself during the two years of studying in Germany. At the University of Bonn, I worked in the group of Cristiano Porciani, under whose supervision I wrote my Master's thesis on the optical depth of the intergalactic medium (IGM). Namely, I developed a new method for computing the optical depth of the IGM including the effects of gas bulk motions and thermal broadening, and used cosmological hydrodynamical simulations to test and validate my method.

Following my graduation from the University of Bonn in 2019 with an average grade of 1.1 on my diploma, I moved from Germany to the Netherlands, where I began a four-year PhD project at Leiden University under the supervision of Joop Schaye and Matthieu Schaller. In Leiden, I have been involved in the development of the new model COLIBRE for cosmological simulations of galaxy formation. The development of the COLIBRE simulations, with a focus on modelling energy feedback from supernovae and active galactic nuclei (AGN), has been the primary topic of my PhD research.

After my first year at Leiden University, I became part of *the Big Data applications for Black hole Evolution Studies* (BiD4BESt) Innovative Training Network. As part of BiD4BESt, in the next three years I participated in multiple networkwide training events and received training through three secondments, each of which lasted several months. First, from March to July 2022, I visited the Canary Islands Institute of Astrophysics in Spain where under the supervision of Marc Huertas-Company I applied deep learning methods to simulations of galaxy formation to predict the history of AGN activity in simulated galaxies based on their images. Second, from July to September 2022, I worked as a data scientist at the British company *PreWarp*, which specializes in the fashion industry. Finally, in the first half of 2023, I visited the University of Bologna in Italy for two months where I worked with Marcella Brusa on comparing the properties of AGN-driven winds in the collbre simulations with observational data.

Following the completion of my PhD, I will start a two-year postdoctoral contract at Leiden University, during which I will continue working with Joop Schaye on galaxy simulations with the COLIBRE galaxy formation model and their application to the upcoming Athena mission.

Acknowledgements

The full meaning put into the acknowledgements from this section can only be understood if one knows the circumstances I have faced over the past four and a half years. Shortly after the start of my PhD, my father unexpectedly passed away. A few months later, there was an outbreak of Covid-19. And just when I thought I had finally recovered psychologically from those events – at least to some degree – February 2022 came knocking on the door, by the end of which my life was forever split into 'before' and 'after'.

The fact that this section is being written implies that I have approached the finish of my PhD research. Reaching this milestone would never be possible without the numerous contributions of many amazing people whom I met before and during my PhD journey. I cannot express how grateful I am therefor, as those contributions – besides all the warm and exciting moments – enabled me to maintain my mental health at a sufficient level, allowing me to keep doing research, live, and move forward.

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