Benjamin M. Tofflemire 51 Pegasi b Postdoctoral Fellow

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Research Interests Planet formation and evolution, structure and evolution of protoplanetary disks, binary star formation, T Tauri stars, accretion diagnostics

APPOINTMENTS

51 Pegasi b Postdoctoral Fellow, UT Austin Postdoctoral Fellow, UT Austin

Sept 2020 - present

August 2018 - August 2020

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Astronomy

University of Wisconsin-Madison

July 2018

Madison, WI, USA

• Advisor: Professor Robert D. Mathieu • Thesis: Pulsed Accretion in Eccentric Binaries

B.S. Astronomy & Physics University of Washington

June 2011

Seattle, WA, USA

RESEARCH

Disk Survival in Binary Systems

July 2019 - present

- PI of ALMA Cycle 7 program to observe protoplanetary disks in binary systems with known orbital solutions
- Determine binary orbital parameters that foster the survival of protoplanetary material

THYME – *TESS* Hunt for Young and Maturing Exoplanets

July 2018 - present

- Lead spectroscopic followup of TESS planet candidates discovered in young associations
- Characterizing stellar host properties and radial-velocity variability

Accretion in T Tauri Binary Systems

June 2012 - July 2018

- Measured time-variable accretion rates of pre-main sequence binaries to test numerical models
- Characterized the kinematics and spatial distribution of accretion streams feeding young binary star systems with time-series, high-resolution spectroscopy from the SALT telescope

SELECT

PEER-REVIEWED **Publications** (29 TOTAL) (8 FIRST AUTHOR)

First Author Publications

- ▶ **Tofflemire**, B. M., Rizzuto, A. C., Newton, E. R., et al. 2021, AJ, 161, 171 TESS Hunt for Young and Maturing Exoplanets (THYME) V: A Sub-Neptune Transiting a Young Star in a Newly Discovered 250 Myr Association
- ▶ **Tofflemire**, B. M., Mathieu, R. D., Johns-Krull, C. 2019, AJ, 158, 245 Accretion Kinematics in the T Tauri Binary TWA 3A: Evidence for Preferential Accretion onto the TWA 3A Primary
- ▶ Tofflemire, B. M., Mathieu, R. D., Herczeg, G. J., et al. 2017b, ApJL, 842, L12 Pulsed Accretion in the Classical T Tauri Binary TWA 3A
- ▶ Tofflemire, B. M., Mathieu, R. D., Ardila, D. R., Akeson, R. L., et al. 2017a, ApJ, 835, 8 Accretion and Magnetic Reconnection in the Classical T Tauri Binary DQ Tau
- ▶ Tofflemire, B. M., Gosnell, N. M., Mathieu, R. D., & Platais, I. 2014, AJ, 148, 61 WIYN Open Cluster Study. LIX. Radial Velocity Membership of the Evolved Population of the Old Open Cluster NGC 6791
- ▶ **Tofflemire**, B. M., Orio, M., Page, K. L., et al. 2013, ApJ, 779, 22 X-Ray Grating Observations of Recurrent Nova T Pyxidis during the 2011 Outburst
- ▷ Tofflemire, B. M., Wisniewski, J. P., Kowalski, A. F., et al. 2012, AJ, 143, 12 The Implications of M Dwarf Flares on the Detection and Characterization of Exoplanets at Infrared Wavelengths

Awards

51 Pegasi b Postdoctoral Fellowship in Planetary Astronomy (\$375,000) **2020** TESS Cycle 3 Guest Investigator Program (\$75,000) **2020** University of Wisconsin Jansky Award for Outstanding Research 2017 UW-Madison Graduate School Conference Presentation Award (\$2,400) **2015**, **2016**, **2017** (\$2,500) **2015** Sigma Xi Grants in Aid of Research (\$600) **2015** University of Wisconsin Vilas Research Travel Grant (\$1200) **2015** University of Wisconsin Bautz Travel Fellowship AAS 225 Chambliss Student Prize Honorable Mention 2015 University of Wisconsin – University Housing Honored Instructor 2012 University of Washington's Astronomy Bear Prize Recipient 2011 University of Washington Mary Gates Research Scholarship (\$4,000) **2010**, **2011**

OBSERVING
PROPOSALS &
EXPERIENCE

ALMA Cycle 7

• PI: Planet Formation and Survival in Newly-Forming Binary Systems (16 hrs)

Spitzer DDT

• PI: Precision Measurements of Stellar Radii in Young Eclipsing Binaries (94 hrs)

Southern African Large Telescope

• PI: Time-Series Spectroscopy of Pre-Main Sequence Binaries (42.5 hrs of P0/P1)

WIYN 3.5-m Telescope

- PI: Radial velocity survey of accreting stars in NGC 2264 (2 nights)
- PI: Time-series spectroscopy of flare stars in Pleiades star cluster (3 nights)

Las Cumbres Observatories Global Telescope Network

- PI: Characterizing Eclipsing Binaries in Young Clusters (240 hrs over 2 semesters)
- Co-I: Time-series photometry of Pre-Main Sequence Binaries (980 hours over 5 semesters)

SMARTS 1.3m

- PI: Time-series photometry of Pre-Main Sequence Binaries (107 hours over 4 semesters)
- PI: Time-series spectroscopy of Pre-Main Sequence Binary V4046 Sgr (42 hours)

Talks

Cool Stars 20	August 2018
Plenary Talk	Boston, MA
AAS 231	January 2018
Dissertation Talk	National Harbor, MD
Institute for Theory and Computation (Harvard-CfA)	March 2017
Stars and Planets Seminar (Invited)	Cambridge, MA
American Museum of Natural History Astronomy Seminar	March 2017 New York, NY
Space Telescope Science Institute	March 2017
Exoplanets, Star and Planet Formation Seminar	Baltimore, MD
University of Texas-Austin	October 2016
Stars Seminar (Invited)	Austin, TX
Cool Stars 19	June 2016
Contributed Talk	Uppsala, Sweden

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

TAURUS Mentor Training

Summer 2019

• Developed and facilitated a mentor training seminar for professors, postdocs, and grad students advising TAURUS Scholars

TAURUS & NSF REU Advising

Summer 2019

 Advisor to two students (Miguel Gutierrez, Victoria Catlett) on a project to measure accretiontracing emission lines in NIR spectra, both attended the 235 Winter AAS and published RNAAS

UW-Madison Undergrad Thesis

June 2015 - June 2017

• Advisor to UW-Madison undergrad Nathan Eggen on project to produce and model the light curves of pre-main sequence binary stars