

Ian CHOW

Astronomy Ph.D Student | University of Washington

📍 DiRAC Institute and the Department of Astronomy, University of Washington, 3910 15th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98195, USA
✉️ chowian@uw.edu 🌐 ia-chow.github.io 🐾 github.com/ia-chow 📞 0009-0005-9428-9590

🎓 EDUCATION

PRESENT	University of Washington	Seattle, WA, USA
Sep. 2025	PH.D ASTRONOMY	
	SUPERVISOR : Prof. Mario Jurić	
Aug. 2025	University of Western Ontario	London, ON, Canada
Sep. 2023	MSC. ASTRONOMY	
	Thesis : Orbital and Physical Properties of Decameter-Sized Earth Impactors	
	SUPERVISOR : Prof. Peter G. Brown	
May 2023	University of Toronto	Toronto, ON, Canada
Sep. 2018	HONOURS BSC. W/ HIGH DISTINCTION – ASTRONOMY & PHYSICS SPECIALIST, STATISTICS MAJOR, MATHEMATICS MINOR	
	Astronomy Thesis : Analyzing Radial Velocity Data from the Resonant Planetary System HD 45364	
	SUPERVISORS : Dr. Sam Hadden, Prof. Hanno Rein	
	Statistics Thesis : Probabilistic Dimensionality Reduction Methods for Stellar Chemodynamics	
	SUPERVISOR : Prof. Joshua S. Speagle	

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH POSITIONS

Aug. 2023	Dunlap Institute for Astronomy & Astrophysics, University of Toronto	Toronto, ON, Canada
May 2023	SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT	
	Project : Understanding the impact of Bayesian inference on ultra-light axion limits	
	SUPERVISOR : Dr. Keir K. Rogers, Prof. Renée Hložek	
Aug. 2022	Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics (CITA)	Toronto, ON, Canada
May 2022	SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOW	
	Project : Modelling Migration Scenarios of Resonant Planets Using Radial Velocity Data	
	SUPERVISORS : Dr. Sam Hadden, Prof. Hanno Rein, Prof. Norman Murray	

✉️ PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

FIRST AUTHOR

1. **Chow, I.**, Jurić, M., Jones, R.L., Kicer, K., Moeyens, J., Brown, P.G., Heinze, A.N., & Kurlander, J.A. “Predictions of Imminent Earth Impactors Discovered by LSST”, in review at ApJ.
2. **Chow, I.**, & Brown, P.G. “Decameter-sized Earth Impactors – II : A Bayesian Inference Approach to Meteoroid Ablation Modelling”, accepted for publication in JGR : Planets.
3. **Chow, I.**, & Brown, P.G. “Decameter-sized Earth impactors – I : Orbital properties.” 2025, Icarus, 429, 116444.
4. **Chow, I.**, & Hadden, S. “Influence of Modeling Assumptions on the Inferred Dynamical State of Resonant Systems : A Case Study of the HD 45364 System.” 2025, ApJ, 980(2), 236.

CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR

1. Cheng, Q., Scolnic, D., Kurlander, J.A., **Chow, I.**, & Fernandes, M.B. “Assessing the Vera Rubin Observatory’s Ability to Discover Asteroid Impactors Before They Collide with Earth”, in review at AJ.

🏆 SELECTED AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS & HONOURS

2025	Top Scholar Award , \$10,830 USD	University of Washington
2025-2028	NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship – Doctoral (PGS-D) , \$120,000 CAD	NSERC
2024	NASA International Space Apps Challenge Global Winner , honour	NASA
2024-2025	Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) , \$15,000 CAD	University of Western Ontario
2023-2025	Western Graduate Research Scholarship , \$13,137 CAD	University of Western Ontario
2023	SURP Poster Competition Award , \$50 CAD	University of Toronto

2023	Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) Award, \$9,980 CAD	University of Toronto
2022	Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), \$9,500 CAD	CITA
2022	Smith Solis Research Scholarship in Astronomy and Astrophysics, \$1,250 CAD	University of Toronto
2020-2023	Dean's List Scholar, honour	University of Toronto

OBSERVING PROGRAMS

OBSERVING PROPOSALS AWARDED

Winter 2026	Apache Point Observatory (APO) 3.5-meter , 1 half-night ToO (PI : Colin Orion Chandler) <i>UW Solar System Rapid Follow-up Campaign : Interstellar Objects, Potential Impactors, and Cataclysmic Cometary Events</i>	Co-I
-------------	--	------

OTHER OBSERVING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2025	APO 3.5-meter , 4 half-nights (remote) Instruments : ARCTIC, KOSMOS	Observer
-----------	---	----------

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

CONTRIBUTED TALKS

Sep. 2025	EPSC-DPS 2025 , Europlanet/AAS Division for Planetary Sciences	Helsinki, Finland
Jul. 2025	Meteoroids 2025 , Curtin University	Perth, WA, Australia
Mar. 2025	56th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference , NASA/Lunar and Planetary Institute	The Woodlands, TX, USA
May 2024	55th Annual DDA Meeting , AAS Division on Dynamical Astronomy	Toronto, ON, Canada
Aug. 2022	2022 CITA Planet Day , Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics	Toronto, ON, Canada

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Jun. 2024	2024 CASCA Annual General Meeting , University of Toronto/York University	Toronto, ON, Canada
Jun. 2023	2023 CASCA Annual General Meeting , NRC Herzberg/University of British Columbia	Penticton, BC, Canada

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Jun. 2025	NASA Funding Review Presentation , NASA Meteoroid Environment Office	Virtual
Feb. 2025	CSA Executive Committee Meeting Presentation , Canadian Space Agency	Virtual
May 2024	NASA Funding Review Presentation , NASA Meteoroid Environment Office	Virtual
Aug. 2023	SURP Poster Symposium , University of Toronto	Toronto, ON, Canada

OUTREACH TALKS

Aug. 2025	“Brighter than the Sun : Fireballs in Earth’s Atmosphere” , Hume Cronyn Memorial Observatory	London, ON, Canada
Apr. 2025	“SkyShield : Protecting Earth and Space Infrastructure From Space Hazards” , Royal Astronomical Society of Canada	London, ON, Canada

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

My duties in the following course included delivering lectures, conducting in-class demonstrations, holding office hours, and proctoring, grading and reviewing exams.

2024-2025	Astronomy 1021 : General Astronomy , Teaching Assistant (x2) & Guest Lecturer	University of Western Ontario
-----------	--	-------------------------------

My duties in the following course included supervising lab sessions and grading lab reports.

2023-2024	First-Year Physics Labs , Teaching Assistant (x2)	University of Western Ontario
-----------	--	-------------------------------

My duties in the following courses included delivering in-person tutorials and help centres, running midterm viewing sessions, and proctoring, grading and reviewing exams.

2024	Physics 1402 : Physics for Engineering Students II , Teaching Assistant	University of Western Ontario
2023	Physics 1201 : Physics for the Sciences I , Teaching Assistant	University of Western Ontario

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sep. 2020 Jun. 2020	Innovere Medical SOFTWARE DEVELOPER <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Automated detection of dropouts in time-series audio data from an MRI scanner's wireless audio system using power spectrum analysis in MATLAB and Python, eliminating 20+ hours of work weekly➤ Developed and tested TechSmart, an in-house multimedia app for patient use during MRI scans, with company's software development team	Markham, ON, Canada
	MATLAB Python Signal Processing	
Aug. 2019 Jun. 2019	Plantiga Technologies SOFTWARE DEVELOPER <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Developed methods to compute physical fitness heuristics from time-series acceleration (g-force) data, using signal processing techniques like digital filtering and convolution in Python (NumPy, SciPy, Pandas) to improve detection of foot impacts➤ Field-tested and validated hardware such as sensor shoe insoles that track movement➤ Acquired data from company partners such as physiotherapy clinics, universities (University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University), and sports organizations (Houston Rockets, US Tennis Association)➤ Wrote documentation of company products and services for clients	Vancouver, BC, Canada
	Python Signal Processing Data Analysis	
Aug. 2017 Jun. 2017	Synced Review RESEARCH INTERN <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Conducted literature review focusing on advancements in reinforcement learning used in adversarial-search board and video game artificial intelligence programs for a company report➤ Worked with company team to research and edit review articles on industry trends in machine learning and robotics technology	Toronto, ON, Canada
	Machine Learning Artificial Intelligence Literature Review	

LEADERSHIP, VOLUNTEERING & EXTRACURRICULAR EXPERIENCE

Aug. 2025 Jun. 2024	Hume Cronyn Memorial Observatory OUTREACH VOLUNTEER <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Volunteered at astronomy Public Nights attended by 80+ visitors weekly at the University of Western Ontario's Cronyn Observatory	London, ON, Canada
Jun. 2024 Sep. 2023	Consensus Trivia QUESTION WRITER/EDITOR <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Wrote and edited trivia questions for Consensus Trivia, a registered nonprofit organization that runs team-based trivia tournaments for high school and collegiate teams across Canada and the U.K.➤ Moderated and kept score for tournament games as a staffer	
May 2023 Jan. 2019	University of Toronto Academic Trivia Club VICE PRESIDENT, COMPETITOR, TOURNAMENT ORGANIZER & QUESTION WRITER/EDITOR <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Elected Vice President of the University of Toronto's Academic Trivia Club during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years organizing twice-weekly practices and social events, managing club social media presence, and moderating practices and tournament games➤ Represented the University of Toronto at 30+ trivia (quiz bowl) tournaments across Canada and the U.S. as a competitor with several top finishes at North American championships➤ Organized and directed several collegiate and high school tournaments, including the 2021 University of Toronto Collegiate Novice and the 2022 University of Ottawa ACF Fall tournaments, played by 30+ collegiate teams in total across Canada and the U.S.➤ Wrote and edited trivia questions across a wide range of academic disciplines (including astronomy and physics) for 2022 WORKSHOP, 2023 Canadian Novice, and 2024 MRNA III, collegiate tournaments played by 80+ teams in total across Canada, the U.S., and the U.K.	Toronto, ON, Canada

RELEVANT PROJECTS

SKYSHIELD ORRERY

2024

 spaceapp-wmpgang2024orrrery.netlify.app/

An interactive, physics-based digital Solar System orrery highlighting near-Earth objects and meteoroids. Developed by myself, Dakota Cecil, Simon Van Schuylenbergh and Maximilian Vovk for the [2024 NASA International Space Apps Challenge](#) and selected by NASA as [one of 10 Global Winners](#) out of 10,000 submitted projects.

HTML CSS JavaScript

FASANO-FRANCESCHINI-TEST

2024

 github.com/wmpg/fasano-franceschini-test

A Python package implementing the multivariate extension of the two-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) statistical test described by [Fasano & Franceschini \(1987\)](#). Published as part of [Chow & Brown \(2025\)](#).

Python

MEDIA COVERAGE

Jan. 2025 [Team of Western students wins NASA Space Apps Challenge](#)

University of Western Ontario

Oct. 2023 [SURP Student Spotlight](#)

University of Toronto

SKILLS

Programming Python (NumPy, SciPy, Pandas, Matplotlib, Keras/TensorFlow, scikit-learn), MATLAB, R (ggplot, dplyr), HTML5 (Bootstrap), CSS, JavaScript (Node.js)

Software L^AT_EX, Git/GitHub, Jupyter Notebook, Anaconda, R Suite, Bash, Linux (ssh), SAOImageDS9, Microsoft Excel

Languages English (fluent), French (intermediate), Cantonese (spoken)

OTHER AFFILIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2025-PRESENT American Astronomical Society

2025-PRESENT Europlanet Society

2024-2025 Western Institute for Earth and Space Exploration

2023-PRESENT Canadian Astronomical Society