

ADAM DISTLER
Astrophysics Researcher
Email: adam.distler@cfa.harvard.edu
LinkedIn: [in](#)



About Me

I am currently a first-year graduate student at Harvard University pursuing an Astronomy PhD. Before Harvard, I graduated with a B.S. in Astronomy-Physics and Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Education

Harvard University: Astronomy Ph.D. Current GPA: 4.0/4.0	September 2025 - Present
University of Wisconsin-Madison: Bachelor's of Science in Mathematics and Astrophysics GPA: 4.0/4.0	September 2022 - May 2024
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities: State of Minnesota Post Secondary Enrollment Options GPA: 4.0/4.0	January 2021 - May 2022
Century College: State of Minnesota Post Secondary Enrollment Options GPA: 4.0/4.0	August 2020 - May 2022

First Author Works

1. *Strong Scatterings for EMRIs*
Distler, A. and Stone, N.C. in prep.
2. *Peas and USPs: Can Stellar Spindown and Peas in a Pod Replicate Ultra-Short-Period Planet Characteristics?*
Distler, A. and Becker, J., Published in the Astrophysical Journal. IOP ArXiv
3. *TESS Hunt for Young and Maturing Exoplanets (THYME) XIII: A 130 Myr Moving Group Containing Two Transiting Planetary Systems*
Distler, A. et. al, published in the Astronomical Journal. Links: IOP ArXiv
4. *TESS Hunt for Young and Maturing Exoplanets (THYME) XII: A Young Mini-Neptune on the Upper Edge of the Radius Valley in the Hyades Cluster*
Distler, A. et. al, Published in the Astronomical Journal. Links: IOP ArXiv

Co-authored Works

1. *A Multi-Method Age Determination for the Ursa Major Moving Group*
Sheffler, J., et al. and 6 co-authors including Distler, A. Published in the Astronomical Journal. IOP, ArXiv.
2. *The TEMPO Survey II: Science Cases Leveraged from a Proposed 30-Day Time Domain Survey of the Orion Nebula with the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope*
Soares-Furtado, M., Limbach, M.A., Vanderburg, A., and 26 co-authors including Distler, A. ArXiv.

Accepted Proposals

Gemini Proposal 2026B April 2026
PI on an approved Gemini PFS proposal that was awarded 3.0 nights for the 2026 fall semester, focused on radial velocity follow-up of terrestrial thick disk planets.

Magellan Proposal FA2026 April 2026
PI on an approved Magellan PFS proposal that was awarded 2 nights for the 2026 fall semester, focused on radial velocity follow-up of a candidate terrestrial thick disk planet.

WIYN/NEID Proposal SP2026 November 2025
Co-PI on an approved NEID proposal that was awarded 2.3 nights for the 2026 spring semester. We will continue to take radial velocities for TOI-4364 b to obtain a mass measurement.

WIYN/NEID Proposal FA2025 May 2025
Co-PI on an approved NEID proposal that was awarded 1.5 nights for the 2025 fall semester. We will continue to take radial velocities for TOI-4364 b to obtain a mass measurement.

WIYN/NEID Proposal SP2025 October 2024
Co-PI on an approved NEID proposal that was awarded 2.0 nights for the 2025 spring semester. We obtained precision radial velocities for TOI-4364 b with the goal of obtaining a mass measurement for the planet.

Southern African Large Telescope Phase 1 Proposal February 2024
Co-author. Ranked the top proposal of the cycle and focused on outlining the rationale for the project under Dr. Soares-Furtado and the target selection.

Presentations

UW-Madison August 11, 2025
Talk: “Graudate School and Fellowships”

UW-Madison Summer Dynamics Meetings August 10, 2025
Talk: “Strong Scatterings in Nuclear Star Clusters”

Exoplanets 6 November 5, 2025
Poster: “Peas and USPs”

Center for Astrophysics Exoplanet Pizza Lunch November 5, 2025
Talk: “A Comoving-Based Age Constraint for KELT-20.”

UW-Madison Summer Dynamics Meetings August 5, 2025
Talk: “Strong Scatterings for Extreme Mass Ratio Inspirals.”

Emerging Researchers in Exoplanet Sciences, Princeton University June 15-17, 2025
Talk: “Exploring Exoplanet Ages”, Adam Distler

245th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society

January 12 - 16, 2025

Poster: “*TESS* Hunt for Young and Maturing Exoplanets (THYME) XII: A Young Mini-Neptune on the Upper Edge of the Radius Valley in the Hyades Cluster”, Adam Distler, Prof. Melinda Soares-Furtado, Prof. Andrew Vanderburg, Chambliss Poster Competition Finalist.

Stellar Observers Hackathon

December 9, 2024

Led a Hackathon focused on obtaining radial velocities for a variety of objects, including single stars, binary systems, and white dwarfs. Primarily focused on using SALT data using the radial velocity pipeline I built, and how it can be adapted to other spectrographs and data types.

Emerging Researchers in Exoplanet Sciences, Cornell University

July 12-15, 2024

Poster: “Hiding in the Hyades: A Mini-Neptune Transiting a Nearby M Dwarf”, Adam Distler, Prof. Melinda Soares-Furtado, Prof. Andrew Vanderburg.

2024 SIAM Annual Meeting

July 2024

Poster: “Numerical Modeling and Convergence Analysis of the Cahn-Hilliard-Navier-Stokes System Using a Combined Scalar Auxiliary Variable and Finite Element Scheme.” Sanchita Chakraborty, Adam Distler, Alexis Liu, John Marek, and Yukun Yue.

244th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society

June 11-13, 2024

Poster: “A Rigorous Age Dating of the Ursa Major Moving Group.” Adam Distler, Prof. Melinda Soares-Furtado, Julia Sheffler, and M Clark.

Spring 2024 Madison Experimental Mathematics Lab Open House

April 30, 2024

Poster: “ANALYSIS OF A NUMERICAL METHOD FOR CAHN-HILLIARD-NAVIER-STOKES.” Adam Distler, Alexis Liu, Sanchita Chakraborty, and Yukun Yue.

Madison Undergraduate Symposium

April 25, 2024

Poster: “Measuring the Milky Way’s Rotation Curve.” Ella Chevalier, Adam Distler, Alex Geiger, Brooke Kotten, Quinn Meece.

Fall 2023 Madison Experimental Mathematics Lab Open House

December 12, 2023

Poster: “A Numerical Method for Cahn-Hilliard Navier-Stokes.” Adam Distler, John Marek, Alexis Liu, Sanchita Chakraborty, Yukun Yue.

Mizzou Undergraduate Research Forum, University of Missouri

July 27, 2023

Poster: “Optimizing Performance of Silicon-Germanium-Oxide Thin Films for Use in Infrared Detectors.” Adam Distler, Farhana Tuli, Mahmoud Almasri.

Notable Awards and Recognitions

Academic

- Hertz Fellowship Recipient (~\$250,000)
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow (\$159,000)
- Peter Livingston Scholar (\$3,000 + \$2,250 travel fund)
- Sophomore Research Fellowship Recipient (\$3000, Declined due to graduation)
- Member of Phi Kappa Phi
- William F. Vilas Scholarship (\$400)
- Tozer Foundation Scholarship (\$2,250 per year, for four years)
- Community Scholarship Foundation General Scholarship (\$1,000)