Dr. Zhen Yuan



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Education and Employment

May 2021 – present	Assistant Professor, School of Astronomy and Space Science, Nanjing University, China
Mar 2021 - Apr 2024	Postdoc, Observatoire Astronomique de Strasbourg, CNRS, France
Dec 2017 - Aug 2020	LAMOST Fellow, Shanghai Astronomical Observatory, China
Oct 2015 - Oct 2017	Postdoc, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China
Sep 2009 – Sep 2015	PhD, University of Minnesota, USA
	Supervisor: Professor Yong-Zhong Qian
Sep 2005 – Jun 2009	BS, Physics, Nanjing University, China

Research Interests

Galactic Archaeology

- Developing state-of-the-art algorithms to search for streams and substructures in the stellar halo of the Milky Way in the *Gaia* era, using those to understand nucleosynthesis in ancient dwarf galaxies
- Detecting and characterizing dwarf galaxies in the Local Group with the *Chinese Space Station Telescope*, using them to probe the faint end of galaxy formation in a cosmological context

Deep Learning in Astronomy

• Developing Machine Learning tools tailored to various astronomic datasets with the aim of fully extracting the information from the observations to achieve tractable improvements from traditional approach

Publications and Presentations

- 11 first/corresponding author publications (2016 2024), 337 citations
- China Top Cited Paper Award (2023), 68 citations
- China Top Cited Paper Award (2022), 117 citations
- 47 total publications including 1 Nature (2016 2024), 1200 citations, h-index 21
- 5 invited conference talks, 4 colloquium talks around the world

Machine Learning Applications in Astronomy

2022-2023	Developed PhotCalib, a neural-network based photometric survey calibrator and applied to the <i>Pristine</i> survey data
	Developing GNNPhot, a graph-neural-network based method to derive stellar parameters from multi- band photometry
2017 - 2020	Developed StarGO, a novel group identification method based on self-organizing-maps, applicable to general clustering problems
	Applied StarGO to the Gaia dataset, discovered the tidal tails of Coma Berenices open cluster
	Applied StarGO to the LAMOST-Gaia dataset, discovered a series of new very metal-poor sub- structures, and a new stellar stream, named LMS-1

Observations and Proposals

Observing experience: 11 nights in person (INT/IDS, VLT/UVES), 16 nights in remote mode on 2–8m telescopes (VLT/UVES, Subaru/HDS, Magellan/MIKE, ESO 2.2m/FEROS)

Successful proposals: 15 proposals as PI or significantly contributing co-I. The series of proposals on high-resolution follow-up of substructures, streams, eclipsing binaries, and etc:

- 100 hours with VLT/UVES (2020B, 2021B, 2023A, 2023B)
- 5.5 nights with Subaru/HDS (2019B, 2020B, 2021A, 2022B)
- 3 nights with Magellan/MIKE (2019B, 2022B)
- 30 hours with CFHT/ESPaDOnS (2020B, 2021A, 2023A)
- 10 nights with ESO 2.2m/FEROS (2024A)

Teamwork and Experience

Team leader

- **HR-GO team**, leading a high-resolution spectroscopic analysis core team of junior researchers around the world to systematically work on the spectra taken from different telescopes, since Apr 2021
- **Dwarf Galaxy Detection team**, leading a core team of 5 researchers and PhD students from different institutes to work on the project of dwarf galaxy detection with *CSST*, since 2020
- Astro Hack week team, Heidelberg, Oct 2022
- Gaia-LAMOST hackathon team, Shanghai, Nov 2018
- Visualization Environmental Data Challenge team, Sep 2016

Organisation

- SOC member of the Astronomy Big Data Exploration Camp, ABDEC, Kunming, Yunnan, China (I) Stellar parameters, Jul 2023
 - (II) High-resolution spectroscopy, Jul 2024
- Co-organizer of Astro-Coffee, Strasbourg Observatory, Sep 2021 Sep 2022
- Co-organizer of Machine Learning Club, Strasbourg Observatory, Oct 2021 Mar 2022
- LOC member, Journées scientifiques "Galaxies" du PNCG, Strasbourg, France, Jun 2022
- LOC member, The Life and Times of the Milky Way, Shanghai, China, Nov 2018
- Co-organizer of Astro-NEWs, Shanghai Astronomical Observatory, 2018

Memberships

- Core member of the Pristine, since 2020
- Active member of WEAVE Galactic Archaeology High-Resolution sub-survey and Low-Resolution Highlat sub-survey, since 2021
- Member of the 4MOST S1 Milky Way Halo Low-Resolution sub-survey, since 2021

Teaching and Supervision

- Co-supervision of Han Qu, PhD student at Purple Mountain Observatory (Mar 2021 present)
- Teaching assistant courses: Introductory Physics for non-physics majors, Introduction to Particle and Nuclear Physics, Quantum Mechanics for physics undergraduates and graduates (Sep 2009 Dec 2011)

Outreach

- Press Release (Chinese): The stellar structure with the lowest metallicity of the Universe, Mar 2022
- Public Talk: Mining Astronomical Data in the Machine Learning Era, Fudan University, Shanghai, Nov 2018

Presentations and Hackathons

selected international conference, seminar, and colloquium talks from 2018 to the present

2024	 Invited Seminar talk - Observatoire de la Cote d'Azur, France, Sep 2024 Invited talk, "Chasing the stellar structure with the lowest metallicity of the Universe" - GalPhases24, Strasbourg, France, Aug 2024 Invited Seminar talk - GEPI, Observatoire de Paris, France, Mar 2024
2023	Invited talk, "The C-19 Stream: the most meta-poor stellar structure" – The Sino-French Tianguan Meeting, Dunhuang, China, Oct 2023
	Invited talk, "Tracing low-metallicity planar stars under a slowing down bar" - Revealed by Gaia: the central halo of the Milky Way, Cambridge, UK, Sep 2023
2022	Astro Hack Week, Heidelberg, Germany, Oct 2022
	Invited Physics colloquium talk - University of Groningen, Netherlands, Sep 2022
	Contributed talk, "Very and extremely metal poor stellar streams - messengers from the early universe" – Satellite galaxies and tidal streams in the framework of cosmological models – EAS, Valencia, Spain, Jul 2022
	Contributed talk - Journées scientifiques "Galaxies" du PNCG, Strasbourg, France, Jun 2022
	Invited talk , "Very and extremely metal poor stellar streams - messengers from the early universe" – The Local Group in the Gaia era: from the Galactic halo to the Andromeda galaxy – Les Journées de la Société Française d'Astronomie & d'Astrophysique, Besançon, France, Jun 2022
2020	Invited colloquium talk, Observatoire de Strasbourg, France, Jun 2020
	Contributed talk, "Dynamical Relics of the Ancient Galactic Halo" - First Stars VI, Concepción, Chile, Mar 2020
2019	LAMOST-Gaia Sprint, Yichang, China, Oct 2019
	Contributed talk - The Milky Way 2019: LAMOST and Other Surveys, Yichang, China, Oct 2019
	Contributed talk, "Dynamical Relics with r-process Enhanced Signatures from Ancient Small Dwarf Galaxies" – CEMP Stars as Probes of First-Star Nucleosynthesis, the IMF, and Galactic Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland, Sep 2019
	Contributed talk, "Relics from LAMOST DR3 Very Metal-Poor Stars – Linking to Early Nucleosynthesis in Ancient Dwarf Galaxies" – The Gaia Treasure Hunt, Workshop at IoA, Cambridge, UK, Sep 2019
	Seminar talk, "Dynamical Relics with r-process Enhanced Signatures from Ancient Small Dwarf Galaxies" - KITP Program: Dynamical Models for Stars and Gas in Galaxies in the Gaia Era. Santa Barbara, US, Apr 2019
	Gaia Sprint, Santa Barbara, US, Mar 2019
2018	LAMOST-Gaia Hackathon, Shanghai, China, Nov 2018
	Contributed talk, "The Identification of the Northern Counterpart of the Cetus Polar Stream and Its Association with NGC 5824" – The Life and Times of the Milky Way, Shanghai, China, Nov 2018

LAMOST-Gaia Sprint, Beijing, China, Jun 2018

Publications list

22 major contribution papers from the full publication list (2016 - 2024)

2024 **Yuan, Z.**, Li, C., Martin, N. F. et al., 2023, "Could very low-metallicity stars with rotation-dominated orbits have been shepherded by the bar?", A&A, in press.

Li, C., **Yuan**, **Z**., Monari, G., et al., 2023, "Exploring the impact of a decelerating bar on transforming bulge orbits into disc-like orbits", A&A, 690, A26.

Sitnova, T. M., **Yuan**, **Z**., Matsuno, T., et al. 2024, "HR-GO I: Comprehensive NLTE abundance analysis of the Cetus stream", A&A, in press.

Viswanathan, A., Yuan, Z., Ardern-Arentsen, A., et al. 2024, "The Pristine survey – XXVI. The very metal-poor Galaxy: Chemodynamics through the follow-up of the Pristine-Gaia synthetic catalogue", arXiv:2405.13124.

Sitnova, T. M., Matsuno, T., Yuan, Z., et al. 2023, "The Pristine survey - XXII. A serendipitous discovery of an extremely Li-rich very metal-poor giant and a new method of ${}^{6}\text{Li}/{}^{7}\text{Li}$ isotope measurement", MNRAS, 526, 5976-5986.

2023 Martin, N. F., Starkenburg, E., **Yuan**, **Z**., et al, 2023, "The Pristine survey – XXIII. Data Release 1 and an all-sky metallicity catalogue based on Gaia DR3 BP/RP spectro-photometry", arXiv:2308.01344.

Qu, H., **Yuan**, **Z**., Doliva-Dolinsky, A., et al. 2022 "Local Group dwarf galaxy detection limit in the Chinese Space Station Telescope Survey", MNRAS, 523, 876-886

2022 Martin, N. F., Ibata, R. A., Starkenburg, E., **Yuan**, **Z**., et al. 2022 "The Pristine survey - XVI. The metallicity of 26 stellar streams around the Milky Way detected with the STREAMFINDER in Gaia EDR3," MNRAS, 516, 5331-5354

Ramos, P., Antoja, T., **Yuan**, **Z**., et al. 2022 "The Sagittarius stream in Gaia Early Data Release 3 and the origin of the bifurcations," A&A, 666, A64

Yuan, Z., Martin, N. F., Ibata, R. A., et al. 2022 "The Pristine survey - XVII. The C-19 stream is dynamically hot and more extended than previously thought," MNRAS, 514, 1664-1671

Yuan, Z., Malhan, K., Sestito, F., et al. 2022 "The Complexity of the Cetus Stream Unveiled from the Fusion of STREAMFINDER and StarGO," ApJ, 930, 103

- 2021 Malhan, K., **Yuan**, Z., Ibata, R. A., et al. 2021 "Evidence of a Dwarf Galaxy Stream Populating the Inner Milky Way Halo," ApJ, 920, 51
- 2020 Chang, J., Yuan, Z., Xue, X.-X., et al. 2020 "Is NGC 5824 the Core of the Progenitor of the Cetus Stream?," ApJ, 905, 100

Banerjee, P., Wu, M.-R., **Yuan**, **Z**., 2020 "Neutron Star Mergers as the Main Source of r-process: Natal Kicks and Inside-out Evolution to the Rescue," ApJL, 902, L34

Placco, V. M., Santucci, R. M., Yuan, Z., et al. 2020 "The R-process Alliance: The Peculiar Chemical Abundance Pattern of RAVE J183013.5-455510," ApJ, 897, 78

Yuan, Z., Chang, J., Beers, T. C., et al. 2020 "A Low-mass Stellar-debris Stream Associated with a Globular Cluster Pair in the Halo," ApJL, 898, L37

Yuan, Z., Myeong, G. C., Beers, T. C., et al. 2020 "Dynamical Relics of the Ancient Galactic Halo," ApJ, 891, 39

Yuan, Z., Smith, M. C., Xue, X.-X., et al. 2019 "Revealing the Complicated Story of the Cetus Stream with StarGO," ApJ, 881, 164

Tang, S.-Y., Pang, X., Yuan, Z., et al. 2019 "Discovery of Tidal Tails in Disrupting Open Clusters: Coma Berenices and a Neighbor Stellar Group," ApJ, 877, 12

- **Yuan, Z.**, Chang, J., Banerjee, P., et al. 2018 "StarGO: A New Method to Identify the Galactic Origins of Halo Stars," ApJ, 863, 26
- **Yuan, Z.**, Qian, Y.-Z., Jing, Y. P. 2016 "Estimating the evolution of gas in the Fornax dwarf spheroidal galaxy from its star formation history: an illustrative example," MNRAS, 456, 3253-3264