

Benjamin M. Tofflemire

Pipeline Scientist for NASA's TESS Mission

CONTACT INFORMATION	SETI Institute 339 Bernardo Ave, Suite 200 Mountain View, CA 94043	btofflemire@seti.org tofflemire.github.io
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Time-domain astrophysics, formation and evolution of stars and planets, structure and evolution of protoplanetary disks, precise measurements of fundamental stellar parameters	
SUMMARY	<p>Funding: \$688,570 in awards</p> <p>Publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Author Publications: 11 300+ citations Total Refereed Publications: 56 4500+ citations H-Index: 23 Student Publications: 4 Consistent growth in publications and citations over the past 5 years <p>Students: 8 undergrads, 6 from underrepresented groups</p> <p>Mentoring: Lead UT's Astro REU mentor training, lead 2023 workshop for NSF fellows (invited)</p> <p>Teaching: 1 new undergrad-level course co-prep, 2 semesters leading 100-level mandatory TA sections, 10+ guest lectures at grad and undergrad levels</p> <p>Observing Experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space-based: IR, X-ray: <i>JWST</i>, <i>Spitzer</i>, <i>XMM-Newton</i>, <i>Chandra</i> Ground-based: Sub-mm, IR, Optical: ALMA, Gemini South, SALT, including 800+ hours of on-site photometry and spectroscopy 	
APPOINTMENTS	Pipeline Scientist, SETI Institute/NASA Ames Research Center Associate, UT-Austin 51 Pegasi b Postdoctoral Fellow, UT-Austin – Faculty Host: Prof. Adam Kraus Postdoctoral Fellow, UT-Austin – Advisor: Prof. Adam Kraus Research Assistant, UW-Madison – Advisor: Prof. Robert Mathieu Research Assistant, UW-Madison – Advisor: Dr. Marina Orio Research Assistant, U. of Washington – Advisor: Dr. J. Wisniewski & Prof. S. Hawley	2024-present Research Associate 2023-present 2020-2024 2018-2020 2013-2018 2011-2013 2010-2011
EDUCATION	<p>University of Wisconsin-Madison</p> <p>Ph.D. Astronomy, <i>Accretion Dynamics in Pre-Main Sequence Binary Stars</i></p> <p>M.S. Astronomy, Physics Minor</p> <p>University of Washington</p> <p>B.S. Astronomy & Physics</p>	<p>Madison, WI</p> <p>July 2018</p> <p>June 2013</p> <p>Seattle, WA</p> <p>June 2011</p>
PI-GRANTS & AWARDS	JWST Cycle 3 NASA Keck 2023B <i>TESS</i> Cycle 4 Guest Investigator Program 51 Pegasi b Postdoctoral Fellowship in Planetary Astronomy <i>TESS</i> Cycle 3 Guest Investigator Program University of Wisconsin Jansky Award for Outstanding Research UW-Madison Graduate School Conference Presentation Award Sigma Xi Grants in Aid of Research University of Wisconsin Bautz Travel Fellowship University of Wisconsin Vilas Research Travel Grant University of Washington's Astronomy Bear Prize Recipient University of Washington Mary Gates Research Scholarship	(\$14,720) 2024 (\$13,750) 2023 (\$70,000) 2021 (\$505,000) 2020 (\$75,000) 2020 2017 (\$2,400) 2015, 2016, 2017 (\$2,500) 2015 (\$1,200) 2015 (\$600) 2015 2011 (\$4,000) 2010, 2011
SUCCESSFUL OBSERVING PROPOSALS	<p>JWST Cycle 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-PI: Snowline pulsations and UV photo-chemistry in planet-forming regions (23.4 hr) 	

WM Keck Observatory

- **PI:** The Dynamical Ingredients for Planet Formation in Binary Systems (1 night)

ALMA Cycle 7

- **PI:** Planet Formation and Survival in Newly-Forming Binary Systems (16 hr)

Spitzer DDT

- **PI:** Precision Measurements of Stellar Radii in Young Eclipsing Binaries (94 hr: Priority 1)

Gemini-South

- **PI:** The Empirical Mass-Radius Relation from 10 to 600 Myr (24 hr: Band 1)
- **PI:** Determining Orbital Solutions for Young Eclipsing Binaries (30 hr: Band 1)

Hobby-Eberly Telescope

- **PI:** Mapping the Surfaces of Spotted Stars: A Validation of Spot Filling Factor Techniques (1 hr P0; 3 hr P2)

Southern African Large Telescope

- **PI:** Time-Series Spectroscopy of Pre-Main Sequence Binaries (42.5 hr: 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)
- Co-I: WIYN Open Cluster Study radial-velocity survey (90+ nights over 8 semesters)

McDonald 2.7m

- **PI:** Testing the Binary Origin of Sub-Subgiants (45 nights over 5 trimesters)

Las Cumbres Observatories Global Telescope Network

- **PI:** Determining The Ages Of Benchmark Systems By Investigating Their Kinematic Neighbors (450 hr over 5 semesters)
- Co-I: Time-series photometry of Pre-Main Sequence Binaries (980 hr 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 hrs)

WIYN 0.9-m Telescope

- **PI:** High Cadence Photometry of Pre-Main Sequence Binary DQ Tau (16 nights)

APO: ARCSAT 0.5m

- **PI:** High Cadence Photometry of Pre-Main Sequence Binary DQ Tau (16 nights)

SOFTWARE***TESS* SPOC Pipeline**

2025

- Contributor/Developer
- Pipeline for NASA's *TESS* Mission. Performs image calibration, photometry, systematic error correction, transit search, and data validation. MATLAB.
- Runs on the NASA Pleiades Supercomputer

saphires - Stellar Analysis in Python for High Resolution Spectroscopy

2019

- Primary Developer | [github](#)
- A python package containing tools for spectral decomposition and stellar RV measurements

comove

2021

- Contributor | [github](#)
- A python package for finding co-moving neighbors to a target star and returning useful information regarding youth

**STUDENT
RESEARCH****Mikayla Wilson (TCU): TAURUS Scholar**

2021

- Characterization of a Solar Mass Eclipsing Binary
- Led Research Note to the AAS
- Poster to be presented at the 2023 Winter AAS
- Currently: Astronomy graduate student at UC Santa Cruz

	Shannon Fitton (UT)	2020-2022
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Determining the Orbital Parameters of Disk-Bearing Binary Systems ◦ Led Research Note to the AAS ◦ Co-author on a publication in prep ◦ Currently: Astronomy graduate student at UNC Chapel Hill 	
	Jeremy Buchanan (UT)	2020-2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Development of a python-based ensemble photometry package ◦ Senior Thesis Advisor ◦ Co-author on a publication in prep ◦ Currently: Data Scientist 	
	Miguel Gutierrez (Florida Inst. Tech.): TAURUS Scholar	2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Constraining Temperature and Density of Accretion Flows in T Tauri Stars from Brackett Line Ratios ◦ Co-Author on ApJ Publication (Kidder et al. 2021) ◦ Led Research Note to the AAS ◦ 2020 Winter AAS Poster ◦ Currently: Data Scientist for Dell Technologies 	
	Victoria Catlett (UT-Dallas): UT REU	2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Near-infrared Accretion Diagnostics of Young Stellar Objects ◦ Co-Author on ApJ Publication (Kidder et al. 2021) ◦ Led Research Note to the AAS ◦ 2020 Winter AAS Poster ◦ Currently: Greenbank Telescope Software Engineer 	
	Nathan Eggen (UW-Madison)	2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Accretion in the Pre-Main Sequence Binary V4046 Sgr ◦ Senior Thesis Advisor ◦ Currently: University of Minnesota Astronomy MA, Data Scientist 	
	Sarah Kessler (Rowan University): UW-Madison REU	2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Identifying Triple Companions to Spectroscopic Binaries with HST ◦ Currently: Ohio State University Astronomy Ph.D., Data Scientist at Near 	
MENTORING TRAINING	Workshops Led	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Invited to lead Mentor Training Workshop for NSF AAPF Fellow Symposium ◦ Lead Mentor Training Workshop for UT's TAURUS and REU research programs 	2023 2021-2023
	Workshops Attended	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ DELTA (CIRTL) Mentor Training Program 	2014
SERVICE	Professional Service:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Journal Referee: ApJ, AJ, MNRAS ◦ NASA XRP Review Panel ◦ NASA ADAP Review Panel ◦ NASA ROSES Review Panel Secretary 	2024 2020 2020 2015
	Departmental Service:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ ExoUpdate Curator (weekly science meetup) ◦ Hobby-Eberly Telescope Time Allocation Committee (3 times annually) ◦ Postdoc-Faculty Liaison (Elected) ◦ Second Year Defense Committee for UT Graduate Student, Kendall Sullivan ◦ BashFest 2019 – SOC & LOC ◦ UT's ISM/Star Formation/Exoplanet Seminar – Host & Organizer ◦ UW-Madison Astronomy Graduate Admissions Committee (Elected) ◦ Graduate-Faculty Liaison (Elected) ◦ Stars Coffee Curator (weekly science meetup) ◦ Undergraduate-Faculty Liaison (Faculty Nomination) 	2019-2023 2019-2023 2021-2022 2019 2019 2019 2015-2016 2014-2015 2013-2018 2010-2011

	Collaboration Service:	
	◦ Organizer of the THYME Collaboration Meeting (virtual)	2020
TEACHING	Course Development & Teaching	2018
	Astronomy 140: The Exoplanet Revolution	University of Wisconsin-Madison
	◦ Co-developed and co-taught intro-level, inquiry-based course with Prof. Mathieu	
	Guest Lectures	
	◦ 10+ guest lectures at the graduate and undergraduate 100, 200 levels utilizing various teaching styles: lecture, inquiry-based, flipped classroom	
	Teaching Assistant	2012, 2015
	Astronomy 103: The Evolving Universe	University of Wisconsin-Madison
	◦ Taught six mandatory discussion sections per week, which included developing lesson plans and in-class activities	
	◦ Received <i>University Housing's Honored TA Award</i>	
DEI EFFORTS	Social-Justice Journal Club	2021
	◦ Co-creator and leader of a postdoc centered learning community	
	Postdoc Mentor Meetup	2021 - 2022
	◦ Co-creator and leader of quarterly meetings to share mentor training resources focused on inclusivity and equity	
	Mentor for UT TAURUS and REU Programs (UT, UW-Madison)	2016 - 2023
	◦ Mentor for high-impact programs for under-represented groups	
	◦ Mentored 4 students via these programs; 3 have produced written products on their research	
OUTREACH	Astronomy on Tap - Austin	2018, 2019
	◦ Two public talks	
	Universe in the Park	2011-2018
	◦ Host public talks and observing at Wisconsin State Parks (>15 events hosted)	
	Washburn Public Observing Nights	2011-2018
	◦ Host public and private observing nights at the historic Washburn observatory (>15 events hosted)	
	UW-Madison Space Place	2016
	◦ Invited lecture to amateur astronomy community (televised)	
	Girls Inc. Planetarium Shows	2014
	◦ Presented planetarium shows to Madison's local chapter of Girls Inc.	
PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS	51 Pegasi b Summit	2022, 2023
	Contributed Talk	Sausalito, CA
	TESS Science Conference II	2021
	Invited Splinter Talk, RECORDING	Virtual
	Cool Stars 20	2018
	Plenary Talk, RECORDING	Boston, MA
	Lowell Observatory	2018
	Colloquium (Invited)	Flagstaff, AZ
	AAS 231	2018
	Dissertation Talk	National Harbor, MD
	Vanderbilt University	2017
	Astrophysics Lunch	Nashville, TN

Institute for Theory and Computation (Harvard-CfA) Stars and Planets Seminar (Invited)	2017 Cambridge, MA
American Museum of Natural History Astronomy Seminar	2017 New York, NY
Space Telescope Science Institute Exoplanets, Star and Planet Formation Seminar	2017 Baltimore, MD
University of Texas-Austin Stars Seminar (Invited)	2016 Austin, TX
Cool Stars 19 Contributed Talk	2016 Uppsala, Sweden

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PEER-REVIEWED
PUBLICATIONS
(H-INDEX: 23)

First Author Publications | 300+ citations

11. **Tofflemire**, B. M., Manara, C. F., Banzatti, A., et al. (16 co-authors), 2025, ApJ, accepted
| [ADS](#) |
Coordinated Space and Ground-Based Monitoring of Accretion Bursts in a Protoplanetary Disk: Establishing Mid-Infrared Hydrogen Lines as Accretion Diagnostics for JWST-MIRI
10. **Tofflemire**, B. M., Prato, L., Kraus, A. L., et al. (8 co-authors) 2024, AJ, 167, 232
| [ADS](#) | 3 cit.
Sites of Planet Formation in Binary Systems. I. Evidence for Disk-Orbit Alignment in the Close Binary FO Tau
9. **Tofflemire**, B. M., Kraus, A. L., Mann, A.W., et al. (12 co-authors) 2022, AJ, 165, 46
| [ADS](#) | 5 cit.
A Low-Mass, Pre-Main Sequence Eclipsing Binary in the 40 Myr Columba Association – Fundamental Stellar Parameters and Modeling the Effect of Star Spots
8. **Tofflemire**, B., Rizzuto, A., Newton, E., et al. (24 co-authors) 2021, AJ, 161, 171
| [ADS](#) | 50 cit.
TESS Hunt for Young and Maturing Exoplanets (THYME). V. A Sub-Neptune Transiting a Young Star in a Newly Discovered 250 Myr Association
7. **Tofflemire**, B., Mathieu, R., Johns-Krull, C. 2019, AJ, 158, 245
| [ADS](#) | 33 cit.
Accretion Kinematics in the T Tauri Binary TWA 3A: Evidence for Preferential Accretion onto the TWA 3A Primary
6. **Tofflemire**, B., Mathieu, R., Herczeg, G., Akeson, R., & Ciardi, D. 2017b, ApJL, 842, L12
| [ADS](#) | 39 cit.
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5. **Tofflemire**, B., Mathieu, R., Ardila, D., Akeson, R., Ciardi, D., Johns-Krull, C., Herczeg, G., & Quijano-Vodniza, A. 2017a, ApJ, 835, 8 | [ADS](#) | 44 cit.
Accretion and Magnetic Reconnection in the Classical T Tauri Binary DQ Tau
4. **Tofflemire**, B., Gosnell, N., Mathieu, R., & Platais, I. 2014, AJ, 148, 61
| [ADS](#) | 35 cit.
WIYN Open Cluster Study. LIX. Radial Velocity Membership of the Evolved Population of the Old Open Cluster NGC 6791
3. **Tofflemire**, B., Orio, M., Page, K., Osborne, J., Ciroi, S., Cracco, V., Di Mille, F., & Maxwell, M. 2013, ApJ, 779, 22 | [ADS](#) | 27 cit.
X-Ray Grating Observations of Recurrent Nova T Pyxidis during the 2011 Outburst
2. **Tofflemire**, B., Wisniewski, J., Kowalski, A., Schmidt, S., Kundurthy, P., Hilton, E., Holtzman, J., & Hawley, S. 2012, AJ, 143, 12 | [ADS](#) | 25 cit.

1. **Tofflemire**, B., Burkhart, B., & Lazarian, A. 2011, ApJ, 736, 60
| [ADS](#) | 41 cit.
Interstellar Sonic and Alfvénic Mach Numbers and the Tsallis Distribution

Significant Contributions | 430+ citations

22. Thao, P. C., Mann, A., Feinstein, A., et al. (including **Tofflemire** and 28 co-authors), 2024, Nature, submitted | draft available upon request
The Featherweight Giant: Unraveling the Atmosphere of a 17 Myr Planet with JWST
21. Barber, M., Thao, P. C., Mann, A., et al. (including **Tofflemire** and 12 co-authors), 2024, AAS Journals, submitted | draft available upon request
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20. Thao, P. C., Mann, A., Barber, M., et al. (including **Tofflemire** and 34 co-authors), 2024, AJ, 168, 41 | [ADS](#) | 1 cit.
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19. Krolikowski, D., Kraus, A., **Tofflemire**, B. & Morley, C. 2024, AJ, 167, 70 | [ADS](#) | 3 cit.
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17. Wood, M., Mann, A., Barber, M., et al. (including **Tofflemire** and 5 co-authors) 2023, AJ, 166, 247 | [ADS](#) | 1 cit.
A Lithium Depletion Age for the Carina Association
16. Sun, Q., Wang, S., Mann, A., **Tofflemire**, B., et al. (3 co-authors) 2023, AJ, 952, 68 | [ADS](#)
A search for stellar siblings of the ~200 Myr TOI-251b planetary system
15. Stassun, K., Torres, G., Kounkel, M., **Tofflemire**, B., et al. (including 6 co-authors) 2023, AJ, 950, 99 | [ADS](#) | 3 cit.
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14. Pérez Paolino, F., Bary, J., Petersen, M., et al. (including **Tofflemire** and 3 co-authors) 2023, AJ, 946, 10 | [ADS](#) | 4 cit.
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12. Kerr, R., Kraus, A., Murphy, S., Krolikowski, D., Offner, S., **Tofflemire**, B., & Rizzuto, A. 2022, AJ, accepted | [ADS](#) | 12 cit.
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11. Barber, M., Mann, A., Johnathan, B., **Tofflemire**, B., et al. (7 co-authors) 2022, AJ, 164, 88 | [ADS](#) | 14 cit.
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10. Newton, E., Rampalli, R., Kraus, A., et al. (including **Tofflemire** and 36 co-authors) 2022, AJ 164, 115 | [ADS](#) | 20 cit.
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9. Mann, A., Wood, M., Schmidt, S., et al. (including **Tofflemire** and 47 co-authors) 2022, AJ, 163, 156 | [ADS](#) | 50 cit.
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8. Gosnell, N., Gully-Santiago, M., Leiner, E., & **Tofflemire**, B. 2022, ApJ, 925, 5 | [ADS](#) | 11 cit.
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3. Newton, E., Mann, A., **Tofflemire**, B., et al. (49 co-authors) 2019, ApJL, 880L, 17 | [ADS](#) | 124 cit.
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Contributing Author | 3500+ citations

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Revealing the Field Sub-subgiant Population Using a Catalog of Active Giant Stars and Gaia EDR3
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Orbital Parameter Determination for Wide Stellar Binary Systems in the Age of Gaia
12. Kounkel, M., Covey, K., Moe, M., et al. (including **Tofflemire** and 25 co-authors) 2019, AJ, 157, 196 | [ADS](#) | 97 cit.
Close companions around young stars
11. Zemko, P., Ciroti, S., Orio, M., et al. (including **Tofflemire** and 8 co-authors) 2018, MNRAS, 480, 4489Z | [ADS](#) | 11 cit.
Optical observations of ‘hot’ novae returning to quiescence
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The Eighth Data Release of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey: First Data from SDSS-III
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ApJ, 728, 85 | [ADS](#) | 53 cit.
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4. Wilson, M., **Tofflemire**, B., Kerr, R., Mann, A., Kraus, A. 2022, RNAAS, 6, 9 | [ADS](#)
Characterization of a Solar Mass Eclipsing Binary with TESS and IGRINS
3. Fitton, S., **Tofflemire**, B., Kraus, A. 2022, RNAAS, 6, 18 | [ADS](#) | 23 cit.
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