University of Birmingham

Professor William Chaplin BSc, PhD, FRAS, PGCert

Professor of Astrophysics

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About

Professor Chaplin leads the programme of the NASA Kepler Mission devoted to the asteroseismic investigation of solar-type stars, managing and coordinating the work of 170 international scientists. He is co-author on over 150 research papers in scientific journals (with an H-index of 32), in the fields of solar and stellar physics.

He is also the author of a book on helioseismology. He is actively engaged in promoting solar and stellar research in both national and international media, including recent appearances on the BBC to discuss results from Kepler.

Qualifications

- Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education (PGCert), 2001
- PhD in stellar physics (asteroseismology), University of Birmingham,1993
- BSc Hons, Physics with Astrophysics, University of Birmingham, 1990

Biography

Bill Chaplin obtained his PhD from the University of Birmingham in 1993, on developing techniques to detect oscillations in solar-type stars (asteroseismology). Over the next 12 years he concentrated on the study of oscillations of the Sun (helioseismology), which included a stint as a European Space Agency (ESA) Research Fellow in the Netherlands. In 1999 he became a member of the permanent academic staff in the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Birmingham and from 2005 shifted the emphasis of his research back to the study of stars.

He currently leads the asteroseismic study of solar-type stars for the NASA Kepler Mission, and is a member of the steering committee of the Kepler Asteroseismic Science Consortium (KASC). He also leads the asteroFLAG data analysis collaboration.

Teaching

- Y1 Cosmic Connection (Module Outside the Main Discipline)
- Y1 Astronomy Laboratory (“Astrolab”) [in charge]
- Y2 Computational Physics Lab [in charge]
- Y3 Insights into Stellar Structure
- Y4 Insights into Stellar Structure
- Y4 Project Supervision

Postgraduate supervision

- Supervision of research PhDs in asteroseismology and helioseismology

PhD opportunities

Research

RESEARCH THEMES

- Helioseismology
- Solar Physics, Solar Variability
- Asteroseismology
- Stellar Physics, Stellar Variability

Other activities

- Chair, Kepler Asteroseismic Science Consortium Working Group 1 'Solar-Like Oscillators' - NASA Kepler Mission (2009 –)
- Member, Kepler Asteroseismic Science Consortium Steering Committee (2008 –)
- P.I. asteroFLAG Consortium (2006 –)
- Co. I. Birmingham Solar-Oscillations Network (BiSON) (1998 –)
- ESA Plato Mission Consortium (2010 –)
- Member, Stellar Observations Network Group (SONG) Science Steering Committee (2009 –)
- P.I., solarFLAG Consortium (2004 –)
- Member, STFC Solar Post Launch Support Oversight Committee (2005 –)
- Elected member, UK Solar Physics Council (2007 – 2011)
- Member, STFC Astrogrid Science Advisory Group (2001 – 2008)
- Visiting Professor, Université Paris Sud XI, Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale

Publications

Chaplin, W. J., et al. (over 50 authors) (2011), Ensemble asteroseismology of solar-type stars with the NASA Kepler Mission, Science, 332, 213

Chaplin, W. J., et al. (over 50 authors) (2011), Evidence for the impact of stellar activity on the detectability of solar-like oscillations observed by Kepler, Astrophysical Journal, 732, L5

Chaplin, W. J., et al. (over 50 authors) (2011), Predicting the detectability of oscillations in solar-type stars observed by Kepler, Astrophysical Journal, 732, 54

Chaplin, W. J., et al. (over 100 authors) (2010), The asteroseismic potential of Kepler: first results for solar-type stars, Astrophysical Journal, 713, L169

Expertise

The Sun and solar-type stars through observation of their natural pulsations (the fields of helioseismology and asteroseismology); international work on solar-type stars with the NASA Kepler mission.

Languages and other information

Bill leades the seismic study of solar-type stars for the NASA Kepler Mission.

Media experience

Bill is actively engaged in promoting solar and stellar research in both national and international media, including recent appearances on the BBC to discuss results from Kepler.

Bill was also part of NASA press conference in Denmark took place detailing his work into the oscillations of stars using the Kepler spacecraft (results covered in the **Daily Telegraph (http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/space/8114694/Stars-song-captured-by-scientists.html)**).

Related media experts

- **Professor Alberto Vecchio (/staff/profiles/physics/vecchio-alberto.aspx)**

Alternative contact number available for this expert: **contact the press office (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/contacts/index.aspx)**

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