



Leibniz-Institut für Astrophysik Potsdam

The Leibniz Institute for Astrophysics Potsdam (AIP) continues the tradition of the Astrophysical Observatory Potsdam and the Berlin Observatory. It is located in the beautiful Potsdam/Babelsberg area, at the South-western border of the Berlin metropolitan area. About 130 scientists work on a variety of astrophysical topics covering the full range from solar physics to cosmology. Potsdam is also the home of the Albert-Einstein Institute for Gravitational Physics, the Physics & Astronomy Department of Potsdam University and several other research institutions.

The Leibniz Institute for Astrophysics Potsdam (AIP) invites applications for a

PhD student position in the area of changing-look AGN (m/f/d)

The focus of the offered PhD project is to reduce and analyze recent Hubble and XMM-Newton data on the extraordinary changing-look AGN Mrk 1018. In 2015 the object underwent a dramatic dimming and change of its spectral appearance. Since then a coordinated multi-wavelength monitoring program was undertaken to better describe the behavior of the structural components and uncover possible physical reasons of those changes. The successful candidate will reduce, analyze, and publish a series of UV data (Hubble) to explore whether or not a newly formed absorber (interpreted as an outflow) is causing the dramatic dimming in Mrk 1018. In addition, newly obtained XMM-Newton data will be reduced and analyzed to model the Fe-line reflection region that is only now responding to the dramatic flux drop several years ago. The PhD student will be supervised by Dr. Mirko Krumpe and will be a member of the X-ray group at the AIP.

Applicants should hold a Master's degree or equivalent in astrophysics or a related discipline at the time of starting the position. Applicants are expected to have some experience in scientific coding (preferentially with python). The following skills would be advantageous for the position: experience in observational astronomy and its data analysis (in particular X-ray, UV, optical), knowledge of extragalactic astrophysics (in particular AGN), advanced English skills.

We aim to fill this position by October 2020. The salary will be based on the German public service scale (65% TV-L E13). Benefits include employer contributions to medical and dental insurance, maternity leave, and retirement benefits.

To apply, please send a single PDF file containing a cover letter, a curriculum vitae, your Master degree certificate (or equivalent), a link to your Master thesis, and a statement of previous research experience (the latter not exceeding two pages) to:

bewerbung_2020-10@aip.de

Applicants should also provide the contact information for two reference letter writers. Applications received by July 10, 2020 will be given full consideration. Later applications might be considered until the position is filled.

The AIP is an equal opportunity employer who values diversity and particularly encourages women and other underrepresented groups to apply. Preference will be given to people with disabilities with equal competence.

Contact: Dr. Mirko Krumpe; email: mkrumpe@aip.de

Your application documents will be kept for at least three months after completion of the recruitment process, even if your application is unsuccessful. As a rule, your documents will be made available to a selection committee as well as to the committees and officials to be involved.

