

Journal Club 2016–2017

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<http://www.physics.mcmaster.ca/apjclub>

Welcome to Journal Club 2016/2017! The basic premise, for those of you new to McMaster, is to have weekly talks and discussions pertaining to recent astrophysical research. JC should ideally serve as an outlet for keeping up to date on research currently being done both in the department and in the field. JC offers an outlet for graduate students, post-docs and faculty to share new and exciting research with the department and provides a setting for lively discussions of recent, and sometimes controversial, papers. In addition, JC is a great way to gain experience presenting in front of an expert audience.

In order to register to give a talk, an online service is available on the Astro JC website that should be self-explanatory and easy-to-use. If for some reason you cannot sign-up on-line, please do not hesitate to send one of your organizers an e-mail indicating your chosen date. Every graduate student and post-doc is responsible for giving two talks per academic year, so it will be your responsibility to not only choose a date, but to also assist with any scheduling conflicts you may encounter as the date of your presentation nears. We kindly ask that you honour this request in an effort to help keep not only JC, but also the lives of your coordinators, running smoothly.

Schedule

Journal club will take place at a new time this year, Thursdays at 12:30 in ABB 304/A. Presentations should typically run for 25 minutes, allowing 5 minutes for questions. There will therefore be a maximum of 2 talks per JC slot with sessions running for either 30 or 60 minutes, depending on whether there are one or two talks scheduled. In all likelihood, some slots will not be filled and we will have some days without any scheduled talks. As such, please try to have a look at the overall schedule when choosing

your talk date and make an effort to fill empty slots before doubling up on already filled ones. If you have something you are excited to present and are itching to give an hour long talk, it should not be a problem to accommodate you. Given the typical graduate student's unbridled lust for giving talks, however, we ask that you notify us well in advance of your presentation date in order to meet the intensely overwhelming demand for talk time.

Journal Club slots are ideal for guest speakers and they will take precedence over regularly scheduled presenters. If your talk date happens to overlap with that of a guest speaker, you will be bumped to the next available time slot. In the event that the next time slot doesn't work for you, you will be escorted from the premises and warned never to return. An embarrassing e-mail will then be distributed to the members of your immediate family, notifying them of your humiliation. Either that, or we will try to find another date that works for you.

Updates

We plan to continue with the JC website this year as a means of providing an easily accessible schedule, as well as a reference for weekly abstracts and talk titles. In order to stay apprised of the upcoming weeks' talks, please become accustomed to referring to the website. We will continue to distribute a warning e-mail on Thursdays roughly 30 minutes before presentations start. As such, we ask that you e-mail Samantha (benincsm@mcmaster.ca) with your talk title and abstract at least 7 days before you are scheduled to present. This should give us plenty of time to update the website well in advance of your presentation so that the rest of the department will have an idea of what to expect for the upcoming week. Finally, if you plan to attend any JC presentations and suspect that you might not be on the JC mailing list, please send one of your organizers a quick e-mail to let us know that you would like to receive the weekly notifications.

Selecting a Presentation Topic

As in previous years, we encourage speakers to present a peer-reviewed article (usually published in either ApJ, MNRAS, A&A, Nature, Science, etc.) for one of the two JC talks. The presented paper can be chosen either from a list of papers that can be found at:

<http://www.physics.mcmaster.ca/apjclub/index.cgi?page=articles>,
OR a paper that has been approved by a supervisor. Many thanks to those faculty members, post-docs and graduate students who have been

kind enough to contribute to the list. We are always looking for further additions so if you happen to come across any exciting papers while perusing astro-ph, please don't hesitate to let us know!

To further foster the department's already open, friendly and interactive atmosphere, we encourage speakers to stray away from the list for the other JC talk (note: there is no preferred order of JC talks, i.e. the peer-reviewed talk can be either first or last). Basically, you should treat this as an opportunity to share your own research, or alternatively impart some interesting/vital knowledge to your peers (i.e. put on a python tutorial, summarize a recent conference you attended, discuss new plotting programs, teaching strategies, an observational test of a recently published theory, a theoretical interpretation for a recently published observational result, or ideas for research you have not had the time to develop, etc.). Remember to run your talk idea by a supervisor before presenting, because as much as we want to encourage creativity we also want to make sure the topics are relevant and appropriate! Ideally, JC should serve to benefit not only the department, but also the presenter. If there is something you would like to present that you suspect falls in this category, please let us, and your supervisor, know well in advance of your presentation date. We will do our best to accommodate your request.

We look forward to another invigorating year of Journal Club talks and discussions. See you all there!

– The Organizers