

LIZXANDRA FLORES RIVERA

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EDUCATION

Postdoctoral researcher

2023-2025

Center for Star and Planet formation, Globe institute, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

PIs: Dr. Michiel T. A. Lambrechts and Anders Johansen

Doctorate of Philosophy in Astronomy

30 November 2022

Connection simulations of protoplanetary disks with forbidden emission lines observations.

Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA) at Heidelberg, Germany

PI: Dr. Mario Flock

Master of Science in Physics

June 2018

Thesis Title: *Chemistry of the Envelope and Disk in the Protostar L1527.*

California State University Los Angeles (CSULA)

PI: Dr. Susan Terebey

Bachelor of Science in Theoretical Physics/minor in Atmospheric Sciences

May 2015

University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez (UPRM)

QUALIFICATION STRENGTHS AND INTERESTS

Research Interest Areas

Global hydrodynamical simulations on protoplanetary disks using PLUTO code. Post-processing with radiative transfer and chemical models.

Programing languages experience Softwares

Python, IDL, Fortran and C
PLUTO 4.4, RADMC3D

CURRENT RESEARCH

Pebble concentration in vortices

Globe institute

Postdoctoral research

- We performed 3D HD simulations including Lagrangian dust particles using PLUTO 4.4 to understand where dust particles of different sizes concentrate in disks. We find that the particles concentrate in stable and long-lived vortices. We post-process the simulations with RADMC3D to obtain the synthetic dust continuum emission at different wavelength bands that is directly comparable to ALMA and ngVLA. Our findings suggest that particle concentrations within vortices formed in VSI-driven turbulent disks can account for the observed dust asymmetries in protoplanetary disks, which are often attributed to the presence of giant planets.

Ice particles processing in VSI-active disk

Globe institute

Postdoctoral research

- We performed HD simulations, including Lagrangian dust particles, using PLUTO 4.4 to understand how dust particles of different sizes are UV-processed in the disk and influenced by VSI-driven turbulence. We found that a fraction of 100 micrometer particles are UV-processed by photodissociation at the UV layer ($Z/R=0.2$), given that their residence time is comparable to their icy destruction timescale. The 1 mm particles remain UV-shielded for the entire dynamical evolution of the disk.

Forbidden emission lines in protostellar outflows and jets with MUSE/VLT.

MPIA

PhD Project II

- We analyze spatially resolved seven forbidden emission lines, that are originating from the outflow/jet in five T Tauri sources. We aim to derive the position angle of the outflow/jet, that is connected with the inner disk, and compare it with the position angle of the dust constrained from the outer disk by previous work. The idea is to determine whether or not there is a potential misalignment between the inner disk and outer disk. We also attempted to analyze the velocity component of the lines.

Hydrodynamical simulations of protoplanetary disks including irradiation of stellar photons. Part I. Resolution study of Vertical Shear Instability (VSI).

MPIA

PhD Project I

- We perform HD simulations using PLUTO 4.3 and implemented our accretion disk setup in 2.5D (2 Dimensions, 3 Components) that covers approximately a full meridional domain. We selected an isothermal configuration to assess the vertical momentum and energy that the vertical shear can produced and influence the launch of winds at the surface of the disk.

Physical and Chemical Structure of the Disk and Envelope of protostar L1527 June 2016 - June 2018

Jet Propulsion Laboratory (NASA JPL)

Master Thesis Project

- We apply our modeling code, RadChemT, which combines collapse dynamics of the molecular cloud, radiative transfer (HOCHUNK3D), and gas-grain chemistry to ultimately reproduce ALMA C¹⁸O (2-1) and CARMA ¹²CO (1-0), and N₂H⁺(1-0) observations of L1527, which appear to trace the disk-envelope boundary, infall, and outflow of L1527 Class 0/I protostar.

OPTICAL OBSERVING EXPERIENCE

1.23 Telescope, Calar Alto Observatory (CAHA)

24 nights

- Operated the 1.23m telescope to take optical photometric observations of M-dwarfs as part of the EDEN project, searching for planetary transits in the northern-hemisphere. The telescope and instruments were operated in remote-mode. The observations included full telescope, dome and instrument control. Observer was in charge of calibration frames acquisition, and observation of the science targets.

PAST RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Identifying Extreme UltraViolet (EUV) plasma jets in Coronal Holes

June - August 2015

Marshall Space Flight Research Center (NASA MSFC)

NASA Academy

Atmospheric data and the prediction of flight path from scientific balloons

June - August 2014

Armstrong Flight Research Center (NASA AFRC)

Diagnosing meteorological conditions associated with sprites and lightning with large Charge Moment Changes (CMC) over Oklahoma

June - August 2013

Marshall Space Flight Research Center (NASA MSFC)

Improving weather forecasts on the western side of PR using weather sounding

August 2012 - May 2013

UPRM

Evaluation of hail size using Dual-Polarization radar products

June - July 2012

National Weather Service, Memphis, TN

Evaluation of dust events reaching P.R. during summer of 2011

June - July 2011

Bio-Optics Oceanography Laboratory (UPRM)

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Nakatani, R., Terebey, S., Turner, N., and L. Flores-Rivera, *Radiation Hydrodynamics Simulations of Envelope Accretion in L1527, in prep.*

N. Kurtovic, **L. Flores-Rivera**, et al., *An archival summary: 15 years of ALMA observations on disks and planet formation* (non-peer reviewed)

L. Flores-Rivera, Manger, N., et al. *Gas dynamics around dust asymmetries in turbulent disks*, AAS, 2026, 710, (18pp).

Terebey, S., Sandoval L., and **L. Flores-Rivera**, and Turner, N., and Barajas, A., *The dynamics of infall and accretion shocks in the outer disk*, ApJ, 2025, 990, 53.

L. Flores-Rivera, M. Lambrechts, S. Gavino, S. Lorek, and collaborators *UV-processing of icy pebbles in the outer parts of VSI-turbulent disks*, AAS, 2025, 693, 17pp.

J. Tregloan-Reed, C. Adam, J. Anais, A. Duong-Tuan, **L. Flores-Rivera**, et al., *Optical and NIR magnitude measurements of low Earth orbit satellite, from a global observing network*, Proceedings of the International Astronomical Union, 2024, A31, 80-81.

Birney, M., Whelan E., et al.+incl.(**L. Flores-Rivera**), *Spectro-imaging of the RU Lupi Wind and Jet*, A&A, 2024, 692, 13pp.

Dietrich, J., et al.+incl.(**L. Flores-Rivera**), *EDEN Survey: Small Transiting Planet Detection Limits and Constraints on the Occurrence Rates for Late M Dwarfs within 15 pc*, ApJ, 2023, 165, 149.

L. Flores-Rivera, M. Flock, et al., *Forbidden emission lines in protostellar outflows and jets with MUSE*, AAS, 670, A126.

L. Flores-Rivera, S. Terebey, K. Willacy, A. Isella, N. Turner, and M. Flock, *Physical and Chemical Structure of the Disk and Envelope of the Class 0/I protostar L1527*, ApJ, 2021, 908, 108F.

L. Flores-Rivera, M. Flock, and R. Nakatani, *Hydrodynamical simulations of protoplanetary disks including irradiation of stellar photons. I. Resolution study for vertical shear instability*, 2020, AAS, 644, A50.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/202039294>

T. Lang, S. Cummer, D. Petersen, **L. Flores-Rivera**, W. Lyons, D. MacGorman and W. Beasley, *Large Charge Moment Change Lightning in the El Reno Tornadoic Storm System*, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres.,120, March 2015.

COLLEGE JOURNAL PUBLICATION

L. Flores-Rivera, G. Rivera-Santiago, A. N. Ramos-Valle, and C.U. Pabon-Ortiz, *Juracan*, Revista Informativa Sociedad Meteorologica de Puerto Rico, Capitulo Estudiantil-UPR Recinto Universitario de Mayaguez, Vol.6, January 2013.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **NASA Emerging Worlds 2023 external reviewer honorarium**

An honorarium award of \$100 was given after my participation as an external reviewer in a NASA Emerging Worlds 2023 proposal. 2024

- **Seal of Excellence recognition by the European Commission**

for the DiskIce project (high scored but not funded) proposal under the Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie. 2023

HORIZON-MSCA-2023-PF-01-01 - MSCA postdoctoral fellowships.

- **MBRS-RISE MS-to-PhD** fellowship under the M.S. in CSULA

Grant: R25 GM061331

September 2017 - June 2018

- **JPL Master Thesis Fellowship Program (MSTP)** under the M.S. in CSULA

2017

May 2017 - September

- **NASA DIRECT-STEM** scholarship under the M.S. in CSULA.

Grant: NNX15AQo6A.

September 2015 - May 2017

- University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez , Arts and Sciences **Honor Roll**

2009-2014

TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Gas and dust dynamics in VSI-active disks

Hydrodynamics of circumstellar disks and planet formation, SETI institute, California, USA (invited talk) 8-12 June 2026

PFITS online series (invited talk) 1 June 2026

Seminar at DAMPT, Cambridge university, UK (invited talk) 20 March 2026

Flatiron workshop on Hydrodynamics and Dusty Turbulence in Protoplanetary disks, New York, USA (invited talk) 23-25 February 2026

Department of Astronomy, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) München, Germany 7 March 2025

Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Bologna, Italy(invited talk) 27 February 2025

New Heights for Planet Formation workshop, ESO Garching, Germany 15-19 July 2024

Lunch seminar, Center for Simulation Physics, Univ. of Georgia, USA (invited talk) 13 February 2024

PFM, Globe institute, Univ. of Copenhagen, Denmark 30 November 2023

Gas dynamics of infall in L1527

Globe institute, Univ. of Copenhagen, Denmark 31 May 2023

Gas dynamics and photoevaporative-driven winds

National Astronomical Observatory Japan (NAOJ), Tokyo, Japan 17 April 2023

Globe institute retreat, Valadalen, Sweden 3 March 2023

PFM, Globe institute, Univ. of Copenhagen, Denmark (invited talk) 14 December 2022

VSI conference 2022 via Zoom 8-11 November 2022

PSF coffee at MPIA, Germany 8 June 2022

Forbidden emission lines in protostellar outflows and jets with MUSE/VLT

Core2disk conference, Paris, France 9-13 October 2023

Jets and Winds from Young Stars workshop, Maynooth, Ireland (invited talk) 14 June 2023

Protostar and Planets VII conference in Kyoto, Japan (Poster: SF-06-0006) 10-15 April 2023

INSIDE conference 2022 in Ringberg castle, Kreuth, Germany (Poster) 18-21 September 2022

PSF coffee at MPIA, Germany 8 June 2022

Disk evolution and planet formation.

Speaker: **L. Flores-Rivera.**

International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Univ. of Copenhagen, Denmark (invited talk) 9 February 2024

Univ. of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, via Zoom (invited talk) 1 December 2023

Univ. of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, via Zoom (invited talk) 21 April 2022

California State University, Los Angeles, California, via Zoom (invited talk) 19 September 2022

Optical and NIR magnitude measurements of low Earth orbit satellites, from a global observing network (registered for presentation).

PI: Jeremy Tregloan-Reed (Univ. Atacama, Chile) and Co-authors (incl.): **L. Flores-Rivera.**

IAU General Assembly 2022, Busa, Republic of Korea, via Zoom. 2-11 August 2022

Disk dynamics and forbidden emission lines in protostellar outflows and jets with MUSE/VLT

University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A. 12-17 November 2021

University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, U.S.A. 10-12 November 2021

University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A. 6-10 November 2021

Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, U.S.A. 4-6 November 2021

University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A. 1-4 November 2021

NASA Ames Research Center in California, U.S.A. 27-31 October 2021

Overview PSF link: Protoplanetary disks

MPIA PSF retreat, in Weilburg, Germany (invited talk) 20-22 October 2021

Hydrodynamical simulations of protoplanetary disks including irradiation of stellar photons. Part I. Resolution study of VSI.

Authors: **L.Flores-Rivera** and M. Flock.

PLUTO symposium, via Zoom. 28-29 June 2021

Circumplanetary Disks and Satellite Formation II conference, ETH Zurich, Switzerland. 15-17 March 2021

Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (DAMTP), U. of Cambridge, U.K (invited talk) 15 February 2021

Grenoble workshop (via Zoom). 14 December 2020

Five years after HL Tau (Recorded Poster via Zoom). 7-11 December 2020

MPIA PSF coffee (via Zoom).	7 October 2020
Exoplanets III. Host: Kees Dullemond (Poster via Zoom).	July 2020
Building Blocks of Planets 2020 meeting. Host: Mario Flock (via Zoom).	April 2020
Disc2Planet meeting by Bertram Bitsch in Ringberg castle, Kreuth, Germany.	September 2019
Accretion 2019 meeting by Hubert Klahr in Ringberg castle, Kreuth, Germany.	July 2019

Physical and Chemical Structure of Disk and Envelope of Protostar L1527.

Authors: L.Flores-Rivera and S. Terebey.	
Heidelberg & Harvard workshop (via Zoom)	1 December 2020
Star Planet Formation Journal club seminar in Department of Astronomy, U. Michigan USA (invited talk)	18 August 2020
Harvard & Heidelberg workshop in Cambridge, Boston, U.S.A	November 2019
Planet Formation and Evolution meeting: P512, Rostock, Germany.	February-March 2019
232nd AAS Annual meeting, Denver CO. Molecular clouds, star formation and YSOs: 222.01.	June 2018
Annual DIRECT-STEM Research Symposium, CSULA.	April 2017
25th Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity, CSULA.	February 2017
229th AAS Annual meeting, Grapevine TX. Circumstellar and Debris disk session: 345.19.	January 2017
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena CA.	August 2016

Observational signature of protostellar disk accretion at 4.5 microns.

Authors: L. Flores-Rivera and S. Terebey.	
Annual DIRECT-STEM research Symposium, CSULA.	April 2016

Identifying Extreme UltraViolet (EUV) plasma jets in Coronal Holes.

Authors: L. Flores-Rivera and M. Adams.	
2015 AGU Virtual Poster Showcase, San Francisco, CA.	December 2015
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL.	August 2015

Vertical Profile of the atmosphere for K-12 teachers.

Authors: L. Flores-Rivera and J. Algarin.	
Eugene Francis Room, UPRM.	April 2015

Atmospheric data and the prediction of launch points for large scientific balloons.

Authors: L. Flores-Rivera and E. Teets.	
95th AMS Annual meeting, Phoenix, AZ. Amer.Meteor.Soc.,S15.	January 2015
NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center. Edwards Air Force Base, CA.	August 2014

Diagnosing meteorological conditions associated with lightning with Large Charge Moment Changes (CMC) over Oklahoma.

Authors: L. Flores-Rivera and T. Lang.	
94th AMS Annual meeting, Atlanta, GA. Amer.Meteor.Soc.,S52.	January 2014
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL.	August 2013

Evaluation of Hail Size using dual polarimetric radar data.

Authors: L. Flores-Rivera and T. Salem.	
93rd AMS Annual Meeting, Austin, TX. Amer.Meteor.Soc.,S21.	January 2013

African dust intrusions to the Eastern Caribbean during summer 2011.

Authors: L. Flores-Rivera , Y. Detres, and R. Armstrong.	
First International Workshop on the Long-Range Transport and Impacts of African Dust in the Americas. San Juan, P.R.	September 2012
Sixth NOAA Education and Science Forum, Tallahassee, FL.	March 2012
UPRM, Department of Physics, Summer Internship Symposium.	August 2011

LEADERSHIP AND OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

International Space University in Strasbourg, France	12 March 2026
I was invited to give a one-hour lecture to bachelor and master's about circumstellar disks.	

Dust-to-DNA summer school in Copenhagen, Denmark 18-22 August 2025

This one-week PhD course explores the journey from interstellar dust to habitable planets through interdisciplinary lectures and hands-on sessions led by international experts. I served on the organizing committee of the school, welcoming students, assisting them with questions during the hands-on sessions, and providing meals. For more information: <http://www.dust2dna.dk/>

Outreach day to Gefion Gymnasium high school in Copenhagen, Denmark 12 May 2025

The outreach consisted of a lecture about the formation of solar-like systems and life on Earth followed by an activity where students characterized different meteorites that we will bring from the institute. Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes.

Referee duties on scientific journal 2024

I've been serving as a referee for the Astrophysical Journal (ApJ).

External reviewer for a NASA Emerging Worlds proposal 2024

Invited to served as an external reviewer for a NASA Emerging Worlds proposal.

StarPlan seminar coordinator 2022-2023

Served as the coordinator of our weekly group meetings.

Teaching assistant at the University of Heidelberg, Germany 2021

Instructed bachelors and masters student the course about statistical methods for experimental physics for a total of 12 sessions.

MPIA PhD student representative 2020-2021

Together with two other PhD student representatives we worked to collect and to communicate students technical and finance needs to the administration during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public outreach at MPIA and Haus die Astronomie (HdA) 2019-2020

I held the position as one of the Guide Tour persons to demonstrate the 70cm King Telescope at MPIA and a showcase in the Planetarium at HdA.

One-day lecture experience at CSULA Spring 2018

Served as a substitute lecturer for my master's supervisor, Dr. Terebey, delivering a session on "Radiation fundamentals: brightness and flux density" as part of the Introduction to Astrophysics course.

NASA Leadership Academy Summer 2015

Enrolled in groups and teamwork activities, seminars, informal discussions, evening lectures, supervised research, tours, assessment, outreach to Kindergarten students, and voluntary work at a museum.

UPRM Meteorological Laboratory 2014-2015

Leader and Forecaster.

American Meteorological Society (AMS) UPRM Student Chapter 2013-2012

Editor-in-chief of the AMS UPRM Student Chapter Journal "Juracan"

Chair of the committee of Science Outreach and Interactive Science Demonstrations 2012

REFERENCES

Susan Terebey: sterebe@exchange.calstatela.edu

Neal Turner: neal.j.turner@jpl.nasa.gov

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