

# Henrik Knierim

## curriculum vitae

University of Zurich  
Winterthurerstrasse 190  
8057 Zürich, Switzerland  
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### Education

- 2015–2019 **Bachelor of physics**, *Ruprecht Karl University of Heidelberg*, Heidelberg  
Bachelor's thesis: Planet population synthesis driven by pebble accretion in different disk environments - Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Bertram Bitsch, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy
- 2018–2019 **Exchange Student**, *Kyoto University*, Kyoto
- 2019–2021 **Master of physics**, *Ruprecht Karl University of Heidelberg*, Heidelberg  
Master's thesis: On the Shallowness of Atmospheric Circulation in Hot Jupiters - Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Konstantin Batygin, Caltech; Prof. Dr. Bertram Bitsch, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy
- Since 2022 **PhD Student in theoretical astrophysics**, *University of Zurich*, Zurich  
Research focus: Mixing in giant planets, and the link between their composition and formation history. Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ravit Helled, University of Zurich

### Research Interests

Planetary interiors, planetary evolution, gas giant planets, mixing processes in giant planets, and Ohmic dissipation in planetary atmospheres

### Experience

#### Vocational

- 2015–2016 **Independent Entrepreneur**, Lübeck  
E-commerce sales  
Web design and digital promotion  
Event representation for Konami K.K.
- 2016–2018 **Co-Founder and Managing Director**, *Schön & Knierim GbR*, Bad Schwartau  
E-commerce operations  
Agency services for online entrepreneurs  
Team and client management
- 2019 **Research assistant**, *Max Planck Institute for Astronomy*, Heidelberg  
Topic: Numerical simulations of the opacity in protoplanetary disks - Supervisors: Dr. Sofia Savvidou; Prof. Dr. Bertram Bitsch
- Miscellaneous
- 2009 **Intern**, *Institute of Physics*, Lübeck  
Two-week internship at the Institute of Physics at the University of Lübeck
- 2014 **Intern**, *Dräger Medical GmbH*, Lübeck  
One-week internship in the research and development department for gas sensors

2019 **Intern**, *Max Planck Institute for Astronomy*, Heidelberg

Topic: Influence of Ohmic dissipation on the inflation of hot Jupiters - Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Konstantin Batygin, Caltech; Prof. Dr. Bertram Bitsch, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy

## ■ Languages

German Native  
English Fluent  
Japanese Intermediate  
French Intermediate

## ■ Honors & Distinctions

2025 Shortlisted for Faculty Position, Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences, Caltech

## ■ Professional Service

Referee for *The Astrophysical Journal Letters* and *Nature Communications*

Organizer of the *University of Zurich Planetary Seminar*

Memberships: NCCR PlanetS, JWST Program *Red Dwarfs and the Seven Giants: First Insights into the Atmospheres of Giant Exoplanets around M-dwarf Stars*

## ■ Teaching Experience

Supervised student Lucas Le Gall (Aix-Marseille University)

Planet Formation, Teaching Assistant (Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2025), University of Zurich

Computational Astrophysics, Teaching Assistant, (Fall 2023, Fall 2024), University of Zurich

The Universe: Contents, Origin, Evolution and Future, Teaching Assistant, (Spring 2023, Spring 2024), University of Zurich

High Performance Computing, Teaching Assistant (Fall 2024), University of Zurich

The Sun and Planets, Teaching Assistant (Spring 2022, Spring 2024), University of Zurich

Computational Methods in Radiative Transfer, Teaching Assistant (Spring 2025), University of Zurich

## ■ Outreach

Volunteer for the NCCR PlanetS outreach booth at Fantasy Basel (4x)

Volunteer for the Children's University of Zurich

Volunteer for EPSC Goes Live for Schools 2024  
Volunteer for the University of Zurich Science Info Day  
Volunteer for the University of Zurich Open Days

## Presentations and Contributions

### Invited Talks and Visits

- 2026 From Galaxies to Planets: an elemental journey, Ringberg
- 2025 ExoCoffee, MPIA, Heidelberg
- 2025 Planetary Seminar, NAOJ, Tokyo
- 2025 EDM I : Exoplanet Dynamics & Modeling, Caltech, Pasadena
- 2025 GPS Devision Seminar (Mar), Caltech, Pasadena
- 2025 Invited Visit (Jan), GPS, Caltech, Pasadena
- 2025 Institute Seminar of the Astrophysics Research Center, Open University of Israel, Ra'anana
- 2024 Challenge Accepted: Linking Planet Formation with Present-Day Atmospheres, Heidelberg
- 2022 Planet formation in accretion discs group, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, Heidelberg
- 2022 TAPS: theoretical astrophysics and planet formation, Bern
- 2021 The formation of the solar system, Ringberg

### Conference Talks

- 2025 51 Peg b 30th Birthday: Cool Giant Exoplanets & Their Systems, Observatoire de Haute-Provence
- 2025 PlanetS General Assembly, Neuchâtel
- 2024 PlanetS Junior Research Assembly, Murten
- 2022 SPP 1992 - Exploring the diversity of Exoplanets, Berlin
- 2022 Ariel Consortium Meeting, Paris
- 2022 PlanetS Junior Research Assembly, Interlaken

### Conference Posters

- 2024 Europlanet Science Congress, Berlin
- 2024 NCCR PlanetS General Assembly (poster contest finalist), Engelberg
- 2023 Protostars and Planets VII, Kyoto

## Publications

### First Author Publications

- 2025 **H. Knierim** and R. Helled. Unraveling the origin of giant exoplanets: Observational implications of convective mixing. *Astronomy and Astrophysics*, 698:L1, June 2025.

- 2024 **H. Knierim** and Ravit Helled. Convective Mixing in Gas Giant Planets with Primordial Composition Gradients. *The Astrophysical Journal*, 977(2):227, December 2024.
- 2022 **H. Knierim**, S. Shibata, and R. Helled. Constraining the origin of giant exoplanets via elemental abundance measurements. *Astronomy and Astrophysics*, 665:L5, September 2022.
- 2022 **H. Knierim**, K. Batygin, and B. Bitsch. Shallowness of circulation in hot Jupiters. Advancing the Ohmic dissipation model. *Astronomy and Astrophysics*, 658:L7, February 2022.

#### Non-First Author Publications

- 2025 I. Lockley, including **H. Knierim**, et al. The TOI-1117 multiplanetary system: 3 sub-Neptunes, 1 in both the Neptunian Desert and Radius Valley. *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 541(2):919–938, August 2025.
- 2025 N. Grieves, including **H. Knierim**, et al. Discovery of a cold giant planet and mass measurement of a hot super-Earth in the multi-planetary system WASP-132. *Astronomy and Astrophysics*, 693:A144, January 2025.
- 2024 A. Psaridi, including **H. Knierim**, et al. Discovery of two warm mini-Neptunes with contrasting densities orbiting the young K3V star TOI-815. *Astronomy and Astrophysics*, 685:A5, May 2024.
- 2024 M. Cointepas, including **H. Knierim**, et al. TOI-663: A newly discovered multi-planet system with three transiting mini-Neptunes orbiting an early M star. *Astronomy and Astrophysics*, 685:A19, May 2024.
- 2023 A. Osborn, including **H. Knierim**, et al. TOI-332 b: a super dense Neptune found deep within the Neptunian desert. *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 526(1):548–566, November 2023.
- 2023 D. Armstrong, including **H. Knierim**, et al. Discovery and characterization of two Neptune-mass planets orbiting HD 212729 with TESS. *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 524(4):5804–5816, October 2023.

#### Additional Qualifications and Activities

Michael Haukohl Foundation scholarship in rhetoric and debate; participated in Lübeck high schools' inaugural debating competition

Representative of Kyoto University at "The Negotiation Challenge" 2019

Model United Nations of Lübeck participant (4x)

Volunteer German teacher and mentor for refugees in Germany

Trained mentor for high school students, specifically from low-income backgrounds