

Stéphane Blondin

Curriculum Vitæ

Résidence Parc du Félibrige
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Associate researcher with 20 years of experience in optical/infrared data analysis and numerical simulations. Associate member of key future astronomical facilities (VRO/LSST, ATHENA, LISA). Software development and user-support since 2007. Awarded 10 research grants and supervised 6 students. Published over 50 peer-reviewed papers totalling over 7000 refereed citations.

Education

- 2016 **French Habilitation (Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches)**, Aix-Marseille Université, France
i required in France to be the main supervisor of PhD students and to apply for Full Professor positions
Thesis title: *Thermonuclear supernovae: observed properties and radiative-transfer modeling*
- 2005 **PhD in Astronomy**, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München (LMU), European Southern Observatory (ESO), Germany (magna cum laude)
Thesis title: *Optical Spectra of Thermonuclear Supernovae in the Local and Distant Universe*
Supervisors: Dr. Bruno Leibundgut (ESO) and Prof. Adalbert Pauldrach (LMU)
- 2002 **Master of Physics**, University of Southampton, UK (first class honours)
- 1997 **French Baccalaureate with International Option (OIB)**, Lycée International de Saint Germain en Laye (British International Section), France
i French Baccalaureate with two additional UK A-Levels (English literature and History)

Academic Appointments

- Feb 2010 – present **Associate Researcher of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)**
 - Jan 2021 – present Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Marseille (LAM), Marseille, France
 - Jan 2018 – Jan 2021 Laboratoire Franco-Chilien d'Astronomie (LFCA), Santiago, Chile
 - Sep 2012 – Jan 2018 Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Marseille (LAM), Marseille, France
 - Feb 2010 – Aug 2012 Centre de Physique des Particules de Marseille (CPPM), Marseille, France
- Jan 2019 – **Visiting Professor**, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC), Santiago, Chile
- Dec 2019 i joint appointment with the Laboratoire Franco-Chilien d'Astronomie (LFCA) of the CNRS
- Sep 2008 – **ESO Fellow**, European Southern Observatory, Garching bei München, Germany
Jan 2010 duty: pre-commissioning verification for the XSHOOTER instrument
- Nov 2005 – **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA), Cambridge, MA, USA
Aug 2008 duty: responsible of the CfA supernova spectroscopic follow-up program (> 600 h observing time)

Research Highlights

- o author of the **most popular tool for supernova classifications** (Blondin & Tonry 2007)
- o publication of the **largest spectroscopic data set** on Type Ia supernova (Blondin et al. 2012)
- o **Nature Research Highlight** for paper on time-dilation in supernova (Blondin et al. 2008)
- o **No. 32 top-cited paper of 2007** on the nature of Dark Energy (Wood-Vasey et al. 2007)
- o author of **57 refereed publications**: 3 with > 500 citations, 19 with > 100 citations, $h = 38$
- o **38 invited talks** at conferences, workshops, colloquia, seminars

Awards

- 2002 University of Southampton Physics and Astronomy Departmental Prize
- 2001 University of Southampton Physics and Astronomy Departmental Prize

Grants and Fellowships

- 2022 French CNRS Interdisciplinary (MITI) "Rare events" research grant, Co-I
- 2022 French CNRS National Stellar Physics Programme (PNPS) research grant
- 2021 European Southern Observatory (ESO) long-term Science Visitorship
- 2021 Seed Money Project of the University of Munich's (TUM/LMU) Excellence Cluster ORIGINS
- 2021 French CNRS National Stellar Physics Programme (PNPS) research grant
- 2017 French CNRS National Stellar Physics Programme (PNPS) research grant
- 2016 French CNRS National Stellar Physics Programme (PNPS) research grant
- 2014 French CNRS National Stellar Physics Programme (PNPS) research grant
- 2012 Marie-Curie International Reintegration Grant (IRG), Co-I (100 000 EUR)
- 2011 French National Research Agency (ANR) grant, Co-I (210 000 EUR)
Radiative Transfer modelling of Core-Collapse Supernovae (RTCCSN)
- 2011 Installation Research Grant from the city of Marseille
- 2008 European Southern Observatory (ESO) Fellowship
- 2007 "Initiative Postdoc" Grant from the French Ministry of Research
- 2003 NATO Advanced Study Institute Grant
- 2002 International Max Planck Research School on Astrophysics (IMPRS) Studentship

Invited Talks and Lectures (selected, last 5 years)

- 2021 **Invited Talk**, Radionuclides: Nuclear Physics, Astrophysical Models, and Observations, Seattle
Stable nickel production in thermonuclear Type Ia supernovae
- 2021 **Guest Lecturer**, Excellence Cluster ORIGINS, Garching, Germany
Stable Nickel Production in Type Ia Supernovae: A Smoking Gun for the Progenitor Mass?
- 2019 **Invited Seminar**, Observatoire Astronomique de Strasbourg, France
A Smoking Gun for the Progenitor Mass of Type Ia Supernovae
- 2018 **Invited Colloquium**, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile
Predicting the radiative display of Type Ia Supernovae: The case for multiple progenitor channels
- 2018 **Invited Talk**, South American Supernovae workshop (SAS18), ESO Santiago, Chile
Sub-Chandrasekhar-Mass Progenitors of Type Ia Supernovae
- 2017 **Guest Lecturer**, Special Universe Lectures, Excellence Cluster Universe, Garching, Germany
Type Ia Supernovae: observed properties, explosion physics, and open questions
Predicting the radiative display of Type Ia Supernovae: 1. testing the standard model
Predicting the radiative display of Type Ia Supernovae: 2. beyond the standard model

Student Supervision

- 2019 **Master thesis supervisor** for Jules Allegre, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon (3 months)
Comparison of 1D/2D double-detonation models for thermonuclear supernovae with SN 2011fe
- 2018 **Master thesis supervisor** for Lucie Khlát, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon (3 months)
Spectroscopic identification of supernovae with the Supernova Identification code (SNID)
- 2017 **Master thesis supervisor** for Jordan Noël, Université de Montpellier (4 months)
Radiative-transfer modeling of gamma-ray radiation in thermonuclear supernovae


- 2016 **Bachelor thesis supervisor** for Joshua Esteves, Aix-Marseille Université (1 month)
Structure and evolution of progenitor white dwarf stars of thermonuclear supernovae
- 2015 **Bachelor thesis supervisor** for Vadim Becquet, Aix-Marseille Université (1 month)
Confronting observations and radiative-transfer models of Type Ia supernovae
- 2015 **Bachelor thesis supervisor** for Sébastien Aynaud, Aix-Marseille Université (1 month)
Confronting observations and radiative-transfer models of Type Ia supernovae

Administrative and Collective Duties

- **Reviewer for research grants**
 - European Research Council (ERC)
 - Spanish State Research Agency (AEI)
 - US National Science Foundation (NSF)
 - US-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF)
 - Chilean National Fund for Scientific and Technological Development (FONDECYT)
 - Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
- **Resource/Time Allocation Committees**
 - Reviewer, UK Distributed Research utilising Advanced Computing (DiRAC) ×3
 - External reviewer, Optical Infrared Coordination Network for Astronomy (OPTICON)
 - Panel assistant, ESO Observing Programme Committee (OPC) ×3
- **Selection/Evaluation Committees**
 - Bachelor thesis defense committee, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (2018, 2019)
 - Master's thesis defense committee, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (2018)
 - Postdoc selection committee, French Excellence Laboratory OCEVU (2016)
 - External evaluator, ESO Scientific Personnel Committee (year undisclosed)
 - External examiner, Young Researcher prize of the French Physics Society (year undisclosed)
- **Conference/workshop organisation** (selected, last 5 years)
 - **Organiser**, *Hybrid in-person/virtual workshop on the Hubble Tension* (2021)
MIAPP/Excellence Cluster ORIGINS, Garching
 - **Organiser**, *Radiative transfer in supernovae* (2020, cancelled due to Covid-19)
Weizmann Institute for Science, Schwartz/Reisman Institute for Theoretical Physics
 - **Organiser**, *Radiative transfer in supernovae* (2019)
Max-Planck Institute for Astrophysics (MPA), Garching
 - **Organiser**, *Radiation Transfer and Explosive Thermonuclear Burning in Supernovae* (2018)
Weizmann Institute for Science, Schwartz/Reisman Institute for Theoretical Physics
- **Regular referee** (3-4 requests per year) for peer-reviewed journals: A&A, ApJ, MNRAS, Nature, PASP
- **Full member**: European Astronomical Society (EAS, since 2021); International Astronomical Union (IAU, since 2018); French Astronomical and Astrophysical Society (SF2A, since 2013)

Ongoing Collaborations (selected)

- ATHENA** **Advanced Telescope for High Energy Astrophysics (ESA Large mission)**
Co-I on the joint proposal between my home institute and the French Space Agency (CNES)
Member of the “Luminous Extragalactic Transients” science working group
- ePESSTO+** **advanced Public ESO Spectroscopic Survey for Transient Objects (Large Programme)**
Co-I, ESO-NTT Large Programme
Member of the “Faint and Fast Transients” and “Fast Blue Optical Transients” science groups
- LISA** **Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (ESA Large mission)**
Associate member of the LISA consortium and member of the Astrophysics working group
Co-author of the chapter on stellar-mass binaries of the Astrophysics WG white paper

- SNRadTrans Type Ia Supernova Radiative-Transfer code-comparison initiative**
Leader and co-PI of the code-comparison initiative, involving 11 teams
Developer of the benchmark problems (Python code available on github )
- VRO/LSST Vera Rubin Observatory Legacy Survey of Space and Time**
Co-PI of the French CNRS/INSU contribution, with full data access rights
Member of the “Transients and Variable Stars” science collaboration

Observing Experience and Data Reduction

- **Principal Investigator** on 6 ESO-VLT programmes (regular and Target-of-Opportunity)
- **Co-I on over 100 proposals** at ESO-VLT*, HST, Gemini, LCO*, MMT, CTIO, FLWO*
*including visitor mode
- **optical & near-infrared spectroscopy** with VLT+FORs, VLT+XSHOOTER, Gemini+GMOS, LCO Magellan 6.5 m+LDSS, FLWO 1.5 m+FAST
- **hands-on telescope operation** at the FLWO 1.5 m telescope in Tucson, AZ
- implementation of **2D deconvolution for spectral extraction** on complex backgrounds
- ample experience with **spectroscopic data reduction** and **pipeline development** (since 2002)

Outreach

- Organiser of **public talks and astronomical activities for elementary schools** (since 2017)
- Regular **astronomy consultant for French media**: La Recherche, Ciel & Espace, Science & Vie, Le Monde (since 2013)
- Regular **scientific animator in open-door events** such as the French nationwide science festival “Fête de la Science” (since 2010)

Computing and Language Skills

- proficient in **numerous coding languages**: Python, Fortran, C/C++, IDL, bash/csh
- **code parallelisation** (OpenMP/MPI) and **object-oriented programming** (OOP)
- regular user of **high-performance computing** clusters (> 500,000 CPU hours/year)
- training in **Machine-Learning in Python** and **IEEE Software Requirements**
- **French** (native), **English** (bilingual), **Spanish** (fully proficient), **German** (intermediate)

References

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First-author Refereed Publications

13 first-author refereed publications (including submitted that appear on arXiv).

Total citations: 1149; h -index = 12 (as of June 9, 2022)

Blondin, S., E. Bravo, F. X. Timmes, L. Dessart, and D. J. Hillier (Apr. 2022). “Stable nickel production in type Ia supernovae: A smoking gun for the progenitor mass?” In: *A&A* 660, A96, A96. DOI: 10.1051/0004-6361/202142323. arXiv: 2109.13840.

Blondin, S., L. Dessart, and D. J. Hillier (Mar. 2018). “The detonation of a sub-Chandrasekhar-mass white dwarf at the origin of the low-luminosity Type Ia supernova 1999by”. In: *MNRAS* 474, pp. 3931–3953. DOI: 10.1093/mnras/stx3058. arXiv: 1711.09107.

Blondin, S., L. Dessart, D. J. Hillier, and A. M. Khokhlov (Aug. 2017). “Evidence for sub-Chandrasekhar-mass progenitors of Type Ia supernovae at the faint end of the width-luminosity relation”. In: *MNRAS* 470, pp. 157–165. DOI: 10.1093/mnras/stw2492. arXiv: 1706.01901.

Blondin, S., L. Dessart, and D. J. Hillier (Apr. 2015a). “A one-dimensional Chandrasekhar-mass delayed-detonation model for the broad-lined Type Ia supernova 2002bo”. In: *MNRAS* 448, pp. 2766–2797. DOI: 10.1093/mnras/stv188. arXiv: 1501.06583.

Blondin, S., L. Dessart, D. J. Hillier, and A. M. Khokhlov (Mar. 2013). “One-dimensional delayed-detonation models of Type Ia supernovae: confrontation to observations at bolometric maximum”. In: *MNRAS* 429, pp. 2127–2142. DOI: 10.1093/mnras/sts484. arXiv: 1211.5892.

Blondin, S., T. Matheson, R. P. Kirshner, et al. (May 2012). “The Spectroscopic Diversity of Type Ia Supernovae”. In: *AJ* 143, 126, p. 126. DOI: 10.1088/0004-6256/143/5/126. arXiv: 1203.4832.

Blondin, S., D. Kasen, F. K. Röpkke, R. P. Kirshner, and K. S. Mandel (Oct. 2011). “Confronting 2D delayed-detonation models with light curves and spectra of Type Ia supernovae”. In: *MNRAS* 417, pp. 1280–1302. DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2966.2011.19345.x. arXiv: 1107.0009.

Blondin, S., K. S. Mandel, and R. P. Kirshner (Feb. 2011). “Do spectra improve distance measurements of Type Ia supernovae?” In: *A&A* 526, A81, A81. DOI: 10.1051/0004-6361/201015792. arXiv: 1012.0005.

Blondin, S., J. L. Prieto, F. Patat, P. Challis, M. Hicken, R. P. Kirshner, T. Matheson, and M. Modjaz (Mar. 2009). “A Second Case of Variable Na I D Lines in a Highly Reddened Type Ia Supernova”. In: *ApJ* 693, pp. 207–215. DOI: 10.1088/0004-637X/693/1/207. arXiv: 0811.0002.

Blondin, S., T. M. Davis, K. Krisciunas, et al. (Aug. 2008). “Time Dilation in Type Ia Supernova Spectra at High Redshift”. In: *ApJ* 682, pp. 724–736. DOI: 10.1086/589568. arXiv: 0804.3595.

Blondin, S. and J. L. Tonry (Sept. 2007a). “Determining the Type, Redshift, and Age of a Supernova Spectrum”. In: *ApJ* 666, pp. 1024–1047. DOI: 10.1086/520494. arXiv: 0709.4488.

Blondin, S., L. Dessart, B. Leibundgut, et al. (Mar. 2006). “Using Line Profiles to Test the Fraternity of Type Ia Supernovae at High and Low Redshifts”. In: *AJ* 131, pp. 1648–1666. DOI: 10.1086/498724. eprint: astro-ph/0510089.

Blondin, S., J. R. Walsh, B. Leibundgut, and G. Sainton (Feb. 2005). “Extracting clean supernova spectra. Towards a quantitative analysis of high-redshift Type Ia supernova spectra”. In: *A&A* 431, pp. 757–771. DOI: 10.1051/0004-6361:20042009. eprint: astro-ph/0410406.

Refereed Publications

57 refereed publications (13 as first author; including submitted that appear on arXiv).

Total citations: 7178; h -index = 38 (as of June 9, 2022)

Amaro-Seoane, Pau, Jeff Andrews, Manuel Arca Sedda, et al. (Mar. 2022). “Astrophysics with the Laser Interferometer Space Antenna”. In: *Submitted to Living Review in Relativity*, arXiv:2203.06016, arXiv:2203.06016. arXiv: 2203.06016 [gr-qc].

Blondin, S., E. Bravo, F. X. Timmes, L. Dessart, and D. J. Hillier (Apr. 2022). “Stable nickel production in type Ia supernovae: A smoking gun for the progenitor mass?” In: *A&A* 660, A96, A96. DOI: 10.1051/0004-6361/202142323. arXiv: 2109.13840.

Brennan, S. J., M. Fraser, J. Johansson, et al. (July 2022a). “Photometric and spectroscopic evolution of the interacting transient AT 2016jbu(Gaia16cfr)”. In: *MNRAS* 513.4, pp. 5642–5665. DOI: 10.1093/mnras/stac1243. arXiv: 2102.09572 [astro-ph.SR].

Brennan, S. J., M. Fraser, J. Johansson, et al. (July 2022b). “Progenitor, environment, and modelling of the interacting transient AT 2016jbu (Gaia16cfr)”. In: *MNRAS* 513.4, pp. 5666–5685. DOI: 10.1093/mnras/stac1228. arXiv: 2102.09576 [astro-ph.HE].

Shen, K. J., **S. Blondin**, D. Kasen, L. Dessart, D. M. Townsley, S. Boos, and D. J. Hillier (Mar. 2021). “Non-local Thermodynamic Equilibrium Radiative Transfer Simulations of Sub-Chandrasekhar-mass White Dwarf Detonations”. In: *ApJL* 909.2, L18, p. L18. DOI: 10.3847/2041-8213/abe69b. arXiv: 2102.08238 [astro-ph.HE].

Flörs, A., J. Spyromilio, S. Taubenberger, et al. (Jan. 2020). “Sub-Chandrasekhar progenitors favoured for Type Ia supernovae: evidence from late-time spectroscopy”. In: *MNRAS* 491.2, pp. 2902–2918. DOI: 10.1093/mnras/stz3013. arXiv: 1909.11055.

Galbany, L., C. Ashall, P. Höflich, et al. (Oct. 2019). “Evidence for a Chandrasekhar-mass explosion in the Ca-strong 1991bg-like type Ia supernova 2016hnk”. In: *A&A* 630, A76, A76. DOI: 10.1051/0004-6361/201935537. arXiv: 1904.10034.

Blondin, S., L. Dessart, and D. J. Hillier (Mar. 2018). “The detonation of a sub-Chandrasekhar-mass white dwarf at the origin of the low-luminosity Type Ia supernova 1999by”. In: *MNRAS* 474, pp. 3931–3953. DOI: 10.1093/mnras/stx3058. arXiv: 1711.09107.

Blondin, S., L. Dessart, D. J. Hillier, and A. M. Khokhlov (Aug. 2017). “Evidence for sub-Chandrasekhar-mass progenitors of Type Ia supernovae at the faint end of the width-luminosity relation”. In: *MNRAS* 470, pp. 157–165. DOI: 10.1093/mnras/stw2492. arXiv: 1706.01901.

Dhawan, S., B. Leibundgut, J. Spyromilio, and **S. Blondin** (June 2017). “Two classes of fast-declining Type Ia supernovae”. In: *A&A* 602, A118, A118. DOI: 10.1051/0004-6361/201629793. arXiv: 1702.06585.

Hicken, M., A. S. Friedman, **S. Blondin**, et al. (Nov. 2017). “Type II Supernova Light Curves and Spectra from the CfA”. In: *ApJS* 233, 6, p. 6. DOI: 10.3847/1538-4365/aa8ef4. arXiv: 1706.01030.

Dhawan, S., B. Leibundgut, J. Spyromilio, and **S. Blondin** (Apr. 2016). “A reddening-free method to estimate the ^{56}Ni mass of Type Ia supernovae”. In: *A&A* 588, A84, A84. DOI: 10.1051/0004-6361/201527201. arXiv: 1601.04874.

Narayan, G., A. Rest, B. E. Tucker, et al. (May 2016). “Light Curves of 213 Type Ia Supernovae from the ESSENCE Survey”. In: *ApJS* 224, 3, p. 3. DOI: 10.3847/0067-0049/224/1/3. arXiv: 1603.03823.

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Dessart, L., **S. Blondin**, D. J. Hillier, and A. Khokhlov (June 2014a). “Constraints on the explosion mechanism and progenitors of Type Ia supernovae”. In: *MNRAS* 441, pp. 532–550. DOI: 10.1093/mnras/stu598. arXiv: 1310.7747.

Dessart, L., D. J. Hillier, **S. Blondin**, and A. Khokhlov (Apr. 2014b). “[Co III] versus Na I D in Type Ia supernova spectra”. In: *MNRAS* 439, pp. 3114–3120. DOI: 10.1093/mnras/stu174. arXiv: 1310.7750.

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- Modjaz, M., **S. Blondin**, R. P. Kirshner, et al. (May 2014). “Optical Spectra of 73 Stripped-envelope Core-collapse Supernovae”. In: *AJ* 147, 99, p. 99. DOI: 10.1088/0004-6256/147/5/99. arXiv: 1405.1910.
- Blondin, S.**, L. Dessart, D. J. Hillier, and A. M. Khokhlov (Mar. 2013). “One-dimensional delayed-detonation models of Type Ia supernovae: confrontation to observations at bolometric maximum”. In: *MNRAS* 429, pp. 2127–2142. DOI: 10.1093/mnras/sts484. arXiv: 1211.5892.
- Dessart, L., R. Waldman, E. Livne, D. J. Hillier, and **S. Blondin** (Feb. 2013). “Radiative properties of pair-instability supernova explosions”. In: *MNRAS* 428, pp. 3227–3251. DOI: 10.1093/mnras/sts269. arXiv: 1210.6163.
- Blondin, S.**, T. Matheson, R. P. Kirshner, et al. (May 2012). “The Spectroscopic Diversity of Type Ia Supernovae”. In: *AJ* 143, 126, p. 126. DOI: 10.1088/0004-6256/143/5/126. arXiv: 1203.4832.
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- Burke, D. L., T. Axelrod, **S. Blondin**, et al. (Sept. 2010b). “Precision Determination of Atmospheric Extinction at Optical and Near-infrared Wavelengths”. In: *ApJ* 720, pp. 811–823. DOI: 10.1088/0004-637X/720/1/811.
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- Hicken, M., P. Challis, S. Jha, et al. (July 2009a). “CfA3: 185 Type Ia Supernova Light Curves from the CfA”. In: *ApJ* 700, pp. 331–357. DOI: 10.1088/0004-637X/700/1/331. arXiv: 0901.4787.
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- Simon, J. D., A. Gal-Yam, O. Gnat, et al. (Sept. 2009). “Variable Sodium Absorption in a Low-extinction Type Ia Supernova”. In: *ApJ* 702, pp. 1157–1170. DOI: 10.1088/0004-637X/702/2/1157. arXiv: 0907.1083.

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- Blondin, S.**, T. M. Davis, K. Krisciunas, et al. (Aug. 2008). "Time Dilation in Type Ia Supernova Spectra at High Redshift". In: *ApJ* 682, pp. 724–736. DOI: 10.1086/589568. arXiv: 0804.3595.
- Dessart, L., **S. Blondin**, P. J. Brown, et al. (Mar. 2008). "Using Quantitative Spectroscopic Analysis to Determine the Properties and Distances of Type II Plateau Supernovae: SN 2005cs and SN 2006bp". In: *ApJ* 675, pp. 644–669. DOI: 10.1086/526451. arXiv: 0711.1815.
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- 12 AstroNotes reporting spectroscopic classifications of supernovae for the adH0cc collaboration
- 2 Astronomer's Telegrams (ATel) reporting on HST observations of supernovae
- 2 GRB Coordinates Network circulars (GCN) reporting spectroscopic classifications and redshifts of supernovae and GRBs (2 as first author)