



ZENTRUM FÜR
ASTRONOMIE



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Hong Kong Laureate Forum

Heidelberg, March 19, 2025

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Letter of recommendation for Dr. Mike Y. M. Lau,

Dear members of the selection committee,

I would like to express my strongest support for the application of Dr. Mile Lau for participation in the prestigious Hong Kong Laureate Forum.

Allow me to introduce myself briefly. My name is Friedrich Röpke and I am a Full Professor of Theoretical Astrophysics at Heidelberg University, Germany, and lead the research group “Physics of Stellar Objects” at the Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies (HITS).

It is my great privilege to host Mike Lau in my group who came to work with us in the context of the Croucher Fellowship he won in 2023. Already at his young academic age, Mike is considered to be one of the leading experts in the field of modeling the interaction of binary stars – as evidenced by his invitation as a review speaker at international meetings and his co-authorship of a standard encyclopedia article reviewing the field.

His impressive academic career included in some of the world’s most prestigious institutions active in stellar astrophysics – the University of Oxford, the Flatiron Institute in New York and the Monash Center for Astrophysics in Melbourne, Australia. In these places, Mike acquired a unique expertise my group greatly profits from.

Learning from some of the most prominent researchers at the HKLF and networking with the local community would certainly foster Mike’s career and his participation in the forum marks an important step for him.

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I therefore enthusiastically support his application.

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Friedrich Röpke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F' and a stylized 'R'.

Friedrich Röpke

Professor of Theoretical Astrophysics, Heidelberg University and
Research Group leader at the Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies