

RAMAN MUKUNDAN

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U.S. Citizen
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EDUCATION

University of New Hampshire 2020 - Present
Doctor of Philosophy in Physics

University of Colorado Boulder 2016 - 2019
Bachelor of Arts in Physics (*summa cum laude*)

RESEARCH

Geomagnetic Disturbance Modeling 2020 - Present
University of New Hampshire - Research advisor: Dr. Amy Keese

Developing space weather forecasting models to predict geomagnetically induced currents (GICs) and to explain the spatially localized nature of ground-level magnetic perturbations. Implementing neural networks and other machine learning algorithms for high-cadence multivariate timeseries analysis.

Frontier Development Lab 2023
Trillium Technologies in partnership with NASA, Google Cloud, and NVIDIA

Elevated the DAGGER geomagnetic perturbation forecasting model to a higher Technology Readiness Level. Created the SHEATH model to forecast solar wind at L1 given only solar imagery. Used a variety of cloud platforms to train and integrate machine learning components into operational pipeline.

Neutron Ground Level Enhancement Analysis 2019
University of Colorado Boulder - Research advisors: Dr. Daniel Baker and Dr. Thomas Berger

Independently studied theoretical ground-level enhancement precursor signals in neutron monitor data. Applied solar physics, time series analysis, and machine learning techniques. As part of an honors thesis, wrote a final paper and defended my work before a committee. Awarded *summa cum laude*.

Variable Star Astronomy 2016 - 2019
University of Colorado Boulder - Research advisor: Dr. Guy Stringfellow

Conducted observations using 0.5m ARCSAT telescope at Apache Point Observatory. Used photometric and spectroscopic data in concert to study luminous blue variable stars and supernova impostors.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Mukundan, R.**, Keese, A., Pinto, V., Marchezi, J. P., Coughlan, M., & Hampton, D. Localized Geomagnetic Disturbances: A Statistical Analysis of Spatial Scale. (Submitted to Space Weather; under review.)
- Coughlan, M., Keese, A., Pinto, V., **Mukundan, R.**, Marchezi, J. P., Johnson, J., Connor, H., & Hampton, D. (2023). Probabilistic forecasting of ground magnetic perturbation spikes at mid-latitude stations. Space Weather. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2023sw003446>
- Pinto, V. A., Keese, A. M., Coughlan, M., **Mukundan, R.**, Johnson, J. W., Ngwira, C. M., & Connor, H. K. (2022). Revisiting the ground magnetic field perturbations challenge: A machine learning perspective. Frontiers in Astronomy and Space Sciences. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fspas.2022.869740>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

- Uncovering the Relationships between Localized Geomagnetic Disturbances and the Solar Wind, GEM Summer Workshop, June 2024, Fort Collins, CO (poster)
- Multiscale Geoeffectiveness Forecasting: Upgrading the DAGGER Pipeline, AGU Fall Meeting, December 2023, San Francisco, CA (poster)
- Characterizing the Spatial Scales of Localized Ground-Level Magnetic Perturbations, AGU Fall Meeting, December 2023, San Francisco, CA (poster)
- Localized Geomagnetic Storm Forecasting from Sun to Mud, UNH EOS Space Science Seminar, October 2023, Durham, NH (**invited**)
- A Regional dB/dt Forecast Using Deep Learning and Spherical Elementary Current Systems, GEM Summer Workshop, June 2023, San Diego, CA (poster)
- The Influence of Inner Magnetosphere Data on a Regional Geomagnetically Induced Current Forecasting Model, AGU Fall Meeting, December 2022, Chicago, IL (poster)
- Investigating Localized Geomagnetic Perturbations with a Spherical Elementary Current Systems Approach, GEM Summer Workshop, June 2022, Honolulu, HI (poster)
- Optimizing a Neural Network for Regional Forecasting of Ground Magnetic Perturbations Using Spherical Elementary Current Systems, Machine Learning in Heliophysics Conference, March 2022, Boulder, CO (poster)
- Forecasting Ground-Level Magnetic Perturbations Using a Spherical Elementary Current System Method, AGU Fall Meeting, December 2021, New Orleans, LA (**invited**)
- Forecasting Geomagnetically Induced Currents with a Global Machine Learning Model, GEM Summer Workshop, June 2021, held virtually (poster)

PROJECTS

Citizen CATE 2024

Took photometric and polarimetric data of the solar corona during the 2024 solar eclipse over North America. I was part of a large collaboration of citizen scientists that imaged the eclipse from sites strategically paced along the path of totality, and engaged with members of local communities to inform them about eclipse science.

2023 NASA Space Apps Challenge 2023

Participated in the NASA-run hackathon. Contributed to the “Develop the Oracle of DSCOVR” challenge with an automated approach to clean a problematic in-situ dataset, using it to virtualize another instrument through generative machine learning.

Colorado Space Grant Consortium: Project Chimera 2017-2018

Created a lightweight, low-cost stratospheric cosmic ray detector as part of a student-led team. Collaboratively designed and built a multi-channel CsI(Tl) scintillator, supporting hardware and software, and data analysis algorithms. This project was funded by an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) grant.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Professor James M. E. Harper Fellowship 2020

Graduate scholarship awarded by the University of New Hampshire Department of Physics and Astronomy for academic merit and strong research performance.

President Joseph A. Sewall Award

2016-2019

Undergraduate scholarship awarded by the University of Colorado Esteemed Scholars Program for extraordinary academic achievement.

SELECTED WORKSHOPS ATTENDED	
Institute for AI and Fundamental Interactions Summer School, Boston, Massachusetts	2024
Operational Space Weather Fundamentals, L'Aquila, Italy	2024
Machine Learning in Heliophysics, Boulder, Colorado	2022
Space Weather Workshop, Boulder, Colorado	2019