

# LAUREN P. MILLER

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Studying the interiors, surfaces, and atmospheres of exoplanets and solar system objects to understand the origin, formation, and evolution of planetary systems and their potential for habitability; observational searches for exoplanets; computational astrophysics

## EDUCATION

**Master of Science, Astronomy** Fall 2023  
**San Diego State University**, San Diego, California

**Thesis:** “Modeling and Retrieval of Secondary Eclipse Spectra for Characterizing Cloudy or Hazy Exoplanet Atmospheres”

**Advisors:** Dr. Gael Roudier, Dr. Mark Swain, Dr. Jerome Orosz

**Bachelor of Science, Astrophysics** Spring 2018  
**Lehigh University**, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Space Telescope Science Institute**, Baltimore, Maryland 2021 to Present  
**Technical Staff Researcher, Instrument Division**

- Advisor: Dr. Nestor Espinoza
- Investigating asymmetries in giant exoplanet atmospheres during transit with TESS data to determine how variations in morning and evening limbs can impact atmospheric composition studies, informing future observations with the James Webb Space Telescope

**San Diego State University**, San Diego, California 2018 to 2023  
**Graduate Researcher, Department of Astronomy**

- Advisors: Dr. Mark Swain, Dr. Gael Roudier, Dr. Jerome Orosz
- Collaboration between NASA JPL and San Diego State University
- Wrote a multi-stream emission spectrum modeling code in Python that accounts for scattering phase functions, a parametrized temperature-pressure profile, and atomic, molecular, and collision-induced absorption based on a modified version of DISORT, a radiative transfer equation solver
- Utilized secondary eclipse data of WASP-43b from HST WFC3 to conduct a retrieval of atmospheric properties, including the temperature-pressure profile, the abundance of water, and the aerosol particle size and density

**NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory**, Pasadena, California

2017 to 2019

**Summer Research Intern, Astrophysics and Space Sciences**

- Advisors: Dr. Mark Swain, Dr. Gael Roudier
- Three-year participant in the JPL Summer Internship Program (JPLSIP), a branch of the California Institute of Technology Student-Faculty Programs (SURF)
- Determined the effect of non-uniform vertical mixing ratios, aerosol particle size and density, scattering phase functions, and temperature profiles on forward atmospheric models to forecast transmission and emission spectra from the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and the Contribution to ARIEL Spectroscopy of Exoplanets (CASE), JPL's scientific instrument contribution to the Atmospheric Remote-Sensing Infrared Exoplanet Large-Survey (ARIEL)
- Contributed to the development of CERBERUS, a Bayesian retrieval scheme for efficiently applying high-dimensional model spaces to the study of exoplanet atmospheres

**Lehigh University**, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

2016 to 2017

**Undergraduate Researcher, Department of Physics**

- Advisor: Dr. Joshua Pepper
- Analysis of time-series photometry for ACV variable star HD 240121 using data from the Kilodegree Extremely Little Telescope (KELT)
- Calculated the abundance of atomic and ionic species in the stellar atmosphere of WASP-12 using equivalent width methods

**University of Science and Technology of China**, Hefei, China

2016

**Lee Iacocca International Research Intern, School of Physical Sciences**

- Advisor: Dr. Hongyan Zhou
- Chosen from a highly selective application process through the Lee Iacocca Summer International Research Internship to complete a fully-funded research internship abroad
- Reduced preliminary CCD images from the Antarctic Bright Star Survey Telescope, an optical telescope built by the University of Science and Technology of China and Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology, China Academy of Science
- Analysis of time-series photometry for HAT-P-12 and its companion exoplanet to confirm the viability of the instrument
- Edited and proofread a scientific manuscript titled "Photoionization-Driven Variability of Absorption Lines in Balmer BAL Quasar LBQS1206+1052"

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Space Telescope Science Institute**, Baltimore, Maryland Aug. 2020 to Present

**Staff Scientist II, Science Support (2023-Present)**

**Science Support Analyst I (2020-2023)**

- Part of the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) Cosmic Origins Spectrograph (COS) team
- Deputy Lead of the Pipeline Working Group
- Lead of the HST Help Desk
- Former deputy lead of the HST Help Desk and the lead of the COS Help Desk
- Support the development and operations of the CalCOS pipeline
- Responsible for the creation and delivery of new calibration files for COS
- Provide user support to researchers on various aspects of observation planning and data analysis

**Zoellner Arts Center**, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania Sept. 2015 to May 2018

**Front-of-House Assistant/Ticket Sales Representative**

- Serviced all incoming requests for seasonal, group, and individual ticket information and sales, and provided additional support to the ticketing and marketing departments when necessary
- Supported the House Manager in all front-of-house aspects of a performance

**Glen Rock Medical Pharmacy**, Glen Rock, New Jersey Feb. 2013 to Aug. 2017

**Front Desk Sales Clerk**

- Acted as a customer service representative for the pharmacy through the handling of the register, answering the phone, and putting together deliveries for local/national shipments of medication

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**San Diego State University**, San Diego, California Aug. 2020

**Graduate Assistant**, SDSU Research Foundation

- Contributed to the updating of the lab manual that is used by the ASTR 109 classes (SDSU Department of Astronomy) to transition the course to be fully remote and virtual for the Fall 2020 Semester, as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis

**San Diego State University**, San Diego, California Aug. 2018 to Aug. 2020

**Graduate Teaching Associate**, Department of Astronomy

- Taught “Introduction to Astronomy Laboratory” (ASTR 109), an undergraduate course averaging 50 students per semester, covering the following topics: measuring the sizes of, and distances to celestial objects; methods of astronomical observations; fundamental physics (mechanics, light, optics, etc.); the solar system; stars; exoplanets; galaxies; and cosmology
- Responsible for developing the syllabi, writing in-class quizzes, creating the structure of the lab, setting up lab materials, and grading lab reports
- Assisted in continually updating the lab manual
- Held help-room hours each week for students in all undergraduate astronomy courses
- Led and coordinated field trips to the 21” Visitors Telescope at Mount Laguna

Observatory, an astronomical observatory owned and operated by SDSU, located in the Cleveland National Forest

**San Diego State University**, San Diego, California Jan. 2019 to June 2019

**Academic Tutor**, San Diego State University Athletics

- Tutored Introduction to Astronomy (ASTR 101), Fundamentals of Physics (PHYS 180A), and Mathematics for Life (MATH 110)
- Clarified and reviewed course concepts for groups of one to five SDSU student-athletes through advancing time management and studying skills, organizing notes, and addressing individual concerns about course material
- Assessed students for satisfactory progress in their courses to meet standards set by the NCAA and SDSU

**Chegg Inc.**, Santa Clara, California Dec. 2017 to June 2019

**Tutor**, Chegg Tutors

- Tutored astronomy, math, and physics in-person and online
- Implemented lesson plans that accommodated the students' learning strategies, while offering continuous support to ensure each student was able to grasp the materials
- Certified as a tutor by Chegg Inc.

#### HONORS AND AWARDS

**STScI BRAVO Award** 2020-2025  
Space Telescope Science Institute

**STScI Team Award** 2021  
Space Telescope Science Institute

**STScI Staff Award** 2021  
Space Telescope Science Institute

**Chambliss Astronomy Achievement Student Award Nominee** 2020  
American Astronomical Society

**Funds for Astronomical Meetings: Outreach to Underrepresented Scientists (FAMOUS) Travel Grant** 2020  
American Astronomical Society

**Reginald F. Buller Endowment Scholarship** 2019  
San Diego State University

**Ruth and Clifford Smith Astronomy Fellowship** 2019  
San Diego State University

**William F. Lucas/San Diego Astronomy Association Memorial Scholarship** 2018  
San Diego State University

<b>Society of Physics Students Travel Award</b> Society of Physics Students	2018
<b>Lehigh University C.A.S. Undergraduate Research Grant</b> Lehigh University College of Arts and Sciences	2017
<b>Lehigh University Schaufeld Scholar</b> Lehigh University College of Arts and Sciences	2017
<b>Lee Iacocca International Research Internship</b> Lehigh University Iacocca International Research Program	2016
<b>Dean's List</b> Lehigh University Dean of Students	2016

## PUBLICATIONS

Sankrit, R., Debes, J., Burger, M.,..., **Miller, L.**, et al, 2025, **Instrument Science Report COS 2025-18**

**Miller, L.P.**, Fischer, T.C., Hasselquist, S., et al, 2025, **Instrument Science Report COS 2025-17**

Indriolo, N., Fischer, W., Frazer, E.M.,..., **Miller, L.P.**, et al, 2025, **Instrument Science Report COS 2025-15**

**Miller, L.P.**, Frazer, E.M., Hasselquist, S., Rowlands, K., 2025, **Instrument Science Report COS 2025-08**

Frazer, E.M., **Miller, L.P.**, Sankrit, R., Hasselquist, S., 2025, **Instrument Science Report COS 2025-02**

Dos Santos, L., Damoah, A., Debes, J.,..., **Miller, L.**, et al, "Updated Status and Performance of the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph", 2025, **Bulletin of the AAS, 203.04, 245**

**Miller, L.P.**, Sankrit, R., Fischer, W.J., 2024, **Instrument Science Report COS 2024-16**

Hernandez, J., Ake, T., Debes, J.,..., **Miller, L.**, et al, "Updated Status and Performance of the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph", 2024, **Bulletin of the AAS, 332.07, 244**

Indriolo, N., Ake, T., Dos Santos, L.,..., **Miller, L.**, et al, "Improvements to the Geometric Distortion and Walk Corrections", 2024, **Bulletin of the AAS, 360.07, 243**

Rowlands, K., Ake, T., Debes, J.,..., **Miller, L.**, et al, "Updated Status and Performance of the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph", 2024, **Bulletin of the AAS, 360.31, 243**

Debes, J., Sankrit, R., ..., **Miller, L.**, et al, 2024, **Instrument Science Report COS 2024-01**  
**Miller, L.P.**, "Modeling and Retrieval of Secondary Eclipse Spectra for Characterizing Cloudy or

Hazy Exoplanet Atmospheres”, **San Diego State University Master's Thesis, 2023**

Fischer, W., Frazer, E., ..., **Miller, L.P.**, et al, 2023, **Instrument Science Report COS 2023-28**

Sankrit, R., Fischer, W., ..., **Miller, L.**, et al, 2023, **Instrument Science Report COS 2023-25**

Gomez, S., Debes, J., Dietrich, S.,..., **Miller, L.**, et al, “Updated Status and Performance of the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph”, 2023, **Bulletin of the AAS, 230.08, 242**

Indriolo, N., Fischer, W., ..., **Miller, L.P.**, et al, 2023, **Instrument Science Report COS 2023-9**

**Miller, L.P. & Sankrit, R.**, 2023, **Instrument Science Report COS 2023-5**

Rafelski, M., Debes, J., Dietrich, S.,..., **Miller, L.**, et al, “Science with the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph into the 2030's”, 2023, **Bulletin of the AAS, 462.02, 241**

Fischer, T., Debes, J., Dietrich, S.,..., **Miller, L.**, et al, “Updated Status and Performance of the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph”, 2023, **Bulletin of the AAS, 462.01, 241**

Fischer, W.J., Ake, T., Dashtamirova, D.,..., **Miller, L.P.**, et al, “COS 2030: New Lifetime Positions for FUV Spectroscopy with the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph”, 2022, **Bulletin of the AAS, 304.02, 240**

**Miller, L.P.**, Espinoza, N., Baeyens, R., et al, “Towards Constraints on Morning and Evening Terminators of Distant Worlds with TESS”, 2022, **Bulletin of the AAS, 234.03, 240**

Kerman, N.E.B., Ahmad, F., Ake, T.,..., **Miller, L.P.**, et al, “Updated Status and Performance of the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph”, 2022, **Bulletin of the AAS, 304.03, 240**

Fischer, W.J., Ake, T., Dashtamirova, D.,..., **Miller, L.P.**, et al, “COS 2030: New Lifetime Positions for FUV Spectroscopy with the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph”, 2022, **Bulletin of the AAS, 373.04, 239**

**Miller, L.P.**, Espinoza, N., Baeyens, R., et al, “Towards Constraints on Morning and Evening Terminators of Distant Worlds with TESS”, 2022, **Bulletin of the AAS, 233.08, 239**

Kerman, N.E.B., Ahmad, F., Ake, T.,..., **Miller, L.P.**, et al, “Updated Status and Performance of the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph”, 2022, **Bulletin of the AAS, 377.01, 239**

Sanhow, D.J., Ake, T., Dashtamirova, D., ..., **Miller, L.**, et al, “Extending the life of the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph (COS) with new lifetime positions”, 2021, **Proceedings of the SPIE, 11821**

Plesha, R., Ahmad, F., Ake, T., ..., **Miller, L.P.**, et al, “Updated Status and Performance of the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph”, 2021, **Bulletin of the AAS, 216.03, 238**

Rafelski, M., James B., ..., **Miller, L.**, et al, “Enabling Ultraviolet Science into the 2030's

with the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph”, 2021, **Bulletin of the AAS**, **326.08**, **237**

Fischer, T., Rafelski, M., James B., ..., **Miller, L.**, et al, “Updated Status and Performance of the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph”, 2021, **Bulletin of the AAS**, **350.01**, **237**

**Miller, L.P.**, Roudier G., Swain M., Orosz, J., Welsh, W., “Emission Spectra Modeling and Parameter Retrieval for Exoplanet Atmospheres”, 2020, **Bulletin of the AAS**, **173.6**, **235**

Sun, L., Zhou, H., ..., **Miller, L.P.**, et al, “Photoionization-driven Absorption-line Variability in Balmer Absorption Line Quasar LBQS 1206+1052”, **2017, ApJ**, **838**, **88**

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“CERBERUS: a Bayesian retrieval scheme for efficiently applying high dimensionality model spaces to the study of exoplanet atmospheres”, Gael M. Roudier, Mark R. Swain, Albert F. Niessner, Gabriela Hernandez, **Lauren Miller**, **2018** (NPO 50770-CP, NASA JPL/California Institute of Technology)

#### **PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES**

**Poster Presentation**, “**HST COS FUV Calibration with New Geometric Distortion and Walk Corrections**”, 246th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society, June 2025.  
(\*\*Abstract accepted, couldn't attend due to budgetary cuts\*\*)

**Oral Presentation**, “**Evaluating HASP Flux Calibration Using CALSPEC Models to Enable High-quality Spectral Data from HST**”, Accurate Flux Calibration in the Era of Space Astronomy and All-Sky Surveys, October 2024.

**Oral Presentation**, “**Modeling and Retrieval of Secondary Eclipse Spectra for Characterizing Cloudy Or Hazy Exoplanet Atmospheres**”, Master's Thesis Defense, San Diego State University, September 2023.

**Oral Presentation**, “**Towards Constraints on Morning and Evening Terminators of Distant Worlds with TESS**”, 240th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society, June 2022.

**Oral Presentation**, “**Towards Constraints on Morning and Evening Terminators of Distant Worlds with TESS**”, 239th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society, January 2022. (\*\*Canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic\*\*)

**Oral Presentation**, “**A Novel Approach to Modeling and Parameter Retrieval of Secondary Eclipse Spectra for Characterizing Cloudy Exoplanet Atmospheres**”, STScI INS ITsMoRE Meeting, April 2021.

**Poster Presentation**, “**Emission Spectra Modeling and Parameter Retrieval for Exoplanet Atmospheres**”, 235th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society, January 2020.

**Workshop**, “**Research Internship at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory**”, Society of Women in Space Exploration at SDSU NASA Internships Talk, November 2019.

**Oral Presentation, “Emission Spectra Modeling and Parameter Retrieval for Exoplanet Atmospheres”**, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Summer Internship Program Final Talk, August 2019.

**Oral Presentation, “Exoplanet Secondary Eclipse Spectra in the Near IR: The Contribution of Scattered Light through Aerosols”**, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Summer Internship Program Final Talk, August 2018.

**Poster Presentation, “Exoplanetary Atmospheres in the Near I.R. Spectrum: Departures from a Homogeneously Distributed Gas Assumption”**, Lehigh University EXPO, May 2018.

**Oral Presentation, “Atmospheric Studies of Exoplanets”**, Lehigh University Astronomy-Particle-Nuclear Undergraduate Research Symposium, April 2018.

**Poster Presentation, “Exoplanetary Atmospheres in the Near I.R. Spectrum: Departures from a Homogeneously Distributed Gas Assumption”**, American Physical Society March Meeting, March 2018.

**Oral Presentation, “Exoplanetary Atmospheres in the Near I.R. Spectrum: Departures from a Homogeneously Distributed Gas Assumption”**, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Summer Internship Program Final Talk, August 2017.

**Poster Presentation, “Light Curve Analysis of Alpha Canum Venaticorum Variable Star HD 240121”**, American Physical Society Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics, January 2017.

**Oral Presentation, “Data Reduction and Light Curve Analysis for HAT-P-12b from the Antarctic Bright Star Survey Telescope”**, University of Science and Technology of China, Iacocca International Internship Final Talk, August 2016.

#### ATTENDED CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

<b>ExoJamboree</b> Baltimore, MD	2025
<b>Accurate Flux Calibration in the Era of Space Astronomy and All-Sky Surveys</b> Baltimore, MD	2024
<b>STScI Spring Symposium</b> Baltimore, MD	2023
<b>240th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society</b> Pasadena, CA	2022

<b>STScI Spring Symposium</b> Virtual Event	2021
<b>SAG 2021 Community Symposium</b> Virtual Event	2021
<b>Sagan Exoplanet Workshop</b> Virtual Event	2020
<b>235th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society</b> Honolulu, Hawaii	2020
<b>Lehigh University EXPO</b> Bethlehem, Pennsylvania	2018
<b>American Physical Society March Meeting</b> Los Angeles, California	2018
<b>American Physical Society Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics</b> Princeton, New Jersey	2017
<b>American Physical Society Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics</b> Syracuse, New York	2016

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

**American Astronomical Society**  
**Division of Planetary Science**  
**American Physical Society (2014-2018)**

#### COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

**Programming:** Python (Advanced), C/C++ (Beginner), LaTeX (Intermediate), MATLAB (Beginner), Maple (Beginner), SQL (Beginner), Mathematica (Beginner), Bash (Intermediate), Git (Intermediate), Fortran (Beginner), IDL (Beginner)

**Applications/Software:** AstroImageJ, SExtractor, SAOImage DS9, LabVIEW, Arduino, Astrometry.net, Shell, Microsoft OS/Suite, Eclipsing Light Curve (ELC) Code, GitHub, Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST), Hubble Space Telescope/ James Webb Space Telescope Exposure Time Calculator (ETC), Astronomer's Proposal Tool (APT), SDSS MaNGA Marvin Ecosystem, CalCOS Pipeline

#### TECHNICAL SKILLS

Experience in the calibration and operation of remote sensors, astronomical observatories, and astronomical instrumentation; experience in reducing and analyzing images and spectroscopic data; proficiency in several programming languages; experience in modeling and statistical analysis; ability to conduct independent research; experience in the development and implementation of astronomical software packages; experience giving colloquia or technical

presentations; technical writing experience demonstrated through a publication record

#### **OBSERVING AND PROPOSAL EXPERIENCE**

##### **Hubble Space Telescope**

Proposal ID. 17941, “COS FUV LP10 Calibration: Profiles, Traces, Sensitivities, Flat Fields, and Spatial Resolution”, PI: S. Hasselquist

##### **Hubble Space Telescope**

Proposal ID. 17940, “COS FUV LP7 Calibration: Profiles, Traces, Sensitivities, Flat Fields, and Spatial Resolution”, PI: S. Hasselquist

##### **Hubble Space Telescope**

Proposal ID. 17885, “FUV Focus Sweep Enabling Program at LP7/LP10”, **PI: L.P. Miller**

##### **Hubble Space Telescope**

Proposal ID. 17884, “Verification of Target Placement for COS at LP7 and LP10”, PI: D. Som

##### **Hubble Space Telescope**

Proposal ID. 16906, “COS FUV LP6 Calibration: Profiles, Traces, Sensitivities, Flat Fields, and Spatial Resolution”, PI: E. Frazer

##### **CHEOPS**

CHEOPS AO-3, “Constraining the morning and evening limbs of the Hot Jupiters WASP-79b and WASP-101b”, PI: J. Patel

##### **Mount Laguna Observatory 40” Reflector and Spectrograph**

Mount Laguna, CA

##### **Mount Laguna Observatory 21” Reflector**

Mount Laguna, CA

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

##### **JHU Physics Fair**

STScI Table Representative, Baltimore, MD

2025

##### **Maryland Science Center**

Science Engagement Volunteer, Baltimore, MD

2023-Present

##### **STScI Spring Symposium Workshop**

2023

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Workshop Organization Committee, Baltimore, MD

**San Diego State University Department of Astronomy** 2018-2020  
Community Outreach Volunteer, San Diego, CA

**235th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society** 2020  
AAS Volunteer, Honolulu, HI

**Lindsey Meyer Teen Institute** 2015  
Staff Member, Secaucus, NJ

**Buehler Challenger and Science Center** 2014  
Camp Counselor, Paramus, NJ

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

**Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity**

**Society of Physics Students**

**Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity**

**National Alliance on Mental Illness at Lehigh University**

**Lehigh University Mustard and Cheese Drama Society**

**San Diego State University Schwartz Astronomical Society**

**San Diego State University Women of Aeronautics and Astronautics/Students for  
Exploration and Development of Space**

**LANGUAGES**

**English:** Native Language

**French:** Elementary Proficiency

**OTHER**

**U.S. Citizen**

**Certified Operator for San Diego State University Planetarium**

**REFERENCES**

**Dr. Svea Hernandez** Deputy Manager  
Space Telescope Science Institute  
Cosmic Origins Spectrograph  
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**Dr. Nestor Espinoza**, Assistant Astronomer  
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Instrument Division  
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**Dr. Aparna Maybhate**, Branch Manager  
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Instrument and Science Support Branch  
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Baltimore, MD 21218  
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Email: [maybhate@stsci.edu](mailto:maybhate@stsci.edu)

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**Dr. Mark Swain**, Group Supervisor and Research Scientist  
NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
Exoplanet Discovery and Science (3262)  
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Pasadena, CA 91109  
Phone: (818) 455-2396  
Email: [mark.r.swain@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:mark.r.swain@jpl.nasa.gov)

**Dr. Gael Roudier**, Research Scientist  
NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
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Email: [gael.m.roudier@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:gael.m.roudier@jpl.nasa.gov)

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Email: [jorosz@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:jorosz@mail.sdsu.edu)

**Dr. Joshua Pepper**, Associate Professor  
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