

ANDREW THOMAS MCNICHOLS

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EXPERIENCE

Software Engineer

National Radio Astronomy Observatory

Nov. 2018 - Present

Charlottesville, VA

- Designing and implementing algorithms to modernize data manipulation infrastructure, minimize engineering overhead, maximize performance, ensure mature and reliable functionality.
- Lead developer for simulations, responsible for all aspects of the software engineering life-cycle: requirements derivation from broad scientific objectives through design, development, and integration with observatory operations.

Systems Administrator

National Radio Astronomy Observatory

Sep. 2017 - Nov. 2018

Charlottesville, VA

- Managed and developed hardware and software systems and tools associated with the North American ALMA Science Center archive and pipeline operations Petascale computing infrastructure.

Scientific Data Analyst

National Radio Astronomy Observatory

Sep. 2015 - Sep. 2017

Charlottesville, VA

- Conducted analysis of astronomical data for pipeline operations and development including investigations to identify and rectify issues in collaboration with teams of engineers and astronomers.

Staff Research Assistant

Macalester College

Sep. 2014 - Aug. 2015

Saint Paul, MN

- Processed, managed, analyzed, and published Terascale proprietary and public scientific data from astronomical observatories (including VLA, Hubble, Spitzer) for an international research collaboration.

Akamai Science Intern

Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Submillimeter Array

Jun. 2014 - Aug. 2014

Hilo, HI

- Developed visualization software for theoretical models of astronomical dust polarization using Python and C programming on research Linux system.

Undergraduate Research Fellow

NASA Hawai'i Space Grant Consortium

Aug. 2013 - Jun. 2014

Hilo, HI

- Managed hardware and software for a cosmic ray detection experiment using research Linux systems, particle detector, digital oscilloscope, Python and C++ programming.

Science Intern

Gemini Observatory

May 2013 - Nov. 2013

Hilo, HI

- Ported and developed data reduction pipelines for two near-infrared spectrographs using Python, IDL, IRAF, and shell scripting.

EDUCATION

University of Hawaii - Hilo, HI

B.Sc. Astronomy; B.A. Physics

August 2011 - June 2014

University of Vermont - Burlington, VT

August 2010 - June 2011