# Antony Sikorski

#### **EDUCATION**

## PhD, MS — Colorado School of Mines (CSM)

2022 - Present

Statistics PhD Candidate (graduation expected in May 2026)

Data Science MS awarded May 2024

Advisors: Douglas Nychka, Daniel McKenzie

**Research Focus:** Combining machine learning and spatial statistics to create fast, accurate, and interpretable methods for big datasets.

# BS — University of California, San Diego (UCSD)

2018 - 2021

Major in Applied Mathematics, Minor in Physics

#### AWARDS

— NSF GRFP Sept 2024

Awarded the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship in the second year of my PhD.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

— **Meta** May 2025 - Aug 2025

## Reality Labs – Data Scientist Intern

- Developing scalable optimization procedures at Reality Labs.

# NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Machine Learning Intern

May 2023 - Aug 2023

- Developed an unsupervised anomaly detection system using adversarially trained auto-encoders to identify communication failure modes between spacecraft and the Deep Space Network (DSN) antenna fleet in multivariate time series data.
- Designed custom parsers and automated several previously manual data acquisition pipelines, leveraging LLMs to rapidly process the results. Routines that once occupied hours of engineers' time now occur in seconds.

# — Excelitas Technologies

Feb 2022 - Mar 2023

Data Consultant

Aug 2022 - Mar 2023

 Continued to support data engineering and analysis projects for the improvement of the Excelitas data layer.

#### Data Analytics Engineer

Feb 2022 - Aug 2022

- Identified critical to quality factors and worked with Process and Sustaining engineering teams to drive manufacturing improvements.
- Engineered measurement database to encapsulate all necessary BOM structure measurements.

Automated the query of data to allow for statistical process control and process capability analysis.

# — Tutors and Friends Academic Tutor

Jun 2020 - Feb 2022

- Tutored mathematics, physics, ACT, and SAT for all ages, with a focus on high school students and undergraduates.

#### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Predictive Models for Large Spatial Data (Thesis Projects) Aug 2022 Present
   Colorado School of Mines
   Advisors: Douglas Nychka, Daniel McKenzie
  - **Project 1:** Sped up the normalization of basis functions for fast Gaussian Process approximations. Two fast algorithms implemented in the LatticeKrig R package.
  - Project 2: Created the LatticeVision framework, in which image-to-image neural networks—both U-Net and transformer-based—are used for non-stationary parameter estimation on large spatial datasets.
- LEAP Momentum Fellowship Columbia University, NYU Courant

May 2024 - Aug 2024 (Present) Advisor: Sara Shamekh

- Supervised the research of two undergraduate students, resulting in their first conference presentation.
- Used deep learning and equation discovery methods to create interpretable parametrizations of vertical turbulent fluxes in the atmosphere. These advances improve the accuracy of long term climate model predictions.
- Led introductory workshops on data visualization, Jupyter notebooks, deep learning with PyTorch, and version control.
- Classication of Political Entity Relationships

  University of California, San Diego

  Focused on quantifying and classifying relationships between countries using data from the ICEWS dataset with the aim of applying structural balance theory to predict changes in power dynamic.
- Synthesis of Strongly Correlated Quantum Materials Jan 2019 Nov 2019 University of California, San Diego Advisor: Brian Maple Used tetra-arcing and Optical Floating zone growths to synthesize superconductors and other strongly correlated quantum material in an attempt to find higher temperature superconductors.
- Searching for Quantum Spin Liquids

  Colorado State University, Fort Collins

  Synthesized single crystals of strongly correlated materials in an attempt to study the exciting quantum spin liquid state. Used an Optical Floating Zone to grow crytals of Ytterbium Silicate and analyzed the structure through neutron scattering.

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

— Introductory Statistics (Math 201)

Jan 2024 - May 2024

Colorado School of Mines

Taught the introductory undergraduate statistics course covering hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, regression, and general data analysis and wrangling proficiency in R.

— Differential Equations (Math 225)

Aug 2022 - May 2023

Colorado School of Mines

Led recitations for two semesters and graded as a TA for the undergraduate differential equations course.

#### TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Python: Generally used for machine learning and data analysis. Notable proficiencies outside classic libraries: PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras, PySR, Scikit-learn, Pandas, Jupyter Notebooks
- R: Used for data analysis and statistical modelling. Currently developing an update for significant computational efficiency in LatticeKrig package for larga spatial data. Notable packages: fields, LatticeKrig, dpylr, ggplot2, RMarkdown
- typesetting: proficient with LATEX and Markdown
- Other Languages: Intermediate proficiency in Julia, SQL, Matlab, and version control in Git
- **Human Languages:** English (fluent), Ukrainian (beginner), Russian (fluent), Spanish (beginner)

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

- "LatticeVision: Image to Image Networks for Modeling Non-Stationary Spatial Data",
   A. Sikorski, M. Ivanitskiy, N. Lenssen, D. Nychka, D. McKenzie, arXiv (2025)
- "Normalizing Basis Functions: Approximate Stationary Models for Large Spatial Data"
   A. Sikorski, D. McKenzie, D. Nychka, Stat (2024)
- "Crystal Growth of Quantum Magnets in the Rare-Earth Pyrosilicate Family R<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>, (R= Yb, Er) Using the Optical Floating Zone Method" H. S. Nair, T. DeLazzer, T. Reeder, A. Sikorski, G. Hester, & K. A. Ross, *Crystals* (2019)

#### SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

— LatticeKrig (R): Computationally efficient methods for fitting and predicting from large spatial datasets. Available on CRAN.

#### TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

- "Vision Models for Big, Non-Stationary, Spatial Data". **A. Sikorski**, M. Ivanitskiy, D. McKenzie, D. Nychka
  - Talk at GRADS (The Graduate Research and Discovery Symposium) (2025)
  - Talk at AMS GVD Research Symposium (2025)
- "Machine Learning for Equation Discovery in Climate Science", **A. Sikorski**, invited talk at *Mines Optimization and Deep Learning Seminar (MODL)* (2024)
- "Parametrizing Turbulent Fluxes in the Planetary Boundary Layer with Symbolic Regression", L. Pong, G. VanZetten, **A. Sikorski**, Y. Qu, S. Shamekh, talk at *The New York Climate Exchange* (2024)
- "Basis For Change: Approximate Stationary Models for Large Spatial Data", A. Sikorski, D. McKenzie, and D. Nychka
  - Talk and poster at Extremes (2024)
  - Poster at JSM (Joint Statistical Meeting) (2024)
  - Talk and poster at IMSC (International Meeting on Statistical Climatology) (2024)
  - Poster at GRADS (The Graduate Research and Discovery Symposium) (2024)
- "Fast Prediction and Parameter Estimation for Large Spatial Data with Machine Learning" **A. Sikorski**, invited talk at *AMS Graduate Student Colloquium* (2023)
- "Exploring Neural Likelihood Surfaces for Spatial Processes", **A. Sikorski**, talk at *Mines Optimization and Deep Learning Seminar (MODL)* (2023)
- "Optical Floating Zone Growth of Yb<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>", **A. Sikorski**, H.S. Nair, T. Reeder and K.A. Ross, presented at the *APS Four Corners Conference* (October 2017)

#### **SERVICE**

## — Undergraduate Students Mentored

- Laura Pong (LEAP, 2024)
- Greta VanZetten (LEAP, 2024)

#### — Organization

- Session Chair: "Risk Analysis, Management, and Investing" (JSM, 2024)
- Department Representative: Mines Graduate Student Government (GSG)

## — Software Review

- darkroast R package (2024)
- ZANJ Python package (2023)

#### Affiliations

- NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)
- Mines Optimization and Deep Learning (MODL)

- Learning the Earth with Artificial Intelligence and Physics (LEAP) NSF Science and Technology Center (STC)
- Society for Women in Mathematics (SWiM)
- American Statistical Association (ASA)