Mohammad Afzal Shadab

🔾 mashadab | in mashadab | 🔾 mashadab.github.io | 🔀 mashadab@princeton.edu | 🗓 +1(737)2062080 Hydrology | Cryosphere | Modeling | Climate Change | Planetary Habitability

POSITIONS HELD

Future Faculty in the Physical Sciences Postdoctoral Fellow	2024- Present
Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geosciences, Princeton University	Princeton
Graduate Research Assistant	2019-24
Oden Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences, University of Texas at Austin	Austin
NASA-JPL Graduate Fellow	Summer 2023
Planetary Science Division, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology	Pasadena
NASA-JPL Graduate Fellow	Spring 2022
Earth Science Division, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology	Pasadena
MIT Visiting Graduate Student Researcher	2018-19
Department of Mechanical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Cambridge
Graduate Research Assistant	2016-18
Dept. of Mechanical and Aerospace Engg., Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Hong Kong
EDUCATION	
Doctor of Philosophy Computational Science, Engineering & Mathematics	2024
The University of Texas at Austin, United States	
Title: Modeling Subsurface Flow of Water in Earth and Planetary Sciences	
Advisor: Dr. Marc Hesse, Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences	
Master of Science Computational Science, Engineering & Mathematics	2021
The University of Texas at Austin, United States	GPA: 3.90/4.0
Advisor: Dr. Marc Hesse, Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences	
Master of Philosophy Mechanical Engineering	2018
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology <i>Thesis</i> : Fifth-Order Finite Volume WENO in General Orthogonally-Curvilinear Coordinates	GPA: 4.0(A)/4.3(A+)
Advisor: Dr. Kun Xu, Chair Professor of Mathematics and Mechanical & Aerospace Engg.	
Bachelor of Technology Mechanical Engineering	2016
Aligarh Muslim University, India	GPA: 9.62/10.0

GRANTS

Sustaining the Community Firn Model - NASA ROSES'24 Support for Open-Source Tools, Frameworks, and Libraries

Collaborator (implementing enthalpy formation in CFM and validating), \$0 to PU, 1/2025-1/2028

Assessing Challenges for Polar Early Career Scientists During Science Policy Upheaval - PSECCO Polar Partnership Networking Event Collaboration Funding Support Co-PI, \$750 to PU, 1/2025-1/2026

Carbon Dioxide Removal through Enhanced Rock Weathering Deployments with Smallholder Rice Paddy Farmers in India (Pending) - Milkywire Climate Transformation Fund

Collaborator (on coupled hydrologic & reactive transport modeling) - \$0 to PU, 4/2025-7/2026

Oxidant Transport into Europa's Internal Ocean by Brine Migration Through the Outer Ice Shell -Research Award in Planetary Habitability by UT Center for Planetary Systems Habitability PI - \$16,425, 08/2022-12/2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Princeton University 2024- Present
Princeton University Summer 2024- Present
UT Austin 2019-24
UT Austin 2020- Present
Jet Propulsion Lab Summer 2023
Jet Propulsion Lab Spring 2022
UT Austin Hesse 2020-23
nstitute of Technology 2018-19
HKUST, Hong Kong 2016-18
EDBACK: 🗹)
Winter 2025 Fall 2022, 2023 Spring 2023 Fall 2022 Spring 2018 Spring 2017
Fall 2024 – Present Summer 2023 Istin Spring 2023 Spring, Fall 2022 hnology 2017-18
2024-27 2025-26 2023 mer 2024, Spring 2024 er 2023, Summer 2022 2023 Summer 2022 2022-23 2022 AGU 2 2021

INVITED TALKS AND SEMINARS

- [10] December 2025: AGU Fall Meeting, Session: From Snowflakes to Runoff: Firn and Surface Mass Balance Processes
- [9] April 2025: NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Earth Science Division Seminar
- [8] April 2025: Princeton University, Solid Earth Geosciences Brown Bag Seminar 🗹
- [7] April 2024: Mathematics on Ice Forum 🗹
- [6] Jan 2024: California Institute of Technology Graduate Aerospace Laboratories (GALCIT) and Fu Research Group
- [5] Oct 2023: The University of Texas at Austin Center for Planetary Systems Habitability
- [4] Sept 2023: The University of Texas Institute for Geophysics
- [3] August 2023: NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Planetary Science Division Seminar
- [2] June 2022: NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Earth Science Division Seminar
- [1] June 2022: California Institute of Technology, Fu Research Group

SKILLS

Languages: C, C++, Fortran 77/90, Python (SciPy, NumPy, Matplotlib, Pandas, Pytorch, Tkinter, Tensorflow, GUI programming, Webscraping), HTML, Matlab, Mathematica, Shell Scripting, LATEX, High Performance Computing (SLURM), FEniCS

General Software: AutoCAD, SolidWorks, ANSYS, Fluent, COMSOL Multiphysics, TecPlot, ParaView, Microsoft Office, Git, Travis CI, Docker

Geoscience Software: Hydrus, Noah-MP, VPLanet, QGIS, QGreenland, ENVI, PlanetProfile, PHREEQC, ParFlow, Community Land Model, Community Firn Model

OS: Linux, Windows, Mac

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- [13] **Shadab, M.A.**, Rutishauser, A., Grima, C. and Hesse, M.A, 2025. A unified kinematic wave theory for melt infiltration into firm. *Journal of Glaciology*, 71, e87, 1–25. https://doi.org/10.1017/jog.2025.10055
- [12] **Shadab, M.A.**, Hiatt, E., Bahia, R.S., Bohacek, E.V., Steinmann, V. and Hesse, M.A., 2025. Infiltration dynamics on early Mars: Geomorphic, climactic, and water storage implications, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 52, e2024GL111939, 11+12pp.

https://doi.org/10.1029/2024GL111939

[11] Barnes, R., ... **Shadab, M.A.**,..., 2025. History and habitability of the LP 890-9 planetary system, *The Planetary Science Journal*, 6(1), p.25, 13pp.

https://www.doi.org/10.3847/PSJ/ad94dc

- [10] Vanek, S., ..., **Shadab, M.A.**,..., 2024. Exploring the past, present, and future of USAPECS: Lessons from a decade of supporting early career research across national and international polar networks. *Arctic Yearbook*, 14pp. https://arcticyearbook.com/
- [9] Shadab, M.A., Adhikari, S., Rutishauser, A., Grima, C. and Hesse, M.A., 2024. A mechanism for ice layer formation in glacial firn. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 51(15), p.e2024GL109893, 12+37pp. https://doi.org/10.1029/2024GL109893
- [8] **Shadab, M.A.** and Hesse, M.A., 2024. A hyperbolic-elliptic PDE model and conservative numerical method for gravity-dominated variably-saturated groundwater flow. *Advances in Water Resources*, p.104736, 17pp. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.advwatres.2024.104736
- [7] Hiatt, E. **Shadab**, **M.A.**, Hesse, M., Goudge, T., Gulick, S., 2024. Limited recharge of the southern highlands aquifer on early Mars, *Icarus*, 408, p.115774, 10+16pp. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.icarus.2023.115774

- [6] **Shadab, M.A.**, Hiatt, E. and Hesse, M.A., 2023. PKgui: A GUI software for Polubarinova-Kochina's solutions of steady unconfined groundwater flow, *SoftwareX*, 24, p.101573, 5+5pp. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.softx.2023.101573
- [5] **Shadab, M.A.**, Luo, D., Hiatt, E., Hiatt, E. and Hesse, M.A., 2023. Investigating steady unconfined groundwater flow using physics informed neural networks, *Advances in Water Resources*, 177, p.104445, 16+18pp. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.advwatres.2023.104445
- [4] **Shadab, M.A.** and Hesse, M.A., 2022. Analysis of gravity-driven infiltration with the development of a saturated region, *Water Resources Research*, 58(11), p.e2022WR032963, 27pp. https://doi.org/10.1029/2022WR032963
- [3] **Shadab, M.A.**, Balsara, D., Shyy, W. and Xu, K., 2019. Fifth-order finite volume WENO in general orthogonally curvilinear coordinates. *Computers & Fluids*, 190, 26pp. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compfluid.2019.06.031
- [2] **Shadab, M.A.**, Ji, X. and Xu, K., 2018. Fifth-order finite volume WENO on cylindrical grids. *Spectral and High Order Methods for Partial Differential Equations (Springer)*, 10pp. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-39647-3_51
- [1] **Shadab, M.A.** and Baig, M.F., 2017. Investigation and control of unstart phenomenon in scramjets. *In 21st AIAA International Space Planes and Hypersonics Technologies Conference* (p. 2298), 16pp. https://doi.org/10.2514/6.2017-2298

UNDER REVIEW

- [2] **Shadab, M.A.**, Vance, S.D., Silber, E.A., Crósta, A.P., Carnahan, E., Jordan, J.S., Hesse, M.A., 202X. Rapid migration of impact melt through ocean world ices: Selk crater on Titan and Mannann'an crater on Europa. (Under review in *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*)
- [1] Jordan, J.S., **Shadab, M.A.**, Prigiobbe, V., Planvsky, N., 202X. On the *p*H-dependent export of anthropogenic alkalinity in porewater through soil: Implications for enhanced rock weathering, (Under review in *SIAM Journal on Applied Mathematics*)

IN PREPARATION

- [8] **Shadab, M.A.**, Stone, H.A., and Maxwell, R.M., 202X. A vertically integrated model for aquifers in cold snow and firn. (for *Advances in Water Resources*)
- [7] **Shadab, M.A.**, Jadallah, N.S., and Maxwell, R.M., 202X. Effects of soil capillarity on multidimensional, integrated surface-subsurface hydrology at different spatial scales. (for *Water Resources Research*)
- [6] **Kiara P.** et. al (including **Shadab**, **M.A.**), 202X. Connections and Considerations for Application of Earth to Planetary Bodies: Mars as a Case Study. (for *Journal of Geophysical Research Planets*)
- [5] **Shadab, M.A.**, Hiatt, E. and Hesse, M.A., 202X. Analytical solutions of a low-aspect-ratio unconfined aquifer on a spherical shell: Application to early Mars. (for *Journal of Geophysical Research Planets*)
- [4] **Shadab, M.A.** and Hesse, M.A., 202X. An open source discrete operator toolbox (DOT) to solve geophysical flow problems. (for *Geoscientific Model Development*)
- [3] Hiatt, E. **Shadab**, **M.A.**, Hesse, M., Goudge, T., Gulick, S., 202X. Transient groundwater models suggest short lived recharge events on early Mars. (for *Nature Geoscience*)
- [2] Hiatt, E. **Shadab**, **M.A.**, Hesse, M.A., 202X. Experimental and numerical investigations of seepage face dynamics: A physics solution. (for *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*)
- [1] Hesse, M.A. and Shadab, M.A., 202X. Numerical modeling for geoscientists. (book draft 🖾)

EXTENDED CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

- [11] Hiatt, E., **Shadab, M.A.** et al., 2025. Transient Groundwater Recharge of Early Mars' Groundwater Systems & Subsequent Climate Constraints 56th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference, #2629, 2pp.
- [10] **Shadab, M.A.** et al., 2024. Evolution of impact generated melt at Selk crater: Effect of phase change, percolation, and viscous foundering. 55th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference, #1317, 2pp.
- [9] **Shadab, M.A.** et al., 2024. Infiltration on early Mars & its implications toward aeolian-fluvial interactions. *55th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference*, #1383, 2pp.
- [8] Hiatt, E., **Shadab, M.A.**, Gulick, S.P.S., Goudge, T. and Hesse, M.A., 2024. Martian lakes: a critical requirement for transient groundwater models. *55th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference*, #2408, 2pp.
- [7] **Shadab, M.A.**, Hiatt, E. and Hesse, M.A., 2023. A deep crustal aquifer model for southern highlands of Noachian Mars shows groundwater age and near-surface dynamics. *NASA Exploration Science Forum*, 2pp.
- [6] **Shadab, M.A.**, Hiatt, E. and Hesse, M.A., 2023. A deep crustal aquifer model for southern highlands of Noachian Mars shows groundwater age and near-surface dynamics. *Brines Across the Solar System: Ancient and Future Brines Conference*, #2025, 2pp.
- [5] **Shadab, M.A.**, Hiatt, E. and Hesse, M.A., 2023. Investigating groundwater dynamics and residence times on early Mars using unconfined aquifer model with vertical heterogeneity. 54th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference, #1736, 2pp.
- [4] Hesse, M.A., **Shadab, M.A.** and Hiatt, E., 2023. Time scales for terminal groundwater drainage from the southern highlands on Mars. *54th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference*, #1637, 2pp.
- [3] Hiatt, E., **Shadab, M.A.** and Hesse, M.A., 2023. Planetary scale groundwater and surface water interaction on early Mars. 54th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference, #2415, 2pp.
- [2] **Shadab, M.A.**, Hiatt, E., and Hesse, M.A., 2022. Estimates of Martian mean recharge rates from analytic groundwater models. *53rd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference*, #1775, 2pp.
- [1] Hiatt, E., **Shadab, M.A.**, Gulick, S.P.S., Hesse, M.A., Goudge, T. and Hesse 2022. Estimates of groundwater divides and basins on Noachian Mars. *53rd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference*, #2618, 2pp.

SELECTED CONFERENCE TALKS

- [8] **Shadab, M.A.** et al., 2024. Multi-scale multi dimensional infiltration in glacial firn and mechanism of ice layer and chunk formation, *AGU Fall Meeting*.
- [7] Shadab, M.A. et al., 2024. Dynamics of Infiltration on Early Mars, AGU Fall Meeting.
- [6] **Shadab, M.A.** et al., 2023. Mechanism & factors controlling ice layer formation in glacial firn, AGU Fall Meeting.
- [5] Shadab, M.A. et al., 2023. A unified kinematic wave theory for melt infiltration into firn, AGU Fall Meeting.
- [4] **Shadab, M.A.** et al., 2023. Infiltration on early Mars and its implications toward aeolian-fluvial interactions, *Fluvial-Aeolian Interactions on Planetary Surfaces (FAIRPLAY), European Space Agency*.
- [3] **Shadab, M.A.**, and Hesse, M.A., 2022. Extending Richards equation to simulate variably saturated flows, *AGU Fall Meeting*.
- [2] **Shadab, M.A.**, and Hesse, M.A., 2021. Fluid infiltration in unsaturated porous medium with the development of a saturated region, *AGU Fall Meeting*.
- [1] **Shadab, M.A.** et al., 2021. Investigating fluid drainage from the edge of a porous reservoir using physics informed neural networks, *SIAM Annual Meeting*.

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	AGU25 Sessions' Early Career Convener, Four Sessions ☑ Convening C039 - Cryosphere Is for All, P041 - The New Mars Underground VIII, C040 - The End of The CETA of Polar Science in the US?, U014 - Navigating Broader Impacts in Current Political Climate	2025 Golden
	AGU24 Sessions' Convener and OSPA Liaison and Judge, Three Sessions Designing oral/poster/e-lightening sessions with AGU Cryo team titled C24A/C41C/C43C The Cryosphere Is for All: Overcoming Barriers to Participation in the Cryospheric Sciences at AGU24.	2024
	Executive Secretary and/or Reviewer, Seven NASA ROSES Review Panels Managed panel reviews or reviewed proposals in panels, receiving honorariums	2023- Present
	Executive Committee Member, AGU Cryosphere Division 🗹 Serving in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and Canvassing Working groups.	2024- Present Virtual
	Judge, AGU Fall Meeting Travel Award ☑ Reviewed cryosphere division related applications for AGU 2024 from around the world.	Fall 2024 Virtual
	Judge, International Mission to Mars Engineering Design Contest ☑ Organized by Mars Society for high school students from around the world.	Summer 2024 Virtual
	Team Member, UT Austin Libraries HELIOS team ☑ To advance Higher Education Leadership Initiative for Open Scholarship (HELIOS). Gave a speech at <i>US White House</i> Listening Sessions on Open Science (News ☑, Post ☑, Video ☑). Panelist at multiple open science events , , ☑.	2023-24 Austin
	Co-Chair & DEI Team Lead, US Assoc. of Polar Early Career Scientists 🗷 Fostering climate and DEI-conscious collaborations between academia & polar organizations.	2022- Present Virtual
	Board Member, AGU Hydrology Section Student Subcommittee (AGU-H3S) Providing professional development & networking opportunities to early career hydrologists.	2023- Present Virtual
	Volunteer, MIT Energy Conference ☑ Assisted in organizing in-person sessions at the conference.	2023 Boston
	Coordinator, Center for Planetary Systems Habitability Student Travel Award Organized, coordinated and liaised the application process for student travel to LPSC 2023.	Spring 2023 Austin
	MIT - Houston Energy Innovation Student Fellow Cultivated & supported energy innovation startup ecosystem considering threat of climate change.	2022-23 Austin
	Volunteer / Braindate Lounge Assistant, AGU Fall Meeting 2022 🗹 Facilitated collaborations between researchers and scientists through Braindate at AGU 2022.	2022 San Francisco
	Session Chair, Society for Industrial & Applied Mathematics Annual Meeting Chaired the CP15: Machine Learning and Data Mining Session.	2021 Virtual
	President & Senior Advisor, SIAM Chapter of UT Austin Spearheaded several programs & won Best Graduate Organization at UT Austin Award.	2020-23 Austin
	Volunteer, Lunar and Planetary Science Conference 2022 Managed a virtual and an in-person session and moreover conference logistical tasks.	2021 Houston
M	ENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE	
	Princeton High School Student Research Mentor Mentoring a high school student on developing a physics informed machine learning model for wet firm by drology, including data analysis according writing, and presentations	2025-Present
	wet firn hydrology, including data analysis, scientific writing, and presentations. Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee Mentorship program Providing career counseling and skills training.	In-person 2024-Present Virtual
	Young Professional Mentor, Zed Factor Fellowship Program Mentored rising undergraduate students in aerospace engineering for skills development.	2023-24 Virtual 6 of 7

American Geophys. Union Earth & Planetary Surface Processes (EPSP) Mentorship Mentoring graduate students across the world to develop technical and research skills in EPSP.	2022- Present Virtual
Mentoring365, American Geophysical Union 🗹	2021- Present
Facilitating an exchange of professional knowledge, skills, and experiences in Earth and space scien	ices. Virtual
SIAM Applied Mathematics Mentorship 🗹	2021-23
Founded program and mentored undergrads for applied math concepts, research & careers.	Austin
Sir Syed Global Scholar Award 🗹	2016- Present
Mentoring top AMU students from humble backgrounds for US grad school applications.	Virtual
Dutreach	

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Science Outreach Educator, Integrated Ground Water Modeling Center, Princeton Univ	2024-Present
Instructed hydrologic modeling course to high schoolers; conducted outreach for K-12 students.	
Geoscience Ambassador, Jackson School of Geosciences, UT Austin 🗹	2021-22
Making geoscience accessible to broader community & promoting interdisciplinary research.	Austin
Zonal Head & College Head Ambassador, Smilyo Educational Charitable Society 🗹	2014-15
Managed multi-university teams & provided educational resources to not-so-privileged.	New Delhi, India

REVIEWER

Geoscience: Nature Astronomy, Computational Geoscience, Water Resources Res., Geophysical Research Lett., J. of Geophysical Research, Biosystems Engg., J. of Hydrometeorology, Discover Geoscience, J. of Applied Geophysics Numerical Methods: J. of Computational Physics, Geoscientific Model Development, Computer and Fluids, Engineering with Computers, SoftwareX

MEDIA COVERAGE

\$50 million XPRIZE carbon removal awarded to Mati - Time , Washington Post , AP news . On carbon removal work using enhanced rock weathering led by Mati Carbon (XPRIZE website).	2025
Is Mars Storing its Water Underground? - Universe Today 🗹, SciTech Daily 🗹, Astrobiology 🗹 Article on the work on infiltration on Early Mars.	2025
Grad students find missing link in early Martian water cycle - UT , AAAS , Phys.org For the collaborative research on Infiltration on early Mars done in collaboration with ESA.	2025
Understanding ice layer formation to estimate sea level rise - UT , AAAS , Phys.org For the thesis work on understanding ice layer formation done in collaboration with NASA-JPL.	2024
History and Habitability of the LP 890-9 Planetary System - Astrobiology 🗗 For the collaborative work on the habitability of exoplanetary system LP 890-9.	2024
Little groundwater recharge in ancient Mars aquifer - UT , EurekAlert AAAS, , Phys.org For the collaborative work with Eric Hiatt on water on early Mars.	2024
Fulfilling my NASA dream - Sir Syed Global Scholar Award Story of the Month 🗹 On my post-baccalaureate experience towards landing a graduate fellowship at NASA JPL.	2022
Mars may have less water than previously estimated - Multiple news outlets UT Austin Website (front cover) 🗹, 🗹 & 🗹, Phys.org 🗹, Times of India 🗹, Bailey Universe 🗹	2022
Outstanding Student Presentation Award at AGU 2021 - UT Austin For outstanding student presentation on Rainwater Infiltration in AGU Fall Meeting 2021.	2022
CPSH Travel Grant sends 11 students to LPSC - UT Austin T For travel grant from Center for Planetary Systems Habitability to attend LPSC 2022.	2022
Lunar & Planetary Institute Career Devel. Award News - UT Austin , LPI News For outstanding first-authored work on fate of water on early Mars at LPSC conference.	2022
How to stay productive while in quarantine - Oden Institute Feature Article 🗹 For academic & research achievements and service at Oden Institute during quarantine.	2021