

Matthew James Rutala

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research focuses on how the aurorae and magnetospheres of the outer planets are driven by different internal factors (e.g., field-aligned currents, plasmadisk densities and velocities, and ionospheric conductance) and external factors (e.g., solar wind density and velocity, interplanetary magnetic field (IMF), interplanetary coronal mass ejections (ICMEs), and the sizes and shapes of planetary bow shocks and magnetopauses). I use remote observations (e.g., HST in the ultraviolet and CXO in the X-ray), in-situ spacecraft measurements (including the *Pioneers 10* and *11*, *Voyagers 1* and *2*, *Ulysses*, *Galileo*, *Cassini*, *ACE*, *Wind*, and *Juno* missions), solar wind propagation models (e.g., WSA-ENLIL, HUXt, and MSWIM2D), and novel techniques (e.g., keograms, soft edge detection, multi-model ensembles, dynamic time warping, and Bayesian inference) to further our understanding of these systems.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PRESENT MARCH 2023	Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS) Postdoctoral Research Fellow Investigated the effects of the solar wind on outer planet magnetospheres by developing space weather ensemble forecasts for and novel Bayesian models of planetary bow shocks and magnetopauses.
FEBRUARY 2023 SEPTEMBER 2017	Boston University Research Fellow Investigated the motions of Jupiter’s ultraviolet aurorae and how these relate to ionospheric conductance, magnetospheric plasma, and magnetosphere-ionosphere coupling with data and models.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

OCTOBER 2024 SEPTEMBER 2023	University College Dublin Guest Lecturer (PHYC40660 “The Space Environment”) Created and gave masters-level guest lectures introducing the solar wind, planetary magnetospheres, space weather, and space plasmas, with focus on the magnetospheres of the outer planets.
MAY 2019 JANUARY 2019	Boston University Teaching Fellow AS100 “Cosmic Controversies” Hosted two undergraduate-level discussion and problem-solving sections to review lecture material, including labs and projects.
DECEMBER 2018 SEPTEMBER 2018	Boston University Teaching Fellow (AS107 “Life Beyond Earth”) Hosted five, undergraduate-level discussion and problem-solving sections to review lecture material, including weekly quizzes, labs, and projects.
DECEMBER 2017 JANUARY 2017	Rutgers University Coadjutant (Coursera MOOC “Analyzing the Universe”) Held regular office hours to help students with technical problems and scientific questions while analyzing astronomical observations.

EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 2023	Boston University Ph.D. in Astronomy with Prof. John Clarke Thesis: <i>Shedding New Light on the Enigmatic Motions of Jupiter’s Auroral Main Emission</i>
SEPTEMBER 2019	Boston University M.A. in Astronomy with Prof. John Clarke
MAY 2017	Rutgers University B.Sc. in Astrophysics and Linguistics with Prof. Jack Hughes <i>summa cum laude</i> , with Highest Honors in Astrophysics and Honors in Linguistics

MENTORING

FALL 2024	Sarah Kelly, Trinity College Dublin (TCD) School of Physics Undergraduate Senior Thesis: <i>Modeling the Solar Wind in Near-Mercury Space</i>
FALL 2023	Ellie Clarke, Trinity College Dublin (TCD) School of Physics Undergraduate Senior Thesis: <i>Mapping Jupiter’s Auroral Lights</i>

AWARDS

JULY 2024	HST GO 17812 (PI) , 8 orbits of long-slit echelle spectroimaging Topic: Unraveling a Decades-long mystery: Identifying the Atmospheric and Magnetospheric Drivers of the Jovian Hydrogen Ly- α Bulge
JUNE 2021	MASGC Research Fellowship Topic: Local Dominance of Jupiter's Corotation-Enforcement Current System in Driving Auroral Emissions Features
JUNE 2020	MASGC Research Fellowship Topic: Towards Deeper Insights into Jupiter's Dawn Storm
OCTOBER 2014	NJSGC Research Fellowship Topic: Size Segregation in the Regolith of Asteroid 25143 Itokawa

ADDITIONAL SKILLS & TRAINING

Python, IDL, Git, HTML, CSS, L ^A T _E X SPICE (ICY, SpiceyPy; incl. training with NAIF/SPICE team), GitHub STScI MAST, NASA PDS, AMDA, CCMC, CDAWeb, OMNIWeb	PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES SOFTWARE WEB INTERFACES
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PUBLICATIONS

Rutala, M. J., Jackman, C. M., Louis, C. K., Azari, A. R., Bagenal, F., Joy, S. P., Kurth, W. S., Keebler, T. B., Giles, R. S., Ebert, R. W., Bowers, C. F. & Vogt, M. F. (submitted) *New Models of Jupiter's Magnetopause and Bow Shock through the Juno Prime Mission: Probabilistic Location, Shape, and Internally-Driven Variation*. [doi:10.48550/arXiv.2502.09186](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2502.09186)

Fogg, A. R., Healy, D., Jackman, C. M., Parnell, A., **Rutala, M. J.**, McEntee, S. C., Walker, S. J., Gallagher, P. T. & Bowers, C. F. (submitted) *Bivariate Extreme Value Analysis for Space Weather Risk Assessment: Solar Wind-Magnetosphere Driving in the Terrestrial System*. [doi:10.22541/essoar.172612544.43585872/v1](https://doi.org/10.22541/essoar.172612544.43585872/v1)

Bowers, C. F., Jackman, C. M., Azari, A. R., Smith, A. W., Wright, P. J., **Rutala, M. J.**, Sun, W. & Healy, A. (2024) *Estimating Interplanetary Magnetic Field Conditions at Mercury's Orbit from MESSENGER Magnetosheath Observations Using a Feedforward Neural Network*. JGR: Machine Learning and Computation, [doi:10.1029/2024JH000239](https://doi.org/10.1029/2024JH000239)

Azari, A. R., Abrahams, E., Sapienza, F., Halekas, J., Biersteker, J., Mitchell, D. L., Pérez, F., Marquette, M., **Rutala, M. J.**, Bowers, C. F., Jackman, C. M. & Curry, S. M. (2024) *A Virtual Solar Wind Monitor at Mars with Uncertainty Quantification Using Gaussian Processes*. JGR: Machine Learning and Computation, [doi:10.1029/2024JH000155](https://doi.org/10.1029/2024JH000155)

Rutala, M. J., Jackman, C. M., Owens, M. J., Tao, C., Fogg, A. R., Murray, S. A. & Barnard, L. A (2024) *Multi-Model Ensemble System for the Outer Heliosphere (MMESH): Solar Wind Conditions near Jupiter*. JGR: Space Physics, [doi:10.1029/2024JA032613](https://doi.org/10.1029/2024JA032613)

Rutala, M. J., Clarke, J. T., Vogt, M. F. & Nichols, J. D. (2024) *Variation in the Pedersen Conductance near Jupiter's Main Emission Aurora: Comparison of Hubble Space Telescope and Galileo Measurements*. JGR: Space Physics, [doi:10.1029/2023JA032122](https://doi.org/10.1029/2023JA032122)

McEntee, S. C., Jackman, C. M., Weigt, D. M., Louis, C. K., Dunn, W. R., Boudouma, A., Connerney, J. E. P., Kurth, W. S., Kraft, R., Branduardi-Raymont, G., Gladstone, G. R. & **Rutala, M. J.** (2023) *Long Exposure Chandra X-Ray Observation of Jupiter's Auroral Emissions during Juno Plasmasheet Encounters in September 2021*. JGR: Space Physics, [doi:10.1029/2023JA031901](https://doi.org/10.1029/2023JA031901)

Rutala, M. J., Clarke, J. T., Mullins, J. D. & Nichols, J. D. (2022) *Illuminating the Motions of Jupiter's Auroral Dawn Storms*. JGR: Space Physics, [doi:10.1029/2022JA030448](https://doi.org/10.1029/2022JA030448)

Vogt, M. F., **Rutala, M. J.**, Bonfond, B., Clarke, J. T., Moore, L. & Nichols, J. D. (2022) *Variability of Jupiter's Main Auroral Emission and Satellite Footprints Observed with HST during the Galileo Era*. JGR: Space Physics, [doi:10.1029/2021JA030011](https://doi.org/10.1029/2021JA030011)

Shinbrot, T., **Rutala, M. J.** & Herrmann, H. (2017) *Surface Contact Charging*. Physical Review E, [doi:10.1103/PhysRevE.96.032912](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevE.96.032912)

Shinbrot, T., **Rutala, M. J.**, Montessori, A., Prestininzi, P. & Succi, S. (2015) *Paradoxical Ratcheting in Cornstarch*. Physics of Fluids, [doi:10.1063/1.4934709](https://doi.org/10.1063/1.4934709)

ABSTRACTS

JULY 2024	<i>Revisiting the Form of the Jovian Bow Shock and Magnetopause</i> Talk , Magnetospheres of the Outer Planets conference
JULY 2024	<i>Background Solar Wind Conditions during the Juno Mission</i> Poster , Magnetospheres of the Outer Planets conference
JUNE 2024	<i>Solar Wind Coupling to Jupiter's Magnetosphere: Statistical Views of a Dynamic System</i> Seminar , Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK
APRIL 2024	<i>The Balance of Internal and External Drivers in Gas Giant Magnetospheres</i> Invited Talk , European Geophysical Union conference
DECEMBER 2023	<i>An Ensemble Modeling Framework for Propagating Solar Wind Conditions to Jupiter</i> Talk , American Geophysical Union Fall meeting
JULY 2022	<i>Shedding New Light on the Enigmatic Motions of Jupiter's Auroral Main Emission</i> Talk , Magnetospheres of the Outer Planets conference
DECEMBER 2021	<i>The role of Corotation Enforcement Currents in driving the Behavior of Jupiter's Ultraviolet Main Emission</i> Talk , American Geophysical Union Fall meeting
JULY 2021	<i>Illuminating the Physics behind the Motions of Jupiter's Auroral Dawn Storms</i> Poster , Magnetospheres of the Outer Planets conference
DECEMBER 2020	<i>Illuminating the Physics of Jupiter's Auroral Dawn Storms</i> Poster , American Geophysical Union Fall meeting
JUNE 2019	<i>New Insights into Jupiter's Dawn Storms</i> Poster , Magnetospheres of the Outer Planets conference
JULY 2018	<i>Characterizing Local and Interplanetary Control of Jupiter's Auroral Dawn Storms using HST and Juno</i> Poster , Magnetospheres of the Outer Planets conference
MAY 2015	<i>Size Segregation in Asteroid Regolith</i> Poster , New Jersey Space Grant Consortium conference
APRIL 2015	<i>Size Segregation in Asteroid Regolith</i> Poster , Aresty Research Symposium
AUGUST 2014	<i>Paradoxical Ratcheting in Oobleck</i> Poster , Aresty Summer Research Symposium

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Panelist for NASA ROSES grant proposals
Peer-reviewer for the Astrophysical Journal

MEMBERSHIPS & RECOGNITIONS

PRESENT	Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society
PRESENT	Member of the American Geophysical Union
MAY 2019	Outstanding Teaching Fellow in the Department of Astronomy , Boston University
MAY 2017	Honors Scholar , Rutgers University
MAY 2017	Richard T. Weidner Physics Prize , Rutgers University
MARCH 2016	Phi Beta Kappa Scholar , The Phi Beta Kappa Society
SEPTEMBER 2015	Herman Y. Carr Scholarship , Rutgers University

OUTREACH

PRESENT JUNE 2023	DIAS Dunsink Observatory Public Visitor Night Hosted at the DIAS Dunsink Observatory, public visitor nights include tours of the historic observatory buildings, presentation on Ireland's contributions to space sciences, public research lectures, and night sky viewings.
FEBRUARY 2023 SEPTEMBER 2017	Boston University Public Open Night An event hosted by the graduate students at Boston University which invites the public to view the night sky and learn more about astronomy.
APRIL 2022	Boston University Academy Open Night An open-night-like event with physical demonstrations of spectroscopy and plasma dynamics for students of the Boston University Academy interested in studying science and astronomy.
AUGUST 2019	GWISE Open Night An open-night-like event held for the members of the Graduate Women In Science and Engineering group at Boston University.
JULY 2018	Precollege Women Open Night An open-night-like event for held for precollege women interested in studying science in college.
JUNE 2018	Space Science for Kids An educational event for elementary- and middle-school children, coinciding with the 30 th anniversary of the Center for Space Physics at Boston University.

LEADERSHIP

APRIL 2022 AUGUST 2018	Graduate Student Event Coordinator Coordinated weekly events for students, postdocs, and faculty.
SEPTEMBER 2019 SEPTEMBER 2018	Graduate Student Representative Represented the interests of the graduate students to departmental faculty, so that students could anonymously voice questions or complaints; arranged weekly journal clubs and seminars for students to present their own research.