

# JOSEPH M. AKANA MURPHY

Updated January 30, 2023 ◊ Pronouns: He/him/his

UC Santa Cruz, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Interdisciplinary Sciences Bldg, Rm 349 ◊ joseph.murphy@ucsc.edu

 [orcid.org/0000-0001-8898-8284](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8898-8284)

[murphyjm.github.io](https://murphyjm.github.io)

## SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS

---

Exoplanet characterization and formation, applications of statistical modeling and machine learning

## EDUCATION

---

### University of California, Santa Cruz

*Ph.D.* in Astronomy and Astrophysics

2019 - Expected 2024

Advisor: Professor Natalie Batalha

### Stanford University

*Master of Science* in Applied and Engineering Physics

2018 - 2019

*Bachelor of Science* in Physics

2014 - 2018

Minor in Mathematics

Advisors: Professor Bruce Macintosh, Dr. Ian Czekala

Thesis: *Inferring the Veiling Spectrum of the Pre-Main Sequence Star LkCa 15 with Gaussian Processes*

## SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

---

### The TESS-Keck Survey

2019 - present

Observing and analysis support for the TESS-Keck Survey, a multi-institution collaboration with the goal of measuring the orbits and masses of 100 TESS planets with Keck-HIRES.

### Prioritizing TESS Targets for Atmospheric Characterization

2019 - 2021

A prioritization scheme to systematically search for the TESS targets that are best-suited for atmospheric follow-up with *JWST*.

### Unveiling the Spectra of Young Stars with Gaussian Processes

2017 - 2019

Using Gaussian processes to model time-series spectroscopic observations of a young star, LkCa 15, we disentangle the stellar atmosphere from the spectrum of accretion, revealing time-variable, line-specific emission related to the infalling material.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

---

ARCS Foundation Scholarship, Northern California Chapter

2022 - present

Osterbrock Leadership Program Fellowship, University of California, Santa Cruz

2021 - present

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

2019 - present

LSST Corporation Data Science Fellowship

2019 - 2022

Regents' Fellowship, University of California, Santa Cruz

Fall 2019, Winter 2020

Conference Travel Grant, Stanford University

2017

Thomas J. Watson Memorial Scholarship, IBM

2014 - 2018

## OBSERVING EXPERIENCE

---

10-meter Keck I telescope (HIRES) - 63 half-nights

January 2020 - present

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

### Graduate Student

Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, University of California, Santa Cruz 2019 - present

### Research Assistant

Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology, Stanford University 2017 - 2019

### Research and Development Intern

Pathfinder Systems, Inc., Denver, CO Summer 2016

## PUBLICATIONS ([Link to NASA ADS search results](#))

---

### First and second author publications

22. Chontos, A., **Murphy, J. M. A.** *et al.* “The TESS-Keck Survey: Science Goals and Target Selection.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 163, 297, 2022.
21. **Murphy, J. M. A.** *et al.* “Another Superdense Sub-Neptune in K2-182 b and Refined Mass Measurements for K2-199 b and c.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 162, 294, 2021.
20. Scarsdale, N., **Murphy, J. M. A.** *et al.* “TESS-Keck Survey. V. Twin Sub-Neptunes Transiting the Nearby G Star HD 63935.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 162, 215, 2021.

### Significant contribution

19. Lubin, J. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “TESS-Keck Survey. IX. Masses of Three Sub-Neptunes Orbiting HD 191939 and the Discovery of a Warm Jovian Plus a Distant Substellar Companion.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 163, 101, 2022.
18. Kosiarek, M. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “Physical Parameters of the Multiplanet Systems HD 106315 and GJ 9827.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 161, 47, 2021.

### Many-author publications

17. Knudstrup, E. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “Radial velocity confirmation of a hot super-Neptune discovered by TESS with a warm Saturn-mass companion.” *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 519, 2023.
16. Van Zandt, J. E. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “TESS-Keck Survey XIV: Two giant exoplanets from the Distant Giants Survey.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 165, 60, 2023.
15. El Mufti, M. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “TOI 560: Two Transiting Planets Orbiting a K Dwarf Validated with iSHELL, PFS, and HIRES RVs.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 165, 10, 2023.
14. MacDougall, M. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “The TESS-Keck Survey. XIII. An Eccentric Hot Neptune with a Similar-mass Outer Companion around TOI-1272.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 164, 97, 2022.
13. Turtelboom, E. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “The TESS-Keck Survey. XI. Mass Measurements for Four Transiting sub-Neptunes orbiting K dwarf TOI-1246.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 163, 293, 2022.
12. Barragán, O. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “The young HD 73583 (TOI-560) planetary system: Two 10-M<sub>⊕</sub> mini-Neptunes transiting a young, bright, and active K dwarf.” *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 514, 2022.
11. Winters, J. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “A Second Planet Transiting LTT 1445A and a Determination of the Masses of Both Worlds.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 163, 168, 2022.

10. Grunblatt, S. K. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “TESS Giants Transiting Giants II: The hottest Jupiters orbiting evolved stars.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 163, 120, 2022.
9. Dalba, P. A. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “The TESS-Keck Survey. VIII. Confirmation of a Transiting Giant Planet on an Eccentric 261-day Orbit with the Automated Planet Finder Telescope.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 163, 61, 2022.
8. Heidari, N. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “HD 207897 b: A dense sub-Neptune transiting a nearby and bright K-type star.” *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, 658, A176, 2022.
7. MacDougall, M. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “The TESS-Keck Survey. VI. Two Eccentric sub-Neptunes Orbiting HIP-97166.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 162, 265, 2021.
6. Dai, F. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “TKS X: Confirmation of TOI-1444b and a Comparative Analysis of the Ultra-short-period Planets with Hot Neptunes.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 162, 62, 2021.
5. Rubenzahl, R. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “The TESS-Keck Survey IV: A Retrograde, Polar Orbit for the Ultra-Low-Density, Hot Super-Neptune WASP-107b.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 161, 119, 2021.
4. Weiss, L. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “The TESS-Keck Survey II: An Ultra-Short Period Rocky Planet and its Siblings Transiting the Galactic Thick-Disk Star TOI-561.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 161, 56, 2021.
3. Dai, F. *et al.*, **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “The TESS-Keck Survey. III. A Stellar Obliquity Measurement of TOI-1726 c.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 160, 193, 2020.
2. Cloutier, R. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “TOI-1235 b: A Keystone Super-Earth for Testing Radius Valley Emergence Models around Early M Dwarfs.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 160, 22, 2020.
1. Dalba, P. A. *et al.* **including Murphy, J. M. A.** “The TESS-Keck Survey. I. A Warm Sub-Saturn-mass Planet and a Caution about Stray Light in TESS Cameras.” *The Astronomical Journal*, 159, 241, 2020.

## SUCCESSFUL TELESCOPE PROPOSALS

---

### Co-Investigator

4. HIRES/Keck, PI: Batalha, N., “Are Water Worlds Ubiquitous in the Milky Way?” 4.5 nights, 2023A.
3. HIRES/Keck, PI: Batalha, N., “Simultaneous Radial Velocity and Photometric Monitoring of an Evaporating Sub-Neptune.” 1 night, 2022B.
2. STIS/HST, PI: Loyd, R. O. P., “Leveraging High Radial Velocities to Get to the Core of Planetary Lyman-alpha Transits.” 12 orbits, Cycle 29.
1. MAROON-X/Gemini North, PI: Crossfield, I., “Mass and Spin-Orbit Alignment of a Temperate Neptune.” 14.7 hours, 2021B.

## SUCCESSFUL COMPUTING RESOURCE PROPOSALS

---

### Principal Investigator

The following programs make use of the **Expanse** supercomputer at the San Diego Supercomputer Center through the National Science Foundation’s Advanced Cyberinfrastructure Coordination Ecosystem: Services & Support (ACCESS) program and its predecessor, the eXtreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE).

3. ACCESS Explore, “A Mass and Radius Catalog of Small TESS Planets Amenable to Atmospheric Characterization with JWST.” 200,000 core hours, January 2023.
2. ACCESS Startup Allocation Supplement, “A Mass and Radius Catalog of Small TESS Planets Amenable to Atmospheric Characterization with JWST.” 5,000 core hours, November 2022.
1. XSEDE Startup Allocation, “A Mass and Radius Catalog of Small TESS Planets Amenable to Atmospheric Characterization with JWST.” 10,000 core hours, 500 GB memory, January 2022.

## ADVISING AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

### Students advised

Ms. Sarah Lange, UCSC undergraduate, Koret Scholarship Award winner      October 2021 - present  
A superdense sub-Neptune orbiting TOI-1824.

Ms. Bronwen Hardee, UCSC undergraduate      June 2020 - January 2021  
Constructing a high-fidelity exoplanet mass and radius catalog.

### Volunteer Instructor

*Introduction to Astronomy Research*      Summer 2020, 2021  
GitHub repositories: [2020](#), [2021](#)

### Teaching Assistant

Astronomy 119: *Introduction to Scientific Computing*, UCSC      Spring 2020  
Physics 43: *Electricity and Magnetism*, Stanford University      Spring 2019  
Physics 41: *Mechanics*, Stanford University      Winter 2019  
Physics 41A: *Mechanics*, Stanford University      Winter 2018

### Course Instructor

Physics 91SI: *Practical Computing for Scientists*, Stanford University      Spring 2017

## SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

---

### Contributed Talks

6. *The Masses and Radii of Eight Sub-Neptunes Amenable to Atmospheric Characterization*, [Exoplanets IV](#), 2022 May 5.
5. *Superdense Sub-Neptunes? The Curious Case of K2-182 b*, Bay Area Exoplanet Meeting #39, 2021 December 3.
4. *The TESS-Keck Survey: Building a Statistical Sample of Sub-Neptunes Primed for Atmospheric Characterization*, TESS Science Conference II, 2021 August 3.
3. *Sub-Neptune Diversity in the Exoplanet Mass-Radius Diagram: The masses of three K2 sub-Neptunes and preliminary analysis of atmospheric targets from the TESS-Keck Survey*, UCSC FLASH Seminar, 2021 May 21.
2. *The TESS-Keck Survey: Building a Statistical Sample of Sub-Neptunes Primed for Atmospheric Characterization*, TESS Science Team Meeting #25, 2021 March 25.
1. *The TESS-Keck Survey: Building a Statistical Sample of Sub-Neptunes Primed for Atmospheric Characterization*, [Bay Area Exoplanet Meeting #36](#), 2021 March 5.

### Posters

2. *Inferring the spectrum of accretion onto LkCa 15 with Gaussian Processes*, [AAS Meeting 233](#), [360.19](#), 2019.
1. *Disentangling spectra of young stars*, [AAS Meeting 231](#), [339.08](#), 2018.

## OUTREACH

---

### Volunteering

Mentor, Latitude High School, Oakland, CA

Fall 2022

Advise 10th grade computer science students as they develop a math-based video game.

### Invited Public Talks

3. *Exoplanets: Detecting and Characterizing Worlds Beyond the Solar System*, Morristown High School (NJ) STEM Academy Meeting, 2022 February 9.
2. *Exoplanets: Detecting and Characterizing Worlds Beyond the Solar System*, Morristown High School (NJ) STEM Academy Meeting, 2021 April 7.
1. *Piecing Together the Universe with Generative Models*, Astronomy on Tap - Santa Cruz, 2020 March 5.

### Miscellaneous Presentations

Splinter session co-leader, *AAS National Osterbrock Leadership Program (NOLP)*, AAS Meeting 241.