

# RACHEL R. LEE

196A Auditorium Rd, Unit 3046  
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269  
rachel.lee@uconn.edu

## EDUCATION

---

### University of Connecticut

PhD. Physics and Astronomy

August 2022 - Present

Overall GPA: 4.00/4.00

Advisors: Aleksandra Kuznetsova & Cara Battersby

### Purdue University

Bachelors of Science, Physics Honors

August 2017 - May 2021

Minors in Astronomy and Mathematics

Overall GPA: 3.67/4.00

College of Science, Honors College

Physics Honors GPA: 3.63/4.00

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

**Stellar Formation:** Protostellar Variability, Stellar Mass Assembly, Protoplanetary Disk Evolution, Stellar Formation in Extreme Environments

**Observational and Time Domain Astronomy:** Supernovae, Supernova Remnant Morphology and Energetics, Progenitor System Analysis, Stellar Evolution and Formation, Spectroscopy, Stellar Classification

## REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

---

5. Lee, R. R., Milisavljevic, D., Weil, K. E., Banoventz, J. "Direct Supernova Remnant Distance Estimates Using NEID Spectroscopy of Gaia Stars," *in prep.* (2025).
4. Lee, R. R., Battersby, C., Kuznetsova, A., Fischer, W. J., Beuther, H., Hasegawa, Y., Sewiło., M. "Investigating the Role of Protostellar Variability with PRIMA Using Monte Carlo Simulations," *AAS Journal, (submitted, Oct. 15, 2025; Accepted, Nov. 3, 2025)*.
3. Battersby, C., Santa-Maria, M. G., Lipman, D., Paré, D. M., Lee, R. R., García, P., Jiménez-Serra, I., Pan, X., Walker, D. L., Sullivan, J., Alboslani, D., Hatchfield, H. P., Hu, Y., Lazarian, A., Wallace, J., Zhang, Q. Lu, Z., Mills, E. A. C., Ginsburg, A., Barnes, A. T., Hsieh, P., Henshaw, J. D., Longmore, S. N., Bally, J., Colzi, L., Ho, P. T. P., Petkova, M., Sormani, M. C., Bulatek, A., Butterfield, N. O., Federrath, C., Glover, S. C. O., Gorski, M. D., Gramze, S. R., Henkel, C., Karoly, J., Klessen, R. S., Martín, S., Nogueras-Lara, F., Pineda, J. E., Riquelme-Vásquez, D., Rivilla, V. M., Sánchez-Monge, Á., Schmiedeke, A., Sofue, Y., Tolls, V. "ACES VI: ALMA Large Program Reveals a Highly Filamentary Central Molecular Zone," *MNRAS, (submitted, Jul. 28, 2025; Accepted, XXX)*.
2. Fischer, W. J., Battersby, C., Johnstone, D., Lee, R., Sewiło., M., Beuther, H., Hasegawa, Y., Ginsburg, A., Pontoppidan, K. "Far-Infrared Luminosity Bursts Trace Mass Accretion onto Protostars," *AAS Journals, (submitted, Oct. 28, 2023; Accepted, Dec. 21, 2023)*.
1. Garretson, B., Milisavljevic, D., Reynolds, J., Subrayan, B., Weil, K. E., Banovetz, J., Lee, R. "Supernova Host Galaxy Association and Photometric Classification of Over 10,000 Light Curves from the Zwicky Transient Facility," *RNAAS, (Submitted, Dec. 3, 2021; Accepted, Dec. 7, 2021)*.

## NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

---

8. Weil, K. E., Milisavljevic, D., Rupert, J., et al. and 17 other authors incl. Lee, R. "REFITT classification of SN 2021nxq (ZTF21abcpjsy)," *Transient Name Server AstroNote, 182 (2021)*
7. Weil, K. E., Milisavljevic, D., Andrews, M., et al. and 18 other authors incl. Lee, R. "REFITT classifications of optical transients using SOAR," *Transient Name Server AstroNote, 30 (2021)*
6. Weil, K. E., Subrayan, B. M., Milisavljevic, D., et al. and 17 other authors incl. Lee, R. "REFITT classifications of optical transients using SOAR," *Transient Name Server AstroNote, 266 (2020)*
5. Weil, K. E., Milisavljevic, D., Andrews, M., et al. and 18 other authors incl. Lee, R. "REFITT Discovery and Classification of SN2020abog (ZTF20acpgjac) using SOAR," *Transient Name Server AstroNote, 243 (2020)*

4. Weil, K. E., Milisavljevic, D., Andrews, M., et al. and 18 other authors incl. **Lee, R.** "REFITT classifications of optical transients using SOAR," Transient Name Server AstroNote, 242 (2020)
3. Weil, K. E., Milisavljevic, D., Andrews, M., et al. and 18 other authors incl. **Lee, R.** "REFITT classifications of optical transients using SOAR," Transient Name Server AstroNote, 232 (2020)
2. Weil, K. E., Milisavljevic, D., Andrews, M., et al. and 18 other authors incl. **Lee, R.** "REFITT Discovery and Classification of SN 2020zct (ZTF20acezhcf) using SOAR," Transient Name Server AstroNote, 227 (2020)
1. Weil, K. E., Milisavljevic, D., Andrews, M., et al. and 18 other authors incl. **Lee, R.** "REFITT classifications of optical transients using SOAR," Transient Name Server AstroNote, 225 (2020)

**OBSERVING PROPOSALS**

---

6. Gemini Observatory Long Term Proposal, **Co-I**, 2026A. Time: 15 Hours (2026A, Submitted). "*Census of Early Time Narrow Features in Core-Collapse Supernovae.*"
5. Gemini Observatory Fast Turnaround Proposal, **PI**, 2025A. Time: 4.26 Hours (2025A, Accepted). "*Determining a Direct Distance Estimate to Puppis A Using Absorption Spectroscopy of Gaia Field Stars.*"
4. National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Observatory Proposal, **Co-I**, 2021B. Time: 4 Nights (2021A, Accepted). "*Spectroscopic Follow-up of Faint Transients from the ZTF Public Survey using REFITT.*"
3. National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Observatory Proposal, **Co-I**, 2021B. Time: 3 Nights (2021A, Accepted). "*Enhancing the ZTF Public Survey for Science Inference with REFITT.*"
2. National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Observatory Proposal, **Co-I**, 2021A. Time: 0.5 Nights (2020B, Accepted). "*Precise Distance Estimates to Nearby Supernova Remnants.*"
1. National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Observatory Proposal, **Co-I**, 2021A. Time: 40 Hours (2020B, Accepted). "*An ORACLE for Antares.*"

**PRESENTATIONS**

---

- Oct. 2025 University of Connecticut Astronomy Seminar; Talk  
 May 2025 ESO RAVEYSO Workshop; Poster  
 Oct. 2022 University of Connecticut Astronomy Seminar; Talk

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, University of Connecticut

- Fall 2022 PHYS 1025: Introduction to Astronomy  
 Spring 2023 PHYS 1025: Introduction to Astronomy  
 Spring 2024 PHYS 1201: General Physics I

**Graduate Course Assistant**, University of Connecticut

- Spring 2023 PHYS 1025: Introduction to Astronomy

**Physics Course and Individual Tutor**, Purdue University

- Spring 2021 PHYS 220: Mechanics  
 Fall 2021 PHYS 220: Mechanics  
 Spring 2022 PHYS 220: Mechanics

**Polytechnic Physics and Math Tutoring Supervisor**, Purdue University

- Fall 2021 PHYS 220: Mechanics  
 Fall 2021 PHYS 221: Electricity and Magnetism  
 Spring 2022 PHYS 220: Mechanics  
 Spring 2022 PHYS 221: Electricity and Magnetism

**OUTREACH AND SERVICE**

---

**Astronomy Journal Club Lead**, University of Connecticut  
**REFITT Education and Outreach Liaison**, Purdue University

2025 – Present  
2021 – 2022

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

---

- Margie and Don Bottorff Undergraduate Physics Scholarship Aug. 2019–May 2021
- David G. Seiler Physics Scholarship Aug. 2019–May 2020
- Lijuan Wang Memorial Award Aug. 2019–May 2020
- Ascarelli Fellowship Recipient Aug. 2017–May 2018
- Honors College Aug. 2017–May 2021
- Semester Honors Recipient Jan. 2019–May 2021
- Purdue University Dean’s List Jan. 2020–May 2021
- Purdue Promise Scholarship Recipient Aug. 2017–May 2021
- 21st Century Scholar Recipient Aug. 2017–May 2021

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

---

- Purdue Undergraduate Physics Student Council, Co-Founder and Treasurer Jan. 2019–May 2021
- Women in Physics, Member Aug. 2017–May 2021
- Purdue University Astronomy Club, Member Aug. 2018–May 2021
- Society of Physics Students, Member Aug. 2018–May 2021
- University of Connecticut Physics Graduate Student Association, President Aug. 2024 – May 2025
- American Astronomical Society, Member Oct. 2021 – Present
- University of Connecticut Physics Graduate Student Association, Member Aug. 2022 – Present