PO Box 8741
Redlands, CA 92375

TEL: (951)-318-3421
rtlow@ucsd.edu
rtlow.github.io

Ryan Low

I am a fourth-year Physics Major with Astrophysics Specialization from the University of California, San Diego who is enthusiastic about physics, computers, astronomy, and learning. I currently research with Dr. Adam Burgasser and his Cool Star Lab at UCSD, working with Optical Spectral Data.

Education

2016-Present B.S. in Physics with Astrophysics Specialization at University of California, San Diego.
Major GPA: 3.8.
Expected Graduation date: June 2020.

Projects

Lick/KAST Data Reduction Pipeline
I am currently responsible for creating a data reduction and analysis pipeline of Lick/KAST data for Dr. Burgasser's Cool Star Lab. The Lick/KAST spectrograph produces optical spectral data from the Brown Dwarfs that we observe. This project is to develop tools to process the raw data into spectrum that we can analyze, and then to develop tools to analyze the spectra.

CHARM-KASTr The Crude Homemade Astronomical Reduction Module for KAST red. The spectrum reduction package that I am developing using Python for the Lick/KAST Data Reduction Pipeline.

IRTF SpeX Data Reduction Pipeline
I assisted in streamlining the data reduction process for IRTF SpeX data. The IRTF SpeX spectrograph produces infrared spectral data from the Brown Dwarfs that we observe. I developed protocols, tools, and instruction manuals for using the reduction software SpeXTool to process SpeX data.

GetFITSHdr A Python script for scraping header data from .fits files and placing into .xlsx files. This script creates automatic log files from IRTF SpeX data, which streamlines the process of data reduction.

XlCombine A Python script for collating many .xlsx files with similar columns. Written for Spectrum Sports to streamline their database pipeline.

Proficient Programming Languages

Python My go-to language. Used in the majority of my projects, personal and professional.

Mathematica I use Mathematica mainly for computer algebra and for some numerical computations.

Java My preferred language for personal projects that require a Graphical User Interface

LyX A document processing program that allows for a more intuitive way to write LaTeX.

LaTeX I typeset all of my mathematics and physics documents in LaTeX.

Relevant Coursework

General Relativity
: The UCSD graduate-level relativity course. Geometrodynamics, Einstein's Field Equations, Schwarzchild and FLRW metrics, Applications to Stars and Cosmology. Books: Schutz *A First Course in General Relativity*; Misner, Thorne, and Wheeler *Gravitation*

Electrodynamics
: Solutions to Maxwell's Equations in Simple Geometries, Electromagnetic Radiation, Boundary Value Problems. Book: Griffiths *Electrodynamics*

Statistical Mechanics
: Thermodyanmics, Maxwell Statistics, Fermi-Dirac Statistics, Bose-Einstein Statistics. Books: Callen *Thermodynamics*; Chandler *Statistical Mechanics*

Numerical Methods
: Initial and Boundary Value Problems for Second Order Partial Differential Equations. Fourier Analysis, Sturn-Liouville Theory, and Numerical Solutions to Partial Differential Equations. Book: Dubin *Numerical and Analytical Methods*

Quantum Mechanics
: Operator Algebra, Angular Momentum, Density Matrices, Statistical Mechanics of the Two State System, Perturbation Theory, Variational Methods. Book: Griffiths *Quantum Mechanics*

Classical Mechanics
: Lagrangian Mechanics, the Two-Body Problem, Coupled Oscillators, Hamiltonian Mechanics, Continuum Mechanics, Nonlinear Dynamics, Dynamical Systems, and Chaos. Books: Taylor *Classical Mechanics*; Strogatz *Nonlinear Dynamics and Chaos*

Hobbies

Building and Fixing Computers
: I love to tinker with technology. I am currently playing around with Android systems, Linux systems, and a Raspberry Pi. In the past, I have also experimented with Arduino and software modifying a Wii.

Tutoring and Teaching
: The best way to understand a subject is to teach it to others. Since Summer 2019, I have run Onblog(g), an educational blog. I greatly enjoy helping my classmates come to a better understanding of their subjects.

Amateur Astronomy
: I have an immense passion for the night sky and the stars. I currently only own a small telescope, but I have taken several trips to the Mt. Wilson Observatory to observe the night sky and to observe the 2017 Solar Eclipse.

Model Rocketry
: During high school, I created and lead a model rocketry club that competed in the Team America Rocketry Challenge from 2012 to 2016. I also won second prize in the AIAA's Student Payload and Rocketry Challenge in 2014 for my research project and presentation. To this day, I still practice model rocketry with a continuing high-power certification from the National Association of Rocketry.

Awards

2019-20 Physical Sciences Dean's Undergraduate Award for Excellence
: An award given to 33 Physical Science students at UCSD for academic excellence.

References

Adam Burgasser (Research Adviser)
Professor of Physics, University of California, San Diego
Tel: 858-822-6958
Email: aburgasser@ucsd.edu

Aneesh Manohar Distinguished Professor of Physics, University of California, San Diego
Tel: 858-534-5264
Email: amanohar@ucsd.edu