

Saarah Hall

saarah@u.northwestern.edu ★ saarahhall.github.io

Education

Northwestern University

Ph.D. Student, Astronomy

Advisor: Adam Miller

Evanston, IL

September 2022 - present

University of Pennsylvania

B.A., Physics (with Honors), cum laude

Concentration: Astrophysics

Advisor: Gary Bernstein

Philadelphia, PA

August 2018 - May 2022

Research Experience

Data Reduction Pipeline for SEDM-KP

Northwestern University

Advisor: Assistant Professor Adam Miller

November 2022 - present

- Developing the photometric data reduction pipeline (DRP) for the Spectral Energy Distribution Machine at Kitt Peak (SEDM-KP, formerly SEDMv2)
- Collaborating across institutions to develop an open-source Python package for DRP building; the [Modular Image Reduction and Analysis Resource \(MIRAR\)](#)

Scene Modeling Photometry on HPM Stars

University of Pennsylvania

Advisor: Professor Gary Bernstein

August 2021 - August 2022

- Modeling images as sums of point spread functions (PSFs)
- Optimizing models of images for precise measurements of fluxes and motions of high-proper-motion (HPM) stars discovered in the Dark Energy Survey (DES)

Optical Counterparts to Gravitational Waves

Northwestern University CIERA REU

Advisors: Dr. Kerry Paterson and Professor Wen-Fai Fong

June 2021 - August 2021

- Analyzing and reducing image data from Steward Observatory's Bok Telescope using Python and SAOImage DS9
- Upgrading image subtraction software to facilitate the counterpart candidate vetting process by writing and integrating Python code into the team's pipeline

Animating Trans-Neptunian Objects

University of Pennsylvania

Advisor: Professor Gary Bernstein

May 2020 - May 2021

- Developing Python code to transform numerical data into an animation of any Trans-Neptunian Object (TNO) detected in the Dark Energy Survey (DES)
- Curating a [video](#) which visualizes 800+ TNOs from their first detection to their orbital patterns over thousands of years (see video also at vimeo.com/662683536)

Posters & Presentations

Status Update on SEDMv2's Photometric Data Reduction Pipeline

Contributed Talk; October 2023; ZTF 5th Science Meeting

Photometric Data Reduction Pipeline for the Spectral Energy Distribution Machine Version 2 (SEDMv2)

Poster Presentation; June 2023; Transient and Variable Universe Conference at UIUC

Searches After Gravitational-waves Using ARizona Observatories (SAGUARO): Updating Optical Counterpart Search Methods
iPoster Presentation; June 2022; 240th American Astronomical Society (AAS) Meeting

Gravitational Waves: Streamlining the Optical Counterpart Search
Virtual Poster; August 2021; CIERA REU Poster Session

The DES Year 6 catalog of trans-Neptunian objects
 Bernardinelli, P. and Hall, S.
Virtual Presentation; May 2021; Dark Energy Survey (DES) Videocon

Animating TNOs
Virtual Presentation; July 2020; Penn Undergraduate Summer Research Academy

Publications

Hosseinzadeh, Griffin; Paterson, Kerry, and 15 others, including **Hall, Saarah** (2023), *SAGUARO: Time-domain Infrastructure for the Fourth Gravitational-wave Observing Run and Beyond*, ApJ, 964, 35. [10.3847/1538-4357/ad2170](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ad2170)

Liu, Chang; Miller, Adam A., and 29 others, including **Hall, Saarah** (2023), *SN 2022joj: A Peculiar Type Ia Supernova Possibly Driven by an Asymmetric Helium-shell Double Detonation*, ApJ, 958, 178. [10.3847/1538-4357/acffc9](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/acffc9)

Rastinejad, J. C., Paterson, K., Fong, W., and 9 others, including **Hall, S.** (2022), *A Systematic Exploration of Kilonova Candidates from Neutron Star Mergers During the Third Gravitational Wave Observing Run*, ApJ, 927, 50. [10.3847/1538-4357/ac4d34](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ac4d34)

Awards & Honors

Illinois Space Grant Graduate Fellow , Northwestern	2024 - 2025
GEM Associate Fellow , Northwestern	2022 - 2024
Dean's List , UPenn	2021 - 2022
Hispanic Scholarship Fund	2021
NSF REU Stipend	2021
Allied Family Scholarship Fund	2018 - 2021, 2023
Vagelos Endowed Scholarship in Molecular Life Sciences , UPenn	2018 - 2021
American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT)	2018
Outstanding Physics Student of the Year	

Outreach & Leadership

Astronomer Conversations Volunteer , Adler Planetarium	2024
Research Mentor , <i>CIERA REACH Further</i>	2023
STEAM Mentor (Volunteer), <i>Operation Airlift</i> by Adler Planetarium	2023
Astronomy on Tap (Volunteer)	2022 - present
Science Olympiad at UPenn (SOUP) Grader (Volunteer)	2022
Women in Physics Board Member , UPenn	2020 - 2022
K-12 Math Tutor (Volunteer), <i>The Merry Tutor</i>	2017 - 2018

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant , Northwestern Department of Physics & Astronomy	
• Physics 126-3 - Physics for ISP Lab - Waves and Optics	Spring 2024
• Physics 126-2 - Physics for ISP Lab - Electricity and Magnetism	Winter 2024
• Data Science 421 - Integrated Data Analytics I	Fall 2023
Tutor & Grader , UPenn Physics Department	
• Astronomy 001 - A Survey of the Universe	2021
• Astronomy 007 - The Big Bang and Beyond	2021