

SAMANEH AGHELPASAND

[✉ \[Institution Email\]](#) | [✉ \[Gmail\]](#) | [i](#)
[\[LinkedIn\]](#) | [● \[ORCID\]](#) | [\[Personal Website\]](#)
☎ +98 9195174498

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EDUCATION

- **M. Sc. in Astronomy and Astrophysics**

Alzahra University, Tehran, Iran

September 2019 – March 2023

Grade: 15.21/20 | GPA: 3.3/4 (Thesis included)

- **M. Sc. in Astronomy and Astrophysics**

(Unfinished)

K.N. Toosi University, Tehran, Iran

September 2016 – June 2018

- **B. Sc. in Physics**

Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran

September 2011 – June 2016

Grade: 14.66/20 | GPA: 3.10/4 (Thesis included)

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RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC PROJECTS

- **B.Sc. Thesis:** *Electromagnetic Detection of ELF/VLF Signals Emitted by Meteors*

Advisor: Dr. Mahmoodreza Sharifian

Duration: 12 months (2015-2016)

- **M.Sc. Thesis:** *Designing A Neural Network of Long Short-Term Memory to Find the Exoplanets from The Kepler Space Telescope Data*

Supervisor: Dr. Taghi Mirtorabi

Duration: 12 months (2023)

- **Collaborative Research:**

- *The Discovery of Polarized Water Vapor Megamaser Emission in a Molecular Accretion Disk*

collaborators: Prof. Jack Gallimore and Dr. Violette Impellizzeri, Dr. Boy Lankhaar, Dr. Feng Gao, and Virginia Hostetter.

Duration: 12 months

My Focus: Studied proper motions of H₂O maser emission in NGC 1068 using VLBA data.

- **ASPIRE Summer School Program at the University of Amsterdam**

June 28 - August 6, 2024

Advisors: Prof. J.W.T. (Jason) Hessels and Dr. Ziggy Pleunis

Project: Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs) using Python; learned about radio polarimetry and applied fitting algorithms to connect FRB polarimetry to source models.

- **VLBA Observations of Proper Motions of Water Masers in the Cepheus A HW2 Star-Forming Region**

Summer 2023 - present

Advisors: Prof. Jack Gallimore and Dr. Violette Impellizzeri

Focus: Study the disk around Cepheus A using the Very Long Baseline Interferometry observation technique.

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PUBLICATIONS

- Galimore, J.F., Impellizzeri, V., Aghelpasand, S., Hostetter, V., Gao, F., & Lankhaar, B. "The Discovery of Polarized Water Vapor Megamaser Emission in a Molecular Accretion Disk." *Astrophysical Journal Letters*. Published 2024 October 25 [[ApJL](#)]

- Aghelpasand, S., Galimore, J.F., Impellizzeri, V., & Najafi, F. "VLBA Observations of Proper Motions of Water Masers in the Cepheus A HW2 Star-Forming Region." *Communications of BAO (ComBAO)*, Volume 71, Issue II, December 2024. Status: Under Review.

- Aghelpasand, S., Howaida, P., & Ahadi, M. "Electromagnetic Detection of

ELF/VLF Signals Emitted by Geminids 2017 Meteors." Accepted as a poster presentation at the *31st IPM Physics Spring Conference*, Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences, May 15, 2024. [link](#)

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COMPUTER SKILLS

• **Programming:** Proficient in Python and its scientific libraries (NumPy, Matplotlib, SciPy, Astropy, Pandas) for data processing and analysis.

• **Radio Astronomy Software:**

- Experienced in AIPS for reducing and analyzing radio interferometric data.
- Proficient in Difmap for modeling and imaging radio interferometric data.

HONORS and Scholarship

• **Master's National Entrance Exam (Kunkur):** Ranked 92 among 10,000 applicants and full funding granted for M.Sc. in Astronomy and Astrophysics (Summer 2019)

• First Place in the Radio Telescope National Competition, Semnan University (March 2015). In this competition, we build a loop antenna to detect radio signals directly from meteors in ELF/VLF bands.

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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Alzahra University:

• **Astrophysics I (2021):** Assisted in course delivery, graded assignments, and developed test questions.

• **Numerical Calculations (2020):** Managed grading of coursework and created assessment materials.

• **Science philosophy (2019):** Supported the professor in lectures, graded student submissions, and contributed to exam preparation.

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SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

• "VLBA Observations of Proper Motions of Water Masers in the Cepheus A HW2 Star-Forming Region," The 4th Regional Astronomical Workshop (4RAW), Armenia, September 17, 2024. [link](#)

• "Electromagnetic Detection of ELF/VLF Signals Emitted by Geminids 2017 Meteors," 31st IPM Physics Spring Conference, virtual, May 15, 2024. [link](#)

• "Designing a Neural Network of Long Short-Term Memory to Find Exoplanets from Kepler Data," Iranian Astronomy Research Meeting, Zanzan Graduate University, June 14-16, 2023. [link](#)

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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES ATTENDED

• **The 9th Byurakan International Summer School (9BISS)** for Young Astronomers (September 9-13, 2024), Armenia: Granted accommodation and meals. [link](#)

• **The 4th Regional Astronomical Workshop (4RAW)** (September 16-20, 2024), Armenia: Granted accommodation and meals. [link](#)

• **IAU/I-HOW Radio Astronomy Workshop**, Erciyes University, Kayseri, Türkiye (September 4-15, 2023): Full funding granted. [link](#)

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MEMBERSHIPS

• **Astronomy Society of Iran:** Professional membership

Active participation in this non-governmental institute has enhanced my understanding of astronomical advancements in Iran, expanded my professional network, and facilitated access to grants for conferences and publications.

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LANGUAGES

- Persian: Native
- English: IELTS Band 6.5