Sukrit Ranjan

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Professional Appointments

University of Arizona Assistant Professor

09/2022-Present

Assistant Professor in Department of Planetary Sciences/Lunar and Planetary Laboratory at University of Arizona.

Northwestern University

CIERA Postdoctoral Fellow

09/2020-09/2022

Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics prize fellow in NU Physics & Astronomy.

M.I.T.

SCOL Postdoctoral Fellow

09/2017-08/2020

Simons Collaboration on the Origin of Life prize fellow in MIT Earth, Atmospheric & Planetary Sciences.

Education

Harvard University Pl

PhD, Astronomy & Astrophysics

May 2017

PhD Thesis: "The UV Environment For Prebiotic Chemistry". Research Exam (MA Thesis): "Characterization of 5 Hot Jupiter Atmospheres with WFC3 On HST". Certificate in Origin of Life studies.

M.I.T. SB, Physics June 2010

Major in Physics, minors in History and Astronomy. Elected to Φ BK and $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$. GPA 4.93/5.00.

Other Appointments

- National Institute of Science Education and Research, Visiting Professor. 10/21-12/21
- Blue Marble Space Institute of Science, Affiliate Research Scientist. 06/20-present
- Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Postdoctoral Researcher (PI: S. Sengupta). 06-08/2017.
- NASA Ames Research Center, Research Associate/NASA Academy (PI: N. Cabrol). 06-08/2010.

Fellowships, Proposals & Grants

- NASA Exoplanets Research Program, "Experimental Constraints for Improving Terrestrial Exoplanet Photochemical Models (ExCITE-PM)", Science PI, 2021, ~ \$677k.
- HST Guest Observer Program, "Chromosopheric and Coronal Activity in the Lowest-Mass Stars", <u>Co-I</u>, 2020, 33 orbits/~ \$224k.
- CIERA Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2020-2023
- Astrosat Cycle T01, "M-dwarfs as Exoplanet Hosts: Coordinated Observations with HST and Astrosat in X-rays through UV", Co-I, 2017, 15000.0 seconds.
- SCOL Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2017-2020
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, 2010-2013

Awards and Honors

- NAI Early Career Scholarship, 2018.
- AAS Rodger Doxsey Prize, 2017.
- Harvard Astronomy Department Outstanding Mentor Certificate, 2014 & 2015.
- NAI Scholarship (International Summer School In Astrobiology), 2014
- AGU Fall Meeting Outstanding Student Paper Award, 2013.
- Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, 2012.
- NAI Scholarship (Nordic-NASA Summer School) 2012.
- MIT Joel Matthew Orloff Award for Outstanding Service in Physics, 2010.

Peer-Reviewed Publications (Published or Submitted)

 $^{\star} = mentored or co-mentored student$

First-Author Publications

- Ranjan, S., S. Seager, Z. Zhan, D. Koll, W. Bains, J. Petkowski, J. Huang, Z. Lin, 2022. Photochemical Runaway in Exoplanet Atmospheres: Implications for Biosignatures. The Astrophysical Journal, 930, 131.
- 9. Ranjan, S., C. Kufner, G. Lozano, Z. Todd, A. Haseki*, D. Sasselov, 2022. UV Transmission in Natural Waters on Prebiotic Earth. Astrobiology, 22, 242.
- 8. Ranjan, S., E. Schwieterman, C. Harman, A. Fateev, C. Sousa-Silva, S. Seager, R. Hu, 2020. Photochemistry of Anoxic Abiotic Habitable Planet Atmospheres: Impact of New H₂O Cross-Sections. The Astrophysical Journal, 896, 2.
- 7. Ranjan, S., Z. Todd, P. Rimmer, D. Sasselov, A. Babbin, 2019. Nitrogen Oxide Concentrations in Natural Waters on Early Earth. Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems, 20, 2021.
- Ranjan, S., Z. Todd, J. Sutherland, and D. Sasselov, 2018. Sulfidic Anion Concentrations on Early Earth for Surficial Origins-of-Life Chemistry. Astrobiology, 18, 1023.
- 5. Ranjan, S., R. Wordsworth, and D. Sasselov, 2017b. The Surface UV Environment on Planets Orbiting M-Dwarfs: Implications for Prebiotic Chemistry & Need for Experimental Follow-Up. The Astrophysical Journal, 843, 110.
- 4. Ranjan, S., R. Wordsworth, and D. Sasselov, 2017a. Atmospheric Constraints on the Surface UV Environment of Mars at 3.9 Ga Relevant to Prebiotic Chemistry. Astrobiology, 17, 687.
- 3. Ranjan, S. and D. Sasselov, 2017. Constraints on the Early Terrestrial Surface UV Environment Relevant to Prebiotic Chemistry. Astrobiology, 17, 169.
- 2. Ranjan, S. and D. Sasselov, 2016. Influence of UV Radiation on the Synthesis of Prebiotic Molecules. Astrobiology, 16, 68.
- Ranjan, S., D. Charbonneau, J.-M. Désert, N. Madhusudhan, L. D. Deming, A. N. Wilkins, and A. M. Mandell, 2014. Atmospheric Characterization of 5 Hot Jupiters with the Wide Field Camera 3 on the Hubble Space Telescope. The Astrophysical Journal, 785, 148.

Co-Author Publications

- 26. Huang, J., S. Seager, J. Petkowski, Z. Zhan, S. Ranjan, 2022. Methanol A Poor Biosignature Gas in Exoplanet Atmospheres. Astrophysical Journal, 933, 6.
- 25. Greaves, J., P. Rimmer, A. Richards, J. Petkowski, W. Bains, S. Ranjan, S. Seager, D. Clements, C. Sousa-Silva, H. Fraser, 2022. Low Levels of Sulphur Dioxide Contamination of Phosphine Spectra from Venus' Atmosphere. Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 514, 2994.
- 24. Zhan, Z..*, J. Huang, S. Seager, J. Petkowski, S. Ranjan, 2022. Organic Carbonyls are Poor Biosignature Gases in Exoplanet Atmospheres but May Generate Significant CO. Astrophysical Journal, 930, 133.
- 23. Glidden, A., S. Seager, J. Huang.*, J. Petkowski, S. Ranjan 2022. Can Carbon Fractionation Provide Evidence for Aerial Biospheres in the Atmospheres of Temperate Sub-Neptunes? Astrophysical Journal, 930, 62.
- 22. Bains, W., O. Shorttle, S. Ranjan, P. Rimmer, J. Petkowski, J. Greaves, S. Seager, 2022. Only Extraordinary Volcanism Can Explain the Presence of Parts Per Billion Phosphine on Venus. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 119, e2121702119.
- 21. Bains, W., O. Shorttle, S. Ranjan, P. Rimmer, J. Petkowski, S. Seager, 2022. Constraints on the production of phosphine by Venusian volcanoes. Universe, 8, 54.
- 20. Lin, Z., S. Seager, S. Ranjan, T. Kozakis, L. Kaltenegger, 2022. H₂-dominated Atmosphere as an Indicator of Second-Generation Rocky White Dwarf Exoplanets. Astrophysical Journal Letters, 925, L10.
- 19. Huang, J.*, S. Seager, J. Petkowski, **S. Ranjan**, Z. Zhan, 2022. Assessment of Ammonia as a Biosignature Gas in Exoplanet Atmospheres. Astrobiology, 22, 171.
- 18. Rimmer, P., S. Ranjan, S. Rugheimer, 2021. Life?s Origins and the Search for Life on Rocky Exoplanets. Elements, 17, 265. *Invited Review*.

- 17. Bains, W., J. Petkowski, S. Seager, S. Ranjan, C. Sousa-Silva, P. Rimmer, Z. Zhan, J. Greaves, A. Richards, 2022. Venusian phosphine: a 'wow!' signal in chemistry? Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silocon and the Related Elements, 1-6.
- 16. Zhan, Z.*, S. Seager, J. Petkowski, C. Sousa-Silva, S. Ranjan, et. al., 2021. Assessment of Isoprene as a Possible Biosignature Gas in Exoplanets with Anoxic Atmospheres. Astrobiology, 21, 765.
- 15. An, S., **S. Ranjan**, K. Yuan, X. Yang, R. Skodje, 2021. The Role of the Three Body Photodissociation Channel of Water in the Evolution of Dioxygen in Astrophysical Applications. Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics, 23, 9235.
- 14. Bains, W., J. Petkowski, S. Seager, S. Ranjan, et al., 2021. Phosphine on Venus Cannot be Explained by Conventional Processes. Astrobiology, 21, 1277.
- 13. Greaves, J., A. Richards, W. Bains, P. Rimmer, D. Clements, S. Seager, J. Petkowski, C. Sousa-Silva, S. Ranjan, et al., 2021. Reply to: Phosphine Gas in the Cloud Decks of Venus. Nature Astronomy, 5, 636.
- 12. Greaves, J., A. Richards, W. Bains, P. Rimmer, H. Sagawa, D. Clements, S. Seager, J. Petkowski, C. Sousa-Silva, S. Ranjan, et al., 2021. Addendum: Phosphine Gas in the Cloud Decks of Venus. Nature Astronomy, 5, 726.
- 11. Greaves, J., A. Richards, W. Bains, P. Rimmer, H. Sagawa, D. Clements, S. Seager, J. Petkowski, C. Sousa-Silva, S. Ranjan, et al., 2020. Phosphine Gas in the Cloud Decks of Venus. Nature Astronomy, 5, 655.
- 10. Seager, S., J. Petkowski, P. Gao, W. Bains, N. Bryan, S. Ranjan, J. Greaves, 2020. The Venusian Lower Atmosphere as a Depot for Desiccated Microbial Life: A Proposed Life Cycle for Persistence of the Venusian Aerial Biosphere. Astrobiology, http://doi.org/10.1089/ast.2020.2244.
- 9. Todd, Z, A. Fahrenbach, S. Ranjan, C. Magnani, J. Szostak, D. Sasselov, 2020. UV-driven deamination of cytidine ribonucleotides under planetary conditions. Astrobiology, 20, 878-888.
- 8. Guenther, M., Z. Zhan, S. Seager, P. Rimmer, S. Ranjan, et. al., 2020. Stellar Flares from the First TESS Data Release: Exploring a New Sample of M Dwarfs. The Astronomical Journal, 159, 2.
- 7. Sousa-Silva, C., S. Seager, S. Ranjan, J. J. Petkowski, Z. Zhan, R. Hu, W. Bains, 2020. On Phosphine as a Biosignature Gas in Exoplanet Atmospheres. Astrobiology, 20, 235.
- 6. Xu, J., D. Ritson, S. Ranjan, Z. Todd, D. Sasselov, J. Sutherland, 2018. Photochemical reductive homologation of hydrogen cyanide using sulfite and ferrocyanide. Chemical Communications, 54, 5566.
- 5. Todd, Z.*, A. Fahrenbach, C. Magnani*, S. Ranjan, A. Bjorkborn, J. Szostak, D. Sasselov, 2018. Solvated-electron production using cyanocuprates is compatible with the UV-environment on a Hadean-Archaean Earth. Chemical Communications, 54, 1121.
- 4. Wilkins, A. N., L. D. Deming, N. Madhusudhan, A. Burrows, H. A. Knutson, P. McCullough, and **S. Ranjan**, 2014. The Emergent 1.1-1.7 μ m Spectrum of the Exoplanet CoRoT-2b as measured using the Hubble Space Telescope. The Astrophysical Journal, 783, 113.
- 3. Deming, L. D., A. Wilkins, P. McCullough, A. Burrows, J. J. Fortney, E. Agol, I. Dobbs-Dixon, N. Madhusudhan, N. Crouzet, J. Désert, R. L. Gilliland, K. Haynes, H. A. Knutson, M. Line, Z. Magic, A. M. Mandell, S. Ranjan, D. Charbonneau, M. Clampin, S. Seager, and A. P. Showman, 2013. Infrared Transmission Spectroscopy of the Exoplanets HD 209458b and XO-1b using the Wide Field Camera-3 On the Hubble Space Telescope. The Astrophysical Journal, 774, 95.
- Cosgrove, R., M. Nicolls, H. Dahlgren, S. Ranjan, and R. Doe, 2010. Radar Detection of a Localized 1.4 Hz Pulsation in Auroral Plasma, Simultaneous with Pulsating Optical Emissions, During a Substorm. Annales Geophysicae, 28, 1961.
- 1. Nicolls, M. J., C. J. Heinselman, E.A. Hope, **S. Ranjan**, and M.C. Kelly, 2007. Imaging of Polar Mesosphere Summer Echoes with the 450 MHz Poker Flat Advanced Molecular Incoherent Scatter Radar. Geophysical Research Letters, 34, L20102.

Talks and Seminars

 $^{\ddagger} = Remote$

Invited

- JHU/StSci Joint Astrobiology Seminar. Baltimore, MD. 03/2023.
- ETH Zurich Exoplanets & Habitability Seminar. Zurich, Switzerland[‡]. 12/2022.
- Simons Society of Fellows Symposium. New York, NY. 09/2022.
- Lorenz Center Workshop: "Tracing Sulfur From Molecular Clouds To The Origin of Life". Leiden, The Netherlands. 09/2022.
- AbSciCon, Atlanta, GA. 05/2022.
- UCR Astrobiology Seminar, Riverside, CA. 03/2022.
- Purdue University Colloquium, West Lafayette, IN. 02/2022.
- University of Wisconsin Center for Origins Research Colloquium, Madison, WI. 02/2022.
- ELSI Symposium, Tokyo, JP[‡]. 01/2022.
- UA LPL Colloquium, Tucson, AZ. 12/2021.
- ASU SPD Journal Club, Tempe, AZ[‡]. 10/2022.
- First Annual Conference of the Polish Astrobiological Society: Life & Space 2021, Poland[‡]. 09/2021.
- Twinkle & The Next Generation of Exoplanet Scientists, UK[‡]. 09/2021.
- BMSIS Team Meeting Seminar, Seattle, WA[‡]. 09/2021.
- PCE₃ Seminar, Prebiotic Chemistry and Early Earth Environments Consortium (NASA RCN), USA[‡]. 09/2021.
- TIFR Seminar, Mumbai, India[‡]. 05/2021.
- JPL Seminar, Pasadena, CA[‡]. 03/2021.
- MIT Planetary Lunch Seminar, Cambridge, MA[‡]. 11/2020.
- University of Pennsylvania Astronomy Journal Club. Philadelphia, PA[‡]. 10/2020.
- National Institute of Science Education and Research School of Earth and Planetary Sciences Colloquium. Bhubaneswar, India[‡]. 10/2020.
- Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics Exoplanet Lunch. Cambridge, MA[‡]. 04/2020.
- UC Davis Origins Group Seminar. Davis, CA. 11/2019.
- Exoclimes 2019. Oxford, UK. 08/2019. Keynote.
- Northwestern University CIERA Theory Group Seminar. Evanston, IL. 04/2019.
- ELSI Seminar. Tokyo, Japan. 04/2019.
- XVth Rencontres du Vietnam: "Life3E'2019: Search for Life, From Early Earth to Exoplanets". Quy Nhon, Vietnam. 03/2019. **Keynote**.
- Lorenz Center Workshop: "A Roadmap for Universal Life". Leiden, The Netherlands. 10/2018.
- UC Riverside Astronomy Seminar. Riverside, CA. 10/2018.
- Goldschmidt Conference. Boston, MA. 08/2018.
- NASA GSFC SEEC "Seeds of Biomolecules" Conference. Greenbelt, MD. 04/2018.
- UMass Lowell Space Physics Seminar. Lowell, MA. 02/2018.
- MIT PICS Seminar. Cambridge, MA. 11/2017.
- Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics Atomic and Molecular Physics Seminar. Cambridge, MA. 05/2017.
- Harvard Origins of Life Initiative Chalk Talk. Cambridge, MA. 02/2017.
- ELSI-Harvard Joint Workshop: The Chemical Origins of Life on Early Earth and Other Planetary Bodies. Cambridge, MA. 02/2015.

Contributed

- COSPAR, Athens, Greece. 07/2022
- Exoplanets IV, Las Vegas, NV. 05/2022
- AbSciCon, Atlanta, GA. 05/2022
- Stars and Planets in the Ultraviolet: A Cross-Community Symposium[‡]. 05/2021.
- STScI 2021 Spring Symposium "Towards the Comprehensive Characterization of Exoplanets" [‡]. 04/2021.
- Northwestern University Lunch Seminar. Evanston, IL[‡]. 02/2021.
- SCOL Meeting. New York, NY[‡]. 11/2020.
- DPS 52[‡]. Virtual Meeting[‡]. 10/2020.
- Exoplanets III. Virtual Meeting[‡]. 07/2020.
- 236th American Astronomical Society Meeting. Virtual Meeting[‡]. 06/2020.
- \bullet Boston Area Exoplanet Science Meeting. Boston, MA $^{\ddagger}.$ 04/2020.
- Gordon Research Conference on the Origin of Life. Galveston, TX. 01/2020.
- 235th American Astronomical Society Meeting. Honolulu, HI. 01/2020.
- Habitability: Producing Conditions Conducive to Life. Bozeman, MT. 09/2019.
- SCOL Meeting. New York, NY. 04/2019.
- CU Boulder CASA/JILA Seminar. Boulder, CO. 02/2019.
- FFAME Workshop: "Origins of Life". Atlanta, GA. 10/2018.
- SCOL Meeting. New York, NY. 10/2018.
- COSPAR Meeting. Pasadena, CA. 07/2018.
- "Science of Early Life" Conference. Hamilton, Canada. 06/2018.
- Gordon Research Seminar. Galveston, TX. 01/2018.
- Boston Area Exoplanets Meeting. Cambridge, MA. 12/2017.
- Habitable Worlds: A System Science Workshop. 11/2017.
- SCOL Meeting. New York, NY. 11/2017.
- IIA Astrophysics Seminar. Bangalore, India. 06/2017.
- 5th ELSI International Symposium. Tokyo, Japan. 01/2017.
- American Astronomical Society Meeting. Grapevine, TX. 01/2017.
- Caltech Geoclub Seminar. Pasadena, CA. 12/2016.
- DTM Astronomy Seminar. Washington, DC. 11/2016.
- Columbia Astronomy Seminar. New York, NY. 11/2016.
- UChicago Exoplanets Group Seminar. Chicago, IL. 11/2016.
- MIT Kavli Institute Brown Bag Lunch. Cambridge, MA. 10/2016.
- NASA GISS Seminar. New York, NY. 10/2016.
- NASA GSFC Exoplanet Seminar. Greenbelt, MD. 09/2016.
- NASA Ames Space Science & Astrobiology Division Seminar. Moffett Field, CA. 09/2016
- MRC LMB Seminar. Cambridge, UK. 08/2016.
- University of St. Andrews Earth Science Seminar. St. Andrews, UK. 08/2016.
- Cornell Planetary Lunch. Ithaca, NY. 05/2016.
- Astrobiology Science Conference. Chicago, IL. 06/2015.
- AGU Fall Meeting. San Francisco, CA. 12/2013.
- AbGradCon. Montreal, Canada. 06/2013.
- XXVIIIth IAU General Assembly. Beijing, China. 08/2012.
- Extreme Solar Systems II. Jackson Hole, WY. 09/2011.

Teaching

- Guest Lecturer (11/2019), MIT Course: "Astrobiology, Origins and Early Evolution of Life". Cambridge, MA. 11/2019.
- Teaching Fellow, Harvard University. Taught (a) Celestial Navigation (2011). (b) How to Build a Habitable Planet (2012).
- Teaching Assistant, MIT. Taught (a) Physics 1 (Fall 2007) (b) Hands-On Astronomy: Observing Stars and Planets (Spring 2009) (c) Observational Techniques of Optical Astronomy (Fall 2009).
- Teacher & Organizer, Observational Astronomy for High-School Students, Fall 2008, 2009. Developed and taught evening class in observational astronomy for local high-school students. Included classroom and laboratory components and field trips.
- Teaching Assistant, Programa Joves i Ciencia, Summer 2008, 2009. Taught astrophysics and observational astronomy to high school students in Spain. Included classroom and laboratory components; developed own progam.

Mentorship

Research

- Co-Mentor, Graduate Research. (2) Co-mentored two graduate students in photochemistry research, resulting in first-author publications for the students (2018-2021). (1) Mentored graduate student in origins-of-life research, resulting in first-author publication for the student (2016-2018).
- Mentor, Undergraduate Research. (2) As visiting faculty at NISER, mentoring two undergraduates in planetary science research (2021-2022). (1) Co-supervisor & project designer for undergraduate junior and senior theses. Student co-author on peer-reviewed publication (2013-2015).
- Mentor, High School Research. (2) Mentored high school student in capstone project in AP Research class (2020-21). (1) Mentored high school student via Research Science Institute (RSI) program (2019). Guided student through research project; student co-author on peer-reviewed paper incorporating her work. Won "Top 5 Presentation" honor at RSI. News coverage.

Non-Research

- Mentor, Underrepresented Undergraduates. (2) Professional mentor for MIT sophomore-senior undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds via E-Mentor Advocate Partnership Program (EMAP; 2021-present) (1) Mentor for MIT freshmen from underrepresented backgrounds via Mentor Advocate Program (MAP; 2018-2020).
- Peer Mentor. (3) Peer mentor for junior postdocs in MIT EAPS department (2018-2020). (2) Mentor for graduate student in MIT EAPS department (2019-present). (1) Peer mentor for interns & junior graduate students in Harvard Astronomy department (2012-2015).
- Mentor, Underrepresented High-School Students Guided local high-school students from underrepresented backgrounds through hands-on science project via MIT SciPro program (2007).

Training in Pedagogy, Mentorship & Leadership

- "Leadership Coaching Program" (2021). Formal coaching in leadership at Northwestern.
- "Mentoring Up + Down" (2021). Formal training in mentorship at Northwestern.
- "Inclusive Classrooms: How to Leverage Identity to Improve your Teaching Practice" (2020). Formal training in inclusive teaching for postdocs at MIT.
- "Scientists Teaching Science" (2017). Graduate course in STEM science pedagogy at Harvard (audit, full participation).

Service

- Peer reviewer for Science, Nature Astronomy, Nature Communications, The Astrophysical Journal, AGU Advances, Icarus, Astrobiology, Life.
- Member, CIERA Astrophysics Seminar Committee (2020-2021)
- Interviewer, MIT Undergraduate Admissions (2011-present).
- Member, Department Retreat Organizing Committe (2014). Organized inaugural retreat for Harvard Astronomy department.
- Representative, Faculty Search Committee (2013-14). Elected representative to Harvard Astronomy department committee to select new professor.
- Representative, Graduate Student Council (2011-13). Elected representative to Harvard GSC.
- Representative, Committee on Curricula (2007-2009). Representative to the MIT CoC.
- Representative, Committee on the Undergraduate Program (2009). Representative to the MIT CUP.

References

- Professor Dimitar Sasselov, Harvard University, dsasselov@cfa.harvard.edu.
- Professor Sara Seager, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, seager@mit.edu
- Professor James Kasting, Pennsylvania State University, jfk4@psu.edu
- Professor Vicky Kalogera, Northwestern University, vicky@northwestern.edu
- Professor Andrew Babbin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, babbin@mit.edu