


# Dr. Dennis Lee

JPL Postdoctoral Fellow

[dennisl@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:dennisl@jpl.nasa.gov) | [github.com/dennis-l](https://github.com/dennis-l) | [dennis-l.github.io](https://dennis-l.github.io) |  ORCID: 0000-0002-3455-1826

## Education

---

**Northwestern University** Sep 2018 – Aug 2024  
PhD, Astronomy Evanston, IL

- Thesis: *Dust Polarimetry through Far Infrared Observations and Millimeter Wavelength Instrument Development*
- Advisor: Giles Novak

**Harvard University** Aug 2012 – May 2016  
AB, Astrophysics and Physics Cambridge, MA

- Advisor: Cara Battersby

## Professional Experience

---

**NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory** Aug 2024 – Present  
*JPL Postdoctoral Fellow* Pasadena, CA

**Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics** Sep 2018 – Aug 2024  
*Graduate Student Researcher* Evanston, IL

**Wayfair LLC** Jul 2016 – Jul 2018  
*Senior Analyst, Notifications Marketing* Boston, MA

## Principal Investigator Proposals Awarded

---

- **Dust Polarization of Rho Oph A: Probing the Missing Spatial Scales** 2023  
ALMA Cycle 10, 33 hours.
- **Characterizing the Multiplicity of Protostellar Systems in Mon R2** 2023  
Keck Observatory, NIRC2, 0.5 nights.

## Teaching Experience

---

- Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University Spring 2024  
ASTRON 111: Introduction to Astrobiology
- Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University Winter 2024  
PHYSICS 136: General Physics Laboratory (Waves and Modern Physics)
- Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University Spring 2020  
ASTRON 220: Introduction to Astrophysics
- Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University Winter 2020  
ASTRON 102: Milky Way Galaxy
- Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University Fall 2019  
PHYSICS 136: General Physics Laboratory (Mechanics)

## Presentations

---

\*: Poster, † Invited

- **Millimeter Wavelength Dust Polarization with TolTEC: A New Imaging Polarimeter**  
31 Oct 2024, Caltech Observational Cosmology Seminar  
California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California
- † **Dust Polarimetry through Far Infrared Observations and Millimeter Wavelength Instrument Development**  
23 Sep 2024, Astronomy Tea Talk  
California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California
- † **Modeling the Far-Infrared Polarization Spectrum of a High-Mass Star Forming Cloud**  
7 Jun 2024, Midwest Magnetic Field Workshop  
University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, Wisconsin

- **Polarimetry with the TolTEC camera: a new imaging polarimeter for the Large Millimeter Telescope**  
9 Jan 2024, 243rd Meeting of the American Astronomical Society  
Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, Louisiana
- **\*Relative Orientation of Magnetic Field and Cloud Structure in L1688**  
26 Jun 2023, Stars @ Lyon 2023  
CPE Lyon, Villeurbanne, France
- **A far-infrared view of the magnetic field in star formation: comparing SOFIA/HAWC+ polarization measurements with simulations**  
25 May 2023, Midwest Magnetic Field Workshop  
University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, Wisconsin (Virtual)
- **\*Polarimetric Commissioning for TolTEC**  
20 Jul 2022, SPIE Astronomical Telescopes + Instrumentation 2022  
Montréal, Québec, Canada
- **Relative Orientation of Magnetic Field and Cloud Structure in L1688**  
2 Mar 2022, Our Galactic Ecosystem: Opportunities and Diagnostics in the Infrared and Beyond  
UCLA Lake Arrowhead Lodge, Lake Arrowhead, California
- **Relative Orientation of Magnetic Field and Cloud Structure in L1688**  
16 Feb 2022, SOFIA Community Tele-Talk Series (Virtual)
- **Magnetic Field and Elongated Cloud Structure in L1688**  
23 Jun 2021, Magnetic Fields and the Structure of the Filamentary Interstellar Medium  
SOFIA Science Series (Virtual)
- **Polarization Modulation and Half-Wave Plate Rotator**  
11 Dec 2020, TolTEC National Science Foundation Annual Site Visit  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Virtual)

## Service and Outreach

---

- **CIERA Connections**, *Founding Organizer* 2022 – 2024  
Organized the logistics and visit of individuals with astronomy or physics graduate degrees, but currently work outside of traditional academia.
- **Harvard College**, *Alumni Interviewer* 2021 – 2024  
Interviewed applicants in the Chicago area applying to Harvard College as undergraduates.
- **Astronomy on Tap**, *Organizer, Host* 2018 – 2024  
Serve as the host for free public events with scientific talks broadly accessible to the public.
- **Research Experiences in Astronomy at CIERA for High School Students (REACH)**, *Organizer, Speaker* 2022 – 2023  
Reviewed applications and gave introductory scientific talks about astronomy.
- **Data Science for the Public Good Conference**, *Organizer, Speaker* 2021  
Developed and taught material at a conference exposing high school students to broad applications of data science.

## Technical Skills

---

- **Languages:** Python, C/C++, SQL (PostgreSQL, Vertica, MySQL, MS SQL)
- **Software:** Microsoft Office, Solidworks, Autodesk EAGLE, Matlab, Mathematica, Git
- **High Performance Computing:** Experience with SLURM, OpenMP, and OpenMPI.
- **Laboratory:** Experience with CNC machining, soldering, and electrical components.
- **Languages:** Fluent in Cantonese and written traditional Chinese.



## Publications

---

5 peer-reviewed publications (2 first-author, 3 *n*-th author), 6 non-refereed/proceedings




### First-Author Peer-Reviewed

---

- **Modeling the Far-infrared Polarization Spectrum of a High-mass Star-forming Cloud**  
*Lee, D., Chen, C.-Y., Novak, G., Chuss, D.T., Cox, E.G., Karpovich, K., Ashton, P., Berthoud, M., Li, Z.-Y., and Michail, J.M.*  
*The Astrophysical Journal*, 972, 102, 2024,  
[doi:10.3847/1538-4357/ad631c](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ad631c)  NASA/ADS
- **HAWC+/SOFIA Polarimetry in L1688: Relative Orientation of Magnetic Field and Elongated Cloud Structure**  
*Lee, D., Berthoud, M., Chen, C.-Y., Cox, E.G., Davidson, J.A., Encalada, F.J., Fissel, L.M., Harrison, R., Kwon, W., Li, D., Li, Z.-Y., Looney, L.W., Novak, G., and 4 colleagues.*  
*The Astrophysical Journal*, 918, 39, 2021,  
[doi:10.3847/1538-4357/ac0cf2](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ac0cf2)  NASA/ADS





### *n*-th Author Peer-Reviewed

---

- **Magnetic Field Alignment Relative to Multiple Tracers in the High-mass Star-forming Region RCW 36**  
*Bij, A., Fissel, L.M., Bonne, L., Schneider, N., Berthoud, M., Lee, D., Novak, G.A., Sadavoy, S.I., Pillai, T.G.S., Cunningham, M., Jones, P., and Simon, R.*  
*The Astrophysical Journal*, 975, 267, 2024,  
[doi:10.3847/1538-4357/ad77c7](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ad77c7)  NASA/ADS
- **Magnetic Fields Observed along the East–West Outflow of IRAS 16293-2422**  
*Encalada, F.J., Looney, L.W., Novak, G., Sadavoy, S., Cox, E.G., Pereira-Santos, F., Lee, D., Harrison, R., and Pattle, K.*  
*The Astrophysical Journal*, 968, 101, 2024,  
[doi:10.3847/1538-4357/ad4968](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ad4968)  NASA/ADS
- **The Twisted Magnetic Field of the Protobinary L483**  
*Cox, E.G., Novak, G., Sadavoy, S.I., Looney, L.W., Lee, D., Berthoud, M., Bourke, T.L., Coudé, S., Encalada, F., Fissel, L.M., Harrison, R., Houde, M., Li, Z.-Y., and 6 colleagues.*  
*The Astrophysical Journal*, 932, 34, 2022,  
[doi:10.3847/1538-4357/ac722a](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ac722a)  NASA/ADS



### Non-Refereed/Proceedings

---

- **The TolTEC camera: optical alignment and characterization**  
*Lunde, E., Berthoud, M., DeNigris, N.S., Doyle, S., Ferrusca, D., Golec, J.E., Kuczarski, S., Lee, D., Ma, Z., Mausekopf, P., McCrackan, M., McMahon, J., Novak, G., and 7 colleagues.*  
*Millimeter, Submillimeter, and Far-Infrared Detectors and Instrumentation for Astronomy XI*, 12190, 1219016, 2022,  
[doi:10.1117/12.2630340](https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2630340)  NASA/ADS
- **The TolTEC camera: the citlali data reduction pipeline engine**  
*McCrackan, M., Ma, Z., DeNigris, N.S., Ryan, C., Souccar, K., Wilson, G.W., Aretxaga, I., Bij, A., Fissel, L., Golec, J.E., Gutermuth, R., Lee, D., Novak, G., and 3 colleagues.*  
*Software and Cyberinfrastructure for Astronomy VII*, 12189, 121891H, 2022,  
[doi:10.1117/12.2629095](https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2629095)  NASA/ADS
- **The TolTEC camera: polarimetric commissioning and performance of the continuously rotating half-wave plate**  
*Lee, D., Novak, G., Berthoud, M., Bussan, J., Golenia, R., Van Clepper, E., Wilson, G., DeNigris, N.S., Ma, Z., McCrackan, M., Souccar, K., Fissel, L., Bij, A., and 18 colleagues.*  
*Millimeter, Submillimeter, and Far-Infrared Detectors and Instrumentation for Astronomy XI*, 12190, 121901O, 2022,  
[doi:10.1117/12.2627725](https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2627725)  NASA/ADS
- **The optical design and performance of TolTEC: a millimeter-wave imaging polarimeter**  
*Lunde, E., Ade, P., Berthoud, M., Contente, R., DeNigris, N.S., Doyle, S., Ferrusca, D., Golec, J., Kuczarski, S., Lee, D., Ma, Z., Mausekopf, P., McCrackan, M., and 9 colleagues.*  
*Millimeter, Submillimeter, and Far-Infrared Detectors and Instrumentation for Astronomy X*, 11453, 114534A, 2020,  
[doi:10.1117/12.2562798](https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2562798)  NASA/ADS
- **The TolTEC camera: an overview of the instrument and in-lab testing results**  
*Wilson, G.W., Abi-Saad, S., Ade, P., Aretxaga, I., Ausermann, J., Ban, Y., Bardin, J., Beall, J., Berthoud, M., Bryan, S., Bussan,*

J., Castillo, E., Chavez, M., and 44 colleagues.



*Millimeter, Submillimeter, and Far-Infrared Detectors and Instrumentation for Astronomy X*, 11453, 1145302, 2020,

 [doi:10.1117/12.2562331](https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2562331)  [NASA/ADS](#)

- **The ToI TEC data analysis pipeline and software stack**

Ma, Z., McCrackan, M., DeNigris, N.S., Souccar, K., Wilson, G.W., Horton, P., Lee, D., Maudkopf, P., Novak, G., Rodríguez-Montoya, I., and Zaragoza-Cardiel, J.

*Software and Cyberinfrastructure for Astronomy VI*, 11452, 1145220, 2020,

 [doi:10.1117/12.2560735](https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2560735)  [NASA/ADS](#)