

# Al Emran

JPL POSTDOC FELLOW

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, 4800 Oak Grove Dr, Pasadena, CA, 91109

☎ +1 (626) 429-8532 | ✉ al.emran@jpl.nasa.gov | 🌐 <https://github.com/alemran042>

## Education

---

### University of Arkansas

Fayetteville, AR 72701

PHD IN SPACE AND PLANETARY SCIENCES

August, 2019 - December, 2022

- Thesis: *Deciphering Surfaces of Trans-Neptunian and Kuiper Belt Objects using Radiative Scattering Models, Machine Learning, and Laboratory Experiments*
- Advisor: Vincent F. Chevrier

### Auburn University

Auburn, AL 36849

MS IN GEOGRAPHY [PLANETARY GEOSCIENCE]

August, 2017 - August, 2019

- Thesis: *Surficial Investigations of Hargraves Crater and Siloe Patera, Mars*
- Advisor: Luke J. Marzen and David T. King Jr.

### University of Dhaka

Dhaka, Bangladesh

MS IN PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

May, 2012 - Nov, 2014

- Thesis: *Spatio-temporal Changes in Hydro-morphology of Sandwip Island, Bangladesh*
- Advisor: Md. Abdur Rob

### University of Dhaka

Dhaka, Bangladesh

BS IN GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

April, 2008 - April, 2012

- Minors in Geology
- Honors thesis: *Morphological Investigation of Mono River, Bangladesh*

## Professional Experience

---

- 2023 - **JPL Postdoc Fellow**, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology
- 2021 - 2022 **Graduate Assistant**, Data Science Program, University of Arkansas
- 2021 **Graduate Assistant**, Center for Space and Planetary Sciences, University of Arkansas
- 2020 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Department of Physics, University of Arkansas
- 2019 - 2020 **Graduate Assistant**, Center for Space and Planetary Sciences, University of Arkansas
- 2017 - 2019 **Graduate Assistant**, Department of Geosciences, Auburn University
- 2015 - 2017 **Research Assistant**, Department of Architecture, BRAC University
- 2014 - 2015 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Department of Geography and Environment, University of Dhaka

## Publications

---

### PUBLISHED

- Emran, A.**, Dalle Ore, C. M., Ahrens, C. J., Khan, K., Chevrier, V.F., and Cruikshank, D. P., 2023. Pluto's Surface Mapping using Unsupervised Learning from Near-Infrared Observations of LEISA/Ralph. *Planetary Science Journal* [accepted]
- Emran, A.**, Chevrier, V.F., 2023. Discrepancy in Grain Size Estimation of H<sub>2</sub>O ice in the Outer Solar System. *Res. in Astronomy and Astrophysics* [accepted]
- Emran, A.**, and Chevrier, V.F., 2022. Uncertainty in Grain Size Estimation of Volatiles on Trans-Neptunian Objects and Kuiper Belt Objects. *AJ* 163, 196.

**Emran, A.**, Marzen, L.J., King, D.T., Chevrier, V.F., 2020. Thermophysical and Compositional Analyses of Dunes at Hargraves Crater, Mars. *Planet. Sci. J.* 2(6):218.

**Emran, A.**, Marzen, L.J., King, D.T., 2020. Semiautomated Identification and Characterization of Dunes at Hargraves Crater, Mars. *Earth and Space Science* 7, e2019EA000935.

**Emran, A.**, Roy S., et al., 2018. Assessing topographic controls on vegetation characteristics in CHT from remotely sensed data. *Rem. Sens. App.: Soc.and Env.* 11, 198–208.

**Emran, A.**, Rob M.A., Kabir M.H., 2017. Coastline change and erosion-accretion evolution of Sandwip Island, Bangladesh. *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research* 8(2):3.

**Emran, A.**, Rob M.A., Kabir M.H, Islam M.N., 2016. Modeling spatio-temporal shoreline and areal dynamics of coastal island using geospatial technique. *Mod. Earth Sys. and Env.* 2(4).

IN PREP

**Emran, A.**, Dalle Ore, C. M., Cruikshank, D. P. et al., 2023. Surface Composition of Pluto’s Kiladze area and Relationship to Cryovolcanism

**Emran, A.**, Chevrier, V.F., 2022. The Outer Solar System Astrophysics Lab: A New Experimental Facility for Spectral and Thermal Investigations of Ices at Cryogenic Temperatures

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

---

2022	<b>Outer Planets Assessment Group (OPAG) Participant Stipend</b> , Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, Texas	\$ 1,000
2022	<b>GPSC Travel Fellowship</b> , University of Arkansas	\$ 1,000
2022	<b>GSIE Travel Fellowship</b> , University of Arkansas	\$ 5,000
2021	<b>GPSC Travel Fellowship</b> , University of Arkansas	\$ 1,000
2020	<b>GPSC Travel Fellowship</b> , University of Arkansas	\$ 1,000
2020	<b>GSIE Travel Fellowship</b> , University of Arkansas	\$ 5,000
2019	<b>LPI Career Development Award</b> , Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, Texas	\$ 1,000
2019	<b>Collage of Science and Mathematics Travel Fellowship</b> , Auburn University	\$ 1,000
2019	<b>Graduate School Travel Fellowship</b> , Auburn University	\$ 8,000
2018	<b>Collage of Science and Mathematics Travel Fellowship</b> , Auburn University	\$ 1,000
2018	<b>Geoscience and GSC Travel Fellowship</b> , Auburn University	\$ 1,000

Presentations

---

\* *presenting author*; + *mentored undergraduate*

INVITED/ GRADUATE STUDENT TALKS

Summer 2022. *Mapping Pluto’s Surface from New Horizons*. Invited talk: Presented at New Horizons Surface Composition Science Team Meeting.

Spring 2018. *Geologic Origin of Siloe Patera, Mars*. Invited talk: Presented at Collage of Science and Mathematics Graduate Research Symposium, Auburn University.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Emran, A.** and Chevrier VF .2022. Single Scattering Albedo Induced Uncertainty in Grain Size Estimation of Surface Volatile on TNOs and KBOs. 53rd LPSC, Houston, Abstract No. 1092.

- Emran, A**, Chevrier VF, and Ahrens C .2021. A New Methane Spectral Index from NASA's New Horizons Ralph/MVIC Instrument. 5th Planetary Data and PSIDA, Abstract No. 7007.
- Emran, A**, Chevrier VF, and Ahrens C .2020. CH4 Snowline in the Mountains of Pluto during NASA's New Horizons Flyby. 51st LPSC, Houston, Abstract No. 1616.
- Emran, A**, Marzen LJ, and King Jr. DT .2019. Automated Object-Based Identification of Dunes at Hargraves Crater, Mars. 50th LPSC, Houston, Abstract No. 1157.
- Emran, A**, Marzen LJ, and King Jr. DT .2018. Thermophysical characterization of Jezero crater and NE Syrtis, Mars. 49th LPSC, Houston, Abstract No. 1874.
- Emran, A**, DT King Jr. and LJ Marzen .2018. Surficial Geology of Siloe Patera at Arabia Terra, Mars. AGU Fall Meeting 2018, Washington, D.C., Abstract No. 437616.
- Emran, A**, DT King Jr., LJ Marzen, CW Coker, and SP Wright .2018. Remote Sensing Characterization of Siloe Patera, Mars. PGM, U of Tennessee, Knox., Abstract No. 7017.

## Teaching Experience

---

Fall 2022/ 2021	<b>DASC 2113 - Principles and Techniques of Data Science</b> , Teaching Assistant	<i>U of Arkansas</i>
Spring 2021	<b>DASC 3203 - Optimization Methods in Data Science</b> , Teaching Assistant	<i>U of Arkansas</i>
Fall/ Spring 2020	<b>ASTR 2001L - Astronomy Lab (Survey of Universe)</b> , Teaching Assistant	<i>U of Arkansas</i>
Spring 2019	<b>GEOL 3060 - Lunar and Planetary Geology</b> , Teaching Assistant	<i>Auburn U</i>
Fall 2018	<b>GEOG 6820 and 5820 - Remote Sensing</b> , Teaching Assistant	<i>Auburn U</i>
Spring 2019	<b>GEOG 6830 and 5830 - GIS</b> , Teaching Assistant	<i>Auburn U</i>

## Skills and Expertise

---

**PLANETS STUDIED/ WORKING ON:** Earth, Mars, Pluto, Saturn System (Rings, Iapetus, Phoebe, Hyperion, Enceladus, and Rhea), Jupiter, Trans-Neptunian Objects, Kuiper Belt Objects, Exoplanet

### SPACECRAFT MISSION/ INSTRUMENT DATA:

*Earth:* Landsat Series and SRTM

*Mars:* Mars Global Surveyor (MOLA, TES), Mars Odyssey (THEMIS), Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (HiRISE, CTX, CRISM)

*Pluto:* New Horizons (MVIC, LORRI, LEISA)

*Saturn System:* Cassini (VIMS)

*Jupiter:* Galileo (SSI)

*Exoplanet:* Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)

**TECHNIQUE/ METHODS:** Spacecraft Image Analysis, Multi-spectral and Hyperspectral Data, Physical Models, Spectroscopy, Mineralogy, Thermophysical Properties, Radiative Transfer Models, Photometric Models, Icy Bodies, Cryogenic Experiments, Thermal Properties of Ices, Geomorphology, Remote Sensing, Mapping, GIS

### RELEVANT COURSEWORK:

*AT Arkansas:* Astrophysics I, Astronautics, Astroinformatics, Astrobiology, Planetary Surfaces, Planetary Atmospheres, Spectrochemical Methods, Scientific Computation, Remote Sensing, Meteorology

*AT Auburn:* Lunar and Planetary Geology, Impact and Planetary Geology, Remote Sensing of Planetary Surfaces, Fundamentals of Remote Sensing, Advanced GIS

ASTRONOMY/ PLANETARY SOFTWARE: DS9, JMARS, ISISv3, Ames Stereo Pipeline (ASP), ENVI, ERDAS Imagine, eCognition, ArcGIS, QGIS, GDAL

BASIC PROGRAMMING: Python, R, Davinci,  $\LaTeX$

MACHINE LEARNING/ DATA SCIENCE:

*Algorithms:* Principal Component Analysis (PCA), Whitens/Dnoise Image Cube, Savitzky Golay Filtering, Minimum Noise Fraction (MNF), t-distributed stochastic neighbor embedding (t-SNE), Factor Analysis, Unsupervised Learning (K-means, Gaussian Mixture Models, Spectral Clustering, DBSCAN), Supervised Classification (Maximum Likelihood, Minimum Distance), Support Vector Machines (SVM), Random Forest Classifier

*Bayesian Statistics:* Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)

MODULES: NumPy, SciPy, Pandas, Matplotlib, Astropy, SkLearn

OS/ BASIC SOFTWARE: Windows, MacOS, Linux, Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint

LABORATORY SKILL: Cryogenic experimental design, Laboratory building

## Outreach & Professional Development

---

### SERVICE AND OUTREACH

2019-2022 **Member: Space Hog**, Astronomy and Planetary Science Outreach

*University of  
Arkansas*

### DEVELOPMENT

**Workshop Participant:** Outer Planets Assessment Group (OPAG), Sagan Exoplanet Summer Workshop 2021/2022

### PEER REVIEW SERVICES

External reviewer of NASA's Planetary Data Archiving, Restoration, and Tools (PDART) Proposal

Journal Reviewer: Earth and Space Science

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Geophysical Union (AGU)

Geological Society of America (GSA)

## References

---

### **Katie S. Morgan**

Research Scientist, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

4800 Oak Grove Dr, Pasadena, CA, 91109

Email: [kathryn.m.stack@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:kathryn.m.stack@jpl.nasa.gov) ; Phone: 626-372-3784

### **Vincent F. Chevrier**

Associate Professor, Space and Planetary Science

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701

Email: [vchevrie@uark.edu](mailto:vchevrie@uark.edu) ; Phone: 479-283-0487

**Dale P. Cruikshank**

Dept. of Physics, University of Central Florida  
Email: [dpcruikshank@comcast.net](mailto:dpcruikshank@comcast.net) ; Phone: 408-306-2800  
Mailing Address: 3713 W. 10th St., Anacortes, WA, 98221

**Cristina M. Dalle Ore**

Carl Sagan Center, SETI Institute  
Mountain View, CA, 94043, USA  
Email: [cmdalleore@gmail.com](mailto:cmdalleore@gmail.com) ; Phone: 408-317-8507

**Luke J. Marzen**

Professor, Department of Geosciences  
Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849  
Email: [marzelj@auburn.edu](mailto:marzelj@auburn.edu) ; Phone: 334-663-1008

**David T. King Jr.**

Professor, Department of Geosciences  
Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849  
Email: [kingdat@auburn.edu](mailto:kingdat@auburn.edu) ; Phone: 334-559-2451