

# Michael D. DeLuca

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Astrophysical Sciences  
Princeton University  
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**Research Interests:** Instrument development for space physics and planetary science, remote and *in situ* sensing of the space environment, interplanetary and interstellar dust, meteors

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### Education

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- 2020 Ph.D., Aerospace Engineering Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder  
Focus Area: Remote Sensing, Earth and Space Sciences  
Thesis: Experiments on Micrometeoroid Ablation in Planetary Atmospheres  
Advisor: Prof. Zoltan Sternovsky
- 2018 M.S., Aerospace Engineering Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2015 B.S., Physics and Astronomy, Applied Mathematics, University of Pittsburgh  
Graduated *summa cum laude*. Program honors in physics/astronomy  
Minor in History

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### Research Experience

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- 2020 - present **Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Astrophysical Sciences, Princeton University**  
Work on the development of the SWAPI instrument for the IMAP mission
- 2015 - 2020 **Graduate Research Assistant/NSF Graduate Research Fellow, Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, CU Boulder**  
Conducted PhD research on dust impacts and meteors at the IMPACT institute at LASP. Supported by NSF fellowship starting in 2017. Used dust accelerator and gas target experimental facility to create simulated meteors in lab to constrain detectability of meteors with remote sensing. Also participated in the IDEX instrument project, which will fly on IMAP to study interstellar dust
- 2016 **Summer Intern, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center**  
Analyzed meteor radar data with Dr. Diego Janches to compare meteor detections made with both radar and optics
- 2013 - 2015 **Student Researcher, Prof. Wood-Vasey's Group, University of Pittsburgh**  
Imaged Type Ia supernova host galaxies and developed pipeline to process data
- 2014 **Summer REU Student in Solar Physics, Montana State University**  
Worked with Dr. Andrés Muñoz-Jaramillo to produce a dataset of bipolar magnetic regions for studying the solar cycle
- 2012 - 2013 **Student Researcher, Prof. Choyke's Group, University of Pittsburgh**  
Did experimental work on the spectroscopy of silicon carbide

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### ***Fellowships, Awards, and Honors***

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- 2017 - 2020 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
- 2016 John Mather Nobel Scholarship, award for interns at NASA Goddard
- 2015 Dean's Outstanding Merit Fellowship, CU Boulder College of Engineering
- 2015 Culver Award, University of Pittsburgh Mathematics Department
- 2014 Inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society
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### ***Peer-Reviewed Publications***

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- 2019 **DeLuca, M.,** & Sternovsky, Z. (2019). High-speed drag measurements of aluminum particles in free molecular flow. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Space Physics*, 124(5), 3743–3751. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2019JA026583>
- Michell, R. G., **DeLuca, M.,** Janches, D., Chen, R., & Samara, M. (2019). Simultaneous optical and dual-frequency radar observations of small mass meteors at Arecibo. *Planetary and Space Science*, 166, 1–8. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pss.2018.07.015>
- 2018 **DeLuca, M.,** Munsat, T., Thomas, E., & Sternovsky, Z. (2018). The ionization efficiency of aluminum and iron at meteoric velocities. *Planetary and Space Science*, 156, 111–116. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pss.2017.11.003>
- 2017 Thomas, E., Simolka, J., **DeLuca, M.,** Horányi, M., Janches, D., Marshall, R.A., Munsat, T., Plane, J.M.C., & Sternovsky, Z. (2017). Experimental setup for the laboratory investigation of micrometeoroid ablation using a dust accelerator. *Review of Scientific Instruments*, 88(3), 034501. <https://doi.org/10.1063/1.4977832>
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### ***Conference Presentations (Oral)***

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- 2019 **DeLuca, M.,** Sternovsky, Z., Horányi, M., Munsat, T., Carillo-Sánchez, J.D., Plane, J.M.C., & Janches, D. (2019). Differential ablation of organic-coated micrometeoroids observed in the laboratory. Oral presentation at EPSC-DPS Joint Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, September 2019.
- 2018 **DeLuca, M.,** & Sternovsky, Z. (2018). Laboratory observations of meteoroid differential ablation. Oral presentation at COSPAR Scientific Assembly, Pasadena, CA, July 2018.
- (Invited) DeLuca, M.,** Sternovsky, Z., & Munsat, T. (2018). Experimental observations of meteor ablation. Invited oral presentation at IEEE International Conference on Plasma Science, Denver, CO, June 2018.
- DeLuca, M.,** & Sternovsky, Z. (2018). Coupled drag and heating in micrometeoroid ablation. Oral presentation at Dusty Visions Workshop, Madrid, Spain, May 2018.

- 2017 **DeLuca, M.,** Thomas, E., Munsat, T., Marshall, R., & Sternovsky, Z. (2017). Light and charge measurements of simulated aluminum micrometeoroids. Oral presentation at Dust, Atmosphere, and Plasma Environment of the Moon and Small Bodies Workshop, Boulder, CO, January 2017.

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***Conference Presentations (Poster)***

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- 2018 **DeLuca, M.,** Sternovsky, Z., & Munsat, T. (2018). Ablation of micrometeoroids simulated in the laboratory. Poster presentation at AGU Fall Meeting, Washington, DC, December 2018.
- DeLuca, M.,** Sternovsky, Z., Munsat, T., & Ulibarri, Z. (2018). Development of a reflectron time-of-flight mass spectrometer and icy dust accelerator to study icy impacts. Poster presentation at Europa Deep Dive 2: Composition Workshop, Houston, TX, October 2018.
- 2017 **DeLuca, M.,** Munsat, T., & Sternovsky, Z. (2017). Measurements of the drag coefficient of simulated micrometeoroids. Poster presentation at AGU Fall Meeting, New Orleans, LA, December 2017.
- DeLuca, M.,** Thomas, E., Munsat, T., Marshall, R., & Sternovsky, Z. (2017). Laboratory simulations of aluminum micrometeoroids. Poster presentation at Lunar and Planetary Science Conference, The Woodlands, TX, March 2017.
- 2016 **DeLuca, M.,** Thomas, E., & Sternovsky, Z. (2016). Fitting the chemical ablation model to laboratory experiments in micrometeoroid ablation. Poster presentation at Meteoroids 2016, Noordwijk, Netherlands, June 2016.
- 2014 **DeLuca, M.,** Muñoz-Jaramillo, A., & Longcope, D. (2014). Automatic vs. human detection of bipolar magnetic regions: Using the best of both worlds. Poster presentation at Living With a Star Science Meeting, Portland, OR, November 2014.

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***Teaching and Mentoring***

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- 2017 - 2020 Peer mentor to 3 incoming graduate students, CU Boulder
- 2019 Research mentor to summer REU student at LASP. Supervised student's work on dust impact tests
- 2018 2 lectures in ASEN 6050: Spacecraft Instrumentation, on dust instruments and electrostatic analyzers, 10/31/18 and 11/2/18, CU Boulder
- 2018 Guest lecture in ASEN 5210: Remote Sensing Seminar, "Experiments to Support Remote Sensing of Meteors," 9/7/18, CU Boulder

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***Professional Development***

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- 2019 Completed NASA Planetary Science Summer Seminar at JPL