

Sean McCurry

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EDUCATION

University of Maryland

B.S., Aerospace Engineering, GPA: 3.86

M.S., Aerospace Engineering, GPA: 3.77

Honors and Awards: ODK Leadership Honors Society.

Relevant Coursework: Dynamics, Flight Software Systems, Astrodynamics, Control of Aerospace Systems, Linear System Dynamics, Space Navigation and Guidance, Decision Making Under Uncertainty, Engineering Optimization.

Clearance: SECRET (Active).

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming: Python, MATLAB, Julia, C++.

Software: Git, PyTorch, 3D CAD, Docker, Microsoft Office.

TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

UMD Machine Learning for Dynamical Systems Laboratory

Graduate Researcher

College Park, MD

Sept. 2025 – Present

- Investigating novel mechanisms for representing complex lighting interactions between radiance field models of spacecraft to aid in optical navigation and object detection.

Undergraduate Researcher

Jan. 2025 – May 2025

- Constructed a reinforcement learning environment using OpenAI Gymnasium to evaluate the adaptive capabilities of on vs. off-policy agents in a spacecraft rendezvous scenario.
- Performed a sensitivity analysis examining the effect of rewards function complexity on agent behavior.
- Synthesized analyses and results into an IEEE conference-style paper to showcase project impact.

Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory

Guidance, Navigation, and Control Intern

Laurel, MD

Jun. 2025 – Present

- Implemented data processing and model training functionality into a Pythonic machine learning framework to enable prediction and generation of physically constrained, time series trajectories from finite-length time series windows.
- Constructed a transformer neural network for sequential prediction of time series trajectories, meshing a novel ML architecture with an existing prediction pipeline.
- Initiated development of a MATLAB-based meshfree numerical solver to approximate solutions of multi-agent differential games for swarm-on-swarm engagements.

Comet Divers – UMD Aerospace Capstone Project

Avionics and Flight Software Systems Lead

College Park, MD

Sept. 2024 – May 2025

- Led a team of 6 engineers to formulate and propose a design for the avionics and GNC subsystems of a high-velocity, fleet-based comet flyby mission in collaboration with the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.
- Performed trade studies and performance analyses on ADCS sensors and actuators to evaluate the efficacy of selected components and ensure fulfillment of mission requirements.
- Created a Monte Carlo simulation of our comet impactor spacecraft's terminal guidance phase.
- Presented our final iteration and won "Best Aerospace Project" award at UMD Engineering Capstone Design Expo.

Engineering Intern

MACH33 Engineering

Beltsville/Greenbelt, MD

May 2024 – Aug. 2024

- Designed and constructed a heavy-duty RC sand rover to transport 150lbs of equipment.
- Manufactured 4 custom wheel hubs, 6 wheel spacers, and 4 hex driveshaft adapters via CNC vertical mill, and soldered 20+ electronic components to ensure appropriate connectivity of motor and control systems.

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

May 2024 – Aug. 2024

- Worked with the mechanical team of the Mars Organic Molecule Analyzer (MOMA) to perform 3-dimensional vibration testing on MOMA's mass spectrometer.
- Supported thermal vacuum chamber (TVAC) setup and laser test-fires for the Atmospheric Lidar for Clouds and Aerosol Transport (ALICAT) project, working closely with senior engineers to facilitate safe testing conditions.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

UMD Esports

Team Manager

College Park, MD

Feb. 2023 – May 2025

- Managed team operations on local and national levels in a rapidly growing university funded program.
- Supported program and league administrators of 4 collegiate Esports circuits, including the Big10 Esports Conference.

Theta Tau – Professional Co-Ed Engineering Fraternity

Vice President

College Park, MD

December 2023 – May 2024

- Co-lead weekly fraternity-wide meetings for 85+ engineers to discuss chapter business and operations.
- Presided over the operations of 39 chair positions to ensure all fraternity events and activities are run appropriately.
- Planned and executed 25 professional, service, and social events throughout the semester.