Introduction

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I was interested in attending the workshop because I used the COSMIC dataset as my main data source for my Master’s research and will continue to use it for my PhD research. Additionally, I wanted to hear about other ways the data is being used as well as have the opportunity to speak with people who have done research similar to mine.

Scientific Experience

My interest in atmospheric science began during my childhood. I cannot recall when it actually happened, or what event (if there was one), but I was infatuated with severe weather of all kinds. It took me a few years in college to actually realize that I could make a career out of something I always enjoyed as a hobby. Once I decided on this choice, I never looked back.

Workshop Benefits

Attending the workshop helped my research because it gave me the opportunity to compare the data analysis techniques I used to others who performed similar research. Additionally, I felt the poster session was particularly helpful because it gave me the chance to talk about my work and receive feedback. The feedback was important because I was asked questions which I had not previously thought about and it gave me the opportunity to think critically about my project in way I had not done previously.

I will admit the one big positive I took away from the workshop was the numerous other ways the GPS data could be utilized. After focusing on one subject matter for so long, I had experienced a bit of tunnel vision in regard to other ways the data could be used. Along with that, the additional research opportunities that the dataset provides were something that I found fascinating and very helpful.

Most importantly, the differing opinions I got regarding the limitations of the data was the most valuable part of the workshop. It was important to me to know the thoughts of other scientists in the field as far as how the dataset could be used, proper comparison datasets, and assumptions that could and could not be made.

Conclusions

I think the lasting impression will be the level of critique I need to have in regard to my own work. It is easy, after a while, to convince oneself that all the bases have been covered in regard to research. In truth, it only takes a few minutes with a gathering of people who have differing opinions to realize there is a bigger picture that must be understood to ensure the research is done thoroughly and considered from all angles. Overall, I found the workshop extremely beneficial and look forward to attending again in the future.