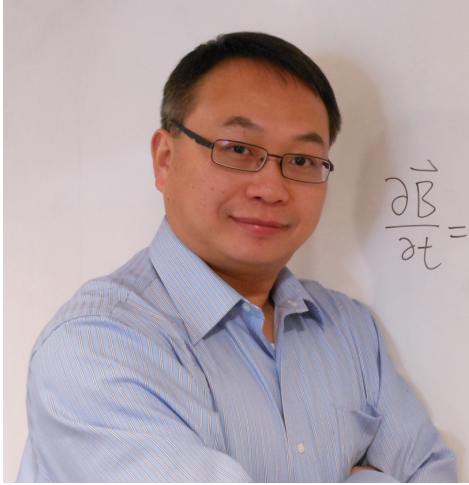


### Short bio of Prof. Jie Zhang



Prof. Jie Zhang is currently an associate professor at the George Mason University (GMU) in the School of Physics, Astronomy and Computational Sciences.

Prof. Zhang earned his PHD in Astrophysics from University of Maryland, College Park in 1999. He obtained M.S. degree in Astrophysics from Purple Mountain Observatory, Chinese Academy of Science in 1993, and B.S degree in Astronomy from Nanjing University, China in 1990. After receiving his PHD, he worked as a postdoctoral researcher at Naval Research Lab from 2000 to 2002, and became an assistant research scientist at GMU. He was appointed as an assistant professor at GMU in 2005.

Prof. Zhang's research interest is in the area of solar physics and space weather. He works toward understanding the physical mechanism of solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs), the two most energetic phenomena occurring on the Sun but affecting the environment throughout the entire solar system, including the space near the Earth.

He is also interested in studying the propagation and evolution processes of these solar eruptions across the integrated Sun-Earth system with the aim of providing accurate prediction of space weather. His research work not only addresses fundamental physics problems, such as plasma instability, magnetic reconnection and magnetism in general, but also helps the societal need of mitigating adverse space weather effects on human space exploration, robotic satellite operation, communication and navigation.