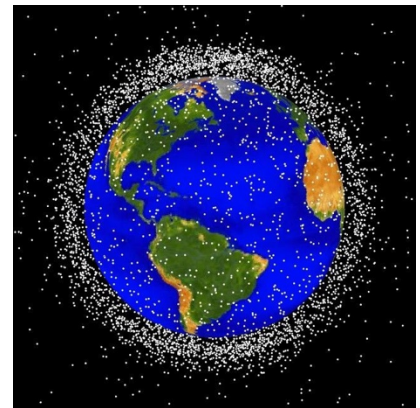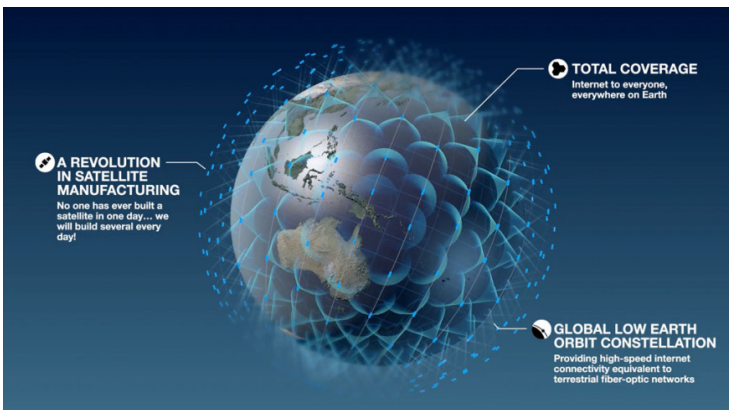The Space Sciences Laboratory at West Virginia University is currently seeking a PhD student for a graduate research assistant (GRA) position. The candidate will conduct research in the exciting areas of space situational awareness and space traffic management. "Space is quickly becoming the new economy" with more than 10,000 satellites planned for launch over the next decade. At the same time, the new and existing operational satellites need to be protected from the threat of space debris. It is an exciting time to be part of the space research community that will train and prepare you for the challenges of the future.

The PhD student will have the opportunity to work on exciting research areas including modeling and simulation of the upper atmosphere and drag to help improve orbit determination and prediction of satellites and debris objects alike. You will develop new methods for reduced order modeling for large-scale state estimation and data assimilation. The research will provide you with skills, experience and expertise for a successful and rewarding career in academia or the space industry.

Candidates with strong aptitude for computational research are encouraged to apply. Successful candidates will be self-starters and self-motivated and will be excellent programmers (e.g., Matlab, C++, python).

Prospective students should hold a bachelor's or master's degree in aerospace engineering, applied mathematics, physics, or related disciplines. Interested candidates should apply to WVU [Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering](#).

Application deadline: Open until filled.
Position start date: Available immediately.

For additional information contact Prof. Piyush M. Mehta at Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, West Virginia University. E-mail: piyush.mehta@mail.wvu.edu

About WVU: WVU is designated as an "R1" Research University (Very High Research Activity) by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. For more information, please visit https://www.wvu.edu/

About Morgantown: Morgantown is an attractive college town located within easy traveling distance of Pittsburgh (~1 hr. drive) and Washington, D.C. (~3 hr. drive). Morgantown was rated "No. 1 Small City in America" by BizJournals. Business Insider also named Morgantown the ninth best college town in America. Being in a mountainous area, there are many outdoor sports activities such as hiking, biking, rock climbing, white water rafting, and skiing.