

Latinxs and Hispanics in Mathematical Sciences



Luz Angélica Caudillo Mata

Research and Development (R&D) Scientist – MDA, Geintelligence Division

Dr. Luz Angélica Caudillo Mata started her B.S. in Computational Mathematics at the University of Guanajuato in Mexico. During her fifth year, while studying in Spain with Lucas Jodar, she applied partial differential equations and numerical methods to model real-world problems through research. She was hooked! She went on to pursue an MSc in Computer Science and Industrial Mathematics at the Mathematics Research Center (CIMAT) in Mexico and a Ph.D. in Geophysics at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada.

During her Ph.D. and Industrial Postdoctoral Fellowship (at UBC), Dr. Caudillo Mata worked with Eldad Haber's and the Geophysical Inversion Facility research groups. These groups operate as Industry-Academia consortiums working in geophysical exploration. They exposed her to a wide variety of geophysical electromagnetic applications and provided her with a vibrant multidisciplinary environment to grow as a scientist. In the last year of her postdoctoral fellowship, she explored the applicability of deep learning methods for natural resource prospectivity problems, which motivated her to continue as an industrial researcher in Artificial Intelligence.

Currently, Dr. Caudillo Mata works as an R&D Scientist at MDA, one of the leading space-technology companies in the world, developing sensor fusion and deep learning algorithms for diverse Geointelligence applications.

She has co-founded and co-organized several initiatives to connect industry with academia and increase the representation of Latinx in STEM. In 2011, she established a partnership between CIMAT and Mitacs Globalink to enable Mexican undergraduates to pursue research internships in Canada. In 2018, she started the Science Leadership and Management career-development series for graduate students and postdocs in the UBC Faculty of Science. She also co-organized the 4th gathering of Mexican Mathematicians in the World. Since 2020, she is a co-organizer of International Meeting of Artificial Intelligence and its Applications (RIIAA) in LATAM, where she co-founded the program CIRCOS.

Dr. Caudillo Mata reminds students that "strong communication and networking skills are important to have in order to be successful in one's career. I would encourage them to develop these skills in a manner that feels authentic to them. Being able to communicate complex concepts to a variety of audiences is key in these types of jobs. They often involve interactions with diverse teams and clients."

"Hispanic Heritage Month means inspiration and validation! It is one of my favorite times of the year! (Fun fact: I actually had my Ph.D. defense on September 15, 2017! A great time to earn my academic independence and just in time to celebrate Mexico's independence day on September 16.) While I celebrate being Mexican every day, it is fantastic to see encouraging conversations about the importance of Hispanic contributions to the world. I also love the visibility that accomplished Hispanics, from different walks of life, get during this period. I learn and get inspired by their stories."

Lathisms was founded in 2016 in order to showcase the contributions of Latinx and Hispanic mathematicians during Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated in the United States from September 15 and October 15 every year. During this time, we feature/reveal a prominent Latinx/Hispanic mathematician daily. See all the featured mathematical scientists at [LATHISMS.ORG](https://lathisms.org).

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