

# Curriculum Vitae

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**Citizenship** Indian.



## Education

- Ph.D. (2012 August), Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA.  
Dissertation title: “*Time dependent systems and chaos in string theory*”.  
Supervisor: **Prof. Sumit R. Das**.
- M.Sc. (Integrated) in Physics (2006 May), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, India.

## Current Research Interests

**Gravitational-wave** physics and astronomy:

- **Multimessenger** astronomy
- **Cosmology** using gravitational-wave observations
- **Strong field gravity** and nature of compact objects
- Data analysis and parameter estimation of compact binary coalescences

## Academic Memberships and Institutional Responsibilities

2017 November – <i>present</i>	<b>Co-chair, Cosmology</b> working group of Compact Binary Coalescences data analysis group, LIGO-Virgo Collaboration.
2016 September – <i>present</i>	Member, <b>Virgo Collaboration</b> .
2018 April – <i>present</i>	Member, <b>Einstein Telescope Consortium</b> .
2018 March – <i>present</i>	Member and contributor, “ <b>Gravity Data</b> ” <b>Group</b> of the COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) action network “Gravitational waves, black holes, and fundamental physics”.
2018 February – 2019 March	Data analysis liaison for <b>Exotic Objects and Phenomena</b> subgroup of Extreme Gravity, GWIC-3G (Gravitational Wave International Committee – Third Generation Ground-based Detectors) Science Case Team.
2018 January – <i>present</i>	Member and contributor, <b>GWIC-3G</b> Science Case Team.
2014 May – <i>present</i>	Active contributor in <b>Parameter Estimation</b> and <b>Testing General Relativity</b> working groups of Compact Binary Coalescences data analysis group, LIGO-Virgo Collaboration.
2014 May – 2016 August	Member, <b>LIGO Scientific Collaboration</b> .
2014 April – <i>present</i>	Member, Indian Initiative in Gravitational-Wave Observations (IndIGO).

## Previous Academic Positions

2016 September – 2019 August	<b>Postdoctoral Scientist</b> , Nikhef, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
2015 September – 2016 August	<b>Max Planck Prize Postdoctoral Fellow</b> , International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (ICTS-TIFR), Bangalore, India.
2013 September – 2015 August	<b>Airbus (formerly EADS) Prize Postdoctoral Fellow</b> , ICTS-TIFR, Bangalore, India.
2012 August – 2013 August	<b>Postdoctoral Visiting Fellow</b> , ICTS-TIFR, Bangalore, India.

## Awards and Fellowships

- Gruber Cosmology Prize 2016 (*awarded jointly to the LIGO-Virgo Collaboration*).
- Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics 2016 (*awarded jointly to the LIGO-Virgo Collaboration*).
- Max Planck Prize Postdoctoral Fellowship, ICTS-TIFR (2015 September – 2016 August).
- Airbus (formerly EADS) Prize Postdoctoral Fellowship, ICTS-TIFR (2013 September – 2015 August).
- Dissertation Year Fellowship, University of Kentucky (2011–2012).
- Presidential Fellowship, University of Kentucky (2009–2010).
- Max Steckler Fellowship, University of Kentucky (2006, 2007).
- Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) Fellowship awarded by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India (2001–2006).
- Undergraduate Associateship at Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, India (2002–2004).
- Institute Award for Academic Excellence, IIT Kanpur (2001–2002).
- National Talent Search (NTS) Scholarship awarded by National Council of Educational Research and Training, India (1999–2001).

## Student Mentoring and Supervision

Ka Wa Tsang (2016 – <i>present</i> )	Partial supervision of PhD thesis: “ <i>Probing the physics of black holes and neutron stars with gravitational waves</i> ”.
Abhirup Ghosh (2014 – 2016)	Partial supervision of PhD thesis: “ <i>Testing general relativity using observations of gravitational waves from the inspiral, merger and ringdown of binary black holes</i> ”.
Ankan Sur (2017 – 2018)	Masters thesis: “ <i>Climbing the cosmos without ladders: Systematic effects in estimation of cosmological parameters using gravitational-wave observations of compact binaries and their cross-correlation with a galaxy catalogue</i> ”.
Michiel Rollier (2017 – 2018)	Masters thesis: “ <i>Finding Echoes: The characterisation of gravitational-wave echoes and the investigation of a morphology-independent data analysis method for detecting them</i> ”.
Aravind Ravi (2015 – 2016)	Masters project: “ <i>Importance of geographical location on the prospects of electromagnetic follow-up of early gravitational-wave detections</i> ”.
Siddharth Mohite (2014 – 2015)	Masters thesis: “ <i>Parameter estimation of compact binary coalescences</i> ”.
Rachael Huxford (2017 Summer)	Bachelors project: “ <i>Induced bias in recovery of spinning neutron star binaries with non-spinning waveforms</i> ”.
Other undergraduate summer students:	Jinali Haria (2016 Summer), Nishad Bapatdhar (2015 Summer), Sudarshan Ghonge (2014 Summer), Jyotisman Sahoo, Harish Srinivas, Yadukrishnan (2013 Summer).

## Recent Research Highlights

I am a leading member of the Virgo Collaboration, which together with the LIGO Scientific Collaboration jointly analyses all LIGO-Virgo data. I have been a part of the discovery of gravitational waves from the merger of a binary of black holes, and the subsequent detections of gravitational-wave sources by the LIGO-Virgo.

- **Lead developer of the inspiral-merger-ringdown consistency test**, one of the first tests of general relativity performed in its highly dynamical and extremely strong field regime.
- Developed methods that can probe into the nature of compact objects detected in gravitational-wave observations, distinguishing black holes from exotic objects mimicking them; these can potentially show some of the first signatures of new or unknown physics.
- Worked in collaboration of astronomers in developing electromagnetic follow-up strategies of gravitational-wave candidate events.
- **Delivered the first “standard-siren” measurement of the Hubble constant**, a crucial parameter in cosmology governing the rate of expansion of the universe, from gravitational waves from a binary neutron star merger and its associated electromagnetic counterpart.
- **Initiated the formation of and currently leading (as a co-chair) the cosmology working group of the LIGO-Virgo Collaboration**; currently coordinating the development of the infrastructure for gravitational-wave cosmology for the years to come.

## LIGO-Virgo Collaboration Activities

- As a member of the paper writing team, delivered “*A gravitational-wave standard siren measurement of the Hubble constant*” *Nature* **551**, no. 7678, 85 (2017).
- Served as a liaison of Testing General Relativity group for GW170104 and GW170608 paper writing teams.

## Organizational Activities

- “Probing Strong-Field Gravity in the Advanced GW Detector Era” as a part of Corfu Summer Institute, Corfu, Greece (2017 September 18–23); co-organizer.
- “ICTS Summer School on Gravitational-Wave Astronomy” (2016 July 25 – August 05); co-organizer and tutor.
- “Gravitational-Wave Boot Camp for IndIGO members”, at ICTS Bangalore, India (2016 July 23–24); co-organizer.
- “ICTS Summer School on Gravitational-Wave Astronomy” (2015 June 29 – July 10); co-organizer and tutor.
- “Gravitational-Wave Boot Camp for IndIGO members”, at IUCAA Pune, India (2015 April 29 – May 01); co-organizer.
- “Astronomical Society of India (ASI) Satellite Workshop on Gravitational Wave Data Analysis” Hands-on Session, IISER Mohali, India (2014 March 19); co-organizer.
- “ICTS program on Numerical Relativity” (2013 June 10–July 05); co-organizer.
- “ICTS Planck Day (2013 April 16)” – A discussion meeting on the results of Planck 2013; co-organizer.

## Academic Peer-Review for Journals

- **Physical Review Letters / Physical Review D** (APS) [Impact factors: 8.839 / 4.506].
- **The Astrophysical Journal Letters** (IOP Science) [Impact factor: 6.634].
- **Physics of the Dark Universe** (Elsevier) [Impact factor: 6.509].
- **Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society** (MNRAS) [Impact factor: 4.961].
- **General Relativity and Gravitation** (Springer) [Impact factor: 1.721].

## Teaching

Course title	Duration	Institution / Event
<i>Gravitational Wave Cosmology</i>	3 lectures	Cosmology – The Next Decade School @ ICTS Bangalore
<i>Gravitational Wave Data Analysis</i>	1 lecture	University College Utrecht
<i>General Relativity</i> (reading course)	2 months	ICTS Bangalore
<i>Numerical Statistics, Hypothesis Testing and Bayesian Inference</i>	2 × 2 months	ICTS Bangalore
<i>Gravitational Wave Data Analysis</i>	Full day	Astronomical Society of India Satellite Workshop
<i>Physics &amp; Astronomy for Elementary &amp; Middle School Teachers</i> (hands-on laboratory course)	2 × 4 months	University of Kentucky
<i>Condensed Matter Theory</i> (grader)	4 months	University of Kentucky
<i>Stars, Galaxies And The Universe</i> (teaching assistant)	2 × 4 months	University of Kentucky
<i>The Solar System</i> (teaching assistant)	2 × 4 months	University of Kentucky
<i>General College Physics II: Electricity, Magnetism &amp; Optics</i> (teaching assistant)	2 × 4 months	University of Kentucky

## Outreach

- “Beginning of a new era of astronomy” – outreach event for “Climber Astronomy Track” for engineering undergraduate astronomy enthusiasts, Bangalore (2016 June 30).
- Public engagement for years as Graduate Assistant at the MacAdam Student Observatory, University of Kentucky (2007–2008).