

# Atul Kedia

Research Associate  
Rochester Institute of Technology

Website: [atulkedia93.github.io](https://atulkedia93.github.io)  
[Google Scholar page](#)  
Emails: [asksma@rit.edu](mailto:asksma@rit.edu),  
[atul.kedia@ligo.org](mailto:atul.kedia@ligo.org)

## Research Positions

2021-Present **Research Associate**, *Rochester Institute of Technology*, Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation, Supervisor: Dr. Richard O'Shaughnessy.

## Education

- 2016-22 **Ph.D.**, *University of Notre Dame*, Physics, Dissertation title "Relativistic Matter in Neutron Star Mergers and Big Bang Nucleosynthesis", Advisor: Prof. Grant Mathews.
- 2016-20 **M.S.**, *University of Notre Dame*, Physics.
- 2012-16 **B.Tech.**, *Indian Institute of Technology Bombay*, Engineering Physics with Honors.  
Exchange Semester - Spring 2015 at *University of Toronto*.

## Research Experience

- 2022 - **Surrogate modeling for kilonovae and parameter estimation for GW170817**  
present Collaborators: M. Ristic<sup>[1]</sup>, Dr. R. O'Shaughnessy<sup>[1]</sup>, Dr. R. Wollaeger<sup>[2]</sup>, Dr. O. Korobkin<sup>[2]</sup>, Dr. E. Chase<sup>[2]</sup>, Dr. C. Fryer<sup>[2]</sup>, Dr. C. Fontes<sup>[2]</sup>, A. Yelikar<sup>[1]</sup>  
[1] Rochester Institute of Technology, [2] Los Alamos National Laboratory.  
We employ the radiative transfer code SuperNu to prepare a library of kilonova emission corresponding to a broad set of scenarios of ejecta emitted during neutron star mergers. We construct Gaussian process based surrogate models that are then used for ejecta parameter estimation for the EM- signal observed for the last observed compact binary merger transient AT2017gfo.
- 2022 - **Parametric equation of state representation and support in RIFT**  
present Collaborators: Dr. Jocelyn Read, Dr. Leslie Wade, and Dr. Richard O'Shaughnessy  
[1] California State U - Fullerton, [2] Kenyon College, [3] Rochester Institute of Technology.  
Applying observational constraints on the properties of high-density nuclear equation of state (EOS). Additionally, implementing broader nuclear EOS parameterization support in rapid parameter inference code RIFT for to be employed in LIGO's fourth run in May 2023.
- 2019 - 2022 **Phase transitions during Neutron star mergers**  
Collaborators: Prof. Grant Mathews<sup>[1]</sup>, Dr. Hee Il Kim<sup>[2]</sup>, & Dr. In-Saeng Suh<sup>[1]</sup>  
[1] University of Notre Dame, [2] Sogang University, Seoul, South Korea.  
We perform binary neutron star merger simulations with various nuclear equations of state w and w/o realistic phase transitions in full 3-D general relativistic hydrodynamics using software Einstein Toolkit and LORENE. We analyze the power spectral density of the resultant gravitational wave to identify strong signatures of quark matter state formation in the merger remnant.
- 2017 - 2020 **Multicomponent relativistic thermalization during big bang nucleosynthesis**  
Collaborators: Prof. Grant Mathews<sup>[1]</sup>, Dr. Nishanth Sasankan<sup>[1]</sup>, & Prof. Motohiko Kusakabe<sup>[2]</sup>  
[1] University of Notre Dame, [2] Beihang University, Beijing, China.

We constructed 2D and 3D Monte-Carlo particle thermalization simulation that replicates the equilibration process for relativistic multicomponent mixtures to achieve the equilibrium distribution computationally. We also applied theoretical statistical mechanics approaches to relativistic electron-nuclei scattering in the Big bang nucleosynthesis plasma.

#### 2014 - 2016 **Scales to cosmic homogeneity with multiple tracers**

Collaborators: Prof. Subhabrata Majumdar & Dr. Prakash Sarkar

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, India

We performed multifractal analysis of multiple tracers of the cosmos namely main galaxy, LRG and quasar samples to test cosmic homogeneity and to identify the scale of transition to homogeneity.

### Research publications

- [13] C. Fryer, A. Hungerford, ..., **AK**, et al., Effect of Velocity on Kilonova, (forthcoming).
- [12] **AK**, M. Ristic, R. O'Shaughnessy, et al., Surrogate light curve models for kilonovae with comprehensive wind ejecta outflows and parameter estimation for AT2017gfo, [arXiv:2211.04363 \[astro-ph.HE\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.04363) (2022), (*Accepted at Phys. Rev. Research*).
- [11] **AK**, H.I. Kim, I.-S. Suh, G.J. Mathews, Binary neutron star mergers as a probe of quark-hadron crossover equations of state, [Phys. Rev. D 106, 103027](https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.10302) (2022).
- [10] Y. Zlochower, S.R. Brandt\*,...\*, **AK\***, et al., The Einstein Toolkit (Version: [The "Riemann" release, ET\\_2022\\_05](https://arxiv.org/abs/2205.03101)), (2022, May 31). (\*=co-second authors)
- [9] **AK**, G.J. Mathews, H.I. Kim, I.-S. Suh, Binary neutron star mergers of quark matter based nuclear equations of state, [EPJ Web of Conf. 260, 11004](https://arxiv.org/abs/2205.11004) (2022).
- [8] M. Kusakabe, **AK**, G.J. Mathews, N. Sasankan, Distribution function of nuclei from  $e^\pm$  scattering in the presence of a strong primordial magnetic field, [Phys. Rev. D 104, 123534](https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.12353) (2021).
- [7] **AK**, N. Sasankan, G.J. Mathews, M. Kusakabe, Simulations of multicomponent relativistic thermalization, [Phys. Rev. E 103, 032101](https://arxiv.org/abs/2103.03210) (2021).
- [6] G.J. Mathews, I.S. Suh, N.Q. Lan, Conformally flat, quasi-circular numerical simulations of the gravitational wave chirp from binary neutron star merger GW170817, **AK**, [arXiv:2103.05082 \[gr-qc\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2103.05082) (2021).
- [5] Z. Etienne, S.R. Brandt\*,...\*, **AK\***, et al., The Einstein Toolkit (Version: [The "Lorentz" release, ET\\_2021\\_05](https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.03101)), (2021, May 31). (\*=co-second authors)
- [4] N. Sasankan, **AK**, M. Kusakabe, G.J. Mathews, Analysis of the multicomponent relativistic Boltzmann equation for electron scattering in big bang nucleosynthesis, [Phys. Rev. D 101, 123532](https://arxiv.org/abs/2012.12352) (2020).
- [3] G.J. Mathews, **AK**, et al, Cosmological solutions to the Lithium problem, [JPS Conf. Proc. 31, 011033](https://arxiv.org/abs/2005.01103) (2020), [Mem. S.A.It. Vol. 91, 29-34](https://arxiv.org/abs/2005.2934) (2020).
- [2] S.R. Brandt, B. Brendal\*,...\*, **AK\***, et al., The Einstein Toolkit (Version: [The "Turing" release, ET\\_2020\\_05](https://arxiv.org/abs/2005.03101)), (2020, May 30). (\*=co-second authors)
- [1] P. Sarkar, S. Majumdar, B. Pandey, **AK**, S. Sarkar, The many scales to cosmic homogeneity: Use of multiple tracers from the SDSS, [arXiv:1611.07915 \[astro-ph.CO\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1611.07915) (2016).

### Talks and Presentations

- April 2023* "Neutron star merger ejecta estimation with kilonova light curve surrogates" at the APS April Meeting, Minneapolis.
- March 2023* CCRG lunch talk, Rochester Institute of Technology.
- June 2022* "Neutron star merger gravitational waves for quark matter equation of state" at the North American Einstein Toolkit Workshop, University of Idaho (Hybrid).

- April 2022 "Postmerger evolution of neutron star mergers as a probe of quark matter equation of state" at the APS April Meeting, New York City.
- November 2021 "Neutron star mergers of quark matter based equations of state" at the Midwest Relativity meeting, UIUC (Hybrid).
- October 2021 "Binary neutron star mergers of quark matter based equations of state" at the APS - DNP Fall meeting (Virtual).
- July 2021 "Binary neutron star initial data creation using LORENE" at the North American Einstein Toolkit Workshop (Virtual). **(invited)**
- July 2021 "Binary neutron star mergers of quark matter based equations of state" at the North American Einstein Toolkit Workshop (Virtual).
- July 2021 "Binary neutron star mergers of quark matter based equations of state." at the 16<sup>th</sup> Marcel Grossmann meeting (Virtual).
- April 2021 "Binary neutron star mergers and the nuclear equations of state." at APS April Meeting (Virtual).
- April 2021 Poster titled "Monte-Carlo simulations of multi-specie relativistic thermalization for Big bang nucleosynthesis." at APS April Meeting (Virtual).
- November 2020 "Monte-Carlo simulations of multi-specie relativistic thermalization and Analysis of Boltzmann Equation for Big bang nucleosynthesis" at APS-DNP Fall meeting (Virtual).
- October 2020 "Full GR simulations of Neutron star binaries at large separations" at Midwest Relativity Meeting (Virtual).
- September 2020 "Relativistic thermodynamics in Big Bang Nucleosynthesis" at U Notre Dame Astrophysics Seminar. (Virtual)**(invited)**
- April 2019 "Relativistic electron scattering and Big Bang Nucleosynthesis" at APS April Meeting.
- Dec 2018 Poster titled "Relativistic particle scattering and Big Bang Nucleosynthesis" at College of Science and Engineering - Joint Annual Meeting 2018.
- Oct 2018 "Relativistic particle scattering and Big Bang Nucleosynthesis" at the Biophysics group led by Prof. Vural at iCeNSA, University of Notre Dame. **(invited)**
- Oct 2018 "Relativistic particle scattering and Big Bang Nucleosynthesis" at Interplay between Particle and Astroparticle physics 2018 hosted by University of Cincinnati.
- April 2018 Poster titled "Proton distribution function during Big Bang Nucleosynthesis" at APS April Meeting.
- June 2017 "Probing homogeneity of the Cosmos using Quasars" at Fourth Azarquel School of Astronomy.
- Nov 2016 Poster titled "Probing homogeneity of the Cosmos using Quasars" at GPS Annual Conference.

## --- Awards, Grants and Scholarships

- April 2023 Travel award by American Physical Society (APS)-Division of Astrophysics (DAP) to present at APS April meeting (\$600).
- April 2022 Travel award by American Physical Society (APS)-Division of Gravitational Physics (DGRAV) and DAP to present at APS April meeting (\$300×2).
- October 2021 Downes Memorial Award of Notre Dame (\$100).
- June 2021 Recipient of the **Center of Research Computing Graduate Award** for Computational Science and Visualization 2021 (\$1000 and a plaque) at Notre Dame.
- April 2021 Travel award by APS-DAP to present at APS April meeting (\$110).
- April 2021 Travel award by Graduate Student Union (GSU) of University of Notre Dame to present at APS April meeting (\$149).

- April 2020 Travel award by GSU to attend APS April meeting (\$500).
- April 2019 Travel award by APS-DAP to present at APS April meeting (\$500).
- April 2019 Travel award by GSU to present at APS April meeting (\$350).
- May 2018 Full funding support from organizers to attend Neutron Star Merger summer school at FRIB, Michigan State University.
- April 2018 Travel award by APS-Division of Nuclear Physics to present at APS April meeting (\$400).
- Sept 2017 Full funding support from organizers to attend Midwest Theory Get-Together at Argonne National Laboratory.
- July 2017 Partial funding support to attend National Nuclear Physics Summer School at University of Colorado Boulder (registration, accommodation, and meals).
- June 2017 Partial Funding support from organizers to attend Fourth Azarqui School of Astronomy, on Nuclear Astrophysics and Astroparticle physics at Sicily, Italy (registration, accommodation, and meals).
- October 2014 Full tuition scholarship to attend University of Toronto as a semester exchange for spring 2015( $\approx$  \$14000).

## Professional memberships

- 2022-present LIGO Scientific Collaboration ([www.ligo.org](http://www.ligo.org))
- 2018-present American Physical Society ([www.aps.org](http://www.aps.org))

## Outreach and Services

- 2022 Popular science magazine *New Scientist* published an article on my Ph.D. research paper Phys. Rev. D 106, 103027 (2022). Article: K. Padavic-Callaghan, "Gravitational waves could reveal the existence of quark matter", *New Scientist*, Issue 3411 (2022), [newscientist.com/article/2344898-gravitational-waves-could-reveal-the-existence-of-quark-matter/](https://newscientist.com/article/2344898-gravitational-waves-could-reveal-the-existence-of-quark-matter/).
- 2020-present Active member of the Einstein Toolkit community, and contributor to the the May 2022 release "[Riemann](#)", the May 2021 release "[Lorentz](#)", and the May 2020 release "[Turing](#)".
- 2020 Session Chair for the session on "Physics of Neutron Stars and Black Holes" at the [Midwest Relativity Meeting 2020](#).
- 2020 Core-member of the Local Organizing Committee for the Midwest Relativity Meeting 2020.
- 2019-20 Physics Department Representative at the [Graduate Student Union, University of Notre Dame](#).
- 2017-18 Graduate International Students committee member at the Physics Department, University of Notre Dame.
- March 2017, 2019 Judge for high school and elementary school students' physics projects at the Northern Indiana Regional Science & Engineering Fair(NIRSEF).
- 2016-18 Volunteer for Our Universe Revealed events and Stargazing events at the University of Notre Dame.

## Teaching Experience

- Summer 2019 Instructor of Record for Physics 2 Electromagnetism labs at the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Indiana University South Bend.

- 2017-2021 Delivered five lectures as part of Teaching Practicum for graduate students at Notre Dame.
- General Relativity for Prof. Mathews (April 2021)
  - Engineering Physics I for Prof. Howk (Feb 2019) (x2)
  - Math Methods for Physics II for Prof. Vural (March 2018)
  - Elementary Cosmology for Prof. Jessop (Jan 2017)
- 2016-present Teaching Assistant in the Physics department for:
- Special and General Relativity (spring 19, 20, 21)
  - Graduate Classical Mechanics (fall 18)
  - Particles and Cosmology (spring 18)
  - Descriptive Astronomy (fall 17)
  - Elementary Cosmology (fall 17, 21)
  - Physics 1 : Mechanics course Lead tutor (fall 19)
  - Physics 1 : Mechanics course tutor (summer 17, 18, spring 20, fall 21)
  - Physics 1 : Mechanics lab for pre-med students (fall 16, spring 18)
  - Physics 2 : Electromagnetism course tutor (summer 18, fall 18, 20 spring 19), received Course Instructor Feedback composite score of upto 5.0/5.0.
  - Physics 2 : Electromagnetism lab for pre-med students (spring 17, summer 17)
  - Physics 2 : Electromagnetism lab for engineering students (fall 20)
- 2015 Teaching Assistant for online course on Engineering physics by IIT Bombay and *Teach 10k Teachers* for physics teachers at engineering colleges in India.

## Skill Set

**Softwares** :- Einstein Toolkit, LORENE, MATLAB, Mathematica, and  $\text{\LaTeX}$ .

**Programming Languages** :- Python, C, C++, and Arduino.

**Operating Systems** :- Windows, Ubuntu (Linux) (primarily via WSL lately) and Red Hat Enterprise Linux.

**Languages** :- Fluent in English and Hindi. Novice in French, German, and Bengali.

## References

### Prof. Richard O'Shaughnessy

Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation, Rochester Institute of Technology

Email - [rossma@rit.edu](mailto:rossma@rit.edu)

Webpage - [ccrgpages.rit.edu/~oshaughn/Richard\\_OShaughnessy/](http://ccrgpages.rit.edu/~oshaughn/Richard_OShaughnessy/)

### Prof. Grant Mathews

Professor of Physics & Astronomy, Director of Center for Astrophysics, University of Notre Dame

Email - [gmathews@nd.edu](mailto:gmathews@nd.edu)

Webpage - [physics.nd.edu/people/faculty/grant-j-mathews/](http://physics.nd.edu/people/faculty/grant-j-mathews/)

### Prof. Rebecca Surman

Professor of Physics & Astronomy, University of Notre Dame

Email - [rsurman@nd.edu](mailto:rsurman@nd.edu)

Webpage - [physics.nd.edu/people/faculty/rebecca-surman/](http://physics.nd.edu/people/faculty/rebecca-surman/)

**Prof. Motohiko Kusakabe**

Faculty, School of Physics, Beihang University

Email - [kusakabe@buaa.edu.cn](mailto:kusakabe@buaa.edu.cn)

Webpage - [physics.buaa.edu.cn/info/1231/3832.htm](http://physics.buaa.edu.cn/info/1231/3832.htm)

**Dr. Roland Haas**

Senior Research Programmer, National Center for Supercomputing Applications, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Email - [rhaas@illinois.edu](mailto:rhaas@illinois.edu)

Webpage - [gravity.ncsa.illinois.edu/people/rhaas/](http://gravity.ncsa.illinois.edu/people/rhaas/)