Mahesh C. Gandikota

Contact Information

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Education

Ph.D., Physics, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, USA **2015 - Present**

Dissertation Advisor: Prof. J. M. Schwarz

Dissertation Title: *Probes of strong-field gravity*

G.P.A.: 3.7/4.0

Integrated M.Sc., Physics, NISER, Orissa, India **2015**

National Institute of Science Education and Research

Thesis Advisor: Prof. Somendra Bhattacharjee,
Ashoka University, Bihar, India

G.P.A.: 8.2/10.0

Twelfth grade board exam National College, Bangalore, India **2010**

Marks: 81%

Tenth grade board exam HJKP, Bangalore, India **2008**

Marks: 97.4%

Employment

Assistant Professor, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS USA **August 2018–Present**

Senior Postdoctoral Researcher, Caltech, Pasadena, CA USA **September 2015–August 2018**

NASA Einstein Fellow, Cornell, Ithaca NY, USA **September 2012–August 2015**

Research and Teaching Assistant, MIT, Cambridge MA, USA **September 2006–May 2012**

Teaching Assistant, Caltech, Pasadena, CA, USA **Fall 2004, Spring 2005**

Summer Research Fellow, Caltech, Pasadena, CA, USA **June–September 2003/2005**

Research Interests

General relativity (GR), gravitation, and astrophysical phenomena which can elucidate gravity. Recent work is focused on gravitational-wave predictions in beyond-GR theories of gravity. Work in progress and future work includes numerical simulations of black hole mergers in beyond-GR theories, cosmological signatures of beyond-GR theories, and investigations in near-horizon extremal Kerr.

Honors and Awards

Einstein Postdoctoral Fellow, NASA **2012–2015**

Henry Kendall Teaching Award, Massachusetts Institute of Technology **2011**

Upperclass Merit Scholarship, California Institute of Technology **2005–2006**

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor, University of Mississippi

Phys. 401, Electromagnetism I	**Fall 2019**
Phys. 402, Electromagnetism II	**Spring 2019, 2020**
Phys. 709, Advanced Mechanics I	**Fall 2018**
Phys. 750, General relativity II	**Spring 2020**

Guest Lecturer, California Institute of Technology

Ph236, General relativity	**Fall 2017**
Ph237, Gravitational Waves	**Spring 2016**

Guest Lecturer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

8.901, Graduate Astrophysics I	**Spring 2011**

Teaching Assistant, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

8.942, Cosmology	**Fall 2011**
8.901, Graduate Astrophysics I	**Spring 2011**
8.286, The Early Universe	**Fall 2009**

Teaching Assistant, California Institute of Technology

Ph 7, Nuclear and Quantum Physics Lab	**Spring 2005**
Ph 5, Analog Electronics for Physicists	**Fall 2004**

Mentoring/ Supervision

Postdoctoral researchers

José Tomás Gálvez Ghersi	**Fall 2019–present**

Graduate students

Maria (Masha) Okounkova, Caltech	**Fall 2015–Summer 2019**
Baoyi Chen, Caltech	**Fall 2016–present**

Undergraduate students

Wayne Zhao, Harvard	**Summer 2016**

Professional Activities, Outreach, and Service

Simulating eXtreme Spacetimes collaboration **2015–Present**
Executive committee member **2018–Present**

Member, American Physical Society **2010–Present**
Division of Gravitational Physics

Executive Committee Member-at-Large **2016–2019**

Division of Astrophysics

Conference organizer

Workshop on Numerical Relativity beyond General Relativity, Benasque **June 2018**
Week-long international workshop, 59 participants

34th Pacific Coast Gravity Meeting (PCGM), Caltech **March 2018**
Two-day conference, $\sim$ 125 participants

Workshop on Unifying Tests of General Relativity, Caltech **July 2016**
Three day workshop, 52 participants

Seminar organizer

TAPIR seminar, Caltech	**Fall 2015–Spring 2018**
General Relativity Informal Tea-Time Series (GRITTS), MIT	**Fall 2011–Spring 2012**
MKI Journal Club, MIT	**Fall 2007–Spring 2010**

Conference session chair; Judge for best student speaker award

April APS meeting, Columbus, OH	**April 2018**
34th Pacific Coast Gravity Meeting (PCGM), Caltech	**March 2018**
33rd Pacific Coast Gravity Meeting (PCGM), UCSB	**March 2017**
"April" APS meeting, Washington D.C.	**January 2017**
32nd Pacific Coast Gravity Meeting (PCGM), CSU Fullerton	**April 2016**
Theoretical Astrophysics in Southern California (TASC), CSU Fullerton	**November 2015**

Journal referee

Classical and Quantum Gravity, Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics, General Relativity and Gravitation, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, Physics Letters B, Physical Review D, Physical Review Letters, Physical Review X, Reviews of Modern Physics

Agency work

External reviewer for NSF, NASA

Outreach

Guest on the *Starts With a Bang* podcast
Episode 42: Black holes and gravitationa — **March 25, 2019**

Invited speaker for Latin American Webinar on Physics — **March 13, 2019**
Webinar 75: "Testing Einstein with numerical relativity"

Caltech astronomy public lecture series speaker — **March 2018**
Lecture: "The truth about black holes"

Astronomy on Tap public lecture series speaker and volunteer — **2016–2018**
Close to a monthly basis

Caltech astronomy public lecture series panelist and emcee — **2016–2018**
Approximately every three months

Invited guest lecture on black holes and gravitational waves — **November 2017**
Science of Space and Time, Hampshire College

Invited video Q&A session, public high school physics class — **June 2017**
The Nova Project school, Seattle

Guest on *The Titanium Physicists Podcast*
Episode 80: Picturing the Bach Hole — **August 21, 2019**
Episode 64: The edges of Einstein — **April 25, 2016**
Episode 62: Black Bells — **February 1, 2016**

Quora Q&A Session on gravitational waves and first detection — **February 17, 2016**
83.9k+ views, 20.8k+ followers

Invited guest host, public screening of *COSMOS* with Q&A, — **March/June 2014**
Science Cabaret/Cornell

Invited public talk at *Frontiers of Cornell Astronomy*, — **November 2013**
Cornell Friends of Astronomy

Invited video chat, *Topics in Physics* course, — **July 2013**
Stanford Education Program for Gifted Youth

Computer Skills

Languages—Expert in Mathematica. Proficient in C/C++, Python, Bash, Javascript. Experience in Java, Haskell. Markup languages: LaTeX, HTML, CSS, Markdown.

Software—Most contributions can be found at `https://github.com/duetosymmetry`. Member of the *Simulating eXtreme Spacetimes* (SXS) collaboration, contributor to the Spectral Einstein Code (SpEC). Member of the *Black Hole Perturbation Toolkit*. Author of `qnm` python package (`https://github.com/duetosymmetry/qnm`). Core collaborator on xAct (`http://xact.es`) abstract tensor calculus package for Mathematica. Coauthor of xTerior package for exterior differential geometry under xAct. Co-maintainer of community contributions at `http://contrib.xact.es`. Developed arXiv-keys browser extension/add-on for Chrome/Firefox.

Submitted Publications

43. Tanay, S., **Stein, L. C.**, Gálvez Ghersi, J. T., (2020) *Integrability of eccentric, spinning black hole binaries up to second post-Newtonian order*, [arXiv:2012.06586].
42. Tahura, S., Nichols, D. A., Saffer, A., **Stein, L. C.**, Yagi, K. (2020) *Brans-Dicke theory in Bondi-Sachs form: Asymptotically flat solutions, asymptotic symmetries and gravitational-wave memory effects*, [arXiv:2007.13799].

Collaboration Publications

From 2008–2012, I was coauthor on 34 refereed LIGO and/or LIGO/Virgo collaboration publications. The short author-list publications appear below.

Refereed Publications

41. Gálvez Ghersi, J. T., **Stein, L. C.**, (2021) *A fixed point for black hole distributions*, Class. Quantum Grav. **38** 045012 [arXiv:2007.11578].
40. Okounkova, M., **Stein, L. C.**, Moxon, J., Scheel, M. A., Teukolsky, S. A., (2020) *Numerical relativity simulation of GW150914 beyond general relativity*, Phys. Rev. D **101**, 104016 [arXiv:1911.02588].
39. **Stein, L. C.**, Warburton, N., (2020) *Location of the last stable orbit in Kerr spacetime*, Phys. Rev. D **101**, 064007 [arXiv:1912.07609].
38. Okounkova, M., **Stein, L. C.**, Scheel, M. A., Teukolsky, S. A., (2019) *Numerical binary black hole collisions in dynamical Chern-Simons gravity*, Phys. Rev. D **100**, 104026 [arXiv:1906.08789].
37. Varma, V, *et al.* (2019) *Surrogate models for precessing binary black hole simulations with unequal masses*, Phys. Rev. Research **1**, 033015 [arXiv:1905.09300].
36. **Stein, L. C.**, (2019) `qnm`: *A Python package for calculating Kerr quasinormal modes, separation constants, and spherical-spheroidal mixing coefficients*, J. Open Source Softw., 4(42), 1683 [arXiv:1908.10377].
35. Boyle, M., *et al.* (**LCS** is corresponding author) (2019) *The SXS Collaboration catalog of binary black hole simulations*, Class. Quantum Grav. **36** 195006 [arXiv:1904.04831].
34. Barack, L., *et al.* (2019) *Black holes, gravitational waves and fundamental physics: a roadmap*, Class. Quantum Grav. **36** 143001 [arXiv:1806.05195].
33. Varma, V., **Stein, L. C.**, Gerosa, D., (2019) *The binary black hole explorer: on-the-fly visualizations of precessing binary black holes*, Class. Quantum Grav. **36** 095007 [arXiv:1811.06552], [project website].
32. Varma, V., Gerosa, D., **Stein, L. C.**, Hébert, F., Zhang, H., (2019) *High-accuracy mass, spin, and recoil predictions of generic black-hole merger remnants*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **122**, 011101 [arXiv:1809.09125].
31. Isi, M., **Stein, L. C.** (2018) *Measuring stochastic gravitational-wave energy beyond general relativity*, Phys. Rev. D **98**, 104025 [arXiv:1807.02123].
30. Prabhu, K., **Stein, L. C.** (2018) *Black hole scalar charge from a topological horizon integral in Einstein-dilaton-Gauss-Bonnet gravity*, Phys. Rev. D **98**, 021503(R) (Rapid Communication) [arXiv:1805.02668].
29. Gerosa, D., Hébert, F., **Stein, L. C.** (2018) *Black-hole kicks from numerical-relativity surrogate models*, Phys. Rev. D **97**, 104049 [arXiv:1802.04276].
28. Chen, B., **Stein, L. C.** (2018) *Deformation of extremal black holes from stringy interactions*, Phys. Rev. D **97**, 084012 [arXiv:1802.02159].
27. Chen, B., **Stein, L. C.** (2017) *Separating metric perturbations in near-horizon extremal Kerr*, Phys. Rev. D **96**, 064017 [arXiv:1707.05319].
26. Okounkova, M., **Stein, L. C.**, Scheel, M. A., Hemberger, D. A. (2017) *Numerical binary black hole mergers in dynamical Chern-Simons: I. Scalar field*, Phys. Rev. D **96**, 044020 [arXiv:1705.07924].

25. Tso, R., Isi, M., Chen, Y., **Stein, L. C.** (2017) *Modeling the Dispersion and Polarization Content of Gravitational Waves for Tests of General Relativity*, CPT and Lorentz Symmetry: pp. 205–208 [arXiv:1608.01284].
24. McNees, R., **Stein, L. C.**, Yunes, N. (2016) *Extremal Black Holes in Dynamical Chern-Simons Gravity*, Class. Quantum Grav. **33** 235013 [arXiv:1512.05453].
23. Flanagan, É. É., Nichols, D. A., **Stein, L. C.**, Vines, J. (2016) *Prescriptions for Measuring and Transporting Local Angular Momenta in General Relativity*, Phys. Rev. D **93**, 104007 [arXiv:1602.01847].
22. Yagi, K., **Stein, L. C.** (2016) *Black Hole Based Tests of General Relativity*, Class. Quantum Grav. **33** 054001 [arXiv:1602.02413].
21. Yagi, K., **Stein, L. C.**, Yunes, N. (2016) *Challenging the Presence of Scalar Charge and Dipolar Radiation in Binary Pulsars*, Phys. Rev. D **93** 024010 [arXiv:1510.02152].
20. Berti, E., (5 authors), **Stein, L. C.**, (46 more authors) (2015) *Testing General Relativity with Present and Future Astrophysical Observations*, Class. Quantum Grav. **32** 243001 [arXiv:1501.07274].
19. Tsang, D., Galley, C. R., **Stein, L. C.**, Turner, A. (2015) *"Slimplectic" Integrators: Variational Integrators for General Nonconservative Systems*, ApJ **809** L9 [arXiv:1506.08443].
18. Yagi, K., **Stein, L. C.**, Pappas, G., Yunes, N., Apostolatos, T. (2014) *Why I-Love-Q: Explaining why universality emerges in compact objects*, Phys. Rev. D **90** 063010 [arXiv:1406.7587].
17. **Stein, L. C.** (2014) *Rapidly rotating black holes in dynamical Chern-Simons gravity: Decoupling limit solutions and breakdown*, Phys. Rev. D **90** 044061 [arXiv:1407.2350].
16. **Stein, L. C.**, Yagi, K., Yunes, N. (2014) *Three-Hair Newtonian Relations for Rotating Stars*, ApJ **788** 15 [arXiv:1312.4532].
15. **Stein, L. C.**, Yagi, K. (2014) *Parameterizing and constraining scalar corrections to general relativity*, Phys. Rev. D **89** 044026 [arXiv:1310.6743].
14. Yagi, K., **Stein, L. C.**, Yunes, N., Tanaka, T. (2013) *Isolated and Binary Neutron Stars in Dynamical Chern-Simons Gravity*, Phys. Rev. D **87** 084058 [arXiv:1302.1918].
13. Yagi, K., **Stein, L. C.**, Yunes, N., Tanaka, T. (2012), *Post-Newtonian, Quasi-Circular Binary Inspirals in Quadratic Modified Gravity*, Phys. Rev. D **85** 064022 [arXiv:1110.5950].
12. Vigeland, S., Yunes, N., **Stein, L. C.** (2011), *Bumpy black holes in alternative theories of gravity*, Phys. Rev. D **83** 104027 [arXiv:1102.3706].
11. Yunes, N., **Stein, L. C.** (2011), *Nonspinning black holes in alternative theories of gravity*, Phys. Rev. D **83** 104002 [arXiv:1101.2921].
10. **Stein, L. C.**, Yunes, N. (2011), *Effective gravitational wave stress-energy tensor in alternative theories of gravity*, Phys. Rev. D **83** 064038 [arXiv:1012.3144].
9. Lutomirski, A., Tegmark, M., Sanchez, N. J., **Stein, L. C.**, Urry, W. L., Zaldarriaga, M. (2011), *Solving the corner-turning problem for large interferometers*, MNRAS **410** 2075 [arXiv:0910.1351].
8. Sutton, P., Jones, G., Chatterji, S., Kalmus, P., Leonor, I., Poprocki, S., Rollins, J., Searle, A., **Stein, L.**, Tinto, M., Was, M. (2010), *X-Pipeline: an analysis package for autonomous gravitational-wave burst searches*, New J. Phys. **12** 053034 [arXiv:0908.3665].
7. Chatterji, S., Lazzarini, A., **Stein, L.**, Sutton, P., Searle, A. (2006), *Coherent network analysis technique for discriminating gravitational-wave bursts from instrumental noise*, Phys. Rev. D **74** 082005 [arXiv:gr-qc/0605002].

Unrefereed Publications

6. Galley, C. R., Tsang, D., **Stein, L. C.** (2014) *The principle of stationary nonconservative action for classical mechanics and field theories*, [arXiv:1412.3082].
5. **Stein, L. C.** (2014), *Note on Legendre decomposition of the Pontryagin density in Kerr*, [arXiv:1407.0744].
4. **Stein, L. C.** (2012), *Probes of Strong-field Gravity*, Ph.D. thesis at Massachusetts Institute of Technology [hdl:1721.1/77256].
3. Betancourt, M., **Stein, L. C.** (2011) *The Geometry of Hamiltonian Monte Carlo*, [arXiv:1112.4118].
2. **Stein, L. C.** (2009), *Binary Inspiral Gravitational Waves from a Post-Newtonian Expansion*, Contribution to the Wolfram Demonstrations Project, http://demonstrations.wolfram.com/BinaryInspiralGravitationalWavesFromAPostNewtonianExpansion/
1. **Stein, L. C.** (2006), *Gravitational Wave Burst Source Localization in a Coherent Network Analysis*, Senior thesis at California Institute of Technology

Invited Talks

37.	University of Birmingham, astrophysics seminar	September 2020
36.	Albert Einstein Institute, ACR division seminar	July 2020
35.	Black Hole Perturbation Toolkit, Spring 2020 workshop	May 2020
34.	American Physical Society Meeting	April 2020
33.	UVA, physics department colloquium	November 2019
32.	UT Dallas, physics department colloquium	October 2019
31.	Northwestern University, CIERA astrophysics seminar	May 2019
30.	ETH-ITS Zurich, "New horizons for gravity" workshop	May 2018
29.	UC San Diego, astrophysics seminar	March 2018
28.	UC Berkeley, 4D particle physics seminar	March 2018
27.	Kyoto University, YKIS2018a Symposium	February 2018
26.	Oakland University physics seminar	February 2018
25.	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee gravity seminar	January 2018
24.	Caltech/JPL Gravitational-Wave (CaJAGWR) seminar	January 2018
23.	ICN UNAM, Relativity seminar	December 2017
22.	University of Mississippi, Astrophysics seminar	November 2017
21.	University of Florida, Astrophysics seminar	November 2017
20.	University of Nottingham, Mathematical Physics seminar	July 2017
19.	Sapienza University of Rome, New Frontiers in Gravitational-Wave Astrophysics	June 2017
18.	Rochester Institute of Technology, CCRG seminar	March 2017
17.	Penn State, IGC seminar	March 2017
16.	University of Mississippi, Strong Gravity/Binary Dynamics workshop	February/March 2017
15.	SUNY Stony Brook, "The universe through gravitational waves"	December 2016
14.	University of Pennsylvania, New Frontiers in Gravitational Radiation workshop	December 2016
13.	Cambridge MA, Event Horizon Telescope collaboration meeting	November/December 2016
12.	Northwestern University CIERA, "Fellows at the Frontiers"	August/September 2016
11.	Princeton University, GR@100++ panel discussion	April 2016
10.	Cambridge MA, Einstein fellows symposium	October 2014
9.	Perimeter Institute, Strong gravity seminar	October 2014
8.	Cornell University, Friends of astronomy outreach event	November 2013

7. Cambridge MA, Einstein fellows symposium October 2013
6. SUNY Geneseo, Physics colloquium October 2013
5. University of Maryland, UMD gravity seminar October 2013
4. Yale University, YCAA seminar September 2013
3. Kyoto University, YITP long-term workshop June 2013
2. Cambridge MA, Einstein fellows symposium October 2012
1. Cornell University, Relativity lunch November 2011

Contributed Talks (selected)

19. American Physical Society Meeting April 2019
18. American Physical Society Meeting April 2018
17. Pacific Coast Gravity Meeting March 2017
16. American Physical Society Meeting ~~April~~ January 2017
15. Testing Gravity 2017 January 2017
14. 21^{st} International meeting on GR (GR21) July 2016
13. American Physical Society Meeting April 2016
12. Eastern Gravity Meeting May 2015
11. American Physical Society Meeting April 2015
10. NEB 16 Recent developments in gravity September 2014
9. American Physical Society Meeting April 2014
8. XXVII Texas symposium on relativistic astrophysics December 2013
7. 20^{th} International meeting on GR (GR20) July 2013
6. Eastern Gravity Meeting June 2013
5. American Physical Society Meeting April 2013
4. Caltech TAPIR Seminar December 2011
3. Eastern Gravity Meeting June 2011
2. American Physical Society Meeting April 2011
1. American Physical Society Meeting April 2010

References

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Éanna É. Flanagan, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Cornell University
606 Space Sciences, Cornell University
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