

Md Arif Shaikh

Assistant Professor

Gravitational wave astrophysicist working on various aspects of gravitational wave physics, including waveform modeling, data analysis, and tests of general relativity using gravitational wave observations.

arifshaikh.astro@gmail.com | <https://mdarifshaikh.com>

Positions

Assistant Professor

November 2023 – Present

Department of Physics, Vivekananda Satavarshiki Mahavidyalaya
Manikpara, West Bengal, 721513, India

Postdoctoral Fellow

July 2022 – November 2023

Department of Physics and Astronomy, Seoul National University
1 Gwanak-ro, Gwanak-gu, Seoul 08826, Korea
Advisor: [Hyung Mok Lee](#)

Postdoctoral Fellow

July 2019 – June 2022

Astrophysical Relativity, International Centre for Theoretical Sciences
Hesaraghatta Hobli, Karnataka, 560089, India
Advisor: [Parameswaran Ajith](#)

Education

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

July 2014 – June 2019

Harish-Chandra Research Institute
Chhatnag Road, Jhansi, Prayagraj, 211019, Uttar Pradesh, India
Cosmology & High Energy Astrophysics
Advisor: Tapas Kumar Das (tapas@hri.res.in)

Master of Science (MSc)

July 2012 – June 2014

Harish-Chandra Research Institute
Chhatnag Road, Jhansi, Prayagraj, 211019, Uttar Pradesh, India
Cosmology & High Energy Astrophysics
Advisor: Tapas Kumar Das (tapas@hri.res.in)

Bachelor of Science (BSc)

July 2009 – June 2012

Jadavpur University
188, Raja S.C. Mallick Rd, Kolkata 700032, India
Faculty of Physics

Publications

Short author publications

19. Nee, P. J., Ravichandran, A., Field, S. E., Islam, T., Pfeiffer, H. P., Varma, V., Boyle, M., Ceja, A., Ghadiri, N., Kidder, L. E., Kumar, P., Maurya, A., Morales, M., Ramos-Buades, A., Ravishankar, A., Rink, K., Rüter, H. R., Scheel, M. A., Shaikh, M. A., Tellez, D. "Eccentric binary black holes: A new framework for numerical relativity waveform surrogates.", 2025, [arXiv:2510.00106](#)
18. Tiwari, A., Bhat, S. A., Shaikh, M. A., Kapadia, S. J. "Testing the nature of GW200105 by probing the frequency evolution of eccentricity." *Astrophys. J.*, **995**, 1, 2025, [arXiv:2509.26152](#)
17. Bhat, S. A., Tiwari, A., Shaikh, M. A., Kapadia, S. J. "Eccentricity evolution consistency test to distinguish eccentric gravitational-wave signals from eccentricity mimickers." *Phys. Rev. D*

, **112**, 12, 2025, [arXiv:2508.14850](#)

16. Shaikh, M. A., Varma, V., Ramos-Buades, A., Pfeiffer, H. P., Boyle, M., Kidder, L. E., Scheel, M. A. "Defining eccentricity for spin-precessing binaries." *Class. Quant. Grav.*, **42**, 2025, [arXiv:2507.08345](#)
15. Chartier, N., Shaikh, M. A., Lee, H. M., Kim, J. "Comparison between best-fit eccentricity definitions and the standardized definition of eccentricity." *Phys. Rev. D*, **112**, 2, 2025, [arXiv:2503.19538](#)
14. Deka, U., Prabhu, G., Shaikh, M. A., Kapadia, S. J., Varma, V., Field, S. E. "Surrogate modeling of gravitational waves microlensed by spherically symmetric potentials." *Phys. Rev. D*, **111**, 10, 2025, [arXiv:2501.02974](#)
13. Deka, U., Chakraborty, S., Kapadia, S. J., Shaikh, M. A., Ajith, P. "Probing the charge of compact objects with gravitational microlensing of gravitational waves." *Phys. Rev. D*, **111**, 6, 2025, [arXiv:2401.06553](#)
12. Shaikh, M. A., Bhat, S. A., Kapadia, S. J. "A study of the inspiral-merger-ringdown consistency test with gravitational-wave signals from compact binaries in eccentric orbits." *Phys. Rev. D*, **110**, 2, 2024, [arXiv:2402.15110](#)
11. Shaikh, M. A., Varma, V., Pfeiffer, H. P., Ramos-Buades, A., van de Meent, M. "Defining eccentricity for gravitational wave astronomy." *Phys. Rev. D*, **108**, 10, 2023, [arXiv:2302.11257](#)
10. Singh, M. K., Divyajyoti, D., Kapadia, S. J., Shaikh, M. A., Ajith, P. "Improved early-warning estimates of luminosity distance and orbital inclination of compact binary mergers using higher modes of gravitational radiation." *Mon. Not. Roy. Astron. Soc.*, **513**, 3, 2022, [arXiv:2202.05802](#)
9. Maity, S., Shaikh, M. A., Tarafdar, P., Das, T. K. "Carter-Penrose diagrams for emergent space-time in axisymmetrically accreting black hole systems." *Phys. Rev. D*, **106**, 4, 2022, [arXiv:2106.07598](#)
8. Wei, W., Huerta, E. A., Yun, M., Loutrel, N., Shaikh, M. A., Kumar, P., Haas, R., Kindratenko, V. "Deep Learning with Quantized Neural Networks for Gravitational-wave Forecasting of Eccentric Compact Binary Coalescence." *Astrophys. J.*, **919**, 2, 2021, [arXiv:2012.03963](#)
7. Singh, M. K., Kapadia, S. J., Shaikh, M. A., Chatterjee, D., Ajith, P. "Improved early warning of compact binary mergers using higher modes of gravitational radiation: A population study." *Mon. Not. Roy. Astron. Soc.*, **502**, 2, 2021, [arXiv:2010.12407](#)
6. Kapadia, S. J., Singh, M. K., Shaikh, M. A., Chatterjee, D., Ajith, P. "Of Harbingers and Higher Modes: Improved gravitational-wave early-warning of compact binary mergers." *Astrophys. J. Lett.*, **898**, 2, 2020, [arXiv:2005.08830](#)
5. Shaikh, M. A., Maity, S., Nag, S., Das, T. K. "Effective sound speed in relativistic accretion discs around Schwarzschild black holes." *New Astron.*, **69**, 2019, [arXiv:1806.04084](#)
4. Shaikh, M. A., Das, T. K. "Linear perturbations of low angular momentum accretion flow in the Kerr metric and the corresponding emergent gravity phenomena." *Phys. Rev. D*, **98**, 12, 2018, [arXiv:1803.09896](#)
3. Shaikh, M. A.. "Relativistic sonic geometry for isothermal accretion in the Kerr metric." *Class. Quant. Grav.*, **35**, 5, 2018, [arXiv:1705.04918](#)
2. Datta, S., Shaikh, M. A., Das, T. K. "Acoustic geometry obtained through the perturbation of the Bernoulli's constant." *New Astron.*, **63**, 2018, [arXiv:1612.07954](#)
1. Shaikh, M. A., Firdousi, I., Das, T. K. "Relativistic sonic geometry for isothermal accretion in the Schwarzschild metric." *Class. Quant. Grav.*, **34**, 15, 2017, [arXiv:1612.07963](#)

SXS Collaboration

1. Scheel, M. A., others. "The SXS Collaboration's third catalog of binary black hole simulations.", 2025, [arXiv:2505.13378](#)

LVK Collaboration

34. Abac, A. G., others. "Directional Search for Persistent Gravitational Waves: Results from the First Part of LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA's Fourth Observing Run.", 2025, [arXiv:2510.17487](#)
33. Abac, A. G., others. "Directed searches for gravitational waves from ultralight vector boson clouds around merger remnant and galactic black holes during the first part of the fourth LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA observing run.", 2025, [arXiv:2509.07352](#)
32. Abac, A. G., others. "GW250114: Testing Hawking's Area Law and the Kerr Nature of Black Holes." *Phys. Rev. Lett.* , **135** , 11 , 2025, [arXiv:2509.08054](#)
31. Abac, A. G., others. "GWTC-4.0: Constraints on the Cosmic Expansion Rate and Modified Gravitational-wave Propagation.", 2025, [arXiv:2509.04348](#)
30. Abac, A. G., others. "Upper Limits on the Isotropic Gravitational-Wave Background from the first part of LIGO, Virgo, and KAGRA's fourth Observing Run.", 2025, [arXiv:2508.20721](#)
29. Abac, A. G., others. "Open Data from LIGO, Virgo, and KAGRA through the First Part of the Fourth Observing Run.", 2025, [arXiv:2508.18079](#)
28. Abac, A. G., others. "GWTC-4.0: Updating the Gravitational-Wave Transient Catalog with Observations from the First Part of the Fourth LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Observing Run.", 2025, [arXiv:2508.18082](#)
27. Abac, A. G., others. "GWTC-4.0: Population Properties of Merging Compact Binaries.", 2025, [arXiv:2508.18083](#)
26. Abac, A. G., others. "GWTC-4.0: Methods for Identifying and Characterizing Gravitational-wave Transients.", 2025, [arXiv:2508.18081](#)
25. Abac, A. G., others. "GWTC-4.0: An Introduction to Version 4.0 of the Gravitational-Wave Transient Catalog.", 2025, [arXiv:2508.18080](#)
24. Abac, A. G., others. "All-sky search for long-duration gravitational-wave transients in the first part of the fourth LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Observing run.", 2025, [arXiv:2507.12282](#)
23. Abac, A. G., others. "All-sky search for short gravitational-wave bursts in the first part of the fourth LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA observing run.", 2025, [arXiv:2507.12374](#)
22. Abac, A. G., others. "GW231123: a Binary Black Hole Merger with Total Mass 190-265 M_{\odot} .", 2025, [arXiv:2507.08219](#)
21. Abac, A. G., others. "Search for Continuous Gravitational Waves from Known Pulsars in the First Part of the Fourth LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Observing Run." *Astrophys. J.* , **983** , 2 , 2025, [arXiv:2501.01495](#)
20. Abac, A. G., others. "Search for Gravitational Waves Emitted from SN 2023ixf." *Astrophys. J.* , **985** , 2 , 2025, [arXiv:2410.16565](#)
19. Abac, A. G., others. "A Search Using GEO600 for Gravitational Waves Coincident with Fast Radio Bursts from SGR 1935+2154." *Astrophys. J.* , **977** , 2 , 2024, [arXiv:2410.09151](#)
18. Raman, G., others. "Swift-BAT GUANO Follow-up of Gravitational-wave Triggers in the Third LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Observing Run." *Astrophys. J.* , **980** , 2 , 2025, [arXiv:2407.12867](#)
17. Abac, A. G., others. "Observation of Gravitational Waves from the Coalescence of a 2.5-4.5 M_{\odot} Compact Object and a Neutron Star." *Astrophys. J. Lett.* , **970** , 2 , 2024, [arXiv:2404.04248](#)
16. Abac, A. G., others. "Ultralight vector dark matter search using data from the KAGRA O3GK run." *Phys. Rev. D* , **110** , 4 , 2024, [arXiv:2403.03004](#)

15. Fletcher, C., others. "A Joint Fermi-GBM and Swift-BAT Analysis of Gravitational-wave Candidates from the Third Gravitational-wave Observing Run." *Astrophys. J.* , **964** , 2 , 2024, [arXiv:2308.13666](#)
14. Abac, A. G., others. "Search for Eccentric Black Hole Coalescences during the Third Observing Run of LIGO and Virgo." *Astrophys. J.* , **973** , 2 , 2024, [arXiv:2308.03822](#)
13. Abbott, R., others. "Search for Gravitational-lensing Signatures in the Full Third Observing Run of the LIGO-Virgo Network." *Astrophys. J.* , **970** , 2 , 2024, [arXiv:2304.08393](#)
12. Abbott, R., others. "Open Data from the Third Observing Run of LIGO, Virgo, KAGRA, and GEO." *Astrophys. J. Suppl.* , **267** , 2 , 2023, [arXiv:2302.03676](#)
11. Abbott, R., others. "Search for subsolar-mass black hole binaries in the second part of Advanced LIGO's and Advanced Virgo's third observing run." *Mon. Not. Roy. Astron. Soc.* , **524** , 4 , 2023, [arXiv:2212.01477](#)
10. Abbott, R., others. "Search for Gravitational-wave Transients Associated with Magnetar Bursts in Advanced LIGO and Advanced Virgo Data from the Third Observing Run." *Astrophys. J.* , **966** , 1 , 2024, [arXiv:2210.10931](#)
9. Abbott, R., others. "Model-based Cross-correlation Search for Gravitational Waves from the Low-mass X-Ray Binary Scorpius X-1 in LIGO O3 Data." *Astrophys. J. Lett.* , **941** , 2 , 2022, [arXiv:2209.02863](#)
8. Abbott, R., others. "Search for continuous gravitational wave emission from the Milky Way center in O3 LIGO-Virgo data." *Phys. Rev. D* , **106** , 4 , 2022, [arXiv:2204.04523](#)
7. Abbott, R., others. "First joint observation by the underground gravitational-wave detector KAGRA with GEO 600." *PTEP* , **2022** , 6 , 2022, [arXiv:2203.01270](#)
6. Abbott, R., others. "Search for gravitational waves from Scorpius X-1 with a hidden Markov model in O3 LIGO data." *Phys. Rev. D* , **106** , 6 , 2022, [arXiv:2201.10104](#)
5. Abbott, R., others. "All-sky search for continuous gravitational waves from isolated neutron stars using Advanced LIGO and Advanced Virgo O3 data." *Phys. Rev. D* , **106** , 10 , 2022, [arXiv:2201.00697](#)
4. Abbott, R., others. "Tests of General Relativity with GWTC-3.", 2021, [arXiv:2112.06861](#)
3. Abbott, R., others. "All-sky search for gravitational wave emission from scalar boson clouds around spinning black holes in LIGO O3 data." *Phys. Rev. D* , **105** , 10 , 2022, [arXiv:2111.15507](#)
2. Abbott, R., others. "Searches for Gravitational Waves from Known Pulsars at Two Harmonics in the Second and Third LIGO-Virgo Observing Runs." *Astrophys. J.* , **935** , 1 , 2022, [arXiv:2111.13106](#)
1. Abbott, R., others. "Constraints on the Cosmic Expansion History from GWTC-3." *Astrophys. J.* , **949** , 2 , 2023, [arXiv:2111.03604](#)

Research Visits

20. [Chunglee Kim](#) , [Ewha Womans University](#) , Seoul, Korea, October 20, 2025 – October 21, 2025
19. Hyung Mok Lee, [Seoul National University](#) , Seoul, Korea, October 15, 2025 – October 25, 2025
18. [Prayush Kumar](#) , [ICTS-TIFR](#) , Bangalore, India, August 4, 2025 – August 10, 2025
17. [Shasvath Kapadia](#) , [IUCAA](#) , Pune, India, June 16, 2025 – June 22, 2025
16. Hyung Mok Lee, [Seoul National University](#) , Seoul, Korea, October 10, 2024 – October 20, 2024
15. Hyung Won Lee, [Inje University](#) , Gimhae, Korea, November 2, 2023 – November 3, 2023

14. [Shasvath Kapadia](#) , [IUCAA](#) , Pune, India, June 18, 2023 – June 21, 2023
13. [Prayush Kumar](#) , [ICTS-TIFR](#) , Bangalore, India, June 15, 2023 – June 18, 2023
12. Zhoujian Cao, [BNU](#) , Beijing, China, May 9, 2023 – May 11, 2023
11. [Arman Shafieloo](#) , [KASI](#) , Daejeon, Korea, April 19, 2023 – April 20, 2023
10. Young Bok Bae, [IBS](#) , Daejeon, Korea, April 18, 2023 – April 19, 2023
9. [Junichi Yokoyama](#) , [UoT](#) , Tokyo, Japan, November 17, 2022 – November 19, 2022
8. [Hisa-aki Shinkai](#) , [OIT](#) , Osaka, Japan, November 15, 2022 – November 17, 2022
7. [Kunihito Ioka](#) , [YITP](#) , Kyoto, Japan, November 13, 2022 – November 15, 2022
6. [Frank Ohme](#) , [AEI](#) , Hannover, Germany, April 20, 2022 – April 24, 2022
5. [Harald Pfeiffer](#) , [AEI](#) , Potsdam, Germany, March 20, 2022 – April 20, 2022
4. [Tapas Kumar Das](#) , [HRI](#) , Allahabad, India, November 15, 2019 – November 25, 2019
3. [P Ajith](#) , [ICTS-TIFR](#) , Bangalore, India, March 25, 2019 – April 6, 2019
2. [P Ajith](#) , [ICTS-TIFR](#) , Bangalore, India, September 27, 2017 – October 11, 2017
1. Tarun Souradeep, [IUCAA](#) , Pune, India, September 6, 2014 – October 20, 2014

References

Tapas Kumar Das (Phd Advisor)

Professor, [Harish-Chandra Research Institute](#)

Chhatnag Road, Jhansi, Prayagraj, 211019, Uttar Pradesh, India

Email: , Phone: +91 5322274321, Website: <http://www.hri.res.in/tapas/>

Parameswaran Ajith (Postdoc mentor)

Professor, [International Centre for Theoretical Sciences](#)

Hesaraghatta Hobli, Karnataka, 560089, India

Email: , Phone: +91 8046536210, Website: <https://home.icts.res.in/ajith/Home.html>

Hyung Mok Lee (Postdoc mentor)

Professor, [Seoul National University](#)

1 Gwanak-ro, Gwanak-gu, Seoul 08826, Korea

Email: , Phone: 82-2-880-6625, Website: <http://astro.snu.ac.kr/hmlee/>

Shasvath Kapadia

Assistant Professor, [Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics](#)

Post Bag 4, Ganeshkhind, Pune, Maharashtra 411007, India

Email:

Vijay Varma

Assistant Professor, [University of Massachusetts](#)

Dartmouth, USA

Email: , Website: <https://vijayvarma.com/>

Prayush Kumar

Reader, [International Centre for Theoretical Sciences](#)

Hesaraghatta Hobli, Karnataka, 560089, India

Email: , Phone: +91 8046536390