

Vivek Kumar Jha

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

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Research Interests

• Active galactic nuclei • Quasar accretion disks • AGN multi-wavelength variability • Reverberation Mapping • Supermassive Black Holes • Light curve modelling • Survey Science.

Experience

Research Associate

MANIPAL CENTRE FOR NATURAL SCIENCES (MCNS)

Manipal, India

December 2023 - present

Visiting Scholar

INTER UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS (IUCAA)

Pune, India

October- November 2023

Project Associate (Scientific)

ARYABHATTA RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF OBSERVATIONAL SCIENCES (ARIES)

Nainital, India

April 2022 - October 2023

Senior Research Fellow (SRF)

ARYABHATTA RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF OBSERVATIONAL SCIENCES (ARIES)

Nainital, India

March 2020 - July 2021

Junior Research Fellow (JRF)

ARYABHATTA RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF OBSERVATIONAL SCIENCES (ARIES)

Nainital, India

March 2018 - February 2020

Education

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Astrophysics

DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA GORAKHPUR UNIVERSITY

Gorakhpur, India

September 2023 (submitted)

- Title of thesis: Investigating the Nature and Structure of the Inner Regions in Active Galactic Nuclei.
- Supervised by: Prof. Hum Chand and co-supervised by Prof. Shantanu Rastogi.
- Research center: ARIES Nainital.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Physics

BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

Varanasi, India

June 2017

- Passed with first class and specialization in Space physics.
- Dissertation titled: *Study of properties of CsI as a photo cathode for UV astronomy purposes.*
- Supervised by: Prof. B.K. Singh.

Bachelor of Science (Honors in Physics)

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

New Delhi, India

June 2014

- College: Deshbandhu College. Passed with first class.

Awards/Fellowships

- **2023:** Financial support to attend a conference in Italy under the International Travel Support (ITS) scheme from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- **2018:** Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- **2017:** Selected for Visiting student Internship program at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA).
- **2017:** Qualified Graduate Aptitude in Engineering (GATE): Physics.
- **2017:** Qualified Joint Entrance Screening Test (JEST): Physics. This exam is conducted for admission to Ph.D. in various research institutes in India.
- **2016:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) sponsored Space Science Promotion Scheme (SSPS) Fellowship for 1 year.

Technical Skills

Fluent in PYTHON and working knowledge of IDL • Usage of Git version control • Data reduction using IRAF and Astropy packages including CCDPROC, PHOTUTILS, etc. • Developed a custom photometry pipeline in PYTHON language • Usage of \LaTeX , HTML and Markdown • Development and maintenance of static websites • OS Used: Linux/ Windows.

Observation Experience

Observed extensively using ARIES 1.04m, 1.3m, and 3.6m optical telescopes (approximately 100 nights cumulative) • Remotely observed data handled from the Thai Robotic Telescopes (TRT) and the Growth India Telescope (GIT) • Developed a common standard for the 1.3m DFOT data from 2012-present as part of the ARIES telescope archive • Experience working with multiple archival data sets.

Accepted Telescope Proposals

- GROWTH India Telescope (GIT) **Accretion disk reverberation mapping of AGN using the GROWTH telescope GROWTH-ADRM**, cycle 2022-C1, 2022-C2, 2022-C3, 2023-C1 and 2023-C2 as Co-I. PI: Ravi Joshi.
- 1.3m J C Bose Telescope (JCBT). **Photometric Reverberation Mapping of the low luminosity AGNs**, cycle 2022-C1 as Co-I. PI: Ravi Joshi.
- 3.6m Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT). **In search of luminous Quasars at the cosmic dawn**, cycle: 2020-C2, as PI.
- 3.6m Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT). **Host galaxy imaging of γ ray detected Narrow-line Seyfert 1 (γ NLSy1) galaxies.** cycle 2020-C2, 2021-C1, 2021-C2 as Co-I. PI: Vineet Ojha
- VLT-ESO. **Dissecting baryon cycle in overdense environments**, cycle: P106 as Co-I. PI: Ravi Joshi
- 1.04m Sampurnanand telescope (ST). **Intra-night polarization variability of γ ray detected narrow-line Seyfert 1 galaxies.** cycle 2020 (B) as PI.
- 1.04m Sampurnanand telescope (ST). **Changing look Active Galaxies: Unraveling the AGN host and the role of environment in triggering AGN activity.**, cycle 2020 (B) as PI.

- Thai Robotic Telescope (TRT). **Photometric reverberation mapping of the accretion disk in AGN**, cycles: 8A, 7D and 7C as PI.
- ASTROSAT. **Accretion disk reverberation mapping of MRK 817 using Astrosat**, cycle: A11 as PI.
- 1.3m Devasthal Fast Optical telescope (DFOT). **Photometric Reverberation Mapping of the central region of AGN using H-beta emission line**, cycles: 2019 (A), 2019 (B) and 2020 (A), as PI
- 1.04m Sampurnanand telescope (ST). **Multi-wavelength photometric observations of a few Low Red-Shift Broad Line Seyfert 1 Galaxies**, cycles: 2018 (B), 2019 (A), and 2020 (A), as PI

Conferences/Meetings/Seminars

- **2024** Presented a *talk* titled: **The connection between UV/Optical Variability and Physical Characteristics of X-ray-Selected Type 1 AGN** at the Regional Astronomers' Meet (RAM)-2024 at MCNS, Manipal, India (10-12 January, 2024). [\[link\]](#)
- **2023** Presented a *talk* titled: **Unveiling the Diverse Nature of the Inner Regions of AGNs through Variability** at the Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, India (28 November, 2023).
- **2023** Presented an *online talk* titled: **Exploring the Connection between UV/Optical Variability and Physical Characteristics of X-ray-Selected Type 1 AGN** at the Asia-Pacific Regional IAU Meeting (APRIM) held in Fukushima Prefecture; Japan (07-11 August, 2023). [\[link\]](#)
- **2023** Presented an *online talk* titled: **Tools of optical photometry: data reduction and aperture photometry using Python tools.** at the conference titled: Multidisciplinary Approach to Understand the Mysteries of our Universe, held at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela, India (17-21 July, 2023). [\[link\]](#)
- **2023** Presented a *poster* titled: **Unveiling the Connection between Variability and Physical Characteristics of Type 1 AGN** at the international conference titled: The Restless nature of AGN: 10 years later, held in Naples; Italy (26-30 June, 2023). [\[link\]](#)
- **2023** Presented a *talk* titled: **Accretion disk size measurements for AGN using reverberation mapping** at the 3rd BINA Workshop: Scientific potential of the Indo-Belgian cooperation, held at the Graphic Era Hill University, Bhimtal, India (22-24 March, 2023). [\[link\]](#)
- **2023** Presented a *talk* titled: **New Accretion disk size measurements for reverberation mapped AGN.** at the 41st meeting of the Astronomical Society of India (ASI) held at IIT-Indore, India (01-05 March 2023). [\[link\]](#)
- **2023** Presented an *online talk* titled: **Eyes on the Sky: Current and upcoming telescopes of this decade.** at Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur, India (06 Jan 2023).
- **2022** Presented a *talk* titled: **Introduction to CosmicVarta: Platform for promoting Indian astronomy research to the public.** at ARIES Training School in Observational Astronomy, Nainital, India (16-27 May 2022). [\[link\]](#)
- **2022** Presented a *talk* titled: **Tools of Optical Photometry** at ARIES Training School in Observational Astronomy, Nainital, India (16-27 May 2022). [\[link\]](#)

- **2022** Presented a *poster* titled: **Accretion disk sizes for Quasars selected from the Zwicky Transient Facility survey** at the 40th meeting of the Astronomical Society of India (ASI) held at IIT-Roorkee, India (24-29 March 2022). [\[link\]](#)
- **2022** Presented a *talk* titled: **A look into the heart of Quasars: using light echos as a tool** at Central University of Himachal Pradesh (CUHP), Dharamshala; India on 3rd February. [\[link\]](#)
- **2021** Presented an *e-poster* titled: **Correlation analysis on a homogeneous sample of NLSy1 and BLSy1 galaxies** at the workshop titled "Multi-object Spectroscopy for Statistical Measures of Galaxy Evolution" held online by Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI), Baltimore; USA (17-20 May 2021). [\[link\]](#)
- **2020** Presented an *online talk* titled: **A comparative study of Narrow and Broad-line Seyfert galaxies using SDSS** at an international symposium titled "Astronomical Surveys and Big Data 2 (ASBD-2)" held online by the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO); Armenia (14-18 September 2020) [\[link\]](#)
- **2019** Presented a *poster* titled: **Devasthal Optical Telescope-AGN Reverberation Monitoring (DOT-ARM): Project strategy and initial results** at the international conference titled "Mapping Central Regions of Active Galactic Nuclei" held in Guilin, Guanxi Province; China (19-24 September 2019). [\[link\]](#)

SCHOOLS/WORKSHOPS ATTENDED:

- **2021** Attended International Summer School on **The Interstellar Medium of Galaxies, from the Epoch of Reionization to the Milky Way**, held online from July 12-23, 2021. [\[link\]](#)
- **2020** Attended workshop titled: **Less traveled path of dark matter: Axions and primordial black holes**, held online by ICTS-TIFR; India between November 9-13, 2020. [\[link\]](#)
- **2020** Attended **ILMT: International Liquid Mirror Telescope workshop** held online by ARIES, Nainital; India (29 June - 01 July 2020). [\[link\]](#)
- **2020** Attended one day Indo Thai Workshop titled **Investigating the Stellar Variability and Star Formation** held in ARIES, Nainital; India (02 March 2020). [\[link\]](#)
- **2019** Attended **I-TMT (India- TMT) Science and Instruments Workshop** held in ARIES, Nainital; India (17 - 19 October 2019). [\[link\]](#)

Mentoring Experience

- **2023:** Partial guidance to Mr. Jayesh Saraswat for his M Sc. dissertation at SPPU, Pune.
- **2022:** Mentored a group of 6 students selected from various universities during ARIES Training School on Observational Astronomy (ATSOA) in May 2022.
- **2021:** Guided M Sc. dissertation of Mr. Dharmendra at CUHP, Dharamshala
- **2019:** Mentored a group of 7 students selected from various universities during ARIES Training School on Observational Astronomy (ATSOA) in March 2019.

Other Activities

- **2024:** Part of the Scientific Organizing Committee for **Young Astronomers' Meet (YAM)** to be held at CHRIST, Deemed to be University, Bengaluru from 06-09 March 2024.

- **2022:** Chair of the Organizing Committee for **Young Astronomers' Meet (YAM)** held in ARIES Nainital from 09-13 November 2022.
- **2021:** Co-founded a web portal named **CosmicVarta**, a platform to present simplified versions of research articles in astrophysics to the general public.
- **2021:** Helped in organizing the ARIES National Science Day celebrations (28 February) held online.
- **2020:** Helped in organizing the *ARIES e-lecture series* in place of the ARIES Training School on Observational Astronomy (ATSOA) which was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professional Memberships

- Student member of the Astronomical Society of India (ASI).

Publications

[Click here to visit the ADS link to my publications.](#)

REFEREED

1. Exploring the AGN Accretion Disks using Continuum Reverberation Mapping. **Vivek Kumar Jha**, Ravi Joshi, Jayesh Saraswat, Hum Chand, Sudhanshu Barway and Amit Kumar Mandal, *accepted for publication the Bulletin of Liège Royal Society of Sciences*, 2023.
2. Accretion Disk Sizes from Continuum Reverberation Mapping of AGN Selected from the ZTF Survey. **Vivek Kumar Jha**, Ravi Joshi, Hum Chand, Xue-Bing Wu, Luis C Ho, Shantanu Rastogi, Quinchun Ma, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, Volume 511, Issue 2, 2022.*
3. A comparative study of the physical properties for a representative sample of Narrow and Broad-line Seyfert galaxies. **Vivek Kumar Jha**, Hum Chand, Vineet Ojha, Amitesh Omar, and Shantanu Rastogi, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, Volume 510, Issue 3, 2022.*
4. Properties of Broad and Narrow Line Seyfert galaxies selected from SDSS. **Vivek Kumar Jha**, Hum Chand, and Vineet Ojha, *Communications of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (ComBAO), Volume 67, Issue 2, 2020.*
5. Evidence of Jet induced Optical Microvariability in Radio-loud Narrow Line Seyfert 1 Galaxies. Vineet Ojha, **Vivek Kumar Jha**, Hum Chand, Veeresh Singh, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, Volume 514, Issue 4, 2022.*
6. Photometric and Spectroscopic Analysis of the Type II Short Plateau SN 2020jfo. Ailawadhi, Bhavya (et al. including **Vivek Kumar Jha**) *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, Volume 519, Issue 1, 2023.*
7. The impact of humidity and film thickness on photoemission, optical and morphological properties of CsI thin film photocathodes. Nabeel Jammal, Richa Rai, Triloki, **Vivek Kumar Jha** and B.K. Singh, *Thin Solid Films, Volume 674, pp:82-90, 2019.*
8. Optical properties of "as-deposited" CsI photocathode in the VUV-UV spectral range. **Vivek Kumar Jha**, Nabeel Jammal, Triloki and B K Singh, *Proceedings of the DAE Symposium on Nuclear Physics Volume 62, pp:1082, 2017.*

NON-REFEREED

1. Optical brightening of BL Lacertae observed on 26 October and 02 November 2022, Pandey, Ashwani; Sarswat, Jayesh; Joshi, Ravi; **Jha, Vivek Kumar**; Wani, Kiran, *The Astronomer's Telegram* 15749, 2022.
2. GRB 200122A: Optical upper limit Dimple, Gupta R., **Jha V. K.**, Aryan A., Ghosh A., Misra K., Kumar A., et al., 2020, GCN, 26870.

UNDER PREPARATION

1. Unveiling the Connection between UV/Optical Variability and Physical Characteristics of X-ray-Selected Type 1 AGN **Vivek Kumar Jha**, Ravi Joshi, Hum Chand.