

Akshaya Subbanna M S

Postdoctoral Fellow

Department of Physics and Astronomy
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208, USA

✉ akshayams@sc.edu

🌐 akshayams.github.io

🆔 0000-0001-6258-7474

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Construction of the three-dimensional map of the magnetic fields from spectroscopy, polarization, and synthetic observations and understanding its role in star formation.

EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral Fellow

May 2026 – Present

University of South Carolina

Advisor: Dr. Mehrnoosh Tahani

Project: Three-dimensional magnetic field studies with DragonflyPol

Visiting Researcher

Aug 2025 – Oct 2025

Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute

Invited by: Dr. Thiem Hoang

Project: Magnetic field studies of the Central Molecular Zone

Postdoctoral Fellow

Dec 2021 – Nov 2024

Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute

Advisor: Dr. Thiem Hoang

Project: Understanding the dust grain alignment physics and estimation of the magnetic field strength for the Galactic centre region.

Teaching Assistant

Jun 2018 - Mar 2020

CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, India

- ✓ Undergraduate and Postgraduate Physics and Astronomy Laboratory Instructor
- ✓ Python and IDL programming instructor

Adjunct Faculty

Nov 2017 - Mar 2018

CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, India

- ✓ Postgraduate Galactic Astronomy Course

Research Assistant

Nov 2014 - Oct 2017

CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, India

Project: The Characterization and Modeling of the Ultraviolet Sky

PI: Dr. Ravichandran S, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, India

Co-PI: Prof. Jayant Murthy, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, India.

Responsibilities:

- ✓ Managed project budgets and resource allocation.
- ✓ Authored and submitted progress and final research reports.
- ✓ Presented research findings at national and international conferences.
- ✓ Coordinated and delivered the Astronomy and Astrophysics elective course.
- ✓ Developed scientific cases for research grants in collaboration with the PIs.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Physics

Dec 2015 - Oct 2021

CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, India

Thesis: Study of the Diffuse Ultraviolet Background Radiation at High Galactic Latitudes

Advisors: Dr. Ravichandran S (CHRIST) & Prof. Jayant Murthy (Indian Institute of Astrophysics)

Master of Science in Physics May 2014
CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, India
✓ **CGPA: 3.96/4**
✓ **FIRST RANK for the University**
✓ *Thesis: Study of the Diffuse Ultraviolet Background using GALEX data*
Advisor: Prof. Jayant Murthy (Indian Institute of Astrophysics)

Bachelor of Science Apr 2012
Jain University, Bengaluru, India
✓ **CGPA: 4.682/5**
✓ **FIRST RANK and GOLD MEDALIST**
✓ Triple major in Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics

AWARDS

- ✓ Ministry of Human Resource Development Scholarship 2009–2014
- ✓ Christ University Academic Excellence Scholarship 2014
- ✓ Karnataka Science and Technology Scholarship 2012–2014

OBSERVING PROPOSALS

UVIT aboard ASTROSAT

Far-Ultraviolet Galactic Plane Survey (FUV -GPS) Cycle A12
✓ *Role: Co-I (PI: Rahna P.T.; Co-Is: J. Murthy, M. Das, & K. -I. Seon)*
✓ *PID: #A12_088 & #A12_089 (June 2022)*

Diffuse Ultraviolet Radiation in the Regions of Low Column Density Cycle A05
✓ *Role: PI (Co-Is: J. Murthy & Ravichandran S.)*
✓ *PID: #A05_156 (March 2019)*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- *Synthetic polarization of the Galactic Centre (Invited)* May 2025
SAGI Astrophysics Workshop, Vietnam
- *Dynamics of the Galactic centre and its magnetic field (Online)* Nov 2023
Dust Polarimetry and Applications in Astrophysics, Vietnam
- *Magnetic field at the Galactic centre from multi-wavelength polarization* Oct 2023
Korea Astronomical Society Fall Meeting
- *Dynamics of the Galactic centre and its magnetic field (Invited, Online)* Oct 2023
CHRIST (Deemed to be University), India
- *Dust grain alignment and disruption from thermal dust polarization* Aug 2023
APRIM 2023, Japan
- *Grain alignment and magnetic field at the Galactic centre from polarized dust emission (Online), SOFIA Tele-Talk Series* Jun 2023
- *Grain alignment and magnetic field at the Galactic centre (Online)* May 2023
Mid-West Magnetic Field Meeting 2023
- *Alignment and disruption of dust grains at the Galactic centre* Apr 2023
Korea Astronomical Society Spring Meeting
- *Magnetic field at the Galactic centre from infrared polarization* Jul 2022
SAGI Astrophysics Workshop, Vietnam
- *Dust scattering and molecular hydrogen at the Galactic poles* Oct 2019
International Conference on Infrared Astronomy and Astrophysical Dust, India

- *Components of the diffuse ultraviolet background radiation* Feb 2019
37th Meeting of Astronomical Society of India
- *Diffuse radiation at the Galactic poles* Sep 2018
Young Astronomers' Meet, India
- *Modeling the diffuse radiation towards Galactic cirrus cloud G251.2+73.5* Mar 2017
35th Meeting of Astronomical Society of India
- *Modelling of the dust scattered halos observed around bright stars* May 2016
34th Meeting of Astronomical Society of India

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

37th Meeting of the Astronomical Society of India Feb 2019

- Local Organizing Committee member for the meeting held at CHRIST (Deemed to be University) with about 300 participants from all over India

Young Astronomers' Meet Sep 2018

- Scientific Organizing Committee member for the meeting held at Physical Research Laboratory, India

Multi-wavelength observations using ASTROSAT Dec 2017

- Local Organizing Committee member for the workshop held at CHRIST (Deemed to be University) with about 35 participants from all over India

Stellar Astrophysics Workshop Feb 2017

- Local Organizing Committee member for the event held at CHRIST (Deemed to be University) with about 50 participants from all over India

SKILLS

Programming:	IDL, Python, C, MATLAB, HTML, CSS
Software & Tools:	IRAF, Topcat, SAOImageDS9, VisIt, Paraview, CASA, CARTA, L ^A T _E X
Datasets:	GALEX, IRAS, Planck, SOFIA/HAWC+, JCMT, ALMA, Herschel, Pan-STARRS1
Operating Systems:	Windows, Linux, Mac OS X
Computational Methods:	Machine Learning (basics), 3D Radiative Transfer, Polarized Radiation Simulator (POLARIS), Magneto-hydrodynamic simulations post-processing (Athena and AREPO)

PUBLICATIONS

FIRST AUTHOR

1. *Magnetic Field at the Galactic Centre from Multi-Wavelength Dust Polarization*, **Akshaya M. S.**, and Hoang T., **MNRAS**, 2024, 531, 5012.
2. *Alignment and rotational disruption of dust grains in the Galactic Centre revealed by polarized dust emission*, **Akshaya M. S.**, and Hoang T., **MNRAS**, 2023, 522, 4196.
3. *Components of the Diffuse Ultraviolet Radiation at High Latitudes*, **Akshaya M. S.**, Murthy J., Ravichandran S., Henry R. C., and Overduin J., **MNRAS**, 2019, 489, 1120.
4. *The Diffuse Radiation Field at High Galactic Latitudes*, **Akshaya M. S.**, Murthy J., Ravichandran S., Henry R. C., and Overduin J., **ApJ**, 2018, 858, 101.

CO-AUTHOR

5. *The JCMT BISTRO Survey: Unveiling the Magnetic Fields around Galactic Center*, Yang, Meng-Zhe., Lai, Shih-Ping., Karoly, Janik., Pattle, Kate., et al. (including **Akshaya M. S.**), **ApJ**, 2025, 983, 184.
6. *The Diffuse Ultraviolet and Optical Background: Status and Future Prospects*, Murthy J., **Akshaya M. S.**, and Ravichandran S., **arXiv:1909.05325**, 2019.

IN PREPARATION

1. *Synthetic Polarization of the Central Molecular Zone*, **Akshaya M. S.**, and Hoang T.

REFERENCES

Prof. Jayant Murthy

✉ jmurthy@yahoo.com

Honorary Professor

Indian Institute of Astrophysics

Dr. Thiem Hoang

✉ thiemhoang@kasi.re.kr

Principal Researcher

Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute

Dr. Ravichandran S

✉ ravichandran.s@christuniversity.in

Associate Professor

CHRIST (Deemed to be University)

Bengaluru, India