# Sunil Chandra

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Researchgate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Sunil-Chandra

 $Git Hub: \ https://github.com/scsaao$ 

## **Employment**

South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO), Cape Town, South Africa, **Post-Doctoral Fellow**; May, 2021 - present

Centre for Space Research, North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa, **Adjunct Senior Lecturer**; December, 2020 - December 2023

Centre for Space Research, North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa, **Post-Doctoral Fellow**; September, 2017 - August 2020

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Mumbai, India **Post-Doctoral Fellow**; October, 2014 — September, 2017

Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, India, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, **Post-Doctoral Fellow**; October, 2013 — October, 2014

#### Education

**Ph.D.** in Astronomy & Astrophysics, titled "Multi-wavelength Study of Variability in Blazars", Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, India (Affil. to MLSU, Udaipur Rajasthan), 2014.

M. Sc. Physics, with Specialization in Quantum Optics and Non-linear Optics, University of Allahabad, India, 2008.

B.Sc. Physics with Mathematics, University of Allahabad, India, 2006

## Grants, Fellowships, & Awards

CTA-Post-Doctoral Fellowship, co-funded by CSR-NWU, Potchefstroom and NRF, South Africa

Post-Doctoral fellowship, awarded by Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India, during 2014-present

Post-Doctoral fellowship, awarded by Physical Research Laboratory, India, during 2013-2014

Senior Research Fellowship, awarded by Physical Research Laboratory, India, during 2010-2014

Junior Research Fellowship, awarded by Physical Research Laboratory, India, during 2008-2010

Life-member of Astronomical Society of India (Membership No. 2110)

Member of the High Energy Stereoscopic System (HESS) Collaboration (since October 2017)

### Research

Research Interests: Active Galactic Nuclei, Physical processes behind high energy emission in blazars, X-Ray CCD Calibration, Seyfert galaxies, instrumentation related to X-ray and optical CCDs

#### Professional Activities

Reviewer for Monthly Notices of Royal Society (MNRAS) & Astronomy and Astrophysics (A&A)

Life Member, Astronomical Society of India, 2010–Present

Sunil Chandra 2

PI and Co-Is of several proposals using NuSTAR, AstroSAT, HCT, Chandra, SAAO & SALT, ALMA, GMVA, RadioAstron Founder and President of "United Science Foundation", a registered national level society in India (Reg. No. AMB/10325/2020-21) to promote education, science and technology

## Teaching

Teaching Assistance for 'Classical Mechanics' course for Honours students Semester-I (2018) at 'Center for Space Research, North-West University Potchefstroom, South Africa'

Teaching Assistance for Physics Laboratory course at IIT Gandhinagar, Semester-I (2012)

## Miscellaneous

Programming Languages: Python, C++, LATEX, R, IRAF, Shell, TCL

Developed a number of tools to perform various SXT calibrations, for example:

Events merger, Data quality report generator, Corner sources analyzer, Automated analysis and web up-loader etc.

## Seminars, Conference Presentations and Laboratory visits

2021:

- 1. "Data Analysis Workshop AstroSat", June, 22-25, 2021 as Invited resource person to lead SXT based sessions 2019:
  - 1. Contributory talk entitled as "The disk-reflection spectroscopy of black-hole X-ray binaries using Swift, AstroSat and NuSTAR" during HEASA-2019 held in Swakomund, Namibia, during August, 28-30
  - 2. Colloquium at Department of Physics, IIT Bombay entitled "The particle accelerations in blazar jets, an observation perspective", on August 23 [invited]
  - 3. Represented status update of my project on M87 during "HESS Collaboration meeting held in Krakow during April, 14-18
  - 4. Conducted the data analysis session on 'AstroSat-SXT' & XMM-Newton and supervised a number of student projects during "COSPAR capacity building workshop" organized at IISER Mohali during March 09-20 [invited]
  - 5. Conducted the data analysis session on 'AstroSat-SXT' and supervised a number of student projects during ASW-2019 held at IIT Indore during February 03-09 [invited]

#### 2018:

- 1. Attended international school of cosmic ray Astrophysics themed as "Antiparticle Physics: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" held during 1-7, August, 2018. I was given the 'best poster' award during school.
- 2. Represented 'AstroSat-SXT' calibration status during IACHEC meeting, held in Rome during 09-13, April

2017:

- 1. Invited Talk During "AstroSat View of AGN Central Engines" at IUCAA, Pune India during December 18–21, represented one hour session for hands-on data analysis for SXT, on-board AstroSat
- 2. Invited Talk during RETCO-III at IIST Trivendrum, 5 June
- 3. SPSAS-HighAstro, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 21-31 May [Invited]
- 4. Discussions with Prof. A. P. Marscher and blazar group at Boston University, 10 April
- 5. Interactions on X-ray detectors with Dave Burrows (PI: Swift-XRT instrument) and lab visit at PennState University, USA, 06-08, April

Sunil Chandra 3

- 6. Lunch talk on 'Blazars with AstroSAT' at Stanford University, USA, 03 April
- 7. 'IACHEC-2017 meeting', UCLA, California, USA, 27-30, March
- 8. 'Wide Band Spectral and Timing Studies of Cosmic X-ray Sources', TIFR, Mumbai (13 January)
- 9. 'Annual Meetings of Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics', TIFR, Mumbai (16 January)

#### 2016:

- 1. A & A Departmental Seminar at API, Amsterdam, Netherlands (22 September)
- 2. A & A Departmental Seminar at SRON, Utrecht, Netherlands (19 September)
- 3. IAU Symposium 324, 'Frontiers in Black Hole Astrophysics', Ljubljana, Slovenia (September)
- 4. 'XXXIV Astronomical Society of India (ASI) meeting 2016', Srinagar, India (10-13, May)
- 5. 'Jet Triggering Mechanisms in Black Hole Sources', TIFR, Mumbai (20-23, January)
- 6. 'DAA Annual Interaction Meeting (DAIM-2016)', TIFR, Mumbai (20-23, January)
- 7. 'Timing & Spectroscopy: Wideband X-Ray Astronomy', TIFR, Hyderabad (12-14, January)

#### 2015:

- 1. 'XXXIV Astronomical Society of India (ASI) meeting 2015', NCRA, Pune, India (17-20, February)
- 2. '3rd Annual Conference on High Energy Astrophysics in Southern Africa', Johannesburg, South Africa (18-20, June)

#### 2014:

- 1. 'Conference on Hard X-ray Astronomy: Astrosat and Beyond', Goa (24-26, September)
- 2. 'Invited Lecture on Black hole at SVNIT', Surat, Gujarat (26, February)

#### 2012:

- 1. IAU GA Meeting 2012, Beijing, China
- 2. 'Black Hole Universe', Bamberg, Germany
- 3. Astronomy Colloquium, LSW, Heidelberg, Germany
- 4. Departmental Seminar, INAF, Milano, Italy