



KARNATAK UNIVERSITY, DHARWAD

NAAC Accredited with "A" Grade 2022



Dr. M. R. Gorbhal Distinguished Lecture

Supported by Dr. M. R. Gorbhal Foundation, Bengaluru
&
Organized by the Epsilon Club, Department Of Physics

THE DIFFUSE SKY AS SEEN FROM PLUTO

delivered by

Dr. Jayant Murthy

Hon Professor,
Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA),
Bengaluru

Date: 09-06-2026, Time: 11:00 AM

Venue: S. Chandrasekhar Hall, Department of Physics,

To

Dr. A S Bennal
Chairman ϵ -Club
Department of Physics

Shri. Ramesh Gorbhal
President
Dr. M. R. Gorbhal Foundation

Prof. (Smt.) Jayashree J Tonannavar
Chairperson
Department of Physics



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Representatives

Venugopal, Veda, Mahesh, Sahana, Amreen, Shivakumar, Samarth, Shrushti, Prajwalswami,
Aishwarya.

All are cordially invited

Prof. Jayant Murthy



Prof. Jayant Murthy is an internationally known astrophysicist at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru. He earned a PhD from Johns Hopkins University (JHU), USA. He was an NRC post-doctoral fellow at NASA and a research professor at JHU. His research interests include the interstellar medium and dust, ultraviolet astronomy and space missions. His long studies have focused on the diffuse radiation from our Galaxy and beyond, more broadly, on the interstellar medium. He also worked on spacecraft missions from Voyager to New Horizons and currently is involved in building payloads for spaceflight. One of the asteroids 2005 EX296 has been named as 215884 *Jayantmurthy*. This asteroid goes around the Sun once every 3.3 years in an orbit lying between the Mars and Jupiter. A minor planet (16259), discovered in 1998, has been named after him in recognition of his work in understanding the UV sky. Prof. Jayant Murthy has guided over 20 students for PhDs and a number of interns. He served as acting director of IIA (2018-19) and he is currently Honorary Professor there.

Abstract

Although an important part of our Galaxy, interstellar dust is difficult to characterize. Historically, most of our information about dust has come from observations of extinction curves against background stars but these are limited to those directions where there are suitable stars. Infrared observations of the thermal emission from dust heated by the interstellar radiation field fills the sky and has yielded considerable information about the properties and the distribution of the dust. Ultraviolet observations of the scattered light from the dust have been difficult and sparse until the launch of the GALEX mission. I will discuss observations we have made of the diffuse UV light both with GALEX and with New Horizons, with observations made near the edge of the Solar System. The level will be suitable for beginning students with some knowledge of physics.

Dr. M. R. Gorbali Foundation, Bengaluru



Dr. M. R. Gorbali served the Department of Physics, Karnataka University for over 35 years as Professor and Chairman. He published several notable papers and guided numerous research scholars. To commemorate and honour his service in laser physics and legacy, the Dr. M. R. Gorbali Foundation was established in 2022 with the objective of advancing knowledge and scientific research. The Foundation signed an MoU with Karnataka University on 18/01/2023 to support research scholars through fellowships and sponsor lectures by eminent scientists in the Department of Physics at Karnataka University, Dharwad.

Previous Invited Eminent Scientists

1. Prof. S. Umashankar, FNA

Professor, IISc Bengaluru Former Director, IISER Bhopal

2. Dr. Girish Manjunath Gouda

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Bengaluru

3. Dr. Sriram Ramaswamy, FRS

IISc, Bengaluru

4. Dr. K. Rajanna

IISc, Bengaluru

5. Prof. Ajit Kembhavi

IUCAA, Pune