

# Curriculum Vitae (including list of publications)

## D.J. Saikia

Cotton College State University, Panbazar, Guwahati 781 001, India, and  
 Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, Post Bag 3,  
 Ganeshkhind, Pune 411 007, India  
 e-mail: vc.ccsu@gmail.com and djs@ncra.tifr.res.in

## A. Biographical information

**Name:** Dhruva Jyoti Saikia

**Date of Birth:** 1956 January 21st in Jorhat (Assam, India)

**Citizenship:** Indian

**Address:** Cotton College State University, Panbazar, Guwahati 781 001, India  
 Telefax: +91-(0)361-2732012; e-mail: vc.ccsu@gmail.com  
 and  
 Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, National Centre for Radio Astrophysics,  
 Post Bag 3, Ganeshkhind, Pune 411 007, India  
 Phone: +91-(0)20-25719000; Fax: +91-(02)-25692149  
 e-mail: djs@ncra.tifr.res.in

### Academic Qualifications

- Indian School Certificate Examination 1971 (First class), University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate.
- **B.Sc.** (First class Honours), Physics, 1975, University of Delhi.
- **M.Sc.** (First class), Physics, 1977, University of Delhi.
- **Ph.D.**, 1985, *Jets and compact features in extragalactic radio sources*, University of Bombay. Research work done at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India.

### Academic positions held

1977 – 1980	Research Trainee, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India.
1982	Visiting student during summer, National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Socorro, New Mexico, USA.
1980 – 1988	Research Associate, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India.
1986 – 1989	Post Doctoral Research Associate, University of Manchester, Nuffield Radio Astronomy Laboratories, Jodrell Bank, England.
1988 – 1991	Fellow, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India.
1992 – 1998	Reader, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India.
1998 – 2001	Associate Professor (F), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India.
2000 – 2001	Visiting Professor and International Visiting Scholar, Queen's University at Kingston, Canada.
2001 – 2006	Associate Professor (G), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India.

- (After implementation of sliding of Academic Pay Scales)
- 2006 – Professor (H), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India.
- 2007 – 2009 Dean, National Centre for Radio Astrophysics Faculty, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India.
- 2009 Distinguished Visitor, Australia Telescope National Facility, CSIRO, Sydney, Australia from 2009 May to 2009 November.
- 2009 – 2010 Visiting Professor, International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research, University of Western Australia, Australia from 2009 November to 2010 May.
- 2011 Visiting scientist at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Socorro, New Mexico, USA during 2011 May to July, as part of the RSRO program.
- 2012 – Vice Chancellor, Cotton College State University, Guwahati, Assam, from 2012 June 01.

### Awards, Honours and Professional Associations

- 1972-78:** National Science Talent Search Scholarship of the Government of India.
- 1985:** Young Scientist of the Year Award by the Indian National Science Academy.
- 1985-86:** Geeta Udgaonkar Award of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India for the best Ph.D. thesis of the year.
- 1986:** Elected as a Young Associate of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore.
- 1990:** Prof. M.K. Vainu Bappu Gold Medal of the Astronomical Society of India (award for the year 1990 was announced in 1995).
- 2000:** Fellowships from the Cave Foundation and Principal's Initiative Fund of Queen's University at Kingston, Canada.
- 2011:** Elected as a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences India, Allahabad.
- Member, International Astronomical Union.
  - Member, Astronomical Society of India.

## B. Research Contributions

### Brief summary of research interests and contributions

I have been working with the Radio Astronomy Group of TIFR since about mid-1977, and have made a number of significant contributions in different areas of extragalactic astronomy. I (along with Vijay Kapahi) was among the initial ones to suggest the 'unification' of core-and-lobe-dominated quasars based on relativistic beaming effects in their nuclear jets (cf. Trimble 1989, News and Views, *Nature*, **337**, 212; this work has also been cited in several leading textbooks: e.g. Longair 2011, *High Energy Astrophysics*, Cambridge University Press; Krolik 1999, *Active Galactic Nuclei*, Princeton University Press; Kembhavi & Narlikar 1999, *Quasars and Active Galactic Nuclei*, Cambridge University Press), a topic which later developed into a very active area of research. My collaborators and I have continued to make many significant contributions in this area by testing the unification scheme using total-intensity and polarization characteristics at radio frequencies, as well as optical and X-ray properties of these objects. Our studies have provided strong support for the unification schemes for radio galaxies

and quasars. More recently we have used HI absorption measurements towards compact steep-spectrum (CSS) and giga-Hertz peaked spectrum (GPS) objects as well as cores of larger objects to further test this paradigm. In the process we have discovered an HI absorption line system towards the core of the FR II radio galaxy 3C452 and 7 new detections towards low-luminosity CSS and GPS objects using the GMRT, and also towards the interesting compact steep-spectrum objects 3C258 and CTA21 using the Arecibo telescope. The latter was included in the press release of meeting number 215 of the American Astronomical Society.

I have also carried out many other studies of different aspects of powerful radio galaxies and quasars. One of the important issues concerning galaxies which I have been working on in recent times is the duration of their active galactic nuclei (AGN) phase and whether such periods of activity are episodic. During the course of these studies we have reported the discovery of a double-double radio galaxy (DDRG), J0041+3224, and the first double-double radio quasar, 4C02.27, both using the GMRT with further candidates being followed up. We have also identified a further couple of dozen DDRGs from the FIRST survey. The rejuvenation of radio activity in these sources is likely to be due to a fresh supply of gas. We have discovered HI gas in two of these systems using the GMRT, and have reported a strong correlation between detection of gas and rejuvenation of radio activity. Other aspects I have been working on include (a): the evolution of radio sources from the compact GPS and CSS objects to the giant radio sources (GRSs) which are the largest single objects in the Universe; (b): the asymmetries of radio sources on different scales which on sub-galactic scales may be influenced by jet-cloud interactions with infalling matter which fuels the nuclear activity; (c) the physics and propagation of radio jets which are the signatures of the beams carrying energy from the nucleus to the outer lobes; (d): the one-sided radio sources which appear to have radio emission on only one side of the parent nucleus; (e): properties and evolution of atomic gas in the central regions of active galaxies and in intervening galaxies along the line of sight; and (f) more recently probing the early Universe from deep radio surveys. We have recently reported the discovery of six wide-angle tailed radio sources at moderate redshifts from a deep survey with the Australia Telescope Compact Array and possible clusters associated with these. Such sources are very effective tracers of clusters of galaxies at moderate and high redshifts. We have also reported the discovery of the largest giant radio source known so far with an overall size of nearly 5 Mpc, and modelled the evolution of this source in a low-density environment.

In a project initiated by R. Srianand from IUCAA we have done a systematic survey of 35 damped Lyman- $\alpha$  candidates in the redshift range of  $1.10 \leq z \leq 1.45$  with the GMRT. We have reported the discovery of 9 new 21-cm absorbers, almost doubling the number of absorbers in this redshift range and constrained the properties of these absorbers.

I am also deeply interested in mildly active galaxies such as the Seyferts and starburst galaxies and relationships between these two forms of activity. Over the years I have worked on different aspects of these sources. My colleagues and I have discovered an archetypal starburst galaxy in the southern hemisphere, NGC1808 which has a large family of compact supernova remnants. This object has been studied across the electromagnetic spectrum by a number of different groups. We have imaged samples of mildly active galaxies to distinguish between black-hole and starburst scenarios for the activity in their nuclear regions. These observations have revealed a wide variety of radio structures posing several interesting theoretical questions. In recent years I have been working on galaxies with outflows using both the GMRT and the VLA, the more extreme ones of which are called ‘superwind’ galaxies. These have a number of important astrophysical implications ranging from the abundance of metals in the intergalactic medium to the cosmic evolution of galaxies. To cite just a few examples, we have shown from GMRT observations that the halo emission in the well-known galaxy NGC3079 extends to  $\sim 11$  kpc from the disk, the non-thermal emission in NGC5775 to be well correlated with cool dust observed with SCUBA in JCMT, and found evidences of the interstellar medium (ISM) of superwind galaxies being kinematically affected by the activity in the central region. Using radio continuum and HI observations we have also been studying the effects of ram pressure on the ISM of galaxies in groups and clusters. Led by Judith Irwin from Queen’s University, we

have started a major program to study the halos of a sample of edge-on galaxies and understand the propagation of cosmic rays in these systems.

Occasionally I have strayed into working on areas in Galactic astronomy, such as studying the maser emission from the circumstellar envelope of the OH/IR star U Orionis, trying to look for young supernova remnants from high-resolution observations, or trying to understand the degree of interstellar scattering in different regions of the Galactic plane, but my main interests remain largely extragalactic with an emphasis on active galaxies. I am at presently also involved in projects with the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP) and the Expanded Very Large Array (EVLA), which should yield many interesting results in the next few years, in addition to several long-term projects with the GMRT.

However, at present, my thoughts and energies are almost entirely focussed on building a strong foundation for Cotton College State University as an institution with a vibrant academic and egalitarian atmosphere, excelling in all forms of academic activity, while providing high-quality, broad-based holistic education to our students, and upholding the highest standards of ethics and public accountability.

## Publications of D.J. Saikia

### Refereed publications

The ~140 refereed publications which include one review paper in Annual Reviews in Astronomy and Astrophysics and sixteen Letters (including two in Nature) have received over 2500 citations as listed in SAO/NASA Astrophysics Data System (ADS), and have an h-index of 28. The seven papers with at least 50 citations, including one with over 100 citations, have been put in boldface, while another twenty with citations between 30 and 50 have been put in italics. The refereed publications list also includes a few papers which have been submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals. The publication list also includes ~110 papers in conference proceedings, three in the books category, and a few reports. The books include an edited volume of an international conference ‘The Low-Frequency Radio Universe’ published by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, and one titled ‘Fluid Flows to Black Holes’, a tribute to S. Chandrasekhar on his birth centenary published by World Scientific, Singapore.

1. Saikia, D.J., 1979. Hot-spots of radio sources in clusters of galaxies. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **187**, 95.
2. Saikia, D.J. & Kulkarni, V.K., 1979. On the interpretation of the angular size-redshift diagram for radio sources. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **189**, 393.
3. Saikia, D.J., 1981. The spectral index-luminosity relationship for steep-spectrum cores in extragalactic radio sources. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **197**, 1097.
4. Saikia, D.J., 1981. Extragalactic double radio sources with asymmetric jets. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **197**, 11P.
5. Kapahi, V.K. & Saikia, D.J., 1982. Compact radio cores and the relation between the radio and optical axes of elliptical galaxies. *J. Astrophys. astr.*, **3**, 161.
6. Saikia, D.J. & Wiita, P.J., 1982. Nuclear jets in Cygnus A. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **200**, 83.
7. *Swarup, G., Sinha, R.P. & Saikia, D.J., 1982. Extended radio jets in the high-redshift quasars 3C9 and 3C280.1, Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc., 201, 393.*

8. **Kapahi, V.K. & Saikia, D.J., 1982. Relativistic beaming in the central components of double radio quasars. *J. Astrophys. astr.*, **3**, 465.**
9. Wiita, P.J., Kapahi, V.K. & Saikia, D.J., 1982. Relativistic beams, thick accretion disks and active galactic nuclei. *Bull. astr. Soc. India*, **10**, 310.
10. Saikia, D.J., Shastri, P., Cornwell, T.J. & Banhatti, D.G., 1983. An interesting radio jet in the high-redshift quasar 1857+566. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **203**, 53P.
11. Saikia, D.J., 1984. Extended radio jets and compact cores in quasars. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **208**, 231.
12. Saikia, D.J., 1984. On the separation ratio of the outer radio components in quasars. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **209**, 525.
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14. Saikia, D.J., Shastri, P., Sinha, R.P., Kapahi, V.K. & Swarup, G., 1984. Extragalactic sources with asymmetric radio structure I. Observations of 17 sources. *J. Astrophys. astr.*, **5**, 429.
15. Saikia, D.J., Swarup, G. & Sinha, R.P., 1984. Radio observations of the BL Lac object 1400+162. *J. Astrophys. astr.*, **5**, 475.
16. Saikia, D.J., Swarup, G. & Kodali, P.D., 1985. Polarization properties of radio cores in galaxies and quasars. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **216**, 385.
17. Saikia, D.J., Subrahmanya, C.R., Patnaik, A.R., Unger, S.W., Cornwell, T.J., Graham, D.A. & Prabhu, T.P., 1986. Radio observations of the SO galaxy NGC1218 (3C78). *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **219**, 545.
18. Saikia, D.J., Kulkarni, V.K. & Porcas, R.W., 1986. Radio observations of extended sources suspected of having steep-spectrum cores. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **219**, 719.
19. Swarup, G., Saikia, D.J., Beltrametti, M., Sinha, R.P. & Salter, C.J., 1986. Absorption lines and the radio structure of quasars. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **220**, 1.
20. Cornwell, T.J., Saikia, D.J., Shastri, P., Feretti, L., Giovannini, G., Parma, P. & Salter, C.J., 1986. Extragalactic sources with asymmetric radio structure II. Further observations of the quasar 1320+299. *J. Astrophys. astr.*, **7**, 119.
21. Saikia, D.J., Wiita, P.J. & Cornwell, T.J., 1987. An oscillating jet in the nearby radio galaxy 1759+211. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **224**, 53.
22. *Saikia, D.J., Singal, A.K. & Cornwell, T.J., 1987. Polarization properties of radio cores in active galaxies. Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc., 224, 379.*
23. Saikia, D.J., Salter, C.J., Muxlow, T.W.B., 1987. A radio study of the compact steep-spectrum quasar 3C2 (0003-003). *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **224**, 911.
24. Saikia, D.J., Salter, C.J., Neff, S.G., Gower, A.C., Sinha, R.P. & Swarup, G., 1987. Radio observations of a few selected blazars. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **228**, 203.
25. Saikia, D.J., Staveley-Smith, L., Wills, D., Cornwell, T.J., Salter, C.J., Junor, W. & Shastri, P., 1987. A wide-angle radio-tail quasar: B2 1419+315. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **229**, 495.
26. **Saikia, D.J. & Salter, C.J., 1988. Polarization properties of extragalactic radio sources. *Ann. Rev. astr. Astrophys.*, **26**, 93.**

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33. Mantovani, F., Saikia, D.J., Browne, I.W.A., Fanti, R., Muxlow, T.W.B. & Padrielli, L., 1990. The steep-spectrum low-frequency variable source 3C99: radio and optical observations. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **245**, 427.
34. Saikia, D.J., Muxlow, T.W.B., & Junor, W., 1990. MERLIN observations of the unusual superluminal quasar 3C395. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **245**, 503.
35. Saikia, D.J., 1991. Anisotropic continuum emission in active galaxies. *Current Science*, **60**, 109.
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39. Hummel, E. & Saikia, D.J., 1991. The anomalous radio features in NGC 4388 and NGC 4438. *Astr. Astrophys.*, **249**, 43.
40. Akujor, C.E., Spencer, R.E. & Saikia, D.J., 1991. 3C43: A jet deflected by dense gas? *Astr. Astrophys.*, **249**, 337.
41. Saikia, D.J., Wiita, P.J. & Muxlow, T.W.B., 1993. 1222+216: A wide-angle-tailed quasar? *Astr. J.*, **105**, 1658.
42. Kukula, M.J., Ghosh, T., Pedlar, A., Schilizzi, R.T., Miley, G.K., De Bruyn, A.G. & Saikia, D.J., 1993. High resolution radio observations of Markarian 3. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **264**, 893.
43. Collison, P.M., Saikia, D.J., Pedlar, A., Axon, D.J. & Unger, S.W., 1994. Radio continuum observations of starburst galaxies. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **268**, 203.
44. Saikia, D.J., Pedlar, A., Unger, S.W., & Axon, D.J., 1994. Radio continuum observations of the central regions of Sérsic-Pastoriza galaxies. *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **270**, 46.

45. Saikia, D.J. & Kulkarni, V.K., 1994. *On the evidence against the unified scheme for radio galaxies and quasars.* *Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc.*, **270**, 897.
46. Mantovani, F., Junor, W., Fanti, R., Padrielli, L., & Saikia, D.J., 1994. Gaseous cocoons around compact steep spectrum sources. *Astr. Astrophys.*, **292**, 59.
47. **Sanghera, H.S., Saikia, D.J., Lüdke, E., Spencer, R.E., Foulsham, P.A., Akujor, C.E. & Tzioumis, A.K., 1995. High resolution radio observations of compact steep spectrum sources. *Astr. Astrophys.*, **295**, 629.**
48. Saikia, D.J., 1995. Compact steep-spectrum sources and the unified scheme. *Proc. National Academy of Sciences*, **92**, 11417.
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52. Lara, L., Muxlow, T.W.B., Alberdi, A., Marcaide, J.M., Junor, W. & Saikia, D.J., 1997. Radio observations of the quasar 3C395 from parsec to kiloparsec scales. *Astr. Astrophys.*, **319**, 405.
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2. Saikia, D.J., 1996. INCURSI Report on Commission J: Radio Astronomy 1993-95, Indian National Science Academy, p. 50
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## C. Other academic and related activities

**Guidance of students:** I have been the guide of about a dozen PhD students, and worked closely with several more on projects which formed a significant part of their theses. In addition, about half a dozen students wrote their MSc theses under my guidance, and many students worked on different short-term projects.

**Teaching of courses** I have been teaching courses regularly in the IUCAA-NCRA graduate school, and also taught a course in Queen's University at Kingston, Canada while I was a visiting Professor there during 2000–2001, and at the University of Western Australia, Perth, while I was on sabbatical during 2009–2010. Occasionally I have also taught at the University of Pune.

**Other related activities** I have been involved in many other academic and support activities. A few of these during the period starting from about 2000 are listed here, which includes editing the Bulletin of the Astronomical Society of India, and the Conference Series of the Society which we started in 2010. However, at present, I am focussing almost entirely on establishing Cotton College State University as a leading University.

1. Member of the committee for planning the DST-SERC, India schools on Astronomy and Astrophysics, 1997-2002.
2. Chairperson, NCRA Graduate Studies Committee for a number of years.
3. Co-ordinator of the IUCAA–NCRA DST-sponsored summer school on introductory Astronomy and Astrophysics, May–June 2002 and May–June 2004.
4. Member of the review committee for IUCAA, Pune associates in Astrophysics, 2003.
5. Member of the advisory committee for the Space Physics Centre, Kolkata, since 2003.
6. Associate Editor of the Bulletin of the Astronomical Society of India, from 2004 to 2010.
7. Guest Editor of the Proceedings of the 23rd Meeting of the Astronomical Society of India, along with Kandaswamy Subramanian, 2005.
8. Member of the Subject Board in Physics of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Deemed University, 2005 to 2009.

9. Member of the IFAN (Indo-French Astronomy Network) committee in 2006 for disbursing funds to astronomers for short visits between the two countries for promoting Indo-French scientific collaborations in astrophysics.
10. Member of the Scientific Organising Committee of the conference on Compact steep-spectrum radio sources held near Bologna, Italy in May 2008.
11. Organised the Radio Astronomy School 2007 and 2008 at NCRA, TIFR, Pune from May to July.
12. Dean of the NCRA Faculty from April 2007 to April 2009.
13. Member of the Academic Council, TIFR Deemed University, 2007 - 2009.
14. Chairperson of the 'Science Day 2008' and 'Science Day 2009' organising committee, GMRT, Khodad.
15. Chairperson of the Scientific Organising Committee of The Low-Frequency Universe, an international conference cum workshop held at NCRA, Pune, India from the 8th to the 12th of December, 2008.
16. Member of the Scientific Organizing Committee of the Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics 2010, held at Heidelberg from 6th to 10th December, 2010.
17. Editor of the Bulletin of the Astronomical Society of India from 2010, and the series editor of the Astronomical Society of India Conference Series, which we started in 2010.
18. Member of the Scientific Organizing Committee of an International Workshop on 'Diffuse relativistic plasma', held at the Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru, from 1st to 4th March, 2011.
19. Member of the Scientific Organizing Committee of a Special Session on 'Cosmic Evolution of Groups and Clusters' during the 2012 Beijing General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union.
20. Member of the Organizing Committee of a national conference titled "Recent trends in the study of compact objects: theory and observations", to be held at IIT, Guwahati from 11th to 13th March, 2013.