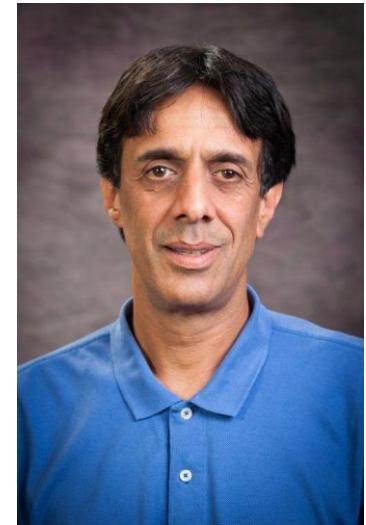


Institute Lecture

Dark Matter, Dark Energy, Einstein's Cosmological Constant, and the Accelerating Universe

**Prof. Bharat Ratra,
University Distinguished Professor of Physics,
Kansas State University**

22nd March 2017, Time: 5 PM, Venue: LH-16



Abstract

Dark energy is the leading candidate for the mechanism that is responsible for causing the cosmological expansion to accelerate. Prof. Ratra will describe the astronomical data which persuade cosmologists that (as yet undetected) dark energy and dark matter are by far the main components of the energy budget of the universe at the present time. He will review how these observations have led to the development of a quantitative "standard" model of cosmology that describes the evolution of the universe from an early epoch of inflation to the complex hierarchy of structure seen today. He will also discuss the basic physics, and the history of ideas, on which this model is based.

About the speaker

Prof. Bharat Ratra joined Kansas State University in 1996 as an Assistant Professor of Physics, and is now a University Distinguished Professor of Physics. He was a postdoctoral fellow at Princeton University, the California Institute of Technology and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He earned a doctorate in physics from Stanford University and a master's degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. He works in the areas of cosmology and astroparticle physics. He researches the structure and evolution of the universe. Two of his current principal interests are developing models for the large-scale matter and radiation distributions in the universe and testing these models by comparing predictions to observational data. In 1988, Prof. Ratra and Jim Peebles proposed the first dynamical dark energy model. Dark energy is the leading candidate for the mechanism that is responsible for causing the cosmological expansion to accelerate. The discovery that the cosmological expansion is accelerating is one of the most significant scientific discoveries of the last quarter of a century.

Tea at 4.45 PM

All interested are welcome.

S. Ganesh
Dean of Research and Development, IIT Kanpur