

# **James Higdon**

**Associate Professor at Georgia Southern University**

Statesboro, GA, US

Professor Higdon uses optical, infrared, and radio telescopes to study galaxies both in the relatively local and very distant universe

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## **Biography**

I use optical, infrared, and radio telescopes to study the multi-phase interstellar medium in galaxies both in the relatively local and very distant universe. For example, I have used radio telescopes like the Very Large Array in New Mexico to study the distribution and motions of neutral hydrogen gas (HI) in colliding galaxies and (hopefully) shed light on the processes triggering and suppressing star formation. I also use observations in the near-infrared part of the spectrum (1-2 microns wavelengths) to search for young galaxy clusters at epochs when the universe was only ~20% of its current age, a very important epoch. Most recently I have used the Green Bank Telescope to detect cold molecular gas in extremely powerful (yet exceedingly faint optically) galaxies at an epoch when our own Milky Way galaxy likely formed.

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Galaxies, Radio Astronomy, Telescopes, Infrared Imaging, Physics and Astronomy

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## **Education**

**University of Texas at Austin**

Ph.D. Astronomy

**University of Texas at Austin**

B.S. Physics

**University of Texas at Austin**

M.A. Physics

**University of Texas at Austin**

B.A. Astronomy

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