

Workshop on Advances in Black Hole Theory

IISER Pune, 20-24 July 2026

Information for Participants

1. Website

The Workshop website is at <https://sites.iiserpune.ac.in/~suneeta/webpage.html> and contains the Speaker List and Workshop Schedule which will be updated regularly.

2. Getting to IISER

IISER has two entrance gates, Pashan and Baner. Both are open 24 hours and the Guest House is roughly equidistant (0.7 km from each end).

If you arrive by road from Mumbai, make a left from the highway onto Baner Road and follow it for 7 km until you reach the IISER Baner Gate.

If you arrive by train to Pune Railway Station, take an Uber/Ola taxi or auto to IISER Guest House (marked on Google Maps and the taxi apps). The distance is just under 9 km. Pune has a peculiar system where the taxi/auto can legally charge you the Uber/Ola app rate OR the metered rate, as they prefer. In the latter case they should ask you to agree to the “meter rate” before you start. The legal metered rate is 25 rupees per km for a taxi, or 17 rupees per km for an auto, with a 25% night surcharge from midnight to 5 AM. Thus you can expect to pay Rs 220-300 for a standard taxi during the day, and Rs 180-220 for an auto. If your train comes from Mumbai get off at Shivajinagar station, that saves a couple of km.

Do not be fooled by any sign that claims there is a metro train to IISER. We do have a lovely metro station just outside, but no trains as yet. Maybe some day.

If you arrive by air, Pune airport offers the following confusing system. If you book an Uber Premier (higher priced taxi) it will come directly to the exit of the terminal. But for ordinary app taxis (e.g. Uber Go/Sedan) and autos, you need to get to the Aero Mall. This is an easy 7-8 minute walk to your right along the building, then up an escalator and across a bridge. Or you can take the free shuttle bus to the Aero Mall from the terminal exit. The distance to IISER is 15 km and the charges are around Rs 450-550 for a taxi (autos are not available on apps, and may even end up more expensive!).

Security at the IISER gates can guide you on how to reach the Guest House.

3. Accommodation

All external participants are accommodated in the IISER Pune Guest House (there is only one). There is a security guard on duty 24 hours a day. In case he/she has to step out for a few minutes, there should be a mobile number on the desk for you to call. If nothing else works you may call the organisers at any time (numbers below).

A list of all Workshop participants staying in the Guest House will be provided to the guard. If for any reason they don't find your name and it is late at night, they should first provide you a room and then sort things out later. So you will hopefully not have to sit in the lobby all

night. The Guest House does not seem to have strict check-in/check-out hours. They have been told to expect a few participants to show up on Saturday night/early Sunday morning.

4. Food

Breakfast (8:00-9:30 AM), lunch (12:30-1:30 PM) and dinner (8:00-9:00 PM), except the Special Dinner (see below), are all provided in the Guest House in the ground floor Dining Hall, starting with dinner on Sunday 19th and ending with breakfast on Saturday 25th. Tell the staff you are at the Workshop, it's all paid for. We are planning on hearty breakfasts and lunches, but dinners might be a little more basic. If you want to have dinner on your own, you can do so at the Cafeteria Building on campus. Also there are multiple restaurants/bars outside campus, within a 10-15 minute walk from the Baner Gate exit. Just be careful when crossing the road, since Pune rules apply (traffic moves in all directions on both sides of the road, but if they can see you from a distance they generally don't run over you). We will provide a list of suggested restaurants separately.

The Special Dinner will be held in the Cafeteria Building, 2nd floor (the so-called VIP Dining Area) on Wednesday July 22 from 7:30 PM.

5. Lectures

The Workshop starts at 9:30 AM on Monday, 20th July and ends at lunch time on Friday 24th. All lectures will take place in the Guest House, Madan Mohan Malaviya Hall, First Floor. We are required to video record the entire event as part of our grant conditions. If any speaker objects to being recorded, they should please email one of us (addresses below). Otherwise, consent will be assumed.

There is no registration procedure as such, just show up and collect your canvas bag containing a writing pad and a mug. The mug is important, see below.

6. Environment

To avoid excessive use of plastics, we have taken the following measures: (i) purified drinking water will be available at all times in the Guest House. It is also supplied to the rooms in glass bottles. We strongly recommend you bring your own water flask, or use the provided mug. (ii) Alternatively the mug can be used for tea/coffee. Yes, we will have a coffee machine on hand that dispenses real coffee (let's hope it works well). Paper cups will be available if really needed. (iii) name badges will be provided, but at the end of the Workshop you are requested to drop them in a bin and they will be returned to the supplier to re-use the plastic covers.

7. Weather

Light rain is predicted for the week. This is a good thing! But please bring an umbrella.

Please don't hesitate to get back to us with any questions/concerns.

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