GRADUATE STUDY
IN PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

The University of Iowa
Professor James Van Allen, Head of Department

The Voyager spacecraft which visited Jupiter and Saturn
CARLSON, Richard R., Ph.D., Chicago, 1951.
  Professor. Experimental low-energy nuclear physics.

CARPENTER, Raymon T., Ph.D., Northwestern, 1962.
  Professor. Experimental plasma physics.

D’ANGELO, Nicola, Ph.D., Rome, 1953.
  Professor. Experimental plasma physics; experimental space physics.

ENEMARK, Donald D., Ph.D., Iowa, 1970.
  Adjunct Associate Professor. Electronics.

FIX, John D., Ph.D., Indiana, 1969.
  Professor. Astrophysics.

  Professor. Experimental space physics.

GOERTZ, Christoph K., Ph.D., Rhodes, 1972.
  Professor. Theoretical space physics.

GURNETT, Donald A., Ph.D., Iowa, 1965.
  Professor. Experimental space physics.

  Professor. Elementary particle physics; mathematical physics.

KNORR, Georg E., Ph.D., Munich, 1963.
  Professor. Theoretical plasma physics.

LASTER, Howard J., Ph.D., Cornell, 1957.
  Professor. Cosmic ray astrophysics.

LONNGREN, Karl E., Ph.D., Wisconsin, 1964.
  Professor (also Electrical Engineering and Computer Science). Experimental plasma physics.

  Professor. Elementary particle physics.

MERLINO, Robert L., Ph.D., Maryland, 1980.
  Assistant Professor. Experimental plasma physics.

MUTEL, Robert L., Ph.D., Colorado, 1975.
  Associate Professor. Radio astronomy.

  Professor. Observational optical astronomy.

NELSON, Edward B., Ph.D., Columbia, 1949.
  Professor Emeritus.

NEWSON, Charles R., Ph.D., Texas, 1980.
  Assistant Professor. Experimental intermediate-energy nuclear physics.

NICOLSON, Dwight R., Ph.D., California, Berkeley, 1975.
  Associate Professor. Theoretical plasma physics.

NORBECK, Edwin, Ph.D., Chicago, 1956.
  Professor. Experimental nuclear physics.

PAYNE, Gerald L., Ph.D., California, San Diego, 1967.
  Professor. Theoretical nuclear physics; theoretical plasma physics.

POLYZOU, Wayne N., Ph.D., Maryland, 1979.
  Assistant Professor. Theoretical nuclear physics.

SAVAGE, William R., Ph.D., Iowa State, 1956.
  Professor. Acoustics and experimental solid-state physics.

SCHWEITZER, John W., Ph.D., Cincinnati, 1966.
  Professor. Theoretical solid-state physics.

SHAWHAN, Stanley D., Ph.D., Iowa, 1966.
  Professor. Observational radio astronomy; experimental space physics.

SPANGLER, Steven R., Ph.D., Iowa, 1975.
  Associate Professor. Astrophysics; extragalactic radio astronomy.

  Professor (also Chemistry). Quantum optics, low-temperature physics, atomic and molecular physics, laser physics.
VAN ALLEN, James A., Ph.D., Iowa, 1939.
Professor, Head of Department.
Experimental space physics;
astrophysics.

Research Scientists
Kent L. Ackerson, Ph.D., Iowa, 1972.
Space plasma physics.
Interplanetary and magnetospheric plasma waves.
Wynne Calvert, Ph.D., Colorado, 1962.
Space plasma waves.
John D. Craven, Ph.D., Iowa, 1969.
Auroral and magnetospheric physics.
Space plasma physics.
Robert R. Shaw, Ph.D., Iowa, 1975.
Space physics.

Associate Research Scientists
Joseph E. Borovsky, Ph.D., Iowa, 1981.
Numerical simulation of plasmas.
Crockett L. Grabbe, Ph.D., California Institute of Technology, 1977.
Theoretical plasma physics.
Interplanetary and magnetospheric plasma waves.
Mary M. Mellott (Hoppe), Ph.D., Washington (St. Louis), 1975.
Space plasma physics.
Bruce A. Randall, Ph.D., Iowa, 1972.
Magnetospheric physics.

Assistant Research Scientists
Cheryl Y. Huang, Ph.D., Iowa, 1981.
Space physics.
James P. Sheerin, Ph.D., Michigan, 1980.
Theoretical plasma physics.

Research Investigator
Ralph L. Fiedler, Ph.D., Minnesota, 1982.
Astrophysics

Iowa Laser Facility
Assistant Research Scientist
Paul D. Kleiber, Ph.D., Colorado, 1981.
Atomic and molecular physics and laser physics.

Research Associates
Shawn P. Heneghan, Ph.D., Southern California, 1982.
Low-temperature and molecular physics.
Kuo-Kwang Wang, Ph.D., Cincinnati, 1982.
Solid-state physics.
Laser spectroscopy.
John T. Bains, Ph.D., Iowa, 1984.
Laser spectroscopy.

Neutral atoms glow after being struck by electrons in an experimental plasma physics device.
Two advanced degrees are offered in physics: the Master of Science, with thesis or with critical essay; and the Doctor of Philosophy with a research dissertation. One advanced degree is offered in astronomy: the Master of Science with thesis or with critical essay. A student who wishes to pursue a program in astronomy beyond the M.S. level may qualify for a Doctor of Philosophy degree in physics with specialization and a dissertation in astronomy or astrophysics. An interdepartmental (Ph.D.) program is available in applied mathematical science.

Each graduate student has an individual faculty adviser who oversees the student's academic work and thesis or dissertation research. A typical Ph.D. program requires five years of graduate work.
Facilities

Facilities for graduate study in physics and astronomy are located in the 195,000-square-foot Van Allen Hall. This completely air-conditioned building houses an excellent open-stack library, machine shops, laboratories, offices, storerooms, auditoria, darkrooms, classrooms, lecture halls, and seminar rooms. A desk and private study area are provided for each graduate student.

The laboratories are well equipped and the central machine shop is staffed with skilled instrument makers and machinists. There are several electronics and machine shops for the use of advanced students and the research staff.

An IBM 3033 computer, four Prime 850 systems, two Prime 750 systems, three HP 2000 systems, a DEC Vax 11/780, and the associated facilities of the Weeg Computing Center are available for research use by students and staff. The department itself has a DEC Vax 11/780 computer, two UNIVAC computers, two CDC computers, and numerous microcomputers dedicated to specific research programs. Many time-sharing terminals and extensive auxiliary apparatus are provided for student use. Access to major national computing centers is also available.

Major research facilities in physics and astronomy are

(a) A comprehensive array of low-energy particle accelerators, electronic test equipment, and environmental test chambers and clean rooms, and an optics laboratory for the development, calibration, and proof testing of instruments for space flight.

(b) A computer-assisted design (CAD) facility.

(c) A 6-MV Van de Graaff accelerator in a nuclear physics laboratory adjoining Van Allen Hall.

(d) 24-inch and 12-inch Cassegrain telescopes at the Riverside Astronomical Observatory ten miles south of Iowa City.

(e) 60-foot and 28-foot radio telescopes located at the North Liberty Radio Observatory 12 miles north of Iowa City (part of the national Very Long Baseline Interferometry network).

(f) A solid-state laboratory with facilities for magnetic susceptibility, resistivity, Hall effect, and specific heat measurements at low temperatures and facilities for the preparation of experimental materials.

(g) Several plasma physics laboratories with two large vacuum chambers and a variety of multipole and triple-plasma devices and associated computer-based diagnostic equipment, used for basic research and the support of various national fusion energy programs.

(h) An acoustics laboratory for study of the physics of musical instruments.

(i) The Iowa Laser Facility (physically located in the Chemistry Building) which contains a wide variety of modern laser instrumentation. Several monochromators (with lengths to 3.4 meters), high vacuum molecular beam systems, and low-temperature equipment (including a 110 kg superconducting magnet and a helium dilution refrigerator capable of 0.012 K) are also located in the laboratory.

Advanced astronomy students also conduct research at the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center at Arecibo, Puerto Rico; the Very Large Array radio telescope near Socorro, New Mexico; the Very Long Baseline Interferometry Network; Haystack Observatory at Westford, Massachusetts; Kitt Peak National Observatory, near Tucson, Arizona; and the Infrared Telescope Facility, Mauna Kea, Hawaii.

Arrangements are available for student research in nuclear and elementary particle physics at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois, and the Argonne National Laboratory in Argonne, Illinois; in space plasma physics at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico; and in ionospheric plasma physics at the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center near Arecibo, Puerto Rico.

Supercomputers are accessed by telephone at the National Magnetic Fusion Energy Computing Center in Livermore, California, the Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. The Los Alamos facility is primarily used by nuclear theory students, while the Boulder and Livermore facilities are primarily used by plasma theory students.

Professor Jack Fix
Currently active areas of research include the following:

**Experimental:**
- Acoustics of Musical Instruments
- Astronomy (Optical and Radio)
- Atomic and Molecular Physics
- Auroral Physics
- Cosmic Rays
- Elementary Particle Physics
- Laser Physics
- Nuclear Physics
- Low-Temperature Physics
- Magnetospheric Physics
- Planetary Physics
- Plasma Physics
- Solid-State Physics
- Space Plasma Physics

**Theoretical:**
- Astrophysics
- Atomic and Molecular Physics
- Elementary Particle Physics
- Nuclear Physics
- Plasma Physics
- Solid-State Physics
- Space Plasma Physics

Research in physics and astronomy is supported by state funds and by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research, and the Petroleum Research Fund. Separately budgeted research expenditures were over $5 million for the period July 1, 1983-June 30, 1984.

**Acoustics**

The acoustics facility includes a reverberant recording room, tape recorders, and a real-time spectrum analyzer for the study of musical sounds. The emphasis is on the physics of plucked string instruments. The equipment has uses in other applications for interdisciplinary studies. The research in musical acoustics is a joint undertaking with the School of Music.

**Astronomy and Astrophysics**

Research programs in optical and infrared astronomy are carried out at The University of Iowa observatory near Riverside and at several national observatories. The observatory is equipped for both photometric and spectrophotometric observations. Current research programs include spectrophotometry of comets, novas, binary stars, and stars with unusual energy distributions. Work on surface photometry of comets and emission nebulae is also in progress. Work carried out at national facilities includes photometry, spatial interferometry, and spectroscopy of stellar masers.

Radio astronomy observations are carried out at the North Liberty Radio Observatory (NLRO) near Iowa City as well as at several national observatories. The principal research instrument at the North Liberty Radio Observatory is a 60-foot telescope used for both continuum and spectral-line observations at centimeter wavelengths. Current research programs at the North Liberty Radio Observatory include synoptic studies of 18-cm OH emission from stellar masers, searches for new OH sources, and very long baseline interferometric observations of both OH stellar masers and extragalactic continuum sources. NLRO is one of the observatories in the national Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) network. Work at national observatories includes spatial mapping of extragalactic, stellar, and solar system objects; observations of molecular clouds; and a variety of VLBI investigations.

Theoretical astrophysics study is concentrated on the gas and dust in the circumstellar envelopes of evolved stars. Topics of current interest include computer simula-
tions of the hydrodynamics and radiative transfer in circumstellar mass flows, the scattering properties of circumstellar dust shells, models of OH masers near the cool stars, and scattering properties of the interstellar medium. Other theoretical work involves study of plasma physics topics of astrophysical importance, particularly the characteristics of nonlinear plasma waves and their interaction with charged particles. The goal of this research is to better understand physical processes in radio sources and the interstellar medium.

Atomic and Molecular Physics

High vacuum atomic and molecular beam systems are used for the study of collision dynamics in simple molecular systems. Conventional and laser high-resolution spectroscopic studies complementary to these collision dynamics studies are being carried out simultaneously. In several instances, these molecular systems include either actual or potential laser transitions of considerable promise.

Theoretical work in atomic and molecular physics is concerned primarily with determination of atomic and molecular interactions, especially potential energy curves of diatomic molecules. Also of interest are radiative transition probabilities and lifetimes, elastic and inelastic scattering cross sections, corrections to the Born-Oppenheimer separation of electronic and nuclear motion, and the dependence of atomic cluster properties on atomic size.

Elementary Particle Physics

Experimental research in particle physics is carried out at Fermilab with the charged hyperon facility in collaboration with groups at Iowa State, Yale, and Fermilab.

Theoretical research in elementary particle physics deals with scattering matrix theories of multiparticle reactions, applications of group theory to particle physics, the representation theory of groups (in collaboration with members of the mathematics department), and aspects of completely integrable and nearly completely integrable Hamiltonian systems.

Nuclear Physics

A versatile 6-MV Van de Graaff accelerator is used to study nuclear reactions induced by all stable isotopes of hydrogen, helium, lithium, and beryllium. A unique design allows energies up to 14 MeV for triply charged ions. Special emphasis is given to the study of lithium-ion reactions where three or more particles are produced. An additional program of the laboratory uses the ion beams for measuring the chemical and physical structure of semiconductor materials. The laboratory also conducts nuclear experiments using higher energy beams at national accelerator facilities.

Theoretical research in nuclear and intermediate energy physics is concerned with the few-body
problem. We have an active few-body physics group, and we are engaged in research with scientists at both Argonne National Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory. The group holds weekly discussions and seminars. Current research is involved with the nuclear three-body problem, the few-quark problem, and various topics in relativistic quantum mechanics.

**Plasma Physics**

Research in plasma physics includes the study of basic plasma properties and the applications of basic plasma phenomena to thermonuclear fusion plasmas, space plasmas, and astrophysical plasmas. A particular emphasis is on experiments designed to simulate, in the laboratory, various plasma processes occurring in the ionosphere; this work is being funded by the Office of Naval Research. Some topics under investigation are electrostatic ion cyclotron waves and their relation to ion beam and conic formation in the auroral zone, double layers, and ionospheric instabilities. Several plasma devices are available for these studies including a Q-machine, a coaxial double plasma device, and several multipole plasma devices. In addition, devices are available for studying plasma phenomena associated with the properties of cusp confinement. Some of the work is done in conjunction with the mirror confinement program of the Department of Energy. Experimental study of the properties of solitons is funded through the National Science Foundation. Experimental research on high-power radio waves in ionospheric plasma is performed at the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center near Arecibo, Puerto Rico.

Theoretical plasma physics uses a combination of analytic and numerical techniques. Two kinds of numerical techniques are used: the nonlinear partial differential fluid equations which describe a plasma are integrated numerically; and Newton's laws of motion together with Maxwell's equations are solved for systems of 1,000 to 1,000,000 particles. The work concentrates on the study of equilibrium, stability, solitons, nonlinear waves, and turbulence in laboratory plasmas, fusion plasmas (especially tandem mirrors), ionospheric plasma, magnetospheric plasmas, space plasmas, and astrophysical plasmas. The numerical work is performed on the campus computers as well as via telephone on the CRAY-1 computers at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, and the National Magnetic Fusion Energy Computing Center in Livermore, California.

**Solid-State Physics**

Experiments on fundamental thermal, electrical, and magnetic properties of metals, alloys, and compounds are included in the experimental solid-state program.
Currently studies are focused on the samarium monochalcogenide and pnictide compounds and their mutual solid solutions in an investigation of intermediate valence phenomena in rare-earth systems. Experimental work is also concerned with spin-polarized atoms.

Theoretical work in solid-state physics is concerned with the application of various many-body approaches to the theory of the electronic and magnetic properties of condensed matter. Areas of special current interest include valence instabilities in rare-earth compounds and related narrow band phenomena and itinerant magnetism in disordered alloys.

**Space Physics**

A major program of experimental and theoretical space physics is conducted as a regular part of the graduate work of the department. Extensive facilities and an engineering and technical staff are available for the design, construction, and testing of equipment for flight in rockets, spacecraft, and the Space Shuttle; the reception of satellite telemetry; and the computerized decoding and analysis of data. Emphasis is on comprehensive observational and theoretical study of (a) the magnetospheres of Earth, Jupiter, and Saturn, (b) the interplanetary medium including the propagation of energetic particles therein, and (c) the galactic cosmic radiation. The space physics group has currently active instruments on IMP-8; Pioneers 10 and 11 now at over 30 AU and 14 AU, respectively, from the sun; International Sun-Earth Explorers 1, 2, and 3; Dynamics Explorer 1; and Voyagers 1 and 2. Several instruments have been flown as parts of Space Shuttle payloads. Two major instruments have been completed for the Galileo (Jupiter Orbiter) mission (1986 launch). Four instruments

Space plasma physics deals mainly with the magnetohydrodynamics, wave-particle interactions, transport, and acceleration of charged particles in planetary magnetospheres. In situ measurements by the various instruments described above enable the research teams to utilize the planetary magnetospheres as natural laboratories for plasma physics. These laboratories provide some unique conditions which are either difficult or impossible to simulate in a man-made laboratory. Due to the complex conditions present in the magnetospheres, this field is still very much in a mode of discovery. As a leading institution in this field, we participate in this sense of discovery in both our observational and theoretical work.
Recent Recipients of the Ph.D. Degree

(Title, Current Employment, Thesis Title)

1979

James L. Green, Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama
"On the Generation of Auroral Kilometric Radiation"
William S. Kurth, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
"Intense Electrostatic Waves near the Upper Hybrid Resonance Frequency"
Alan J. Marcus, Xonics, Van Nuys, California
"Two-Dimensional Simulation of a Plasma in a Periodic Picket Fence"
Michael Mond, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel
"Non-Markovian Theory of Strong Turbulence"
Mark E. Pesses, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland
"On the Acceleration of Energetic Protons by Interplanetary Shock Waves"
Robert B. Phillips, Haystack Observatory, Westford, Massachusetts
"Miliarcsecond Structure of Nine Compact Extragalactic Sources at 1671 MHz"
Kevin J. Sisson, Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky
"X-Ray Diffraction Study of the Alloy System SmP3S12x"
Frederic Ze, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, California
"Excitation and Interactions of Spherical and Cylindrical Ion-Acoustic Solitons"

1980

Michael J. Alport, University of Natal, Republic of South Africa
"Bragg Scattering of EM Waves from a Laboratory Plasma"

Peter G. Coakley, JAYCOR, San Diego, California
"Large Electrostatic Potential Variations in Laboratory Plasmas"
Jeffrey L. Parish, Utah State University, Logan, Utah
"The Jovian Magnetosphere"

1981

Joseph E. Borovsky, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico (on leave at The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa)
"The Simulation of Plasma Double Layer Structures in Two Dimensions"
Mark J. Claussen, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California
"Polarization Properties of Main-Line OH Maser Emission from Circumstellar Shells of Late-Type Variable Stars"

Numerical solution for the electric field and the density in two plasma solitons which have just collided
Cheryl Yu-Yin Huang, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
“A Theoretical Study of Plasmaspheric Hiss”

Ping-Tien Wu, Institute of Nuclear Energy Research, Lung-Tan, Taiwan, R.O.C.
“A Theoretical Study of Plasmaspheric Hiss”

1982
Dennis L. Gallagher, University of Alabama, Huntsville, Alabama
“Short Wavelength Electrostatic Waves in the Earth’s Magnetosheath”

Lee A. Reinleitner, Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama
“Whistler Mode Chorus Generation of Beam Driven Electrostatic Bursts”

1983
Paul J. Hansen, Clarkson College of Technology, Potsdam, New York
“Studies in Weak Turbulence”

Robert L. Tokar, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico
“Whistler Mode Turbulence at Earth’s Bow Shock: Generation via Electron Beams and Ray Path Integrated Amplification”

1984 (Partial)
David J. Doiron, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
“Radio Emission in RS CVn Binary Stars”

Stephen A. Fuselier, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico
“The Downshift of Electron Plasma Oscillations in the Electron Foreshock Region”

Mark W. Hodges, Owens Valley Radio Observatory, Big Pine, California
“VLBI Observations of Compact Double Radio Sources”

Nojan Omidi, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland
“Generation of Auroral Kilometric and Z-Mode Radiation by the Cyclotron Maser Instability”

Professor William Stwalley studies laser-induced plasmas and metal vapors with a microprocessor-controlled Nd:YAG/Dye laser


Radio image of the radio galaxy 3 C 430, made with the Very Large Array at a frequency of 1446 MHz.


Professor Karl Lounsgren and a graduate student analyze nonlinear waves in a plasma experiment


Star trails photographed at the Riverside Astronomical Observatory

Professor Robert Mutiel and his family at the spring picnic


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