

AeroAstro STAR Lab Special Seminar

Enabling the first Interstellar Missions: Directed Energy for Relativistic Flight

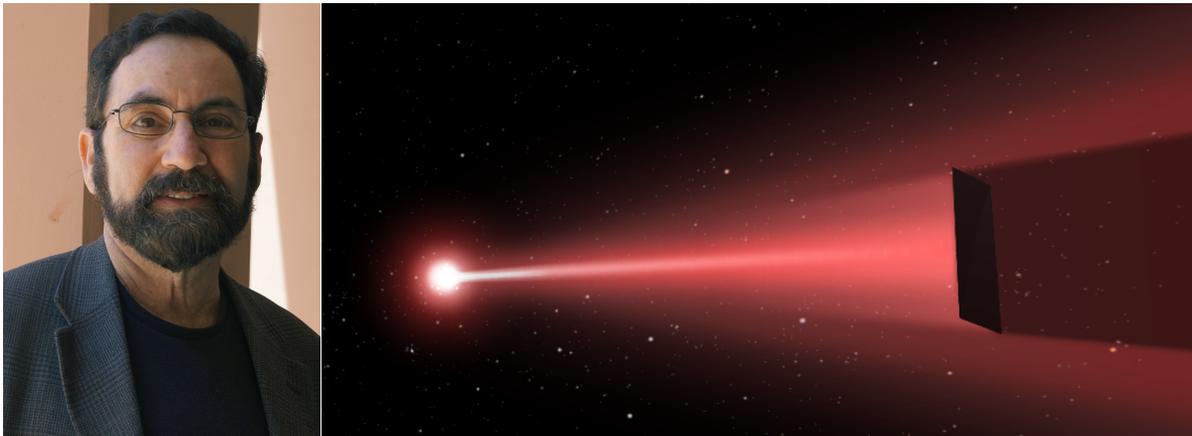
Prof. Philip Lubin
UC Santa Barbara

Wednesday, February 15, 2017
Noon in Marlar Lounge, 37-252

Pizza lunch provided on a first-come, first-served basis

Does a star about 26 trillion miles from Earth seem far away to you? Farther than anything from Earth could possibly travel in your lifetime? It is about 4.4 light years away, but it may be possible to get there this century.

Professor Philip Lubin, Department of Physics at UC Santa Barbara is a leading researcher in laser propulsion of chip-scale spacecraft. Prof. Lubin will talk about the prospects of interstellar space travel using recent advances in photonics and directed energy systems to accelerate tiny spacecraft to speeds greater than 20% of the speed of light. This would enable a spacecraft to reach the nearest star in about 20 years. It may also be possible to accelerate large spacecraft, capable of supporting human life, to reach speeds greater than 1000 km/s. This technology has the potential to revolutionize space travel and bring about advances in planetary defense, the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence, and more.



For more information, or to meet with the speaker, contact kcahoy@mit.edu and see:
<http://www.deepspace.ucsb.edu/projects/directed-energy-interstellar-precursors>
<http://arxiv.org/abs/1604.01356>
<http://arxiv.org/abs/1604.02108>