

Physics Colloquium Series

Ultra High Energy Cosmic Rays

Physicists detect cosmic rays with energies as large as a well-hit baseball and astrophysicists have to explain how they are created. In this talk I will explain the properties of these particles and contrast them with their lower energy counterparts. Some possible acceleration sites will be described and prospects for answering the question of their origin decisively in the future.

Roger Blandford

Stanford University, Physics

Thursday, April 21, 2005

4:00-5:20 PM MND 1015

OPEN & FREE TO ALL STUDENTS & FACULTY

California State University, Sacramento
Department of Physics & Astronomy Spring 2005

Physics Colloquium Series

New Ideas about the Galaxy's Old Star Clusters

The oldest star clusters in the Milky Way have long been used to study the spatial and chemical evolution of the Galaxy. Thanks to a renewed study of the so called "open star clusters" during the past decade, new insight into what these objects are telling us about the disk of the Galaxy is beginning to emerge. In this contribution I will review why these clusters are important probes of galaxy formation, what progress has been made in utilizing them to improve our understanding of the Milky Way, and describe recent new ideas that indicate a complex, cannibalistic evolution of the disk of the Milky Way. Contributions by CSUS students, past and present, to this fascinating story will also be highlighted.

Randy Phelps

NSF and CSUS, Physics and Astronomy

Thursday, April 28, 2005

4:00-5:20 PM MND 1015

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