



Physics Colloquium



Thursday, February 12th at 3:40PM in SC 234

Featuring:

Dr. Gabriela González
Professor of Physics and Astronomy
Louisiana State University
LIGO Spokesperson

Opening the Gravitational Wave Window

Gravitational waves are "ripples in space time" produced by violent astrophysical events such as core-collapse supernova and collisions of neutron stars and black holes, as well as by other continuous phenomena as rotating stars and the early Universe. These waves have never been directly detected on Earth yet, but a network of ground-based interferometric detectors including the LIGO detectors in the US is expected to do this very soon. These detectors have operated with record sensitivity in the recent past, and are now being upgraded to begin operating with good prospects of observations in a few years. I will present a brief introduction to the nature and detection of gravitational waves, and present the current status of the international network of detectors.

Refreshments at 3:00PM in SC 103