

Dong Lai: Professor of Astrophysics

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Personal Data

Born 1968, P. R. China; U.S. Citizen.

Education

1988 B.Sc. (Physics) University of Science and Technology of China, P. R. China.
1991 M.S. (Physics) Cornell University.
1994 Ph.D. (Theoretical Astrophysics) Cornell University.
Thesis: "Hydrodynamical Processes in Coalescing Binary Stars"
Ph.D. Advisors: Stuart L. Shapiro and Edwin E. Salpeter

Employment

1994 - 1997 Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Theoretical Astrophysics, Caltech
(Mentors: P. Goldreich, E.S. Phinney, K.S. Thorne).
1997 - 2002 Assistant Professor, Department of Astronomy, Cornell University.
2002 - 2008 Associate Professor, Department of Astronomy, Cornell University.
2008 - Professor, Department of Astronomy, Cornell University.

Short-Term Visiting Positions

Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics (2000,2005,2010), Institute for Advanced Study (1999,2004,2016),
Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics (2005), National Astronomical Observatories of
China (2004-2007), Tsinghua Center for Astrophysics (2004-2005), Institute for Nuclear Theory
(2001,2007), Tsinghua Center for Advanced Study (2015-), Shanghai Astronomical Observatory
(Distinguished Visiting Professor 2014-), Observatoire de la Cote d'Azur (2016-17), Harvard In-
stitute for Theory and Computation (2017), T.D. Lee Institute (Distinguished Visiting Professor,
2017-), Kavli Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics (Kavli Visiting Professor, 2018)

Awards and Scholarships

1988 Winner of China-U.S. Physics Examination & Application Program (CUSPEA)
1988 - 1989 Sage Graduate Fellowship, Cornell University
1991 Liu Memorial Award for Academic Excellence, Cornell University
1995 - 1997 Richard C. Tolman Fellowship in Theoretical Astrophysics, Caltech
1998 - 2002 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship, A.P. Sloan Foundation
2000 Chau Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research Supervision, School of
Applied & Engineering Physics, Cornell University
2004 - 2007 Oversea Outstanding Young Scientist, P.R. China
2016 - 2017 Simons Fellow in Theoretical Physics, Simons Foundation
2017- Distinguished Visiting Professor, T.D. Lee Institute, Shanghai
2017.10 Distinguished Guest and Lecturer for the 2017 Future Science Prize Forum, Beijing

Research Interests

Various areas of theoretical astrophysics (see <http://astro.cornell.edu/~dong/research.html>):

- Exoplanets: dynamics, formation, star-planet interactions, protoplanetary disks
- Compact Objects: neutron stars, black holes, white dwarfs, gravitational waves, neutrinos, condensed matter
- Astrophysical Dynamics and Fluid Dynamics in general