

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 Institute for Theory and Computation (2017), T.D. Lee Institute (Distinguished Visiting Professor, 2017-), Kavli Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics (Kavli Visiting Professor, 2018), UC Berkeley (Miller Professor, 2020)

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
2018.9 Distinguished Alumni Lecturer, University of Science and Technology of China
2019 - 2020 Miller Visiting Professor, UC Berkeley

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