

**PROPOSAL FOR A
Ph.D. in APPLIED AND COMPUTATIONAL PHYSICS**

**Department of Physics
College of Arts and Sciences**

Requested Program Implementation Term: Fall 2012

College of Arts and Sciences Governance

CAS Graduate Committee on Instruction

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**PROPOSAL FOR A
Ph.D. in APPLIED AND COMPUTATIONAL PHYSICS**

Submitted by
The Department of Physics
January 29, 2010

SUMMARY

This catalog presents a proposal to create a Ph.D. degree, in the **Department of Physics at Oakland University**, in **Applied and Computational Physics**. The desired start date is the 2012 Fall Semester.

In recent years, the Physical Sciences were recognized as extremely important for the economic development of the United States. In the framework of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the funding of fundamental scientific research has been significantly increased. The Department of Physics at Oakland University is amply prepared to take advantage of these new opportunities and proposes an attractive PhD program in Applied and Computational Physics. Along the years, the consistent federal funding obtained by the non-medical physics members of the Department points to the high level of their research. New talented PhD students will further strengthen the faculty research; therefore, the new program promises to be highly beneficial for Oakland University. In addition, the possibility of training Ph.D. students in specialized areas of research is a fundamental part in the development of any Natural Sciences Department.

A careful examination of the Department's strengths and a realistic assessment of growth opportunities have guided the choice of the areas to be emphasized in the new program. First, the Department has developed a combination of important strengths in Computational Physics: i) a diversity of programs spanning many fields in physics ii) a powerful computer cluster (with over 300 nodes) iii) a wealth of experience in teaching numerical methods courses iv) a number of national and international collaborations capable of supplying qualified students.

Second, in the area of Applied Physics, the Department has developed, under the guidance of Prof. Srinivasan, comprehensive facilities and strong connections to local area industries and federal agencies. The Applied Physics PhD graduates will have job opportunities in R&D Laboratories in the Detroit Metro area and in neighboring Ohio and Illinois. Potential fields of employment include the semiconductor sector, alternative energy (solar, wind), automotive-related research, and similar high-tech industries. The students graduating with a Ph.D. in Applied Physics will be strongly encouraged (and helped) to seek summer internship in R&D facilities to gain experience and increase the prospects for future employment.

The program is in accord with all university policies. It has been developed in compliance with all departmental, college, and university procedures governing the development of new courses, programs and degree offerings. In preparation for this program the department has consulted with all other units that may be affected by the development of this PhD program. Letters of support are attached from the Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology Departments.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Program Rationale	4
2. Program Description	5
Catalog Copy	5
Program Description	6
Areas of Concentration	7
Admission requirements	8
Requirements for the Ph.D. degree	8
Exit Options	9
Program Total Credits.....	9
Additional Program Information.....	9
Course Offerings	13
3. Assessment Plan Narrative	16
a. Citation of appropriate goals from Oakland University’s Mission Statement.	16
b. Specification of academic unit goals that flow from each of the cited university goals.	16
c. Operationalization of the unit’s goals into outcomes for student learning.	17
d. Description of the methods by which progress toward the operationalized unit goals will be measured.	17
e. List the individual(s) who have primary responsibility for administering assessment activities.	18
f. Describe the procedures used in your academic unit for translating assessment results into program changes.	18
4. Library Review	19
5. Labs and Lab Equipments.....	19
6. Planning Narrative	19
7. Benchmark proposed program against other similar programs	20
8. Unique features of the Program	20
9. Budget Narrative	23
Appendix I: Faculty Qualifications.....	26
Michael Chopp	27
Ken Elder	27
David Garfinkle	28
Evgeniy Khain	29
George Martins	30
Alberto Rojo	30
Bradley J. Roth	31
Andrei Slavin	32
Gopalan Srinivasan	32
Eugene Surdutovich	33
Yang Xia	34
Appendix II: New Courses Description.....	35
Appendix III: Faculty Research Productivity and External Funding.....	36
Appendix IV: Library review.....	37
Appendix V: Letters of support	44

1. Program Rationale

Given the success of the Department of Physics faculty who are not related to the Medical Physics program in attracting external funding, and the current federal emphasis in supporting the development of Physics as a strategic asset for the economic development of the nation, it seems clear that the potentialities of the faculty in the Department of Physics will be better leveraged by the creation of a new program. This program will be centered in currently important areas of development in the fields of numerical simulations of materials properties and experimental development and characterization of new materials with technological applications. Furthermore, both experimental skills acquired on the Applied Physics track and computational skills acquired on the Computational Physics track can be used in a wide array of careers and endeavors. Given the very specialized characteristics of these two areas, the Physics Department is the natural place at Oakland to provide a doctoral degree and a first class research experience. Based on that, this proposal describes a plan to create a Ph.D. program in Computational and Applied Physics.

An informal survey of Physics majors indicates that many of them would apply for a PhD program degree in Physics at OU (other than Medical Physics) if one was offered. In the last few years, some of our majors have successfully been accepted in PhD programs in prestigious Universities (examples include UC Riverside, Wayne State, and others).

2. Program Description

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

PhD in Applied and Computational Physics:

Faculty research productivity, including publication of scientific papers and external grants, is presented in **Appendix III**.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS

Catalog copy

Description: The College of Arts and Sciences offers a physical sciences doctoral program in Applied and Computational Physics, at the Department of Physics. With a concentration in materials experimental research and computer modeling, this program will prepare graduates for industry and academic careers in areas related to various experimental and theoretical aspects of one of the largest in physics: Materials Sciences. More generally, the curriculum prepares students to engage in research in areas of physics applied to Condensed Matter, being materials research currently the most technologically important area. This program emphasizes both the practical, engineering applications (applied physics track) and theoretical and fundamental physical concepts (computational physics track). Ph.D. candidates may elect to do their dissertation research either with one of a number of Oakland University faculty currently involved in Condensed Matter research. In addition to available Oakland University graduate assistantships, many of the faculty in the Department may provide individual support for qualified students. Interested students should consult the program coordinator for details.

Course requirements: To be able to graduate a minimum of 8 core courses, equivalent to 30 credits, have to be obtained by the student. These are: PHY 522 Statistical Thermodynamics, PHY 552 Theoretical Physics, PHY 562 Mechanics II, PHY 574 Introduction to Solid State Physics, PHY 583 Classical Electrodynamics, PHY 673 Quantum Mechanics, SCI 511 Ethics and Practice of Science (this last counts for 2 credits, being 4 credits each of the previous ones). In addition, students can choose one of the two courses: PHY 542 Advanced Electronics (for the Applied Physics track - 4 credits), or Numerical Methods in Theoretical Physics (for the Computational Physics track - also 4 credits). The required proficiency is measured in two ways: by completion with a grade of 3.0 or higher in the appropriate courses listed above, and by taking special examinations in preselected disciplines. These examinations are commonly referred as 'qualifying'. This comprehensive examination will consist of a written examination followed by an oral examination. The written examination will consist of two parts: Mathematics and Theoretical Physics. An integral and major component of the program is the successful completion of original research either utilizing state-of-the-art experimental methods or taking theoretical and/or computational approach to study a problem of current interest. This will be achieved by the student through careful and constant guidance provided by a faculty of his/her choosing, who is involved in research of the student's interest. Finally, the student will then prepare a doctoral dissertation,

which will be submitted to a specially formed committee and shall defend the dissertation in a public oral examination.

Program Description

The purpose of this doctoral program is to provide students with training in physical science that includes a variety of forefront skills to enable them to meet the challenge of tomorrow's rapidly evolving technology. The program will focus on broad interdisciplinary areas of materials, instrumentation and numerical modeling where Oakland University already has a base of distinguished faculty researchers in the participating departments of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematical Sciences and Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. Formal course work will allow the students to learn physics of materials, principles of devices, computational methods, and experimental techniques. Note that a faculty in the Department of Physics (Dr. G. Martins) and one in the School of Engineering and Computer Science (Dr. M. Zhody) are jointly developing a course in 'Introduction to Nanoscience' (Phy405 – taught for the first time in Winter-09), which attests to the potential benefits that a modern Ph.D. program, in the spirit here being proposed, can bring to Oakland students.

Industrial collaboration will be sought at all stages of the program. Examples of such collaboration include shared equipment in research projects, adjunct faculty from industry acting as dissertation supervisors and teaching advanced courses, encouragement of research projects that solve industrial problems and student internships in industrial laboratories. Although additional resources need to be provided by Oakland University in order to begin this program, most of these resources are already available. Of primary importance is adequate laboratory equipment (see above). Most of the required courses are already present in our catalog (see Appendix II). However, faculty members will be required to offer these courses more frequently.

The program will be designed to provide both interdisciplinary training to students and a forum to foster interdisciplinary collaboration among the research programs of the faculty participants, including industrial adjunct faculty. The curriculum will be designed for full-time students (8-12 credit hours per semester) but will allow the flexibility necessary for part-time students. Advising will be an important aspect of the program since we expect incoming students with majors in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, or Engineering. Each incoming student will be assigned an initial advising committee (representing at least two participating departments) who will direct the student to appropriate course work.

The curriculum is designed to provide a background that is sufficiently broad to give the student familiarity with a variety of concepts and techniques in technological science yet sufficiently deep to allow the student to acquire the insight necessary to complete a creative research project. The main goals of the curriculum are the understanding of physics of materials, principles of devices, computational methods, and experimental techniques. These goals can be met, in large part, by current course offerings at Oakland University.

Physics of materials will include theory of solids, statistical mechanics, and the necessary prerequisites. Principles of devices will include electronics, lasers, and similar subjects. Computational methods will include both theoretical modeling and the interface with experiment, with real problems based on the research of the faculty participants. Experimental techniques will be taught from among a variety of disciplines using actual research equipment, whenever possible.

All students will be required to attend a weekly research seminar representing all the program participants. The seminars can range from student reports on journal articles to formal colloquiums by outside speakers. One goal of this seminar is to keep all participants informed of each other's activities.

The normal time scale to the degree will assume that the students are prepared to take graduate-level courses from the first year of their studies and that the qualifying examination will be taken at the end of the second year. Such students should complete the program in about four to five years. It is expected that, starting from the third year in the program, all students will be supported by research grants. It will be necessary, however, (and beneficial to the students) to have teaching assistantship support during the first two years.

Areas of Concentration

Students must choose one of the following concentration areas:

Computational Physics

Computational Physics has been growing as a major area of concentration in Physics. At OU, students will receive training in the major areas of Computational Physics, through specific courses, ranging from basic to advanced, and will greatly benefit from the expertise and cutting edge research being performed by faculty in many different fields (see Elder, Garfinkle, and Martins, in Faculty specialization in Appendix X). At OU, students will also benefit from the state-of-the-art computational facilities maintained by the Physics Department since 2004, which have been greatly improved in 2010 through an NSF grant in excess of \$ 140,000.

Applied Physics

In the area of Applied Physics, the Department has developed, under the guidance of Prof. Srinivasan, comprehensive facilities and strong connections to local area industries and federal agencies. The Applied Physics PhD graduates will have job opportunities in R&D Laboratories in the Detroit Metro area and in neighboring Ohio and Illinois. Potential fields of employment include the semiconductor sector, alternative energy (solar, wind), automotive-related research, and similar high-tech industries. The students graduating with a Ph.D. in Applied Physics will be strongly encouraged (and helped) to

seek summer internship in R&D facilities to gain experience and increase the prospects for future employment.

Admission requirements

The students admitted into the Ph.D. program in Applied and Computational Physics must have a bachelor's degree with a major in either Physics, Engineering, Computer Science or one of the mathematical sciences. Admission is highly selective: the prospective student should submit a graduate application, official transcripts from all colleges and universities previously attended, letters of recommendation from three faculty members capable of evaluating scholarly achievements and potential for independent research, and results of the Graduate Record Examination, including the subject test appropriate to the specialization in Applied and Computational Physics. There are no specific course prerequisites for this program.

Requirements for the Ph.D. degree

Course requirements:

General Core Requirements (minimum of 8 core courses + research seminar – 32 credits)

- PHY 522 Statistical Thermodynamics
- PHY 552 Theoretical Physics
- PHY 562 Mechanics II
- PHY 574 Introduction to Solid State Physics
- PHY 583 Classical Electrodynamics
- PHY 673 Quantum Mechanics
- SCI 511 Ethics and Practice of Science (2 Credits)

And one of the two courses

- o PHY 542 Advanced Electronics (for the Applied Physics track)
- o PHY 553 Numerical Methods in Theoretical Physics (for the Computational Physics track)

The students will be required to attend the research seminar (the department of Physics colloquia). During the graduate studies, the students will need to take two semesters of PHY 600 (1 credit per semester). The students will also take 16 credits of elective courses: 8 credits from the listed recommended courses and 8 credits of free electives.

Electives (8 credits from lists below)

Applied Physics track:

- PHY 545 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
- CHM 426 Instrumental Analysis
- CHM 470 Industrial Chemistry
- CHM 541 Advanced Physical Chemistry
- CHM 542 Topics in Physical Chemistry

- EE 526 Instrumentation and Measurements
- EE 545 Electromagnetic Engineering

Computational Physics track:

- PHY 535 Modeling complex systems
- PHY 530 Bioelectric Phenomena
- PHY 504 Advanced Astrophysics
- PHY 565 Physics of Continuous Media
- PHY 674 Advanced Quantum Mechanics
- APM 533 Numerical Methods
- APM 534 Applied Numerical Methods: Matrix Methods
- APM 634 Numerical Methods for Partial Differential Equations
- APM 658 Mathematical Modeling in Industry: Continuous Models
- STA 515 Stochastic Processes I
- ME 538 Fluid Transport
- ME 639 Gas Dynamics

Exit Options

Approval of research oriented thesis dissertation, submitted to internal and external review.

Program Total Credits

A minimum of 90 credits beyond the bachelor's degree is required for the Ph.D. degree in Applied and Computational Physics, including at least 42 credits of dissertation research. The total course requirement is 12 courses (46 credits) and a research seminar (2 credits), with a minimum of 8 core courses and 2 courses not directly related to the dissertation topic. There are 2 free electives.

Additional Program Information

Minimum Requirements:

The Ph.D. degree in the proposed program will be a research degree and not be conferred solely as a result of study. The degree will be granted on evidence of general proficiency in the program area, and particularly on the candidate's ability for independent investigation as demonstrated in a final dissertation based upon his or her original research. This research will be at a level of sophistication equivalent to work published in refereed science journals. The basic requirements for the Ph.D. in Applied and Computational Physics are completion of a program of formal course work and independent research approved by the candidate's dissertation committee and the Joint Committee on Applied and Computational Physics.

Students with a Previous masters Degree:

Students with a previous MS degree can obtain up to 32 credits reduction for their graduate studies with approval from the program committee. On entering the program,

each MS student will be given a preliminary examination consisting of three parts: thermodynamics, quantum mechanics, and electricity and magnetism (the course content of PHY 421, 472 and 482, respectively). Failure in any of the three parts of the exam will obligate the student to take the corresponding course.

Dissertation committee

A dissertation committee consisting of at least three members (one of whom will serve as dissertation adviser) will be formed. The majority of the committee will consist of faculty members of the Department of Physics. The student's dissertation adviser will be chairperson of the committee. The committee is charged with the guidance of the student in course selection, review of dissertation proposals before initiation of a project, and approval of the completed dissertation.

Qualifying Examination

Typically, within two years after admission into the program, the student must pass a comprehensive qualifying examination. The comprehensive examination will consist of a written examination followed by an oral examination. The written examination will consist of two parts: Mathematics and Theoretical Physics. The oral exam will include the student's presentation on his/her research. The examination is intended to determine the extent of the student's knowledge and readiness for the doctoral degree and will be designed and evaluated by the dissertation committee. If the student does not pass the examination, the committee may allow the student to retake the examination within one year. Failure to pass the examination within two attempts shall constitute failure in the Ph.D. program.

Dissertation: proposal and defense procedures

An integral and major component of the program is the successful completion of original research either utilizing state-of-the-art experimental methods or taking theoretical and/or computational approach to study a problem of current interest. Each student shall, in consultation with his or her adviser, prepare: a dissertation proposal outlining the problem to be studied and the relation of this problem to practical applications, a survey of the appropriate literature, a description of the appropriate techniques, and an outline of the experiments to be performed. The student shall, at the request of the dissertation committee, orally defend the proposal and elaborate on the methods for data collection and analysis.

The project shall be deemed ready for preparation of the dissertation at such time as the student's dissertation committee agrees that the student has completed the project and that the student is an expert in the use of the specific theoretical and/or experimental methods required by the project. The student shall then prepare a doctoral dissertation for submission to the committee and shall defend the dissertation in a public oral examination conducted by the dissertation committee and attended by the specialization committee.

Courses in the Program (Required and Elective)

The student is assumed to be prepared to take courses at the 500 level upon admission. If this is not the case, additional course time will be required. At most 12 credits of 400 level course-work can count toward the Ph.D. For example, it is assumed that the entering student has successfully completed the equivalent of

PHY 421	Thermodynamics
PHY 472	Quantum Mechanics I
PHY 482	Electricity and Magnetism II

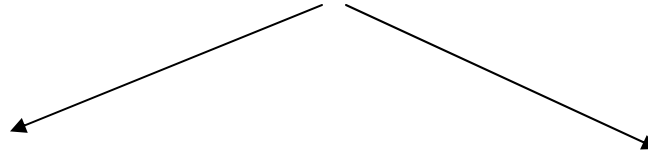
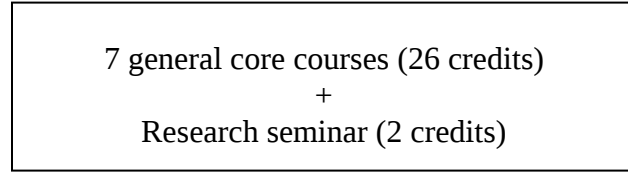
The students will be required to take 7 core courses (one of them being required for the chosen specialization - either computational physics or applied physics). The students would also take 16-20 credits of elective courses: 8 credits from the listed recommended courses and 8-12 credits of free electives. Once a student has chosen a specialization, certain elective courses will be essential to his/her education. Note that, in addition to physics courses, there are courses in chemistry, mathematical sciences and engineering. It is expected that once a student has the basic knowledge and training in physics, through the required courses, he or she will specialize in an area related to his/her dissertation research, and take elective courses appropriate to that specialization.

Additional requirements:

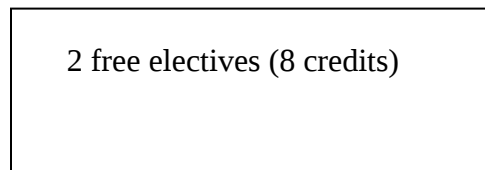
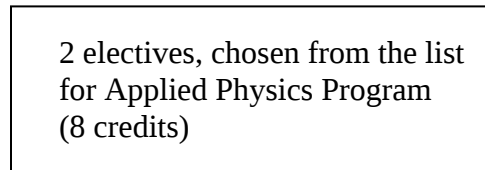
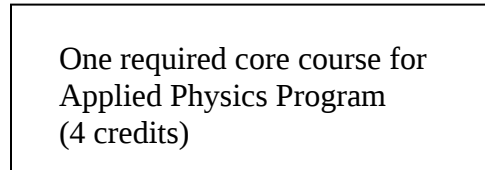
The students will be required to attend the research seminar each semester for the first three years. In the third year of their graduate studies, the students will be required to take the course PHY 600 (1 credit per semester).

Note that all core and required courses for each specialization are Department of Physics courses. (Where an equivalent course exists in another department, the student could take that course instead). The list of required credits is summarized below.

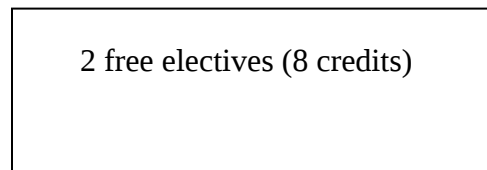
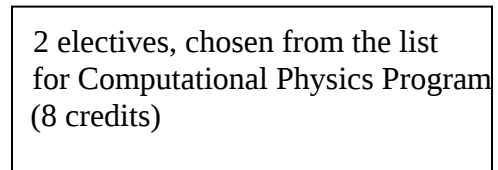
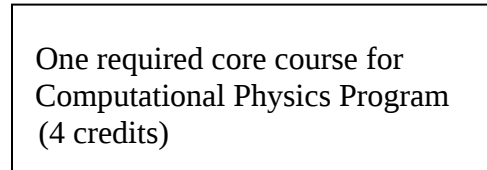
Courses (48 credits)



Applied Physics Program



Computational Physics Program



Course Offerings

PHT 515 Physics Teaching: Experiments and Equipment (2)

Secondary physics and physical science teachers will design, perform and critique laboratory and demonstration experiments selected to match individual teaching situations and available equipment. Related physical principles, potential open-ended questions and sources of experimental difficulties will be viewed.

PHY 504 Advanced Astrophysics I (4)

Observational properties of stars, galactic structure, stellar dynamics.

PHY 505 Advanced Astrophysics II (4)

Stellar structure and evolution, interstellar medium, galaxies, cosmology. Recommended Prerequisite: PHY 504.

PHY 522 Statistical Thermodynamics (4)

Review of classical thermodynamics. Kinetic theory of gases, transport phenomena, classical and quantum statistics, partition functions and thermodynamic properties, ensembles and fluctuations.

PHY 525 Radiation Biophysics (4)

The study of molecular and cellular radiation biology, theories of biological effects of radiation, repair of radiation damage, effects of irradiation on human tissue and organs and radio-sensitivity of human tumors.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

PHY 530 Bioelectric Phenomena (4)

The physics of bioelectric phenomena: the electrical behavior of nerves, skeletal muscle and the heart; the electrocardiogram and the electroencephalogram; and biomedical devices such as the pacemaker.

PHY 535 Modeling complex systems (4)

Methods of mathematical physics and nonlinear dynamics will be applied to investigate problems in physical, chemical, and biological systems. Examples studied will include population dynamics, epidemiology, instabilities and formation of patterns, diffusion phenomena (cell migration), and growth of brain tumors.

PHY 542 Advanced Electronics (4)

Selected topics in the analysis and design of electronic circuits.

PHY 545 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (4)

Basic principles, imaging techniques, in vivo spectroscopy.
Student must have permission of instructor.

PHY 548 Advanced Electronics Laboratory (2)

To accompany PHY 542.

PHY 552 Theoretical Physics (4)

Topics and techniques common to graduate physics courses: partial differential equations, eigenvalue problems, special functions, spherical harmonics, Green's functions, variational methods, linear vector spaces, tensors.

PHY 553 Numerical Methods in Theoretical Physics (4)

Numerical differentiation and integration. Numerical solution of linear, transcendental and differential equations. Numerical modeling and data analysis. Accuracy and stability of algorithms. Knowledge of a scientific programming language (FORTRAN preferred). Recommended prerequisite: PHY 552.

PHY 562 Mechanics II (4)

Lagrange's and Hamilton's equations of motion, rotation of rigid bodies, coupled oscillations, nonlinear dynamics.

PHY 565 Physics of Continuous Media (4)

Introduction to elasticity and fluid mechanics, including tensors, stress, strain, flow, conservation principles, constitutive equations, elasticity and fluid mechanics.

PHY 573 Nuclear Physics (4)

Nuclear properties, forces, models, decays and reactions; nuclear energy, elementary particles.

PHY 574 Introduction to Solid-State Physics (4)

Introduction to the thermal, electrical and magnetic properties of solids, including periodic structure, lattice dynamics, electron interactions and behavior, transport properties, Fermi surface, optical behavior and superconductivity. Emphasizes current experimental techniques.

PHY 583 Classical Electrodynamics (4)

Review of electrostatics, magnetostatics, Maxwell's equations and electromagnetic waves. Relativistic description of particles, fields and interactions. Radiation by moving charges, bremsstrahlung, radiation damping, self fields.
Recommended prerequisites: PHY 552.

PHY 600 Seminar (1)

Student must have permission of instructor.

PHY 610 Current Topics in Medical Physics (4)

Lectures on current areas of research in medical physics. Student must be admitted to Ph.D. program or have permission of instructor.

PHY 615 Ethics and Law in Science and Engineering (4)

The purpose of this course is to provide graduate students in the sciences and engineering with an awareness of the current activities and discussions related to the legal and ethical conduct of modern-day science. This course will consist of lectures and seminars which will examine a number of specific topic areas, such as constitutional rights and protections, the U.S. and Michigan court systems, fundamental theories of contract, rights and responsibilities, conflict of interest (real and apparent), scientific fraud and misconduct, and patent rights.

PHY 631 Biomechanics (4)

This course will include topics in statics, kinematics and dynamics, elastic and viscoelastic theory as applied to the physical properties of biological materials and body motion, as well as fluid properties in the mechanics of the circulatory system.
Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

PHY 632 Introduction to Lasers and Masers (4)

Theory and principles of quantum electronics as applied to lasers and masers, properties of laser light, selected applications.

PHY 665 Physics of Fluids in the Body (4)

Newtonian fluid flow; respiration, micturition and non-Newtonian fluid, mucous and blood, circulation; fluid flow in elastic tubes, blood, CSF, lymph.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

PHY 673 Quantum Mechanics (4)

Development of formal approach to quantum mechanics, selected illustrations and applications.
Recommended prerequisites: PHY 552 and PHY 562.

PHY 674 Advanced Quantum Mechanics (4)

Continuation of PHY 673. Additional illustrations and applications of formal quantum mechanics.

Prerequisite: PHY 673.

PHY 690 Master of Science Research (2 – 12)

Graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory. May be repeated for additional credit.

PHY 721 Interaction of Non-Ionizing Radiation with Tissue (4)

Review of electromagnetic theory, dielectric properties of tissue, piezoelectric effects, streaming potentials, dielectrophoresis, passive and active transport, cell-field interactions; observed effects in development, behavior and tissue repair; geomagnetic coupling. Interactions of ultrasound and lasers with cells.

Student must be admitted to Ph.D. program or have permission of instructor.

PHY 726 Advanced Radiation Biophysics (4)

In depth study of selected topics in Radiation Biophysics. Areas such as target theory, cell cycle distribution influences, molecular and cellular repair theories and concepts of micro dosimetry will be covered.

Recommended prerequisites: PHY 525. Permission of instructor.

PHY 790 Doctoral Research (2 – 12)

Graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory. May be repeated for additional credit.

3. Assessment Plan Narrative

a. Citation of appropriate goals from Oakland University's Mission Statement.

(1) "A strong core of liberal arts and sciences [will] ... develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes essential for successful living and active, concerned citizenship [and] an enriched life."

(2) "...research and scholarship reinforce the instructional mission of the university. whenever possible students are involved in research projects"

(3) "Each program ... ensure[s] .. superior career preparation or enhancement."

b. Specification of academic unit goals that flow from each of the cited university goals.

(1) "The nature of today's technology is derived from a very few academic disciplines. Physics is one of these critical areas of expertise, and the department is in a position to provide unique service to the university community along these lines."

(2) “Research activities at Oakland reflect a number of factors, primarily connected to the educational objective. Members of the faculty derive more insight and detailed experience in newer, developing areas of physics as a result of their research. Not only are they enabled to communicate more effectively, but students also have the opportunity to be exposed to first-hand techniques and understanding.”

(3) “The Department of Physics ... is primarily a research department. We see this orientation as the most important component of the overall department mission, namely to serve the community in terms of its educational needs in physics.”

c. Operationalization of the unit’s goals into outcomes for student learning.

(1) “The students will master the theories of classical and modern physics in the advanced courses.”

(2) “Doctoral students will develop the skills to perform publication quality research”

(3) “Students will be trained by medical physics researchers to develop the research skills necessary for a career in medical physics.”

d. Description of the methods by which progress toward the operationalized unit goals will be measured.

The Department of Physics will employ the assessment tools described below.

Alumni Survey (a-c)

A survey of Oakland physics alumni will be conducted every 2 years. A copy of the survey is attached to this document. The survey contains a series of questions designed to determine if the students were properly prepared for their careers and how the students perceive their experience at Oakland University in general and more specifically the Department of Physics instruction and facilities.

Completion of PhD Dissertation (b-c)

Each student will be required to take 42 credits of dissertation research culminating in a PhD thesis that contains publication quality research. The standard Oakland University grading system will be used.

Student Publications (c)

The number of publications that have students as co-authors will be monitored to directly measure the program’s goal of stimulating cutting edge research.

e. List the individual(s) who have primary responsibility for administering assessment activities.

In what follows, the “assessment committee” refers to a group comprised of the assessment representative (currently K. Elder), the faculty adviser (currently D. Garfinkle) and Department Chair (currently A. Slavin).

Initiation of the alumni survey is the responsibility of the assessment representative. The assessment representative will be responsible for the collection of the surveys and initial statistical analysis. Each member of the assessment committee will read the open-ended questions on each individual survey. The committee will then prepare a report summarizing the results.

Grading of the PhD thesis will be the responsibility of the faculty member advising the student and at least one other faculty member who has expertise in the research area covered in the scientific paper. The assessment representative will be responsible for collection of statistics and analysis of results.

f. Describe the procedures used in your academic unit for translating assessment results into program changes.

The assessment committee will meet periodically to review the results of the assessment measurements and assess whether program changes are required to achieve the program goals. If it is determined that changes are required, the assessment committee will prepare recommendations that will be presented and discussed by the entire physics faculty. The entire faculty will then determine which recommendations should be implemented. Once implemented, the impact of the changes will be evaluated using the assessment tools described earlier.

4. Library Review

Kresge Library currently has a sizable number of subscriptions to online physics journals, providing adequate support for research in all areas of Physics (see Appendix IV for the detailed Library Review). We do not envision a large need for requesting any additional subscriptions in the short term. Our current subscriptions should only be enhanced by a few titles: Nature Physics, Nature Materials, Nature Nanotechnology, Physics of Fluids, and Europhysics Letters (online subscriptions).

5. Labs and Lab Equipments

Microwave magnetics and multiferroics lab.

We are well-equipped for recruitment and training of graduate students to pursue a research career in microwave magnetics and multiferroics. Facilities for sample synthesis include dual beam RF sputtering, tape casting, high temperature furnaces, microwave furnace, and hot-pressing. We have a scanning probe microscope with AFM, EFM and MFM for the characterization of bulk, single crystal and nanosystems. Structural characterization facilities include an X-ray diffractometer and a scanning electron microscope. Magnetic characterization facilities, such as a Faraday balance and a Quantum Design squid magnetometer, are also available. State-of-the-art instrumentation is in place for high frequency characterization from 1 kHz to 110 GHz. Three vector network analyzers over this frequency range, a 3-GHz Agilent materials analyzer, an X-band ferromagnetic resonance system and a magnetoelectric measurement system are some of the high frequency measurement systems available.

6. Planning Narrative

How the program will help promote the Role and Mission of the University (OU in 2020)

a. Excellent academic and professional instruction: The new program will generate professionals who will be able to either follow academic careers in Physics, or work in private and public research labs, participating in the development of new technologies, be it in computer simulation or materials development and characterization.

b. High-quality basic and applied research and scholarship: The faculty at the Department of Physics are leaders at OU in volume of publications and external funding. This trend will continue and be reinforced by attracting the enrollment of qualified graduate students from Michigan, other states in the nation, and other countries.

c. Responsive and effective public and community service: The Department of Physics at OU has been an important source for the region in the development of talented high school and community college students, through their formal and informal enrollment in research activities throughout the year, but especially in the summer, through programs like its NSF-funded REU.

d. Comprehensive schedule of student development activities: OU students will be offered the possibility of continuing their education after majoring in one of the sciences, by enrolling in the new Ph.D. program. They will engage in research with one of the faculty in the program and attend a comprehensive set of upper level courses, thus obtaining, besides a Ph.D. degree, the technical knowledge necessary to be successful in the current high-tech economy.

7. Benchmark proposed program against other similar programs in table format

Unique features of the Program

We have analyzed three universities in the State of Michigan which have Physics Departments similar to the one at OU's and which have Ph.D. programs. These are:

- Michigan Technical University:
<http://www.phy.mtu.edu/graddegrees/PhDPhysics.html>
- Western Michigan University:
<http://tesla.physics.wmich.edu/GradPrograms.php?PG=1>
- Central Michigan University:
<http://www.cst.cmich.edu/phd-sam.html>

While the first two universities offer more traditional programs in Physics, i.e., without a well-defined focus in specific fields, Central Michigan University offers a Ph.D. in the Science of Advanced Materials, a model which is more akin to the one being proposed at OU. However, the focus of the proposed program is in Computational and Applied Physics, areas which do not have a direct overlap with Science of Advanced Materials. We believe that our focus on Computational as well as Applied Physics makes our program unique within the State of Michigan. The computational track is an option that is not generally present within physics Ph.D. programs and naturally lends itself to collaboration with researchers in computational chemistry and computational engineering. This will give our students a broad range of possibilities for research projects and future careers. Since the majority of faculty to be involved in the program is related to basic Condensed Matter Physics, this focus will be exploited in the advertisement and recruiting of students. The proposed program will therefore be much more focused compared to those of Michigan Technical University and Western Michigan University, with which our program, given its size, would be competing more directly. However, irrespective of any current or future programs in Michigan, we believe that our program will count with several strengths which will help us attract quality students to Oakland:

1) Our computational facilities have greatly improved in the last three years; we won the Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) grant from National Science Foundation, which added more than \$200,000 in equipment to the current facilities (already worth around \$150,000).

2) The number of international faculty in the department, all having strong links in their countries of origin, provides an additional source of qualified students the program can count on. Our researchers span multiple collaborations in Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Canada, besides strong collaborations with many important research centers in the US. These links will be heavily exploited through direct advertisement of the new program.

3) As already mentioned above, the concentration of the program in Computational and Applied Physics, with emphasis in Materials Science, will make the task of recruiting students easier. One of the focuses of research, nanotechnology, given the current push for investment in this area and its prospects for becoming an important part of the high-tech economy (not only in Michigan but around the world) will enhance the appeal of the program.

9. Budget Narrative

The Ph.D. program in Applied and Computational Physics plans to begin in the fall term of 2012. We anticipate beginning with 4 full time students and growing gradually to 15 in years four and five of the program. This would require six graduate assistantships (TA positions), three of them are required starting from year one, another three are required starting from year two. Every graduate student will have a TA position for the first two years of his/her graduate studies. After that a student will be supported from the external grants of his/her research advisor.

In the overall budget calculations, we assume hiring a new faculty members on year four. We plan to hire a theorist in the field of computational physics with start up of \$200,000 over three years. In order to maintain the program during the first three years we need one visiting professor position. The budget includes also an additional salary for the director of graduate studies.

We have not included expenditures for clerical support, supplies and services and telephone; they will be provided by the Department. Library subscriptions are included in the budget. We expect the proposed graduate program to have a substantial impact on the department's undergraduate program. A department with active graduate program in applied and computational physics is much more attractive for undergraduate students. We intend to administer the graduate program in ways consistent with the department's overall commitment to both its undergraduate and graduate curriculum.

Increase in external funding

We anticipate that the new graduate program will substantially increase the research productivity of faculty members and therefore lead to the increase in external funding, obtained by faculty members of the Department of Physics. Currently, every faculty member obtains on the average more than \$150,000 per year. Although, some faculty members (associated with the Medical Physics program) can have graduate students, working on topics in Medical Physics, most of the faculty members do not have an opportunity to mentor graduate students. It is expected that every graduate student will lead to 10-15% increase in external research funding of his advisor.

College of Arts and Sciences
Program: PhD Applied and Computational Physics
Program Inception: Fall 2012
Five-Year Budget: FY12 - FY17
Fund: TBD
Date: September 27, 2010

		Budget Year 1	Budget Year 2	Budget Year 3	Budget Year 4	Budget Year 5
Revenue Variables:						
Headcount		4	7	10	14	15
Average credits per year per major		24	24	24	24	24
Total Credit Hours		96	168	240	336	360
Undergraduate (lower)		0	0	0	0	0
Undergraduate (upper)		0	0	0	0	0
Graduate		96	168	240	336	360
Total FYES		6.00	10.50	15.00	21.00	22.50
Undergraduate (cr.÷30)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Graduate (cr.÷24)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Doctoral (cr.÷16)		6.00	10.50	15.00	21.00	22.50
Tuition Rate Per Credit Hour						
Undergraduate (lower)		\$ 309.50	\$ 309.50	\$ 309.50	\$ 309.50	\$ 309.50
Undergraduate (upper)		\$ 338.25	\$ 338.25	\$ 338.25	\$ 338.25	\$ 338.25
Graduate		\$ 540.50	\$ 540.50	\$ 540.50	\$ 540.50	\$ 540.50
Revenue						
Tuition		\$ 51,888	\$ 90,804	\$ 129,720	\$ 181,608	\$ 194,580
Other (Increase in external grant funding)		\$ -	\$ 80,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 280,000
Total Revenue		\$ 51,888	\$ 170,804	\$ 269,720	\$ 381,608	\$ 474,580
Compensation						
Salaries/Wages						
Faculty Inload Replacements	6301	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Faculty Salaries	6101	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000
Faculty Overload	6301	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,500
Part-time Faculty	6301	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Visiting Faculty	6101	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ -	\$ -
Administrative	6201	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Administrative - IC	6221	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Clerical	6211	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Student	6501	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Graduate Assistantship Stipend	6311	\$ 42,000	\$ 84,000	\$ 84,000	\$ 84,000	\$ 84,000
Out of Classification	6401	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Overtime	6401	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Salaries/Wages		\$ 105,500	\$ 147,500	\$ 147,500	\$ 157,500	\$ 157,500
Fringe Benefits	6701	\$ 680	\$ 680	\$ 680	\$ 29,735	\$ 29,735
Total Compensation		\$ 106,180	\$ 148,180	\$ 148,180	\$ 187,235	\$ 187,235
Operating Expenses						
Supplies and Services	7101	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Graduate Assistant Tuition	7726	\$ 38,916	\$ 77,832	\$ 77,832	\$ 77,832	\$ 77,832
Travel	7201	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Telephone	7301	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment	7501	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Library	7401	\$ 17,744	\$ 19,493	\$ 21,416	\$ 23,531	\$ 25,855
Lab Startup	7101	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000
One Time Investment/Program Startup Cost		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Operating Expenses		\$ 56,660	\$ 97,325	\$ 99,248	\$ 166,363	\$ 168,687
Total Expenses		\$ 162,840	\$ 245,505	\$ 247,428	\$ 353,598	\$ 355,922
Net		\$ (110,952)	\$ (74,701)	\$ 22,292	\$ 28,010	\$ 118,658

Title		Description	Account	Budget Year 1 Amount	Budget Year 2 Amount	Budget Year 3 Amount	Budget Year 4 Amount	Budget Year 5 Amount
PHD Graduate Assistants Tuition		Graduate assistants will teach lab sections. Each PHD graduate student will be offered 24 credits per year.	Graduate Assistant Tuition	\$38,916	\$77,832	\$77,832	\$77,832	\$77,832
PHD Graduate Assistants Stipend		Graduate assistants will teach lab sections. The PHD stipend is \$14,000 per year per student.	Graduate Assistantship Stipend	\$42,000	\$84,000	\$84,000	\$84,000	\$84,000
Program Director		Stipend for program director.	Faculty Overload	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
Library Books		Books/resources for Kresge collection to support program.	Library	\$17,744	\$19,493	\$21,416	\$23,531	\$25,855
Faculty Hire	FY15		Faculty Salaries				\$65,000	\$65,000
Faculty Hire Startup	FY15		Lab Startup				\$65,000	\$65,000
Visiting Professor position				\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000		

Appendix I: Faculty Qualifications

The Department of Physics has always been committed to excellence in teaching, research, and service. Many times our searches for new faculty positions resulted in our first choice accepting the position. All full-time faculty members (and one of our part-time instructors) have earned Ph.D. degrees. The faculty members in applied physics have expertise in multiferroics, sensors, and microwave devices, magnetoelectric composites, nonlinear dynamics (including magnetic properties of materials, spin waves), amorphous magnetic oxides, thin film production techniques, properties of alloys, Raman spectroscopy, lasers, high pressure experimental techniques, and the properties of semiconductors and fullerenes. The research in these areas has been highly successful. The expertise and research of the faculty in applied physics has many industrial applications and will be essential for the new program. The faculty in computational physics have expertise in relativity and astrophysics, computational condensed matter physics (including electron transport at low temperatures and quantum fluctuations, numerical methods applied to strongly correlated electrons), nonequilibrium statistical mechanics, phase separation and pattern formation (including spinodal decomposition, Ostwald ripening, eutectic solidification, order/disorder transitions and amorphous/crystal transitions, thermal convection in classical and granular fluids, flame front propagation explosive crystallization, instabilities and phase separation in classical and granular fluids).

The Medical Physics faculty are presently running a very successful Ph.D. program. Their guidance will be essential for the success of the Applied and Computational Physics Ph.D. program. The Medical Physics faculty will also be involved in teaching several of the experimental and computational methods courses needed in the new program. In addition, some research techniques presently used by the Medical Physics faculty (for example, NMR imaging or agent-based discrete simulations) have applications both to Medical Physics and to the study of the properties of materials. Therefore, it is expected that some Medical Physics faculty will also do research and supervise student research in the framework of the new program.

Some of the departmental strengths, as demonstrated by the faculty research areas, are highlighted in **Appendix I**. In addition to publishing papers (faculty members published 112 papers in scientific refereed journals during the 2007-2008 academic year), Department of Physics faculty members are involved in many other scholarly activities. During the 2007-2008 academic year, 56 presentations at national and international meetings, as well as government and commercial laboratories, and major universities all over the world, were given by our faculty. Most of our faculty now hold research grants from external agencies, such as federal funding agencies (NSF, NIH, DOE, etc), non-profit agencies (Research Corporation, Petroleum Research Fund, etc.) or private industry. During the 2007-2008 academic year, the faculty received over \$ 2.9 million of new external grants. Faculty members review grant proposals for NSF, NIH and other funding agencies. They also serve on the editorial boards and reviewer panels of many international journals. Department faculty have organized conferences and chaired sessions at international conferences.

Michael Chopp

Professor

B.S., Brooklyn College, New York (1967)

Ph.D., New York University, New York (1975)

Research Fields

- Development and treatment of stroke
- Applications of MRI in Biomedical areas

Current Research Interests

Dr. Chopp has continued his leadership of an outstanding research group at Henry Ford Hospital (HFH). An internationally recognized expert in the development and treatment of stroke, Dr. Chopp was one of a small international group of scientists invited by the World Health Organization to Geneva to discuss how best to study and treat this disease. In support of his research, Dr. Chopp received major grants from the NIH to HFH. A significant fraction of OU pre-doctoral students work in his laboratory. The focus of Dr. Chopp's research is the development of treatments for stroke. His goal is to salvage affected brain tissue. He and his group have recently identified novel death pathways of brain cells after stroke. After the onset of a stroke, brain cells undergo self-destruction, a form of programmed cell death. This suicidal process is programmed by genetic alterations. They have identified proteins and genes responsible for the promotion of this form of cell death. With this knowledge, they may be able to intervene to inhibit this process. Dr. Chopp and his group have recently identified methods to induce the production of new brain cells. This discovery may yield important therapeutic benefits for a broad range of neurological injuries and degenerative diseases. They have also found that after a stroke secondary events contribute to the growth of the dead tissue. A major contributing factor to this secondary injury is the influx of white blood cells into the region of damage. They have identified the signaling molecules that target these cells to the site of injury and have blocked the function of these molecules. Their data indicate that using this therapeutic approach the amount of injured brain tissue is decreased by a factor of two and that they can significantly reduce damage from stroke. Dr. Chopp and his group have also developed novel imaging methods using MRI that permit the non-invasive evaluation of the health status of brain tissue. These techniques allow them to identify whether brain cells are simply affected and compromised by the stroke, are in the process of dying, or are already dead.

Ken Elder

Professor

B.Sc., University of Guelph (1984)

Ph.D., University of Toronto (1989)

Research Fields

- Non-Equilibrium Statistical Mechanics
- Phase Separation and Pattern Formation
- Computational Condensed Matter Physics

Current Research Interests

The research of Prof. Elder is devoted to understanding the complex structures or patterns that emerge in non-equilibrium phenomena. Such patterns are ubiquitous in nature, from double helix structures in DNA to the beautiful array of snowflake shapes. More

importantly these patterns often control key material properties and biological functions. Unlocking the enormous potential of such structures lies in the ability to make efficient predictions. Unfortunately this task is complicated by the complexity of interactions between various system components. For this reason computational modeling has proved to be an invaluable tool. The bulk of Elder's research has been devoted to the development of methods to model non-equilibrium phenomena in materials physics. This research has included studies of spinodal decomposition, Ostwald ripening, eutectic solidification, order/disorder transitions and amorphous/crystal transitions, Rayleigh-Benard convection, flame front propagation explosive crystallization, the decay of supercurrents in superconducting rings, the motion of charge density waves, the absorption of liquids by random media (or imbibition) and phase separation in fluids.

More recently Prof. Elder has worked on the development a phase field model method that resolves microscopic length scales on mesoscopic times scales. This differs from traditional atomic or molecular (MD) approaches that are limited by the atomic time (femto seconds) and length (nanometers) scales. It also differs from standard phase field methods that describe mesoscopic scales which cannot describe microscopic details and are often limited to overly simplified descriptions. The advantage of this new 'phase field crystal' method is that it naturally incorporates the physics contained at the microscopic level on time scales many orders of magnitude larger than traditional atomic methods. It is not twice or ten times faster than conventional MD (this level of speed can be achieved by incremental improvements in computational power and algorithms) but can be millions or billions times faster. Prof. Elder and collaborators have used this method to conduct large scale numerical simulations of a variety of technologically important processes or phenomena including, epitaxial growth, the strength of nano-crystalline materials, spinodal age hardening and dislocation climb, glide and annihilation.

David Garfinkle

Professor

B.A., Princeton University (1980)

Ph.D., University of Chicago (1985)

Research Fields

- General Relativity

Current Research Interests

Dr. Garfinkle's current research focuses on the properties of singularities in general relativity. Singularities are states of infinite density and infinite tidal force. They occur when a star collapses to form a black hole or at the big bang at the beginning of the universe. Mathematical results due to Hawking, Penrose and others tell us that singularities occur under a wide variety of circumstances. However, these results tell us very little about the nature of these singularities. Since gravitational collapse is described by Einstein's field equations of general relativity, in principle the properties of singularities can be found by examining the properties of solutions of Einstein's equations. In practice Einstein's equations are too complicated to solve, except in very simple cases. However, with modern high speed simulations of Einstein's equations. Dr. Garfinkle's projects involve using simulations of this sort to work out the properties of singularities. In particular Dr. Garfinkle is involved in three main projects: (i) scaling in

gravitational collapse, (ii) properties of the generic singularity and (iii) collapse of gravity waves. Project (i) involves the collapse of objects that either do or do not form black holes depending on the initial concentration of energy. Especially interesting is the behavior, discovered by M. Choptuik, of the collapse at or near the critical value of concentration that separates those objects that form black holes from those that do not. These collapses show various scaling properties that Dr. Garfinkle is investigating numerically and attempting to explain. Project (ii), in collaboration with Dr. Berger and others, attempts to find the behavior of objects as the singularity forms. Dr. Garfinkle and his collaborators find indications that this behavior becomes comparatively simple as the singularity is approached. Project (iii) explores the question of whether a naked singularity (one not hidden inside a black hole) can form. The project involves computer simulations of the collapse of gravity waves. Strong enough concentrations of gravity waves should form a singularity, and if a black hole event horizon does not form, then the singularity could be seen by outside observers.

Evgeniy Khain

Assistant Professor

B.Sc. in Physics, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel (1995)

M.Sc. in Physics, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel (2000)

Ph.D. in Physics, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel (2005)

Research Fields

- Modeling of collective behavior in biological systems
- Statistical physics far from equilibrium
- Pattern formation and nonlinear dynamics
- Driven granular gases, instabilities in granular flows

Current Research Interests

Biological physics: During the recent years, the newly developing field of biological physics has experienced a tremendous growth. The overall goal of Dr. Khain's research is to identify and describe basic physical mechanisms which govern complex biological processes. He investigates the collective behavior of a large number of living cells. Biological multicellular systems are an exciting example of stochastic non-equilibrium systems. They exhibit numerous physically interesting and biologically important collective phenomena, ranging from wound healing to tumor growth. Dr. Khain's primary goal is to model the growth of malignant brain tumors, which can not be treated by current therapies. He takes a physical approach, which consists in formulating minimalist models with a small number of parameters, in order to determine the role of basic biological processes, such as cell proliferation, cell motility, cell-cell adhesion, etc., in growth patterns of brain tumors. Dr. Khain investigates these problems using both continuum modeling of basic biological processes on the multi-cellular level (reaction-diffusion equations) and discrete stochastic modeling of cells on a lattice.

Physics of granular matter: Granular materials are ubiquitous in nature and of great importance in industry. Recently, granular matter (matter composed of macroscopic particles interacting dissipatively) attracted significant attention of physicists, since it

presents a fascinating example of intrinsically non-equilibrium systems. Fluidized granular media exhibit a variety of symmetry-breaking instabilities and pattern-formation phenomena. The understanding these instabilities is necessary for the development of quantitative models of granular flow, which have various industrial applications. Dr. Khain's research focuses on driven granular gases, as well as on phase separation in a dense shear granular flow. Currently he investigates the challenging problem of rapid dense shear flows. It is known that transport coefficients of hard sphere fluid diverge at the density of dense close packing. However, there is recent evidence that the coefficient of shear viscosity diverges at a lower density than other constitutive relations. This may result in a coexistence of "solid-like" and "fluid-like" layers in dense shear flow, resembling the most intriguing problem of shear-band formation. Dr. Khain investigates these problems employing granular hydrodynamics and comparing the theoretical predictions in a series of molecular dynamics simulations.

George Martins

Associate Professor

B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., Campinas State University, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Research Fields

- Numerical Methods Applied to Strongly Correlated Electrons

Current Research Interests

My basic research interests are in the area of strongly correlated electrons. In collaboration with research groups in the United States, Europe, Brazil, Chile, and Argentina, I have been applying different numerical techniques to probe and understand the properties of strongly correlated electronic systems. 'Strongly correlated condensed matter' is truly a vast area and there are a variety of different computational techniques that can be applied to obtain understanding of their multi-faceted behavior. I have concentrated for now on Exact Diagonalization Methods as a tool to gain understanding of nano structures, High- T_c cuprates, ladders and spin chains, and, more recently, frustrated spin systems and iron-pnictide superconductors.

The numerical techniques I use are:

- Exact diagonalization methods
- Logarithmic Discretized Embedded Cluster Approximation
- Random Phase Approximation (FLEX approach)

Alberto Rojo

Associate Professor

Ph.D. Instituto Balseiro, Bariloche, Argentina (1990)

B.S. Instituto Balseiro, Bariloche, Argentina (1985)

Research Fields

- Electron transport at low temperatures
- Quantum fluctuations

Current Research Interests

Many electron properties in two layer systems: In 1992, together with G. D. Mahan, Dr. Rojo discovered the effect of non-dissipative drag (NDD) on superconductors and mesoscopic systems. He plans to continue this line of research, exploring various

applications of this fascinating effect. Dr. Rojo's work in this area has stimulated significant experimental and theoretical activity. NDD results from the coupling of the zero point charge fluctuations between two systems with no tunneling from one to the other. Dr. Rojo has discussed and summarized its current status and its relation with the dissipative current drag in his recent review article. In collaboration with his graduate student Joe Baker he has studied both analytically and by two different numerical methods the effect of disorder on NDD in order to make contact with experiments. A related effect that has bearing on the coupling between non-tunneling systems is the eddy current coupling between a superconductor and a normal, highly conducting system. He is involved in an ongoing collaboration with the experimental group of C. Thomsen and A. Goñi at the Technische Universität in Berlin, where the effect was observed for the first time in the InSb/GaAs system. The experimental results are in quantitative agreement with Dr. Rojo's theoretical predictions. He is seeking external funding to strengthen the collaboration in which further ramifications of this very interesting and significant effect will be explored.

Squeezing and control of quantum noise: Another project that has been particularly successful since Dr. Rojo's arrival at Michigan was his work on phonon squeezing, a field that falls within his interest in zero point fluctuations. In preliminary calculations he had identified the mechanism of pulses acting on harmonic systems as a means of producing squeezing. For the case of phonons the effect corresponds to a time modulation of the amplitude of the zero point fluctuations in the atomic positions within the solid. Dr. Rojo started collaboration with R. Merlin's group, who measured the effect using ultra fast optical pulses. The experiment constituted the first observation of the squeezing effect in condensed matter, and could have exciting future applications in device physics and in several areas where, in general, a "stroboscopic" control over the quantum noise might be necessary. A very important question to be addressed in the future is: what other excitations can be squeezed in condensed matter, and what are the possible applications? Part of Dr. Rojo's future research effort will be devoted to answering these questions.

Bradley J. Roth

Professor

B.S., University of Kansas (1982)

Ph.D., Vanderbilt University (1987)

Research Fields

- Biological Physics
- Computational Physics

Current Research Interests

Electrical Stimulation of Cardiac Tissue: Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. Yet, decades of cardiology research has not resolved many questions about the mechanisms of electrical stimulation of cardiac tissue. The goal is to use mathematical modeling and computer simulations to resolve some of these questions. In particular, Dr. Roth studies how the anisotropy of cardiac tissue influences the distribution of transmembrane potential in cardiac tissue during stimulation.

Spiral Waves in the Heart: Many cardiac arrhythmias are thought to be caused by spiral waves of electrical activity. The core, or tip, of such a spiral wave may be stationary, or it may meander through the tissue in a complicated pattern. Dr. Roth is trying to understand how the anisotropy of cardiac tissue influences the pattern of meander. This topic is important, because it may affect how a non-lifethreatening fast heart beat (a ventricular tachycardia) may degrade into lethal ventricular fibrillation.

Andrei Slavin

Professor

M.Sc., St.Petersburg Tech Univ, Russia (1974)

Ph.D., St.Petersburg Tech Univ, Russia (1977)

Research Fields

- Linear and nonlinear dynamics of magnetic excitations in magnetic films, multilayers, and finite-size samples: spin waves, solitons, instabilities
- Applications of linear and nonlinear spin waves in microwave signal processing

Current Research Interests

The research interests of Professor Andrei Slavin are in the linear and nonlinear magnetization dynamics in magnetic micro- and nano-structures. He is doing theoretical research on the spectra of microwave spin-wave modes confined in magnetic nano-structures and array of magnetic nano-elements. In particular, he is working on the self-localized nonlinear eigenmodes of magnetic nano-structures and on the linear and nonlinear dynamics of magnetic vortices.

Another important topic of his research is spin-transfer-torque effect in magnetic nano-structures and development of microwave oscillators based on this effect. He is working on the development of a comprehensive theoretical model describing current-induced magnetization dynamics (both deterministic and stochastic) in magnetic nano-pillars and nano-contacts.

Professor Slavin is also working on parametric nonlinear processes in magnetic films including Bose-Einstein condensation (BEC) of magnons under the influence of parametric pumping at a room temperature and storage and parametrically induced recovery of microwave signals in magnetic films.

Gopalan Srinivasan

Professor

M.Sc., Madurai University (India) (1975)

Ph.D., Indian Inst.Tech. (Bombay, India) (1980)

Research Fields

- Thin film magnetism
- Ferromagnetic resonance

Current Research Interests

Gopalan Srinivasan is involved in the physics and applications of the magnetoelectric interaction phenomena in multiferroics. Studies are performed on such interactions in ferromagnetic-ferroelectric composites over a wide frequency, from 1 Hz to 110 GHz.

The composites are potentially useful for sensors, transducers, miniature antennas and microwave devices. The research is supported by grants from NSF and DoD.

Eugene Surdutovich

Visiting Assistant Professor

M.Sc. Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Moscow, Russia (1989)

Ph.D., Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan (1998)

Research Fields

- Multi-scale inclusive approach to physics phenomena relevant to proton/ion-beam cancer therapy

Current Research Interests

My research interests lie in the field of proton- and ion-beam therapies, which are becoming more and more accepted treatments for malignant tumors. Protons and ions are more advantageous projectiles than the now common photons because they may cause less damage to the regions surrounding tumors and thus induce fewer side effects. This is especially important if the side effects are crucial for the patient's quality of life. As a physicist, I am interested in developing a multiscale inclusive approach that would allow a thorough calculation of the efficiency of DNA damage in proton/ion-beam cancer therapy. This method is based on the analysis of different physical, chemical and biochemical phenomena that take place during irradiation by ions. Each phenomenon determines pertinent distances, times, and energies and contribute to the inclusive model of the therapy. This will eventually lead to rigorous calculation of beam energies, dosages, energy deposition rate, and other characteristics of proton/ion-beam therapy.

Yang Xia

Professor

M.Sc., Massey University, New Zealand (1989)

Ph.D., Massey University, New Zealand (1992)

Research Fields

- NMR microscopic imaging (μ MRI)
- Polarized light microscopy (PLM)
- Fourier-transform infrared imaging (FTIRI)
- Detection of osteoarthritis at its early stages
- Applications of micro-imaging in biomedical areas

Current Research Interests

Quantitative Microscopic Imaging of Biological Tissues: Professor Xia's major research effort has been concentrated on multidisciplinary microscopic imaging study of articular cartilage. As we know, osteoarthritis is a common disease affecting 33% of the US population (CDC Report, Oct 24, 2002); and cartilage degradation is an early event that occurs in this disease. Microscopic imaging may offer a way to provide early diagnosis of this disease. His cartilage research, continuously supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since January 1999, is currently funded by two R01 grants from NIH.

Appendix II: New Courses Description

Modeling Complex Systems – PHY 535

Objectives

This is an interdisciplinary graduate level course which is a math-based introduction to the theory and analysis of complex systems. Methods of mathematical physics and nonlinear dynamics will be applied to investigate problems in physical, chemical, and biological systems. Examples studied will include population dynamics, epidemiology, instabilities and formation of patterns in chemical and biological systems, diffusion phenomena in physical and biological systems (cell migration), and growth of brain tumors. The course will bring students to the research frontier in nonlinear physics and complex systems.

Course Format

Homework Assignments: 40%

Mid-term exam: 30%

Final exam: 30%

Textbook

J.D. Murray, Mathematical Biology I: An Introduction (Third edition, Springer, 2002)

Course Outline

Unit 1:

- Population dynamics of single species (birth-death model, insect outbreak model, bifurcations, hysteretic behavior)
- Models for interacting populations (predator-prey models, bifurcations in two dimensions, limit cycle)

Unit 2:

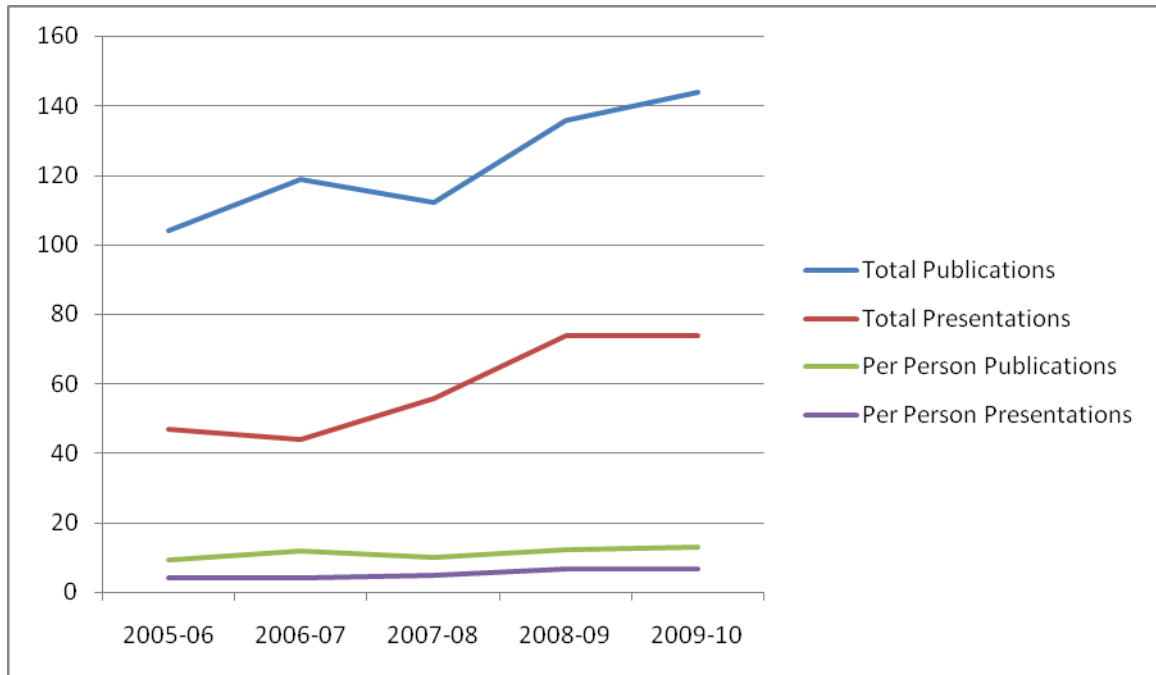
- Dynamics of infectious diseases
- Random walk and diffusion equation
- Self-similar phenomena

Unit 3:

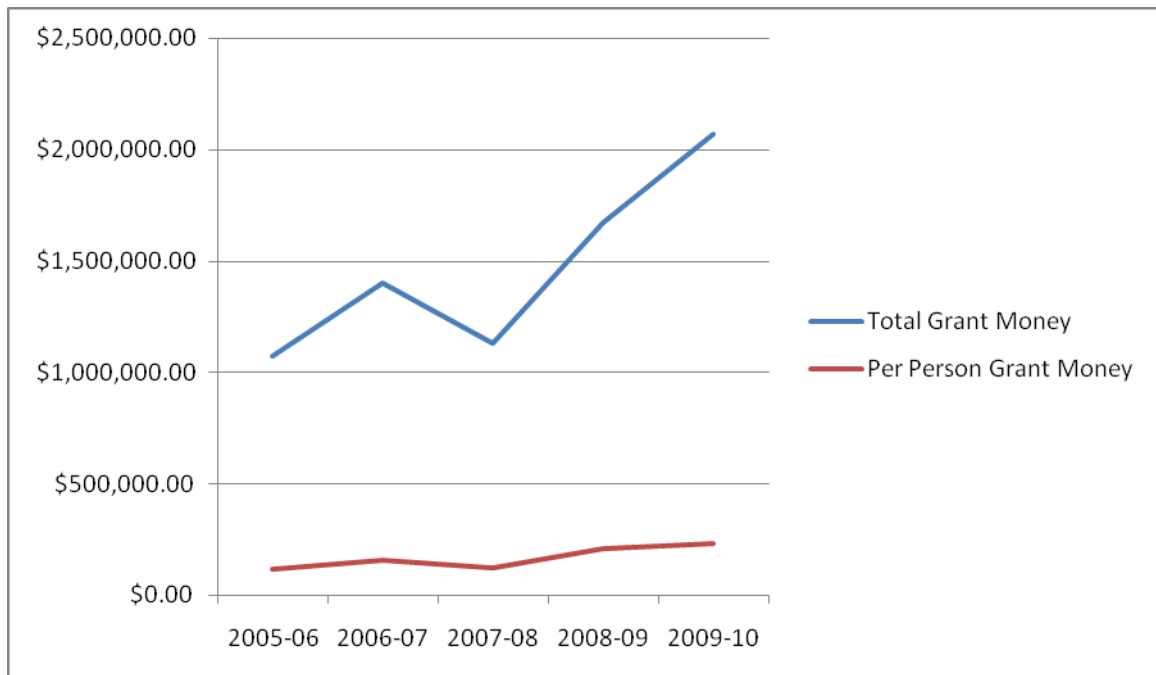
- Patterns in biology (instabilities, reaction-diffusion equations)
- Biological waves: front propagation phenomena (cell invasion, spatial insect outbreak model)
- Growth of brain tumors

Appendix III: Faculty Research Productivity and External Funding

Research productivity for the past five years



Grant funding for the past five years



The Department of Physics is a leader in external funding among OU departments.



Kresge Library
Rochester, Michigan 48309-4401

*A teaching library with an outstanding student-centered
information literacy program*

MEMORANDUM

To: Andrei Slavin, Chair, Department of Physics, CAS

From: Shawn V. Lombardo, Collection Development Coordinator, Kresge Library

Date: July 1, 2010

Re: Library collection evaluation to support proposed PhD in Applied and Computational Physics

In developing this collection evaluation, we reviewed the draft proposal for the PhD program in applied and computational physics, as well as the holdings of area libraries with doctoral programs in physics. In addition, the library's journal holdings in physics were compared to a list of the 46 most highly-cited journals in mathematical physics for 2008, according to Thomson Reuters's *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR); 2008 was the most recent year that was freely available online - <http://qa.iis.sinica.edu.tw/portal/jcr/JCR2008/journalranking.asp>). The list of core physics titles for academic libraries from *Magazines for Libraries*, a major collection development reference source, was also reviewed to evaluate the library basic physics journal collection. Below is a brief description of the materials currently available, those that should be acquired, and a five-year cost estimate for these additional library resources.

Currently Available Resources

Journals, Conference Proceedings and Monographs/Book Series

Kresge Library maintains access to more than half of the 46 most highly-cited journals in mathematical physics (Table 1). Similarly, the library is missing subscriptions to only a handful of the core physics journals listed in *Magazines for Libraries* (Table 2). Overall, then, Oakland's access to the journal literature in physics is fairly strong.

Three of the most important professional societies for physics research are the American Institute of Physics (AIP), the Institute of Physics (IOP), and the American Physical Society (APS). Currently, the library subscribes to all of the journals published by the APS and, as of 2010, the library upgraded its access to IOP journals through a consortial subscription to *IOPScience*, which includes more than 60 titles covering different topics in science and engineering from 1874 to the present. This enhanced collection includes one title in which the Department of Physics expressed interest in their program proposal: *Europhysics Letters*. The library also subscribes to five AIP titles. To enhance access to this society's literature, it is recommended that the library upgrade to the AIP Select package, which will provide access to four additional AIP titles (*Journal of Mathematical Physics*; *Physics of Fluids*; *Physics of Plasmas*; and *Chaos*), three of which were ranked in the JCR list of the most highly cited mathematical physics journals, and one of which (*Physics of Fluids*) was recommended by the department (Table 2). The cost of this upgrade (i.e., the difference in price between the library's current AIP subscriptions and the AIP Select package) is included in the library budget for the proposed program (Table 3).

The library's major publisher journal packages—in particular, those from Elsevier, Oxford University Press, Springer-Verlag and IEEE—have significantly increased Oakland's access to the journal literature in physics and related disciplines (Table 1). With special funding from Provost Moudgil, the library subscribes to the *Science Direct Freedom Collection*, Elsevier's collection of approximately 2100 eJournals, which includes approximately 100 mathematics titles, 150 materials science journals, and more than 100 physics and astronomy journals. Specifically, the *Freedom Collection* provides access to relevant titles such as *Journal of Computational Physics*; the *Physica* titles (A-E); *Applied and Computational Harmonic Analysis*; *Chaos, Solitons and Fractals*; and *Computer Physics Communications*. The Springer-Verlag package, which contains the full-text of more than 1680 journals, includes important titles such as *Communications in Mathematical Physics*, *Journal of Statistical Physics*, *European Physical Journal* (A-E, and *Special Topics*); and *Applied Physics A and B*. The Oxford package covers mathematics, the physical sciences and related topics. All of these journal packages are multi-disciplinary, and include numerous other titles that would be relevant to doctoral students and faculty engaged in applied and computational physics research.

According to the program proposal, "The [PhD] program will focus on broad interdisciplinary areas of materials, instrumentation and numerical modeling where Oakland University already has a base of distinguished faculty researchers in the participating departments of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematical Sciences and Electrical and Mechanical Engineering." The library's resources in engineering and mathematics will also benefit students and faculty in the program. These resources include the complete *IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) Digital Library*, which consists of IEEE journals, transactions and magazines from 1988 to present, as well as IEEE conference proceedings and standards, and IET (Institute of Engineering and Technology) periodicals and conference proceedings. The library also maintains online access to all 24 journals of the ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers), with coverage from 2000 to present.

Outside of these major packages, the library also subscribes to a number of individual journal titles that are relevant to the proposed program, as detailed in Table 1. In its proposal, the Department of Physics expressed interest in four additional journals: *Nature Physics*, *Nature Materials*, *Nature Nanotechnology*, *Physics of Fluids* and *Europhysics Letters*. As noted above, the library already subscribes to *Europhysics Letters* through the IOP package; the library can gain access to *Physics of Fluids* by acquiring the AIP Select package, which will also provide access to two other highly-cited titles in computational physics. Subscription costs for these journals are included in the library budget for the proposed program (Table 3).

In terms of conference proceedings, the library's access is, at best, spotty. *IOPScience* provides some access to conference proceedings through the *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, which publishes papers from conferences that the conference organizers choose to publish with IOP. *ArXive*, an e-print service in the fields of physics, mathematics, non-linear science, computer science, and quantitative biology that is hosted by Cornell University, hosts pre-prints and conference papers that authors post to the site, although this access is piecemeal. And the IEEE Digital Library provides access to papers from IEEE conferences. The library's Web of Science subscription does not index conference proceedings, although there is an option for a conference proceedings module within the database; the cost of this subscription is not included in the library budget for the new program, but it is listed as an additional possible acquisition (Table 4). However, at this time it is our opinion that it will be sufficient for the library's interlibrary loan service to continue to accommodate requests for conference papers from faculty and students in the proposed program.

The library's eBook collection in the sciences and engineering has expanded dramatically in the last two years, when the library purchased almost all Springer-Verlag monographs and book series published between 2005 and 2010. This important collection includes more than 200 titles in mathematical and computational physics and hundreds more in applied physics, materials science and nanotechnology. This collection also includes the critically important book series *Lecture Notes in Physics*, *Lecture Notes in Mathematics*, *Advances in Solid State Physics* and *Topics in Applied Physics*, among other monographic series. It is critical that the library continue to purchase the Springer eBook collection each year in order to support the proposed program adequately. In the past few years, however, the library has been forced to reduce departmental allocations for books. Included in the budget for the new program, then, is minimal funding for the purchase of additional monographs to support the program.

Indexes

To access the journal and conference proceedings literature in physics, engineering and mathematics, Kresge Library maintains subscriptions to a number of online indexes. The most important of these is *Science Citation Index* (available online through the *Web of Science* platform), which indexes journals from 1980 to present in the sciences. *MathSciNet*, from the American Mathematical Society, provides coverage of more than 400 journals and conference proceedings, as well books published in the mathematical sciences. Other relevant databases include *Engineering Village*, *Biotechnology and Bioengineering Abstracts* and *Applied Science and Technology Abstracts*, which covers both academic and trade journal literature in science and technology. The library also provides access to *Scitation*, a platform that contains citation information (and links to full-text where available) for more than 30 publishers in physics and engineering. On important index to which the library does not have access is *Inspec*, which covers the journal literature in physics and engineering. However, at more than \$25,000 per year (Table 4), it is our opinion that the projected use for a small program (estimated at 3 students in the first year) does not justify the cost; also, given that the proposed program is based primarily on existing courses, the need for an additional index seems small.

Resources Needed

In its program budget, the Department of Physics included the cost of 5 journal subscriptions for the library. This collection evaluation reveals a few additional areas that should be strengthened in order to support teaching and research in a doctoral-level program in applied and computational physics.

Finally, Table 3 includes funding to cover anticipated annual inflationary cost increases for the library's current journals, eBook collections and research databases (historically averaging eight to ten percent or more per year) that support applied and computational physics, engineering, and related disciplines. **Without additional funding, the library cannot guarantee that we will be able to maintain subscriptions to our current resources. Therefore, we ask that the library be given funds each year to assist us in continuing to subscribe to the necessary resources for faculty and students in the applied and computational physics program.**

C: Julie Voelck, Dean of the Library
Dan Ring, Library Liaison to the Department of Physics
Anne Switzer, Library Representative to the University Senate

**Table 1: Current OU Journal Subscriptions to Support
Proposed PhD in Applied and Computational Physics**

Title	Publisher	Format	2008 JCR Ranking for Mathematical Physics	Magazines for Libraries Core Physics Titles
Advances in Applied Clifford Algebras	Springer	online	45	
Advances in Physics	Taylor & Francis	online	*	√
American Journal of Physics	AIP	print + online	*	√
Annalen der Physik	Wiley-Blackwell	online	*	√
Annales Henri Poincare	Springer	online	24	
Annals of Physics	Elsevier	online	*	√
Applied and Computational Harmonic Analysis	Elsevier	online	7	
Applied Physics A	Springer	online	*	√
Applied Physics Letters	AIP	print + online	*	√
Canadian Journal of Physics (6-month embargo)	NRC Research	online	*	√
Chaos, Solitons, and Fractals	Elsevier	online	4	
Communications in Mathematical Physics	Springer	online	12	√
Computer Physics Communications	Elsevier	online	11	√
European Journal of Physics	IOP	online	*	√
European Physical Journal A-E, Special Topics	Springer	online	*	√
Europhysics Letters	IOP	online	*	
Foundations of Physics	Springer	online	*	√
General Relativity and Gravitation	Springer	online	*	√
International Journal of Theoretical Physics	Springer	online	*	√
Inverse Problems	IOP	online	15	
JASA Express Letters	Acoustical Soc. Am.	online	*	√
Journal of Applied Physics	AIP	print + online	*	√
Journal of Chemical Physics	AIP	print + online	*	√
Journal of Computational Physics	Elsevier	online	9	√
Journal of Geometry and Physics	Elsevier	online	38	
Journal of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials	Elsevier	online	*	√
Journal of Mathematical Physics, Analysis, Geometry	Open Access	online	28	
Journal of Nonlinear Science	Springer	online	16	
Journal of Nonlinear Sciences and Its Applications	Open Access	online	*	
Journal of Physics A: Mathematical and Theoretical	IOP	online	19	√
Journal of Physics B-G, and Condensed Matter	IOP	online	*	√

Journal of Physics and Chemistry of Solids	Elsevier	online	*	✓
Journal of Plasma Physics	Cambridge UP	online	*	✓
Journal of Statistical Mechanics: Theory and Experiment	IOP	online	5	
Journal of Statistical Physics	Springer	online	18	
Journal of the Acoustical Society of America	Acoustical Soc. Am.	print + online	*	✓
Journal of the Optical Society of America B - Optical Physics	Optical Soc. Am.	online	*	✓
Letters in Mathematical Physics	Springer	online	32	
Mathematical Physics Analysis and Geometry	Springer	online	39	
Measurement Science and Technology	IOP	online	*	✓
Nanotechnology	IOP	online	*	✓
New Journal of Physics	IOP	online	*	✓
Nonlinearity	IOP	online	21	
Optics Communications	Elsevier	online	*	✓
Optics Express	Optical Soc. Am.	online	*	✓
Physica D: Nonlinear Phenomena	Elsevier	online	14	
Physical Review E: Statistical, Nonlinear, and Soft Matter...	Am. Physical Society	print + online	6	✓
Physical Review A-D, Special Topics	Am. Physical Society	print + online	*	✓
Physics Letters, A & B	Elsevier	online	*	✓
Physics Reports	Elsevier	online	*	✓
Physics Today	AIP	print + online	*	✓
Quantum Information Processing	Springer	online	30	
Regular and Chaotic Dynamics	Springer	online	42	
Reports on Mathematical Physics	Elsevier	online	41	
Reports on Progress in Physics	IOP	online	*	✓
Review of Scientific Instruments	AIP	print + online	*	✓
Reviews of Modern Physics	APS	print + online	*	✓
Russian Journal of Mathematical Physics	Springer	online	31	
Solid State Communications	Elsevier	online	*	✓
Theoretical and Mathematical Physics	Springer	online	37	

Table 2: Possible Journals To Be Added to Support

Proposed PhD in Applied & Computational Physics

Title	Publisher	2010 Price	Format	2008 JCR Ranking for Mathematical Physics	Magazines for Libraries Core Physics Titles	Notes
Advances in Theoretical and Mathematical Physics	Inter. Press of Boston	\$ 479	online	12		
Chaos	AIP	\$ 800	online	10	√	in AIP Select pkg.
Communications in Computational Physics	Global Science Press	\$ 672	online	8		
Contemporary Physics	Taylor & Francis	\$ 1,123	online	*	√	
Infinite Dimensional Analysis, Quantum Probability and Related Topics	World Scientific	\$ 425	online	29		
International Journal of Geometric Methods in Modern Physics	World Scientific	\$ 527	online	20		
International Journal of Modern Physics B	World Scientific	\$ 4,197	online	43		
International Journal of Modern Physics C	World Scientific	\$ 1,611	online	36		
International Journal of Nonlinear Sciences and Numerical Simulation	Freund	\$ 549	print	1		
International Journal of Quantum Information	World Scientific	\$ 399	online	34		
Inverse Problems and Imaging	Am. Institute of Math. Sciences	\$ 541	online	27		
Japanese Journal of Applied Physics	Inst. Of Pure & Applied Physics	\$ 2,377	print + online	*	√	
Journal of Electromagnetic Waves and Applications	VSP	\$ 3,461	online	3		
Journal of Hyperbolic Differential Equations	World Scientific	\$ 302	online	40		
Journal of Mathematical Physics	AIP	\$ 3,127	online	28		in AIP Select pkg.
Journal of Noncommutative Geometry	EMS Publishing	\$ 332	online	33		
Journal of Nonlinear Mathematical Physics	World Scientific	\$ 439	online	35		
Modern Physics Letters A	World Scientific	\$ 3,615	online	22		
Modern Physics Letters B	World Scientific	\$ 2,912	online	44		
Multiscale Modeling and Simulation	Soc. of Industrial & Applied Mat	\$ 433	online	17		
Nature Materials	Nature	\$ 3,248	online	*		suggested by dept
Nature Nanotechnology	Nature	\$ 3,248	online	*		suggested by dept
Nature Physics	Nature	\$ 3,248	online	*	√	suggested by dept
Open Systems and Information Dynamics	World Scientific	\$ 383	online	26		
Optics Letters	Optical Soc. America	\$ 2,650	online	*	√	
Journal of the Optical Society of America. A, Optics and Image Science	Optical Soc. America	\$ 2,420	online	*	√	
Journal of the Physical Society of Japan	Inst. Of Pure & Applied Physics	\$ 1,123	print	*	√	
Physics of Fluids	AIP	\$ 2,407	online	*	√	suggested by dept
Physics of Plasmas	AIP	\$ 2,947	online	*	√	in AIP Select pkg.
Quantum Information and Computation	Rinton	\$ 662	print	2		
Reviews in Mathematical Physics	World Scientific	\$ 1,439	online	23		
SIAM Journal on Applied Dynamical Systems	SIAM	\$ 182	online	25		
Transport Theory and Statistical Physics	Taylor & Francis	\$ 2,633	online	46		
		\$ 54,911				

☐ Titles included in the library budget for the proposed program (Table 3)

**Table 3: Estimated Library Acquisitions Costs to Support
Proposed PhD in Applied & Computational Physics**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Books & reference sources ¹	\$500	\$525	\$551	\$579	\$608
<i>Nature Materials</i> subscription ²	\$3,248	\$3,573	\$3,930	\$4,323	\$4,755
<i>Nature Nanotechnology</i> subscription ²	\$3,248	\$3,573	\$3,930	\$4,323	\$4,755
<i>Nature Physics</i> subscription ²	\$3,248	\$3,573	\$3,930	\$4,323	\$4,755
Upgrade AIP subscriptions to AIP Select ²	\$4,500	\$4,950	\$5,445	\$5,990	\$6,588
Funding to maintain current resources ²	\$3,000	\$3,300	\$3,630	\$3,993	\$4,392
Total	\$17,744	\$19,493	\$21,416	\$23,531	\$25,855

¹Years 2-5 include a 5% inflationary increase.

²Years 2-5 include a 10% inflationary increase.

**Table 4: Other Important Resources to Be Considered for
for Proposed PhD in Applied & Computational Physics**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
<i>Conference Proceedings Citation Index (Science) in Web of Science</i> ¹	\$4,500	\$4,725	\$4,961	\$5,209	\$5,470
<i>Inspec</i> subscription ¹	\$25,295	\$27,825	\$30,607	\$33,668	\$37,034
Total	\$29,795	\$32,550	\$35,568	\$38,877	\$42,504

¹Years 2-5 include a 10% inflationary increase.



Department of Mathematics and Statistics

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Eddie Cheng

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May 28, 2010

Professor Andrei Slavin
Department of Physics
Oakland University

Dear Professor Slavin:

This is a supporting document for the Department of Physics Proposal for a Ph.D. Program in Applied and Computational Physics. My research interests do not intersect with Physics. Indeed, I must admit that the last time I took a Physics class was 25 years ago. So this letter will be limited in scope.

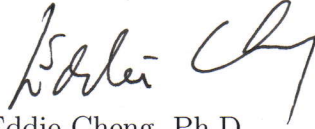
I found the proposal very detailed and covered every aspect of the proposed program. This is of no surprise as the proposal comes from a strong department. Among its dozen faculty members, they include two at the rank of distinguished professor. Given the track record of the department in external funding, publication record, reputation and success of the Ph.D. program in Medical Physics, the only logical conclusion that I can draw is that this new program will also be successful.

During the review of this proposal, I did raise a concern on the mathematics component of the program regarding the possible duplication of courses. The Department of Physics has subsequently provided explanation and I am no longer raising the concern. Indeed, I anticipate that any adjustment of the program on the mathematics portion will leverage on courses that are currently offered by our department. I believe this program will strengthen the collaboration between the Department of Physics and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics even though the existing relationship is already a strong one. Indeed, one of our most recent hire, Professor Libin Rong, was a direct benefit of Professor Brad Roth's efforts in securing funding from the NIH. I would like to provide another example that is directly related to this program as it involves a computational facet. A graduate physics student, Stefan Puwal, who is now a post-doc in physics, after taking a computational course with Professor Serge Kruk of DMS, pursued a joint research project. This project evolved into a paper by S. Puwal, B. Roth and S. Kruk. Automating phase singularity localization in mathematical models of cardiac tissue dynamics. *Mathematical Medicine and Biology*. 22(4), pages 335-346, 2005.

In short, I found the proposal carefully drafted and it is interesting even to someone with a limited Physics background. Based on the success of the Department of Physics, I believe that this program will flourish and that it will enhance the collaboration between our

departments.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie Cheng", written in a cursive style.

Eddie Cheng, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair



Department of Chemistry
Rochester MI 48309-4477

September 30, 2010

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the Department of Physics Proposal for a Ph.D. Program in Applied and Computational Physics. This proposal, from a department that has developed a particular strength in Computational Physics built upon a strong foundation of Applied Physics is timely and well developed. As academic units evolve they frequently develop expertise in particular areas and to capitalize upon such collections of individuals pays dividends for the institution, both faculty and students, as well as society at large. The proposal from the Department of Physics is an excellent example of seizing such an opportunity.

The faculty in the Department of Physics are active, productive scientists who represent the best Oakland University has to offer. The presence of two recently appointed distinguished professors among the group is evidence of this strength. Development of this Ph.D. program complements their existing strengths, it will enhance productivity, stimulate and invigorate the faculty, and provide well trained scientists for the future.

As chair of the Department of Chemistry I consulted with the faculty in my department who would be likely to interact with students and professors from this program. They are universal in their support. One of them, Professor Maria Bryant has indicated a willingness to modify existing courses in electronic structure theory to assist the new program. This is a prime example of the expansion of benefits strong new programs yield. In particular, a productive scientist is stimulated to continue their development as a scholar and we all benefit.

Finally, from the procedural standpoint, the proposal presented is well considered and realistic. Resource needs are reasonable, performance metrics are sensible and achievable. In short, it proposes things it is likely to be able to deliver. This program will make Oakland University stronger and continue our upward trajectory as an academic institution of distinction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Art Bull", written in a cursive, flowing style.

Arthur W. Bull, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
abull@oakland.edu
248-370-2347



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Andrei N. Slavin, Chair
Department of Physics
Oakland University
Rochester, MI 48309

Dear Andrei,

I am writing this letter in enthusiastic support of your proposal for a Ph.D. Program in Applied and Computational Physics.

At present the Department of Physics offers a successful PhD program in Medical Physics, which is part of the College of Arts and Sciences umbrella PhD program in Biomedical Sciences. The proposed program in Applied and Computational Physics allows your department to utilize its exceptional expertise in these areas as well. Combining the strength of the Physics Department with available resources in the Chemistry and Mathematics departments and in the School of Computer Sciences and Engineering brings together a solid foundation for a strong, science-based program.

The program's course selection is aimed at the highest standards and is placing significant emphasis on interdisciplinary approach. This is essential in today's state of the art technologies. Students in this program will benefit from the research-intensive environment of the Sciences and Engineering units at Oakland University. In this environment, the Physics Department is a shining example of excellence and productivity. I am confident that the proposed program will produce a new generation of physicists that will undoubtedly take leading roles in shaping up tomorrow's technologies and industries.

I believe that the new program will fill a void in our graduate program offering and will attract new, highly qualified students who would have gone to other universities otherwise. I strongly support this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Arik Dvir'.

Arik Dvir

Chair, Department of Biological Sciences
Oakland University