

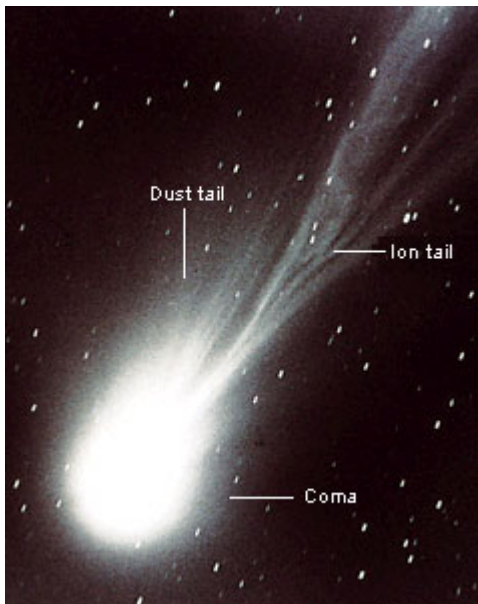
Physics Seminar

Wednesday 2/6/2008, 4:30 pm
Science & Engineering Building Auditorium

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Physical Characterization of Cometary Nuclei



Comets play an important role in many solar system processes. However, cometary nuclei are among the most difficult objects to study in the solar system. When they are close to the Sun they are shrouded by the comet's bright, outflowing atmosphere of gas and dust, known as the coma. When they are far from the Sun they are very faint objects because of their very low albedos, typically ~4%, and small sizes, only a few kilometers in diameter. This talk will review our current observational program to observe distant cometary nuclei and to determine their size distribution, as well as other important physical properties.

Please join us for light refreshments at 4:15pm outside SEB 203.