Physics Seminar

Wednesday 2/23, 4:30 pm
Science & Engineering Building Auditorium

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Using Starry Night Software in Introductory Astronomy

Starry Night is powerful simulation software that is used in the Descriptive Astronomy class (Phy 115). Many astronomical phenomena, such as retrograde motion, require visualizing how objects move relative to an observer on Earth. While the static pictures in textbooks are helpful, Starry Night allows us to easily view relative motion. We can observe the sky from multiple perspectives simultaneously. For example, we can observe a solar eclipse from the Earth and from a point on the Moon. The visibility of Saturn's rings depends on the aspect angle. When Galileo discovered the rings he thought they were "handles". A few years later, the handles were gone. Using Starry Night, we can go back in time and understand what he saw. Come learn more about this versatile tool… *If the Sun happens to be visible and the sky is clear, I will also demonstrate our new solar telescope.*

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