

Curriculum Vitae: Dong Lai

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<https://donglai6.github.io/research.html>

Current Position

Benson Jay and Mary Ellen Simon Professor, Professor of Astronomy, Cornell University

Education

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

Academic Positions

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

Short-Term Visiting Positions

Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics (2000,2005,2010), Institute for Advanced Study (1999,2004,2016), Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics (2005), National Astronomical Observatories of China (2004-2007), Tsinghua Center for Astrophysics (2004-2005), Institute for Nuclear Theory (2001,2007), Tsinghua Center for Advanced Study (2015-2017), Shanghai Astronomical Observatory (2014-2018), Observatoire de la Cote d’Azur (2016-17), Harvard Institute for Theory and Computation (2017), Shanghai Jiao Tong University (2017-2018), Kavli Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics (2018), T.D. Lee Institute, Shanghai (T.D.Lee visiting professor, 2019-2020, 2023-sabbatical), UC Berkeley (Miller Professor, 2020)

Awards and Scholarships

- 1988 Winner of China-U.S. Physics Examination & Application Program (CUSPEA)
- 1988 - 1989 Sage Graduate Fellowship, Cornell University
- 1991 Liu Memorial Award for Academic Excellence, Cornell University
- 1995 - 1997 Richard C. Tolman Fellowship in Theoretical Astrophysics, Caltech
- 1998 - 2000 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship, A.P. Sloan Foundation
- 2000 Chau Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research Supervision, School of Applied & Engineering Physics, Cornell University
- 2004 - 2007 Oversea Outstanding Young Scientist, P.R. China
- 2016 - 2017 Simons Fellow in Theoretical Physics, Simons Foundation
- 2020 Miller Visiting Professor, UC Berkeley
- 2021 Provost Award for Teaching/Mentoring Excellence in Graduate and Professional Degree Programs, Cornell University
- 2024 Dirk Brouwer Career Award in dynamical astronomy, American Astronomical Society

Research Interests

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

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