

Seminar

Friday, 20 February 2009

11 am - Room 701

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Current status of gamma-ray burst research

This talk will present an overview of the status of the field of gamma-ray burst (GRB) research. Beginning with a historical view, from the discovery of the first GRB in the late 60's through the first afterglows in the 90's and to the current era of great advances with Swift and Fermi satellites devoted to GRB research. We will then discuss the observational characteristics of the different types of GRBs and the physics that is explaining their peculiarities. Finally we will present the latest discoveries, including the brightest GRB to date, which was bright enough to be visible with the unaided eye or the furthestmost GRB, discovered a few months ago, with a redshift of $z=6.7$. I will emphasise on the unique observational needs for the study of GRBs, including the need for dedicated robotic telescopes.

All Welcome

Contact Details

For further information phone 364 2404, or visit our website: www.phys.canterbury.ac.nz