

PHYSICS SEMINAR

Earth and Exoplanets

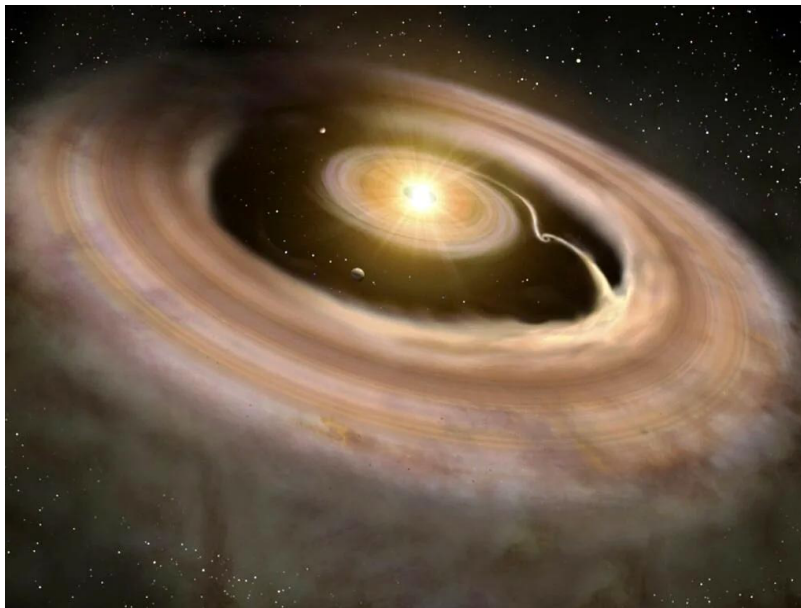
Campbell Kramer

Thursday, May 7, 2026

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Wubben 160

Large planets that temporarily block starlight are called transiting exoplanets and are the easiest type of extrasolar planet to detect. Finding extrasolar planets (called “exoplanets”) is a major field in astronomy, where hot Jupiters are one of the main types of planets discovered and studied. Hot Jupiters are exoplanets roughly the size of Jupiter and are the best observing targets for current research due to their large size and proximity to their host star. However, we are also interested in discovering Earth-like planets. This is where planetary geology comes in; by studying the Earth’s formation, we have an idea of how terrestrial exoplanets form and can make inferences on the diversity of these planets. Learning more about our own Solar System will aid our understanding of exoplanets. In this seminar, we discuss the Earth's formation, what makes Earth a unique planet, types of exoplanets, and the research going on at Colorado Mesa University to further exoplanetary research using the open-access software AstroImageJ and NASA’s EXOTIC.



Refreshments!