Physics Colloquium

February 14, 2025 4:10 – 5:00 PM Roberts Hall Room 101

New insights into CO2 Radiative Forcing

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Abstract:

The radiative forcing from anthropogenic carbon dioxide is a central quantity in climate science and has been studied for decades, with detailed benchmark models simulating it in idealized cases with great accuracy. At the same time, coarse-resolution global climate models (GCMs) differ in their estimates of global CO2 forcing, and questions linger regarding its spatial variations as well as its logarithmic scaling with CO2 concentration. In this talk we present a recently developed analytical model for CO2 forcing which answers these questions and also illuminates a previously unidentified, major source of spread in GCM estimates of CO2 forcing.

Host: John Sample

^{*} Refreshments served in the Barnard Hall second floor atrium at 3:45 PM *