

Physics Department Colloquium

“The physics of climate modeling”

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Recent studies have generated large controversy about the possibility of human induced climate change. Are we entering a period of global warming, what drives the evolution of climate, and can we predict how climate will change in the future? The main tools to address such questions are complex numerical models that represent the Earth climate system and the interactions between its components. But what physics goes into such models, how are the models evaluated, and how reliable are they? In this talk, I will introduce the basic concepts of physically based climate modeling and I will report about efforts to understand how well such model simulate the present-day observed climate.

Thursday, December 4, 2008

4:00 PM in 102 JFB

Refreshments served, 3:30 in 219 JFB