

Seminar

Institute for Plasma Research

Title : Novel structures in strongly coupled complex plasma

Speaker: Dr. Harish Charan

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Date : 19th April 2018 (Thursday)

Time : 11.00 AM

Venue : Committee Room 4, (New Building), IPR

Abstract :

A collection of electrons and ions interact via bare Coulomb potential. At sufficiently large number densities, due to finite temperature of electrons and ions, this bare interaction gets shielded due to other charges, leading to a shielded Coulomb interaction or a Yukawa interaction. For plasma particles, the inter-particle potential energy per particle is much smaller than its kinetic energy. This medium is said to be weakly coupled or weakly correlated. A novel medium is formed if large, massive, micron-size, conducting or dielectric spherical grains are introduced into this above said plasma medium. Due to their size, these grains tend to acquire a large, mean negative charge. The grain-grain interaction is then also shielded by the background plasma, however, this time around, inter-grain potential energy can be much larger than the average kinetic energy per grain. The resulting plasma is called complex plasma. Thus, the grain medium is a prototype for strongly coupled or correlated systems. Other examples are ultra-cold plasma, charged colloids and several astrophysical objects.

Using non-equilibrium molecular dynamics simulations, a 2D bed of strongly coupled grain medium is subjected to the external sources of energy resulting into novel structures and new scaling laws. In this talk, various physics findings along with simulation details will be discussed in detail.
