

SOFIA: Observing the Infrared Universe at Mach 0.9

The Stratospheric Observatory For Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) is the world's largest flying astronomical observatory, consisting of a 2.7-meter telescope mounted inside a heavily modified Boeing 747 aircraft. SOFIA reached full operational capability in 2014, and has taken on the mantle of being the world's only open access resource for studies of the mid- to far-infrared universe in the post-Spitzer and post-Herschel infrared space telescope era. In this talk I will introduce you to SOFIA and briefly discuss some of the details that make it such a unique astronomical observatory. I will spend the majority of the talk delving into some of SOFIA's most exciting recent scientific results, including the discovery of the first molecule in the Universe, the first direct detection of water on the sunlit surface of the Moon, and the role magnetic fields play in the Milky Way's galactic center.

**Monday, February 22nd****3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

See website for Zoom details

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