

## Chris Orban

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**      191 W Woodruff Ave      e-mail: orban@physics.osu.edu  
Columbus, OH 43210      <http://www.asc.ohio-state.edu/orban.14>  
Phone: (614) 557-9387      Fax: (614)-292-7557

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**      Computational Physics, Laboratory and Astrophysical Plasmas, Physics Education Research, Large-Scale Structure of the Universe

**EDUCATION**      **The Ohio State University**, Columbus, OH, USA  
Ph.D. Physics, March 2011  
  
**University of Illinois**, Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA  
B.S. Physics with Honors, December 2004

**ACADEMIC AND WORK EXPERIENCE**      **The Ohio State University**  
*Associate Professor of Physics, Department of Physics, Marion*      **2021-Present**  
  
**The Ohio State University**  
*Assistant Professor of Physics, Department of Physics, Marion*      **2014-2021**  
  
**Air Force Research Laboratory, Dayton, OH**  
*Consultant, Extreme Light research group*      **May 2013-August 2014**  
  
**Capital University, Columbus, OH**  
*Lecturer, Astronomy Course*      **Spring 2014**  
  
**The Ohio State University, High Energy Density Physics Research Group**  
*Postdoctoral Researcher and Ugrad Research Advisor*      **January 2011 - May 2013**  
  
**The Ohio State University, Department of Astronomy**  
*Lecturer, Astro 1142: Black Holes*      **Spring and Summer 2013**  
  
**The Ohio State University, Department of Physics**  
*Teaching Assistant (Grad-level Computational Physics)*      **Wi. Qtrs 2010-2012**  
*Teaching Assistant (introductory level)*      **Winter & Spring 2007 and Fall 2009**  
  
**The Ohio State University, Center for Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics**  
*Graduate Research Fellow*      **Summer 2007 - Fall 2010**  
  
**University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA**  
*Teaching Assistant*      **August 2002 - June 2004**  
*Undergraduate Research Student*      **January 2004 - December 2004**  
*Laser Facility Lab Assistant*      **June 2001 - December 2002**

**HONORS AND AWARDS**      **IOP (Institute of Physics) trusted reviewer status**, 2020  
  
**Meggers Project Award** from the American Institute of Physics to fund projects for the improvement of high school physics teaching (2017, 2021)  
  
**Principal Investigator for STEMcoding @ OSU**, A project funded by OSU extension's Connect & Collaborate grant (\$40k)

**Co-Creator of BuckeyeVR: Smartphone-based Virtual Reality Simulations for STEM classrooms**, A STEAM-powered project at OSU (\$12k)

**Battelle Engineering, Technology and Human Affairs grant**, Principal Investigator for “The Revolution in Cosmology and Fr. Georges Lemaitre’s Hidden God” (\$25k)

**Air Force Office of Science Research (AFOSR) Summer Faculty Program**. Summer 2016, 2017, & 2021 Project site: the Extreme Light research group at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

**Department of Defense High Performance Computing Internship Program**. Project title: *Developing Advanced Simulation and Analysis Capabilities for Investigations of “Extreme Light” Phenomena*. (Summer 2014, Summer 2015, Summer 2016, Summer 2017, Summer 2019)

**University Fellowship**, The Ohio State University, 2006

**PHD ADVISEES** Gregory K. Ngirmang, graduated 2018, Dissertation title: *Particle-in-Cell Simulations of the Acceleration of Electrons from the Interaction of a Relativistic Laser Reflecting from Solid Density Targets*

Joseph R. Smith, graduated 2020, Thesis title: *Advanced Simulations and Optimization of Intense Laser Interactions*

**PHD CO-ADVISEES** Lianshui Zhao, graduated 2019, Dissertation title: *High-Accuracy Atomic Calculations for Plasma Opacities*

**PAPERS**  
\* **denotes editor pick** Desai, R., Zhang, T., Oropeza, R., Felice, J., Smith, J.R., Kryshchenko, A., **Orban, C.**, Dexter, M., Patnaik, A. “Applying Machine Learning Methods to Laser Acceleration of Protons: Lessons Learned from Synthetic Data” available at arxiv:2307.16036

Bannerjee, S., Smith, J. R., **Orban, C.** “Particle-in-Cell Code Comparison for Ion Acceleration: EPOCH and Smilei” available at arxiv:2312.15801

Knight, B., Gautam, C., Stoner, C., Egner, B., Smith, J. R., **Orban, C.**, Manfredi, J., Frische, K., Dexter, M., Chowdhury, E., and Patniak, A. “Detailed characterization of kHz-rate laser-driven fusion at a thin liquid sheet with a neutron detection suite” High Power Laser Science and Engineering 2023;12:e2. doi:10.1017/hpl.2023.84

**Orban, C.**, Zimmerman, S., Kulp, J. T., Boughton, J., Perrico, Z., Rapp, B., Teeling-Smith, R. “Methods to Simplify Object Tracking in Video Data” The Physics Teacher, 61, 576-579 (2023)

**Orban, C.**, Fatenejad, M., Lamb, D. Q. “A Laboratory Astrophysical Jet Validation Test of the Radiation Hydrodynamics Capabilities of the FLASH Code”, Physics of Plasmas, 29, 05391 (2022)

Smith, J. R., Snapp, B., Madar, S., Brown, J. R., Fowler, J., Anderson, E., Porter, C. D., and **Orban, C.** “A Smartphone-Based Virtual Reality Plotting System for STEM Education”, PRIMUS, Taylor & Francis, 1-15, (2022)

Smith, J. R., **Orban, C.**, Rahman, N., McHugh, B., Oropeza, R., and Chowdhury,

E. A. “A Particle-in-Cell Code Comparison for Ion Acceleration: EPOCH, LSP, and WarpX”, *Physics of Plasmas* 28, 074505 (2021)

Rahman, N., Smith, J. R., Ngirmang, G. K., **Orban, C.** “Particle-in-cell modeling of a potential demonstration experiment for double pulse enhanced target normal sheath acceleration”, *Physics of Plasmas*, 28, 073103 (2021)

Smith, J. R., **Orban, C.**, Morrison, J. T., George, K. M., Ngirmang, G. K., Chowdhury, E. A., Roquemore, W. M. “Optimizing Laser-Plasma Interactions for Ion Acceleration using Particle-in-Cell Simulations and Evolutionary Algorithms”, *New Journal of Physics*, 22, 103067 (2020)

Snyder, J., Morrison, J. T., Feister, S., Frische, K. D., George, K. M., Le, M., **Orban, C.**, Ngirmang, G. K., Chowdhury, E. A., Roquemore, W. M. “Background Pressure Effects on MeV Protons Accelerated via Relativistically Intense Laser-Plasma Interactions”, *Scientific Reports*, 10, 18245 (2020)

\*Porter, C. D., Smith, J. R. H., Stagar, E. M., Simmons, A., Nieberding, M., **Orban, C.**, Brown, J., and Ayers, A. “Using virtual reality in electrostatics instruction: the impact of training”, *Phys. Rev. Physics Education Research*, 16, 020119 (2020)

Ngirmang, G. K., Morrison, J. T., George, K. M., Smith, J. R., Frische, K. D., **Orban, C.**, Chowdhury, E. A., Roquemore, W. M. “Experimental observation and computational modeling of radial Weibel instability in high intensity laser-plasma interactions”, 2020, *Scientific Reports*, 10, 9872

**Orban, C.** and Teeling-Smith, R. “Computational Thinking in Introductory Physics” *The Physics Teacher*, 58, 247 (2020)

Smith, J. H. R., **Orban, C.**, Ngirmang, G. K., Morrison, J. T., George, K. M., Chowdhury, E. A., Roquemore, W. M. “Particle-in-Cell Simulations of Density Peak Formation and Ion Acceleration from Short Pulse Laser-Driven Ponderomotive Steepening”, 2019, *Physics of Plasmas*, 26, 123103

Porter, C. D., Brown, J., Smith, J. H. R., Simmons, A., Nieberding, M., Ayers, A., **Orban, C.** “A controlled study of virtual reality in first-year magnetostatics”, 2019, *Physics Education Research Conference Proceedings*, Provo, UT

\*George, K. M., Morrison, J. T., Feister, S., Ngirmang, G., Smith, J.R.H., Klim, A., Snyder, J., Austin, D., Erbsen, W., Frische, K. D., Nees, J., **Orban, C.**, Chowdhury, E. A., Roquemore, W. M. “High repetition rate targets and optics from liquid microjets for the study and application of high intensity laser-plasma interactions” 2019, *High Power Laser Science and Engineering*, 7, e50

\*Nagayama, T., Bailey, J. E., Loisel, G. P., Dunham, G. S., Rochau, G. A., Blancard, C., Colgan, J., Cossé, Ph., Faussurier, G., Fontes, C. J., Gilleron, F., Hansen, S. B., Iglesias, C. A., Golovkin, I. E., Kilcrease, D. P., MacFarlane, J. J., Mancini, R. C., More, R. M., **Orban, C.**, Pain, J.-C., Sherrill, M. E., Wilson, B. G. “Systematic Study of *L*-Shell Opacity at Solar Interior Temperatures”, 2019, *Physical Review Letters*, 122, 23, 235001

**Orban, C.**, Porter, C. D., Smith, J. R. H., Britt, C. A., Harper, K. A. “A Hybrid Approach for Using Programming Exercises in Introductory Physics” 2018, *American Journal of Physics*, 86, 831

\*Morrison, J. T., Feister, S. F., Frische, K. D., Austin, D. R., Ngirmang, G. K., Murphy, N. R., **Orban, C.**, Chowdhury, E. A. “MeV proton acceleration at kHz repetition rate from ultra-intense laser liquid interaction” 2018, New Journal of Physics, 20, 022001

Smith, J. R., Byrum, A., McCormick, T. M., Young, N., **Orban, C.**, Porter, C. D. “A controlled study of stereoscopic virtual reality in freshman electrostatics” 2017, Physics Education Research Conference Proceedings, pp. 376-379

**Orban, C.**, Porter, C. D., Brecht, N. K., Teeling-Smith, R. M., Harper, K. A. “A novel approach for using programming exercises in electromagnetism coursework” 2017, Physics Education Research Conference Proceedings, pp. 288-291

Ngirmang, G. K., **Orban, C.**, Feister, S., Morrison, J. T., Chowdhury, E. A., Roquemore, W. M. “Particle-in-Cell Simulations of Electron Beam Production from Mid-Infrared Ultra-Intense Laser Interactions” 2017, Phys. Plasmas, 24, 103112

Feister, S., Austin, D. R., Morrison, J. T., Frische, K. D., **Orban, C.**, Ngirmang, G., Handler, A., Smith, J. R., Schillaci, M., Chowdhury, E. A., Freeman, R. R., Roquemore, W. M. “Relativistic Electron Acceleration by mJ class kHz laser normally incident on liquid targets” 2017, Optics Express, 25, 16, 18736-18750

Ngirmang, G. K., **Orban, C.**, Feister, S., Morrison, J. T., Chowdhury, E. A., Frische, K. D., Roquemore, W. M. “3D PIC simulations of electron beams created via reflection of intense laser light from a water target” 2016, Phys. Plasmas, 23, 043111

Morrison, J. T., Chowdhury, E. A., Frische, K. D., Feister, S., Ovchinnikov, V. M., Nees, J. A., **Orban, C.**, Freeman, R.R., and Roquemore, W.M. “Backward-propagating MeV electrons from  $10^{18}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup> laser interactions with water” 2015, Phys. Plasmas, 22, 043101

**Orban, C.**, Morrison, J.T., Chowdhury, E. D., Nees, J. A., Frische, K., Roquemore, W. M. “Backward-Propagating MeV Electrons in Ultra-Intense Laser Interactions: Standing Wave Acceleration and Coupling to the Reflected Laser Pulse” 2015, Phys. Plasmas, 22, 023110

Bailey, J. E., Nagayama, T., Loisel, G., Rochau, G. A., Blancard, C., Colgan, J., Cosse, P., Faussurier, G., Fontes, C.J., Gilleron, F., Golovkin, I., Hansen, S. B., Iglesias, C. A., Kilcrease, D. P., MacFarlane, J. J., Mancini, R. C., **Orban, C.** et al. “A Higher-than-Predicted Measurement of Iron Opacity at Solar Interior Temperatures”, 2015, Nature, 517, 56-59

Feister, S., Nees, J. A., Morrison, J. T., Frische, K. D., **Orban, C.**, Chowdhury, E., and Roquemore, W. M. “A Novel Femtosecond-Gated, High-Resolution, Frequency-Shifted Shearing Interferometry Technique for Probing Pre-Plasma Expansion in Ultra-Intense Laser Experiments” 2014, Rev. of Sci. Inst., 85, 11D602

**Orban, C.** “Cosmological Perturbation Theory as a Tool for Estimating Box-Scale Effects in  $N$ -body Simulations” 2014, Phys. Rev. D, 90, 023509

Storm, M., Eichman, B., **Orban, C.**, Jiang, S. *et al.* “X-ray Imaging of Laser-Irradiated, Limited-Mass Zirconium Foils” 2014, Phys. Plasmas, 21, 072704

Storm, M., Jiang, S., Wertpny, D., **Orban, C.**, *et al.* “Fast Neutron Production from Li Converters and Laser-driven Protons” 2013, Phys. Plasmas, 20, 5

**Orban, C.** “Keeping it Real: Revisiting a Novel Approach to Running Ensembles of Cosmological N-body Simulations”, 2013, JCAP, 5, 32

Akli, K.U., **Orban, C.**, Schumacher, D., Storm, M., Fatenejad, M., Lamb, D., Freeman, R.R. “Coupling of High Intensity Laser Light to Fast Electrons in Cone-guided Fast Ignition” 2012, Phys. Rev. E, 86, 065402

**Orban, C.**, Weinberg, D.H., “Self-similar Bumps and Wiggles: Isolating the Evolution of the BAO peak with Power-Law Initial Conditions” 2011, Phys. Rev. D., 84, 063501

**Orban, C.**, Gnedin, O. Y., Weisz, D. R., Skillman, E. D., Dolphin, A. E., & Holtzman, J. A. “Delving Deeper into the Tumultuous Lives of Galactic Dwarfs” ApJ, 2008, 686, 1030

Li, H., Shengtai, L., Koller, J., Wendroff, B.B., Liska, R., **Orban, C.**, Liang, E.P.T., and Lin, D.N.C., “Potential Vorticity Evolution Produced by an Embedded Protoplanet,” 2005, ApJ, 624, 1003.

## PRESS/MEDIA

*Ohio State planetarium to feature show on Catholic priest who suggested Big Bang theory*, Columbus Dispatch (Aug 31, 2022), available at <https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/local/2022/08/31/ohio-state-planetarium-show-details/10225350002/>

*Undergrad researcher Nashad Rahman graduates on a high note*, Physics Department New Item (May 2021) <https://physics.osu.edu/news/undergrad-researcher-nashad-rahman-graduates-high-note>

*Making math fun: OSU Marion's Orban pushing pilot project for Ohio schools* Marion Star (Nov 12, 2021). <http://go.osu.edu/makingmathfun>

*Computer science now counts as a math credit in most states – is this a good idea?* Chris Orban, The Conversation October 2019, Available at <https://go.osu.edu/CSsub>

Podcast interview: *Voices of Excellence from Arts and Sciences Podcast*. Available at [https://soundcloud.com/voices\\_arts\\_sciences/orban](https://soundcloud.com/voices_arts_sciences/orban)

Podcast interview: *STEMcoding: Reimagining STEM education with Chris Orban and Richelle Teeling-Smith* Learning Unboxed podcast. Available at <http://go.osu.edu/learningunboxed>

Featured article: *STEMcoding youtube channel celebrates 1-year anniversary, 2000 subscriber milestone* Available at <http://go.osu.edu/stemcodinganniversary>

Featured article: *Computer Programming at Whetstone Library: Workshop Brings Kids up to Code* Available at <http://go.osu.edu/libraryworkshops>

Featured article: *The classes of the future are now* Available at <https://www.osu.edu/features/2018/the-classes-of-the-future-are-now.html>

Featured article: *OSU physics researchers' VR expertise is virtually unmatched* Available at <https://go.osu.edu/vrarticle>

Featured article: *OSUM professor opens door to supercomputing*. Marion Star (April 6, 2015). Available at <http://www.marionstar.com/story/news/local/2015/04/>

05/osum-professor-opens-door-supercomputing/25344199/

Interviewed for *Ohio Supercomputer Center Still Evolving*. Columbus Dispatch (April 7, 2013). Available at <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/science/2013/04/07/2-ohio-supercomputer-center-still-evolving.html>

Ohio Supercomputer Center. (March 2013). Press Release. *Simulations uncover obstacle to harnessing laser-driven fusion*. Available at <https://www.osc.edu/press/simulations-uncover-obstacle-to-harnessing-laser-driven-fusion>

Ohio Supercomputer Center. (July 2011). Press Release. *Scientists model physics of key dark-energy probe*. Available at <http://www.osc.edu/press/releases/2011/orban.shtml>

**OTHER  
ACTIVITIES**

Highschool I/O hackathon presenter	2018-
Metro HS coding club faculty advisor	2018-
Ohio Dept. of Ed. Computer Science Advisory Committee	2018-2020
NSF Cyberlearning Review Committee	2018
Columbus library coding workshop leader	2017-2018
Science Member of Ohio Standards Revision Working Group	2017-2018
Led physics prep. for OSU diversity enhancement program (YSP)	2016-2018
History of Cosmology speaker for Astronomy on Tap Columbus	2016-2017
Reviewer for New Journal of Physics	2019-
Reviewer for NSF/DOE Partnership in Basic Plasma Science and Engineering	2016
Reviewer for Department of Energy Grant Programs	2019-2020
Reviewer for Defense Threat Reduction Agency	2017
Reviewer for Ohio Supercomputer Center (OSC) Allocations Committee	2015-2016
“Physics of Video Games” project leader for OSC summer program	2015-2017
Reviewer for Nature physics	2014-
Science Fair Judge	2009-
Perkins Observatory New Vistas in Astronomy Guest Speaker	July 2013
Reviewer for Canadian Journal of Physics	2012
Reviewer for High Energy Density Physics	2012-2016
Reviewer for Open Access Journal of Photoenergy	2017-2018
Reviewer for Computers and Mathematics with Applications	2018