

# Physics Department Seminar

Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009

11:00am in PhSc 108

## “An Analysis of Pitched Baseballs”



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### Abstract:

A pitcher (and catcher) has an exquisite intuitive sense of the motion of the pitched baseball - this is one of the reasons professional baseball requires fantastic athletic ability. But what about the physical dynamics that cause pitched baseballs to move the way that they do? For this you don't need physical skill, you need the skill of a physicist. In this talk I will explore the physical forces that act on a pitched baseball and how these forces lead to the types of motion that are observed. I will spend some time on the physical dynamics of a baseball that is rotating in order to answer the question: why does a 'curve-ball' curve?

