

Physics Colloquium

Michigan Technological University

January 13 (Thursday) 2005, 4:00 to 5:00 pm
Room 139, Fisher Hall

The Tamarack Mine Experiments

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Abstract

In 1901 the Tamarack mines, near Calumet, MI, were the deepest vertical shafts in the world.



The physics faculty of the Michigan College of Mines, now known as Michigan Technological University, were able to perform several simple experiments in those mines. Included were measurements of record-setting mass-on-a-string pendula almost a mile long as well as precise measurements of the acceleration due to gravity as a function of depth. The people and the physics behind these experiments will be discussed. Several results obtained in these deep shafts are found to be in contradiction to the "gut feelings" of most physicists.

Biography



Professor Suits has been a faculty member in the Physics Department since 1985. His PhD is from the University of Illinois in 1981, after which he was a post-doc at Illinois and at the University of Pennsylvania. His primary research centers around experimental condensed matter physics using nuclear magnetic resonance.