



Memorandum of Understanding

between

**The Department of Physics,
University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA
and
The School of Physics,
Peking University, Beijing, China**

regarding

Dual Degree Ph.D. program in Physics

1. Introduction

This document implements the Dual Degree PhD program in physics between the Department of Physics at University of Texas at Austin (UT) and the School of Physics at Peking University (PKU). Students participating in this program will be enrolled in the PhD Programs of both Universities. In recognition of the completion of the program, both UT and PKU will confer to the student the Physics doctoral degree. The efficiency of the program management in the short term and its sustainability in the long term are considered important goals to all involved institutions.

To fulfill these goals, the program stakeholders are committed to pursue the integration of objectives.

The objective is the construction of a coherent PhD-level Dual Degree program between UT and PKU.

2. PhD Program Structure

2.1. Admission

Admission to the doctoral program will be granted only to applicants who show convincing evidence of high-order analytical skills, intellectual curiosity, and the ability to work independently in pursuing scholarly research.

The admission requirements and criteria are set by both UT and PKU.

Candidates of the program come only from the students who have been admitted either by UT or PKU. Details on the selection process are given in Section 3.

2.2. Organization

All students are held to the highest scientific standards, and must satisfy all requirements of the involved programs, as mapped in the following common Dual Degree program structure:

- **Period of stay.** Students will stay typically 60%/40% at the host/guest institution, for an expected duration of 4-7 years. Students must satisfy the minimum residency requirements of both institutions.
- **Supervision** - Theses will be co-advised, with at least two co-advisers, one from UT and one from PKU.
- **Course requirements** – Students must successfully complete the PhD level courses that are required by both Physics PhD programs. These courses can be taken either at UT or PKU, provided they are recognized by the other institution.
- **Non-course requirements** – Students must satisfy also non-course requirements set by both Physics PhD programs, for example, the oral qualification exam at UT and the minimal publication requirement at PKU.
- **Defense of dissertation** – Involves delivery of a dissertation deliberately written for the purpose, its corresponding discussion, and approval. The dissertation will be defended in a public oral examination, recognized by both contracting parties, at U Texas Austin or at PKU or at both, as agreed on a case by case basis. Video-conferencing will be allowed and encouraged.

3. DUAL PhD DEGREE MANAGEMENT MODEL

Leadership of the Dual PhD Degree programs

The Chair of the UT Physics Department and the Dean of the PKU School of Physics will appoint at least two PhD co-directors, one in PKU and one in UT, and form a joint Dual Degree Program led by them. The committee will be responsible for (i) recommending students who will be considered for admission to the Dual Degree program, (ii) day-to-day managing of each program, (iii) representing the program in all instances, and (iv) coordinating the course accreditation process.

Announcement and Application

- The Dual PhD Degree Program will be announced in several ways by both sides
- The students who have been admitted by either UT or PKU will be notified of the Dual Degree program promptly.

Admission and Selection

- The joint Dual Degree committee will recommend students for the joint Dual Degree program from a pool of students who have already been admitted by either UT or PKU.
- Every student who applies should have one initial contact point both at UT and PKU. Initial contacts should be co-advisors of his or her choice.
- Final decisions on admissions to the Dual Degree program will be made by each institution according to its own policies and procedures.

Funding Process

- Students replying positively to the acceptance letter are enrolled in the program.
- The individual faculty members co-advising a Dual Degree graduate student are responsible for the expenses. But we anticipate using the Dual Degree program as the foundation for application of funding to support international interactions. This will allow both partners to expand their participation.
- This MOU shall not create a financial obligation for either party.

Course Accreditation

- The joint Dual Degree committee will evaluate the courses taught by both institutions. This will be the basis for recommending acceptance or transfer of credit for courses taken at one institution to the other.

Compliance with Official Requirements

- All thesis examination boards are appointed and approved in agreement with UT's rules and PKU's rules.
- The thesis must be in English.
- Protection of the intellectual property developed during the research will be carried out in compliance with the specific procedures of each of the countries and institutions involved in this protocol.
- Subject to legislation on doctoral studies in force in each contracting university, the selected candidates will register for study at both UT and PKU, paying full tuition each semester at the University where they are physically resident and a residual tuition (for study abroad) at the other University.
- If issues not covered by this Agreement arise, the parties will reconvene to decide them.

School of Physics, PKU

Department of Physics, UT

Date:

Date:

Dean of School

Head of Department

Professor

Professor