

# Being a physicist

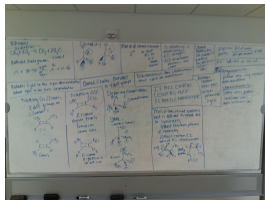
Eugeniy E. Mikhailov

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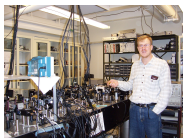
# Who is a speaker?

## Experimental Physicist

- ▶ It is a mind set not a job description
  - ▶ I want to know how and why things *work* and not to be told “trust me”
  - ▶ I should be able to design, prototype, build, and debug apparatus which can probe it
  - ▶ Collect enough “good” data
  - ▶ Analyze and distill to something which fits into a human brain



# How I end up here?



- ▶ 1992 - out of High School (USSR)
  - ▶ Careers considered
    - ▶ Navy officer
    - ▶ Computer Science
    - ▶ Physics
- ▶ 1998 - out of university, Diploma in Physics (MEPhI, Russia)
  - ▶ Lasers, Optics, Spectroscopy
- ▶ 2003 - out of university, PhD in Physics, (Texas A&M University, US)
  - ▶ Quantum optics in application for sensors
- ▶ 2006 - done with postdoc, (MIT, US)
  - ▶ Quantum optics in application for gravitational wave

# What do I do everyday?

- ▶ Getting ready for a class
- ▶ Teach in and outside of a class
- ▶ Interact with students in my research group
- ▶ Service/administrative things



# Why am I still doing it?

- ▶ I like to be surrounded by smart people
- ▶ I want to be constantly challenged
- ▶ Nothing can compare with a joy of solving a problem