

Railgun Research at the Institute for Advanced Technology
Francis Stefani, University of Texas at Austin

Railguns, also known as *electromagnetic launchers*, use electricity to accelerate payloads to speeds that are significantly higher than can be achieved with conventional guns. Railgun research in the U.S. began in the late 1970's at the Picattiny Arsenal, and has been funded by the U.S. Army ever since. The Institute for Advanced Technology at the University of Texas at Austin, is an Army funded lab whose mission is to conduct basic research on railguns. Our mission also includes working closely with students from West Point and other schools. This talk explains how railguns work and describes some of the hot topics in railgun research. The talk also shows applications currently being considered for railguns.