Charles W. Peck 1934–2016



Charles W. Peck Credit: Courtesy of the Caltech Archives

Educator Scientist Accelerator physicist Instrument builder Administrator

Image: A math a math

Charles Peck

Hero of the Caltech Synchrotron

- Many prominent physicists received their Ph.D. at the Caltech Synchrotron in the 1960's
- I believe they all heartily acknowledge fellow graduate student Charlie as the one who kept it working and improved it
- at the probable sacrifice of taking longer to graduate himself...

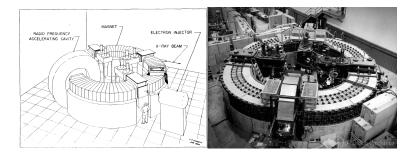
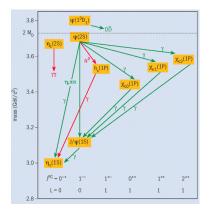


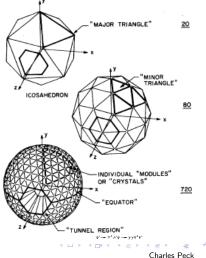
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Crystal Ball Inventor

Important to measure photons to study charmonium spectroscopy



Brainstorming sessions with Elliott Bloom lead to the Crystal Ball concept for a Nal(TI) photon detector



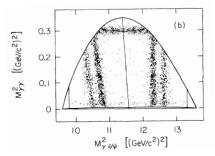
October 8, 2016

Crystal Ball Inventor

The real Crystal Ball – stacking the crystals at Harshaw



Works like a charm(onium?) – The $\gamma\gamma J/\psi$ Dalitz plot



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Charles Peck

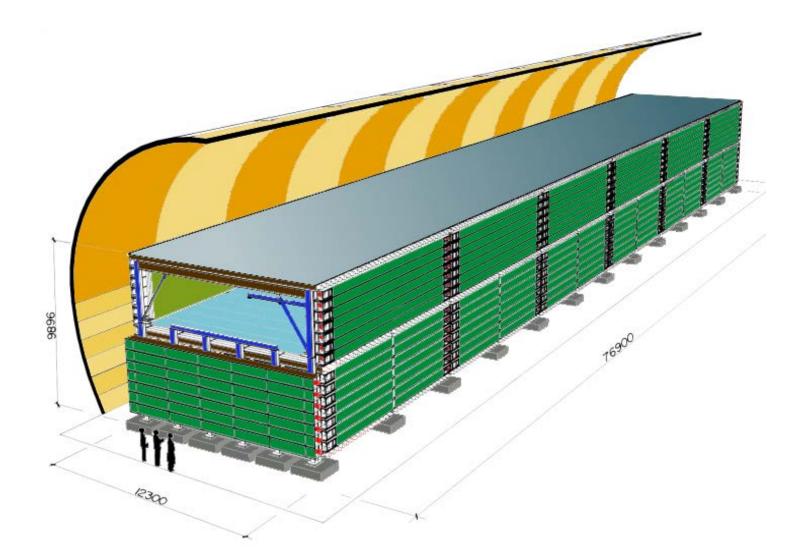
The peripatetic Crystal Ball

One of the longest, most well-traveled lives in the business...

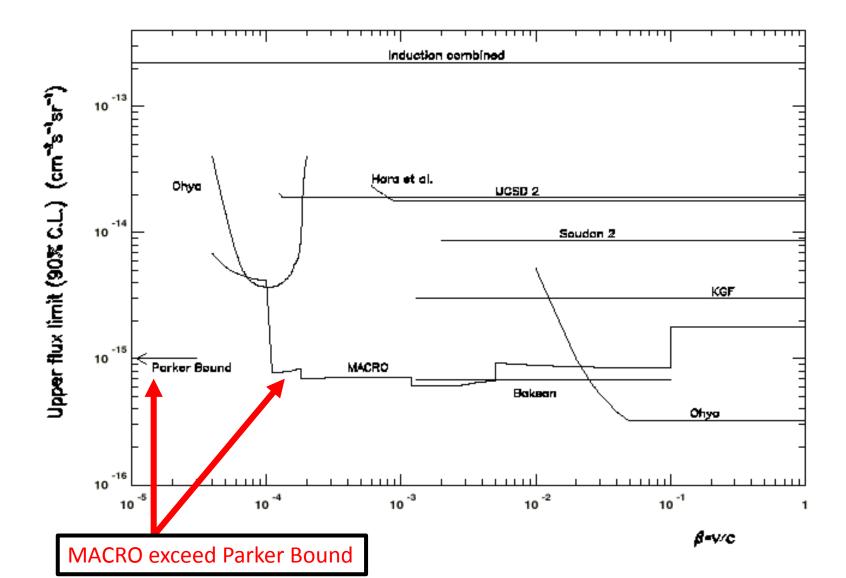
- Crystal array assembly at Harshaw Chemical Company in Cleveland
- 1978-1981 SLAC SPEAR
 - work on possible move to PEP
 - ▶ 1982 proposal to be first/second detector at SLC
- 1982-1987 DESY DORIS II
- 1987-1996 SLAC ESB (mothballed)
- 1996-2002 BNL AGS
- 2002-present Mainz Microtron (A2 Collaboration)



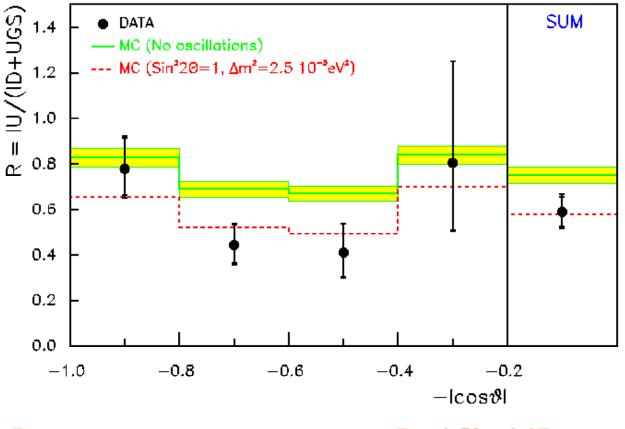
Charlie Peck -- The heart of MACRO at Gran Sasso



MACRO – Grand Unified Monopoles



MACRO – Atmospheric ν Oscillations



Data:

 $R = 0.59 \pm 0.07_{stat}$

Expected (No oscillations): Expected \rightarrow \rightarrow oscillations $R = 0.75 \pm 0.04_{sys} \pm 0.04_{th}$ $R = 0.58 \pm 0.03_{sys} \pm 0.03_{th}$

Administrator

- Not Charlie's passion(!), nonetheless he leaves an important legacy as Chair of the Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy Division at Caltech (1993-8)
- Played an substantial role in the survival of LIGO at a delicate and difficult time in its history
- Even as Charlie was gravely ill, he was excited by the announced discovery of gravitational waves

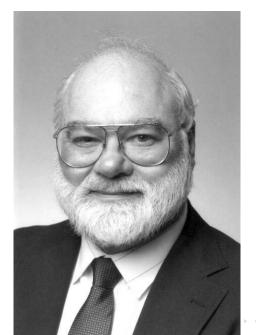
His career in his own words, at:

Oral history: Charles W. Peck

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Charles Peck

Thanks, Charlie!



October 8, 2016

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