Wilfried Schäfer (1951–2003)

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In memoriam: Wilfried Schäfer

Wilfried Schäfer (1951–2003)

In August 2003 Professor Wilfried Schäfer died after a seven year long battle with cancer. He was an outstanding expert in Semiconductor optics and transport in general and Nonequilibrium Green's functions, in particular. Wilfried had always been one of the most active supporters of the idea of these interdisciplinary conferences. Nevertheless, he had to miss the first two meetings due to his illness.

Wilfried studied physics in Dortmund where he received his PhD in 1980. In 1988 he got his habilitation (second doctoral degree) in theoretical physics with a thesis on highly excited semiconductors. He held an appointment at the Research center in Jülich where he later became a professor and group leader. He was a regular visitor to Bell Labs and had close collaborations with many experimental groups worldwide. He predicted and verified many novel effects - in optics, transport, magnetotransport, on excitonic and biexcitons etc.

Wilfried was never impressed by complicated problems, he always found original solutions. Among many other things, he pionieered the rigorous quantum-kinetic treatment of electron-phonon and electron-electron scattering, merciless using supercomputers (which he always had acces to at the Jülich supercomputer center). Wilfried Schäfer leaves behind a brilliant text book (together with M. Wegener), "Semiconductor Optics and Transport Phenomena", Springer 2002, which is full of excellent theoretical derivations, theory-experiment comparisons and problems which continue to puzzle students and colleagues.

Michael Bonitz