

The Life of Chien-Shiung Wu



Born in 1912 in south-east China, she received her undergraduate education in China. In 1936, she left for the United States and pursued a PhD at UC Berkley under Ernest Lawrence working on beta decay and nuclear fission of uranium.



In 1942, she became a professor first at Smith College and then at Princeton.

In 1944, she became a part of the Manhattan project working on the uranium enrichment.



She was appointed as a professor of physics at Columbia in 1945 where she remained for the rest of her career.



Her major accomplishment was the experimental observation of parity breaking in weak interactions (“Wu experiment”).

The Angular Correlation of Scattered Annihilation Radiation*

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AS early as 1946, J. A. Wheeler¹ proposed an experiment to verify a prediction of pair theory, that the two quanta emitted in the annihilation of a positron-electron pair, with zero relative angular momentum, are polarized at right angles to each other. This prediction has been confirmed by the present experiment.

Experimental Test of Parity Conservation in Beta Decay*

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