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photolithography, were of the phase-reversal type rather than the transparent-opaque type mentioned by Baez, and were consequently much more efficient.

The field of neutron optics, though suffering in comparison with x-ray optics from the lack of suitably bright sources, is alive and well, mainly in the area of subtle experiments that bear on the foundations of quantum mechanics.³ Their pedagogic value, at least, is established.

References

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3. For a review, see A. G. Klein, S. A. Werner, *Rep. Prog. Phys.* **46**, 259 (1983).

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Colliding with von Kármán

I much enjoyed William Sears's article on Theodore von Kármán (January 1986, page 34). I had the privilege of von Kármán's acquaintance when I was a junior postdoc at Caltech in the early 1930s. He was a tremendous character.

There is one anecdote about him not mentioned by Sears. Von Kármán's gifts were many, great and varied but they did not appear to include skill in car driving. I recall that he held some kind of more than local record for the number of crashes and collisions in which he was involved. It was widely believed that he treated cars on roads as a problem in the kinetic theory of a one-dimensional gas. Thus there was a kind of analog to the mean free path between collisions, which were therefore not only inevitable but also always inelastic.

Caltech at that time was full of great and famous people, not the least of whom was its president, Robert A. Millikan, who was held in the highest regard. Indeed it was said that when, inevitably, Millikan was seen approaching the Pearly Gates, Saint Peter would get on the phone to the Chairman to say, "I'm sorry, God, you'll have to move over, here comes Millikan."

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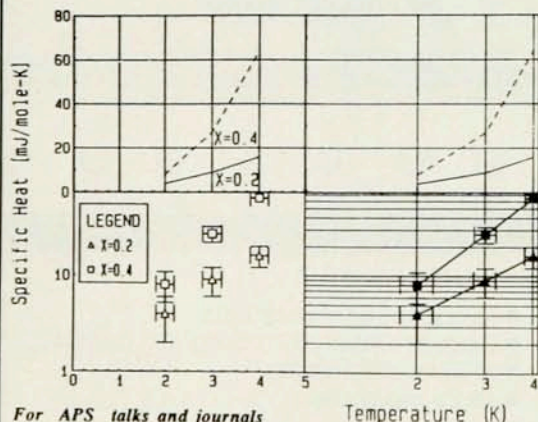
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