

LETTERS

Reference

1. G. F. Bertsch, H. Kruse, S. Das Gupta, *Phys. Rev. C* **29**, 673 (1984).

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9/93

Two Laser Pioneers' Early Affiliation

My article "Physical Review Records the Birth of the Laser Era" (October, page 28) mentions the current affiliations of Arthur Schawlow and Ali Javan in the text on page 30 and in the figure caption on page 31. At the time of their early laser work, both Schawlow and Javan were affiliated with Bell Telephone Laboratories.

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11/93

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Complexity Study: An Alternative History

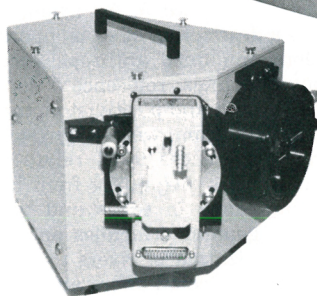
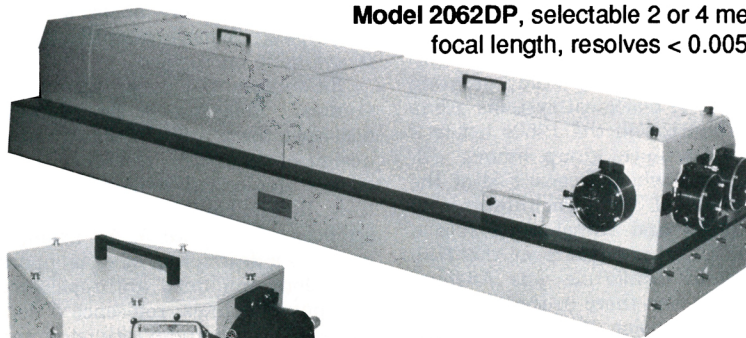
Philip W. Anderson's Reference Frame columns on "complexity" (July 1991, page 9; June 1992, page 9) are establishing and fixing a history of complexity study, and its relation to the Santa Fe Institute, in the physics community. This letter offers an alternative view on the history of such study. Even though Anderson asserted to me a decade and a half ago that the studies made by my colleagues and me should not strictly be considered physics but rather a scientific extension beyond or perhaps peripheral to physics, I believe members of the physics community should have the opportunity to learn about our contributions to a physical foundation for complex systems and to judge them if they so choose.

Those efforts began in the 1940s at the National Bureau of Standards in cross-disciplinary studies, of interest to government and industry, related to a variety of flow field and solid-state material problems within instrumentation and metrology and to the biophysics of high-altitude flight. They expanded with continuing systems studies in physiological physics and hydrodynamics in the 1950s and involvement in the organization of interdisciplinary sessions for the system regulation and control interests in the engineering societies from the 1950s on. Salient inspiration for such engineering physics studies came from APS's mixed-dis-

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