

The joint winners of the award -- Dr. Chen Ning Yang, 34, of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and Dr. Tsung Dao Lee, 30, of Columbia University in New York City -- were cited for their "profound investigations of the so-called parity laws which have led to important discoveries regarding sub-atomic particles."

As explained by the Nobel Institute officials, these discoveries have destroyed a long accepted basic law of nature called the "Principle of the Conservation of Parity," according to which space possessed a well-balanced quality of symmetry in which every existing object was balanced by a corresponding "mirror image" that had to respond to the same law of nature. Using the new giant atom-smashers, the two professors studied the behaviorism of components of the atomic nucleus, and advanced the theory that some of these sub-atomic particles should not be expected to behave according to previously conceived rules. Experiments at Columbia University and at the U.S. National Bureau of Standards in Washington have verified that some of the particles do indeed have different intrinsic properties -- they can be "righthanded" or "lefthanded" according to their favored rotation or spin. This is expected to open the way to a unifying theory to explain many of the mysteries of the atom. Some promising theories have until now been blocked because they ran counter to the parity law.

The two physicists first met at the university in Kunming, China in the early 1940s. They resumed their friendship at the University of Chicago in 1948, and since 1951 have collaborated closely on the sub-atomic research at the Institute for Advanced Study.

Dr. Lee, youngest full professor on the faculty at Columbia University, has been on leave while working in Princeton. He was born in Shanghai and his mother now lives in Taiwan.

Dr. Yang's parents live in Shanghai where his father, Ke Chuan Yang, is an eminent mathematician with the university.

Yang, Chen Ning physicist. Born in Hofei, Anhwei, China on September 22, 1922. Son of Ke Chuan Yang and Meng Hwa Lo. He received his Bachelor of Science degree at the Southwest Association University of China in 1942; Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in 1948. He married Chih Li Tu August 26, 1950. They have one son, Franklin. From 1948-49 he was an instructor at the U. of Chicago; member of Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton, 1949-55, professor 1955-. Member of American Physical Society; Sigma Xi.