

Remembering Claude Bouchiat

In the spring of 1967, I was looking for a thesis adviser and subject. Claude Cohen-Tannoudji at the ENS (his lab is just one floor below) recommended that I go to Orsay and see what Claude Bouchiat could propose (his wife Marie-Anne was in the same lab as Cohen-Tannoudji's). I must say that Bouchiat was not overenthusiastic, even a bit gruff : I understood later that he had just had a not very pleasant experience with thesis students. Nevertheless, I did not give up, and he must have changed his mind, and he proposed that Joël Scherk and me work on the same subject, with both Philippe Meyer and him as advisers. The subject was on calculating corrections to the $\Delta I=1/2$ rule in non-leptonic K decays due to electromagnetism and final-state interactions. Joël and me went to work essentially by ourselves, reporting only from time to time our progress to our advisers. He made it clear that it was very important to attend the weekly theory seminar, even if at the beginning we would not understand much. We completed our thesis in two years, with our work still getting about one citation per year, before both leaving for Princeton.

I am immensely grateful to Claude Bouchiat for having accepted me as a thesis student and having paired me with Joël, with whom I had such fruitful collaborations for several years after our thesis, before our paths diverged for personal reasons.

I am also extremely grateful to Philippe Meyer and him for having kick-started our careers in the CNRS, and arranged the creation of this theory group at the École Normale with its so stimulating atmosphere, including these Summer Institutes first started in Orsay.

André Neveu