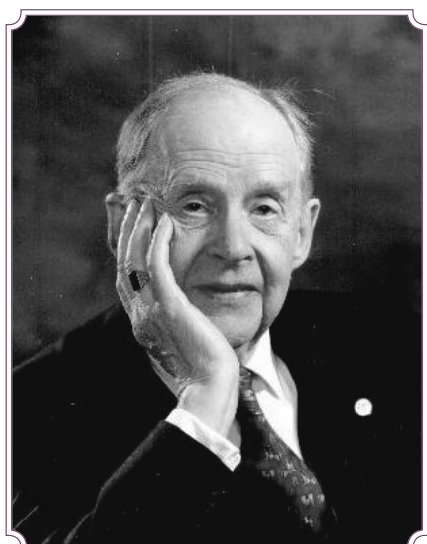


Professor emeritus  
Malcolm W. P. “Woody” Strandberg  
dies at 96

Was a noted authority on microwave physics and the physics of biological systems.

by Department of Physics



Professor emeritus Malcolm W. P. “Woody” Strandberg of the MIT Department of Physics passed away on May 3, 2015, at the age of 96.

Born in Box Elder, Montana, on March 9, 1919, Strandberg received his BS degree *summa cum laude* from Harvard College in 1941, and his PhD degree from MIT in 1948. From 1941 to 1945 he was a staff member of the MIT Radiation Laboratory, engaged in advanced development work on microwave radar.

Strandberg spent a year (November 1942 to September 1943) on detached duty in Great Malvern, England, as a visiting scientist, working on radar counter measures for the Royal Air Force. Back at MIT, he was a research assistant in physics from 1945 to 1948, appointed assistant professor of physics in 1948, associate professor in 1953, and professor of physics in 1960.

Strandberg was head of a research group in microwave spectroscopy and solid state physics in the MIT Research Laboratory of Electronics and published extensively in this field, including the book *Microwave*

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*Spectroscopy* (1954). From 1965 onward his research interests included the physics of biological systems and he published extensively in that field.

Strandberg was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1957; the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1959; Institute of Radio Engineers (now the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers), 1959; and Honorary Active Member of the New York Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1957.

He often served as a technical consultant to industry and government laboratories, and was the inventor on record and holder of ten patents.

Strandberg and his wife, the late Harriet Elisabeth Bennett, lived in Cambridge, MA, and were the parents of four children: Josiah, Susan Berrospe, Elisabeth Stith, and Malcolm.

“He was a great, if unconventional, teacher; he was not aloof, even if he left us to do the work ourselves. [He was] always ready with critical questions and comments.”

— Bernard Burke,  
MIT Professor of Physics Emeritus