

Dr. Ki B. Ma, a Research Professor at the Department of Physics and Texas Center for Superconductivity at the University of Houston died on November 11, 2010 due to kidney failure at age 60. He was educated at Caltech, then Princeton University for graduate studies in Theoretical Physics. He came to University of Houston at 1989 and stayed till his sudden demise.

The bulk of his research work during his Houston period has been on the application of bulk high temperature superconductor in magnetic levitation devices. This included superconductor magnet levitation bearings and its application in flywheel kinetic energy storage, vibration damping and isolation, and reaction wheels for mini-satellites. He had several patents on levitation devices. He had also carried out fundamental studies of the superconductor magnet interaction as a magneto-mechanical phenomenon. He earned the reputation to be one of the leaders in levitation science and applications.

In addition, he was also involved in ion beam research. He had contributed to numerical simulation of ion beam channeling in single crystals. He had revived interest in basic ion beam physics and quantum phenomena. He was one of the genius people who can solve very difficult problems from the first principle in Physics and mathematics. Dr. Ma was an erudite scholar having a reputation of a walking encyclopedia. A well respected colleague and a well loved friend, he will always live in our memory.