Visitors to the Tandem Accelerator Laboratory
A Review after 27 Years

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Soon after completion of the tandem accelerator laboratory in 1970, the Accelerator Research Committee agreed to open it to visitors, e.g. school classes, students from other universities, and anyone interested. By that time the rising stream of visitors has been not foreseen. Within five years our accelerator became so popular that in order not to disturb the experimental work the visiting days had to be restricted to Mondays (our usual day of maintenance).

In spite of this restriction the number of visitors increased and so did the number of guests at our annual open day: As a result we had 1500 to 2000 visitors per year. During 27 years of the accelerator's existence it summed up to more than 25700 people who were introduced in the operation of a tandem and in the variety of experiments. Many school classes came from as far as Hamburg or Vienna. The exact numbers are listed in table 1 and graphically displayed in fig. 1. It can be easily deduced from the maxima (black bars only) in this figure when accelerators were in the physics curriculum in Bavarian high schools.

All the time it was important to us to keep the quality of our guided tours on a high level. Principally that means guiding a few small groups instead of a large one. Discussion with students and answering their questions is always preferable to a mere lecture. The aim to limit groups to fifteen persons could be achieved in most cases.

After so many years of guiding more than 1000 groups through the institute, I would like to express my gratitude to H. Jakob, H. Schnitter and W. Carli who never refused to help whenever the busses stopped in front of the building and the students poured out by groups fifties.

Statistics of Visitors

	throughout the year		open day		total	
	people	groups	people	groups	people	groups
1971			271	22	271	22
1972	121	7			121	7
1973	141	9			141	9
1974	215	14			215	14
1975	355	22	186	14	541	36
1976	455	31	773	51	1228	82
1977	412	31	1405	75	1817	106
1078	421	32			421	32
1979	788	45	1019	60	1807	105
1980	946	46	954	61	1900	107
1981	1038	62	876	40	1914	102
1982	627	49	878	45	1505	94
1983	946	71			946	71
1984	976	64	1064	56	2040	120
1985	914	67			914	67
1986	736	52			736	52
1987	698	51	808	44	1506	95
1988	677	46	838	44	1515	90
1989	637	51	417	45	1054	96
1990	487	41			487	41
1991	579	40			579	40
1992	468	35			468	35
1993	485	41	420	45	905	86
1994	256	22			256	22
1995	300	23	515	45	815	68
1996	417	36			417	36
1997	741	58	484	41	1225	99
total	14836	1046	10908	688	25744	1734

Table 1:

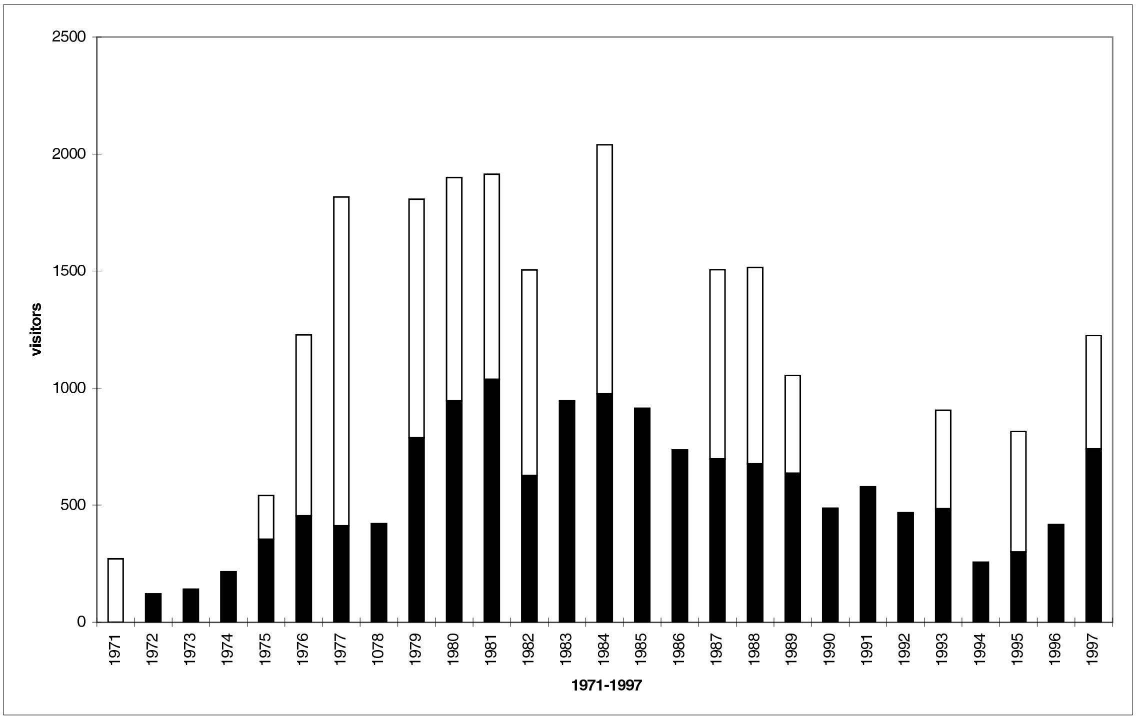

Fig. 1: Number of visitors: throughout the year (black), at open days (white)