Lennart Sjögren Biography

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Lennart Sjögren (1947-) was born in Grängesberg in the region of Dalarna, Sweden, the son of Nils Sjögren, a train engineer, and Ulla Sjögren, a housewife. In 1952, his family moved to Eskilstuna, a medium-sized industrial town, where he grew up and went to elementary school and high school.

After the high school exam (1966) and military service, he attended college at Chalmers tekniska högskola in Göteborg. There, he obtained a BSc in Technical Physics (1967-1971) and a PhD in Mathematical Physics (1977) for a thesis entitled "Theoretical Studies of Atomic Motions in Classical Liquids" under the supervision of Alf Sjölander. He then stayed at the Institute of Theoretical Physics in Göteborg as radassistant (research assistant) from 1977 to 1987, although with interruptions. He notably took a postdoctoral leave at the Laboratoire de Physique Théorique des Liquides at Université Paris VI, with Jean-Pierre Hansen (1979-1980), worked for Allmänna Svenska Elektriska Aktiebolaget (ASEA, now ABB) in Västerås (1981-1983), and was a long-term visitor in Wolfgang Götze's group at TU München (1985-1986). In 1987, he was appointed as associate professor at the institute. (Chalmers university and Göteborg university had a joint faculty of physics, and in 1994, when Chalmers was privatized, Sjögren and others chose to move their positions to Göteborg university. The faculty of physics nevertheless remained joint between the two universities until 2005. The separation between departments was mainly administrative. The departments were still located in the same buildings, and cooperation in teaching and research has persisted to this day.) He later served as vice-dean for the faculty (2003-2005) and after the separation between the universities as department head (2005-2009), before retiring in 2012.

Sjögren first studied the classical dynamics of liquids, and through a close collaboration with Wolfgang Götze, became one of the key early developers of the mode-coupling theory (MCT) of glasses. His numerical and analytical studies of schematic formulations of MCT laid the basis for further theoretical advances and for their experimental testing.