

# Nobel Prize-winning physicist Norman Ramsey dies

November 7 2011

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(AP) -- Norman Ramsey, who shared the 1989 Nobel Prize in physics for his research into molecules and atoms that led to the creation of the atomic clock, has died in Massachusetts. He was 96.

His wife says the emeritus professor of physics at Harvard University died in his sleep at a Wayland nursing home on Friday.

Ramsey wrote in his autobiography for the Nobel Prize he shared with Hans Dehmelt and Wolfgang Paul that he was inspired by failure in molecular beam magnetic resonance experiments to invent a new technique of measuring the frequency of radiation from atoms.

His method was used to develop the world's most accurate timekeeper, the [atomic clock](#).

Ramsey taught at Harvard for four decades. During [World War II](#), he worked on the Manhattan Project.

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