

research field appear to be much younger than it is. The article states that "[Rydberg atoms] were first detected in interstellar space in 1965, when radio astronomers picked up emissions from hydrogen atoms implying that they had been excited into long-lasting Rydberg states." In fact, 30 years earlier, these atoms were observed by Edoardo Amaldi and Emilio Segré (1). They were found by spectroscopic experiments that studied the effect of the pressure of various gases on the wavelength of the emitted line. The theory was published in the same issue of the same journal by Enrico Fermi (2). The Roman investigators called these atoms "*atomi gonfi*," or "swollen atoms."

This discovery would probably have had much more impact if it had not been for the discovery by Fermi's group of artificial radioactivity induced by neutrons; the group switched from atomic to nuclear physics in about 1 year. The first long report of these experiments appeared in the same issue of *Il Nuovo Cimento* (3).

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References

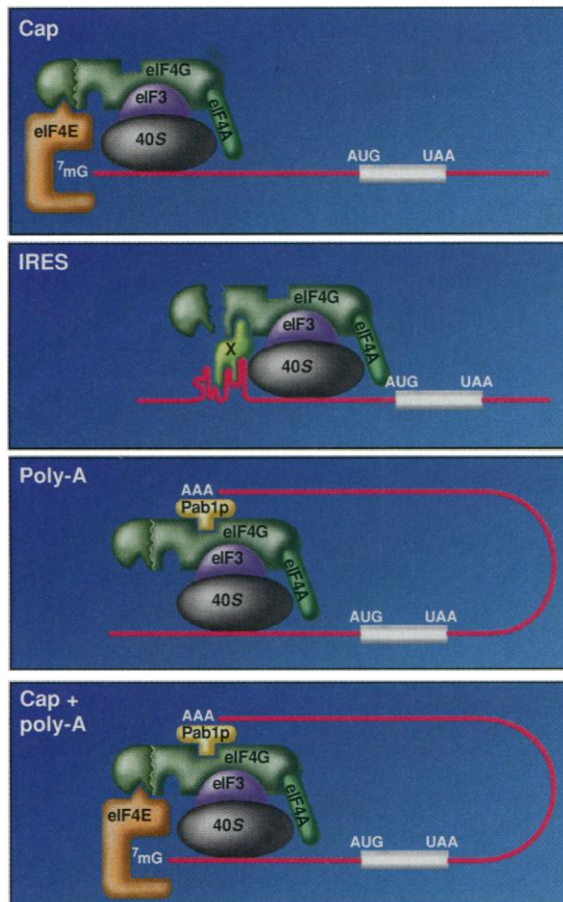
1. E. Amaldi and E. Segré, *Nuovo Cimento* **11**, 145 (1934).
2. E. Fermi, *ibid.*, p. 157.
3. E. Fermi *et al.*, *ibid.*, p. 429.

Letters to the Editor

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Corrections and Clarifications

The figure on page 501 of the Perspective "eIF4G: A multipurpose ribosome adapter?" by Matthias W. Hentze (24 Jan., p. 500) was incorrect. The correct figure appears below.



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