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People who play the computer game Tetris often see intrusive images from the game in sleeponset "hypnagogic" dreams. The special section in this issue focuses on the roles that sleep and dreams may play in processing memories. [Image: Christopher Davis]

1071 Signaling in brain

development



1082 Making connections

New on Science Express

Cell cycle and brain structure



Science

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Submillimeter Evidence for the Coeval Growth of Massive Black Holes and Galaxy Bulges M. J. Page, J. A. Stevens, J. P. D. Mittaz, F. J. Carrera

Submillimeter photometry indicates that, in the early universe, starburst activity peaked at the same time as black holes were building up most of their mass.

Negative Regulation of Neural Stem/Progenitor Cell Proliferation by the Pten Tumor Suppressor Gene in Vivo M. Groszer et al.

Analysis of conditional knockout mice suggests that PTEN controls proliferation and apoptosis of neural progenitor cells.

ARR1, a Transcription Factor for Genes Immediately Responsive to Cytokinins H. Sakai et al.

The signal transduction chain triggered by the plant hormone cytokinin is remarkably short: The ARR1 protein, which can be activated by the cytokinin hormone receptor, can then use its DNA-binding domains to alter target gene expression.

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Global: Careers in Bioengineering

In this month's feature, insight into the latest trends in bioengineering-and perspectives on why the training and skill sets of bioengineers make them among today's most sought-after scientists.

Europe: European Science Bytes K. Urguhart and E. von Ruschkowski

Bite-sized snippets of the latest career- and science-related news from Europe.

UK: Superior Supervision K. Urquhart

Is having been supervised yourself sufficient qualification for becoming a research supervisor, or should Ph.D. supervisors be given training and support to help them do a good job?

US: A Misfit Scientist Goes To Washington M. Marino

Pursuing her conviction that she'd have more fun as a science writer than as a researcher, the author took a gamble on a summer internship at the National Academies' news and information office.

TECHNICAL COMMENTS

Anomalies in Ozone Isotopomer Formation

Gao and Marcus (Research Articles, 13 July, p. 259) presented theoretical arguments to explain why both mass-independent and mass-dependent oxygen isotope fractionation can be observed for ozone synthesis under different conditions. In a comment, Janssen acknowledges that the theory "successfully explains most of the experimental data," but takes issue with the study's conclusion that both isotope effects "are in a sense symmetry-driven." Although that description is "clearly appropriate" for the nonstatistical effect cited by Gao and Marcus to explain the mass-independent fractionation, according to Janssen, "the same term should be avoided" to describe the zeropoint energy fractionation (ZPEF) driving the large unconventional mass-dependent effects, because such fractionation "is connected only accidentally, not causally, with molecular symmetry." In a response, Marcus explains the subtler sense under which ZPEF can also be termed symmetry-driven.

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The full text of these comments can be seen at www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/294/5544/951a

SPECIAL FEATURE

Science Functional Genomics www.sciencegenomics.org

- A Tale of Two Modifiers C. B. Kunst
 - How some genes affect the expression of neurological-disease phenotypes.

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- Orientation Article: Detangling Alzheimer's Disease L. Helmuth Toward better diagnostics and possible therapeutics.
- Neurodegenerative Disease Case Study: Alzheimer's Disease L. S. Honig and S. S. Chin
 - Family members often detect problems first.

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- Perspective: Melatonin Receptor Signaling—-Finding the Path Through the Dark M. I. Masana and M. L. Dubocovich
- ¹⁰⁴⁷ Insights from pharmacological analysis.

Review: Signaling to the Mammalian Circadian Clocks-In Pursuit of the Primary Mammalian Circadian Photoreceptor M. P. Pando and P. Sassone-Corsi

¹⁰⁴⁷ How is it that the central and peripheral mammalian clocks communicate, and what are the identities of the primary photoreceptors?

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THIS WEEK IN Science

When Order Breaks Down

Phase transitions reflect changes in ordering of a system, and insights can often be gained from studies of how the phase transition changes in response to deliberate disordering. Bellini et al. (p. 1074) examined the effect of disordering a type of liquid-crystal phase transition, the melting of a smectic phase, in which molecules are oriented and packed in layers, into a nematic phase, where the molecules edited by Phil Szuromi

Cometary Origins

1089 Comets are thought to have formed through the freezing out and accretion of volatiles from the solar nebula at the edge

of our solar system, where the temperatures range between 30 to 80 K. Kawakita et al. (p. 1089) collected high-resolution spectra from the Subaru telescope of comet C/1999 S4 (LINEAR) to determine the ortho-to-para ratio of NH₂. By assuming that the NH₂ is derived from the photodissociation of ammonia by the solar radiation, they derived a spin temperature of the ammonia of about 38 K. If this ammonia is primordial, then the spin temperature indicates that the comet formed between 8 and 15 astronomical units in the solar nebula.

are still oriented but have no distinct layers. They introduced the liquid crystal into an aerogel network, whose highly irregular surface perturbs the ordering on the nanometer scale. By comparing the experimental results to two theoretical descriptions, they show how long-range periodicity is destroyed. Some local ordering still persists and exhibits universality behavior similar to that of bulk phase transitions.

Keeping an Eye on the Pulse

As the development of photonic devices advances, so too will the need to monitor the transient behavior of the optical pulses as they propagate through the device structure. However, peeking inside a photonic structure is far from trivial, particularly when the puls-



es are on the order of several tens of femtoseconds. Balistreri et al. (p. 1080) introduce a noninvasive technique based on an optical scanning tunneling microscope that can be used to "visualize" the pulse as it propagates through an optical waveguide with temporal and spatial resolution.

Making Connections

A simple method for connecting pairs of electrodes immersed in water with microwires has been developed by Hermanson et al. (p. 1082). They added colloidal gold particles to the solution and turned on an alternating current (ac) between a pair of planar electrodes. The colloidal particles attached to one electrode and grew toward the other to form a bridging wire. The process can be enhanced by placing conductive islands between the two electrodes, causing the ac field to become asymmetric, and the thickness of the wires can be controlled by the particle size, concentration, the electric field and current, and the electrolyte concentration. The addition of latex particles to the solution tended to coat the wire to form a partial insulating layer.

A Matter of Life and Death

Shell beds containing the fossilized remains of molluscs are abundant and have been central to the interpretation of the history of life on Earth. Do these "death assemblages" provide more than a qualitative record of the presence and absence of species at particular times? Kidwell (p. 1091) performed a meta-analysis of many quantitative studies on the correspondence between dead and live molluscs in ma-

rine sediments. She shows that these sediments provide a reliable record of the relative abundance of molluscan species in their original living communities, thus indicating that death assemblages can reveal important information about paleoecology.

Sea Changes

Previous work that has suggested that the chemistry of the oceans, based on major ions such as Na⁺, K⁺, Ca⁺, Mg²⁺, and Cl⁻, has been constant during the Phanerozoic (the past 540 million years), but this is inconsistent with observed changes in the mineralogy of marine limestones and evaporites. Lowenstein et al. (p. 1086; see the Perspective by Goldstein) measured the major ions trapped in fluid inclusions, which provide samples of ancient seawaters, in halite grains from marine formations throughout the Phanerozoic. Seawater chemistry has varied over time, and the variations are consistent with changes in sea-floor spreading rates, volcanism, and sea level.

Mammoth Developments

The fossil record of the woolly mammoth in Eurasia is one of the most extensive for any large mammal for the past 2 million years. Lister and Sher (p. 1094) have completed a detailed analysis of patterns of change in skull morphology and dentition spanning the mammoth's entire geographical and temporal range. They build a picture of gradual evolutionary change that resolves many of the contested questions in mammoth evolution and provides an unprecedented documentation of evolutionary tempo and mode in a large vertebrate.

Map Factor

Different regions of the mammalian cortex are dedicated to different neurological functions, but the molecular mechanisms by which the functional map is defined have been obscure. Fukuchi-Shimogori and Grove (p. 1071; see the Perspective by Rakic) have manipulated the expression of the fibroblast growth factor family member FGF8 in the developing forebrain. The effects of too much—or too little—FGF8 indicate that an intrinsic source of FGF8 in the anterior cortical primordium is responsible for determining the general structure of a neocortical map.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 955



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CONTINUED FROM 953 THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE



Grabbing onto a Branch(point)

During RNA processing in eucaryotic nuclei, intervening sequences (introns) are removed. The bond between the last nucleotide of the exon and the first nucleotide of the intron is cleaved by using an intronic adenosine residue as the attacking nucleophile. This adenosine is referred to as the branch point A because this reaction yields a branched structure known as a lariat. From the solution structure of the complex between splicing factor 1 (SF1) and the branch point sequence (BPS), Liu *et al.* (p. 1098) find that the branch point

A is buried within the protein. They suggest that the subsequent formation of an RNA double helix between the BPS and U2 snRNA bypasses this sequestered adenosine, and the dissociation of SF1 would then leave this unpaired nucleotide exposed.

Coordinating Energy Consumption

The mammalian target of the immunosuppressant (and anticancer agent) rapamycin (mTOR) controls ribosome biogenesis in response to nutrients and is now shown to be a sensor of the energy status of the cell. Given that protein synthesis consumes a lot of energy, Dennis *et al.* (p. 1102) found that treatments that decreased the cellular concentration of ATP also decreased mTOR activity. In fact, mTOR exhibits a Michaelis constant for ATP similar to the concentration of ATP in a mammalian cell. Thus, mTOR seems to function as a key node for regulation of ribosome biogenesis, replete with distinct mechanisms to coordinate ribosome function with availability of ATP or amino acids.

HIV-Induced Nuclear Blebbing

The HIV protein Vpr is known to halt cell proliferation. De Noronha *et al.* (p. 1105; see the Perspective by Segura-Totten and Wilson) observed the formation of blebs or herniations in the cell's nuclear envelope. These herniations would occasionally rupture, leading to the mixing of nuclear and cytosolic contents, including cell cycle regulators. It will be important to determine how these events contribute to the inhibition of cellular proliferation.

Connect to the Light

Light perception in plants is mediated by photoreceptors called phytochromes for the red/far-red portions of the spectrum. Sweere *et al.* (p. 1108) show that the first component in the signal transduction pathway for phytochrome B in *Arabidopsis* is the response regulator ARR4. Phytochrome B regulates the expression of ARR4, which in turn interacts with phytochrome B to further light signaling. Hormone-regulated expression of ARR4 and the effect of phosphorylation on its function suggest how the light signaling pathway may interact with other signaling pathways.

Fusion Machinery Components

The SNARE proteins are parts of the cellular fusion machinery and are thought to act as specificity markers on intracellular membrane-bounded compartments (see the Perspective by Scales *et al.*). Schoch *et al.* (p. 1117) generated knockout mice that lack the SNARE synaptobrevin 2 and found that it was not absolutely required. Wang *et al.* (p. 1111) looked at the role of two isoforms of another protein with a role in fusion, synaptotagmin. Whereas over-expression of synaptotagmin I prolonged the interval from fusion pore opening to dilation during exocytosis of dense-core, noradrenaline-containing granules, synaptotagmin IV reduced this interval. Both of these proteins restricted the transfer of noradrenaline through the open pores, suggesting that synaptotagmins interact directly with the fusion pore.

The Long and the Short of Memory

Although small, the fruit fly *Drosophila* can learn and remember, and the sophisticated genetics of this fly has made it possible to probe several aspects of short- and long-term memory. Pascual and Préat (p. 1115) find that the *alpha-lobes-absent* mutant is missing either the two vertical lobes or two of the three median lobes of the mushroom body. Longterm memory requires the two vertical lobes, but not the three median lobes, while shortterm memory requires only one of the three median lobes. sn^ut n time to move beyond spreadsheets?

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Homozygous knockout



Wild-type



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Body weight Body length Body l

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