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COVER

Representation of the entropy distribution in a nascent neutron star about 20 milliseconds after the collapsing core of its parent star stiffens and bounces. The shocked region experiences hydrodynamic instabilities that violate spherical symmetry and that may be central to the eventual understanding of supernovae and pulsars.

See page 430. The entropy values span the spectrum
from purple through blue and red, with the highest
values represented by red; the black core shows the
inner dense stable region. [Image: Adam Burrows and
Bruce A. Fryxell]

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■ SCIENCE (ISSN 0036-8075) is published weekly on Friday, except the last week in December, by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1333 H Street, December, by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Second-class postage (publication No. 484460) paid at Washington, DC, and additional mailing offices. Copyright © 1992 by the American Association for the Advance-ment of Science. The title SCIENCE is a registered trademark of the AAAS. Domestic individual membership and subscription (51 issues): \$87 (\$47 allocated to subscription). Domestic institutional subscription (51 issues): \$195. Foreign postage extra: Mexico, Caribbean (surface mail) \$50; other countries (air assist delivery) \$95. First class, airmail, student and emeritus rates on request. Canadian rates with GST available upon request, GST #1254 88122. Change of address: allow 6 weeks, giving old and new addresses and 11-digit account number. **Postmaster**: Send change of address to *Science*, P.O. Box 2033, Marion, OH 43305-2033. **Single copy sales**: \$6.00 per issue prepaid includes surface postage; Guide to Biotechnology Products and Instruments, \$20. Bulk rates on request. Authorization to photocopy material for internal or personal use under circumstances not falling within the fair use provisions of the Copyright Act is granted by AAAS to libraries and other users registered with the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) Transactional Reporting Service, provided that the base fee of \$1 per copy plus \$0.10 per page is paid directly to CCC, 27 Congress Street, Salem, MA 01970. The identification code for *Science* is 0036-8075/83 \$1 + .10. *Science* is indexed in the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* and in several propagilized indexed. The American Association for the Advancement of Science was founded in 1848 and incorporated

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THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

edited by PHIL SZUROMI

Macroscopic tunneling

Everyday experience suggests that some events are impossible, such as throwing a ball through a window without breaking the glass. Quantum mechanics revises this classical physics description in terms of probabilities; energetic barriers only decrease the probability of observing such events. In some macroscopic systems, such as superconducting Josephson junctions, quantum effects are regularly observed. Awschalom et al. (p. 414) review another macroscopic system that displays quantum tunneling effects. Quantum tunneling effects are seen in the magnetic dynamics of ferritin, an iron storage protein.

DNA repair enzyme

Endonuclease III of Escherichia coli, a prototypic DNA repair enzyme, excises oxidized pyrimidines and introduces singlestrand nicks at excision sites. Kuo et al. (p. 434) describe the atomic structure of this enzyme in its free state and in complex with thymine glycol, an inhibitor. This enzyme displays an unusual fold (a six-helix barrel domain) and contains an ironsulfur cluster that appears to be involved in the proper positioning of the enzyme along the DNA strand.

Nylon stackings

Thin films are an important part of many technologies, and epitaxial films—those whose structure aligns with that of the substrate—are especially interesting. Sano *et al.* (p. 441) find that thin films of nylon 6 could be epitaxially grown on graphite. Scanning tunneling microscopy was used to probe the surface structure of the films. In contrast to previous efforts in which films were fabricated by epitaxy of onedimensional chains, the films of nylon represent epitaxy of twodimensional sheets. Hydrogen bonding can be used to control the orientation of macromolecules in epitaxially grown films.



More than 5000 years ago, a man, aged between 25 and 40, froze to death in the Tyrolean Oetztaler Alps; last autumn his mummified body was recovered from glacial ice. Seidler et al. (p. 455) present anthropological details of the "man in ice." Because the mummy must be kept under simulated glacial conditions, the more extensive examinations, such as of the skull, were made by rotated computer tomography and plastic reconstruction. Because bodies trapped in glacial ice are often transformed into white grave wax, mummification (dehydration) likely took place before the body was enclosed in ice.

Atherosclerotic mouse

Changes in the genes that encode proteins involved in lipid metabolism, such as apolipoprotein E (apoE), have been identified as one of the factors in atherosclerosis. Lipoprotein particles that contain apoE are cleared from the bloodstream by receptors in the liver. Zhang et al. (p. 468) used gene targeting to inactivate the *apoE* gene in mice. In such mice, the plasma cholesterol was five times greater than normal. Deposits rich in foam cells were present in the proximal aortas of 3month-old mice and by 8 months severe occlusions of the coronary artery ostium occurred.

A star is born

Supernova explosions are among the most violent events in nature, yet a clear understanding of how they happen has been elusive. When its thermonuclear fuel is exhausted, a star may begin to collapse. The collapsing matter should bounce; the expanding shock wave then causes the supernova explosion. In computer simulations, however, the shock wave stalls—a dead end that is called the "supernova problem." Burrows and Fryxell (p. 430; cover) report numerical studies revealing the presence of a violent hydrodynamic instability that drives large-scale convection. Although detailed radiative transfer calculations are still necessary, this instability may be a way out of the supernova problem.

This mouse provides an in vivo model for testing drug and genetic therapies.

Gated porins

Entry of molecules through the outer membrane of Gramnegative bacteria into the periplasmic space is controlled by porins, which are nonspecific, and by receptor proteins that are specific for a number of ligands. Rutz et al. (p. 471) present evidence that these two distinct transport systems may be related. The ferric enterobactin receptor (FepA) requires the cytoplasmic membrane protein TonB for proper function. Mutants of FepA that lacked certain cellsurface peptides no longer accelerated the uptake of specific ligands but instead formed porinlike, nonspecific channels that were independent of TonB. The high sequence homology of the ligand-specific outer membrane receptors that require TonB suggests that all of them use TonB to facilitate the entry of the specific ligand and block the nonspecific entry of other molecules into their channel.

Kinase kinase

The receptors for many peptide growth factors are tyrosine ki-

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nases. These receptors initiate intracellular signals in the form of cascades of phosphorylation reactions. Mitogen-activated protein (MAP) kinases participate in this cascade. They are activated by phosphorylation on tyrosine and threonine residues and are themselves serine-threonine kinases. Crews et al. (p. 478) report the cloning of MEK, a kinase that phosphorylates and activates MAP kinase. MEK has similarity to Byr1, a protein kinase from yeast that participates in signal transduction in response to mating pheremones.

Immunosuppression and heat shock proteins

Deoxyspergualin (DSG), like cyclosporin A and FK506, is an immunosuppressant, but its mode of action differs; for example, the inhibitory effects of DSG on the generation of killer T cells cannot be reversed by administering interleukin-2. Nadler et al. (p. 484) show that DSG specifically binds to heat shock cognate Hsc70, the constitutive member of the heat shock protein 70 family. Although these different classes of immunosuppressants may induce distinctive pathways, ultimately heat shock proteins may be involved in the action of both types of immunosuppressants.

3. 1991: Brit. J. C unol. 146: 2965elop. Biol. 146: 186-1 Endocrinology 59. 1991: Biol. Reprod. 45: 7 1991: Steroids 56: 1: Arch. Ophth. 109: Biol. Chem. 266: 1: Oncogene 6: 1269 1: Proc. Natl. Acad. 1991: Neuron 1991: Cell 66: 405-413. 1991; 36. 1991: Am. E109-E114, 1991; J. Biol. Chem. 266; 14167-14170. 1991: Mol. Cell. Biochem. 1: Brit. J. Canc y 65: 4943 unol. 146: 296 11 locrinology elop. Biol. 146: 1991: Steroid leprod. 45: 7 **Oncogene 6:** 1: Arch. Ophth. Chem. 266: 1; Oncogene 6: 991: Neuron 1: Proc. Natl. A 1991: Cell 66: 1991: Am. E109-E114, 1 iem. 11: 110 53-855, 1992 1: Brit, J. Canc 18, 1991: J. Virology 65: 4943-4 unol. 146: 2965-297 2-12617, 1991; Endocrinology elop. Biol. 146: 186-1 51-159, 1991: Biol. Reprod. 45: 7 1991; Steroids 56: 12: 665-670, 1991; Oncogene 6: 1: Arch. Ophth. 109 7-289. 1991: J. Biol. Chem. 266: 1: Oncogene 6: 120 1; Proc. Natl. Acad. Lymphokines and Antibodies; Enzyme 199. **Exclusive Signal Probes; Extracellular Matrix Elements Transduction Products:** ... provide the Acceptance Edge for your 4G10 Anti-Phosphotyrosine ("The publications. Standard"); Anti-PLC; Anti-PI 3-Kinase; Anti-Phone 1-800-233-3991 or Fax 1-617-890-7738 Cyclin A, D; Anti-Protein Kinases; Antitoday for your copy of UBI's Catalog and 199 Protocols and our July 1992 Catalog Phosphatases; Purified Enzymes, Kinases, and Phosphatases; Growth Factors, GF Receptors, Supplement. 289, 1991; J. Biol. Chem. 266: and Antibodies; Sci. USA 88: 1187-119 Cancer Res. 51: 3304-3310, 1991; Neuron 1991: Cell 66: 405-413, 1991: Nature 349: 1 72-175, 1991; Nature 352: 736, 1991; Am. Telefax Numbers For Our Customers In Europe 0, 1991; Mol. Cell. Biochem. 11: 110 Netherlands 06-022-0013 1; Brit Belgiumanc. 64: 296-298, 1 11-7680 ell 64: 1unol. Denmark 965-2971 1991: 1.8001-8225 vest. Sweden 1.261.2.1.261.7.1.991.020-79-3322 1000 Switzerland Germany0130-817412 1: Arc Italy 146: 277-289, 1991: J. Bio 1: Oncog UBI/ 1; Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 88: 1187-1191: Cancer Res. 51: 3304-331 1991; Cell 66: 405-413, 1991; Nature 349: 172Call for a copy of our UBI E109-E114, 1991; J. Biol. Chem. 266: 14167-14 current catalog and 10 298, 1991: Cell 64:new product supplement. 1991: J. Clin. Invest. 87: 1114-1118, 1991 1991; J. Biol. Chem. 266: 12612-12617 elop 51, 199 The Cell Signaling Specialists 19 A CUPSTATE BIOTECHNOLOGY, INC. 1, 1 Numerous Literature Citations 2: 665-67 ne 61276, 1991; J. Cell. Phys. 146: 277-289, 199 89 Saranac Avenue ci. USA 88: 1187-1191: Cancer Res. 51: 3304-3310, 1991: Neuron Lake Placid, NY 12946 Hure 349: 172-175, 1991: Nature 352: 736, 1991: Am. AndLake Placid • Boston • Frankfurt • Tokyo 66: 14167-14170. 1991: Mol. Cell. Biochem. 1: Brit. J. Canc. 64: 296-298. 199 Circle No. 25 on Readers' Service Card 91: Science 255: 853-855. 1992

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Human Obesity

Current Status of Scientific and Clinical Progress

A special two-day seminar at AAAS: 93, the annual meeting of the AAAS

As the rate of obesity is on the rise in the United States and other countries, concerns about its related health risks are also mounting.

This seminar will explore questions regarding the definitions, causes, hazards, and treatments of human obesity. It will provide an opportunity for scientists, medical clinicians, and psychological clinicians to hear first-hand from top researchers in the field about the state of the art in understanding and treating this complex and prevalent condition.

Introduction

Friday, 12 February, 9:00 am-9:20 am

Seminar Organizers: **David B. Allison**, Columbia Univ College of Physicians and Surgeons; **F. Xavier Pi-Sunyer**, Columbia Univ College of Physicians and Surgeons and President, American Diabetes Assn

Basic Science

Friday, 12 February, 9:20 am-12:40 pm

Harry Kissileff, Columbia Univ College of Physicians and Surgeons

Hunger, satiety, nemiety, and palatability: Studying elusive constructs

Rudolph L. Leibel, *Rockefeller Univ* Evaluating the "Set-Point" hypothesis

Claude Bouchard, *Laval Univ* Genetics and obesity: What genetic analyses do and do not tell us

Etiology

Friday, 12 February, 1:40 pm-5:00 pm

David B. Allison, Columbia Univ College of Physicians and Surgeons; **Steven B. Heymsfield**, Columbia Univ College of Physicians and Surgeons Do the obese overeat?

James O. Hill, *Vanderbilt Univ* The role of physical activity in the development and maintenance of obesity **Stanley Heshka**, Columbia Univ College of Physicians and Surgeons

Is obesity associated with a reduced metabolic rate?

Health and Treatment, Part I

Saturday, 13 February, 9:00 am-12:20 pm

F. Xavier Pi-Sunyer, Columbia Univ College of Physicians and Surgeons and President, American Diabetes Assn The health hazards of obesity

George Bray, Louisiana State Univ

"Healthy," "ideal," "desirable," and "reasonable" weights: What are they, how do they differ, and when are you there?

Steven B. Heymsfield, *Columbia Univ College of Physicians and Surgeons*

The health hazards of weight loss: What we know, what we think we know, and what we ought to know

David Williamson, *Centers for Disease Control* The health hazards of weight variability: Epidemiological perspectives

Health and Treatment, Part II

Saturday, 13 February, 1:20 pm-4:40 pm

James O. Hill, *Vanderbilt Univ* The benefits and use of exercise in obesity treatment

David B. Allison, *Columbia Univ College of Physicians and Surgeons* If we live in a deterministic world, why can't we predict treatment outcome?

L. Arthur Campfield, *Hoffman-LaRoche, Inc.* Simple solutions for complex problems? Occam's Razor, the FDA, and the pharmacological treatment of obesity

Panel Discussion

Saturday, 13 February, 4:40 pm-5:00 pm

Moderator: Steven B. Heymsfield, Columbia Univ College of Physicians and Surgeons

Register Now! Use the form on the facing page.

American Association for the Advancement of Science

Seminar Registration Form

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Postdoctoral ²	🗆 \$100
K-12 Teacher ²	🗆 \$100
Retired	⊔\$100

Important Notes

[1] Seminar fee covers admission to Human Obesity, but does not include admission to any other AAAS 293 sessions. Registrations received after 22 January 1993 will not be processed, but you may register on site beginning 11 February, On-site rates are \$30 higher than advance rates for regular registration, \$10 higher for students, and \$20 higher for all others.

[2] Special rates: To qualify for student rate, you must attach a copy of your student ID card. To qualify for postdoc or K-12 teacher rate, you must provide the name and phone number of your department chairperson or principal in the space provided. Registrations received without appropriate verification will be charged at the regular rates.

[3] Cancellations must be received in writing by 22 January 1993. No refunds will be made for cancellations received after this date. Refunds are subject to a \$25 cancellation charge and will be processed after the seminar. СD

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