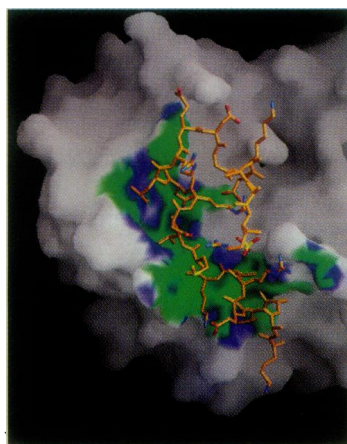


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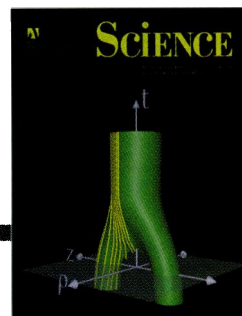
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Axisymmetric merger of two black holes to form a single asymptotically spherical black hole. Yellow lines (paths of light rays) are tangential generators of the black hole surfaces. Behavior of these rays and their singularities can be understood in terms of the classical

theory of caustics. Time t is plotted on the vertical axis, z is the symmetry axis, and ρ is the other cylindrical coordinate axis. The coordinate angle ϕ is suppressed in the figure. See page 941. [Image: National Center for SuperComputing Applications]



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