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Poe? • Micromanaging Atoms

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Methane clathrate hydrate, an icy compound capable of sustaining its own combustion, displays intriguing formation kinetics as well as unusual plastic flow properties. Although naturally occurring methane hydrate may harbor the largest untapped reservoir of natural gas on Earth, the material properties of this ephemeral compound are not yet well understood. See page 1843. [Photo: John Pinkston and Laura Stern]

**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

Highly Diverged U4 and U6 Small Nuclear RNAs Required for Splicing Rare AT-AC Introns
W.-Y. Tarn and J. A. Steitz

**REPORTS**

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Age and Paleogeographical Origin of Dominican Amber
M. A. Irurrálde-Vinent and R. D. E. MacPhee

Initiation of Runaway Cell Death in an Arabidopsis Mutant by Extracellular Superoxide
T. Jabs, R. A. Dietrich, J. L. Dangl

Genetic Restriction of HIV-1 Infection and Progression to AIDS by a Deletion Allele of the CRK5 Structural Gene

CD40 Ligand-Dependent T Cell Activation: Requirement of B7-CD28 Signaling Through CD40
Y. Yang and J. M. Wilson

Requirement for CD40 Ligand in Costimulation Induction, T Cell Activation, and Experimental Allergic Encephalomyelitis

Dynamics of Ongoing Activity: Explanation of the Large Variability in Evoked Cortical Responses
A. Arieli, A. Sterkin, A. Grinvald, A. Aertsen

Temporal Hierarchical Control of Singing in Birds
A. C. Yu and D. Margoliash

Conformational States of the Nuclear Pore Complex Induced by Depletion of Nuclear Ca2⁺ Stores

**TECHNICAL COMMENTS**

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