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The lower hemisphere of a fast-spinning Earth shown 2 hours after a giant impact. Colors denote the silicate mantles and iron cores of Earth and the impactor. The debris evolves into a Moon-forming disk composed primarily of material from Earth’s mantle, explaining the isotopic similarity between Earth and the Moon. In this model, the fast-spinning Earth is slowed by an orbital resonance between the Moon and the Sun. See pages 1040, 1047, and 1052.

Image: Sarah T. Stewart

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Science 338 (6110), 1006-1101.