



How do neurons "code" for space?

NEWS

IN BRIEF

590 Roundup of the week's news

IN DEPTH

593 SEAFLOOR GROOVES RECORD THE BEAT OF THE ICE AGES

Sea level changes influence the underwater eruptions that build abyssal hills *By E. Hand*

► REPORT BY CROWLEY ET AL.
10.1126/science.1261508

594 U.S. HOUSE REVEALS AMBITIOUS BIOMEDICAL INNOVATION PLAN

Lawmakers seek feedback on "21st Century Cures" proposal *By K. Servick*

595 MISFIRE ASIDE, SIGNS OF COSMIC INFLATION COULD COME SOON

Even as the BICEP result bites the dust, observers like their chances of spotting big-bang gravitational waves *By A. Cho*

596 AFRICA'S SOIL ENGINEERS: TERMITES

Kenyan plots show that termite mounds promote ecological health and may slow desertification *By E. Pennisi*

► REPORT P. 651

598 JAPANESE NEUTRINO PHYSICISTS THINK REALLY BIG

Hyper-Kamiokande would be the largest neutrino detector ever *By D. Normile*

599 BUDGET FOR 2016 ACCENTUATES THE PRACTICAL

White House proposal lifts (almost) all boats, but applied research floats to the top *By J. Mervis*

601 Biomedical initiatives get top billing in budget rollout

By J. Kaiser and K. Servick

FEATURE

602 A CLASSROOM EXPERIMENT

NSF has spent \$500 million to train thousands of science and math teachers. But what has that meant for kids?

By J. Mervis

INSIGHTS

PERSPECTIVES

606 WHERE IS SILICON VALLEY?

Forecasting and mapping entrepreneurial quality

By J. Guzman and S. Stern

609 THERE GOES THE MACROPHAGE NEIGHBORHOOD

Migrating dendritic cells disrupt lymph node macrophages and limit the immune response to secondary infection *By H. D. Hickman*

► REPORT P. 667

611 TAKING TEMPERATURE AT THE NANOSCALE

A local probe technique can determine temperature with nanometer-scale resolution *By C. Collier*

► REPORT P. 629

612 OUR SKEWED SENSE OF SPACE

The distribution of neuron activity reveals an organization that supports the brain's spatial mapping capacity

By G. Buzsáki

► PODCAST

614 A MEGAGE FOR PLURIPOTENCY

Methylation of messenger RNA on the adenine base is critical for stem cell commitment and differentiation

By H. G. Stunnenberg et al.

615 THE COORDINATION CHEMISTRY OF NANOCRYSTAL SURFACES

The luminescence and electronic properties of inorganic nanocrystals depend on surface-layer structure

By J. Owen

616 HOW A VIRUS TRAVELS THE WORLD

Wild birds may spread the H5N8 virus

By J. H. Verhagen et al.



BOOKS ET AL.

618 LIFE ON DISPLAY

By K. A. Rader and V. E. M. Cain, reviewed by K. R. Johnson

619 I THINK YOU'LL FIND IT'S A BIT MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT

By B. Goldacre, reviewed by J. Best

LETTERS

620 THE CURTAILED CAREERS OF WOMEN IN CHINA

By C. Yan

620 CONVERTING BIG DATA INTO PUBLIC HEALTH

By I. C.-H. Fung et al.

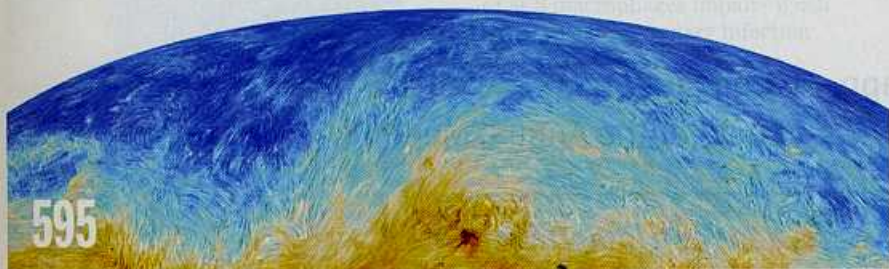
620 COMMON DISEASES IN CHINA OVERLOOKED

By X.-Z. Shan

621 NEXTGEN VOICES: LAST CALL

621 TECHNICAL COMMENT ABSTRACTS

Science Staff	586
Information for Authors	678
New Products	680
Science Careers	681





RESEARCH

IN BRIEF

623 From *Science* and other journals

REVIEW

627 EDUCATION

Undergraduate research experiences: Impacts and opportunities *M. C. Linn et al.*

REVIEW SUMMARY; FOR FULL TEXT: dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.1261757

RESEARCH ARTICLE

628 EXPRESSION PROFILING

Combinatorial labeling of single cells for gene expression cytometry *H. C. Fan et al.*

RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY; FOR FULL TEXT: dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.1258367

REPORTS

629 THERMAL MEASUREMENT

Nanoscale temperature mapping in operating microelectronic devices *M. Mecklenburg et al.*

► PERSPECTIVE P. 611



632 EXOPLANET DYNAMICS

Asynchronous rotation of Earth-mass planets in the habitable zone of lower-mass stars *J. Leconte et al.*

635 METALLURGY

Origin of dramatic oxygen solute strengthening effect in titanium *Q. Yu et al.*

639 DNA NANOTECHNOLOGY

Programming colloidal phase transitions with DNA strand displacement *W. B. Rogers and V. N. Manoharan*

643 CARBON RADICALS

Direct observation and kinetics of a hydroperoxyalkyl radical (QOOH) *J. D. Savee et al.*

646 NONCOVALENT ASSEMBLY

A rational strategy for the realization of chain-growth supramolecular polymerization *J. Kang et al.*

651 ECOLOGICAL FEEDBACKS

Termite mounds can increase the robustness of dryland ecosystems to climatic change *J. A. Bonachela et al.*

► NEWS STORY P. 596

655 PLANT DEVELOPMENT

Genetic control of distal stem cell fate within root and embryonic meristems *B. C. W. Crawford et al.*

659 ADDICTION THERAPY

Refining deep brain stimulation to emulate optogenetic treatment of synaptic pathology *M. Creed et al.*

664 GENOMIC VARIATION

Impact of regulatory variation from RNA to protein *A. Battle et al.*

667 HOST RESPONSE

Inflammation-induced disruption of SCS macrophages impairs B cell responses to secondary infection *M. Gaya et al.*

► PERSPECTIVE P. 609

673 PROTEIN EVOLUTION

Pervasive degeneracy and epistasis in a protein-protein interface *A. I. Podgornaia and M. T. Laub*



DEPARTMENTS

587 EDITORIAL

Passing the CEO baton
By Alan I. Leshner

686 WORKING LIFE

Science by any means necessary
By Rachel Bernstein

ON THE COVER



Termite mounds (shown here in the Tanami Desert, Australia) are ubiquitous in tropical grasslands and savannas, where they generate distinctive spatial patterns and influence key

ecological processes. These regularly spaced mounds are often resource-rich relative to surrounding soils, enhancing plant growth on and/or around the mounds. Mathematical models show that these local enhancements can reduce the susceptibility of arid ecosystems to catastrophic desertification following drought. See pages 596 and 651.

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