

SHING-TUNG YAU: WHY THE UNIVERSE IS REALLY MADE OF NUMBERS

DISCOVER

Science, Technology, and The Future

THE 5-YEAR ENERGY FIX

HOW WE WILL Clean
Up Coal, Reboot Nuclear
Power, Capture
Sunlight, and Rewire
the Economy

THE INSANITY
VIRUS

HAVE WE
ALREADY FOUND
LIFE ON MARS?

SOUND LASERS

THE ENIGMA
OF SPECIES

DARK GALAXIES

GOOD
PROTEINS
GONE BAD

PLUS
Dog Doctors,
Rat Love,
Methane Rain
on Titan, and
How Climate
Change
Made Us
Human

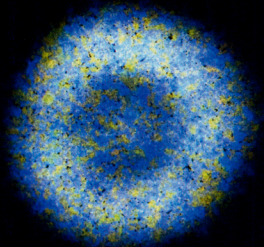


JUNE 2010



DISCOVERMAGAZINE.COM

Data



AFTER THE LATE SHOW

THE MOMENT: A magnified dot glows briefly on an RCA solid-state black-and-white television just after the set is switched off. When the TV is on, electrons firing at its phosphor-coated screen cause the screen to emit light, creating the image. Electromagnets guide the beam and direct it to scan repeatedly across the screen. When the set is shut down, the electromagnets deactivate and the remnant beam from the electron gun defaults momentarily to the center of the screen before dying out. The blue and yellow colors here result from electrons exciting the two types of phosphor common in older TVs.

THE SHOT: Photograph by Kirk Crippens using a Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III camera with a 65mm macro/magnification lens, ISO 100, f/8.0, 4 seconds.