

TAKING THE TEMPERATURE OF THE UNIVERSE'S MOST EXTREME STATES

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Temperature measurement at the extremes of pressure and density has been a decades-long challenge. In the laboratory, such conditions exist for less than a billionth of a second inside micron-scale optically opaque targets, demanding a new class of intense ultrafast penetrating diagnostics. I will discuss millielectronvolt-resolution inelastic X-ray scattering, which extracts ion temperature directly from Doppler broadening, opening a window into thermodynamic parameters previously beyond reach.

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