

The four images show the delayed breakdown of a 'cluster' of steel beads [in the middle box in (a)] undergoing vertical shaking at a constant amplitude. After a relatively long period of stability, the cluster suddenly collapses at $t = 42$ s and diffuses rapidly over the other boxes. The cluster lifetime depends only on the number of boxes and one shaking parameter and can be calculated from a simple flux model. See article 174302.

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

Contents

VOLUME 88, NUMBER 17 29 April 2002

General Physics

Generalized Nonadditive Entropies and Quantum Entanglement 170401
N. Canosa and R. Rossignoli

Entangling Many Atomic Ensembles through Laser Manipulation 170402
L.-M. Duan

Stability of Continuously Pumped Atom Lasers 170403
S. A. Haine, J. J. Hope, N. P. Robins, and C. M. Savage

Divergence-Free WKB Method 170404
Tadanori Hyouguchi, Satoshi Adachi, and Masahito Ueda

Bell-Type Inequalities to Detect True n-Body Nonseparability 170405
Daniel Collins, Nicolas Gisin, Sandu Popescu, David Roberts, and Valerio Scarani

Quantum Phases of Dipolar Bosons in Optical Lattices 170406
K. Góral, L. Santos, and M. Lewenstein

Exact c-Number Representation of Non-Markovian Quantum Dissipation 170407
Jürgen T. Stockburger and Hermann Grabert

Quantum Tunneling of Bose-Einstein Condensates in Optical Lattices under Gravity 170408
W. M. Liu, W. B. Fan, W. M. Zheng, J. Q. Liang, and S. T. Chui

Proof of Bose-Einstein Condensation for Dilute Trapped Gases 170409
Elliott H. Lieb and Robert Seiringer

Gravitation and Astrophysics

Determination of Absolute Neutrino Masses from Bursts of Z Bosons in Cosmic Rays 171101
Z. Fodor, S. D. Katz, and A. Ringwald

Elementary Particles and Fields

n-$\bar{n}$ Oscillations in Models with Large Extra Dimensions 171601
Shmuel Nussinov and Robert Shrock

Precise Measurement of B Meson Lifetimes with Hadronic Decay Final States 171801
K. Abe *et al.* (Belle Collaboration)

Search for the Scalar Top Quark in $p\bar{p}$ Collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.8$ TeV 171802
V. M. Abazov *et al.* (D0 Collaboration)

Nuclear Physics

The Hypernuclei ${}^{4}_{\Lambda}$He and ${}^{4}_{\Lambda}$H: Challenges for Modern Hyperon-Nucleon Forces 172501
A. Nogga, H. Kamada, and W. Glöckle

(Continued on Third Cover)

PRL 88 (17), 170401–179901, 29 April 2002 (240 total pages)

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$0^+_{gs} \rightarrow 2^+_1$ Excitations in the Mirror Nuclei ^{32}Ar and ^{32}Si 172502
P. D. Cottle, Z. Hu, B. V. Pritychenko, J. A. Church, M. Fauerbach, T. Glasmacher, R. W. Ibbotson, K. W. Kemper, L. A. Riley, H. Scheit, and M. Steiner
Angular Momentum and Cross Sections for Fusion with Weakly Bound Nuclei: Breakup, a Coherent Effect 172701
Vandana Tripathi, A. Navin, K. Mahata, K. Ramachandran, A. Chatterjee, and S. Kailas

Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics

Tunneling Resonances and Coherence in an Optical Lattice 173001
B. K. Teo, J. R. Guest, and G. Raithel
Core-Excited Resonance Enhancement in the Two-Photon Complete Fragmentation of Helium 173002
J. Colgan and M. S. Pindzola
Measurement of Transition Dipole Moments in Lithium Dimers Using Electromagnetically Induced Transparency ... 173003
J. Qi, F. C. Spano, T. Kirova, A. Lazoudis, J. Magnes, L. Li, L. M. Narducci, R. W. Field, and A. M. Lyyra
Time-Dependent Close-Coupling Calculations of Dielectronic Capture in He 173004
D. M. Mitnik, D. C. Griffin, and M. S. Pindzola
Resonant Control of Elastic Collisions in an Optically Trapped Fermi Gas of Atoms 173201
T. Loftus, C. A. Regal, C. Ticknor, J. L. Bohn, and D. S. Jin

Nonlinear Dynamics, Fluid Dynamics, Classical Optics, etc.

Experimental Evidence for Supercontinuum Generation by Fission of Higher-Order Solitons in Photonic Fibers 173901
J. Herrmann, U. Griebner, N. Zhavoronkov, A. Husakou, D. Nickel, J. C. Knight, W. J. Wadsworth, P. St. J. Russell, and G. Korn
Superfluidity versus Disorder in the Discrete Nonlinear Schrödinger Equation 173902
A. Trombettoni, A. Smerzi, and A. R. Bishop
Attosecond Streak Camera 173903
J. Itatani, F. Quéré, G. L. Yudin, M. Yu. Ivanov, F. Krausz, and P. B. Corkum
Quantum Theory of Attosecond XUV Pulse Measurement by Laser Dressed Photoionization 173904
Markus Kitzler, Nenad Milosevic, Armin Scrinzi, Ferenc Krausz, and Thomas Brabec
Synchronization of Chaotic Semiconductor Laser Systems: A Vectorial Coupling-Dependent Scenario 174101
Michael Peil, Tilmann Heil, Ingo Fischer, and Wolfgang Elsäßer
Permutation Entropy: A Natural Complexity Measure for Time Series 174102
Christoph Bandt and Bernd Pompe
Collisional Granular Flow as a Micropolar Fluid 174301
Namiko Mitarai, Hisao Hayakawa, and Hiizu Nakanishi
Sudden Collapse of a Granular Cluster 174302
Devaraj van der Meer, Ko van der Weele, and Detlef Lohse
Computational and Experimental Analysis of Pinch-Off and Scaling 174501
Alvin U. Chen, Patrick K. Notz, and Osman A. Basaran
Spontaneous Branching of Anode-Directed Streamers between Planar Electrodes 174502
Manuel Arrayás, Ute Ebert, and Willem Hundsdorfer

Plasma and Beam Physics

Model and Observations of Schottky-Noise Suppression in a Cold Heavy-Ion Beam 174801
H. Danared, A. Källberg, K.-G. Rensfelt, and A. Simonsson
Experimental Observations of Transverse Shear Waves in Strongly Coupled Dusty Plasmas 175001
J. Pramanik, G. Prasad, A. Sen, and P. K. Kaw

Condensed Matter: Structure, etc.

Avalanche Behavior in Yield Stress Fluids 175501
Philippe Coussot, Q. D. Nguyen, H. T. Huynh, and Daniel Bonn
Quantum Antidot Formation and Correlation to Optical Shift of Gold Nanoparticles Embedded in MgO 175502
Jun Xu, J. Moxom, S. H. Overbury, C. W. White, A. P. Mills, Jr., and R. Suzuki

(Continued on Preceding Page)

Origin of the Stability of Ge(105) on Si: A New Structure Model and Surface Strain Relaxation 176101
Y. Fujikawa, K. Akiyama, T. Nagao, T. Sakurai, M. G. Lagally, T. Hashimoto, Y. Morikawa, and K. Terakura

Condensed Matter: Electronic Properties, etc.

Anharmonic Raman Spectra in High-Pressure Ice from *Ab Initio* Simulations 176401
Anna Putrino and Michele Parrinello

Electrically Controlled Nuclear Spin Polarization and Relaxation by Quantum-Hall States 176601
K. Hashimoto, K. Muraki, T. Saku, and Y. Hirayama

Variable Range Hopping in Two-Dimensional Systems of Interacting Electrons 176602
D. N. Tsigankov and A. L. Efros

Localization of Optically Excited States by Self-Trapping 176801
Michael Rohlfing and Johannes Pollmann

Transition from an Electron Solid to the Sequence of Fractional Quantum Hall States at Very Low Landau Level Filling Factor 176802
W. Pan, H. L. Stormer, D. C. Tsui, L. N. Pfeiffer, K. W. Baldwin, and K. W. West

Nonequilibrium Quasiparticle Distribution Induced by Kondo Defects 176803
J. Kroha and A. Zawadowski

Driving Current through Single Organic Molecules 176804
J. Reichert, R. Ochs, D. Beckmann, H. B. Weber, M. Mayor, and H. v. Löhneysen

Charge Distribution in a Kondo-Correlated Quantum Dot 176805
D. Sprinzak, Yang Ji, M. Heiblum, D. Mahalu, and Hadas Shtrikman

Field-Induced Spin-Density-Wave Phases in Quasi-One-Dimensional Conductors: Theory versus Experiments 177001
A. G. Lebed

Dual Neutral Variables and Knot Solitons in Triplet Superconductors 177002
Egor Babaev

d-Wave Induced Zero-Field Resonances in dc π-Superconducting Quantum Interference Devices 177003
B. Chesca, R. R. Schulz, B. Goetz, C. W. Schneider, H. Hilgenkamp, and J. Mannhart

Anomalous Magnetic Field Dependence of the Thermodynamic Transition Line in the Isotropic Superconductor $(K, Ba)BiO_3$ 177201
S. Blanchard, T. Klein, J. Marcus, I. Joumard, A. Sulpice, P. Szabo, P. Samuely, A. G. M. Jansen, and C. Marcenat

Critical Exponents of the Random-Field O(N) Model 177202
D. E. Feldman

Evidence for Two Distinct Energy Scales in the Raman Spectra of $YBa_2(Cu_{1-x}Ni_x)_3O_{6.95}$ 177401
Y. Gallais, A. Sacuto, P. Bourges, Y. Sidis, A. Forget, and D. Colson

Long Polaron Lifetime in InAs/GaAs Self-Assembled Quantum Dots 177402
S. Sauvage, P. Boucaud, R. P. S. M. Lobo, F. Bras, G. Fishman, R. Prazeres, F. Glotin, J. M. Ortega, and J.-M. Gérard

Momentum-Resolved Charge Excitations in a Prototype One-Dimensional Mott Insulator 177403
M. Z. Hasan, P. A. Montano, E. D. Isaacs, Z.-X. Shen, H. Eisaki, S. K. Sinha, Z. Islam, N. Motoyama, and S. Uchida

Interdisciplinary Physics: Biological Physics, Quantum Information, etc.

Laser Phase Modulation Approaches towards Ensemble Quantum Computing 177901
Debabrata Goswami

Tracer Diffusion in a Dislocated Lamellar System 178301
Victor Gurarie and Alexander E. Lobkovsky

Unified Scaling Law for Earthquakes 178501
Per Bak, Kim Christensen, Leon Danon, and Tim Scanlon

Optimizing Searches via Rare Events 178701
Andrea Montanari and Riccardo Zecchina

(Continued on Preceding Page)

Contents (Continued)

Comments

Comment on "Feynman Effective Classical Potential in the Schrödinger Formulation" 178901
G. Andronico, V. Branchina, and D. Zappalà

Ramírez and López-Ciudad Reply 178902
Rafael Ramírez and Telesforo López-Ciudad

Comment on "Intrinsic Ferroelectric Coercive Field" 179701
R. L. Moreira

Ducharme and Fridkin Reply 179702
Stephen Ducharme and V. M. Fridkin

Errata

Erratum: Nonadiabatic Conditional Geometric Phase Shift with NMR [Phys. Rev. Lett. **87**, 097901 (2001)] 179901
Wang Xiang-Bin and Matsumoto Keiji