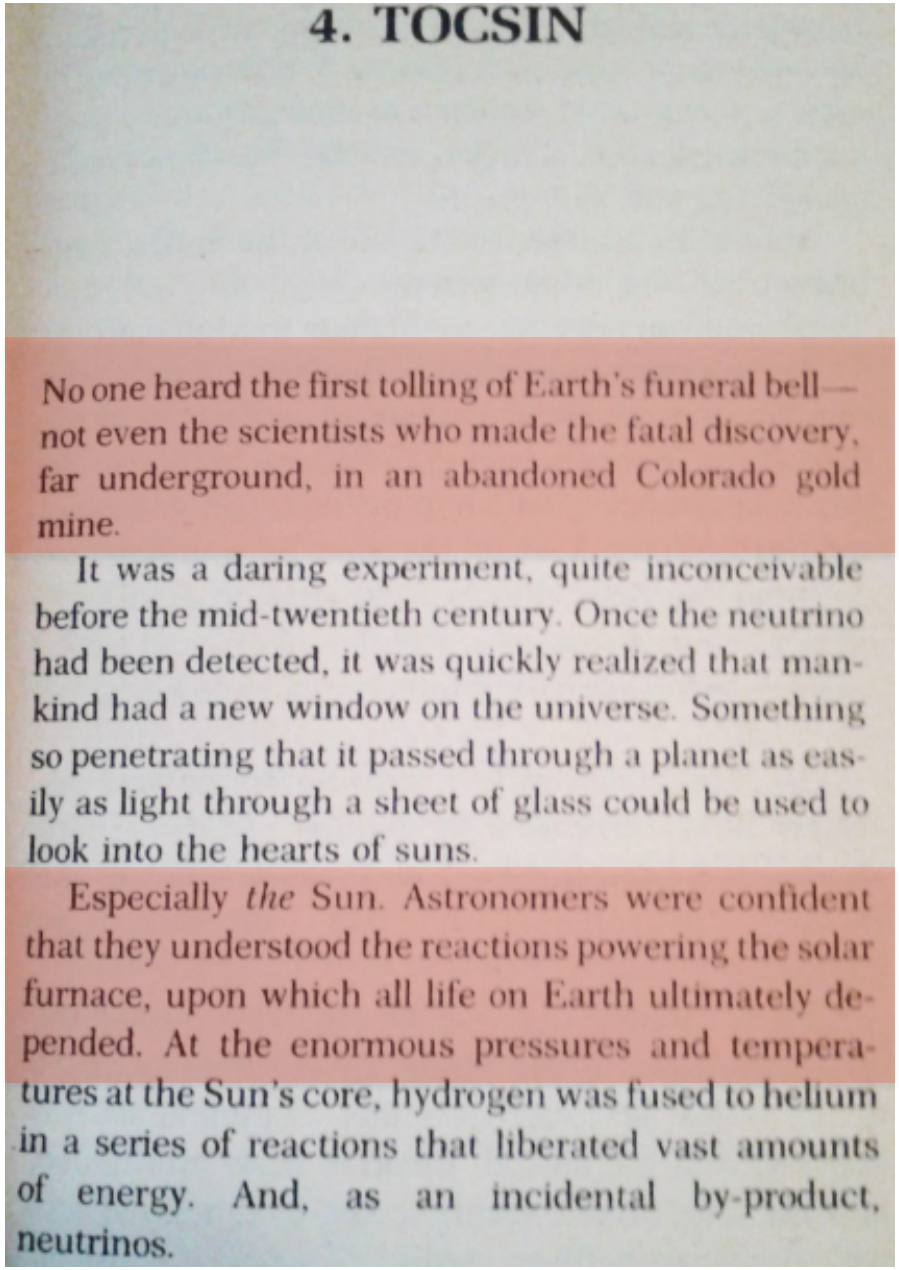
My first contact with John's work in the early 90s

No one heard the first tolling of Earth's funeral bell – not even the scientists who made the fatal discovery, far underground, in an abandoned Colorado gold mine.

Especially the Sun. Astronomers were confident that they understood the reactions powering the solar furnace, upon which all life on Earth ultimately depended.

"The Songs of the Distant Earth" by Arthur C. Clarke

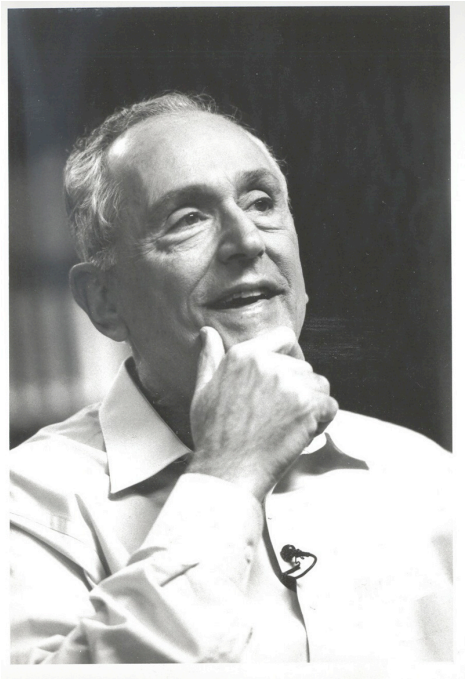


4. TOCSIN

No one heard the first tolling of Earth's funeral bell—not even the scientists who made the fatal discovery, far underground, in an abandoned Colorado gold mine.

It was a daring experiment, quite inconceivable before the mid-twentieth century. Once the neutrino had been detected, it was quickly realized that mankind had a new window on the universe. Something so penetrating that it passed through a planet as easily as light through a sheet of glass could be used to look into the hearts of suns.

Especially *the* Sun. Astronomers were confident that they understood the reactions powering the solar furnace, upon which all life on Earth ultimately depended. At the enormous pressures and temperatures at the Sun's core, hydrogen was fused to helium in a series of reactions that liberated vast amounts of energy. And, as an incidental by-product, neutrinos.

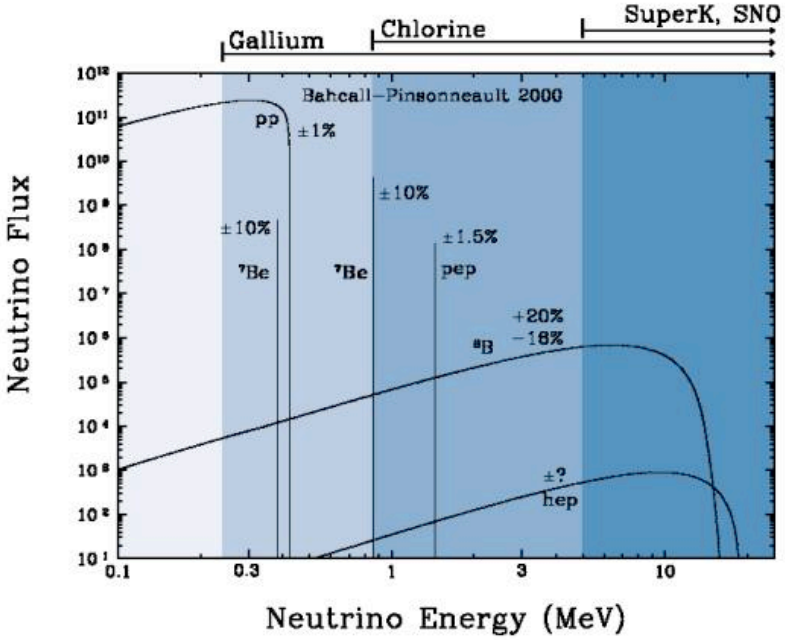


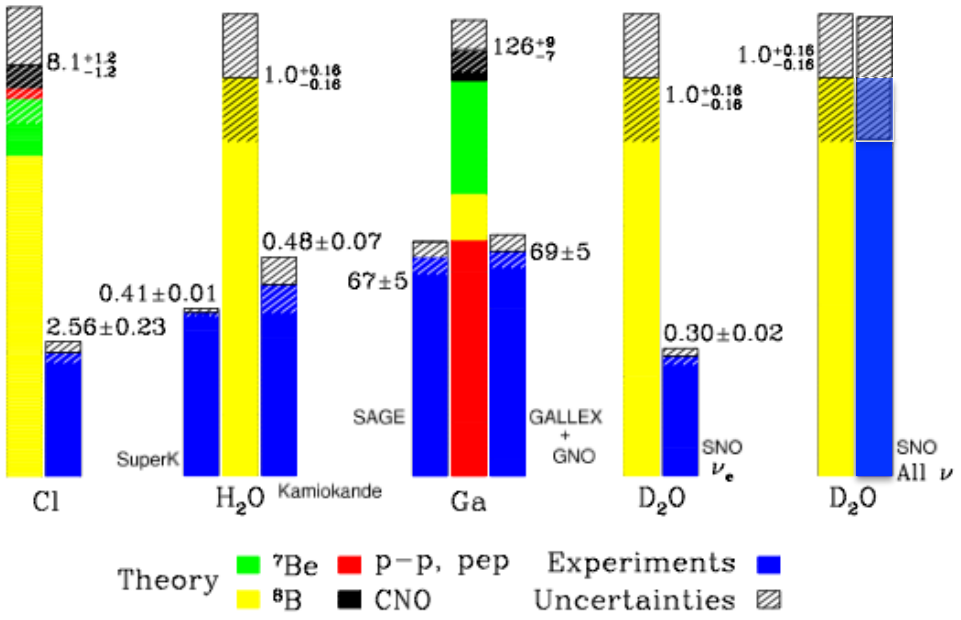
Direct contact with John's work at his ESO colloquium in 2003

The Earth had been saved and...

by the way, theory of stellar evolution confirmed and neutrino oscillations discovered

Bahcall – Pinsonneault 2000 & SNO





IAS – an innocent looking paradise

Astro-ph coffee at IAS

It came to life, literally, in other institutions

The Astrophysical Journal, 556:L59–L62, 2001 July 20

THE MASS OF THE CONVECTIVE ZONE IN FGK MAIN-SEQUENCE STARS AND THE EFFECT OF ACCRETED PLANETARY MATERIAL ON APPARENT METALLICITY DETERMINATIONS

M. H. Pinsonneault, D. L. DePoy, and M. Coffee
Department of Astronomy, Ohio State University, McPherson Laboratory, 140 West 18th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210-1173
Received 2001 March 27; accepted 2001 May 31; published 2001 July 5

Many top range astrophysics Departments & Faculties in USA are populated by former SNS-IAS members

John’s hand was everywhere: in the selection of the members, in contributing to their scientific development, and in helping them find good positions afterwards

It was his scientific “family” he was taking care off. In this, too, he is irreplaceable

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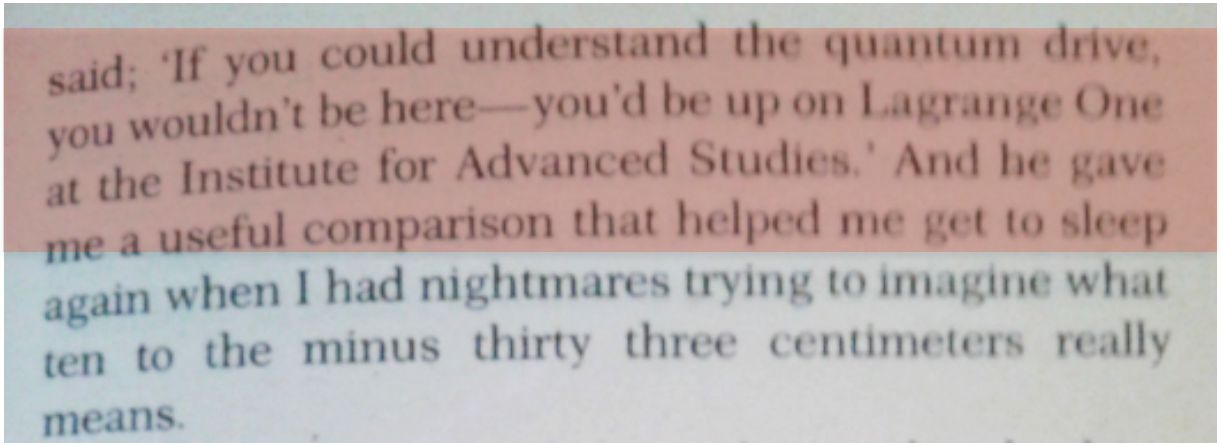
John, not less than any other, has contributed to the prestige of the IAS


said; 'If you could understand the quantum drive, you wouldn't be here—you'd be up on Lagrange One at the Institute for Advanced Studies.' And he gave me a useful comparison that helped me get to sleep again when I had nightmares trying to imagine what ten to the minus thirty three centimeters really means.

"The Songs of the Distant Earth" by Arthur C. Clarke

300 1st author papers – covering a huge range of disimilar topics

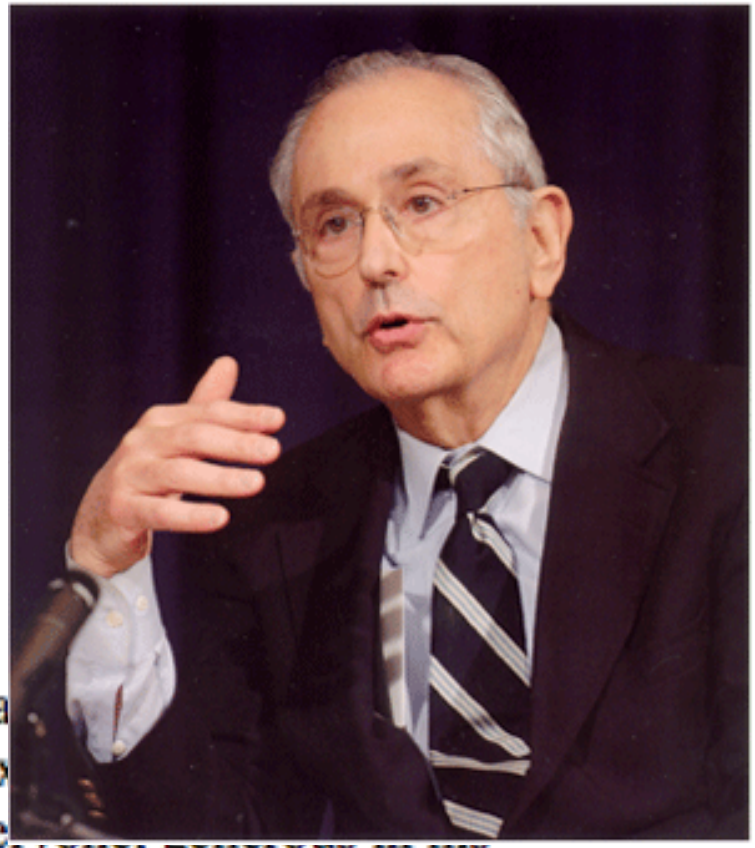
solar (& stellar) physics
galactic structure
quasars
x-ray binaries
extragalactic x-ray sources
dark matter
ultrahigh-energy neutrinos
neutron stars
black holes
dynamics of stellar systems

John tried to bridge some gaps

Unique ability to bring people from different fields together to work for a common goal – as NG noted yesterday, not easy to do

He taught astrophysicists to take a more scientific approach: uncertainties are of fundamental importance, also for models.

Extracted from the “Remarks at the Inaugural Press Conference for the Lyman Spitzer Space Telescope”



I would like to close with a few personal words tha
and television journalists. Lyman Spitzer was an ex
playful in spirit but respectful and courteous to eve
support of all of his colleagues, indifferent to personal credit. He was a gentleman. I know that you journalists will continue to inform us, and to inform our children, about the future scientific revelations of the Spitzer Space Telescope. As you do so, I hope you will stress that great science can be done by a great human being. The human inspiration and values of Lyman Spitzer are as important for us to appreciate as the technical discoveries.

The Many Lives of John N. Bahcall