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Calendar of Events

Today is Tuesday October 28, 2008

Energy Club Lecture - MIT Professor Peter Hagelstein - Didn't you know that cold fusion was debunked years ago!!!

October 29, 2008 6:00p–7:00p

When Fleischmann and Pons claimed nuclear fusion in heavy water electrolysis experiments with Pd cathodes, it didn't take long for physicists to discredit them. Deuteron-deuteron fusion reactions make neutrons, and there just weren't any neutrons. Fleischmann and Pons claimed to see watts; but teams at MIT, Caltech, and elsewhere established upper bounds more than 10 orders of magnitude lower from the absence of neutrons. Back in those days, discussions were often heated. In his book *Cold Fusion, Fiasco of the Century*, J Huizenga writes: the audience of largely skeptics at the American Physical Society applauded loudly when they heard Koonin state that the pair's results were wrong. Koonin expressed his opinion of the pair in no uncertain terms: "We're suffering from the incompetence and perhaps delusions of Drs. Pons and Fleischmann." That was 1989, and now it is 2008. Research has continued on the problem in a number of laboratories. You might be surprised by what has been learned. In many experiments, there seems to be excess heat ? an amazing amount of energy relative to how much went in to produce it. The ash seems to be 4He , and the energy observed per 4He atom is about 24 MeV (which is the mass difference between two deuterons and a 4He nucleus). Some of the issues involved in reproducibility have been clarified. There are still no neutrons, which seems to be a good thing if you would like to make use of the effect to produce energy.

Category: lectures/conferences
lectures/conferences: science/engineering
MIT events/clubs: interest clubs/groups

Location: 3-133

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Admission: Open to the public

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