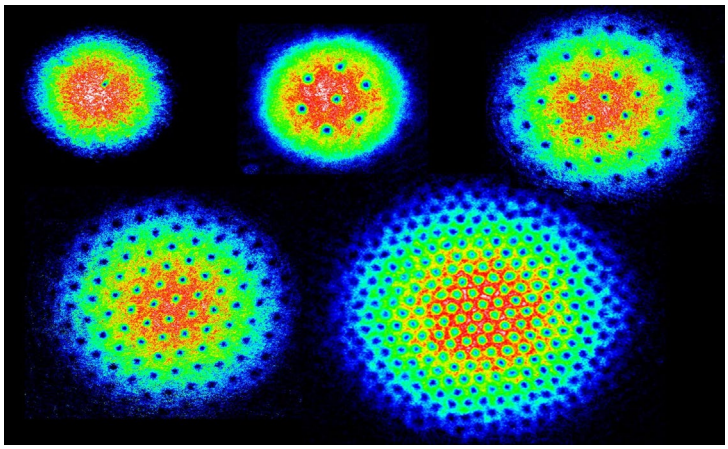
Stone Cold

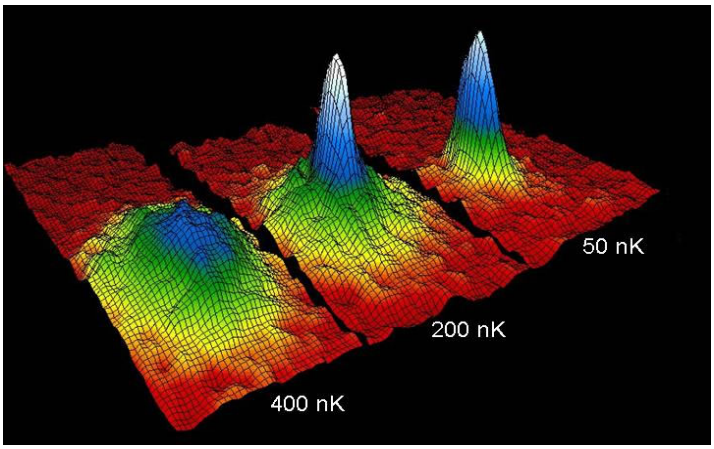
Eric Cornell

2001 Nobel Prize Laureate

CU Boulder Duane Physics G1B20

July 22, 2004 – 7:30 pm





As things get colder and colder, they move slower and slower, and they get weirder and weirder. Just as they stop moving altogether, they reach absolute zero in temperature, and they get -- you guessed it -- absolutely weird. Eighty years ago Albert Einstein predicted that when atoms got cold enough, they would undergo a sort of quantum identity crisis. This effect is now known as Bose-Einstein condensation. Eric Cornell will explain how scientists reach the necessary record-low temperatures, and explain why one goes to all the trouble to make this bizarre state of matter.