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Quark degrees of freedom in neutron stars

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Recent neutron star observations coupled with the theoretical understanding emerging of the role that quark degrees of freedom play in supporting neutron stars are providing a consistent picture of neutron star interiors. An important key is the finding by the NICER telescope that massive neutron stars have considerably larger radius than nuclear degrees of freedom alone can explain. I will illustrate this picture with a discussion of modern quark-hadron crossover equations of state.

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