

# Thermal evolution of neutron stars

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**ABSTRACT:** I will describe the main processes driving the thermal behaviour of a neutron star and how they relate to the structure of dense matter. The study of isolated cooling neutron stars provides important information but probably covers only a limited range of masses. Heavier objects are most certainly present in accreting systems (in low mass X-ray binaries) and the study of their thermal response to transient accretion is becoming a mandatory complement to the study of isolated cooling neutron stars.