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A Venus flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*) leaf closes around a trapped fly. This carnivorous plant is renowned for its ultrafast snap traps, which can capture insects in a fraction of a second. New research reveals that trap closure is triggered by a rapid softening of the epidermal cell walls, uncovering the physical mechanism behind this remarkable movement. See pages 1127 and 1183. Photo: Alex Hyde/NPL/Minden Pictures

**ON THE PODCAST**

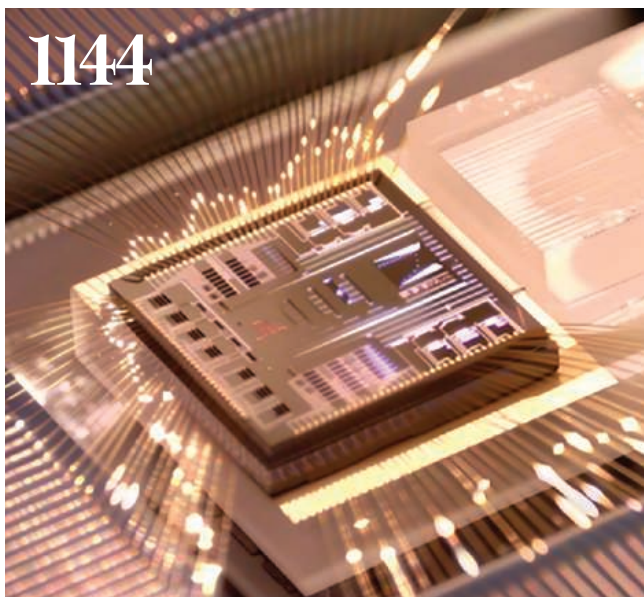
How childhood environments shape the brain, and how susceptible is the Atlantic Ocean's current to climate change?

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No need for digital signal processing with a fast, all-optical signal processor

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