molecule T22 suggests a convergence of innate and adaptive recognition strategies. G8, like γδ TCRs and antibodies, uses its CDR loops to bind its ligand, T22. However, G8 almost exclusively uses its genetically recombined CDR3 loop to bind T22 from the side with degenerate contacts for the remaining CDRα and CDRγ loops, suggesting that the CDR3 loop is the primary docking anchor in this recognition strategy. Moreover, the residues involved in the recognition interface are derived predominantly from germline-encoded Dδ segments, suggesting that there is, as previously hypothesized, a germline-encoded basis for T10/T22 recognition. This is an ideal strategy for an innate receptor, because there can be not only a long-term coevolution of the γδ TCR and its ligand over the lifetime of a species but also an immediate fine-tuning of the recognition of its particular ligand within an individual. In this way, the chemistry of the recognition interface between G8 and T22 can be thought of as a hybrid between innate and adaptive recognition solutions.

References and Notes

loss rate increased to $1.6 \times 10^{-3}$ solar masses per year in 2001 (14). Indications for ionization were found in 2002 (15), suggesting that the star may be starting to reheat already.

To directly detect the renewed ionization, we observed Sakurai’s object with the Very Large Array (VLA) on 5 February 2004. Optical images of O$^\text{2+}$ emission were obtained using the focal reducer FORS1 on the ESO 8-m Very Large Telescope on 2 October 2002 (16). The image is shown in Fig. 1, with the VLA 8.6-GHz radio contours superposed. It shows the old planetary nebula (the extended shell) and a central radio source, marginally resolved, which has no O$^\text{2+}$ counterpart. We identify this central source with the emerging ionized core around the reheating central star.

Radio observations carried out in November 1998 did not show emission near the central star (17). This suggests that a considerable increase in emission has recently occurred in this region and shows that the star has begun to reheat. Thus, we are witnessing the nascent stages of the formation of a new planetary nebula. The actual formation of such an H-poor planetary nebula has never before been observed. V605 Aql formed a compact H-poor emission nebula after the 1919–1924 outburst, but its formation was not observed; like V4334 Sgr, it became enshrouded in an envelope of dust that rendered it invisible to the astronomical tools of 1920 and was only recovered 60 years later (18).

The inset of Fig. 1 shows an image obtained in 2001 by the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) at a wavelength of 814 nm. The radio core of the newly formed ionized region is shown superposed as contours. The radio core has an integrated 8.6-GHz flux of $100 \pm 30$ \mu Jy. The uncertainty is due to the variable nebular background. Gaussian fitting to the radio core gave a nominal deconvolved full width at half maximum (FWHM) size of $2.4 \times 0.8$ arc sec at a position angle of $170^\circ$. The radio core shows an indication of a double structure, but this has not been confirmed. Bipolarity is observed in the H-poor ejecta of the born-again objects A30 and A78 and in V605 Aql (19, 20). Bipolarity could be caused in such very late He-flash objects by stellar rotation and/or a magnetic field.

We assume a distance to V4334 Sgr of 2 kpc (21, 22). Early infrared spectra show a wind velocity of 670 km/s in the helionum line at 1080 nm, relative to the central star (23). With a time line of 10 years, this velocity corresponds to a diameter of 1.4 arc sec, consistent with the observed radio feature.

The time scales for the stellar evolution are determined by the depth below the surface where the reignition takes place. To reproduce the large discrepancy in time scales, our revised stellar evolution models (16) parametrically include the buoyancy effect of rapid nuclear burning on convective turbulence in the He-shell flash zone. This reduces the convective mixing efficiency (11) and accelerates the evolution, because nuclear energy from fast proton capture is released closer to the stellar surface. The models reproduce the carbon isotope ratios and can explain the observed production of lithium (16, 24). Models with suppressed mixing reproduced the fast cooling but predicted that V4334 Sgr would equally rapidly reheat (12, 25).

Figure 2 shows our track of past and predicted future evolution. A good fit for the recent evolution is obtained if we assume that the reignition occurred in 1992 (the fast brightening in early 1995 can be explained by the rapid temperature evolution). The current detection of radio emission agrees with the predictions of rapid reheating. Continued monitoring over the next few years is essential to further test the evolutionary predictions. Confirmation of the effect of suppressed mixing has important implications for the physics of convective turbulence under the influence of rapid nuclear burning.

The newly ejected nebula consists almost exclusively of helium and carbon with very little hydrogen. We modeled these with the use of the photoionization code Cloudy (16). Abundance ratios were taken as those of the stellar atmosphere just before the obscurcation (24), with C/He = 0.1 and H/He = 0.004. The radio flux, size, and line ratios were fitted with a hydrogen density $n(\text{H}) = 36 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and a dust-to-gas mass ratio of $3.9 \times 10^{-2}$. The electron temperature and density predicted by the model are shown in Fig. 3. The radial stratification of the most dominant ions causes a step-like decrease in the electron density. The N$^+$ diameter is smaller than the region of carbon ionization because of its higher ionization potential. The model predicts $N^+ (658.4 \text{ nm})/\text{He} = 9.3$, in fair agreement with observations. The predicted ratio $O^+ (731.9, 733.0) \text{ nm}/N^+ (658.4 \text{ nm}) = 8.0 \times 10^{-4}$ is in disagreement with the observed ratio of unity (14): The electron temperature is insufficient to excite the upper levels of the O$^+$ transitions. The detected O$^+$ lines may be shock excited, or the presence of large amounts of very small grains [as found in V605 Aql (26)] could lead to higher photoelectric heating than in our current model. Shock ionization is also not included in the model. Shocks at the observed wind velocity would lead to O$^{2+}$ that is not observed, but a differential wind speed on the order of 100 km/s (as would

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Fig. 1. Continuum-subtracted O$^\text{2+}$ image showing the extended planetary nebula. Radio (8.6 GHz) contours are shown superposed at 30, 50, and 70 \mu Jy per beam. A natural weighted map (beam of $4.2 \times 2.4$ arc sec indicated by the oval) is shown. Scale bar, 10 arc sec. (Inset) An HST I-band (F814W) image taken 29 August 2001. Sakurai’s object (fainter of the two components, 0.2 arc sec apart) is indicated by an arrow. The superposed radio data show a uniform weighted map (beam of $2.2 \times 1.3$ arc sec, indicated by the oval) with contours at 25, 35, and 45 \mu Jy per beam. The old planetary nebula is 41 arc sec in diameter; its brighter inner ring is 29 arc sec across. Scale bar, 2 arc sec.
be expected if the star were reheating) could lead to O+ formation.

The model predicts an ionized mass of 1.0 × 10^{-3} solar masses, mainly consisting of singly ionized carbon. Including the neutral mass within the ionized region yields 2 × 10^{-3} solar masses, where we use the mass ratio X(C)/X(He) ~ 1 corresponding to the model predictions (11). The dust mass is 1.85 × 10^{-4} solar masses. The total mass of the shell implies a mass loss rate of 2 × 10^{-4} solar masses per year. The observed mass loss rates have increased over time but reached only ~10^{-5} in 2001 (14). This discrepancy may indicate that the shell is clumped, which would reduce our mass determination.

We find that Sakurai’s object ejected about 5 × 10^{-4} solar masses of primary carbon, of which roughly 20% is located in the dust. Interstellar carbon dust comes mainly from AGB stars with C/O ratios above unity. In metal-rich populations, such as the inner Galaxy, this is reached in very few stars, and here Sakurai-type events may give an important contribution. V4334 Sgr shows a very high ratio of 13C/12C = 0.2 (27) relative to the interstellar abundance ratio of 0.01. Together with novae (28), born-again giants may be the dominant 13C source in the universe. Traces of this unique kind of mass ejecta may have been found in primitive meteorites. Isotopic analysis of presolar SiC A+B grains extracted from a sample of the Murchison carbonaceous meteorite are characterized by having 13C/12C < 10. A subset of these grains also show enrichment of elements produced by slow neutron capture (s-process), and an origin in nuclear flash objects such as V4334 Sgr has been suggested (29). Our observations provide a quantitative estimate of the carbon mass lost in a born-again evolution and strengthen the possible link to presolar meteoritic grains.

References and Notes
16. See supporting data on Science Online.
30. Supported by the EU Marie Curie Training Site program under contract HPMI-CT-2000-00069 (M.H.), Los Alamos National Laboratory by U.S. Department of Energy contract W-7405-ENG-36 (F.H.), the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (P.A.M.i.H.), the UK Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (M.M.), an extended-visit grant to the UK from the Royal Society and the Academia Mexicana de Ciencias (J.A.L.), and the Nuffield Foundation (S.P.S.E.). The photionization code Cloudy can be obtained from www.nublado.org. The observations described above made use of the Very Large Array, operated by the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, and the ESO Very Large Telescope.

Supporting Online Material
www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/308/5719/231/DC1
Materials and Methods
References
21 December 2004; accepted 18 February 2005
10.1126/science.1108953

Fig. 2. Stellar model sequence of the past and future temperature and luminosity evolution of Sakurai’s object. Two loops are predicted; the first loop corresponds to the hydrogen ingestion flash, and the second, much slower loop corresponds to the helium flash. Predicted times for past and future extrema are indicated. In this model, Sakurai’s object is currently at the start of a fast temperature increase. The preflash positions of V4334 Sgr and V605 Aql are based on the ionization structure of their old nebulae (5, 7).

Fig. 3. The physical conditions predicted by the Cloudy model. \( T_e \), electron temperature; \( n_e \), electron density.