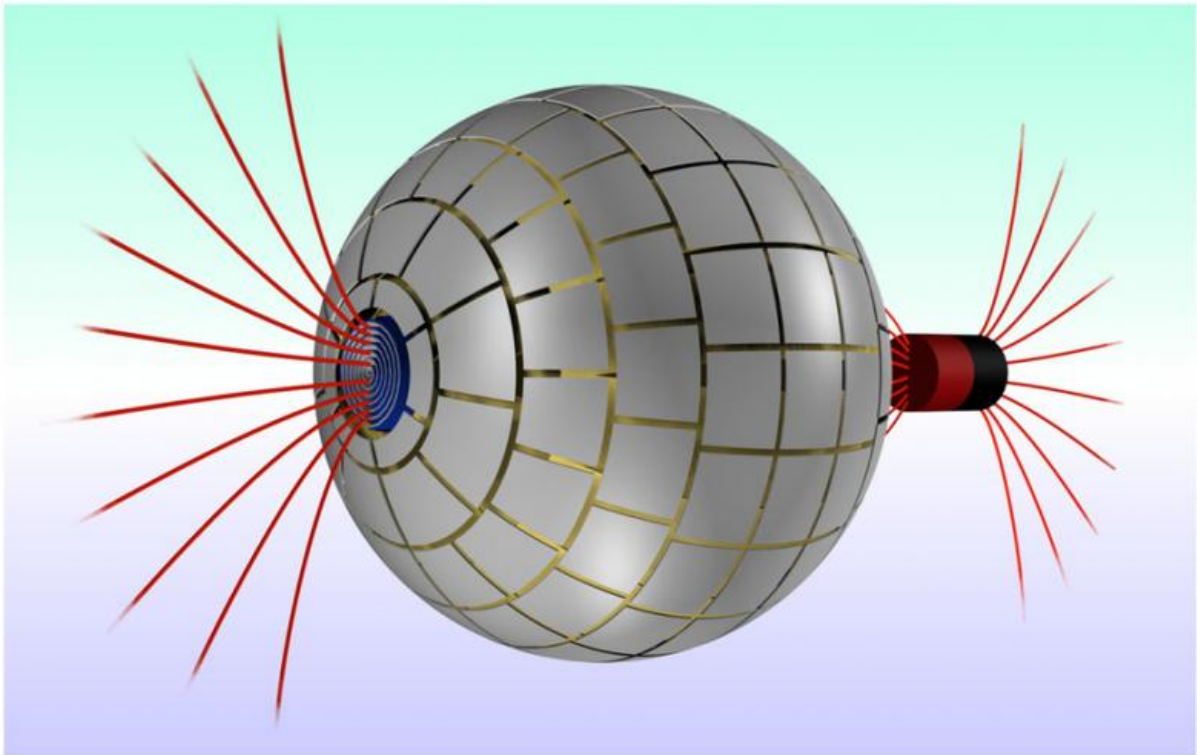


Best of Last Week – New way to detect dark matter, a magnetic wormhole and staring found to cause hallucinations

August 24 2015, by Bob Yirka

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(a) The field of a magnetic source (right) is appearing as an isolated magnetic monopole when passing through the magnetostatic wormhole; the whole spherical device is magnetically undetectable. (b) The wormhole is composed of (from left to right) an outer spherical ferromagnetic metasurface, a spherical superconducting layer, and an inner spirally wound ferromagnetic sheet. Credit: *Scientific Reports* 5, Article number: 12488 (2015) doi:10.1038/srep12488

(Phys.org)—It was another good week for physics as Ian Shoemaker, until recently with the University of Southern Denmark, proposed a new theory, suggesting that [if we want to detect dark matter, we might need a different approach](#)—he believes that scientists should be looking for dark radiation signals that theoretically result from dark matter collisions. Also, another trio created [an artificial magnetic wormhole](#)—a three-layered sphere that makes it appear as if a magnetic field has suddenly disappeared and then reappeared somewhere else.

In other news, a team of researchers in Rome and Geneva found a way to create tiny [gears that increase light-to-work conversion efficiency by five orders of magnitude](#)—by shining an LED light on tiny pinwheel-shaped gears floating on a liquid surface. Also, an international team of researchers came up with [a way to fabricate hexagonal silicon, potentially leading to light-emitting semiconductors](#). They believe it could lead to new kinds of optical, electrical and superconducting materials. And another team at Cornell University reported on their efforts to explore [the origins of energy in chemical reactions using experimental quantum chemistry](#).

In unrelated news, a team of paleobotanists reported that they had identified what could be [the mythical "first flower"](#)—*Montsechia vidalii*,

a plant that once grew abundantly in the Pyrenees and in the Iberian Range. Also, another team working at the Schoeneck-Kilianstaedten dig site in Germany reported that they had found [evidence of a prehistoric massacre in Europe](#).

In the interesting developments file, a team of researchers at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston reported that they had developed a drug—a regenerative peptide—that [protects against the deadly effects of nuclear radiation 24 hours after exposure](#). And there were reports, of course, of the [Ashley Madison "cheater" files hitting the dark web](#)—the hacker group made good on its promise to release data stolen from the site that specializes in providing a way for people to cheat on their partners.

And finally, if you have ever found things getting weird when gazing into the eyes of a loved one for very long, you might have a lot of company, as a team of researchers has found that [staring into someone's eyes for a long time can cause hallucinations](#). Apparently, it happens to most people.

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