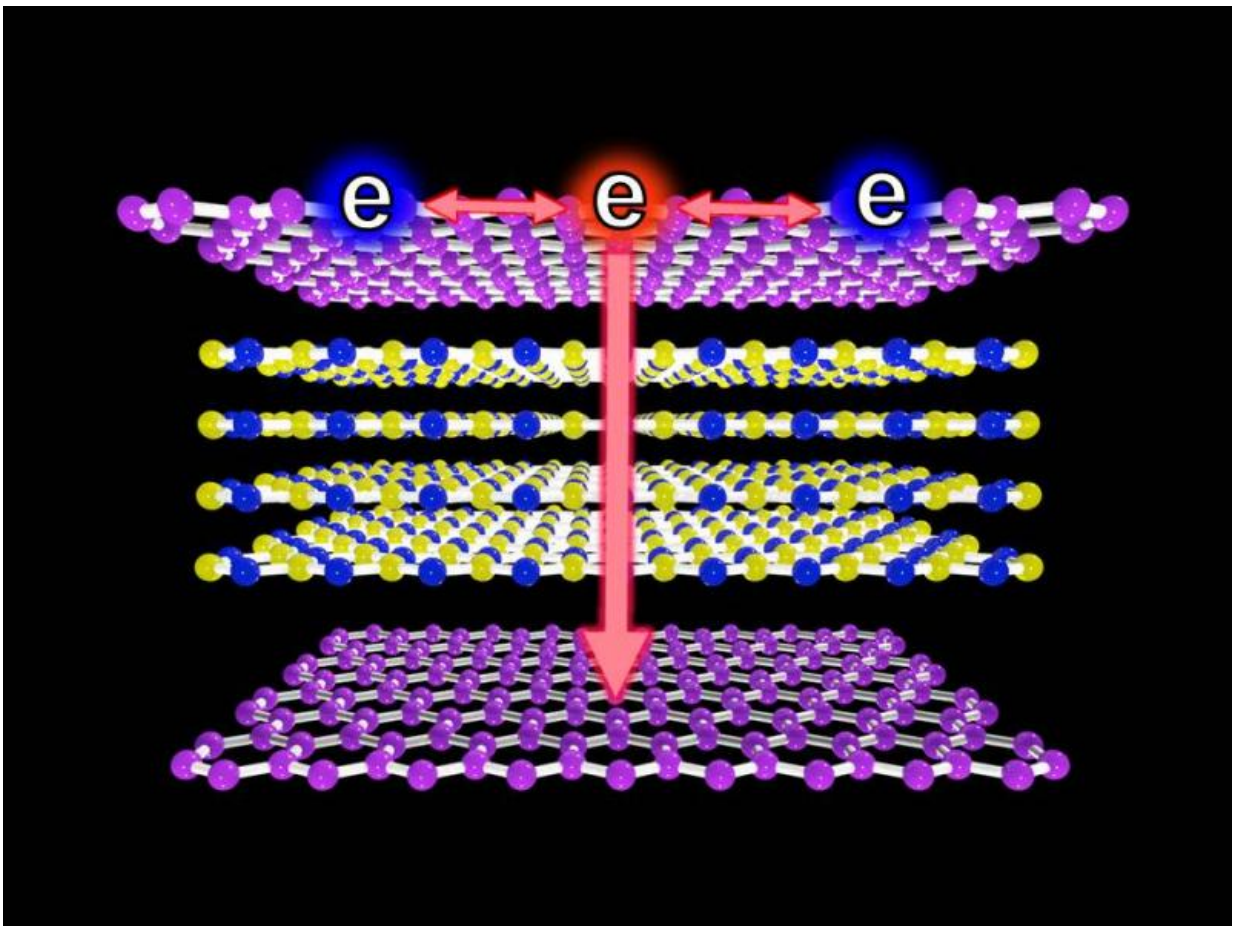


Best of Last Week—Explanation for heat loss in fusion reactors, a real ninth planet and garlic reducing arterial plaque

January 25 2016, by Bob Yirka



An illustration showing single layers of graphene with thin layers of insulating boron nitride that form a sandwich structure. Credit: Qiong Ma

(ScienceX)—It was another good week for physics as a team of researchers in the U.S. reported [a new finding that may explain heat loss in fusion reactors](#)—the degree of interacting turbulence at the tiniest scale accounting for mismatches between experiments and theory. Also another team of researchers developed [a means for watching electrons cool in 30 quadrillionths of a second](#)—by creating a sandwich device of combined single layers of graphene with thin layers of insulating boron nitride.

In space news, a team of researchers at Caltech made headlines by announcing that they had found [evidence of a real ninth planet](#)—using mathematical modeling and computer simulations. They have not actually seen it yet, but other bodies in the area appear to be reacting to something planet-like. Also a team at The Australian National University suggested that outer space [aliens are silent because they're dead](#)—because they did not evolve quickly enough to withstand a rapidly changing climate.

In other news, a pair of researchers, one with the New University of Lisbon, and the other with Durham University, conducted [a phylogenetic analyses that suggested fairy tales are much older than thought](#)—many of them appear to go back several thousand years. Also, another team at MIT conducted [a study that found that human-made aerosols exert a strong influence on the geography of precipitation](#)—by reflecting sunlight or increasing the reflectivity of clouds. Also a team at the University of Central Missouri announced that [a new largest prime number had been found](#) by one of their computers. And a team of researchers at the Salk Institute found that [the memory capacity of the brain is 10 times more than previously thought](#)—by noting the size of neural connections. Also a combined team of researchers from UC Davis and the University of Calgary conducted a study and found that [zebra stripes are not for camouflage](#).

And finally, if you are someone who is worried about dying from a heart attack or stroke, there was good news—a new study showed that [aged garlic extract can reduce dangerous plaque buildup in arteries](#). Perhaps all that is needed is adding the supplement found at most any health food store to the diet on a regular basis.

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Citation: Best of Last Week—Explanation for heat loss in fusion reactors, a real ninth planet and garlic reducing arterial plaque (2016, January 25) retrieved 6 July 2025 from <https://sciencex.com/news/2016-01-weekexplanation-loss-fusion-reactors-real.html>

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