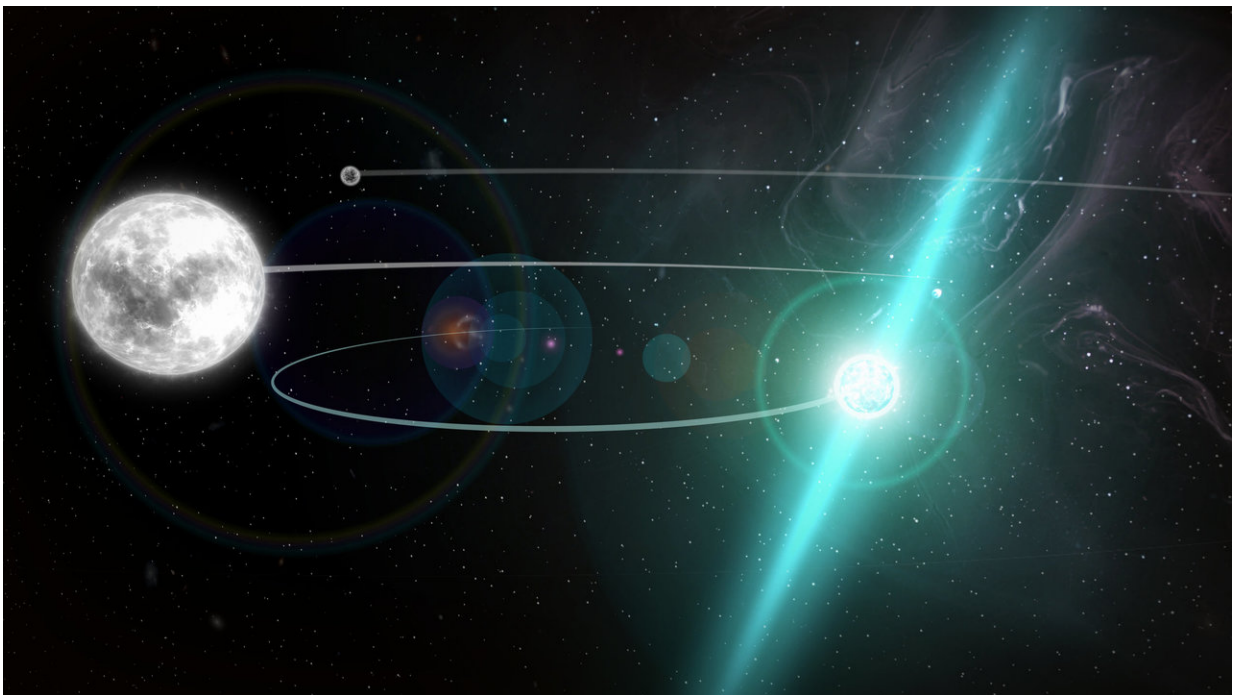


# Best of Last Week – Einstein found right again, how Uranus got its shape and evidence of cannabis easing pain lacking

July 9 2018, by Bob Yirka

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Artist impression of the triple star system PSR J0337+1715, which is located about 4,200 light-years from Earth. This system provides a natural laboratory to test fundamental theories of gravity. Credit: NRAO/AUI/NSF; S. Dagnello

It was a good week for physics as an international team of researchers found that [Einstein got it right again—weak and strong gravity objects](#)

[fall the same way](#). Using data from the Green Bank Telescope, they tested the Strong Equivalence Principle and found it passed, even for the most extreme scenarios. And a team at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign found that [water compresses under a high gradient electric field](#), which could be useful for designing new types of biomolecules filters.

It was also a good week for space research, as a team led by a group at the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy announced [the first confirmed image of a newborn planet caught with ESO's VLT](#)—it has been named PDS 70b. Also making headlines was a team led by a group at the University of Warwick, who announced that they had seen [a beam of light from the first confirmed neutron star merger emerge from behind the sun](#). And a team at Durham University announced that they had found evidence suggesting that [a cataclysmic collision had shaped Uranus' evolution](#)—which led to its tilt and freezing temperatures.

In other news, a team at Caltech announced that they had created [a DNA-based artificial neural network able to recognize "molecular handwriting"](#). And a team of neuroscientists at the University of Alberta reported that they uncovered [the secret to intelligence in parrots](#)—the medial spiriform nucleus. And a combined team of researchers with Seoul National University and Yonsie University, both in Korea, found that [feeling young could mean your brain is aging more slowly](#). Also, a team with members from across the U.S. found evidence suggesting that [our human ancestors walked on two feet but their children still had a backup plan](#)—good climbing skills.

And finally, if you are one of the millions of people who use marijuana as a way to reduce chronic pain, you might be fooling yourself. After conducting one of the longest studies ever of its kind, a team at UNSW Sydney found [no strong evidence that cannabis reduces chronic pain](#).

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