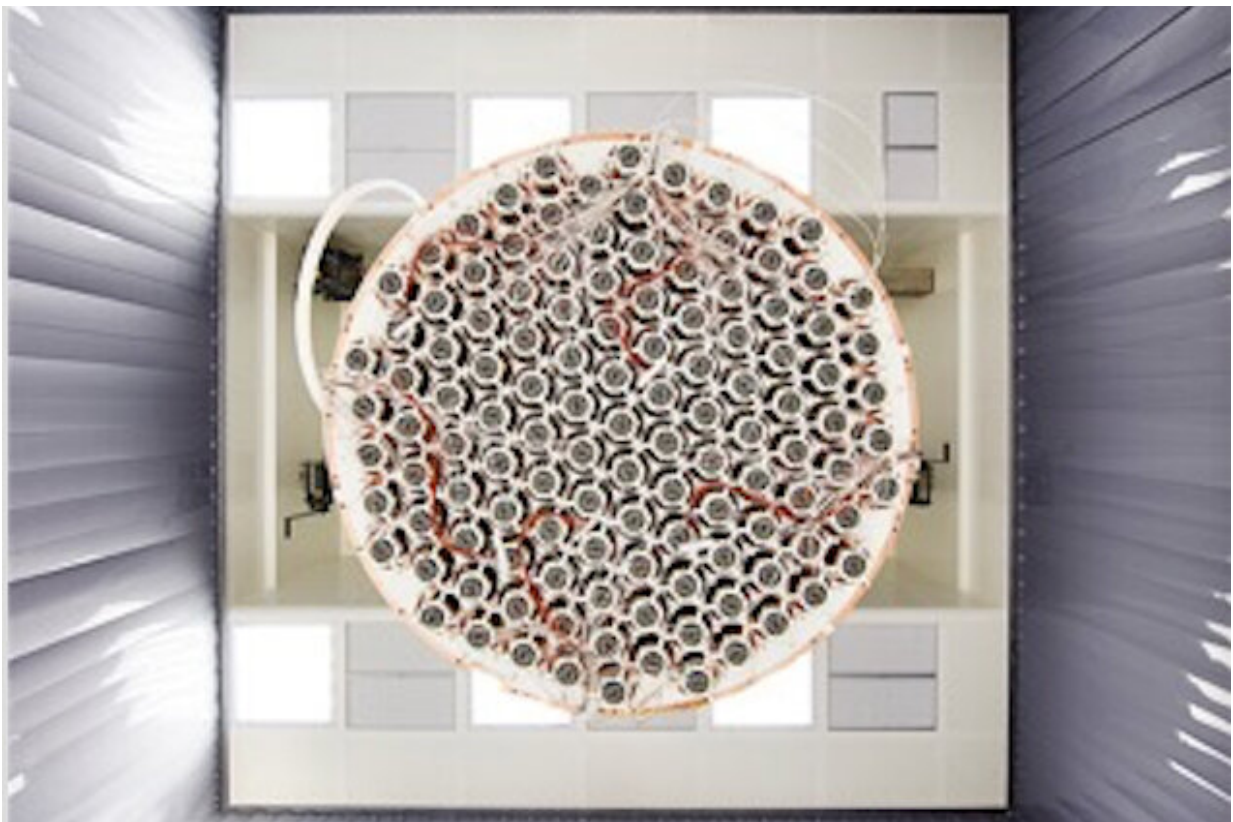


Best of Last Week – Rarest event ever recorded, a Marsquake detected and generational effects of a popular weed killer

April 29 2019, by Bob Yirka



It was a good week for physics as The XENON Collaboration research team announced that they had built [a dark matter detector that observed](#)

[the rarest event ever recorded](#)—the radioactive decay of xenon-124. Also, a team led by Adam Riess of the Space Telescope Science Institute announced that [the mystery of the universe's expansion rate has widened based on new Hubble data](#). The researchers report a discrepancy between results from two important techniques used to measure the expansion rate. And a team at Utah State University's Splash Lab found [a new mode of rock skipping they call "water walking"](#)—it happens when elastic spheres move quickly across the top of a tank of water. Also, a pair of researchers, Chris Boyce with Columbia Engineering and Christoph Müller with ETH Zurich, demonstrated [bubbles of sand that appear to defy the laws of physics](#)—a new kind of instability in grains of sand.

It was a good week for news from space as well, as the French space agency Cnes announced that the SEIS probe has detected what they describe as a ["marsquake," the first tremor detected on the Red Planet](#). Also, the [international collaboration](#) known as the Event Horizon Telescope, which produced the first-ever picture of a black hole event horizon, released an image of [the giant galaxy around the giant black hole](#)—elliptical galaxy Messier 8. And a team at the University of Arkansas reported that their [research on disk galaxies sheds new light on the movement of stars](#).

In other news, an international team of researchers announced that they had found several new crabs, including [Callichimaera perplexa, the platypus of crabs](#). Also, a team at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai announced evidence indicating that [a short period of parental sexual contact prior to pregnancy increased the offspring's risk of schizophrenia](#).

And finally, if you, like millions of others across the [northern hemisphere](#), have plans to battle weeds this summer, you might want to take a look at a rat study conducted by a team at Washington State

University—[they found health effects across generations from a very popular weed killer](#)—glyphosate, the world's most popular weed killer.

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