

Best of Last Week: Entangling large distant objects, SARS-CoV-2 virus blocks pain and children key to pandemic

October 5 2020, by Bob Yirka

Colorized scanning electron micrograph of a dying cell (blue) heavily infected with SARS-CoV-2 (yellow), the virus that causes COVID-19. Credit: NIAID Integrated Research Facility, Fort Detrick, Maryland.

It was another good week for physics research as a team at the University of Arkansas built [a circuit that generated clean, limitless](#)

[power from graphene](#). It worked by capturing graphene's thermal motion and converting it into an electrical current. Also, a very large international team of physicists announced that their study, which revolved around a new way to test general relativity using supermassive black holes, made [Einstein's description of gravity harder to beat](#). And a team at the Niels Bohr Institute [realized quantum entanglement between distant large objects](#).

In technology news, a team of Finnish researchers claimed they had made [a quantum computing breakthrough](#). The group at Aalto University created a device called a bolometer that they claim can measure a qubits' energy state while consuming 1 million times less energy. And a team with members from Shanghai Tech University, Peking University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences developed [radiation-immune and repairable chips for use in fabricating durable electronics](#). Also, a team at Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology developed [a 3-D-printed tensegrity structure for soft robotics applications](#). And Daniel Voshart, [a VR specialist in the movie industry, passed his downtime by creating photorealistic images of Roman emperors](#) using Photoshop and the AI application Artbreeder.

In other news, a team at University of Arizona Health Sciences found that [pain relief caused by SARS-CoV-2 infections may explain COVID-19 spread](#). They suggest that the virus' ability to suppress pain could explain why so many infected people experience no symptoms. And a team led by a group at the University of California [precisely measured the total amount of matter in the universe for the first time](#).

And finally, if like billions of other people around the world, you are trying to stave off an infection by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, you may want to check out research done by a team with members from the University of California-Berkeley, Princeton Environmental Institute and Johns Hopkins University. In conducting the largest COVID-19 contact tracing

study to date, they found that [children are key to its spread](#).

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Citation: Best of Last Week: Entangling large distant objects, SARS-CoV-2 virus blocks pain and children key to pandemic (2020, October 5) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://sciencex.com/news/2020-10-week-entangling-large-distant-sars-cov-.html>

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