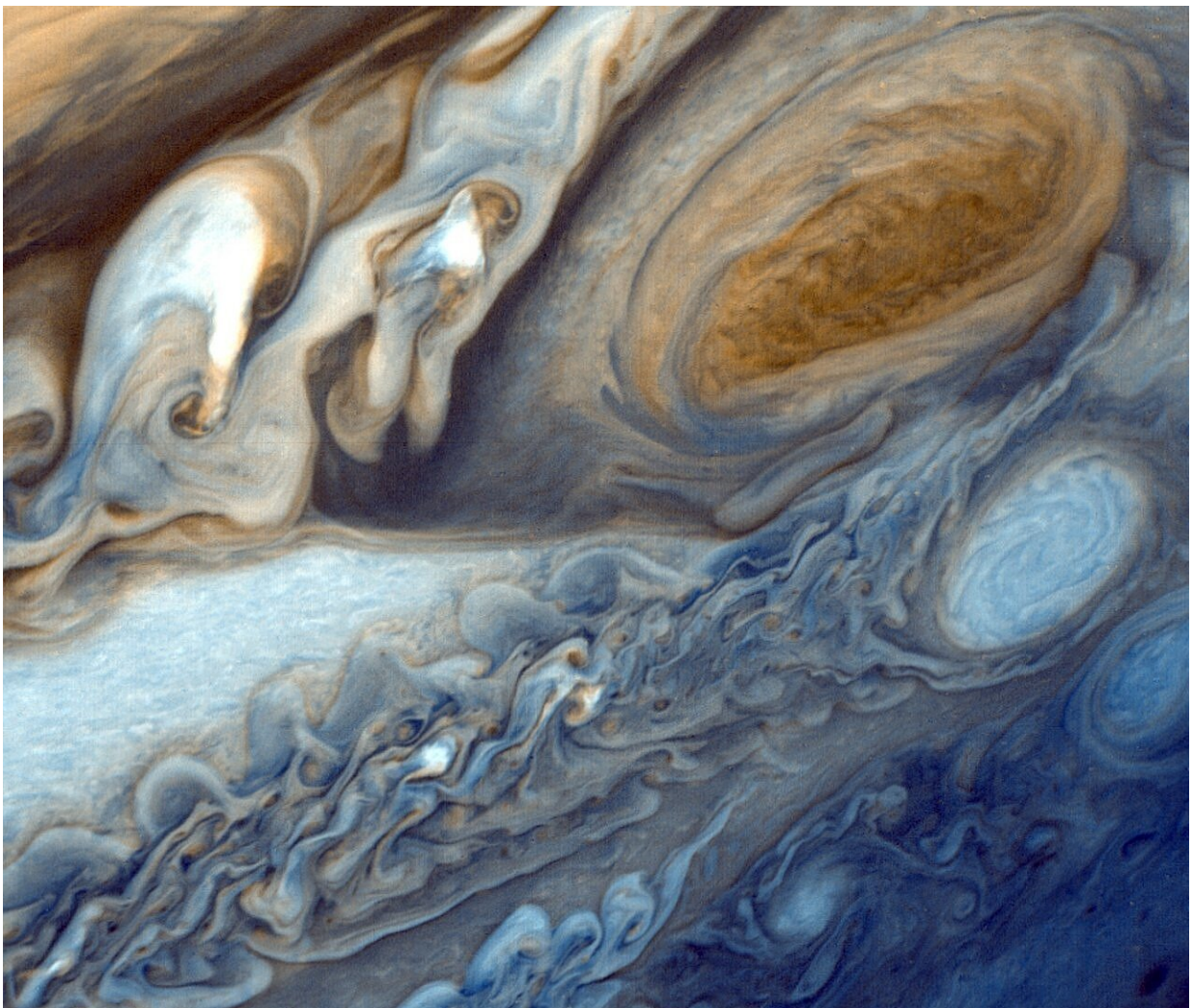


# **Best of Last Week: Jupiter and Saturn to form double planet, hacking robot vacuums and a COVID-19 nasal spray**

November 23 2020, by Bob Yirka

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It was a good week for space news as a team of researchers at Rice University reported that [this December, Jupiter and Saturn will look like a double planet for the first time since the Middle Ages](#)—they claim it will appear as if separated by just one-15th the diameter of the full moon. And SpaceX delivered its second crew of astronauts to the International Space Station with one of its astronauts proclaiming that [it beat the shuttle and Soyuz as a launching experience](#). Also, a team of astronomers at the University of Texas at Austin revived the decades-old idea of [establishing the proposed "Ultimately Large Telescope" on the moon](#)—and suggested it could be used to study the earliest stars in the universe.

In technology news, a pair of researchers, Nirupam Roy at the University of Maryland and Jun Han with the University of Singapore showed that [popular robot vacuum cleaners could be remotely hacked to act as microphones](#). And a combined team from the University of Cambridge and Zhejiang University created [efficient light-emitting diodes by depositing perovskites on a fluoride interface](#). Also, a team at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology demonstrated [an origami-inspired robotic fingertip with shape-morphing capabilities](#)—it also could switch between three configurations to give it more capabilities. And a combined team from MIT and Harvard University created [a neural network that could learn when it should not be trusted](#)—and report itself to its users.

In other news, a team of researchers at the University of Central Florida announced that they had identified [some of the features that could make someone a virus super-spreader](#)—such as having nasal congestion or a full set of teeth. And a team at Tel Aviv University developed what they described as [a revolutionary CRISPR-based genome editing system treatment that destroys cancer cells](#).

And finally, a team at the University of Birmingham has developed [an](#)

anti-COVID-19 nasal spray that is 'ready for use in humans.'—perhaps providing some degree of relief until the vaccine arrives.

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