

Best of Last Week—Groundwater system in Antarctica, drones flying through forests, vegetarian diets and children

May 9 2022, by Bob Yirka



This Handout photo provided by Yuman Gao and Rui Jin on May 4, 2022 shows a new flight path planning system enables drone swarms to fly through crowded forests without collisions.

It was a good week for Earth science as a team of researchers affiliated with multiple institutions in the U.S. discovered [a giant groundwater](#)

[system in sediments below a section of Antarctic ice](#). Mapping it, they suggest, could have implications for helping to understand conditions there as the planet continues to warm. And an international team of researchers [homed in on the date of the Thera volcano eruption](#) at approximately 1628 B.C.

In technology news, a team at Reed College, collaborating with the University of Illinois and Portland State University, found that [green roofs are worth the cost for urban residents](#). Also known as rooftop gardens, they can be a good way to reduce rainwater runoff. Also, a team with members from several institutions in China developed a drone swarm that was [able to fly autonomously through a thick forest](#). And a team at Delft University of Technology developed [a new approach to improving the power control of wind farms](#)—an active controller that is better able to manage the power fluctuations typically found with wind farms. Also, a team at Clarkson University found that it was possible to [identify anxious individuals by their walking gait](#) using a machine-learning application.

In other news, a collaboration between researchers at Harvard University, MIT, QuEra Computing Inc., and the University of Innsbruck resulted in observations of [a quantum speed-up in optimization problems on a neutral-atom quantum processor](#). Also, a team with members from the La Jolla Institute for Immunology Center for Cancer Immunotherapy and the University of Liverpool, while investigating the toxicity of cancer drugs, made a critical discovery regarding [dangerous side effects](#). In doing so, they may have found a better strategy for treating patients with solid tumors. And finally, a team led by St. Michael's Hospital of Unity Health Toronto analyzed data from 8,907 children age six months to eight years and report evidence that [children who grow up eating a vegetarian diet have similar growth and nutrition compared to children who eat meat](#).

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