

The wild, improbable search for natural quasicrystals

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The first known examples of quasicrystals were synthesized in the laboratory over four decades ago, but could Nature have beaten us to the punch? Most thought that was impossible: how could such exotic and fragile atomic arrangements arise naturally? This talk will describe the decades-long effort to prove the skeptics wrong, resulting in one of the strangest scientific stories you are ever likely to hear, and one that continues to this day.