

Once upon a time in Kamchatka:

The extraordinary search for natural quasicrystals

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Quasicrystals are exotic materials with symmetries that were once thought to be impossible for matter. The first known examples were synthesized in the laboratory over 30 years ago, but could Nature have beaten us to the punch? This talk will describe the search that took over a dozen years to answer this question, resulting in one of the strangest scientific stories you are ever likely to hear.