

Study: Scientists use X-ray to identify single atom for first time

May 31 (UPI) — For the first time, scientists have taken the first X-ray signal of a single atom, with such detection having the potential to revolutionize such areas of science like quantum information, nanotechnology, and environmental and medical science research, authors of a new study said.

Results from the research conducted by a team led by Argonne National Laboratory scientist Saw Wai Hla on the groundbreaking X-ray achievement were posted in the scientific journal Nature on Wednesday.

The smallest mass an X-ray can typically detect is an attogram, which is about 10,000 atoms, but scientists have long looked for a way to identify smaller masses.

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