

IMCZ NEWS



JULY – SEPTEMBER 2023

EDITORIAL

SUMMER TIME

After the dismal weather we had for much of April and May, things have improved a lot and now the holidays are upon us. I hope you can all look forward to some time away, to recharge your batteries and spend more time with friends and family – and disconnect from the News to some extent. Regardless of whether you are heading to warmer climes (as in the picture from Portugal) or to more Northern latitudes, to the beach or up into the mountains, have a great time and come back refreshed for the fray. Happy holiday season.

The IMCZ will, of course, continue to organise the weekly Stammtisch events during the holiday season so please come along on a Thursday evening and feel free to bring friends and colleagues. Because of the closure of the Gotthardhof, we're currently without a regular venue so we're taking the opportunity to try out different locations. Please give us feedback on which of them you prefer so that we can add your input to the decision making on a future more-permanent venue for our weekly get-togethers. You'll find the information on venues on the IMCZ website and you'll also get the usual regular email from Richard, our President.

The next big IMCZ event is the Summer BBQ. This is always popular and, at the moment, there's an "early bird" offer at a significant discount. To sign up, just go to the Events page on our website (<https://imcz.club/Club-Events>) and register. Guests are also welcome. The theme this year is the USA. There'll be music, dancing, food and drink, all with an American theme. It's always popular so book your place while you can. More details are in the Future Events part of this Newsletter.

In any case, enjoy the summer. Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you at one of our events in the near future.

Alan Cattell

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STAMMTISCH

Every Thursday from 18:00–20:30

We meet at different venues – please check our website for the location:

<https://imcz.club/Club-Events>



RECENT EVENTS

In the last few months we've had many events, some organised by ourselves or together with the ZIWC, and some events where we have just organised participation by the IMCZ. Below is a brief summary of what's happened.

7th May – Expat Expo – Membership Recruitment Drive

IMCZ had a stand at the Expat Expo, Lorzensaal, Cham right next to that of the ZIWC. The stand rota worked well throughout the day; the slide show, brochures and announcement of events were well received. Thanks to Bill for the organisation and to the stand team of Roger, Nicola, Jens, Timo, Ian, Ben, and Richard, as well as to ZIWC for being good neighbours.

Traffic to the stand was fairly brisk and of high relevance. Over 20 persons stopped by our stand and most expressed interest in IMCZ and participated in the raffle, providing their names and email addresses. The raffle was won by 019, Ahmed Mehila. He receives one-year complimentary membership to IMCZ, though he has not yet accepted his membership award. Two other visitors did submit their applications and have been duly inducted into IMCZ.

The Expat Expo organisers confirmed that the scale of the expo had returned to, or even surpassed, the pre-covid level and a number of exhibitors expressed interest in advertising in our next newsletter.

The future of this event is uncertain due to the retirement of the owners and possible sale of the rights to another party. Notwithstanding, this event is a great venue for IMCZ to showcase its offering.

12th May – Disco Night – Oh What a Night!

All the 'Uptown Girls' and 'Downtown Boys' gathered to gyrate their hips to favourite 80's dance classics for an IMCZ and ZIWC joint event extravaganza. 'Friday Night Fever' took over the Bughouse Bar in Zug on 12 May 2023. Once the word was out, this fab evening —brainchild of IMCZ and ZIWC Presidents Richard Beswick and Cristina Rocco— was quickly oversubscribed with 63 members strutting their stuff on the dancefloor! It was clear that many Members had dived to the back of their wardrobes to recreate the vibe of this energetic decade.

The Bughouse Bar was identified as the cool place to hang out by the IMCZ guys and was dutifully prepared by Tania Mobayed and Susan Laudenbacher, who skilfully transformed it into Zug's version of NY's Studio 54 with their glitter ball wands!

The resident DJ Andrew Suess loaded the first disc and the floor throbbed to the music late into the night. The dancers were fuelled by exotic drinks and delicious Mediterranean 'food on the groove' produced by Tania and the Restaurant Gotthardhof (Bundesplatz 16, Zug). This kept the energy levels up and the competition on the dancefloor hot. The dance winners Shelly and Ben and best 80's outfits Timo and Christine (me!) certainly set the bar high.



Thank you to all who attended with such impressive enthusiasm. Special thank yous to Alfie Godenzi of The Bughouse for his help and involvement. Again, thanks to Richard and Cristina for the idea and Tania and Susan for taking the idea and bringing to life such a happy, successful party.

Christine Blanshard, ZIWC

25th May & June – Investment Circle (IC) – Put Your Mouth Where your Money is.

Nikola Gjorgon has taken up the mantle of leading and developing the IC, an adjunct Stammtisch dedicated to all things related to investment. The first session in May got the Investment Circle off to a sterling start with a lecture on investment in private equity, notably infrastructure, by a seasoned investor, our very own Dr. Cledan Mandri. The second event in June, took 23 IMCZ & ZIWC Members to the oldest Goldsmith house in the world, to marvel the most beautiful of investments – jewellery, gold and watches at Lohri. The third event in September will feature our very own André Kudelski, unravelling the enigma of blockchain and cryptocurrencies. With the leadership of Nikola Gjorgon and voluntary contributions from our investment savvy membership and their connections, the Investment Circle (IC) has all the makings of a staple event at IMCZ and ZIWC. IMCZ's Investment Circle (IC) has no comparable Interest Group. Could Nikola work with Tarryn Richardson, ZIWC Interest Group coordinator, to encourage ZIWC Investophiles to join the party?

Richard Beswick, President

16th – 18th June – 31st National Yodeller Festival – Yodel-lay-ee-dee

The 2023 National Yodel Festival was hosted by Canton Zug, a once in 20-year occurrence.

 IMCZ BOARD MEMBERS Thumbnail biographies of board members can be found on our website www.imcz.club under 'About Us' section	PRESIDENT Richard Beswick 079 340 44 32 president@imcz.club	NEWSLETTER EDITOR Alan Cattell 079 340 25 51 newsletter@imcz.club	SECRETARY Geoff Watson 079 946 37 27 secretary@imcz.club	TREASURER Jens Kordetzky 076 315 67 69 treasurer@imcz.club
	WEBMASTER Bill Lichtensteiger 079 378 63 26 webmaster@imcz.club			



The festival consisted of three days of unadulterated yodelling, alp horning and a medley of concerts, dancing and parades. The weather was ideal except perhaps for the yodellers in their mountain garb. One drama occurred when the Patrouille Suisse flyby was marred by a (thankfully) non-fatal collision between two planes, during a practice flight.

Anyone who had doubts about Switzerland's ability to put on a grandiose and spectacular performance of their unique culture, should have had them dispelled by this marvellous event.

It was a demonstration of the depth and health of Swiss culture. Diaspora choirs from as far afield as Australia and Canada were represented. Even those of us, who were sceptical about enjoying yodelling at the outset, left the event with enhanced affection for the genre.

Richard Beswick, President

22nd June – Tour of Lohri Goldsmith house and Jewellery store

An initiative of Bas Veenendaal, ex-President of IMCZ, was developed by Richard Beswick into a well-attended IMCZ & IMCZ tour, with 23 participants. Lohri Goldsmith house and Jewellery store is in the old town of Zug. Reputedly, the oldest standing goldsmith house in the world, the beautifully restored premises, fine goldwork and resplendent jewellery display were a marvel to behold. The Lohris' and their staff graciously received and escorted us for 2 hours, explaining in detail the restoration of the house to its former Empire style, the sumptuous jewellery of Sisi and other historical divas, the intricacies of gold smithery and lots about the history of Zug. The only disappointment was that we could not actually see the gold craftsmen at work. Lohri told us that may be possible next time.



It was a sold-out event, and participants' feedback was unanimously positive about the experience. IMCZ will try to arrange another visit in the future. There is a more extensive article on this visit later in the Newsletter as this brief summary does not do it justice.

Richard Beswick, President

22nd June – Farewell to Alfie and Gotthardhof Stammtisch

This was the last Stammtisch at the Gotthardhof. Alfie Godenzi, Landlord of the Gotthardhof and the Bughouse Bar has been an outstanding host for IMCZ. As a small token of our gratitude, we presented him with a book during the Stammtisch and attended his farewell party on the evening of June 24th. The following message was attached and signed by the regulars:



Dear Alfie,

Thank you for your outstanding hospitality to IMCZ. You created a home away from home atmosphere and hosted some great events too. We wish you all the best in your new ventures. Fly high!

We also wish your excellent staff good transition to new things. Farewell till we meet again from all at IMCZ, especially the Stammtisch regulars, including but not limited to:

IMCZ brothers: Alan, Andrew, André, Antonio, Ben, Bill, Cledan, Ian, Jens, Joe, Johan, Jukka, Keith, Lindsay, Markus, Maurice, Nikola, Pepe, Pete, Richard, Roger, Sasha, Sergey, Tim, Timo, Tobias, Wayne, Hekki ... and ZIWC sisters: Susan, Tania, Cristina, Tarryn....

28th June – Newcomers Fair – Lighthouse for the Migrants

Zug Canton has programmes designed to integrate migrants from other parts of Switzerland and abroad into the community. This initiative involves courses and support offered by the FMZ (Office for Migrant Affairs) and Newcomers Events held periodically in different towns within the Canton. At these events, local associations, clubs and service providers, are invited to present their wares. Then newcomers are invited to a complimentary dinner.

The latest such event was held in the Lorzensaal, Cham on the evening of June 28th. ZIWC had a stand and kindly invited IMCZ to share this. IMCZ was represented by Richard Beswick armed with a few brochures. In contrast, ZIWC rolled out an impressive set of banners, flyers, magazines, give aways, staffed by Cristina Rocco (President), Suzy Andricopoulos and Alicia Toledo. The minor participation of IMCZ is in part because we did not receive an invitation to exhibit and only got the opportunity to attend at the last moment.

The stand attracted considerable male as well as female interest in our clubs. On the strength of this IMCZ should participate in more Newcomers' Events, armed with adequate staff and promotional materials.

Richard Beswick, President





FUTUREEVENTS



Stammtisch

I think you are all aware that we have lost our seat at the Gotthardhof, a wonderful venue for our Stammtisch and several other events over many months.

IMCZ will be a vagabond without fixed abode for the foreseeable future, that is at least until the autumn 2023.

To make the most of this unexpected "freedom" to hold our weekly Stammtisch, I have proposed a tour of various venues within central Zug. In each case a table for 10-15 people will be reserved in advance and members will be informed of the venue. The venues will be announced on the club website and in the usual email from the club President. PLEASE CHECK THE LOCATION as it will change almost every week.

2nd September - Fest der Nationen Celebrating Diversity, Equity, Inclusion in Zug

<https://www.fest-der-nationen.ch/>

Zug is one of the most diverse communities in the world, having residents from over 150 nationalities and well as from every Canton in the Confederation. The declared policy of the Cantonal Government is to enhance the vibrancy and harmony of the Canton through embracing the richness of diversity, while striving for integration within the community.



With this in mind, the Canton and the FMZ (Office for Migrant Affairs) organise an annual event, the Festival of Nations or Fest der Nationen (FdN). This spectacular event takes place on the city shores with culturally connected events and entertainment and numerous stands offering international cuisine and beverages. This year's event happens on Saturday, September 2nd from Noon to Midnight. Both IMCZ and ZIWC will have adjacent stands. The former focused on beer and crisps and the latter on gin and fine finger food.

Our bar team will be led by Timo Pitkänen, IMCZ Member with a volunteering spirit and a lot of experience in running bars. He will need the support of 3-4 sub barman and helpers working in 3 shifts of 4 hours. We are looking for members to volunteer for duty on the stand, ideally recruiting around 16. Please come forward! Please contact Richard (president@imcz.club or 041 711 41 88)

Among those that have already kindly signed up are: Richard Beswick, Nicolas Gjorgen, Peter Lichtensteiger, Bill Lichtensteiger, Cledan Mandri, Ben Grech, Tobias Volker, ... (apologies to other volunteers not mentioned here.)

3rd September – IMCZ Summer Party US BBQ – Live the American Dream!

12:00 to 18:00, Siehbachsaal, Chamerstrasse 33, 6300 Zug.

Close your eyes and imagine. Delicious ribs sizzling on the barbeque, golden corn bread warmed, apple pie appetizing. All manner of America drinks on hand to quench thirst and tantalise taste buds. Genuine Country and Western bands, line dancing and games galore ensure a good time for you wannabe cowgirls and cowboys. Western decorations and dress code will immerse the guests in an absolute unforgettable Western experience.

Come join us for an unforgettable experience!

Event Tickets: **registration under Events on IMCZ website.**

Early Bird prices until August 31st
CHF payment by bank transfer or Twint
Adult members of IMCZ or ZIWC: **60.-**
Adults not members of IMCZ or ZIWC: **70.-**
Teenagers 13-19: **50.-**
Kids 4-12: **30.-**
Babies 0-3: **0.-**

Late Bird prices from September 1st
CHF payment by bank transfer or Twint
Adult members of IMCZ or ZIWC: **70.-**
Adults not members of IMCZ or ZIWC: **80.-**
Teenagers 13-19: **60.-**
Kids 4-12: **40.-**
Babies 0-3: **0.-**

*Restricted access at the door without pre-registration.
No ticket sales*



Event Organisers:

- Erection of tents, set up of games, bar: IMCZ own crew lead by Bill Lichtensteiger and Cledan Mandri. More volunteers from the membership are welcome and needed.
- Organisation of food catering, decoration and line dancing by the renowned Valerie Gitter, Private Party with her competent team of helpers.
- Management of the bar by the experienced IMCZ Member, Timo Pitkänen.
- Collation of the C&W Band from local talents, courtesy of Ron Sumners and Bill Lichtensteiger.
- Overall event management by Richard Beswick

For further information see the Events section on www.imcz.club.
Or contact Richard Beswick, President IMCZ
president@imcz.club or 041 711 41 88.

RECENT EVENTS

Goldsmith Tour – “Diamonds are forever”

Contributed by ZIWC member, Sarika Sukhatankar

With the intention to delight the senses for both ladies and gentlemen, the Tour of the Lohri House was an event actively organised by Richard Beswick, President of the Zug International Men’s Club and with Ms. Nadya Alessandri, CEO Lohri Chronometry and Jewellery.

This guided tour received many early and eager registrations, exceeding the exclusive group limit and nevertheless being kindly accommodated by Lohri

Lohri’s CEO, Nadya Alessandri warmly ushered guests through the arched door surrounded by the impressive pillars at Lohri’s prestigious showroom of Neugasse 27 in Zug’s old town.

On a warm summer evening in June, members sipped on refreshingly sweet raspberry and chilled citrus mint cocktails waiting for the tour to begin.

Owner Franz Lohri officially welcomed the group on the 16th century ground floor explaining that, due to the large size, the tour of the building would be organised in two parallel groups, each comprising around twelve very enthusiastic members.

The honour of being a family operated business with deep and historical ties to Zug were clear as Mr. Lohri spoke with pride about the high-end watch and fine jewellery business he successfully runs with son, Franco Lohri.

The tour on the first floor was guided by the highly knowledgeable, Ms. Sonja Wismer, who takes pride in working for Lohri, highly evident as she explained the details and significance of collecting vintage and precious jewellery from 19th and 20th century.

Tiaras, rings, necklaces, delicately designed gold cuffs and several other unique jewellery creations are displayed as works of art in glass cases adorning the walls on the first floor.



In the centre of the room are showcases displaying some of the finest rubies, diamonds, emerald and other precious stones in vibrant colours. All of the collectors’ pieces are designed with unparalleled skill and craftsmanship.



Members were especially in awe of the pearl and ruby arrangement lips created by Henryk Kaston, on a design by the renowned Salvador Dali.

Ladies were even invited to try on some of the finest jewellery pieces, such as a roughly six carat diamond ring- an offer that was not passed up!

Equally, if not more impressive, albeit for different reasons, is the Wedding Ring Salon, located on the second floor where the next part of the group tour continued.

The salon is elegantly styled for couples to be married or those who wish to renew their wedding vows with champagne to toast. Displays of a wide variety of classic as well as contemporary wedding bands and engagement rings are discreet enough to preserve the sanctity of a serene dream.

This room is designed with one purpose alone - to inspire romance and intimacy. The setting is perfect; one that has



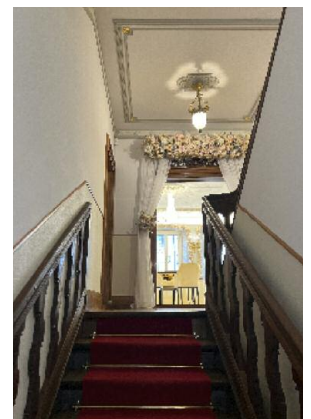
stood the test of time and therefore most suitable for a couple’s promise to marry. Unsurprisingly, it reminds the guests that they are part of something eternal and can be eternally in love. “Ewigi Liebi”

It was here that members asked their various questions on topics ranging from the building’s architecture and renovation, to jewellery workmanship; Mr. Lohri answered the questions personally and very patiently, sensing the endless curiosity of an enthusiastic crowd. The opportunity for the guests to browse through the carefully prepared and arranged photos, including those of the building’s exterior was value added to the tour’s already highly visual appeal.

When it was possible to take one’s eyes away from the sparkle of the finest treasures, then one could appreciate the intricate details of the stucco ceiling adorned with cherubs as well as the grandeur of the chandeliers.

The importance of preservation and continuity rang throughout the tour.

At the end of the tour, walking down the same red carpet staircase we had walked up took on a very special meaning. The effort made to preserve this building and its discoveries, such as the original wallpaper and coverings are very impressive.

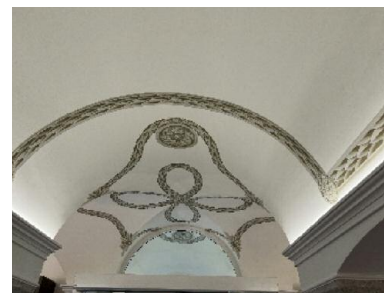


Under ceilings painted with laurel motives, participating members had the opportunity to ask Lohri’s team many more individual questions about jewellery and watch models.

As we waited in line to leave, Mr. Franz Lohri, Mrs Nadya Alessandri personally stood at the door warmly bidding farewell to the genuinely impressed members.

Recapping the best moments of what we had just experienced, we left this historical gem in its own right and stepped out again into the city facing Zyturm, one of the most famous landmarks of Zug.

Exiting Lohri’s doors, a building extensively renovated in 2016 in Empire style and yet preserved to be true to its core, Zug never looks the same to we tour participants.



A special thank you to the Lohris and their staff and to all the participants who showed so much interest and enjoyment in participating in this unique architectural journey through premises that transcend time and history. Thank you to Bas Veenendaal, ex-President of IMCZ, for coming up with the idea for this tour.

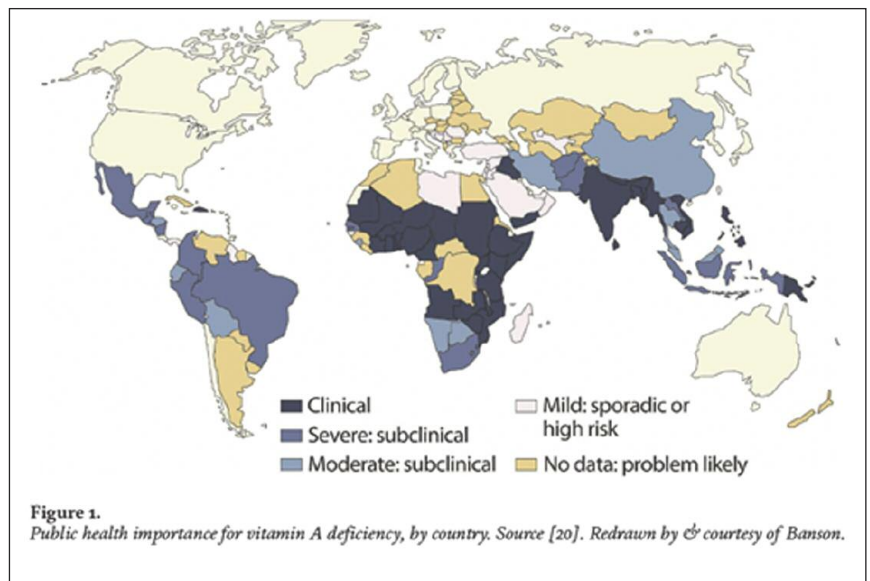
Golden rice – The Seed Has Sprouted

Remo P. Jutzeler van Wijlen, Head R&D Sponser Sports Food
Ing. Appl Food Sciences, MAS Nutrition & Health ETHZ

Autumn 2022 will go down in the annals of agricultural history: For the first time, farmers in the Philippines harvested a large quantity of so-called “golden rice”, which has an increased content of beta-carotene (provitamin A) thanks to a maize gene. As in other plants, beta-carotene is the colouring agent and leads to a golden-yellow colour of the modified rice. In total, over 67 tons were obtained from several locations and this will now be distributed to those households where preschool children at high risk of vitamin A deficiency diseases or pregnant women or nursing mothers live. Children in particular go blind, die from a weak immune system and suffer from cognitive impairments from vitamin A deficiency. Worldwide, several hundred million children are affected by such health consequences.



A lack of vitamin A, though virtually unknown in western countries, is widespread in the third world and developing countries (see graph, WHO 2009), and is believed to be responsible for killing more children than HIV, tuberculosis, or malaria – around 2000 deaths a day. On a global scale, about a third of children under five suffer from the condition. In order to combat vitamin A malnutrition - the so-called “hidden hunger” - scientists at ETH Zurich have, since the early 1990s, been developing a genetically modified rice so that the plants accumulate beta-carotene in their grains. Beta-carotene is converted into the vital vitamin A in the body. In this way, people in countries where rice is the most important source of carbohydrates would be better able to meet their daily vitamin A requirements. In the following years, the efficiency of beta-carotene production in Golden Rice could be further increased to achieve a sufficiently high amount per daily ration, and in 2018, all regulatory and safety hurdles were finally overcome. In 2021, the Philippines became the first country to give the green light for the cultivation and consumption of Golden Rice in the open. Many other countries such as Bangladesh, Indonesia, Vietnam, India and China have therefore taken the same steps as the Philippines and are well advanced in the introduction of vitamin A rice.



Golden Rice has been fiercely controversial since its creation. Its use was blocked, delayed and postponed for years. Environmental groups in particular bitterly fought this genetically modified crop (and others), despite the fact that Golden Rice was the first project to use genetic engineering not only for commercial agriculture, but as a humanitarian project to solve a major health problem. In particular Greenpeace, [have tried to block approval of Golden Rice](#) because of their general opposition to GM crops. Perhaps the opposition to Golden Rice was especially persistent because it was a GM crop that had so much going for it, the potential to change public opinion about genetic modification in food in general. Nevertheless, this opposition did not have the power to stop Golden Rice on its own, but authorities withheld approval of free cultivation. The problem is related to an international treaty known as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, an agreement which aims to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms, and which came into force in 2003. The Cartagena Protocol contains a highly controversial clause known as “the precautionary principle”. This states that if a product of modern biotechnology poses a possible risk to human health or the environment, measures should be taken to restrict or prevent its introduction. The doctrine, in the case of Golden Rice, was interpreted as “guilty until proven innocent”, an attitude entirely unreasonable given the potential of the crop to save millions of lives and halt blindness. As a result, politics and regulations delayed approval for many years, during which millions of children lost their sight or died of malnutrition.



At present, researchers work on the expansion of Golden Rice’ health benefits and try to develop strains with increased contents of zinc and iron, two of the most deficient minerals globally. In some South-Asian countries like Bangladesh such modifications are already ongoing. Indeed, if the Golden rice will fulfil the expectations of its health benefits, hopefully this will also lead to a more positive overall perception of GMO in food. It is an irritating discrepancy how easily most people accepted the vaccination with a GMO vaccine, while in contrast with an irrational and fierce attitude vote against a simple gene modification in plants (much more targeted and far less invasive than traditional botanical crosses). With the help of gene modification plants could be made e.g. more tolerant to heat, saline soils, droughts, and parasites, and like this increase harvest yields and help to secure global food supply.



ChatGPT for Mental Healthcare – Filling the Void

Article Contributed by IMCZ President, Richard Beswick, Alan Cattell and ChatGPT

Applications for ChatGPT (and other Large Language Model based AI tools) are springing up in finance, technology and life sciences. This article looks at how ChatGPT and its derivatives could enhance universal social and individual well-being through psychotherapy support.

With the increasing prevalence of mental health conditions and the strain on mental health services, there is potential for integrating generative AI solutions, such as ChatGPT, into existing mental health resources. Generative AI, a rapidly advancing technology, has the potential to bridge the gap between the growing demand for mental health support and the limited availability of resources. There is already evidence that leveraging this technology could provide accessible, affordable, and stigma-free mental healthcare to a wider population, while recognising the need to remain vigilant on the limitations and ethical implications of machine-based psychotherapy.

To delve into the matter what better than to ask GPT to provide an opinion on ‘the role and potential of large language model ai in psychotherapy’. Alan Cattell deftly posed the question and GPT responded with measured and emphatic first level reply to the question:

AI Cannot Replace Human Therapists

Psychotherapy is a crucial aspect of mental health care, and recent advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) have opened up new possibilities in this field. Large language model AI, such as the GPT-3.5 architecture, has the potential to support individuals on their mental health journey. While AI cannot replace human therapists, it can offer supplemental resources, anonymous accessibility, and emotional support. However, ethical considerations, limitations, and the need for a collaborative approach must be taken into account when implementing AI in psychotherapy.

Supplemental Support and Resources

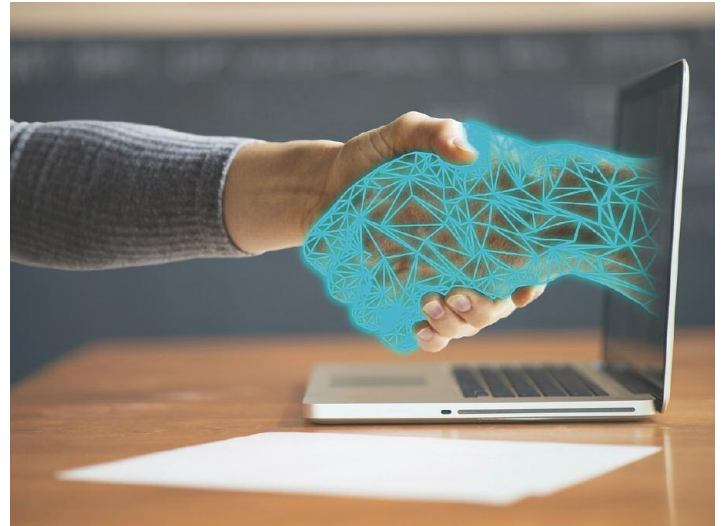
One significant advantage of using large language model AI in psychotherapy is its ability to provide supplemental support and resources. AI can offer information, coping strategies, and self-help techniques to individuals seeking assistance. It acts as a valuable tool for self-reflection and self-guided interventions, enabling users to gain insights into their thoughts, feelings, and behaviour. By providing accurate and up-to-date information on mental health conditions, symptoms, and treatment options, AI-based systems can serve as an educational resource for individuals looking to better understand their experiences.

Anonymous Accessibility

AI-based psychotherapy offers anonymous accessibility, a feature that can be particularly beneficial for individuals facing barriers in seeking traditional therapy. Geographical limitations, social stigma, or financial constraints often deter individuals from seeking help. By enabling individuals to access support from the comfort and privacy of their own homes, AI-based systems reduce these barriers and increase access to mental health care. The anonymity provided by AI allows individuals to express their emotions and concerns without the fear of judgment or stigma, creating a safe and confidential space for them to explore their thoughts and feelings.

Emotional Support

While AI cannot replicate the depth of human empathy, it can provide emotional support through empathetic responses and active listening. AI-based systems can acknowledge and validate the emotions expressed by individuals, providing a sense of understanding and companionship. Although the responses generated by AI are not driven



by genuine emotions, they can still offer comfort and encouragement to those seeking support. By allowing individuals to express their emotions and thoughts, AI-based systems create an outlet for venting and self-expression, which can be helpful for some individuals in managing their mental health.

Ethical Considerations

The use of AI in psychotherapy raises important ethical considerations. Privacy and data security are paramount, and it is crucial to ensure that user data is protected and handled in a responsible manner. Additionally, there is a need for transparency in how AI systems process and generate responses, so that users understand the limitations and potential biases involved. Developers should strive to train AI models with diverse and representative datasets to avoid perpetuating biases and ensure inclusivity. Furthermore, AI-based systems should never replace the involvement of human therapists, and users must be made aware of the limitations and potential risks of relying solely on AI for mental health support.

Limitations

While large language model AI can provide valuable support, it has inherent limitations. AI lacks the ability to understand complex emotions, nuances, and individual contexts that human therapists excel at. It is unable to establish a genuine interpersonal connection or provide the dynamic interaction that human interaction offers. AI-based systems should be seen as a complementary tool to traditional therapy rather than a substitute. It is essential to recognize that AI cannot replace the expertise, empathy, and personalized care provided by human therapists. Therefore, AI should be utilized in conjunction with human therapists, where therapists interpret and contextualize the AI-generated information, tailoring interventions to each individual's unique needs.

ChatGPT, personal communication, July 3, 2023)

GPT's measured and emphatic response shows AW (artificial wisdom) and the potential to help fill the void in the mental healthcare landscape.



The Search for Dark Energy and Dark Matter

Contributed by IMCZ member, Alan Cattell

Introduction

Since the dawn of history, mankind has studied the night sky and our understanding of the evolution of stars, planets and galaxies has changed significantly over the centuries. However, we currently live in a very interesting time, where we know that there are specific aspects of what we see in the cosmos that we just don't understand properly. We have theories, but no direct evidence, and we know that whatever we learn will require some fundamental extension to Physics.

In the vast tapestry of galaxies, a puzzle has emerged. Observations of galactic rotation curves show an intriguing phenomenon. Stars at the outer edges of galaxies are moving at unexpectedly high speeds, defying the expectations based on the distribution of visible matter alone. The laws of classical physics dictated that these outer regions should experience weaker gravitational forces, causing stars to move slower. However, reality presented a different picture, leading scientists to propose the existence of invisible matter, aptly named dark matter – with no direct evidence for its existence.

The concept of dark matter was first theorized in the 1930s. Swiss astronomer Fritz Zwicky was studying the motion of galaxies within the Coma Cluster and found that their speeds were much higher than expected based on the visible matter alone. Zwicky proposed that there must be an invisible, non-luminous form of matter that was responsible for the observed gravitational effects. However, his ideas were met with scepticism and did not gain widespread acceptance at the time.

The term “dark matter” itself was coined in 1978 by the American astronomer Vera Rubin and her collaborator Kent Ford. Rubin had been studying the rotation curves of galaxies, specifically looking at how the rotational velocities of stars within a galaxy changed with distance from the galactic centre. Her observations confirmed that the stars at the outer edges of galaxies were moving much faster than expected, indicating the presence of unseen matter exerting gravitational influence. Rubin referred to this unknown matter as “dark matter” in a landmark paper, sparking further interest and investigation into the phenomenon.

Since then, numerous studies and observations have provided additional evidence for the existence of dark matter, further cementing its status

as a crucial component of the universe. The prevailing understanding today is that dark matter outweighs visible matter by a significant margin, comprising about 85% of the total matter in the universe.

While the exact nature and composition of dark matter remain unknown, its existence is supported by a wide range of cosmological and astrophysical observations. But the absence of direct evidence for its existence is a real problem. Unsurprisingly, clarifying this conundrum is an active and ongoing area of research in modern astrophysics and cosmology.

But what is Dark Matter – and does it really exist?

Dark matter is thought to be non-baryonic, meaning it does not consist of the familiar particles that make up atoms. (A baryons is a particle made from three quarks – e.g. proton and neutron.) It does not interact with light or other forms of electromagnetic radiation, making it invisible to our telescopes and detectors. While its precise composition remains uncertain, several theoretical models have been put forth. One of the leading candidates is Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (WIMPs)^[1], hypothetical particles that interact only through the weak nuclear force and gravity. Axions, sterile neutrinos, and other exotic particles have also been proposed as potential constituents of dark matter. In any case, we're looking for particles which can't be explained by the so-called “standard model” of particle physics.

The existence of dark matter has profound implications for our understanding of the universe. As mentioned, it's estimated that dark matter accounts for roughly 85% of the matter in the cosmos, outweighing visible matter by a significant margin. Without dark matter's gravitational influence, galaxies as we know them would not exist. It acts as the cosmic scaffolding, providing the gravitational glue that holds galaxies together and prevents them from disintegrating under the forces of their own rotation.

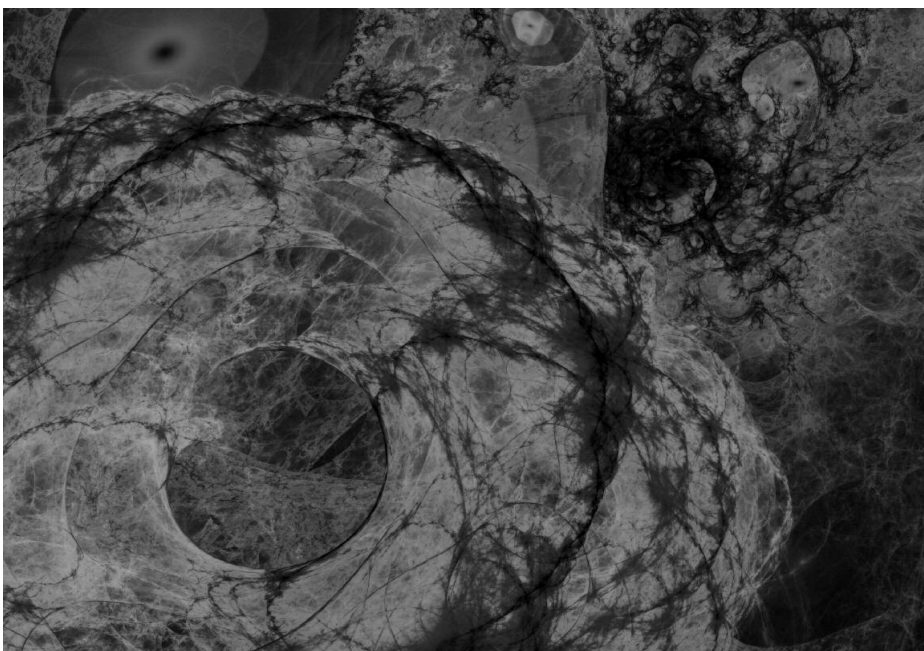
The impact of dark matter extends beyond individual galaxies. Observations of large-scale structures, such as galaxy clusters and superclusters, offer insights into its distribution and effects. Dark matter forms a cosmic web, a vast network of filaments that connect galaxies across the universe. It acts as the gravitational backbone, shaping the structure and evolution of cosmic architecture. By mapping the distribution of dark matter, scientists can decipher the underlying cosmic blueprint and trace the intricate dance of galaxies throughout cosmic history.

Efforts to detect dark matter directly have been underway for decades (see below) but to-date, without success. While the search for dark matter intensifies, its presence raises fundamental questions about the nature of the universe and our understanding of sub-atomic physics. Dark matter's gravitational effects suggest that the universe should be on a trajectory towards eventual collapse due to the overwhelming gravitational attraction of matter. However, recent observations have revealed an accelerating expansion of the universe, driven by an unknown force known as dark energy.

Dark Energy – even more puzzling

Dark energy, distinct from dark matter, appears to constitute about 70% of the energy density of the universe. Unlike dark matter, which attracts matter through gravitational interactions, dark

Artists Impression of Dark matter





energy exerts a repulsive force, causing the expansion of the universe to accelerate. This revelation, derived from observations of distant supernovae in the late 1990s, has left scientists puzzled and searching for an explanation.

The nature of dark energy is even more enigmatic than dark matter. One possibility is that it arises from a cosmological constant, a term in Einstein's equations of general relativity that represents the energy of empty space. According to this interpretation, dark energy is a constant and uniform presence throughout the cosmos, driving the acceleration of the universe's expansion. Another possibility is that dark energy arises from a dynamic field known as quintessence, which can evolve and change over time. Quintessence would introduce a new fundamental force acting on cosmic scales. (Currently only four forces are known: gravity, electromagnetic, strong nuclear and weak nuclear.)

The interplay between dark matter and dark energy shapes the fate of the universe. Understanding their roles is crucial for deciphering the ultimate destiny of our cosmos. Various hypotheses have been proposed, each leading to distinct scenarios. If dark energy continues to dominate, the universe may expand indefinitely, with galaxies drifting apart and celestial objects becoming increasingly isolated. Alternatively, if dark matter's gravitational pull triumphs, the universe may eventually halt its expansion and transition into a cosmic contraction, leading to a "Big Crunch" or a cyclic universe.

As scientists strive to unravel the mysteries of dark matter and dark energy, new technologies and observational techniques are continually being developed. The advent of powerful telescopes, such as the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and the upcoming Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, promises to enhance our understanding of the universe's structure and evolution. These observatories will deepen

our knowledge of cosmic phenomena, providing further insights into the nature of dark matter and its role in shaping the cosmos.

In addition, sophisticated computer simulations and numerical models enable scientists to explore the behaviour of dark matter in virtual universes. By simulating the evolution of cosmic structures, researchers can compare the outcomes with observations, refining our understanding of dark matter's properties and its interaction with ordinary matter.

The quest to unravel the mysteries of dark matter continues, driven by the passion and curiosity of scientists worldwide. The exploration of this invisible entity opens new frontiers of knowledge and challenges our perception of the universe. With each observation, experiment, and theoretical breakthrough, we come closer to unravelling the enigma of dark matter, shedding light on the hidden fabric of our cosmic tapestry.

Why does this matter?

The apparent existence of dark matter and dark energy highlight major areas of ignorance in our understanding of what matter is and how it behaves. Either our understanding of gravity is somehow fundamentally flawed or the footprints of something truly new have been discovered. Ironically, the impact is on our understanding of both the very small (the standard model of particle physics) and the very large (the dynamics of galaxies, galactic clusters and the universe as a whole). There may even be a wholly new fundamental force behind some of these phenomenon.

Experimental observations

It's always possible to theorise, but the real meat is in experimental data to confirm which theories are most correct. To that end, there are many projects underway. You can find information on all of these online.

Stepping Stones

The School for Early Childhood Education



Stepping Stones is an English-speaking school focusing on an Early Childhood Curriculum. Our goal is to provide an environment where children can enjoy learning through various activities that are well-planned and expertly structured. Our approach helps them develop skills and concepts essential for primary school and future learning.

We offer the following classes:

- Playgroup for children aged 2-3 years
- Pre-school for children aged 3-4 years
- Pre-kindergarten for children aged 4-5 years
- Kindergarten for children aged 5-7 years



Dark Matter Detection:

- a) **Direct Detection Experiments:** Underground detectors, such as the Cryogenic Dark Matter Search (CDMS) and XENON, aim to capture rare interactions between dark matter particles and atomic nuclei. These experiments rely on highly sensitive detectors shielded from background radiation to detect the minuscule signals produced by potential dark matter interactions.
- b) **Indirect Detection Experiments:** Indirect detection techniques involve searching for the products of dark matter annihilation or decay. Instruments like the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope and the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS-02) aboard the International Space Station study the high-energy radiation emitted during dark matter interactions.
- c) **Particle Colliders:** Particle colliders, like the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), recreate the conditions of the early universe, aiming to produce dark matter particles through high-energy collisions. Scientists analyse the resulting debris and energy signatures in the hopes of indirectly detecting dark matter particles.
- d) **Gravitational lensing,** a phenomenon first predicted by Einstein's theory of general relativity, offers a unique tool for studying dark matter. When light from distant objects passes near a massive object, such as a galaxy cluster, its path is bent by the gravitational field of the intervening dark matter. This bending creates distortions and magnifications in the observed images of background galaxies, providing clues to the distribution and mass of dark matter. By carefully analysing the patterns of gravitational lensing, scientists can create maps of dark matter in galaxy clusters and probe its properties.

Dark Energy Detection:

- a) **Supernova Surveys:** Observations of distant supernovae, such as the Supernova Legacy Survey (SNLS) and the Dark Energy Survey (DES), are used to study the luminosity and redshift of these cosmic explosions. By measuring the distances and brightness of supernovae, scientists can infer the expansion history of the universe and constrain the properties of dark energy.
- b) **Baryon Acoustic Oscillations (BAO):** BAO refers to the imprints left by sound waves in the early universe, which can be observed in the large-scale distribution of galaxies. BAO surveys, such as the Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey (BOSS), map the positions of galaxies to measure the characteristic scale of these imprints, providing insights into the expansion history and the presence of dark energy.
- c) **Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB):** High-precision measurements of the CMB, such as those obtained by the Planck satellite, offer a window into the early universe. Scientists analyse the

temperature and polarization patterns in the CMB to study the geometry of space, the amount of dark energy, and its effects on the large-scale structure of the cosmos.

The Euclid Telescope^[2]

Future experiments, such as the European Space Agency's Euclid mission and the Rubin Observatory's Legacy Survey of Space and Time, hold the promise of providing further insights into these enigmatic cosmic components. With each technological advance and observational breakthrough, scientists hopefully inch closer to unravelling the secrets of dark matter and dark energy, illuminating the hidden aspects of our universe.

At time of publication, Euclid has been launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 launch vehicle from Cape Canaveral, Florida, USA. Its operational orbit will be halo around a point known as the Sun-Earth Lagrange point 2 (L2), at an average distance of 1.5 million km beyond Earth's orbit. This special location (see article reference 3) keeps pace with Earth as we orbit the Sun (and also hosts ESA's Gaia^[4] and the James Webb Space Telescopes). It will take a few months to get there.

Euclid's mission objectives

(from the European Space Agency website) are:

Euclid is designed to explore the evolution of the dark Universe. It will make a 3D-map of the Universe (with time as the third dimension) by observing billions of galaxies out to 10 billion light-years, across more than a third of the sky.

While dark energy accelerates the expansion of the Universe and dark matter governs the growth of cosmic structures, scientists remain unsure about what dark energy and dark matter actually are.

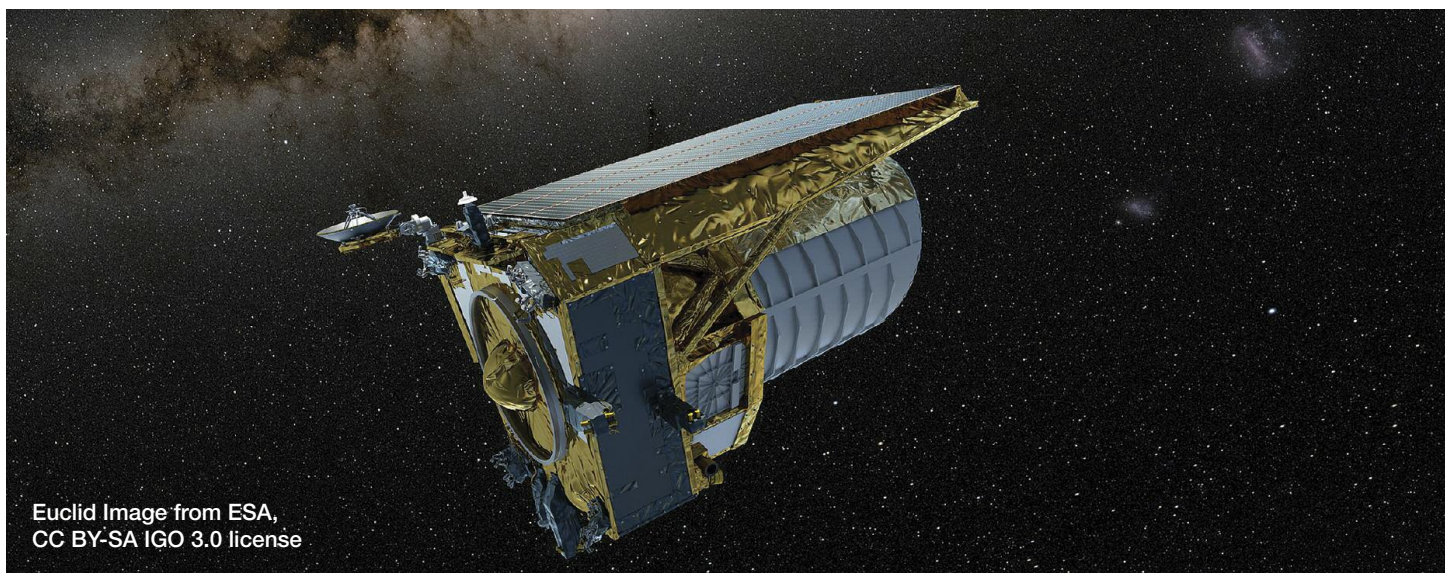
By observing the Universe evolving over the past 10 billion years, Euclid will reveal how it has expanded and how structure has formed over cosmic history – and from this, astronomers can infer the properties of dark energy, dark matter and gravity, to reveal more about their precise nature.

Based on the resulting map of the Universe, they hope to be able to refine models of the universe to start to get closer to an accepted model of the universe.

Fingers crossed for a successful launch and for further clarification of the enigma of dark matter and dark energy.

Further information

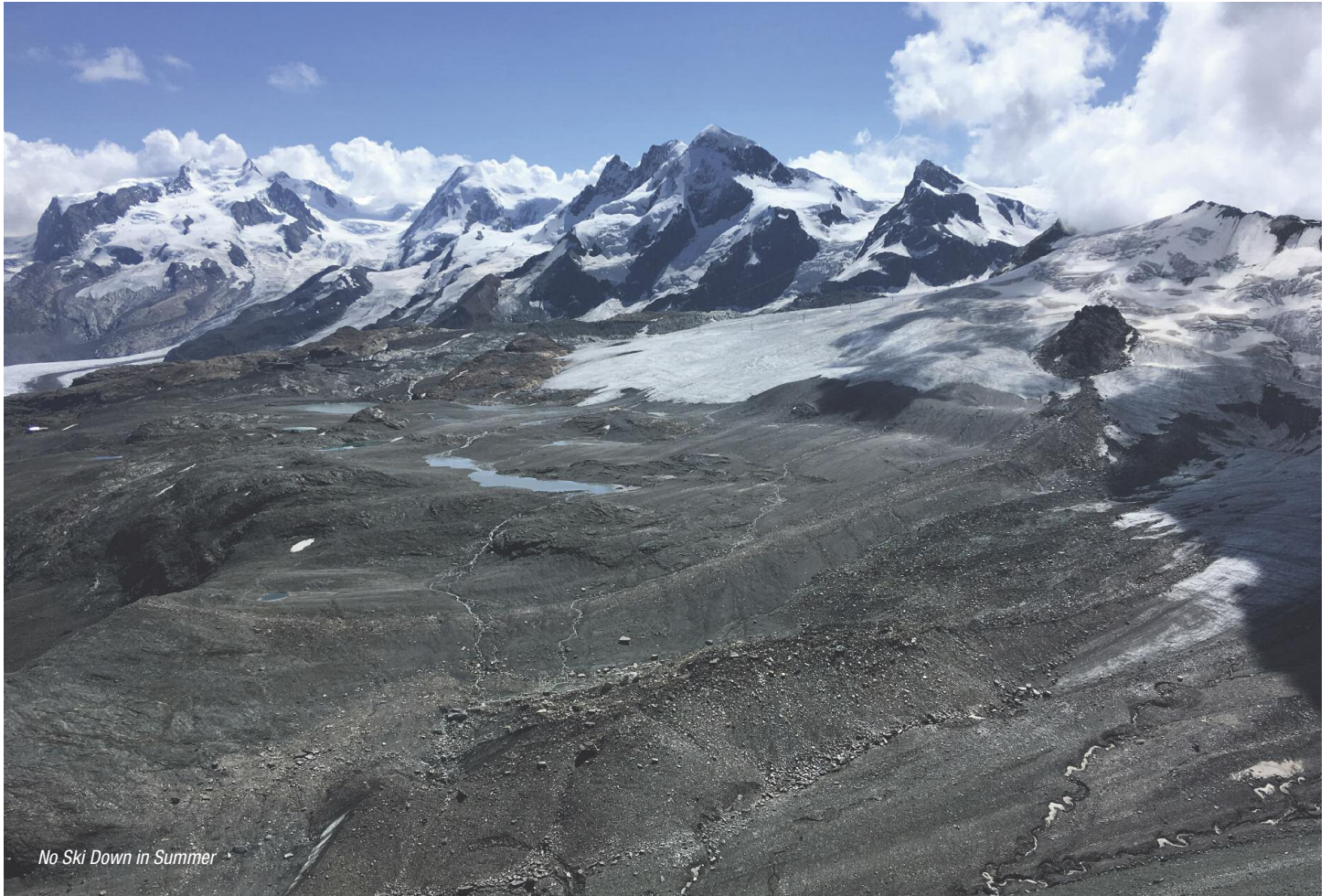
- 1 [Weakly Interacting Massive Particles – Wikipedia](#)
- 2 [Euclid Overview](#)
- 3 [James Webb Space Telescope Newsletter Article](#) – page 6 onwards
- 4 [ESA's Gaia](#)



Euclid Image from ESA,
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Idiota! The Perils and Folly of Swiss Summer Skiing

Contributed by IMCZ Sports' editor Joseph Dow



No Ski Down in Summer

Being the ski fanatic that you know I am, it might surprise you to learn I'm not a devotee of summer skiing in Switzerland. A few bad experiences, hassles specific to the off-season, and the overall energy required just make skiing in the summer not worth the effort. Let me enlighten and dissuade you, so you can avoid these pitfalls and enjoy something more rewarding in the summertime.

When I first arrived in Switzerland at the end of the 2007 ski season, I couldn't wait to ski in July/August. The two options are close to each other, although a bit far from Zug. The fabulous resorts of **Zermatt** and **Saas-Fee** in Wallis offer skiing in the summer, but there are some major drawbacks.

First off, lugging your equipment on the train for 3 ½ hours, each way, in the summer heat, is no fun. Everyone is going to stare and gawk at you, thinking with good reason that you are a crazy person. Many will even ask you if you are indeed insane or make some lame joke. Once at the resort, you will realize that summer skiing is quite expensive, more than a winter day pass, and susceptible to wind closure because you have to go up to the limited, open terrain at very high altitude. Next, you will recognize that you are not alone. All the national ski teams from around the globe go to these resorts for off-season training. If you haven't met ski team members, you have not experienced the world's most entitled and inconsiderate brats. Then there's "Gigi" (*not his real name*), the Italian guy, who runs the main summer ski lift in **Zermatt/Cervinia**. He's always there, every season, and surprisingly he's not the most pleasant guy. We'll get to him later.



Unaware of these complications, the thought of skiing in July was irresistible to me and I had to go. So, I gathered up my gear, booked a couple nights at a nice hotel and headed to Zermatt. Unfortunately, weather was not on my side and those winds I mentioned shut down the skiing for the entire weekend. My equipment seemed extra heavy on the way back to Zug. Undeterred, I booked another weekend a short time later.

The line for lift tickets in the morning is ridiculous and you're wearing warm clothes ... in the summer. Hesitantly, I bought the 2-day ticket to avoid a second day in the line after the girl assured me I could get a

refund for any day closed by weather. Up, up, up I went on the long ride to the **Klein Matterhorn** (3883 m ü.M.). At the top, lies a T-bar, only open in the summer, which takes you to the **Gobba di Rollin**. At 3899 m ü.M., this lift provides access to the highest pisted skiing in Europe. The views of the nearby **Breithorn** (4164 m ü.M.) are spectacular, although the ski slope seems a bit flat.

Once you get a bit down to the main place, you might be shocked to see that 2/3s of the small area is roped off and reserved for the ski teams. I could probably have lived with that fact, if it weren't for the obnoxious behaviour of the racers. When not making their official training runs, they all come over to the public area, along with their coaches, for a few more runs at full racing speeds, expecting other skiers to just get out of their way. After being buzzed multiple times by these unyielding maniacs, traveling at least 100 km/hr., I realized that my head and stomach were slightly affected from the altitude and decided to go into the upper station for a hot tea and short rest.

Upon returning to the slopes, I suddenly realized no one was skiing, the ropes were all gone, and I was treated to a blissful run down towards the lift. As I approached the T-bar, which was rolling along, I heard some commotion from behind the shack. Gigi popped out yelling and screaming, wildly pointing at what looked to be a paper plate nailed to the enclosure. The crude clock hands drawn in ballpoint ink appeared to simulate a clock reading 2 o'clock. "*Idiota! Idiota!!! Idiota!!!! Two! Two!! Two!!! Idiota!!!!!!!!!!*" I looked at my watch, which read 2:05pm. That's another unexpected thing about summer skiing: the operating times are shortened and skiing stops at 2pm sharp, of which I was oblivious. Gigi refused to calm down and kept ranting with all his being. Finally, I yelled back, gesticulating, "*Hey! I know YOU have to let ME go UP to go DOWN, so keep yelling, pal . . .*" Finally, he angrily allowed me to get on the T-bar, continuing his refrain of "*idiotas!*" until I left earshot. At the second lift to get to the top, the Swiss, who runs that lift, scowled at me and without saying a word, tapped his index finger to his Rolex to let me know what was what. Cultural difference, I guess.

Back in the valley, the shuttle bus was bursting at the seams with passengers. As I got on with the doors slamming behind me, I noticed an old woman wobble and almost fall. She had stumbled over a ski team bimbo sitting barefoot in the middle of the floor next to a humungous gear bag. Before I could say, "*What the Hell?*" Karma struck in the form of a ski boot (not mine) accidentally landing on Heidi's toe. What a day!

Of course the second day shut down for high wind. Sure enough, the partial refund became an issue. I figured I wouldn't get a full half of the money back, only the discounted lesser portion for the second day, but I wasn't ready for that less another 10 CHF. "*Whoa, why is it so little?!?*" "*There is also our work, administrative fee . . .*" "*For what?!?*" "*Filling out that slip of paper for me to sign!?! Oh Hell no. Get your manager, Karin!*" What a weekend!

Ok, so I'm a glutton for punishment and decided to go back a few seasons later. Sure enough, Gigi was still there running the lift. I had to chuckle when some rapscallion from one of the junior ski teams zipped up to the lift line and kicked up a huge cloud of snow. Snow went all over his friends and the rest of the skiers in line much to the chagrin of Gigi. Of course the kid being a ski team punk responded to the rant by putting his finger to his head to indicate what he thought of Gigi's mental health. "*Oh boy*", I cheered, "*this is going to be great!*" I got to live vicariously through Gigi as he extracted his revenge on the foolish trickster. Run after run, the dejected kid stood there waiting for about 45 minutes before Gigi allowed him to get on the lift with the understanding that he was not to come back down and to proceed directly back to the village. Better him than me!

Based on my experiences, I suggest your off-season skiing happen during the Zermatt Ski Test Weekends in mid to late November or right before the summer on Titlis in Engelberg, at the tail end of the season in May. The snow is much better, more terrain is available, and it's easy to avoid coming face to face with our Italian friend!

**Think snow!!! Think snow!!! Think snow!!!
Think snow!!! Think snow!!!**



Breithorn



Gobba di Rollin 3899m



Monte Rosa

Additional Information

Matterhorn Paradise:

www.matterhornparadise.ch/en/Experience/Zermatt-ski-area/Summer-ski

Gobba di Rollin:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gobba_di_Rollin

Ski Test Weekends in November – Zermatt:

www.matterhornparadise.ch/en/Experience/Zermatt-ski-area/Skitest-Zermatt

Saas-Fee:

www.saas-fee.ch/en/summer-activities/summer-ski

Engelberg/Titlis:

www.titlis.ch/en/activity/detail/Skiing/4485/60328



Hut above Zermatt



Bachalpsee



POLL OF MEMBERS SHAPING OUR FUTURE

Organised by IMCZ President, Richard Beswick

A survey of members was conducted on line with the polling function in WildApricot. 37 of 110 club members responded to the poll in March, with their opinions on the club, expectations for events and other activities and satisfaction with different aspects of their membership. A second wave did not yield any further returns and the survey was closed with the 37 entries as the sample. The results have now been analysed. Here is a summary of the results.

The Questions

How interested are you in the following types of events that IMCZ could organize: **CULTURAL EVENTS** (e.g. carnival, museums, theatre, concerts...)? Please rate each type of event on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "not interested at all" and 5 being "very interested"

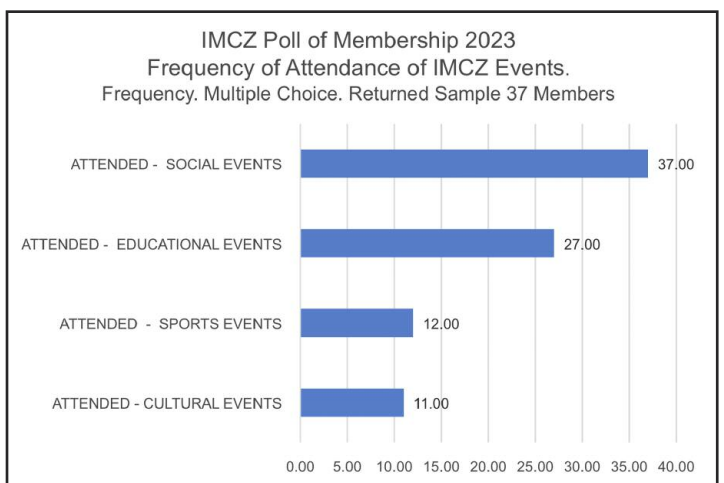
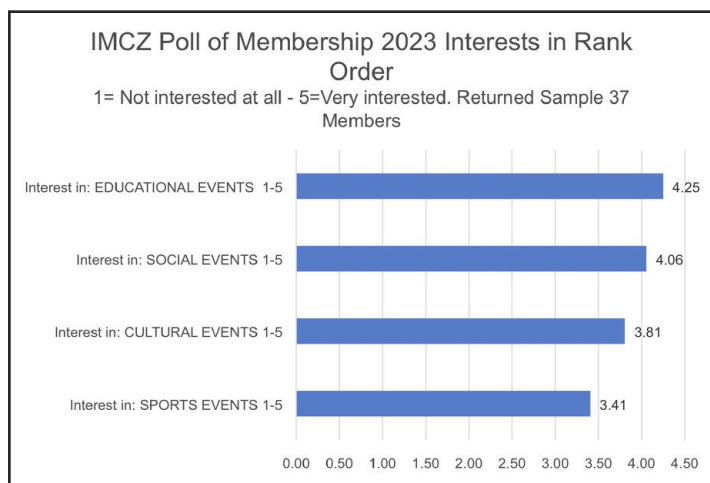
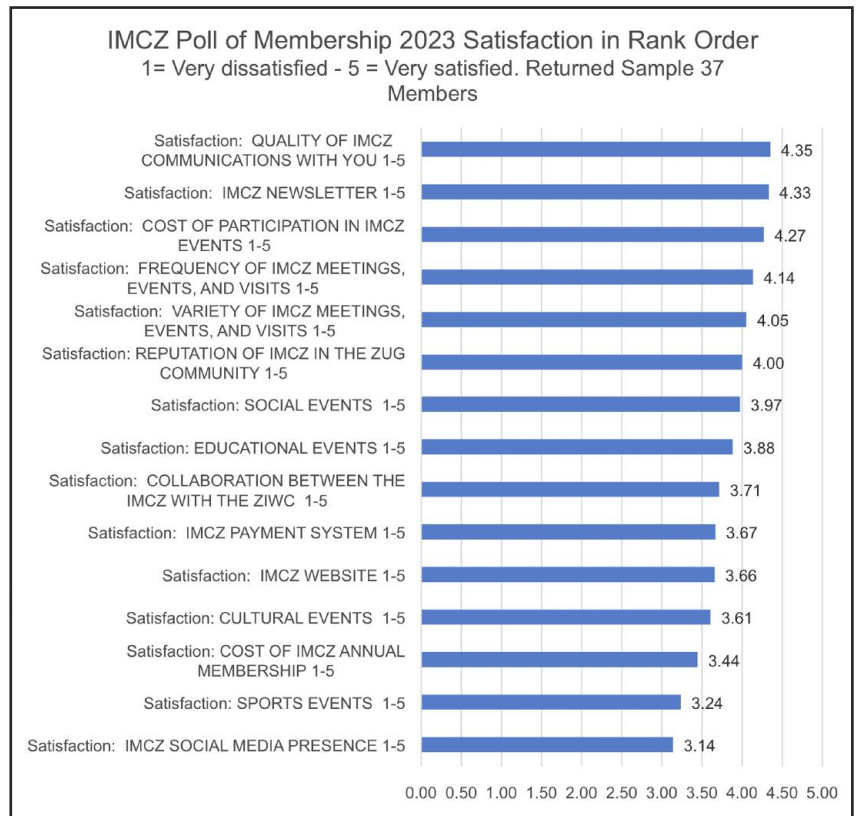
How interested are you in the following types of events that IMCZ could organize: **SPORTS EVENTS** (e.g. skiing, hiking, golfing, swimming...)? Please rate each type of event on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "not interested at all" and 5 being "very interested"

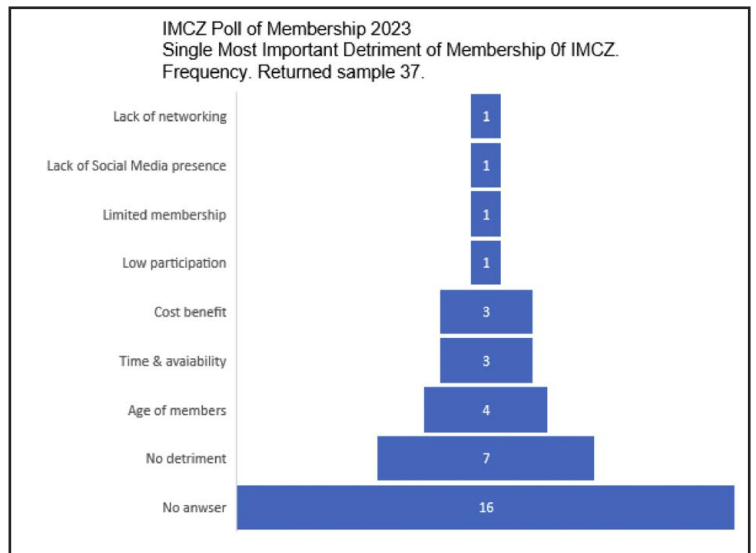
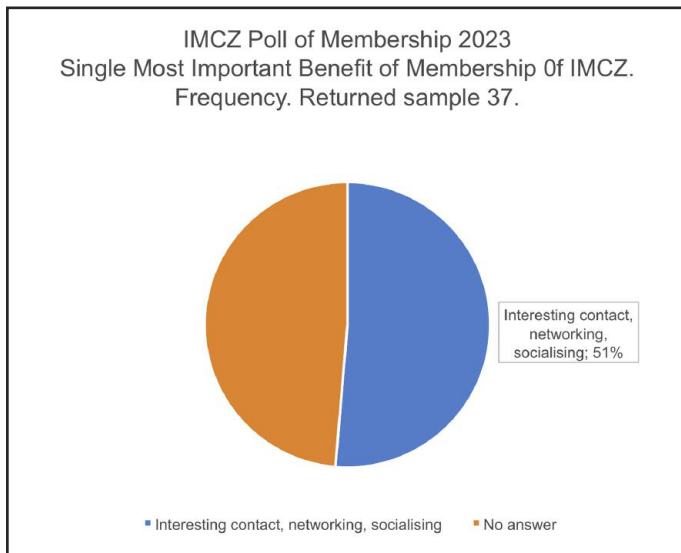
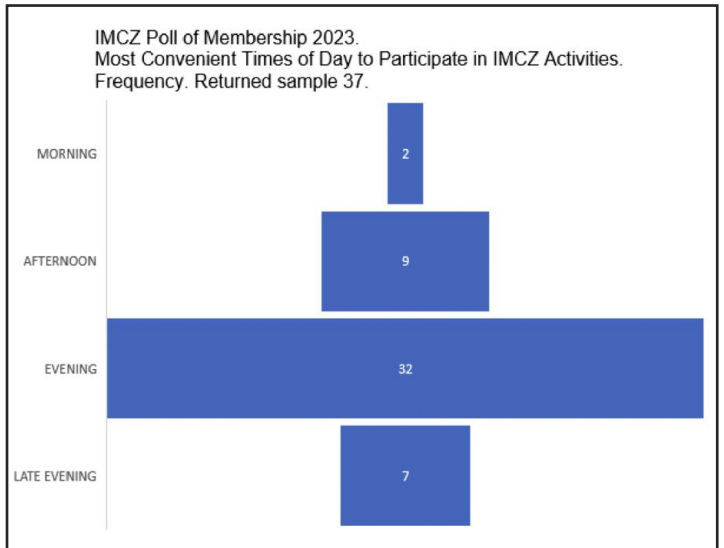
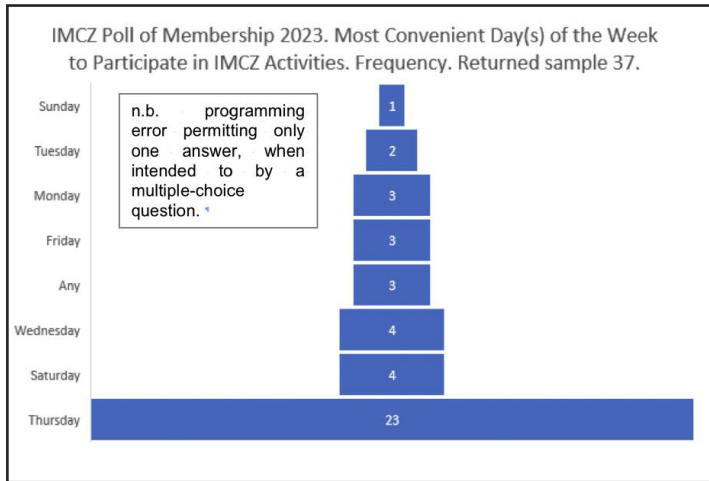
How interested are you in the following types of events that IMCZ could organize: **SOCIAL EVENTS** (e.g. Stammtisch, dinners, parties, networking...)? Please rate each type of event on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "not interested at all" and 5 being "very interested"

How interested are you in the following types of events that IMCZ could organize: **EDUCATIONAL EVENTS** (e.g. wine tasting, degustation, interest groups, guest speakers...)? Please rate each type of event on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "not interested at all" and 5 being "very interested"

Total 37 votes

The Results





Comments / Suggestions captured from the poll

In addition to the above information, many of you took time to give some specific suggestions, complaints or praise. Thank you for this information. The board are reviewing it and will take your comments to heart. If anyone wishes to have a look at the comments, we're happy to make them available to any IMCZ member on request.

Summary and conclusions

Among those that responded, there seems to be general satisfaction with the club and what it provides. Of course, there are criticisms, and these are taken seriously by the Board, and where they have widespread validity, action will ensue. I look forward to reviewing the results with members and the board as the occasion arises and make the following call to action to all IMCZ Members:

- To make their voices heard regularly to the Board and Presidency.
- To propose activities and events that they want to see incorporated into our programme.
- To attend our weekly Stammtisch, whenever they can.
- To volunteer their time to organise and deliver IMCZ events.
- To encourage their family and friends to join IMCZ.

Explaining Politics

A little boy goes to his dad and asks, "What is politics?" The dad says, "Well son, let me try to explain it this way: I'm the breadwinner of the family, so let's call me capitalism. Your mother, she's the administrator of the money, so we'll call her the government. We're here to take care of your needs, so we'll call you the people. The nanny, we'll consider her the working class. And your baby brother, we'll call him the future. Now, think about that and see if that makes sense." The little boy goes off to bed thinking about what dad had said. Later that night, he hears his baby brother crying, so he gets up to check on him. He finds that the baby has soiled his diaper. The little boy goes to his parents' room and finds his mother sound asleep. Not wanting to wake her, he goes to the nanny's room. Finding the door locked, he peeks in the keyhole and sees his father in bed with the nanny. He gives up and goes back to bed. The next morning, the little boy says to his father, "Dad, I think I understand the concept of politics now." The father says, "Good son, tell me in your own words what you think politics is all about." The little boy replies, "Well, while capitalism is screwing the working class, the government is sound asleep, the people are being ignored and the future is in deep s**t."



Fiscal Stimulus

Three contractors are bidding to fix a broken fence at the White House. One is from Chicago, another is from Tennessee, and the third is from Minnesota. All three go with a White House official to examine the fence. The Minnesota contractor takes out a tape measure and does some measuring, then works some figures with a pencil. "Well," he says, "I figure the job will run about \$900. \$400 for materials, \$400 for my crew, and \$100 profit for me." The Tennessee contractor also does some measuring and figuring, then says, "I can do this job for \$700. \$300 for materials, \$300 for my crew, and \$100 profit for me." The Chicago contractor doesn't measure or figure, but leans over to the White House official and whispers, "\$2,700." The official, incredulous, says, "You didn't even measure like the other guys! How did you come up with such a high figure?" The Chicago contractor whispers back, "\$1000 for me, \$1000 for you, and we hire the guy from Tennessee to fix the fence." "Done!" replies the government official. And that, my friends, is how a stimulus plan works.



New Element Discovered

Lawrence Livermore Laboratories has discovered the heaviest element yet known to science.

The new element, Governmentium (Gv), has one neutron, 25 assistant neutrons, 88 deputy neutrons, and 198 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312.

These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons.

Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert; however, it can be detected, because it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. A tiny amount of Governmentium can cause a reaction that would normally take less than a second, to take from 4 days to 4 years to complete.

Governmentium has a normal half-life of 2- 6 years. It does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places. In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganization will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes.

This characteristic of morons promotion leads some scientists to believe that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a critical concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as critical morass.

When catalysed with money, Governmentium becomes Administratium, an element that radiates just as much energy as Governmentium since it has half as many peons but twice as many morons.

Cashing a cheque

Boris Johnson walks into a Bank

He needs to cash a cheque. As he approaches the cashier he says, "Good morning, could you please cash this cheque for me?"

The cashier says "It would be my pleasure. Could you please show me your ID?"

Johnson replies: "Truthfully, I did not bring my ID with me as I didn't think there was any need to. I am Boris Johnson, Prime Minister."

The cashier says: "Yes, I know who you are, but with all the regulations and monitoring of the banks because of impostors and forgers and requirements of the legislation, etc., I must insist on seeing ID."



Johnson says: "Just ask anyone here at the bank who I am and they will tell you. Everybody knows who I am."

The Cashier responds: "I am sorry, Mr Johnson, but these are the bank rules and I must follow them."

Johnson says: "Come on please, I am urging you, please cash this cheque."

The cashier relents.

"Alright sir, here is an example of what we can do," he says.

"One day, Tiger Woods came into the bank without an ID. To prove he was Tiger Woods he pulled out his putter and made a beautiful shot across the Thames into a cup of tea held by the bank's chairman without spilling a drop. With that shot we knew him to be Tiger Woods and cashed his cheque.

"Another time, Gordon Ramsay came in without an ID. To prove who he was, he made delicious chicken parm right here on my table, called the branch manager a fucking donkey, and fired everyone at the fish and chips joint next door. With that we knew who he was and cashed his cheque. So sir, what can you do to prove that it is you and only you?"

Johnson stands there thinking and thinking and finally says, "Honestly, my mind is a total blank. There is nothing that comes to my mind. I can't think of a single thing. I have absolutely no idea what to do."

The cashier replies: "That will do just fine good sir, will that be large or small notes?"

Expatriates in New York

Three expatriates are drinking in a NY City bar

"As good as this is," said the Scotsman, "I still prefer the pubs back home. In Glasgow, there's a wee place called McTavish's. The landlord goes out of his way for the locals. When you buy four drinks, he'll buy the fifth.

"Well, Angus," said the Englishman, "at my local pub in London, the Red Lion, the barman will buy you your third drink after you buy the first two."

"Ahhh, dat's nothin'," said the Irishman, "back home in my favourite pub, the moment you set foot in the place, they'll buy you a drink, then another, all the drinks you like, actually. Then, when you've had enough drinks, they'll take you upstairs and see dat you gets laid, all on the house!"

The Englishman and Scotsman were suspicious of the claims.

The Irishman swore every word was true.

"Did this actually happen to you?" they asked.

"No not meself, personally, no," admitted the Irishman, "but it did happen to me sister quite a few times."

Low tech enlightenment

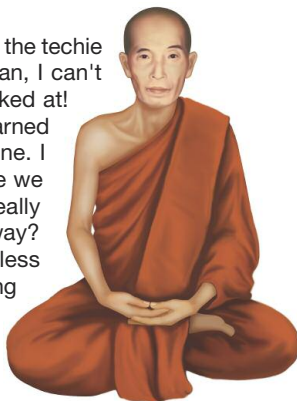
A young tech executive is strolling through his business campus to stretch his limbs and get some air. He sits on a bench to relax, and pulls out his phone. Distracted, he looks up to notice an elderly Buddhist monk has sat down next to him.

He nods greeting and looks back to his phone, scrolling through his cycle of apps and feeds. As he is about to get up and go back to work, he looks over at the monk, who is quietly gazing across the park.

"You it strikes me, how peaceful you look without a phone in your hand," he mused suddenly, having a moment of introspection. "I and everyone else I know have a constant stream of work, social, and entertainment content direct in our hands basically all the time, and for what? I feel like by looking from one funny picture to the next snap or whatever, I've skipped the last 15 minutes, and yet hear you are taking it in. You are experiencing."

The monk opens his mouth to speak, but the techie isn't done with his deep thinking. "I mean, I can't actually tell you one thing that I just looked at! Not one! I laughed a couple times and learned a few useless facts, but man, it's all gone. I guess you didn't see anything new while we were sitting here either, but does it really matter if I can't remember anything anyway? It's like a constant stream of pointless content that takes my time instead of using it, you know?"

The monk waits for him to finish, then smiles. "Son, my battery is dead."



Programming logic

The programmer's spouse asks the programmer to go to the store.

The spouse says, "Get a loaf of bread, if they have eggs, get a dozen."

The programmer comes home with a dozen loaves of bread and says, "They had eggs."

How to get out of shopping

After I retired, my wife insisted that I accompany her on her trips to the local grocery store. Unfortunately, like most men; I found shopping boring and preferred to get in and get out. Equally unfortunate, my wife is like most women - she loves to browse. Yesterday my dear wife received the following letter, from the local store manager:

Dear Mrs. Harris:

Over the past six months, your husband has caused quite a commotion, in our store.

We cannot tolerate this behaviour and have been forced to, ban both of you from the store.

Our complaints against your husband, Mr. Harris, are listed below and are documented by our video surveillance cameras:

1. June 15: He took 24 boxes of condoms and randomly put them in other people's carts when they weren't looking.
2. July 2: Set all the alarm clocks in Housewares to go off at 5-minute intervals.
3. July 7: He made a trail of tomato juice on the floor leading to the women's restroom.
4. July 19: Walked up to an employee and told her in an official voice, 'Code 3 in Housewares. Get on it right away'. This caused the employee to leave her assigned station and receive a reprimand from her Supervisor that in turn resulted with a union grievance, causing management to lose time and costing the company money. We don't have a Code 3.
5. August 4: Went to the Service Desk and tried to put a bag of M&Ms on layaway.
6. August 14: Moved a, 'CAUTION - WET FLOOR' sign to a carpeted area.
7. August 15: Set up a tent in the camping department and told the children shoppers he'd invite them in if they would bring pillows and blankets from the bedding department to which twenty children obliged.
8. August 23: When a clerk asked if they could help him he began crying and screamed, 'Why can't you people just leave me alone?' EMTs were called.
9. September 4: Looked right into the security camera and used it as a mirror while he picked his nose.
10. September 10: While handling guns in the hunting department, he asked the clerk where the antidepressants were.
11. October 3: Darted around the store suspiciously while, loudly humming the, 'Mission Impossible' theme.
12. October 6: In the auto department, he practiced his, 'Madonna Look' using different sizes of funnels.
13. October 18: Hid in a clothing rack and when people browsed through, yelled 'PICK ME! PICK ME!'
14. October 22: When an announcement came over the loud speaker, he assumed a fetal position and screamed; 'OH NO! IT'S THOSE VOICES AGAIN!'
15. Took a box of condoms to the checkout clerk and asked where is the fitting room?

And last, but not least:

16. October 23: Went into a fitting room, shut the door, waited awhile; then yelled very loudly, 'Hey! There's no toilet paper in here.' One of the clerks passed out.





Members' Marketplace

Are you **selling** your yacht (harboured in Piraeus)?

Your Aston-Martin old-timer with the roll top roof?

A gorgeous view of the Bay of Biscay, with a little bit of house attached?

Or are you cashing in the half of your stamp collection that is finally worth something?

Perhaps you're **looking** for all of these things?

Then ADVERTISE here, in the IMCZ News;

The Members' Marketplace is reserved for unformatted advertisements of 150 characters (approx. 3 lines) of text. These are free of charge to IMCZ members.

Advertisements must be submitted as illustrated below. Longer advertisements cost CHF 30.-

Example: FOR SALE: gorgeous view of Bay of Biscay with stunning sunsets and high waves. Wee house (12 rooms), dock and yacht included. Call Bill at 041 123 45 67.

IMCZNEWS Advertising Rates

The IMCZ newsletter is delivered bi-monthly to about 200 members representing 20 nationalities. IMCZ members have personal or professional interests in both the international community and in the canton of Zug.

Format: A4 vertical, full color.

Ad content delivery: electronic by e-mail, .pdf, .jpg, .gif

Advertising Rates:

- Full page, A4 vertical. (19 x 27.7 cm), Fr. 210.-
- 1/2 Page, A5 horizontal (19 x 13.5 cm), Fr. 115.-
- 1/3 Page, vertical (6.3 x 27.7 cm), Fr. 85.-
- 1/3 Page, horizontal (19 x 9.2 cm), Fr. 85.-
- 1/4 Page, A6 vertical (9.2 x 13.5 cm), Fr. 65.-
- 1/4 Page, horizontal (19 x 6.9 cm), Fr. 65.-
- Business Card (9.2 x 6.45 cm) Fr. 40.-

Extra costs may be incurred for typesetting, special formatting, etc.

Discount for year of advertising - 20%

Discount for members - 20% off single adverts, 30% off annual advert



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