

Cloaking device

LONDON: Invisibility devices, long the realm of science fiction and fantasy, have moved closer after scientists engineered a material that can bend visible light around objects. The breakthrough could lead to systems for rendering anything from people to large objects, such as tanks and ships, invisible to the eye — although this is still years off. Researchers at the University of California at Berkeley, whose work is funded by the US military, have engineered materials that can control light's direction of travel. The world's two leading scientific journals, *Science* and *Nature*, are expected to report the results this week. It follows earlier work that achieved similar results with microwaves. Like light, these are a form of electromagnetic radiation but their longer wavelength makes them far easier to manipulate. Achieving the same effect with visible light is a big advance.

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