(From the London Times, dated five years ago)

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Physicist's theories might aid in space travel

Dr. Julian Levitz, an American physicist, raised eyebrows on both side of the Atlantic while speaking at the International Space Science Symposium today about his controversial new theories. Dr. Levitz's studies have led him to believe that the particles that make up our physical universe are not stable but merely held together by what he called "magnetron fields." If sufficient energy were used to affect these fields, he said, we might be able to control the very shape of the universe, making space travel much easier.

Other scientists are skeptical about the physicist's ideas.

"I was serving on the editorial board at the Journal of Space Sciences when he first submitted this theory," said Dr. Harold Fletcher, one of the attendees at today's

symposium. "I rejected it then, and I reject it now. Levitz's reasoning is badly flawed."

Another scientist, Dr. Deborah Klochman, was not as harsh but remained unconvinced.

"I'd have to take another look at his numbers to say for sure," she said, "but off the top of my head I'd have to say that Levitz needs to double-check his math before presenting at a symposium. This is going to hurt his reputation in the space science community."

Dr. Levitz was unavailable for comment.

Tomorrow is the last day of the International Space Science Symposium. Scheduled speakers include Dr. Henry Clark from NASA and Dr. Margaret Fischer from Germany.