

But this discovery has implications even for our own galaxy, the Milky Way. Though far in the future, it is likely that in about two billion years from now, we will collide with the slightly larger Andromeda Galaxy, creating shocks of our own. In that case, our future descendents will have a ring-side sea.

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Credit: Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

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P.N. Appleton, K.C. Xu, W. Reach, M.A. Dopita, Y. Gao, N. Lu, C.C. Popescu, J.W. Sulentic, R.J. Tuffs, and M.S. Yun

Powerful High-Velocity Dispersion Molecular Hydrogen Associated with an Intergalactic Shock Wave in Stephan's Quintet

The Astrophysical Journal, 639:L51-L54, 10 March 2006

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