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Romanian astro-physician discovers that stellar radiation is stronger than previously thought

published in issue 4182 page 6 at 2008-05-16

An international research team that includes Romanian astro-phyician Cristina C. Popescu from the University of Central Lancashire (Great Britain), has discovered that the Universe is two times brighter than previously thought.

Great Britain's Science and Technology Facility Council together with Germany's Max Planck Society have announced on Thursday the conclusions reached by astronomers, namely the fact that cosmic dust blocks nearly half of the stellar radiation produced in the Universe. The details have been published in the recent issue of the 'Astrophysical Journal Letters' publication, in its May 10 issue.

The new result has been obtained on the basis of the new cosmic dust distribution model, a model proposed by Dr. Cristina C. Popescu and Dr. Richard J. Tuffs (Max Planck Institut fuer Kernphysik, Germany), combined with the data obtained by observing 10,000 galaxies, data compiled by the team led by Dr. Simon Driver (University of St. Andrews, Great Britain).

'The issue of whether the light that we see from far away galaxies reveals the whole story has been disputed for nearly 20 years. And now we know it doesn't. In fact only half of the energy produced by stars reaches our telescopes, the rest being blocked by grains of cosmic dust,' Dr. Simon Driver has pointed out.

Two years ago the international press announced the discovery of one of the largest intergalactic shockwave, a discovery to which Dr. Cristina Popescu contributed. Since then and until the recent result the Romanian astro-physician's research has centered on the theoretical modeling of the processes connected to the stellar radiation's interaction with the cosmic dust present in the galaxies.

by Rompres

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