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August 18th, 2009

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LONDON - A new research by scientists has claimed that dark energy - the mysterious substance thought to make up three-quarters of the universe - may not actually exist.

The concept of dark energy was created by cosmologists to fit Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity into

reality after modern space telescopes discovered that the Universe was not behaving as it should.

According to Einstein's work, the speed at which the Universe is expanding following the Big Bang should be slower than it actually is and this unexplained anomaly threatened to turn the whole theory upside down.

In order to reconcile this problem, the concept of dark energy was invented.

But now, according to a report in the Telegraph, Blake Temple and Joel Smoller, mathematicians at the University of California and the University of Michigan, believe they have come up with a whole new set of calculations that allow for all the sums to add up without the need for this controversial substance.

The research could change the way astronomers view the composition of our Universe, as it may prove that dark energy doesn't exist at all.

The Standard Model of Cosmology, which describes the evolution of the Universe, begins with the Big Bang.

Astronomers have recently observed that the galaxies are accelerating as they move away from each other, and cosmologists have sought to explain this unexpected acceleration by introducing the concept of dark energy, which permeates space, propels matter, and accounts for nearly 75 percent of the mass-energy in our Universe.

The new research is likely to be equally controversial as the work it purports to challenge especially as it relies on our galaxy being at the centre of the Universe - a concept that has been generally disregarded in modern science.

According to Dr Malcom Fairbairn, particle cosmologist at King's College London, "Ever since the concept of dark energy was first mentioned, people have been trying to explain it or explain it away. It is a mystery and an inconvenience."

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"This is one attempt at it. Whether it is right only time will tell," he said. (ANI)

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**Type 1a supernovae vital for making precise measurement of Universe's expansion rate**

August 13th, 2009

WASHINGTON - A new study has determined that type 1a supernovae will have to be taken into account if astronomers are to use them for more precise measurements of cosmic distances and dark energy that is accelerating the expansion of the universe. The discovery of dark energy, a mysterious force that is accelerating the expansion of the universe, was based on observations of type 1a supernovae.

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**NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory completes 10th anniversary**

July 26th, 2009 WASHINGTON - NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory has completed its 10th anniversary, ushering in an unprecedented decade of discovery for the high-energy universe. Chandra was launched ten years ago, on July 23, 1999, aboard the space shuttle Columbia and deployed into orbit.

**NASA celebrates Chandra X-Ray Observatory's 10th anniversary**

July 23rd, 2009 WASHINGTON - NASA said Thursday it will release three new versions of the classic images taken by Chandra X-Ray Observatory to commemorate the telescope's 10th anniversary. One of the images was released Thursday, while the remaining two, would be released in the next three months.

**Indian boffin creates camera with invisible flash that takes pics sans the glare**

July 17th, 2009 LONDON - An Indian researcher along with a colleague has developed a camera that takes photos with an invisible flash of infrared and ultraviolet light points to a smarter way to take photos in the dark. Dilip Krishnan and Rob Fergus at New York University made the camera to do away with intrusive regular flashes.

**Milky Way survived ancient heat wave because of dark matter**

July 1st, 2009 WASHINGTON - A new theory by scientists says that our Milky Way galaxy survived intense heat generated by the "ignition" of the Universe about half-a-billion years after the Big Bang, because it was already immersed in a large clump of dark matter that trapped gases inside it. Tiny galaxies, inside small clumps of dark matter, were blasted away by the heat that reached approximate temperatures of between 20,000 and 100,000 degrees centigrade, according to the scientists, including experts at Japan's University of Tsukuba.

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**Astronomers discover most dark gamma-ray bursts occur in normal galaxies**

*June 9th, 2009* WASHINGTON - An international team of astronomers has found most dark gamma-ray bursts occur in normal galaxies detectable by large, ground-based optical telescopes. Gamma-ray bursts are the universe's biggest explosions, capable of producing so much light that ground-based telescopes easily detect it billions of light-years away.

**Radio astronomers demonstrate vital tool for unraveling mystery of dark energy**

*June 9th, 2009* WASHINGTON - Radio astronomers have directly measured the distance to a faraway galaxy, providing a valuable "yardstick" for calibrating large astronomical distances and demonstrating a vital method that could help determine the elusive nature of the mysterious Dark Energy that pervades the Universe. "We measured a direct, geometric distance to the galaxy, independent of the complications and assumptions inherent in other techniques," said James Braatz, of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO).

**Paint your roofs white to slow global warming, says Obama's energy adviser**

*May 27th, 2009* LONDON - US President Barack Obama's energy adviser has suggested that as part of efforts to slow global warming, all the world's roofs should be painted white. According to a report in the Telegraph, Professor Steven Chu, the US Energy Secretary, said that the unusual proposal would mean homes in hot countries would save energy and money on air conditioning by deflecting the sun's rays.



**The Universe is flat, but not entirely**

*May 19th, 2009* LONDON - In a move that is reminiscent of scientists rejecting the view held by many people in the medieval times that the Earth is flat, a team of researchers has dismissed the notion that the Universe is completely flat. According to a report in New Scientist, when it comes to the universe, "flatness" refers to the fate of light beams traveling large distances parallel to each other.

**Child's ghostly image caught on new spirit-catching camera**

*May 13th, 2009* LONDON - British spook hunter Paul Rowland has revealed that he might have invented a device by which he can capture spirits on camera, especially after he captured the ghostly image of a child with it. The instrument works by using ultraviolet and infrared lights to enhance images other cameras miss, and the chilling discovery was made while taking a picture with the camera at the Welsh mansion he was working in.

**Dark Knight composer scores double nods at Classical Brits**

*April 21st, 2009* LONDON - Music composer James Newton Howard has been nominated twice in the best soundtrack category at the Classical Brits for his work on films The Dark Knight and I Am Legend. Co-composer Hans Zimmer is also nominated for his work in the Dark Knight, reports The BBC.

**I've been through a dark place, says McCartney about divorce**

*January 27th, 2009* LONDON - Beatles legend Sir Paul McCartney spoke about his traumatising divorce from Heather Mills and said that he has been through 'a dark place'. Thesun.co.uk reports that the

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66-year old McCartney made an honest confession about the split which revealed that he is 'a man who needs love'.

**'The Dark Knight' steals show at People's Choice Awards**

*January 7th, 2009* LONDON - Batman sequel 'The Dark Knight' bagged the maximum awards at the 35th annual People's Choice Awards in Los Angeles recently. The action film bagged favourite superhero, movie, on-screen match-up, action movie and cast at the close of the event, reported [contactmusic.com](#).

**'Iron Man' beats 'The Dark Knight' in best movie poll**

*December 31st, 2008* LONDON - The movie 'Iron Man' has beaten 'The Dark Knight' in the best movie poll conducted by [inthenews.co.uk](#). According to [contactmusic.com](#), 'Iron Man' took in an estimated \$101 million and earned 23.4 percent of the vote.

**'The Dark Knight' not released in China**

*December 26th, 2008* LONDON - Record-breaking Batman movie 'The Dark Knight' has not been released in China due to cultural sensitivities. Despite the movie opening in Hong Kong, Warner Bros.

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"He who joyfully marches to music rank and file, has already earned my contempt. He has been given a large brain by mistake, since for him the spinal cord would surely suffice. This disgrace to civilization should be done away with at once. Heroism at command, how violently I hate all this, how despicable and ignoble war is; I would rather be torn to shreds than be a part of so base an action. It is my conviction that killing under the cloak of war is nothing but an act of murder." - Albert Einstein

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