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August 19, 2009

Dark Energy's Demise? New Theory Doesn't Use the Force

Filed under: [Science Extreme](#), [Space](#) — thewere42 @ 8:30 pm



Dark energy, a [mysterious force proposed more than a decade ago](#) to explain why the universe is flying apart at an increasingly faster clip, is no longer necessary.

That's the conclusion of a controversial new theory that shows how the accelerated expansion of the universe could be just an illusion.

In a new study, two mathematicians present their solutions to Einstein's field equations of general relativity, which describe the relationship between gravity and matter.

The work suggests that our home galaxy sits inside a vast

region of space in which there's an unusually low density of matter due to a post-big bang wave that swept through the universe.

From our viewpoint, other galaxies outside this region appear to have moved farther away than expected, when really they're right where they should be.

"If correct, these solutions can account for the anomalous accelerated expansion of galaxies without dark energy," said study team member Blake Temple of the University of California, Davis.

Other experts call the attempt to excise dark energy from models of the universe "commendable." But the same scientists note that the new theory could violate a cornerstone of modern cosmology, which would make dark energy's demise very hard for astronomers to accept.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/08/090818-dark-energy-einstein.html>

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