



<https://www.hermanus.astronomy@gmail.com>

## “The Southern Cross”

The Hermanus Astronomy Centre’s Monthly Newsletter

### March 2026

#### *MONTHLY MEETINGS*

On Tuesday **February 17<sup>th</sup>**, at our Monthly meeting held virtually on Zoom, our **Annual General Meeting** was followed by **Mick Fynn’s** *Outreach* presentation.

herewith the YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDdR6CmkBqA>

And for the Dropbox transcript:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/ciwp18qjur0cyfbkyr58m/audio1746264660.m4a?rlkey=98un0sl25mduvp4puiqx6sdpy&dl=0>

Also, please see the attached Chairman’s Report.

At our **March 24<sup>th</sup>** meeting, the presenter will be **Prof Kalevi Mursula**, speaking from Finland on Zoom. His topic is “*Space climate: How do the Sun and the near-Earth Space Change in Time?*”

He writes, “In this talk I will discuss the different ways whereby the Sun affects the Earth, how solar magnetic activity has changed in time and how this change has modified the near-Earth space and space weather conditions.”

This will be a hybrid meeting at the **Onrus Manor** activities hall. A bio and synopsis will be circulated. Invites will be circulated to all current members.

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#### *SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES*

##### *Cosmology*

The **March 3<sup>rd</sup>** meeting featured episode 37 of the Entire History of the Universe, ep. 37 “*The Eternal Landscape - What was there Before the Universe?*”

The link for the YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/h6BdWzMbWzw?si=6hIrRuBwkeaB1slq>

The link for the discussion will be forwarded shortly.

Episode 38 follows on **April 7<sup>th</sup>**: “*The layers of Reality – What is Reality?*”

For further information regarding the Cosmology Group, contact Derek Duckitt – [derek.duckitt@gmail.com](mailto:derek.duckitt@gmail.com)

### The Study Group

On **February 24<sup>th</sup>**, we watched “*The Neanderthals were Human*”, a much covered topic but well received and ending with a proactive discussion.

The YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVR88OdJeng&t=157s&pp=ygU9dGhlIG5lYW5kZXJ0aGFsIHByb2JsZW0gdGhhdCBzY2llbnRpc3RzIGRvbid0IHdhbnQgdG8gZGlzY3VzZcw%3D%3D>

The link for the discussion will be forwarded shortly.

The topic for our next meeting, scheduled for **Tuesday March 31<sup>st</sup>**, will be advised in due course. For further information regarding the Study Group, contact Peter Harvey [petermh@hermanus.co.za](mailto:petermh@hermanus.co.za) .

### Observing

No suitable evenings were available during February. Optimal dates for **March 2026**:

#### **SUGGESTED EVENING OBSERVATION WINDOWS** *(Lunar observations notwithstanding)*

	<i>Date</i>		<i>Moon</i>	<i>Dusk end</i>
	<b>March 8</b>	<b>Rise</b>	<b>21h35 (77%)</b>	<b>21h16</b>
	<b>to March 23</b>	<b>Set</b>	<b>20h45 (12%)</b>	<b>20h14</b>

### Outreach

In a small contribution to Pierre’s and Mick’s tireless outreach efforts, Peter Harvey hosted a gathering of five aspirant astronomers to view the partial Solar Eclipse on February 17th.



### ASSA

**From Tim Cooper**

The link to the latest Comet, Asteroid and Meteor Section:

<https://assa.sao.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2025/12/ASSA-CAMnotes-2026-Number-1.pdf>

## MNASSA

The Monthly Notes of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa are available on:

<http://www.mnassa.org.za/>

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*Astronomy News February 2026 continued overleaf...*

FEBRUARY ASTRONOMY PICTURE

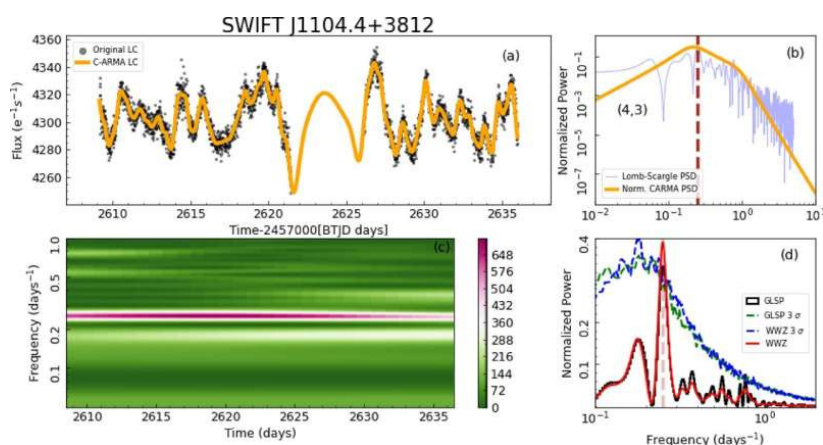


**NGC 55: A Galaxy of Nebulas**

**Image Credit & Copyright:** [Wolfgang Promper](#); Text: [Ogetay Kayali \(MTU\)](#)

**Explanation:** Can you see nebulas in other galaxies? Yes, some [nebulas](#) shine brightly enough -- if you know how to look. Clouds of [hydrogen](#) and [oxygen](#) emit light at very specific colours, and by isolating them, astronomers and astrophotographers can reveal structures that would otherwise be [too faint](#) to notice. [This deep, 50-hour exposure](#) highlights glowing [hydrogen](#) (red) and [oxygen](#) (blue) across galaxy [NGC 55](#), viewed nearly [edge-on](#). Also known as the [String of Pearls Galaxy](#), [NGC 55](#) is often compared to our [Milky Way's](#) satellite galaxy the [Large Magellanic Cloud](#) (LMC), although NGC 55 lies much farther away at about 6.5 million [light-years](#). The resulting image [uncovered](#) a sprinkling of [emission nebulas](#) within and sometimes above the galaxy's [dusty disk](#), offering a detailed look at distant [star-forming](#) regions.

**TESS observations reveal sustained quasi-periodic oscillations in multiple blazars**



*The TESS light curve and time series analysis results for SWIFT J1104.4+3812 (Mrk 421). Credit: Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society (2025). DOI: 10.1093/mnras/staf2211*

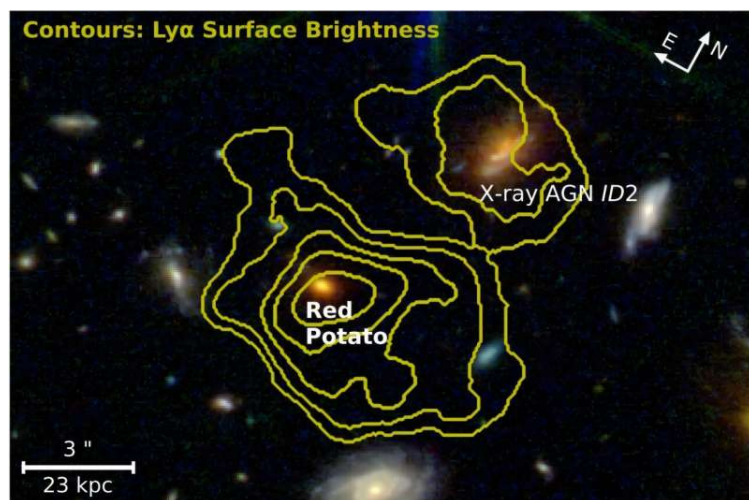
Quasi-periodic oscillations (QPOs) are a rare phenomenon in active galactic nuclei. They have been observed to occur at periods ranging from minutes to hours, days, weeks, and even years across the electromagnetic spectrum. A new study by Ashutosh Tripathi from the Xinjiang Astronomical Observatory

of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, together with his collaborators, has identified highly significant short-timescale QPOs in several blazars.

In this study, 38 objects were found to be variable. These objects were further investigated for the periodic signatures with generalized Lomb-Scargle periodogram and weighted wavelet Z-transform methods. Four objects were found to have periodicity with very high significance. "The [periods of these oscillations](#) were found to be in the range of five to 10 days for all objects. One object exhibited a quasi-periodic signal in observations taken one year apart over five years. This suggests that the periodic behaviour persists during intervals without TESS observations, indicating the potential for a QPO lasting several years," said Tripathi. These periodicities

are attributed to either the temporal evolution of a kink in the jet due to the plasma-driven instabilities or to the presence of sub-structures in the jet. The results of this study provide insight into our basic understanding of these compact systems and demonstrate the effectiveness of using time-series analysis methods to search for periodic features. <https://phys.org/news/2026-02-tess-reveal-sustained-quasi-periodic.html>

### 'Red Potato' galaxy discovered by astronomers



Galaxy MQN01 J004131.9-493704 "Red Potato" at  $z=3.25$  and its surrounding cool Ly $\alpha$ -emitting gas reservoir. Credit: arXiv (2026). DOI: 10.48550/arxiv.2601.20473

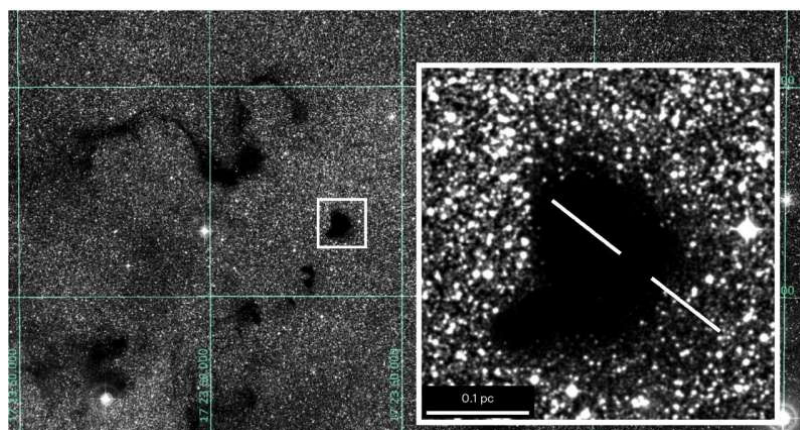
Using the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), an international team of astronomers has discovered a new massive and quiescent red galaxy, which they dubbed "Red Potato." A team of astronomers led by Weichen Wang of the University of Milan, Italy, has recently observed a [gas-rich cosmic web node](#) at a redshift of approximately 3.25, designated MQN01. In general, such cosmic web nodes and protoclusters at high redshifts are known to host rich reservoirs of cool and

molecular gas. Therefore, these structures are expected to be sites of exceptionally efficient formation of massive galaxies via gas accretion. By investigating MQN01 with [JWST's Near Infrared Camera \(NIRCam\)](#) and Near Infrared Spectrograph (NIRSpec), Wang's team has serendipitously discovered a new massive red galaxy. Due to its morphology and color, they named it "Red Potato." "In this work, we present the discovery of a massive quiescent galaxy in a gas-rich environment of a cosmic web node or protocluster at  $z \sim 3.2$ , identified and spectroscopically confirmed from a JWST program," the researchers write in the paper.

[https://phys.org/news/2026-02-red-potato-galaxy-astronomers.html#google\\_vignette](https://phys.org/news/2026-02-red-potato-galaxy-astronomers.html#google_vignette)

### Cosmic radiation brought to light: Researchers measure ionization in dark cloud for the first time

Where starlight doesn't reach, new things are born: For the first time, an international research team has directly measured the effect of cosmic radiation in a cold molecular cloud. The observation shows how charged high-energy particles influence the gas in these lightless regions where stars are formed. Dr. Brandt Gaches, head of the Emmy Noether Group Towards the Next Generation in Cosmic Ray Astrochemistry at the University of Duisburg-Essen, was part of the effort to propose and observe these effects with the James Webb Space Telescope and provided support through astrochemical models of cosmic-ray chemistry. [The findings](#) are published in *Nature Astronomy*. Researchers recently developed the idea of using the new, extremely sensitive James Webb Space Telescope to measure extremely faint infrared lines that arise when cosmic rays directly excite the gas. The theoretical concept of these directly excited lines dates back decades, but direct observations have evaded astronomers. Previous studies, including work by Gaches, used chemical models to show that these near-infrared lines are a reliable tracer of cosmic-ray ionization.



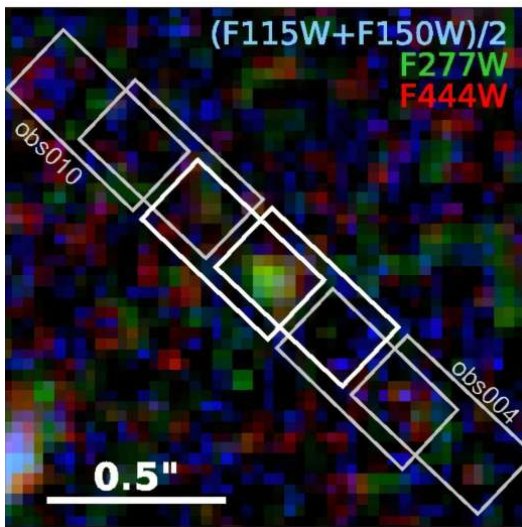
Cosmic-ray-excited H<sub>2</sub> emission from B68. Credit: Nature Astronomy (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41550-025-02771-9>

Stars and planets form in cold, dense clouds of gas and dust. One such cloud is called Barnard 68, located about 500 light years from Earth in the constellation Ophiuchus. Its interior is 9 Kelvin (-264 °C) cold and so dense (and thus opaque) that light can hardly



penetrate it. Cosmic rays play an important role here, as high-energy, charged particles from space ionize the gas and regulate the chemistry and temperature, enabling the buildup of complex chemistry in these cold and dense regions. <https://phys.org/news/2026-02-cosmic-brought-ionization-dark-cloud.html>

### JWST discovers a new extremely metal-poor dwarf galaxy



*JWST observations of CAPERS-39810: a composite RGB image constructed from JWST NIRCam imaging, where the F444W, F277W, and the average of the F115W and F150W bands are mapped to the red, green, and blue channels, respectively. The white polygon denotes the configuration of the NIRSpec shutters. Credit: arXiv (2026). DOI: 10.48550/arxiv.2601.17498*

Using the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), astronomers have discovered a new dwarf galaxy, which received designation CAPERS-39810. Further investigation of CAPERS-39810 revealed that it is an extremely metal-poor galaxy. The discovery was [detailed in a paper](#) published January 24 on the arXiv pre-print server. Metal-poor galaxies at high redshift are important probes of early star formation and chemical enrichment. They can also provide insights into the properties of the low-metallicity massive stars that drove the process of reionization in the early universe. One of the tools that is suitable to detect such galaxies is JWST. According to the paper, CAPERS-39810 has a [stellar mass](#) of about 104.7 million solar masses and a stellar population age of 270 million years. The star-formation rate of this dwarf galaxy was calculated to be 0.26 solar masses per year. The collected data indicate that CAPERS-39810 has a metallicity at a level of -1.96 dex. This makes it an extremely metal-poor galaxy (EMPG) and is indicative of its primitive chemical composition, resembling the early stages of galaxy formation in the universe.

<https://phys.org/news/2026-02-jwst-extremely-metal-poor-dwarf.html>

### New map of the Milky Way's magnetism offers insights into cosmic evolution

A UBC Okanagan-led research project has given a group of international scientists their clearest view yet of the Milky Way's magnetic field, revealing that it is far more complex than previously believed. This research is part of a larger initiative called the Global Magneto-Ionic Medium Survey (GMIMS), initiated by Dr. Tom Landecker, an astronomer at DRAO and adjunct professor at both UBCO and the University of Calgary.



*The DRAO 15m telescope at work scanning the sky for the DRAGONS survey. The data collected by this survey is a new generation of radio surveys that allow scientists to continue mapping the Milky Way and its three-dimensional magnetic field structure. Credit: Luca Galler.*

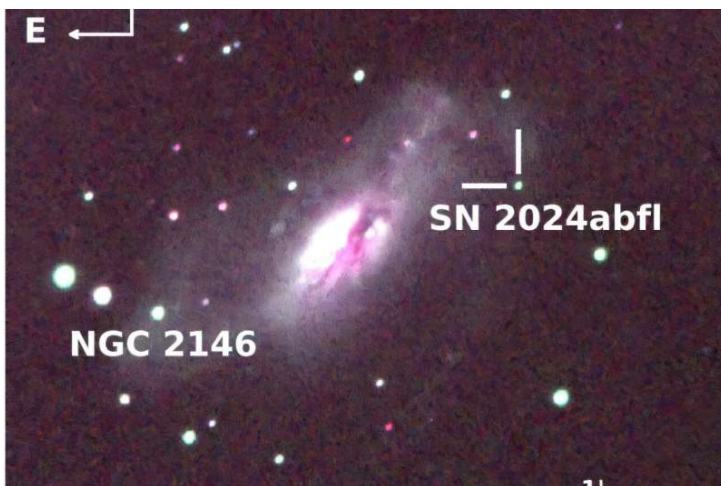
The work builds on a [theoretical insight](#) first proposed in 1966, which showed that polarized radio waves observed at many frequencies enable measurements of the three-dimensional structure of the Milky Way's magnetic field. At the time, the technology needed to observe this effect across wide frequency ranges did not exist. Modern broadband telescopes, including the DRAO 15m telescope, have made this research possible.

The project was the first scientific use of the 15m telescope, which DRAO originally built as a prototype antenna for the SKA—a large radio telescope currently under construction in Southern Africa and Western Australia. "DRAGONS is like a

compass, telling us how matter and magnetic fields in the galaxy are organized and how the magnetic field interacts with bubbles created by supernova explosions, spiral arms, and other parts of the galaxy in ways that have never been possible before."Magnetic fields shape how stars are formed and how galaxies evolve, explains Dr. Hill."For decades, we could only measure the Milky Way's magnetic field in a very averaged, simplified way," says Dr. Hill. "But its magnetic field is an important piece of the puzzle when it comes to understanding how the universe and everything in it operates and came into being."

<https://phys.org/news/2026-01-milky-magnetism-insights-cosmic-evolution.html>

### Recently discovered SN 2024abfl is a low-luminosity Type IIP supernova, astronomers find



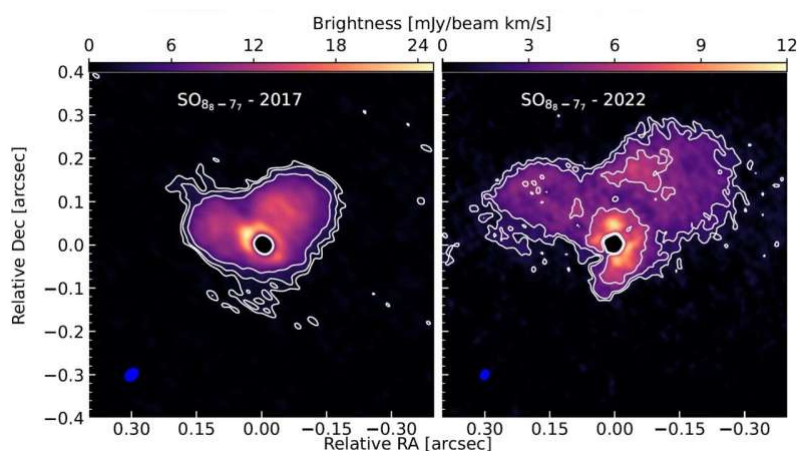
*SN 2024abfl and its host galaxy NGC 2146. Shown is an RGB composite assembled from Xinglong 35-cm telescope g-, r-, and i-band exposures at  $t = 4.4$  days after the explosion. Credit: Chen et al., 2026.*

An international team of astronomers has conducted photometric and spectroscopic observations of a recently discovered supernova designated SN 2024abfl. [Results of the observational campaign](#), presented February 4 on the preprint server *arXiv*, yield important insights into the properties of this stellar explosion. Supernovae (SNe) are powerful and luminous stellar explosions. They are important for the scientific community as they offer essential clues

into the evolution of stars and galaxies. In general, SNe are divided into two groups based on their atomic spectra: Type I (no hydrogen in their spectra) and Type II (showcasing hydrogen spectral lines).Based on the shape of light curves, astronomers generally divide Type II supernovae (SNII) into two classes. Type II-Linear supernovae (SNe IIL) have a fairly rapid, linear decay after maximum light, while Type II-Plateau supernovae (SNe IIP) remain bright (on a plateau) for an extended period of time after maximum. This plateau in the light curve of a standard SN IIP typically lasts about 100 days.SN 2024abfl is an SN IIP discovered on November 15, 2024, in the galaxy NGC 2146 at an apparent magnitude of 17.5. Further observations of SN 2024abfl have classified it as a low-luminosity SN IIP, and an analysis of archival data from the Hubble Space Telescope have identified a possible progenitor of this supernova, with an initial mass of 9–12 solar masses.

<https://phys.org/news/2026-02-sn-2024abfl-luminosity-iip-supernova.html>

### Mira A ejects seven Earth masses, forming a heart-shaped cloud 300 light-years away



*Gas forms a heart-shaped cloud around the star Mira A, while dust seems to be confined almost exclusively to the outer edges. Credit: Chalmers University of Technology*

Just in time for Valentine's Day, space offers a heart-shaped greeting. The star Mira A, about 300 light-years from Earth, has released material into an expanding cloud of gas and dust resembling a heart. Both the amount of material and the speed at which the star ejected it were unexpected."We were very surprised to see this structure. We also see that the star's illumination of the surrounding

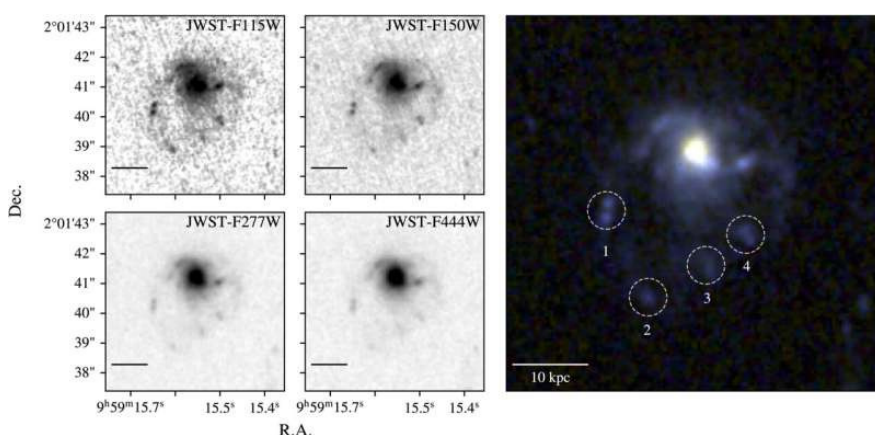
dust varies in an unexpected way, which implies that the star acts like a lighthouse—illuminating its environment unevenly," says Theo Khouri, Chalmers astronomer and lead author of the new study.Mira A is a well-known star, with its first documented observation as far back as 1596. As a red giant star in the last stages

of its life cycle, it ejects dust and gas into the surrounding environment. A team of astronomers led by Khouri, discovered two large clouds of material expanding away from Mira A while analyzing observations of the star acquired between 2015 and 2023. The large amount of material—roughly a hundred times more than expected, or equivalent to seven times the mass of Earth—drew the attention of the team. They studied the ejected material in detail to better understand how the mass-loss mechanism works for this type of star.

<https://phys.org/news/2026-02-mira-ejects-earth-masses-heart.html>

## JWST spots most distant jellyfish galaxy to date

Astrophysicists from the University of Waterloo have observed a new jellyfish galaxy, the most distant one of its kind ever captured. Jellyfish galaxies are named for the long, tentacle-like streams that trail behind them. They move quickly through their hot, dense galaxy cluster, and the gas within the cluster acts like a strong wind pushing the jellyfish galaxy's own gas out the back, forming trails. The technical term for this process is ram-pressure stripping. The Waterloo scientists found this galaxy in deep space data captured by the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). It is at  $z = 1.156$ , meaning we're seeing it as it was 8.5 billion years ago, when the universe was much younger.



Thumbnail images of COSMOS2020-635829 for the four JWST filters used in this work. The red-green-blue image on the right is a combination of JWST F444W (red channel), F277W (green channel), and F115W + F150W (blue channel). The dashed circles mark the four extraplanar sources that are identified in the tail of COSMOS2020-635829. Credit: *The Astrophysical Journal* (2026). DOI: 10.3847/1538-4357/ae3824

The data provides a rare insight into how galaxies were transformed in the early universe and challenges conceptions of what the universe would have been like 8.5 billion years ago. The paper, "[JWST Reveals a Candidate Jellyfish Galaxy at  \$z = 1.156\$](#) ," appears in *The Astrophysical Journal*. The team made the discovery while examining the [COSMOS field](#)—Cosmic Evolution Survey Deep field—a particular patch of the sky that many telescopes have observed to study distant galaxies. Astronomers chose this patch because it is far from the plane of our own galaxy, and so there is little contamination from stars and dust in the Milky Way. It lies in a region of the sky visible from both the northern and southern hemispheres and free of bright foreground objects, giving astronomers an unobstructed view of the distant universe.

<https://phys.org/news/2026-02-jwst-distant-jellyfish-galaxy-date.html>

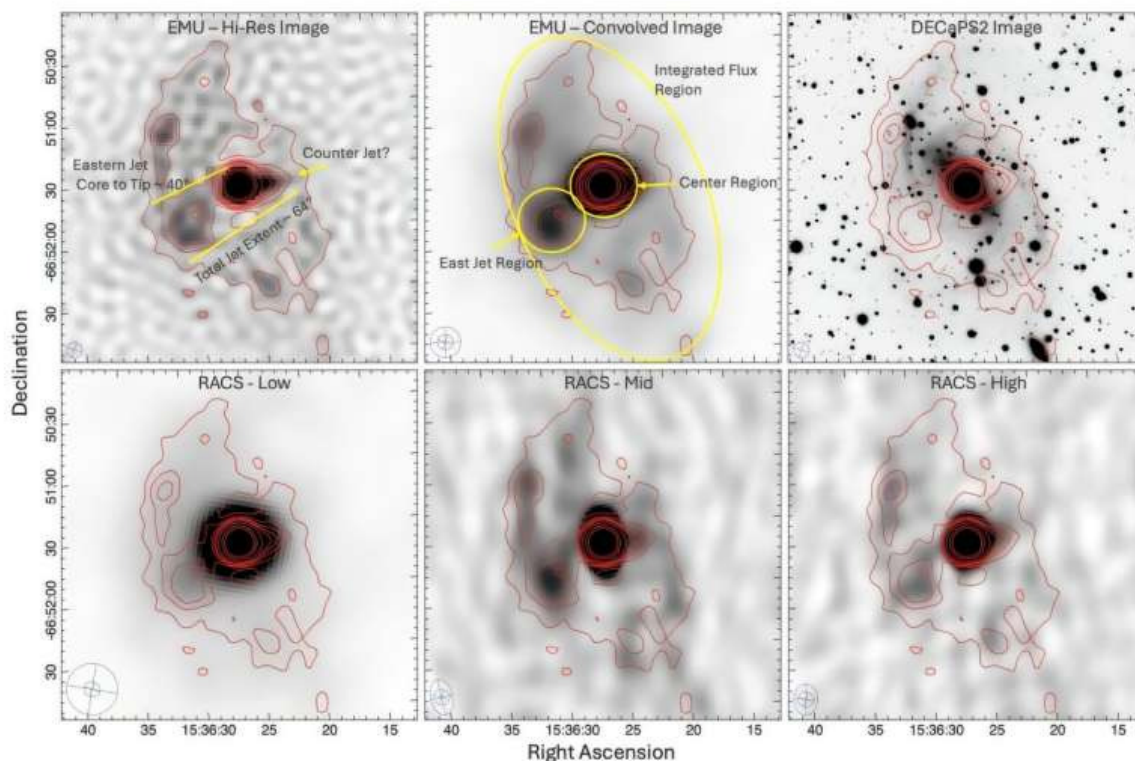
## Hydrogen sulfide detected in distant gas giant exoplanets for the first time

Hydrogen sulfide is what makes rotten eggs stink. But the discovery of this gas in the atmospheres of four distant, Jupiter-like planets is turning heads for a pleasant reason: It solves the mystery of how some gas giants form. The discovery, made by UCLA and University of California San Diego astronomers, marks the first time that hydrogen sulfide has been detected in a distant gas giant outside our own solar system. Additionally, the technique the researchers used to identify the gas will also improve the search for life on other planets. Gas giants, such as Jupiter and Saturn in our own solar system, are large planets made mostly of helium and/or hydrogen around a dense core, but they have a bit of an identity crisis. Planets form in the swirling disk of dust and gas around a newborn star. If the planet is about 13 times more massive than Jupiter, deuterium fusion occurs, a process that ignites a star-like object known as a brown dwarf, which straddles the line between planets and stars. But astronomers have also identified brown dwarfs smaller than 13 Jupiter masses. "The boundary between star formation and planet formation is quite fuzzy at these middle mass ranges," said UCLA postdoctoral researcher Jerry Xuan, who is a first co-author of a paper announcing these discoveries, published in *Nature Astronomy*. "The definition that says a brown dwarf is an object more massive than 13 Jupiter masses

is fairly arbitrary. It is not based on knowledge of how planets and stars form. "Xuan and colleagues at UCSD have now found some answers in four enormous gas giant planets that orbit a star called HR 8799, located approximately 133 light-years away in the constellation Pegasus. The smallest planet is five times more massive than Jupiter, and the largest is ten times more. The planets are far from their star, the closest one is 15 times farther away than Earth is from the Sun.

[https://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Hydrogen\\_sulfide\\_detected\\_in\\_distant\\_gas\\_giant\\_exoplanets\\_for\\_the\\_first\\_time\\_999.html](https://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Hydrogen_sulfide_detected_in_distant_gas_giant_exoplanets_for_the_first_time_999.html)

### Araish spiral galaxy observations uncover a 26,700-light-year radio jet



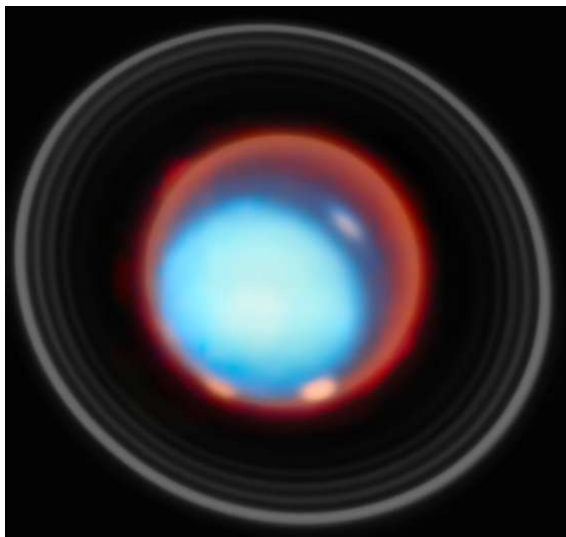
Radio and NIR observations of NGC 5938 (Araish). The top row (from left to right) shows the EMU Hi-Res image, the EMU Convolved Image, and the DECaPS2 optical z-band image. The bottom row shows the RACS Low, RACS Mid, and RACS High band images with the EMU Hi-Res contours overlaid at 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 25, 50, and 75  $\sigma$  on all panels, where  $\sigma = 65 \mu\text{Jy beam}^{-1}$ . Credit: arXiv (2026). DOI: 10.48550/arxiv.2602.09658

An international team of astronomers has performed multi-wavelength observations of the nearby Araish galaxy to investigate the origin of its radio emission. As a result, they detected an extended radio jet of this galaxy. Observations show that powerful radio jets are commonly observed in elliptical galaxies or massive quasars. However, their presence in spiral galaxies is relatively rare. These systems, known as spiral double radio-source associated with galactic nuclei (DRAGNs), are therefore unique galaxies where classical disk morphology coexists with large-scale radio jets. Located some 86.7 million light years away, [NGC 5938](#) is a nearby barred spiral galaxy. It was nicknamed "Araish," meaning "adornment" in Urdu, which reflects the galaxy's striking spiral morphology and active star-forming disk. Araish is an edge-on galaxy exhibiting prominent radio emission suggestive of activity driven by an active galactic nucleus (AGN).

<https://phys.org/news/2026-02-araish-spiral-galaxy-uncover-year.html>

## Webb maps the mysterious upper atmosphere of Uranus

For the first time, an international team of astronomers have mapped the vertical structure of Uranus's upper atmosphere, uncovering how temperature and charged particles vary with height across the planet. Using Webb's NIRSpec instrument, the team observed Uranus for nearly a full rotation, detecting the faint glow from molecules high above the clouds. These unique data provide the most detailed portrait yet of where the planet's auroras form, how they are influenced by its unusually tilted magnetic field, and how Uranus's atmosphere has continued to cool over the past three decades. The results, [published](#) in *Geophysical Research Letters*, offer a new window into how ice-giant planets distribute energy in their upper layers.

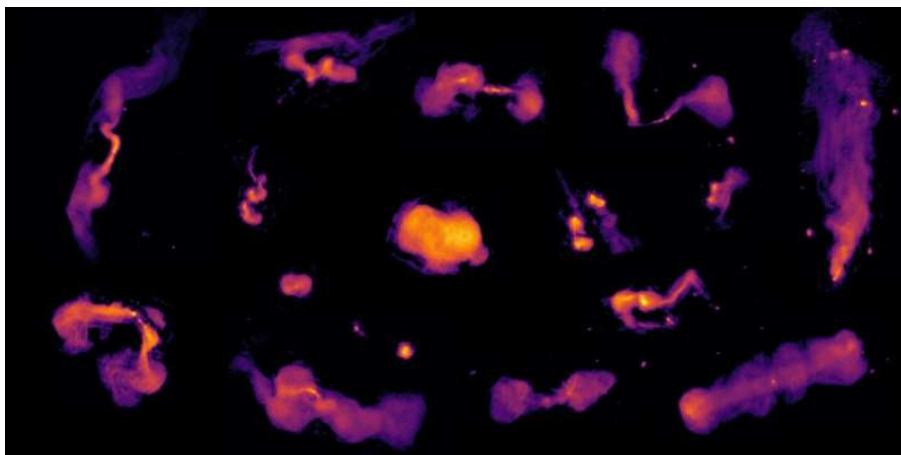


*Two bright auroral bands were detected near Uranus's magnetic poles, together with reduced emission and ion density in part of the region between the two bands (a feature likely linked to transitions in magnetic field lines). Credit: ESA/Webb, NASA, CSA, STScI, P. Tiranti, H. Melin, M. Zamani*

Led by Paola Tiranti of Northumbria University in the United Kingdom, the study mapped out the temperature and [density of ions](#) in the atmosphere extending up to 5,000 kilometres above Uranus's cloud tops, a region called the ionosphere where the atmosphere becomes ionized and interacts strongly with the planet's magnetic field. The measurements show that temperatures peak between 3,000 and 4,000 kilometres, while ion densities reach their maximum around 1,000 kilometres, revealing clear longitudinal variations linked to the complex geometry of the magnetic field.

<https://phys.org/news/2026-02-webb-mysterious-upper-atmosphere-uranus.html>

## Largest ever radio sky survey maps the universe in unprecedented detail



*A selection of radio lobes powered by supermassive black holes. Credit: Maya Horton and the LOFAR surveys collaboration.*

An international collaboration using the Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) has published an exceptionally detailed radio sky map, revealing 13.7 million cosmic sources and delivering the most complete census yet of actively growing supermassive black holes. It showcases an extraordinary variety of systems powered by these black holes, whose radio emission can extend for millions of light-years. The newly released LOFAR Two-meter Sky Survey (LoTSS-DR3) marks a major milestone in radio astronomy and international scientific collaboration. By observing the sky at low radio frequencies, the survey reveals a dramatically different view of the universe than that seen at optical wavelengths. Much of the detected emission arises from [relativistic particles](#) moving through magnetic fields, allowing astronomers to trace energetic phenomena such as powerful jets from supermassive black holes and galaxies undergoing extreme star formation across cosmic time. Thanks to its remarkable detail, the survey has also exposed rare and elusive objects, including [merging clusters of galaxies](#), faint supernova remnants, and flaring or interacting stars. The survey is already enabling hundreds of new studies across astronomy, offering fresh insights into the formation and evolution of cosmic structures, how particles are accelerated to extreme energies, and cosmic magnetic fields, while also making publicly available the most sensitive wide-area radio maps of the universe ever produced.

<https://phys.org/news/2026-02-largest-radio-sky-survey-universe.html>

## Committee Members

Derek Duckitt	(Chairman, Speaker Selector, website editor, Cosmology SIG co-ordinator)	082 414 4024 <a href="mailto:derek.duckitt@gmail.com">derek.duckitt@gmail.com</a>
Pierre de Villiers	(Vice-chairman, Speaker Selector, Projects and Outreach)	082 854 2277
Elaine Sykes	(Treasurer)	083 286 2683
Peter Harvey	(Secretary, <i>outgoing</i> ; Membership, “Skynotes”, “Southern Cross”, Study Group SIG co-ordinator, Observing co-ordinator)	081 212 9481 <a href="mailto:petermh@hermanus.co.za">petermh@hermanus.co.za</a>
Pete Kogel	(Secretary, <i>incoming</i> )	<a href="mailto:pkogel@mweb.co.za">pkogel@mweb.co.za</a>
Mick Fynn	(Educational outreach)	082 443 0848

## Non-committee members with portfolio:

Deon Krige	Astro-photography (SIG coordinator)
Pieter Kotzé	“Southern Cross” Astronomy News (Speaker Selector)