

New evidence: we really are at the centre of the universe

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Newly published data from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS), led by Max Tegmark of the University of Pennsylvania, shows that our galaxy is centred on a great concentric distribution of galaxies.

'October 27, 2003—Astronomers from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) have made the most precise measurement to date of the cosmic clustering of galaxies and dark matter, refining our understanding of the structure and evolution of the Universe.'¹ The web page goes on to say that 'The SDSS is the most ambitious astronomical survey ever undertaken, with more than 200 astronomers at 13 institutions around the world.' The SDSS, among other instruments, utilizes a very sensitive digital camera that can take pictures of the night sky in various colours to determine the position and brightness of millions of celestial objects in one-quarter of the entire sky. The camera is

the largest ever built for astronomical purposes, and so far, it has allowed a map of the universe as never before seen.

'We have made the best three-dimensional map of the Universe to date, mapping over 200,000 galaxies up to two billion light years away over six percent of the sky', said another lead author of the study, Michael Blanton from New York University.

The SDSS team has published a 2-D slice of the galaxy map on their website, showing about 67,000 galaxies that lie close to the Earth's equatorial plane. The 2-D map looks like two slices of pizza, as the Milky Way Galaxy obscures the view for much of the mid-sky. Figure 1 shows one of these map wedges. The small dots, each representing a galaxy, appear to form into enormous concentric structures centred on the middle (or the tip of the pizza slice), where our galaxy is located. (The other wedge also shows concentric structures, though not as clearly). Furthermore, the density distribution of galaxies is generally decreasing with the distance from the centre, which is the opposite of what a big bang cosmology would predict.

This recent SDSS map more clearly shows circular structures

centred on our galaxy than do earlier maps. It is more than an artefact of the sampling technique because the density distribution of galaxies is expected to increase with distance in a big bang universe, as one looks back in time. In this map, the galaxy density seems to oscillate (decrease and increase periodically) with distance hence the circular structures. This spatial galaxy density variation therefore can only result from the fact that galaxies are preferentially found at certain discrete distances.

Many assumptions have gone into the construction of this map, and as creationists, we would not agree that they are all justified. However, this new evidence is showing, on a very, very broad scale, something that creationists have believed for a long time. In particular, Russ Humphreys' paper 'Our galaxy is the centre of the universe, "quantized" red shifts show', described this very sort of thing, even though the structure he was describing was of much finer detail.²

If this map is correct, the evidence seems to suggest that the so-called 'cosmological principle', upon which all of big bang cosmology is based, is wrong. That principle, in short, says that there is no centre to the universe and thus observers in all positions in the universe would see similar random distributions. The picture shown here clearly contradicts the cosmological principle. It follows then that we must be located near the centre of the universe, which is consistent with the fact that we are at the centre of God's attention, both spiritually and physically.

References

1. Sloan Digital Sky Survey, <www.sdss.org/news/releases/20031028.powerspectrum.html>, 12 November 2003.
2. Humphreys, D.R., Our galaxy is the centre of the universe, 'quantized' red shifts show, *TJ* 16(2):95–104, 2002.

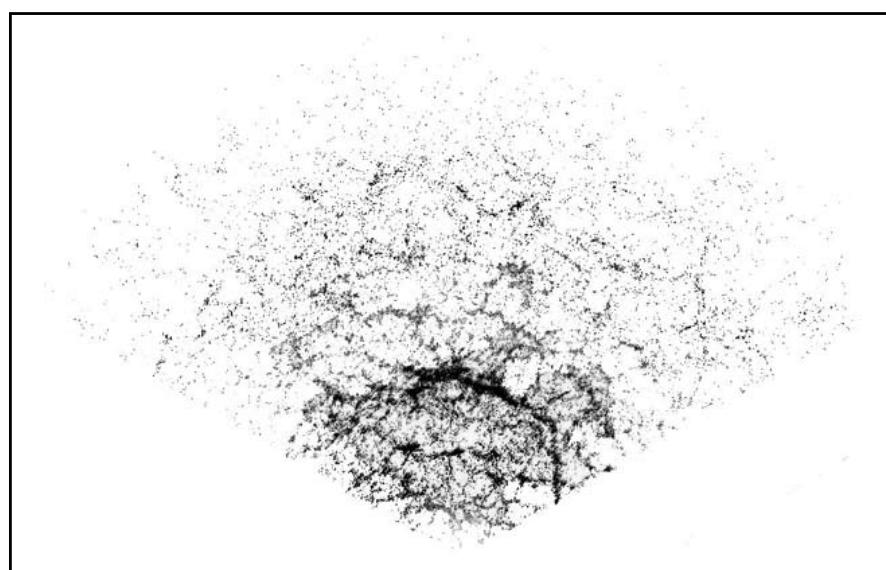


Figure 1. The approximately 33,500 galaxies, in this portion of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey map, shows what appears to be non-random concentric structure around the point of the wedge, which is Earth's location. Reproduced from the image at <www.sdss.org/news/releases/galaxy_zoom.jpg>.