

PRESS RELEASE: BLACK HOLES... DON'T EXIST!

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

Tilburg, The Netherlands: March 25th, 2025 – **Black holes don't exist... Who would have thought that? Virtually nobody. Yet, very convincing arguments have been presented by Dutch scientist Peter Damen (1965) in a recent paper, simultaneously submitted to the prominent science journal 'Nature' and published on the OSF preprint server, showing that this indeed appears to be the case.**

What are black holes?

Black holes are enigmatic and mesmerizing celestial bodies with characteristics that scientists still don't comprehend. Therefore, they have a fascinating attraction to scientists, but also to e.g. authors, film makers (blockbuster “Interstellar”!), and the general public as well.

To put it simply, black holes are supposed to be the end product of the implosion of a heavy star. That implosion is thought to continue until a very tiny dot containing all the mass of the imploded star is formed (the so-called singularity). Around this tiny dot, an empty space is present, which is bordered by a so-called event horizon. This event horizon is thought to function as a one-way passage: stuff can enter, but nothing can leave (not even light!).

Exactly 60 years ago, it was thought proven by British mathematical physicist Roger Penrose that these black holes can actually form in the physical reality. In 2020 he was even awarded a Nobel Prize for "the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity".

Black holes cannot form

Now, 60 years later, that remains to be seen. Dutch scientist Peter Damen shows, using several convincing lines of evidence, that black holes according to current physics cannot form, and consequently don't exist. Instead, a dark star is formed, essentially a clump of extremely compressed matter.

In one of his lines of evidence Damen shows that two mathematical procedures, supposedly confirming the existence of black holes, contain a crucial error, as they describe the behaviour of light instead of that of matter. And as it is not light, but matter that implodes, not the behaviour of light, but that of matter should have been described, Damen explains.

Another line of evidence shows that, according to Einstein's theory of relativity, the speed of light is physically equivalent to the event horizon, the outer border of a supposed black hole. Consequently, both the speed of light and the event horizon are equally unreachable by matter, and constitute so-called edges of the physical reality.

Damen also introduces a new limit c.q. barrier in stellar degeneracy physics, the Relativity barrier. This barrier is the result of the relativistic behaviour of matter. For material objects, time runs slower when they reach very high speeds or approach very high gravitational fields. This results in a *decrease* of the gravitational pull on matter. At the Relativity barrier a balance is reached between the outward directed increasing force of the extremely compacted matter and the inward directed *decreasing* gravitational force on the imploding matter. This balance is reached before the surface of the imploding heavy star reaches the theoretical event horizon. Hence, black holes cannot form. Instead, a dark star is formed, without a singularity, empty space, and event horizon.

General relativity has to be reinterpreted

Perhaps even more ground-breaking, this result also means that the theory of general relativity will have to be reinterpreted, as the mathematical foundation of that theory is incorrectly formulated.

Conclusion

The groundbreaking results described by Damen will undoubtedly lead to lots of discussions, and may have far-reaching consequences for the physics and cosmology communities.

Further information

Paper: https://osf.io/preprints/osf/65ap4_v1

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