Explained in 60 Seconds

A collaboration with Symmetry magazine, a Fermilab/SLAC publication

Dark Energy

Dark energy is the weirdest and most abundant stuff in the Universe. It is causing the expansion of the Universe to speed up, and the destiny of our Universe rests in its hands. However, we don't know much about dark energy.

Dark energy is everywhere and is extremely

billion years ago, dark energy's repulsive gravity overcame matter's attractive gravity, leading to the accelerating Universe.

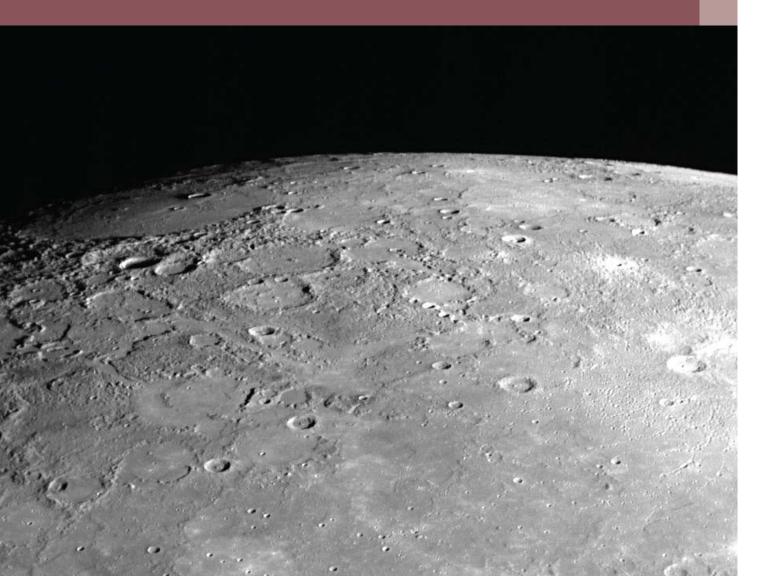
Figuring out dark energy is high on the to-do lists of both astronomers and physicists. During the next 20 years, ground- and space-based telescopes will shed new light

Key Words

Written Communication Case Study

Mercury's north pole. The surface shown in this image is from the side of Mercury not previously seen by spacecraft. Credit: NASA/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Carnegie Institution of Washington.

diffuse — a cubic metre of dark energy conon dark energy and perhaps bring a few surtains only as much energy as a hydrogen prises too. I, for one, believe that dark enatom — and it is not made of particles. Dark ergy is the most profound mystery in all of energy is like a continuous, extraordinarscience and that cracking the dark energy ily elastic medium. Its elasticity leads to its puzzle will lead to advances elsewhere, from defining and most spectacular feature: its understanding the birth of the Universe to gravity repels rather than attracts. For the illuminating string theory. first nine billion years after the Big Bang, the attractive gravity of matter caused the ex-Michael S. Turner pansion of the Universe to slow down. Five University of Chicago As MESSENGER sped by Mercury on 14 January, 2008, it captured this shot looking toward



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