

# Re: quark black holes

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2006-06/msg00420.html>

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- *From:* Paul Winalski <[prune@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:prune@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 07 Jun 2006 22:49:44 GMT
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Mikhael,

Please read the article more carefully. The quote from Rachid Ouyed in the second paragraph says "it turns out there's possibly something in between called a quark star." Meaning in between neutron stars and black holes. In other words, a quark star is NOT a black hole. It's a possible state of matter between the neutron star state and the black hole state.

The journalist who wrote the article got sloppy when he wrote the summary in the first paragraph where he says that "black holes may be made up of the smallest particles in the universe" (i.e., made up of quarks). That is NOT what the U. of Calgary researcher is saying, if you read the rest of the article. Ouyed is saying that we used to think the neutron star was the densest star, and the next step is the black hole. Now it's thought that there might be another step—the quark star—in between. Again, this article is NOT saying that black holes are made out of quarks, except in that poorly-worded summary paragraph at the front.

Shame on the AAS's editors for not correcting this before it was published.

Clear skies,

–Paul W.

On Tue, 06 Jun 2006 22:02:06 GMT, "Mikhael" <[mikha@xxxxxxx](mailto:mikha@xxxxxxx)> wrote:

Here is how the article went ;

"AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Tiniest particles star of conference :

Re: quark black holes

Black holes may be made up of the smallest particles in the universe, according to a University of Calgary researcher.

"People thought neutron stars are the last stage before the black hole," said astrophysics professor Rachid Ouyed. "Well, it turns out there's possibly something in between called a quark star."

About a dozen other astrophysicists are studying the same theory. They listened intently as Ouyed presented his hypothesis Monday at the 208th American Astronomical Society meeting in Calgary.

More than 400 scientific papers will be presented over the week. So far, the giant science fair has drawn more than 600 stargazers to the Telus Convention Centre.

Ouyed said that as a star becomes denser, its building blocks get smaller because of the gravitational pressure. Eventually, they are reduced to free quarks, the smallest things there are.

It has long been thought the densest stars are made out of neutrons. Many scientists believe that once neutrons get super tight, they form a black hole – a gravitational force so strong that it sucks up everything around it, including light.

Comprised entirely of free quarks, the star would measure only 15 kilometres in diameter. If proven true, the theory could change the way scientists think about our skies.

"It's exciting because we're learning about the tiniest things in the universe," said Ouyed. The next step, he said, is finding concrete evidence.

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SEE..it says BLACK HOLES

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Remove 'Z' to reply by email.

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