

On the case of the "missing" helium

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On the case of the "missing" helium (Oct 27)

<http://physicsweb.org/article/news/10/10/16>

Astrophysicists may have solved the embarrassing problem of why there is so much less helium-3 in the universe than predicted by standard cosmology and star-evolution theories. Peter Eggleton of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in the US and colleagues at Monash University in Australia have calculated that when aging low-mass stars swell to become "red giants", the large amount of helium-3 they have produced is pushed down into the stars' hot interiors, where it is then burnt up. The result suggests that our understanding of the Big Bang is correct after all (Scienceexpress 1133065).