

ASTROPHYSICS SEMINAR

Wednesday, 15 April 2009 at 11:00

The Orion Nebula's 2 million degree bubble

Kevin Briggs
ETH Zürich, Switzerland

Abstract. The Orion Nebula is one of astronomy's best-loved, most-photographed and well-studied objects. As the closest example of a rich star-forming region, it gives us perhaps the best insight into the environment in which our own solar system formed. Recent X-ray observations have serendipitously revealed a hitherto well-kept secret: a two-million degree plasma filling the cavity associated with the Nebula. I describe the discovery, origin and implications of this hot bubble, which appears to have burst, providing a continuous source of hot, enriched material to the interstellar medium, complementing the larger, infrequent discrete inputs from supernova explosions.

Additional Information

The seminars are given in the ISDC "Pavillon" building
Address: ISDC Data Centre for Astrophysics, ch. d'Écogia 16, CH-1290 Versoix
WWW: ISDC Seminars: <http://isdc.unige.ch/?Science+seminars>