



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI CAGLIARI
Facoltà di Scienze MM. FF. NN.

Corso di Laurea Specialistica in Fisica

SVILUPPO DI CODICI PER LA RICERCA DI PULSAR BINARIE

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Anno Accademico 2005/2006

A Marta e a Sandro

SPACE 'SIGNALS' MAY BE FROM INTELLIGENT BEING

PULSATING STAR TRACED

By Dr. ANTHONY MICHAELIS
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AN entirely novel kind of star, or the first signal from other intelligent beings in space, has been discovered by radio astronomers in Cambridge. It came to light on Aug. 6 last year and, at first, the extremely regular pulsations of the new radio source could only be explained by intelligent signalling.

The star was referred to by astronomers as LGM (Little Green Men).

Now, with further tests under way, their opinion has changed and it is thought to be a novel type between a white dwarf star and a neutron.

The name **Pulsar** (Pulsating Star) is likely to be given to it. Since last August four others have been discovered.

"Natural explanation"

Dr. A. Hewish of the Cavendish laboratory, Cambridge, told me yesterday: "We think there is a natural explanation. We have eliminated any source within our own solar system and have found it to lie within our own galaxy.

"It pulsates every 1.337 seconds with extreme accuracy, better than one part in 10 million. Since we published the results last week I have had several telephone calls from America. I am sure that today every radio telescope is looking at the Pulsars. It is the greatest thing in radio astronomy for a long time."

Sir Martin Ryle, director of the Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory, Cambridge, where they were discovered, described them as "the funniest stars I have ever come across."

The accurate pulsations were noticed first by Miss S. Jocelyn Bell, a Ph.D. student from Ireland working under Dr. Hewish. At the observatory at Barton, near Cambridge, I saw the interplanetary scintillation aerial, the telescope with which they were discovered.

Mr. B. Elsmore, of the observatory, said that the telescope made of thin cedar wood supports, 12ft high, containing 50 miles of wire, cost less than £1,000.

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