

In Brief: Study backs Einstein notion on expanding universe

November 24 2010, By MALCOLM RITTER , AP Science Writer

Scientists have found new evidence that an idea Albert Einstein regretted ever having may be key to solving a big mystery: why the universe is expanding at an ever-faster clip.

That idea is the cosmological constant, sort of a repelling influence in empty space. Einstein inserted it in his <u>theory of general relativity</u> in 1917. He later called it the biggest blunder of his life. But today, many scientists believe it explains the ever-faster expansion of the universe.

In Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*, French researchers report analyzing observations of pairs of distant galaxies. Their results fit with the idea that the <u>cosmological constant</u> is driving the expansion. But cosmologist Michael Turner of the University of Chicago said still more work is needed to confirm that idea.

More information: Christian Marinoni & Adeline Buzzi (2010) A geometric measure of dark energy with pairs of galaxies, *Nature* 468, 539-541 (25 November 2010) <u>doi:10.1038/nature09577</u>

©2010 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: In Brief: Study backs Einstein notion on expanding universe (2010, November 24) retrieved 2 May 2024 from <u>https://phys.org/news/2010-11-einstein-notion-universe.html</u>



This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.