

Video: Gaia data release 3: exploring our multidimensional Milky Way

June 13 2022



Gaia mapping the stars of the milky way. Credit: ESA/ATG medialab; background: ESO/S. Brunier

Since its launch in 2013 ESA's Gaia observatory has been mapping our galaxy from Lagrange point 2, creating the most accurate and complete multi-dimensional map of the Milky Way. By now two full sets of data have been released, the first set in 2016 and a second one in 2018. These data releases contained stellar positions, distances, motions across the

sky, and colour information, among others. Now on 13 June 2022 a third and new full data set will be released.

This data release will contain even more and improved information about almost 2 billion stars, Solar System objects and extragalactic sources. It also includes [radial velocities](#) for 33 million stars, a five-time increase compared to data release 2. Another novelty in this data set is the largest catalogue yet of [binary stars](#) in the Milky Way, which is crucial to understand stellar evolution.

Provided by European Space Agency

Citation: Video: Gaia data release 3: exploring our multidimensional Milky Way (2022, June 13) retrieved 1 May 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2022-06-video-gaia-exploring-multidimensional-milky.html>

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