Quipu

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Quipu Latest News

Astronomers recently identified what could be the largest structure ever found in the known universe, named Quipu.

About Quipu

- It is a recently discovered **superstructure** in which **galaxies group together in clusters** and clusters of clusters (superclusters).
- It **contains** nearly **70 galactic superclusters.**
- It is the **largest known structure in the universe in terms of length.**
- Quipu **stretches** an astonishing **1.3 billion light-years across** and contains an estimated 200 quadrillion solar masses.
- It is **over 13,000 times** the length of **the Milky Way.**
- It is also hundreds of **thousands of times more massive than a single galaxy.**

- Inspired by the Incan counting system of knotted cords, the structure mirrors its namesake with a **long central filament and multiple branching filaments.**
- Despite its vast size, Quipu will not last forever. Scientists believe it **will eventually break into smaller, collapsing units.**
- They describe it as a "**transient configuration"** that will change over time.
- Studying Quipu may help refine cosmological models. It could offer new insights into galaxy evolution and large-scale cosmic dynamics.

Quipu FAQs

Q1. What is a Galaxy?

Ans. A galaxy is a vast system of stars, gas, dust, dark matter, and other celestial objects bound together by gravity.

Q2. What is a light year?

Ans. A light-year is the distance light travels in one Earth year. One light-year is about 6 trillion miles (9 trillion km).

Q3. What is a Solar mass?

Ans. A solar mass ($M\odot$) is a unit of mass used in astronomy, equal to the mass of the Sun. It is approximately 2×10^{30} kilograms.

Source: N18