

Dust cuts starlight

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Stars are twice as bright as they seem in the sky but are obscured by space dust, scientists have discovered.

The scale of how much our view is masked has surprised experts.

Astronomer Dr Simon Driver, of the University of St Andrews in Fife, said: "Only half the energy produced by stars reaches our telescopes. The rest is blocked by dust grains."

The discovery was made by a group of scientists using a new method of measuring energy output from thousands of galaxies.

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