

Jak zasada brzytwy Ockhama opóźniła o sto lat rozwój astronomii pozagalaktycznej

**How the Ockham's Razor principle delayed for 100 years the development
of the extragalactic astronomy**

SUMMARY

The first systematic observations carried out by William and John Herschels in the end of the 18th and the begin of 19th century led to discovery of many galactic and extragalactic nebulae (today called galaxies) and the clustering of the later. They led also to the discovery of the zone of avoidance. The right solution was to accept the existence I) of two different classes of nebulae (real ones and stellar systems – galaxies) II) of galaxies in the zone of avoidance where they are not visible and III) of the invisible dark matter screening these galaxies in the zone of avoidance. The acceptance of two invisible beings and the “not necessary” division of objects into two classes was contrary to the Ockham's Razor principle which was, at least subconsciously, accepted by many scientists at that time. Then the additional false arguments were developed against the thesis that extragalactic nebulae are stellar systems similar to our Galaxy: I) the similarity of the spectra of galaxies and of some bright dust nebulae, II) the discovery of “novae” in extragalactic nebulae, III) the van Maanen's measurements of proper motions in some spiral nebulae. First the observations of Hubble brought the extragalactic astronomy back to the life. Many discoveries done already by Herschels, like the general tendency toward clustering of galaxies, the exceptional position of the Virgo cluster, the existence of the supergalactic equator etc. were made a new before the great achievements of Herschels and their contemporaries were reminded.

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