



3rd *Annual*
JOHN BAHCALL
LECTURE

Interacting Galaxies
from Hubble images

FEBRUARY 25, 2009



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The Galaxy-forming Main Sequence

3:00 PM

in the John Bahcall Auditorium of STScI
3700 San Martin Drive • Baltimore, MD 21218

Abstract

Until recently the field of galaxy formation resembled that of stellar evolution after the discovery of the main sequence (1911) but before the discovery of nuclear energy generation (1930's). In both cases scaling laws were known but there was not yet any theory for their origin. Now, new data on galaxies are revealing not only new scaling laws but finally, thanks to lookback studies, a glimmer at last of understanding. Interestingly, mass seems to be the leading variable that determines the properties of both stars and galaxies, but the physical reasons are entirely different.

Reception to Follow Lecture