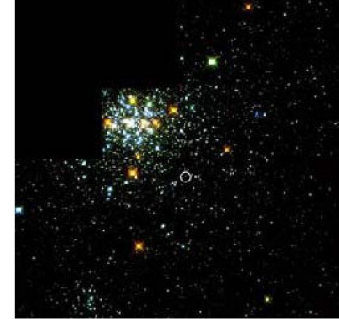


## Seeing Stars

Have you ever gazed at the night sky and guessed that it held thousands of stars? Well, think again! Scientists recently determined that the number of visible stars in the universe is 70 **sextillion**. (That's 7 followed by 21 zeros!) According to scientists, there are ten times more stars in the universe than grains of sand on all the deserts and beaches in the world.

Luckily for the scientists, they did not have to count each star. They used powerful **telescopes** to count the stars located in one section of sky. A telescope is a device used to observe distant objects. The scientists then estimated the number of sections of sky in the entire universe and multiplied that number by the number of stars in the counted section.

The new study found seven times more stars than had been calculated previously. "Even for an astronomer used to dealing in monster numbers, this is mind-boggling," said one scientist.



NASA  
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