

Australian astronomers discover oldest known star in universe

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: A team led by astronomers from the Australian National University has discovered the oldest known star in the Universe, which formed shortly after the Big Bang 13.7 billion years ago.

It was confirmed using the Magellan telescope in Chile.

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first stars, giving scientists a clearer idea of what the Universe was like in its infancy.

The star was discovered using the ANU SkyMapper telescope at the Siding Spring Observatory, which is searching for ancient stars as it conducts a five-year project to produce the first digital map of the southern sky.

The oldest star is one of the 60 million stars photographed by SkyMapper in its first year.

“This is the first time that we’ve been able to unambiguously say that we’ve found the chemical fingerprint of a first star,” said lead researcher Dr Stefan Keller of the ANU Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics.

“This is one of the first steps in understanding what those first stars were like. What this star has enabled us to do is record the fingerprint of those first stars.”

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