

## Supernova hunt

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Polish internet users have actively joined a global hunt for supernovae, the spectacular explosions that end the life of big stars. This is another phase of the international social scientific programme "Galaxy Zoo", in which Poland is participating. So far 20 000 Poles have declared, that they will help explore the universe.

["A great hunt for supernovae"]

Just as in the first two phases of "Galaxy Zoo" (which served to classify galaxies), in "The Hunt for Supernovae" astronomers ask web users to help them analyse photographs taken during automatic survey of the skies.

The photos come from the programme "Palomar Transient Factory", whose aim is to discover all the changes in the sky - beginning with planetoid movements, through variable stars flashing and active galactic centers and ending on supernovae.

The hunt is open to all web users at <http://supernova.galaxyzoo.org>.

The tasks that the scientists have given to the web users are very responsible - the users of this global network have to find on photographs objects, that could be supernovae. Later on the astronomers will verify the most interesting propositions (in order to check them, scientists will use the biggest observatories in the world, including the William Herschel Telescope on the La Palma island, or the huge twin telescopes Keck in Hawaii).

The results of this research will be used to mark out the distances to galaxies far away, and also this may help to understand the evolution of stars. (PAIIZ)