Interstellar medium

Eagle nebula. Pillars made of dense cold gas are visible.

In astronomy, the **interstellar medium** (sometimes called the **ISM**) is the tenuous gas and dust that fills the void between stellar systems in galaxies, that consisting mainly of huge clouds of ionized, neutral, or molecular hydrogen.[1][2] This gas and dust not distributed uniformly in interstellar space, but displays significant variations in density, temperature, and ionisation state.[2]

Various gases exist in outer space. Most common are hydrogen and helium. Interstellar cosmic dust makes nebulae.

References

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1. ↑ "Definition of interstellar medium | Dictionary.com". *www.dictionary.com*. Retrieved 2020-10-05.
2. ↑ 2.0 2.1 Snell, Ronald L. (2011). Gargaud, Muriel; Amils, Ricardo; Quintanilla, José Cernicharo; Cleaves, Henderson James (Jim); Irvine, William M.; Pinti, Daniele L.; Viso, Michel (eds.). *Encyclopedia of Astrobiology*. Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer. pp. 837–843. doi:10.1007/978-3-642-11274-4_801. ISBN 978-3-642-11274-4.

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