Speaking of [galaxy clusters](http://www.blastr.com/2017-5-8/colliding-clusters-galaxies-make-wavesgorgeous-gorgeous-waves) …

It’s pretty rare to find a galaxy that’s all alone in space. For example, our Milky Way is part of a small commune of galaxies called [the Local Group](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_O2sg-PGhEg#t=6m45.6s), a few dozen galaxies of which we and [the Andromeda galaxy](http://www.blastr.com/2017-1-12/clouds-andromeda) are the biggest. The whole grouping is about 10 million light-years across, and most of the galaxies are so small and faint that they were only found relatively recently.

But not everything is like that. There are also *clusters* of galaxies, the sprawling cities to our Local Group town. [The Local Group is on the outskirts of the Virgo Cluster](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_O2sg-PGhEg#t=9m47.5s), which has well over a thousand galaxies in it. Because it’s so close -- about 60 million light-years from us, which in cosmic terms puts us in its suburbs -- it’s spread over a lot of the sky, making it look rather sparse from our vantage point.

Abell 370 is another galaxy cluster. It’s probably less populated than Virgo, with only a few hundred galaxies, but at its terribly remote distance of four *billion* light-years, all those galaxies look like they’re piled up on top of each other. [When you aim a telescope like Hubble at such a beast](http://hubblesite.org/image/4024/gallery), what you get is sheer wonder:

<http://www.blastr.com/2017-5-15/space-bender-galaxy-cluster-distorts-fabric-space-creating-beautiful-patterns-light>