



# Astronomy Voyage



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# LECTURE PROGRAMME

- Tonight's Night Sky
- Astrophotography
- The Aurora
- Our Solar System
- Our Galaxy
- Our Universe
- Modern Astronomy: Life as a  
Astronomer & Tools of the Trade
- Why We Are Here: A 13.8-billion  
year-old story





Our Milky way Galaxy over Hawai'i  
- the city of stars in which we live.

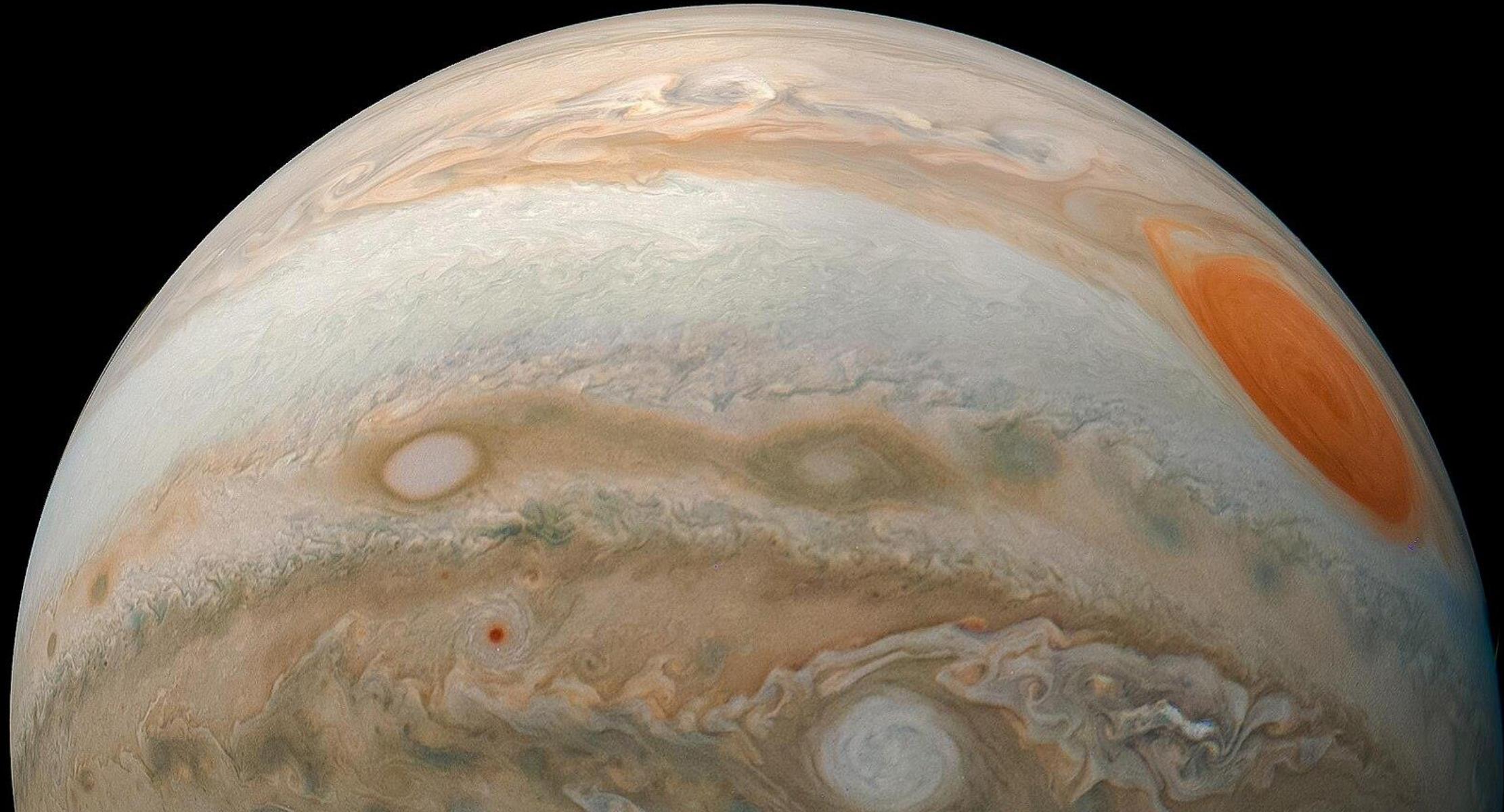
# Stars v Planets

*Nuclear reactions (fusion) occur deep within **stars**...*



# Stars v Planets

Planets are too small & cool for nuclear fusion.





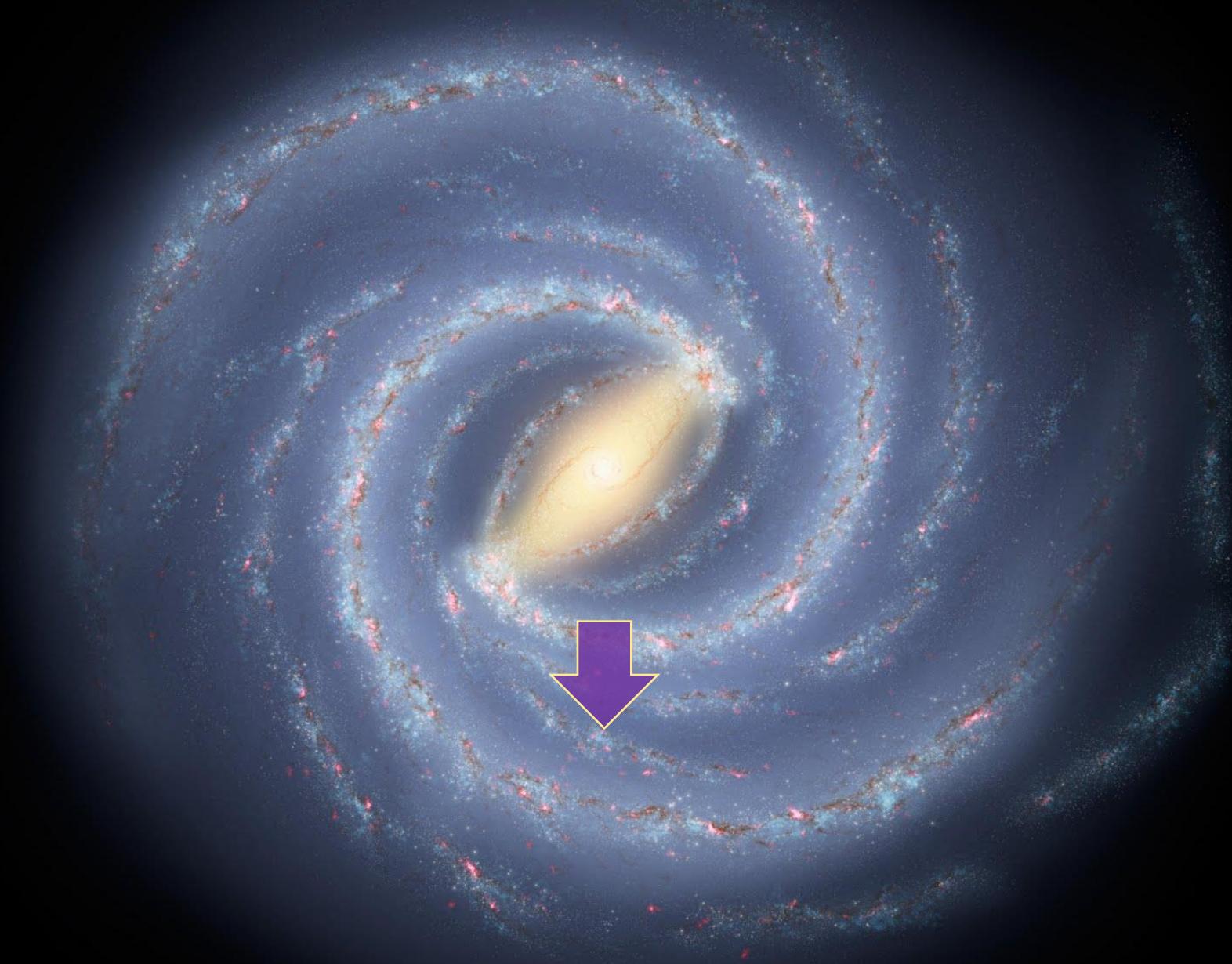
Moons orbit planets.





# The Milky Way

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Artistic impression

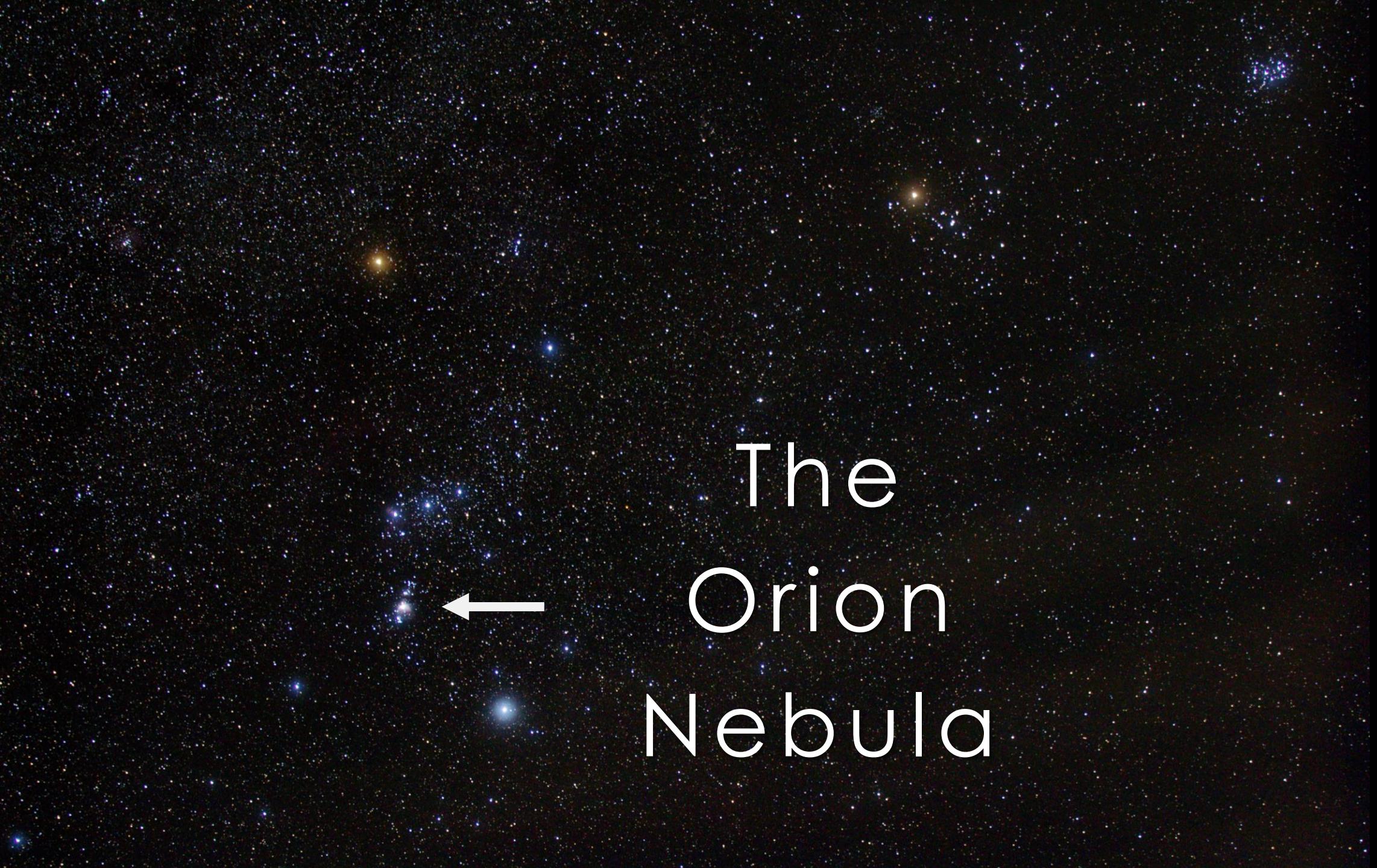




Artistic view of our galaxy from the side – showing dust lanes.

nebulæ

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The  
Orion  
Nebula

nebulae  
z



# The Orion Nebula

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nebulae

Hubble Space  
Telescope  
observation of  
the Orion  
Nebula



nebulae

Hubble Space  
Telescope  
observations of  
the Orion  
Nebula



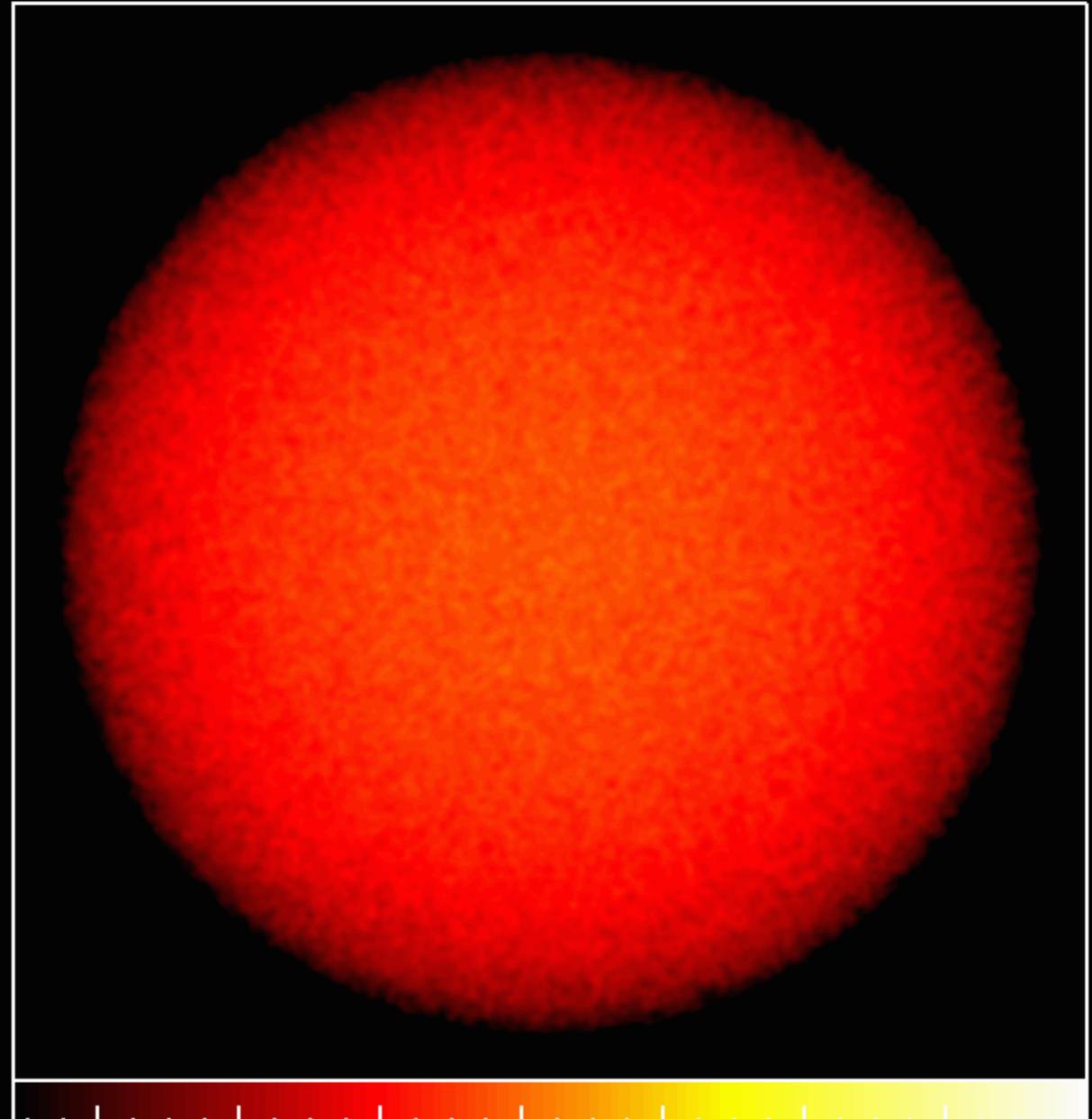
nebulae



Artistic impression

Dimensions: 82500. AU

Time: 0. yr



Computer simulations

-1.4 -1.2 -1.0 -0.8 -0.6 -0.4 -0.2 0.0  
Log Column Density [g/cm<sup>2</sup>] Matthew Rate

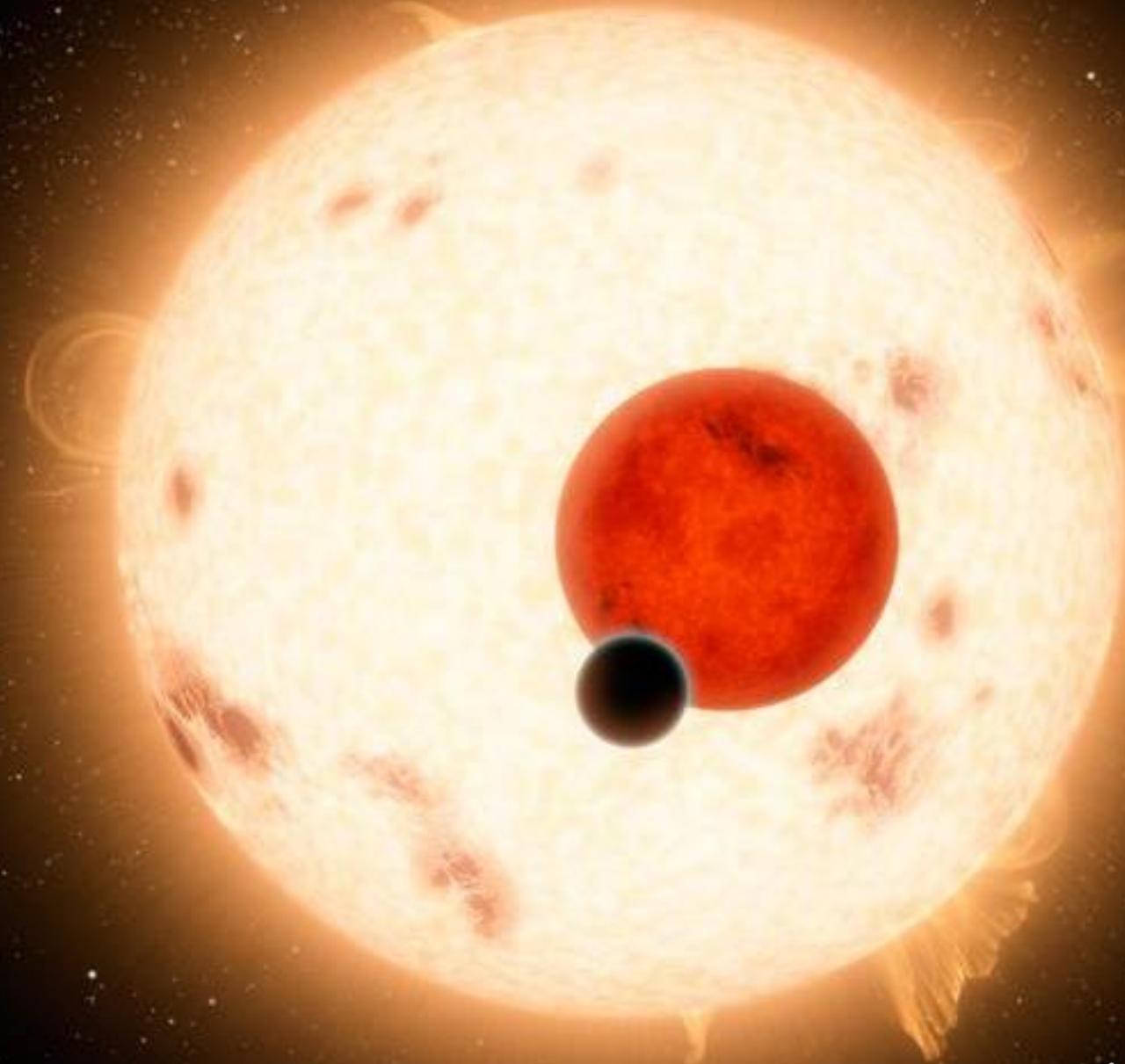
Computer Simulations





30%-50% of stars in our galaxy are pairs

# Exoplanets



Artistic impression

# Exoplanets



As of 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

~250 exoplanets are discovered each year.

1999
1899
1740
217
7

- Neptune-like
- Gas Giant
- Super Earth
- Terrestrial
- Unknown

Discovered in February 2017,  
Trappist-1 has 7 rocky planets



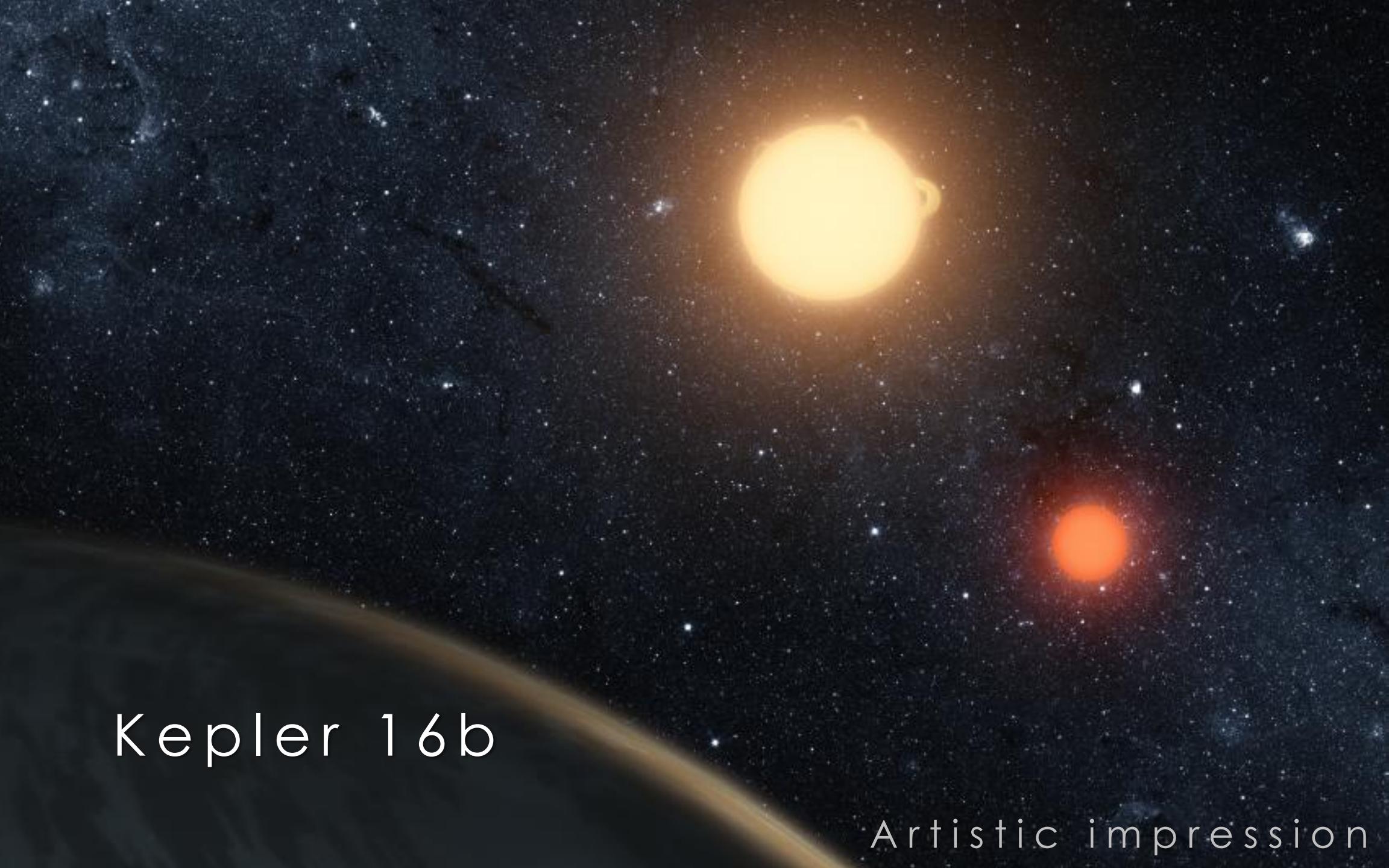
Artistic impression

# Exoplanets

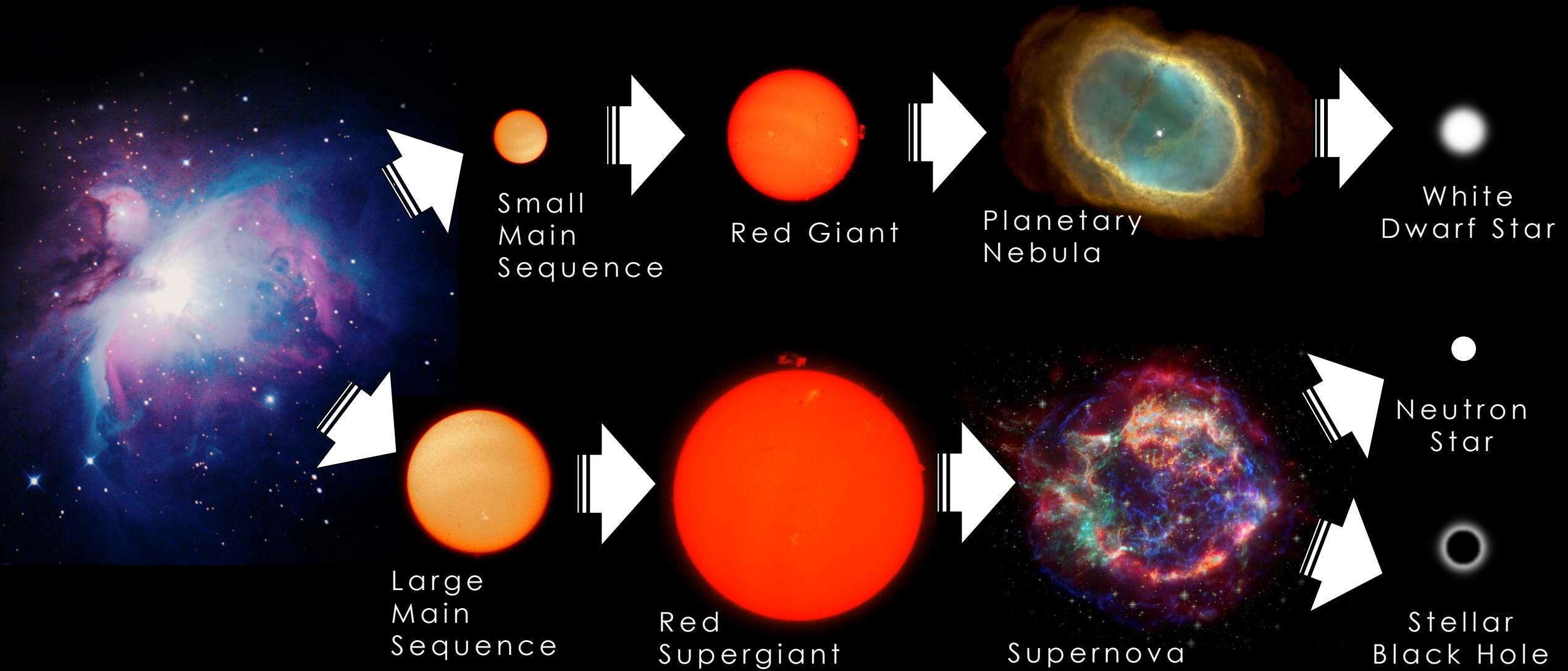
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Kepler 16b

Artistic impression

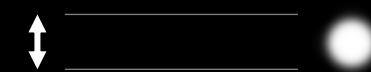


# The Evolution of Stars



# Extreme star sizes

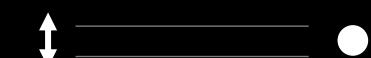
Mass: <1.4 solar masses



Diameter: Size of Earth

White  
Dwarf Star

Mass: 1.4-2.2 solar masses



Diameter: Size of London

Neutron  
Star

Mass: 3-10 solar masses



Diameter: 3km radius  
per solar mass

Stellar  
Black Hole

White Dwarf Stars



The Ring nebula

Neutron Stars



Cassiopeia A

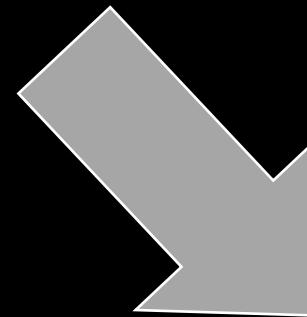
# Pulsars

The Crab Nebula - a 30Hz pulsar



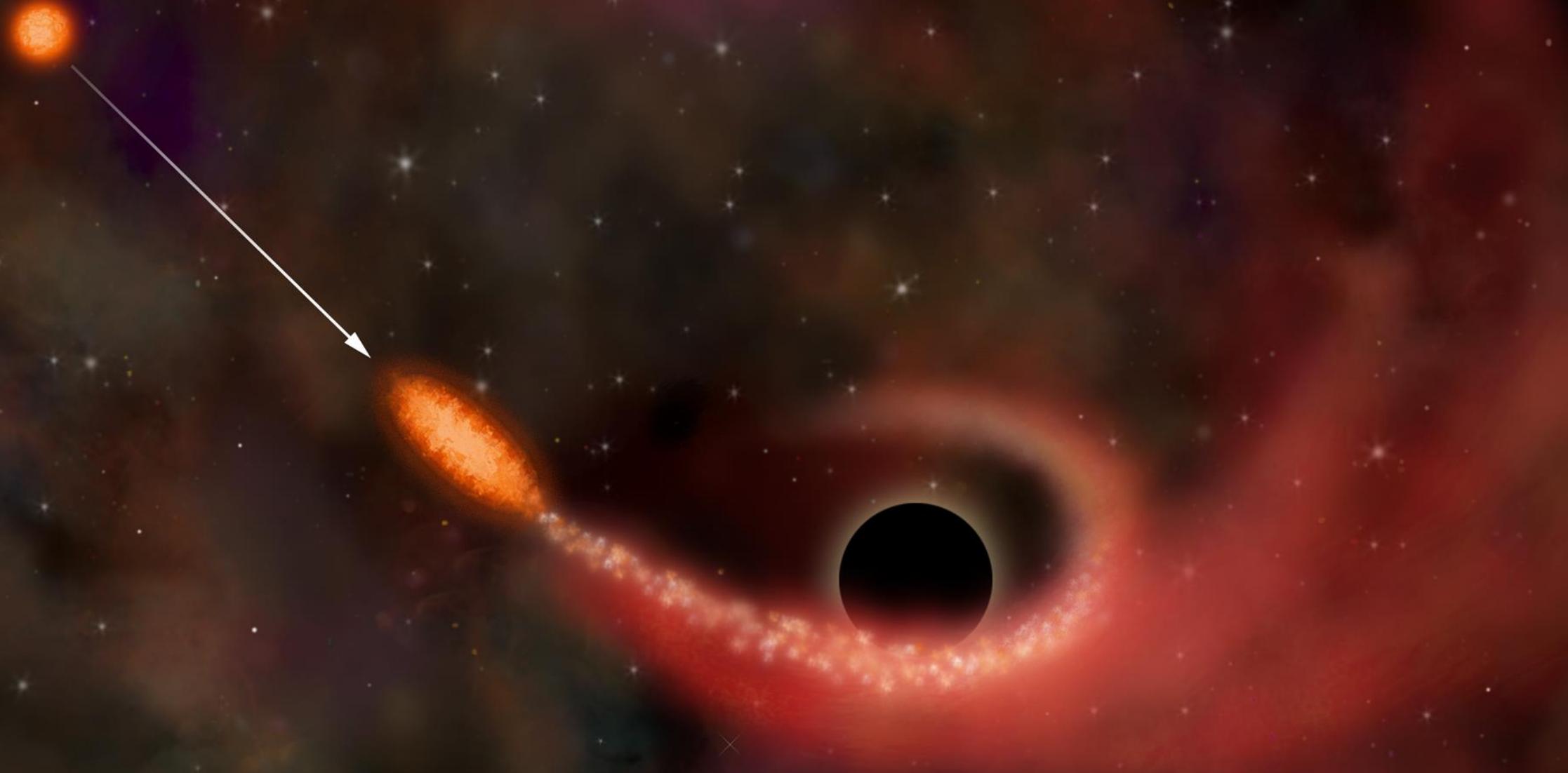
My artistic impression  
of a black hole...

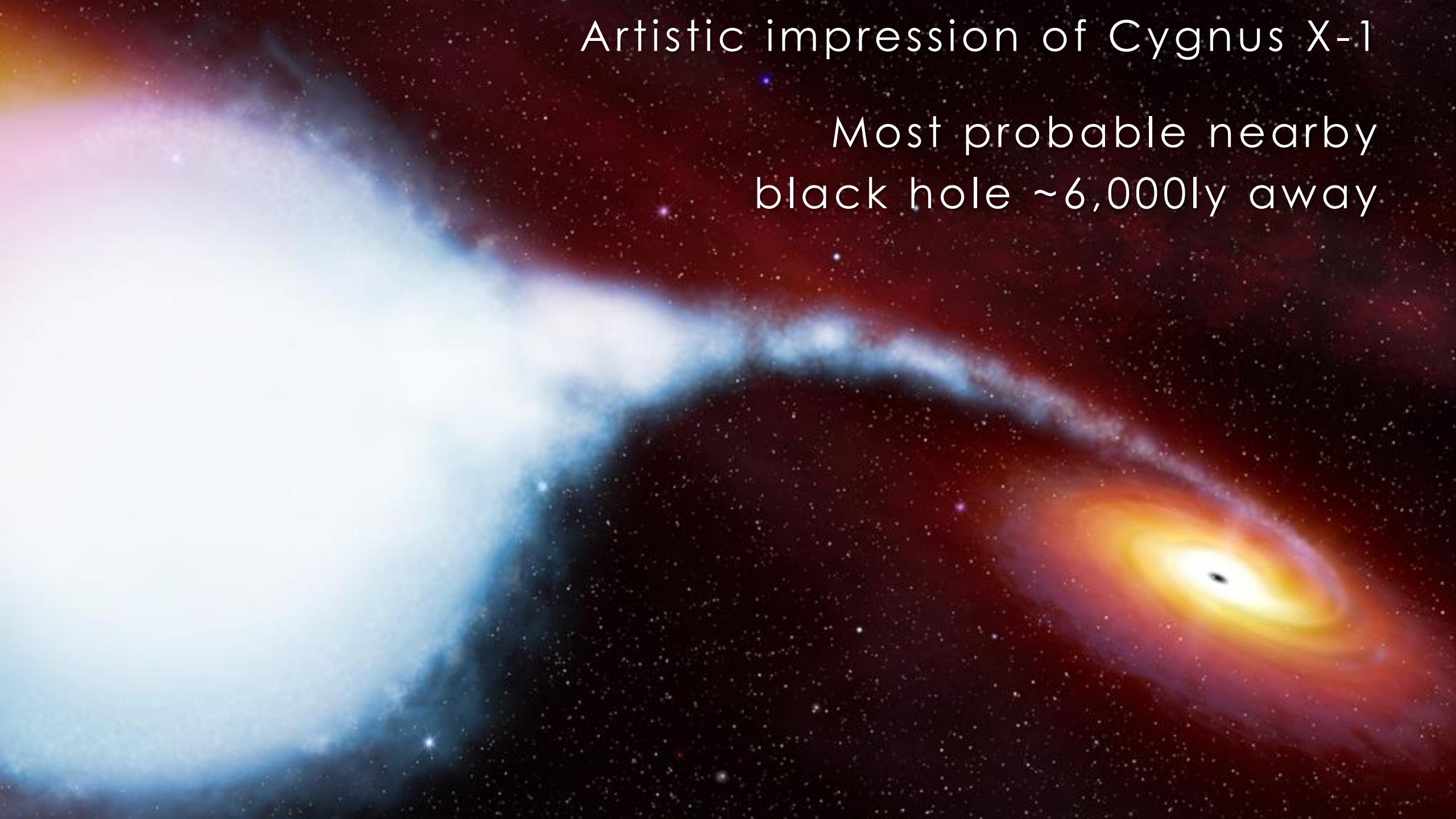
Black Holes



# Black Holes

Artistic impression  
of a star falling into a black hole.



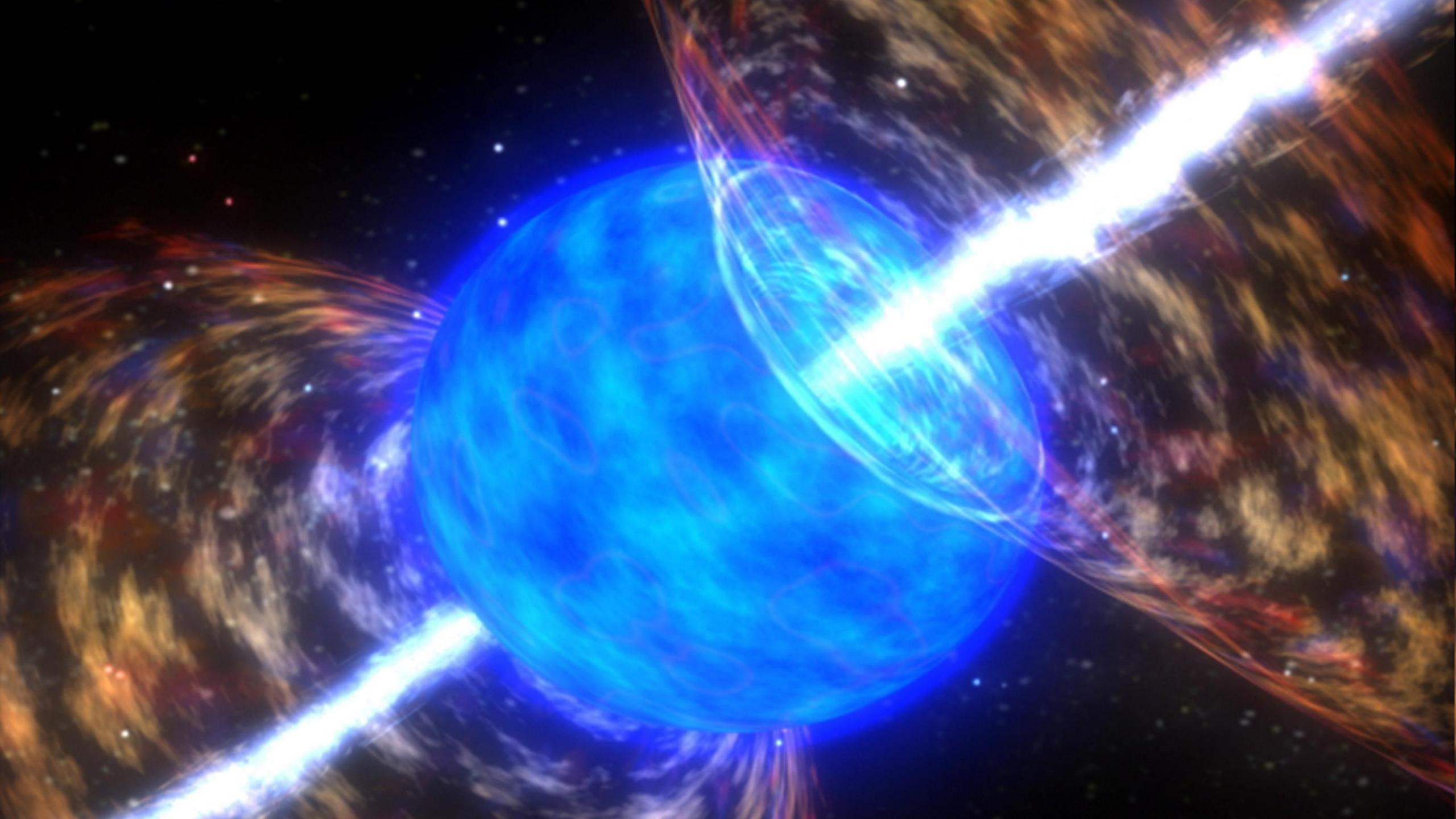
An artistic impression of the Cygnus X-1 system. It features a massive, luminous blue star on the left, with a long, luminous blue and white nebula extending from its upper left towards the center. In the lower right, a supermassive black hole is depicted as a dark, circular void with intense orange and yellow accretion disk material falling into it.

Artistic impression of Cygnus X-1

Most probable nearby  
black hole ~6,000ly away

# Gamma Ray Bursts





# Extreme binaries

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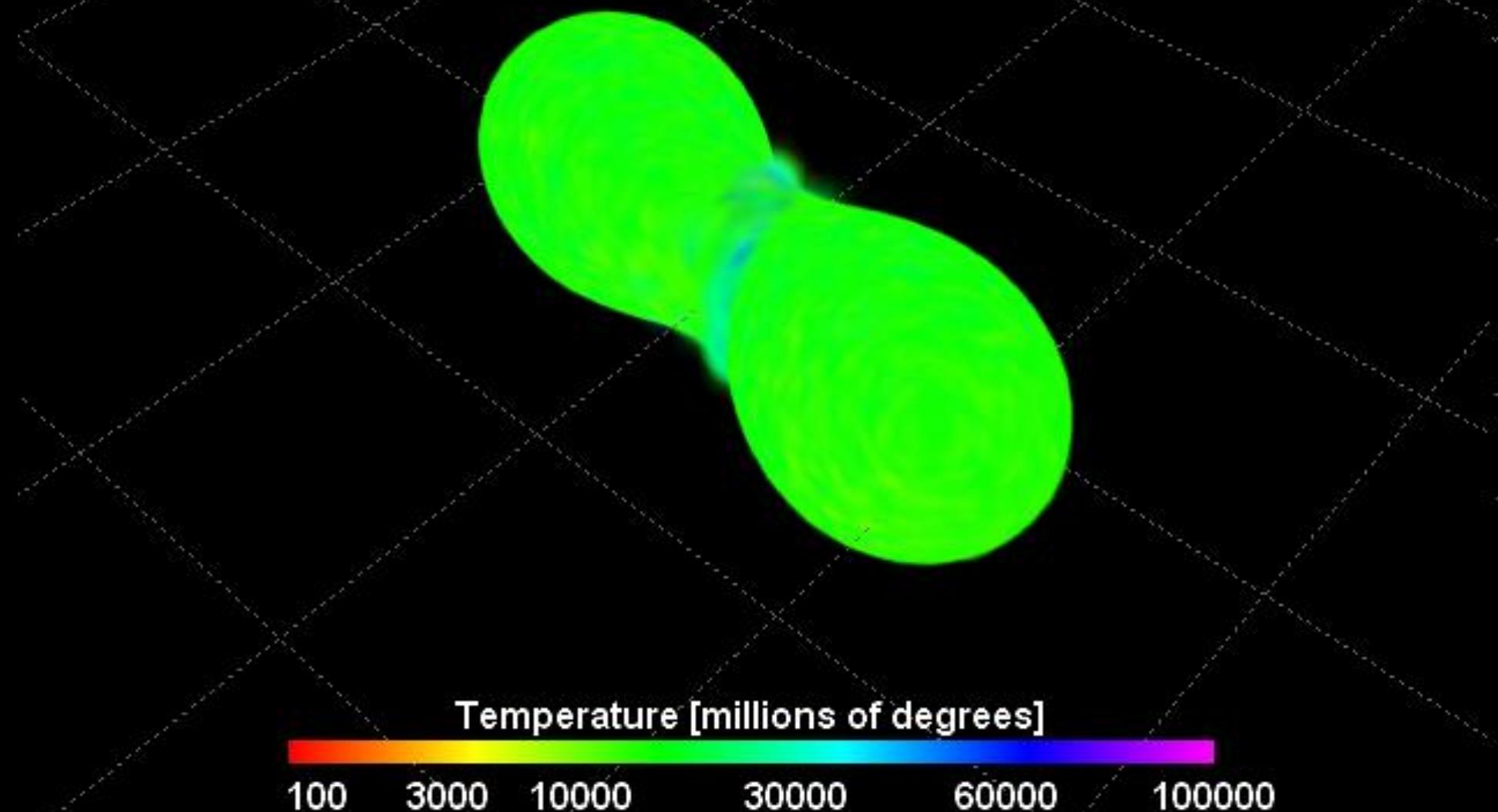


Artistic impression

Time 2.150 msec

Supercomputer simulation

# Neutron Stars



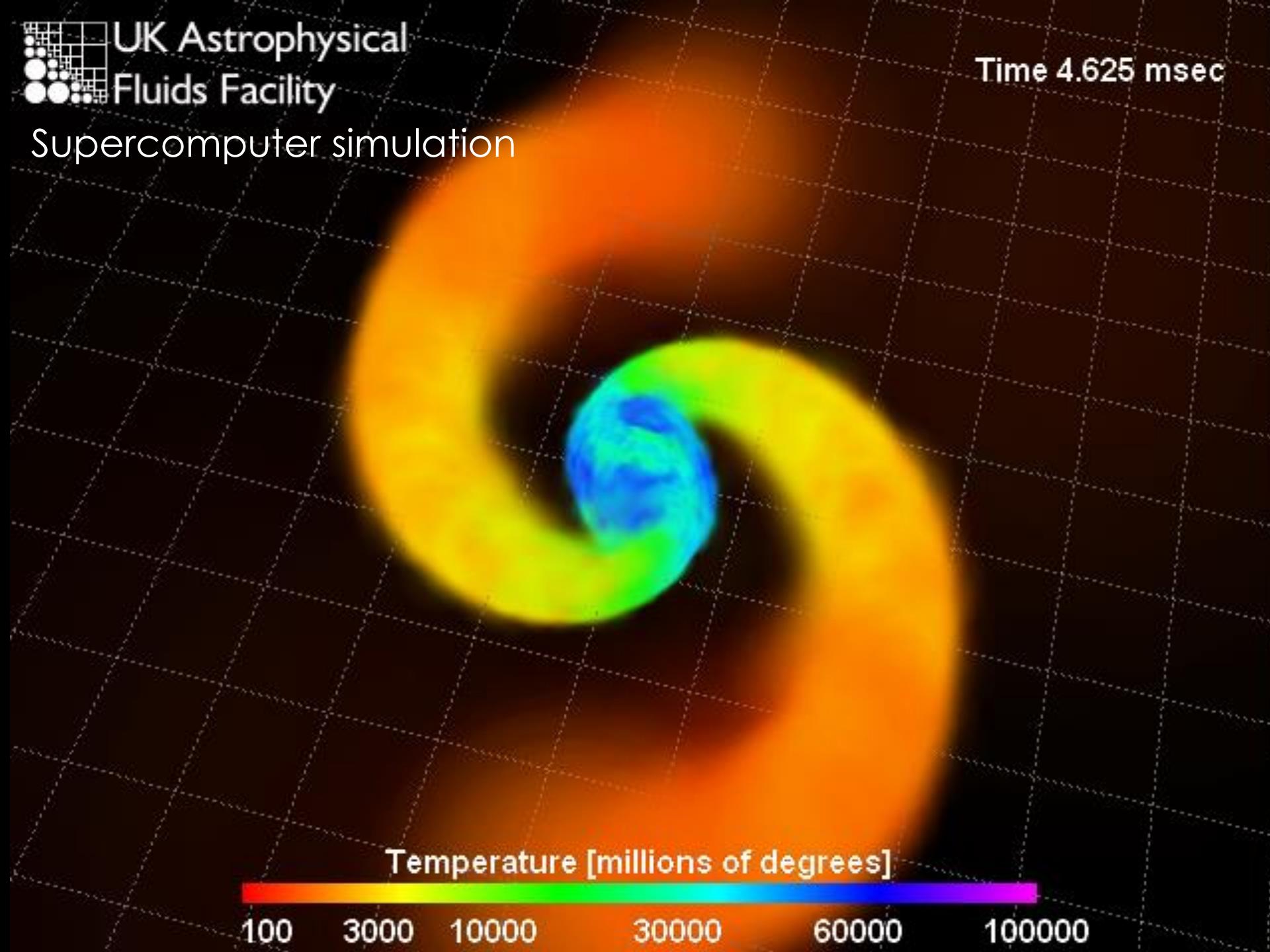
# Neutron Stars



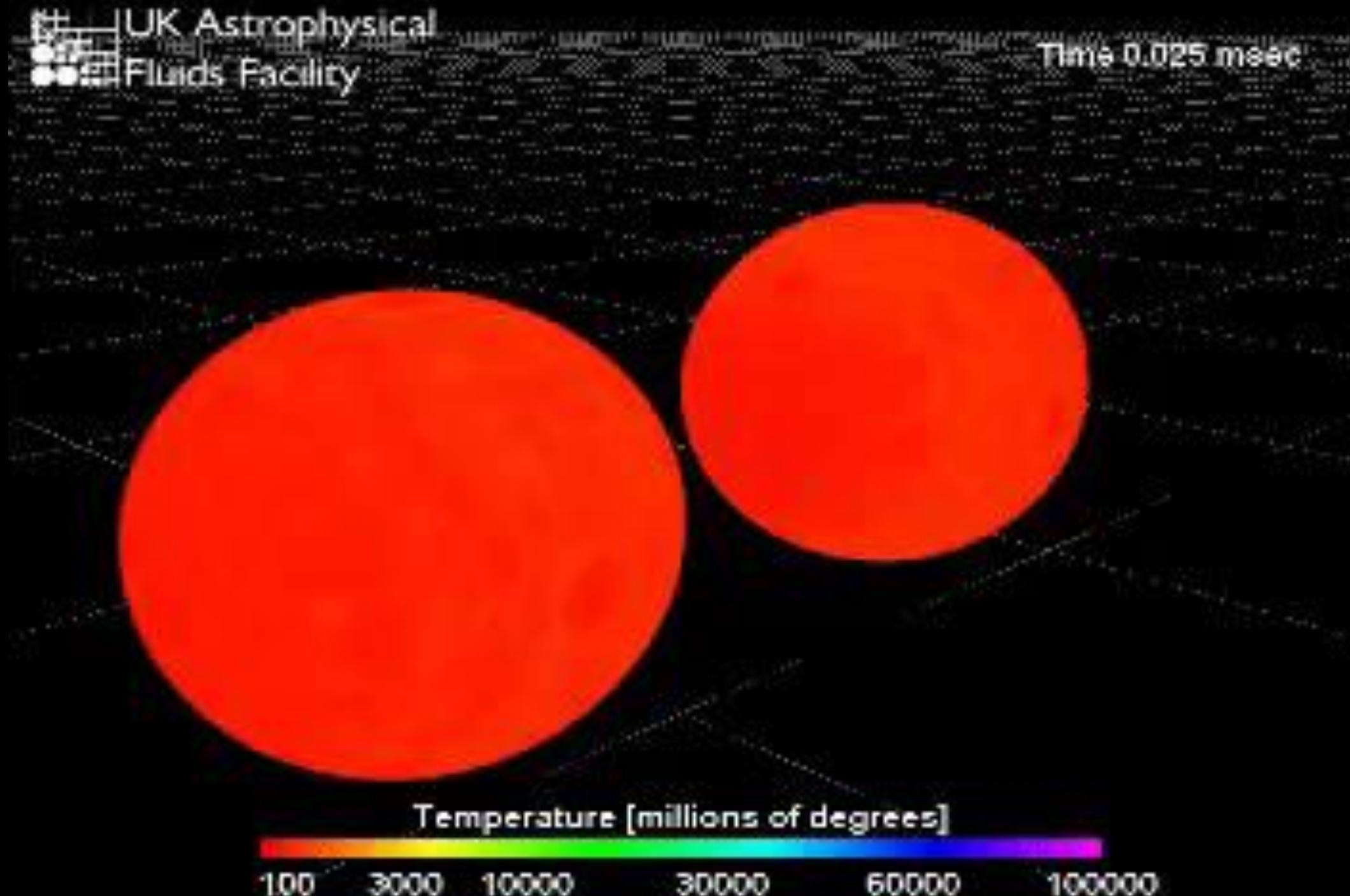
UK Astrophysical  
Fluids Facility

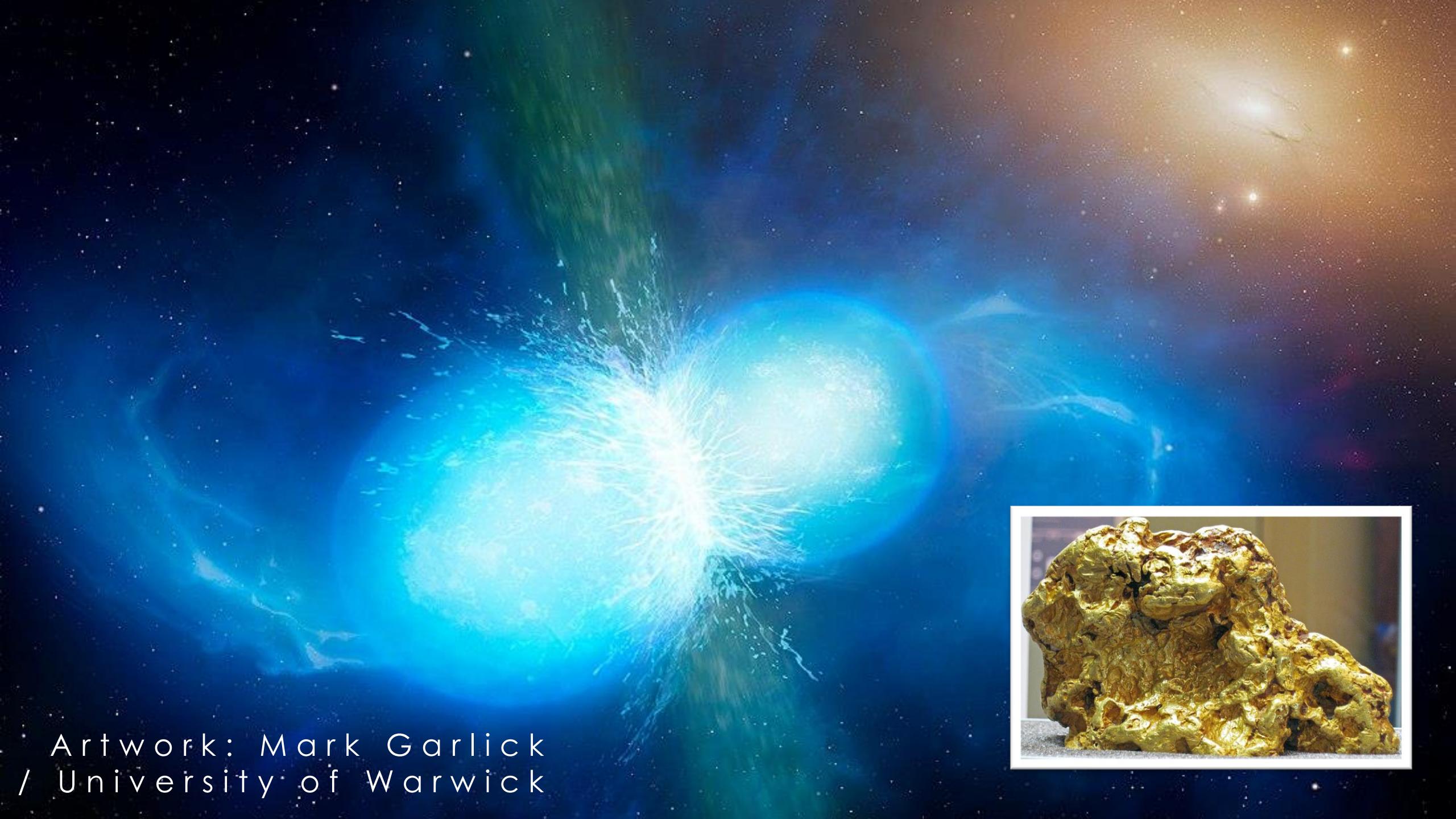
Supercomputer simulation

Time 4.625 msec

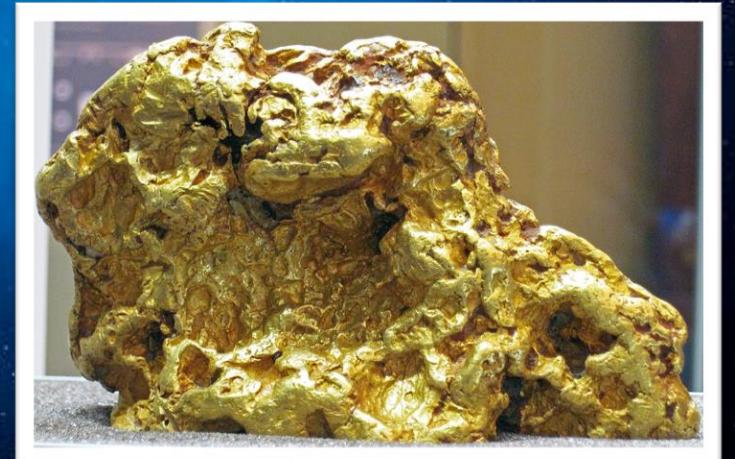


# Neutron Stars



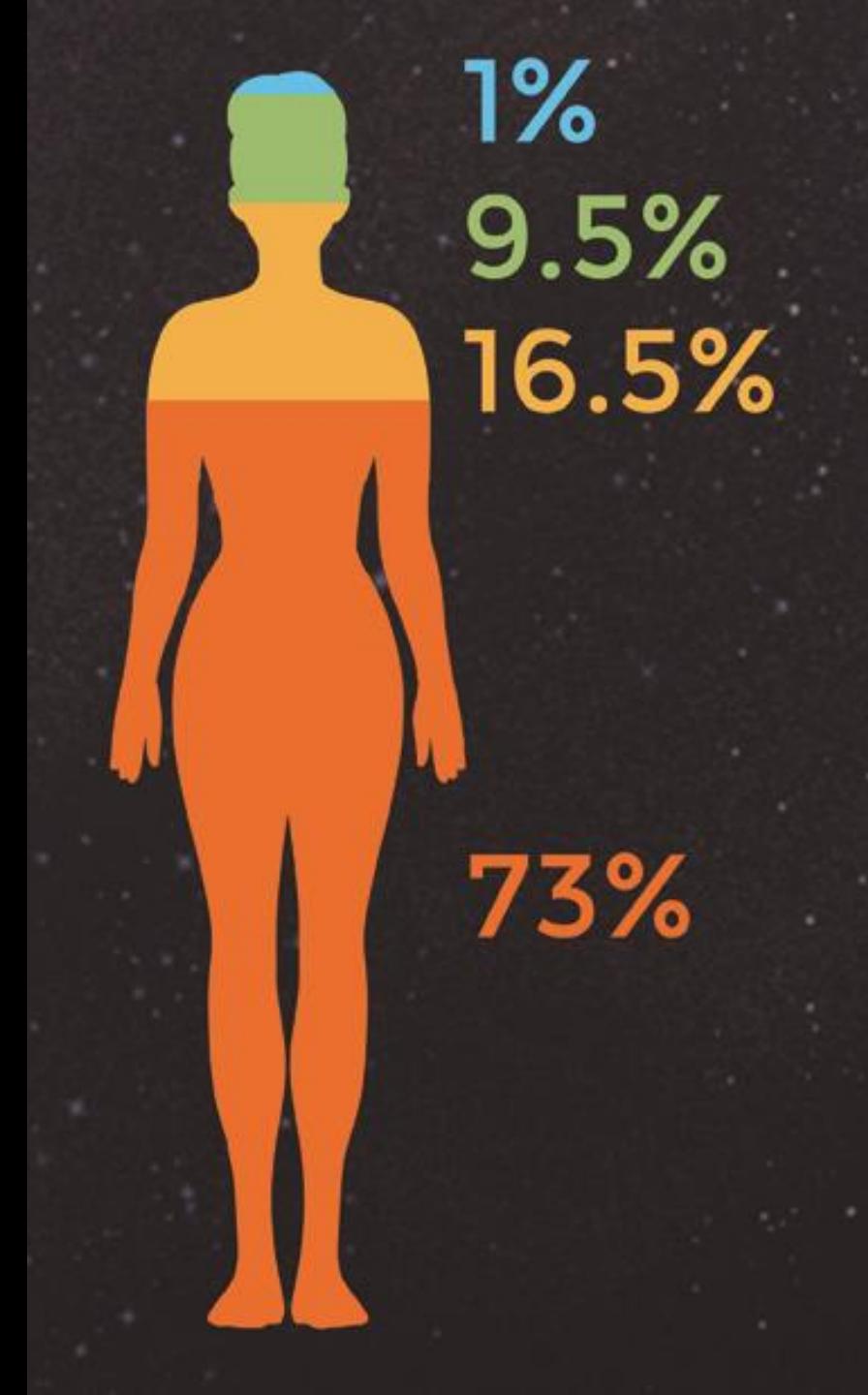
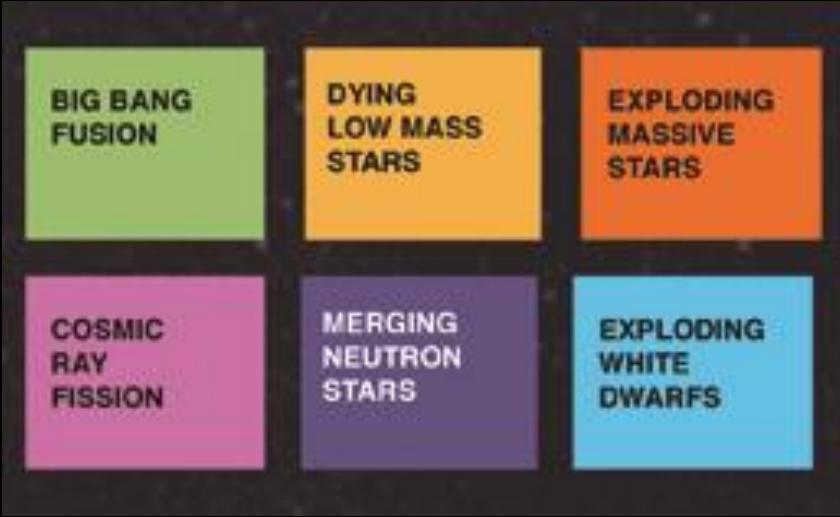


Artwork: Mark Garlick  
/ University of Warwick



# The Elements

You are made  
out of elements  
created in these  
astrophysical  
processes.





# Astronomy Voyage



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