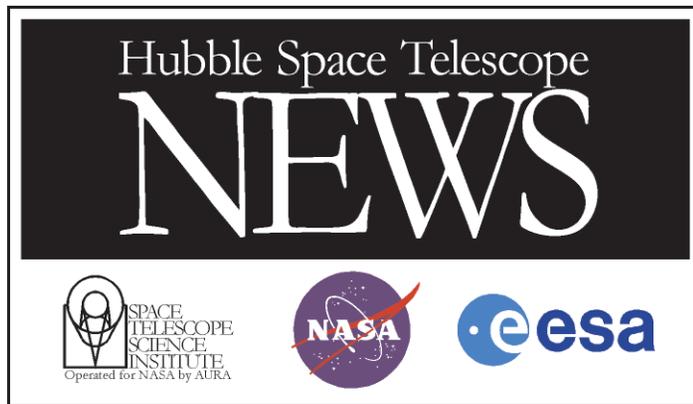


Galaxies NGC 4038 and NGC 4039 • Detail
Hubble Space Telescope • Wide Field Planetary Camera 2





CLOSE-UP OF STAR FORMATION IN ANTENNAE GALAXY

These four close-up views are taken from a head-on collision between two spiral galaxies, called the Antennae galaxies, seen at image center. The scale bar at the top of each image is 1,500 light-years across.

[Left images]

The collision triggers the birth of new stars in brilliant blue star clusters, the brightest of which contains roughly a million stars. The star clusters are blue because they are very young, the youngest being only a few million years old, a mere blink of the eye on the astronomical time scale.

[Right images]

These close-up views of the cores of each galaxy show entrapped dust and gas funneled into the center. The nucleus of NGC 4038 (lower right) is obscured by dust which dims and reddens starlight by scattering the shorter, bluer wavelengths. This is also the reason the young star clusters in the dusty regions appear red instead of blue.

This natural-color image is a composite of four separately filtered images taken with the Wide Field Planetary Camera 2 (WFPC2), on January 20, 1996. Resolution is 15 light-years per pixel (picture element).

Credit: Brad Whitmore (STScI), and NASA

A photo and caption are available via the World Wide Web at <http://oposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/PR/97/34.html> and via links in <http://oposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/Latest.html> or <http://oposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/Pictures.html>.

Images are available via the World Wide Web at <http://oposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/gif/n40389w.gif>, <http://oposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/gif/n40389d.gif> (GIF), <http://oposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/jpeg/n40389w.jpg> and <http://oposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/jpeg/n40389d.jpg> (JPEG).

Image files also may be accessed via anonymous ftp from oposite.stsci.edu in /pubinfo: [gif/n40389w.gif](http://oposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/gif/n40389w.gif), [gif/n40389d.gif](http://oposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/gif/n40389d.gif) (GIF), [jpeg/n40389w.jpg](http://oposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/jpeg/n40389w.jpg) and [jpeg/n40389d.jpg](http://oposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/jpeg/n40389d.jpg) (JPEG). Higher resolution digital versions (300 dpi JPEG) of the release photograph are available in /pubinfo/hrtemp: [97-34a.jpg](http://oposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/hrtemp/97-34a.jpg) [97-34b.jpg](http://oposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/hrtemp/97-34b.jpg) (color), [97-34abw.jpg](http://oposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/hrtemp/97-34abw.jpg) and [97-34bbw.jpg](http://oposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/hrtemp/97-34bbw.jpg) (black & white). Full resolution TIFF images are available in /pubinfo/tiff/1997/34a.tif, 34b.tif, 34c.tif, 34d.tif, 34e.tif and 34f.tif