

A Celestial Spiral

This picture from the Advanced Camera for Surveys on the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope shows one of the most perfect geometrical forms created in space. It captures the formation of an unusual pre-planetary nebula, known as IRAS 23166+1655, around the star LL Pegasi. The spiral pattern is thought to be formed by two stars orbiting each other, one of them rapidly losing material to form a thick cloud of gas and dust.

February	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
2011	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
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ESA/NASA & R. Sahai