

Image: Hubble serves a slice of stars

July 31 2014



Credit: ESA/Hubble & NASA, Acknowledgement: Nick Rose

The thin, glowing streak slicing across this image cuts a lonely figure, with only a few foreground stars and galaxies in the distant background

for company.

However, this is all a case of perspective; lying out of frame is another nearby spiral. Together, these two galaxies make up a pair, moving through space together and keeping one another company.

The subject of this Hubble image is called NGC 3501, with NGC 3507 as its out-of-frame companion. The two [galaxies](#) look very different—another example of the importance of perspective. NGC 3501 appears edge-on, giving it an elongated and very narrow appearance. Its partner, however, looks very different indeed, appearing face-on and giving us a fantastic view of its barred swirling [arms](#).

While similar arms may not be visible in this image of NGC 3501, this galaxy is also a spiral—although it is somewhat different from its companion. While NGC 3507 has bars cutting through its center, NGC 3501 does not. Instead, its loosely wound [spiral arms](#) all originate from its center. The bright gas and stars that make up these arms can be seen here glowing brightly, mottled by the dark dust lanes that trace across the galaxy.

Provided by NASA

Citation: Image: Hubble serves a slice of stars (2014, July 31) retrieved 18 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-07-image-hubble-slice-stars.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.