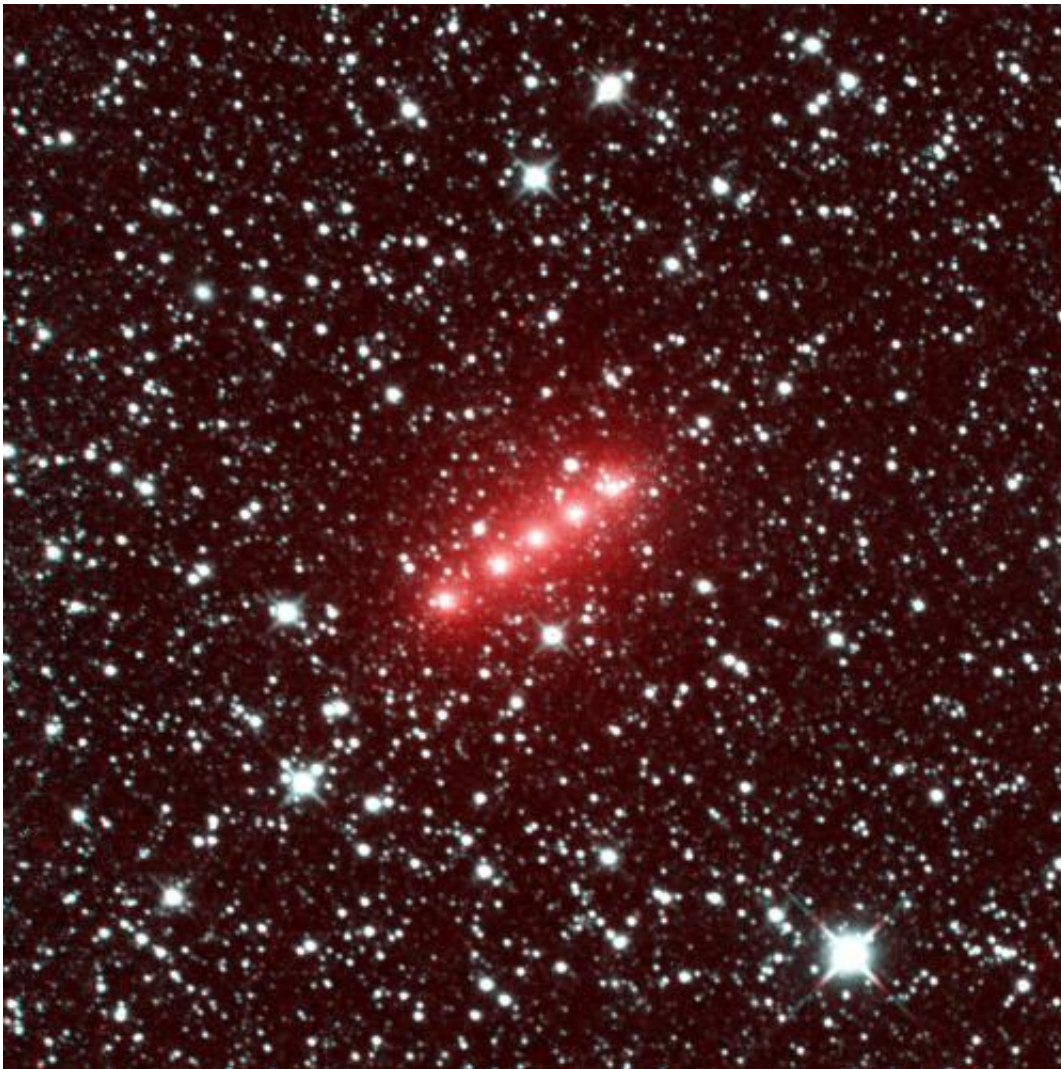


Image: NASA's NEOWISE captures Comet C/2014 Q2 (Lovejoy)

January 19 2015



Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

Comet C/2014 Q2 (Lovejoy) is one of more than 32 comets imaged by NASA's NEOWISE mission from December 2013 to December 2014. This image of comet Lovejoy combines a series of observations made in November 2013, when comet Lovejoy was 1.7 astronomical units from the sun. (An astronomical unit is the distance between Earth and the sun.)

The image spans half of one degree. It shows the comet moving in a mostly west and slightly south direction. (North is 26 degrees to the right of up in the image, and west is 26 [degrees](#) downward from directly right.) The red color is caused by the strong signal in the NEOWISE 4.6-micron wavelength detector, owing to a combination of gas and dust in the comet's coma.

Comet Lovejoy is the brightest comet in Earth's sky in early 2015. A chart of its location in the sky during dates in January 2015 is at photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/catalog/PIA19103 .

More information: For more information about NEOWISE (the Near-Earth Object Wide-field Survey Explorer), see neowise.ipac.caltech.edu/

Provided by NASA

Citation: Image: NASA's NEOWISE captures Comet C/2014 Q2 (Lovejoy) (2015, January 19) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-01-image-nasa-neowise-captures-comet.html>

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