

Image: Hubble spots squabbling galactic siblings

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Credit: ESA/Hubble & NASA, J. Dalcanton

A dramatic triplet of galaxies takes center stage in this image from the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope, which captures a three-way gravitational tug-of-war between interacting galaxies. This

system—known as Arp 195—is featured in the Atlas of Peculiar Galaxies, a list which showcases some of the weirder and more wonderful galaxies in the universe.

Observing time with Hubble is extremely valuable, so astronomers don't want to waste a second. The schedule for Hubble observations is calculated using a [computer algorithm](#) which allows the spacecraft to occasionally gather bonus snapshots of data between longer observations.

This image of the clashing triplet of [galaxies](#) in Arp 195 is one such snapshot.

Extra observations such as these do more than provide spectacular images—they also help to identify promising targets to follow up with using telescopes such as the upcoming NASA/ESA/CSA James Webb Space Telescope.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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