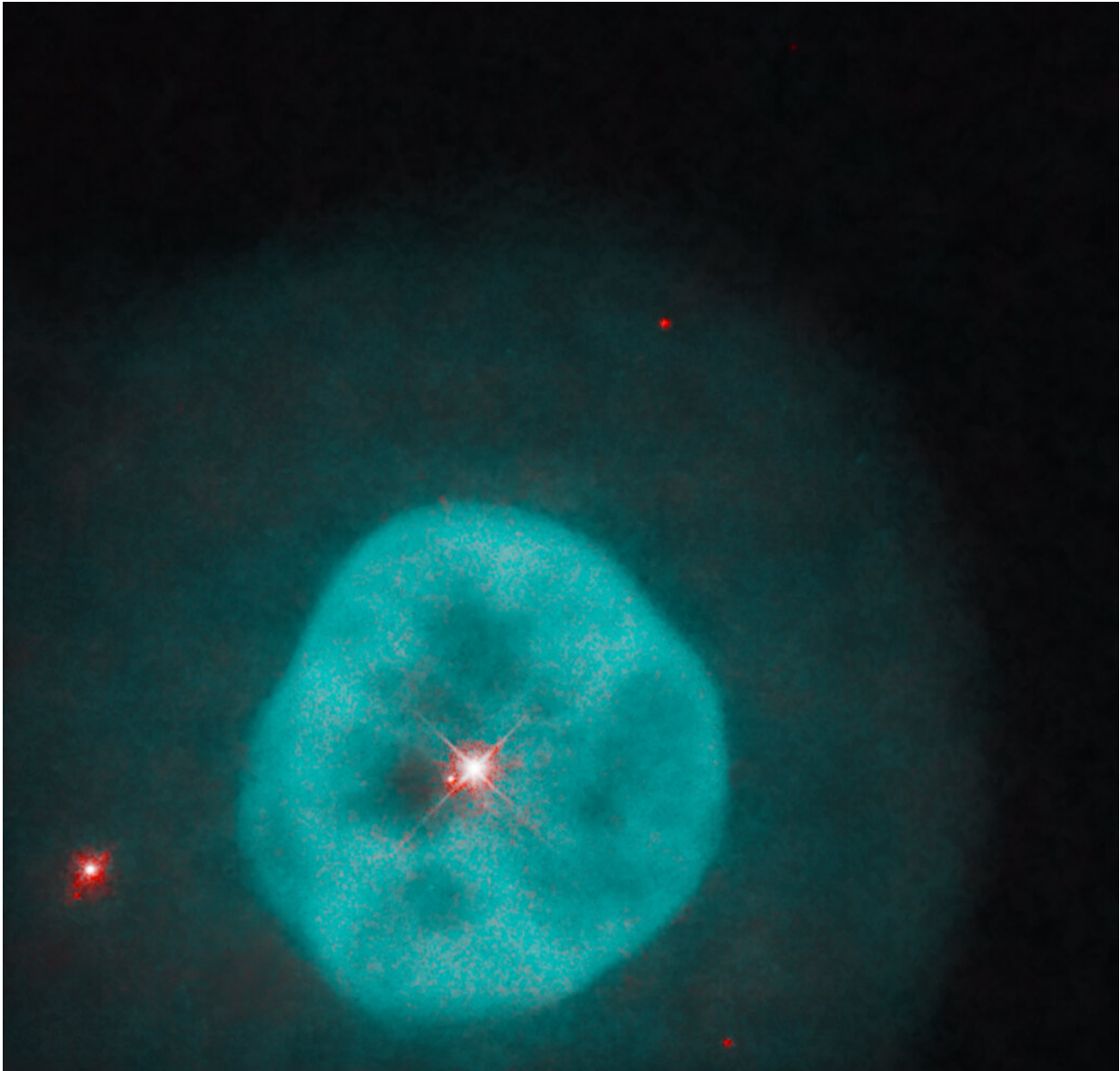


Image: Hubble spies eye in the sky

November 4 2021



Credit: NASA, ESA, and H. Bond and R. Ciardullo (Pennsylvania State University), et. al.; Processing: Gladys Kober (NASA/Catholic University of

America)

Cleopatra's Eye, or NGC 1535, is a planetary nebula in the constellation Eridanus. This nebula has an unusual structure that is similar to the better-known NGC 2392, with an outer region and a brighter inner center.

A [planetary nebula](#) forms when a star approximately the size of our Sun dies, exhaling its outer layers into space as the core turns into a white dwarf star. Through early telescopes these objects resembled planets—giving them their name—but planetary nebulae are unrelated to actual planets.

Hubble observed this nebula as part of a study of over 100 planetary nebulae with nearby stars. The proximity of the stars indicated a possible gravitational connection between the [nearby stars](#) and the central stars of the nebulae. Observations of the distance between NGC 1535's [central star](#) and its possible companion suggest that Cleopatra's Eye is indeed part of a gravitationally bound binary star system.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Citation: Image: Hubble spies eye in the sky (2021, November 4) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2021-11-image-hubble-spies-eye-sky.html>

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