

GALEX

Galaxy Evolution Explorer



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A Real Shooting Star

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California



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Racing through space faster than a speeding bullet is the star Mira (MY-ra), seen in this image from NASA's Galaxy Evolution Explorer. Mira is traveling 291,000 miles per hour. As it hurtles along, it sheds material that will be recycled into new stars, planets and possibly even life. The star itself is the pinkish dot in the bulb shape at right. The yellow dot below is a foreground star. Mira travels so fast that it creates a bow shock, or build-up of gas, in front of it, as can be seen here at right.

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