

Hot Alien Jupiter

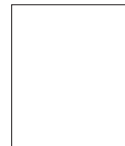
Planetfinding

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This artist's concept of a Jupiter-like planet may be similar to one the Spitzer Space Telescope observed using its heat-seeking infrared eyes. The planet, Upsilon Andromedae b, orbits its star once every 4.6 days at one-sixth the distance that our innermost planet, tiny Mercury, orbits the Sun. Unlike our Jupiter with its 10-hour rotation period, this strange gas giant always keeps the same side toward the star. So the side facing the star is hot as molten lava, and the other side could be cold as ice. For more information and images, see: <http://www.spitzer.caltech.edu>

Credit NASA/JPL-Caltech/R. Hurt (Spitzer Science Center).

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