

Formation and Destruction of the Ring around Supernova 1987A

THIS SEQUENCE shows one possible scenario for the creation of the gaseous ring around supernova 1987A. The ring was formed late in the progenitor star's life through a merger with a binary companion. A brilliant flash of light from the star's explosion in 1987 first made the ring visible. The supernova's shockwave will collide with the ring and brighten it again. Eventually, the shockwave will destroy the ring.

