Shockwaves in Space

SPACE ISN'T EMPTY.

THE GAS AND DUST BETWEEN STARS IS CALLED THE INTERSTELLAR MEDIUM. MATERIAL EJECTED FROM STARS CRASHES INTO THIS LESS-DENSE MEDIUM, CREATING SHOCKWAVES.

ANATOMY OF A Stellar Jet

JET HH 212

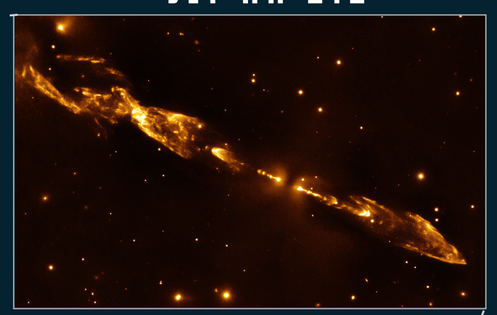
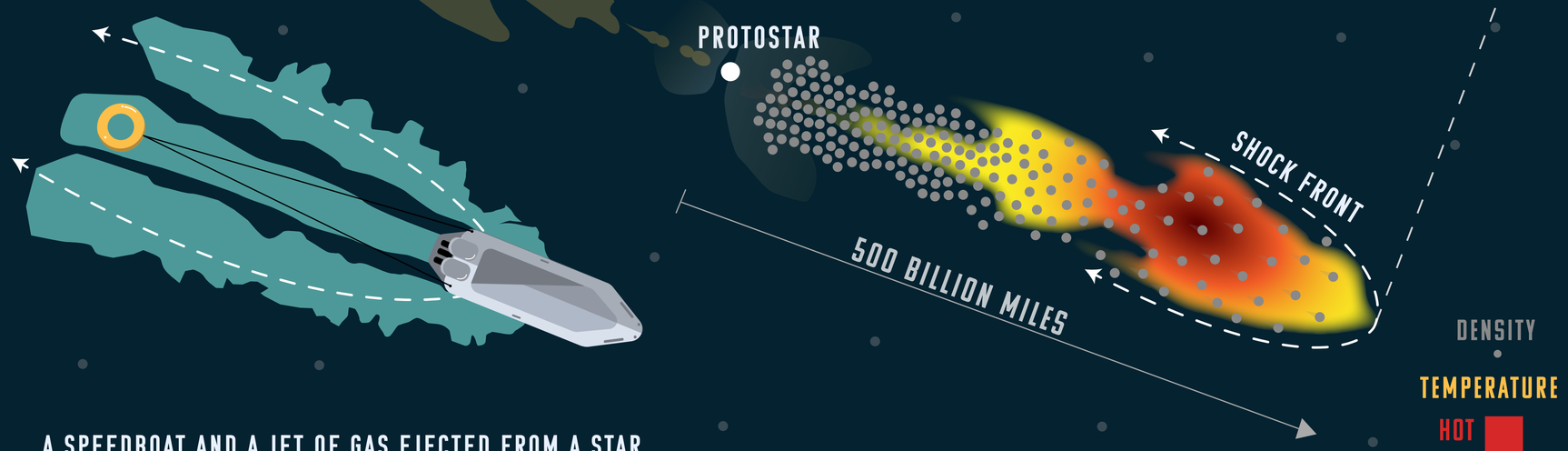


IMAGE COURTESY OF HUBBLE



A SPEEDBOAT AND A JET OF GAS EJECTED FROM A STAR AFFECTS THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND THEM IN SIMILAR WAYS; AN OBSERVABLE SHOCK FRONT AT THE POINT OF IMPACT AND CONCENTRATED MATTER BEHIND.