

Hubble Investigates Galaxy with Nine Rings

Astronomers using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope identified eight visible rings in LEDA 1313424, or the Bullseye galaxy — more than previously detected by any telescope in any galaxy.

The team also used data from the W. M. Keck Observatory in Hawaii to confirm a ninth ring.

Scientists think a blue dwarf galaxy traveled like a dart through the core of the Bullseye about 50 million years ago, leaving the rings in its wake like ripples in a pond.

The rings appear to have moved outward almost exactly as predicted by models.



LEDA 1313424, or the Bullseye galaxy, has nine rings — more than any other known galaxy. The blue dwarf galaxy to its left dove through it about 50 million years ago, creating the rings. Credit: NASA, ESA, Imad Pasha (Yale), Pieter van Dokkum (Yale)

Paper: <https://iopscience.iop.org/journal/2041-8205>

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