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Hubble Spies Huge Clusters of Stars Formed by Ancient Encounter

1. 600 million years ago a violent encounter between two of the Milky Way's close neighbours M81 and M82 was the cause of the creation of more than 100 young, bright, compact star clusters, known as super star clusters in M82's central region.

European and American astronomers using the sharp vision of the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope reveal for the first time important details of these super star clusters.

2. The beautiful Hubble image shows the super star clusters as compact groupings of about 100,000 stars as white spots sprinkled between M82's huge lanes of dust. The astronomers have used Hubble to date the ancient encounter between M81 and M82 and provide evidence linking the birth of the super star clusters with the interaction.

3. Hubble's unique ability to make sharp pictures in infrared light enables the astronomers led by Richard Grijs from Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge, UK, to see through the masses of dust and gas. The super star clusters as well as individual stars in M82 are revealed in unprecedented detail.

M82 is a nearby bright galaxy - a mere 12 million light-years away - in the constellation Ursa Major. Also today the galaxy is giving birth to new stars, and it is known as a prototypical star-birth galaxy.

Animation 1 Overview of M81 and M82, ground-based photo, blend to Hubble image of M82
 Animation 2 Zoom/Pan on Hubble image of M82
 Animation 3 Zoom/Pan on Hubble image of M82, blend to infrared Hubble view of the newly formed super star clusters

TIMECODE		TITLE	DURATION
In	Out		
01:00:00:00	01:01:00:00	CB + 1KHz	00:01:00:00
01:01:00:00	01:02:00:00	BB	00:01:00:00
01:02:00:00	01:03:30:00	"A-roll" (rough cut)	00:01:30:00
01:03:35:00	01:06:43:00	B-roll	00:03:08:00
		Overview slide	
		Animation 1 slide	
		Animation 1	
		Animation 2 slide	
		Animation 2	
		Animation 3 slide	
		Animation 3	