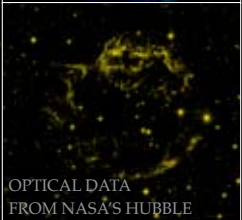


X-RAYS FROM
NASA'S CHANDRA



OPTICAL DATA
FROM NASA'S HUBBLE



INFRARED EMISSION
FROM NASA'S SPITZER

CASSIOPEIA A

Cassiopeia A (Cas A) is a relatively young supernova remnant in the Milky Way galaxy. A supernova remnant is the expanding debris field of hot gas and energetic particles created when a massive star explodes.

Cas A, at a distance of 11,000 light years from Earth, is in the constellation Cassiopeia. This constellation is widely known for its “W” shape that Greek and Roman mythology identified as a queen’s throne.



Although the exact date is uncertain, this supernova would have appeared in the night sky about 330 years ago.

The supernova that created Cas A is thought to have occurred when a star about 25 times as massive as the Sun ran out of fuel for nuclear power. Its core then collapsed to form an ultra-dense object called a neutron star, and the outer layers of the star were ejected at enormous speeds.

More at: <http://chandra.harvard.edu>