Friday, October 7, 2011

Exam 2 back. Key posted

Check that Sky Watch is recorded properly

Reading: Section 6.7, Chapter 7, Chapter 8 - Sections 8.1, 8.2, 8.5, 8.6, 8.10

Astronomy in the news?

Pic of the day: Comet Hartley 2 (and two more distant "open" star clusters) observed by newly launched Herschel Space Observatory that observes in the infrared band. The comet has the same "heavy water" content as in Earth's oceans. Comets may have delivered Earth's water.

Goal:

To understand the nature and importance of SN 1987A for our understanding of massive star evolution and iron core collapse.

Rob McNaught patrol photos - the day before

2-22-87

The first known photo of SN 1987A hours after shock breakout

2-23-87

One day later

2-24-87

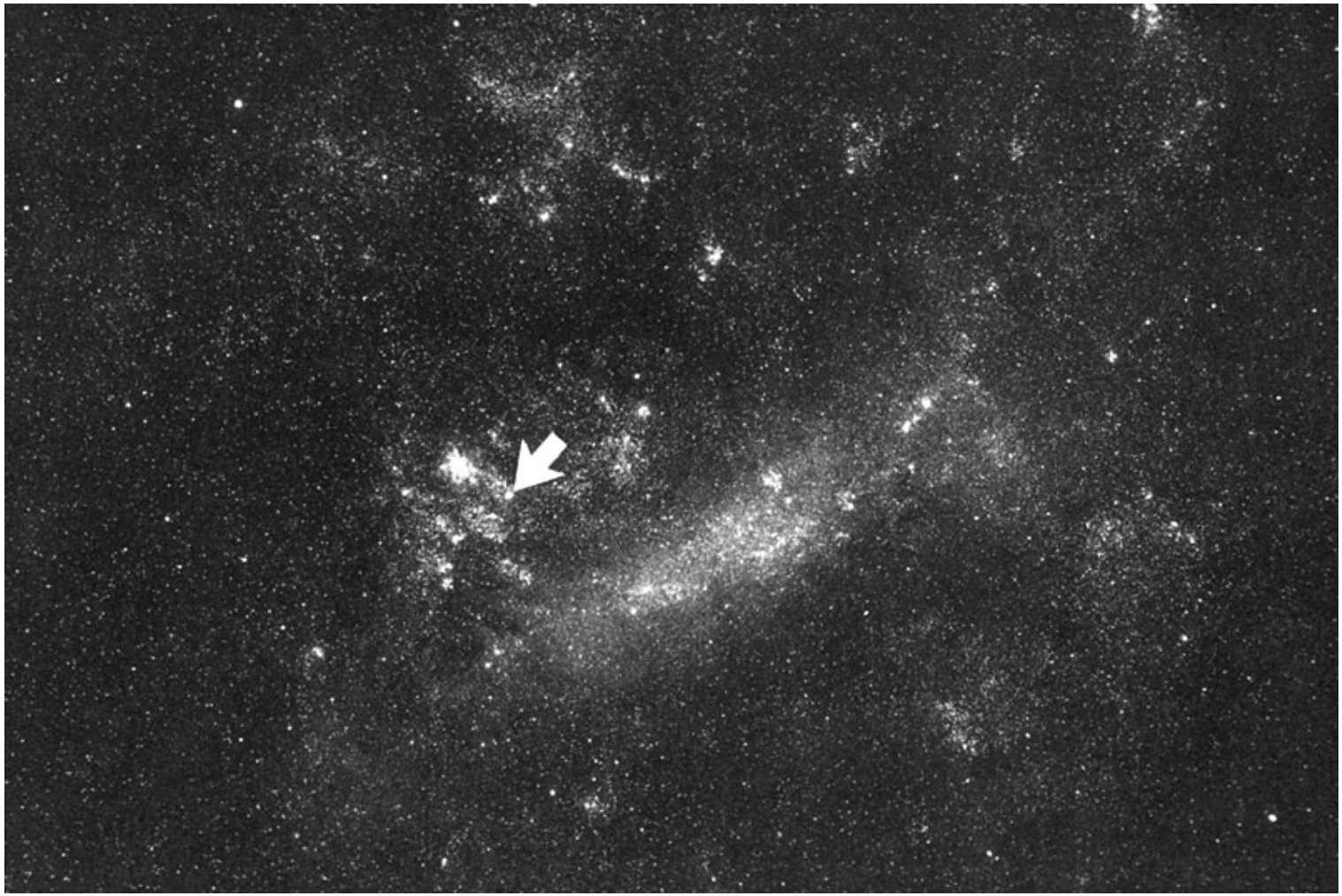
Near maximum light

5-20-87

About when I saw it

8-23-87

LMC w/arrow



One Minute Exam

When SN 1987A exploded, where would have been a good place to have seen it with your naked eye?

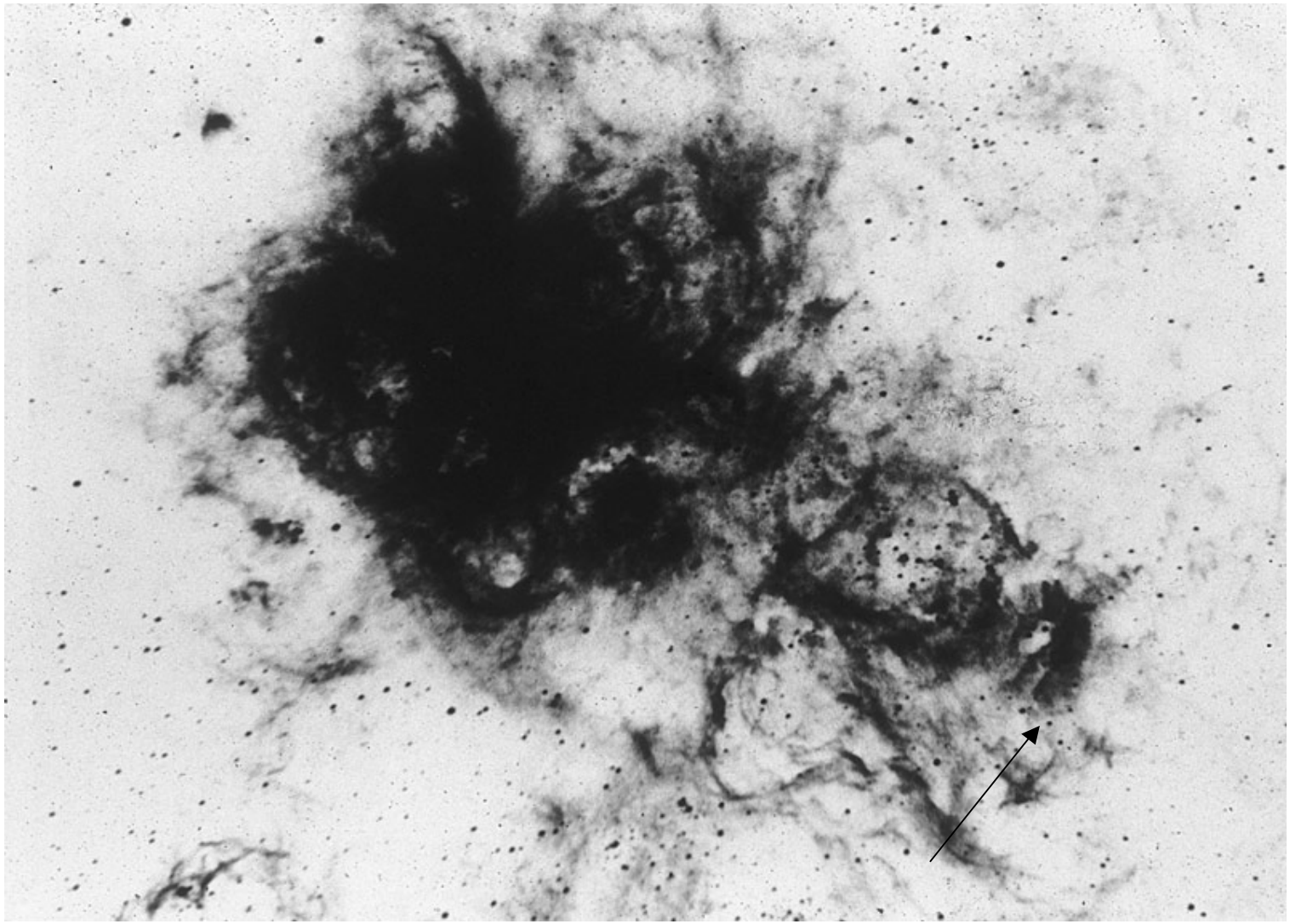
 Texas

 Japan

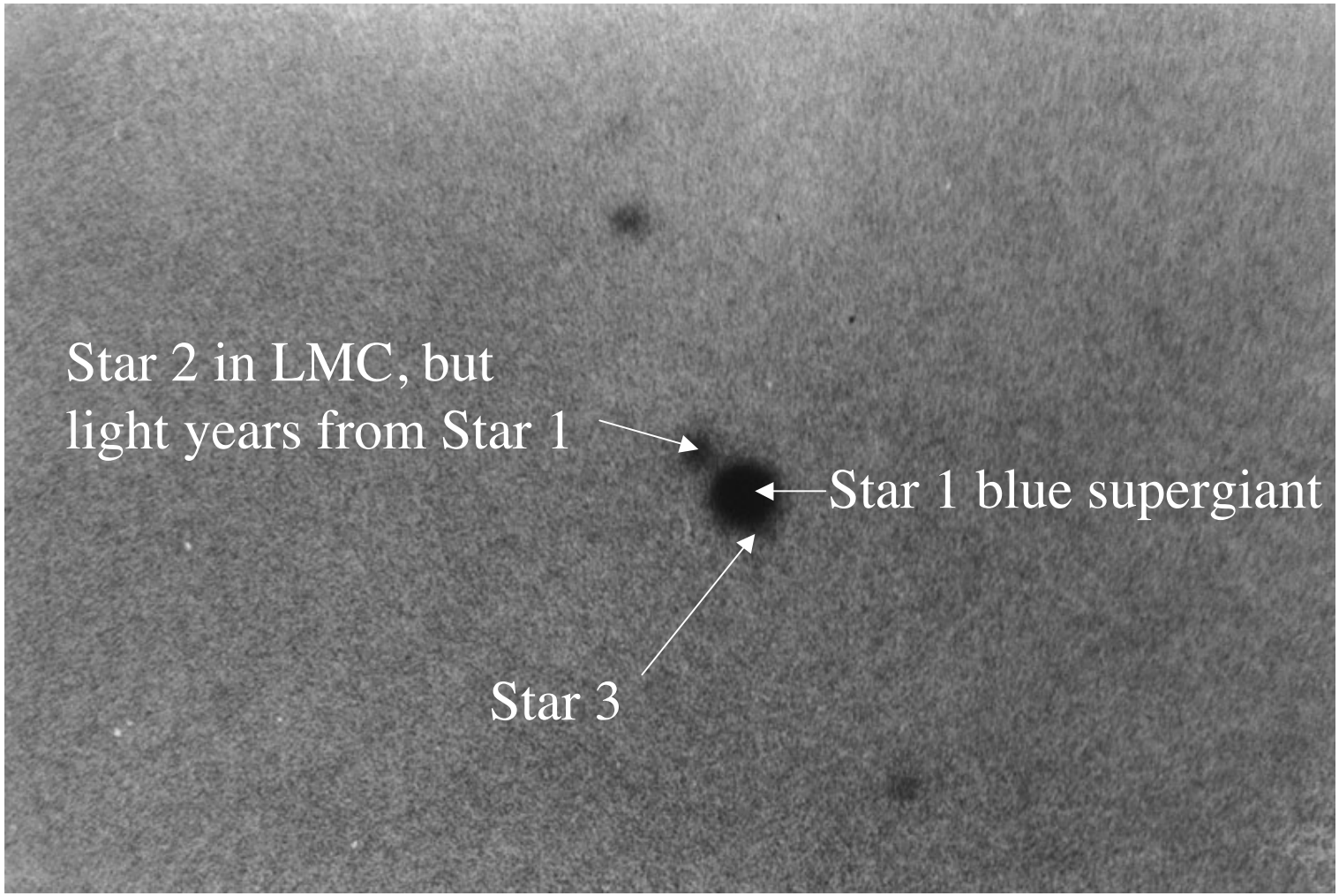
 Russia

 Argentina

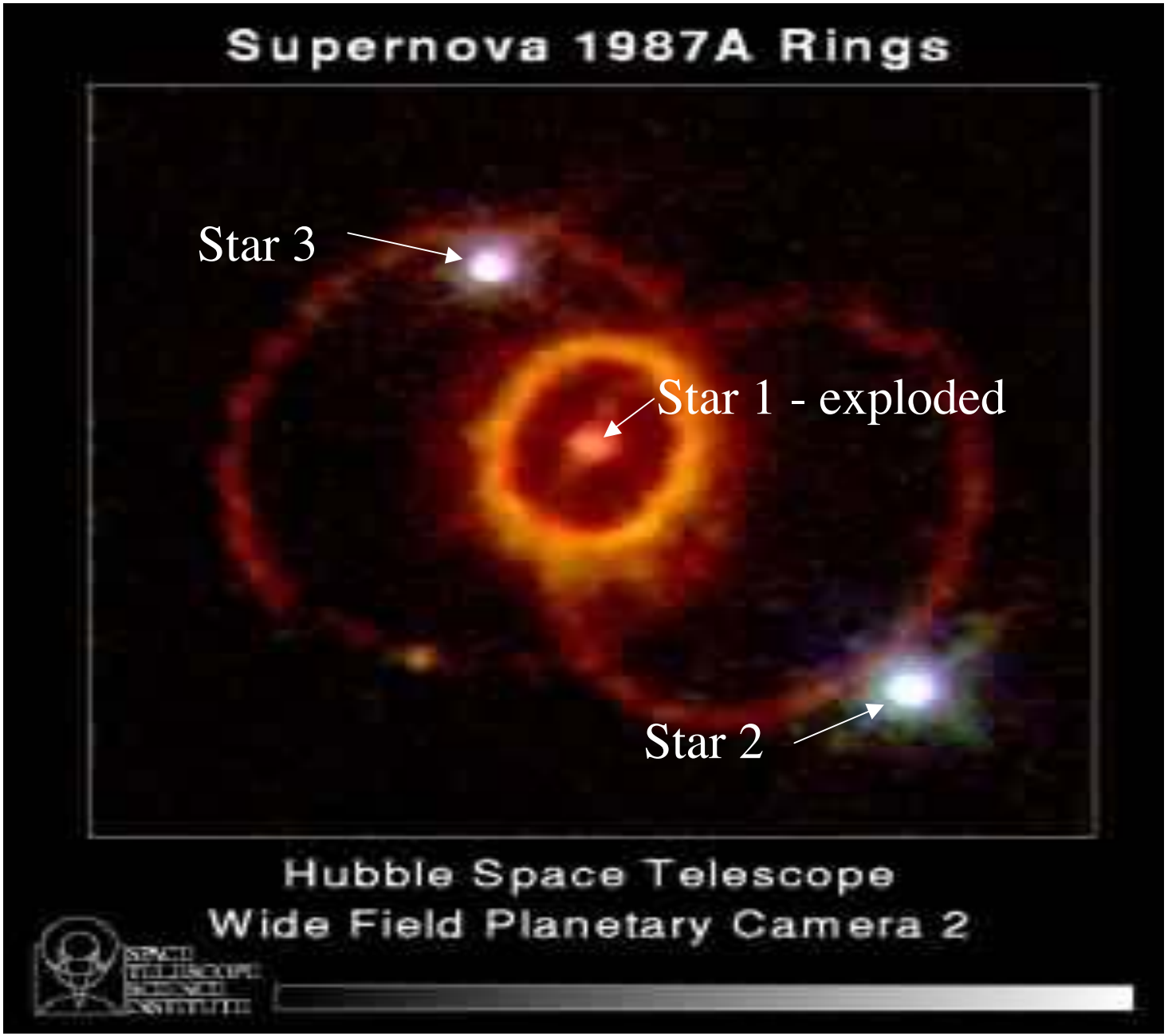
Photo of progenitor star (giraffe): Courtesy Yu Hua Chu

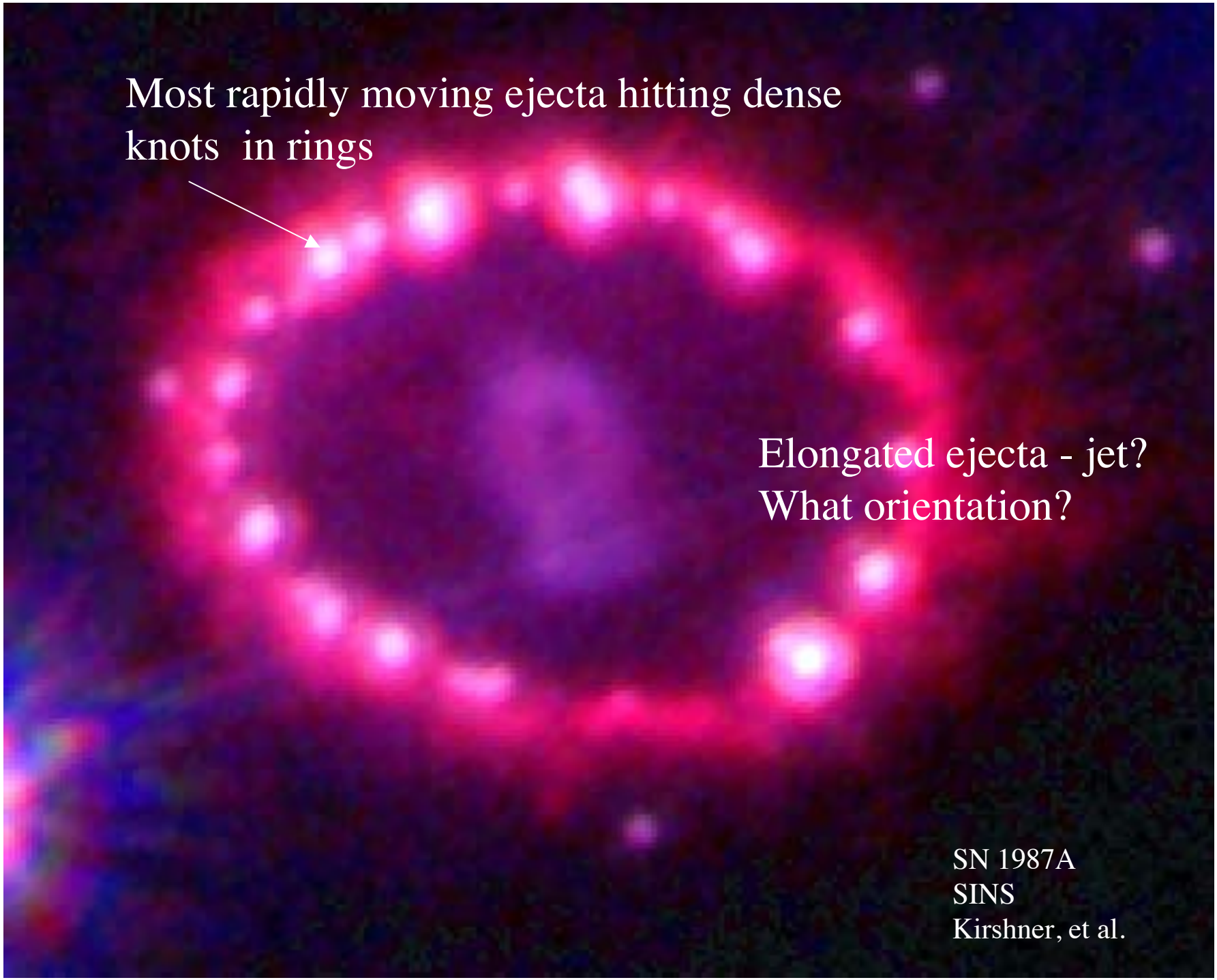


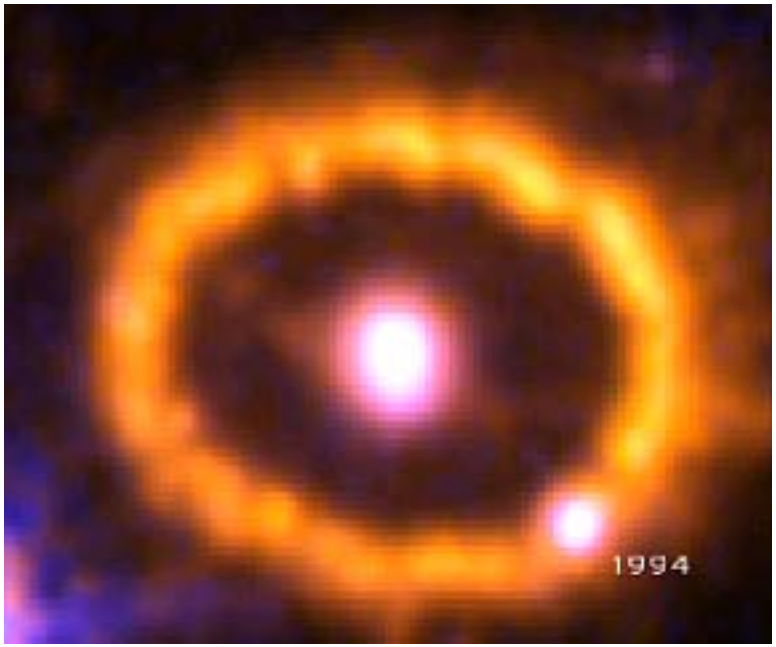
Stars 1, 2, 3: Courtesy Yu Hua Chu

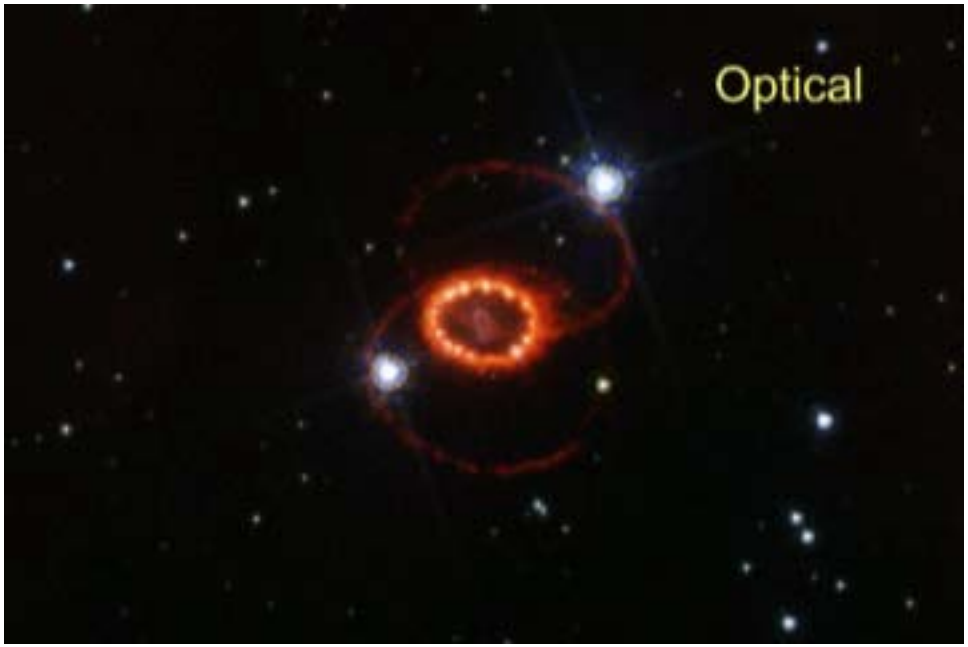


Close-up

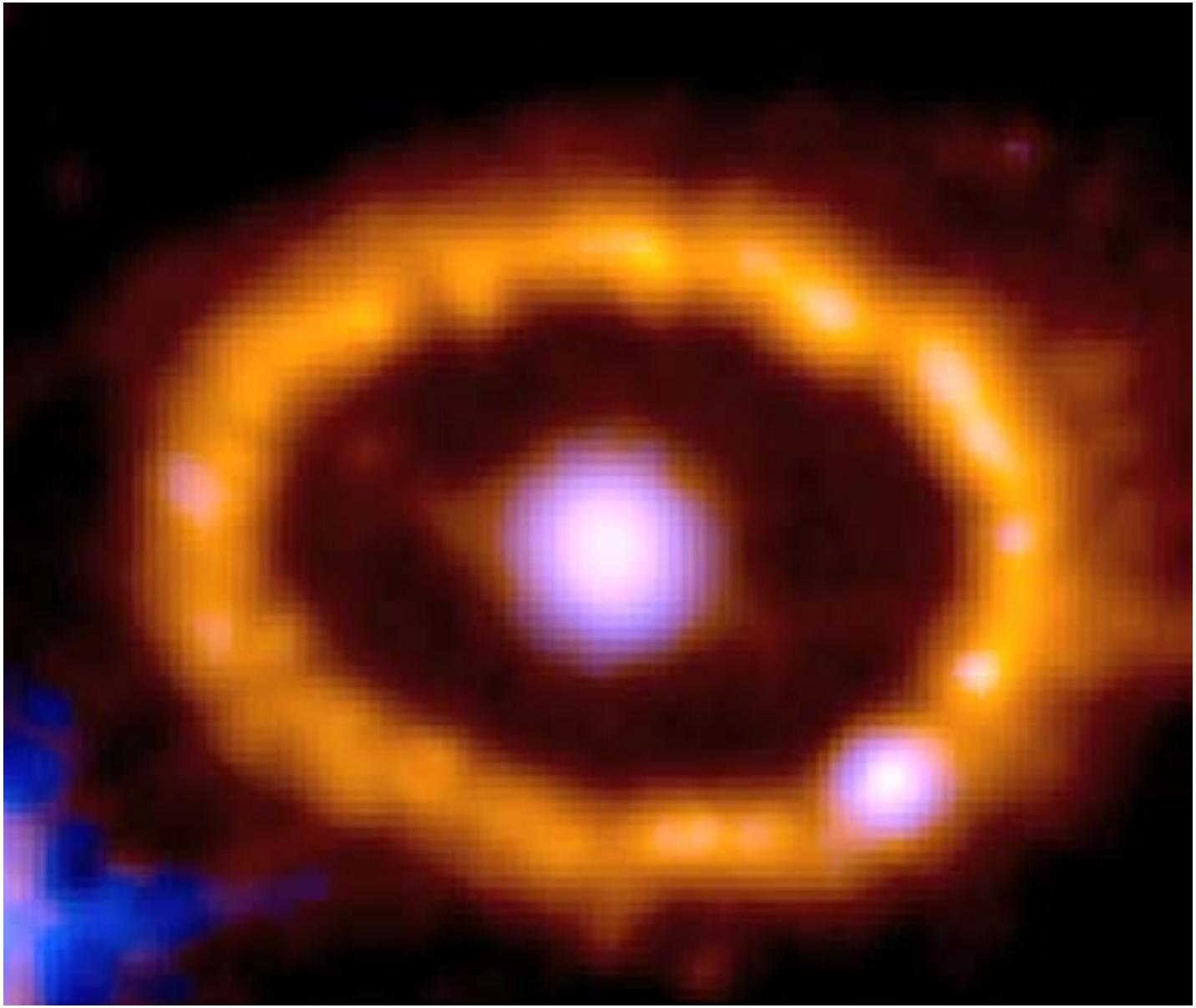

Supernova 1987A Rings
Star 3
Star 1 - exploded
Star 2
Hubble Space Telescope
Wide Field Planetary Camera 2


Most rapidly moving ejecta hitting dense knots in rings
Elongated ejecta - jet?
What orientation?
SN 1987A
SINS
Kirshner, et al.


1994


Optical

Updated to 2010



The single most important thing about SN 1987A is that we detected the neutrinos!

It was definitely a core-collapse event

10^{57} neutrinos emitted, most missed the Earth. Of those that hit the Earth, most passed though since neutrinos scarcely interact.

About 19 neutrinos were detected in a 10 second burst.

170,000 year history!