## **Life Cycle of Cosmic Dust**

Cosmic dust is omnipresent in the universe, which is closely related to the cycle of star

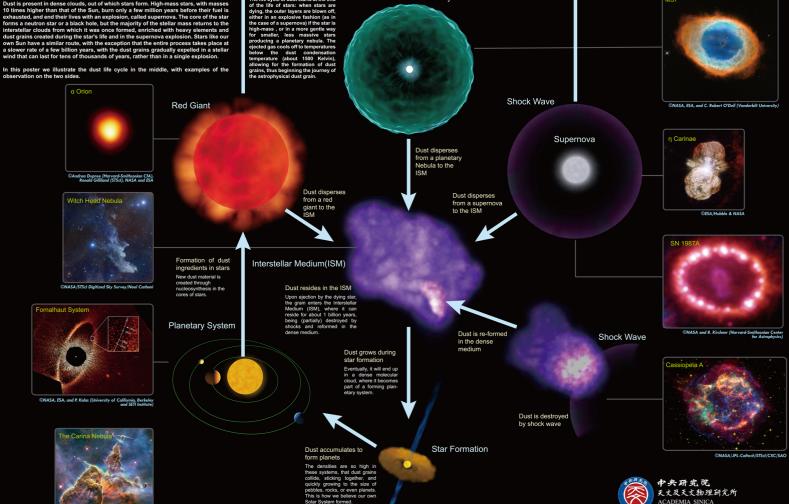
Birth of Dust

The life cycle of dust starts at the end

Dust is present in dense clouds, out of which stars form. High-mass stars, with masses 10 times higher than that of the Sun, burn only a few million years before their fuel is exhausted, and end their lives with an explosion, called supernova. The core of the star forms a neutron star or a black hole, but the majority of the stellar mass returns to the interstellar clouds from which it was once formed, enriched with heavy elements and dust grains created during the star's life and in the supernova explosion. Stars like our own Sun have a similar route, with the exception that the entire process takes place at a slower rate of a few billion years, with the dust grains gradually expelled in a stellar wind that can last for tens of thousands of years, rather than in a single explosion.

observation on the two sides.

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Planetary Nebula

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