Stars are born in gravitationally collapsing clouds of gas, shrouded in dark natal blankets of dust. Peering inside using the infrared eye of NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope reveals surprising jet-like structures that tell us something about how stars form.	*Ssc2003-06* *HH 46/47 vis to IR*
A baby star grows in size and mass by accumulating material from an orbiting disk. A small amount never reaches the protostar, but is spun up and ejected along its polar magnetic fields, perpendicular to the disk.	*Artist's concept animation*
These jets become visible where they crash into the surrounding interstellar gas, making glowing shock fronts that sometimes look like vast, elongated bubbles.	*sig07-022* *HH 49/50*
In other cases we may only see the shocked gas at the very tips of the jets far from their originating protostars.	*Sig07-014*
Here in NGC 1333 the yellow-green outflows from over a dozen protostars criss-cross one another in a hot-bed of star formation.	*Ssc2005-24*
Visible light images can sometimes show hints of jets that are more fully revealed by Spitzer's observations.	*Sig07-005abc*

In other cases they can only be seen in the infrared. Kinks in the jets show astronomers how the direction of the outflow can change over time, tracing different paths through the surrounding material.	*Ssc2007-19ab dissolve*
These colorful images of protostellar jets provide important clues about how stars, like our own sun, grow and evolve in the Hidden Universe.	*Sig06-002*