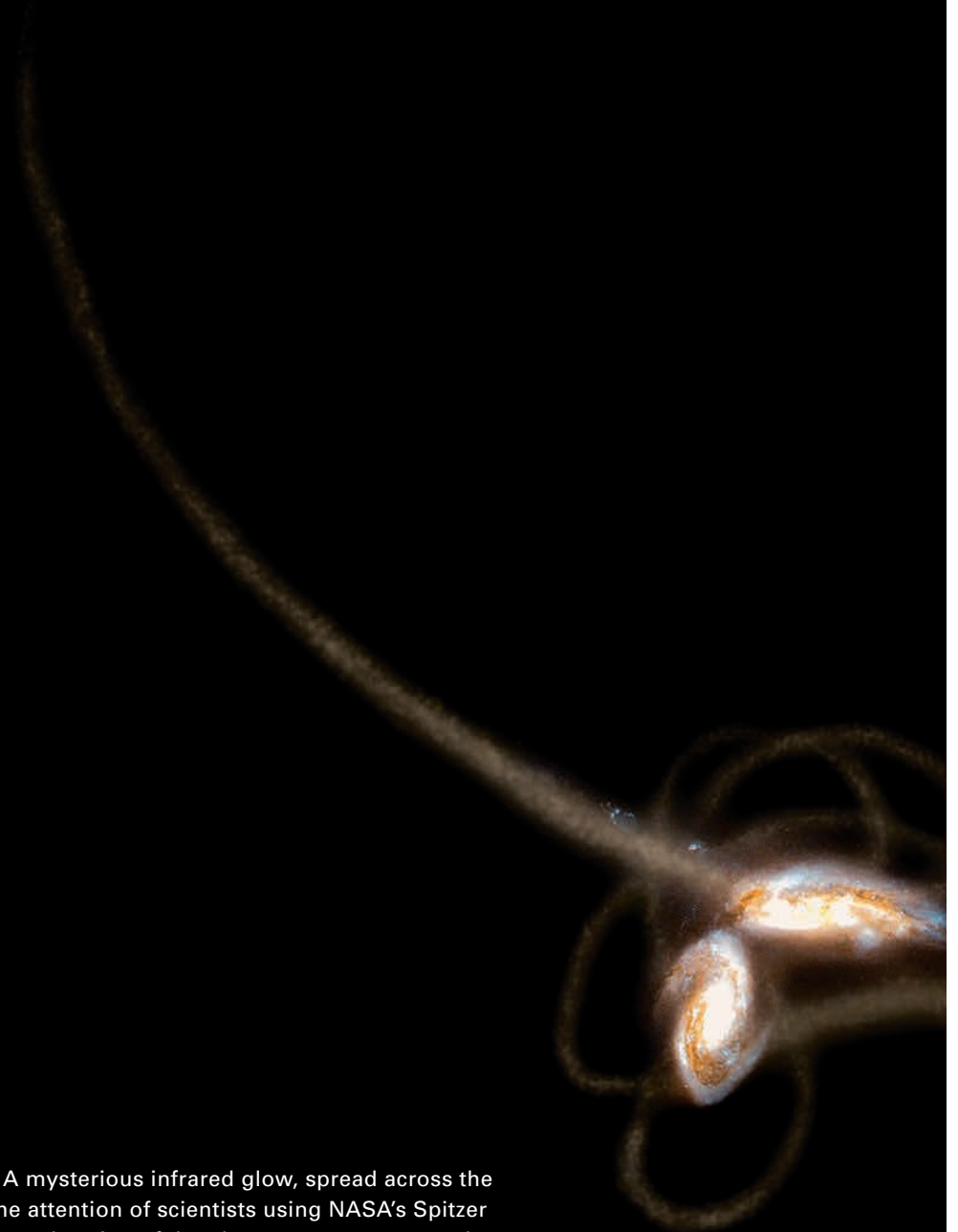
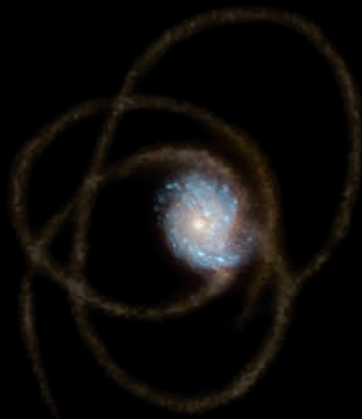


Random Walk



SPITZER'S STARLIGHT A mysterious infrared glow, spread across the entire night sky, has caught the attention of scientists using NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope. Their recent exploration of the phenomenon suggests that the light is coming from stray stars torn from their galaxies. As galaxies grow, they can merge and become gravitationally tangled; this violent tug-of-war can result in streams of stars being ripped away from their respective galaxies. The scientists say that Spitzer is picking up the collective glow of such stars, which linger in the spaces between galaxies. This artist's concept is adapted, in part, from galaxy images obtained by the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope.

