Chandra Science Highlight

Tarantula Nebula (30 Doradus) in the Large Magellanic Cloud galaxy

The Tarantula Nebula is a n active star-forming region, with an estimated 2,400 massive stars in its central region. These massive stars are producing intense radiation and powerful winds. The stellar winds, along with supernova explosions, carve out hot, X-ray emitting bubbles of gas in the cooler gas, and may play a major role in the observed expansion of the nebula.

This composite image of the Tarantula Nebula shows multimillion-degree gas detected in X-rays by the Chandra (blue) and infrared emission from clouds of cool gas and dust detected by the Spitzer Space Telescope (orange).

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CXC is operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory