



Chandra X-ray
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DEM L316: Two supernova remnants in the Large Magellanic Cloud galaxy.
(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/U.Illinois/R.Williams & Y.-H.Chu; Optical:
NOAO/CTIO/U.Illinois/R.Williams & MCELS coll.)

Caption: This is a composite X-ray (red and green)/optical (blue) image of two hot gas shells produced by supernova explosions. Although the shells appear to be colliding, it may be an illusion. Chandra X-ray spectra show that the shell of hot gas on the upper left contains considerably more iron than the one on the lower right. This implies that stars with very different ages exploded to produce these objects. The remnant on the upper left is from an old white dwarf star in a binary system, and the one on the lower right is from a much younger massive star, so the apparent proximity of the remnants is probably the result of a chance alignment.

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory