



**Chandra X-ray  
Observatory Center**

Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics  
60 Garden St. Cambridge, MA 02138 USA  
<http://chandra.harvard.edu>

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**NGC 6397 and NGC 6121:** Two globular clusters located in the Milky Way.  
(Credit: NASA/CXC/Northwestern Univ/J.Fregau)

**Caption:** These two Chandra images are part of a study that shows that globular clusters, some of the oldest known objects in the Universe, may be less mature in their development than previously thought. The amount of bright X-ray sources is an indication of where each globular cluster stands in its evolution. In these images, red, green, and blue represent low, medium, and high-energy X-rays detected by Chandra. NGC 6397 has a clear surplus of X-ray sources, suggesting that it is in its middle age, while NGC 6121 appears to still be in adolescence.

**Scales:** Left panel 2.33 arcmin across and right panel 3.65 arcmin across.

*Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Images*

*CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory*

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