



**Chandra X-ray
Observatory Center**

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NGC 6388: A globular cluster about 35,000 light years from Earth.
(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/IASF Palermo/M.Del Santo et al; Optical: NASA/STScI)

Caption: Using Chandra and several other telescopes, researchers have found evidence that a white dwarf star – the dense core of a star like the Sun that has run out of nuclear fuel – may have ripped apart a planet as it came too close. This composite image provides one of the clues: Chandra shows that the X-rays (pink) are not coming from the cluster's center, as is evident when combined with visible light data from the Hubble Space Telescope (red, green, and blue). Instead, the details of the combined datasets point to a possible "tidal disruption" where one astronomical object destroys another through powerful gravitational forces.

Scale: Image is 3 arcmin across (about 38 light years)

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
