



**Chandra X-ray  
Observatory Center**

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**Sagittarius A\*:** The 4-million-solar-mass black hole at the center of the Milky Way.  
(Credit: NASA/CXC/MPE/G.Ponti et al; Illustration: NASA/CXC/M.Weiss)

**Caption:** The artist's illustrations in the top panels represent a possible explanation for a recent increase in X-ray flares from Sgr A\* seen by three telescopes including Chandra. As part of a long monitoring campaign, astronomers observed Sgr A\* as a mysterious object called G2 appeared to pass close to the Milky Way's supermassive black hole. The timing of G2's passage could suggest that material from G2 caused the surge in X-ray activity, but it is also possible that this unrelated behavior of Sgr A\*. The image at the bottom of the panel is Chandra's view of the region around Sgr A\*, where red, green, and blue show low, medium, and high-energy X-rays detected by Chandra,

**Scale:** Image is 5 by 5 arcmin (about 38 light years)

*Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image*

*CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory*