



**Chandra X-ray  
Observatory Center**

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

---

**IC 10:** A starburst galaxy about 2.2 million light years from Earth.

(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/UMass Lowell/S.Laycock et al. Optical: Bill Snyder Astrophotography)

**Caption:** IC 10 is a starburst galaxy that has many new stars forming within it. Chandra observations taken over a decade reveal 110 X-ray sources in IC 10, including about a dozen that are black holes and neutron stars feeding off gas from young, massive stellar companions (systems known as "X-ray binaries"). Some of these pairs may eventually form systems that merge and emit gravitational waves. This new composite of IC 10 combines X-ray data from Chandra (dark blue) with an optical image (red, green, blue) taken by amateur astronomer Bill Snyder.

**Scale:** Image is about 10.3 arcmin on a side

*Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image*

*CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory*

---