ULX in M51: An ultraluminous X-ray source in the M51, or Whirlpool, galaxy.
(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/Caltech/M. Brightman et al.; Optical: NASA/STScI)

Caption: Researchers using Chandra data have identified a fourth ultraluminous X-ray source (ULX),
dubbed ULX8, as being a neutron star. These results provide clues about how these objects can shine
so brightly in X-rays. The newly characterized ULX is located in the Whirlpool galaxy, also known as
M51. This composite image of the Whirlpool contains X-rays from Chandra (purple) and optical data
from the Hubble Space Telescope (red, green, and blue). The ULX is marked with a circle.

Scale: Image is 6 x 6 arcmin (about 52,000 x 52,000 light years) across