



**Chandra X-ray  
Observatory Center**

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

---

**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

*Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image*

*CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory*

---