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MAXI J1820+070: A system with a black hole and companion star about 10,000 light years from Earth. (Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/Université de Paris/M. Espinasse et al.; Optical/IR:PanSTARRS)

Caption: Astronomers have caught a stellar-mass black hole hurling hot material into space at close to the speed of light using four Chandra observations taken in 2018 and 2019. The main panel of the graphic is a large optical and infrared image of the Milky Way galaxy, with the location of MAXI J1820+070 marked by a cross. The inset shows a close-up Chandra view of the system centered on the black hole. The data reveal that two jets pointed in opposite directions, launched just outside the event horizon, are blasting away from the black hole at about 80% of the speed of light.

Scale: Optical/infrared image is about 44.5 degrees (8,000 light years) across. X-ray inset image is about 30 arcsec (1.5 light years) across.

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory