



# CASSIOPEIA A

Cassiopeia A is the youngest (about 300 years old) known supernova remnant in the Milky Way. Astronomers have used Chandra’s long observations of this remnant to make a map of the acceleration of electrons in this supernova remnant. The analysis shows that the electrons are being accelerated to almost the maximum theoretical limit in some parts of Cassiopeia A (Cas A) in what can be thought of as a “relativistic pinball machine.” Protons and ions, which make up the bulk of cosmic rays, are expected to be accelerated in a similar way to the electrons. The Cas A observations thus provide strong evidence that supernova remnants are key sites for energizing cosmic rays.

## JANUARY 2008

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		