



G54.1+0.3

Dust is flying past and engulfing a family of stars nearby this remnant of a collapsed star. Scientists think the stars in the image are part of a stellar cluster into which the supernova exploded. This composite image of G54.1+0.3 shows X-rays from Chandra in blue, and infrared data from Spitzer in green (shorter wavelength) and red-yellow (longer wavelength). The white source near the center of the image is a rapidly rotating neutron star, or "pulsar," left behind after the star exploded. The pulsar generates a wind of high-energy particles—seen in the Chandra data—that expands into the surrounding environment, illuminating the material ejected in the supernova.

March 2011

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