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Quasar survey: Over 700 supermassive black holes at a range of distances. (Illustration Credit: NASA/CXC/M. Weiss)

Caption: A new study has isolated the factors that determine why some rapidly growing supermassive black holes (known as quasars) launch jets and others do not. The research, which uses data from Chandra and other telescopes, reveals the key role that regions of diffuse hot gas threaded with powerful magnetic fields — called a black hole "corona" — play in dictating whether the system creates a jet. This scenario is depicted in an artist's illustration.

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