

30 DORADUS

At the center of 30 Doradus, one of the largest star-forming regions located close to the Milky Way, thousands of massive stars are blowing off material and producing intense radiation along with powerful winds. Chandra detects gas that has been heated to millions of degrees by these stellar winds and also by supernova explosions that mark the end of some giant stars' lives. The X-rays come from shock fronts, similar to sonic booms produced by supersonic airplanes, that rumble through the system. This image of 30 Doradus contains Chandra data (red, green, and purple) from several long observations totaling almost 24 days of observing spread out over about 700 days.

JUNE 2020

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