

CYGNUS OB2

Our Sun is an average-sized star that will have a lifespan of some 10 billion years. More massive stars, like those found in Cygnus OB2, only last a few million years. During their lifetimes, these bigger stars blast large amounts of high-energy winds that can collide to produce shocks in the gas and dust around the stars, generating X-ray emission detected by Chandra. In this image of Cygnus OB2, X-rays from Chandra (red and blue) are shown with optical data from the Isaac Newton Telescope (light blue) and infrared data from NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope (orange).

SEPTEMBER 2020

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