



**Chandra X-ray
Observatory Center**

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Arp 299: A system of merging galaxies located about 140 million light years from Earth.
(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/Univ of Crete/K. Anastasopoulou et al, NASA/NuSTAR/GSFC/A. Ptak et al;
Optical: NASA/STScI)

Caption: Arp 299 contains two galaxies that are merging, creating a partially blended mix of stars from each galaxy in the process. New data from Chandra (pink) reveals 25 bright X-ray sources in Arp 299, and 14 of these are extremely strong emitters of X-rays known as “ultra-luminous X-ray sources,” or ULXs. Such a high concentration of ULXs is rare, but caused by the intense star formation resulting from the galactic collision. This composite also contains data from NuSTAR (purple) and Hubble (white and faint brown).

Scale: Image is 2.8 arcmin (about 117,000 light years) across

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
