



**Chandra X-ray  
Observatory Center**

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**Black Hole Triplet, SDSS J0849+1114:** A trio of black holes located about a billion light years from Earth.

(Credit: X-ray:NASA/CXC/George Mason Univ./R. Pfeifle et al.; Optical: SDSS & NASA/STScI)

**Caption:** A study using data from Chandra and other telescopes provides the strongest evidence yet for three supermassive black holes on a collision course. Astronomers think such triplets, while extremely rare, play a critical role in how the biggest black holes grow over time. The main panel shows SDSS J084905.51+111447.2 in X-rays from Chandra (purple) and optical light data from Hubble and the SDSS (red, green, blue). Chandra revealed three X-ray sources at the bright centers of each galaxy in the merger, where scientists expect supermassive black holes to reside.

*Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image*

*CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory*

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