



**Chandra X-ray
Observatory Center**

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Fornax Cluster: A galaxy cluster located about 60 million light years from Earth.
(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/McGill University/X. Jin et al.)

Caption: This Chandra image shows the region around NGC 1399 and NGC 1404, two of the largest galaxies in the Fornax galaxy cluster. By combining 15 days' worth of Chandra observing of Fornax spread out between 1999 and 2015, astronomers discovered that about 30 pairs of stars — or "binaries" — had been expelled from galaxies in the cluster. This can happen when one of the binary's stars explodes as a supernova and forms a neutron star. The recoil from the explosion can kick the star so that it is expelled from its home galaxy. These new Chandra results show that sometimes a neutron star's companion star can be forced to exit the galaxy as well.

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
