



Antennae

Two colliding galaxies are on display here in an image featuring data from NASA's Great Observatories. The Antennae galaxies, located about 62 million light years from Earth, are shown in this composite image from Chandra (blue), Hubble (gold and brown), and Spitzer (red). Chandra's X-ray data reveal huge clouds of hot, interstellar gas that have been injected with rich deposits of elements from supernova explosions. This enriched gas, which includes elements such as oxygen, iron, magnesium and silicon, will be incorporated into new generations of stars and planets. The bright, point-like sources in the X-ray image are produced by material falling onto black holes and neutron stars that are remnants of the massive stars.

July 2011

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