

GRS 1915+105

By monitoring the unusual black hole system GRS 1915+105 for over eight hours with Chandra and the RXTE satellite astronomers saw that it pulses in X-ray light every 50 seconds. GRS 1915+105 contains a black hole about 14 times the mass of the Sun. It is feed ing off material from a companion star. The Chandra data, seen to the left in the inset, help to demonstrate that the X-ray pulses are generated by changes in the flow of material falling toward the black hole. The main image shows the crowded star field containing GRS 1915+105 in optical light from the Digital Sky Survey.

August 2012

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