

MARCH 2018

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ARP 299

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, fourteen of which 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 (red, green, blue). The image is 2.8 arcminutes (about 117,000 light years) across

Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/Univ of Crete/K. Anastasopoulou et al., NASA/NuSTAR/GSFC/A. Ptak et al.; Optical: NASA/STScI