SOMBRERO GALAXY

The Sombrero is one of the largest galaxies in the Virgo cluster, and is about 28 million light years from Earth. This image is a composite of observations from NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory, Hubble Space Telescope and Spitzer Space Telescope. X-rays detected by Chandra (blue) reveal hot gas extending over 60,000 light years from the center of the galaxy, and point sources that are mostly produced by neutron stars and black holes within the Sombrero. Hubble's optical data (green) shows a bulge of starlight partially blocked by a rim of dust. That same rim of dust appears bright in Spitzer's infrared image (orange), which also traces Sombrero's central bulge of stars.

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