



**Chandra X-ray
Observatory Center**

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NGC 1399: An elliptical galaxy in the Fornax cluster that contains an ultraluminous X-ray source.
(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/UA/J. Irwin; Optical: NASA/STScI)

Caption: X-rays from Chandra and optical spectra from the Magellan telescopes provide evidence that a star was destroyed a black hole in a globular cluster. The Chandra data (blue) reveal a so-called ultraluminous X-ray source. When combined with optical observations, it suggests that a white dwarf star strayed too close to an intermediate-mass black hole and was ripped apart by tidal forces. If confirmed, this would be the first substantiation that globular clusters contain this middle-sized class of black hole.

Scale: Image is 3 arcmin across.

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory