



**Chandra X-ray  
Observatory Center**

Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics  
60 Garden St. Cambridge, MA 02138 USA  
<http://chandra.harvard.edu>

**Crab Nebula:** A supernova explosion in the Milky Way observed on Earth in the year 1054.  
(Credit: NASA/CXC/MSFC/M.Weisskopf et al)

**Caption:** This image represents a sequence of Chandra observations of the Crab Nebula taken from September 2010 through April 2011. During this period, dramatic variations are seen in the Crab, including the expansion of a ring of X-ray emission around the pulsar (white dot near the center) and changes in the knots within this ring. These variations, however, did not correlate with strong gamma-ray flares seen by the Fermi Gamma Ray Observatory and Italy's AGILE satellite during that period.

**Scale:** 2.5 arcmin across (about 4.7 light years across)

*Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image*

*CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory*