



**Chandra X-ray
Observatory Center**

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XT2: A neutron star merger located in a galaxy about 6.6 billion light years from Earth.
(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/Uni. of Science and Technology of China/Y. Xue et al; Optical: NASA/STScI)

Caption: These images show the location of an event, discovered by Chandra, that likely signals the merger of two neutron stars. Unlike other neutron star mergers, this one was not observed as a gamma-ray burst. The wider field of view shows a Hubble optical image of a portion of the Chandra Deep Field-South field, while the inset shows a Chandra image focusing only on the source dubbed XT2. A bright burst of X-rays in XT2 could give astronomers fresh insight into how neutron stars – dense stellar objects packed mainly with neutrons — are built.

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
