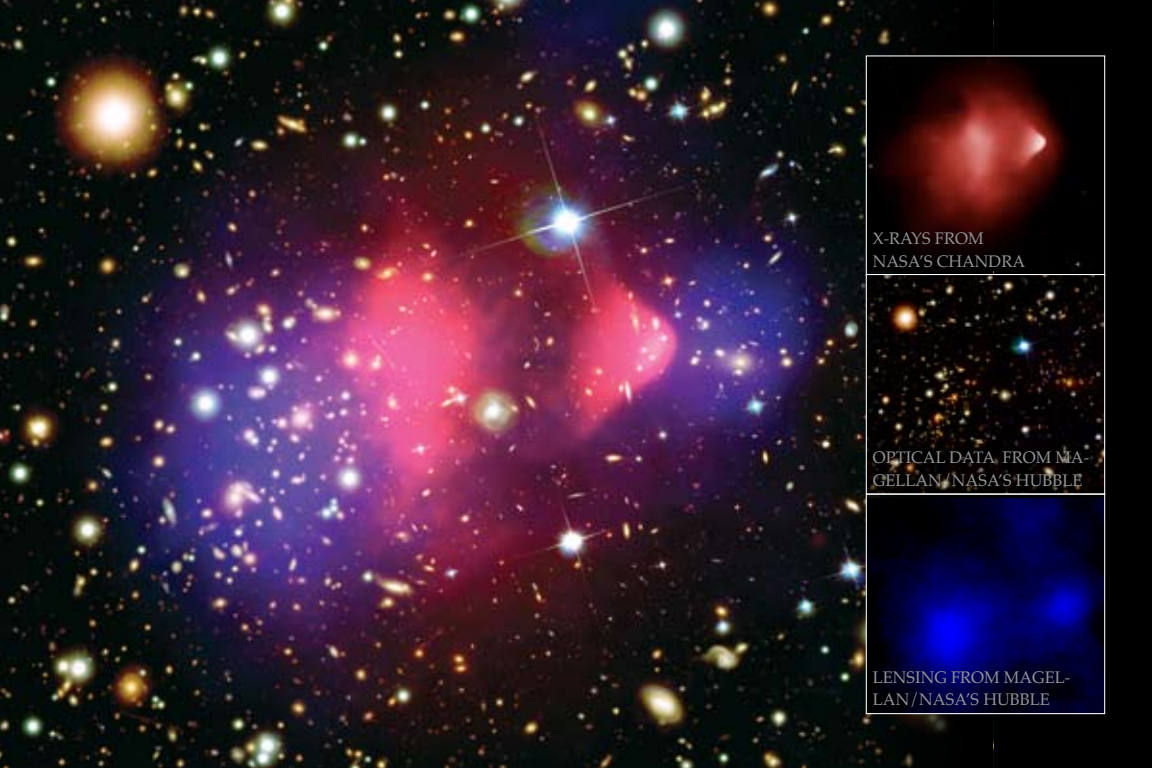


X-RAYS FROM NASA'S CHANDRA

OPTICAL DATA FROM MAGELLAN / NASA'S HUBBLE

LENSING FROM MAGELLAN / NASA'S HUBBLE

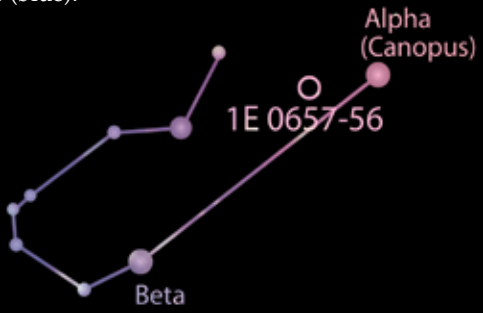
# Bullet Cluster

The "Bullet Cluster," named for its distinctive shape, is formally known as 1E 0657-56, and is the result of the collision of two enormous clusters of galaxies. The collision that created the Bullet Cluster was one of the most energetic events since the Big Bang.

At a distance of nearly 4 billion light years from Earth, the Bullet Cluster is located in the constel lation Carina, or the "keel" (bottom of a ship).

The speed and shape of the bullet, and other in formation from various telescopes suggest that the smaller cluster passed through the core of the larger one about 150 million years earlier.

When these two enormous objects collided, they did so at speeds of several million miles an hour. The force of this event was so great that it wrenched the "normal" matter in the form of hot gas (seen in pink) away from the dark mat ter (blue).

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