



El Gordo

This young galaxy cluster, nicknamed “El Gordo” for the “big” or “fat” one in Spanish, is a remarkable object. Found about 7.2 billion light years away, El Gordo appears to be the most massive, hottest, and most powerful X-ray emitter of any known cluster at its distance or beyond. In this composite image, X-rays are blue, optical data from the Very Large Telescope are red, green, and blue, and infrared emission from Spitzer is red. The comet-like shape of the X-rays, along with optical data, shows that El Gordo is actually two galaxy clusters in the process of colliding at several million miles per hour.

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