



JANUARY 2016

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31						

MESSIER 51 (M51)

Located about 30 million light years from Earth, this galaxy, nicknamed the “Whirlpool,” is a spiral galaxy like our Milky Way. This composite image combines data collected at X-ray wavelengths by NASA’s Chandra X-ray Observatory (purple), ultraviolet by the Galaxy Evolution Explorer (blue), visible light by the Hubble Space Telescope (green), and infrared by the Spitzer Space Telescope (red). The Chandra data reveal hundreds of point-like X-ray sources as well as diffuse X-ray emission found throughout the galaxy.

Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/SAO; UV: NASA/JPL-Caltech; Optical: NASA/STScI; IR: NASA/JPL-Caltech