



JULY 2017

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WESTERLUND 2

Westerlund 2 is a cluster of young stars – about one to two million years old – located about 20,000 light years from Earth. Data in visible light from the Hubble Space Telescope (green and blue) reveal thick clouds where the stars are forming. High-energy radiation in the form of X-rays, however, can penetrate this cosmic haze, and are detected by Chandra (purple). Westerlund 2 contains some of the hottest, brightest, and massive stars in the Milky Way galaxy.

X-ray: NASA/CXC/SAO/Sejong Univ./Hur et al; Optical: NASA/STScI