



Kepler's Supernova Remnant

In 1604 A.D., a bright new object appeared in the night sky. This object, which became known as Kepler's supernova after the famous astronomer Johannes Kepler who studied it in detail, created an expanding remnant of hot gas and high energy particles. A long Chandra observation provided the basis for detailed computer modeling of the interaction of the expanding debris with the surrounding gas, and showed that the explosion produced an amount of radioactive nickel roughly equal to the mass of the Sun. In this image, the shock front generated by the supernova is shown in cyan, and the other colors show material heated by the explosion.

March 2013

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