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Solar storms are triggering X-ray auroras on Jupiter that are about eight times brighter than normal over a large area of the planet. These Jovian auroras are hundreds of times more energetic than Earth’s “northern lights,” according to a study using Chandra data. This image, where X-rays from Chandra (purple) have been combined with an optical image from Hubble, shows Jupiter and its aurora during a giant solar storm arrived at the planet in 2011. This result is the first time that the auroras have been studied in X-ray light when such a massive storm impacted Jupiter.

X-ray: NASA/CXC/SwRI/R.Gladstone et al.; Optical: NASA/ESA/Hubble Heritage (AURA/STScI)