



30 Doradus

Located 160,000 light years away in the Large Magellanic Cloud, a satellite galaxy of the Milky Way, 30 Doradus is one of the largest star-forming regions close to our galaxy. This composite of 30 Doradus (a.k.a., the Tarantula Nebula) contains data from Chandra (blue), Hubble (green), and Spitzer (red). At the center of 30 Doradus, thousands of massive stars are blowing off material and producing intense radiation along with powerful winds. Chandra detects gas that has been heated to millions of degrees by these stellar winds and also by supernova explosions. The X-rays come from shock fronts, similar to sonic booms, formed by this high-energy stellar activity.

November 2013

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