

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



## Crab Nebula

The Crab Nebula has been studied by rockets and telescopes that detect X-ray light for over 50 years. Two current NASA X-ray telescopes, the Chandra X-ray Observatory (blue and white) and the Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (purple) have captured a spectacular view of this object. The Crab Nebula is the aftermath of a supernova documented in the year 1054 that left behind a dense object with a diameter about the length of Manhattan, but as much mass as about two Suns. These extreme conditions make for a bizarre environment that is not yet thoroughly understood.

Credit: X-ray (IXPE: NASA/MSFC), (Chandra: NASA/CXC/SAO)

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