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SGR 0418+5729: A slowly rotating neutron star with a very weak magnetic field at its surface. (Credit: Illustration: NASA/CXC/M.Weiss)

Caption: Observations from several telescopes, including NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory, have revealed that a slowly rotating neutron star with a comparatively very weak surface magnetic field is giving off bursts of X-rays and gamma rays. This discovery from SGR 0418+5729 may indicate the presence of an internal magnetic field much more intense than the surface magnetic field, with implications for how the most powerful magnets in the cosmos evolve.

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

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