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GRB 110328A: A gamma-ray burst located about 3.8 billion light years from Earth. (Credit: NASA/CXC/Warwick/A.Levan et al.)

Caption: The center of this image contains an extraordinary gamma-ray burst (GRB 110328A) observed with Chandra. The burst was first seen on March 28, 2011 by Swift, and within days Hubble and Chandra had been re-pointed at this object. Preliminary analysis of the data suggests that the unusual blast arose when a star wandered too close to its galaxy's central black hole. This Chandra observation confirms the association of GRB 110328A with the core of a distant galaxy (the red cross marks the position of the galaxy observed in optical light), and shows that it was an exceptionally long-lived and luminous event compared to other GRBs.

Scale: 28 arcsec across (450,000 light years)

Chandra X-ray Observatory HRC Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory