



**Chandra X-ray
Observatory Center**

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NGC 6231: A cluster of stars located about 5,200 light years from Earth.
(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/Univ. of Valparaiso/M. Kuhn et al; IR: NASA/JPL/WISE)

Caption: By studying young clusters, astronomers hope to learn more about how stars - including our Sun - are born. NGC 6231 is an ideal testbed for studying a stellar cluster not long after star formation has stopped. This Chandra X-ray image (right) shows the inner region of NGC 6231 where red, green, and blue represents the lower, medium, and high-energy X-rays. The brightest X-ray emission is white. A wide-field infrared image from NASA's WISE mission is shown on the left.

Scale: Infrared image is ~5 degrees across (about 452 light years); Right: Xray image is ~16 arcmin across (about 24 light years).

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observat

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