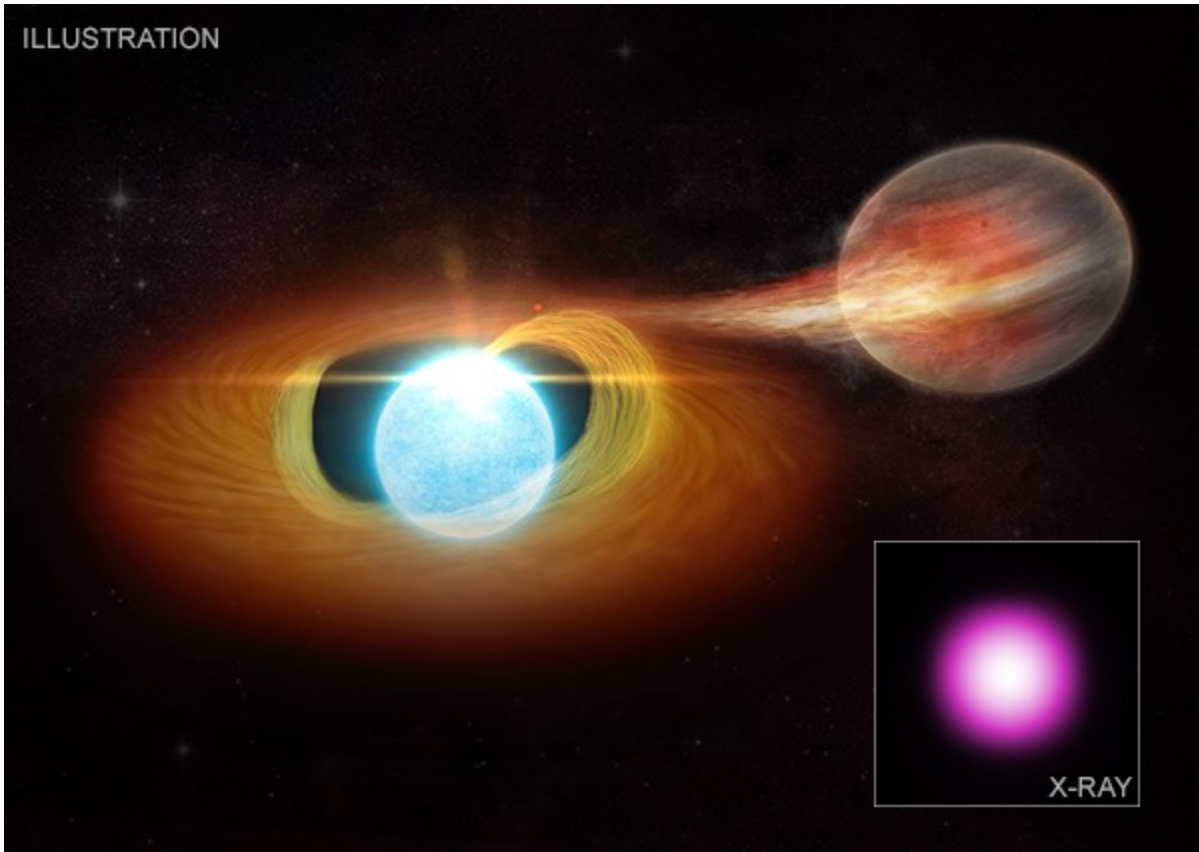


ILLUSTRATION



**Chandra X-ray
Observatory Center**

Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
60 Garden St. Cambridge, MA 02138 USA
<http://chandra.harvard.edu>

KPD 0005+5106: A white dwarf with a companion about 1,300 light years from Earth.
(Credit: Illustration: NASA/CXC/M. Weiss; Inset: NASA/CXC/ASIAA/Y. Chu. et al.)

Caption: Observations from Chandra reveal unusual X-ray activity from the white dwarf star called KPD 0005+5106. An artist's illustration depicts what a team of astronomers think is happening in this system. The data suggest the white dwarf (blue sphere) is blasting a companion object (brown and red object on right), which is either a low-mass star or planet, with waves of heat and radiation. The white dwarf is also pulling material from the companion into a disk around itself, which the artist shows in orange, before it slams into its north and south poles. This process is contributing to the destruction of the companion through powerful gravitational forces.

Scale: X-ray image (inset) is about 1 arcmin (0.38 light years) across.

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
