



Pandora's Cluster

This composite image contains one of the most complicated and dramatic collisions between galaxy clusters ever seen. Astronomers think at least four galaxy clusters—coming from a variety of directions—are involved in a super collision that has created multiple subclusters with varying amounts of dark and normal matter. Officially known as Abell 2744, this system has been nicknamed “Pandora’s Cluster” by astronomers because its peculiar nature may pose a problem for theories of cluster formation. Data from Chandra (red) show gas with temperatures of millions of degrees. Optical data (blue) indicate the total mass concentration, which is mostly dark matter. This system is found about 3.5 billion light years from Earth.

April 2012

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30					