



NGC 7793

A powerful microquasar has been discovered in a nearby galaxy using X-ray observations from Chandra (red, green, blue), along with optical (light blue) and H-alpha data (yellow). The microquasar, outlined in the box to the upper left, is a system that contains a stellar-mass black hole pulling material from a companion star. Gas swirling toward the black hole forms a disk around it. Twisted magnetic fields in the disk generate strong electromagnetic forces that propel some of the gas away from the disk at high speeds in jets, creating a huge bubble of hot gas about 1,000 light years across. At just 12.7 million light years away from Earth, NGC 7793 is relatively nearby, giving astronomers an excellent view of this system.

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