

M83

In 1957, a supernova was discovered in the spiral galaxy M83. Since then, astronomers have been able to detect the debris of the explosion, known as SN 1957D, in both radio and optical wavelengths. However, until a long observation with Chandra—totaling nearly 8 and ½ days of time—astronomers were not able to detect X-rays from the remnant. The new X-ray data from Chandra suggest that SN 1957D contains a rapidly rotating neutron star, or pulsar. If confirmed, it would be one of the youngest known pulsars. The supernova is the blue X-ray source in the middle of the box.

October 2013

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