

NASA RELEASES STUNNING NEW PICTURE OF MILKY WAY

Relevant for: Science & Technology | Topic: Space Technology & related matters

This false-color X-ray and radio frequency image made available by NASA on Friday, May 28, 2021 shows threads of superheated gas and magnetic fields at the center of the Milky Way galaxy. | Photo Credit: [AP](#)

NASA has released a stunning new picture of our galaxy's violent, super-energised "downtown."

It's a composite of 370 observations over the past two decades by the orbiting Chandra X-ray Observatory, depicting billions of stars and countless black holes in the center, or heart, of the Milky Way. A radio telescope in South Africa also contributed to the image, for contrast.

Astronomer Daniel Wang of the University of Massachusetts Amherst said in an email: "What we see in the picture is a violent or energetic ecosystem in our galaxy's downtown...There are a lot of supernova remnants, black holes, and neutron stars there. Each X-ray dot or feature represents an energetic source, most of which are in the center."

This busy, high-energy galactic center is 26,000 light years away. His work appears in the June issue of the *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*.

Launched in 1999, Chandra is in an extreme oval orbit around Earth.

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