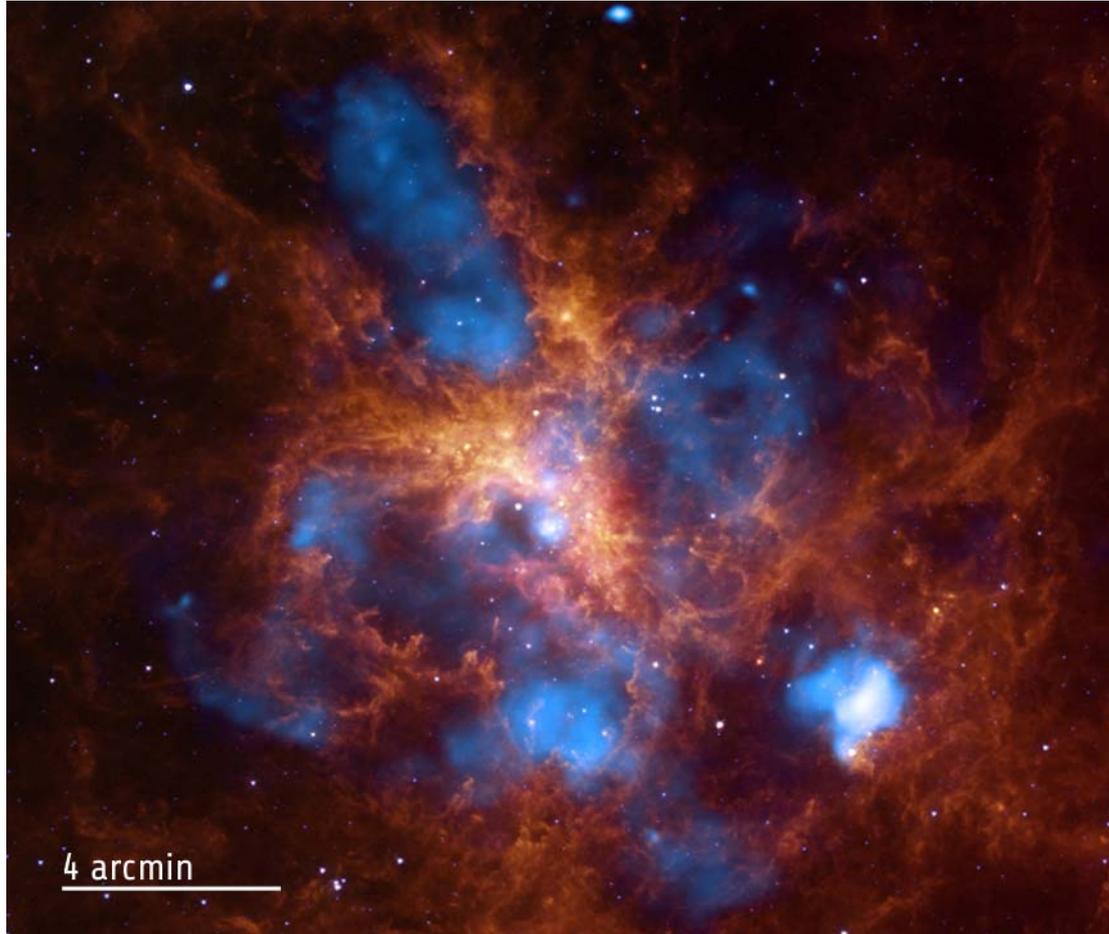




# Chandra Science Highlight

## Tarantula Nebula (30 Doradus) in the Large Magellanic Cloud galaxy

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS image



This composite image of the Tarantula Nebula shows multimillion-degree gas detected in X-rays by the Chandra (blue) and infrared emission from clouds of cool gas and dust detected by the Spitzer Space Telescope (orange).

- The Tarantula Nebula is an active star-forming region, with an estimated 2,400 massive stars in its central region.
- These massive stars are producing intense radiation and powerful winds.
- The stellar winds, along with supernova explosions, carve out hot, X-ray emitting bubbles of gas in the cooler gas, and may play a major role in the observed expansion of the nebula.

Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/PSU/L.Townsley et al.;  
Infrared: NASA/JPL/PSU/L.Townsley et al.

Distance Estimate: 160,000 light years

Scale: 14 arcmin across (about 1100 light years across)

# NOVEMBER 2011

CXC is operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory