



Chandra X-Ray Observatory Center

Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
60 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
<http://chandra.harvard.edu>

Abell 2142: A cluster of galaxies in the constellation Corona Borealis.
Credit: NASA/CXC/SAO

This image made by NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory shows the merger of two sub-clusters of galaxies. The sub-clusters are embedded within Abell 2142, a gigantic galaxy cluster that is one of the most massive objects in the universe. The smoothness of the elongated cloud in the Chandra image suggests that these sub-clusters have collided two or three times in a billion years or more, and have nearly completed their merger. The bright source in the upper left is an active galaxy in the cluster.

Scale: Image is 7.5 x 7.2 arcmin on a side.

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory