



 Chandra X-Ray
Observatory Center

Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
60 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 01238 USA
<http://chandra.harvard.edu>

Galactic Plane in the Constellation Scutum: A portion of the plane of our Galaxy.

Credit: NASA/GSFC/K.Ebisawa et al.

Chandra's image of an area of our Galaxy where dense clouds of dust and gas block out visible radiation, reveals a ridge of hot gas in our Galaxy, as well as X-rays from distant galaxies. The pink, red and blue dots in this image represent different X-ray energies (pink and red for low, blue for high-energy). Most of the pink and red dots are stars within our Galaxy, while the blue dots are individual galaxies that lie far beyond our Galaxy. The blue X-ray glow comes from diffuse hot gas concentrated along the plane of our Galaxy. The origin of this hot gas is unknown.

Scale: Black square is 22.5 arc minutes on a side.

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory