



Chandra X-Ray Observatory Center

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

Centaurus Cluster: A cluster of galaxies about 170 million light years from Earth, located in the constellation Centaurus.
Credit: NASA/IOA/J. Sanders & A. Fabian

The Chandra image of the Centaurus galaxy cluster shows a long plume-like feature resembling a twisted sheet. The plume is some 70,000 light years in length and has a temperature of about 10 million degrees Celsius. It is several million degrees cooler than the hot gas around it, as seen in this temperature-coded image in which the sequence red, yellow, green, blue indicates increasing temperatures. The plume of relatively cool gas contains a mass comparable to 1 billion suns and may have been produced by the movement of the central galaxy through the cluster.

Scale: Image is 3 arcmin on a side.

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image