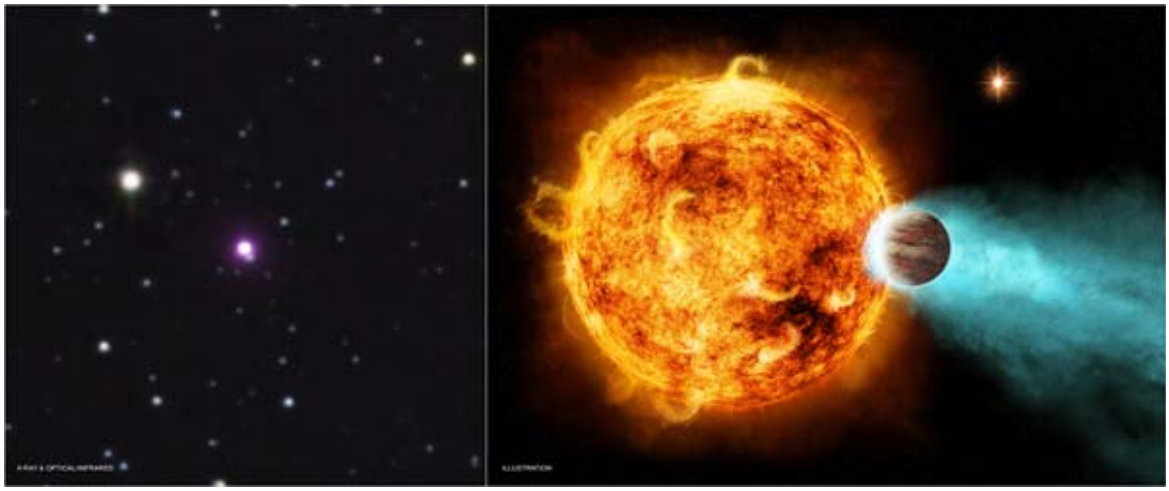

Chandra X-ray Observatory Center

Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
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CoRoT-2a: A star with a planet in very close orbit around it, about 880 light years from Earth. (Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/Univ of Hamburg/S.Schröter et al; Optical: NASA/NSF/IPAC-Caltech/UMass /2MASS, UNC/CTIO/PROMPT; Illustration: NASA/CXC/M.Weiss)

Caption: This graphic contains an image (left) and illustration (right) of a nearby star, named CoRoT-2a, and an orbiting planet known as CoRoT-2b. The image contains X-rays from Chandra (purple) of CoRoT-2a along with optical and infrared data of the field of view in which it is found. CoRoT-2b, which is not seen in this image, orbits extremely closely to the star. In fact, the separation between the star and planet is only about 3 percent of the distance between the Earth and the Sun. The Chandra data indicate that the planet is being blasted by X-rays with such intensity that some 5 million tons of material are being eroded from the planet every second.

Scale: Image is 4.5 arcmin across (1.15 light years).

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

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