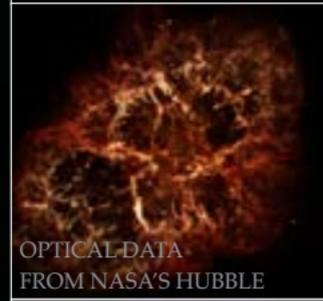




X-RAYS FROM
NASA'S CHANDRA



OPTICAL DATA
FROM NASA'S HUBBLE



INFRARED EMISSION
FROM NASA'S SPITZER

CRAB NEBULA

The Crab Nebula is a supernova remnant in the Milky Way Galaxy. The Crab contains a powerful “pulsar wind nebula,” the result of energetic particles and magnetic fields expelled from a pulsar, the dense core of what was once a massive star.

Found in the constellation Taurus, the “bull,” the Crab Nebula is about 6,000 light years from Earth. Taurus is visible during the winter in the Northern Hemisphere.

Chinese astronomers, and possibly others elsewhere in the world, noted the appearance of the Crab supernova in the sky in 1054 A.D.

Pulsars are rapidly spinning objects so dense that a mass equal to that of the Sun is packed into a diameter of about 12 miles (the Sun is 870,000 miles across). The pulsars’ rapid spin combines with their ultra-strong magnetic fields to create powerful generators, forming pulsar wind nebulas that extend over many light years.



More at: <http://chandra.harvard.edu>