

BULLET CLUSTER

Dark matter, by its definition, does not emit light. It can, however, be detected by the effects it has on other matter through gravity. The Bullet Cluster, located about 3.4 billion light years from Earth, represents one of the best pieces of evidence to date for the existence of dark matter. When two galaxy clusters violently collided, it wrenched "normal" matter from the dark matter in this system. Chandra data (pink) reveals the hot gas that has been separated from the dark matter, which has been mapped using gravitational lensing data in optical light from Hubble (blue).

DECEMBER 2019

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