



**Chandra X-ray
Observatory Center**

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ASASSN-16oh: A white dwarf binary system located in the Small Magellanic Cloud about 180,000 light years from Earth.
(Credit: NASA/CXC/Texas Tech/T. Maccarone)

Caption: Astronomers have detected a bright X-ray outburst from a white dwarf that represents new behavior from this type of star. A combination of X-rays from Chandra and Swift as well as optical data from ground-based telescopes indicate that this star may be the fastest-growing white dwarf ever observed. In a process called accretion, the white dwarf pulls gas onto a large disk surrounding it, from a giant companion star. The material becomes hotter as it spirals toward the white dwarf, as shown in our illustration, and allows the white dwarf to accumulate mass.

Chandra X-ray Observatory HRC Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
