A photograph of the Spitzer Space Telescope, showing its gold-colored thermal shield and white instruments against the dark void of space with distant stars.

Spitzer Space Telescope Observations of SGR and AXP Environments

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Spitzer Instruments Overview

IRAC (Infrared Array Camera)

FOV: $\sim 5' \times 5'$

Imaging: 3.6, 4.5, 5.8, 8.0 μm

Resolution: 1.2" pixels

IRS (Infrared Spectrograph)

Spectroscopy: 5-38 μm

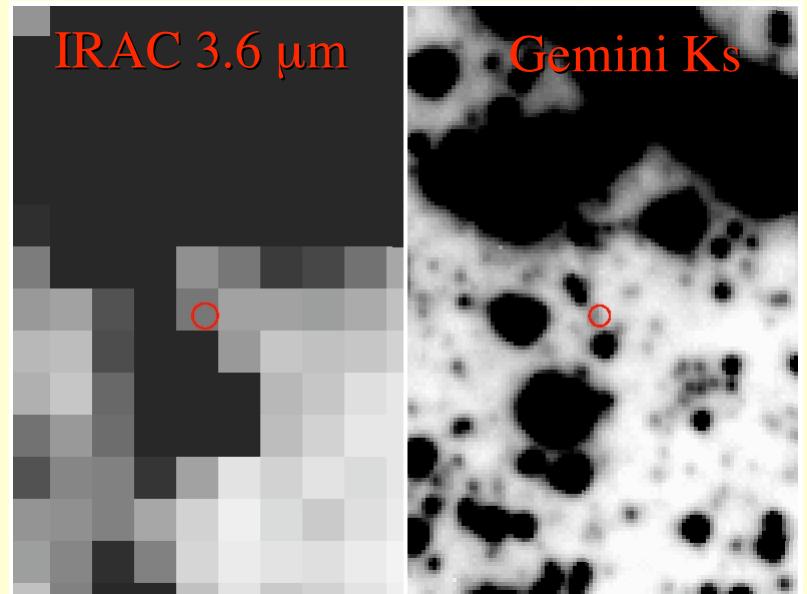
Imaging: centered at 16 and 22 μm

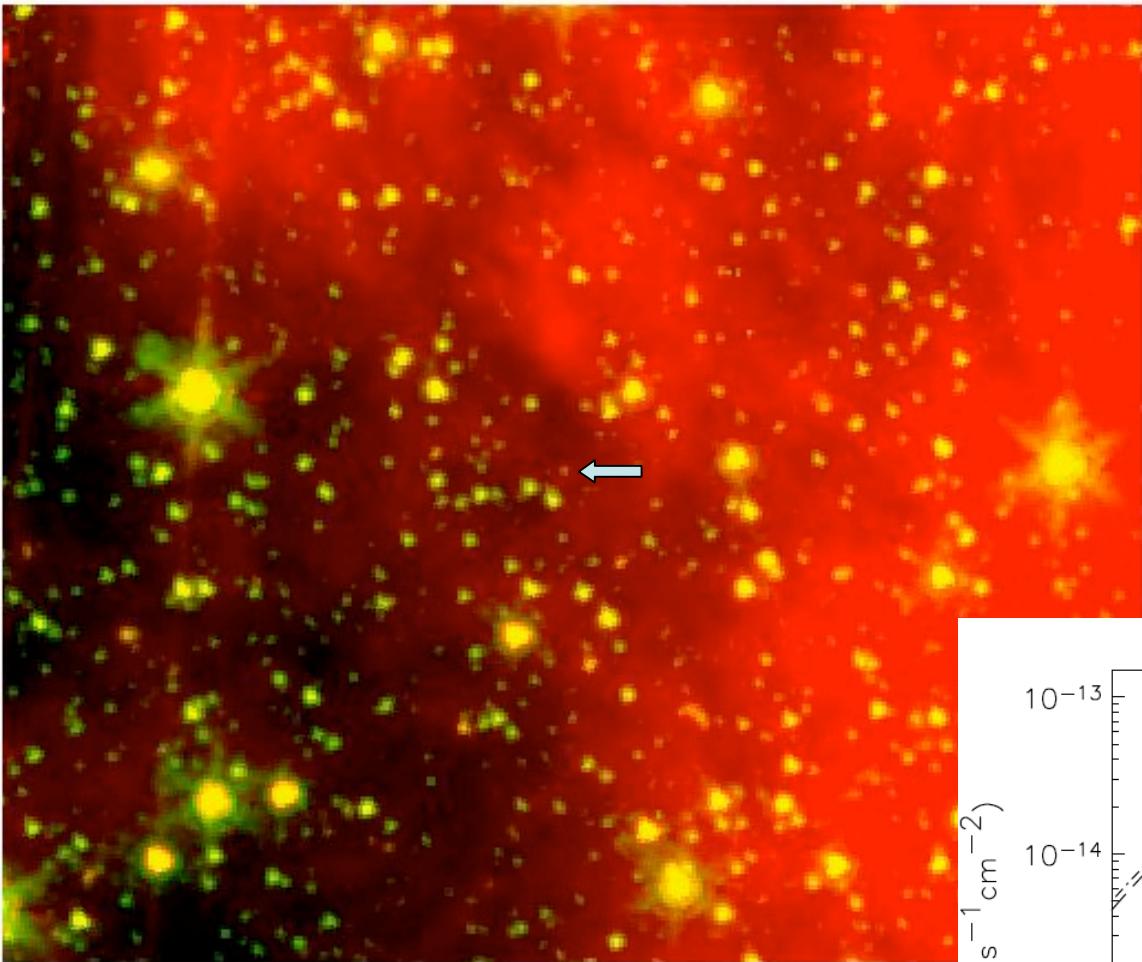
MIPS (Multiband Imaging Photometer)

FOV depends on array, $\sim 5' \times 5'$ (24 μm), scans of up to 6°

3 Arrays: 24 μm (2.5"), 70 μm (5"/9.8"), 160 μm (16")

SGR 1806-20

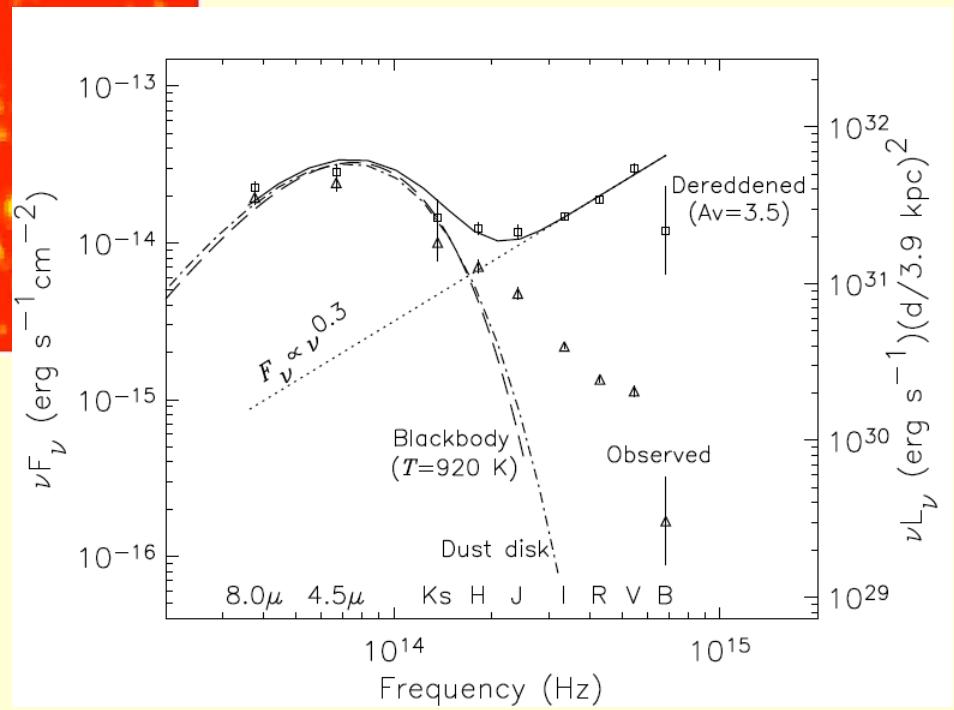




IRAC 4.5 (green) + 8.0 μm (red)
FOV $\sim 5' \times 5'$

Spitzer Detection of a debris disk around AXP 0142+61

Wang, Chakrabarty & Kaplan
2006, Nature 440, 772



Does the IR environment of magnetars offer clues to their progenitors and formation? Are there differences in these environments between AXPs and SGRs?

IR advantageous in the presence of large amount of extinction

Search for

- ❖ clusters (deeply embedded, not detected in near-IR)
- ❖ SNRs (not detected at other λ)
- ❖ wind blown bubbles (prominent in IR)

Suggested magnetar progenitor properties:

- ❖ **very massive** and/or
- ❖ **fast rotators**

Clusters:

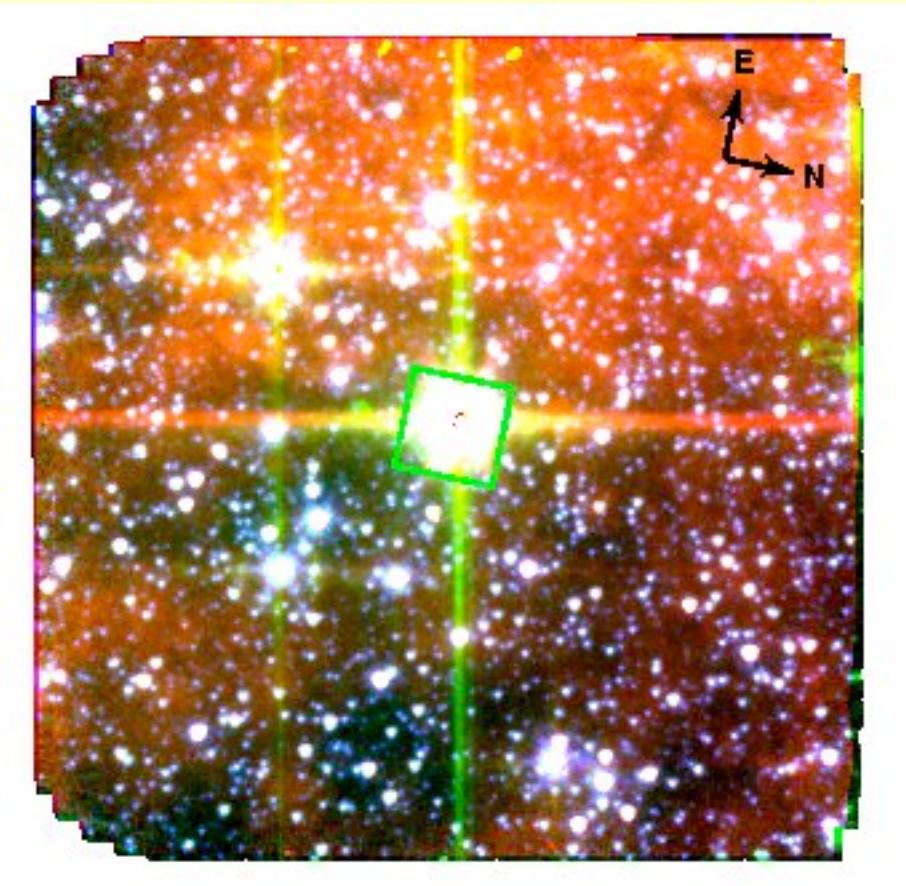
- expect more massive stars in higher density clusters
- no difference in fraction of fast rotators between clusters and field, clusters may be missing slow rotators
(Strom et al. 2005, AJ, 129, 809)

SNRs and Bubbles:

- clues to the nature of the progenitor

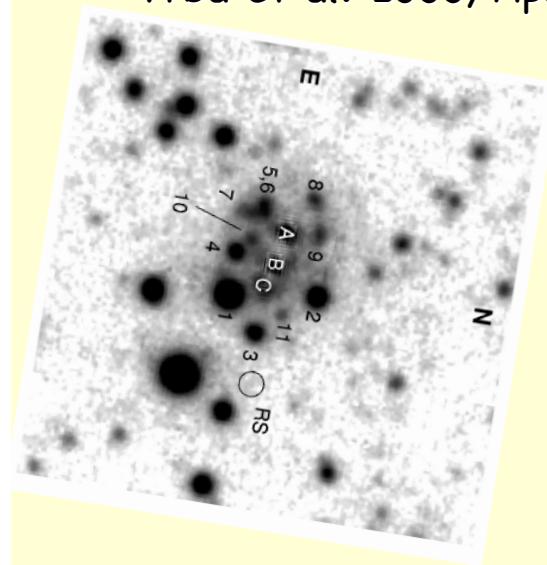
Clusters can be tricky to find !

SGR 1900+14



IRAC 4.5(blue) + 5.8(green) + 8.0(red) μm

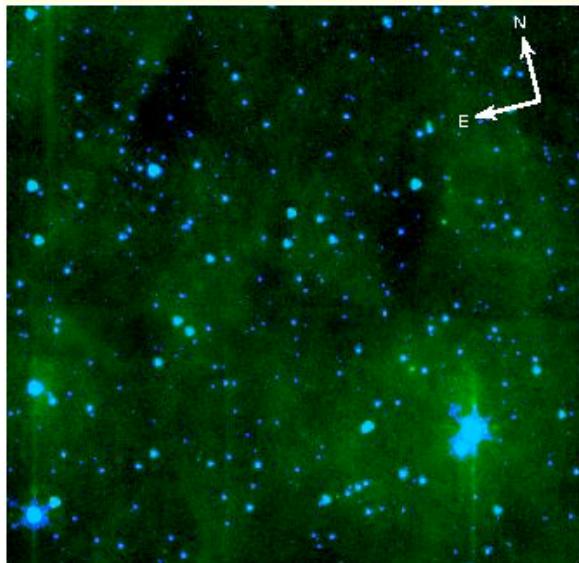
Vrba et al. 2000, ApJ, 533, L17



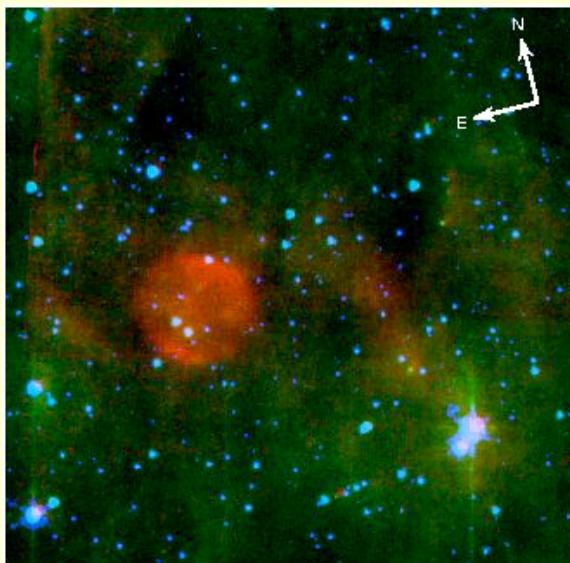
Supernova Remnants at Spitzer Wavelengths

- poorly studied up to now (e.g. Saken, Fesen & Shull 1992, ApJS, 81, 715; Reach et al. 2006, AJ, 131, 1479)
- Continuum/line emission of dust with different grain sizes, shock- or radiatively heated at 8 μm (e.g. PAH - polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), warm (very small grain) dust at 24 μm , cold dust at 70 and 160 μm
- Interaction with dense gas => shock cooling occurs through molecular/ionic lines in mid-IR
- might expect dust emission (slower/older remnants) even if no radio emission

IRAC 4.5(blue) + 8.0(green)

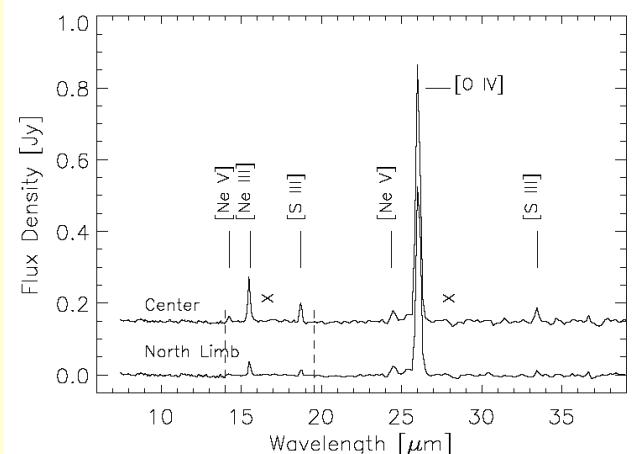


+ MIPS 24 μm (red)



Radius ~40"

Morris et al. 2006, ApJ, 640, L179

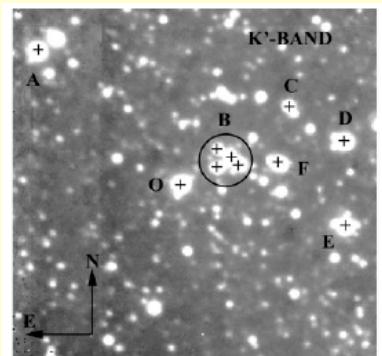


Young SNR 1E 0102.2-7219 in SMC might be similar (Stanimirovic et al. 2005, ApJ, 632, L103)

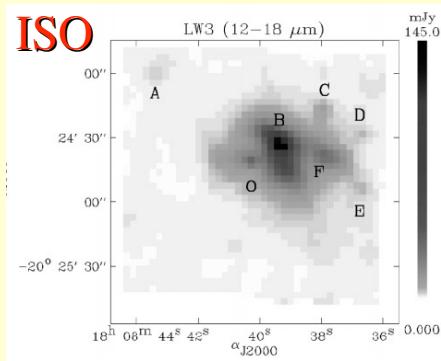
SGR 1806-20



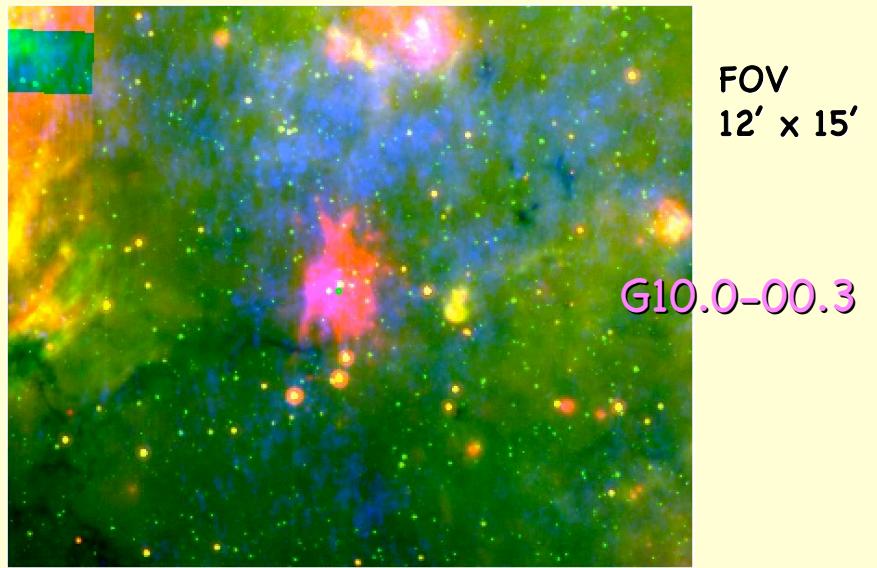
IRAC 4.5(blue), 8.0(green) + MIPS 24 μ m(red)



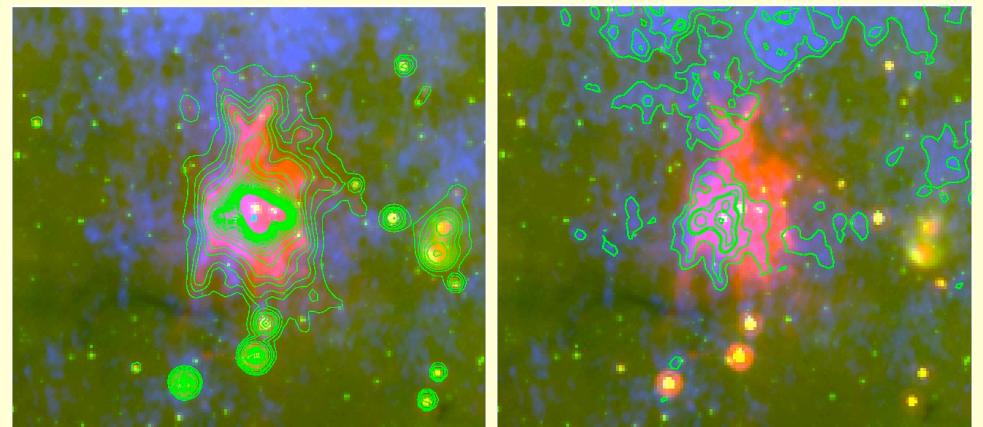
Fuchs et al. 1999, A&A, 350, 891



IRAC 8.0(green), MIPS 24 μ m(red), radio 20cm(blue)

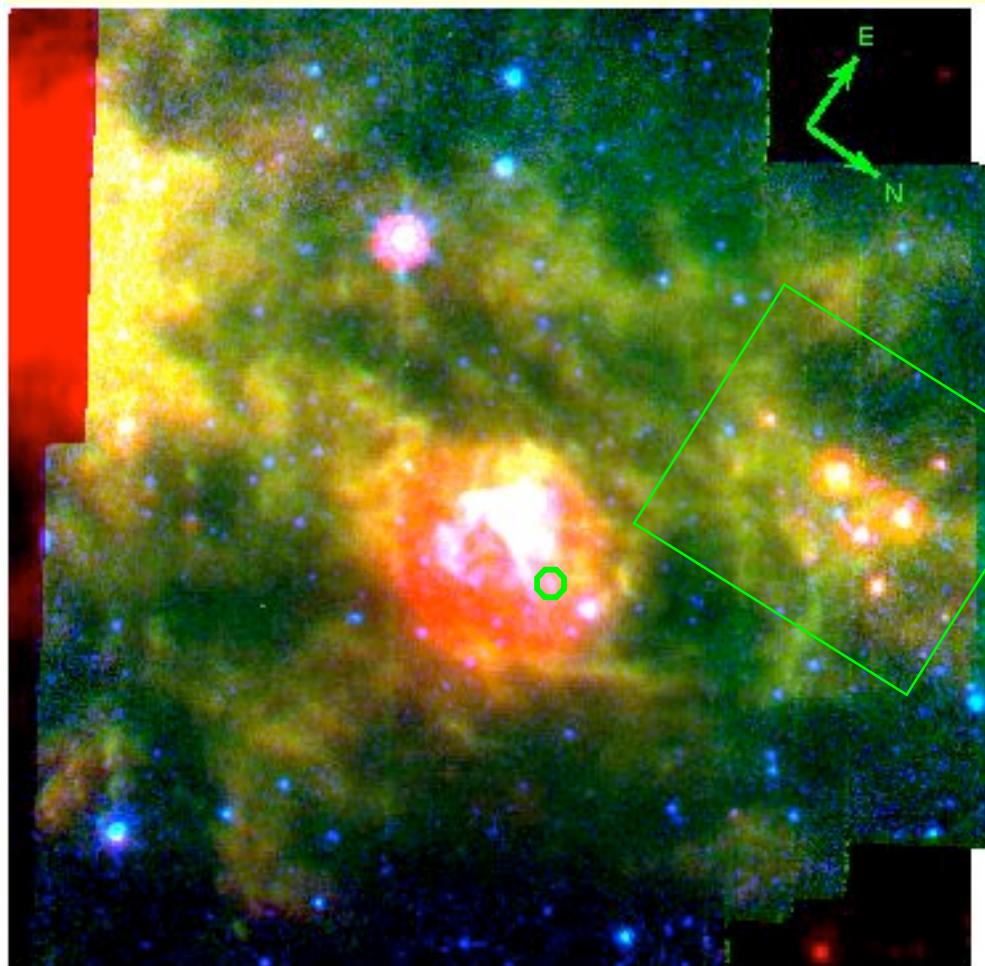


Radio data from MAGPIS
(Helfand et al. astro-ph/0510468)



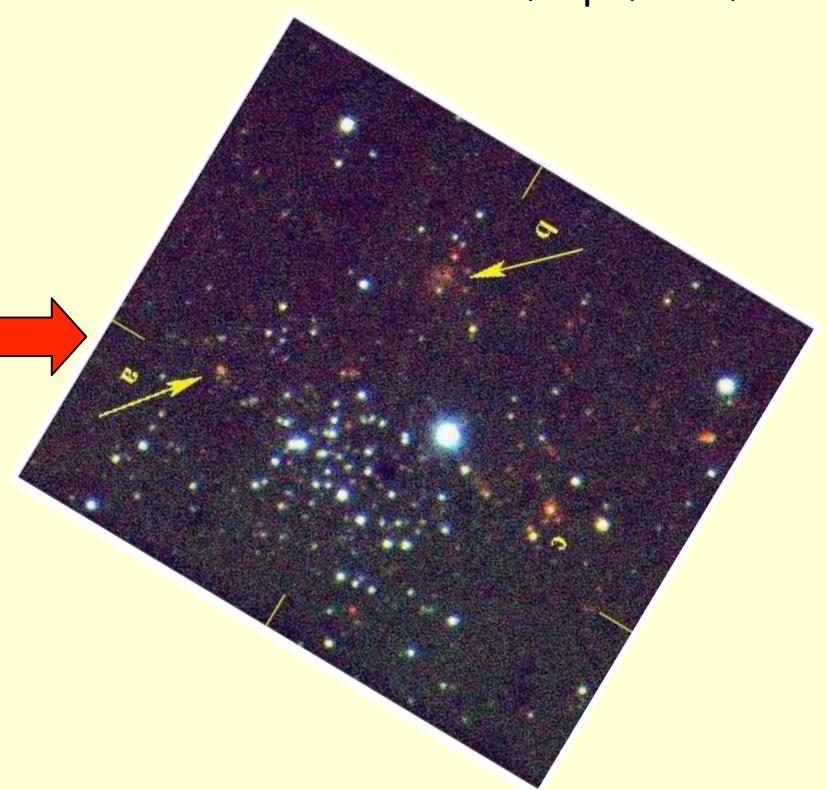
SGR 0526-66

FOV 7' x 8'



SNR N49

Klose et al. 2004, ApJ, 609, L13



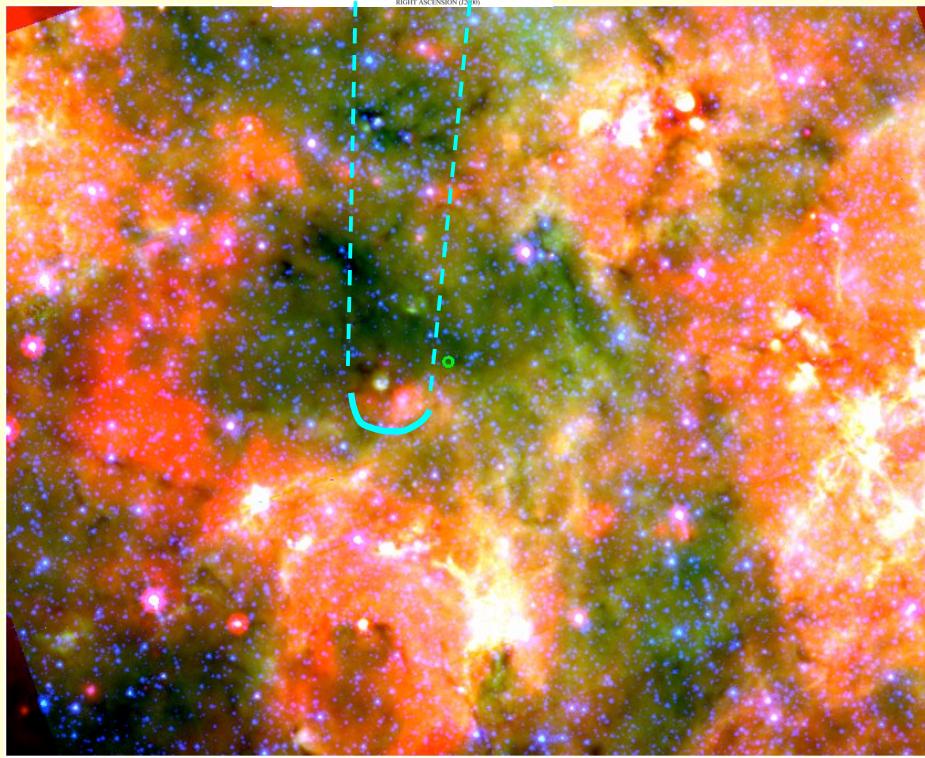
IRAC 4.5 (blue), 8.0 μm (green) + MIPS 24 μm (red)

04/24/2006

Isolated Neutron Stars - Wachter

8

SGR 1627-41

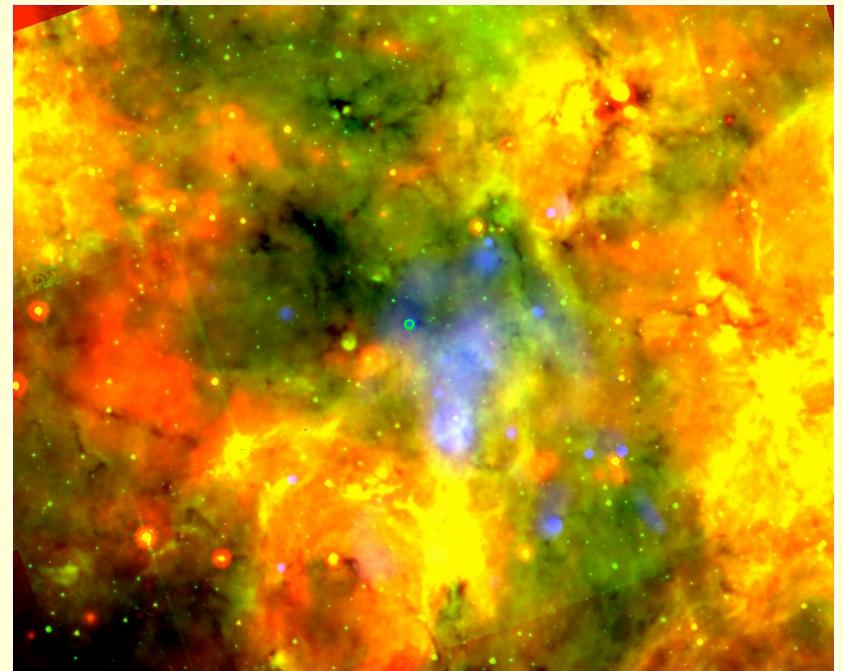


IRAC 4.5(blue), 8.0(green), MIPS 24 μ m(red)

04/24/2006

Isolated Neutron Stars - Wachter

IRAC 8.0(green), MIPS 24 μ m(red) + Chandra (blue)

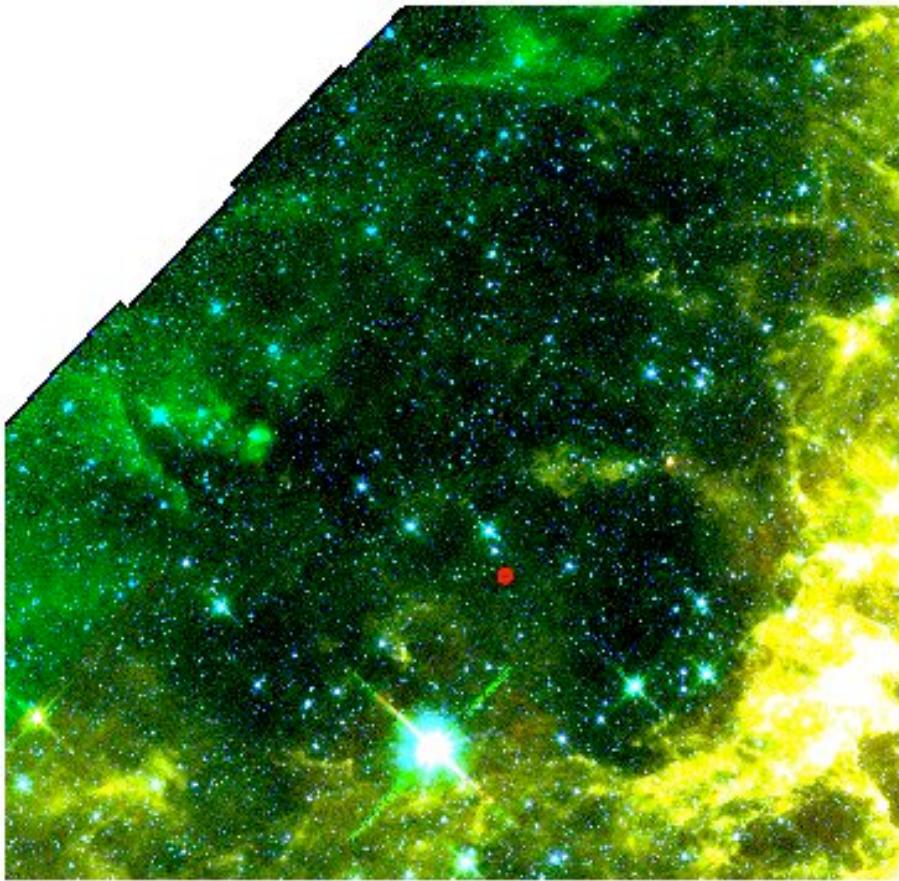


FOV 17' x 15'

Extremely complicated region,
faint diffuse X-ray emission in
Chandra 0.7-8.0 keV image

Bubbles?

AXP 1E 1048.1-5937



IRAC 4.5(blue), 5.8(green), 8.0 μ m (red)

FOV $\sim 25' \times 25'$, bubble radius $\sim 10.6'$
assuming d=2.7kpc r~8 pc

HI 21 cm bubble: 17.5×11.5 pc (radius) - Gaensler et al. 2005, ApJ, 620, L95

04/24/2006

Isolated Neutron Stars - Wachter

AXP 170849.0-4009



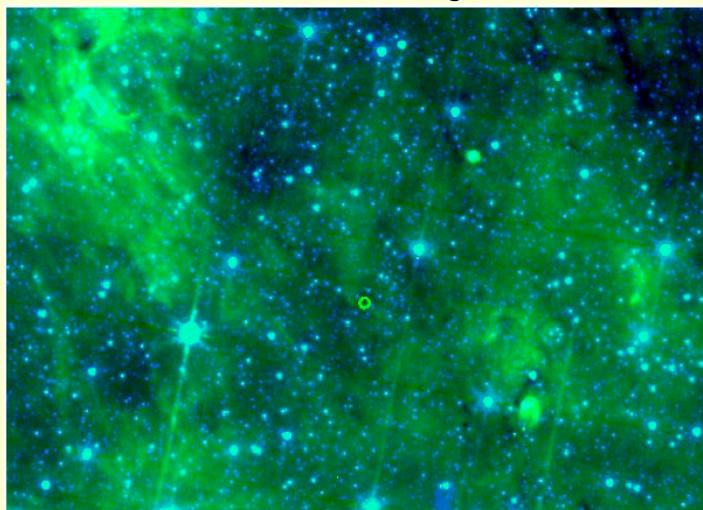
IRAC 4.5(blue), 5.8(green), 8.0 μ m (red)

FOV $\sim 15' \times 12'$, bubble radius $\sim 5' \times 3.8'$
assuming d=10kpc r~14.5 pc x 11 pc

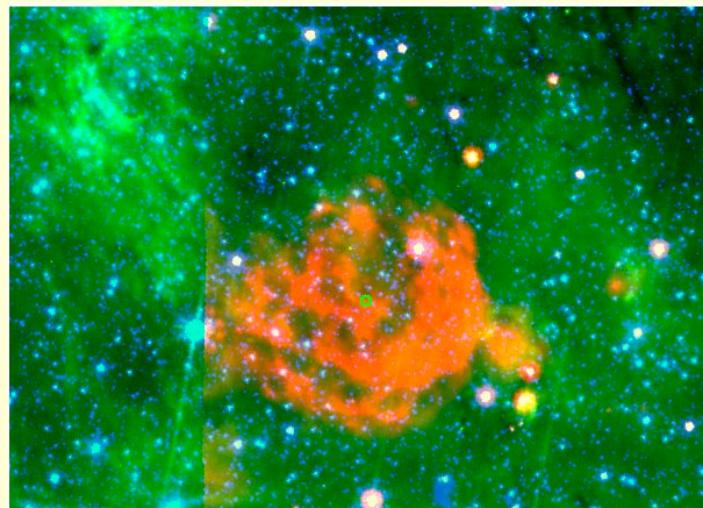
10

AXP 1841-045

IRAC 4.5(blue), 8.0 μm (green)



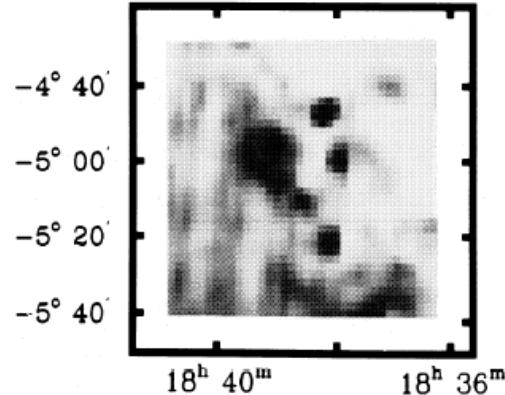
FOV $\sim 10' \times 8'$



IRAC 4.5(blue), 8.0(green) + MIPS 24 μm (red)

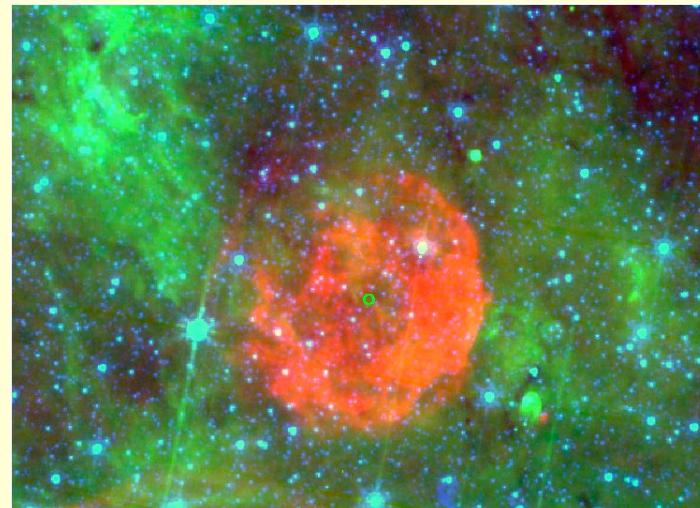
SNR G27.4+0.0

P114/H2 60/100



IRAS 60/100 μm

Shull et al. 1989,
ApJ, 346, 860



Radius $\sim 2.2'$

IRAC 4.5(blue), 8.0 μm (green) + MAGPI 20 cm (red)

Conclusions

- ❖ No new clusters so far (follow-up of AXP 1841-045?)
- ❖ Several SNRs detected with 24 μ m (70 μ m ?)
- ❖ Evidence for bubbles, but difficult to confirm association with AXP/SGR
- ❖ lots more work to be done!