

Image: gc30mZ

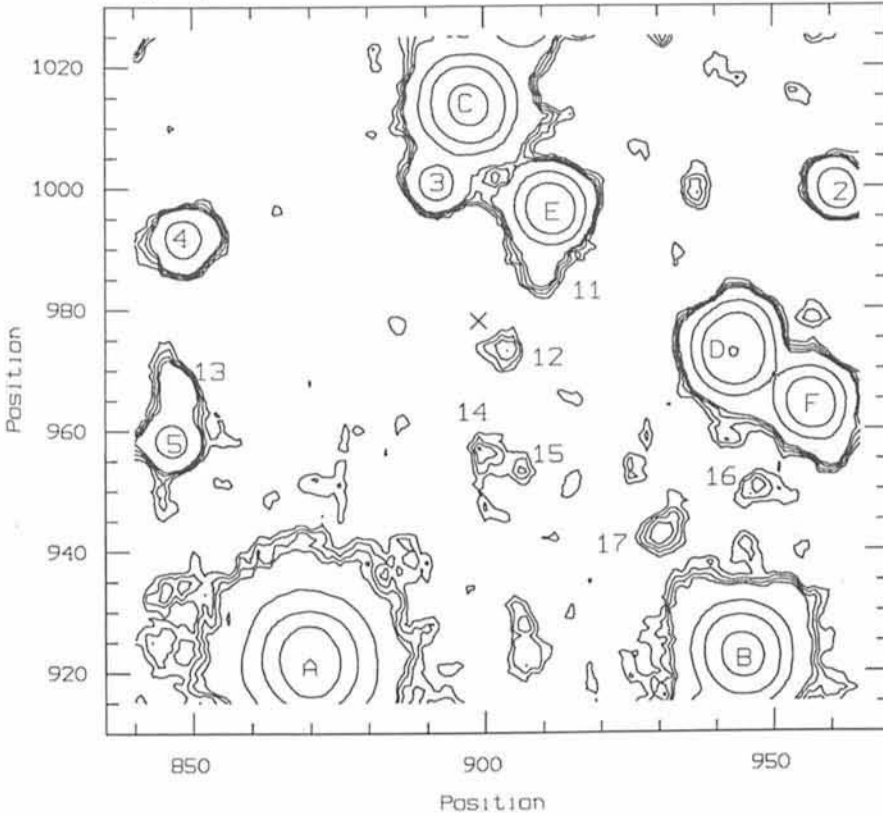


Figure 5: Contour plot of the image shown in Figure 4. The cross indicates the position of the VLA radio source ($\alpha = 17^{\text{h}} 40^{\text{m}} 42.99^{\text{s}}$, $\delta = -29^{\circ} 43' 25''$ (1950)).

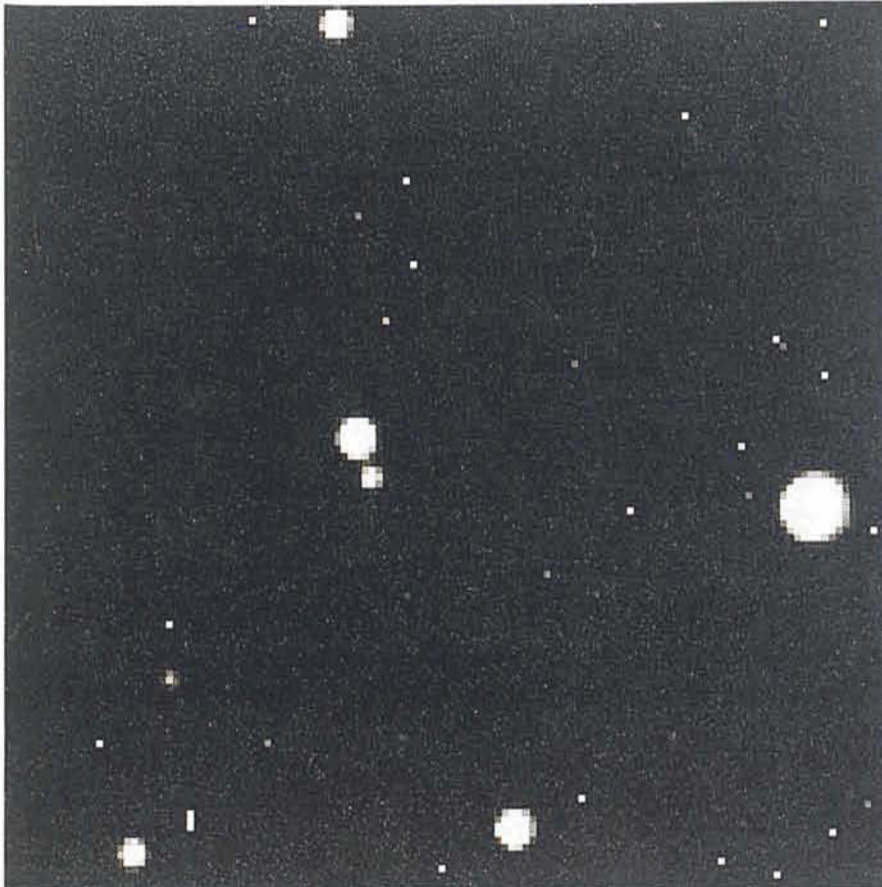


Figure 6: NTT EFOSC2 V image of 1E120723-5209.8. The field G star ($m_v=17.34$) and the new candidate ($m_v=19.04$) are 1.8 arcsec apart. North is to the top and East to the left.

5" HRI error box, unlikely to be responsible for the X-ray emission. Our first image with the NTT equipped with EFOSC2 in a night of good-to-moderate seeing ($0.9''$) showed the presence of a 19-magnitude object $1.8''$ from the field star, and thus so far unseen. This is shown in Figure 6. The newly discovered object is very likely to be the X-ray source counterpart, although the preliminary spectrum taken at the NTT, showing no obvious signature, does not allow its immediate identification. The nature of this object could still range from a neutron star, possibly associated with the SNR, to a field BL Lac.

In conclusion, we would feel particularly happy if our Key Programme, beyond its quantitative results, had achieved its purpose of rendering the community aware of the importance of multiwavelength astronomy – from ground as well as from space – for tackling the new objects discovered by high-energy astronomy.

References

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EMMI, Explorer of the Southern Sky

A new ESO video film has just become available, which describes the ESO multimode instrument, known as EMMI and now mounted at one of the NTT Nasmyth foci. The video explains in some detail the function of this instrument and how it was built. There are also some examples of the astronomical observations which have been made with EMMI.

It can be obtained from the ESO Information Service (address on last page). The cost is DM 70.-. Prepayment is required to account No. 210 2002, Commerzbank München, BLZ 70040041.