

How Working on Uhuru Changed My Life

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Harvard -Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (1975-1977)

- ▶ First data aide hired to help analyze data from Uhuru in Giacconi's group



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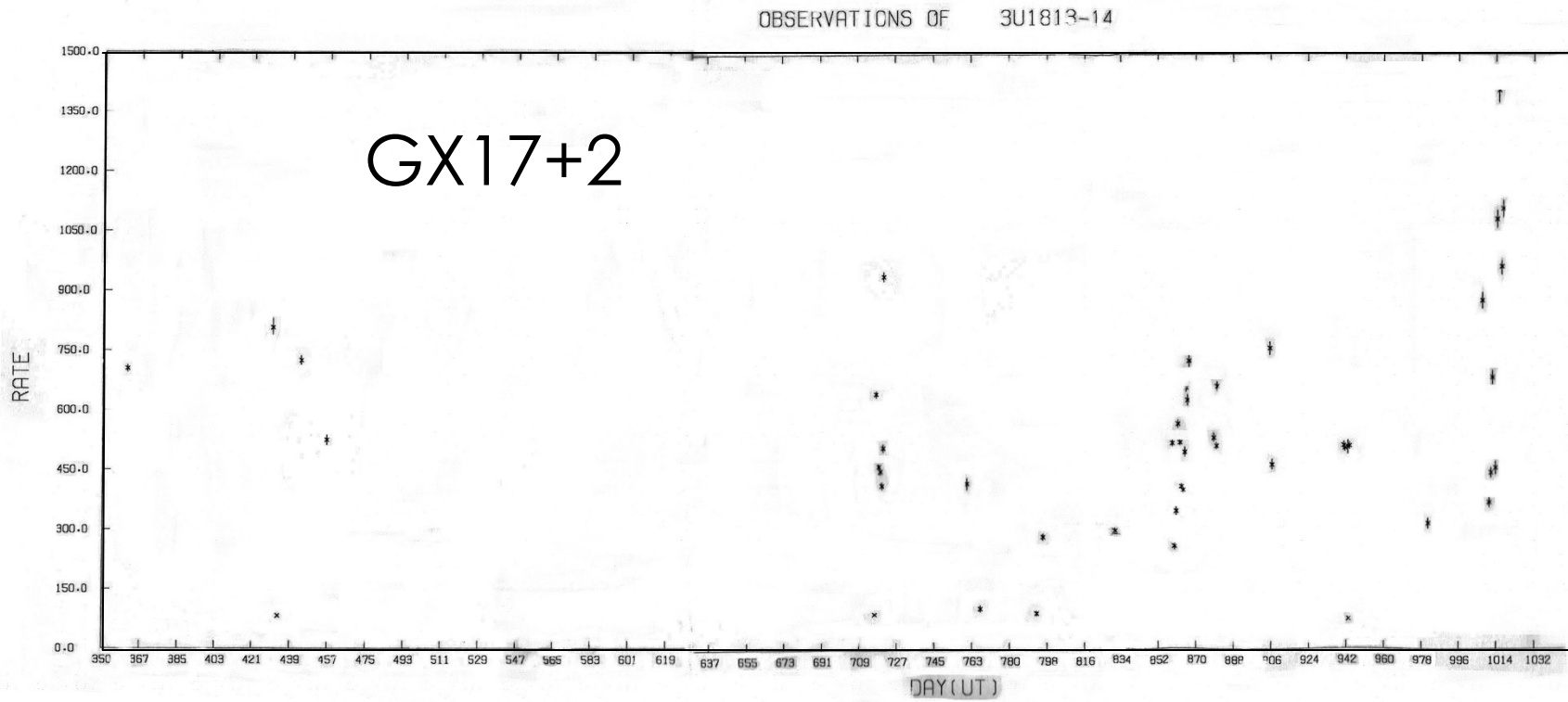


Drs. Bill Forman and
Christine Jones



Uhuru
(aka
SAS-A)

Analyzing transient x-ray sources in the galactic plane using Uhuru data



I still have the original binder with all the plots of all the galactic plane sources (and then some)!

The only paper I co-authored with Giacconi

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THE FOURTH *UHURU* CATALOG OF X-RAY SOURCES

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ABSTRACT

Positions and intensities are presented for 339 X-ray sources observed by the *Uhuru* (*SAS A*) X-ray satellite observatory. We find good agreement between the sources in this catalog and those in the 3U and 2A catalogs. Optical and radio counterparts are suggested based on positional coincidence. The major classes of identified objects include binary stellar systems, supernova remnants, Seyfert galaxies, clusters of galaxies, and possibly the new class of superclusters of galaxies.

Subject heading: X-rays: sources

And the rest is (my personal) history...

- ▶ Giacconi's group at CfA was where I met my first woman science mentor (Christine Jones) and where I had an amazing opportunity to mentor others (Meg Urry, Peter Saulson)
- ▶ I was encouraged to be an author on three papers during my 2.5 years at SAO – two as first authors + the 4U catalog
- ▶ Work on the 4U catalog led to discovery (at MIT as a first-year grad student) of the first transient X-ray pulsar (4U0115+63)
- ▶ I fell in love with the X-ray Universe and grabbed the chance to do “science fiction for a living”
- ▶ And it was all possible because I answered a job ad for a “data aide” when I graduated from college in January 1975....

Thank you Riccardo!