Exploring the Deep X-ray Universe with Riccardo: from Chandra to the New Frontiers

R. Gilli INAF – OAS Bologna

The Chandra Deep Field South – 1Ms image

CDFS group at JHU/STScl (2000-2002)



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CDFS group at JHU/STScl (2000-2002)



Riccardo calling from Washington..

The CDFS: from 120ks to 1Ms

FIRST RESULTS FROM THE X-RAY AND OPTICAL SURVEY OF THE CHANDRA DEEP FIELD SOUTH¹

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Received 2000 July 17; accepted 2000 December 20

120ks : 159 X-ray sources down to $f_{0.5-2} \sim 2 \times 10^{-16} \text{ cgs}$, $f_{2-10} \sim 2 \times 10^{-15} \text{ cgs}$



The CDFS: from 120ks to 1Ms

NEW RESULTS FROM THE X-RAY AND OPTICAL¹ SURVEY OF THE CHANDRA DEEP FIELD-SOUTH: THE 300 KILOSECOND EXPOSURE. II.

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deg⁻² cm^{-2} 120ks : 159 X-ray sources down to $f_{0.5-2} \sim 2 \times 10^{-16} \text{ cgs}$, $f_{2-10} \sim 2 \times 10^{-15} \text{ cgs}$ s erg 300ks : 197 X-ray sources down to

 $f_{0.5-2} \sim 1 \times 10^{-16} \text{ cgs}$, $f_{2-10} \sim 1 \times 10^{-15} \text{ cgs}$



1Ms CDFS: CXB resolved

CHANDRA DEEP FIELD SOUTH: THE 1 Ms CATALOG

RICCARDO GIACCONI,^{1,2} ANDREW ZIRM,¹ JUNXIAN WANG,¹ PIERO ROSATI,³ MARIO NONINO,⁴ PAOLO TOZZI,⁴ ROBERTO GILLI,^{1,5} VINCENZO MAINIERI,^{3,6} GUENTHER HASINGER,⁷ LISA KEWLEY,⁸ JACQUELINE BERGERON,³ STEFANO BORGANI,⁹ ROBERTO GILMOZZI,³ NORMAN GROGIN,¹⁰ ANTON KOEKEMOER,¹⁰ ETHAN SCHREIER,¹⁰ WEI ZHENG,¹ AND COLIN NORMAN^{1,10}

THE CHANDRA DEEP FIELD-SOUTH: THE 1 MILLION SECOND EXPOSURE¹

P. ROSATI,² P. TOZZI,³ R. GIACCONI^{4,5} R. GILLI,^{4,6} G. HASINGER,⁷ L. KEWLEY,⁴ V. MAINIERI,^{2,8} M. NONINO,³ C. NORMAN,^{4,9} G. SZOKOLY,⁷ J. X. WANG,^{4,10} A. ZIRM,⁴ J. BERGERON,² S. BORGANI,¹¹ R. GILMOZZI,² N. GROGIN,⁹ A. KOEKEMOER,⁹ E. SCHREIER,⁹ AND W. ZHENG⁴ Received 2001 September 18; accepted 2001 October 29



1Ms : 350 X-ray sources down to $f_{0.5-2} \sim 5 \times 10^{-17} \text{ cgs}$, $f_{2-10} \sim 5 \times 10^{-16} \text{ cgs}$



80-90% of the 2-10 keV CXB resolved into single sources, mostly AGN

THE CHANDRA DEEP FIELD–SOUTH: OPTICAL SPECTROSCOPY. I.¹

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Received 2003 August 18; accepted 2004 July 7

Optical identification: AGN redshift distribution



A CLASSIC TYPE 2 QSO

Colin Norman,^{1,2} Guenther Hasinger,³ Riccardo Giacconi,^{1,4} Roberto Gilli,^{1,5} Lisa Kewley,^{1,6} Mario Nonino,⁷ Piero Rosati,^{1,8} Gyula Szokoly,³ Paolo Tozzi,⁷ Junxian Wang,¹ Wei Zheng,¹ Andrew Zirm,¹ Jacqueline Bergeron,⁸ Roberto Gilmozzi,⁸ Norman Grogin,² Anton Koekemoer,² and Ethan Schreier² *Received 2001 February 21; accepted 2002 January 25*



First example of a distant, heavily obscured QSO

From 1Ms to 7Ms : the deepest X-ray field

1Ms GTO/DDT Giacconi/Tananbaum (1999-2000)

1Ms DDTTananbaum (2007)2Ms DDTTananbaum (2010)3Ms GOBrandt(2014-2016)

7Ms : 102 ACIS-I pointings 1000 sources down to $f_{0.5-2} = 7 \times 10^{-18} \text{ cgs}$ $f_{2-10} = 3 \times 10^{-15} \text{ cgs}$

CDFS has become THE deep field also for HST, VLT, ALMA, + .. (JWST) (see talk by P. Rosati)

Credit: M. Paolillo

From 1Ms to 7Ms : the deepest X-ray field

1Ms GTO/DDT Giacconi/Tananbaum (1999-2000)

- 1Ms DDT Tananbaum (2007)
- 2Ms DDT Tananbaum (2010)

3Ms GO Brandt (2014-2016)

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CDFS has become THE deep field also for HST, VLT, ALMA, + .. (JWST) (see talk by P. Rosati)



A key resource for AGN evolution studies



The Wide Field X-ray Telescope

Original concept in Burrows, Burg & Giacconi 1992

Basics: 1m² @ 1 keV, 5" HEW flat over 1 deg² FoV (Chandra av. 3" over 0.1 deg²)





1 arcmin 6 arcmin 9 arcmin



White papers submitted to the NASA Decadal Survey 2010 Giacconi+09, Vikhlinin+09, Murray+09, Ptak+09 RFIs submitted in 2009 and 2011 http://www.wfxt.eu

PI Steve Murray

X-ray surveys over 100s-1000s deg² down to Chandra deep fields depth Immense discovery space: incarnation of Riccardo's mantra "listen to Nature"

WFXT simulation of the 1 deg² Chandra-COSMOS field





WFXT surveys =

1000x 1Ms-CDFS + 1000x C-Cosmos + 1000x XBootes



Quasars at z > 6 : little time to grow

BH seed models span the full mass spectrum 10^{2-6} M_{sun} ... that is, we have no idea of what they are



Discovery space for SMBHs at z > 6



Another example of Riccardo's vision: WFXT concept compelling even in the 2030s

From the foreword to the proceedings of the meeting: "The Wide Field X-ray Telescope", Bologna Nov 25-16, 2009

Important discoveries in all branches of Astronomy and in particular in X-Ray Astronomy have often come about by a combination of physical intuition, technological improvements, and a boundless faith in the richness of Nature. It is clear that theories about the Universe only go so far as can be achieved given our current knowledge and our mathematical skills.

Nature has no such limitations and has already solved the questions we are asking; very simply Nature is. This perhaps is why so many discoveries in Astronomy are real discoveries rather than verifications. The existence of binary X-ray sources, of efficient energy production by in fall of matter on collapsed objects, the existence of an extragalactic X-ray background, and the existence of intergalactic plasmas were revealed in most cases by unexpected discoveries from broad surveys in the X-ray domain.

While faith in the bounty of Nature is justified, it is also important to realize that understanding Nature requires skill in providing discovery space and care in listening to its replies.

Riccardo Giacconi, September 2010