# High Resolution Imaging and Gratings in Concert

An abundance of cutting edge science that can only be done with Lynx

**Lia Corrales** University of Wisconsin - Madison Einstein Fellow

#### In collaboration with

Sebastian Heinz, University of Wisconsin - Madison Fred Baganof, MIT Kavli Institute

From Chandra to Lynx, August 2017

## High resolution imaging and soft X-ray spectroscopy, together



## State of the field: Why high resolution imaging matters

## XMM view of the Galactic Center



Ponti et al. (2015)

## Chandra view of the Galactic Center







## Small angle scattering by dust produces time-dependent image



Use X-ray transients in the Galactic Center to map foreground dust structure affecting X-ray images so we can apply this knowledge to Sgr A\*







90

#### background

#### J174540.7-290015 profiles

PSF constructed with a low-NH source as template (QSO B1028+511)

*Corrales+ 2017* 



*Corrales+ 2017* 

#### Sgr A\* light curve from Chandra GC XVP



*Neilsen+ 2013* 

## State of the field: Why high resolution imaging matters

### The future of X-ray astronomy: Assumptions

- 1. Lynx imaging resolution will at least be the same as Chandra
- 2. We will have X-ray IFUs (micro-calorimeters) in space

## 1. Lynx imaging resolution will at least as good as Chandra



Chandra Deep Field South (NASA)



3C 273 as seen by Chandra

## 1. Lynx imaging resolution will at least as good as Chandra

#### Cyg X-3's Little Friend



#### Cir X-1 dust scattering echoes



McCollough et al. (2013) McCollough, Corrales, & Dunham (2016)

Heinz et al. (2015)

## 2. We will have X-ray IFUs (micro-calorimeters) in space



twitter: @kittenblue0706

XARM (based on Astro-H)

Resolution ~ 1.7 arcmin HPD Effective Area ~ 200 sq cm

#### Athena

Resolution ~ 5-10" HEW Effective Area ~ 200 sq cm

ATHENA THE ASTROPHYSICS OF THE HOT AND ENERGETIC UNIVERSE

Europe's next generation X-RAY OBSERVATORY

How does ordinary matter ASSEMBLE INTO THE LARGE SCALE STRUCTURES THAT WE SEE TODAY?

> HOW DO BLACK HOLES GROW AND SHAPE THE UNIVERSE?

## State of the field: Why high resolution imaging matters

#### The future of X-ray astronomy: Assumptions

- 1. Lynx imaging resolution will at least be the same as Chandra
- 2. We will have X-ray IFUs (micro-calorimeters) in space

## ISM and dust studies with an X-ray IFU



![](_page_17_Figure_0.jpeg)

# Spectrum of dust scattered light should have features coincident with **absorption edge structure** from **constituent elements**

![](_page_18_Figure_1.jpeg)

## Simulated micro-calorimeter spectrum

![](_page_19_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Ratio of halo to source reveals dust spectral features

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

## State of the field: Why high resolution imaging matters

The future of X-ray astronomy: Assumptions

- 1. Lynx imaging resolution will at least as good as Chandra
- 2. We will have X-ray IFUs (micro-calorimeters) in space

The future of X-ray astronomy: Limitations

![](_page_22_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### 1. Limits on observing bright sources

Instrument tolerance Non-linear detector behavior Telemetry saturation

![](_page_23_Picture_0.jpeg)

## 1. Limits on observing bright sources

Instrument tolerance Non-linear detector behavior Telemetry saturation

Use tricks! — Readout streak [calibration needed] — De-focus [problematic]

Faster readout time

Gratings increase tolerance

**Dispersing light** prevents non-linear effects (in most cases)

### 1. Limits on observing bright sources

Athena may not be capable of observing brightest X-ray binaries

![](_page_24_Figure_2.jpeg)

## Will Lynx be different?

High resolution imaging helps resolve out background point sources (CXB)

Orbit choice — intensity and stability

Background from gratings instruments is inherently lower

![](_page_25_Figure_4.jpeg)

MIT HETG group

~3 Ms HETG (ACIS-S)

#### ~1 Ms ACIS-I

#### 

~3 Ms HETG (ACIS-S)

![](_page_27_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### ~1 Ms ACIS-I

## You can't ignore background

Deeper stellar and AGN surveys Study structure of diffuse hot gas in more detail Dust scattering halos and echoes

![](_page_28_Figure_2.jpeg)

Heinz, Corrales, et al. (2016)

#### Prospects for dust echoes

![](_page_29_Figure_1.jpeg)

Dust echo brightness is directly proportional to **fluence** (time integrated flux)

#### Distribution of X-ray flares from all MAXI light curves

![](_page_30_Figure_1.jpeg)

Brianna Mills (REU student), Heinz, & Corrales (in prep)

#### Echo discovery space compared to Chandra

![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

Brianna Mills (REU student), Heinz, & Corrales (in prep)

#### A lot of dust science can be done without an X-IFU

![](_page_32_Figure_2.jpeg)

#### ISM extinction: High resolution imaging and gratings in concert

![](_page_33_Figure_2.jpeg)

# Absorption edge fine structure is dependent on **imaging resolution**, grain size, & dust location

#### MRN dust

#### 0.3 micron grains

![](_page_34_Figure_4.jpeg)

Corrales et al. (2016)

#### LMXB GX 9+9 (96 ks)

![](_page_35_Figure_2.jpeg)

Corrales et al. (2016)

![](_page_36_Figure_1.jpeg)

## State of the field: Why high resolution imaging matters

## The future of X-ray astronomy: Assumptions

Lynx imaging resolution will at least as good as *Chandra* We will have X-ray IFUs (micro-calorimeters) in space

## The future of X-ray astronomy: Limitations

- 1. Limits on observing bright sources
- 2. Limits from background
- 3. Soft X-ray Sensitivity

## Gratings are more ideal for soft X-ray spectroscopy

## Gratings are more ideal for spectroscopy of neutral metals

![](_page_38_Figure_1.jpeg)

10-50 Å

![](_page_38_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### ISM science from soft X-ray spectroscopy

![](_page_39_Picture_1.jpeg)

Neutral and near-neutral phases of the two **most abundant** metals

Astromineralogy, study PAHs

Study absorption line systems at moderate redshift

![](_page_39_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Figure_6.jpeg)

#### High resolution imaging:

Crowded star fields Galactic Center science Dust scattering edge structure

#### **Reducing background:**

Deeper surveys (point sources and diffuse) Dust scattering echoes Increasing spectroscopic S/N

#### Ability to study bright sources:

Accretion disk and stellar physics from bright X-ray binaries Study multi-phase ISM in extinction

#### Soft X-ray sensitivity:

Study the most abundant metals in the Universe Astromineralogy and multi-phase ISM Access to higher redshift Universe

#### High resolution imaging: Crowded star fields Galactic Center science Dust scattering edge structure

#### **Reducing background:**

Deeper surveys (point sources and diffuse) Dust scattering echoes Increasing spectroscopic S/N

#### Ability to study bright sources:

Accretion disk and stellar physics from bright X-ray binaries Study multi-phase ISM in extinction

Soft X-ray sensitivity:

Study the most abundant metals in the Universe Astromineralogy and multi-phase ISM Access to higher redshift Universe High resolution imaging: Crowded star fields Galactic Center science Dust scattering edge structure

![](_page_42_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### **Reducing background:**

Deeper surveys (point sources and diffuse)

Dust scattering echoes

Increasing spectroscopic S/N

#### Ability to study bright sources:

Accretion disk and stellar physics from *bright X-ray binaries* Study multi-phase ISM in extinction

Soft X-ray sensitivity

Study the most abundant metals in the Universe Astromineralogy and multi-phase ISM Access to higher redshift Universe