From Cosmic Dust to Habitable Worlds: 25 years of insights from *Chandra*

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How did we get here?



Exquisite high resolution spectroscopy with soft X-rays provides chemical and structural information about interstellar dust, the seeds of planet formation.

Are we alone?

Understanding the high energy activity of stars and how they influence their planets is crucial for assessing the likelihood of life on other worlds.



Image Credit: NASA/FUSE/Lynne Cook .

Astromineralogy



How does interstellar dust contribute to planet formation?

silicates iron

Bradley+ 2022

Image Credit: NASA/FUSE/Lynne Cook

cr. olivine am. silica

Westphal+ 2014

SiC

Ott 1993

The true formation and processing sites are an open area of research.



The spectra of distant X-ray binaries probe interstellar dust in extinction

X-ray absorption spectrum of GX 5-1



Zeegers+ 2017

silicates Iron

Bradley+ 2022

Image Credit: NASA/FUSE/Lynne Cook



cr. olivine am. silica

Westphal+ 2014

X-ray absorption spectrum of Cyg X-2



Corrales+ 2024 (see also Psaradaki+ 2023, Westphal+ 2019)









SOHO telescope image of a CME (NASA & ESA)

Stellar Activity and how it affects planets

if our Sun had a HJ (approximately to scale)





Majority of habitable worlds are subject to more high energy irradiation and stellar activity



Factors Affecting Exoplanet Habitability - Meadows & Barnes (2018)



How does stellar activity fade with time?





XUV driven atmospheric escape can remove a planet's gas envelope



Uncertainty in activity-age relations leads to different outcomes for individual systems.





Predicting the future of planetary systems



George W. King

DS Tuc A b - a young gaseous planet orbiting a sun-like star

45 Myr old, in a binary star-system, size between Neptune and Saturn





DS Tuc A b - a young gaseous planet orbiting a sun-like star

A year-long Cycle 22 campaign captured flares and periods of elevated X-ray brightness



King et al. (in review)



DS Tuc Ab — a young gaseous planet orbiting a sun-like star



King et al. (in review)



DS Tuc A b - a young gaseous planet orbiting a sun-like star



Are X-ray transits a feasible method for studying atmospheric escape?



Poppenhaeger 2014 (CoRoT symposium review)



Are X-ray transits a feasible method for studying atmospheric escape?



Cilley*, King & Corrales (2024); King et al. (2024)

Simulated <i>NewAthena</i> observing campaign					
	Planet	$1.5 \times R_p$	Sig (σ)	$2 \times R_p$	Sig
	HD 189733 b	$< 10^{-5}$	≥ 4.4	$< 10^{-5}$	≥ 4
	HIP 65 A b	$< 10^{-5}$	≥ 4.4	$< 10^{-5}$	≥ 4
	WASP-93 b^r	$< 10^{-5}$	≥ 4.4	$< 10^{-5}$	≥ 4
	AU Mic b	$< 10^{-5}$	≥ 4.4	$< 10^{-5}$	≥ 4
	WASP-140 b	6.3×10^{-4}	3.4	$< 10^{-5}$	≥ 4
and	WASP-135 b^a	2.7×10^{-3}	3.0	$< 10^{-5}$	≥ 4
+	TOI-620 b^r	0.03	2.1	1.6×10^{-4}	3.
L X_ray	HIP 67522 b	1.9×10^{-3}	3.1	$< 10^{-5}$	≥ 4
nde	WASP-80 b	0.01	2.5	2.7×10^{-5}	4.
stor's	DS Tuc A b	0.02	2.3	1.2×10^{-4}	3.
oturo	WASP-180 A b	0.02	2.4	8.7×10^{-5}	3.
	WASP-77 A b	0.07	1.8	0.02	2.
	WASP-43 b	0.08	1.8	2.8×10^{-3}	3.
	WASP-52 b^a	0.04	2.0	4.5×10^{-5}	4.
75 1.100	WASP-145 A b^a	0.23	< 1.5	0.04	2.

*Current UMich junior!



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Chandra



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Chandra

Chandra's incredible imaging resolution remains unsurpassed, enabling study of young stars in crowded systems





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Colombo+2007, see also Caramazza+2007

Aarnio+2012, K. Stassun











New working group members welcome for Phase A study





Parameter	Baseline Value
PSF	1.50" on-axis, 1.75" FoV-ave (HPD)
Effective Area (incl. detector)	4200 cm ² at 1 keV; 830 cm ² at 6 keV
⁻ oV	24 arcmin diameter
Bandpass	0.3-10 keV
Readout rate	>5 fps
Slew rate	120 deg. / 9.5 min.
Orbit (1997)	Low-inclination (5 deg) LEO







Conclusions

- solar system to illuminate planetary growth processes
- continue to deliver for decades
- (COUP survey, Wright et al., etc)
- atmospheric evaporation in planetary evolution
- Future missions are built upon *Chandra*'s legacy of scientific breakthroughs

• Chandra's HETG and LETG instruments enable detailed studies of interstellar dust composition and structure, which we can compare to suspected interstellar grains in our

• The laboratory data and models are still catching up – Chandra's data and archives will

• Chandra's unsurpassed resolution enables detailed studies of stellar activity across ages

• The ability to resolve stellar binary systems like DS Tuc allows us to study the role of

• Chandra's contributions to the discovery of an X-ray transit opens a world of possibility

