

X-ray spectrometry with Exosat and beyond

Johan Bleeker SRON/Utrecht University

EXOSAT-Reunion, ESAC May 25, 2018



The grass roots at UtrechtAtlas of the solar spectrum: $\lambda 3612 - \lambda 8770$, $\lambda 3332 - \lambda 3637$ Initiative by Marcel Minnaert

- 1936: \sim 100 photographic plates taken at Mount Wilson Observatory
- 1940: Utrecht Photometric Atlas of the solar spectrum (Minnaert et al)
- 1952: Solar atmosphere temperature model (de Jager 1952)
- 1966: Solar abundances from The Solar Spectrum (Moore et al)



Mid 1960's: Monochromatic XUV-images of the Sun X-ray lense employing diffraction: Fresnel zone plate Principle: zone partition of spherical wavefront → block even/odd zones



Focal length f_1 ($\lambda = 5nm$, $\Delta r_N = 1\mu m$, $r_N = 1mm$): 40 cm

Mid 1960s: Q-monochromatic XUV-images of the Sun X-ray lense employing diffraction: Fresnel zone plate
Requirement: transparent zones completely open, width 1-2 μm → radial support First successful trials with electron-optical imaging:



 Non-apodized zone plate manufactured by electron-optics early 1960's

Problem: FOV of the available system too small for the production of larger ring shaped zone plates with a sufficiently large opaque central section to avoid distortion of the image by zero-order radiation from the sun.

Mid 1960s: Q-monochromatic XUV-images of the Sun X-ray lense employing diffraction: Fresnel zone plate

Photolithography:

Employment of a holographic method that produced a zone pattern resulting from interference of two coherent spherical wave fronts generated by a beam-split Cd-He laser.



1967: Successful sun stabilized Aerobee rocket experiment

4 Zone plates of 50 metallic rings f = 40 cm, outer diam. 0.90–3.06 mm

→ Solar Q-monochromatic images in Si X, Fe XI, HeII and HeI lines

✓ Sun in Si X at 5.1 nm

TGS (500 lines mm⁻¹ and 1000 lines mm⁻¹) on EXOSAT



TGS: Observational targets

Distinguishing feature from previous instruments:

Unprecedented dynamic range over the soft-X and EUV band (8 - 400 A), with a superior combination of sensitivity and spectral resolution in the XUV band (50 - 400 A).

Priority targets:

Hot photospheres of nearby white dwarfs

TGS covers the full XUV spectrum between the intrinsic short wavelength cut-off of the stellar spectrum (at ≈ 50 A) and the cut-off in the EUV band due to interstellar absorption.

Hot coronae of nearby late-type stars

TGS resolves ($\Delta\lambda \approx 3A$) ionic coronal emission lines over a wide temperature range \rightarrow temperature and emission measure distribution of the hot stellar coronal plasma.

TGS-spectroscopy of hot WDs: Sirius B, the WD star closest to the earth



The Sirius system, brightest star in the night sky $(m_v + 1.42)$

Binary: Sirius A (MS A1) + Sirius B (DA white dwarf) Distance: 2.6 pc, 8.6 ly (Hipparcos) Solar units: $M_{Sirius A} \approx 2 M_{\odot}$, $L_{Sirius A} = 25 L_{\odot}$

Discovery of soft X-ray emission by ANS (Mewe et al, 1975) Interpretation:

- 1. Miniature corona DA dwarf (Hearn and Mewe, 1976) Corona of an exotic kind: scale height ≈ 100 cm, $L_X > 5L_{phot}$ (Martin et al., 1982)
- 2. Hot pure-H-Photosphere (Shipman, 1976)

EXOSAT TGS \rightarrow XUV spectrum \rightarrow atmospheric parameters Full EM spectral data \rightarrow photospheric parameters + R_{WD}

Sirius A + B

TGS-spectroscopy of hot WDs: Sirius B, the WD star closest to the earth



TGS-spectroscopy of hot WDs: HZ 43, a very young luminous hot WD!



TGS-spectroscopy of hot WDs: Feige 24, a surprising photosphere!





Surprise: Steep decline towards short wavelengths:

- No fit with He II Ly-edge possible (Paerels et al, 1986b)
- No improvement by adding traces of C, N and Si (Paerels, et al, 1986b)
- Improved fit with heavier trace elements up to Ca consistent with IUE abundances (Vennes et al, 1989)
- A later deep 31 hour IUE exposure indicated $Fe/H = (5-10).10^{-6}$
 - A complex of hundreds of Fe IV, FeV and FeVI resonance lines may be causing the Feige XUV deficiency. The relatively high Fe-abundance significantly exceeds the prediction of selective radiation pressure models (Vennes et al 1992)

Hot Coronal Plasma: X-ray line spectra for cosmic abundance



Coronal activity in three late type stars: DEM distributions (TGS 1000 l/mm R \approx 3A)



Post-EXOSAT generation grating spectrometers

Chandra LETGS/HETGS

Transmission grating telescope diffracted wavefron "Normal" incidence DE: $m\lambda = d(\sin\theta - \sin\chi)$ BW: $\Delta \chi \to \Delta \theta \to \Delta \lambda = \frac{d}{m} \cos \theta \Delta \theta$ RP: $\lambda_{\Delta\lambda} = \theta_{\Delta\theta}$

XMM-Newton RGS

Reflection grating



- "Grazing" incidence
- DE: $m\lambda = d(\cos\beta \cos\alpha)$
- **BW**: $\Delta \alpha \rightarrow \Delta \lambda = \frac{d}{m} \sin \alpha \Delta \alpha$

RP:
$$\lambda / \Delta \lambda = \frac{\cos \alpha - \cos \beta}{\sin \alpha \Delta \alpha}$$

- → effective grating period: $d \sin \alpha$ → effective line density: $\rho = \frac{\rho_r}{\sin \alpha}$ (ρ_r = ruling density)
- Ø 110 cm 1000 l/mm 180 SiC plates (10 x 20 cm) average line density 645 l/mm

HR spectroscopy with Chandra LETGS, plasma density diagnostics with He-like triplets



Plasma electron density n_e from the triplet f/i ratio of the He-like ion

Capella OVII: $n_e = 3.10^9$, NVI: 7.10⁹, CV = 3.10⁹ Procyon OVII: $n_e = 2.10^9$, NVI: 9.10⁹, CV <10⁹

- Electron density values typical for solar active regions
- No densities as high as in solar flares
- Flux generated in Magnetic Loops: filling factor exceeds solar >10



From Cooling Flows to Cool Cores in galaxy clusters.

Characteristically:

temperatures $< T_{max}/3$ missing (Peterson & Fabian, 2006)



Abell 1835 (Chandra)

SNR shocks The magnificent case of 1E0102-73 in the Small Magellanic Cloud

Gaetz et al (2000)



Chandra HETGS Flanagan et al (2004)

Energy-dispersive HR-spectroscopy: the Microcalorimeter on Hitomi



Perseus Core S–XV and S–XVI



Perseus Core Fe-XXV complex

