

# High Energy Astrophysics

- highly ionized plasmas
- ionizing photons and particles  
 $(\epsilon > 13.6 \text{ eV} = 1 \text{ Ryd})$   
 $\lambda < 912 \text{ \AA}$

Photon      Wavebands

EUV  
1000 Å

→ 100 Å

X-RAY  
12 Å

→ 0.1 Å

γ-RAYS  
0.01 Å

13 eV → 0.1 keV

1 keV

→ 100 keV

1 MeV

T 10<sup>5</sup> K

→ 10<sup>6</sup>

10<sup>7</sup> K

→ 10<sup>9</sup>

10<sup>10</sup> K

- (High energy) particles radiate (copiously) all wavelengths: a full spectrum extending into X-ray & gamma-rays
- relativistic processes - play important role

"High Energy" excludes thermal radiation from most normal stars, except spectral tail of O stars. (34,000 - 10<sup>5</sup> K)

- Involves compact objects which must be hot to be radiatively luminous (2)

$$L_{\odot} = 4 \times 10^{33} \text{ erg/s}; \quad T \sim 6000 \text{ K}$$

$$R \sim 7 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}$$

Blackbody:  $L = 4\pi R^2 \sigma T^4 \Rightarrow T \propto R^{-1/2}$

SO  $L = L_{\odot} \Rightarrow T > 60,000 \text{ K}$  for  $R < 10^9 \text{ cm}$

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- High luminosities  $\Leftrightarrow$  power available for bulk flows. Can be radiation driven, magnetically driven, tidally driven, thermal wind etc. Actually: Gravity is the ultimate driver in all cases and e.g. mag fields are intermediary

- Supernova shocks/outflows  $v_{\text{eject}} > 5000 \text{ km/s}$
- $$E \sim \frac{1}{2} m_p v^2 \sim kT$$
- $$\Rightarrow T > 10^8 \text{ K}$$

- Collimated outflows - usually associated with accretion
  - More outflow power available the more compact the object:
- force density:  $f = \frac{GM\rho}{R^2}$  for  $\rho \propto \frac{1}{R^n}$

Hot X-ray gas is common in  
Clusters of Galaxies :

→ Velocity dispersion of stars  
in cluster  $\approx 1000 \text{ km/s}$

$c_s \sim v_{\text{disp}}$  in virial equilibrium  $\Rightarrow$

$T_{\text{gal}} \geq 3 \times 10^7 \text{ K}$  in clusters.

( X-ray gas in clusters is such a popular subject of study that "clusters" are often defined by their X-ray properties. )

- Sources of high energy astrophysics to be discussed
  - compact objects (W.D, NS, BH)
  - Supernovae
  - cosmic rays
  - solar corona
  - Accretion Disks (AGN, YSO, compact objects)
  - AGN & galaxy clusters
  - Gamma-Ray Bursts : highly relativistic sources

# X-ray Astronomy History

(4)

- x-rays do not penetrate Earth's Atmos. need to be above upper 1% of atmos to see 0.5 - 5 keV range
  - attenuation decreases as x-ray photon energy increases
  - Balloons ok for up to 40 km  $E \geq 30$  keV
  - rockets needed for  $> 80$  km  $E \geq 3$  keV
- note  $1 \text{ keV} = 1.6 \times 10^{-9} \text{ erg} = k_B T_{1\text{keV}}$   
 $\Rightarrow T_{1\text{keV}} = 1.6 \times 10^7 \text{ K}$

Balloons have advantage that they stay up longer

Rockets (as opposed to satellites) stay up for 5 min

(

# Rockets

- German rockets captured in WWII
- 1949 geiger counters put on the rockets & sent up. Sun was detected.
- 1950s technology would require  $10^5$  times more sensitivity if nearest stars emitted  $L_x = L_{x\odot}$
- 1950s only sun was studied in X-rays
- 1962 American Science and Engineering launched rocket to detect X-rays from interaction of solar wind with moon -
- Instead, discovered Sco-X-1 (1st X-ray source in Scorpion constellation)
- much brighter than sun: reason not discovered earlier was "positioning" was only done passively, by spinning or precession of rocket
- what is Sco X-1?

• took 4-years from launch

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• to locate object.

• object not understood until

1971 after Cen X-3 was discovered (see below)

Note: Sco X-1 looked bright in

X-rays but not in opt

(100 stars brighter in opt / sq deg on ave.)

• Sco X-1 radiates  $10^4$  times  $F_{\odot}$  in  
X-rays (up to  $10^{38}$  erg/s  $L_{\odot}$ )

• 1971 Uhuru satellite found

Cen X-3 (Schreier et al '71)

found

① periodicity 4-84 seconds

② period varied in time 2.09 days

③ X-rays disappeared completely  
for 11 hr in cycles

Any guess?

→ [Rotating NS in binary]

! companion is a BOI star

( B = spectral class I = supergiant  
O = highest luminosity subclass )

→ energy to power X-ray source comes from accretion.

→ most early rocket discovered sources were accretion powered

- binaries or Supernova Remnants

→ after 1973: CV's discovered

e.g. SS Cyg: CV's are accreting white dwarfs with low mass normal star companions

1st SNR to be discovered was Crab Nebula ( $\approx 10^2$  times brighter than most SNR)

- 1st X-ray extragalactic X-ray source detected was M87 in 1965

→ 1st non-solar star capella:  $L_x = 10^4 L_{x\odot}$

# Hard X-ray Balloons

- spectra showed spectra <sup>of X-ray sources</sup> were hard extending above 10 keV.
- Balloons could be used for  $\geq 30$  keV if above 40 km
- long duration observations made possible by balloons
- measurements up to 500 keV
- Crab up to 500 keV for example
- lunar occultation of Crab

- Spectral break in accreting NS
- Cyg X-1 at temperature  $2 \times 10^7$  K,
- cyclotron lines at 40 keV in NS Her X-1 allowing B-field to be measured  $5 \times 10^{12}$  G

$$\frac{mv^2}{r} \sim \frac{eBv}{c} \Rightarrow$$

$\Rightarrow \omega = \frac{eB}{mc}$  for particle of mass  $m$

emission frequency:  $\nu_e = \frac{\omega}{2\pi} = \frac{1}{P} = \frac{eB}{2\pi mc}$



# X-ray Satellites

(9)

- UHURU 1970 2-20 keV  
339 objects mostly X-ray binaries  
and Supernova Remnants
- Strong clustering near Galactic plane
- Fainter flux of isotropic Seyferts  
& clusters
- Cen X-3 & Her X-1 proved  
accreting NS / binary
- Cyg X-1 : short time variability  
& source positions from rockets  
allowed determination of mass  
of accretor to be determined.  
=> black hole : too massive for NS  
(more on this later)

# main features of satellite telescopes

(10)

imaging:

- Wolter optics is main technique  
paraboloidal - hyperboloidal mirrors  
which reflect X-rays under grazing  
incidence (otherwise X-rays are  
absorbed!)

← arc sec

- Einstein obs. was first:  $10''$  resolution  
(EO) ← to image → (EO = HEAD-2)

X-ray sky surveys:

- UHURU 350 sources 2-6 keV
  - HEAD-1 840 sources 0.1-200 keV
- }  $1 \text{ deg}^2$   
4 res

- ROSAT  $\frac{1}{2}$  year all sky survey 80,000 sources  
25'' resolution. Also all sky map  
of X-ray background 12' res.

- total number of ROSAT sources: 150,000  
8 year lifetime of ROSAT

- CHANDRA Recent deep field survey

## Other instruments

xmm, RXTE, ~~ASTRO-E~~ <sup>oops: lost</sup>, spectrum X-Gamma

Beppo-SAX, ASCA, COS-X (on hold)

by 2005 with Chandra  $\approx 500,000$  total known sources in X-rays

## Important recent discoveries

→ Ross Timing Explorer RXTE 2-200 keV

high spectral & temporal resolution

• 2.75 ms bursts of low mass X-ray binary

(LMXB) 4U 1728-34  $\Rightarrow$  thermonuclear hot spot on NS  
CAT RA DEC

• X-ray Burster from Beppo Sax, RXTE

found 2.5 ms<sup>bursts +</sup> persistent flux. only LMXB showing bursts & persistent pulsations

• Beppo Sax - 0.1 - 200 keV discovered

X-ray afterglows of Gamma-Ray bursts allowed better localization

→ optical follow ups ... → redshift

• detection

# ROSAT & ASCA

$$\Delta E / E$$

ROSAT : • 40% spectral resolution in 0.1 - 2.4 keV band - position sensitive (proportional counter)

• 5" <sup>angular</sup> resolution images with plate detector "high resolution imager"

ASCA : • 0.5 - 10 keV CCD detectors  
superior energy resolution to ROSAT (2%) but worse  $\Delta$  res (3')  
at 5.9 keV

ROSAT took 1st X-ray picture of moon  
→ note moon is X-ray bright from Thomson scattering off a thin layer near moon's surface; also fluorescence from minerals produces spectral bump

→ ROSAT measured X-rays from comets  
unsolved problem to understand :  
• scattering of solar X-rays?  
• Bremsstrahlung between shock accel  $e^-$  & coma?  
• Charge exchange between highly charged ions in solar wind and coma

BEST

- ROSAT found many stars with
  - X-ray coronae
- ROSAT pinpointed (via unidentified sources later followed up in optical) several hundred T-Tauri stars way outside regions of star formation (T-tauri are extremely young stars, of  $M \approx M_{\odot}$ )
- ROSAT found Brown Dwarfs ⇒
  - Brown Dwarfs have hot coronae
- ROSAT found X-ray emission from nuclear burning on surface of accreting WD binary systems (soft X-ray sources)
- ROSAT found 200 SN remnants
- ROSAT + ASCA 34 new pulsars  
Can test NS cooling models
- ROSAT 550 new X-ray sources in Andromeda

- ASCA spectroscopy of MCG-6-30-15 Seyfert Galaxy with broad iron lines  
iron line shapes  $\Rightarrow$  black-hole because of gravitational redshift of line
- 50% of ROSAT sources are AGN
- 80% of X-ray background resolved by ROSAT (the remaining 20% by Chandra)
- Clusters: ROSAT showed hot X-ray plasma is 20% of cluster mass, and 4-5 times larger than mass in galaxies in clusters (the rest is dark matter)
- ASCA: Fe abundance in clusters is  $\frac{1}{3}$  solar  $\Rightarrow$  primordial gas
- Several thousand clusters discovered by ROSAT  $\Rightarrow$  cosmology  
observed cluster evolution is much lower than predicted by simulations  
 $\Rightarrow$  universe is subcritical and won't close

- X-ray binaries
- Galaxies
- Stars
- AGN
- Clusters
- SNR
- Gamma-Ray Bursts

CHANDRA  
+ OTHERS

- X-ray Background - resolved
- Galactic ISM - diffuse
- Galactic Corona - diffuse
- Planetary Nebulae - point sources + diffuse
- Jets in Crab + Vela

CHANDRA  
progress  
examples

- Chandra 0.5" resolution
- sources > 10 times fainter than previous scopes
- Very impressive imager
- pretty good for spectral resolution but not better than ASCA
- COS-X even better than Chandra, but not launched yet!

(miss-w/ canceled)  
~~ASCA~~

# Radio

- many high energy sources are radio sources
- radio astronomy started 1931  
Jansky measured Galactic Center
- 1944 2m all sky survey by Reber in his backyard
- "Radar echoes" from meteors in WWII
- Cas A SNR 1965 Cambridge  
1 mile telescope 30" resolution
- Today: big arrays  
VLA  $\leftrightarrow$  20 km base lines in N Mexico  
VLBA  $\leftrightarrow$  8000 km base line  
VLBI  $\leftrightarrow$   $\geq 10,000$  km base line  
 $10^{-4}$  arc sec resolution!



## Important radio results

(17)

- 21 cm line, galactic rotation curves
- radio galaxies: loud in radio faint in optical with jets / lobes up to  $\approx 1$  Mpc in scale
- quasars, first seen as "quasi-stellar radio sources"
- ISO SNR
- neutron stars first discovered as pulsating radio sources
- probes inner regions of AGN
- probes late time evolution of GRB

UV

(18)

100 - 3000 Å

- Ionization potential of hydrogen
- heavily blocked by dust
- Instrumentation "easier"
- plasma diagnostics at few  $\times 10^5$  K temps.
- White Dwarfs, Planetary Nebulae
- transition between photosphere and corona of sun
- absorption lines in spectra indicate Hot ISM
- Winds from O stars, P-cygni profiles  
Wolf-Rayet stars
- blue shifted absorption lines  $\approx 3000 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{s}}$
- $10^{-5} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$  loss rates  
(Sun loss rate is  $10^{-14} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$  by comparison)



RN '03

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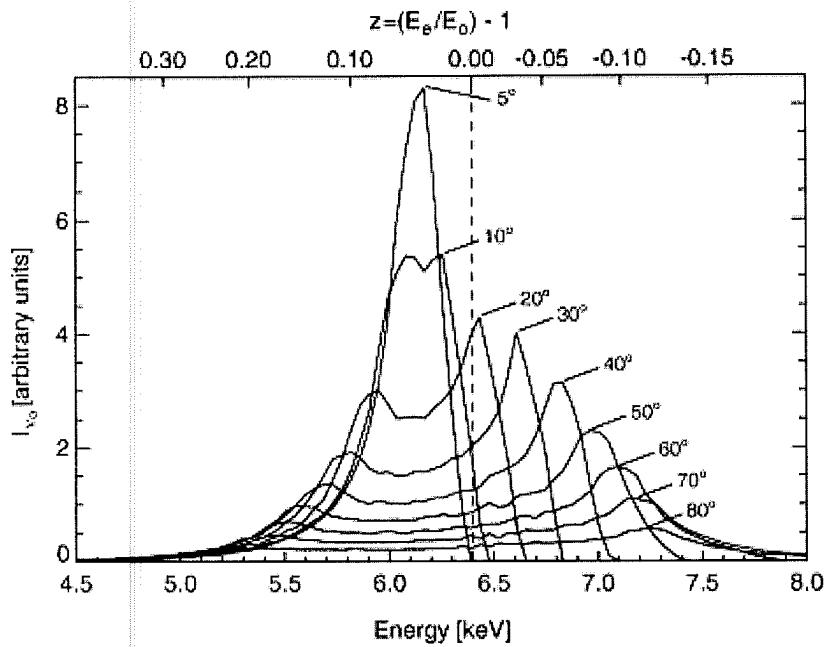


Fig. 9. Iron line profiles from relativistic accretion disk models as a function of disk inclination (as measured by the angle between the normal to the disk plane and the observers line of sight). The black hole is assumed to be rapidly rotating ( $a=0.998$ ), and the disk is assumed to possess a line emissivity index of  $\beta=0.5$  down to the radius of marginal stability  $r=1.23 GM/c^2$ .

RN 103

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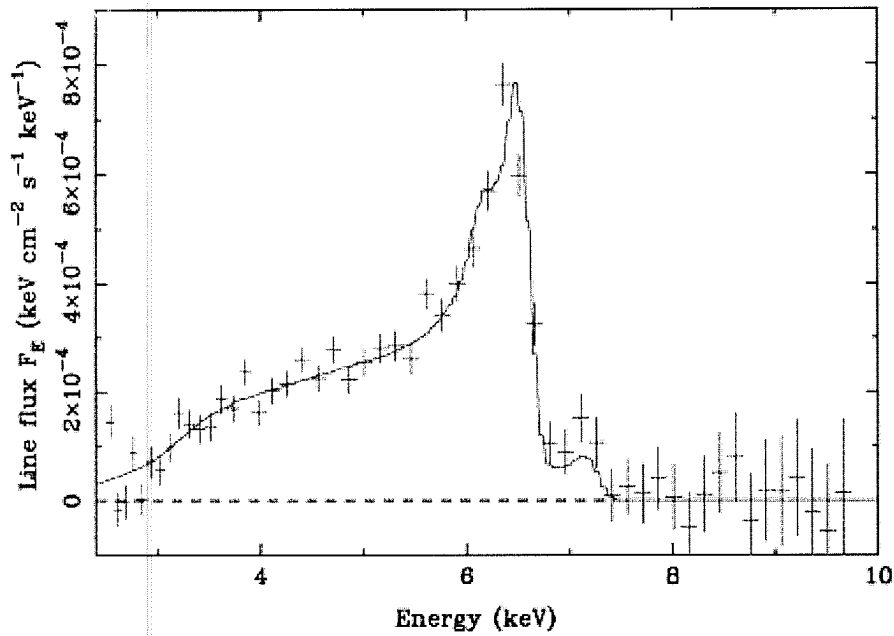
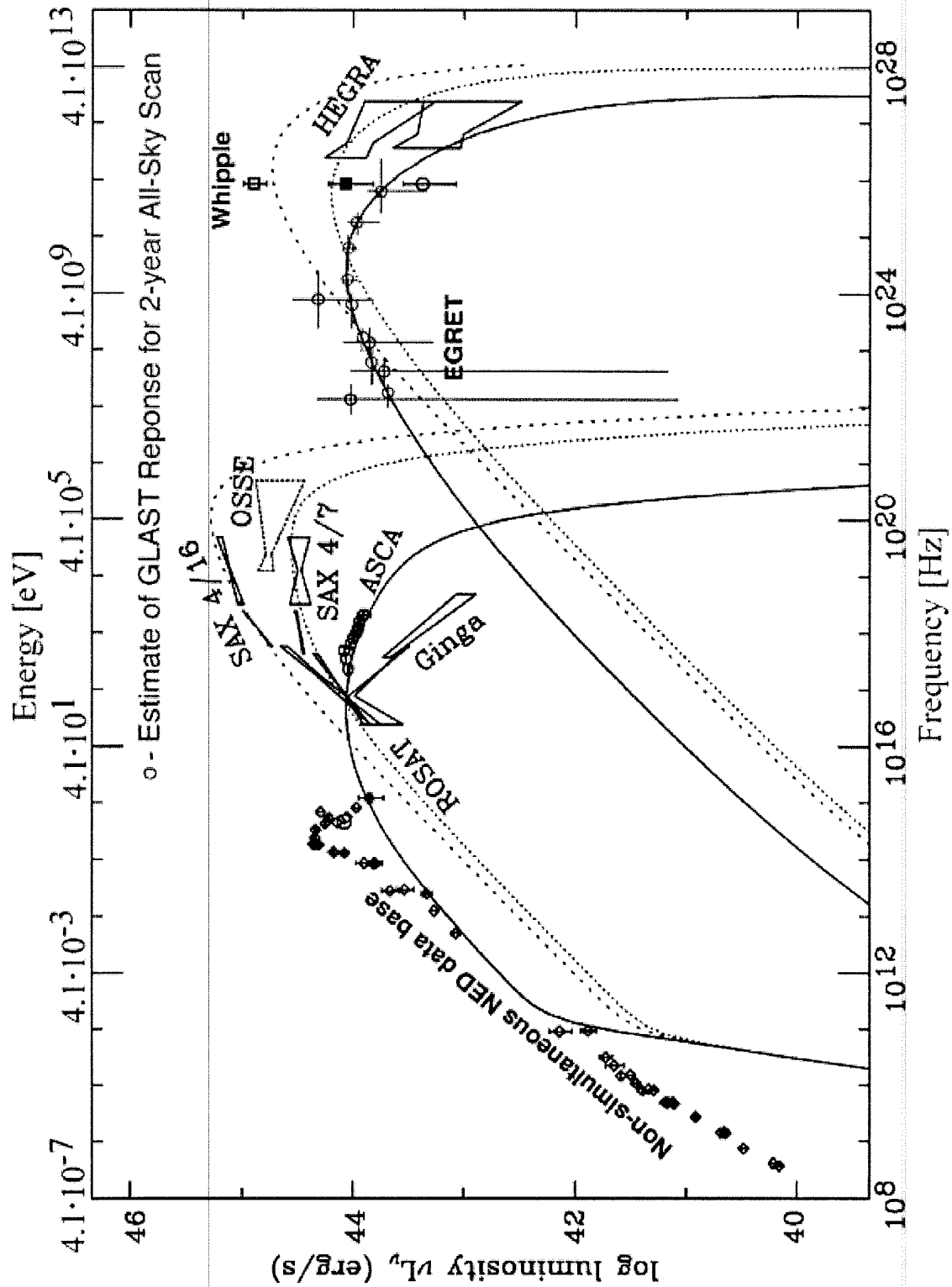


Fig. 15. Continuum subtracted iron line profile from the second XMM-Newton observation of MCG-6-30-15 [220]. This is the highest signal to noise relativistic line profile yet measured.

**Table 1. Observatories and instruments that have been important for studies of X-ray reflection from black hole sources**

Observatory (lifetime)	Instrument	Area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Band (keV)
EXOSAT (ESA) May 1983–April 1986	GS	100	2–20
	ME	1600	1–50
Ginga (Japan) February 1987–November 1991	LAC	4000	1.5–30
ASCA (Japan+NASA) February 1993–March 2001	GIS	2 × 50 @ 1 keV	0.8–10
	SIS	2 × 100 @ 6 keV	0.5–10
RXTE (NASA) December 1995–present	PCA	6500	2–60
	HEXTE	2 × 800	15–25
BeppoSAX (IT+NL) April 1996–April 2002	LECS	22 @ 0.28 keV	0.1–10
	MECS	150 @ 6 keV	1.3–10
	PDS	600 @ 80 keV	15–30
Chandra (NASA) July 1999–present	ACIS	340 @ 1 keV	0.2–10
	HETG	59 @ 1 keV	0.4–10
XMM-Newton (ESA) December 1999–present	EPIC-MOS	2 × 920 @ 1 keV	0.2–10
	EPIC-PN	1220 @ 1 keV	0.2–10

**Note that some of these observatories possess other instruments/detectors that we have not listed since they are not of direct relevance to iron line studies. Instrument abbreviations: ACIS: AXAF Charged Coupled Imagi**



eg. Reynolds & Nowak 03

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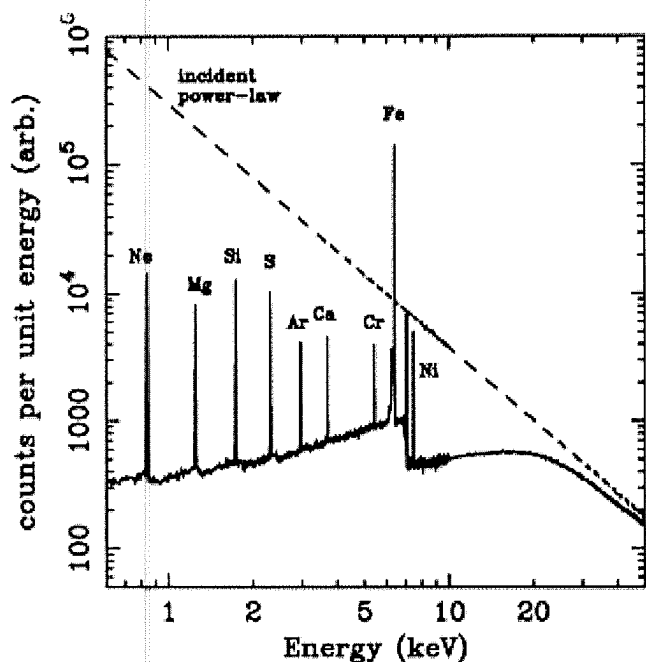


Fig. 7. Results of a simple Monte Carlo simulation demonstrating the “reflection” of an incident power-law X-ray spectrum (shown as a dashed line) by a cold and semi-infinite slab of gas with cosmic abundances. In the accretion disk setting, one would observe the sum of the direct power-law continuum and the reflection spectrum—the principal observables are then the cold iron K $\alpha$  fluorescent line at 6.40 keV and a “Compton reflection hump” peaking at  $\sim$ 30 keV. Figure from [178].



(0.1 keV)

(200 keV)

1m

1mm

7000Å

100Å

0.05Å

Radio and Microwave

IR

VIS

UV

X-Rays

Gamma Rays

Altitude (km)

800

400

200

100

50

25

12

6

3

Sea Level

SATELLITES

ROCKETS

BALLOONS

AIRCRAFT

MOUNTAINTOP  
OBSERVATORIES

