

Contributions of the “Great” X-ray Observatories (XMM-Newton and Chandra) to Astronomy and Astrophysics

Martin C. Weisskopf

Space Science Office, Mail Stop VP62, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC)

NASA’s Chandra X-ray Observatory and ESA’s XMM-Newton made their first observations over a decade ago. The unprecedented and complementary capabilities of these observatories to detect, image, and measure the energy of cosmic X-rays, achieved less than 50 years after the first detection of an extra-solar X-ray source, represent an increase in sensitivity comparable in going from naked-eye observations to the most powerful optical telescopes over the past 400 years. In this presentation we highlight some of the many discoveries made using these powerful X-ray observatories that have transformed 21st century astronomy. We briefly discuss future prospects for this truly exciting field.

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