The NuSTAR view of non local AGNs

Zappacosta Luca (INAF-OAR),

F. Civano (Yale Univ.), A. Comastri (INAF-OABO), S. Puccetti (ASDC/INAF-OAR), A. Del Moro (Durham Univ.), F. Fiore (INAF-OAR), F. Harrison (Caltech), D. Stern (JPL/Caltech) & NuSTAR EG team

Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array

The first hard X-ray focusing telescope in orbit

Deployable Mast

Focal Plane/Detectors

Mirrors

PI: Fiona Harrison Launched on June, 13 2012

NASA senior review 2014: extension approved for 2+2 years

NuSTAR characteristics

- Focuses X-rays up to 79 keV
- FoV: 12.5' x 12.5'
- FWHM: 18"
 - HPD: 58"
- Localization: 2.5" (1 σ)



Improvements wrt previous hard X-ray instruments (Swift-BAT, Integral)

- Better spatial resolution (sub-arcmin)
- Better sensitivity (> 100x)

Allows to resolve a consistent fraction of the X-ray Background (XRB) @ > 10 keV

X-ray Background with NuSTAR

Insights on the composition of the XRB peak at 20-30 keV by resolving 30-50% of the sources through direct detection and stacking

NuSTAR almost not biased by obscured sources → Evolution of the active phase and obscuration with redshift



Multi-tiered approach: the Wedding Cake



Area

Dept

Deep/narrow:

- E-CDF-S: ~200 ks/pointing over 0.3 deg²
 EGS: ~200 ks/pointing over 0.18 deg²
- Mullaney et al. in prep., Aird et al. in prep.

Medium:

COSMOS: ~25 ks/pointing over ~2 deg²
 Civano et al. in prep

Wide/Shallow:

- 100 Swift-BAT AGN fields
- ~4-5 deg²
- All NuSTAR targeted fields $\int^{-4-5 \, deg} Alexander et al. 2013, Landsbury et al. in prep.$



Spectral analysis

Zappacosta et al. in prep.

- Sample selection
 - COSMOS+ECDF-S (2 deg²)
 - Flux limited sample \rightarrow F (8-24 keV) >= 7 10⁻¹⁴ erg s⁻¹ cm⁻²
 - 35 objects (31 from COSMOS + 4 from ECDF-S)
 - COSMOS objects analyzed so far ECDF-S analysis is on-going
- Nustar only modeling: 3-24 keV
- Joint broad-band Nustar+Chandra+XMM modeling: 0.5-24 keV
- Model for Nustar and broad band unabsorbed fits ($N_H < 10^{22}$ cm⁻²): absorbed power-law + Fe K α + Compton reflection (model A
- Model for broad-band fits for absorbed (N_H > ~10²² cm⁻²) sources Scattered power-law + absorbed power-law + Fe Kα + Compton reflection (<u>model B</u>)

NuSTAR COSMOS survey



- 1.7 deg² → same area covered by Chandra XVP (PI: F. Civano) just completed
- 2 observing periods: 2013 and 2014
- 3.2 Ms exposure
- 20-30 ks exposure/tile
- 121 tiles (11x11 grid with half field shift)
- 100ks uniform depth on 1.1 deg²

Civano et al. in prep.

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- 121 tiles (11x11 grid with half field shift)
- 100ks uniform depth on 1.1 deg²
 - 91 sources detected

Civano et al. in prep.





Spectra: low-N_H low-z source



Spectra: low-N_H high-z source



Heavily absorbed sources



Heavily absorbed sources



Photon index distribution







Column density distribution



The Compton thick source (z=0.044)





Fraction of absorbed AGNs



Fraction of absorbed AGNs





Median luminosity for absorbed $1.4 \times 10^{44} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$

> Median luminosity for unabsorbed 2.8 × 10⁴⁴ erg s⁻¹





Reflection component

Red: > 10²²cm⁻²

Blue: < 10²²cm⁻²





Conclusions

- Bright hard (8-24 keV) X-ray selected sample in COSMOS+ECDFS (the most significantly detected sources)
- Sample of 35 non local (z>0.1) AGNs
- Ongoing broad band (0.5-24 keV) spectral analysis for the (XMM-Chandra-Nustar)
- Characterization of the spectral properties:
 - Γ: ~2+/-0.3
 - N_H: so far ~30% of highly obscured sources (1 of which Compton Thick)
 - R: mean value ~2-3 with large scatter (consistency with SWIFT-BAT)
 - Slight tendency for AGN absorbed fraction decrease with L_{χ} (probably the redshift dependence is somewhat masking this trend)