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**Stephen L. O'Dell
Giovanni Pareschi**
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Contents

vii	<i>Authors</i>
ix	<i>Conference Committee</i>
xiii	<i>Introduction</i>

TELESCOPES

11119 04	Mirror module design of x-ray telescopes of eXTP mission [11119-3]
----------	---

MONOCRYSTALLINE-SILICON OPTICS

11119 07	Next generation x-ray optics for astronomy: high resolution, lightweight, and low cost [11119-6]
11119 08	Fabrication of monocrystalline silicon x-ray mirrors [11119-7]
11119 0A	Recent advances in the alignment of silicon mirrors for high-resolution x-ray optics [11119-10]
11119 0B	Structural analysis and testing of silicon x-ray mirror modules [11119-11]
11119 0C	Mass manufacturing of high resolution and lightweight monocrystalline silicon x-ray mirror modules [11119-8]

ATHENA I

11119 0D	Optics developments for ATHENA [11119-12]
11119 0F	Installation and commissioning of the silicon pore optics coating facility for the ATHENA mission [11119-14]
11119 0G	Performance and time stability of Ir/SiC X-ray mirror coatings for ATHENA [11119-15]
11119 0H	Stacking of mirrors for silicon pore optics [11119-16]
11119 0I	X-ray testing of silicon pore optics [11119-17]

ATHENA II

11119 0M **Integration facility for the ATHENA X-Ray Telescope [11119-21]**

ATHENA III

11119 0N **BEaTriX: the Beam Expander Testing X-Ray facility for testing ATHENA's SPO modules: progress in the realization [11119-22]**

11119 0Q **Stray x-ray flux in the Athena Mirror [11119-26]**

MIRROR TECHNOLOGIES

11119 0W **Cold glass shaping of coated mirrors: characterization of the process [11119-32]**

DIFFRACTION GRATINGS

11119 0Y **Fabrication and diffraction efficiency of a 160-nm period x-ray reflection grating produced using thermally activated selective topography equilibration [11119-34]**

11119 10 **Curved diffractive x-ray optics for astronomy [11119-36]**

11119 11 **An updated optical design of the off-plane grating rocket experiment [11119-37]**

11119 12 **A comprehensive line spread function error budget for the Off-plane Grating Rocket Experiment [11119-38]**

11119 13 **Progress in x-ray critical-angle transmission grating technology development [11119-39]**

DESIGN

11119 14 **Grazing incidence at work: an outreach project to demonstrate the X-ray optics behaviour using the nested mirrors developed for the BeppoSAX X-ray satellite [11119-40]**

11119 15 **Design optimization for x-ray telescopes [11119-41]**

TESTING

11119 16 **Developments in testing x-ray optics at MPE's PANTER facility [11119-42]**

STRESS SHAPING

11119 18 **Progress toward controlling the shape of Si mirrors coated with a magnetic smart material [11119-44]**

11119 19 **Novel actuators for adjustable high-resolution x-ray optics based on plastic electroactive polymers [11119-45]**

11119 1A **Demonstration of femtosecond laser micromachining for figure correction of thin silicon optics for x-ray telescopes [11119-46]**

OPTICS FOR GAMMA-RAY ASTRONOMY

11119 1E **The ASTRI-Horn telescope validation toward the production of the ASTRI Mini-Array: a proposed pathfinder for the Cherenkov Telescope Array [11119-50]**

POSTER SESSION

11119 1F **LEXR: A low-energy X-ray reflectometer for characterization of ATHENA mirror coatings [11119-25]**

11119 1I **Thermal simulations for characterization of ATHENA mirror modules with a radiating box in the BEaTriX facility [11119-53]**

11119 1J **BEaTriX, the Beam Expander Testing X-ray facility for testing ATHENA's SPO modules: the collimating mirror [11119-54]**

11119 1K **X-ray reflectometry of a platinum coating as reference sample for the ATHENA coating development [11119-55]**

11119 1L **X-ray reflectivity measurements at chromium-iridium tri-layer coatings [11119-56]**

11119 1M **Characterization of a magnetron sputtering system for the development of broadband x-ray optic multilayer coatings [11119-57]**

11119 1R **Simulating the effects of thermoelastic deformation on the THESEUS Soft X-ray Imager optics [11119-62]**

11119 1S **Polarized X-ray sources for the 100m beamline calibration of the IXPE X-ray telescopes [11119-63]**

11119 1T **X-ray telescope deformation reduction using stress relief features [11119-64]**

- 11119 1U **The ASTRI contribution to the Cherenkov Telescope Array: mirror production for the SST-2M ASTRI and the MST telescopes** [11119-65]
- 11119 1V **FlashCam: a fully digital camera for the Cherenkov telescope array medium-sized telescopes** [11119-66]
- 11119 1W **Determination of the single photo-electron spectrum and gain measurement for the Cherenkov Telescope Array camera NectarCAM** [11119-67]

Authors

Numbers in the index correspond to the last two digits of the seven-digit citation identifier (CID) article numbering system used in Proceedings of SPIE. The first five digits reflect the volume number. Base 36 numbering is employed for the last two digits and indicates the order of articles within the volume. Numbers start with 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 0A, 0B...0Z, followed by 10-1Z, 20-2Z, etc.

Allgood, Kim D., 07, 08, 0C, 11, 12	Fiorini, M., 0N, 14
Ayre, Mark, 0D	Florin, D., 1V
Babić, Ljubiša, 0H, 0I	Foehr, C., 1V
Barcelo, M., 1V	Folla, I., 1E
Barrière, Nicolas M., 0D, 0H, 0I, 10, 16	Fransen, Sebastiaan, 0D
Basso, S., 04, 0N, 0W, 1I, 1J	Friedrich, Peter, 16, 1L
Bauer, C., 1V	Fugazza, Dino, 1E
Baumgartner, Wayne H., 1S	Fujishima, B., 18
Bavdaz, Marcos, 0D, 0F, 0H, 0I, 0M, 0N	Funk, S., 1V
Bayerle, Alex, 0I	Gadola, A., 1V
Beretta, S., 0N	Garczarczyk, M., 1U
Bi, B., 1V	Garrecht, F., 1V
Bianucci, Giovanni, 0M	Ghigo, M., 0N, 1J
Biskach, Michael P., 07, 08, 0A, 0B, 0C, 11, 12	Giro, Enrico, 0N, 1E, 1J, 1U
Blake, S., 1R	Girou, David, 0F, 0G, 0I
Bonafede, Joseph A., 0B	Grisé, Fabien, 10, 11, 12
Bradley, Eric T., 1S	Günther, Ramses, 0H, 0I
Bradshaw, Miranda, 16, 1L	Gurgew, Danielle, 1M
Broadway, David M., 1M	Handick, Evelyn, 0G, 0I, 1K
Brucoleri, Alexander R., 13, 1T	Hartner, Gisela, 16, 1L
Bruno, Pietro, 1E	Hauser, Enrico, 0I
Buchholz, D. B., 18	Heilmann, Ralf K., 13, 1A, 1T
Burwitz, Vadim, 0D, 0N, 16, 1L	Henriksen, P. L., 0F, 0G, 1F, 1K
Busatta, A., 1E	Hermann, G., 1V
Canestrari, Rodolfo, 1E, 1U	Hlinka, Michal, 07, 08, 0C, 11, 12
Cao, Jian, 18	Holland, Andrew D., 11, 12
Cao, Jonathan, 18	Holland, Karen, 11, 12
Caroff, Sami, 1W	Hong, Kyung-Han, 1A
Catalano, J., 1V	Jafari, A., 0F, 0G, 1F, 1K
Catalano, Osvaldo, 1E	Jalilvanda, M., 18
Chalifoux, Brandon D., 1A	Jean, Pierre, 1W
Chan, Kai-Wing, 07, 0A, 0B, 0C, 11, 12	Johnson, Samantha A., 1S
Chen, Y., 04	Jung, I., 1V
Christensen, Finn, 0D, 0F, 0G, 1F, 1K	Kalekin, O., 1V
Chung, Y-W., 18	Kalkuhl, C., 1V
Cibik, L., 0F, 0G, 1K	Kearney, John D., 07, 08, 0C, 11, 12
Civitani, M., 04, 0W	Keek, Laurens, 0H, 0I
Collon, Maximilien J., 0D, 0F, 0G, 0H, 0I, 10, 16	Kihm, T., 1V
Della Monica Ferreira, Desiree, 0D, 0F, 0G, 1F, 1K, 1R	Knudsen, E. B., 1R
DeRoo, Casey T., 10	Korhonen, Tapio, 0D, 0M
Diebold, S., 1V	Krause, M., 1U
Döhring, Thorsten, 1L	Krumrey, Michael, 0D, 0F, 0G, 0I, 1K
Donovan, Benjamin D., 10, 11, 12	La Palombara, Nicola, 1E, 1U
Errando, M., 19	Landgraf, Boris, 0D, 0F, 0G, 0H, 0I
Eschbach, S., 1V	Langer, A., 0F
Fegan, Stephen, 1W	Langmeier, Andreas, 16
Ferrari, C., 0N	Leuschner, F., 1V
Ferreira, Ivo, 0D, 0F, 0H, 0M, 0N	Lewis, Matthew R., 11, 12
	Li, Tongzhou, 0W

Liao, Yingyu, 16, 1L
 Maccarone, Maria Concetta, 1E
 Marchiori, G., 1E
 Marcuzzi, E., 1E
 Marioni, Fabio, 0M
 Marks, N., 18
 Massahi, Sonny, 0D, 0F, 0G, 1F, 1K
 Matthews, D. J., 18
 Mazzarella, James R., 07, 0A, 0B, 0C, 11, 12
 McClelland, Ryan S., 07, 0A, 0B, 11, 12
 McCoy, Jake A., 0Y
 McCurdy, Ross C., 0Y
 McEntaffer, Randall L., 0Y, 10, 11, 12
 Miles, Drew M., 0Y
 Millul, R., 1U
 Missaglia, N., 1U
 Mitchell, A., 1V
 Molnar-Fenton, Anjelica, 1T
 Moraitis, Christina, 1S
 Müller, Peter, 0I
 Nam, Sang-Hoon, 1A
 Numata, Ai, 07, 08, 0A, 0C, 11, 12
 O'Brien, P., 1R
 Okma, Ben, 0H, 0I
 Olive, Jean-François, 1W
 Oliver, Paul, 0D
 O'Meara, Bridget C., 11, 12
 Oosterbroek, T., 1R
 Paoletti, L., 0N
 Pareschi, Giovanni, 04, 0D, 0M, 0N, 0W, 14, 1E, 1J, 1U
 Pasanen, Mikko, 0M
 Pelliciarì, Carlo, 0N, 16, 1L
 Pfeifer, M., 1V
 Principe, G., 1V
 Prod'homme, T., 1R
 Pühlhofer, G., 1V
 Pürckhauer, S., 1V
 Qi, Runze, 0W
 Qiang, P., 04
 Ramsey, Brian D., 1M, 1S
 Redaelli, M., 1U
 Reimer, O., 1V
 Riveros, Raul E., 07, 08, 0A, 0C, 11, 12
 Russo, Federico, 1E
 'S Jegers, A., 1R
 Saha, Timo T., 07, 0A, 0B, 0C, 11, 12, 15
 Sailer, S., 1V
 Salmaso, B., 0N, 14, 1I, 1J
 Salzmann, H., 1V
 Sanchez del Rio, M., 0N
 Santangelo, A., 1V
 Scalici, M., 1V
 Schäfer, Tobias, 1L
 Schanz, T., 1V
 Schattensburg, Mark L., 13, 1A, 1T
 Schönberger, W., 0F
 Schubert, A., 0G
 Schwab, T., 1V
 Scuderi, Salvatore, 1E, 1U
 Segreto, Alberto, 1E
 Seidel, André, 0D
 Sheng, L., 04
 Shortt, Brian, 0D, 0F, 0G, 1F, 1K, 1R
 Sironi, Giorgia, 04, 0N, 14, 1E, 1J, 1U
 Solly, Peter M., 07, 0A, 0B, 0C, 11, 12
 Soman, Matthew R., 11, 12
 Song, Jungki, 13
 Spiga, D., 04, 0N, 1J
 Start, Ronald, 0D
 Stehlíkova, Veronika, 1L
 Stollenwerk, Manfred, 1L
 Straumann, U., 1V
 Svendsen, S., 0F, 0G, 1F, 1K, 1R
 Tagliaferri, G., 04, 0N, 1J
 Tenzer, C., 1V
 Tosti, Gino, 1E
 Tsiachina, Adellain, 1W
 Tutt, James H., 11, 12
 Ulmer, M. P., 18
 Usienghi, M., 0N
 Vacanti, Giuseppe, 0D, 0H, 0I, 16
 Valsecchi, Giuseppe, 0D, 0M, 16, 1U
 van Baren, Coen, 0D
 Vecchi, G., 0N, 1J
 Verhoeckx, Sjoerd, 0I
 Vernani, Dervis, 0M
 Vervest, Mark, 0H, 0I
 Vollhardt, A., 1V
 Voruz, Luc, 0H, 0I
 Vu, L. M., 1K
 Wang, J., 04
 Wang, Zhanshan, 0W
 Wellner, T., 0F
 Werner, F., 1V
 Wille, Eric, 0D, 0H, 0I, 0M
 Willingale, Richard, 0Q, 1R
 Wolf, D., 1V
 Xu, Y., 04
 Yan, Y., 04
 Yang, Y., 04
 Yang, Yang, 0W
 Yao, Youwei, 1T
 Zannoni, A., 1U
 Zappettini, A., 0N
 Zhang, William W., 07, 08, 0A, 0B, 0C, 10, 11, 12, 15
 Zhao, B., 04
 Zocchi, Fabio E., 0M, 1U
 Zuo, Heng E., 1A

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- 10 Testing
Brian D. Ramsey, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (United States)

- 11 Stress Shaping
Kristin Madsen, Caltech (United States)
- 12 Optics for Gamma-Ray Astronomy
Nicolas M. Barrière, cosine B.V. (Netherlands)

Introduction

The conference *Optics for EUV, X-Ray, and Gamma-Ray Astronomy IX* met August 13–15 in San Diego, California, as part of the **SPIE Optics + Photonics 2019** international symposium **Optical Engineering + Applications**. The Conference provides a forum for discussion of recent progress in imaging and spectroscopic optics for high-energy astronomy. As with previous biennial conferences in this series, the Conference was well-attended by international researchers—importantly including graduate-student and post-doctoral scientists—and comprised approximately 60 oral or poster papers.

The success of the Conference reflects the vitality of the high-energy-astronomy community working in optics and imaging telescopes. The current environment is particularly positive, in that several high-energy missions have been approved for implementation or for advanced study. These include large space-based x-ray observatories—*ATHENA* (selected by ESA as the L2 mission of the Cosmic Vision program) and *Lynx* (studied by NASA for consideration during the US Decadal Survey *Astro2020*). They also include several smaller x-ray missions—*Spectrum Röntgen Gamma* (SRG, launched 2019), *Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer* (IXPE), *X-Ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission* (XRISM), *Einstein Probe*, and enhanced X-ray Timing and Polarimetry (eXTP). In addition, arrays of imaging atmospheric Cherenkov telescopes—such as the Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA)—serve as sensitive ground-based gamma-ray observatories.

Monocrystalline-Silicon Optics (Session 2) reported on development, at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), of technologies for next-generation, lightweight, high-resolution x-ray telescopes using monocrystalline-silicon optics. This session provided an overview of the development program, as well as specific reports on mirror fabrication, alignment into mirror modules, structural analysis and testing, and modeling and evaluation of mass-manufacturing procedures.

ATHENA I (Session 3) was the first of three sessions devoted to development of x-ray optics for the Advanced Telescope for High Energy Astrophysics (ATHENA, ESA 's L2 mission). This session provided an overview of the technology development program for Silicon Pore Optics (SPO) for ATHENA, as well as specific reports on mirror fabrication, optical coating, stacking, and x-ray testing of SPOs.

ATHENA II (Session 4) was the second ATHENA session. This session described assembly, environmental testing, and the current status and performance of SPO mirror modules, plus planning for alignment and integration of mirror modules into the ATHENA mirror assembly. See the Poster Session for an additional paper on this topic.

ATHENA III (Session 5) was the final ATHENA session. This session addressed potential facilities for x-ray testing ATHENA mirror modules or the full mirror assembly, presented a model for predicting the stray x-ray flux reaching the focal plane, and summarized the status of the ATHENA program. See the Poster Session for an additional paper on this topic.

Optical Coatings (Session 6) described coatings and coating methods to improve x-ray performance. See the Poster Session for additional papers on this topic.

Mirror Technologies (Session 7) reported on research to develop or refine technologies for fabricating full-shell or segmented x-ray optics for astronomy. See the Poster Session for additional papers on this topic.

Diffraction Gratings (Session 8) addressed design, fabrication, and performance of various types of diffraction gratings for UV and x-ray high-resolution spectroscopy, as well as applications for rocket experiments and future space-based observatories. Most of the papers described development, primarily at Pennsylvania State University, of off-plane reflection gratings. One paper suggested a novel design, wherein reflection gratings are integral to the secondary mirror of a Wolter-I-like mirror assembly, thus increasing the throughput by reducing the number of reflections from 3 to 2. Another paper reported progress, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in technology development of critical-angle transmission gratings.

Design (Session 9) concerned optimization and predicted performance of grazing-incidence telescopes, including evaluation of effects impacting performance. One paper described an outreach project to demonstrate basic principles of x-ray optics. See the Poster Session for additional papers on this topic.

Testing (Session 10) described capabilities and testing programs at long-beam x-ray test facilities, including some results for specific projects. See the Poster Session for an additional paper on this topic.

Stress Shaping (Session 11) reported on various approaches to correct or to control the figure of an x-ray mirror, by modifying the stress near the back surface of the mirror. Papers discussed active methods—magnetic smart materials and electroactive polymers—and static methods—including laser micromachining. See the Poster Session for an additional paper on this topic.

Optics for Gamma-Ray Astronomy (Session 12) addressed direct and indirect imaging of astronomical gamma rays. The direct method for future space-based hard-x-ray and soft-gamma-ray observatories utilizes bent crystals in a single-Laue-lens configuration for concentrating radiation, or in a double-Laue-lens configuration for true imaging. The indirect method uses ground-based arrays of visible-light telescopes for stereoscopic imaging of Cherenkov light emitted in upper-atmosphere showers initiated by high-energy gamma rays. See the Poster Session for additional papers on the Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA).

We are grateful to the Program Committee, session chairs, authors, and SPIE staff for their contributions to this successful conference. We look forward to convening again in 2021, for *Optics for EUV, X-Ray, and Gamma-Ray Astronomy X*.

Giovanni Pareschi
Stephen L. O'Dell

