

# Future X-ray instruments relevant to CTAO science



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NewAthena & XRISM ESA Project Scientist

*Credit: IRAP, CNES, ESA & ACO*

“We all were sea-swallow'd, though some cast again  
(And by that destiny) to perform an act  
Whereof what's past is prologue what to come,  
In yours and my discharge.”

William Shakespeare, “The Tempest”

# Outline



1. Fundamentals of X-rays/γ-ray synergies
2. Science cases
  - SNR
  - AGN
  - GRB
3. Synergies with:
  - NewAthena [and XRISM]
  - THESEUS [and *Einstein Probe*]

Chapter on CTAO and v written by: M. Ahlers, A. Coleiro, E. de Oña Wilhelmi, J. Vink, P. Padovani.

Athena

Multi-messenger-Athena Synergy White Paper

Multi-messenger-Athena Synergy Team



# General principles of X-ray/γ-ray synergies

- **Synchrotron-emitting leptons ( $e^-$ )**
  - Probing (fast) acceleration conditions “on the act”
  - Identify sources of inverse Compton up-scattering (up to the γ-ray regime)
  - Complete the Cosmic Ray energy budget
  - Help disentangling (in principle) hadronic from leptonic γ-ray emission
    - Synchrotron brightness  $\approx n_e U_B$
    - γ-ray brightness  $\approx n_e U_R$
    - Assuming single-zone leptonic emission → B → verify leptonic hypothesis
  - Determination (with radio) of the spectral index of electronic population
    - → intrinsic γ-ray spectral index → Extra-galactic Background Light estimate
- **Thermal emission associated with regions of particle acceleration**
  - X-rays warrants higher-spatial resolution
  - Mapping of local plasma and radiation energy densities

# Integral field unit capabilities in X-rays



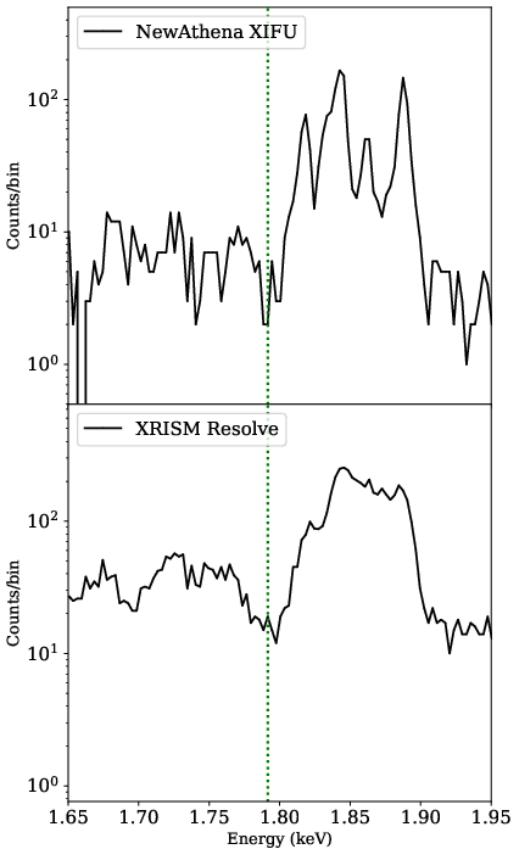
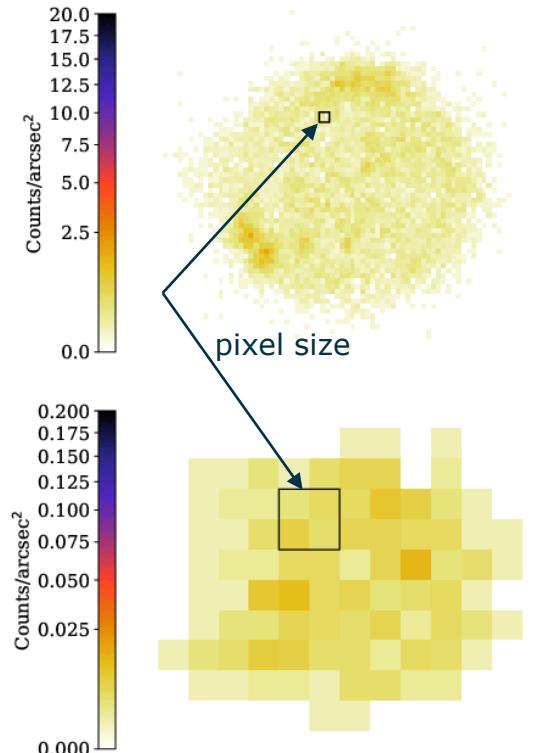
Credit: F. Acero (CEA) & C. Kirsch (FAU)

## Cassiopea A (X-ray bright SNR)

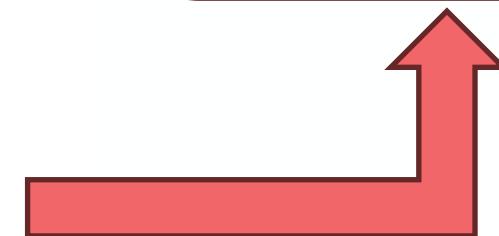
$E = 1.791 \text{ keV}$

cf. H. Nakajima's talk

NewAthena X-IFU  
 $\Delta E \leq 4 \text{ eV}$   
~1500 pixels, 5" side  
Launch ~2037



**XRISM Resolve**  
 $\Delta E \leq 5 \text{ eV}^*$   
35 pixels, 30" side  
Operational (2023-)

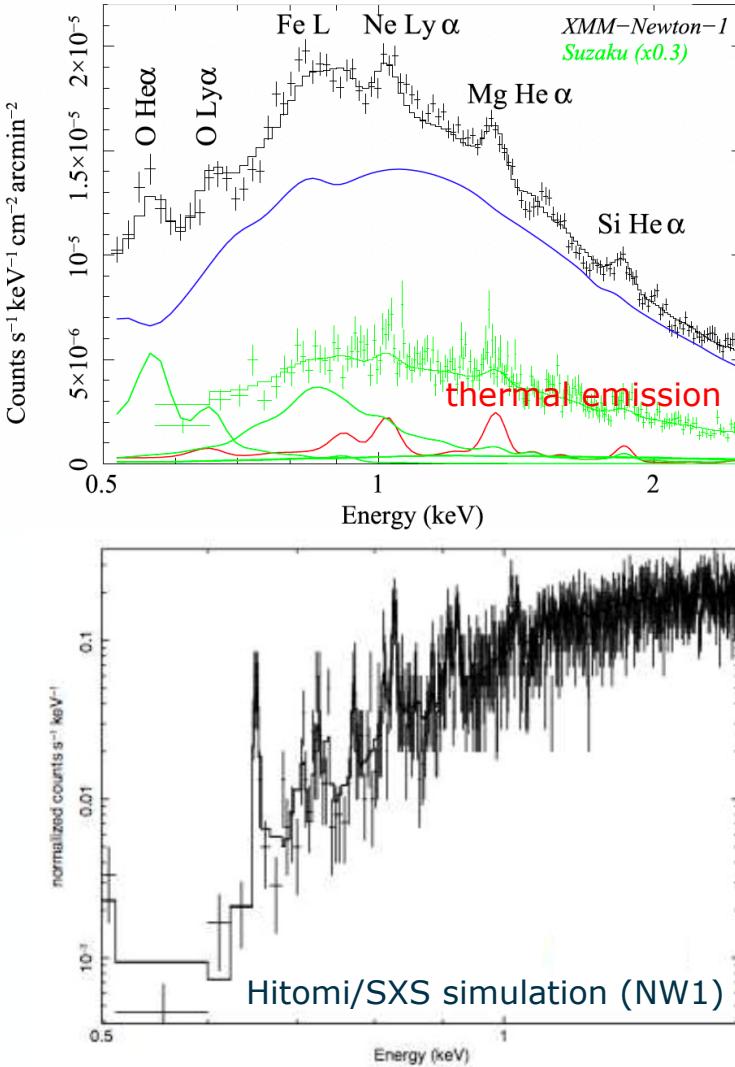


\*7 eV (requirement) shown

# Thermal emission in SNR synchrotron-dominated regions



Katsuda et al., 2015, ApJ, 814, 29; Hughes et al., 2014, arXiv:1412.1169



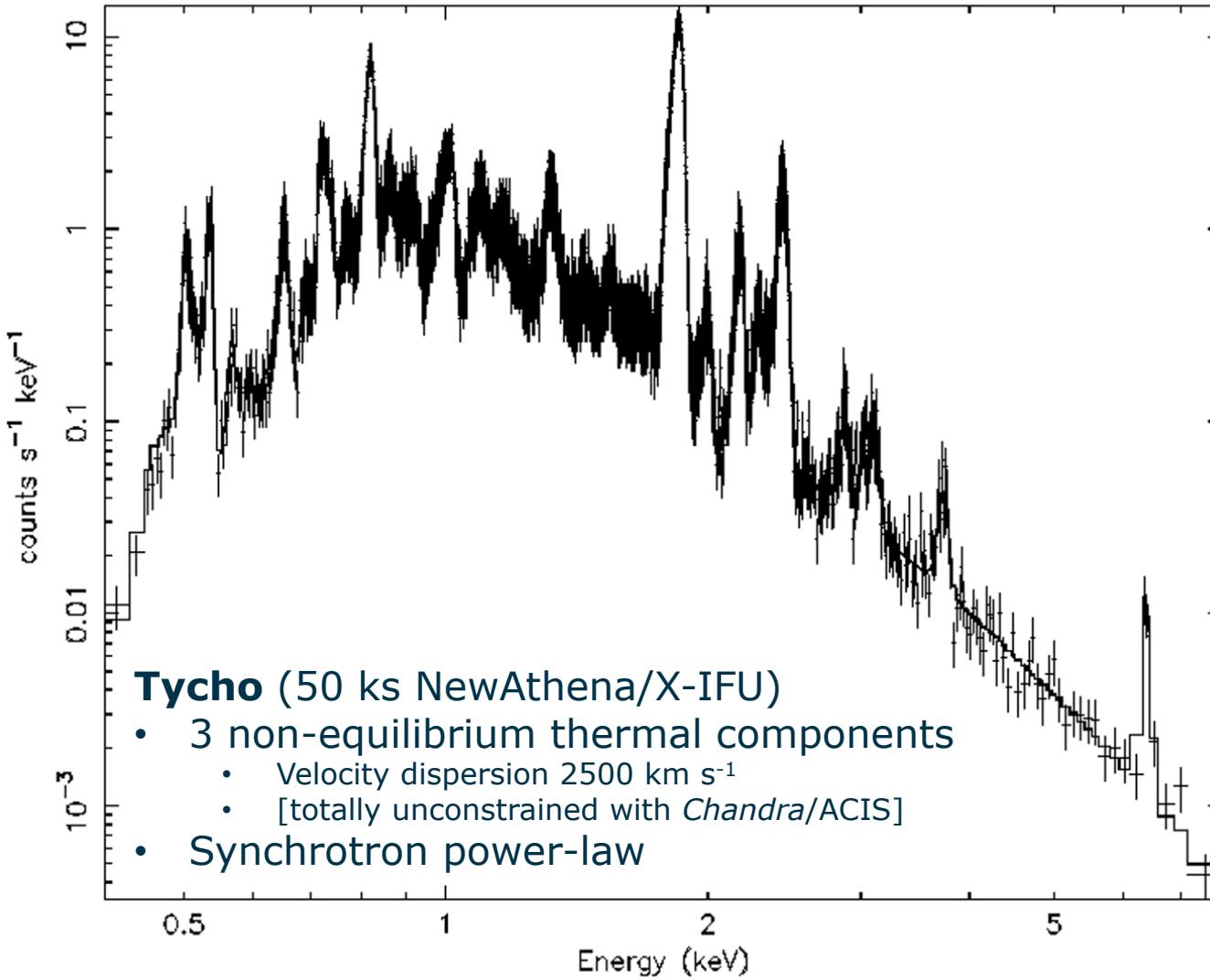
- Detecting thermal emission in synchrotron-dominated SNR regions is hard with CCD resolution
  - In the example: RXJ1713.7-3946
- Lack of density estimation prevents constraining the hadronic contribution to the γ-ray emission
- **Spatially-resolved, high resolving power is crucial**
  - [Note: *Hitomi/SXS* is the same technology as *XRISM/Resolve*]
  - Enables measurements of density and composition of the SNR as a function of position
  - Mapping of young SNR (e.g., SN1006, Tycho,) in the observation plans of *XRISM* and *Athena*

# Ion temperature and CR acceleration efficiency

Credit: L. Godinaud, A. Decourchelle, F. Acero (CEA)



Vink et al., 2010, ApJ, 722, 1727



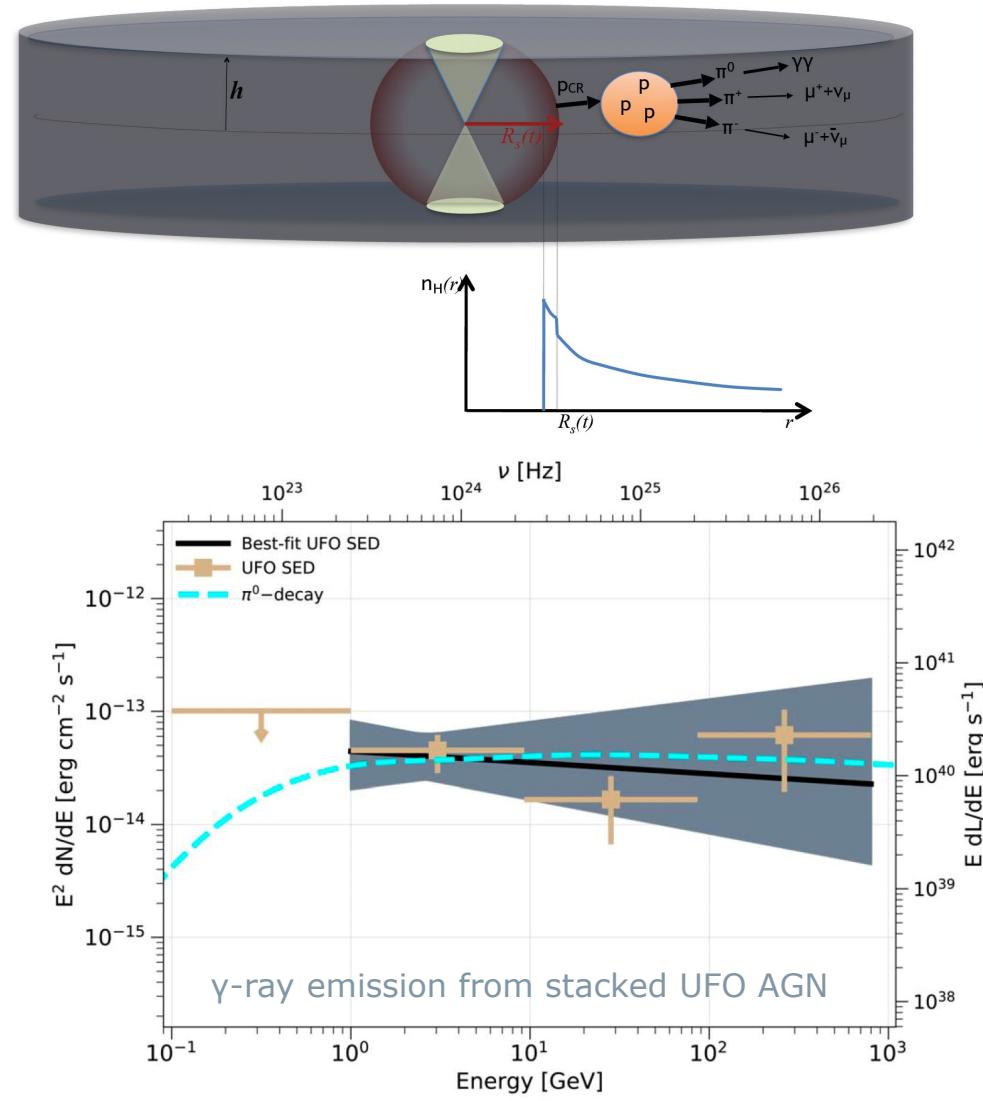
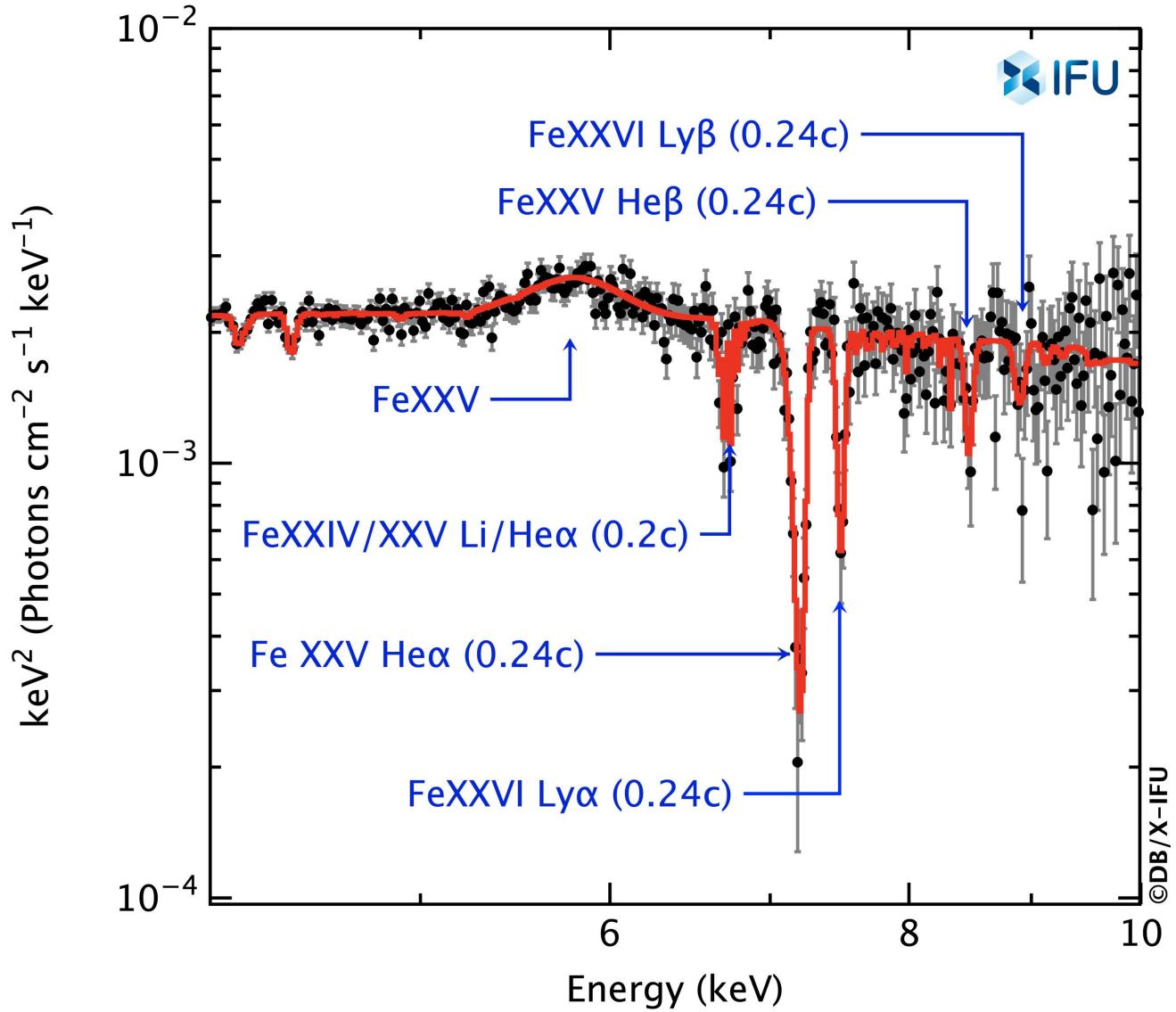
- Line profiles constraints thermal Doppler broadening  $\rightarrow T_{\text{ion}}$
- Likely to dominate at the SNR edges
- Link to CR acceleration efficiency in shocks:
$$k_B T_2 = \frac{1}{\chi_{12}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\chi_{12}}\right) \mu m_p V_s^2 = \frac{3}{16} \mu m_p V_s^2$$
- Requires knowledge of shock velocities, measured by *Chandra* in many young SNRs
- Probably only NewAthena science

# Ultra-Fast Outflows (UFOs) in AGN

Credit: X-IFU Consortium

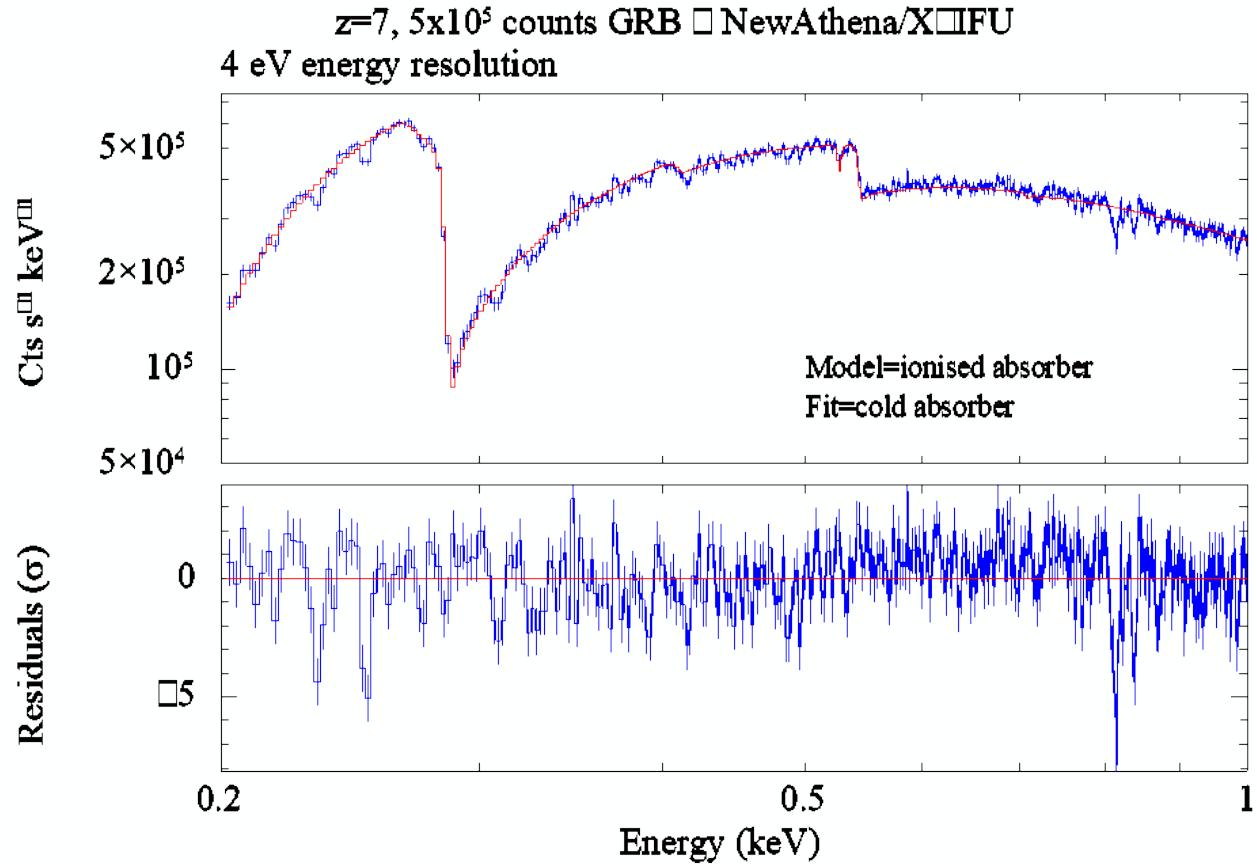


Lamastra et al., 2017, A&A, 607, 18; Aiello et al., 2021, ApJ, 921, 144



# Long GRBs

- Candidates for extragalactic CR
- Prompt emission:
  - X-rays: relativistic leptons
  - $\gamma$ -rays: shocks in jets
- Afterglows: jet interaction with the circum-/interstellar medium
- X-ray absorption lines  $\rightarrow$  close GRB environment:
  - First generation of stars
  - Generation of the first BH
  - dissemination of the first metals
- X-ray non-thermal component  $\rightarrow$  constrain emission mechanisms

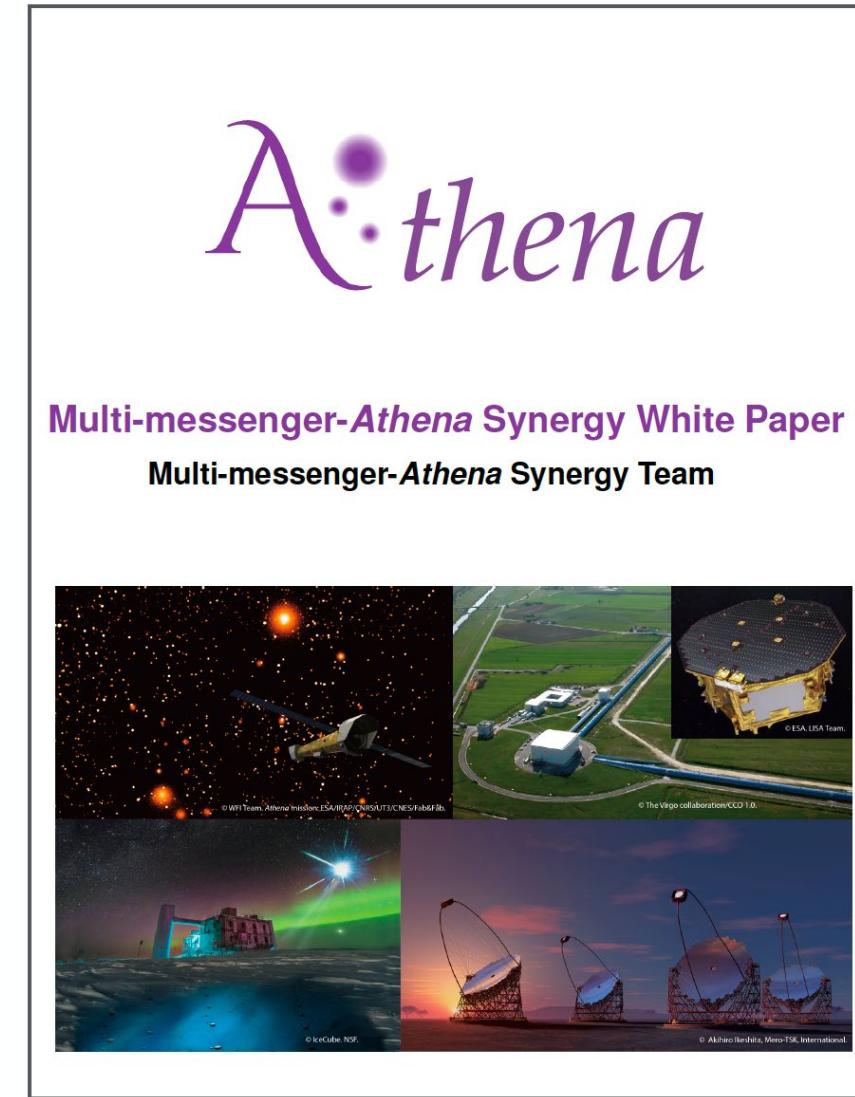


# Other sources for NewAthena/CTAO synergies



Piro et al., 2022, Exp. Astr, 54, 23

- "Superbubbles" in star forming regions
- Nearby (<10 Mpc) supernovae
- Pulsar Wind Nebulae
- Starburst galaxies
- Accretion shocks in clusters of galaxies



# NewAthena: three key science-enabling innovations

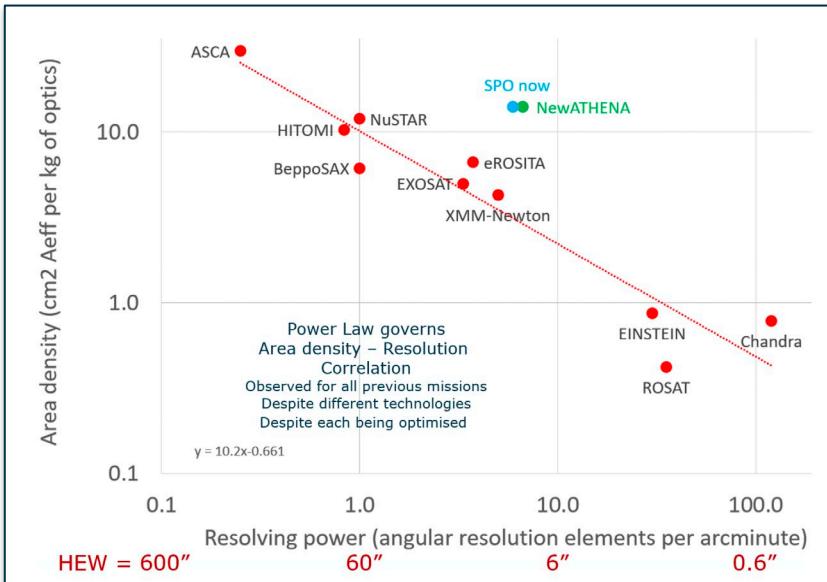


Bavdaz et al. 2023, SPIE, 1267902-1

Credit: D. Barret (IRAP)

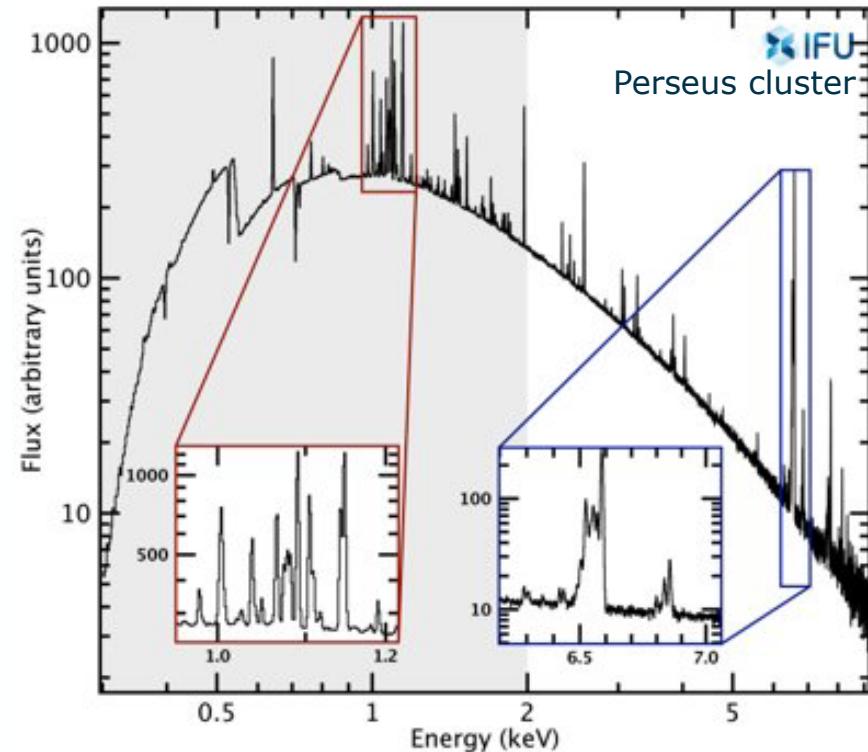
Credit: A. Rau (MPE)

## The largest space-qualified X-ray mirror for astronomy



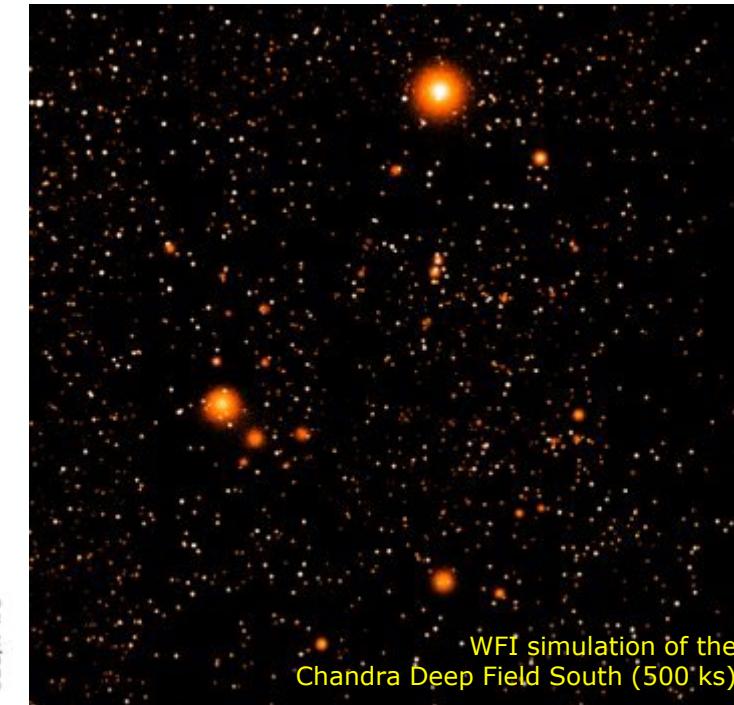
X-ray telescope based on Silicon Pore Optics technology (ESA), 9" HEW, 1.0 m<sup>2</sup> area @1 keV

## Unprecedented spectroscopic capabilities



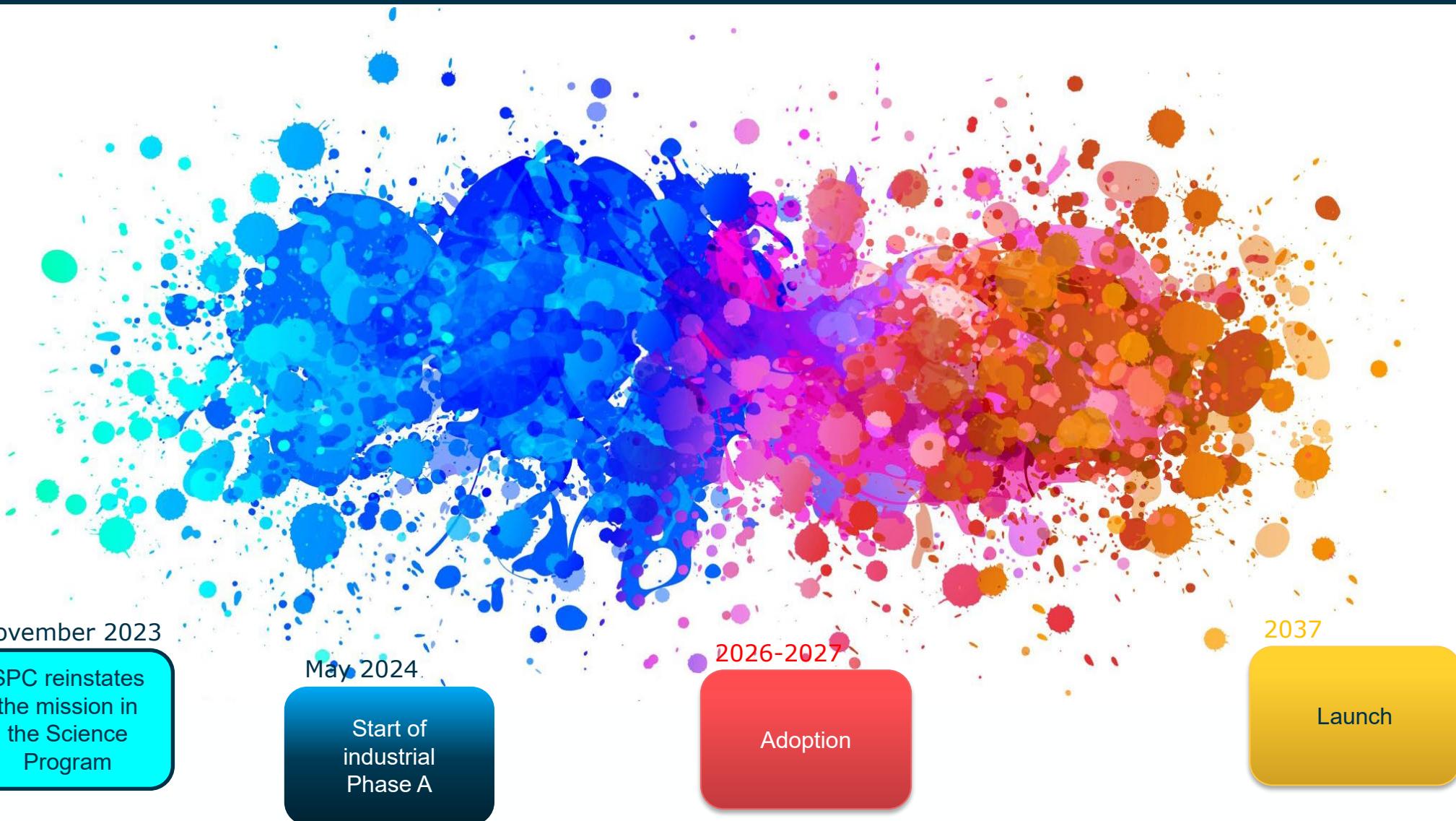
X-Ray Integral Field Unit (X-IFU)  
(CNES/IRAP-led),  $\leq 4$  eV energy  
resolution over  $>1500$  pixels,  $\sim 5''$   
each (4' effective diameter FoV)

## The fastest sky X-ray survey machine



Wide Field Instrument (WFI) (MPE-led), DEPFET sensor,  $<170$  eV  
resolution @7 keV, 40'x40' FoV

# NewAthena status (diagram created by AI, not in scale)

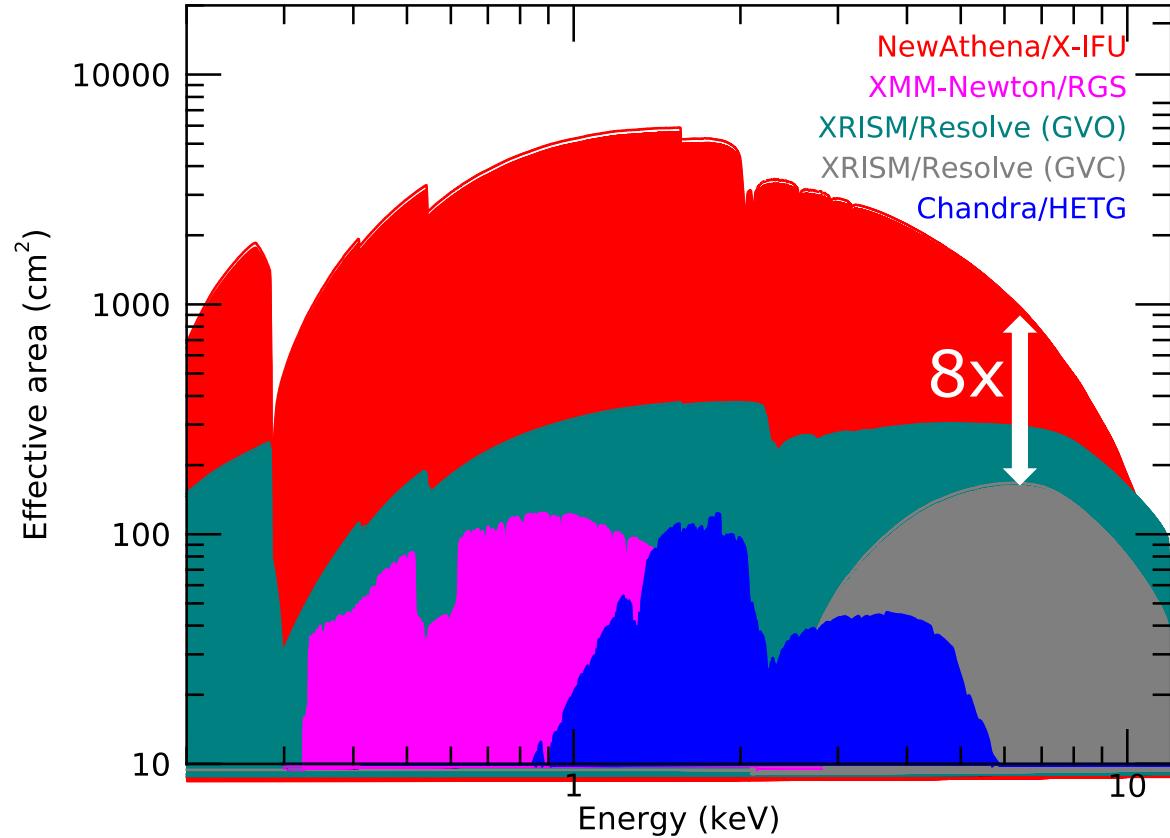
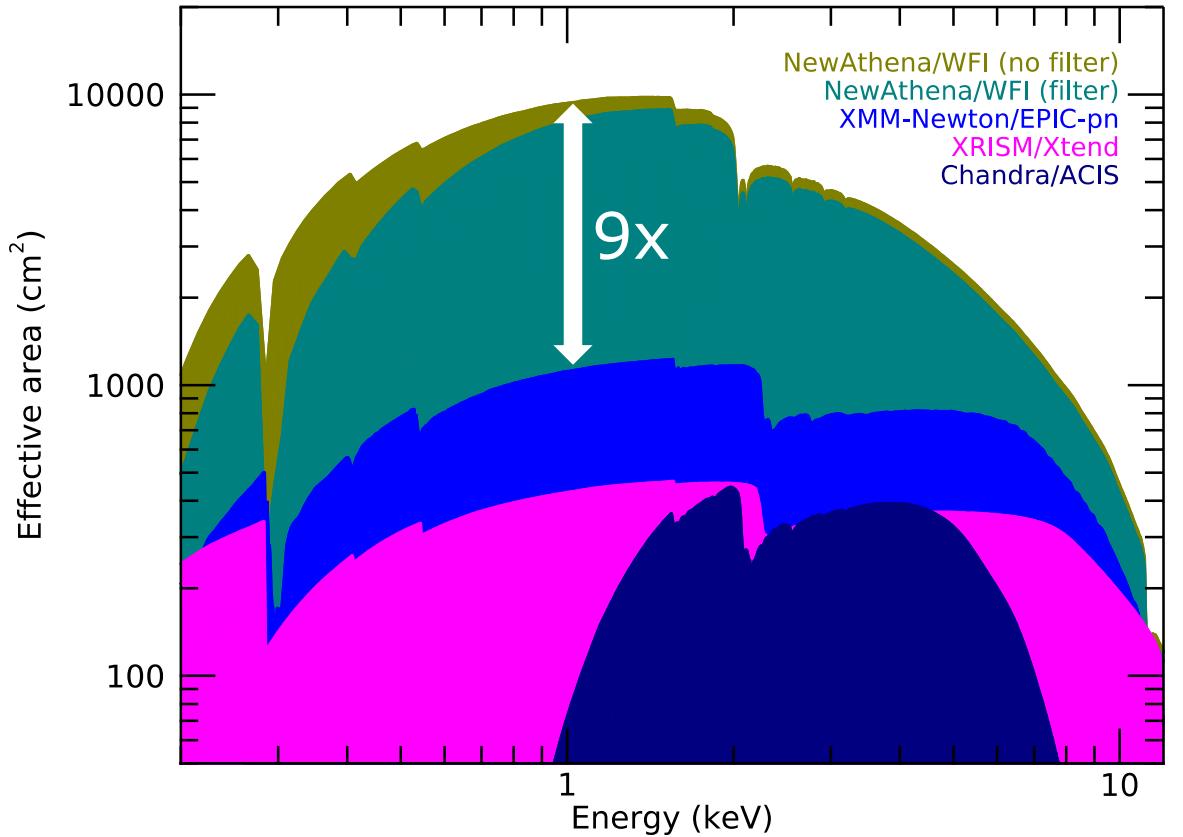


# A large mirror area mission



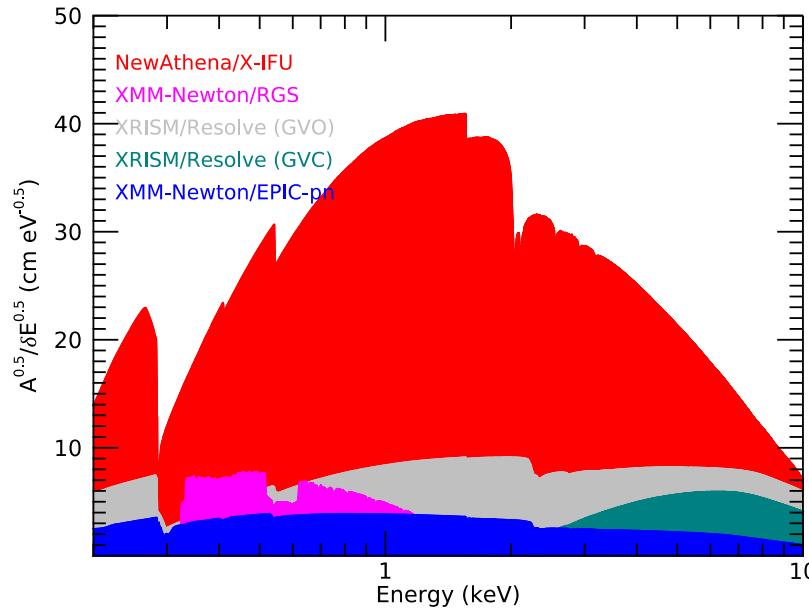
•esa

## Comparison with commensurate operational X-ray observatories

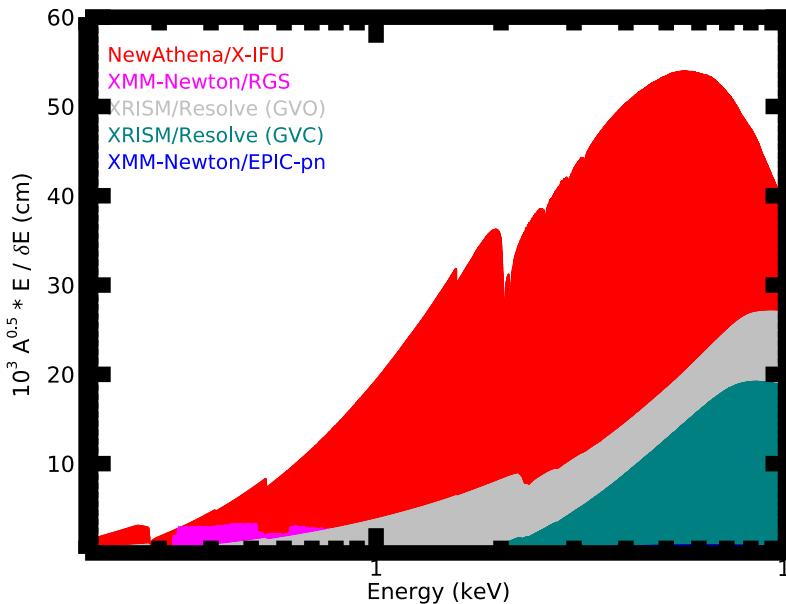


# X-IFU spectroscopic capabilities in context

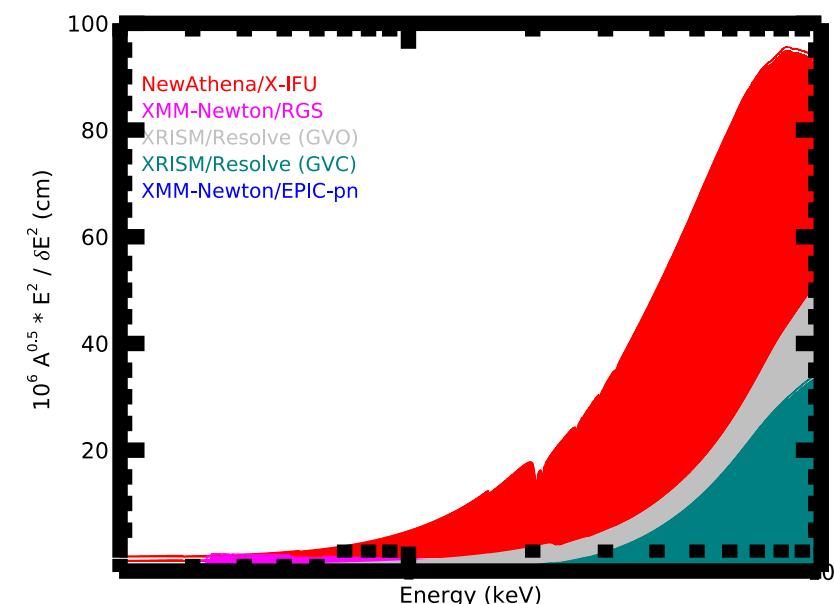
Detection weak lines



Velocity strong lines



Broadening strong lines



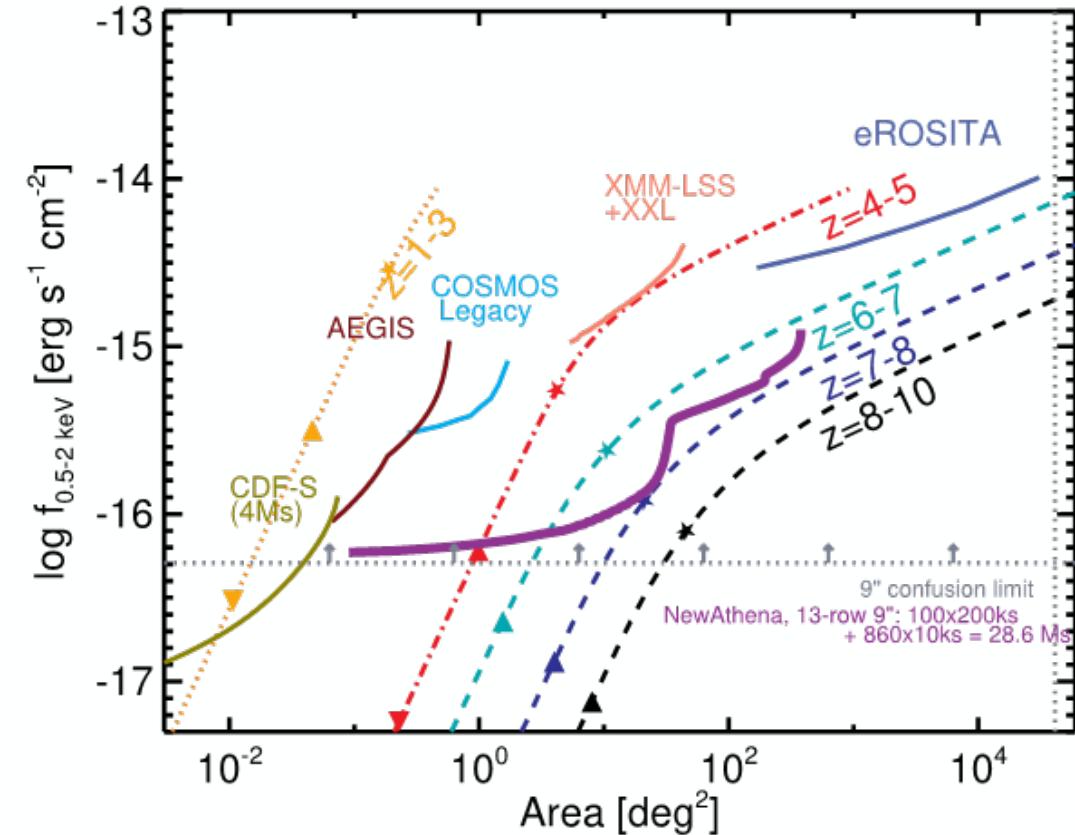
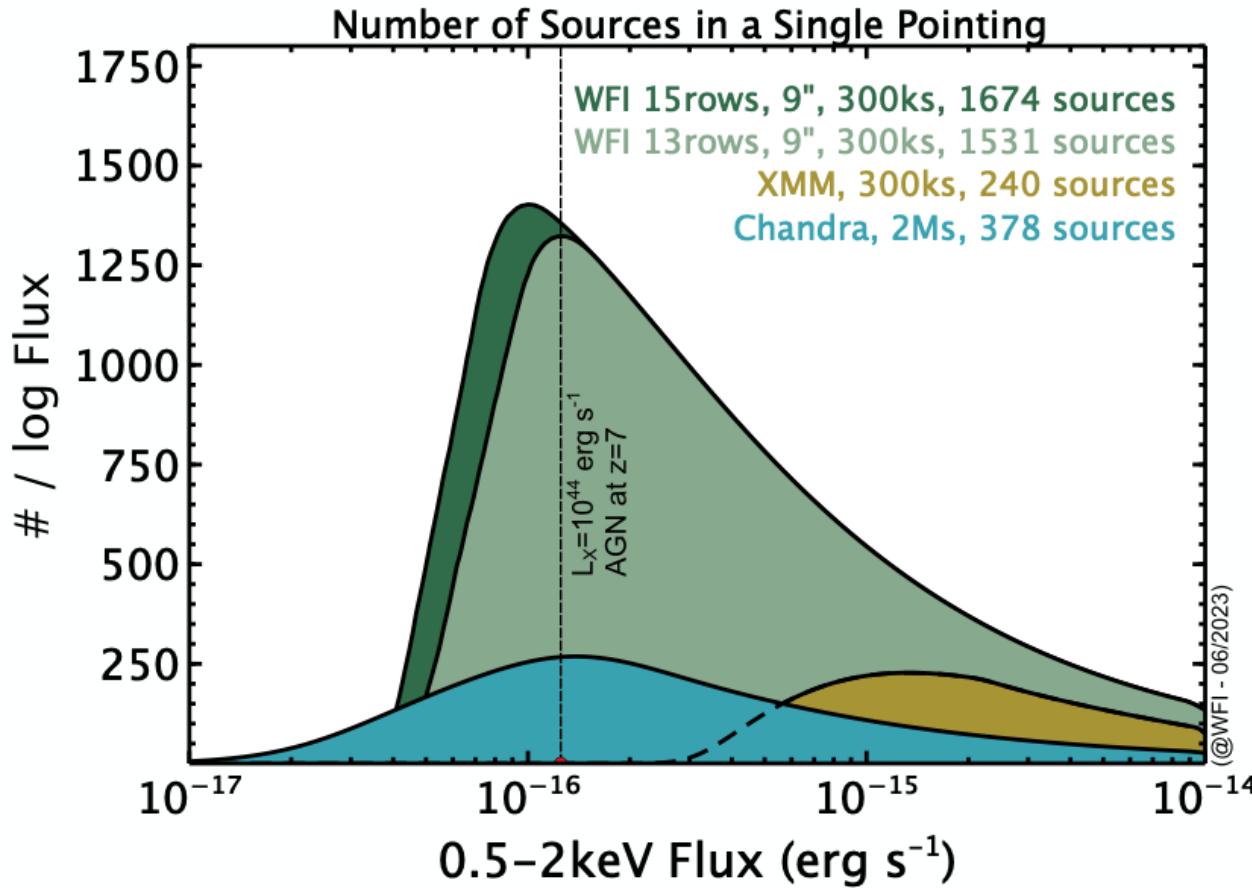
Detection  
Velocity  
Broadening

FoM	Strong line	Weak line
$M_l$	6.1	6.8
$M_v$	7.5	8.4
$M_\sigma$	9.1	10.2

Energy-weighted 2-9 keV ratio  
between X-IFU and Resolve FoMs

# NewAthena X-ray survey performance (WFI)

Credit: A. Rau (MPE), J. Aird (UoE)



Hint: the NewAthena/WFI grasp exceeds that of eROSITA by a factor  $\sim 2$

# Einstein Probe (operational)

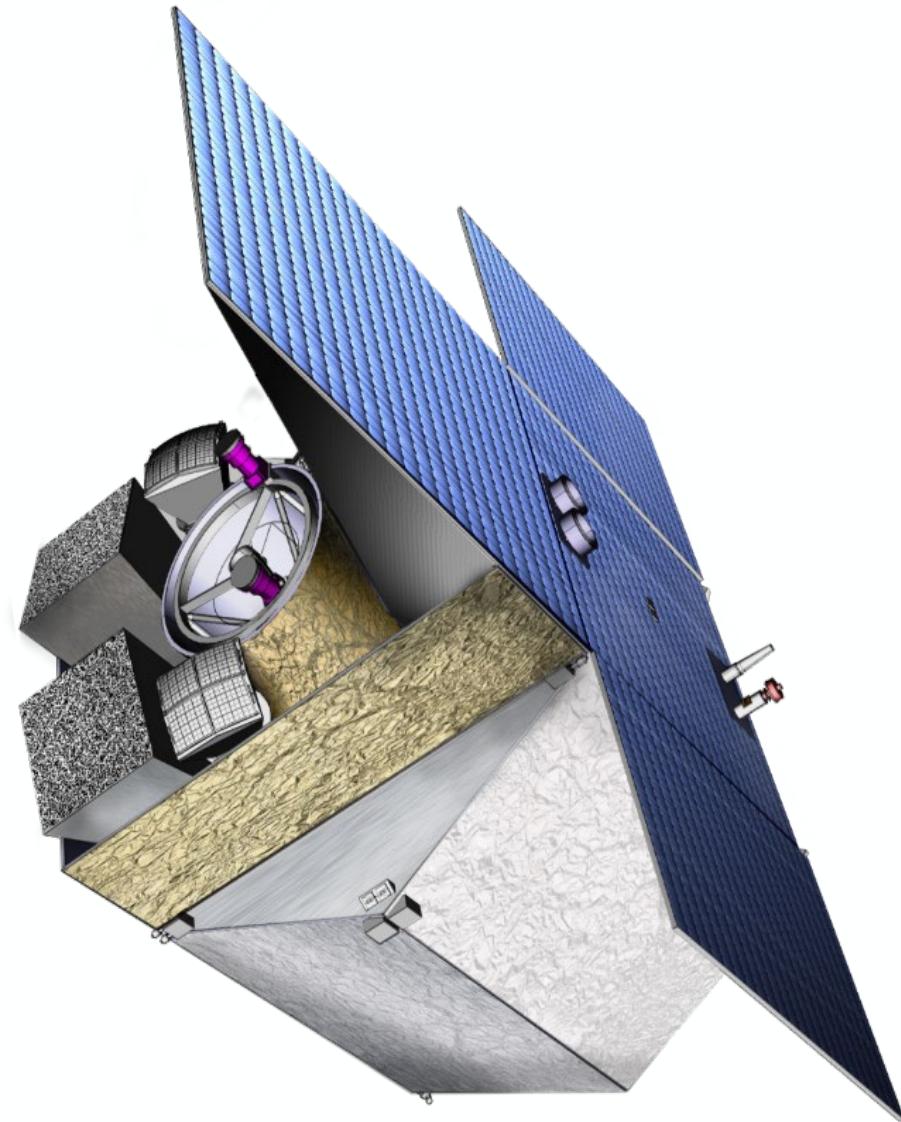


- China/CAS-led mission with participation by ESA and MPE
- Combination of wide-field (~1.1 sr) and narrow (“follow-up” telescopes in the soft X-ray band
- Rapid downlink and uplink capabilities
- Science pillars:
  - Soft X-ray transients
  - Transient flares from quiescent super-massive black holes
  - Multi-messenger astrophysics
- Launch: **January 2024**: 3-years nominal operations



# THESEUS (M7 candidate)

- Candidate ESA mission for the “M7”-slot
  - Three missions in competition
- Payload:
  - Wide-field monitors 0.3 keV to  $\sim$ 20 MeV
    - Broad field-of-view ( $\sim$ sr)
    - Arcminute-level source localization
  - 70-cm class IR telescope
- Autonomous repointing capabilities ( $\leq$ 10 mins.)
- Science pillars:
  - Early Universe GRBs
  - Multi-messenger astrophysics
  - The transient X-ray sky
- **Selection  $\sim$ 2026, launch  $\leq$ 2037**

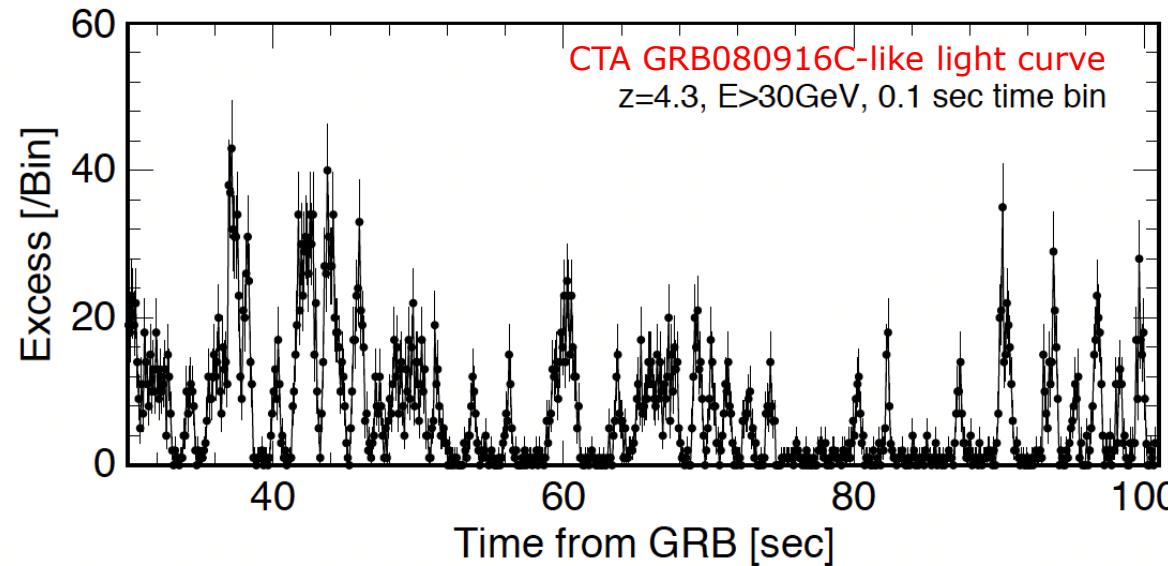


# THESEUS/CTAO synergies



e esa

Bernardini et al., 2018, Mem.S.A.It., 75, 282



External trigger, accurate location and  $z$  for  
GRBs, TDEs, supernova breakouts, XRBs,  
AGN flares, multi-messenger transients

CTAO THESEUS-triggered GRB  
detection rate **5-10 GRB/site/year**

Broad-band characterization of high-energy  
transients in the CTAO Key Science Projects

... more in the poster by L. Amati

# Take-home message



Whatever your favourite CTAO science question:

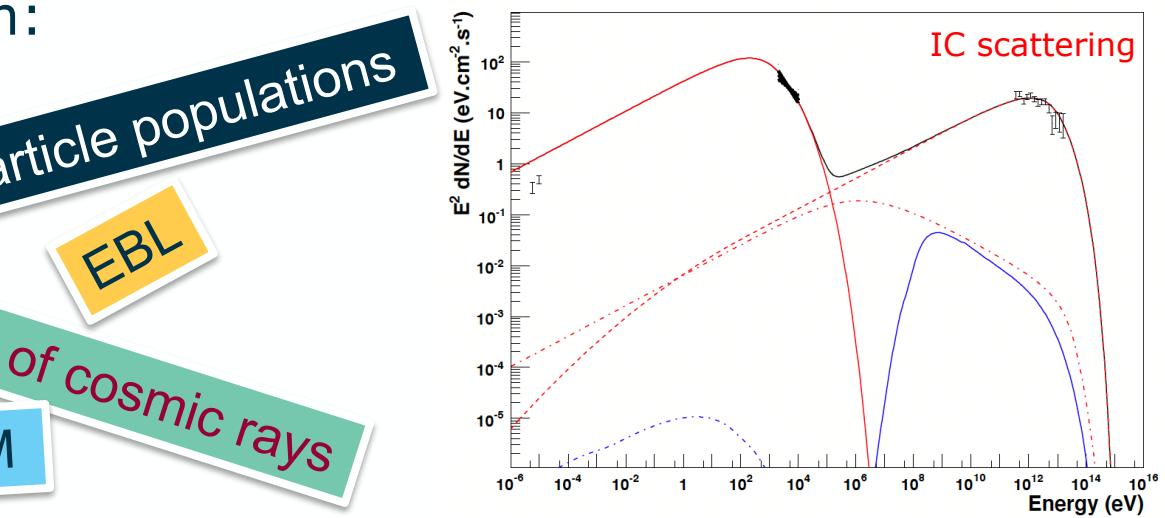
Multi-messenger astrophysics

Particle acceleration and their environment

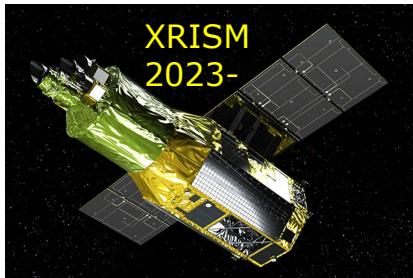
Nature of relativistic particle populations

Origin of cosmic rays

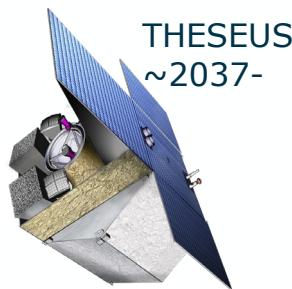
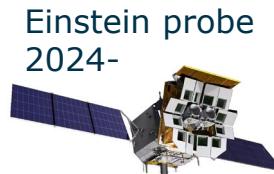
Interaction of outflows, jets and blast waves on the ISM



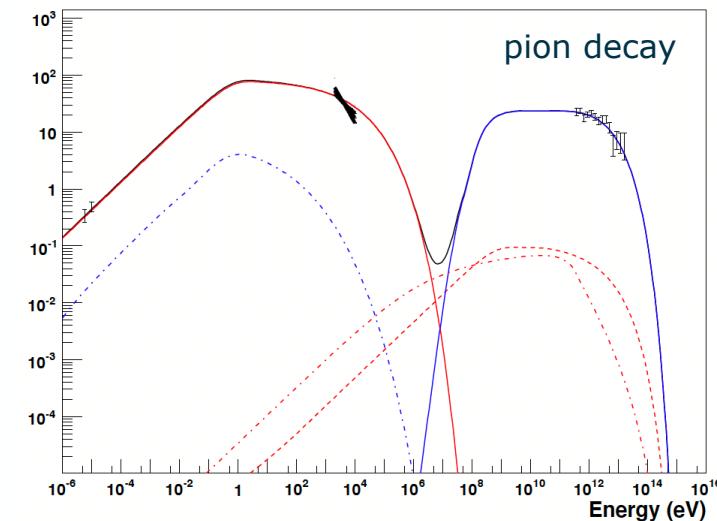
**X-rays probe environment, enable broad-band coverage, provide accurate triggers and space-resolved measurements.**



Einstein probe  
2024-



... not to forget eXTP, and a (possible) X-ray NASA probes



# XRISM and NewAthena scientific performance



Parameter	XRISM performance	Athena requirement
Spectrometer	Resolve (Gate Valve Closed)	X-IFU
Total effective area at 7keV	0.012 m <sup>2</sup>	0.09 m <sup>2</sup>
Total effective area at 1 keV	0	0.52 m <sup>2</sup>
Energy resolution at 7keV	5 eV	4 eV
Field of View (diameter)	3 arc mins	4 arc mins
Pixel Size	30 arc secs	5 arc secs
Background (2-7 keV)	$10^{-3}$ ph cm <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> keV <sup>-1</sup>	$5 \times 10^{-3}$ ph cm <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> keV <sup>-1</sup>
Imager	Xtend	WFI
Effective area at 1 keV	0.03 m <sup>2</sup>	0.86 m <sup>2</sup>
Field of view (side)	38x38 arcmins	40x40 arc mins
Background (2-10 keV)	$2 \times 10^{-5}$ ph cm <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> keV <sup>-1</sup>	$8 \times 10^{-3}$ ph cm <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> keV <sup>-1</sup>
Optics angular resolution on-axis @ 1 keV	1.3 arc mins	5 arc secs
ToO Response time	≤72 hours	≤12 hours

