

The Proposed STAR-X Explorer Mission: Opportunities for the Community to Explore the Fast, Furious and Forming Universe with Simultaneous UV and X-ray Observations



TALKS IN THIS SESSION:

- Ann Hornschemeier (NASA GSFC): "The Proposed STAR-X X-ray and UV Mission: Studying the Fast, Furious and Forming Universe"
- Edmund Hodges-Kluck (NASA GSFC): "The STAR-X Observing Plan: Building up Rich Surveys and Other Key Datasets in the X-ray and UV"
- Daryl Haggard (McGill University): "Multimessenger opportunities with the X-ray and UV Capabilities of STAR-X"
- Niel Brandt (Penn State University): "STAR-X X-ray and UV Survey Design"
- Mike McDonald (MIT): "Next generation observations of clusters of galaxies with STAR-X"

Poster Presentations (Session 112):

- Eric Miller: "Studying 'the Forming' Clusters of Galaxies over Cosmic time in the X-ray and UV with STAR-X"
- C. Norseth: "Gas Clumping in the Outskirts of Galaxy Clusters as seen by STAR-X"
- Brian Fleming: "Transient Imaging with the STAR-X Ultraviolet Telescope (UVT)"
- Catherine Grant: "The X-ray Telescope Focal Plane Assembly for the STAR-X Mission"
- Antara Basu-Zych: "The STAR-X Observing Plan: Surveying the Fast, Furious and Forming Universe in X-rays and UV"
- J. Sebastian Pineda: "Stellar and Exoplanet Science with a Targeted STAR-X Survey"
- Mihoko Yukita: Studying "the Fast": Transients and Explosions in the X-ray and UV with STAR-X"

star-x.xraydeep.org/events

(includes recorded talks,
slide sets & iPoster links)



The Proposed STAR-X Mission: Studying the Fast, Furious and Forming Universe

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<http://star-x.xraydeep.org/>



Survey and Time-domain
Astrophysical Research eXplorer




The big news, August 18, 2022:
STAR-X was selected as one of 2 finalists for a
competitive Phase A MIDEX mission study.
This process to be completed in late 2023

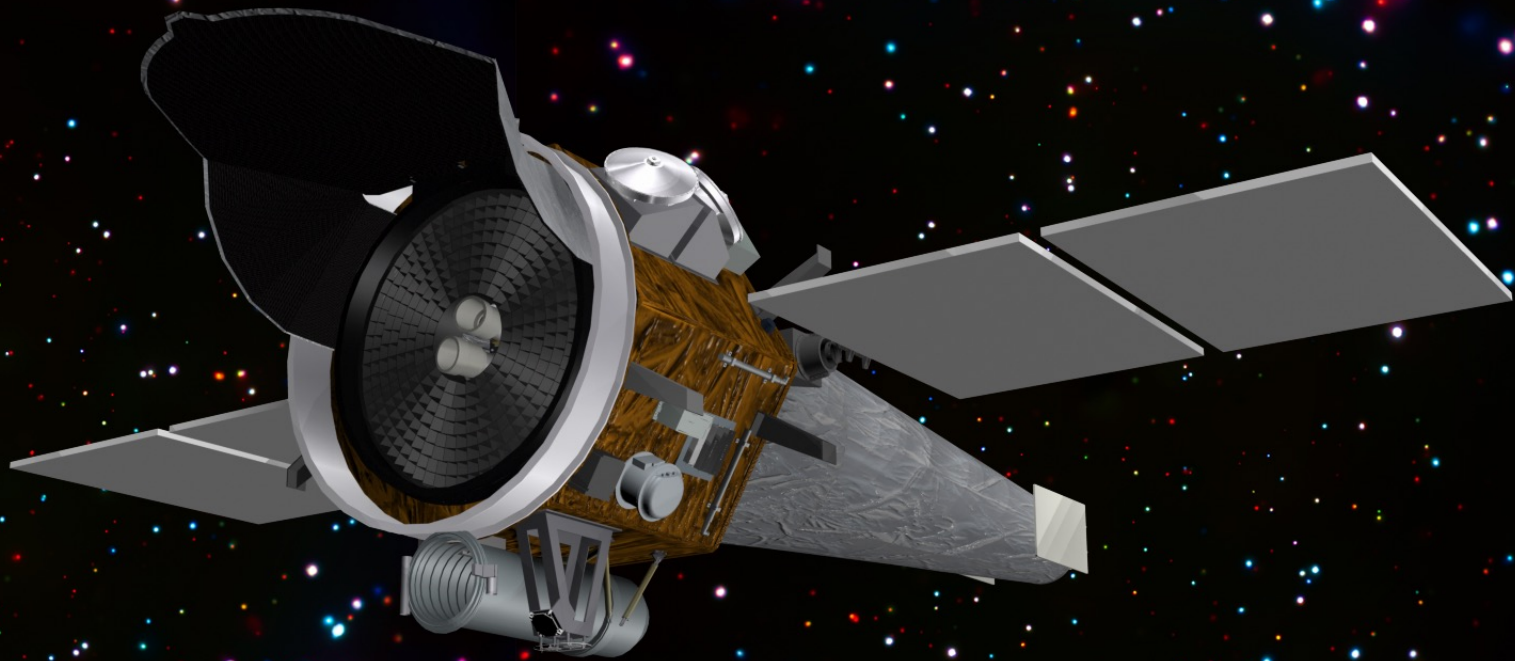


EXPLORING THE FAST, FURIOUS, AND FORMING UNIVERSE

William W. Zhang, Principal Investigator
Ann Hornschemeier, Deputy Principal Investigator

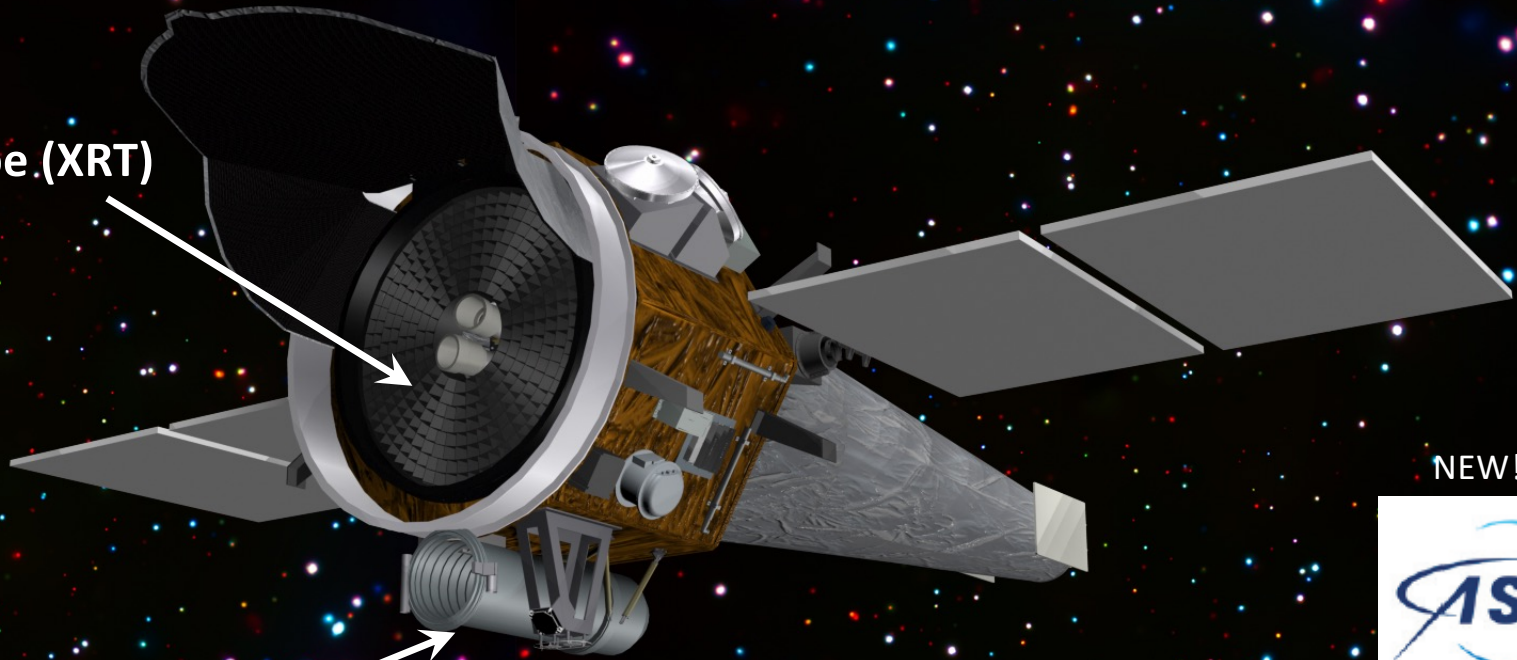
In response to NASA's Astrophysics Explorers Program 2021 Medium Explorer (MIDEX)
Announcement of Opportunity – NNH21ZDA0180 • December 9, 2021





STAR-X: Ready for launch in 2028

X-ray Telescope (XRT)



Ultraviolet Telescope (UVT)

NEW!





Science Team

Survey and Time-domain Astrophysical Research eXplorer



Will Zhang



Ann Hornschemeier



Antara Basu-Zych



Mark Bautz



Niel Brandt



Ed Cackett



Brad Cenko



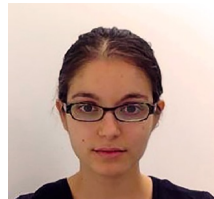
Kai-Wing Chan



Francesca Civano



Joel Coley



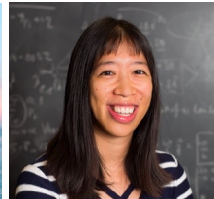
Maya Fishbach



Brian Fleming



Ryan Foley



Wen-fai Fong



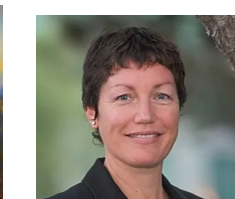
Kevin France



Roberto Gilli



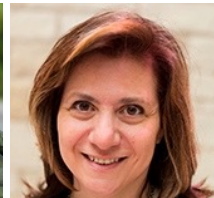
Catherine Grant



Daryl Haggard



Edmund Hodges-Kluck



Vicky Kalogera



Erin Kara



Charlie Kilpatrick



Stefano Marchesi



Craig Markwardt



Mike McDonald



Eric Miller



Takashi Okajima



Matteo Perri



Sebastian Pineda



Simonetta Puccetti



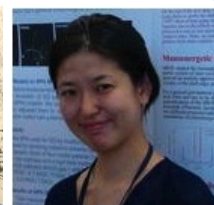
Paolo Tozzi



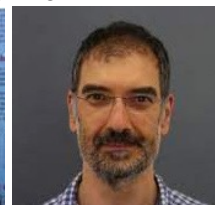
Kim Weaver



Dan Wik



Mihoko Yukita



Andreas Zezas

Exploring the Fast, Furious, and Forming Universe

The STAR-X Science Story

The FAST: Locally rare, brief events have an outsized impact on the Universe.



*Supernova
Explosion*

The heavy elements needed for life are synthesized in and dispersed by supernovae and neutron star mergers. Similarly, a single stellar superflare can evaporate an ocean or catalyze prebiotic pathways. The STAR-X wide field UV/X-ray design and fast and flexible operations captures these events.

The FURIOUS: Black holes grow extremely rapidly at early times in the Universe and are critical to galaxy evolution.



*Tidal Disruption
Event (TDE)*

STAR-X will uniquely probe the physics of rapid accretion that allowed massive black holes to grow so quickly in the early Universe. STAR-X will catch transient, extreme black hole feeding events, such as TDEs, where entire stars are disrupted.

The FORMING: Distant galaxy clusters provide maximal leverage in evolutionary studies of structure formation and chemical enrichment.



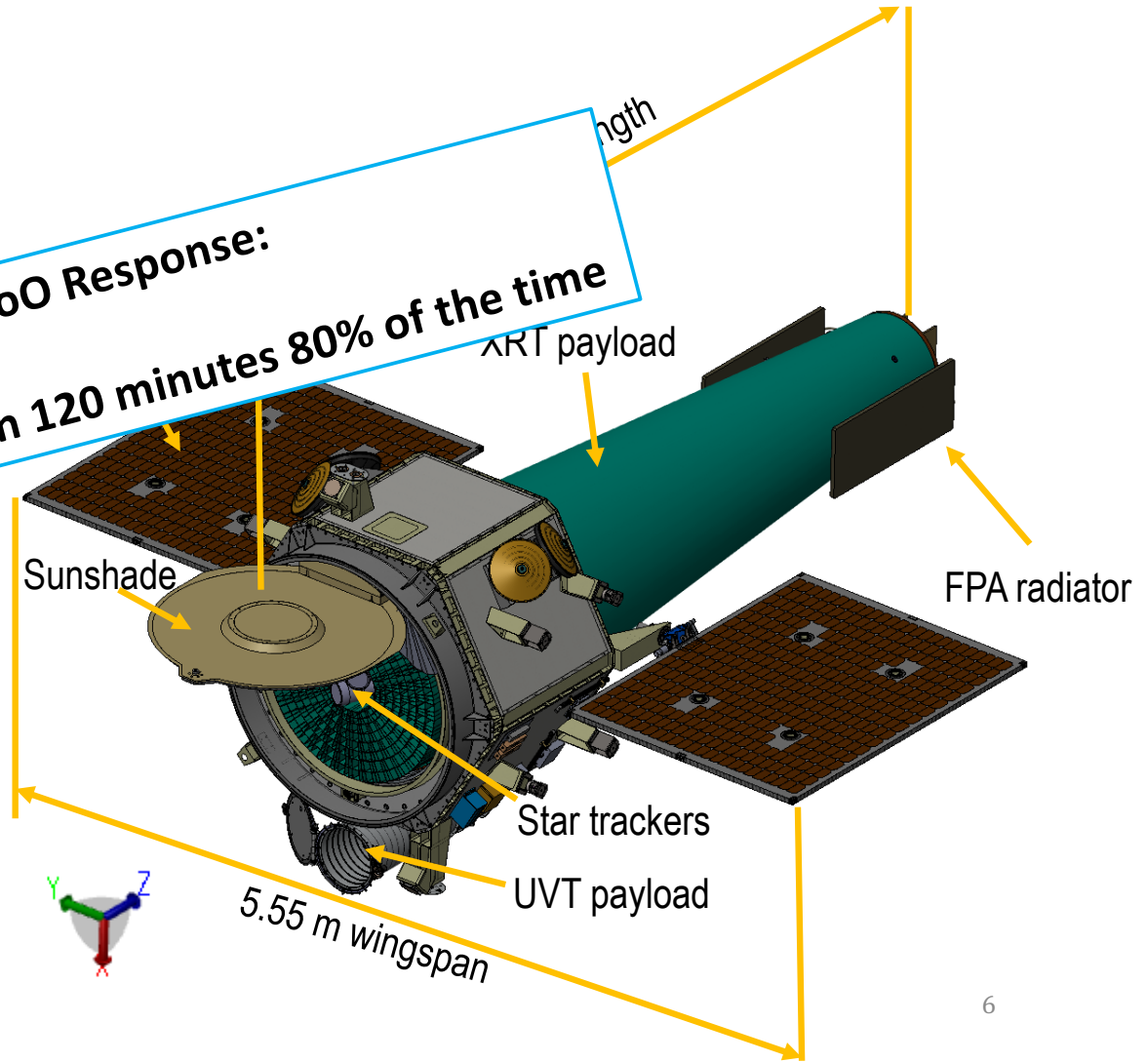
*Clusters of
Galaxies*

STAR-X will conduct deep surveys and discover the elusive diffuse emission from the largest bound objects in the Universe (clusters of galaxies), shortly after their birth. STAR-X's combination of excellent imaging and low particle background (due to orbit choice) makes this possible in a way that no other mission can.

What is STAR-X?

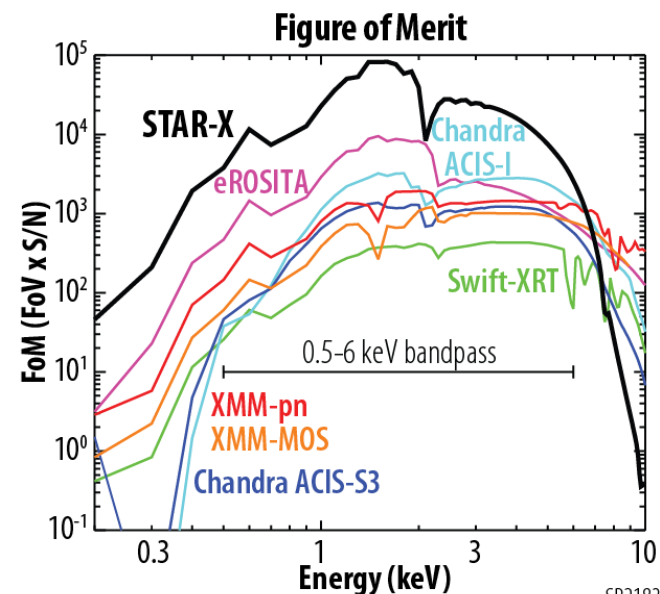
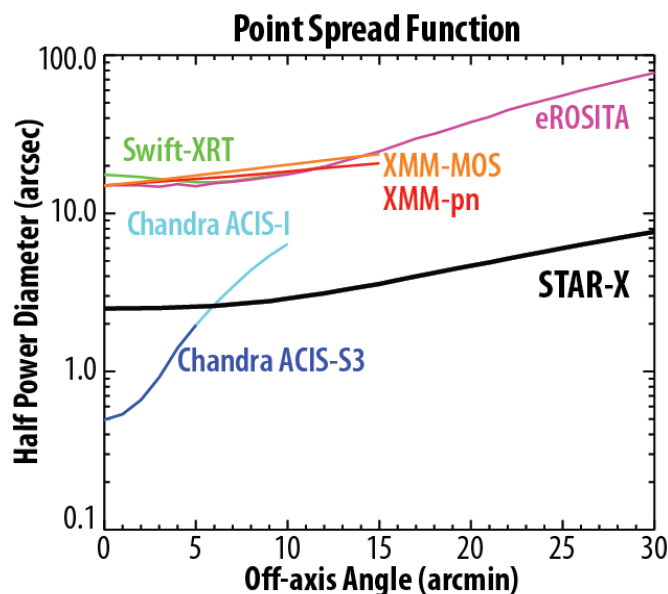
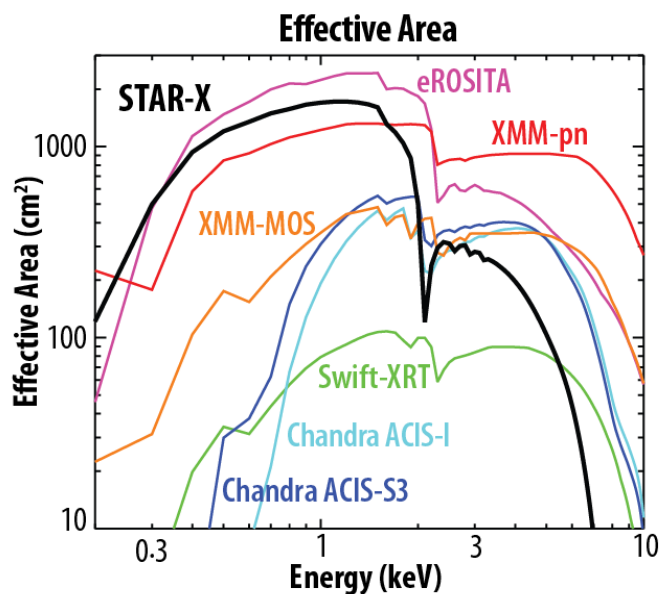
- Three largely independent subsystems: XRT, UVT, SC
- Each independent and qualified
 - XRT by GSFC+MIT
 - UVT by Univ. of Colorado
 - SC by Ball Aerospace
- Easy integration and testing: “plug and play”
 - Obs. Integration and testing by Ball Aerospace

**Fast-slewing and Fast ToO Response:
Observing ToOs within 120 minutes 80% of the time**

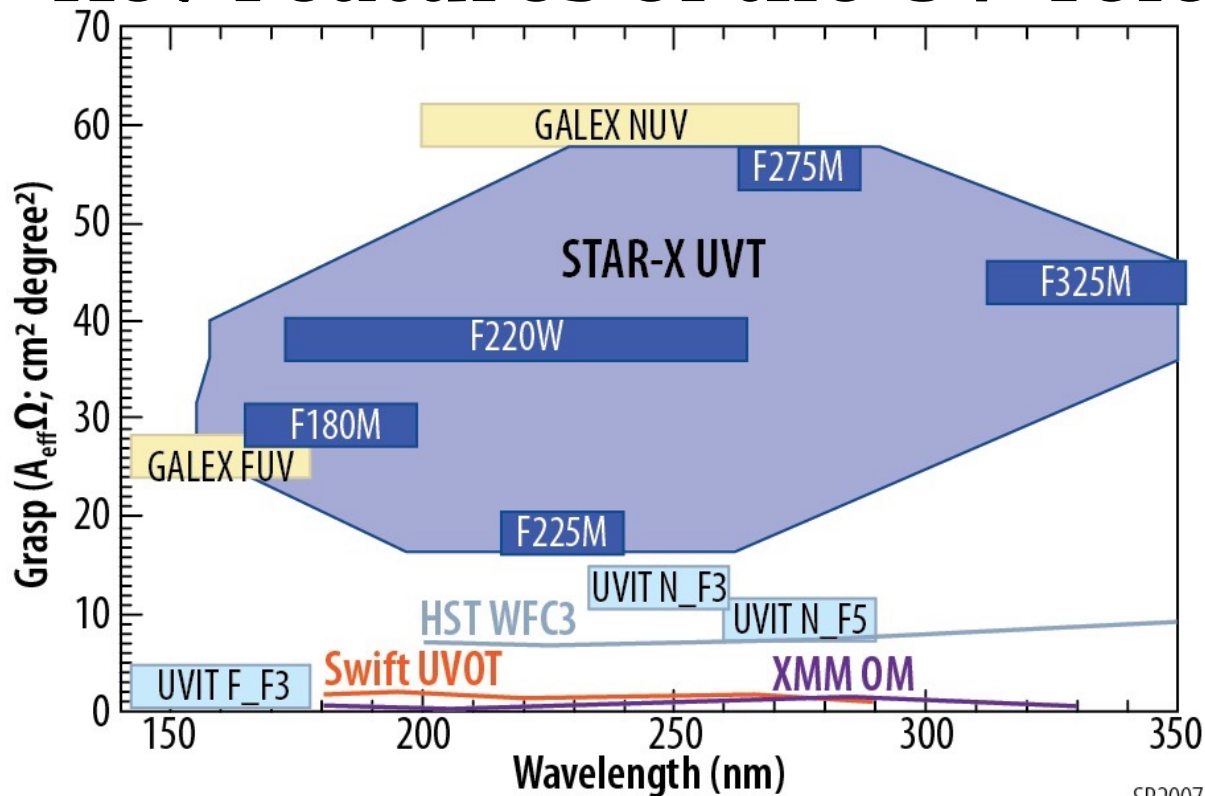


Key Features of the X-ray Telescope

- Excellent PSF: 2.5" on-axis, 8" 0.5-deg off-axis.
- Large FOV: 1 deg².
- Large effective area: >1,700 cm² at 1 keV.
- Low particle background.



Key Features of the UV Telescope



SR2007

- Excellent PSF:
5" over FOV.
- Large FOV:
0.9 deg \times 0.9 deg.
- Good effective area:
25 – 55 cm^2 .
- Five filters
 - 180 nm
 - 220 nm
 - 225 nm
 - 275 nm
 - 325 nm



STAR-X Science: Eight science objectives

Survey and Time-domain Astrophysical Research eXplorer

First Light from Supernovae

FAST

XRT+UVT

Neutron Star Mergers

XRT+UVT

Stellar Flares and Exoplanets

XRT+UVT

Tidal Disruption Events

FURIOUS

XRT+UVT

Extreme Accretion

XRT+UVT

Protoclusters

XRT

High-z Galaxy Clusters

FORMING

XRT

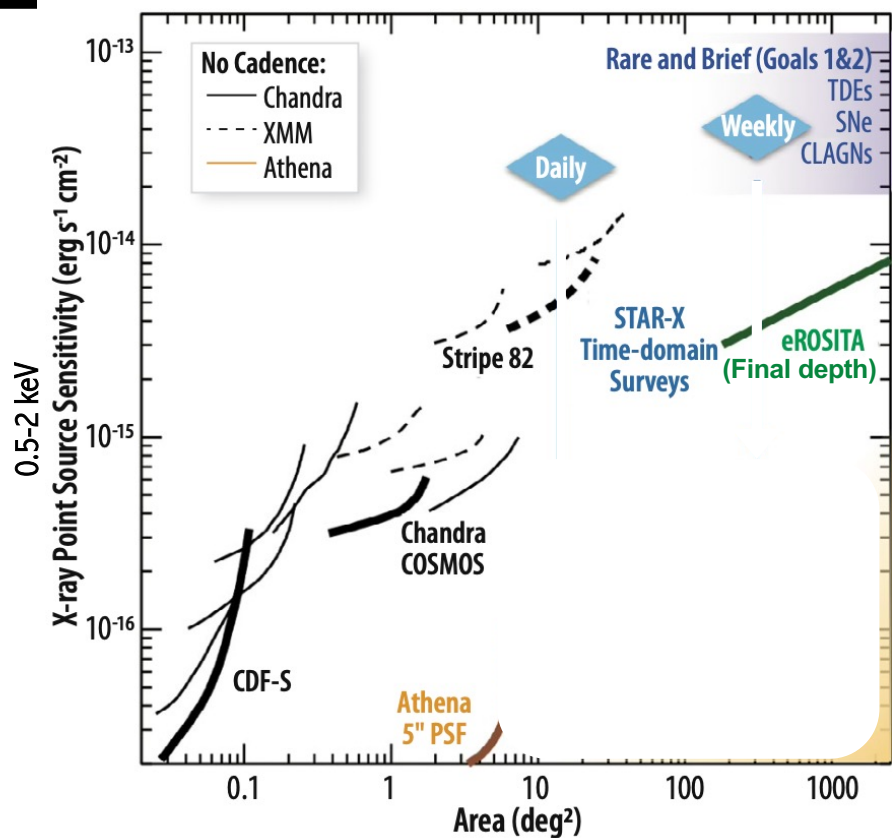
Cluster Outskirts

XRT



Survey Strategy

Survey and Time-domain Astrophysical Research eXplorer

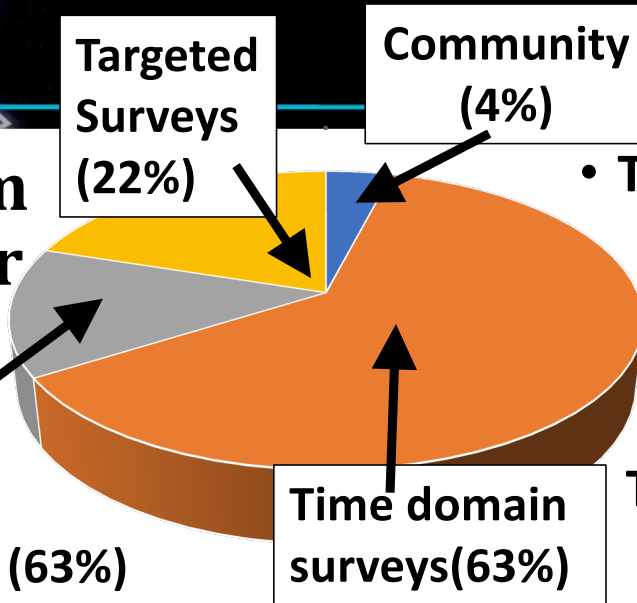


1-1 Supernovae	2-1 Tidal Disruption	2-2 AGN Accretion Flows
<p>XRT discovers a shock breakout and triggers a ToO to catch cooling in the UV</p>	<p>Weekly X-ray/UV monitoring rapidly reveals hundreds of new TDEs</p>	<p>Daily X-ray/UV monitoring probes accretion disk structure via time lags</p>

STAR-X finds rare and brief events and rare and faint high-z objects

Final depths: MEDIUM: 5×10^{-16} cgs over 350 deg² (>150 Chandra COSMOS fields),
 DEEP: 9×10^{-17} cgs over 13 deg²

Science Program for the Two Year Prime Mission



• Time Domain Surveys (63%)

- Deep survey: Rubin deep drilling fields
 - 13 deg², **Daily Cadence**, 1500 s (10.5 deg² UV+XRT)
 - Optimized for rapid transients and AGN variability
 - 2x10⁻¹⁴cgs (X-ray), 22.5 mag (UV, F180M), 22.1 mag (UV, F275M)
- Medium survey: Stripe 82 + legacy fields, & Rubin deep drilling fields
 - 350 deg², **Weekly Cadence**, 500 s (284 deg² UV+XRT)
 - Optimized for TDEs
 - 3x10⁻¹⁴cgs (X-ray) 22.3 mag (UV, F180M), 22.0 mag (UV, F275M)

• Targets of Opportunity (11%)

- Young supernovae
- GW X-ray/UV counterparts
- GW source late-time follow-up
- Tidal-disruption events

Targeted Surveys (22%)

- 10 nearby galaxies
- 20 low-mass, planet-bearing stars
- 20 high-z SZ-detected clusters
- 20 nearby clusters

• Community Program (4%, 1.8 Ms)

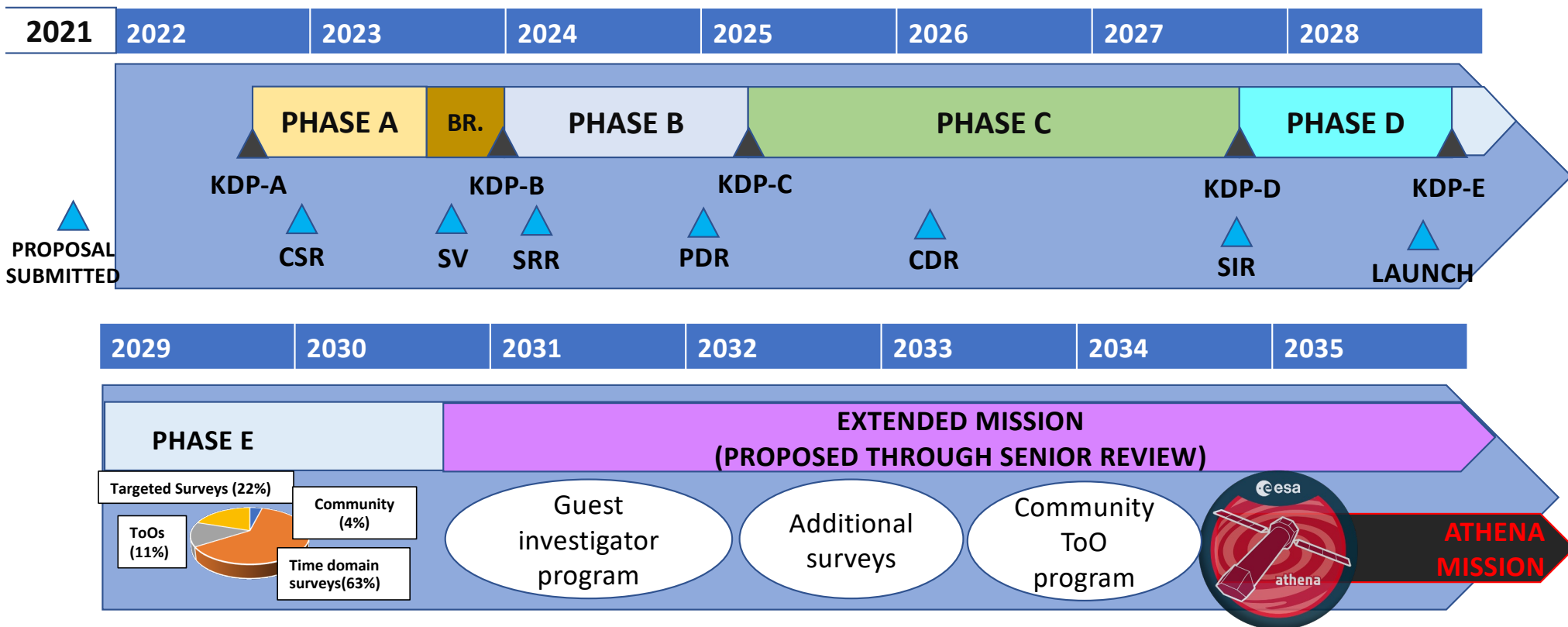
- Impromptu requests from the broad community



SCHEDULE & MILESTONES

Survey and Time-domain Astrophysical Research eXplorer

SWIFT, XMM-NEWTON, CHANDRA, NUSTAR, IXPE, NICER



Why STAR-X and Why Now?

STAR-X fills the gap in X-ray and UV time-domain coverage in the late 2020s, providing simultaneous X-ray and UV observations that complement optical, infrared, and gravitational wave facilities.

