

# 2011 X-ray Astronomy School

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The *Chandra* X-ray Center hosted the 6th International X-ray Astronomy School at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, MA on August 1–5, 2011. The 2011 X-ray Astronomy School, organized jointly by HEASARC at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and the *Chandra* X-ray Center, was designed to introduce graduate students and recent postdocs to the intricacies of X-ray astronomy. Thirty-one students from the US, Italy, Spain and Canada attended the school.

The lectures delivered by experts in the field emphasized the foundations of X-ray astronomy, physics of X-ray emission processes, instrumentation and characteristics of detectors, and analysis methods towards correct interpretation of the data. The school also included a hands-on component in which students analyzed an X-ray dataset of their choice using the standard software. Students attended lectures in the morning and practice sessions in the afternoon, and worked on a variety of projects during the week. On the last day, each student presented a short summary of their X-ray Astronomy School Project to the other students and scientists at the final Symposium. The school web

page contains the program with posted lectures and links to the science projects: <http://cxc.cfa.harvard.edu/xrayschool/>

The book based on the lectures delivered at several past X-ray astronomy schools was published last fall by Cambridge University Press as “Handbook of X-ray Astronomy” edited by Keith Arnaud, Randall Smith and Aneta Siemiginowska. The book has a web page at <http://xrayastronomyhandbook.com> with more information, tables, figures and errata.

The 2011 X-ray Astronomy School was sponsored by NASA, the *Chandra* X-ray Center, and *XMM-Newton*.



Fig. 1 - 2011 X-ray Astronomy School Participants