

X-ray detection of GJ 581 and simultaneous UV observations (Research Note)

Vincenzo Vitale¹ and Kevin France²

¹ ASI Science Data Center & Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, via della Ricerca Scientifica 1, 00133 Roma, Italy
e-mail: vincenzo.vitale@roma2.infn.it

² Center for Astrophysics and Space Astronomy, University of Colorado, 389 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309, USA

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ABSTRACT

Context. The M3 dwarf GJ 581 hosts a rich system of exo-planets, some of which are potentially within or at the edge of the habitable zone. Nevertheless, the system habitability might be reduced by large and sterilizing high energy emission flares, if these are frequent. **Aims.** The GJ 581 radiation environment was studied with simultaneous X-ray and UV observations, which were performed with the XRT and UVOT instruments, respectively, on board of the *Swift* satellite.

Methods. X-ray and UV data were analysed with the distributed standard tools.

Results. The dwarf GJ 581 was detected for the first time in the 0.2–10 keV range with an intensity of $(8 \pm 2) \times 10^{-4}$ cts/s and a signal-to-noise ratio of 3.6. If black-body or APEC spectra are assumed, then the source X-ray flux is found to be between 1.8 and 3.3×10^{-14} erg cm⁻² s⁻¹ and $\log_{10}(L_X)$ between 25.914 and 26.176. Despite hints of X-ray variability, better statistics are needed to establish robust evidence for this property. The UV measurements, obtained during 13 pointings, are also reported. A combination of these *Swift* X-ray and *Hubble* Space Telescope UV measurements (with Lyman-alpha) indicate a low X-ray to UV luminosity ratio of ~4%.

Conclusions. Simultaneous X-ray and UV observations of GJ 581 are reported. These constitute an experimental view of the system radiation environment, which will be a useful input for the habitability studies of the GJ 581 planetary system.

Key words. astrobiology – stars: flare

1. Introduction

Life “as we know it” is found on a rocky planet surface, protected by an atmosphere, within the planetary system habitable zone (HZ; Kasting et al. 1993). For this reason the study of exoplanetary physical conditions, such as the radiation environment, has large relevance in the search for extra-terrestrial life. An important target for this search are M stars, because they are the most abundant in the solar neighbourhood (Miller & Scalzo 1979) and likely also in the Galaxy. Concerns on the M dwarf systems habitability include: (i) tidal locking (Dole 1964), in which these planets should be to have liquid water within the conventional HZ. Nevertheless, this problem was subsequently reconsidered (Joshi 2003); (ii) large flare rates, which could give rise to relatively frequent episodes of very intense planetary irradiation with sterilizing X-ray and UV emissions, or originate long term atmosphere evaporation. Other effects on the planetary atmospheric chemistry of a strong stellar flares, such as the ejection of energetic particles, also have been investigated (Segura et al. 2010).

Planetary irradiation is related to the large flares occurrence and to the atmosphere’s capability of shielding. The energy distribution of coronal flares from late-type stars was investigated in Audard et al. (2000). According to these authors, the energy distributions are well described by power laws, such as

$$\frac{dN}{dE} = k_1 E^{-\alpha} \text{ with } E > E_{\min}, \alpha > 1,$$

where dN is the number of flares with energy within the dE energy range, E_{\min} is the minimum energy below which the

distribution is not valid for example because of a large change in the spectral index α , and k_1 is the normalization constant. They also considered the case when E_{\min} is below the instrument detection threshold. A large fraction the X-ray emission is then seen as a quiescent emission (90% in their case) but originates in a superposition of many undetectable small flares, while the rest is seen as individual detectable flares.

It was demonstrated in Smith et al. 2004 that thin atmospheres (below 100 g cm⁻²) can shield typical stellar X-rays fluxes and thick atmospheres (>100 g cm⁻²) can also efficiently shield γ -rays. A large fraction of the X-ray incident energy, up to the 10%, is redistributed into diffuse UV with consequences on the organic chemistry. For comparison, Earth’s atmosphere allows 2×10^{-3} (up to 4×10^{-2}) of the incident high energy radiation flux to reach the ground in the 200–320 nm range.

The high energy radiation environment also determines the exo-planetary photochemistry. It has been shown in Segura et al. (2005) that the spectral distributions of the parent stars in the ultraviolet have significant influence on the presence of proposed bio-markers, such as CH₄, N₂O, and CH₃Cl, in exo-planetary atmospheres.

In this note, we report X-ray and UV emission measurements of GJ 581, an M3 dwarf, which hosts a prominent planetary system with at least four confirmed planets and possibly two others. The planet GJ 581d is a super-earth with a mass of $5.6 \pm 0.6 M_{\text{Earth}}$ and is close to the outer edge of the HZ, within 0.11 and 0.21 AU (von Bloh et al. 2007; Selsis et al. 2007; Wordsworth et al. 2010; von Braun 2011). The dwarf GJ 581 was not detected in X-ray so far, at least to our knowledge. An

Table 1. GJ 581 parameters used for the analysis of the data.

Parameter	Value	Ref
Type	M3	(Udry et al. 2007)
RA	15 19 26.825 (J2000)	(Perryman et al. 1997)
Dec	-07 43 20.21 (J2000)	(Perryman et al. 1997)
$\mu\alpha$	-1224.55 mas/yr	(Perryman et al. 1997)
$\mu\delta$	-99.52 mas/yr	(Perryman et al. 1997)
distance	6.27 pc	(Bonfils et al. 2005)
T_{eff}	3190 K	(von Paris et al. 2010)
	3249 K	(von Paris et al. 2010)
	3760 K	(von Paris et al. 2010)
Radius	$(0.29 \pm 0.010) R_{\odot}$	(von Braun et al. 2011)

Notes. The position and proper motion parameters ($\mu\alpha$, $\mu\delta$) are taken from the HIPPARCOS catalog (GJ 581 is HIP 74995). Effective temperatures T_{eff} are those estimated in von Paris et al. (2010). See references therein.

upper limit of 26.89 erg/s on the X-ray luminosity in the range between 0.1–2.4 keV was obtained with ROSAT observations (Poppenhaeger et al. 2010). UV observations were recently performed with the *Hubble Space Telescope* (HST; France et al. 2013).

The note is organized as follows. In Sect. 2, the used data and the analysis procedures are described and the X-ray detection is reported. In Sect. 3, a short discussion of the reported measurements is given and is proposed an approximate bound to the large X-ray flares occurrence, which is valid only under certain assumptions. The X-ray to UV luminosity ratio is also derived as the X-ray and Mg II surface fluxes and their implications on the source age are discussed.

2. Observations and data analysis

The source was observed with the XRT and UVOT telescopes on board of the *Swift* satellite (Gehrels et al. 2004) between December 2012 and March 2013. Twelve observations with exposures from 700 s to 12 ks were performed within the Fill-In Targets program at observation cycle 8. Observation logs are in Table 2.

2.1. XRT data reduction

Data were reduced with the HEASoft V6.12 package¹ and with the calibration files which were issued on March 2012 and January 2013 for the XRT and UVOT instruments, respectively.

The XRT observations were carried out using the photon counting readout mode. For XRT, the distributed level 2 cleaned event files were used with energy between 0.2 and 10 keV and grades from 0 to 12. Individual pointings were summed with the XSELECT tool to have a cumulative image with an exposure of 32 798 s. The X-ray image was subsequently analysed with the XIMAGE tool. An excess was detected at RA = 15 19 25.6 Dec = -07 43 21.5, which is compatible with the source location. It consisted of 27 ± 7 counts (which were obtained with the XIMAGE sosta tool, after correcting for various effects) and an intensity of $(8 \pm 2) \times 10^{-4}$ cts/s with a signal-to-noise ratio of 3.6. Individual pointings were grouped then into three datasets with similar exposure to investigate possible source variability. The obtained results are listed in Table 3. The source was detected only in the second period. The related X-ray image is shown in

¹ <http://heasarc.nasa.gov/lheasoft/>

Table 2. *Swift* observations.

Obs	Start time	Filter	Exposure (UVOT, XRT) [s]
1	2012-12-28 06:26:59	W2	864, 873
2	2013-01-27 09:27:59	M2	773, 773
3	2013-01-14 04:01:59	W1	676, 677
5a,b	2013-03-10 19:17:59	M2,W2	5233, 5192
6	2013-03-12 14:38:59	W1	1794, 1789
7	2013-03-13 01:43:59	U	1369, 1367
8	2013-03-14 08:11:58	W2	2971, 2963
9a,b	2013-03-15 03:28:27	M2, W1	12 331, 12 318
10	2013-03-19 03:45:59	M2	586, 585
11a,b	2013-03-22 02:02:59	W2, M2	4670, 4659
12	2013-03-27 06:54:33	M2	812, 810

Notes. The central wavelength (\AA) and FWHM (\AA) of the UVOT filters are 2600 and 693 for UVW1, 2246 and 498 for UWM2, 1928 and 657 for UVW2 (Poole et al. 2008; Breeveld et al. 2011).

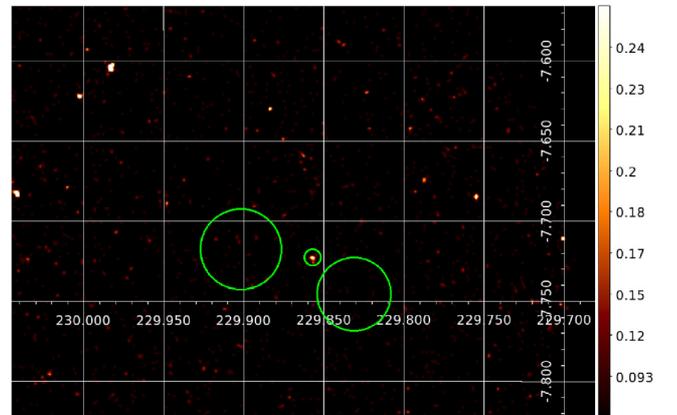


Fig. 1. XRT sky map of observation 9. The smallest circle surrounds the source, which is detected with a signal-to-noise ratio above 3. The other two larger circles are the control region areas.

Fig. 1. During period one and three, the count rate at the source position was 2.7 and 6.1×10^{-4} cts/s with a low signal-to-noise ratio in both cases. For these periods, the calculation of the count rate upper limit was then performed (XIMAGE uplim tool). For such a calculation the used source region was a circle with radius of $18''$.

The background rates were measured as a function of the observation periods getting the number of events within a control region (with the XIMAGE counts tool) and dividing them by the exposure. The background rates are reported in Table 3, while the control region is shown in Fig. 1.

The average count rate was converted into an X-ray flux by means of the PIMMS v4.6 software. Very simple emission models were assumed to convert count rates to energy flux. These models were a black-body with temperatures of 3×10^6 K and 10^7 K, as those reported in Schmitt et al. (1990) for M dwarfs and an APEC model with an abundance parameter of 0.6. No further spectral studies were performed because of the limited statistics. The results are listed in Table 4.

2.2. UVOT data reduction and UV variability study

Sources with a signal-to-noise ratio above 3 were searched for into the UVOT images with the UVOTDETECT tool. The dwarf

Table 3. X-ray results.

Obs.	Exposure [s]	Intensity 10^{-4} [cts/s]	Control region 10^{-4} [cts/s]
all	32 798	8 ± 2	58 ± 4
1–8	13 612	<8	58 ± 6
9	12 326	15 ± 5	53 ± 7
10–12	6860	<17	70 ± 10

Notes. The control region is defined in Sect. 2.1.

Table 4. Unabsorbed X-ray flux and luminosity.

Model	kT keV	Flux 10^{-14} erg cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$	Luminosity 10^{25} erg s $^{-1}$
bb	0.27	1.8 ± 0.5	8.2 ± 2
bb	0.86	3.3 ± 0.9	15 ± 4
APEC	0.27	2.0 ± 0.6	9.0 ± 3
APEC	0.86	1.8 ± 0.5	8.2 ± 2

Notes. The used $N(h)$ in the direction of GJ 581 was measured directly by France et al. 2013 to be 2.24×10^{18} cm $^{-2}$. The assumed APEC abundance was 0.6.

GJ 581 was detected during all the observations at the expected location with the exception of the shortest one. Both a source region and background were defined on the basis of the UVOTDETECT tool results. The source region consisted of a circle with centre in RA = 229.85734 and Dec = -7.7267 (J2000.0) and with radius of $5''$, while the background region was composed with two annuli; the first annulus with a centre in RA = 229.85734 and Dec = -7.7267 (J2000.0) and with radii of 10 and $20''$, the second annulus with the same centre with radii of 80 and $110''$. For each observation the source photometry was performed by means of the UVOTSOURCE tool. The tool was used with the option *apercorr* = CURVEOFGROWTH to apply an approximate aperture correction (0.02 to 0.05 mag systematic error) however, the source region is based on current standard photometric aperture equal to $5''$. The photometry results are reported in Cols. 2 and 3 of Table 5.

The UVOT observations were performed with four different filters (UVW2, UVM2, UVW1 and U, see Poole et al. 2008, for details); the source count rates spanned a wide range from 0.05 to more than 80 cts/s. The results obtained with the same filter can be directly compared. The counts rate and associated uncertainties for each observation are reported in Table 5. The mean count rates and rms for the UVW2, UVM2, and UVW1 are, respectively: 3.17 and 0.046 cts/s; 0.08 and 0.013 cts/s; and 9.4 and 0.6 cts/s.

The parameter $k = R_{\text{obs}}/R_{\text{expected}}$, which the ratio between the observed and the expected count rate, was introduced to compare the different filters observations. The expected count rate for each used filter was calculated, by folding a spectral model with the filter in-orbit effective areas:

$$R_{\text{expected}} = \sum_i^m \Phi(\lambda_i) \times A_{\text{eff}}(\lambda_i) / \epsilon(\lambda_i)$$

where $A_{\text{eff}}(\lambda_i)$ is the effective area of the current filter as a function of the wavelength, which is taken from the CALDB file in use, $\Phi(\lambda_i)$ is the energy flux, $\epsilon(\lambda_i)$ is the photon energy, and the index i runs over m bins.

An arbitrary spectral model was made with (i) the experimental measurements of the ultraviolet spectral energy

Table 5. UV measurements.

Obs and Filter	Expo [s]	s [σ]	Rate [cts/s]	k
1 W2	850	48.5	3.16 ± 0.09	1.00 ± 0.03
2 M2	664	6.4	0.101 ± 0.017	1.03 ± 0.18
3 W1	764	83.6	9.87 ± 0.23	1.00 ± 0.03
5 W2	1906	73.8	3.18 ± 0.08	1.01 ± 0.03
5 M2	3204	9.5	0.063 ± 0.007	0.65 ± 0.08
6 W1	1761	126.8	8.53 ± 0.07	0.861 ± 0.007
8 W2	2917	91.9	3.23 ± 0.07	1.02 ± 0.02
9 M2	7696	15.4	0.066 ± 0.005	0.67 ± 0.05
9 W1	4427	200.7	9.71 ± 0.19	0.98 ± 0.02
10 M2	576	4.7	0.080 ± 0.017	0.82 ± 0.18
11 M2	2603	10.5	0.080 ± 0.008	0.82 ± 0.08
11 W2	1983	74.4	3.10 ± 0.07	0.98 ± 0.02
12 M2	1611	7.8	0.071 ± 0.009	0.72 ± 0.09

Notes. Observations with the U filter are not reported. The mean count rates and rms for the UVW2, UVM2 and UVW1 are respectively 3.167 and 0.046 cts/s, 0.08 and 0.013 cts/s, 9.375 and 0.597 cts/s. The mean k parameter and rms are respectively 0.88 and 0.13. Only statistical errors are reported for the parameter k and a systematic error of at least 11% on this parameter should be considered.

distribution of GJ 581, which were obtained with HST during July 2011 and April 2012 (France et al. 2013), in the band between 1150 and 3140 Å and (ii) a black-body emission extrapolation in the range between 3140 and 6000 Å. This component was normalized to provide a flux of 3×10^{-15} erg cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ Å $^{-1}$ at 3100 Å for all the used temperatures. The count rate calculation was limited to effective collection area values above 10^{-2} cm 2 , given that the effective area measurement had associated errors of 1% (Poole et al. 2008).

The expected count rates are sensitive to the spectral model parameters, such as the black-body temperature and normalization. In von Paris et al. 2010, the range between $T_{\text{min}} = 3190$ K and $T_{\text{max}} = 3760$ K is reported as descriptive for the various effective temperatures, which are found in literature. The difference between the expected count rates obtained with $T_{\text{min}} = 3190$ K and $T_{\text{max}} = 3760$ K are 2%, 5%, and 12% for the UVW1, UVM2, and UVW2 filters respectively. The average of the two expected count rates, obtained with these two extreme temperatures is assumed as the final expected count rate. In general, a systematic effect on the parameter k is introduced by the choice of both effective temperature and black-body normalization because of the different wavelength coverage of the filters. This effect can be limited by minimizing the difference of the $\bar{k}(W1)$, $\bar{k}(W2)$ and $\bar{k}(M2)$, which are the mean values of the k parameters obtained with the three UV filters. From Table 5 it can be seen that $\bar{k}(W1) = 0.95$, $\bar{k}(W2) = 1.00$ and $\bar{k}(M2) = 0.78$, therefore a systematic error of at least 11% on the parameter k should be considered. The expected rates for UVW1, UVM2 and UVW2 are respectively: 9.85 cts/s, 0.097.5 cts/s and 3.15 cts/s. The mean k parameter and rms are respectively 0.88 and 0.13.

3. Discussion

X-ray emission from GJ 581 was detected for the first time. The source detection is marginal as it is obtained with a signal consisting of 27 ± 7 counts with a cumulative signal-to-noise ratio of 3.6. If simple X-ray spectra are assumed then the source X-ray flux is found to be in the range between 1.8

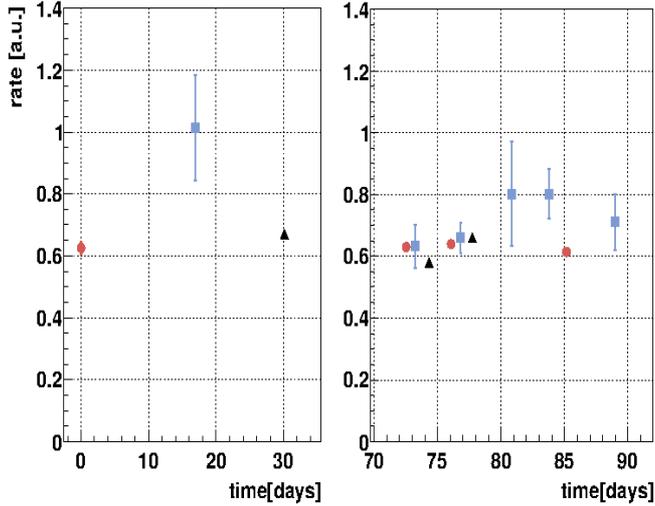


Fig. 2. UVOT lightcurve. The UVM2 rates (squares) were multiplied by 10, the UVW2 rates (circles) by 0.198, and UVW1 ones (triangles) by a factor 0.056. These two last factors are calculated by equalizing UVM2 and UVW2(UVW1) rates during observations 5 and 9, when two filters were used. For UVW1 and 2, error bars are often smaller than the data-point marker.

and $3.3 \times 10^{-14} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ with an associated $\log_{10}(L_X)$ between 25.914 and 26.176.

Data were divided into three periods with exposures as balanced as possible to search for variability. During the first period, a three standard deviation intensity upper limit of $8 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cts/s}$ was obtained. The source was detected above a signal-to-noise ratio of 3 during the second period, while the third period again provided an upper limit but with weaker constraints due to the shorter exposure time. The results of the first period deviated about two standard deviations from the measurements of period two. Here, a main problem is the low statistics regime. During period one only a handful of counts were found within the source location, and the second period signal was at the edge of detectability. In both cases, small spurious effects can have large impact on the results. A check was done with the background rate measurements as a function of the periods. They are found to be steady within the errors. Larger statistics are needed to establish robust evidence of X-ray variability. Furthermore, the single measurement would not allow one to sample the flares energy distribution.

Nevertheless, approximated bounds to the star X-ray activity can be obtained if the following hypotheses are assumed: (i) the X-ray emission, detected during observation window 9, is originated by a single flare; (ii) this flare is completely within the observation window; (iii) the flares have an energy distribution in the form of a power law with indices between 1.57 and 2.24, as reported in Audard et al. 2000 for the studied M dwarfs, GJ 411, AD Leo, EV Lac, and CN Leo during 1994 and 1995. Under these assumptions, the maximum duration of the detected flare would be $\tau = 12 \text{ ks}$, and the maximum energy is $E_f = \tau \times L_X = 1.6 \times 10^{30} \text{ erg}$. where a benchmark value of $1.3 \times 10^{26} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ for L_X has been used. Flares with an energy E_f or larger would have an occurrence smaller than $f_0 = 3.3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$, or one every 30ks period. For larger energies:

$$f(E > E') < f_0 \times (E'/E_f)^{-\alpha+1}$$

with $\alpha = 2.24$ (or 1.57). For the benchmark energy of $E' = 10^{32} \text{ erg}$ the occurrence would be lower than $1.7 \times 10^{-7} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (or $3.1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ s}^{-1}$), respectively for the two indices, which translates to less than 6 (96) of such flares in a year. A linear correlation between the occurrence of 10^{32} erg flares with the X-ray luminosity is also given in Audard et al. (2000). This relation indicates a flare occurrence between 0.8 and $1.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ s}^{-1}$, with both estimates below the our proposed bounds.

It should be remarked that the proposed bounds are valid only under the assumed hypotheses and are linearly dependent on the considered maximum energy E_f and the supposed flare time scale τ . A change of τ of a factor 10 implies a change of a factor 1/17 (or 1/4 for the lower α value) of the occurrence bound.

Relationships between age, rotation, and coronal activity for M stars were proposed by Guinan & Engle (2009) and Stelzer et al. (2013). Guinan & Engle (2009) have found that $L_X < 1.5 \times 10^{26} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ are related to an M dwarf with an age larger than 5 Gyr, which are older than Proxima Cen(M5) or IL Aqr (M4). Similarly, Engle & Guinan (2011) estimated that the age of GJ 581 is $5.7 \pm 0.8 \text{ Gyr}$. This results was obtained with a rotation-age relation. Taking the X-ray luminosity-age relation presented by Stelzer et al. (2013) for M0-M3 stars, the X-ray luminosity of GJ 581 implies that the age of GJ 581 is larger than $\sim 4 \text{ Gyr}$ (the last time value reported on their Fig. 15). In both cases, the coronal activity-age relations provide constraints that are consistent with the previous age estimates for GJ 581 ($> 2 \text{ Gyr}$; Bonfils et al. 2005).

The UV normalized count-rates vs time are reported in Fig. 2. In the UV range, the largest flux variations are observed with the UVM2 filter, which most likely traces variability in the chromosphere Mg II resonance doublet, the strongest emission feature in the UVM2 bandpass. For UVM2, the count rate rms is of the order of 16% of the average count rate. The UVW1 and UVW2 observations provide smaller variations as compared the UVM2.

France et al. (2013) reported a total UV luminosity (including the FUV and NUV spectral band-passes) for GJ 581 of $L_{UV} = 27 \times 10^{26} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ and a Mg II doublet flux of $F_{\text{Mg II}} = 2.13 \pm 0.13 \times 10^{-14} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ obtained from Gaussian fits to both lines of the doublet. Comparing our *Swift* X-ray observations to the existing HST data, we find the L_X/L_{UV} ratio is 0.043 ± 0.012 . However previous results argue for larger L_X/L_{UV} ratios. France et al. (2013) have found a $\log_{10}(L_{UV}/L_{\text{Bol}}) \approx -4$ and Guinan & Engle (2007) $\log_{10}(L_X/L_{\text{Bol}}) \approx -3$. Therefore, we would have expected an L_X/L_{UV} ratio of greater than unity, and our finding of $\sim 4\%$ suggests relatively weak coronal activity on GJ 581.

Using the interferometrically determined radius of GJ 581 ($R = 0.29 \pm 0.010 R_{\odot}$; von Braun et al. 2011), we find an X-ray surface flux of $(2.0 \pm 0.7) \times 10^4 \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and a Mg II surface flux of $(1.96 \pm 0.11) \times 10^4 \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$. These surface fluxes can be compared with previously estimated values obtained by Rutten et al. 1991 (Figs. 1b and 1g). The found Mg II and X-ray surface fluxes are close to the basal flux limits, indicative of a relatively old main-sequence star (e.g., Hempelmann et al. 1995; Schrijver 1995; Cuntz et al. 1999); this finding is generally consistent with the deduced age of GJ 581, which has been found to be larger than $\sim 4 \text{ Gyr}$ (Selsis et al. 2007).

Another approach pertaining to the relationship between the empirical Mg II surface flux and the stellar age has been given by Cardini & Cassatella 2007. Following their Eq. (8) with data from their Table 2, it is found that the implied age of GJ 581 is very large, possibly beyond 10 Gyr. For further

comparison we considered the M dwarfs studied in Walkowicz et al. (2008). Compared to the Mg II/X-ray ratios of other M dwarfs (e.g., Fig. 5 from Walkowicz et al. 2008), we find that GJ 581 would be comparable to GJ 876 (M4.0), GJ 273 (M3.5), and GJ 191 (M1.0).

GJ 876 has an estimated age between 0.1 and 5 Gyr (Correia et al. 2010), and despite has a low-to-intermediate activity level based on its optical spectrum has been shown to produce significant UV flux in its HZ. This source provides >50% of the solar luminosity received at 1 AU in the FUV band-pass (1160–1790 Å, including Lyman-alpha; France et al. 2012). Therefore, the L_X/L_{UV} ratio is mainly indicative of the hard radiation content and does not rule out the possibility of strong UV emission in the HZ around GJ 581.

We did not attempt to discuss the habitability of GJ 581 planetary system because it would need a detailed planetary thermal evolution models which follows atmospheric and lithospheric phenomena, as this is beyond the scope of the present note.

4. Conclusions

We present the first X-ray detection of the exoplanet host star GJ 581. The observations performed were part of the Fill-In Targets program during *Swift* cycle 8. These simultaneous X-ray and UV observations provide an experimental view of the energetic radiation environment of the GJ 581 planetary system, which is an important input for habitability studies of the exoplanets orbiting this low mass star.

The low value of the found L_X suggests that GJ 581 is older than 4 or 5 Gyr, assuming the coronal activity-age relations of Stelzer et al. (2013) or Guinan & Engle (2009). The data suggest that the X-ray emission may be variable; however, further observations with longer exposure times are required to establish robust evidence of X-ray variability.

Simultaneous UV photometric observations permitted monitoring of the UV variability during the X-ray observation. We find a low value of the X-ray to ultraviolet luminosity ratio ($L_X/L_{UVtotal}$) when comparing the X-ray data to the MUSCLES M dwarf UV radiation field database. We detect evidence of chromospheric activity in the UV photometry, as seen by large amplitude variation in the *Swift* UVM2 count rates when compared to those from UVW1 and UVW2.

X-ray and Mg II surface fluxes were derived, and they imply a stellar age (>4 Gyr), which is consistent with the age required by coronal activity-age relations and the previous estimates in literature.

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