Evidence for magnetic activity at starbirth: a powerful X-ray flare from the Class 0 protostar HOPS 383

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ABSTRACT

Context. Class 0 protostars represent the earliest evolutionary stage of solar-type stars, during which the majority of the system mass resides in an infalling envelope of gas and dust and is not yet in the central, nascent star. Although X-rays are a key signature of magnetic activity in more evolved protostars and young stars, whether such magnetic activity is present at the Class 0 stage is still debated.

Aims. We aim to detect a bona fide Class 0 protostar in X-rays.

Methods. We observed HOPS 383 in 2017 December in X-rays with the Chandra X-ray Observatory (∼84 ks) and in near-infrared imaging with the Southern Astrophysical Research telescope.

Results. HOPS 383 was detected in X-rays during a powerful flare. This hard (E > 2 keV) X-ray counterpart was spatially coincident with the northwest 4 cm component of HOPS 383, which would be the base of the radio thermal jet launched by HOPS 383. The flare duration was ∼3.3 h; at the peak, the X-ray luminosity reached ∼4 × 10²⁷ erg s⁻¹ in the 2–8 keV energy band, a level at least an order of magnitude larger than that of the undetected quiescent emission from HOPS 383. The X-ray flare spectrum is highly absorbed (N_H ~ 7 × 10²³ cm⁻²), and it displays a 6.4 keV emission line with an equivalent width of ∼1.1 keV, arising from neutral or low-ionization iron.

Conclusions. The detection of a powerful X-ray flare from HOPS 383 constitutes direct proof that magnetic activity can be present at the earliest formative stages of solar-type stars.

Key words. stars: flare – stars: individual: HOPS 383 – stars: low-mass – stars: magnetic field – stars: protostars – X-rays: stars

1. Introduction

Low-mass objects that have evolved beyond the Class 0 stage are conspicuous X-ray emitters (Dunham et al. 2014), that is, Class I protostars with remnant envelopes and massive accretion disks, and Class II and III pre-main sequence stars with and without circumstellar disks (T Tauri stars). Their high luminosities (∼10⁸–³⁻³ erg s⁻¹) compared to the solar maximum (∼10²⁷ erg s⁻¹) and their intense flaring activity in X-rays make them appear as extremely magnetically active young suns (Feigelson & Montmerle 1999; Güdel & Nazé 2009). In Class 0 protostars (André et al. 1993, 2000), the hydrostatic core is deeply embedded within its envelope and the molecular cloud, making its detection difficult at most wavelengths (Giardino et al. 2007). The most deeply-embedded X-ray sources reported in star-forming regions (Hamaguchi et al. 2005; Getman et al. 2007 and references therein; Kamezaki et al. 2014) have evolved beyond the Class 0 stage or their bolometric luminosity is not accurate enough for a robust conclusion (Appendix A). Moreover, any non-thermal radio emission from putative magnetic activity at Class 0 protostars is very likely absorbed by the bases of their ionized outflows (Güdel 2002; Dzib et al. 2013).

The object of this study in the Orion Molecular Cloud 3 (OMC-3) was identified as a protostar by a Spitzer survey (Megeath et al. 2012) and included in the Herschel Orion protostar survey (HOPS; Furlan et al. 2016) as source 383. The submillimeter to bolometric luminosity ratio of HOPS 383, 1.4% (Safron et al. 2015) well surpasses the (0.5%) threshold for bona fide Class 0 designation (André et al. 1993, 2000). Notably, HOPS 383 is the first Class 0 protostar known to have undergone a mass-accretion-driven eruption (Safron et al. 2015), which peaked by 2008 and ended by 2017 September (Appendix B).

2. Observations

We observed HOPS 383 three times with the Chandra X-ray Observatory (Weisskopf et al. 2002) from 2017 December 13 to 14 with simultaneous near-infrared imaging on 2017 December 14 using the 4.1 m Southern Astrophysical Research (SOAR) telescope (Krabbendam et al. 2004) in Chile. We used Chandra’s Advanced CCD Imaging Spectrometer (ACIS-I) in the very faint mode with a frame time of...
3.141 s (Appendix C.1). \textit{Chandra} ACIS-I has on-axis a full-width half-maximum (FWHM) angular resolution of 0′′.5 and a FWHM spectral resolution of 261 eV at 6.4 keV. Data reduction is described in Appendix C.2.

The SOAR Spartan infrared camera (Loh et al. 2012) is composed of 4 CCDs of 2048 × 2048 pixels. We selected the wide-field mode with a single-detector field-of-view of 2.25 × 2.25 (i.e., 5.04 × 5.04 edge-to-edge) and a pixel scale of 0′′.0661 with the K-band and \text{H}_2\ narrow-band filters. We used a five-point dithering pattern where, in the first exposure, HOPS 383 was put near the center of the northeastern detector (det3), which was then moved by 30′′ from its initial position sequentially toward the south, north, west, and east in the four other exposures. This sequence was repeated until the requested exposure was achieved (Appendix D.1). Data reduction is described in Appendix D.2.

3. Near-infrared results

The near-infrared nebulous that was prominent during the outburst (Safron et al. 2015) is not detected in our SOAR K-band image (Fig. 1a), indeed, it vanished by 2015 December 14 during three ACIS-I exposures, totaling 83 877 s. The near-infrared nebulosity that was prominent during the 2015 outburst (Safron et al. 2015) is not detected in our SOAR exposures. This sequence was repeated until the requested exposure was achieved (Appendix D.1). Data reduction is described in Appendix D.2.

4. X-ray results

4.1. X-ray flare of HOPS 383

We detect a hard (E > 2 keV) X-ray source, CXOU J053529.78-045950.4 (hereafter, CXOU J053529), that is spatially
coincident with JVLA-NW (Fig. 1 and Appendix C.3). CXOU J053529 was not detected in a Chandra observation of the OMC-2 and 3 region obtained in 2000 January at an off-axis angle of 6.3° (Tsujimoto et al. 2002; Getman et al. 2017).

This spatially unresolved X-ray source is only detected, with 28 counts in the 0.5–9.9 keV energy range, during the first Chandra exposure that we obtained in 2017 (Fig. 2a). The first photon is detected ~2.9 h after the start of the observation and the X-ray burst duration is ~3.3 h (Fig. 2b). We estimated the shape of the light curve by smoothing the event times of arrival (Appendix C.4). The count rate peaks to ~5.6 counts s$^{-1}$ in ~0.9 h after the first photon detection, and it decays gradually in ~2.5 h until the last photon detection (red curve in Fig. 2c). This time variation, with rapid rise and slow decay, is similar to the typical light curves of magnetic flares from young stellar objects (YSOs; Getman et al. 2008). X-rays may also be emitted by accretion shocks at the protostellar surface and/or shocks in outflows (Güdel & Nazé 2009), but the former produces plasmas that are not bright and hot enough to emit the observed hard X-rays and the latter is constant on week timescales (Kastner et al. 2005), which is much longer than the hour variability that we observed. Therefore, this burst of X-rays indicates magnetic activity from HOPS 383 that is associated with JVLA-NW.

### 4.2. X-ray flare spectrum

We modeled the X-ray spectrum with isothermal coronal plasma emission suffering from intervening absorption (Appendix C.5). The best-fit model has an excess and a deficit relative to the observed spectrum below and above 6.4 keV, respectively, suggesting an additional component at 6.4 keV. This deviation is likely associated with the emission line arising from neutral or low-ionization iron. Therefore, we included in the model a Gaussian emission line centered at 6.4 keV. We performed a

Markov chain Monte Carlo analysis (MCMC) to compute the probability density functions of the physical parameters, from which we determined the median parameter values and 90% confidence intervals. We find that CXOU J053529 is highly embedded with a hydrogen column density ($N_{\text{H}}$) of $(7.0_{-3.3}^{+5.4} \times 10^{23}) \text{ cm}^{-2}$. This result for $N_{\text{H}}$ is consistent with the large median energy of the 0.5–8 keV counts ($\text{MedE} = 5.402 \text{ keV}$), given the log $N_{\text{H}}$ versus MedE relations found for YSOs in the Orion nebula cluster (ONC; Feigelson et al. 2005) and M17 (Fig. 10a of Getman et al. 2010).

We detected the 6.4 keV emission line with a high probability of 98.9%. Our spectral analysis suggests that we have detected five photons from the Fe 6.4 keV emission line; these photons are likely the closest in energy to 6.4 keV. Indeed, we observed five photons with energies that are densely packed around the predicted emission feature at 6.4 keV (diamonds in Fig. 2b inset). Moreover, the spatial distribution of these Fe line photons is point-like (Fig. 2a), suggesting all of the observed Fe fluorescence emission arises from within the Chandra point spread function (PSF), that is to say, a radius from HOPS 383 that is lower than 105 au at the assumed distance to the protostar. The iron line equivalent width, $EW = 1.1_{-0.9}^{+1.2} \text{ keV}$, is large (even at the lower limit) relative to what was expected from the possible emission processes. The neutral iron can be ionized by photons or electrons that have energies larger than the Fe K-shell ionization potential of 7.112 keV. The contributions of these two ionization channels to the observed X-ray line in accreting young stars and Class I protostars (Güdel & Nazé 2009; Hamaguchi et al. 2005, 2010; Czesla & Schmitt 2010; Pillitteri et al. 2019) are not firmly settled, but photoionization

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1 For epoch 2017, the degradation of the ACIS effective area at low energy due to the contamination of the optical blocking filter likely does not significantly modify the median energy of a source as hard as HOPS 383.
is less energetically challenging (Czesla & Schmitt 2010). The plasma temperature is not well constrained mainly due to the low count rate, but a hot plasma temperature is favored \( (kT = 4.1^{+1.3}_{-2.8} \text{ keV}) \), which is consistent with a magnetic flare and the photoionization of iron.

### 4.3. X-ray flare energetics

The mean value of the absorption-corrected luminosity during the flare time interval is \( 1.7_{-1.0}^{+1.1} \times 10^{33} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \) in the 2–8 keV energy band. Multiplying this value by the flare peak to flare mean count rate ratio (2.39) provides the flare peak value of \( \sim 4.2_{-2.6}^{+3.0} \times 10^{33} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \). For comparison purposes, the maximum peak value of the 84 X-ray flares with typical shapes observed from YSOs in the ONC (Getman et al. 2008) is \( 8.3 \times 10^{33} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \) in the 0.5–8 keV energy band; only \( \sim 34\% \) of these flares have peak values that are higher than the HOPS 383 one. During our observations, the non-detection of HOPS 383 outside the flare time interval implies that its quiescent absorption-corrected luminosity is lower than \( 2.0 \times 10^{30} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \) in the 2–8 keV energy band (Appendix C.6). Therefore, the flare that we detected peaked at least \( 21^{+65}_{-13} \) times above the quiescent level. The lower limit on the total energy released in X-rays during this flare, as computed from the mean luminosity times the flare duration, was \( 2.0_{-1.3}^{+6.5} \times 10^{35} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \).

### 5. Discussion

Starting from a model of HOPS 383 consisting of an infalling envelope with bipolar cavities carved by outflows and a small (5 au radius) accretion disk (Figs. 3a–c), constrained by the post-outburst spectral energy distribution (SED) using a Monte Carlo radiative transfer code (Furlan et al. 2016), we computed the predicted \( N_{\text{H}} \) toward the central protostar (Appendix E). Due to the high inclination angle in this model, the line-of-sight intercepts the upper layers of the accretion disk, which produce the bulk of \( N_{\text{H}} \); moreover, this value is extremely sensitive to the viewing angle (Fig. 3d). The observed \( N_{\text{H}} \) favors a slightly lower
inclination. However, the available grid of protostellar models (Furlan et al. 2016) does not include a lower-mass accretion disk or a model with no accretion disk at all, which may reproduce both the SED and N_{H, X}. These model trials illustrate the importance of X-ray constraints on N_{H} to the overall consistency of protostar modeling.

In the optically thin case at 6.4 keV, that is to say, as long as the H column density by a cold absorber with a solar elemental abundance (N_{H}) is lower than \(10^{23} \text{cm}^{-2}\), the iron line EW produced by photoionization is EW = \(2.5 (\Omega/4\pi) (N_{H}/10^{22} \text{cm}^{-2}) \text{eV}\), where \(\Omega\) is the subtended angle of the irradiated material from the X-ray irradiating source (Tsujimoto et al. 2005). Since \(\Omega/4\pi < 1\), the large observed value of EW in HOPS 383 rules out the optically thin condition. In the optically thick case of the photoionization of photospheric iron by an X-ray flare, the iron line EW that is computed by Monte-Carlo radiative transfer simulations is limited to ~130 eV for solar iron abundance and can only be increased by factors \(>2\) by disk flaring (Drake et al. 2008). However, large iron line EW can be obtained in both optical depth conditions when the photoionizing X-ray source is partly eclipsed (Drake et al. 2008). In the model, the X-ray source is located on the obscured region of the star and near the base of the accretion funnels (Fig. 3a). This source irradiates the accretion funnels, the upper layers of the accretion disk (Fig. 3b), and the circumstellar envelope (Fig. 3c).

6. Conclusions

Our detection of an X-ray flare from HOPS 383 provides conclusive evidence that strong magnetic activity is present at this bona fide Class 0 protostar. The resulting X-ray irradiation contributes to the ionization of the base of the outflow (Shang et al. 2004), and the magnetic reconnection that triggers powerful flares, similar to the one we detected, most likely drives energetic particle ejections (Feigelstrom et al. 2002). Such protostellar cosmic rays have been proposed to collide with refractory dust grains located at the inner edge of the accretion disk, inducing spallation reactions that could yield short-lived radionuclides, such as are observed in the refractory inclusions of chondritic meteorites (Gounelle et al. 2013; Sossi et al. 2017). Mass ejections have similarly been invoked in the case of the bona fide Class 0 protostar OMC-2 FIR 4 to explain the production of free electrons via collisions in the envelope, thereby enhancing the abundances of molecular ions (Ceccarelli et al. 2014). The Class 0 stage (~10,000 yr) has an ~10 times shorter duration than the Class I stage; however, during the earliest stage, half of the envelope mass is accreted, building the central star and the accretion disk. Therefore, the determination of the internal irradiation level in Class 0 protostars is paramount for the understanding of protostellar chemistry.

Longer observations are required to determine the flaring activity level and to collect more photons from such deeply-embedded, nascent stars. Athena X-IFU (Barret et al. 2018), which is scheduled to be launched at the beginning of the 2030s, will improve the X-ray throughput and spectral resolution at 6.4 keV, enabling a potential leap in our knowledge of the onset of protostellar magnetic activity.

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Appendix A: Protostellar evolutionary stage

![Figure A.1](image_url)

Figure A.1 shows the envelope mass ($M_{\text{env}}$) versus bolometric-luminosity ($L_{\text{bol}}$) diagram, which is used as an evolutionary diagnostic (Saraceno et al. 1996; André et al. 2000, 2008). In this scenario, the Class 0 and I border zone is defined by $M_{\text{env}} = 0.1 L_{\odot}$ (constant accretion, see André & Montmerle 1994) and $M_{\text{env}} = 0.15 L_{\odot}^{0.6}$ (exponentially decaying accretion; dotted line). The protostellar evolutionary tracks are shown from 0.01 $M_{\odot}$ to 0.9 $M_{\odot}$, where $M_{\odot}$ is the final stellar mass. The rising time along the tracks is indicated by white dots every 10,000 yr.

Where a constant accretion rate of $10^{-5} M_{\odot} \text{yr}^{-1}$ is assumed to compute the radius-mass relation (Stahler 1988; Palla & Stahler 1992). We estimate with this toy model that the final stellar mass of HOPS 383 will be ∼0.4 $M_{\odot}$ and that less than ∼10% of it has already been accreted onto the central protostar.

Appendix B: WISE and NEOWISE-R photometry

![Figure B.1](image_url)

Table B.1. WISE and NEOWISE-R 4.6 µm profile-fit photometry of HOPS 383.

| Instrument | MJD | $\Delta$MJD | N | (w2mpro) | $\sigma$ |
|-----------|-----|-------------|---|----------|---------|
| WISE | 55 263.89 | 0.99 | 6 | 10.606 | 0.036 |
| WISE | 55 455.31 | 0.73 | 6 | 10.493 | 0.063 |
| NEOWISE-R | 56 726.88 | 4.54 | 8 | 11.000 | 0.032 |
| NEOWISE-R | 56 919.85 | 0.72 | 7 | 11.401 | 0.023 |
| NEOWISE-R | 57 087.73 | 0.99 | 10 | 11.374 | 0.052 |
| NEOWISE-R | 57 281.88 | 1.12 | 8 | 11.712 | 0.143 |
| NEOWISE-R | 57 446.82 | 0.98 | 7 | 11.945 | 0.051 |
| NEOWISE-R | 57 646.54 | 0.13 | 2 | 12.466 | 0.041 |
| NEOWISE-R | 57 811.16 | 0.26 | 2 | 12.732 | 0.155 |

Notes. The profile-fit photometry was computed from the single-exposure (L1b) source tables using the mean and standard deviation of the N profile-fit fluxes in the W2 band (w2mpro) obtained during each observing epoch. We note that $\Delta$MJD is the time interval between the first and the last frame for each epoch.

The mid-infrared flux of HOPS 383 started to rise between 2004 and 2006, peaked by 2008 with a 24 µm flux that was 35 times brighter than the pre-outburst flux, and showed no large decay between 2009 and 2012 (Safron et al. 2015). The sky position of HOPS 383 was scanned in mid-infrared twice per year by the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) mission (Wright et al. 2010) in 2010 and by the Near-Earth Object
Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (NEOWISE) reactivation mission (Mainzer et al. 2014) in 2014–2019 for which several single exposures were obtained at each observing epoch.

The All-Sky, WISE 3-band Cryo, and NEOWISE Reactivation 2015–2019 data releases provide single exposure (L1b) source tables. The uncertainty of the magnitude zero-point (MAGZP) is fixed to 0.037 mag. The aperture flux increases by 0.25 μmag in 7.5 years (white dots in Fig. B.1) and decays by 2.40 μmag in 7 years (black dots in Fig. B.1) from the final image. HOPS 383 lies on the wing of the PSF of a brighter source (2MASS J05353060–0459360), which is located at 15′′ 3 northeast. This profile fit computed on 1.5 × FWHM in radius mitigates this contamination. For each observing epoch, we selected the best profile-fit fluxes (w2mcor > 2) from the best single-exposure frames (qual_frame > 0, qi_fact > 0, saa_sep > 0, and moon_masked = 0) and we computed the mean and standard deviation of these fluxes. The mean profile-fit flux decays by 2.1 ± 0.2 mag in 7 years (black dots in Fig. B.1 and Table B.1).

For each observing epoch, we selected the W2-band frames of a good quality (qual_frame > 0) and stacked them with the WISE/NEOWISE coadd3 using simple area weighting and a pixel scale of 1′′:375 for the final image. HOPS 383 is still visible after 2017 February in these stacked images and is limited to 6′′. HOPS 383 lies on the wing of the PSF of a brighter source (2MASS J05353060–0459360), which is located at 15′′ 3 northeast. This profile fit computed on 1.5 × FWHM in radius mitigates this contamination. For each observing epoch, we selected the best profile-fit fluxes (w2mcor > 2) from the best single-exposure frames (qual_frame > 0, qi_fact > 0, saa_sep > 0, and moon_masked = 0) and we computed the mean and standard deviation of these fluxes. The mean profile-fit flux decays by 2.1 ± 0.2 mag in 7 years (black dots in Fig. B.1 and Table B.1).

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Table B.2. WISE and NEOWISE-R 4.6 μm aperture photometry of HOPS 383.

| Instrument | (MJD) ΔMJD (day) | N | MAGZP (mag) | w2mcor (mag) | (w2mag) (mag) | σ (mag) |
|------------|----------------|---|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|
| WISE       | 55 263.89      | 0.99 | 13 | 19.596 | 0.331 | 10.155 | 0.037 |
| WISE       | 55 455.11      | 1.12 | 15 | 19.692 | 0.331 | 10.226 | 0.037 |
| NEOWISE-R  | 56 726.88      | 4.54 | 10 | 19.669 | 0.322 | 10.616 | 0.037 |
| NEOWISE-R  | 56 918.17      | 4.87 | 16 | 19.642 | 0.322 | 10.888 | 0.038 |
| NEOWISE-R  | 57 087.66      | 1.12 | 14 | 19.645 | 0.326 | 10.917 | 0.037 |
| NEOWISE-R  | 57 281.94      | 1.25 | 16 | 19.641 | 0.326 | 11.137 | 0.038 |
| NEOWISE-R  | 57 446.82      | 0.98 | 7 | 19.641 | 0.326 | 11.274 | 0.038 |
| NEOWISE-R  | 57 649.88      | 8.78 | 17 | 19.644 | 0.326 | 11.599 | 0.038 |
| NEOWISE-R  | 57 814.43      | 7.99 | 15 | 19.644 | 0.326 | 11.708 | 0.038 |
| NEOWISE-R  | 58 013.16      | 1.11 | 16 | 19.643 | 0.326 | 12.557 | 0.042 |
| NEOWISE-R  | 58 170.74      | 6.48 | 12 | 19.643 | 0.326 | 12.307 | 0.042 |
| NEOWISE-R  | 58 377.31      | 1.11 | 13 | 19.643 | 0.326 | 12.565 | 0.045 |

Notes. The aperture photometry in each observing epoch was computed from coadded single exposures of a good quality. The aperture correction (w2mcor) is taken from the single exposure (L1b) source tables. The uncertainty of the magnitude zero-point (MAGZP) is fixed to 0.037 mag.

Appendix C: Chandra ACIS-I data

C.1. Observations

The Chandra observations are listed in Table C.1.

Table C.1. Log of Chandra observations with ACIS-I (PI: N.G.).

| ObsID | Start time (UT) | Exposure (s) |
|-------|----------------|--------------|
| 18927 | 2017-12-13T04:00:48 | 37 411 |
| 20882 | 2017-12-14T01:24:04 | 32 652 |
| 20883 | 2017-12-14T17:09:31 | 13 814 |

C.2. Data reduction

We used the CIAO package4 (version 4.9 with the calibration database version 4.8.1; Fruscione et al. 2006) to reprocess the datasets (Table C.1) with the tool chandra_repro. The source detection was performed in each observation with the CIAO tool wavdetect with a detection threshold 1 × 10⁻⁵ and including information from the PSF. Twelve images were used per ObsID corresponding to three energy bands (0.5–2, 2–7, and 0.5–7 keV) and four resolution images (0″25, 0″5, 1″, and 2″) that were searched for with wavdetect on various pixel scales (1–2, 1–4, 1–8, and 1–16 pixel scales, corresponding to 0″5–1″5, 1″–2″, and 2″–32″, respectively) to mitigate the spatial variation of the PSF on the detector (Broos et al. 2010). The obtained wavdetect source lists were then merged by pairs using the source matching IDL program match_xy in the Tools for ACIS Review & Analysis (TARA) package5 (Broos et al. 2010).

The events were extracted using the ACIS Extract (AE) software package6 (version ae2018june14; Broos et al. 2010).

Notes. The aperture photometry in each observing epoch was computed from coadded single exposures of a good quality. The aperture correction (w2mcor) is taken from the single exposure (L1b) source tables. The uncertainty of the magnitude zero-point (MAGZP) is fixed to 0.037 mag.

2 https://irsa.ipac.caltech.edu/Missions/wise.html
3 https://cxc.cfa.harvard.edu/ciao/
4 http://personal.psu.edu/psb6/TARA/
5 http://personal.psu.edu/psb6/TARA/ae_users_guide.html
following the multi-pass validation procedure (revision 1099 of 2018-06-11)\(^6\). The AE source apertures were centered on source positions with a default PSF fraction of 90% at 1.49 keV, which was determined from point source simulations computed by ray-tracing with MARX (Davis et al. 2012). The AE background regions were built to get enough background counts in order to have the source photometry errors within 3% of the values that would be obtained with no uncertainty in the background. New positions were determined for isolated sources with an off-axis position lower than 5′ using the mean position of the extracted events. These positions were used to determine the astrometric position offsets between the ObsIDs and a reference catalog. We used the Gaia data release 2 (DR2)\(^7\) positions and position errors (Gaia Collaboration 2016, 2018) that we propagated with topcat\(^8\) (Taylor 2019) from the J2015.5 reference epoch to the J2017.948 Chandra epoch (using the same zero radial velocity and radial velocity error as in the Celestia 2000, HIPPARCOS and Tycho catalog) and added 2MASS sources without the Gaia DR2 best neighbor (Marrese et al. 2019); we excluded a 2MASS source that was resolved by Gaia and Chandra. The new positions were also determined for isolated sources with an off-axis position larger than 5′ using the PSF correlation position. For crowded sources (PSF fraction <87%), the peak in a maximum-likelihood image reconstruction was used. The correlation and reconstruction were performed using a multi-ObsID event image and a composite PSF image. These steps were repeated until converging to no offsets between the ObsIDs.

C.3. Astrometry

The final X-ray positions are mainly registered on Gaia DR2 (with 45 Gaia and 12 2MASS sources), that is to say, on the ICRS world coordinate system. The position of the X-ray counterpart of HOPS 383 converted to the J2000 world coordinate system is 05\(^h\)35\(^m\)29\(^s\).789, −04°59′50″432 with a positional error of 0′.099 that includes, added in quadrature, the first-ObsID reference offset uncertainty of 0′.029 to the AE positional error of 0′.095 (Eqs. (1)–(3) in Broos et al. 2010).

The radio position of JLV1-SE and NW in Figs. 1b and c were determined from the pixel maximums in Fig. 1 of Galván-Madrid et al. (2015) converted to grayscale, assuming a J2000 world coordinate system, with positional errors estimated using FWHM/\(2\sqrt{\ln 2}\) S/N, where S/N is the signal-to-noise ratio. For the Spitzer counterpart, we adopted a conservative position error of 1″, corresponding to the matching radius used in Megeath et al. (2012).

C.4. Timing analysis

The source aperture with a PSF fraction of 96% was used for the timing and spectral analysis of HOPS 383. The background is negligible (Appendix C.5). We estimated the count rates versus time (CR) from the arrival time \(t_i\) of the events \(N = 28\) with a kernel estimator of the density \(f;\) Feigelson & Jogesh Babu 2012) with a constant bandwidth \(h\): 

\[
CR(t, h) = N f(t, h) \times \text{DTCOR},
\]

where DTCOR = 0.98693 is the deadtime correction and 

\[
f(t, h) = (1/hN) \times \sum_{i=1}^{N} K((t - t_i)/h),
\]

where we used the Epanechnikov kernel, the inverted parabola defined as 

\[
K(y) = 0.75(1 - y^2) \text{ with } -1 \leq y \leq 1.
\]

We chose for \(h\): the rule-of-thumb bandwidth, \(h_{\text{rot}}\), designed for unimodal distribution (Eq. (6.9) in Feigelson & Jogesh Babu 2012, and cyan curve in Fig. 2c); and the optimal bandwidth, \(h_{\text{CV}}\), maximizing the cross-validation (Eq. (6.10) in Feigelson & Jogesh Babu 2012, and green curve in Fig. 2). The latter is \(\sim 3.6\) larger than the former, producing a smoother light curve in particular at the end of the X-ray burst.

Then, we used an adaptive (bandwidth) kernel estimator (Eqs. (6.14)–(6.15) in Feigelson & Jogesh Babu 2012) with the recommend value of 0.5 for the sensitivity parameter \(\alpha\). This was computed from the pilot densities previously obtained with \(h_{\text{rot}}\) (blue curve in Fig. 2c) and \(h_{\text{CV}}\) (red curve in Fig. 2c).

C.5. Spectral analysis

The source-plus-background spectrum was limited to the flare time interval ranging from the first to the last detected event and the 0.5–9.9 keV energy range. An energy-dependent aperture correction was applied by AE to the ancillary response file, which calibrates the extraction. The background spectrum was extracted from the full exposure of the first observation in the 0.1–10 keV energy range.

The simultaneous spectral fitting of the background and source-plus-background spectra was made with XSPEC\(^9\) (version 12.10.1) using the C-statistic applied to unbinned data. The background cumulative spectrum was modeled with the AE cplinear model, a continuous piecewise-linear function with ten vertices (Broos et al. 2010). The source spectrum was modeled with an interstellar medium absorption (Wilms et al. 2000) and an isothermal collisional-radiative plasma (Smith et al. 2001) with the typical coronal abundances of pre-main sequence stars (Güdel et al. 2007) plus an emission line with zero width at 6.4 keV (TBabs*(vapec+gaussian)) to which the background model, re-scaled to the source aperture, was added to fit the source-plus-background cumulative spectrum (data flow diagram in Fig. 10 of Broos et al. 2010). The model parameters, namely the hydrogen column density, the plasma temperature and normalization, the line normalization, and the ten parameters of cplinear, were first estimated by C-statistic minimization (C-stat = 677.0 using 1309 degrees of freedom; Fig. C.1a). The emission line was added to improve the modeling below ~6.4 keV (C-stat = 671.8 using 1308 degrees of freedom; Fig. C.1b).

We fixed the cplinear parameters since the background contribution to the source-plus-background spectrum (0.1 count) was negligible. We performed a Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC; Hogg & Foreman-Mackey 2018) to compute the probability density functions of the four physical parameters of this model using the Jeremy Sanders’ xspec_emcee program\(^10\) that used a Python implementation of the MCMC ensemble sampler with affine invariance proposed by Goodman & Weare (2010), emcee\(^11\) (version 2.2.1; Foreman-Mackey et al. 2013). We customized xspec_emcee to output subsidiary Markov chains for the acceptance fraction (Foreman-Mackey et al. 2013) and the following physical values: soft and hard fluxes; soft and hard absorption-corrected fluxes; and line equivalent width and counts. We used uniform priors for the physical parameters, \(N_w = 46\) walkers that were started clustered around the previous parameter estimates, and \(N_{\text{iter}} = 10^6\) iterations.

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\(^{6}\) http://personal.psu.edu/psb6/TARA/procedures/
\(^{7}\) http://gea.esc.esa.int/archive/
\(^{8}\) http://www.star.bris.ac.uk/~mbt/topcat/
\(^{9}\) https://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/xanadu/xspec/
\(^{10}\) https://github.com/jeremysanders/xspec_emcee
\(^{11}\) https://emcee.readthedocs.io/en/v2.2.1/
To test for convergence of the Markov chains, we followed Hogg & Foreman-Mackey (2018) by using the integrated autocorrelation time that we computed for each walker and then averaged these estimates\(^{12}\) for each parameter, and retained the largest value, \(\tau\) (top panel of Fig. C.2). The MCMC burn-in phase was supposed to last less than \(N_{\text{burn-in}} = 10r = 10\,008 \text{ iterations (Foreman-Mackey et al. 2013)}\), as this was illustrated by the mean of the walkers’ acceptance fractions converging to \(\sim 0.3\), which is well within the recommended range (Foreman-Mackey et al. 2013) of 0.2–0.5 (bottom panel of Fig. C.2b).

This MCMC burn-in phase was cut-off before producing the corner plots (Fig. C.3a) from which the parameter median values and 90\% confidence interval\(^{13}\) were determined (Table C.2). For comparison purposes, Fig. C.4 shows the source-plus-background extracted cumulative counts spectrum (gold), the model for the parameter median values (green), and a random subset of 200 MCMC models (gray).

\(^{12}\) See Dan Foreman-Mackey’s blog on autocorrelation time estimation (2017 October 16): https://dfm.io/posts/autocorr/.

\(^{13}\) We followed Hogg & Foreman-Mackey (2018), who are in favor of reporting median and quantiles, which are based on integrals, and against mode, which is not.

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**Fig. C.1.** X-ray spectrum of HOPS 383 and background determination. Panels a and b: top panels: source-plus-background extracted cumulative spectrum (gold filled area) and XSPEC best-fit model (green), source model (blue), background region cumulative spectrum (orange) and model (red), and scaled background model (pink). The vertical dashed-dotted line is the energy of the 6.4 keV line arising from neutral or low-ionization iron. Bottom panels: model-minus-data residuals. Panel b: absorbed coronal thin emission (cyan) and 6.4 keV Gaussian emission line (silver filled area).

**Fig. C.2.** Burn-in phase of the MCMC samples. Top panel: estimator of the integrated autocorrelation time versus the number of iterations. The dashed horizontal lines are the integrated autocorrelation time in an iteration-number unit for the model parameters after 10\(^6\) iterations with 46 walkers; the burn-in phase is lower than ten times the maximum of these values. Bottom panel: acceptance fraction versus the number of iterations. The mean of the walkers’ acceptance fractions (dotted line) converges after the burn-in phase.

**C.6. Quiescent luminosity**

We used the CIAO tool aprates to compute the source count rate in the 2–8 keV energy band during our observations and excluding the flare time interval, which led to a live time of \(\sim 72\,000\) s. The source-plus-background aperture centered on the source position had an area of \(\sim 2.4''^2\) and corresponding to a PSF fraction of 90\% at 1.49 keV. The background aperture was a \(\sim 2''5 \times \sim 30''\) annulus centered on the source position where the neighbor source region was excluded with an area of \(\sim 2700''^2\), corresponding to a PSF fraction of 0.9\% at 1.49 keV. The total counts in source-plus-background and background apertures were 1 (at 3.0 keV) and 304, respectively. Inside the source-plus-background aperture, we estimated a quiescent source count rate of 0.011 count ks\(^{-1}\) (0–0.575 count ks\(^{-1}\), 90\% C.I.).

From a tabls\(^{11}\)vpec model with \(N_{\text{H}} = 7.0 \times 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-2}\) and a typical plasma quiescent temperature \((kT = 1\, \text{keV})\), we determined, using XSPEC, that the aperture corrected, observed
Table C.2. Markov chain Monte Carlo results on the flare time interval.

| Parameter name                          | Symbol | Value       | Unit          |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|-------------|---------------|
| Hydrogen column density                 | $N_{\text{HX}}$ | 7.0         | 3.9–10.5 10$^{23}$ cm$^{-2}$ |
| Temperature                             | $kT$   | 4.1         | 1.3–17.8 keV  |
| Emission measure                        | EM     | 2.1         | 0.5–32.5 10$^{54}$ cm$^{-3}$ |
| Hard-band intrinsic luminosity          | $L_{\text{X,int}}(2–8 \text{ keV})$ | 1.7 | 0.7–7.2 10$^{33}$ erg s$^{-1}$ |
| Soft-band intrinsic luminosity          | $L_{\text{X,int}}(0.5–2 \text{ keV})$ | 1.2 | 0.3–22.7 10$^{33}$ erg s$^{-1}$ |
| Full-band intrinsic luminosity          | $L_{\text{X,int}}(0.5–8 \text{ keV})$ | 3.0 | 0.9–29.9 10$^{33}$ erg s$^{-1}$ |
| Line flux                                | Flux($\text{Fe 6.4 keV}$) | 6.1 | 1.7–14.1 10$^{-6}$ ph cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ |
| Equivalent width                        | EW($\text{Fe 6.4 keV}$) | 1.1 | 0.2–3.1 keV |
| Total count number                      | $N(\text{Fe 6.4 keV})$ | 5.1 | 1.4–10.8 counts |

Notes. (a) Assuming a distance of 420 pc (Safron et al. 2015).

Appendix D: SOAR Spartan data

D.1. Observations

The Spartan observations are listed in Table D.1.

D.2. Data reduction

An end-to-end pipeline, THELI\[14\] (version 1.9.5; Schirmer 2013), was used for the reduction of the calibration and flux and absorption-corrected luminosity were lower than 2.0 × 10$^{-15}$ erg cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ and 2.0 × 10$^{30}$ erg s$^{-1}$ in the 2–8 keV energy band, respectively.

Fig. C.4. X-ray spectrum of HOPS 383 and Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) models. Top panel: source-plus-background extracted cumulative spectrum (gold) and median MCMC model (green), 6.4 keV Gaussian emission line with median MCMC model (cyan), and a random subset of 200 MCMC models (gray). Bottom panel: model-minus-data residuals.

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\[14\] https://www.astro.uni-bonn.de/theli/
observation data (Table D.1) obtained with det3, including astrometry with Sextractor (Bertin & Arnouts 1996) and SWarp (Bertin et al. 2002). We wrote a custom IDL program to automatically detect and correct, in the dark and flat-field corrected frames, any residual bulk images that were produced by bright stars, close to saturation in the raw frames. In each raw frame, this program identified any saturated regions centered on bright stars and looked at these detector positions in the subsequent calibrated frames for any excess above the sky level by fitting a constant level or a parabola (based on an F-test). These excesses were then subtracted or masked when too close to a source. These calibrated and corrected images were registered using the 2MASS catalog and stacked using median values and a pixel scale of 0″.5.

In the $H_2$ narrow-band filter image, the shocked molecular hydrogen emission has a higher S/N compared to the K-band image. We produce for validation a pure $H_2$ emission image by subtracting the $K$-band image scaled by a factor that we obtain by minimizing the residuals on stars in the final image (Navarrete et al. 2015).

### Appendix E: Density model

We started from the protostellar model of HOPS 383, which is composed of an accretion disk in an infalling envelope with bipolar cavities (Furlan et al. 2016). The fixed parameters in this model grid (Table 3 of Furlan et al. 2016) that was computed with the Monte Carlo radiative transfer code, t-tsre (2008 version; Whitney et al. 2003) were:

- the stellar mass ($M_\star = 0.5 M_\odot$),
- the stellar effective temperature ($T_\star = 4000$ K),
- the disk mass ($M_{\text{disk}} = 0.05 M_\odot$),
- the magneto-spheric truncation radius of the gas disk ($R_{\text{trunc}} = 3 R_\star$),
- the dust-disk inner radius (set to the dust sublimation radius, $R_{\text{sub}}/R_\star = (T_{\text{sub}}/T_\star)^{2/7} = 6.8$ where $T_{\text{sub}} = 1600$ K is the dust sublimation temperature; Whitney et al. 2003),
- the scale height of the disk at the dust sublimation radius (set to the hydrostatic equilibrium solution; Eq. (35) of D'Alessio et al. 1998),
- the mean molecular mass per hydrogen nucleus ($\mu = 2.3$),
- the radial ($A = 2.25$) and vertical ($B = 1.25$) exponent in disk density law,
- the fractional area of the hot spots on the star ($f_{\text{spot}} = 0.01$),
- the envelope outer radius ($R_{\text{env}} = 10000$ au),
- the centrifugal radius of the envelope ($R_c = R_{\text{disk}}$),
- the exponent of the cavity polynomial shape ($b_{\text{cav}} = 1.5$),

The best-fit parameters for HOPS 383 (Table 1 of Furlan et al. 2016) were:

- the stellar radius ($R_\star = 6.61 R_\odot$),
- the disk outer radius ($R_{\text{disk}} = 5$ au; we note that the opacity was dominated by the envelope in these SED models, which did not directly constrain the size of the disk; Furlan et al. 2016),
- the envelope (gas and dust) density at 1000 au ($d_{1000} = 1.78 \times 10^{-17}$ g cm$^{-3}$) and, as $d_{1000} \propto M_{\text{env}}$, the envelope infall rate ($M_{\text{env}} = 7.48 \times 10^{-5} M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$),
- the cavity opening angle ($\theta = 45^\circ$),
- the stellar luminosity ($L_\star = 10 L_\odot$),
- the total (star and accretion) luminosity ($L_{\text{tot}} = s < 30.2 L_\odot = 55.49 L_\odot$, where $s = 1.84$ is the luminosity scaling factor to match the observed SED flux, Eq. (3) of Furlan et al. 2016),
- the inclination angle ($i = 69.5^\circ$; corresponding in the model grid to $\cos i = 0.35$ with a sampling step of 0.1), and
- the foreground cloud extinction ($A_{V,\text{cloud}} = 14$ mag; corresponding to $N_{H_2,\text{cloud}} = 14 \times 10^{21}$ cm$^{-2}$, as $N_{H_2,\text{cloud}}/A_{V,\text{cloud}} = 1.0 \times 10^{21}$ cm$^{-2}$ mag$^{-1}$ in Furlan et al. 2016).

To be consistent with the luminosity scaling factor ($s$), we introduced $s'$, a scaling factor for the disk-to-star accretion rate ($\dot{M}_{\text{disk}}$). Indeed, the above values of $R_\star$ ($6.61 R_\odot$), $L_\star$ ($10 L_\odot$), and $L_{\text{tot}} = L_\star + L_{\text{acc}}$ (30.2 $L_\odot$) correspond in the model grid to $M_{\text{disk}} = 1.14 \times 10^{-5} M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$, since $L_{\text{acc}} \propto M_{\text{disk}}$, we set $s' = 2.25$ and hence $M_{\text{disk}} = 2.57 \times 10^{-5} M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$.

The envelope density was given by Eqs. (1) and (2) of Whitney et al. (2003). We note that the bipolar cavities in Furlan et al. (2016) are free of dust (and gas); for consistency, we filled them in with gas, using a constant density ($n_{HI}$ = $2 \times 10^4$ cm$^{-3}$; Whitney et al. 2003).

The disk density was given by Eq. (3) of Whitney et al. (2003) and normalized to $M_{\text{disk}}$ from $R_{\text{trunc}}$ to $R_{\text{disk}}$ using a spherical outer boundary (Fig. 3b; this work and Fig. 2b of Whitney et al. 2003). We added accretion funnels at $R_{\text{trunc}}$, which were dust-free as located inside the dust sublimation radius, assuming for simplicity a dipole geometry for the magnetic field (Hartmann et al. 1994), and using $f_{\text{spot}}$ to compute a latitude band between the smallest and largest magnetic loops at the stellar surface. The accretion-funnel density was given by Eq. (9) of Hartmann et al. (1994).

The values of $N_{HI}$ along the line-of-sight were computed by numerically integrating these density equations. In this model grid, the gas-to-dust ratio is $R = 100$ and the protostellar dust opacity in the visible is $k_{\text{env},V} = 5.3 \times 10^3$ cm$^2$ g$^{-1}$ (Fig. 6 of Ormel et al. 2011, (ic-sil,gra) at 0.3 Myr), leading to: $N_{HI}/A_{V} = \ln 10 \times (1 + R)/(2.5 \mu m_{HI} k_{\text{env},V}) = 4.6 \times 10^{16}$ cm$^{-2}$ mag$^{-1}$ where $m_{HI}$ is the hydrogen mass. Therefore, the observed $N_{HI}$ corresponds to $A_\nu \sim 1500$ mag.

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**Notes.** We also obtained standard infrared calibration data: dark exposures and dome flat exposures with the lamp on and off to account for the thermal emission from the telescope. (a) Detector integration time. (b) Number of frame exposures with the target. (c) Total exposure of the stacked dithered frames. (d) Image quality of the stacked dithered frames.

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**Table D.1.** Log of SOAR observations with Spartan (proposal ID 2016B-0930; PI: N.G.; observers: K.H. and D.P.).

| Filter | Wavelength (microns) | Width (microns) | Start time (UT) | DIT (s) | NDIT | Exposure (s) | FWHM (arcsec) |
|--------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|---------|------|--------------|---------------|
| $K$    | 2.148               | 0.307          | 2017-12-14T01:01:22 | 179.98  | 37   | 6659.26       | 1.0           |
| $H_2$  | 2.116               | 0.031          | 2017-12-14T03:47:50 | 240.09  | 11   | 2640.99       | 1.0           |

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15 https://gemelli.colorado.edu/~bwhitney/codes/codes.html