The X-ray Emissivity of Low-Density Stellar Populations

C. O. Heinke¹, M. G. Ivanov¹, L. Chomiuk², H. N. Cohn³, S. Crothers¹, T. de Boer⁴, N. Ivanova¹, E. W. Koch¹, A. K. H. Kong⁵, N. Leigh¹⁶, P. M. Lugger³, L. Nelson⁷, C. J. Parr¹, E. W. Rosolowsky¹, A. J. Ruiter⁸, C. L. Sarazin⁹, A. W. Shaw¹, G. R. Sivakoff⁴, M. van den Berg¹⁰

¹Dept. of Physics, University of Alberta, CCIS 4-183, Edmonton, AB T6G 2E1, Canada
²Dept. of Physics & Astronomy, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, USA
³Dept. of Astronomy, Indiana University, 727 E. Third Street, Bloomington, IN 47405, USA
⁴Dept. of Physics, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 7XH, UK
⁵Institute of Astronomy, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu 30013, Taiwan
⁶Dept. of Astrophysics, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West and 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192, USA
⁷Bishop’s University, 2600 rue College, Sherbrooke, Québec J1M 1Z7, Canada
⁸ARC Future Fellow, School of Physical, Environmental and Mathematical Sciences, University of New South Wales, Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia
⁹Dept. of Astronomy, University of Virginia, PO Box 400325, Charlottesville, VA, 22904, USA
¹⁰Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, 60 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

*Corresponding author email: heinke@ualberta.ca

High-density stellar environments allow for close interactions between stars, which can lead to dense stellar remnants being placed into stellar binaries. In close orbits, matter can transfer from a normal star to the stellar remnant, producing radiation up to X-rays - for white dwarfs, these are cataclysmic variables (CVs). Observations of faint X-ray sources indicate CVs are more frequent in denser clusters and link dynamical processes with fainter X-ray binaries.¹,²,³,⁴,⁵ However, previous studies noted that the total X-ray emissivity is lower in denser environments with no unique bright X-ray sources.⁶,⁷,⁸,⁹,¹⁰,¹¹ So, either binaries are destroyed quickly in dense environments or open clusters lose a large fraction of their non-X-ray-emitting mass.¹²,¹³,¹⁴ We address this by considering the X-ray emissivity in a range of environments and densities. We find that the X-ray emissivity of environments below 10000 solar masses per parsec cubed are not density dominated. We find a significant correlation between X-ray emissivity and binary fraction and less significant correlations with metallicity and age. The available data is limited and sampling via bootstrap gives less significant correlations.

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