Drew M. Miles

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Astronomy & Astrophysics	Dec. 2021
M.S in Astronomy & Astrophysics	Dec. 2018
Penn State University, University Park, PA, USA	

B.S. in Astronomy and B.S. in Physics

University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, USA

POSITIONS HELD

Research Assistant Professor, Caltech	2024 - Present
Postdoctoral Research Associate, Caltech	2022 - 2024
NASA Space Technology Research Fellow, Penn State University	2017-2021
Graduate Research Assistant, Penn State University	2016-2017

CURRENT PROJECTS

The Faint Intergalactic-medium Redshifted Emission Balloon (FIREBall-2)

Period of Performance: 10/01/2022 - 09/30/2026

Project Funding: \$4.9M; NASA APRA

Role: Acting PI for balloon-borne multiobject UV spectrograph.

Ultraviolet Spectroscopy ... Enabled Through Nanofabrication Techniques

Period of Performance: 10/01/2022 - 09/30/2025Project Funding: \$200k Co-I funding; NASA SAT

Role: Co-I and proposal writer for UV reflection gratings development to enable future missions. Serve as calibration lead and am responsible for fabricating UV echelle gratings.

X-ray Reflection Gratings: Key Developments for the Next Decade

Period of Performance: 10/01/2023 - 09/30/2026Project Funding: \$114k Co-I funding; NASA APRA

Role: Co-I and calibration lead, responsible for beamline verification of diffraction efficiency and spectral resolution.

Observation Programs

- 1. Keck 2024A 2 nights on KCWI (PI)
- 2. Keck 2024A 4 nights on KCWI (Co-I)
- 3. Keck $2023A 2 \times 0.5$ nights on HIRES (PI)

Dec. 2015

PENDING SUPPORT

tREXS-2: The Rockets for Extended-source X-ray Spectroscopy

Period of Performance: 10/01/2024 - 09/30/2028

Project Funding: \approx \$3.8M

Role: PI

Status: To be submitted to 2023 NASA APRA solicitation

Techniques in blazed reflection gratings to enable next-generation spectroscopy

Period of Performance: 10/01/2024 - 09/30/2027

Project Funding: \approx \$1.4M

Role: PI

Status: To be submitted to 2023 NASA SAT solicitation

Nox: the 12U CubeSat Mission Concept for Characterizing LUV/FUV Background

Period of Performance: 10/01/2024 - 09/30/2026

Project Funding: ≈\$225k Co-I funding

Role: Co-I

Status: To be submitted to 2023 NASA APRA solicitation

SELECT PAST PROJECTS

Rockets for Extended-source Soft-X-ray Spectroscopy

Period of Performance: 01/01/2018 - 12/31/2023

Project Funding: \$4.1M

Role: Acting PI and instrument designer

Development of Grating Technology for High-resolution Spectrometers Using Nanofabrication Techniques

Period of Performance 08/01/2017 - 07/31/2021

Project Funding: \$296k

Role: Fellow

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Live Instruction

Astronomy Communication (ASTRO 297), Instructor	Fall 2020
$SRTE\ Instructor\ Effectiveness:\ Mean=6.9/7$	
$SRTE\ Course\ Effectiveness:\ Mean=6.6/7$	
Certificate in Online Teaching St	ımmer 2020
Astronomical Universe (ASTRO 001), Guest Lecturer	2018-2019
Observational Astronomy (ASTRO 320), TA & Lab Lead	Fall 2016
Teaching Workshops	
How to Design Courses to Increase Student Learning and Promote Academic Integrity	\sim 2024
How Learning Works	2024
The Effects of Stereotypes and Deficit Mindset on Learning	2023
Flipped Classroom: Effective Active Learning in Large Classes	2023
Creating Dynamic and Engaging Lectures	2023
Setting Intentions for Student Learning	2022

Increasing Student Engagement and Motivation	2022
SELECT FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS Presidential Management Fellow, U.S. Office of Personnel Management NASA Space Technology Research Fellowship, NASA Rising Star in Aerospace, MIT/Stanford/UC-Boulder Rising Stars Program	2022 - 2023 $2017 - 2021$ 2021
Downsbrough Graduate Fellowship for Outstanding Success, Penn State University NASA Pennsylvania Space Grant Graduate Fellowship, Penn State University Newport Award for Outstanding Achievement, SPIE Braddock/Roberts Fellowship, Penn State University Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates Fellow, University of Iowa	2019 - 2020 $2017 - 2018$ 2017 2016 2015
MENTORING & ADVISING	
Graduate Students	
3	022 – Present 018 – Present
Undergraduate Students Vincent Smedile, Thesis: "Soft X-ray Source Modeling of the Cygnus Loop" Outcome: Honor's thesis, graduate school in Astronomy	2022 - 2023
Natalie Zinski, Instrument Modeling	2020 - 2021
Outcome: Position in industry Logan Baker, tREXS Sounding Rocket Instrument	2019 - 2021
Outcome: Graduate school in Aerospace Engineering Joseph Weston, tREXS Sounding Rocket Instrument Outcome: Position in industry	2018 - 2020
Christopher Hillman, WRX Sounding Rocket Instrument	2017 - 2018
Outcome: Position in industry Tyler Steiner, Nanofabrication and Data Analysis Outcome: Graduate school in Nuclear Engineering	2016 - 2017
SELECT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	
	023 - Present 022 - Present 2020 - 2021 2020 - 2021 2017 - 2021 2017

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Deputy Secretary, AAS HEAD	2023 - Present
Member, Habitable Worlds Observatory UV Tech Working Group	2023 - Present
Member, New Great Observatories SAG	2023 - Present
Member, Science Analysis Group on Astrophysics With Equity	2023 - Present
Reviewer, Journal of Astronomical Telescopes, Instruments, and Systems	2022 - Present
Division representative, Caltech Postdoctoral Association	2022 - Present
Reviewer, AAS Prize Panel	2022 - Present
Member, LEM CGM and All-sky Survey Working Groups	2022 - Present
Member, AXIS Probe Instrument Working Group	2022 - Present
Review Panel, NASA APRA	2022
Graduate Student Service, Dept. of Astronomy, Penn State University	
Representative for the Graduate Student Body	2020 - 2021
Co-Chair of Graduate Student Recruitment	2018 - 2020
Co-Representative to Graduate Program	2018 - 2020
Representative on Facilities & Safety Committee	2016 - 2018
Member, Lynx Instrument Working Group	2017 - 2021
AAS Chambliss Poster Judge	2019
Research Symposium Reviewer, College of Engineering, Penn State University	2018
Member, American Astronomical Society and SPIE	2015 - Present

TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Oral Presentations

1.	Diffraction grating nanofabrication for astronomy instruments Pasadena City College - Invited	2023
2.	The Faint Intergalactic-medium Redshifted Emission Balloon NASA UV Program Review - Invited	2023
3.	FIREBall-2: The Faint Intergalactic-medium Redshifted Emission Balloon AAS 241st Meeting, Seattle, WA	2023
4.	Grating spectrographs for extended-source X-ray astronomy Marshall Space Flight Center - Invited	2023
5.	An extended-source grating spectrograph for suborbital rockets and small satellite Astronomical X-ray Optics Workshop	2022
6.	$Observing\ diffuse\ astronomical\ sources\ of\ high-energy\ emission\ with\ suborbital\ instrumed astronomical\ Society\ of\ Long\ Island\ -\ Invited$	ents 2022
7.	$Enabling\ new\ observations\ of\ diffuse\ astrophysical\ emission\ with\ state-of-the-art\ grating\ nology$ Montana State University Physics Colloquium - Invited	tech-
8.	Reflection grating fabrication for space-based astronomy instruments NASA JPL Microdevices Laboratory Seminar - Invited	2022
9.	The Rockets for Extended-source X-ray Spectroscopy AAS HEAD 19, Pittsburgh, PA	2022

10.	An update on the Rockets for Extended-source X-ray Spectroscopy SPIE Optics & Photonics, San Diego, CA	2021
11.	The Rockets for Extended-source X-ray Spectroscopy Joint Astrophysics/Space Physics Seminar, The University of Iowa - Invited	2021
12.	$Potential\ UV/X-ray\ SETI\ Applications$ The Penn State Extraterrestrial Intelligence Center - Invited	2020
13.	The Rocket for Extended-source X-ray Spectroscopy SPIE Optics & Photonics, San Diego, CA	2019
14.	Blazed x-ray reflection gratings using electron-beam lithography and ion milling SPIE Advanced Lithography, San Jose, CA; Substitute Speaker: Fabien Grisè	2019
15.	The Lynx X-ray reflection grating spectrometer AAS 233rd Meeting, Seattle, WA; Substitute for R. L. McEntaffer	2019
16.	An update on X-ray reflection gratings AAS 231st Meeting, Washington D.C.	2018
17.	An introduction to the Water Recovery X-ray Rocket SPIE Optics & Photonics, San Diego, CA	2018
18.	Diffraction efficiency of a large-scale, replicated X-ray reflection grating Penn State University Astrophysics Seminar - Invited	2017
19.	Suborbital rockets for X-ray astronomy Penn State University Black Holes Workshop - Invited	2017
20.	Penn State's sounding rocket program Penn State University Astronomy Board of Visitors Annual Meeting - Invited	2017
21.	X-ray astronomy and Penn State's sounding rocket program Central Pennsylvania Observers Amateur Astronomy Club - Invited	2017
22.	Diffraction efficiency of a replicated, flight-like off-plane reflection grating baselined for X-ray missions AAS 229th Meeting, Grapevine, TX	future 2017
23.	Low-cost, spaceborne soft X-ray astronomy missions The Open University, United Kingdom - Invited	2016
24.	Diffraction efficiency of radially-profiled off-plane reflection gratings SPIE Optics & Photonics, San Diego, CA	2015
Post	ter Presentations	
1.	FIREBall-2: The Faint Intergalactic-medium Redshifted Emission Balloon Scientific Ballooning Technologies Workshop	2023
2.	The Rockets for Extended-source X-ray Spectroscopy NASA Sounding Rocket Symposium, Wallops Flight Facility, VA	2022
3.	Reflection grating fabrication via electron-beam lithography and ion-beam etching SPIE Astronomical Telescopes and Instrumentation, Montreal, Canada	2022
4.	Astronomical X-ray reflection gratings and the Rockets for Extended-source X-ray Spectr AAS 235th Meeting, Honolulu, HI	oscopy 2020

Э.	Cornell NanoScale Facility 2019 Annual Meeting, Ithaca, NY	2019
6.	Progress in X-ray reflection grating development AAS 233rd Meeting, Seattle, WA	2019
7.	A diffuse soft X-ray spectrometer for sounding rocket Astronomical X-ray Optics Workshop, Prague, Czech Republic	2018
8.	The Water Recovery X-ray Rocket SPIE Astronomical Telescopes & Instrumentation, Austin, TX	2018
9.	The Water Recovery X-ray Rocket AAS HEAD 16th Meeting, Sun Valley, ID	2017
10.	HaloSat: a CubeSat to map the distribution of baryonic matter in the Galactic halo AAS HEAD 15th Meeting, Naples, FL	2016
11.	Off-plane X-ray diffraction grating performance and applications Iowa Undergraduate Research Festival, Iowa City, IA	2015

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PUBLICATIONS - [ORCID]

In-progress first-author publications:

- 1. **D. M. Miles** et al., "Design of the Rockets for Extended-source X-ray Spectroscopy", *J. Astron. Telesc. Instrum. Syst.*, 2023 (in prep).
- 2. **D. M. Miles** et al., "FIREBall 2(2023): The 2023 flight of the Faint Intergalactic-medium Redshifted Emission Balloon", *J. Astron. Telesc. Instrum. Syst.*, 2024 (in prep).
- 3. **D. M. Miles** et al., "The first flight of the Rockets for Extended-source X-ray Spectroscopy", *Astrophysical Journal*, 2024 (in prep).

Refereed Publications: 19; 2 first author, 7 with significant contribution, 10 with contribution

- 19. T. Brendel et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "Balloon-borne FIREBall-2 UV spectrograph stray light control based on non-sequential reverse modeling of on-sky data", *J. Astron. Telesc. Instrum. Syst.* 8(4), 048001 (2022).
- 18. N. Kruczek, **D. M. Miles**, et al., "High-efficiency echelle gratings for the Far Ultraviolet", *Applied Optics* 61, 22 (2022).
- 17. K. France et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "Extreme-ultraviolet Stellar Characterization for Atmospheric Physics and Evolution (ESCAPE) mission: motivation and overview", *J. Astron. Telesc. Instrum. Syst.* 8(1), 014006 (2022).
- 16. M. Urban, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "REX: X-ray experiment on the water recovery rocket", *Acta Astronautica* 184, 1-10 (2021).
- 15. J. A. McCoy, M. A. Verschuuren, **D. M. Miles**, & R. L. McEntaffer, "X-ray verification of sol-gel resist shrinkage in substrate-conformal imprint lithography for a replicated blazed reflection grating", *OSA Continuum* 3(11), 3141-3156 (2020).

- 14. R. C. McCurdy, **D. M. Miles**, J. A. McCoy, F. Grise, & R. L. McEntaffer, "Diffraction efficiency of a small-period astronomical X-ray reflection grating fabricated using thermally-activated selective topography equilibration", *J. Astron. Telesc. Instrum. Syst.* 6(4), 045003 (2020).
- 13. J. A. McCoy, R. L. McEntaffer, & **D. M. Miles**, "Extreme Ultraviolet and Soft X-ray Diffraction Efficiency of a Blazed Reflection Grating Fabricated by Thermally Activated Selective Topography Equilibration", *The Astrophysical Journal* 891 (2), 13 pp (2020).
- 12. D. LaRocca, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "Design and construction of the X-ray instrumentation onboard the HaloSat CubeSat", *J. Astron. Telesc. Instrum. Syst.* 6 (1), 014003 (2020).
- 11. T. Rogers, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "Induced X-ray fluorescence background for high-voltage space based detectors", Experimental Astronomy 49, 20pp (2020).
- 10. **D. M. Miles**, et al., "Water Recovery X-ray Rocket grating spectrometer", *J. Astron. Telesc. Instrum. Syst.* 5(4), 044006 (2019).
- 9. P. Kaaret, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "HaloSat A CubeSat to Study the Hot Galactic Halo", *The Astrophysical Journal* 884 (2), 11 pp (2019).
- 8. J. H. Tutt, R. L. McEntaffer, **D. M. Miles**, B. D. Donovan, & C. Hillman, "Grating alignment for the Water Recovery X-ray Rocket (WRXR)", *Journal of Astronomical Instrumentation* 08 (2), 1950009 (2019).
- 7. **D. M. Miles**, et al., "Fabrication and Diffraction Efficiency of a Large-Format, Replicated X-ray Reflection Grating", *The Astrophysical Journal* 869 (2), 12 pp (2018).
- 6. T. Rogers, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "Gaseous electron multiplier gain characteristics using low-pressure Ar/CO₂", Experimental Astronomy 43 (2), 201-210 (2017).
- 5. J. H. Tutt, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "Diffraction Efficiency Testing of Sinusoidal and Blazed Off-Plane Reflection Gratings", *Journal of Astronomical Instrumentation* 05 (3), 1650009 (2016).
- 4. H. Marlowe, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "Modeling and empirical characterization of the polarization response of off-plane reflection gratings", *Applied Optics* 55 (21), pp. 5548-5553 (2016).
- 3. C. T. DeRoo, R. L. McEntaffer, **D. M. Miles**, et al., "Line Spread Functions of Blazed Off-Plane Gratings Operated in the Littrow Mounting", Journal of Astronomical Telescopes, Instruments, and Systems 2 (2), 025001 (2016).
- 2. J.A. McCoy, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "A Primer for Telemetry Interfacing in Accordance with NASA Standards Using Low Cost FPGAs", *Journal of Astronomical Instrumentation* 05 (01), 1640002 (2016).
- 1. H. Marlowe, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "Performance Testing of an Off-Plane Reflection Grating and Silicon Pore Optic Spectrograph at PANTER", Journal of Astronomical Telescopes, Instruments, and Systems 1 (4), 045004 (2015).

Conference Proceedings: 24; 6 first author, 5 with significant contribution, 13 with contribution

24. V. Picouet, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "FIREBall-2: flight preparation of a proven balloon payload to image the intermediate redshift circumgalactic medium", *Proc. ESA Symposium on European Rocket and Balloon Programmes*, 25th ESA PAC Symposium, 2022.

- 23. **D. M. Miles**, R. L. McEntaffer, and F. Grisé, "Blazed reflection gratings with electron-beam lithography and ion-beam etching", *Proc. SPIE 12181* Space Telescopes and Instrumentation 2022: UV to Gamma Ray, 1218153 (2022).
- 22. **D. M. Miles et al.**, "An update on the rockets for extended-source X-ray spectroscopy", *Proc. SPIE 11821* UV, X-ray, and Gamma-Ray Space Instrumentation for Astronomy XXII, 118210K (2021).
- 21. J. H. Tutt, **D. M. Miles**, et al., "Developments of the focal plane camera for tREXS", *Proc. SPIE 11821* UV, X-ray, and Gamma-Ray Space Instrumentation for Astronomy XXII, 118210V (2021).
- 20. N. Kruczek, F. Grisé, **D. M. Miles**, et al., "Performance of anistotropically-etched gratings in the extreme and far ultraviolet bandpasses", *Proc. SPIE 11821* UV, X-ray, and Gamma-Ray Space Instrumentation for Astronomy XXII, 118210X (2021).
- 19. F. Grisé, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "Fabrication of custom astronomical gratings for the extreme and far ultraviolet bandpasses", *Proc. SPIE 11821* UV, X-ray, and Gamma-Ray Space Instrumentation for Astronomy XXII, 1182112 (2021).
- 18. B. Fleming, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "Opto-mechanical design of the ESCAPE Small Explorer: an EUV spectrograph for exoplanet host star irradiance and CME activity", *Proc. SPIE 11821* UV, X-ray, and Gamma-Ray Space Instrumentation for Astronomy XXII, 1182104 (2021).
- 17. K. France, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "The ESCAPE mission overview: exploring the stellar drivers of exoplanet habitability", *Proc. SPIE 11821* UV, X-ray, and Gamma-Ray Space Instrumentation for Astronomy XXII, 1182103 (2021).
- 16. K. France, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "EUV spectroscopy with the ESCAPE mission: exploring the stellar drivers of exoplanet habitability", *Proc. SPIE 11444* Space Telescopes and Instrumentation 2020: Ultraviolet to Gamma Ray, 1144405 (2020).
- 15. **D. M. Miles**, et al., "An introduction to the Rockets for Extended-source X-ray Spectroscopy", *Proc. SPIE 11118* UV, X-Ray, and Gamma-Ray Space Instrumentation for Astronomy XXI, 111180B (2019).
- 14. K. France, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "The Extreme-ultraviolet Stellar Characterization for Atmospheric Physics and Evolution (ESCAPE) mission concept", *Proc. SPIE 11118* UV, X-Ray, and Gamma-Ray Space Instrumentation for Astronomy XXI, 1111808 (2019).
- 13. R. McCurdy, R. L. McEntaffer, J. McCoy, & **D. M. Miles**, "Fabrication and diffraction efficiency of a 160-nm period X-ray reflection grating produced using thermally activated selective topography equilibration", *Proc. SPIE 11119* Optics for EUV, X-ray, and Gamma-Ray Astronomy IX, 111190Y (2019).
- 12. J. H. Tutt, **D. M. Miles**, et al., "The Focal Plane Camera for tREXS", *Proc. SPIE 11118* UV, X-Ray, and Gamma-Ray Space Instrumentation for Astronomy XXI, 111180C (2019).
- 11. M. Wages, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "Flight camera package design, calibration and performance for the Water Recovery X-ray Rocket mission", *Proc. SPIE 11118* UV, X-Ray, and Gamma-Ray Space Instrumentation for Astronomy XXI, 111180D (2019).
- 10. P. Kaaret, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "First Results from HaloSat A CubeSat to Study the Hot Galactic Halo", *Proc. of AIAA/USU* Conference on Small Satellites, Upcoming Missions, Year in Review I, SSC19-III-05 (2019).

- 9. **D. M. Miles**, et al., "Grating design for the Water Recovery X-ray Rocket", *Proc. SPIE* 10699 Space Telescopes and Instrumentation 2018: Ultraviolet to Gamma Ray, 106996K (2018).
- 8. A. Zajczyk, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "HaloSat: a search for missing baryons with a CubeSat", *Proc. of AIAA/USU* Conference on Small Satellites, Upcoming Missions, Year in Review, SSC18-WKIX-01 (2018).
- 7. **D. M. Miles**, et al., "An Introduction to the Water Recovery X-ray Rocket", *Proc. SPIE* 10397 UV, X-Ray, and Gamma-Ray Space Instrumentation for Astronomy XX, 103970R (2017).
- 6. J. E. Hill, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "The x-ray polarimeter instrument on board the Polarimeter for Relativistic Astrophysical X-ray Sources (PRAXyS) mission", *Proc. SPIE* 9905 Space Telescopes and Instrumentation 2016: Ultraviolet to Gamma Ray, 99051B (2016).
- 5. **D. M. Miles**, et al., "Diffraction efficiency of radially-profiled off-plane reflection gratings", *Proc. SPIE 9603* Optics for EUV, X-ray and Gamma-Ray Astronomy VII, 960316 (2015).
- 4. H. Marlowe, R. L. McEntaffer, C. DeRoo, **D. M. Miles**, et al., "Polarization sensitivity testing of off-plane reflection gratings", *Proc. SPIE 9603* Optics for EUV, X-ray and Gamma-Ray Astronomy VII, 960318 (2015).
- 3. T. J. Peterson, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "Off-plane x-ray reflection grating fabrication", *Proc. SPIE 9603* Optics for EUV, X-ray and Gamma-Ray Astronomy VII, 960317 (2015).
- 2. T. Rogers, T. Schultz, J. McCoy, **D. Miles**, et al., "First results from the OGRESS sounding rocket payload", *Proc. SPIE 9601* UV, X-ray and Gamma-Ray Space Instrumentation for Astronomy XIX, 960104 (2015).
- 1. J. H. Tutt, et al. (inc. **D. M. Miles**), "Developments in the EM-CCD camera for OGRE", *Proc. SPIE 9154* High Energy, Optical, and Infrared Detectors for Astronomy VI, 91540E (2014).