

# CHANDRA AND HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE STUDY OF THE GLOBULAR CLUSTER NGC 288<sup>1</sup>

ALBERT K. H. KONG,<sup>2</sup> CEES BASSA,<sup>3</sup> DAVID POOLEY,<sup>4,5</sup> WALTER H. G. LEWIN,<sup>2</sup> LEE HOMER,<sup>6</sup>  
 FRANK VERBUNT,<sup>3</sup> SCOTT F. ANDERSON,<sup>6</sup> AND BRUCE MARGON<sup>7</sup>

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## ABSTRACT

We report on the *Chandra X-Ray Observatory* observations of the globular cluster NGC 288. We detect four X-ray sources within the core radius and seven additional sources within the half-mass radius down to a limiting luminosity of  $L_X = 7 \times 10^{30}$  ergs s<sup>-1</sup> (assuming cluster membership) in the 0.3–7 keV band. We also observed the cluster with the *Hubble Space Telescope* Advanced Camera for Surveys and identify optical counterparts to seven X-ray sources out of the nine sources within the *HST* field of view. Based on the X-ray and optical properties, we find 2–5 candidates of cataclysmic variables (CVs) or chromospherically active binaries and 2–5 background galaxies inside the half-mass radius. Since the core density of NGC 288 is very low, the number of faint X-ray sources of NGC 288 found in the *Chandra* and *HST* observations is higher than the prediction on the basis of the collision frequency. We suggest that the CVs and chromospherically active binaries are primordial in origin, in agreement with the theoretical expectation.

*Subject headings:* binaries: close — globular clusters: individual (NGC 288) — novae, cataclysmic variables — X-rays: binaries

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The number of bright X-ray sources, with luminosities greater than  $10^{36}$  ergs s<sup>-1</sup>, per star has been estimated to be  $\sim 100$  times as large in Galactic globular clusters as in the Galactic disk (Katz 1975; Clark 1975). A population of dim sources, with X-ray luminosities less than about  $10^{34.5}$  ergs s<sup>-1</sup>, was discovered later (Hertz & Grindlay 1983; see also Verbunt 2001). The result by Pooley et al. (2003) suggests that the number of dim sources with  $L_{0.5-6 \text{ keV}} > 4 \times 10^{30}$  ergs s<sup>-1</sup> scales roughly with the number of close stellar encounters in a cluster and that the incidence per star of dim X-ray sources is also higher in globular clusters than in the Galactic disk. There is evidence, from X-ray bursts associated with the nuclear burning of accreted matter, that the bright sources are neutron stars that are accreting matter from a companion. Although some of the dim sources may be neutron stars or even black holes in quiescence, it is likely that a majority of these, especially those with the lowest luminosities, are accreting white dwarfs and X-ray active main-sequence/subgiant binaries (see, e.g., Pooley et al. 2003; Verbunt & Lewin 2006; Heinke et al. 2005).

To identify faint X-ray sources in globular clusters, the *Chandra X-Ray Observatory* and *Hubble Space Telescope* (*HST*) are absolutely essential, because the density of X-ray sources is expected to be high and subarcsecond spatial resolution is required to search for reliable optical counterparts in such crowded regions. Since the

launch of *Chandra*, four globular clusters dominated by faint X-ray sources have been studied in detail with *Chandra* and *HST*: 47 Tuc (Grindlay et al. 2001a; Heinke et al. 2005), NGC 6397 (Grindlay et al. 2001b), NGC 6752 (Pooley et al. 2002a), and M4 (Bassa et al. 2004). Of these faint X-ray sources, many are believed to be cataclysmic variables (CVs) and X-ray active binaries (e.g., RS CVn and BY Dra systems). There are also quiescent low-mass X-ray binaries (qLMXBs; Heinke et al. 2003a and references therein) and millisecond pulsars (Edmonds et al. 2001; Grindlay et al. 2001b; Bassa et al. 2004).

We report here new *Chandra* and *HST* observations of the globular cluster NGC 288. NGC 288 is a globular cluster with a fairly low central density ( $\log \rho_0 = 1.8 L_\odot \text{ pc}^{-3}$ ; Djorgovski 1993) with a core radius of  $85''$  and a half-mass radius of  $2.25'$  (Trager et al. 1993). The distance to this cluster is estimated at 8.4 kpc (Peterson 1993). The reddening is quite low with  $E(B - V) = 0.03$ , corresponding to a neutral hydrogen column  $N_H = 1.6 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  (Predehl & Schmitt 1995). NGC 288 is located close to the southern Galactic pole ( $l = 152^\circ 28'$ ,  $b = -89^\circ 38'$ ), and thus we are looking directly out of the plane. As such, there will not be many foreground objects at optical and X-ray wavelengths. The cluster center is given by Webbink (1985) as R.A. =  $00^{\text{h}}52^{\text{m}}45^{\text{s}}.3$  and decl. =  $-26^\circ 34'43''$  (J2000.0). The absolute visual magnitude of NGC 288 is  $-6.7$  (Harris 1996, version of 2003 February). An exceptionally high concentration of blue stragglers and binary systems in the core of NGC 288 suggests that the blue stragglers' production mechanism via binary evolution can be very efficient (Bolte 1992; Bellazzini et al. 2002). In the X-ray wave band, NGC 288 has only been observed with the *Röntgensatellit* (*ROSAT*) High Resolution Imager (HRI; Sarazin et al. 1999). From the *ROSAT* data, only one X-ray source was within the half-mass radius (Sarazin et al. 1999).

In § 2 we describe our *Chandra* observations and analysis of NGC 288. We discuss the *HST* observations in § 3 and source identification in § 4. A discussion and comparison with other globular clusters is given in § 5.

## 2. X-RAY OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

NGC 288 was observed with *Chandra* for 55 ks on 2003 February 6 (ObsID 3777). The telescope aim point is on the

<sup>1</sup> Based on observations made with the NASA/ESA *Hubble Space Telescope*, obtained at the Space Telescope Science Institute, which is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., under NASA contract NAS5-26555. These observations are associated with programs 10120 and 9959.

<sup>2</sup> Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139; akong@space.mit.edu.

<sup>3</sup> Astronomical Institute, Utrecht University, P.O. Box 80000, 3508 TA, Utrecht, Netherlands.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Astronomy, University of California, 601 Campbell Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-3411.

<sup>5</sup> *Chandra* Fellow.

<sup>6</sup> Department of Astronomy, University of Washington, Box 351580, Seattle, WA 98195.

<sup>7</sup> Space Telescope Science Institute, 3700 San Martin Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218.

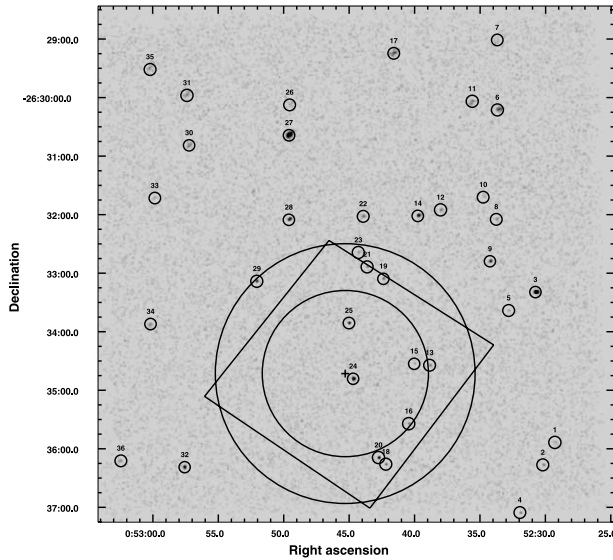


FIG. 1.— *Chandra* ACIS-S3 0.3–7 keV image of NGC 288. The image was smoothed with a Gaussian function. The large circle represents the half-mass radius, and the inner circle is the core radius. The cluster center is marked by a cross. The square is the field of view of the *HSTACS*. The detected X-ray sources are marked and numbered.

Advanced CCD Imaging Spectrometer (ACIS) back-illuminated S3 chip. Data were telemetered in faint mode and were collected with a frame transfer time of 3.2 s. The  $\sim 8 \times 8$  arcmin<sup>2</sup> S3 chip covers the entire cluster half-mass radius. In this paper, we only focus on the data taken with the S3 chip.

### 2.1. Data Reduction

The data reduction and analysis was done with CIAO, version 3.2.2, and ACIS Extract<sup>8</sup> (Broos et al. 2002). We reprocessed the level 1 event files with CALDB 3.1.0. In order to reduce the instrumental background, only data with *ASCA* (*Advanced Satellite for Cosmology and Astrophysics*) grades of 0, 2, 3, 4, and 6 were included. Only events with photon energies in the range of 0.3–7.0 keV were included in our analysis. We also inspected the background count rates from the S1 chip; about 6 ks was eliminated due to a high background count rate (count rate  $> 2$  counts s<sup>-1</sup>). The effective exposure time for the observation after filtering for background flares was 49 ks.

### 2.2. Source Detection

Discrete sources in the *Chandra* images were found with wavdetect (Freeman et al. 2002) together with exposure maps. We performed source detection on the 0.3–1, 1–2, 2–7, and 0.3–7 keV images. We set the detection threshold to be  $10^{-6}$ , corresponding to less than one false detection due to statistical fluctuations in the background. For each of the four energy band images, we performed source detection using sequences of wavelet scales that increased by a factor of  $\sqrt{2}$  from scales 1 to 16. We then combined the four source lists into a master source list. A total of 36 X-ray sources were detected. Figure 1 shows the detected X-ray sources on the ACIS-S3 chip. Source counts in the three band passes were extracted from polygonal extraction regions that approximate 90% of the *Chandra* point-spread function (PSF).

Background was extracted from a circle centered on each source but excluding the 99% contour of the PSF around any point source.

Table 1 lists the 36 *Chandra* sources in our catalog, sorted in order of increasing right ascension. The columns give the source number, the position (J2000.0), the net counts in the three energy bands (soft, 0.3–1 keV; medium, 1–2 keV; hard, 2–7 keV), and the 0.5–2.5 and 0.3–7 keV unabsorbed fluxes. The conversion to fluxes assumes an absorbed power-law spectrum with a photon index of 2 and  $N_H = 1.6 \times 10^{20}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>. If we assume a thermal bremsstrahlung model with  $kT = 10$  keV, then the flux will be  $\sim 10\%$  higher than that of the power-law model. It is worth noting that CX 15 is a very soft X-ray source with all photons coming from the 0.3–1 keV band. If we assume a power-law model and that the counts are from the whole 0.3–7 keV range, then the flux will be underestimated. Therefore, for CX 15, we convert the flux by assuming counts from 0.3–1 keV only. For the power-law model, the resulting 0.3–7 keV unabsorbed flux is  $1.5 \times 10^{-15}$  ergs cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. If we assume a blackbody model with  $kT = 0.1$  keV, then the flux will be  $7.8 \times 10^{-14}$  ergs cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. The detection limit in the 0.5–2 keV band of our observation is about  $3.2 \times 10^{-16}$  ergs cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. We estimated the number of background sources using *Chandra* Deep Field data (Brandt et al. 2001). Using the log  $N$ –log  $S$  distribution derived from the deep field data, between 26 and 36 sources out of the 36 sources are background objects in the ACIS-S3 data. Within the half-mass radius, there are 11 sources, and 7–9 sources are estimated to be background. For an expected number of 9 background sources, the probability of finding 11 or more background sources is 30%. Thus, we cannot exclude that all our sources are background sources. Indeed, in the *Chandra* image shown in Figure 1 the surface number density is not noticeably higher within the half-mass radius than outside it.

### 2.3. X-Ray Colors and Spectral Fitting

Many of the sources in our catalog have  $< 100$  counts, which makes it difficult to derive spectral parameters with meaningful constraints. However, hardness ratios can give a crude indication of the X-ray spectra in these cases. We therefore computed the hardness ratios for all the detected sources. These ratios were based on the source counts in three energy bands:  $S$  (0.3–1.0 keV),  $M$  (1–2 keV), and  $H$  (2–7 keV). The two hardness ratios are defined as  $HR1 = (M - S)/(M + S)$  and  $HR2 = (H - S)/(H + S)$ . Figure 2 shows the color-color diagram (*left*) and the color-magnitude diagram (*right*) of all X-ray sources detected in the ACIS-S3 chip. We have overlaid the color-color diagram with four lines showing the tracks followed by representative spectra with differing values of  $N_H$ . Note that the colors in the color-magnitude diagram were chosen to be consistent with previous work (e.g., Pooley et al. 2002b; Heinke et al. 2003a; Bassa et al. 2004).

We extracted the energy spectra for the brightest three X-ray sources that have  $\geq 200$  counts and fitted them to simple one-component spectral models including absorbed power-law and thermal bremsstrahlung models. In order to employ  $\chi^2$  statistics, all spectra were grouped into at least 15 counts per spectral bin. We forced  $N_H$  to be  $\geq 1.6 \times 10^{20}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>, the cluster  $N_H$  derived from optical studies. All spectra can be fitted equally well with both models. Table 2 summarizes the spectral fits. For CX 3, the  $N_H$  converged to values much lower than the cluster  $N_H$  derived from optical studies. For the other two sources, the  $N_H$  of the thermal bremsstrahlung model is slightly higher than the cluster value, while it is much higher for the power-law model. The temperatures of the thermal bremsstrahlung model vary between

<sup>8</sup> See [http://www.astro.psu.edu/xray/docs/TARA/ae\\_users\\_guide.html](http://www.astro.psu.edu/xray/docs/TARA/ae_users_guide.html).

TABLE 1  
Chandra Source Properties

SOURCE		R.A. (J2000.0)	DECL. (J2000.0)	NET COUNTS			$f_{0.5-2.5}$	$f_{0.3-7}$	COUNTERPART
Name	CXOU J			Soft	Medium	Hard			
CX 1.....	005229.4–263553	00 52 29.413 (0.30)	–26 35 53.46 (0.23)	0.7	4.8	0.5	0.46	0.91	
CX 2.....	005230.3–263616	00 52 30.336 (0.21)	–26 36 16.52 (0.23)	1.7	2.8	2.6	0.54	1.07	
CX 3.....	005230.9–263319	00 52 30.909 (0.07)	–26 33 19.47 (0.04)	98.7	69.8	28.5	15.16	29.85	
CX 4.....	005232.0–263705	00 52 32.092 (0.12)	–26 37 05.36 (0.18)	0.9	11.0	5.9	1.37	2.7	
CX 5.....	005232.9–263338	00 52 32.950 (0.22)	–26 33 38.28 (0.09)	1.8	2.8	2.6	0.56	1.09	
CX 6.....	005233.8–263012	00 52 33.818 (0.24)	–26 30 12.67 (0.23)	22.7	27.2	7.4	4.43	8.68	
CX 7.....	005233.8–262901	00 52 33.838 (0.26)	–26 29 01.05 (0.68)	4.8	5.9	5.5	1.26	2.45	
CX 8.....	005233.8–263204	00 52 33.899 (0.28)	–26 32 04.80 (0.21)	4.5	0.0	5.3	0.76	1.48	
CX 9.....	005234.3–263247	00 52 34.380 (0.09)	–26 32 47.90 (0.09)	12.7	12.8	9.6	2.71	5.31	
CX 10.....	005234.8–263142	00 52 34.897 (0.39)	–26 31 42.08 (0.25)	2.4	1.6	4.1	0.33	1.22	
CX 11.....	005235.7–263003	00 52 35.748 (0.40)	–26 30 03.80 (0.14)	15.7	7.2	1.1	1.86	3.64	
CX 12.....	005238.1–263155	00 52 38.162 (0.19)	–26 31 55.14 (0.11)	1.6	0.0	13.3	1.14	2.25	
CX 13.....	005238.9–263434	00 52 38.991 (0.13)	–26 34 34.29 (0.09)	0.0	0.0	7.7	0.60	1.17	HST
CX 14.....	005239.8–263201	00 52 39.888 (0.11)	–26 32 01.33 (0.08)	9.7	15.8	13.5	3.02	5.91	
CX 15.....	005240.1–263432	00 52 40.164 (0.23)	–26 34 32.82 (0.17)	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.32, <sup>a</sup> 0.78 <sup>b</sup>	0.78, <sup>a</sup> 1.54 <sup>b</sup>	HST
CX 16.....	005240.5–263534	00 52 40.585 (0.18)	–26 35 34.32 (0.13)	2.9	4.9	4.8	0.97	1.91	
CX 17.....	005241.7–262914	00 52 41.735 (0.23)	–26 29 14.74 (0.26)	25.4	25.3	13.9	5.01	9.83	
CX 18.....	005242.3–263615	00 52 42.337 (0.10)	–26 36 15.83 (0.15)	0.0	6.9	3.8	0.83	1.62	HST
CX 19.....	005242.5–263305	00 52 42.526 (0.14)	–26 33 05.71 (0.13)	2.9	8.9	2.8	1.12	2.21	HST
CX 20.....	005242.6–263609	00 52 42.622 (0.08)	–26 36 09.08 (0.08)	8.9	8.9	7.8	1.97	3.89	HST
CX 21.....	005243.7–263253	00 52 43.764 (0.12)	–26 32 53.54 (0.12)	3.9	6.9	0.0	0.83	1.63	
CX 22.....	005244.0–263201	00 52 44.070 (0.22)	–26 32 01.78 (0.16)	8.7	3.8	1.5	1.08	2.12	
CX 23.....	005244.4–263238	00 52 44.435 (0.18)	–26 32 38.88 (0.11)	1.9	1.9	1.7	0.43	0.83	
CX 24.....	005244.8–263448	00 52 44.832 (0.03)	–26 34 48.22 (0.03)	29.9	99.9	71.8	15.64	30.56	HST, ROSAT
CX 25.....	005245.1–263351	00 52 45.158 (0.10)	–26 33 51.08 (0.06)	11.9	15.9	7.8	2.76	5.40	HST
CX 26.....	005249.6–263007	00 52 49.682 (0.25)	–26 30 07.47 (0.44)	0.0	1.4	11.2	0.97	1.91	
CX 27.....	005249.7–263038	00 52 49.731 (0.06)	–26 30 38.63 (0.05)	184.2	210.5	102.9	38.50	75.45	
CX 28.....	005249.7–263205	00 52 49.744 (0.11)	–26 32 05.28 (0.09)	2.7	16.8	19.5	3.02	5.91	
CX 29.....	005252.1–263308	00 52 52.184 (0.10)	–26 33 08.26 (0.12)	0.0	6.9	16.6	1.81	3.55	
CX 30.....	005257.3–263048	00 52 57.360 (0.18)	–26 30 48.93 (0.20)	2.2	11.4	12.6	2.03	3.97	
CX 31.....	005257.5–262957	00 52 57.519 (0.28)	–26 29 57.76 (0.24)	10.5	11.8	3.8	2.01	3.96	
CX 32.....	005257.7–263618	00 52 57.700 (0.08)	–26 36 18.90 (0.11)	42.8	5.9	0.6	3.80	7.47	
CX 33.....	005259.9–263143	00 52 59.980 (0.34)	–26 31 43.10 (0.27)	2.4	2.5	3.5	0.65	1.26	
CX 34.....	005300.3–263352	00 53 00.307 (0.19)	–26 33 52.12 (0.15)	0.0	5.7	7.4	1.02	1.99	
CX 35.....	005300.3–262931	00 53 00.341 (0.43)	–26 29 31.06 (0.45)	2.1	11.7	12.4	2.01	3.97	
CX 36.....	005302.5–263612	00 53 02.583 (0.33)	–26 36 12.27 (0.20)	0.7	5.8	3.4	0.77	1.50	

NOTES.—The positions in the table have been corrected for boresight, in that the right ascensions and declinations resulting from the *Chandra* source detection with *wavdetect* have been corrected by  $0^{\circ}137$  and  $-0^{\circ}055$ , respectively (see § 3.2). The positional uncertainties are in units of arcseconds given by *wavdetect*. The unabsorbed flux is in units of  $10^{-15}$  ergs cm $^{-2}$  s $^{-1}$  and is derived assuming a power-law model (except for CX 15) with  $N_H = 1.6 \times 10^{20}$  cm $^{-2}$  and a photon index of 2. Units of right ascension are hours, minutes, and seconds, and units of declination are degrees, arcminutes, and arcseconds.

<sup>a</sup> Assuming a blackbody model with 0.1 keV and counts from 0.3–1 keV.

<sup>b</sup> Assuming a power-law model with a photon index of 2 and counts from 0.3–1 keV.

1.7 and 7 keV, while the photon index of the power-law model is consistent with 2.

### 3. OPTICAL OBSERVATIONS

NGC 288 was observed with the *HST* Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) on 2004 September 20 (Proposal ID 10120). The observations consist of deep F435W ( $B_{435}$ ), F625W ( $r_{625}$ ), and F658N ( $H\alpha_{658}$ ) images covering the core of the cluster. The exposure times with the F435W, F625W, and F658N filters are 740, 320, and 1760 s, respectively. The ACS field of view covers the entire core radius of the cluster and about 73% of the half-mass radius (see Fig. 1). Three X-ray sources (CX 16, 18, and 20) coincide with an archival *HST* Wide Field and Planetary Camera 2 (WFPC2) observation of NGC 288. For this observation, the F255W ( $nUV_{255}$ ), F336W ( $U_{336}$ ), F555W ( $V_{555}$ ), and F814W ( $I_{814}$ ) filters were used. Exposure times were 700 s in F255W, 3760 s in F336W, 430 s in F555W, and 585 s in F814W.

### 3.1. Data Reductions and Photometry

Images of each bandpass were shifted and co-added using the MultiDrizzle package in PyRAF, with masking of cosmic rays, saturated pixels, and bad pixels. We used the combined images for correcting astrometry and identifying optical counterparts of X-ray sources in the cluster. Figure 3 shows the color *HST* ACS image of NGC 288. However, we used individual images to perform PSF photometry with the DOLPHOT package, which is adapted from HSTphot (Dolphin 2000) for the use of ACS data.<sup>9</sup> DOLPHOT is a stand-alone package for performing PSF photometry with a module for ACS data. We did not use the combined images for photometry, because drizzled images require resampling, producing suboptimal photometry. DOLPHOT can be run on multiple images of the same field and outputs the combined photometry for each filter. We first applied *acsmask*

<sup>9</sup> See <http://purcell.as.arizona.edu/~andy/dolphot>.

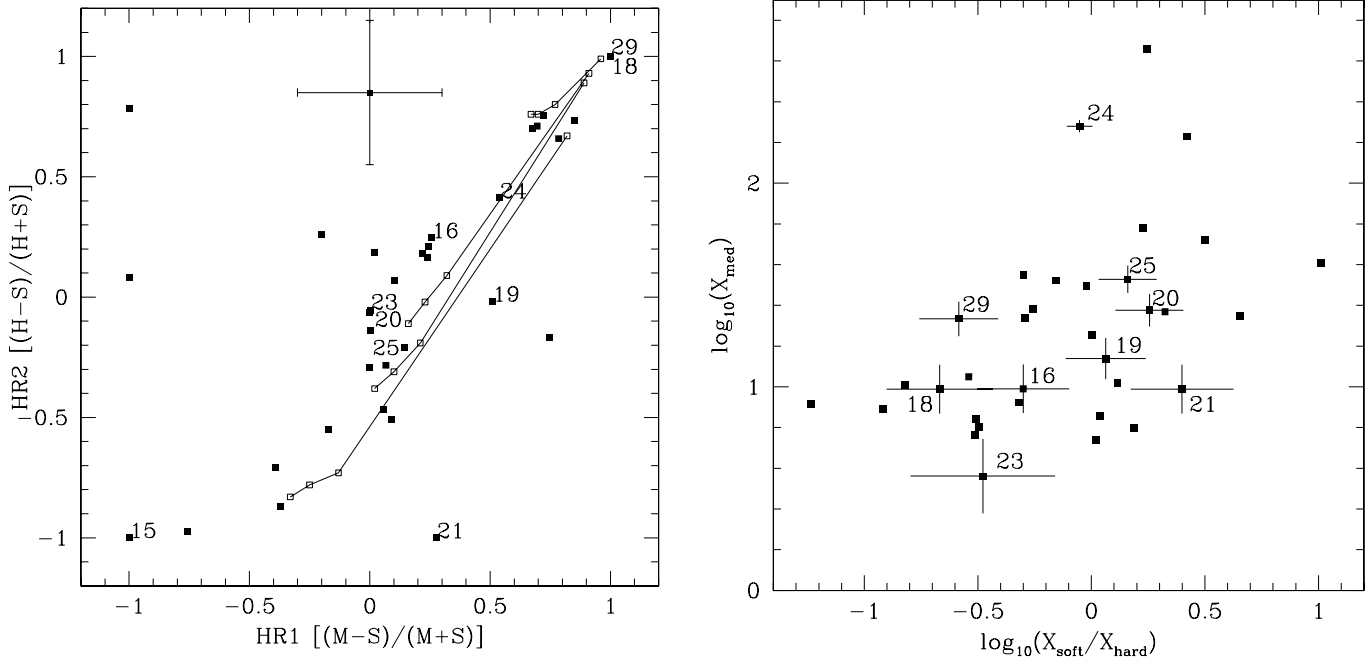


FIG. 2.—*Left*: X-ray color-color diagram of *Chandra* sources in NGC 288. The number corresponds to the source number inside the half-mass radius. Also plotted are the hardness ratios estimated from different spectral models. *Top to bottom*: Blackbody model with  $kT = 1$  keV, thermal bremsstrahlung model with  $kT = 5$  keV, and power-law models with  $\alpha = 2$  and 3. For each model,  $N_H$  (open squares) varies from the left as  $1.6 \times 10^{20}$ ,  $5 \times 10^{20}$ ,  $10^{21}$ , and  $10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ . *Right*: X-ray color-magnitude diagram of NGC 288. The X-ray color is defined as the logarithm of the ratio of 0.5–1.5 keV ( $X_{\text{soft}}$ ) counts to 1.5–6 keV ( $X_{\text{hard}}$ ) counts, and the magnitude is the logarithm of 0.5–4.5 keV ( $X_{\text{med}}$ ) counts. Sources within the half-mass radius are marked with error bars.

to mask bad pixels according to the data quality image provided by the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI). We then used *calcsky* to create sky images for background determination. Finally, we performed PSF photometry using DOLPHOT with lookup tables for the ACS PSF and produced a master list of positions and magnitudes for each star found. The final magnitudes were corrected for aperture and charge transfer efficiency effects. Additional selection criteria were applied to eliminate cosmic rays, artifacts, and “stars” lying on the diffraction spikes of the very brightest stars. The final photometry data were used to construct the color-magnitude diagrams (CMDs) shown in Figure 4. Stars are shown if they appear in all three filters.

The archival *HST* WFPC2 observation was photometered using HSTphot 1.1.5b (Dolphin 2000; see Bassa et al. 2004 for a more detailed description).

### 3.2. Astrometry

To identify optical counterparts to the *Chandra* X-ray sources in the field, we have to improve the astrometry of both data sets.

TABLE 2  
SPECTRAL FITS OF THE BRIGHTEST SOURCES

CX	Model <sup>a</sup>	$N_H^b$	$kT/\alpha$	$\chi^2_\nu/\text{dof}$	$f_{0.3-7}^c$
3.....	TB	$1.6^{+3.4}_{-0.0}$	$1.7^{+0.9}_{-0.5}$	1.3/10	22.0
	PL	$1.6^{+6.4}_{-0.0}$	$2.1^{+0.6}_{-0.2}$	1.1/10	28.0
24.....	TB	$3.0^{+1.4}_{-1.1}$	$7.0^{+21.3}_{-3.4}$	0.9/10	48.0
	PL	$35^{+1.9}_{-1.1}$	$1.7^{+0.4}_{-0.3}$	0.9/10	36.0
27.....	TB	$3.9^{+3.1}_{-2.2}$	$4.4^{+2.4}_{-1.4}$	1.0/28	82.0
	PL	$8.4^{+4.0}_{-4.0}$	$1.9^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$	0.9/28	96.0

NOTE.—All quoted uncertainties are 90%.

<sup>a</sup> TB, thermal bremsstrahlung; PL, power law.

<sup>b</sup> In units of  $10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ .

<sup>c</sup> The 0.3–7 keV unabsorbed flux in units of  $10^{-15} \text{ ergs cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ .

We retrieved a 5 minute *V*-band image of NGC 288 taken with the Wide Field Imager (WFI) at the ESO 2.2 m telescope on La Silla on 2004 June 14 and used that to calibrate the *HST* ACS images. The WFI has an array of 8 CCDs, and each CCD has a  $8' \times 16'$  field of view, giving a total of  $33' \times 34'$ . An  $8' \times 8'$  subsection of the WFI chip covering the cluster center was used that contained 93 UCAC2 standards (Zacharias et al. 2004). Of these, 72 were not saturated and appeared stellar and unblended. Fitting for a six-parameter transformation, we obtained a solution giving residuals of  $0''.056$  in R.A. and  $0''.059$  in decl.

The astrometry of the WFI image was then transferred to the two ACS Wide Field Channel (WFC) chips (WFC1 and WFC2). We used DOLPHOT to generate positions and photometry for all stars on the ACS WFC chips. These positions were corrected for the considerable geometric distortion using polynomials (Hack & Cox 2001). A selection of the stars on each chip (having  $r_{625} < 18.0$ ) was matched against stars on the WFI image, where we used the distortion-corrected positions of ACS WFC for comparison with the calibrated position on the WFI. For WFC1, 174 stars were selected, and outliers were removed through an iterative process. The astrometric solution converged using 147 stars, yielding residuals of  $0''.016$  in R.A. and  $0''.018$  in decl. For WFC2, we started off with 206 stars, while the final solution has 155 stars with residuals of  $0''.014$  in R.A. and  $0''.016$  in decl.

For the astrometric calibration of the archival *HST* WFPC2 images, we first corrected all pixel positions of the stars for distortion and placed them on a common frame using the distortion corrections and relative chip positions and offsets by Anderson & King (2003). The resulting positions were matched to those of stars on the WFI image, where the final astrometric solution used 207 stars, giving residuals of  $0.022''$  in R.A. and  $0.024''$  in decl.

For the *Chandra* image, we first used the Aspect Calculator<sup>10</sup> provided by the *Chandra* X-Ray Center to correct the aspect

<sup>10</sup> See [http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao/threads/arcsec\\_correction](http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao/threads/arcsec_correction).



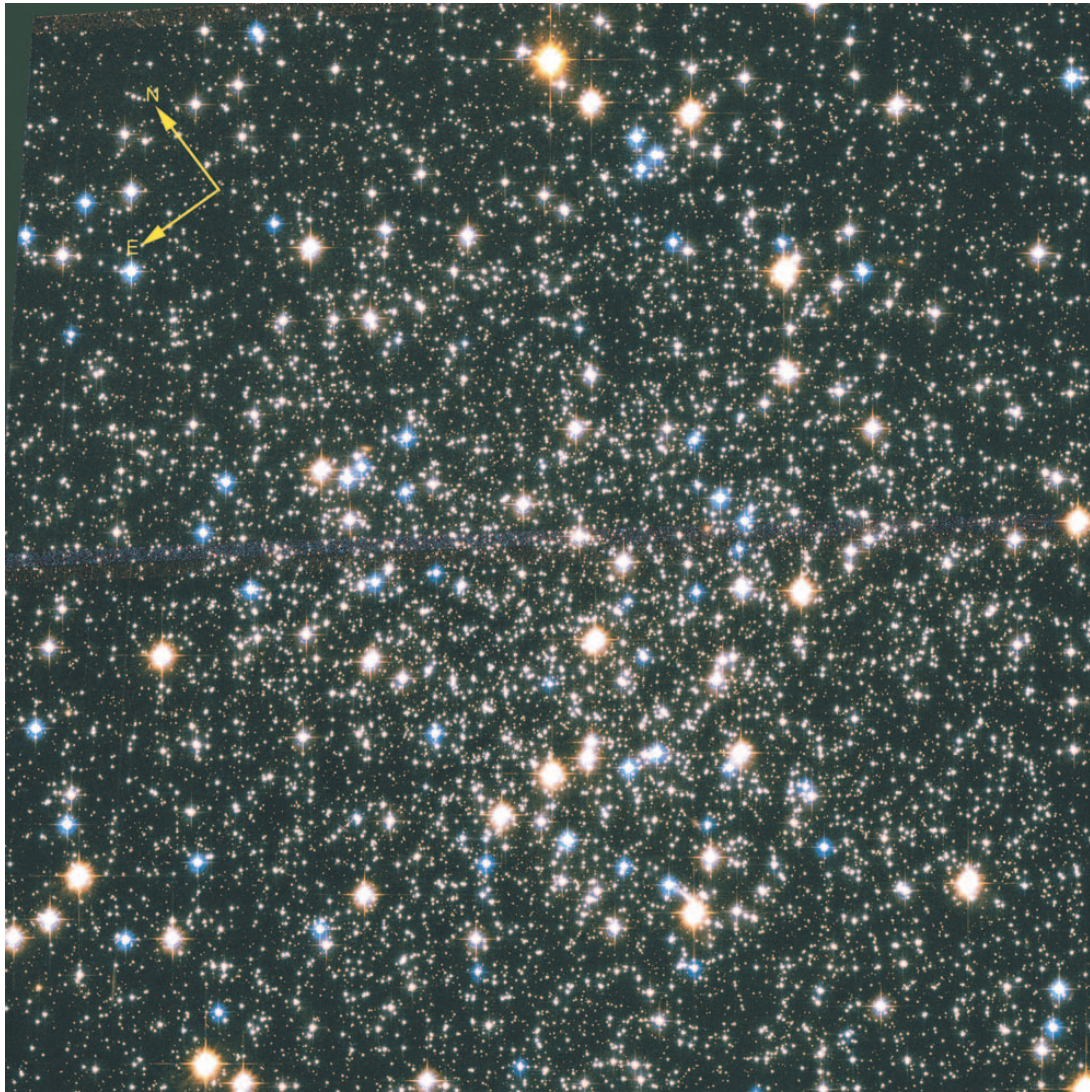


FIG. 3.—True color *HST* ACS image ( $202'' \times 202''$ ) of NGC 288 core. This was constructed by combining all the  $r_{625}$  (red),  $0.5(B_{435} + r_{625})$  (green), and  $B_{435}$  (blue) images.

offset. This provides an absolute astrometry of  $0''.6$  (90%). The shifts were small:  $0''.07$  in R.A. and  $0''.03$  in decl. Inspection of the 99% confidence error circles of the *Chandra* X-ray sources (using the positions from Table 1) on the WFI image yields several likely counterparts. X-ray sources CX 3, CX 12, CX 28, and CX 30 appear to coincide with stellar objects, whereas CX 7, CX 8, CX 17, CX 22, CX 26, CX 32, and CX 36 appear to coincide with extended objects, possibly background galaxies. Based on brightness, positional accuracy, and conformity of the image to the point-spread function, CX 28 and CX 30 are the most promising stellar counterparts. In addition, CX 28 and CX 30 are outside the half-mass radius, and hence the stellar density from the cluster is relatively low, implying a low probability of chance coincidences. Based on these two optical counterparts, the boresight correction that needs to be applied to the X-ray source positions is  $0''.137 \pm 0''.104$  in R.A. and  $-0''.055 \pm 0''.096$  in decl.

#### 4. SOURCE IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION

To obtain optical identifications for the X-ray sources, we use the precise astrometry described in the previous sections. We searched for optical counterparts within the 95% *Chandra* error circle, which is the quadratic sum of the positional uncertainty

for the X-ray source, the uncertainty in the optical astrometry (UCAC2 to WFI astrometry and WFI to *HST* ACS astrometry), and the uncertainty in the X-ray boresight correction. Within the ACS field of view, there are nine *Chandra* sources, and we suggest optical counterparts based on positional coincidence alone to seven of them. In the case of multiple sources inside the error circle, we included all the candidates within the 95% X-ray error circle. The results of each candidate optical counterpart are summarized in Table 3, and finding charts are shown in Figure 5. Using the photometric data from the *HST* ACS, we constructed CMDs, shown in Figure 4.

To help in assessing the nature of the optically identified sources, we show in Figure 6 the X-ray luminosity as a function of the absolute magnitude for low-luminosity X-ray sources in globular clusters. The large symbols in this figure indicate the X-ray sources with possible optical counterparts in the field of view of our *Chandra* observation of NGC 288, and the smaller symbols show objects found in other clusters, mostly 47 Tuc and M4 (see Bassa et al. 2004). We note that the absolute magnitudes and X-ray luminosities for the sources in our NGC 288 observations are computed under the assumption, which we will test below, that they are associated with NGC 288. As discussed earlier, we

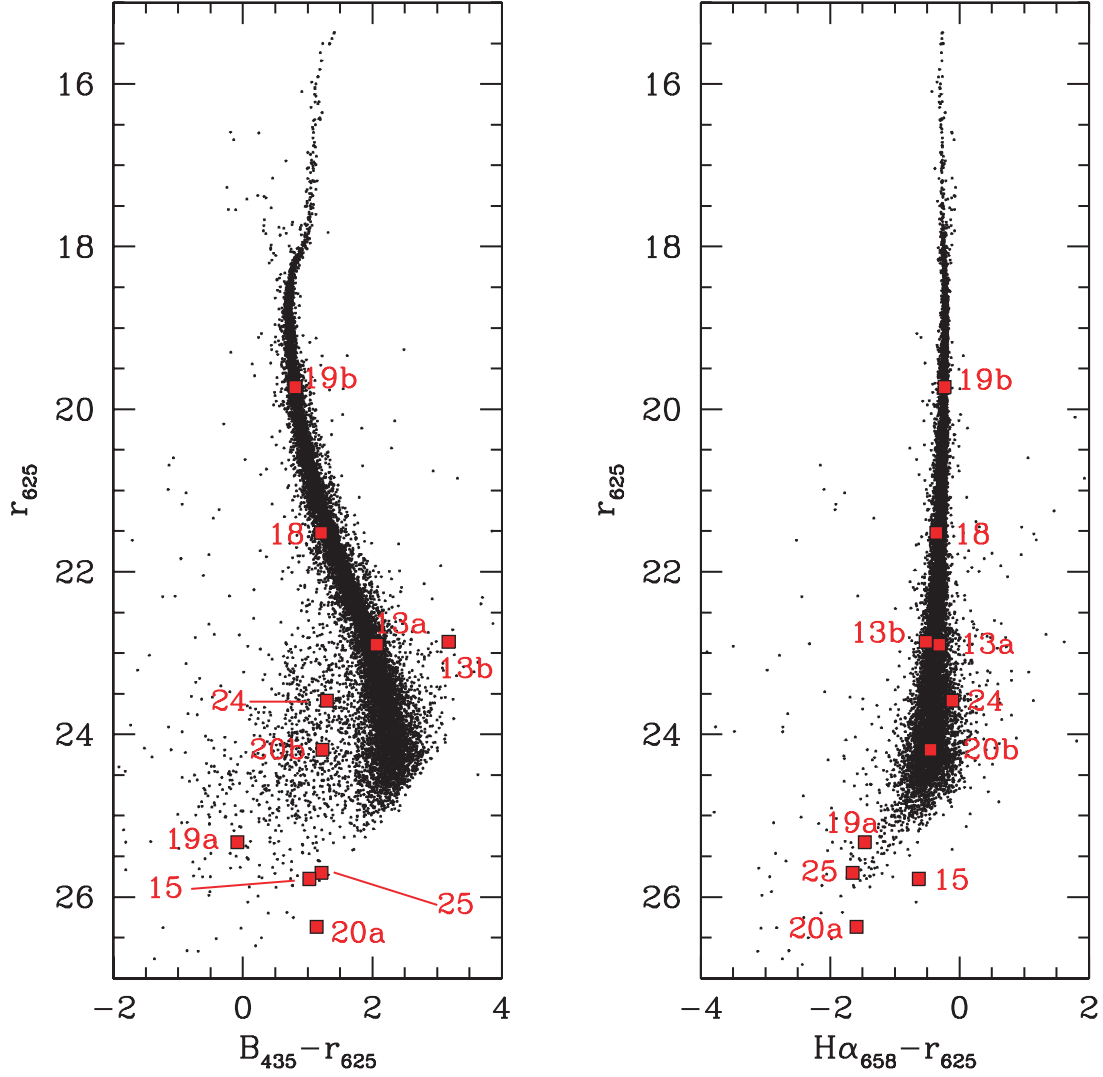


FIG. 4.—Color-magnitude diagram of the *HST* ACS observations of NGC 288. The numbers refer to the candidate optical counterparts to the X-ray sources.

TABLE 3  
OPTICAL COUNTERPARTS TO *Chandra* X-RAY SOURCES

CX	$\Delta R.A.$ (arcsec)	$\Delta Decl.$ (arcsec)	$U_{336}$	$B_{435}$	$V_{555}$	$r_{625}$	$I_{814}$	$H\alpha_{658}$	$f_X/f_r^a$	Classification <sup>b</sup>
13a.....	0.09	-0.31	...	$24.96 \pm 0.04$	...	$22.90 \pm 0.02$	...	$22.58 \pm 0.05$	0.8	AB?
13b.....	0.42	-0.08	...	$26.04 \pm 0.09$	...	$22.86 \pm 0.02$	...	$22.34 \pm 0.04$	0.76	CV? AGN?
15.....	-0.27	0.19	...	$26.81 \pm 0.17$	...	$25.78 \pm 0.19$	...	$25.15 \pm 0.74$	11.6	AGN
18.....	-0.10	-0.26	$22.71 \pm 0.08$	$22.73 \pm 0.01$	$21.79 \pm 0.02$	$21.52 \pm 0.01$	$20.78 \pm 0.02$	$21.16 \pm 0.02$	0.3	AB
19a.....	0.31	0.007	...	$25.24 \pm 0.05$	...	$25.33 \pm 0.11$	...	$23.86 \pm 0.12$	13.7	AGN
19b.....	-0.55	-0.21	...	$20.54 \pm 0.004$	...	$19.73 \pm 0.004$	...	$19.50 \pm 0.013$	0.08	AB
20a.....	-0.1	0.09	...	$27.51 \pm 0.29$	...	$26.37 \pm 0.27$	...	$24.78 \pm 0.42$	60.1	AGN
20b.....	0.16	-0.03	...	$25.42 \pm 0.06$	$24.34 \pm 0.15$	$24.19 \pm 0.05$	$22.88 \pm 0.08$	$23.74 \pm 0.12$	8.6	CV
24.....	-0.17	0.007	...	$24.88 \pm 0.04$	...	$23.58 \pm 0.04$	...	$23.47 \pm 0.10$	39.7	CV
25.....	0.30	-0.05	...	$26.92 \pm 0.19$	...	$25.70 \pm 0.23$	...	$24.05 \pm 0.19$	48.1	AGN

NOTE.—The last column gives a tentative classification; for the sources with two possible optical counterparts, this classification holds only for the actual counterpart.

<sup>a</sup> Ratio of X-ray to optical ( $r_{625}$ ) flux, using  $\log(f_X/f_r) = \log f_X + 5.67 + 0.4r_{625}$  (Green et al. 2004);  $f_X$  is derived in the 0.3–7 keV band.

<sup>b</sup> CV, cataclysmic variable; AB, chromospherically active binary; AGN, active galactic nucleus.

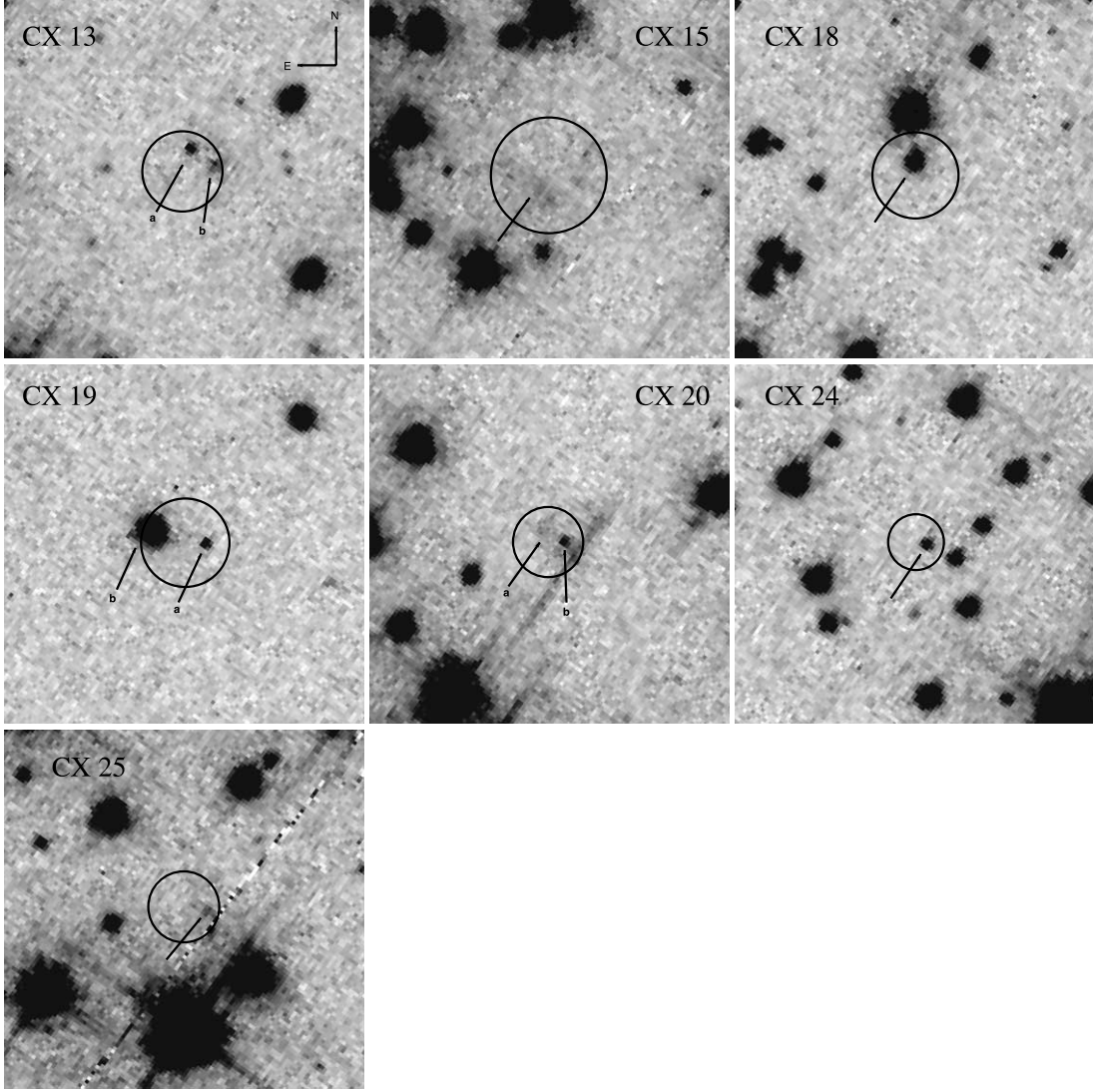


FIG. 5.—The  $5'' \times 5''$  finding charts for the candidate optical counterparts, obtained from *HST*ACS observations. These images were taken in  $B_{435}$ . We have overlaid the 95% error circles for the *Chandra* source positions, and the candidate stars themselves are indicated by arrows. All images have the same gray scale.

caution that the *Chandra* Deep Field data imply that for the 11 X-ray sources within the half-mass radius, there is a 30% probability that *all* of them are background sources.

We first consider the X-ray sources with only one suggested counterpart in the error circle. The ratio of the X-ray to optical flux locates CX 18 in the region of active binaries in Figure 6, albeit close to the boundary with CVs. The star in the error circle of CX 18 is located on the main sequence in the CMD of Figure 4. Because it does not show noticeable  $H\alpha$  emission, is on the main sequence in  $U_{336} - V_{555}$ , and is not detected in the near ultraviolet, it is unlikely to be a CV, and we suggest that CX 18 is a chromospherically active binary.

The candidate cluster counterpart to CX 24 is blue with respect to the main sequence and has no  $H\alpha$  emission, being located rather on the main sequence in the  $H\alpha$  diagram (Fig. 4). It has a high X-ray to optical flux ratio and a hard spectrum with a 0.3–7 keV luminosity of  $\sim 4 \times 10^{32}$  ergs s $^{-1}$ . It is worth noting that CX 24 is the only X-ray source in the half-mass radius detected with *ROSAT* (Sarazin et al. 1999). Using the *Chandra* spectral fit, the X-ray luminosity during the *ROSAT* observations is about  $10^{33}$  ergs s $^{-1}$ , a factor of 2.5 higher than our *Chandra* observation. We suggest that CX 24 is a CV, even though its  $H\alpha$  emission does not appear to be strong.

The sources CX 15 and CX 25 are optically extended, and thus almost certainly background galaxies. Indeed, if we compute their X-ray luminosity and optical magnitude under the wrong assumption that they are in NGC 288, we find that they are located in the  $L_X - M_V$  diagram in an area where no genuine cluster sources have been found. A probable background quasar in the *Chandra* field of view of our M4 observation is in the same location of Figure 6 (for the wrong assumption that it belongs to the cluster M4; Bassa et al. 2004, 2005; Bedin et al. 2003).

Turning now to the sources with more than one possible counterpart in the error circle, we first note that our suggested classifications depend on the optical object indeed being the counterpart. One star in the error circle of CX 13, CX 13a, is on the main sequence both in the CMD and in the  $H\alpha - r$  diagram. Like CX 18, it may be an active binary. The other star, CX 13b is redder than the main sequence. Its X-ray to optical flux ratio is somewhat high for an active binary. Possibly it is an (obscured?) active galaxy. Alternatively, its red color could be an artifact of variation of its blue magnitude, in which case it may be a CV. (Note that we have no evidence for such variation.) In the absence of more information, a secure classification of CX 13 thus is not possible.



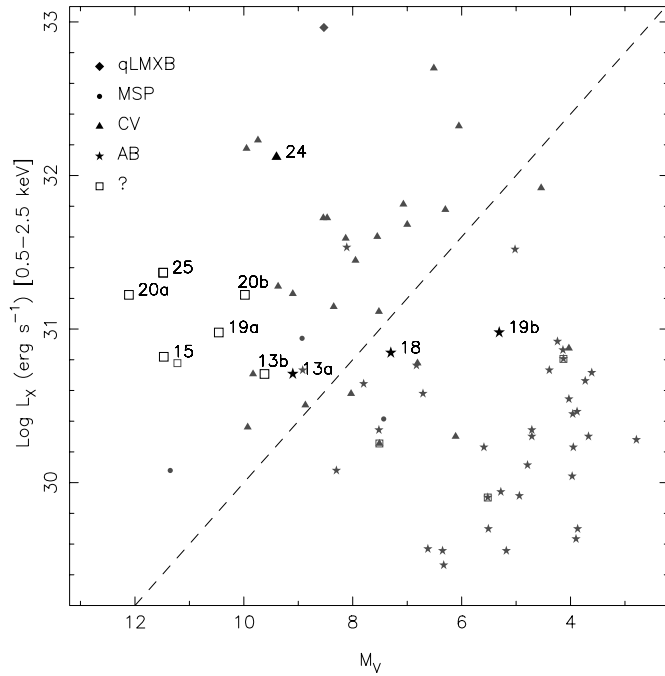


FIG. 6.—X-ray luminosity as a function of the absolute magnitude for low-luminosity X-ray sources in globular clusters. The large symbols in this figure indicate the optically identified X-ray sources in the field of view of our *Chandra* observation of NGC 288, where we compute absolute magnitude and X-ray luminosity under the assumption that the sources are cluster members. This assumption is probably correct for the candidate CV (large triangle) and the three candidate active binaries (large stars); the sources indicated with large squares are probably extragalactic sources. The smaller symbols in this figure indicate objects found in other clusters, mostly 47 Tuc and M4 (see Fig. 6 of Bassa et al. 2004). Since we do not have observations of NGC 288 in the *V* band, we estimate *V* from  $V = 0.5(B_{435} + r_{625})$ . The dashed line of constant X-ray to optical flux ratio roughly separates CVs from active binaries.

Of the two objects in the error circle of CX 19, the brighter one (CX 19b) would a priori be the more probable counterpart, since the probability of a chance coincidence is higher for the more numerous faint objects. Its colors (Fig. 4) and X-ray to optical flux ratio (Fig. 5) then suggest that CX 19b is a chromospherically active binary. If the fainter object CX 19a is the counterpart, its X-ray to optical flux ratio (Fig. 5) suggests that it is a background galaxy/AGN (active galactic nucleus).

The brighter object in the error circle of CX 20, CX 20b, is blue and has a relatively high X-ray to optical flux ratio (Fig. 6): it may be a CV. CX 20b was also imaged by WFPC2 with the  $V_{555}$  and  $I_{814}$  filters. It has  $V_{555} = 24.34$  and is on the main sequence in  $V - I$  (similar to CVs in other clusters, e.g., NGC 6397 and 47 Tuc; Cool et al. 1998; Edmonds et al. 2003). On the other hand, CX 20a is extended and therefore an active galaxy when it is the counterpart of CX 20. CX 20a is below the detection limit in the archival WFPC2 observations.

There are two unidentified X-ray sources (CX 16 and CX 21) in the ACS field of view. CX 16 is in between two bright stars, and the spikes produced by these bright stars prevent us from searching for any faint optical sources inside the *Chandra* error circle. The region of CX 16 was also observed with the WFPC2, but neither do we find a counterpart inside the *Chandra* error circle in these data. CX 21 is near the edge of the field, and part of the *Chandra* error circle is in the dithering pattern of the image. Therefore, the sensitivity is greatly reduced. Two additional sources (CX 23 and CX 29) are inside the half-mass radius but were not observed with *HST*. In any case, if the identifications of

CX 18 and CX 24 are correct, then these two remaining sources are very likely part of the extragalactic background.

In summary, we find one good candidate CV (CX 24, and the source is already detected with *ROSAT*; Sarazin et al. 1999), and one good candidate active binary (CX 18). The X-ray to optical luminosity ratio of CX 24 is in the upper range of the values observed for CVs in globular clusters so far, and the X-ray to optical luminosity ratio of CX 18 is among the highest observed so far for active binaries in globular clusters. In addition to these, we have possible cluster members and according classifications in the error circles of CX 13 (active binary or CV), CX 19 (active binary), and CX 20 (CV).

Finally, we consider all the remaining *Chandra* sources outside the half-mass radius; we do not possess useful optical data for any of these. Statistically, we do not expect any of the sources outside the half-mass radius to be associated with NGC 288 (see § 2.2). From the *Chandra* Deep Field data, for the entire ACIS-S3 chip field of view, we expected 0–10 sources to be associated with NGC 288. If CX 18 and CX 24 (or indeed additionally CX 13, CX 19, and CX 20) are CVs or chromospherically active binaries (and hence cluster members), then there are at most eight (five) additional X-ray sources associated with NGC 288. In the absence of information of the optical colors of the counterparts, it is not possible to pursue this question further for individual cases. Nevertheless, we describe here the X-ray properties, *assuming cluster membership*. The X-ray fluxes of all *Chandra* sources are listed in Tables 1 and 2, and the luminosities (assuming 8.4 kpc) range from  $7 \times 10^{30}$  to  $8 \times 10^{32}$  ergs s<sup>−1</sup>. CX 3 is one of the three brightest X-ray sources. It has a relatively soft spectrum (see Table 2) and is therefore inconsistent with a CV. It could be either a qLMXB or, of course, yet another background galaxy. In contrast, the brightest source, CX 27, has a hard spectrum, favoring a CV identification. It is also noteworthy as an X-ray variable; the *Chandra* spectrum indicates that it has a 0.3–7 keV flux of  $(8\text{--}9) \times 10^{-14}$  ergs cm<sup>−2</sup> s<sup>−1</sup>, but the source was not detected with *ROSAT* with a detection limit of  $6 \times 10^{-14}$  ergs cm<sup>−2</sup> s<sup>−1</sup>. Excluding the brightest three sources (CX 3, CX 24, and CX 27), the remainder have luminosities  $< 10^{32}$  ergs s<sup>−1</sup> with an average of  $3 \times 10^{31}$  ergs s<sup>−1</sup>. This luminosity is at the lower end of quiescent neutron stars in the field. Moreover, the X-ray colors are harder than for neutron star systems. Hence, the remaining lower luminosity X-ray sources outside the half-mass radius are very unlikely to be quiescent neutron stars. Of these, the X-ray luminosities of CX 6 and CX 17 are too high for any chromospherically active binary, and their relatively hard X-ray colors would indicate that they are probably CVs or absorbed AGNs.

## 5. DISCUSSION

The luminosities of both good candidate members, CX 24 and CX 18, as well as those of the three less secure members CX 13, CX 19, and CX 20, are above the lower limit of  $4 \times 10^{30}$  ergs s<sup>−1</sup> in the 0.5–6.0 keV range used in the study by Pooley et al. (2003) on the relation between the stellar encounter rate and the incidence of X-ray sources in globular clusters. To see whether NGC 288 fits this relation, we compare its collision number  $\Gamma \equiv \rho_0^{1.5} r_c^2$  (Verbunt 2003) with those of some other clusters, using the parameters listed in Table 4. Here  $\rho_0$  is the central density of the cluster, and  $r_c$  is the core radius. The encounter number for NGC 288 is about 650 times smaller than that of 47 Tuc and 30 times smaller than that of M4. Pooley et al. (2003) report  $41 \pm 2$  sources above the lower luminosity limit in 47 Tuc (see also Grindlay et al. 2001a; the uncertainty is due to the estimated



TABLE 4  
SCALING PARAMETERS OF M4, NGC 6397, 47 Tuc, AND NGC 288

Cluster	$\log \rho_0$ ( $L_\odot \text{ pc}^{-3}$ )	$r_c$ (arcsec)	$d$ (kpc)	$M_V$	$\Gamma$	$M_h$
M4.....	4.01	49.8	1.73	-6.9	1.0	1.0
NGC 6397.....	5.68	3.0	2.3	-6.6	2.1	0.76
47 Tuc.....	4.81	24.0	4.5	-9.4	24.9	10
NGC 288.....	1.80	85.0	8.4	-6.7	0.03	0.83

NOTES.—Values for central density ( $\rho_0$ ), core radius ( $r_c$ ), distance ( $d$ ), and absolute visual magnitude ( $M_V$ ) originate from Harris (1996, version of 2003 February). For M4, the values of  $\rho_0$  and  $M_V$  are computed for the distance and reddening of Richer et al. (1997). The collision number is computed from  $\Gamma \propto \rho_0^{1.5} r_c^2$ , and the half-mass, from  $M_h \propto 10^{-0.4M_V}$ . Values for  $\Gamma$  and  $M_h$  are normalized to the value of M4.

number of background sources), and thus if the number of sources scales with the encounter rate, the presence of two to five sources in NGC 288 is a very significant overabundance, even if we take into account small number errors due to Poissonian fluctuations. The same conclusion is reached on the basis of comparison with M4. This indicates that the sources in NGC 288 are not formed via stellar encounters.

Indeed, for magnetically active binaries, an origin from a primordial binary is much more likely (Verbunt 2002). A scaling with the total mass of the cluster is expected in this case, provided that no large numbers of binaries have been destroyed by close encounters. In a low-density cluster like NGC 288, no such large-scale destruction has taken place. Since our information on low-luminosity X-ray sources in most clusters is limited to the region within the half-mass radius, we compare also the masses within this radius. By definition, however, these masses are half of the total mass, and thus the scaling between clusters is the same as for the total mass. If the visual mass-to-light ratio is the same for all clusters listed in Table 4, then the half masses scale with  $10^{-0.4M_V}$ . Thus, the half-mass radii of NGC 6397 and NGC 288 contain about 20% less mass than the half-mass radius of M4, which in turn contains a factor of 10 less mass than the half-mass radius of 47 Tuc. Scaled by mass, the predicted number of active binaries with  $L_{0.5-6 \text{ keV}} > 4 \times 10^{30} \text{ ergs s}^{-1}$  in NGC 288 should be similar to those in NGC 6397 and M4 and about 1/10 of those in 47 Tuc. This is indeed observed.

We consider this strong evidence that magnetically active binaries in globular clusters evolve from primordial binaries, much strengthening the conclusion based by Bassa et al. (2004) on the source numbers in M4.

As argued by Verbunt (2002), CVs take a position in between low-mass X-ray binaries with a neutron star or black hole, which are certainly formed from close encounters, and the magnetically active binaries, formed from primordial binaries. The scaling of source number with encounter number found for the sources with  $L_{0.5-6 \text{ keV}} > 4 \times 10^{30} \text{ ergs s}^{-1}$  by Pooley et al. (2003; see also Heinke et al. 2003b) suggests that CVs are mostly made via stellar encounters as well. This is in agreement with the result by Davies (1997) that the formation of CVs via evolution from relatively wide primordial binaries is suppressed by the destruction of such binaries in dense cores of globular clusters. We do not expect even a single CV in NGC 288 if we scale with encounter numbers from any of the other clusters listed in Table 4. However, neither the observed scaling law nor the theoretical computations extends to clusters with core densities or encounter rates as low as those of NGC 288. According to the computations by Davies (1997), a cluster core with a star density of  $1000 \text{ pc}^{-3}$  allows most of the CV progenitors to evolve into CVs. It is therefore probable that the CV, CX 24, in a cluster with an even lower central number density, evolved from a primordial binary. As an even more extreme case than NGC 288, recent *Chandra* observation of the old open cluster M67 reveals a large number of BY Dra and RS CVn systems as well as interacting binary candidates (van den Berg et al. 2004). It is interesting to note that the total X-ray luminosity of M67 is dominated by binaries with giants, whereas no such binary has been securely identified as an optical counterpart to an X-ray source in any globular cluster so far. Investigations of other globular clusters with low-density cores must be done to verify these conclusions.

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