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The black hole candidate IGR J17091-3624 is still active

ATel #4773; *D. Altamirano (UvA), R. Wijnands (UvA), J. Rodriguez (CEA Saclay), S. Corbel (CEA Saclay & Univ. Paris Diderot), T. Belloni (INAF)*

on 31 Jan 2013; 09:37 UT

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Subjects: X-ray, Black Hole, Transient

Referred to by ATel #: [5112](#)



In February 2011 the black hole candidate IGR J17091-3624 went into outburst (detected by Swift/BAT, see ATEL #[3144](#)). During this outburst IGR J17091-3624 exhibited strong and highly-structured X-ray variability (e.g. Altamirano et al. 2011, ApJL, 742, 17, and references therein) which so far had only been observed from the very-bright black hole X-ray transient GRS 1915+105.

This 2011 outburst of IGR J17091-3624 has been studied using many multi-wavelength observations (ATEL #[3148](#), #[3150](#), #[3159](#), #[3167](#), #[3168](#), #[3179](#), #[3203](#), #[3225](#), #[3229](#), #[3230](#), #[3232](#), #[3266](#), #[3299](#), #[3913](#), #[3916](#), #[4173](#), #[4282](#), #[4283](#), #[4360](#)) except during the December-January periods, when sun constraints do not allow further observations to be performed. Since mid-January 2013 IGR J17091-3624 appears to be undetected by the daily Swift/BAT monitoring observations:

<http://swift.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/swift/results/transients/weak/IGRJ17091-3624/>

Unfortunately, MAXI cannot resolve IGR J17091-624 given the nearby bright X-ray source GX 349+2 (T. Mihara, private communication).

To determine the current level of X-ray activity of IGR J17091-3624, we acquired a ~1000 seconds Swift/XRT observation on 2013-01-27 07:42:00 UT. The observation was done in PC mode. In the image a source can clearly be detected at coordinates consistent with IGR J17091-3624. From the Swift/XRT image a set of bright concentric rings can also be seen, one of which lies very close to IGR J17091-3624. These rings are most probably due to the bright nearby source GX 349+2.

A spectrum of the January 2013 observation was extracted following Evans et al. (2009, MNRAS, 397, 1177) and taking into account possible contamination of GX 349+2. Preliminary results show that the 0.5-10 keV source spectrum can be well fitted with an absorbed ($N_{\text{H}} \sim 1.2e22 \text{ cm}^{-2}$) power law with a photon index of ~ 1.6 , leading to an unabsorbed 0.5-10 keV ($2.0-10 \text{ keV}$) flux of $\sim 4.6e-11 \text{ ergs/cm}^2/\text{s}$ ($\sim 2.8e-11 \text{ ergs/cm}^2/\text{s}$). These fluxes imply a luminosity of $\sim 3.5e35 \text{ ergs/s}$ ($\sim 2.1e35 \text{ ergs/s}$) or $2.2e36 \text{ ergs/s}$ ($\sim 1.3e36 \text{ ergs/s}$), assuming distances of 8 kpc and 20 kpc, respectively. Errors to the fit values and the fluxes are not well constrained due to the low statistics of the spectrum and the possible contamination due to GX 349+2. In any case, our flux measurements are more than two orders of magnitude higher than the averaged $12e-14 \text{ ergs/cm}^2/\text{s}$ reported by Wijnands, Yang, and Altamirano (2012, MNRAS, 422, 91) during

- Related**
- 5192 **Low-level X-ray variability observed from the black hole candidate IGR J17091-3624**
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 - 4773 **The black hole candidate IGR J17091-3624 is still active**
 - 4395 **A rapid decline of the black hole transient 4U 1630-472 in soft X-rays: approaching the hard state ?**
 - 4360 **Hard X-ray detection of the black hole candidates 4U 1630-47 and IGR J17091-3624 up to 200 keV with INTEGRAL**
 - 4283 **Comments on ATel #4282: "Recent activity of the black hole X-ray binary IGR J17091-3624 as observed with the SWIFT/XRT : spectral hardening following the sharp drop in X-ray intensity"**
 - 4282 **Recent activity of the black hole X-ray binary IGR J17091-3624 as observed with the SWIFT/XRT : spectral hardening following the sharp drop in X-ray intensity**
 - 4173 **Swift/XRT Observations of IGR J17091-3624: Continued Activity**
 - 4077 **Swift detects an increase in the hard X-ray emission from the BHC 4U 1630-47**
 - 4075 **MAXI/GSC detection of a rapid X-ray spectral change in the black hole candidate 4U 1630-472**
 - 3945 **INTEGRAL detects the hard X-ray brightening of 4U 1630-47**
 - 3916 **A possible state change in the black-hole candidate IGR J17091-3624**
 - 3913 **The black hole candidate IGR J17091-3624 is still active**
 - 3892 **Sub-arcsecond position of the the transient 11-Hz X-ray pulsar in the Globular Cluster Terzan 5 derived from a Moon occultation observed by RXTE**
 - 3830 **MAXI/GSC detection of an outburst from a black hole candidate 4U 1630-472**
 - 3667 **Black hole X-ray binary IGR J17091-3624 shows a unique intensity variation pattern**
 - 3418 **IGR J17091-3624 shows a unique quasi-'rho' class**

XMM-Newton observations of IGR J17091-3624 during quiescence. Therefore we conclude that IGR J17091-3624 is still active.

We thank the Swift/Team for scheduling our observation.

	variability during recent RXTE/PCA observations
3299	RXTE observations strengthen the similarities between the black hole candidates IGR J17091-3624 and GRS 1915+105.
3266	Multiple evolving peaks in the power density spectrum and the spectral transition were detected in IGR J17091-3624
3264	A possible IR counterpart to the transient X-ray pulsar IGR J17480-2446 in Terzan 5
3232	Radio detection in 2003 of IGR J17091-3624
3230	IGR J17091-3624 undergoes 'heartbeat' oscillations similar to those of GRS 1915+105
3229	INTEGRAL observations suggest IGR J17098-3628 is not the source of 10 mHz QPOs
3225	Discovery of 10 mHz quasi-periodic oscillations likely from IGR J17091-3624
3203	The soft spectral state of the black hole candidate IGR J17091-3624 observed by INTEGRAL and Swift
3179	RXTE observes fast QPO evolution in IGR J17091-3624 indicating possible state transition
3168	0.1 Hz QPOs during RXTE observations of IGR J17091-3624
3167	Radio emission from IGR J17091-3624 observed with the ATCA
3159	INTEGRAL observations of the BHC IGR J17091-3624 in outburst
3150	The optical and near-infrared counterpart to IGR J17091-3624
3148	Swift/XRT Observations Confirm that IGR J17091-3624 is in Outburst
3144	Swift/BAT reports renewed activity from IGR J17091-3624
3044	Terzan 5 transient IGR J17480-2446: return of thermonuclear bursts or were they always there?
3000	Type-II bursts from the new Terzan 5 transient: a GRO J1744-28 analogue?
2974	Chandra Identification of the Transient in Terzan 5: Not the 2000 Transient.
2958	Discovery of mHz QPOs and burst rate evolution in the active Terzan 5 neutron star transient
2952	D. Altamirano (Amsterdam), J. Homan (MIT), M. Linares (MIT), A. Patruno (Amsterdam), Y. Yang (Amsterdam), A. Watts (Amsterdam), M. Kalamkar (Amsterdam), P. Casella (Southampton), M. Armas-Padilla (Amsterdam), Y. Cavecchi (Amsterdam), N. Degenaar (Amsterdam), D. Russell (Amsterdam), R. Kaur (Amsterdam), M. van der Klis (Amsterdam), N. Rea (CSIC-IEEC), R. Wijnands

	(Amsterdam)
2946	A Refined Orbital Solution and the Transient Pulsar in Terzan 5 is Not Eclipsing
2940	INTEGRAL and RXTE spectral analysis of IGR J17480-2446, the new transient in Terzan 5.
2939	A preliminary orbital solution for the transient eclipsing pulsar in Terzan 5
2937	Eclipsing X-ray Burster in Terzan 5: Improved Swift Localization
2933	The Eclipsing X-ray Burster in Terzan 5 is Probably Not the 2000 Transient
2932	Discovery of 11 Hz burst oscillations from the 11 Hz Eclipsing Pulsar in Terzan 5
2929	EXO 1745-248 is an 11 Hz Eclipsing Pulsar
2924	Further INTEGRAL observations of the transient X-ray burster EXO 1745-248
2922	Swift follow-up observations of EXO 1745-248
2920	Swift-XRT location of the ongoing Terzan 5 outburst
2919	A hard X-ray transient in the direction of Terzan 5 detected by INTEGRAL
1140	Swift/XRT Observations of IGR J17091-3624 and IGR J17098-3628
494	Optical counterpart to IGR J17098-3628
490	Probable radio counterpart to IGR J17098-3628
479	Possible Swift-UVOT optical counterpart for IGR J17098-3628
478	Optical/NIR imaging of IGR J17098-3628 and IGR J16283-4838
477	Possible infrared/optical counterpart of IGR J17098-3628
476	Swift-XRT detection of IGR J17098-3626
460	Possible infra-red counterpart to IGR J16283-4838
459	Swift-XRT detection of IGR J16283-4838
456	Discovery of a new X-ray transient IGR J16283-4838 with INTEGRAL
444	New X-ray transient IGR J1709.8-3628 discovered with INTEGRAL
160	BeppoSAX measurements of IGR J17091-3624 = 1SAX J1709-36
152	Possible radio counterpart to IGR J17091-3624
150	IGR J17091-3624 in archival data of MIR/KVANT/TTM
149	IGR J17091-3624

[**Telegram Index**]

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