Swift confirmation and localization of the new Transient MAXI J1621-501


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Following report of a new transient by MAXI (ATel #10869), we observed the MAXI error region with a set of 7-tile Swift/XRT observations in PC mode. We detect a new bright source with enhanced coordinates RA=245.09171, Dec=-50.01989 (J2000), which translate to:

RA: 16:20:22.01
Dec: -50:01:11.6

With radial uncertainty of 3.4". This is not consistent with any previously identified X-ray source.

We extract a spectrum (and correct for pile up) from the observation and fit it with both absorbed disk blackbody and absorbed powerlaw. The absorbed diskbb provide a slightly superior fit with a reduced chi-squared of 0.94 for 17 degrees of freedom (compared to red. chi2 of 1.12 for the absorbed powerlaw, with the same number of d.o.f). The diskbb fit indicates a hydrogen column density of NH=9(-2/+3)e22 cm^-2, inner disk temperature of Tin = 2.1(-0.5/+0.7) keV and an unabsorbed flux of 2.1(-0.3/+0.5)e-9 erg/s/cm^2 in the 0.5-10 keV band.

Swift monitoring of this source is planned. Multi-wavelength observations are encouraged. We thank the Swift team for rapidly scheduling our observations.
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