Detection of a bright radio flare of Cygnus X-1 at 7.2 GHz with the Sardinia Radio Telescope


Publication date
2016

Document Version
Final published version

Published in
The astronomer's telegram

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Detection of a bright radio flare of Cygnus X-1 at 7.2 GHz with the Sardinia Radio Telescope

ATel #9087; E. Egron (INAF-OAC), A. Pellizzoni (INAF-OAC), M. Bachetti (INAF-OAC), A. Navarrini (INAF-OAC), A. Trois (INAF-OAC), M. Pilia (INAF-OAC), M. N. Iacolina (INAF-OAC), A. Melis (INAF-OAC), R. Concu (INAF-OAC), S. Loru (INAF-OAC), A. Sessini (Univ. Cagliari), V. Grinberg (MIT), M. Nowak (MIT), S. Markoff (Univ. Amsterdam), K. Pottschmidt (CRESTT/GSFC/UMBC), J. Rodriguez (AIM/CEA), J. Wilms (Remeis/FAU/ECAP), R. Ballhausen (Remeis/FAU/ECAP), S. Corbel (AIM/CEA), W. Eikmann (Remeis/FAU/ECAP), F. Fuerst (CalTech), I. Kreykenbohm (Remeis/FAU/ECAP), M. Marongiu (INAF-OAC), A. Possenti (INAF-OAC)

on 27 May 2016; 21:40 UT

Credential Certification: Elise Egron (egron@oa-cagliari.inaf.it)

Subjects: Radio, Binary, Black Hole

Referred to by ATel #: 9089

In the framework of radio monitoring of NS/BH Galactic Binaries with Sardinia Radio Telescope (www.srt.inaf.it) during SRT Early Science Program S0013 (PI Egron), we detected Cyg X-1 in C-band through on-the-fly mapping centered on the source position (see also Atels #8921, #8849, #8821). Our observation was performed on May 24, 2016 at 23h UT (MJD 57532.9), in correspondence to a relatively high hard X-ray flux from the source (0.21 counts/cm²/s, MJD 57532-57533) observed by Swift/BAT in the 15-50 keV energy range (http://swift.gsfc.nasa.gov/results/transients/CygX-1/). We measured a flux density of 13±2 mJy at 7.2 GHz, band-width 0.68 GHz (using both SRT Total Power and SARDARA digital back-end operated in piggy-back mode). A follow-up observation performed on May 27, 2016 at 06h UT did not provide any detection. The corresponding image rms is 9 mJy/beam. Previous C-band (7.2 GHz) and/or K-band (21.4 GHz) weekly observations of Cyg X-1 with SRT in the time frame March-May 2016 did not provide any significant radio emission detection (flux density <10 mJy). This favors the detection of a bright radio flare of Cyg X-1 with SRT. Such flares have been detected before (Wilms et al. 2007 ApJ 663, L97). We encourage to look at the multi-wavelength data associated with the MJD indicates in this Atel to see if there is any noticeable change of state of the source. Further SRT monitoring of Cyg X-1 will be provided on a weekly frequency.
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R. E. Rutledge, Editor-in-Chief
Derek Fox, Editor
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rrutledge@astronomerstelegram.org
dfox@astronomerstelegram.org
mansi@astronomerstelegram.org