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*Published in:*  
The astronomer's telegram

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*Citation for published version (APA):*  
Bahramian, A., Heinke, C. O., Sivakoff, G. R., Kennea, J. A., Wijnands, R., & Altamirano, D. (2016). Outburst from low-mass X-ray binary GRS 1747-312 in Terzan 6. *The astronomer's telegram*, 9072.

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## Outburst from low-mass X-ray binary GRS 1747-312 in Terzan 6

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on 21 May 2016; 15:18 UT

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Subjects: Binary, Globular Cluster, Neutron Star, Transient

GRS 1747-312 is an eclipsing transient low-mass X-ray binary in the core of the globular cluster Terzan 6. This source shows regular outbursts ~ every 6 months and, due to its eclipsing behaviour, has an accurately-constrained orbital period (12.36 hrs, in't Zand et al. 2003, A&A, 406, 233).

Recently, MAXI reported an outburst from the direction of GRS 1747-312 (<http://maxi.riken.jp/alert/novae/7521375726/7521375726.htm>). Since globular clusters with high stellar encounter rates like Terzan 6 (e.g., Terzan 5, NGC 6440, 47 Tuc, M62), tend to have a high population of X-ray binaries, some even containing multiple transient X-ray binaries (e.g. Atels #2139,#2974,#4242), the MAXI data could not definitively associate this outburst with GRS 1747-312. Thus, in globular clusters either sub-arcsecond angular resolution data (for astrometric identification) or higher sensitivity timing data (for identification through its variability signatures, like a periodic oscillation) are needed for associating an outburst with a known source.

To determine if GRS 1747-312 is the source that is in outburst, we observed Terzan 6 with Swift/XRT on 2016-05-19 from 15:26:17 to 15:51:12 UT. This observation was scheduled to coincide with an egress predicted on the well-known eclipse ephemeris and the last observed eclipse timing (ATel #4915). We observe a clear eclipse egress, with midpoint at 15:36:22 (+/- 5 s), and thus confirm the source in outburst is GRS 1747-312. We note that Saji et al. (2016, PASJ, in press.) reported the absence of eclipses during Suzaku observations of an outburst from the direction of GRS 1747-312 in 2009. This suggests that the source that they detected in outburst in 2009 may have been a different (and thereto unknown) transient X-ray binary in the cluster.

In our observation, the post-eclipse source count rate is more than 18 times higher than the rate during the eclipse. We extracted a spectrum from the post-eclipse interval and performed spectral

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analysis. As the source was piled up in this interval, we chose an annular extraction region with inner and outer radii of 8 and 70 arcseconds respectively. Fitting an absorbed power law (tbabs\*pegpwlw in XSPEC; abundances from Wilms et al., 2000, ApJ 542, 914; cross sections from Verner et al., 1996, ApJ, 465, 487), we find a reasonable fit (reduced  $\chi^2 = 1.0$  for 45 d.o.f), with a hydrogen column density of  $2.5(+/-0.5)e22 \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , photon index of  $1.5+/-0.2$  and an unabsorbed flux value of  $3.9(+/-0.4)e-10 \text{ erg/s/cm}^2$  in 0.5-10 keV band. Assuming a distance of 6.8 kpc for Terzan 6 (Harris catalog, 2010), this corresponds to a luminosity of  $2.1(+/-0.2)e36 \text{ erg/s}$ . Thus the spectrum and luminosity are consistent with accretion in the non-thermal state.

We thank Neil Gehrels and the Swift staff for the rapid scheduling of this strongly time-constrained observation.

	2446 in Terzan 5 identified with the Hubble Space Telescope
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
3743	Chandra Identification of the 2011 Transient in Terzan 5: Same as the 2000 Transient
3729	MAXI detection of a superburst from EXO 1745-248 in Terzan 5
3723	Improved Swift-XRT position of the transient source in Terzan 5
3720	Swift and RXTE follow up observations of the transient currently active in the globular cluster Terzan 5
3718	INTEGRAL non detection of renewed activity from Terzan 5
3714	New X-ray transient outburst in Terzan 5
3650	MAXI J0556-332 is a transient neutron-star Z source
3264	A possible IR counterpart to the transient X-ray pulsar IGR J17480-2446 in Terzan 5
3225	Discovery of 10 mHz quasi-periodic oscillations likely 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
2935	Discovery of kilohertz quasi-periodic oscillations from EXO 1745-248
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
2500	New outburst of the accreting-millisecond X-ray pulsar NGC 6440 X-2
2426	Discovery of kilohertz QPOs in RXTE observations of SAX J1748.9-2021.
2407	Detection of pulsations and identification of SAX J1748.9-2021 as the X-ray transient in NGC 6440.
2377	Radio follow-up of the ongoing transient event in NGC 6440
2360	MAXI/GSC detection of an X-ray outburst from NGC6440
2223	Strong Millimeter-Band Flaring of 3C454.3 Continues
2182	Discovery of a ~205 Hz X-ray pulsar in the globular cluster NGC 6440
2180	NGC 6440 active again
2143	New NGC 6440 transient declining rapidly
2139	New transient LMXB in the globular cluster NGC 6440
495	4U 1715-390 and NGC 6440 in Outburst

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[ **Telegram Index** ]

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