
Studying microquasars with X-ray polarimetry

Andrea Marinucci*¹ and Giorgio Matt¹

¹Università degli Studi Roma Tre – Italy

Abstract

While timing and spectroscopy of microquasars are well established techniques, X-ray polarimetry is lagging behind, despite its widely recognized importance in providing vital information on the physics and geometry of these sources, including fundamental physics effects.

Happily, this will change very soon thanks to the approval by NASA of IXPE (the Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer), the next mission in the SMEX program, to be launched in 2020. Moreover, the X-ray polarimetry mission XIPE is in competition for the M4 slot at ESA, and the Chinese-led mission eXTP will have also polarimetric capabilities. In this contribution, the main scientific results expected by those missions on microquasars will be discussed.

Keywords: X ray polarimetry

*Speaker