The hypersoft state of Cyg X-3: A key to jet quenching in X-ray binaries?

Koljonen Karri*2,1, Thomas Maccarone3, Michael Mccollough4, Sergei Trushkin6,5, Guy Pooley7, and Mark Gurwell4

2 Aalto University Metsähovi Radio Observatory (MRO) – Metsähovintie 114, FI-02540 Kylmälä, Finland
1 Finnish Centre for Astronomy with ESO (FINCA) – Väisäläntie 20, FI-21500 Piikkiö, Finland
3 Department of Physics [Texas Tech] – Texas Tech University Broadway and Boston Lubbock, TX 79409-1042, United States
4 Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA) – Cambridge, MA 02138, United States
6 Kazan Federal University, Russia (KPFU) – Kazan Federal University 18 Kremlyovskaya str Kazan, 420008 Russian Federation, Russia
5 Special Astrophysical Observatory of the Russian Academy of Sciences (SAO RAS) – Nizhnij Arkhyz, Zelenchukskiy region, Karachai-Cherkessian Republic, Russia 369167, Russia
7 Cavendish Laboratory - University of Cambridge – Astrophysics Group Department of Physics Cavendish Laboratory University of Cambridge The Old Schools Trinity Lane Cambridge CB2 1TN, United Kingdom

Abstract

Cyg X-3 is a unique microquasar in the Galaxy hosting a Wolf-Rayet companion orbiting a compact object that most likely is a low-mass black hole. The unique source properties are likely due to the interaction of the compact object with the heavy stellar wind of the companion. In this presentation I will concentrate on a very specific period of time in the evolution of the binary prior to the massive outbursts observed from the source. During this period Cyg X-3 is in a so-called hypersoft state, where the radio and hard X-ray fluxes are found to be at their lowest values (or non-detected), the soft X-ray flux is at its highest values, and sporadic gamma-ray emission is attributed to the onsets and ends of this period. I will present the recent results obtained by a multiwavelength campaign during the hypersoft state including Swift and NuSTAR pointing observations in the X-rays and broadband radio monitoring by SMA, AMI-LA and RATAN-600. Motivated by the observational results, I will discuss a scenario where the jet production gets completely turned off, and show that a similar sequence of events might take place in the accretion wind source GRO J1655-40.