



MAXI J1621-501 distance inferred from type-I X-ray bursts detected by JEM-X

Chenevez, J.; Alizai, K.; Lepingwell, V. A. ; Fiocchi, M.; Bazzano, A.; Bird, A. J.; Kuulkers, Erik; Natalucci, L.; Sguera, V.

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MAXI J1621-501 distance inferred from type-I X-ray bursts detected by JEM-X

ATel #11272; *J. Chenevez, K. Alizai (DTU Space, Denmark), V. A. Lepingwell (Univ. of Southampton, UK), M. Fiocchi (INAF-IAPS Roma, Italy), A. Bazzano (INAF-IAPS Roma, Italy), A. J. Bird (Univ. of Southampton, UK), Erik Kuulkers (INTEGRAL Project Scientist, ESA/ESAC, Spain), L. Natalucci (INAF-IAPS Roma, Italy), V. Sguera (INAF-IASF Bologna)*
on 7 Feb 2018; 17:29 UT
Credential Certification: Jerome CHENEVEZ (jerome@space.dtu.dk)

Subjects: X-ray, Neutron Star, Transient

Referred to by ATel #: [11317](#)

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During INTEGRAL observation of the Norma Region (revolution 1915) on February 3rd, 2018, a thermonuclear X-ray burst was detected by the JEM-X instruments at 21:51:08 UTC with a rise time of about 2s and a decay time of almost 40s as measured between 3-25 keV. The position of the burst (RA=245.09, Dec=-50.03; 2 arcmin error radius) on the JEM-X image is consistent with MAXI J1621-501 (ATel #[10869](#), #[10874](#)), which has already been recorded as an X-ray burster (ATel #[11067](#)).

Considering that INTEGRAL cannot distinguish MAXI J1621-501 from AX J1620.1-5002 only separated by about 2 arcminutes, this suggests that the source which is currently seen active by INTEGRAL (ATel #[11252](#)) is MAXI J1621-501.

The source flux is measured with the following higher values compared to the previous INTEGRAL revolution (ATel #[11252](#)):
3-10 keV: 24 ±1 mCrab,
10-25 keV: 23 ±5 mCrab,
22-60 keV: 22.5 ±1.3 mCrab

The JEM-X light curves show a structure consistent with a photospheric radius expansion burst reaching the Eddington luminosity. The burst peak flux is measured at 1.5 ±0.3 Crab between 3-25 keV corresponding to an estimated unabsorbed bolometric flux of (4.1 ±1) × 10⁻⁸ erg/cm²/s. We thus derive a source distance of 8.4 ±2 kpc using the standard candle burst luminosity (L_{Edd} = 3.8 × 10³⁸ erg/s) from Kuulkers et al. 2003; A&A 399, 663.

A similar X-ray burst is again detected from the same position during INTEGRAL revolution 1916 at 2018-02-06T03:42:05. At that time the average source fluxes are measured at 30 ±2 mCrab between 3-25 keV and 40.3 ±1.5 mCrab between 22-60 keV.

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rrutledge@astronomerstelegam.org

dfox@astronomerstelegam.org

mansi@astronomerstelegam.org