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Chenevez, Jérôme

Publication date:
2019

Document Version
Peer reviewed version

[Link back to DTU Orbit](#)

Citation (APA):
Chenevez, J. (2019). NICER overview and results so far. Sound/Visual production (digital)

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NICER overview and results so far

Jérôme Chenevez¹(1) DTU Space.

The Neutron star Interior Composition Explorer (NICER) has been observing a number of X-ray sources since July 2017 from the International Space Station. With both high timing and good energy resolutions, the soft X-ray coverage of NICER is particularly well-suited for investigating magnetically-powered isolated neutron stars, rotation-powered millisecond pulsars, X-ray pulsars, and X-ray bursters, as well as other accreting compact objects like black holes and white dwarfs. The talk will present the NICER payload and the main results obtained during the first two years of the mission for studies of neutron star energetics, dynamics, and structure. A particular emphasis will be given on observations of X-ray bursts explained as thermonuclear explosions on the surface of accreting neutron stars in low-mass X-ray binaries.