Joint NICER/IXPE Workshop 2024

# Discovery of Relativistic Disc-wind in X-ray Binaries for the 1<sup>st</sup> time: Wind-regulated accretion in 4U 1543-47

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#### Introduction

Comprehensive study using NICER

Wideband Spectral Analysis

Investigation of absorption feature

Summary & Conclusion









- Discovered by Uhuru satellite on 1971
- Subsequent outbursts : 1984, 1992, 2002, 2021
- RA = 15h 47m 8.27s, DEC = −47°40′10.8" (J2000)
- The **brightest XRB** source ever discovered :

11.6 Crab in 2−4 keV (2021 outburst)

- Distance :  $D = 7.5 \pm 0.5$  kpc (Jonker & Nelemans 2004)
- Mass of the black hole : M =  $9.4\pm1$  M<sub>o</sub> (Russell et al. 2006)
- Low orbital inclination

### Lightcurve and Hardness ratio

Extremely luminous in low energies



**(Prabhakar et al. 2023)**

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There is no comprehensive study in literature based on 2021 outburst of 4U 1543−47.

We noticed extreamly strong and dynamic absorption features in the 2021 outburst spectra: has not been observed in XRBs.

Find out the origin of this unique absorption feature and understand its role in accretion.

# Comprehensive Study of the Outburst

- Hardness Intensity Diagram -



**NICER**

### **Wideband Spectral Analysis**

### Phenomenological Modelling

- For Comptonized spectrum: **thcomp**
- For strong absorption feature : *gabs*
- For weak Fe Kα absorption edge : *edge*





### Phenomenological modelling

- Evolution of Parameters -



### Phenomenological modelling - Evolution of Parameters -

T<sub>in</sub> decreases throughout the outburst decay.

Γ : increases till ~day 60, then decreases.

 $\mathsf{f}_\mathsf{c}$  : decreases till  $\sim$ day 60 then increases - behaviour is consistent with the spectral softening trend. Only a tiny fraction (< 3 % ) of the soft photons Comptonized in the corona.

**Strength : increases till ~day 60: dynamic** 

Optical depth associated with *gabs,* 

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Luminosity exceeds L<sub>Edd</sub> for the peak, then declines

### **Wideband Spectral Analysis**

### Reflection Modelling (RELXILL)

- **relxilllp**: powerlaw photons from corona with a highenergy cutoff illuminate the disk and reflected
- For strong absorption feature : **gabs**



tbabs(diskbb+relxilllp)gabs Model M2



### Reflection modelling

- Evolution of Parameters -

 $T_{in}$  and  $\Gamma$  - silimlar trend of evolution as in M1

Inclination θ  $\sim$  32°-40°

High value of  $log \xi$  (>3) : a highly ionized disc material throughout the outburst

Overabundance ( $3.6 - 10$  AFe, $\odot$ ) of iron in the disk.

Rf : The fraction of primary photons reaching the disk increases till ~day 60, then decreases afterwards.

*gabs strength* estimated from both methods follow the same trend



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# Investigation of the Absorption feature



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- Obscuring cloud in the line-of-sight
- Occultation due to companion star
- Stellar wind from companion
- Strong accretion disk-wind

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### Absorption features in the Spectra of 4U 1543−47

Used partial covering fraction model *(pcfabs)*

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Checking for orbital variations

# Orbital variations ?



- All NuSTAR epoch data fitted using M1 and M2
- Estimated *gabs-strength* (S<sub>i</sub>)

**Si**

**S p**

- Extracted spectrum from different patches of GTIs
- Simultaneous joint fit of all GTI-patches under each epoch using M1
- Estimated *gabs-strength* (S<sub>p</sub>)
- **Binary orbital period 26.79 h**
- **The orbital position of each patch is identified based on the start time of Epoch -1**
- **Plotted S<sup>p</sup> -S<sup>i</sup> against orbital phase**
- **Residual varies within ±0.5 keV**



Residual strength  $(\mathsf{S}_\mathsf{p}$  -  $\mathsf{S}_\mathsf{i})$  is measured for each patches inside an epoch

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Orbital position of BH and companion is not responsible for the dynamic nature of the absorption features



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**Super Eddington peak luminosity of the source can launch strong disk-wind**

- Disk-wind is more prominent in the soft state of XRB
- **If the disk-ionized winds are responsible for the absorption features,**

**expect maximum strength for the features when the source is softer : ∼ day 60**

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- Assuming the feature is produced by absorption of the accretion disk photons by highly ionized blue shifted diskwind,

#### **Estimated wind speed**

Broad feature can be produced by combining multiple lines of various ionization states of iron.

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#### **1 st relativistic disk-wind in XRBs!**

Phenomenological modelling shows the presence of the neutral Fe Kα absorption (edge) at ∼ 7.1 − 7.4 keV (from outer disk)

- Once the luminosity reduces, there is a sudden infall of matter onto the BH, leading to an evacuation of the inner disk.
- Sudden drop of ionized EW (BC) can be due to the evacuation of the inner disk.



If evacuation happens  $\longrightarrow$  drop of soft photon flux

Expect relatively harder spectrum

Observed drop (14%) in soft flux (0.5-7 keV)

- Inner accretion disk recovers over the next 10 days (CD) due to transfer of matter from the outer disk
- Neutral component (or the outer disk) follows the same trend as the ionized component with a delay of the viscous timescale



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 $\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}\n\hline\n\text{(a)} & \text{radual} \\
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### Summary & Conclusion

- **Exhibit super Eddington peak luminosity on Epoch 1.**
- Source is in HSS through out, with a steep Γ due to a very small fraction (< 3%) of inverse-Comptonized photons and low corona temperature.
- Inclination of the system ~32° −40°
- Extreme luminosity, high ionization (log  $\xi > 3$ ) and overabundance of iron.
- HID : correlated evolution of flux and HR (thermal disc origin)
- A broad, dynamic absorption feature at ~ 8 − 11 keV : 1<sup>st</sup> time in XRBs. We propose that this feature is due to the absorption of the accretion disk photons by the highly ionized, blue shifted disk-wind.
- Estimated wind speed of nearly 30% of speed of light
- The evolution of EW of the neutral absorption component (edge) and the ionized component (gabs), follow each other with a delay of the typical viscous timescale of 10 − 15 days. The evacuation of the inner accretion disk - a drop in the soft photon flux and an enhancement of hard flux.

# THANKS **!**



### Data reduction

#### Swift/XRT

- Used *xrtpipeline*
- Source spectra : Circular region, R= 30 pixel (for pile up data annular region of outer

circle 30 pixel and varying inner radius)

- Background : Annular region of 70-130 pixel radius
- Response file and ancillary response files are created
- Grouping : 20 photons per bin

#### NuSTAR

- Used *nupipeline*
- Source spectra: Circular region of 30 (35) pixel radius
- Background spectra: Circular region of 30 (35) pixel radius
- *NUPRODUCTS* task is used to generate science products such as light curves, energy spectra, response matrix files (RMFs) and auxiliary response files (ARFs) for both telescopes FPMA and FPMB.
- Grouping :  $30$  (50) photons per bin

### Data reduction

#### **NICER**

- Used *nicerl2* task
- Applied barycenter corrections
- RMFs and ARFs are generated
- Background : generated using *nibackgen*
- Grouping : 25 photons per bin
- Systematics: 1.5 % (1%)

#### **AstroSat**

- Pile-up: annular extraction with Rin=  $3$  (2) arcmin and Rout=16 (15) arcmin.
- SXT: Sourc spectra, background and RMF files generated.
- ARF file generated using '*sxtARFModule*'.
- Grouping : 30 photons per bin
- LAXPC *LaxpcSoftv3.4*, source spectrum, background and spectral response generated.
- Systematics of 2% for SXT & LAXPC

Table 4.2: Wideband NICER-NuSTAR simultaneous pairs and AstroSat observations (highlighted in grey colour) using the model M1: tbabs (thcomp×diskbb) edge×gabs and tbabs (thcomp×diskbb) gabs respectively. The error values represent 90% confidence interval. The NuSTAR data on Epoch 8, 11 & 12 are not included here as no simultaneous NICER observations are available. The bolometric  $(0.5 - 100 \text{ keV})$  observed flux and estimated luminosity for each epoch is also shown.



\* edge is used for *NICER-NuSTAR* pairs whereas gauss component is used only for Epoch 3 & 6 of *AstroSat* data.<br> *f* Frozen parameters **40** 1543-47

Table 4.3: Reflection modelling of NICER-NuSTAR simultaneous pairs and AstroSat observations (highlighted with grey colour) using the model tbabs(diskbb+relxilllp)gabs. The error values represent 90% confidence interval. The NuSTAR data on Epoch 8, 11 & 12 are not included here as no simultaneous  $NICER$  observations are available.



 $a$  Parameter uncertainty can't be estimated.

 $<sup>b</sup>$  Parameter hits the boundary.</sup>

 $f$  Frozen parameters.

Table 5.1: Parameters of phenomenological spectral modelling of NuSTAR using the model tbabs (thcomp×diskbb)edge×gabs (M1). Errors are in 90% confidence intervals.



 $a$  Parameter uncertainty can't be estimated.

Table 5.2: Parameters of the reflection modelling of NuSTAR using the model tbabs (diskbb+relxilllp) gabs (M2). Errors are in 90% confidence intervals.



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