

Highlights of China's first X-ray astronomy satellite *Insight-HXMT*

Shuang-Nan Zhang^{1,2,3}

¹ Key Laboratory of Particle Astrophysics, Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, ² University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, ³ Key Laboratory of Space Astronomy and Technology, National Astronomical Observatories, Chinese Academy of Sciences
e-mail (speaker): zhangsn@ihep.ac.cn

*Insight-HXMT*¹ (Figure 1) is China's first X-ray astronomy satellite and was successfully launched on June 15th, 2017. As shown in Figure 2, it carries three sets of collimated X-ray instruments with large effective areas, covering energy ranges of 1-15 keV, 5-30 keV, and 20-250 keV, respectively. In addition, it can also serve as an all-sky monitor for high energy sources between 0.2 to 3 MeV. The satellite and all its instruments have been working smoothly. It is anticipated to make scientific observations at least for 4-5 more years. Further information on *Insight-HXMT* and its data archive can be obtained from <http://hxmt.cn/>.



Figure 1: An artist's illustration of *Insight HXMT* in space¹.

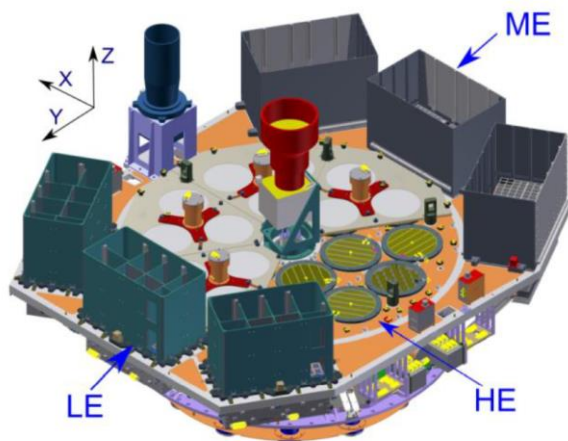


Figure 2: The three collimated X-ray instruments: LE (1-15 keV), ME (5-30 keV) and HE (20-250 keV)¹.

Some major discoveries of *Insight-HXMT* include the highest energy kilo-Hz quasi-periodic oscillations from accreting low-mass neutron star X-ray binaries², suggesting possible non-thermal processes in the very hot plasma very close to the neutron star; the highest energy low frequency quasi-periodic oscillations from accreting black hole X-ray binaries, suggesting possible origin of precession of relativistic jet produced by magnetic reconnection³ (Figure 3); the highest energy cyclotron

absorption feature from accreting and highly magnetized neutron stars⁴; identification of a non-thermal X-ray burst from a Galactic magnetar and a fast radio burst⁵, discovery of the first counterpart of a fast radio burst. It has also detected hundreds of gamma-ray bursts, solar flares and terrestrial gamma-ray flashes, with its largest effective area around MeV.

In this talk, I will review some highlights of the scientific results of *Insight-HXMT*, on accreting X-ray binaries harboring black holes or neutron stars, isolated pulsars, gamma-ray bursts and scanning survey of the Galactic Plane⁶.

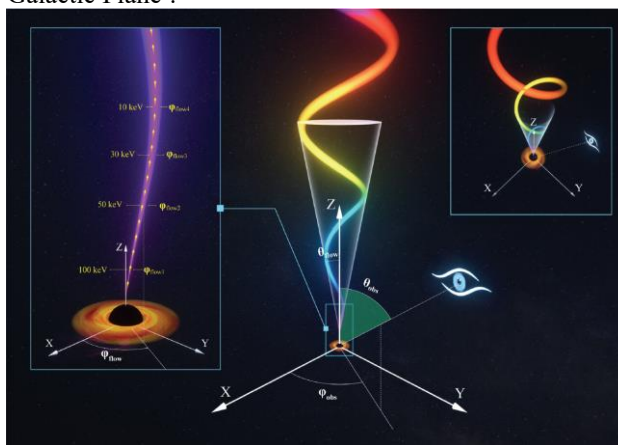


Figure 3: Schematic of the jet precession model.

References

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