Jetted and non-jetted stellar tidal disruption events (TDEs)

S. Komossa, MPIfR Bonn

Breaking the Limits: Super-Eddington Accretion on Compact Objects, Arbatax, Sept. 19-23, 2016



B. Carter & J. P. Luminet

Groupe d'Astrophysique Relativiste, Observatoire de Paris, 92190 Meudon, France

Recent efforts to understand exotic phenomena in galactic nuclei commonly postulate the presence of a massive black hole accreting gas produced by idal or collisional disruption of stars. For black holes in the mass range $10^{-1}-10^{7} M_{\odot}$, individual stars penetrating well inside the Roche radius will undergo compression to a short-luced pancake configuration very similar to that produced by a high velocity symmetric collision of the kind likely to occur in the neighbourhood of black holes in the higher mass range $\ge 10^{9} M_{\odot}$. Thermonuclear energy release ensuing in the more extreme events may be sufficient to modify substantially the working of the entire accretion process.

NATURE VOL. 333 9 JUNE 1988

Tidal disruption of stars by black holes of 10^6 - 10^8 solar masses in nearby galaxies

Martin J. Rees

Institute of Astronomy, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0HA, UK

Stars in galactic nuclei can be captured or tidally disrupted by a central black hole. Some debris would be ejected at high speed, the remainder would be swallowed by the hole, causing a bright flare lasting at most a few years. Such phenomena are compatible with the presence of $10^{\circ}-10^{4}$ M_{\odot} holes in the nuclei of many nearby galaxies. Stellar disruption may have interesting consequences in our own Galactic Centre if $a \sim 10^{6}$ M_{\odot} hole lurks there.

"Dead Quasars" in Nearby Galaxies?

MARTIN J. REES

SCIENCE, VOL. 247 IG FEBRUARY 1990

The nuclei of some galaxies undergo violent activity, quasars being the most extreme instances of this phenomenon. Such activity is probably short-lived compared to galactic lifetimes, and was most prevalent when the universe was only about one-fifth of its present age. A

evolved to the stage where runaway activity gets triggered in their nuclei (2), ' Quasa activity is apparently a distinctive feature of *nather young* galaxies. The quasar density peaked soon after galaxies formed. The population then seems to have dwindled as the universe (with its constituent galaxies) got older. A current estimate (3) of the relative

tidal capture & disruption of stars by SMBHs

"The best diagnostic for a BH's presence would be some inevitable concomitant that cannot be explained in any other way."

[M. Rees, *Nature*, 1988]



tidal disruption of stars by SMBHs

- disruption at $r = r_{tidal}$, with tidal radius $r_{tidal} = R_* (M_{BH}/m_*)^{1/3} = 7 \ 10^{12} \ M_{BH,6}^{1/3} \ (R_*/R_{sun}) \ (m_*/m_{sun})^{-1/3} \ cm$
 - → solar-type stars swallowed whole above M_{BH} ~ 10⁸ M_{sun}
 → disruption of WDs requires M_{BH}<10⁵ M_{sun}
- high initial gas supply rate, up to highly super-Eddington → high L_{peak}
- bbdy temperature at r_t $T \sim 10^{5-6}$ K
- ~ 90% of the stellar material is unbound
- event rate 10^{-4..-5}/yr /galaxy

• return rate $dm/dt \sim t^{-5/3}$



tidal disruption of stars by SMBHs



detection of IMBHs, $< 10^{6} M_{sun}$



new probe of accretion physics down to last stable orbit, from highly super-Eddington to sub-Eddington within yrs; & of BH spin and jet formation

Iuminous TDEs in soft X-rays – first detections (ROSAT)

log countrate [cts/s]

- $L_{\rm x,peak}$ up to sev. 10⁴⁴ erg/s
- very soft X-ray spectra near peak $(kT_{\rm BB} \simeq 0.04-0.1 \text{ keV});$ then hardening within yrs
- decline consist. with predicted $t^{-5/3}$ law, plus drop at t > sev yrs
- amplitudes of decline up to factor 1000-6000





[Bade+96, Komossa & Bade 99, Komossa & Greiner 99, Greiner+ 00, Halpern+ 04, Komossa+ 04]

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- amplitudes of decline up to factor 1000-6000
- host galaxies are optically *inactive*
- M_{BH}~ 10⁶⁻⁸ M_{sun}
- *m*_{*,acc} < 10% M_{sun}

[Bade+96, Komossa & Bade 99, Komossa & Greiner 99, Greiner+ 00, Li+ 02, Halpern+ 04, Komossa+ 04]



TDEs identified in X-rays in non-AGN

TDE	z	mission	publication	
NGC 5905	0.011	ROSAT	Bade+ 96, Komossa+ 99	
RXJ1242-1119	0.050	ROSAT	Komossa & Greiner 99 Komossa+ 04	
RXJ1624+7554	0.064	ROSAT	Grupe+ 99	
RXJ1420+5334	0.147	ROSAT	Greiner+ 00	
NGC 3599	0.003	XMM	Esquej+ 07, 08	
SDSS1323+4827	0.087	XMM	Esquej+ 07, 08	
TDXF1347-3254	0.037	ROSAT	Cappelluti+ 09	
SDSS 1311-0123	0.195	Chandra	Maksym+ 10	
2XMMi1847-6317	0.035	XMM	Lin+ 11	
SwiftJ1644+57	0.354	Swift	Bloom+ 11, Burrows+ 11	
SDSS1201+3003	0.146	XMM	Saxton+ 12	
SwiftJ2058+0516	1.185	Swift	Cenko+12	
WINGS J1348	0.062	Chandra	Maksym+ 13 Donato+ 14	
RBS1032 (?)	0.026	ROSAT	Maksym+14, Khabibullin+14	
3XMMJ1521+0749	0.179	XMM	Lin+ 15	

[review: Komossa 15]

X-ray TDEs: dedicated searches for new events (XMM & Chandra)

- ~ 10 events identified; overall properties
 very similar to previous (ROSAT) soft
 X-ray TDEs:
 - extreme X-ray softness near max
 - high peak luminosities, up to
 few 10⁴⁴ erg/s
 - decline by typ. factors ~> 100
 (ROSAT: > 1000-6000)
 - (optically) quiescent galaxies
- → important probes of accretion physics in early stages of TDE evolution; including the super-Eddington phase

[Esquej+ 07,08, Cappelluti+ 09, Maksym+ 10,13, Lin+ 11,15, 16—prep., Saxton+ 12, 14,16—prep., Donato+ 14, review: Komossa 15] rate estimates: 10^{-4...-5} /yr/gal (based on: RASS, XMM-slew, Chandra DF, gal. clusters)

[Donley+ 02, Esquej+ 08, Luo+ 08, Maksym+ 10, Khabibullin+14]

TDEs with XMM & Chandra

SDSSJ1201+30



L_{x,hi} = 3 10⁴⁴ erg/s overall decline, + high-ampl. var complex X-ray spectrum





- no emission lines; neither host nor TDE
- no VLA radio detection:
 - f < 0.1 mJy (at 8 GHz) after ~1yr
- $M_{\rm BH} \simeq 10^{6-7} \, {\rm M_{sun}}$

TDEs with XMM & Chandra



TDEs with XMM & Chandra

3XMMJ1521+0749

 $L_{\rm x} = 5 \ 10^{43} \ {\rm erg/s}$

ultra-soft spectrum, $kT \sim 0.1$ keV, subject to fast-moving warm absorber ($v \sim 0.1$ c)

not detected in X in any follow-ups; amplitude of variability: factor 260

X-emi coincident with centre of inactive galaxy at z=0.18

BH mass: $M_{\rm BH}$ = few 10⁷ M_{sun}



[Lin+ 15]

first high-resolution X-ray spectroscopy of a TDE

- optically identified TDE (z=0.02) ASASSN14li, with luminous X-rays
- declining radio emission indicates presence of low-power jet/outflow (+ permanent component indicating permanent low-level AGN)
- XMM-RGS: thermal conti (kT ~ 0.05 keV) & highly ionized matter near BH in outflow v = few 100 km/s
- → new probe of early formation & evolution of disk wind and/or stellar debris



[Jose+ 14 Atel #6777, Miller+ 15]



SDSSJ0952+2143

- super-strong Fe coronal lines & Hell
- $L_{[FeX],hi} = 4 \ 10^{40} \ erg/s$
- fade by factor 10, in ~3yrs
- unusual Balmer profile; incl. redshifted broad comp., fading
- luminous MIR (Spitzer,10-20 m), ~10⁴³ erg/s
- but faint X-rays, ~10⁴¹ erg/s, few yrs after ,SDSS' high-state
- no clear signs of permanent AGN (from line ratios, absence of radio, opt pl, IRAS colours)
- $M_{\rm BH} = 7 \ 10^6 \ {\rm M_{sun}}$ (from σ_*)

[Komossa+ 08, 09]



SDSSJ0952+2143

 → luminous EUV-X-ray flare, not observed directly, but in NUV, opt, NIR conti, and in broad and narrow emi lines

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[Komossa+ 08, 09]

very narrow double-peaked "horns" in Balmer lines:

2-component high-ion. Fe and Hell lines:





→ lines excited by TDE, illuminating surrounding ISM (narrow lines), and stellar material (broad lines)? → new method of mapping phys. conditions in galaxy cores

several more TDE candidates with transient emission-lines from SDSS, PanSTARS, PTF, ASAS-SN; including in early stages, with strong Balmer lines

- → emission from the tidal debris which formed the temporary accretion disk
- \rightarrow ongoing discussions:
 - do TDE candidates with absent H lines require He-rich stellar core, or photoionization-effects in solar gas ?
 - why do their decline lightcurves imply ~constant T, ~ 10^4 K ?
 - why do most opt-UV TDE candidates lack X-ray emission ?



[e.g., Komossa+ 09, Wang+ 11, 12, van Velzen+ 11, Gezari+ 12, Guillochon+ 14, Gaskell+ 14, Holoien+ 14, 16, Arcavi+ 14,]

discovery of jetted TDEs with Swift

A Possible Relativistic Jetted Outburst from a Massive Black Hole Fed by a Tidally Disrupted Star

Joshua S. Bloom,¹* Dimitrios Giannios,² Brian D. Metzger,² S. Bradley Cenko,¹ Daniel A. Perley,¹ Nathaniel R. Butler,¹ Nial R. Tanvir,³ Andrew J. Levan,⁴ Paul T. O' Brien,³ Linda E. Strubbe,^{1,5} Fabio De Colle,⁶ Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz,⁶ William H. Lee,⁷ Sergei Nayakshin,³ Eliot Quataert,^{1,5} Andrew R. King,³ Antonino Cucchiara,^{1,8} James Guillochon,⁶ Geoffrey C. Bower,^{9,1} Andrew S. Fruchter,¹⁰ Adam N. Morgan,¹ Alexander J. van der Horst¹¹

Gas accretion onto some massive black holes (MBHs) at the centers of galaxies actively powers luminous emission, but most MBHs are considered dormant. Occasionally, a star passing too near an MBH is torn apart by gravitational forces, leading to a bright tidal disruption flare (TDF). Although the bigh-energy transient Sw 1644+57 initially displayed none of the theoretically

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syr

An Extremely Luminous Panchromatic Outburst from the Nucleus of a Distant Galaxy

A. J. Levan, ¹* N. R. Tanvir, ² S. B. Cenko, ³ D. A. Perley, ³ K. Wiersema, ² J. S. Bloom, ³ A. S. Fruchter, ⁴ A. de Ugarte Postigo, ⁵ P. T. O'Brien, ² N. Butler, ³ A. J. van der Horst, ⁶ G. Leloudas, ⁵ A. N. Morgan, ³ K. Misra, ⁴ G. C. Bower, ³ J. Farihi, ² R. L. Tunnicliffe, ¹ M. Modjaz, ⁷ J. M. Silverman, ³ J. Hjorth, ⁵ C. Thöne, ⁸ A. Cucchiara, ³ J. M. Castro Cerón, ⁹ A. J. Castro-Tirado, ⁸ J. A. Arnold, ¹⁰ M. Bremer, ¹¹ J. P. Brodie, ¹⁰ T. Carroll, ¹² M. C. Cooper, ¹³ P. A. Curran, ¹⁴ R. M. Cutri, ¹⁵ J. Ehle, ¹² D. Forbes, ¹⁶ J. Fynbo, ⁵ J. Gorosabel, ⁸ J. Graham, ^{4,17} D. I. Hoffman, ¹⁵ S. Guziy, ⁸ P. Jakobsson, ¹⁹ A. Kamble, ²⁰ T. Kerr, ¹² M. M. Kasliwal, ¹⁸ C. Kouveliotou, ²¹ D. Kocevski, ¹⁰ N. M. Law, ²² P. E. Nugent, ^{3,23} E. O. Ofek, ¹⁸ D. Poznanski, ^{3,23} R. M. Quimby, ¹⁸ E. Rol, ²⁴ A. J. Romanowsky, ¹⁰ R. Sánchez-Ramírez, ⁸ S. Schulze, ¹⁹ N. Singh, ^{10,25} L. van Spaandonk, ^{1,26} R. L. C. Starting, ² R. G. Strom, ^{24,27} J. C. Tello, ⁸ O. Vaduvescu, ²⁸ P. J. Wheatley, ¹ R. A. M. J. Wijers, ²⁴ J. M. Winters, ¹¹ D. Xu²⁹

Variable x-ray and γ -ray emission is characteristic of the most extreme physical processes in the universe. We present multiwavelength observations of a unique γ -ray-selected transient detected by the Swift satellite, accompanied by bright emission across the electromagnetic spectrum, and whose properties are unlike any previously observed source. We pinpoint the event to the center of a small, star-forming galaxy at redshift z = 0.3534. Its high-energy emission has lasted much longer than any γ -ray burst, whereas its peak luminosity was \sim 100 times higher than bright active galactic nuclei. The association of the outburst with the center of its host galaxy suggests that this phenomenon has its origin in a rare mechanism involving the massive black hole in the nucleus of that galaxy.

LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature10374

Relativistic jet activity from the tidal disruption of a star by a massive black hole

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Supermassive black holes have powerful gravitational fields with strong gradients that can destroy stars that get too close¹³, producing a bright flare in ultraviolet and X-ray spectral regions from stellar debris that forms an accretion disk around the black hole¹⁻². The aftermath of this process may have been seen several times over the past two decades in the form of sparsely sampled, slowly fading emission from distant galaxies^{14,1}, but the onset of the stellar disruption event has not hitherto been observed. Here we report observations of a bright X-ray flare from the extragalactic transient Swift J164449.3+573451. This source increased in brightness in the X-ray band by a factor of at least 10.000 since 1990 and by a factor of at least 100 since early 2010. We conclude that we have captured the onset of relativistic jet activity from a supermassive black hole. A companion paper¹⁵ comes to similar condusions on

is ${\sim}2 \times 10^{53}$ erg (1–10 keV). We have found no statistically significant periodic or quasi-periodic signals in the XRT data. Details of our observations and data analysis are given in Supplementary Information section 1.

Swift J16449.3+573451 has not been previously detected at any wavelength and is not present in any sky catalogues. X-ray flux upper limits from observations by ROSAT, XMN-Newton, MAXI and Swift between 1990 and 24 March 2011 are 2–4 orders of magnitude lower than the peak X-ray fluxes measured by Swift (Fig. 2), and the ROSAT upper limits are an order of magnitude below the lowest flux in the first 50 days after the first BAT trigger.

BAT 14–195 keV

LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature10366

Birth of a relativistic outflow in the unusual γ -ray transient Swift J164449.3+573451

0.1 a

B. A. Zauderer¹, E. Berger¹, A. M. Soderberg¹, A. Loeb¹, R. Narayan¹, D. A. Frail², G. R. Petitpas¹, A. Brunthaler³, R. Chornock¹, J. M. Carpenter⁴, G. G. Pooley⁵, K. Mooley³, S. R. Kulkarni⁴, R. Margutti⁶, D. B. Foz², E. Nakar⁶, N. A. Patel¹, N. H. Volgenau⁹, T. L. Culverhouse⁶, M. F. Bietenholz^{10,11}, M. P. Rupen², W. Max-Moerbeck⁴, A. C. S. Readhead⁴, J. Richards⁴, M. Shepherd⁴, S. Storm¹² & C. L. H. Hull¹³

Active galactic nuclei, which are powered by long-term accretion onto central supermassive black holes, produce' relativistic jets with lifetimes of at least one million years, and the observation of the birth of such a jet is therefore unlikely. Transient accretion onto a supermassive black hole, for example through the tidal disruption²³ of a stray star, thus offers a rare opportunity to study the birth of a relativistic jet. On 25 March 2011, an unusual transient source (Swift J164449.3+573451) was found⁴, potentially representing^{4,6} such an accretion event. Here we report observations spanning centimetre to millimetre wavelengths and covering the first month of evolution of a luminous radio transient coincides⁷ with the nucleus of an inactive galaxy. We conclude that we are seeing a newly formed relativistic outflow, launched by transient accretion noto a million-solar-mass black hole. A relativistic

outflow is not predicted in this situation, but we show that the tidal disruption of a star naturally explains the observed high-energy properties and radio luminosity and the inferred rate of such events. The weaker beaming in the radio-frequency spectrum relative to γ -rays or X-rays suggests that radio searches may uncover similar events out to redshifts of $z \approx 6$.

On the discovery⁴ of Swift J164449.3+573451 by NASA's Swift satellite, and the identification of a galaxy at a redshift⁶ of z = 0.354within Swift's X-ray localization region (radius, 1.4'), we initiated radio observations of the transient on 2011 March 29.36 UT with the Expanded Very Large Array (EVLA) at a frequency of 5.75 GHz and discovered an unresolved source with a flux density of 310 ± 7 µJy. Astrometric matching demonstrated that the radio source coincides with the galaxy nucleus (Fig. 1), as was subsequently confirmed⁶ with a the revealed that the

- J1644+57 discovered with Swift BAT March 2011; no detection before March 25
- lightcurve overally declining
- plus rapid variability, $\Delta t \approx 100$ s



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- lightcurve overally declining
- plus rapid variability, $\Delta t \approx 100$ s
- *z*_{host} =0.35, optically inactive
- no UV, opt var (exti), but NIR



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- z_{host} =0.35, optically inactive
- unresolved, variable, beamed radio emission
- ➔ rapid onset of a powerful jet, following tidal disruption
- late-time X-rays remain faint, ~constant, at L_{x,low} = 5 10⁴² erg/s



jetted TDEs: two more candidates with Swift: SwiftJ2058+0516 SwiftJ1112-8238



- $L_{\rm x,iso} = 3 \ 10^{47} \ {\rm erg/s}$
- rapid variability, $\Delta t \sim 1000$ s
- $z_{\text{likely-host}} = 1.19$, optically inactive
- $M_{\rm BH}$ approx $10^{7-8} {\rm M}_{\rm sun}$
- luminous radio emi, likely beamed
- \rightarrow many similarities with J1644

- $L_{\rm x,iso} > 10^{47} \, {\rm erg/s}$
- $z_{\text{likely-host}} = 0.89$ (?)

[Cenko+ 12, Brown+15, Pasham+15]

SwiftJ1644 follow-ups: modelling, theory, implications

• X-ray & radio emission mechanisms:

do X-rays come from disc, inner jet, shocks from jet-ISM interaction, beamed

component, ?	A 200-s Quasi-Periodicity Following the Tidal Disruption of a Star by a Dormant Black Hole				
MNRAS 434, 3078–3088 (2013) Advance Access publication 2013 August 7	R. C. Reis, J. M. Miller,	M. T. Reynolds, K. Gultekin, D. Maitra, A. L. King,	T. E. Strohmayer		
	M	on. Not. R. Astron. Soc. 420, 3528–3537 (2012)	doi:10.1111/j.1365-2966.2011.20		
A model for the multiwavelength radiat	ion from tidal disru				
Swift J1644+57	A	Afterglow model for the radio emission andidate Swift J1644+57	from the jetted tidal disruption		
P. Kumar, ^{1*} R. Barniol Duran, ^{2*} Ž. Bošnjak ^{3*} and T. Piran ^{2*}		Brian D. Metzger, ^{1*†} Dimitrios Giannios ¹ and	Petar Mimica ²		
	The Astrophysical Jo	ournal > Volume 788 > Number 1			
MNRAS 437, 2744–2760 (2014) Advance Access publication 2013 November 30	Quasi-periodic Variations in X-Ray Emission and Long-term Radio Observations: Evidence for a Two-component Jet in Sw J1644+57				
Swift J1644+57 gone MAD: the case fo	r dynan Jiu-Zhou Wang ¹ , Wei	i-Hua Lei ^{1,2,3} , Ding-Xiong Wang ¹ , Yuan-Chuan Zou ¹ , Bin	g Zhang ^{4,5} , He Gao ⁴ , and Chang-Yin Huang ^{1,6}		
flux threading the black hole in a jetted	tidal disruption even	nt			
Alexander Tchekhovskoy, ^{1,2*} †‡§ Brian D. Me and Luke Z. Kelley ⁵	etzger, ³ Dimitrios Gianni	1 10 in the U.S.A.	đ		
MNRAS 445, 3919–3938 (2014)	JETS FROM TIDAL DISRUPTIONS OF STARS BY BLACK HOLES				
		Julian H. Krolik ¹ and	d Tsvi Piran ²		
Tidal disruption and magnetic flux capture: pov	wering a jet from a				
quiescent black hole	Observ	Observing Lense-Thirring Precession in Tidal Disruption Flares			
Luke Zoltan Kelley, ¹ * Alexander Tchekhovskoy ² and I THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 760:103 (15pp), 2012 December 1 © 2012. The American Astronomical Society. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.	Ramesh Narayar Phys. Rev. 1	Lett. 108 , 061302 – Published 6 February 20	12		
THE DYNAMICS, APPEARANCE, AND DEMOGRAPHICS BY TIDAL DISRUPTION OF STARS IN QUIESCENT	DF RELATIVISTI UPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLES				
Fabio De Colle ^{1,2} , James Guillochon ¹ , Jill Naima	N ¹ , AND ENRICO RAMIREZ-RUIZ ¹				

spatially resolving the radio jet

 search for superluminal motion with EVN phase-referencing, at 5 GHz

spatial resolution: 12 micro-arcsec

- → no superluminal motion detected, β app < 0.3 c
- ightarrow no spatial extent detected





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talks by Alexander Sadowski & Ken Oshuga, this meeting



[Kara+ 16]

soft X-ray (non-jetted) TDEs: how much above Eddington ?



soft X-ray (non-jetted) TDEs: how much above Eddington ?



future TDE search & applications

• statistics: flare rates, frequency of IMBHs

when flares detected in 1000s in current & future sky surveys in opt – X-ray – radio band (e.g., LSST—opt, *Einstein Probe –X, SKA--radio*)

• rapid follow-ups:

 \rightarrow in X-rays: - highest amplitudes (highest contrasts vs hosts, x 10⁴⁻⁶),

- best chances for observing relativistic effects (broad lines, precession),
- best probe of accretion physics down to last stable orbit, under extreme conditions, incl. super-Eddington phase

\rightarrow in optical(UV):

esp. emi.-lines: - reverberation mapping of circum-nuclear gas,

- of stellar debris, - TDE-EUV conti, - CL atomic parameters

→ in radio, hard X-rays: new probe of jet formation & evolution (but not in all events) in *pristine* environment; jet-disk coupling

- **GWs (+em)** from compact cores of partially stripped stars (WDs & NS)
- new discovery space: signposts of SMBBHs, and recoiling BHs, ...

(→ repeat TDEs, off-center TDEs, no-host TDEs)