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## Re-brightening of the black hole candidate MAXI J1535-571 as it transitioned back to the soft state

ATel #11652; *A. S. Parikh, T. D. Russell, R. Wijnands (UvA), A. Bahramain, J. C. A. Miller-Jones (ICRAR-Curtin), A. J. Tetarenko, G. R. Sivakoff (U. Alberta)*

on 18 May 2018; 18:19 UT

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Referred to by ATel #: [11682](#)

MAXI J1535-571 is a black-hole candidate in a low-mass X-ray binary that was detected independently by Swift and MAXI in outburst in early 2017 September (GCN #[21792](#), ATel #[10699](#)). The source transitioned to a soft state in late 2017 November (ATel #[11020](#)) and was reported to transition back to its hard state around 2018 April 30 (ATel #[11611](#)).

More recent Swift/X-ray Telescope (XRT) observations of the source in the hard state indicated that the source was decaying. On 2018 May 11 the source exhibited a minimum observed flux of  $\sim 1.2E-12$  erg/cm<sup>2</sup>/s (0.5-10 keV; unabsorbed). However, the following XRT observation, carried out on 2018 May 14 (intermittently between 08:42 and 13:37 UT), showed that the flux had increased by a factor of  $\sim 20$  to  $\sim 2.4E-11$  erg/cm<sup>2</sup>/s (0.5-10 keV; unabsorbed). We fitted the spectrum from this observation with an absorbed power-law model. We fixed the equivalent hydrogen column density  $N_{\text{H}}$  to  $4.4E22$  cm<sup>-2</sup> (obtained by fitting data with higher signal-to-noise ratio; see ATel #[11611](#)). The spectrum corresponded to a photon index of  $\Gamma = 1.7 \pm 0.3$ , indicating that the source was still in the hard state.

Around the same time as this initial X-ray re-brightening, we observed MAXI J1535-571 with the Australia Telescope Compact Array (ATCA) on 2018 May 14 (between 16:11 and 21:48 UT). These observations were taken at 5.5 and 9 GHz (simultaneously) with a bandwidth of 2 GHz at each frequency. We used PKS 1934-638 for primary calibration and 1520-58 for phase calibration. Following standard procedure in CASA (v4.7.2; McMullin et al. 2007, ASPC, 376, 127) the data were reduced then imaged (using natural weighting). We significantly detected the source at both frequencies. Fitting a point source in the image plane we measure flux densities of  $0.89 \pm 0.02$  mJy at 5.5 GHz and  $1.04 \pm 0.02$  mJy at 9 GHz. The radio spectral index of  $\alpha = 0.3 \pm 0.1$ , where  $S_{\text{nu}} \propto \nu^{\alpha}$ , is consistent with emission from a compact jet during a hard X-ray state.

The most recent XRT observation, observed on 2018 May 18 (intermittently between 02:28 and 12:04 UT), indicated that the source had brightened further, by a factor of  $\sim 400$  corresponding to

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a flux of  $\sim 9.8 \times 10^{-9}$  erg/cm<sup>2</sup>/s (0.5-10 keV; unabsorbed). The spectrum was fit by a photon index of  $\Gamma = 4.7 \pm 0.2$  ( $N_{\text{H}}$  fixed to  $4.4 \times 10^{22}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>), indicating that the source may have transitioned to a soft state. Close in time to this second XRT observation, we observed MAXI J1535-571 with ATCA and the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA). The ATCA observations were taken on 2018 May 17 (between 06:54 and 11:00 UT) and followed the same setup and procedures described above. With these radio observations, we do not detect the source at either 5.5 or 9 GHz, with 3-sigma upper-limits of 0.06 mJy/beam at 5.5 GHz and 0.1 mJy/beam at 9 GHz. The source was also not detected in our quasi-simultaneous ALMA observations, which were taken at 97, 140 and 230 GHz, with 8 GHz of bandwidth at each frequency. All three bands were observed on May 17, where the 97 GHz observations were taken between 01:42 and 02:02 UT, the 140 GHz observations between 08:03 and 08:30 UT, and the 230 GHz observations between 01:09 and 01:41 UT. All three ALMA observations provide preliminary 3-sigma upper limits of 0.075 mJy/beam in all three bands. These non-detections imply the compact jet was quenched, as expected during the soft X-ray spectral state.

Our current XRT campaign will continue to observe MAXI J1535-571 until 2018 May 30. We will request further XRT observations if the source remains X-ray active. We will also continue to monitor this source at radio frequencies.

We thank Swift, ATCA, and ALMA for scheduling these observations.

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