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optical observations reveal the return of the jet

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GX 339-4 back in the hard state: optical observations reveal the return of the jet

ATel #3191; *D. M. Russell (University of Amsterdam), F. Lewis (Faulkes Telescope Project, Open Univ., Univ. of Glamorgan)*
on 25 Feb 2011; 13:54 UT

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Subjects: Radio, Infra-Red, Optical, X-ray, Binary, Transient

Referred to by ATel #: [3383](#), [10797](#)

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The transient black hole candidate GX 339-4 has been in outburst since January 2010 (ATel #[2380](#), #[2384](#), #[2455](#), #[2459](#), #[2525](#)) and made a transition from the hard state to the soft state during March - May 2010 (ATel #[2523](#), #[2545](#), #[2547](#), #[2556](#), #[2573](#), #[2577](#), #[2593](#)). The source remained in a soft state for ~ eight months before finally hardening in January 2011 (ATel #[3117](#)). We are monitoring GX 339-4 with the Faulkes Telescope South (located at Siding Spring, Australia). The source was only recently visible again from Australia, and we report on observations taken on 23 Feb and 24 Feb 2011 (MJD 55615-6).

The mean measured magnitudes are $V = 17.1$; $i' = 16.3$ on 23 Feb and $i' = 16.3$ on 24 Feb, with a range from different observations spanning ~ 0.1 mag in i' -band. From four i' -band exposures on 23 Feb and four on 24 Feb, we derive a fractional rms variability of 3 +/- 2 % (the time resolution is 270 sec) on 23 Feb and 5 +/- 1 % (time resolution 140 sec) on 24 Feb. On 24 Feb the variability is significant at the 4-sigma level, and is greater than the fractional rms variability we observed in the soft and intermediate states in i' -band, which was typically ~ 1 +/- 1 % in April - May 2010. Compared to data taken in the soft state, the change in $V-i'$ colour and rms variability are consistent with the variable jet component now making a contribution, as is commonly seen for this source in the hard state (see ATel #[2547](#), #[2573](#), [Coriat et al. 2009](#)).

The light curves are being updated online [here](#). Multiwavelength monitoring is encouraged as the jet emission evolves in the next few weeks and the source fades in the hard state. The Faulkes Telescope observations are part of an on-going monitoring campaign of ~ 30 low-mass X-ray binaries ([Lewis et al. 2008](#)). The Faulkes Telescope

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NuSTAR confirms a new

South is maintained and operated by Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope Network. FL acknowledges support from the Dill Faulkes Educational Trust.

Faulkes Telescope light curves

12322	outburst for the Black Hole Binary GX 339-4
12287	MeerKAT observations revealed a rising outburst of the recurrent black hole GX 339-4
11208	Swift XRT observes GX 339-4 in the hard state in Jan 2018
10864	SALT high resolution spectroscopy of GX339-4 in outburst
10825	NuSTAR Observation of GX 339-4 in the early stages of its 2017 outburst
10824	NICER Observation of Fast X-ray Flares in GX 339-4
10820	Sub-second optical flaring in GX 339-4 during the 2017 outburst early rise
10808	Radio detection of GX 339-4 in its latest outburst
10798	X-ray brightening of GX 339-4 in late September 2017
10797	New outburst of GX 339-4 detected by Faulkes Telescope South
9306	Faulkes Telescope observations of the optical rise of a bright outburst of Aql X-1
7977	SMARTS optical re-brightening of GX 339-4
7962	GX 339-4 in transition back to the hard state after a long outburst
7649	GX 339-4 has entered the intermediate state
7434	GX 339-4 is still in the soft state
7201	GX 339-4 has left the soft state and possibly entered the intermediate state
7009	Soft state of GX 339-4 in its 2014-2015 outburst
6960	Possible ongoing hard-to-soft transition of GX 339-4
6649	Swift/BAT detects of a new X-ray outburst of GX 339-4
5594	Swift X-ray observations indicate that the 2013 outburst of GX 339-4 is probably ending
5417	GX 339-4 remains in the hard state
5285	ATCA radio detection of GX 339-4 in the rising hard state
5252	Swift X-ray observations confirm outburst of GX 339-4
5244	New outburst of the black-hole X-ray binary GX 339-4
4247	The rapid extreme fading of GX 339-4
4162	GX 339-4 is rising into outburst, and a deep optical quiescent magnitude observed by Faulkes Telescope South
3383	GX 339-4 is back in a faint state close to quiescence
3191	GX 339-4 back in the hard state: optical observations reveal the return of the jet
3117	GX 339-4 in transition towards hard states
2911	Radio non-detection of Aql X-1
2902	RXTE/PCA detection of QPO near 0.22 Hz in Aql X-1 during ongoing outburst
2891	Optical Monitoring Observations of AQL X-1
2871	Aql X-1 in brightest outburst since 2003
2850	Outburst of Aql X-1 as observed by RXTE and Swift
2775	XTE J1752-223 has faded to quiescence: optical and

	infrared magnitudes
2748	Further Optical Observations of Aql X-1
2745	Witnessing with the ATCA the interaction of a relativistic jet from GX 339-4 with the interstellar medium
2744	X-ray, UV, Optical and NIR Observations of Aql X-1
2742	New X-ray Activity from Aql X-1
2593	Multiple fast state transitions in GX 339-4
2577	Transition to the soft state in GX 339-4
2573	Simultaneous INTEGRAL, RXTE, Swift and FT South observations of the transition of GX 339-4
2556	Three Harmonics of X-ray Quasi-periodic Oscillation seen in Swift/XRT and RXTE/PCA Observations of GX 339-4
2549	IR brightening and possible appearance of the compact jet in XTE J1752-223 in the hard state
2547	Optical/IR flux fading rapidly in GX 339-4: OIR jet quenching
2545	GX 339-4 in transition from the hard state
2525	Observations with the ATCA of the brightest known radio hard state in GX 339-4
2523	GX 339-4 variability evolution observed by RXTE suggests the start of a spectral transition
2518	XTE J1752-223 in transition from a soft to a hard state
2459	Optical Observations of GX 339-4 in Outburst with the Faulkes Telescope South
2455	INTEGRAL observes an increasing Hard X-ray flux of GX 339-4
2384	RXTE observes hard state activity from GX 339-4
2380	MAXI/GSC detection of an X-ray activity from GX 339-4
2288	Aql X-1 back in outburst: multi-wavelength observations
2281	A recent Swift/XRT observation of GX 339-4 during its faint optical flux
2270	GX 339-4 Approaching Quiescence ?
2269	XTE J1752-223: RXTE PCA Observation shows black hole candidate
1970	Optical and hard X-ray detections of an outburst from Aquila X-1
1962	Optical photometry and polarimetry of GX 339-4 during its outburst rise
1960	MOST Observations of GX 339-4
1954	Renewed activity from GX 339-4
1945	Recent PCA Measurements of SAX J1747.0-2853 and GX 339-4
1588	Recent Swift XRT Observations of GX 339-4
1586	Unusual optical and X-ray flaring activity in GX 339-4
1218	Optical and Near-IR Observations of the Current Outburst of Aql X-1
1027	Latest optical and infrared observations of GX 339-4
968	Swift-BAT detects a bright hard X-ray outburst from GX 339-4
	Renewed Low Level X-ray

944	Activity of GX 339-4
230	Increased radio and optical activity in GX 339-4
196	GX 339-4 in a very low luminosity state
120	State Transition of GX 339-4
107	The recent evolution of radio emission from GX 339-4
95	State Changes in GX 339-4
85	Outburst of GX 339-4

[[Telegram Index](#)]

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