High-resolution spectroscopy of photo-ionized accretion-disc winds in galactic X-ray binaries

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Absorption from highly-ionized gas in XRBs

These objects show dips and eclipses in their light curves, and hence they probably are high-inclination systems in which we see the accretion disc (almost) edge on.



Parmar et al. 2002 Sidoli et al. 2002; Brandt & Schulz 2002 Boirin & Parmar 2003; Boirin et al. 2004

The neutron star 4U 1323–62



Changes of the relative optical depth of the FeXXV and FeXXVI absorption lines as a function of orbital phase with *XMM-Newton*/EPIC-PN.



Changes of the ionization conditions of a warm wind on top/below the accretion disc.



Boirin, Mendez, Diaz-Trigo, Parmar, Kaastra 2005

The neutron star 4U 1323–62



Boirin, Mendez, Diaz-Trigo, Parmar, Kaastra 2005

The neutron star EXO 0748-676



Cottam et al. (2001) find that the line widths increase for more ionized species, which suggests a relation between the ionization structure and the dynamics of the plasma.

> Cottam et al. 2001; Van Peet, Mendez, Costantini, et al. 2006

The neutron star EXO 0748-676



Van Peet, Mendez, Costantini, et al. 2006

Relativistic Disc Lines



Relativistic Disc Lines



Observed energy (keV)

Miller et al. 2002, 2003,2006; Young et al. 2006

Relativistic Disc Lines or Warm/Hot Absorber?



Black-hole candidate GRS 1915+105 - XMM-Newton EPIC-PN/RGS

In both observations GRS 1915+105 is in the same state, with the disc extending down close to the innermost stable orbit around the black hole (Belloni et al. 1997). Nevertheless, while in the observation of March 2003 there appears to be a **broad emission line, in the observation of October 2003 it does not** (see residuals to a simple continuum model; lower panels). Both observations can also be fitted using a highly ionized absorber (middle panels; on the figure in the right the normalization of the absorber was set to 0).

Mendez, Mirabel, Loiseau, Altieri, in prep.

Warm/Hot Absorber



Warm/Hot absorber



Miller et al. 2003

loung et al. 2006

Warm/Hot absorber



Warm/Hot absorber



Simulation of a *Chandra*/HETGS observation of a source 100 times brighter than 4U 1323–62, assuming a warm absorber with a power-law AMD from ξ =2.5 to ξ =5.

To plot the residuals, the absorber was set to 0.

7.5

MCG-6–3 0–15 *Chandra*/HETGS

Conclusions

- As in the case of AGN, the X-ray spectra of accreting galactic compact objects show evidence of absorption and emission by a photo-ionized plasma spanning a wide range of ionization parameters.
- This plasma seems to have cylindrical symmetry, and hence is probably connected to the accretion disc (see talk by Maria Diaz-Trigo).
- Both in AGN and galactic black-hole candidates, it may still be premature to discard alternative interpretations involving complex absorption as the cause of (part of) the red wing of the broad iron emission line at 6–7 keV.