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An Observational Test of the ULX Nature of SS 433

The X-ray binary SS 433, a Galactic microquasar, has been hypothesized to be an ultraluminous X-ray source (ULX) like those observed in nearby galaxies. It is well known that the compact object emits oppositely directed semi-relativistic jets that carry a much larger kinetic power than observed radiatively in the X-ray band. Much of the radiative power may be obscured from our view, which would link SS 433 to ULXs. SS 433 has extended X-ray emission, like Sy 2s where the extended gas is photo-excited by the obscured nuclear X-ray emission. We carried out regular Chandra imaging of the arc-second scale extended emission over a period of several months for comparison to the continuum flux monitored with Swift. The extended emission appears to show structure that has not been previously observed.

Contribution

Oral talk

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