Black holes and Neutron stars in Low Mass X-ray binaries

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Abstract

Black holes and neutron stars both show dramatic spectral and timing evolution as a function of mass accretion rate. This is seen most clearly in the transient outbursts of these systems, which can be followed with MAXI and other all sky monitors. I will discuss the similarities and differences between the neutron stars and black holes, showing how to fit this together in a picture of a very similar accretion flow with a very different boundary condition - an event horizon in black holes, versus a surface in neutron stars.