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X-Ray Surveys reveal the past activity of the Galactic Center supermassive black hole and of the nuclear region

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Recent X-ray Surveys of the galactic center, performed in particular with XMM-Newton and Chandra, but also with Suzaku, Nu-Star and INTEGRAL, have revealed spectacular features that indicate a strong activity of the nuclear region in the past. On short timescales (< 1000 yr ago) the past activity is revealed by echoes of the non-thermal emission, probably emitted by the supermassive black hole of the Galaxy, Sgr A*, and reflected towards us with a certain delay by the dense clouds of the central molecular zone. On much longer time scales the nuclear activity is instead revealed by lobes and chimneys of hot gas that extend out perpendicular to the plane and even reconnect the base of the large “Fermi Bubbles” to the galactic center region, showing the probable channel through which energy and matter were injected from this region to these mysterious gamma-ray bubbles that expand over more than 10 kpc each side of the Milky Way towards the galactic poles.

Choix de session parallèle

1.1 Les diverses facettes du centre galactique : des abords du trou noir à son environnement plus lointain.

Primary author: GOLDWURM, Andrea (CEA/IRFU/SAP-Saclay; APC-Paris)

Presenter: GOLDWURM, Andrea (CEA/IRFU/SAP-Saclay; APC-Paris)

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