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An eye on two magnetars

Magnetars are the strongest magnets we know of. Their X-ray emission is powered by the instabilities and decay of their huge magnetic field ($\sim 10^{14}$ - 10^{15} G). They are characterized by unpredictable and variable bursting activity in the X-/gamma ray regime, often accompanied by enhancements of the persistent X-ray flux. These events are called outbursts. In this talk, I will present new results in the field.

I will focus on the multi-outburst activity of the magnetar CXOU J164710.2-455216, hosted in the massive star cluster Westerlund I. After two outbursts in 2006 and 2011, CXOU J1647 underwent three bursting episodes during its latest activation on May 2017. Moreover, I will bring to your attention the longest outburst ever detected from a magnetar: 1E 1547.0-5408 is slowly recovering from an outburst with onset in 2009.

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