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Article / Book Information

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Title(English)	Constraints on the Mass-Radius Relation of Neutron Stars from Thermonuclear X-ray Bursts Observed with Suzaku
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Type(English)	Summary

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論文要旨

THESIS SUMMARY

専攻：	基礎物理学	専攻
Department of		
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申請学位 (専攻分野)：	博士 (理学)
Academic Degree Requested	Doctor of
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要旨 (英文 800 語程度)

Thesis Summary (approx.800 English Words)

Extreme conditions that are not possible in the ground experiments are sometimes realized in the universe. A good example is a neutron star, the end product of the supernova explosion of a massive star. It is a very compact object supported by the degeneracy pressure of neutrons and its internal density may be comparable with, or may exceed, that of atomic nuclei. The extreme density of a neutron star allows us to probe the nature of the ultra-dense matter. For that purpose, precise measurements of the mass-radius relation of a neutron star are crucial. Among the various observational methods, gravitational redshift at a neutron-star surface, which corresponds to the mass-radius ratio of the neutron star, is most promising as it is in principle measurable with little systematics using the spectral features produced at the neutron-star surface. The spectral features may be preferentially produced during a thermonuclear X-ray burst, which is the runaway thermonuclear reaction on a neutron-star surface, because the temperature structure of the bursting atmosphere and the production of heavy elements are suited to form the spectral features. If we can detect spectral features in the energy spectra of the X-ray bursts and can, in addition, identify the ions responsible for the features, their apparent energies compared to the laboratory values directly give the gravitational redshift at the neutron-star surface. For this purpose, we systematically analyzed thermonuclear X-ray bursts using the archive data of Suzaku, which is Japan's fifth X-ray astronomy satellite launched in 2005. Among 44 thermonuclear X-ray bursts observed from 9 different sources, we focused on the X-ray burst detected from GRS 1747-312, a low-mass X-ray binaries located in the globular cluster Terzan 6. During a part of the Galactic bulge mapping observations, which covered the sky field including the source, the X-ray burst was serendipitously detected and had a long duration, exceeding an hour, with moderate photospheric-radius expansion. Unfortunately, most of the decay of the burst was not observed due to the satellite passage through the South Atlantic Anomaly, in which the detectors are turned off to prevent damage. The time-resolved energy spectra of the burst were reproduced by the conventional model of an absorbed blackbody most of time, but significant deviation was detected in the late cooling phase. The deviation was due to a clear roll-off in the energy spectra above 7 keV. In order to identify the origin of the roll-off, we examined various models to reproduce the roll-off including non-Planckian burst spectra, partial covering absorption, and Doppler-smeared absorption edges due to the rapid spin of a neutron star. As a result, we found that the roll-off is most probably explained by two Doppler-smeared absorption edges of hydrogen-like Fe and Zn ions, which should be the major products of nuclear burning in the burst. They can also naturally explain the emergence of the feature in the late cooling phase of the burst as the change of the ionization degree of the above burst products, which are considered to be ejected by the radiation-driven wind during the photospheric-radius expansion phase and be exposed on the neutron star surface later. If this interpretation is correct, the gravitational redshift is estimated to be 1.49 ± 0.04 , corresponding to a neutron-star radius range of 8-11 km for an assumed neutron-star mass range of 1.4-2.0 solar mass. Because the absorption edge is not completely smeared out despite of the rapid spin of the neutron star, this can be a powerful observational tool to measure the gravitational redshift of neutron stars.

備考：論文要旨は、和文 2000 字と英文 300 語を 1 部ずつ提出するか、もしくは英文 800 語を 1 部提出してください。

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