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AstroSat, an Indian step towards space-based astronomical missions

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The AstroSat, space-based Indian multi-wavelength observatory, provides a unique platform to enable the access of a very broad energy band ($E \sim 0.012 - 120.0$ keV). It has also displayed the capability of observing hard X-ray polarization (e.g. 100-380 keV for Crab) for bright objects like bright GRBs, Crab, Cyg-1 etc. However, the timing capability of AstroSat has been displayed for a number of X-ray binaries (XRBs) using data from LAXPC instruments. The very sensitive UVIT instrument onboard AstroSat is providing spectacular data in poorly explored UV bands.

The simultaneous coverage of broad-band emission is very crucial for understanding the various emission mechanisms in a variety of objects, e.g., stellar mass X-ray binaries and AGNs. A number of blazars are extensively monitored over the course ~ 2.5 years of operation by internal and external proposers. In this meeting I shall be emphasizing the multi-wavelength capability of AstroSat and its impact on the understanding of the emission from blazars and XRBs.

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