

Identification of a non-thermal X-ray burst with the Galactic magnetar SGR J1935+2154 and a fast radio burst using Insight-HXMT

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1 Identification of a non-thermal X-ray burst with the Galac- 2 tic magnetar SGR J1935+2154 and a fast radio burst using 3 *Insight-HXMT*

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43 **Fast radio bursts (FRBs) are short pulses observed in radio band from cosmological distances¹,**
44 **some of which emit repeating bursts². The physical origins of these mysterious events have**
45 **been subject to wide speculations and heated debates. One class of models invoke soft gamma-**
46 **ray repeaters (SGRs), or magnetars, as the sources of FRBs³. Magnetars are rotating neu-**
47 **tron stars with extremely strong magnetic field⁴ and can sporadically emit bursts from X-ray**
48 **(\sim keV) to soft gamma-ray (\sim sub-MeV) with duration⁵ from 10^{-2} s to 10^2 s. However, even**
49 **though some bright radio bursts have been observed from some magnetars⁶, no FRB-like**
50 **events had been detected to be associated with any magnetar burst, including one giant flare⁷,**
51 **and no radio burst has been associated with any X-ray event from any magnetar. Therefore,**
52 **there is still no observational evidence for magnetar-FRB association up to today. Recently,**
53 **a pair of FRB-like bursts (FRB 200428 hereafter) separated by 30 milliseconds (ms) were**
54 **detected from the general direction of the Galactic magnetar SGR J1935+2154^{8,9}. Here we**
55 **report the detection of a non-thermal X-ray burst in the 1–250 keV energy band with the**
56 ***Insight*-HXMT satellite¹⁰, which we identify as emitted from SGR J1935+2154. The burst**
57 **showed two hard peaks with a separation of ~ 30 ms, consistent with the separation between**
58 **the two bursts in FRB 200428. The delay time between the double radio and X-ray peaks is**
59 **~ 8.57 s, fully consistent with the dispersion delay of FRB 200428. We thus identify the non-**
60 **thermal X-ray burst is associated with FRB 200428 whose high energy counterpart is the two**
61 **hard peaks in X-ray. Our results suggest that the non-thermal X-ray burst and FRB 200428**
62 **share the same physical origin in an explosive event from SGR J1935+2154.**

63 SGR J1935+2154 was discovered when it went into outburst in 2014¹¹. Since then and be-
64 fore 2020, the source experienced several activities in 2015 February, 2016 May to July and 2019
65 November^{12,13}. Between outbursts, isolated bright flares or short bursts in X-ray or gamma-ray
66 have been detected from the source^{13,14}. These make SGR J1935+2154 one of the most active

67 magnetars. Starting from 2020 April 27 18:26:20 UT, a series of X-ray and gamma-ray instru-
68 ments were triggered by multiple short bursts and a burst forest including hundreds of bursts from
69 SGR J1935+2154^{15,16}. Within thirteen hours, we started a long Target of Opportunity (ToO) ob-
70 servation of this source using *Insight*-HXMT with all its three collimated telescopes covering 1–
71 10 keV (Low Energy X-ray telescope, LE), 5–30 keV (Medium Energy X-ray telescope, ME) and
72 20–250 keV (High Energy X-ray telescope, HE), respectively. This pointed ToO observation con-
73 tinued for 60 ks from April 28 07:14:52 UT to April 29 11:53:01 UT.

74 During the *Insight*-HXMT observation, a double-peaked and short radio burst, FRB 200428,
75 from the general direction of SGR J1935+2154 was reported by CHIME/FRB⁸ and STARE2⁹ at
76 April 28 UTC 14:34:33 (at 400 MHz) and 14:34:25 (at 1.4 GHz), respectively. The fluence of this
77 radio burst recorded by STARE2⁹ is > 1.5 MJy ms, which is over six magnitudes brighter than
78 those radio bursts from XTE J1810-197⁶, which had been the brightest radio bursts from magne-
79 tars. This makes it the first possible magnetar radio burst detectable from an extra-galactic distance
80 (e.g FRB 180916.J0158+65 at 149 Mpc⁹), if FRB 200428 were emitted from SGR J1935+2154.

81 *Insight*-HXMT detected a series of 11 bursts within about 17 hours of exposure to SGR J1935+2154
82 (see **Methods** for description and burst list). It is mostly likely that most, if not all, of these bursts
83 came from SGR J1935+2154, since it was the only active magnetar in this period and in the field
84 of view of *Insight*-HXMT. The brightest burst with a trigger time (denoted as T_0) of April 28
85 14:34:24.0000 UT (satellite time) or 14:34:24.0114 UT (geocentric time) lasted for about 1 second
86 in 1–250 keV and was seen clearly in all three telescopes. This burst is also the closest one in time
87 to FRB 200428. With different orientations of the collimators, *Insight*-HXMT can localize the
88 burst within its field of view, as shown in Figure 1. The burst is located at RA = $293.67^{+0.16}_{-0.11}$ deg,
89 Dec = $21.92^{+0.08}_{-0.07}$ deg, ~ 3.7 arcmin away from SGR J1935+2154 with 1σ error of ~ 10 arcmin.
90 We thus identify this burst as coming from SGR J1935+2154.

91 This burst was so bright that it saturated both LE and HE, and also caused moderate deadtime
92 effects in ME. After correcting all these effects (see **Methods**), the lightcurves and hardness of the
93 burst obtained by the three telescopes are presented in Figure 2. The full lightcurves of this burst
94 consist of two major bumps separated by about 0.2 s, and a minor soft bump just before T_0 that
95 is only present in LE and ME data, indicating overall spectral evolution as shown by the hardness
96 evolution during the burst. The second major bump, which was also detected by INTEGRAL¹⁷
97 and Konus-Wind¹⁸, is much brighter than the first one. In the lightcurves of both ME and HE, two
98 narrow peaks are clearly seen (see **Methods**) during the second major bump. In the LE lightcurve,
99 only the second narrow peak is visible significantly, indicating somewhat different broad band en-
100 ergy spectra between the two narrow peaks. The separation time between the two narrow X-ray

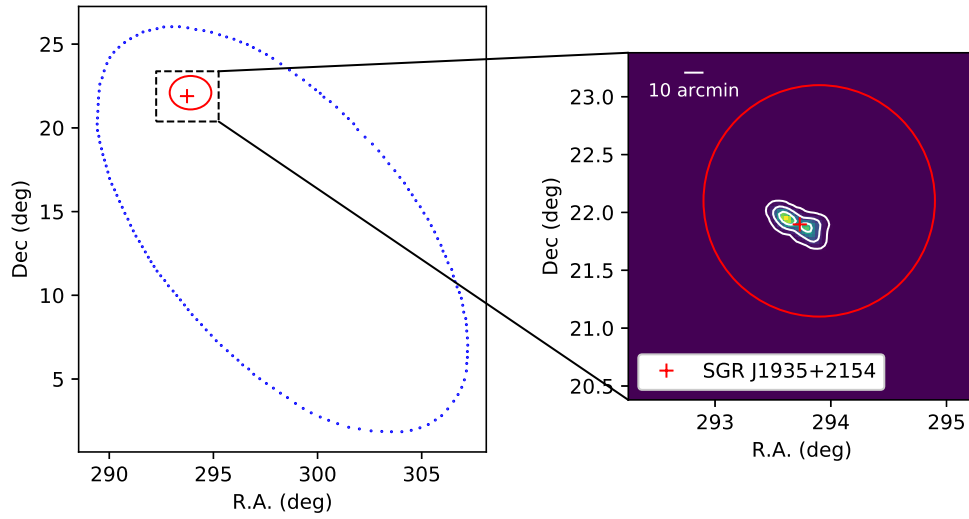


Figure 1: Localization of the burst using *Insight*-HXMT HE, ME and LE data. The red cross marks the known position of SGR J1935+2154. The white contours in the zoomed in panel are 1σ , 2σ and 3σ uncertainty regions in the sky. The best position of this burst is ~ 3.7 arcmin away from SGR J1935+2154 with 1σ error of ~ 10 arcmin (see **Methods** for details about localization). The red circle and blue-dotted ellipse presents the sky region of FRB 200428 determined by CHIME/FRB⁸ and STARE2⁹, respectively.

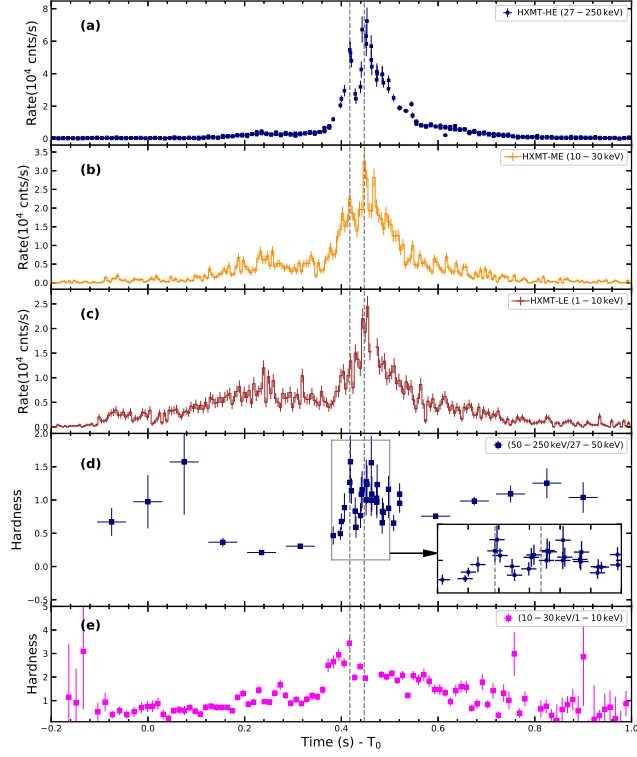


Figure 2: The lightcurve and the hardness evolution during the burst of SGR J1935+2145 observed with *Insight*-HXMT. The reference time is T_0 (2020-04-28 14:34:24 UTC). The vertical dashed lines indicate two peaks in the lightcurves and the hardness evolution. The separation between the two lines are 30 ms. **(a)**: The lightcurve observed with *Insight*-HXMT/HE with a time resolution of 1 ms near the peak and 10 ms outside the peak. Due to the saturation effect, there are bins near the peak with no photons recorded for both HE and LE. **(b)** and **(c)** are the lightcurves observed with ME and LE with a time bin of 5 ms, respectively. **(d)**: The hardness ratio between the counts in 50–250 keV and 27–50 keV. The inset plot in **(d)** shows the details of the hardness ratio near the peak. **(e)**: The hardness ratio between the counts in 10–30 keV and the 1–10 keV. (see **Methods** for details of the saturation and the deadtime correction.)

101 peaks (~ 30 ms) is consistent with that of the two narrow peaks in FRB 200428, and the appar-
 102 ent time lag between X-ray and radio peaks (~ 8.57 s) is in good agreement with the calculated
 103 dispersion delay (8.63 s) between X-ray and radio using the DM (~ 333 pc/cm³) measured by
 104 CHIME/FRB⁸ and STARE2⁹. We thus identify the burst detected by *Insight*-HXMT is associated
 105 with FRB 200428 and both belong to a single explosive event from SGR J1935+2154.

106 The time-integrated spectrum of this burst ($T_0 - 0.2$ s to $T_0 + 1.0$ s) is derived jointly
 107 using HE, ME and LE data (Figure 3, see **Methods** for details of spectral fitting). The best
 108 fit and statistically acceptable model is a cutoff power-law (CPL) with neutral hydrogen col-
 109 umn density $n_{\text{H}} = (2.79^{+0.18}_{-0.17}) \times 10^{22}$ cm⁻², photon index $\Gamma = 1.56 \pm 0.06$ and cutoff energy
 110 $E_{\text{cut}} = 83.89^{+9.08}_{-7.55}$ keV (corresponding to a peak energy $E_{\text{peak}} = (2 - \Gamma)E_{\text{cut}} \sim 37$ keV). The
 111 unabsorbed fluence is $(7.14^{+0.41}_{-0.38}) \times 10^{-7}$ erg cm⁻² in 1–250 keV, corresponding to a total emission
 112 energy of $\sim 1 \times 10^{40}$ erg for the 12.5 kpc¹⁹ distance of SGR J1935+2154. This burst is brighter
 113 than $\sim 84\%$ of events collected from the source during 2014 – 2016 with *Fermi*/GBM¹³. We also
 114 fit the spectrum with several other spectral models, e.g., single power-law (PL), double blackbody
 115 (BB+BB) and blackbody plus power-law (BB+PL). The fit to the BB+PL mode is marginally con-
 116 sistent with data, with slightly higher column density ($n_{\text{H}} = (3.50 \pm 0.17) \times 10^{22}$ cm⁻²) and larger
 117 photon index ($\Gamma = 1.93 \pm 0.04$); the flux of the unabsorbed blackbody component with tempera-
 118 ture of $11.32^{+0.55}_{-0.56}$ keV is only 18% of the total flux in 1–250 keV. The other two models provide
 119 significantly worse fit and are thus rejected.

120 We conclude that the integrated spectrum is dominated by a power-law covering at least the
 121 1-100 keV range, and thus this burst is primarily non-thermal in nature. It is also clear that the two
 122 narrow peaks separated by ~ 30 ms must also be dominated by a non-thermal spectrum, since the
 123 hardness reaches its maximum during the peak of the second bump of the lightcurves where the
 124 two narrow peaks are found. It is interesting to note that the lower limit of the radio flux detected
 125 with STARE2⁹ falls in between the extrapolated values from the non-thermal X-ray spectrum with
 126 the power-law parameters of the fits to the CPL and BB+PL models (see the panel (f) in Figure 3).

127 In summary, with the observation of *Insight*-HXMT we have identified that the short non-
 128 thermal X-ray burst was emitted by the Galactic magnetar SGR J1935+2154 and produced almost
 129 simultaneously with FRB 200428 in a single explosive event. In the literature, FRB emission has
 130 been interpreted as either coherent curvature radiation of electron-positron pairs from a neutron star
 131 magnetosphere^{20–22} or synchrotron maser emission in a relativistic, magnetized shock^{23,24}. Since
 132 magnetar bursts are believed to be magnetosphere-related²⁵, the fact that the narrow double peaks
 133 in both radio and X-ray are emitted around the same time, and hence, likely originate from the
 134 same emission region, lends support to the magnetospheric models of FRBs.

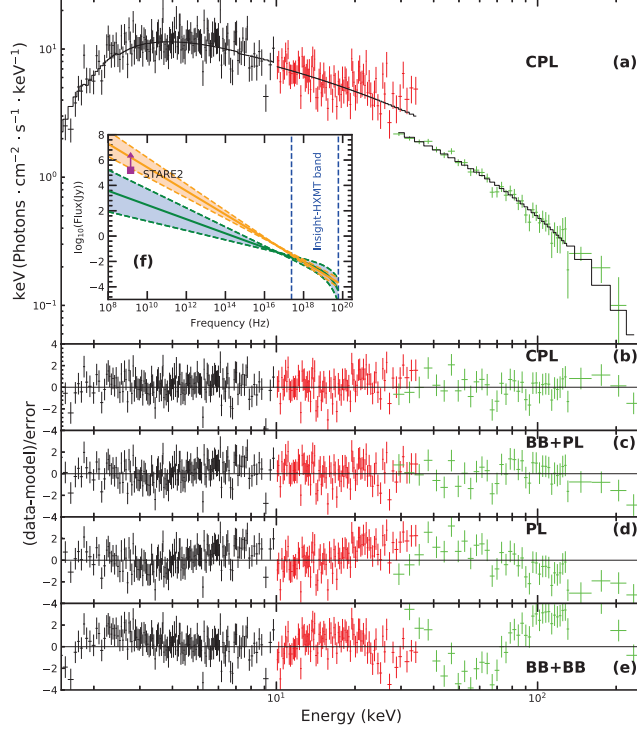


Figure 3: The spectrum observed with *Insight*-HXMT covers the 1–250 keV energy band. Data from the three telescopes of *Insight*-HXMT covering different energy bands are represented in different colors (LE: black, ME: red and HE: green). In the fitting process, we introduced a constant factor to offset the different saturation and deadtime effects in different detectors. Four models were considered, cutoff power-law (CPL), blackbody+power-law (BB+PL), power-law (PL), and blackbody+blackbody (BB+BB). The equivalent hydrogen column in the interstellar absorption model was free to fit. **(a)** The X-ray spectrum of SGR J1935+2154 described by CPL model. The inset **(f)** shows the comparison between the radio flux lower limit detected with STARE2⁹ and extrapolations from the X-ray spectrum to the radio frequency range, where the green and orange regions are the 3σ error bands with the parameters of the CPL (below STARE2) and BB+PL (above STARE2) models, respectively. Panels **(b)**–**(e)** are the residuals of the data from the individual models, respectively. (see **Methods** for details of the spectral fitting and parameters derived.)

135 However, a thermal origin is preferred for normal short bursts from magnetars^{26,27}. We notice
136 that $\sim 6\%$ of the bursts (7/109) from SGR J1935+2154 detected with Fermi/GBM between 2014
137 and 2016 can be best fit with a power-law model¹³. The fluence of these bursts is about one order
138 of magnitude dimmer than this one associated with FRB 200428. We therefore set a conservative
139 upper limit of 6% to the percentage of magnetar bursts which may have similar radio emission
140 to FRB 200428. Actually, non-thermal X-ray bursts are very rarely observed from magnetars in
141 general, which explains why events similar to FRB 200428 have not been seen previously.

142 Previously we have conducted a search for prompt γ -ray counterparts to FRBs²⁸ in the
143 Insight-HXMT data and obtained only lower limits as low as 5.5×10^{47} erg s⁻¹ over 1 s for
144 the periodic repeater FRB 180916.J0158+65. If this X-ray burst were emitted from an extragalac-
145 tic magnetar located at a distance of FRB 180916.J0158+65 at 149 Mpc²⁹, and assume the distance
146 of SGR J1935+2154 is 12.5 kpc¹⁹, then the observed fluence should be $\sim 4 \times 10^{-15}$ erg cm⁻² in
147 1-250 keV, which is far below the sensitivity limits of the X-ray telescopes currently in orbit (or in
148 the foreseeable future). This may explain the non-detection of the X-ray counterpart of any cos-
149 mological FRB so far. Nevertheless, our identification of FRB 200428 with a magnetar means at
150 least some of FRBs are produced by magnetars, thus FRBs can be used as an effective tool to study
151 the extra-galactic magnetars, which are otherwise undetectable. On the other hand, giant flares
152 from magnetars can have peak luminosity of 10^{44-47} erg s⁻¹, about 4–7 orders of magnitude more
153 luminous than this non-thermal X-ray burst, and thus might be detectable with the current X-ray
154 telescopes in orbit or the future X-ray missions, such as eXTP³⁰ which has a much larger effective
155 area in the X-ray band than those X-ray telescopes in orbit. A giant flare of a magnetar might not
156 be associated with an FRB by temporal coincidence, however, the peak of a magnetar giant flare
157 as a short X-ray transient event may be detected from the same direction of an FRB (previously
158 detected or to be discovered in the future) and thus identified as the counterpart of the FRB.

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228 **Competing Interests** The authors declare that they have no competing financial interests.

229 **Author Contributions** CKL, LL and SLX are co-first authors and listed in alphabetical order. TPL, FJL
230 and SNZ are co-corresponding authors and listed in alphabetical order. TPL was the initial proposer and
231 PI of *Insight-HXMT*. SNZ is the current PI of *Insight-HXMT*, organized the observations, data analysis
232 and presentation of the results, writing and editing of the paper. LL proposed the ToO observation, is a
233 main writer of the paper and participated in discussions. SLX participated in organizing the observations,
234 data analysis, discussion and paper writing. FJL is a leader in building *Insight-HXMT* and participated
235 in organizing the data analysis, discussions and paper writing. CKL is the main contributor to the data
236 analysis and participated in paper writing. BZ is responsible for theoretical interpretation, and participated
237 in organizing the observations, discussions, and paper writing. MYG, YLT, XBL, YN, SX, YC, LMS, YT,
238 XFZ, CZL, SMJ, JYL and BL participated in the data analysis and discussion. All other authors contributed
239 to developing, building and operating the *Insight-HXMT* payloads and science data center.

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242 **Methods**

243 ***Insight*-HXMT observations and burst search** The *Insight*-Hard X-ray Modulation Telescope
244 (*Insight*-HXMT) is China’s first X-ray astronomy satellite^{10,31,32} which was launched on June 15th,
245 2017. It has an altitude of 550 km and an inclination of 43 degrees. As a broadband X-ray (1–
246 250 keV) observatory, *Insight*-HXMT consists of three telescopes, i.e., the High Energy X-ray
247 telescope (HE) using 18 NaI(Tl)/CsI(Na) phoswich scintillation detectors for 20–250 keV³³, the
248 Medium Energy X-ray telescope (ME) using 1728 Si-PIN detectors for 5–30 keV³⁴, and the Low
249 Energy X-ray telescope (LE) using 96 Swept Charge Device (SCD) detectors for 1–15 keV³⁵. All
250 three telescopes use slat collimators to confine their Field Of Views (FOVs). In addition to the
251 pointed or scanning observation with the collimators, *Insight*-HXMT can also monitor the all-sky
252 in gamma-ray (0.2–3 MeV) using the CsI scintillation detectors of HE. More details about the
253 *Insight*-HXMT can be found in¹⁰.

254 A dedicated and long Time of Opportunity (ToO) observation of *Insight*-HXMT was imple-
255 mented for SGR J1935+2154 from 2020-04-28T07:14:51 to 2020-04-29T00:00:00, and a through-
256 out search for X-ray bursts have been made. The trigger condition for the search is that the count
257 rates of three or more NaI detectors of HE exceeds the background count rate, which is the mean
258 count rate in the previous 10 s, with significance greater than 3σ at five time scales (0.05 s, 0.1 s,
259 0.2 s, 0.5 s and 1 s). This search results in 11 bursts. The starting time and other properties are
260 listed in Table 1, where the fluence is obtained by fitting their spectra with simple spectral models
261 (i.e. PL or CPL), as the fluence does not varies significantly with which spectral model is used.
262 Saturation and deadtime corrections are made before spectral fitting, according to the procedures
263 described below. More detailed analyses of these bursts will be presented elsewhere.

264 The rest of this **Methods** part is mainly dedicated to the burst at 2020-04-28T14:34:24.00
265 (UTC) that is associated with FRB 200428. Because of the extreme brightness, the *Insight*-HXMT
266 data suffers substantial saturation and deadtime effects, which require dedicated corrections as
267 detailed below.

268 **Data analysis** The timing and spectral results of the X-ray burst associated with FRB 200428 are
269 obtained by analysing the *Insight*-HXMT 1L data with the *Insight*-HXMT Data Analysis Software
270 package (HXMTDAS) version 2.02. Specifically, the steps are: (1) Use the commands `hepical`,
271 `mepical`, `lepical` in HXMTDAS to calibrate the photon events from the 1L data according to the
272 Calibration Database (CALDB) of *Insight*-HXMT. As for HE, the short spikes with known charac-
273 teristics produced in the electronics are removed from the physical events. (2) Select the good time
274 intervals (GTIs) from T_0-0 to T_0+1 s, where T_0 is 2020-04-28 14:34:24 UTC. (3) Extract the good
275 events based on the GTIs using the commands `hescreen`, `mescreen`, and `lescreen`. (4)

276 Generate the spectrum with the selected events using the commands `hespecgen`, `mespecgen`,
277 and `lespecgen`. (5) Create the background spectrum from the events in the time interval $T_0 - 51$
278 to $T_0 - 1$ s. (6) Generate the response matrix files required for spectral analysis using the com-
279 mands `herspgen`, `merspgen`, and `lerspgen`. (7) Produce the raw ME and LE lightcurves
280 using the commands, `melcgen`, and `lelcgen`.

281 Due to the strong saturation effect in both LE and HE data, the raw data in some time intervals
282 were discarded on-board and their lightcurves need to be corrected as presented below.

283 **Data saturation and deadtime correction** Because of the extremely high flux of the burst, the
284 detected events exceeded the storage limits of their on-board data buffer, and so the observed
285 data suffered from saturation. The observational effect of saturation is that in some time intervals
286 the events are lost. Besides the saturation effect, during the procession of an event by the front-
287 end electronics, the detectors sharing the same Physical Data Acquisition Unit (PDAU) can not
288 record any photons, and such an effect is called deadtime. As will be detailed below, both HE and
289 LE suffered strongly from the saturation effects, while the deadtime effects are significant in the
290 HE and ME data. Both the saturation and deadtime need to be corrected when we produce the
291 lightcurves and spectra.

292 The 18 phoswich X-ray detectors of HE are divided into three groups, each contains six
293 detectors that share one PDAU. Therefore, the three groups of detectors have different event-lost
294 intervals, which are shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3. We correct for the saturation effects in the data
295 of the three groups independently, and then combine them together when we produce the final
296 lightcurve.

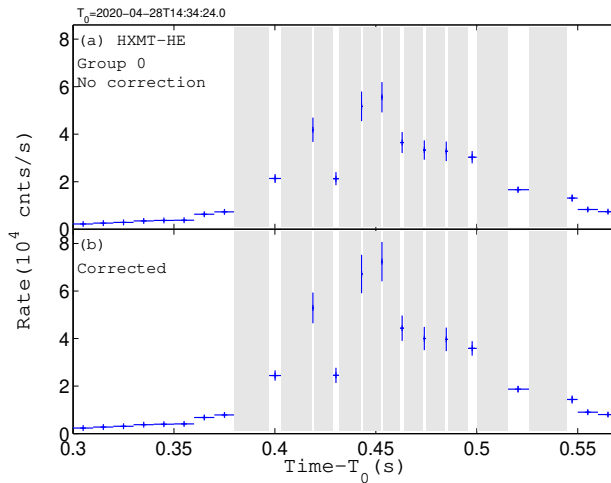
297 The steps of saturation correction for a group of HE detectors are listed as follows: (1) Find
298 the start and stop time of the intervals in which the raw data are not lost. (2) Calculate the deadtime
299 ratio of each detector as a function of time, the details of which can be found in Xiao et al. (2020)³⁶.
300 (3) Screen the data in these time intervals to discard the CsI events (anti-coincident events), as well
301 as the events whose energies are out of the selected energy band. Then, the number of NaI events
302 can be obtained for each detector in the group. Using the time intervals selected in the first step
303 and the deadtime ratio calculated in the second step, the true source count rate of each detector in
304 the group can be obtained. (4) Merge the count rate of all detectors in each group and calculate
305 the error of the merged rate. It should be noted that, for the third group (Group ID is 2), as the
306 events of the blinded detector are not used, a factor of 6/5 is used to normalize its count rate, so
307 that the count rates of the three groups can be compared at the same level and combined together
308 to produce the overall HE lightcurve.

309 ME does not suffer from the saturation effect and the raw data have no time gap. The dead-

310 time of ME can be calculated with HXMTDAS v2.02. The number and ratio of the lost events in
 311 $T_0 + 0.37$ and $T_0 + 0.62$ s are also listed in Table 2. The lightcurves before and after deadtime
 312 corrections are shown in Figure 4.

313 LE has three detector boxes and each box contains 32 SCD detectors. The data of each
 314 detector box can be processed independently. In the LE data, besides the normal physical events
 315 with energies above the on-board threshold, LE also has the forced trigger events, which record the
 316 amplitude of the noise or the pedestal offset for each SCD detector in every 32 ms³². The count rate
 317 of the forced trigger events in each detector box is 1000 counts per second if there is no saturation
 318 effect.

319 The LE lightcurves are then corrected for saturation using the count rate of the recorded
 320 forced trigger events. Since the three detector boxes have different saturated time intervals, we
 321 reconstructed the LE lightcurve with almost the full time coverage. The lightcurves before and after
 322 saturation correction are shown in Figure 5. The deadtime of LE caused by the force trigger events
 323 can also be calculated by HXMTDAS, which are listed in Table 2. It is a minor and negligible
 324 issue.



Extended Data Figure 1: The lightcurves of HE group 0. Panel (a): lightcurve before deadtime correction. Panel (b): lightcurve after deadtime correction. The gray belts represent time intervals for the lost events.

325 **Hardness ratio** The hardness ratio evolution during the burst is studied by using all the HE, ME
 326 and LE data. We derive the 50–250 keV to 27–50 keV hardness ratio with the HE data, and the
 327 10–30 keV to 1–10 keV hardness ratio with the ME and LE data.

328 To produce the 50–250 keV to 27–50 keV hardness ratio, we first extract photons in 50–

Extended Data Table 1: Bursts detected by *Insight-HXMT* from 2020-04-28T07:14:51 to 2020-04-29T00:00:00. In the table, trigger time is the satellite time, the energy band for fluence calculation is 1–250 keV, duration is that covers 90% of the burst counts, and Δt is the time difference between burst and FRB 200428.

Trigger time (UTC)	Fluence $10^{-8} \text{erg cm}^{-2}$	Duration s	Δt s
2020-04-28T08:03:34.35	5.65 ± 1.14	0.11	-23458.65
2020-04-28T08:05:50.15	5.04 ± 1.39	0.07	-23322.85
2020-04-28T09:08:44.30	1.37 ± 1.86	0.06	-19548.70
2020-04-28T09:51:04.90	25.58 ± 2.51	0.42	-17008.10
2020-04-28T11:12:58.55	1.30 ± 1.41	0.06	-12094.45
2020-04-28T12:54:02.20	0.87 ± 1.09	0.40	-6030.80
2020-04-28T14:20:52.50	2.93 ± 1.17	0.60	-820.50
2020-04-28T14:20:57.90	2.06 ± 2.45	0.06	-815.10
2020-04-28T14:34:24.00	63.68 ± 6.62	0.53	-9.00
2020-04-28T17:15:26.25	0.25 ± 0.42	0.08	9653.25
2020-04-28T19:01:59.85	3.01 ± 1.22	0.16	16046.85

Extended Data Table 2: Events lost due to saturation and deadtime in $T_0 + 0.37$ and $T_0 + 0.62$ s

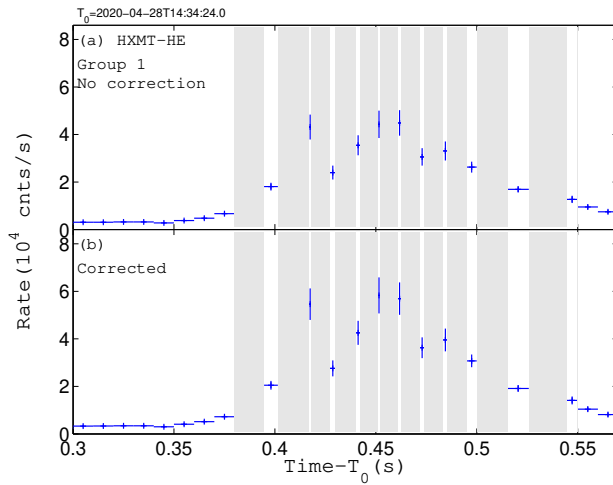
Telescope	Group ID	N1 ^a	LR1 ^b	N2 ^c	LR2 ^d
HE	0	5627	66.0%	981	11.5%
	1	6210	70.8%	1106	12.6%
	2	4793	61.7%	909	11.7%
ME	0	0	0	379	32.8%
	1	0	0	554	47.6%
	2	0	0	688	53.0%
LE	0	276	29.6%	0.26	0.03%
	1	377	35.2%	0.27	0.03%
	2	418	37.6%	0.27	0.03%

^a N1 is the number of events lost due to saturation.

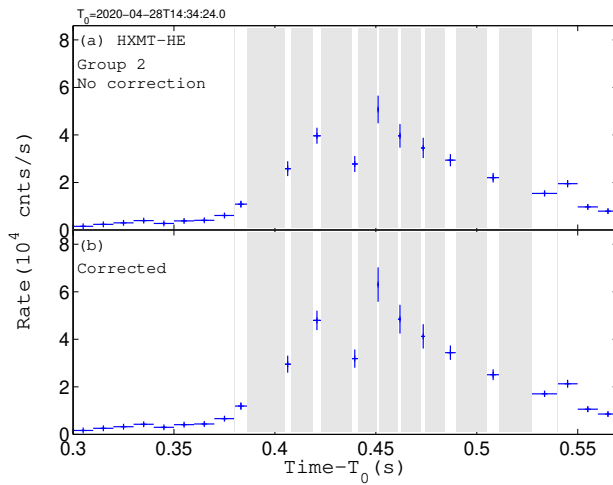
^b LR1 is the lost ratio of events due to saturation.

^c N2 is the number of events lost due to deadtime. For LE, the deadtime is induced by the forced trigger events.

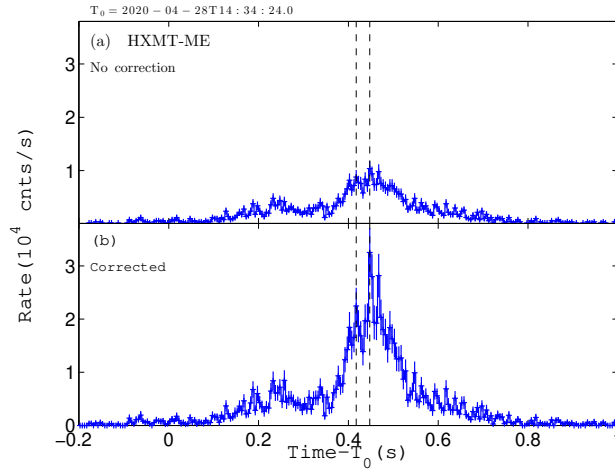
^d LR2 is the lost ratio of events due to deadtime.



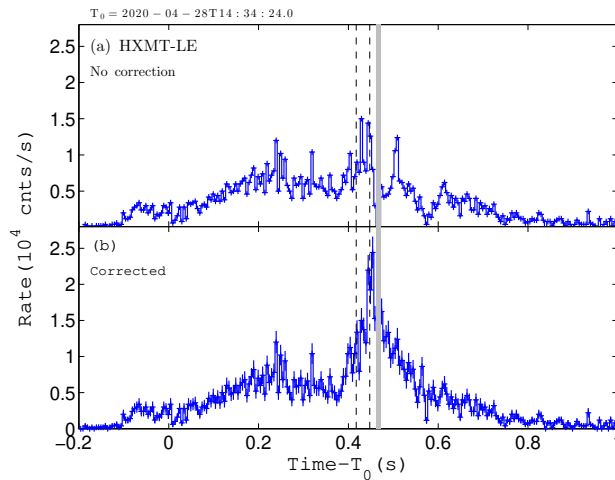
Extended Data Figure 2: The lightcurves of HE group 1. Panel (a): lightcurve before deadtime correction. Panel (b): lightcurve after deadtime correction. The gray belts represent time intervals for the lost events.



Extended Data Figure 3: The lightcurves of HE group 2. Panel (a): lightcurve before deadtime correction. Panel (b): lightcurve after deadtime correction. The gray belts represent time intervals for the lost events.



Extended Data Figure 4: The lightcurves of ME. Panel (a): lightcurve without deadtime correction. Panel (b): lightcurve after deadtime correction.



Extended Data Figure 5: The lightcurves of LE. Panel (a): lightcurve before correction of lost events. Panel (b): light curve after lost events correction. The gray belts represent the time interval in which none of the three detector boxes was recording photon events normally.

329 250 keV and 27–50 keV from the HE data to obtain two lightcurves, in which the bin size before
 330 $T_0 + 0.38$ s and after $T_0 + 0.53$ s is 60 ms, and the bin size in between is 1 ms. Since the background
 331 events contribute to the lightcurves (and so the hardness ratio), especially in the two wings of the
 332 burst, we subtract the background of each lightcurve by using the linear interpolation of the count
 333 rates in two time intervals before and after the peak, i.e., $T_0 - 4$ s to $T_0 - 2$ s and $T_0 + 2$ s to $T_0 + 4$ s.
 334 The errors of the hardness ratios are calculated with the standard error propagation formula.

335 The HE data are used in different ways when producing the hardness ratio in different time
 336 intervals. Before $T_0 + 0.38$ s and after $T_0 + 0.53$ s, the hardness ratio is given by the ratio of the
 337 combined lightcurve of the three detector groups, because there is no saturation effect and the
 338 count rates can be calculated in the same time bins. However, from $T_0 + 0.38$ s to $T_0 + 0.53$ s, the
 339 three detector groups have different data gaps caused by the saturation effect, and so the hardness
 340 ratio data points are calculated for each of the three group, respectively.

341 The hardness ratio between ME and LE is calculated by the ratio of the counts rate in 10–
 342 30 keV and 1–10 keV. The time bin width for the hardness ratio calculation in this energy band is
 343 10 ms. A possible background contribution to the hardness ratio is also subtracted.

The two narrow peaks As shown in Figure 2, the lightcurve in each energy band roughly consists
 of two bumps located at around $T_0+0.2$ and $T_0+0.45$ s, and the HE and ME lightcurves show two
 narrow peaks on the second main bump. In order to estimate the significance and to get the exact
 time of each peak, the HE and ME lightcurves are fitted by five Gaussian functions, in which two
 of them are used to describe the two narrow peaks,

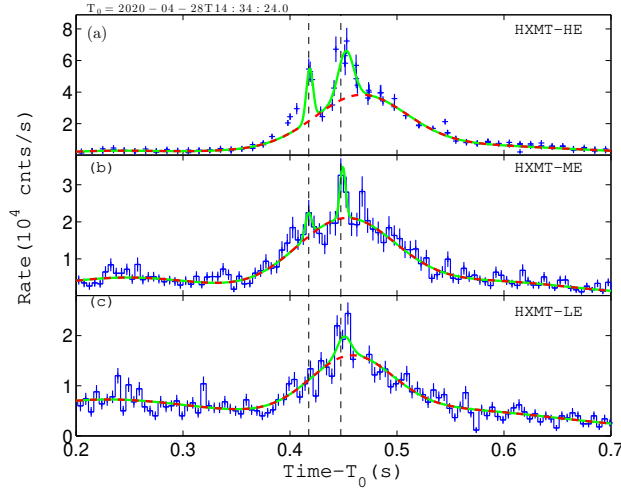
$$R = N_{p1}G(t, t_{p1}, \sigma_{p1}) + N_{p2}G(t, t_{p2}, \sigma_{p2}) + R_3, \quad (1)$$

344 where $G(t, t_p, \sigma_p) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_p} \exp(-\frac{(t-t_p)^2}{2\sigma_p^2})$, N_{p1} and N_{p2} are the normalization, t_{p1} and t_{p2} are the
 345 arrival times of the two narrow peaks, σ_{p1} and σ_{p2} are the Gaussian widths of the two narrow peaks.
 346 $R_3 = \sum_{i=3}^5 G(t, t_{pi}, \sigma_{pi}) + l$ describes the three Gaussian functions for the broad components of the
 347 lightcurve, where l is the background level of the lightcurve. From the fitting results, the separation
 348 τ of the two narrow peaks is calculated from $t_{p2} - t_{p1}$.

349 As shown in Figure 6 (a) and (b), the lightcurves of HE and ME could be well fitted by
 350 equation 1. If the normalization of the two narrow components is set to 0, the reduced- χ^2 is 4.1
 351 (d.o.f.=30) for the fitting to the data points in $T_0+0.35$ to $T_0+0.43$ s that contains the first narrow
 352 peak. Similarly, the reduced- χ^2 is 3.0 (d.o.f.=29) for duration $T_0+0.43$ to $T_0+0.50$ s that contains
 353 the second narrow peak. These large reduced- χ^2 values verify the high detection significance of
 354 the two narrow peaks.

355 As shown in Figure 6 (c), the lightcurve of LE can be well fitted by $R = N_{p2}G(t, t_{p2}, \sigma_{p2}) +$

356 R_3 . A narrow peak corresponding to the second narrow peak in HE and ME lightcurves is also
 357 visible, though not as significant as in HE and ME lightcurves.



Extended Data Figure 6: Fitting to the lightcurves. The blue points are lightcurves obtained from *Insight*-HXMT HE/ME/LE. The vertical dashed lines are the arrival times of the narrow peaks. The red lines represent the sum of the three broad Gaussian functions. In panels (a) and (b), the green lines represent the fitted curves with the sums of the five Gaussian functions for ME and HE, in which two are for the two narrow peaks. In panel (c), the green line represents the fitted curve to the LE lightcurve with four Gaussian functions, in which one is for the narrow peak in coincidence to the second peak in HE and ME lightcurves.

358 **Spectral analyses and model comparison** We extract the spectrum using data in a duration of
 359 1.2 s, from $T_0 - 0.2$ s to $T_0 + 1$ s. Deadtime correction is a built-in function of the HXMTDAS and
 360 has been considered in spectral analysis. However, the saturation correction is not implemented in
 361 spectrum generation but will be dealt with in spectral fitting process.

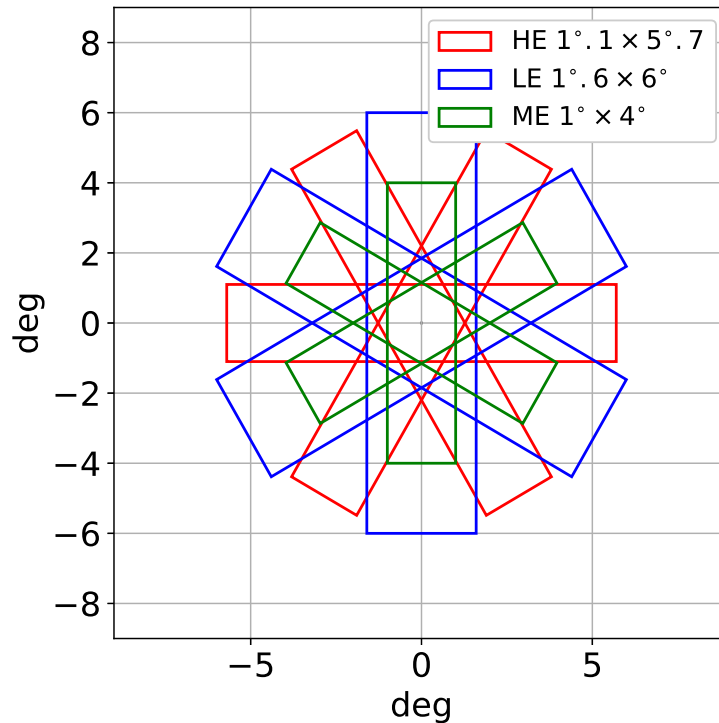
362 We use XSPEC version 12.10.0c to analyze the spectra. Four different models are used to fit
 363 the spectra, which are (1) single power-law (PL), (2) cutoff power-law (CPL) , (3) two blackbody
 364 (BB+BB) and (4) blackbody plus power-law (BB+PL). In addition, we use a constant (*const*) to
 365 represent the saturation effect in LE and HE and the *wabs* model to account for the absorption of the
 366 interstellar medium. Eventually, the four models are: $wabs * cutoffpl * const$, $wabs * pow * const$,
 367 $wabs * (bb + bb) * const$ and $wabs * (bb + pow) * const$. The best-fit parameters and their uncertainties
 368 are listed in Table 4. The distribution of the fitted residuals is displayed in Figure 2 of the main
 369 article.

370 From Table 4 and Figure 2 of the main article we can easily reject the single power-law model

371 and the two temperature blackbody model, but the cutoff power-law (CPL) and the blackbody plus
 372 power-law model (BB+PL) fit the burst spectra well, though the latter has relatively higher χ^2
 373 values and slightly structured residual above 80 keV. Discussions about these models can be found
 374 in the main article.

375 **Localization** Although the three telescopes of *Insight*-HXMT point to the same nominal direc-
 376 tions, the long axis directions of their Field Of Views (FOVs) are different, which could be used
 377 to locate the burst. Figure 7 shows the FOVs of the three telescopes of *Insight*-HXMT. Every
 378 telescope has three groups of FOVs whose long axis directions are 60 degree different from the
 379 neighbouring ones. When the direction of a source deviates from the center of the FOVs, the count
 380 rates on detectors with different FOVs decrease with different slopes, following the shapes of the
 381 Point Spread Functions (PSF) ³⁷, which allow us to fit the position of the source using the count
 382 rates of the burst on different detectors and their PSFs.

383 PSFs of all *Insight*-HXMT collimators have been calibrated ³⁷, which are then used to recon-
 384 struct the position of the source from the differences of the count rates between different FOVs.
 385 This localization method has been extensively tested and verified with *Insight*-HXMT observations
 386 ^{38,39}.



Extended Data Figure 7: The FOVs of LE, ME and HE of *Insight*-HXMT.

387 For the localization of this burst, count rates of all the three telescopes from UTC 2020-
388 04-28T14:34:24 to UTC 2020-04-28T14:34:25 are used, after saturation and deadtime corrections
389 according to Table 2. In the fitting, for all the the three telescopes the same burst position (RA and
390 Dec) parameters are assumed with three different normalized flux parameters. A Markov Chain
391 Monte Carlo (MCMC) algorithm is utilized in the fitting. The best fitting result gives a reduced
392 χ^2 of 0.845 for 4 degrees of freedom. Figure 1 shows the distributions of position parameters
393 derived from the MCMC approach. The best-fit location of the burst is 3.7 arcmin away from that
394 of SGR J1935+2154 with 1σ uncertainty of 10 arcmin, fully consistent with SGR J1935+2154.

Extended Data Table 3: Fitting parameters of the two narrow peaks for HE and ME, and one narrow (second) peak for LE.

Telescope	t_{p1} (ms)	σ_{p1} (ms)	t_{p2} (ms)	σ_{p2} (ms)	τ (ms)
HE	418 ± 2	3.1 ± 2.7	452 ± 1	7.0 ± 0.8	34 ± 2
ME	417 ± 2	3.0 ± 1.7	449 ± 2	3 ± 3	32 ± 3
LE	–	–	450 ± 2	6 ± 3	–

Extended Data Table 4: Best-fit free parameters of the burst. The integration time for spectrum is from $T_0-0.2$ s to T_0+1 s. Four models are employed to fit the spectrum observed by *Insight*-HXMT, as cutoff power-law (CPL), power-law (PL), two blackbody (BB+BB), and a model combine blackbody and power-law (BB+PL). n_{H} is the equivalent hydrogen column in the model for interstellar absorption.

Model	n_{H} (10^{22}cm^{-2})	kT_1 (keV)	kT_2 (keV)	Norm ₁	Norm ₂	PhoIndex	E_{cut} (keV)	factor _{ME}	factor _{HE}	$flux_1$ $10^{-7} \text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	$flux_2$ $10^{-7} \text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	$\chi^2/d.o.f$
CPL	$2.79^{+0.18}_{-0.17}$	--	--	$31.48^{+3.50}_{-3.13}$	--	$1.56^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$	$83.89^{+9.08}_{-7.55}$	$0.98^{+0.07}_{-0.06}$	$0.68^{+0.07}_{-0.07}$	$5.95^{+0.34}_{-0.32}$	--	1.00/242
PL	$4.26^{+0.19}_{-0.18}$	--	--	$87.26^{+5.17}_{-4.95}$	--	$2.21^{+0.03}_{-0.03}$	--	$1.68^{+0.08}_{-0.08}$	$1.60^{+0.13}_{-0.13}$	$4.61^{+0.26}_{-0.24}$	--	1.48/243
BB+BB	$0.55^{+0.12}_{-0.11}$	$1.63^{+0.04}_{-0.04}$	$14.46^{+0.25}_{-0.24}$	$1.77^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$	$4.37^{+0.46}_{-0.42}$	--	--	$1.84^{+0.17}_{-0.16}$	$0.45^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$	$1.47^{+0.04}_{-0.04}$	$3.65^{+0.39}_{-0.35}$	2.14/241
BB+PL	$3.50^{+0.17}_{-0.17}$	$11.32^{+0.55}_{-0.56}$	--	$1.56^{+0.31}_{-0.27}$	$54.46^{+4.17}_{-3.87}$	$1.93^{+0.04}_{-0.04}$	--	$1.05^{+0.08}_{-0.07}$	$0.54^{+0.07}_{-0.06}$	$1.31^{+0.26}_{-0.22}$	$5.80^{+0.32}_{-0.29}$	1.05/241

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Figures

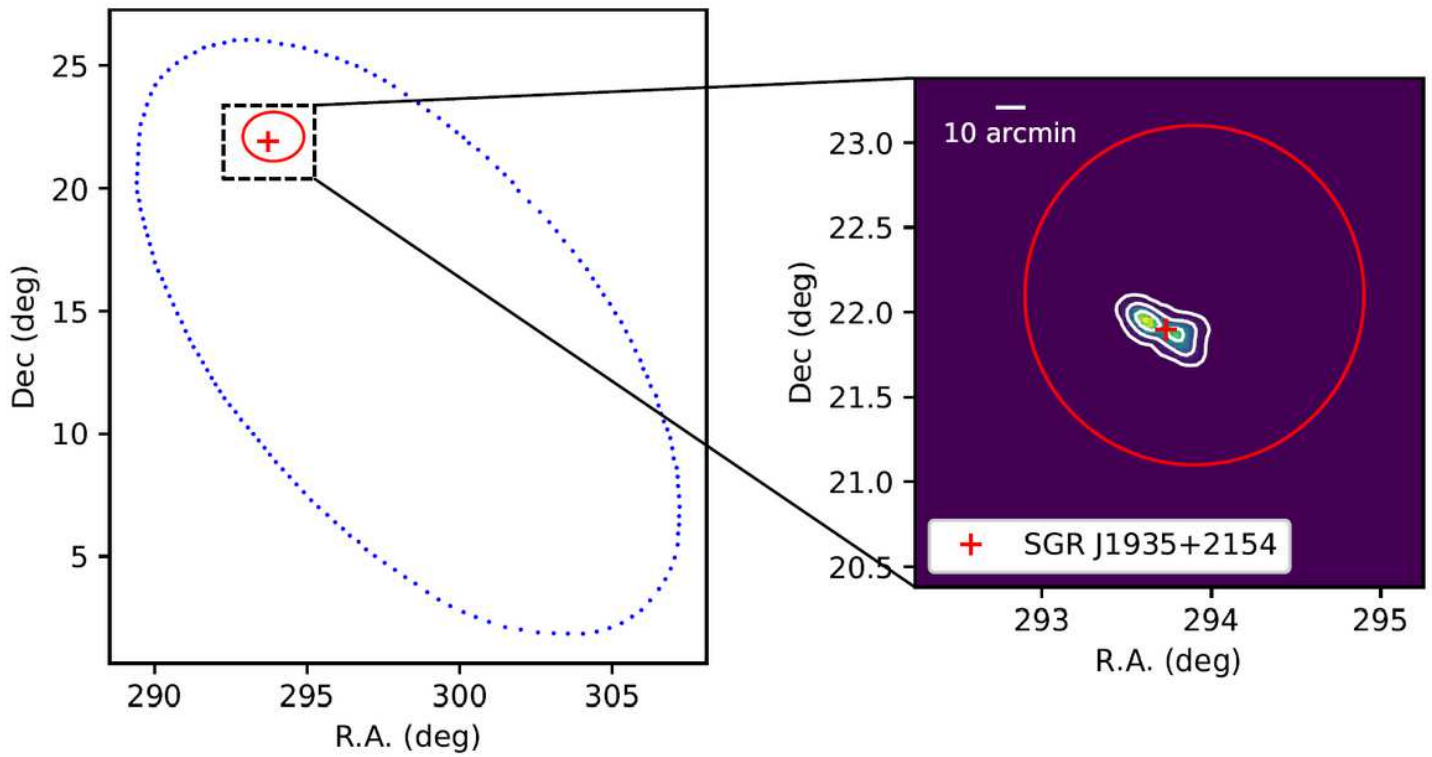


Figure 1

Localization of the burst using Insight-HXMT HE, ME and LE data. The red cross marks the known position of SGR J1935+2154. The white contours in the zoomed in panel are 1 σ , 2 σ and 3 σ uncertainty regions in the sky. The best position of this burst is ≈ 3.7 arcmin away from SGR J1935+2154 with 1 σ error of ≈ 10 arcmin (see Methods for details about localization). The red circle and blue-dotted ellipse presents the sky region of FRB 200428 determined by CHIME/FRB8 and STARE29, respectively.

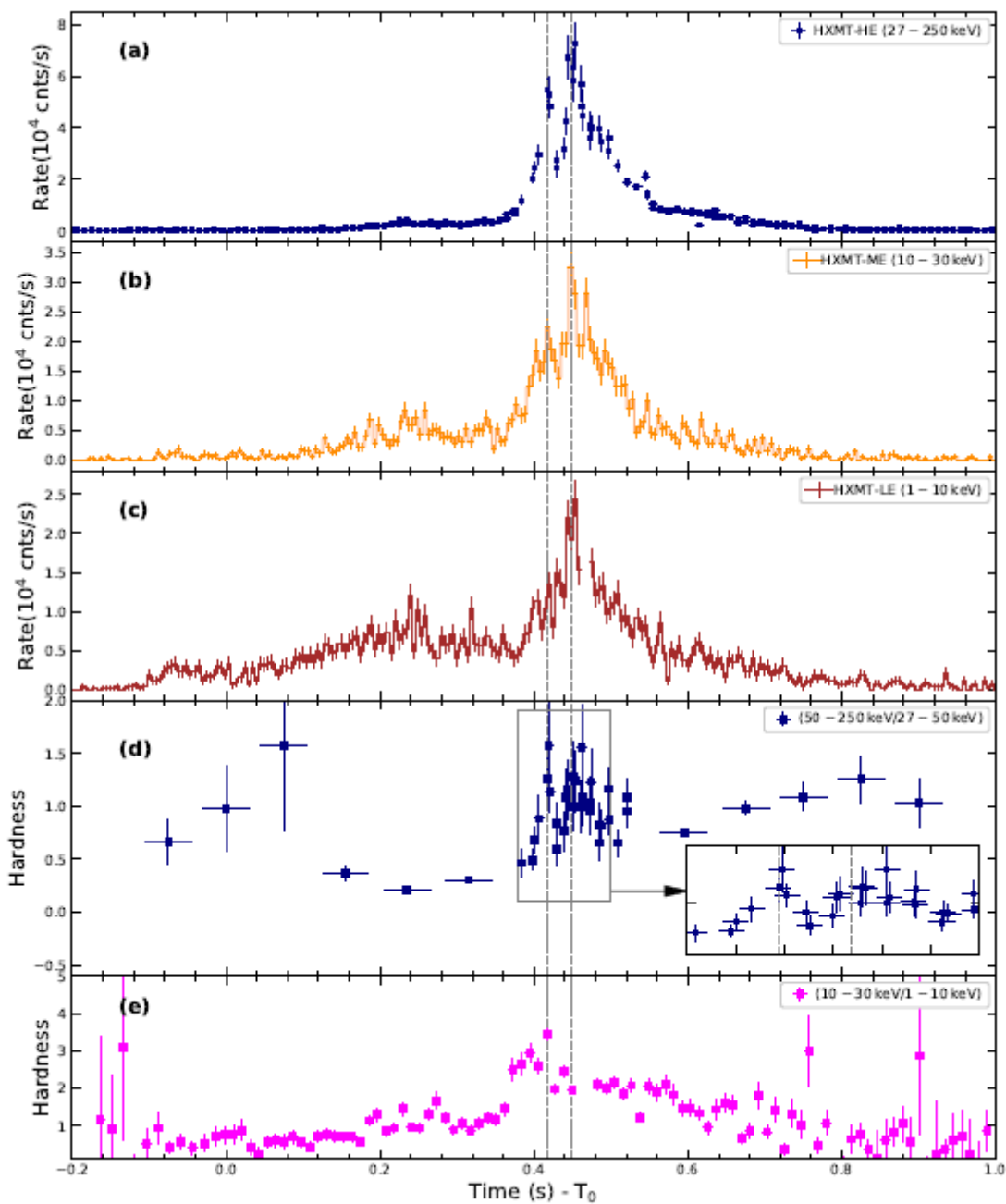


Figure 2

The lightcurve and the hardness evolution during the burst of SGR J1935+2145 observed with Insight-HXMT. The reference time is T₀ (2020-04-28 14:34:24 UTC). The vertical dashed lines indicate two peaks in the lightcurves and the hardness evolution. The separation between the two lines are 30 ms. (a): The lightcurve observed with Insight-HXMT/HE with a time resolution of 1 ms near the peak and 10 ms outside the peak. Due to the saturation effect, there are bins near the peak with no photons recorded for both HE and LE. (b) and (c) are the lightcurves observed with ME and LE with a time bin of 5 ms, respectively. (d): The hardness ratio between the counts in 50–250 keV and 27–50 keV. The inset plot in (d) shows the details of the hardness ratio near the peak. (e): The hardness ratio between the counts in 10–30 keV and the 1–10 keV. (see Methods for details of the saturation and the deadtime correction.)

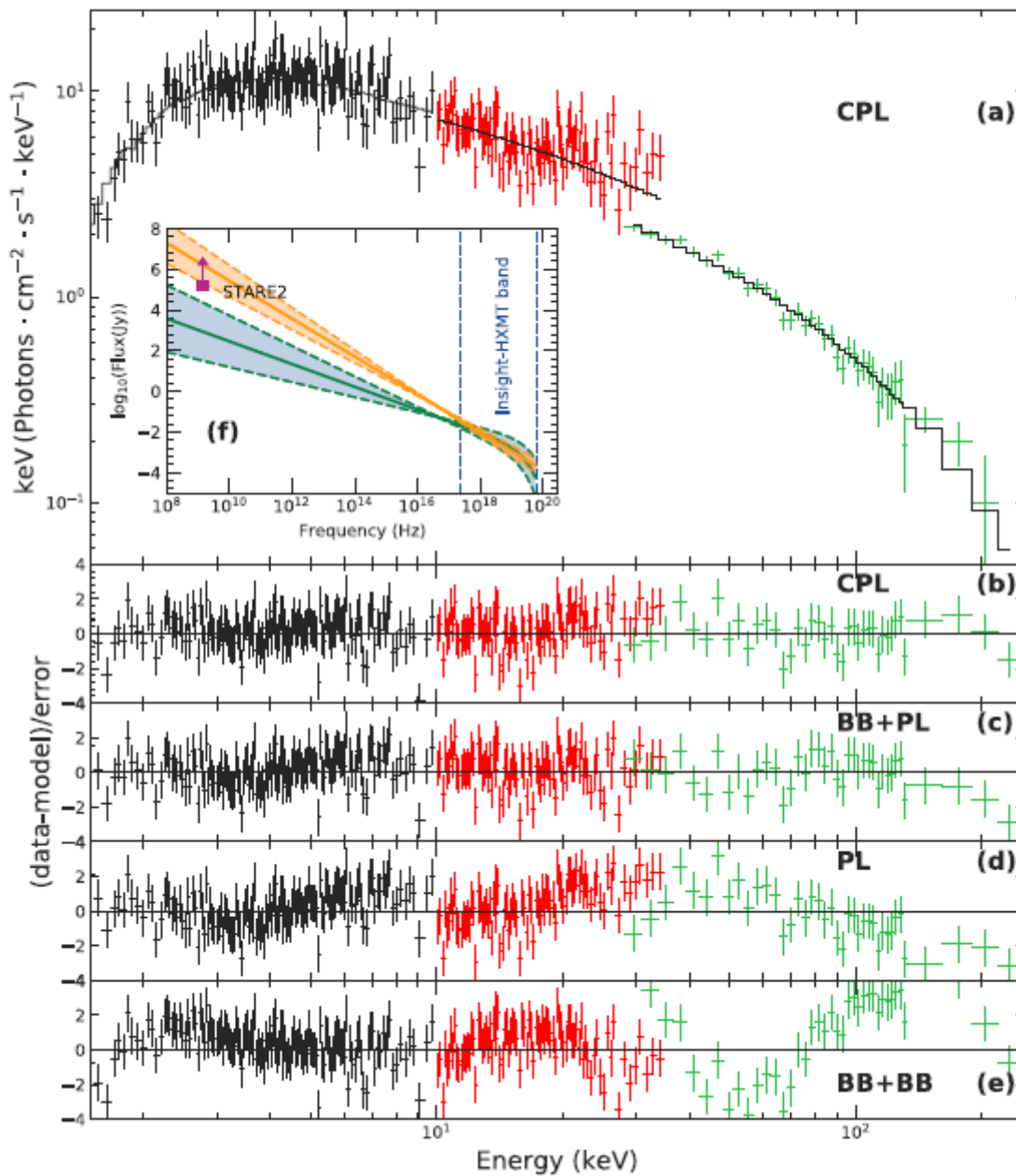


Figure 3

The spectrum observed with Insight-HXMT covers the 1–250 keV energy band. Data from the three telescopes of Insight-HXMT covering different energy bands are represented in different colors (LE: black, ME: red and HE: green). In the fitting process, we introduced a constant factor to offset the different saturation and deadtime effects in different detectors. Four models were considered, cutoff power-law (CPL), blackbody+power-law (BB+PL), power-law (PL), and blackbody+blackbody (BB+BB). The equivalent hydrogen column in the interstellar absorption model was free to fit. (a) The X-ray spectrum of SGR J1935+2154 described by CPL model. The inset (f) shows the comparison between the radio flux lower limit detected with STARE29 and extrapolations from the X-ray spectrum to the radio frequency range, where the green and orange regions are the 3σ error bands with the parameters of the CPL (below

STARE2) and BB+PL (above STARE2) models, respectively. Panels (b)-(e) are the residuals of the data from the individual models, respectively. (see Methods for details of the spectral fitting and parameters derived.)