

# Swift Tracks Potential Magnetic Flip of Monster Black Hole



An outburst from a galaxy 236 million light-years away may have been sparked by a spontaneous flip of the magnetic field surrounding its central black hole.

In a comprehensive new study, an international science team links the eruption's unusual characteristics to changes in the black hole's environment that likely would be triggered by such a magnetic switch.

An earlier interpretation suggested the black hole tearing apart a star explained the outburst. But the team's analysis, including data from NASA's Swift satellite, show emission from such an event would have faded too rapidly to match the observations.

