

# Mapping the magnetosphere of bright accreting pulsars.



Carlo Ferrigno – ISDC INTEGRAL tutorial



#### Summary

- Highly magnetized neutron stars, the Be binaries:
  - INTEGRAL achievements on V 0332+63.
- Low mass X-ray binaries:
  - the peculiar case of Her X-1;
  - accreting millisecond pulsars.
- X-ray emission in low a magnetic field:
  - average spectrum of the neutron star low mass X-ray binaries.
- Conclusions and future prospective.

### The Be binaries

- Some giants posses an equatorial quasi-Keplerian disc driven by radiation instability.
- If a neutron star has an eccentric orbit around it, at each perigee there is Type I (or normal) outburst which lasts for a few days.
- On irregular basis, there are giant outbursts, which last about one month and can reach L<sub>x</sub>~10<sup>38</sup> erg/s
- A neutron star is generally characterized by a high magnetic field (B~10<sup>12</sup>G).
- The sources can be studied with great detail during these events.





### Emission mechanisms in high magnetic field

- The accreting matter acquires a high kinetic energy v~c/2 which is partially dissipated close to the compact object surface and emitted in the form of X and Gamma-rays.
- If the neutron star has a high magnetic field, the accreting matter is channeled at the magnetic poles along the field lines and accretes in columns.
- Seed photons coming from thermal mound and electron breemstrahlung, in the high B-field, are Compton scattered.
- Formation of absorption lines due to cyclotron scattering -> measure of B-field.



### V 0332+53

- Recurrent transient, consisting of a neutron star orbiting around a 08-9Ve star in 34.25d with e=0.34. Spin period ~3 s.
- Discovered in 1973, during a major outburst when it reached 1.6 Crab fluxes, it was outbursting other 3 times in 1983 (0.2 Crab), 1989 (0.4 Crab), and 2004-2005 (1 Crab). Distance is 7 kpc ->  $L_X$ ~10<sup>38</sup> erg/s at most.
- In 1989, a cyclotron scattering feature was observed. In December 2004, two harmonics have been observed using RXTE data.
- INTEGRAL discovered also the third harmonic.





### V 0332+53

- Complex shape of fundamental line at the outburst peak.
- Non regular spacing of fundamental line and higher harmonics.
- Monitoring campaign using INTEGRAL and RXTE revealed a peculiar luminosity dependency of the continuum, pulse shape and cyclotron line energy due to the different height of the accretion column.





### Her X-1 – LMXB with high B

- Discovered in 1972, well studied.
- P<sub>orb</sub>=1.7d P<sub>spin</sub>=1.24s warped disc produces a cycle of 35d regular eclipses. Cyclotron line at ~40 keV.
- First measure of torque during the main on.
- Modeling of X-ray dips as due to a partial covering.
- Phase dependent variations of continuum and cyclotron line parameters.



### The accreting neutron star low mass X-ray binaries

- In Low Mass X-ray Binaries. a solar type companion accompanies a compact object.
- Accretion is normally channeled via Roche Lobe overflow.
- The neutron star has generally a low magnetic field (B<~10<sup>10</sup>G) or null in case of black holes.
- LMXB are divided into bright persistent Z sources and fainter flaring Atoll sources.
- The interesting subclass of millisecond accreting pulsars is the confirmation of the "recycling scenario", in which old pulsars are spun up by the accretion torque in binary systems.









- The imaging capabilities and large FOV of IBIS/ISGRI led to the the discovery of two accreting millisecond pulsars (12 are known): IGR J00291+5934, the fastest with a spin period of 1.7 ms, and IGR J17511-3057, the latest discovered.
- Subsequent monitoring with many satellites demonstrates the interest.







### Accreting millisecond pulsars

- Observation of several objects thanks to the good timing capability of INTEGRAL.
- Peculiar light curve of the outbursts followed by INTEGRAL and RXTE.
- Determination of the distance using the Photospheric radius expansion during thermonuclear bursts.
- Self consistent Comptonization model for spectrum, pulsed fraction and time lags.



# Emission mechanism of NS LMXB in low magnetic field

![](_page_10_Figure_1.jpeg)

- The accretion disc extend almost to the central object. A characteristic boundary layer is formed near the NS surface.
- Emission is generated by Compton scattering of thermal seed photons of the NS or inner disc surfaces, plus thermal emission from the outer disc.
- Pulsations are sometimes present due to the funneling on magnetic poles, but often hidden by the accretion flow.

- They present different states ranging from soft bright state to hard low states (analog to the black-hole candidates.)
- The peculiar phenomenon of hard tails has been explained either by the bulk motion of plasma or by the onset of a jet and Comptonization corona.

![](_page_10_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_11_Picture_0.jpeg)

### Spectral states of LMXB

- They show different spectral states from very soft to very hard.
- Using INTEGRAL it has been possible to study the average emission over years to characterize the sources in terms of soft, intermediate and hard states.
- Emission is explained in terms of a thermal and bulk Comptonization model.
- A correlation of the hard tail with radio emission suggests a common origin, probably in the Compton cloud close to the NS surface.

![](_page_11_Figure_6.jpeg)

### Conclusions

- INTEGRAL contributed in understanding the emission mechanisms in accreting pulsars, but many issues remain still open.
- The increased exposure time on several objects has not been exploited yet.
- New transient phenomena are continuously discovered also thanks to the ISDC quick look analysis.
- For forthcoming proposals, a great effort should be put in inter-playing the INTEGRAL observations with other instruments for multiwavelength campaigns, e.g. with FERMI, Swift, XMM-Newton, radio telescopes.

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