PHYSICS OF COMPACT OBJECTS AND THEIR BINARY INTERACTIONS



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X-ray Binaries

Last week



- X-ray binaries (HMXBs / LMXBs)
- Roche-lobe overflow Cases A, B, C, and Case BB
- Stability criteria for mass transfer / stellar evolution
- Orbital angular momentum balance equation
- Common envelope and spiral-in evolution

For a review: Tauris & van den Heuvel (2006) and new textbook: Tauris & van den Heuvel (2023)

Programme











* Introduction

* Degenerate Fermi Gases

Non-relativistic and extreme relativistic electron / (n,p,e⁻) gases

* White Dwarfs

Structure, cooling models, observations

* Neutron Stars

Structure and equation-of-state

* Radio Pulsars

Characteristics, spin evolution, magnetars, observations

* Binary Evolution and Interactions

X-ray binaries, accretion, formation of millisecond pulsars, recycling

* Black Holes

Observations, characteristics and spins

- Gravitational Waves
 Sources and detection, kilonovae
- * Exam

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Recyling MSPs – accretion physics

- Detailed LMXB evolution
 - dependence on P_{orb} and M_2



- relation between M_{WD} and P_{orb} for binary pulsars
- mass-transfer rate; final neutron star mass
- equilibrium spin period and spin-up line in P-P_{dot} diagram
- Accretion physics
 - Four phases of accretion
 - Accretion disks
 - Accretion-induced magnetic field decay

Millisecond pulsars



Spin period, P (sec)

Millisecond Pulsars - a binary formation scenario



Millisecond pulsars - Key questions on their origin

MSPs



- How fast can they spin?
- Why are their B-field strenghts weak?
- How much mass do they need to accrete?
- What are their orbital periods?
- How old are they?
- Where are they located in our Galaxy (+ kinematics)?
- What is the nature of their companion stars?



Millisecond pulsars - a binary formation scenario

Why?

- Rapid spin: P < 50 ms
- Small period derivative: $\dot{P} < 10^{-17} s s^{-1}$

Solution:

Accretion of mass

$$N = \dot{J}_* \equiv \frac{d}{dt} (I\Omega_*) = \dot{M}_* \sqrt{GM_*r_A} \,\xi$$

$$\dot{J} = \frac{d}{dt} | \vec{r} \times \vec{p} |$$



Lamb, Pethick & Pines (1973) Ghosh & Lamb (1979, 1992)

$$B = \sqrt{\frac{3c^3 I_{NS}}{8\pi^2 R_{NS}^6} P \dot{P}}$$

Magnetic-dipole model

$$\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times \left(\vec{v} \times \vec{B} \right) - \frac{c^2}{4\pi} \nabla \times \left(\frac{1}{\sigma} \times \nabla \times \vec{B} \right)$$

Geppert & Urpin (1994); Konar & Bhattacharya (1997)

Accretion-induced B-field decay – Ohmic dissipation/diffusion – Flux tube expulsion via spin-down – B-field burial (screening)

Recycling pulsars - A detour in the P-Pdot diagram

Tauris & van den Heuvel (2023)



Pulsar companion stars





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LMXB bifurcation period

Converging

 $P_{orb} < P_{bif}$:

→ LMXB shorten their orbital period Donor star still on main sequence RLO driven by loss of J_{orb} (MB, GWs) Tutukov et al. (1985) Pylyser & Savonije (1988, 1989) Ma & Li (2009) Istrate et al. (2014) Chen et al. (2021)







Single millisecond pulsars

All single millisecond pulsars are likely born in a binary system.

Once a recycled millisecond pulsar turns on its emission of ultra-relativistic particles, it is often able to completely evaporate its companion and thus end up as an <u>isolated</u> millisecond pulsar.

Observational evidence:

eclipsing MSPs with $0.02 M_{\odot}$ companions
the "planetary pulsar", PSR 1257+12

power needed for evaporation = incoming irradiation power from pulsar

$$\frac{1}{2}\dot{M}_{2}v_{esc}^{2} = f \dot{E}_{psr} \left(\pi R_{2}^{2} / 4\pi a^{2}\right) \tau \tilde{M}_{2}^{2}$$

мяр

evaporation timescale

LMXB diverging systems

P_{orb} > P_{bif}: <u>Diverging</u> → <u>LMXB widen their orbital period</u> Donor star is a (sub)giant RLO driven by nuclear expansion

Formation of BMSPs with He-WD:

Unique relation between P_{orb} and M_{WD}

Joss, Rappaport & Lewis (1987)

 $P_{orb} > 1 \, day$

Savonije (1987)

 $0.18 < M_{WD} < 0.46 M_{\odot}$



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T.M. Tauris & G.J. Savonije: Formation of millisecond



match observations well

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Istrate et al. (2016)

Rappaport et al. (1995)

Tauris & Savonije (1999)

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$P_{orb} - M_{WD}$ correlation for He-WDs



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$P_{orb} - M_{WD}$ correlation for He-WDs

- On the red giant branch (hydrogen shell burning) the growth of the degenerate He core mass is directly related to the luminosity of the star
- Temperature is almost constant on the Hyashi track \Rightarrow L \propto R²
- Hence there is a relation between M_{core} and R (Thomas 1967) independent of M_{env}
- The donor star fills its Roche-lobe during the mass transfer \Rightarrow R is correlated with P_{orb}





 $L = 4\pi R^2 \sigma T_{eff}^4$

correlation between (P_{orb}, M_{WD})

Table 1. Stellar parameters for a star with $R_2 = 50.0 R_{\odot}$ – see text.

M_2/M_{\odot}	1.0**	1.6**	1.0*	1.6*
$\log L/L_{\odot}$	2.566	2.624	2.644	2.723
$\log T_{\rm eff}$	3.554	3.569	3.573	3.593
$M_{2 \text{core}}/M_{\odot}$	0.336	0.345	0.342	0.354
$M_{ m 2env}/M_{\odot}$	0.215	0.514	0.615	1.217

* Single star (X=0.70, Z=0.02 and α=2.0).

** Binary donor ($P_{\rm orb}^{\rm ZAMS} = 60.0$ days and $M_{\rm NS} = 1.3 M_{\odot}$)

A perfect circle



Eccentricities





Tauris (2011)



IMXB Early Case B RLO → MSPs with CO-WD

Alternative to CE-phase:

- thermal timescale mass transfer

- isotropic re-emission model



Tauris, van den Heuvel & Savonije (2000), ApJ Lett. 530, 93

L94

Explain MSPs, P_{orb} = 3-50 days & CO/ONeMg WD

Vo



IMXB Case A RLO → MSPs with CO-WD

Podsiadlowski, Rappaport & Pfahl (2002) Tauris, Langer & Kramer (2011)

Explain fully recycled MSPs & CO/ONeMg WD



Pulsar mass: WD mass: Orbital period: Pulsar spin period:

1.97±0.04 M_o 0.500±0.006 M_o 8.69 days 3.15 ms

Was this pulsar born massive?

PSR J1614-2230

IMXB case A



IMXB case A: thermal + nuclear timescale mass transfer



The pulsar was born with a mass of 1.7±0.1 M_{sun}



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Chemical structure of the CO WD companion



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For calculating binary star evolution, I recommend using the MESA code

(e.g. for a 12 months Master's project)



https://docs.mesastar.org/en



Accreted mass to spin up pulsar



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- Introducing the physics of an accreting neutron star
 - Spherical wind accretion
 - Effect of accretion disk



Davidson & Ostriker (1973)

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Neutron star accretion

B

Phases of accretion:

- I. Isolated pulsar
- II. Gunn-Ostriker mechanism
- III. Propeller phase
- IV. Rapid accretion

Consider a young pulsar with initial high values of Ω and B which evolves through four phases of accretion while the values of Ω (and B) decrease.

 $M_{\rm NS}$

stellar

wind

 \dot{M}

a

Phase I

Isolated pulsar: r_{stop} > r_{acc}

Wind plasma is stopped by pressure of magnetodipole radiation outside the radius of gravitational capture. The pulsar evolves as an isolated pulsar.

$$\begin{aligned} P_{dipole} \approx P_{ram} \\ \dot{E}_{dipole} \approx P_{ram} \\ \dot{E}_{dipole} = -\frac{2}{3c^3} |\ddot{m}|^2 \wedge |\ddot{m}| \sim BR^3 \Omega^2 \\ \frac{\dot{E}_{dipole}}{4\pi r_{stop}^2 c} = \frac{2B^2 R_{NS}^6 \Omega^4 / 3c^3}{4\pi r_{stop}^2 c} \approx \frac{1}{2} \rho_w v_w^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\dot{M}_*}{4\pi a^2 v_w} \right) v_w^2 \\ \psi \\ ram pressure of wind \\ r_{stop} = \sqrt{\frac{4B^2 R_{NS}^6 \Omega^4 a^2}{3c^4 v_w \dot{M}_*}} \\ r_{stop} \propto B\Omega^2 \end{aligned}$$

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B

Tacc

Phase II

Gunn-Ostriker mechanism: r_{acc} , $r_A > r_{stop}$, r_{lc}

Now $r_{stop} < r_{acc}$. However, the Alfven radius is located outside the light cylinder and matter cannot couple to the magnetosphere with v > c. Therefore, matter is accelerated to relativistic energies by magnetodipole waves.



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 \mathbf{r}_{A}

Phase III

Propeller effect: $r_{lc} > r_A > r_{co}$

Accreted matter couples to magnetosphere in super-Keplerian orbits ($F_{centrifugal} > F_{gravitational}$) and thus material piles up near magnetospheric boundary, which creates a strong braking torque (wind carries off ang. mom.)

$$r_{co} = \left(\frac{GM_{NS}}{\Omega^2}\right)^{1/3}$$

co-rotation radius (Keplerian velocity)

$$N = \dot{J}_{spin} \approx \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(m r_A^2 \Omega_K \right) = \dot{M}_{NS} \sqrt{G M_{NS} r_A}$$

braking torque

$$\vec{J} = |\vec{r} imes \vec{p}|$$

$$\dot{\Omega} = \frac{\dot{J}_{spin}}{I_{NS}} \quad \wedge \quad \Omega = \frac{2\pi}{P} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \dot{P} \approx \frac{\dot{J}_{spin}P^2}{-2\pi I_{NS}} \propto L_X^{6/7} \qquad L_X = \frac{dE_{acc}}{dt} = \frac{GM_{NS}}{R} \dot{M}_{NS} \propto \dot{M}_{NS}$$

spin-down rate

X-ray luminosity

 $r_{co} \propto \Omega^{-2/3}$

Braking torque causes Ω to decrease... \rightarrow Phase IV

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 $r_A^{1/2} \propto \dot{M}_{\scriptscriptstyle
m NG}^{-1/7}$



Phase IV

Neutron star accretion: $r_A < r_{co}$



P (sec)

Spin-up line in the PP-diagram

Tauris, Langer & Kramer (2012) MNRAS, 425, 1601



Spin-up line





FIG. 6.—Long-term frequency history for all pulsars detected by BATSE that were previously known. The squares show the pre-BATSE data taken from Nagase (1989) and additional references. The line is the BATSE data, which we discuss later in great detail. The long-term frequency history for X-ray pulsars observed by BATSE that were known prior to the *Compton Observatory* launch commences 1991 April. For Her X-1, Cen X-3, Vela X-1, 4U 1538–52, GX 301–2, 4U 0115+634, and EXO 2030+375, all frequencies have been orbitally corrected. For OAO 1657–415, GS 0834–430, 2S 1417–62, and A0535+262, orbital corrections have been applied only to the BATSE observations. No orbital corrections have been applied for 4U 1626–67, GX 1+4, 4U 1145–619, or A1118–615, which have unknown, or incompletely known, orbital elements. The BATSE frequencies for OAO 1657–415, GS 0834–430,

Nagase (1989), Bildsten et al. (1997)

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Accretion disks



High specific ang.mom. of accreted gas in binary

 → formation of accretion disk (ang.mom. is transported outward via viscous stresses)

Turbulent-enhanced viscosity models (e.g. α -model by Shakura & Sunyaev (1973))

- If accretion rate is < 0.01 \dot{M}_{Edd} : <u>thin disk (high opacity</u>) or <u>ADAF</u> (low opacity)
- If accretion rate is about M_{Edd}: slim disks
- If accretion rate is > \dot{M}_{Edd} : <u>torus</u> (with collimated beam of radiation)

Magnetic stresses truncate the Keplerian disk flow: - transition zone between disk and magnetosphere



Spin-up lines in P-P_{dot} diagram depend on nature of accretion disk model (optically thick/thin and gas/radiation pressure dominated)

$$R_{inner\,disk}\propto \dot{M}^a\mu^b M^c$$

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Ghosh & Lamb (1979)

Accretion-induced magnetic field decay

induction equation:

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = -\frac{c^2}{4\pi} \vec{\nabla} \times \left(\frac{1}{\sigma_{el}} \times \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} \right) + \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{v} \times \vec{B})$$
NS crust
NS core
convective transport of
accreted material (Hall term)
NS core
" $\sigma_{el} = \infty$ "
ad approximation!
$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = -\frac{c^2}{4\pi \sigma_{el}} \nabla^2 \vec{B} \iff B = B_0 e^{-t/\tau_D} \left(\tau_D \approx \mu_0 \sigma_{el} L^2 \right)$$

$$\sigma_{el} = \sigma_{el} \left(T, \rho, A, Z, Q \right)$$

Note: residual B-field ~10⁸ G (observed in millisecond pulsars) due to superconducting interior

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Summary

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Physics of Compact Objects week 8



Shapiro & Teukolsky (1983), Wiley-Interscience

Curriculum

- Tauris & van den Heuvel (2023), Chapter 7.3 + 14 (S&T Chapter 18)

Next lecture: McClintock et al. (2013) Tauris & van den Heuvel (2023) (Shapiro & Teukolsky Chapter 12 (14)) (Fabian & Lasenby 2015) Aud.5.227

Exercises: # 13, 15, 19

- Monday Oct. 30, 10:15-12:00