

The XXVII Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics

# Isolated And Accreting Magnetars Viewed In Hard X-rays

Wei Wang

National Astronomical Observatories,  
Beijing China

Dec 8 – 13 2013, Dallas TX, USA

# Contents

- Hard X-ray properties of isolated magnetars
- Accreting magnetar candidates - superslow pulsation X-ray pulsars in HMXBs
- Physical origin of these accreting systems – requiring magnetars?
- Summary

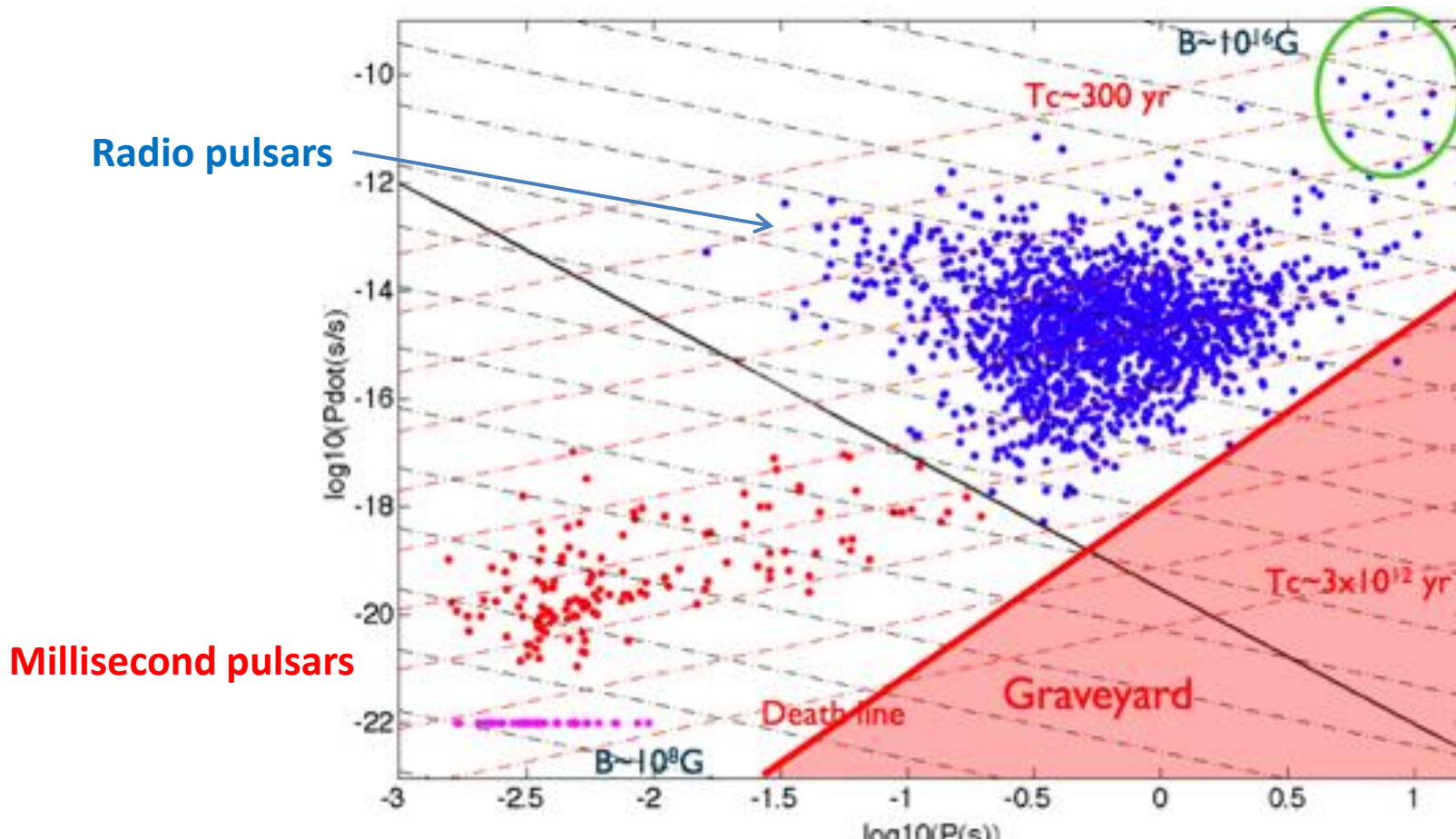
# Isolated Magnetars

$P_{\text{spin}} = 2 - 12 \text{ sec}$

high spin-down rate,  $B_s > 10^{13} \text{ G}$ ,  $\text{age} \approx 10^4 \text{ yr}$

X-rays powered by magnetic field decay/activity

Magnetars



# X-ray properties of magnetars

## AXPs/SGRs:

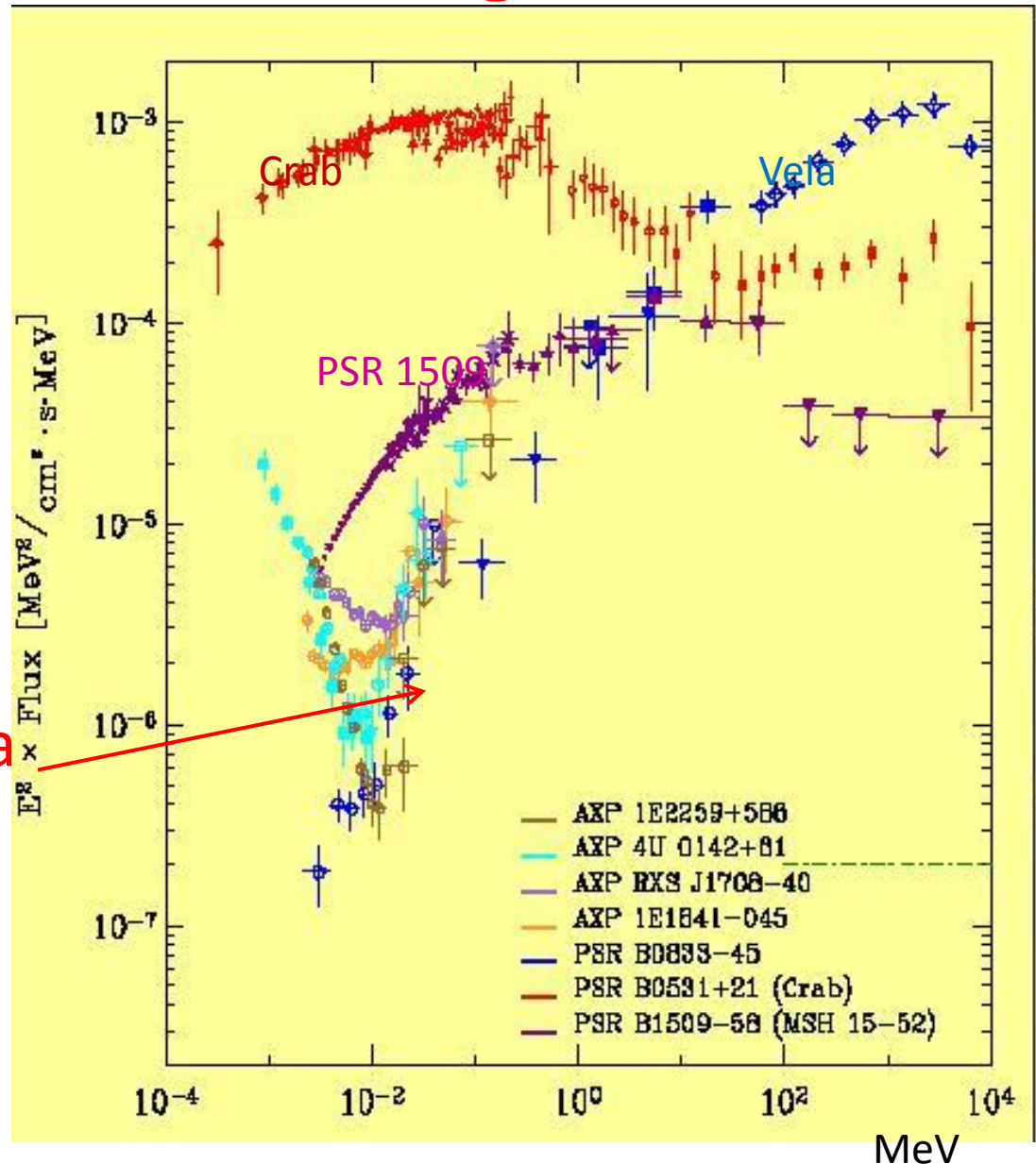
0.1 – 10 keV:  
Thermal spectrum

>10 keV:  
Non-thermal  
 $\Gamma \sim 0.5 - 1$

Where is the high energy  
cutoff – important for the  
radiation models in  
magnetars

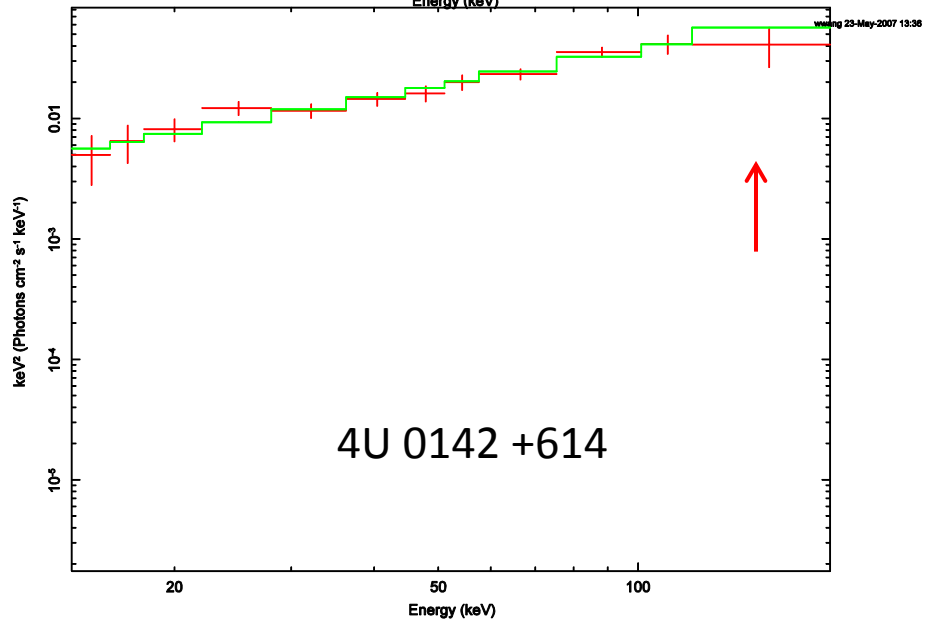
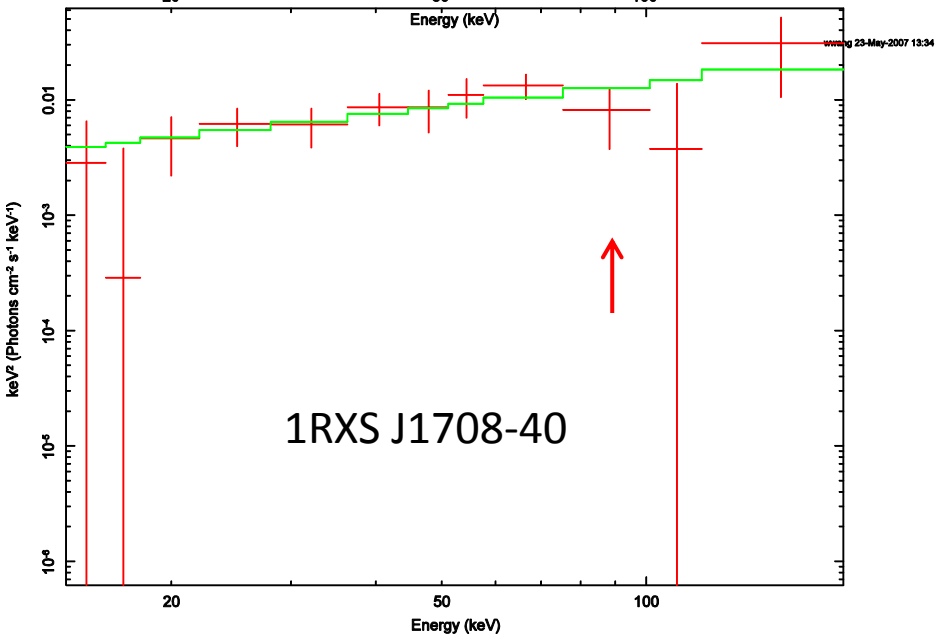
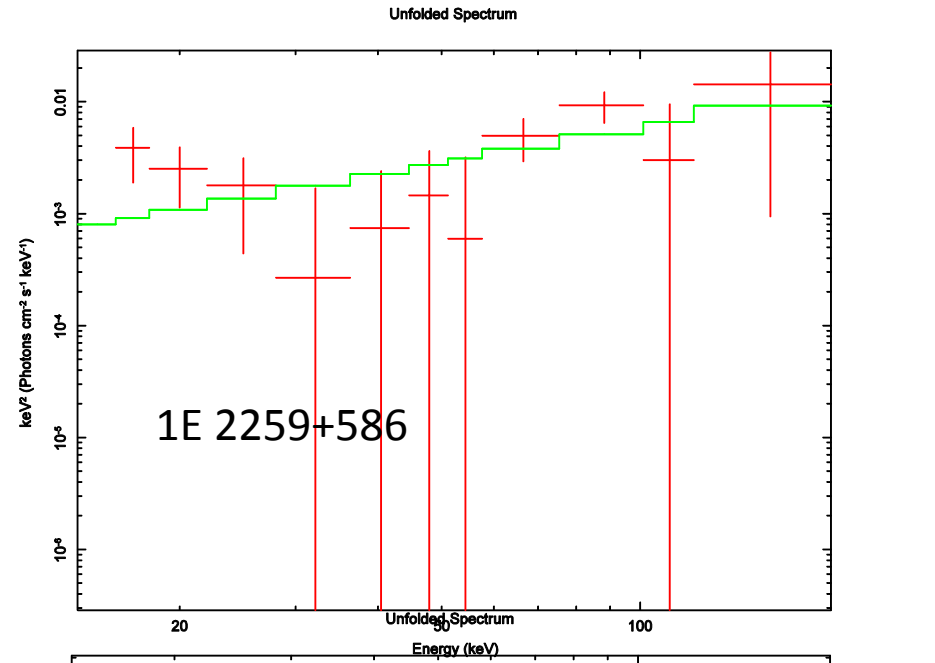
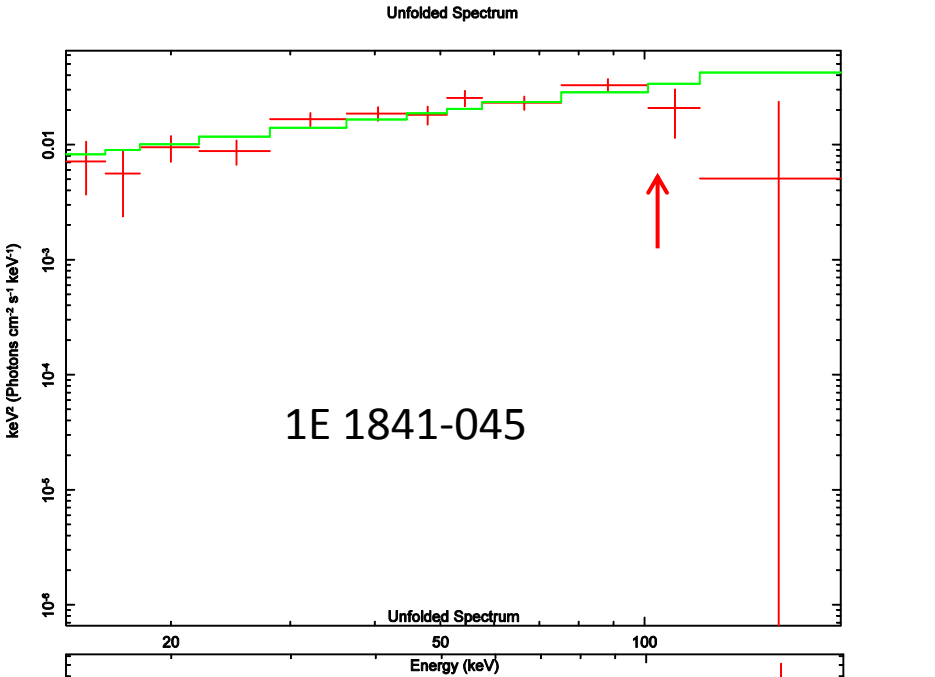
**RXTE data**

Kuiper 2006



# Swift/BAT data (Wang 2008)

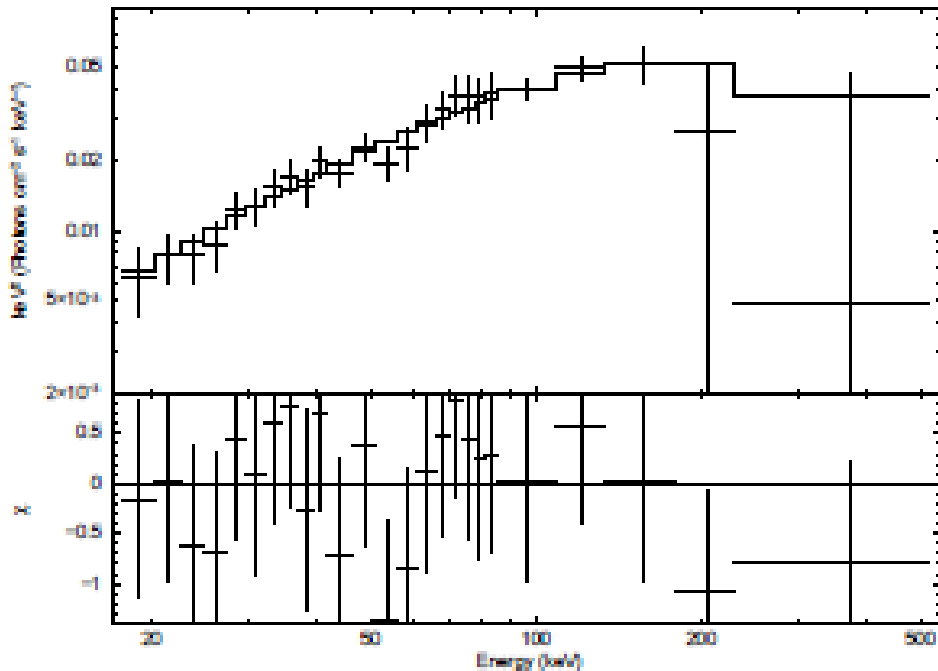
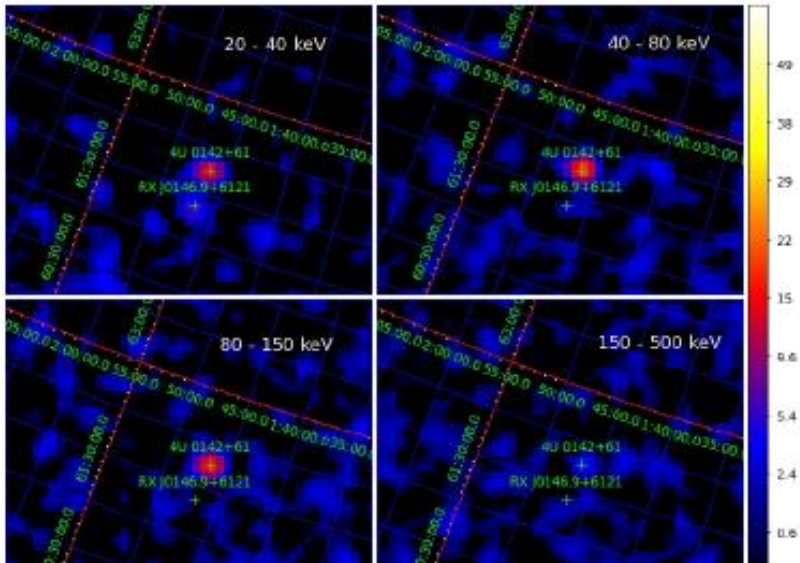
Show hints for high energy cutoff



# Recent results on 4U 0142+61 by INTEGRAL/IBIS

Wang et al. 2013

IBIS cannot detect 4U 0142 +61 above 150 keV, implying a high energy cutoff.



The average spectrum from 18 – 500 keV obtained by INTEGRAL observations from 2003 -2010.

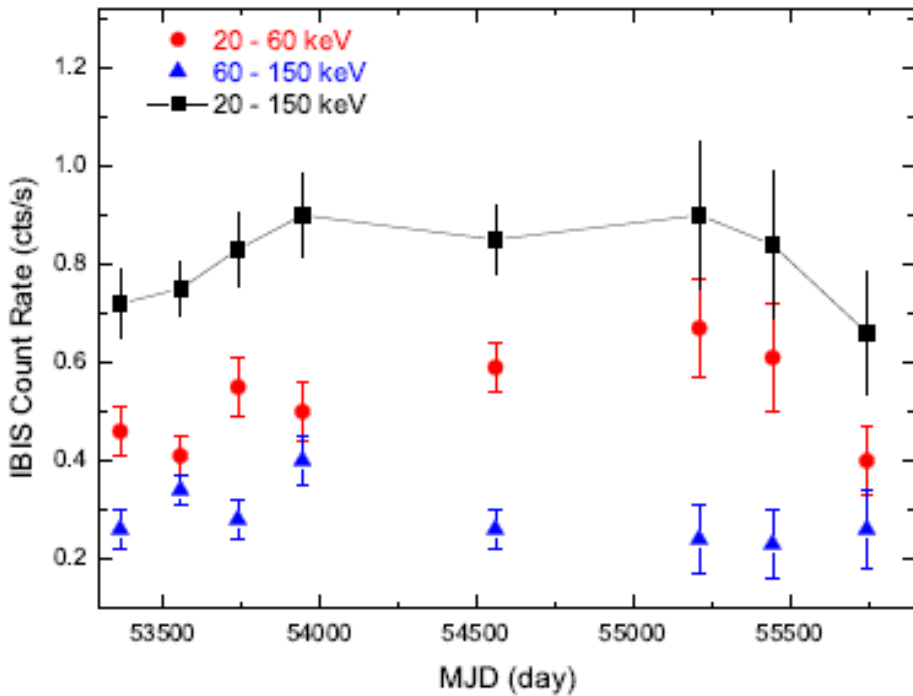
$$\Gamma \approx 0.51 \pm 0.11$$

$$E_{\text{cutoff}} \approx 128.6 \pm 17.2 \text{ keV}$$

Flux 18-200 keV

$$1.3 \times 10^{-10} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$L_x \sim 10^{35} \text{ erg/s (d=3kpc)}$$



The total hard X-ray emission of 4U 0142+61 is stable from 2003 – 2012; but spectral index varied from 0.4 – 1.6, cutoff from 110 – 250 keV

- cutoff energy at 130 keV, inconsistent with resonant inverse Compton scattering models with ultra-relativistic electrons (e.g., Baring & Harding 2007) which predict break around 1 MeV.
- the mildly relativistic electrons by persistent injections are required in the magnetar magnetosphere
- hard X-ray emission properties of 4U 0412+61 is still consistent with the accretion model, and the bulk and microscopic motions of electrons in the accreting flow should be mildly relativistic (Truemper et al. 2010, 2012)

# Accreting Magnetars

- Neutron star high-mass X-ray binaries:

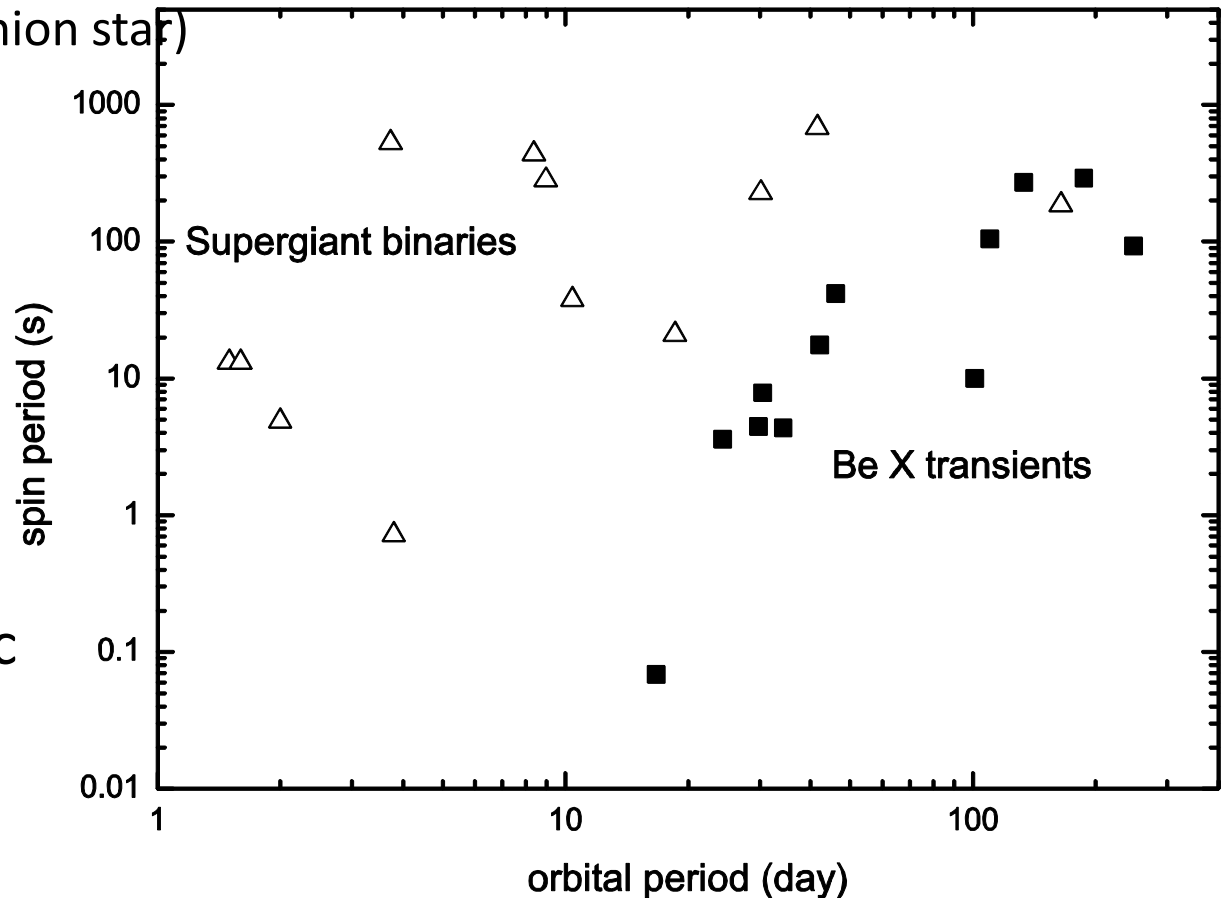
Corbet diagram

Be X-ray transient

(main-sequence companion star)

Supergiant binaries

(supergiant companion)

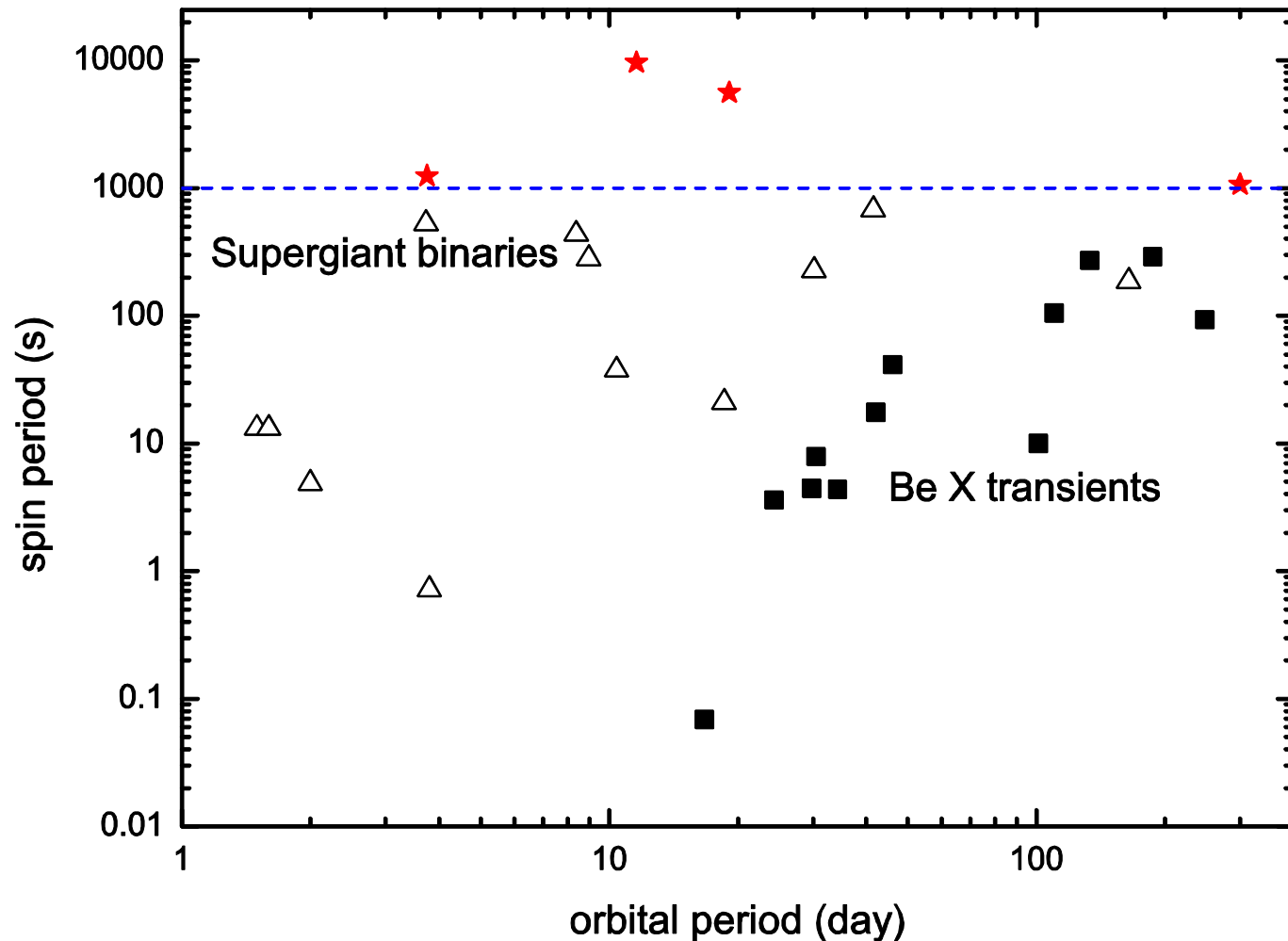


$P_{\text{spin}} \approx 0.1 - 1000 \text{ sec}$



Recently some very slowly pulsation neutron stars are discovered in some binaries:  $P_{\text{spin}} > 1000$  s !

The  $P_{\text{spin}} - P_{\text{orbit}}$  diagram for Superslow X-ray pulsars in HMXBs



# Why special for superslow pulsation X-ray pulsars

## Origin of spin period in X-ray pulsars

Standard evolution of neutron star binaries:

- a) ejector state: spin-down like radio pulsars;
- b) propeller state: spin-down by interaction between magnetosphere and stellar winds;
- c) accretor state:  $P_{\text{spin}}$  reaches a critical value; switch on as X-ray pulsars as observed.

$$P_{\text{cr}} \simeq 18\kappa^{3/2} \frac{M_{\text{NS}}}{1.4M_{\odot}}^{-5/7} \left[ \frac{\mu}{10^{30} \text{Gcm}^3} \right]^{6/7} \left[ \frac{\dot{M}}{10^{15} \text{gs}^{-1}} \right]^{-3/7} \text{s}, \quad (\text{Pringle \& Rees 1972 Ghosh \& Lamb 1978})$$

The maximum spin period which can be reached in different observed conditions (magnetic field; accretion rate) :  
from several seconds up to near 1000 s.

**Then what channels produce the long spin period higher 1000 s ? It is a key question we need understand here.**

# Hard X-ray properties of superslow pulsation X-ray pulsars

- Spin periods and evolution:

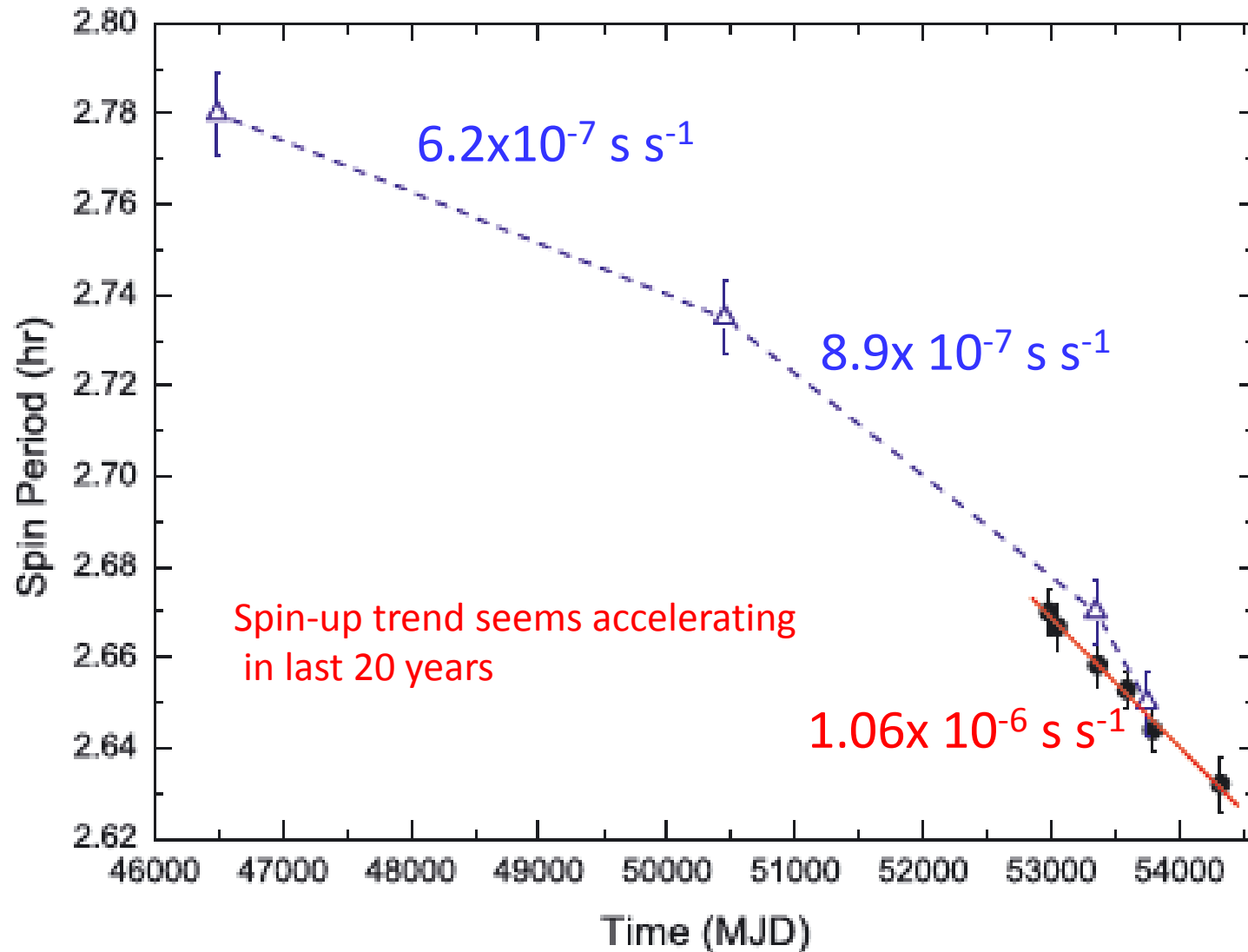
2S 0114+65 : 9700 s

4U 2206+54 : 5560 s

SXP 1062 : 1062 s

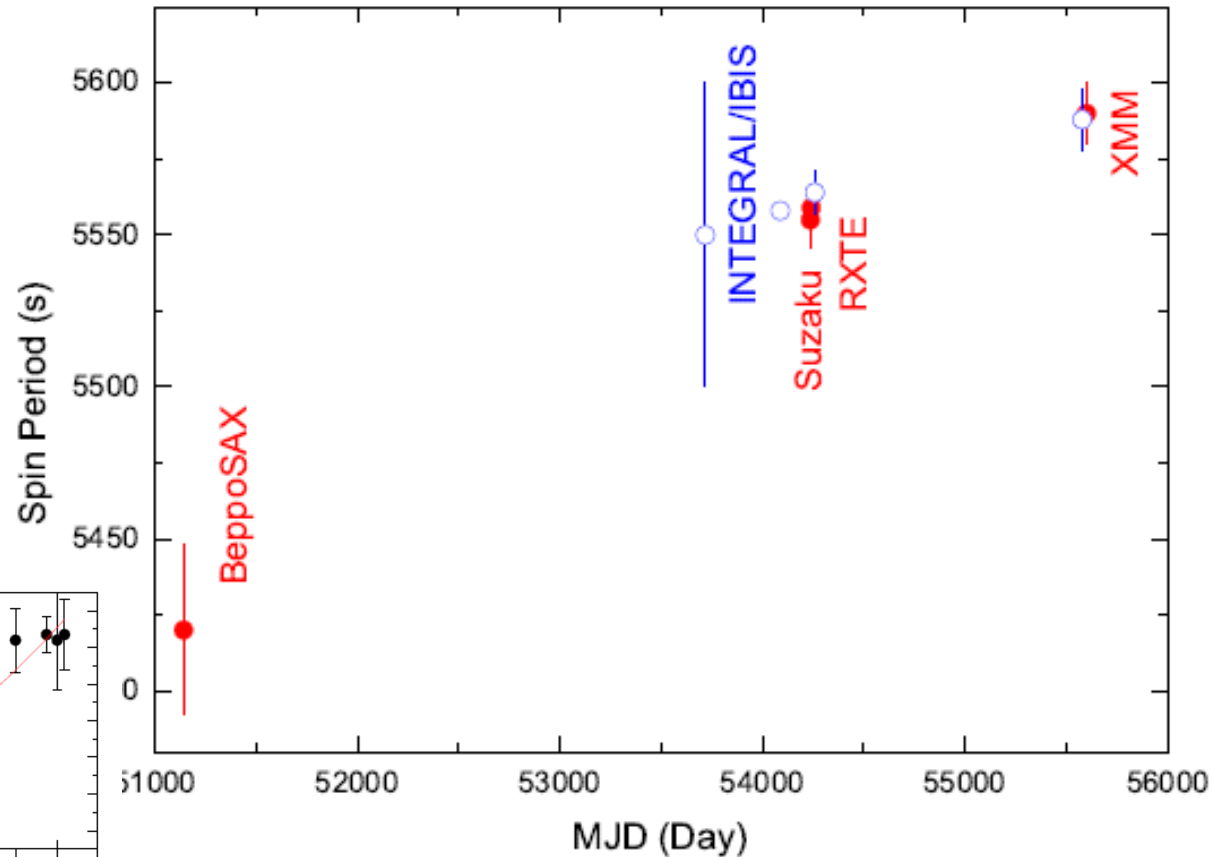
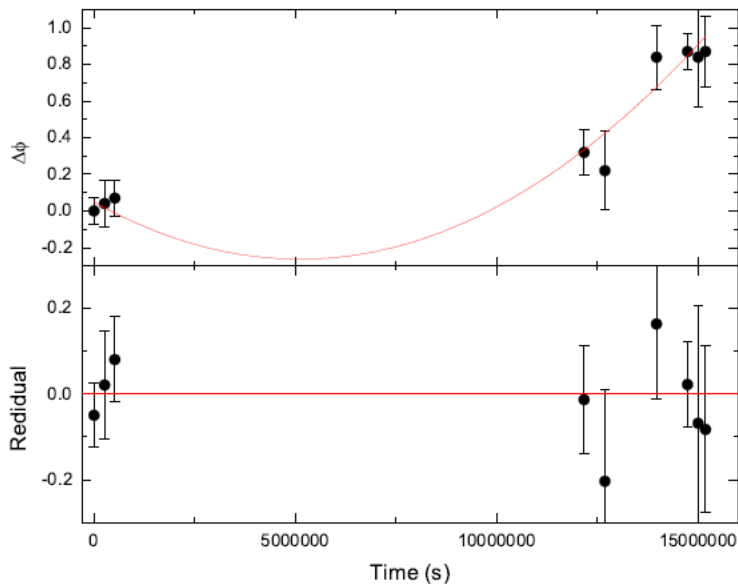
More importantly, they undergo fast **spin down/up** trend.

# Spin-up trend of 2S 0114+65 from 1986 - 2008



# Spin-down trend of 4U 2206+54 in last 20 years

Average Spin-down rate of  $5 \times 10^{-7} \text{ s s}^{-1}$

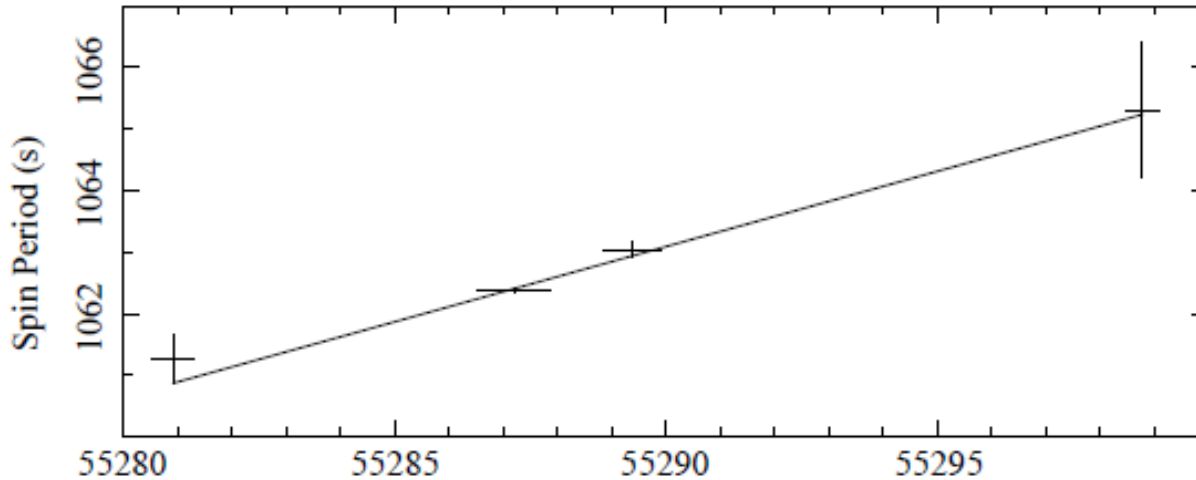


Phase-shift method finds the spin-down behavior in half year in 4U 2206+54 (2006 May - Dec):  $\dot{P} \sim (6 \pm 2) \times 10^{-7} \text{ s s}^{-1}$

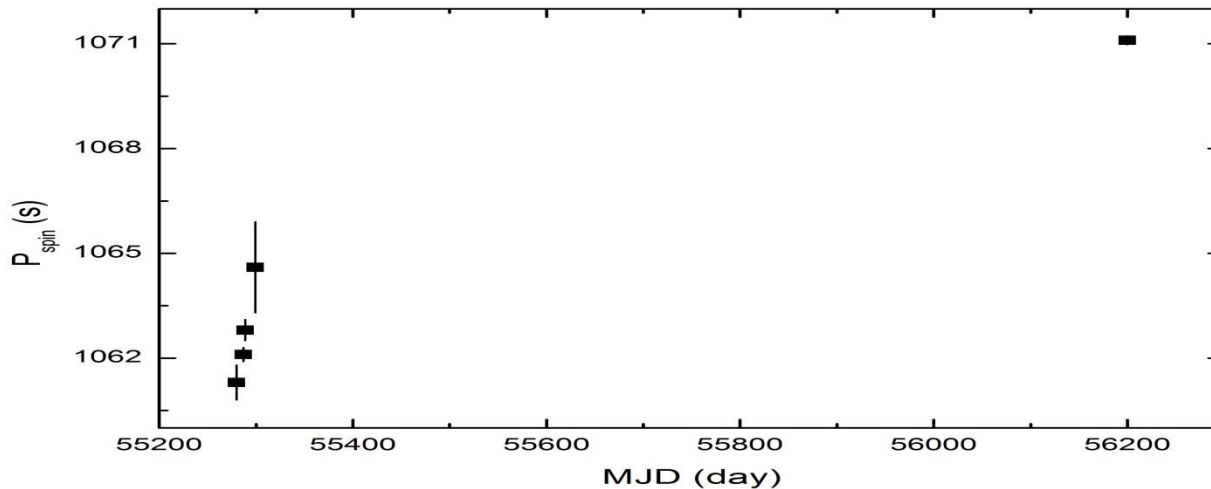
Wang 2012,2013; Reig et al. 2012

# Be X transient SXP 1062

- Located in the Small Magellanic Cloud, associated with a SNR (  $2-4 \times 10^4$  yr)
- A large spin-down rate of  $3 \times 10^{-6}$  s/s during an outburst in 2010.



Haberl et al. 2012



From 2010-2012  
average rate:  
 $\sim 10^{-7}$  s/s

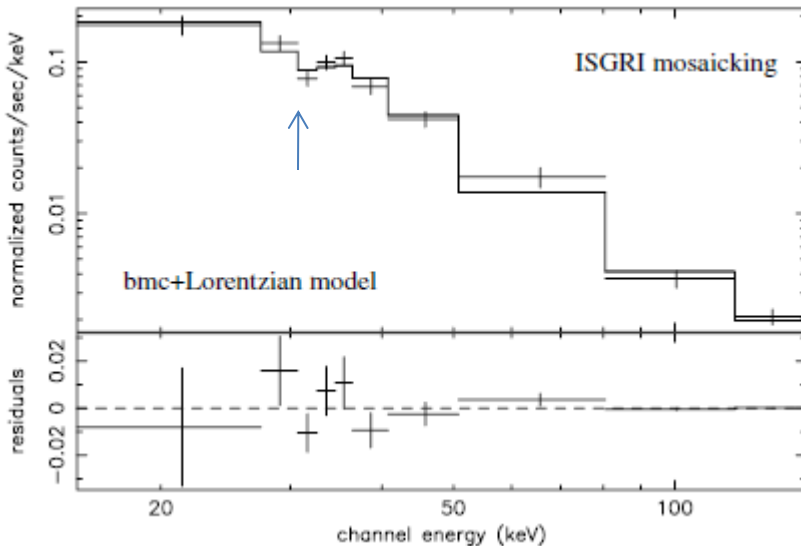
Sturn et al. 2013

# Possible cyclotron resonance absorption features in 4U 2206+54

- The features were reported by INTEGRAL/IBIS:

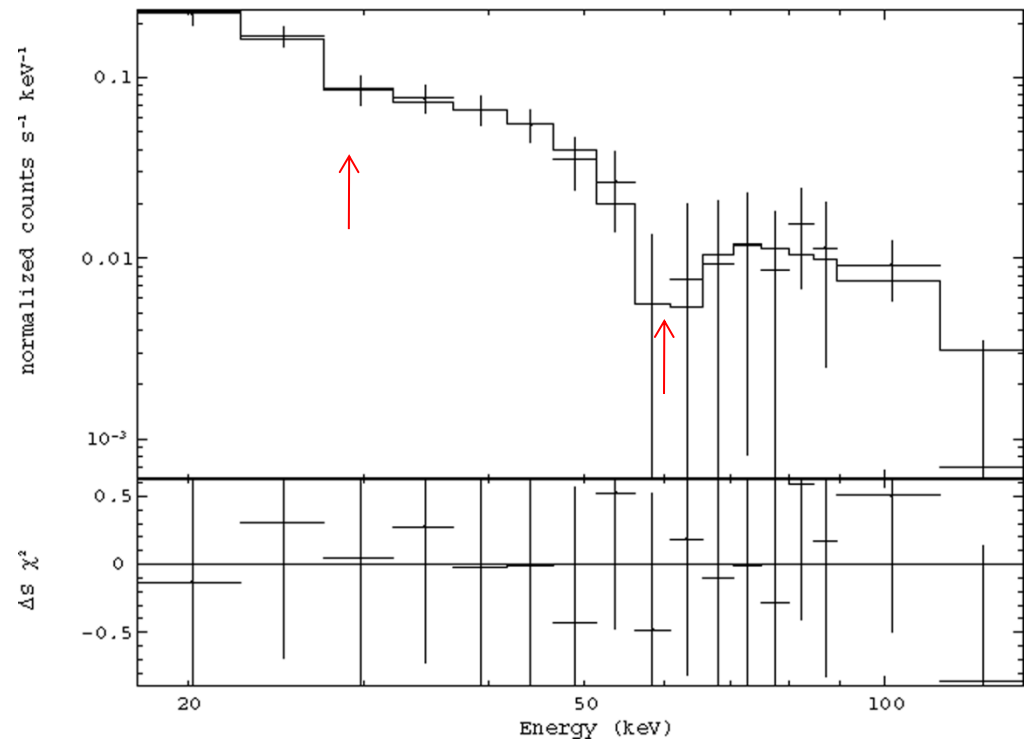
fundamental line around 30 keV

first harmonic at ~ 60 keV



Blay et al. 2005

Wang 2009



Assuming the electron  
absorption case :

$B_s = 3.3 \times 10^{12}$  G

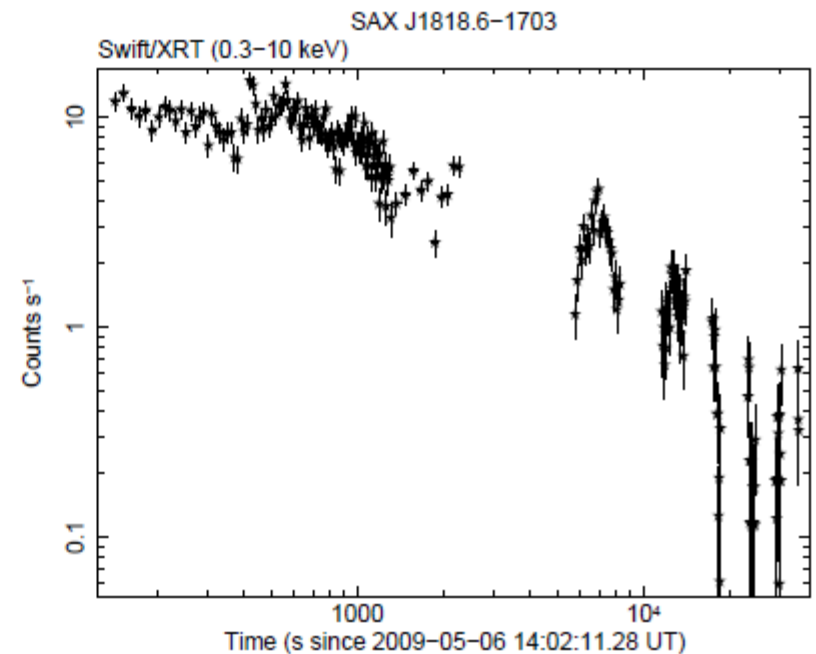
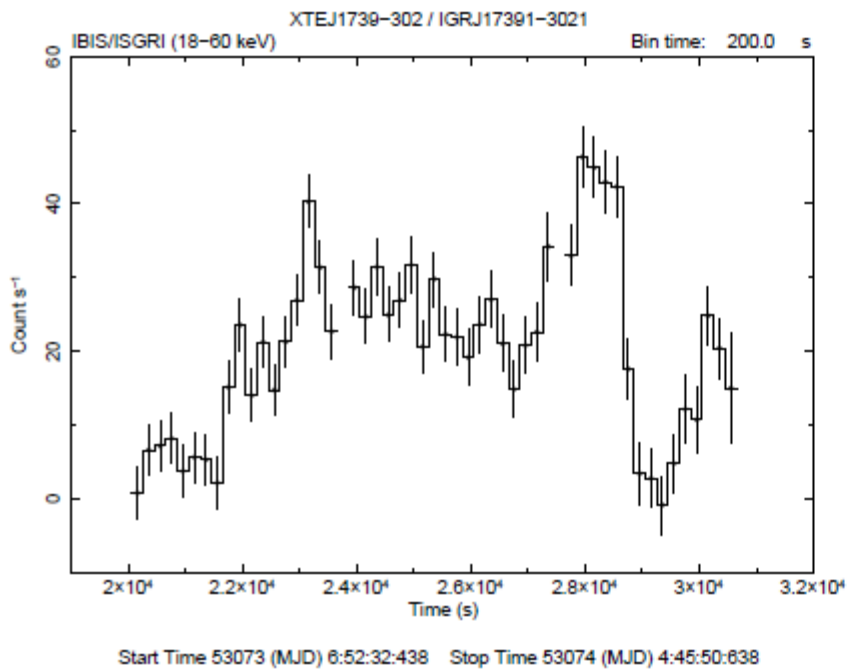


## Other possible candidates of accreting magnetars

# Supergiant Fast X-ray Transients

- Generally high mass X-ray binaries divided into two classes -  
**Be X-ray transients**: main-sequence companion, transients  
**supergiant X-ray binaries**: supergiant companion, persistent X-ray emissions.
- **Supergiant fast X-ray transients (SFXTs)** discovered by INTEGRAL now are a new subclass of HMXBs
- SFXTs: outburst states  $L_x \sim 10^{36}-10^{37}$  erg/s ; time scale  $10^{3-4}$  s  
quiescent states:  $L_x \sim 10^{32}$  erg/s
- Some SFXTs have show X-ray pulsations – they should be neutron star binaries (30 – 1200 s)
- Some SFXTs – a black hole cannot be excluded





The nature and physical mechanisms of SFXTs are debated.

(1) SFXTs are wind-accretors. Some researchers thought the stellar wind is structured, and outbursts are produced by the accretion of the very dense wind clumps (in't Zand 2005, Walter & Zurita 2007, Ducci et al. 2009).

(2) SFXTs has a magnetar with a slow pulsation (1000s) which induces the variability (Bozzo et al. 2008).

## Returning to the question:

### what is physical origin for long spin period?

- Li & van den Heuvel (1999): born as a magnetar with  $B > 10^{14}$  G, allow for the neutron star to spin down slower than 1000 s in Myrs, and field decays to  $10^{12}$  G at present (difficulty in time scales)
- Ikhsanov (2007): a phase “subsonic propeller” between the transition from known supersonic propeller state to accretor state would allow for the long spin period :

$$P_{\text{br}} \simeq 2000 \frac{M_{\text{NS}}}{1.4M_{\odot}}^{-4/21} \left[ \frac{B_{\text{surf}}}{0.3B_{\text{cr}}} \right]^{16/21} \left[ \frac{\dot{M}}{10^{15} \text{gs}^{-1}} \right]^{-5/7} \text{s},$$

**Applying the above formulae to the case of 4U 2206+54/2S 0114+65, one derives the magnetic field of  $\sim 10^{14}$  G!**

## Alternative approaches:

- **Spin-down rate** in accreting state in standard model

$$\dot{P} \sim 2\pi B^2 R_{NS}^6 / (\bar{GMI}) \quad (\text{Lipunov 1992})$$

for SXP 1062 ,  $B = 3 \times 10^{14}$  G

for 4U 2206+54 ,  $B = 5 \times 10^{13}$  G

- Recently , a new theory of quasi-spherical accretion for X-ray pulsars is developed (Shakura et al. 2012):

the magnetic field in wind-fed neutron star systems is given by

$$B_{12} \sim 8.1 \dot{M}_{16}^{1/3} V_{300}^{-11/3} \left( \frac{P_{1000}}{P_{orb300}} \right)^{11/12} \text{ G.}$$

However, we still find the derived magnetic field of

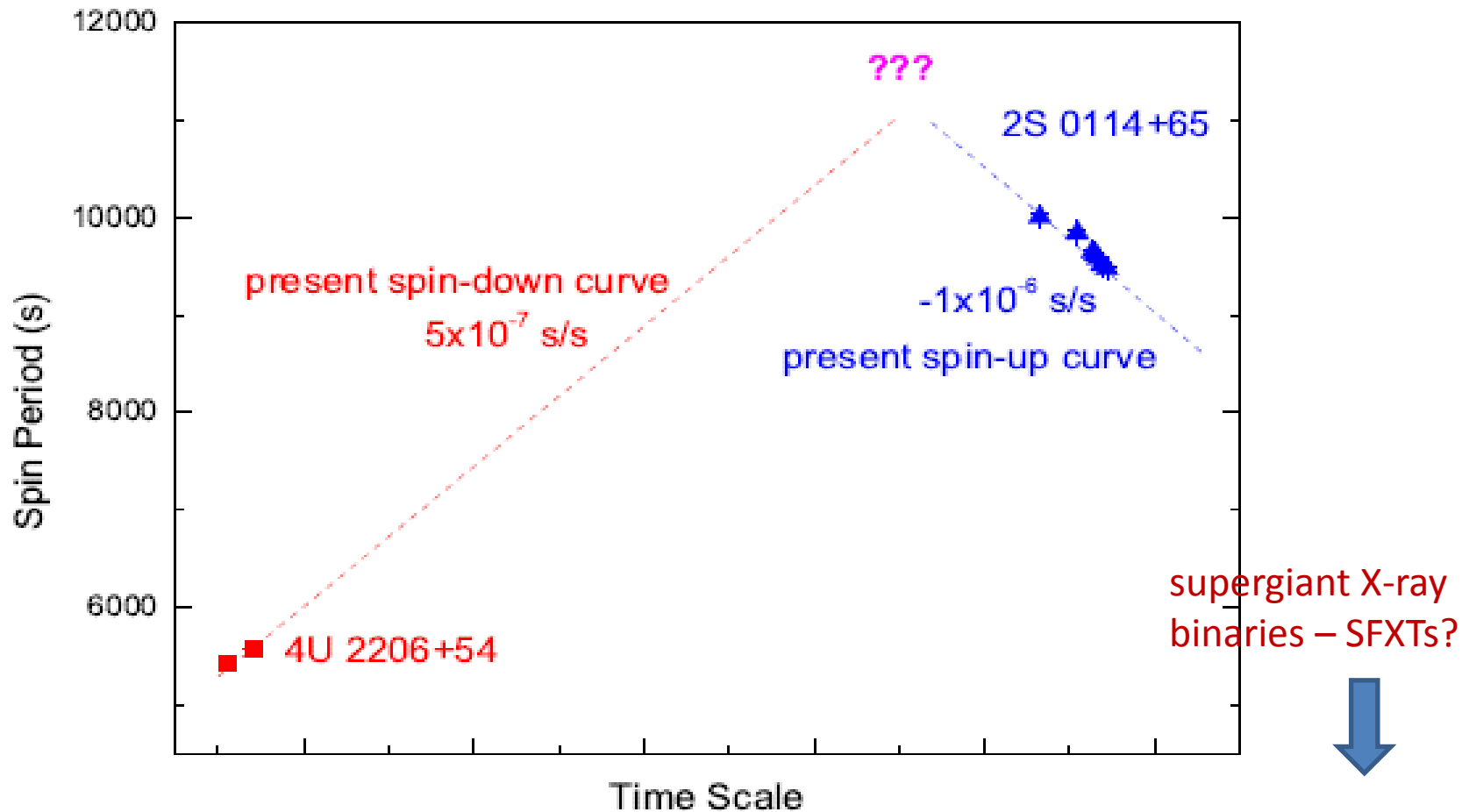
$2 \times 10^{14}$  G for 4U 2206+54

$> 10^{14}$  G for SXP 1062

**These super-slow pulsation pulsars would be accreting magnetars!**

# Evolution scenario of accreting magnetars

- Possible evolution link in slow pulsation X-ray pulsars (accreting magnetars) – supergiant X-ray pulsars



	Isolated magnetars	Accreting magnetars
Spin period	2 – 12 s	> 1000 s
Spin period derivative	$10^{-12} - 10^{-10}$ s/s	$10^{-7} - 10^{-6}$ s/s
Characteristic age	$10^4 - 10^5$ yr	$10^4 - 10^6$ yr
X-ray spectral properties	<10 keV : thermal $kT \sim 0.1-1$ keV >10 keV : non-thermal with $\Gamma \sim 0.5 - 1.5$ Cutoff energy at 100-200 keV	Power-law plus a high energy cutoff (30 -100 keV): $\Gamma \sim 2.0 - 2.5$
X-ray luminosity (1-100 keV)	$10^{35} - 10^{36}$ erg/s (Q) $>10^{40}$ erg/s (B)	$10^{34} - 10^{37}$ erg/s
Energy power	Magnetic field decay/ activity ; accretion?	Wind-fed direct accretion

Thank you for your attention!

More detailed information, please send mail to  
[wangwei@bao.ac.cn](mailto:wangwei@bao.ac.cn)