NUMAT / NUclear MATter and compact stellar objects

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Neutron stars: "astro lab" for nuclear physics



Pulsar timing

Period derivative (s/s)



 Period and spin-down rate (period derivative) are precisely determined.

- Different classes populate different regions (inferred age and magnetic field).

Stable clocks with predictable spin-down... except for random timing irregularities
→ it's interesting to study the rotational dynamics:
evidence of superfluidity
alternative to cooling

Observed pulsation period (s)

PULSAR GLITCHES (basic facts)

- Lack of radiative/pulse profile changes

 \rightarrow Evidence for internal origin

- Long recoveries

→ Thought to be due to superfluid component in the star



- Diverse phenomenology

Time (days, weeks...)

 \rightarrow different ages/mass/rotational parameters...

Key point: to describe glitches we need that a NS is comprised of (at least) **two**

components that exchange angular momentum.

Which part of the NS provides the angular momentum to **spin-up** the **"observable component**" ?

A "minimal model" for pulsar rotational dynamics

The inner crust & core contain a neutron superfluid (superfluid n-component). Everything else (proton superconductor, electron gas) is locked with the solid crust into the magnetic field (rigid p-component).

Glitch mechanism (vortex-mediated)

- "p" follows the observed spin down of the pulsar

- Pinning \rightarrow "n" cannot follow "p"

A velocity lag builds up between "n" and "p"

Motion of a neutron vortex is affected by fluid flow past it

 \rightarrow Magnus force

Magnus force ~ pinning force
 The vortex line unpins and is expelled
 → "n" looses angular momentum
 → "p" gains angular momentum

a vortex

Mesoscopic pinning forces

Inner crust:

Vortex-nucleus interaction → Vortex-lattice interaction per unit length of vortex line Consider a segment of vortex line (the length L is given by the tension) Average over traslations and rotations of the total pinning force divided by L (S. Seveso et al., MNRAS, 2016)

Core:

Vortex-flux tube interaction \rightarrow Vortex-array interaction Pinning to flux-tubes negligible for normal pulsars

> $\xi_p \approx 16 x_p^{1/3} \rho_{14}^{1/3} \Delta_p (\text{MeV})^{-1} \text{fm}$ $\xi_n \approx 16 x_n^{1/3} \rho_{14}^{1/3} \Delta_n (\text{MeV})^{-1} \text{fm}$

Macroscopic quantities:

Dynamical simulations of pulsar glitches

→ Study how different EOSs and parameters can influence the glitch activity

Dynamical simulations with:

- GM1 EOS
- EOS consistent proton fractions
- Entrainment in the core & crust (Chamel)
- Consistent drag in the core (el. scattering, Alpar, Andersson...)
- Drag in the crust (phonons, Jones 1991)
- New MESOSCOPIC pinning forces (Seveso, Haskell, Pzzochero 2016)

Mass upper bounds...

For every pulsar, consider:

- The glitch amplitude of its maximal glitch $\delta\Omega_{max}$ - The waiting time mutiplied by the observed spin down rate \rightarrow "nominal lag" $\omega * = \dot{\Omega}$ (t-tprev)

In the plane $\delta\Omega_{max} - \omega *$ we also plot the curves obtained by filling the critical lag as $\omega *$ increases For different masses. We must have that:

 $\delta\Omega$ max (ω *) > $\delta\Omega$ max "observed"

This constrains the mass of the glitching pulsar!

In the "mean time" between two large glitches the pulsar must be able to build a reservoir of angular momentum that is (at least) enough to produce the observed angular velocity jump .

NOTE: it is possible to do the same job by using thedirectly the dynamical equations instead of using this simple prescription

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MNRAS (2016):

S. Seveso, P. Pizzochero, F. Grill, B. Haskell

"Mesoscopic pinning forces in neutron star crusts"

ArXiv / Submitted to MNRAS:

M. Antonelli, P. Pizzochero

"Axially symmetric equations for differential pulsar rotation with superfluid entrainment"

In preparation:

M. Antonelli, B. Haskell, P. Pizzochero, S. Seveso

"Measuring NS masses with pulsar glitches"

comp star

Ultime tesi specialistiche:

"Modeling Pulsar Glitches with different Equations of State" - A.A. 2014-2015

"Strains and maximum stresses in the crust of spinning-down pulsars" - A.A. 2015-2016

"Constraining the EOS of neutron stars with dynamical simulatons of pulsar glitches" - Work in progress

Example of entrainment corrections

Maximal glitch amplitude

 $\delta \Omega_p^{max}$

 $\delta\Omega_p^{obs}$

 $\langle \omega_{cr} \rangle$

 Ω_p

Entrainment effects in neutron stars

- In the crust:

- The entrainment parameters can be expressed in terms

 \bar{n}^{n}

of effective masses:

$$\frac{\overline{p_i}}{\overline{m_{\rm p}}} = v_i^{\rm n} + \varepsilon_{\rm n} (v_i^{\rm p} - v_i^{\rm n})$$

$$\frac{\overline{p_i^{\rm p}}}{\overline{m_{\rm p}}} = v_i^{\rm p} + \varepsilon_{\rm p} (v_i^{\rm n} - v_i^{\rm p})$$

- In the core:

Entrainment is due to:

- Interaction between protons and neutrons

Effects: vortex lines are magnetized!

Scattering of electrons \rightarrow vortex is dragged

Dipole-Dipole interaction with fluxtubes (core pinning?)

 → the conclusion is that the core should be coupled to the crust on the timescale of a second (el. scattering drag)
 → glitches originate in the crust... but thanks to entrainment THE CRUST IS NOT ENOUGH!

Mesoscopic pinning forces

Mesoscopic pinning forces (vortex-lattice interaction per unit length of vortex line)

> S. Seveso, F. Grill, P. Pizzochero, B. Haskell

Resulting critical lag for unpinning (without entrainment)

$$Y[\omega, x] = \theta(|\omega(x)| - \omega_{cr}(x))$$

Some results for Sly & GM1 equations of state

Moments of inertia weights look the same (also because of normalization on the unit interval)

Estimates of the rise time

(all vortices unpinned)

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