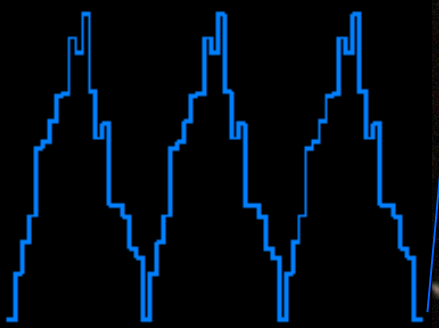


# Taking the beat of the UNSEEN: a new Ultraluminous Neutron Star Extreme Extragalactic population



Main questions:

Why PULXs are so  
Luminous ?

How many NSs among  
ULXs ?

GianLuca Israel  
& Guillermo Rodriguez  
(AO Roma)

.... and any many other colleagues  
(EXTraS and UNSEEN collaboration)

Outline:

- ULX/PULX class
- too B or not too B
- UNSEEN preliminary results

# EXTraS in a nutshell



= Exploring the Transient x-ray Sky (fp7 funded project; 3Yr 2014-2016; PI Andrea DeLuca - INAF).  
Focused on the EPIC 3XMM catalog (~500,000 sources)

**WP2:** search and characterization of source aperiodic variability



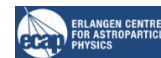
search and characterization for coherent signals in the archive

**WP4:** search for faint and/or short transients

**WP5:** long term variability (more pointings and/or slew data)

**WP6:** Multiwavelength characterization and classification

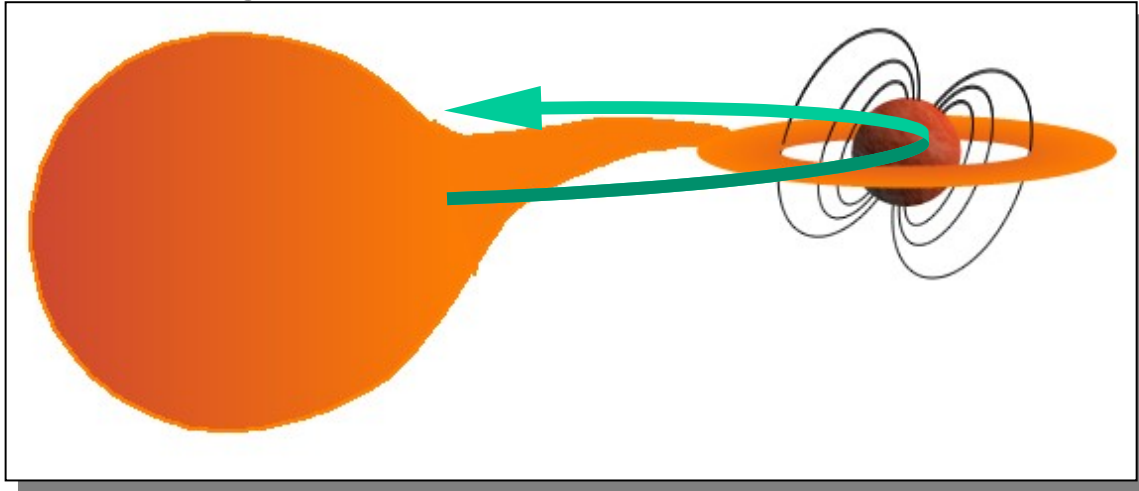
Results (catalogs/metadata) will be released to the community as part of the 3XMM DR4 catalog (spring 2017).



# What can coherent **signals** tell Us? (or, why should we be interested?)

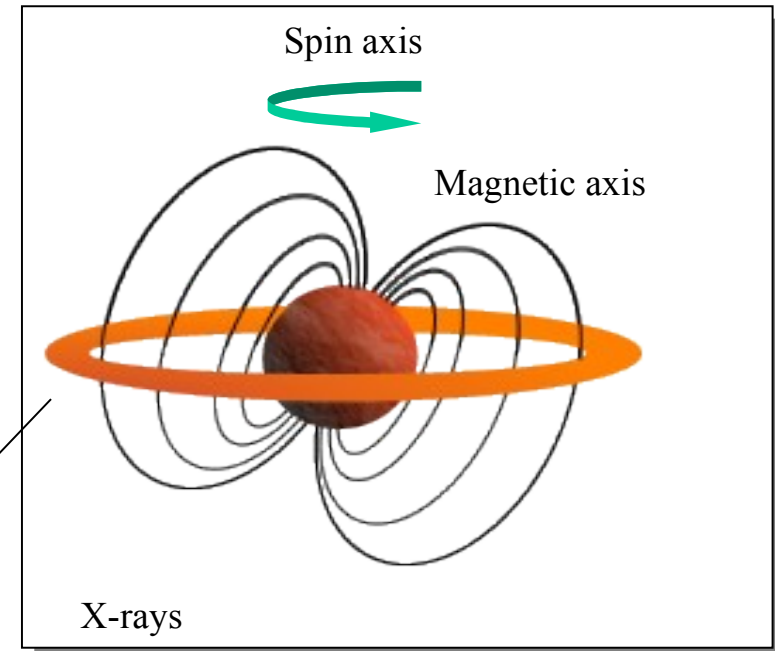
Timing => characteristic timescales = PHYSICS

Timing => measurements can be extremely accurate!!



**Binary orbits**  
orbital period  
sizes of emission regions  
and occulting objects  
orbital evolution

**Rotation of stellar bodies**  
pulsation periods  
stability of rotation  
torques acting on system,  
 $L_x$ , etc.  
Isolated or accreting  
neutron stars



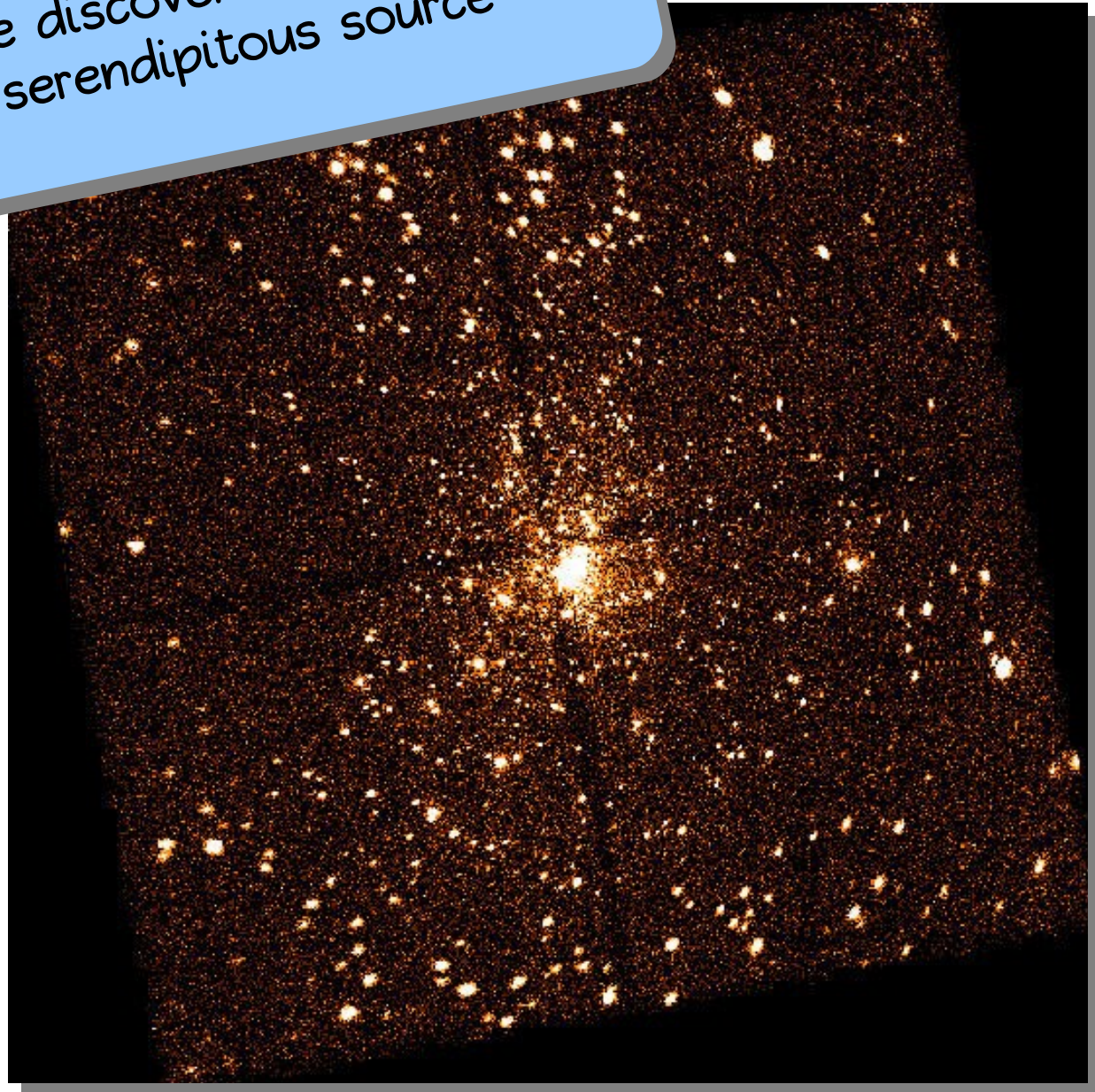
# Why searches in X-ray archive ?

In many cases pulsations are discovered by applying timing analysis software to serendipitous source timeseries

In almost all cases  
The PI does not look  
at serendipitous sources

About 40-60 serendipitous  
sources in each field  
(Chandra and XMM) !!

For about 95% of detected  
sources no timing info are  
inferred

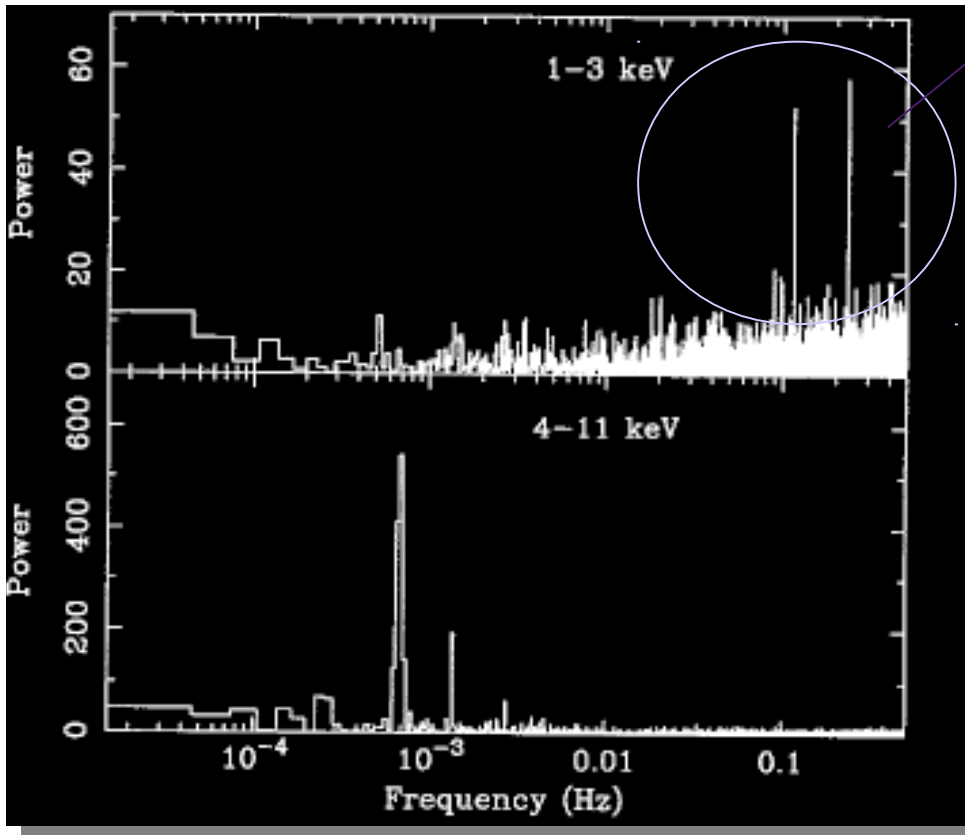


# Why searches ?

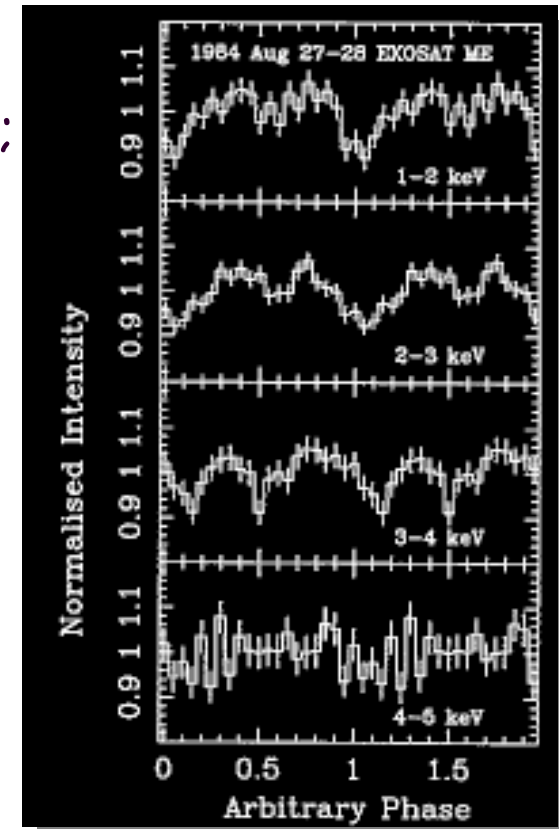
Two aims :

- 1) Search for new classes of X-ray pulsators  
[large number of sources and photons]

Everytime we searched something... we found something new !  
- EXOSAT: detection of pulsations from 4U0142+614 (GLI+94);



8.7s pulsar,  
Ultrasoft spectrum;  
 $F_x/F_{opt} > 10^4$   
 $\dot{P} \sim 10^{-11}$  s/s.  
Classification ??  
Magnetar



# Why searches ?

2) Extending the luminosity interval over which the physics of the (accretion) emission mechanism can be investigated  
[large throughput and narrow psf]

In particular, at lower luminosities (therefore lower accretion rates  $\dot{M}$ ) only NS with long spin periods and/or low magnetic fields can satisfy the condition that corotation radius is larger than the magnetospheric one ( $r_c > r_m$ ), such that the matter can reach the NS surface at polar caps and spin pulses can be detected. Though this is a widely assessed theoretical scenario, so far it has not been possible to explore the low luminosity tail of the distribution of accreting compact objects.

Implication: cut-off in the number of detectable NS for low  $L_x$  and/or only detection of long-period low-flux pulsators

# How ?

We (mainly) rely upon (Fast) Fourier transforms

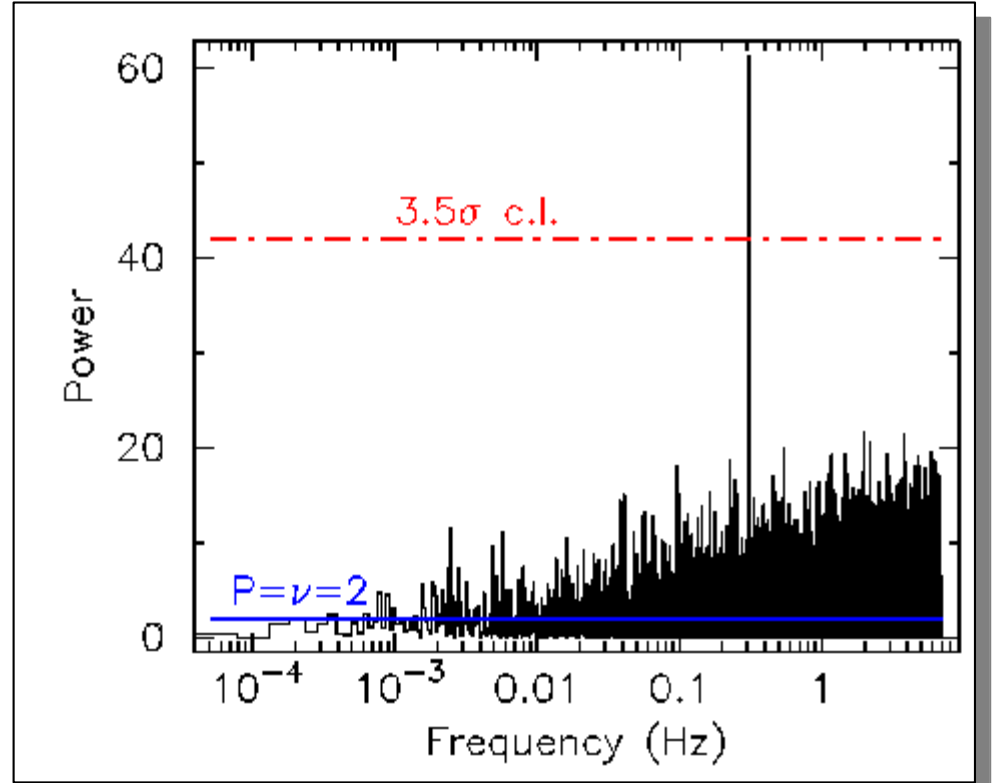
- Well known technique
- Fast routines available
- Optimized for long pulse duty-cycles
- Limits on statistics/highly non sin signal

## Leahy Normalization

$$P_j \equiv \frac{2}{N_{ph}} |a_j|^2 \quad j = 0, \dots, \frac{N}{2}$$

- $N_{ph}$  is the total number of photons
- With this normalization, the Poisson noise level is distributed like a  $\chi^2$  with  $\nu = 2N_{PSD}$  degrees of freedom (in units of counts;  $N_{PSD}$  is the number of averaged PSD)
- $E[\chi^2|\nu] = \nu = 2$  for  $N_{PSD}=1$
- $\sigma[\chi^2|\nu] = \text{sqrt}(2\nu) = 2$  for  $N_{PSD}=1 \rightarrow$  noisy

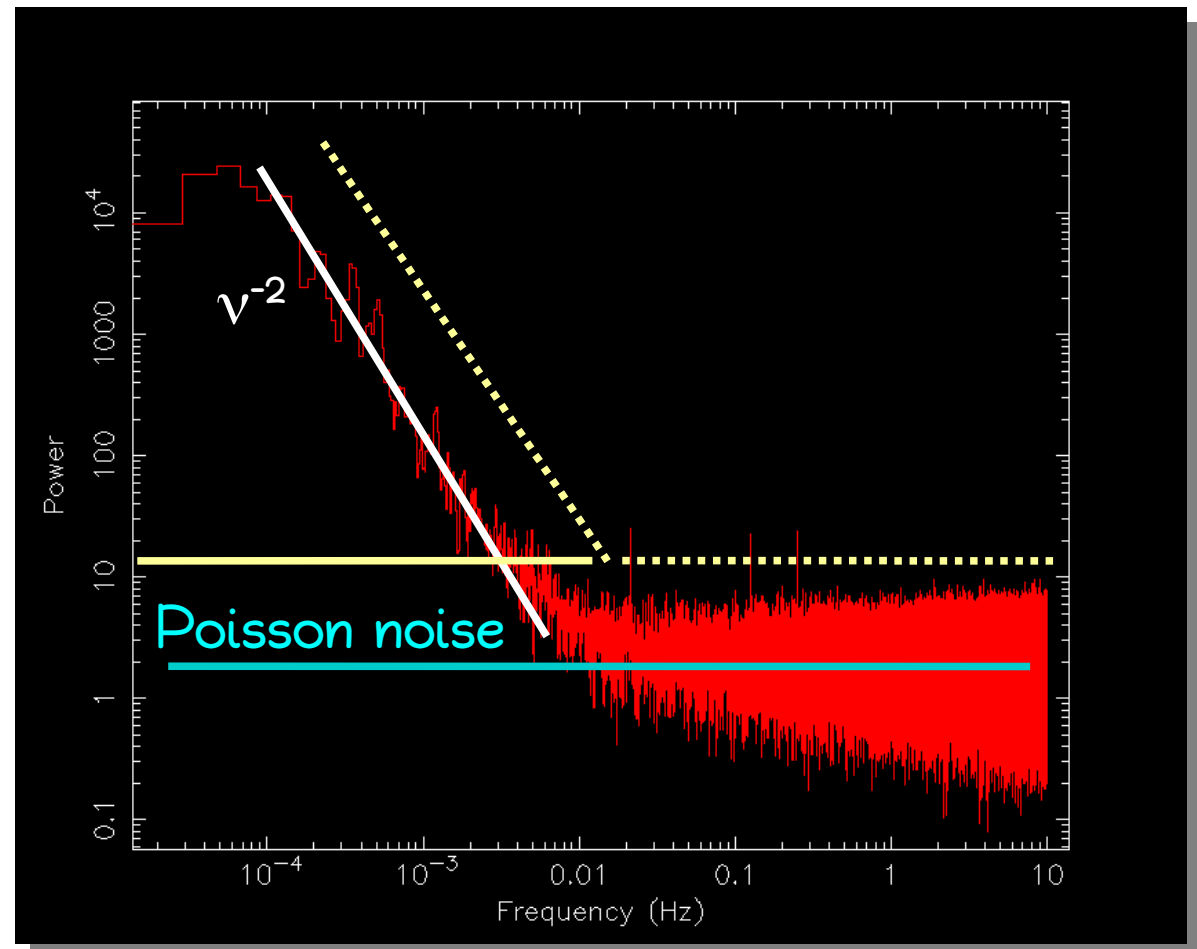
Detection threshold for given confidence level ( $>3\sigma$ )



# How (real data)?

In real cases PSDs of accreting objects are often dominated by “non Poissonian” noise components making the automatic detection and screening process a hard task.

An objective tool/algorithm able to “model” the noise component was developed.





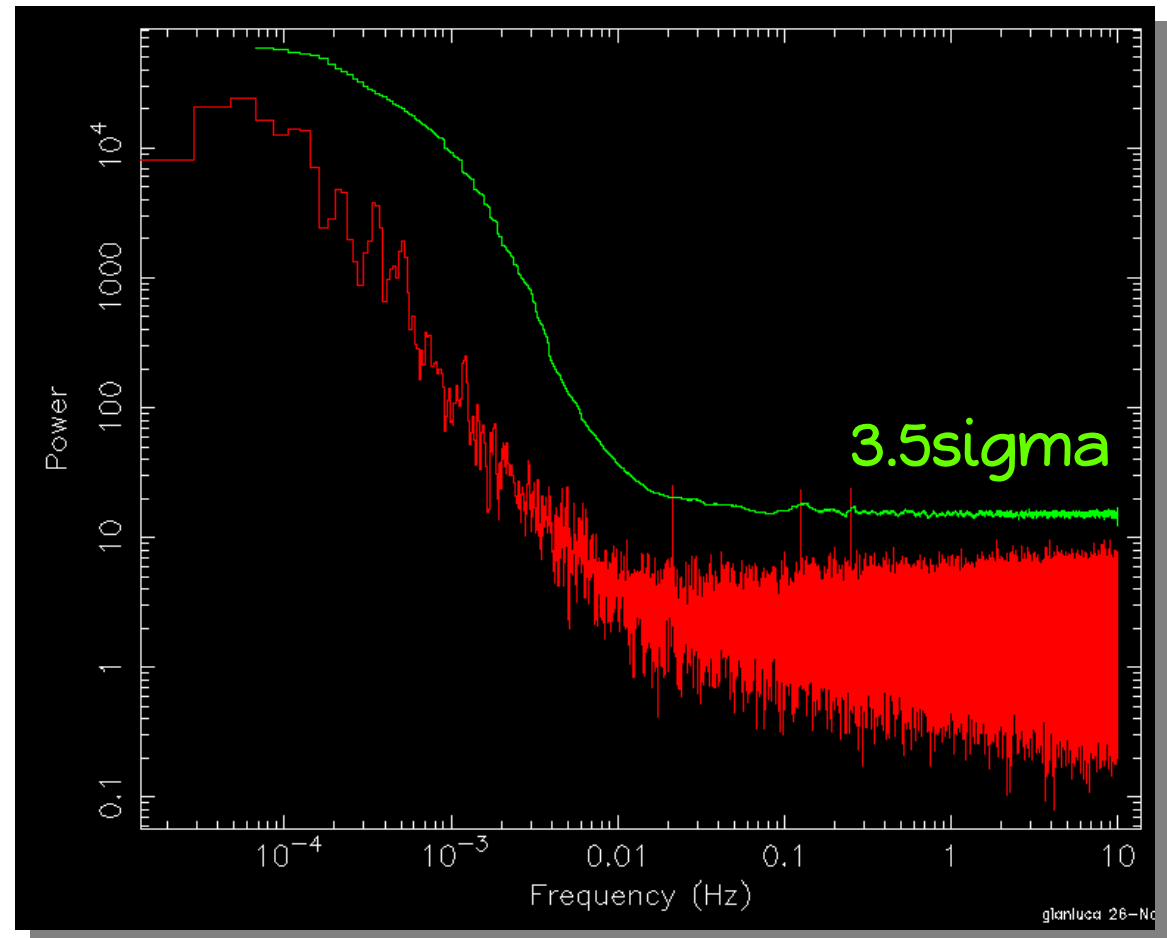
# How (real data)?

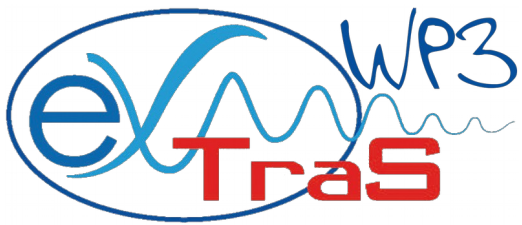
Algorithm well suited for automatic searches of significant peaks in the presence of different noise components in PSD.

At least 50 photons are needed

Limits: low sensitivity at low frequency and/or poor statistics.

Low sensitivity for non sinusoidal signals





# Blind mining XMM for pulsations

EXploring the Transient x-ray Sky .  
Focused on the time variability of sources in the EPIC 3XMM catalog (~500,000, ~1.5M detections).

## EXtraS WP3 (periodicity search) in numbers:

- 15 years of public data
- >10,000 datasets
- >6,000,000 times series (TSs)
- ~300,000 TSs with >50 photons searched for signals
- >10 millions PSDs generated (different searching modes)
- ~150,000 peaks
- 60 new X-ray pulsators (still counting)

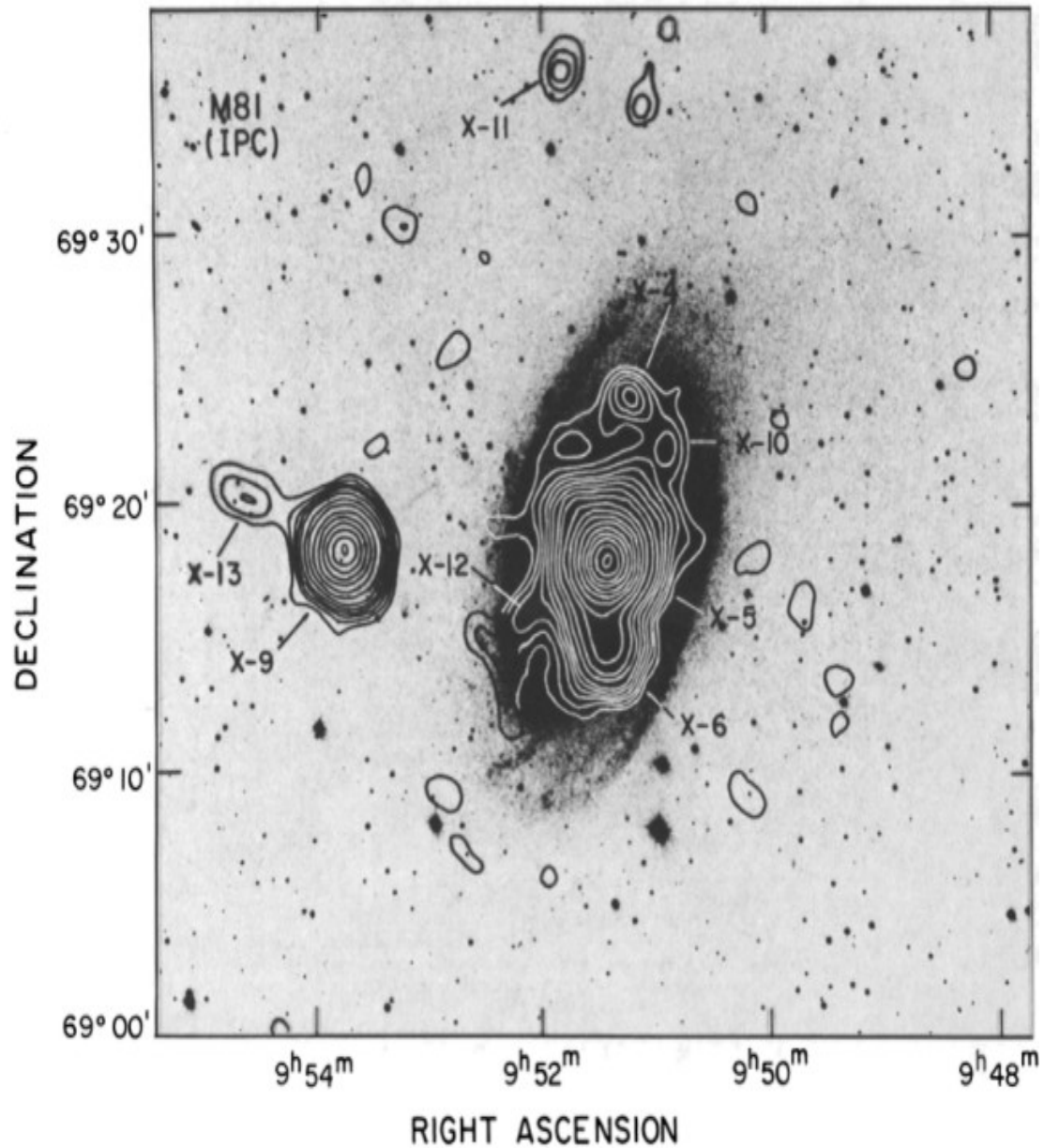


FIG. 2.—IPC contour map of M81 overlaid on the POSS O plate. The first contour is at  $2\sigma$  above the field background. Discrete sources detected in the IPC image are indicated by an X followed by a number. Data were smoothed with a Gaussian with  $\sigma_G = 35''$ . The equivalent Gaussian sigma of a point source in this map is  $\sigma_G \sim 57''$ .

EINSTEIN - Fabbiano 1988

# ULTRALUMINOUS X-RAY SOURCES IN EXTERNAL GALAXIES

A. R. KING,<sup>1</sup> M. B. DAVIES,<sup>1</sup> M. J. WARD,<sup>1</sup> G. FABBIANO,<sup>2</sup> AND M. ELVIS<sup>2</sup>

Received 2001 February 22; accepted 2001 April 4; published 2001 April 30

## ABSTRACT

We investigate models for the class of ultraluminous nonnuclear X-ray sources (i.e., ultraluminous compact X-ray sources [ULXs]) seen in a number of galaxies and probably associated with star-forming regions. Models in which the X-ray emission is assumed to be isotropic run into several difficulties. In particular, the formation of sufficient numbers of the required ultramassive black hole X-ray binaries is problematic, and the likely transient behavior of the resulting systems is not in good accord with observation. The assumption of mild X-ray beaming suggests instead that ULXs may represent a short-lived but extremely common stage in the evolution of a wide class of X-ray binaries. The best candidate for this is the phase of thermal emission in many intermediate- and high-mass X-ray binaries. This in turn suggests that the short lifetimes of high-mass X-ray binaries would explain the assumption of mild X-ray beaming. These considerations still allow the possibility that individual black holes.

## *Chandra* High-Resolution Camera observations of the luminous X-ray source in the starburst galaxy M82

P. Kaaret,<sup>1\*</sup> A. H. Prestwich,<sup>1</sup> A. Zezas,<sup>1</sup> S. S. Murray,<sup>1</sup> D.-W. Kim,<sup>1</sup> R. E. Kilgard,<sup>1</sup> E. M. Schlegel<sup>1</sup> and M. J. Ward<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, 60 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

<sup>2</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH

## SUPER-EDDINGTON FLUXES FROM THIN ACCRETION DISKS?

MITCHELL C. BEGELMAN<sup>1</sup>

JILA, University of Colorado, 440 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309-0440; mitch@jila.colorado.edu

Received 2002 January 22; accepted 2002 February 28; published 2002 March 6

## ABSTRACT

Radiation pressure-dominated accretion disks are predicted to exhibit strong density inhomogeneities on scales much smaller than the disk scale height as a result of the nonlinear development of photon-bubble instability. Radiation would escape from such a “leaky” disk at a rate higher than that predicted by standard accretion disk theory. The disk scale height is then smaller than that of a similar disk without small-scale inhomogeneities, and the disk can remain geometrically thin even as the flux approaches and exceeds the Eddington limit. An idealized one-zone model for disks with radiation-driven inhomogeneities suggests that the escaping flux could exceed  $L_{\text{Edd}}$  by a factor of up to  $\sim 10$ – $100$ , depending on the mass of the central object. Such luminous disks would develop strong mass loss, but the resulting decrease in accretion rate would not necessarily prevent the luminosity from exceeding  $L_{\text{Edd}}$ . We suggest that the observed “ultraluminous X-ray sources” are actually thin, super-

© 2000 August 30; in original form 2000 August 10

## ABSTRACT

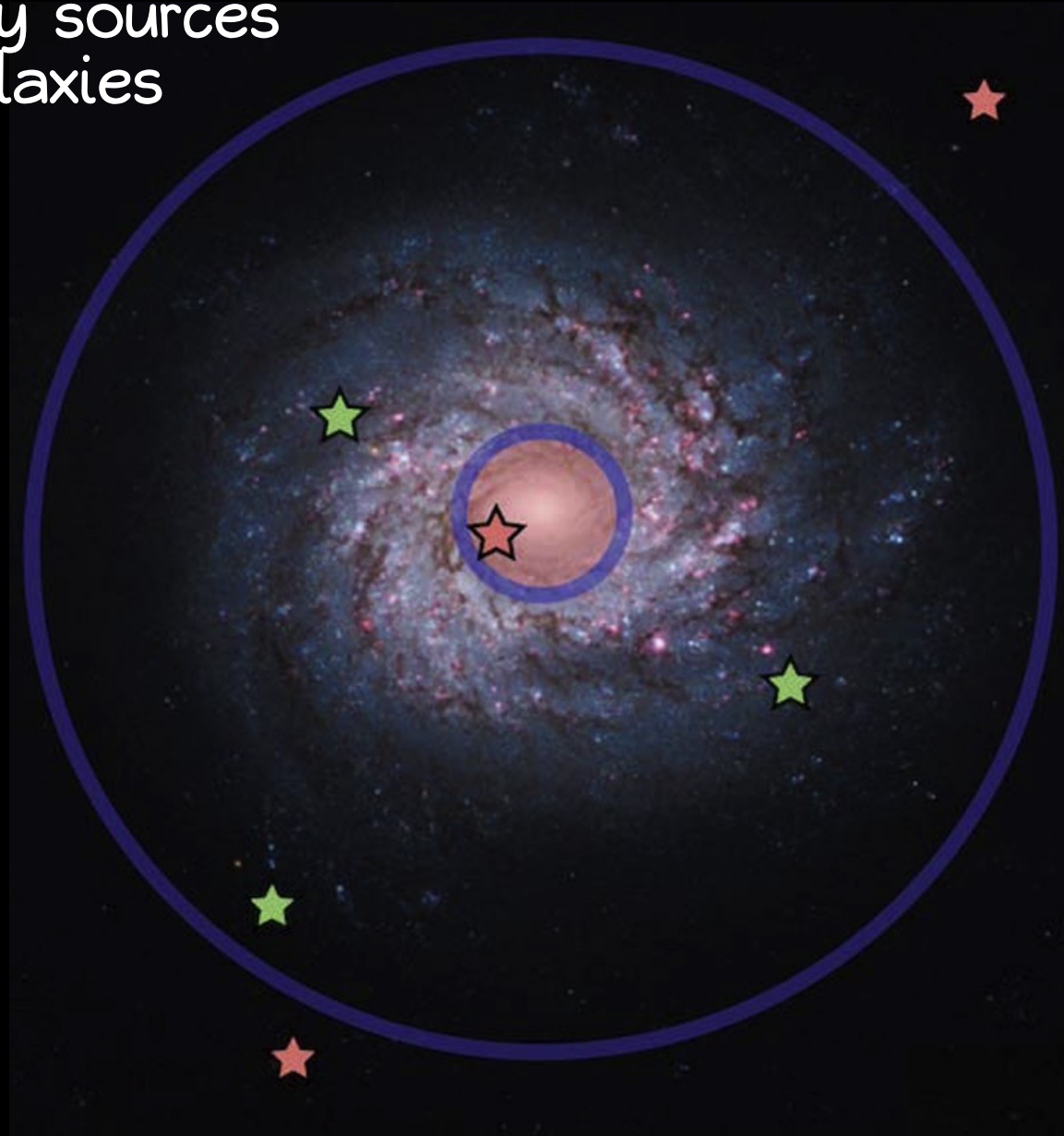
We analyse *Chandra* High Resolution Camera observations of the starburst galaxy M82, concentrating on the most luminous X-ray source. We find a position for the source of RA = 09<sup>h</sup>55<sup>m</sup>50<sup>s</sup>.2, Dec. = +69°40'46".7 (J2000) with a  $1\sigma$  radial error of 0.7 arcsec. The accurate X-ray position shows that the luminous source is neither at the dynamical centre of M82 nor coincident with any suggested radio AGN candidate. The source is highly variable between observations, which suggests that it is a compact object and not a supernova or remnant. There is no significant short-term variability within the observations. Dynamical friction and the off-centre position place an upper bound of  $10^5$ – $10^6 M_{\odot}$  on the mass of the object, depending on its age. The X-ray luminosity suggests a compact object mass of at least  $500 M_{\odot}$ . Thus the luminous source in M82 may represent a new class of compact object with a mass intermediate between those of stellar-mass black hole candidates and supermassive black holes.

# ULX class

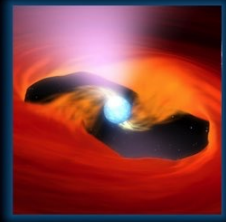
Ultraluminous X-ray sources are *off-nuclear, point-like X-ray sources* in nearby ( $d \leq 100\text{Mpc}$ ) galaxies exceeding the (isotropic) Eddington limit for a stellar-mass Black Hole (StBH) of  $10M_{\odot}$

$L_{\text{ULX}} > 3 \times 10^{39} \text{ erg/s}$   
up to  $\sim 10^{42} \text{ erg/s}$

About 300 objects  
(Earnshaw+ 18)



## Observed Mass Ranges of Compact Objects



Neutron  
Star



Stellar  
Black Hole

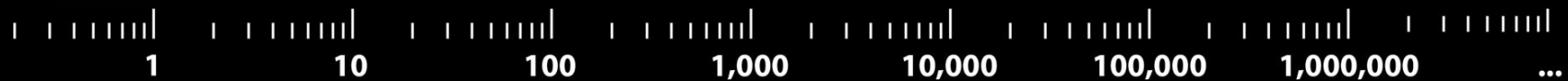


Intermediate Mass  
Black Hole



Supermassive  
Black Hole

White  
Dwarf

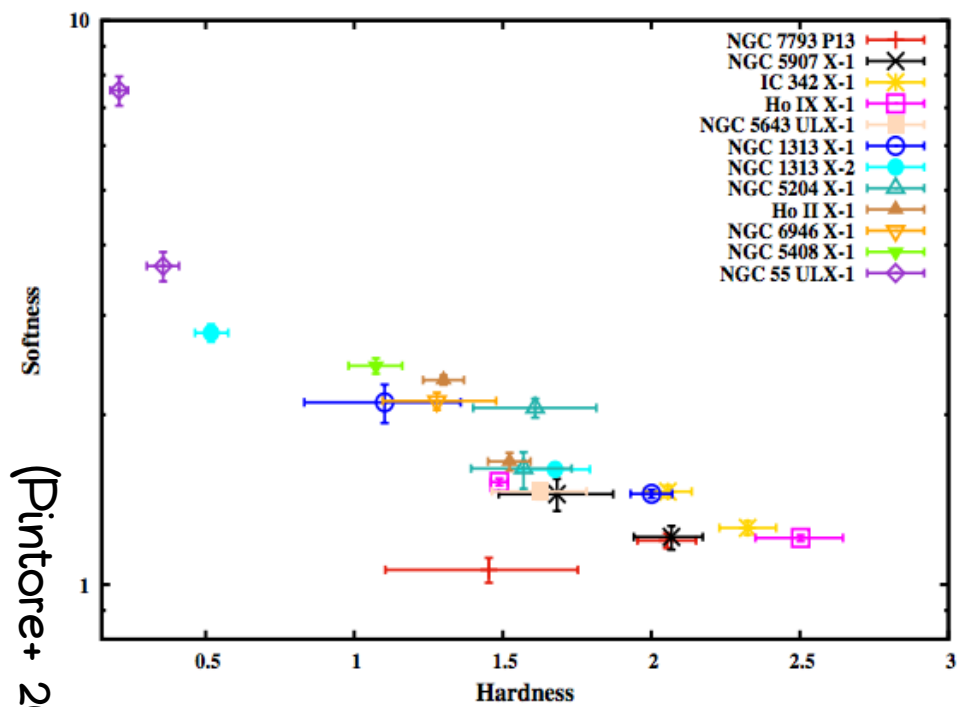


Object Mass  
(Relative to the Sun)

IMBHs needed to form SMBHs in quasars at  $z > 6-7$   
(Pacucci+ 17)

.. for 25 years everybody was convinced of the BH nature  
of ULXs...

# ULX class

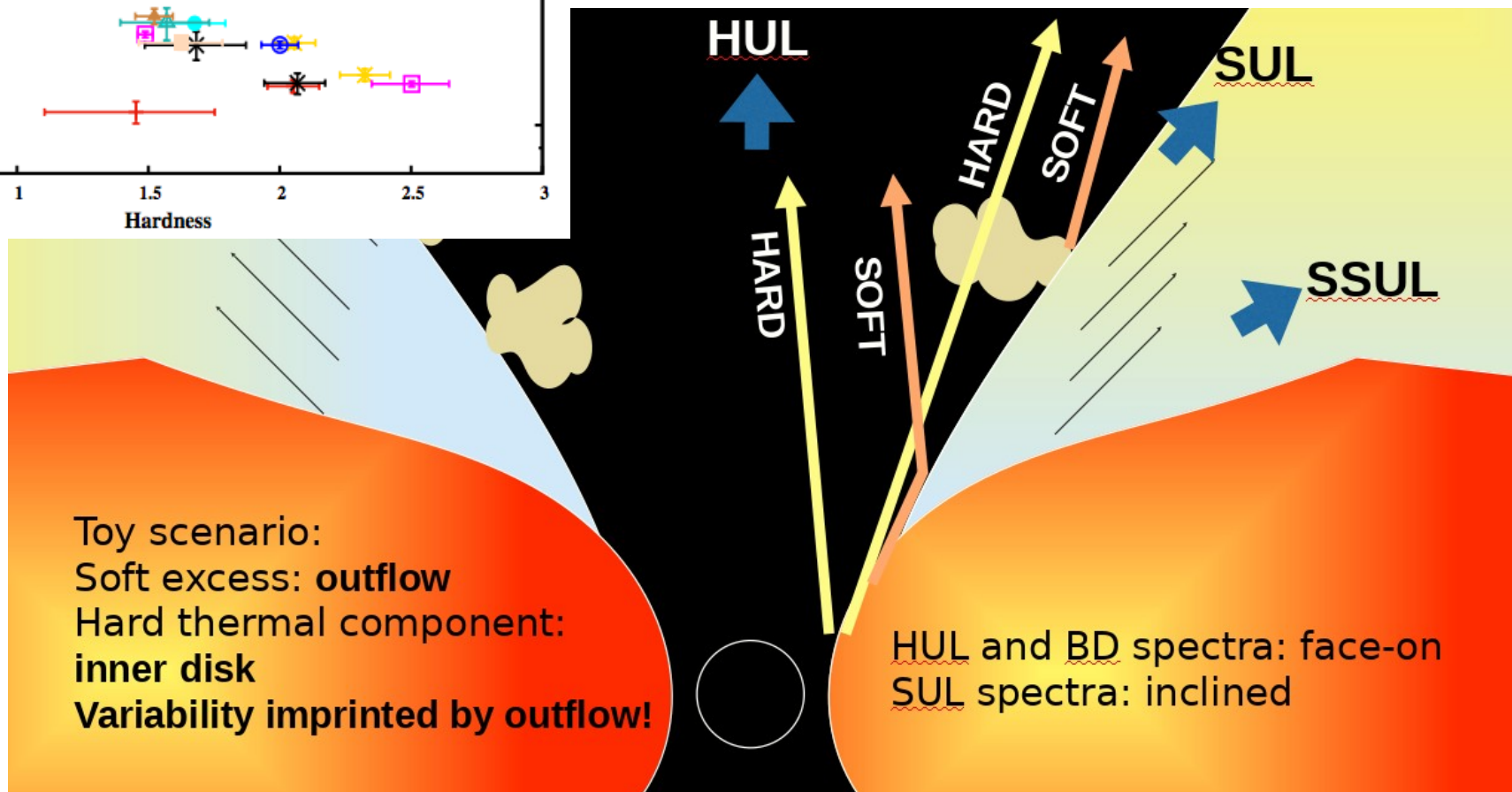


(Pintore+ 2017)

Several spectral models works well (at least 2 components needed).

Large dynamical range of parameters.

Possibly related to the emission geometry.



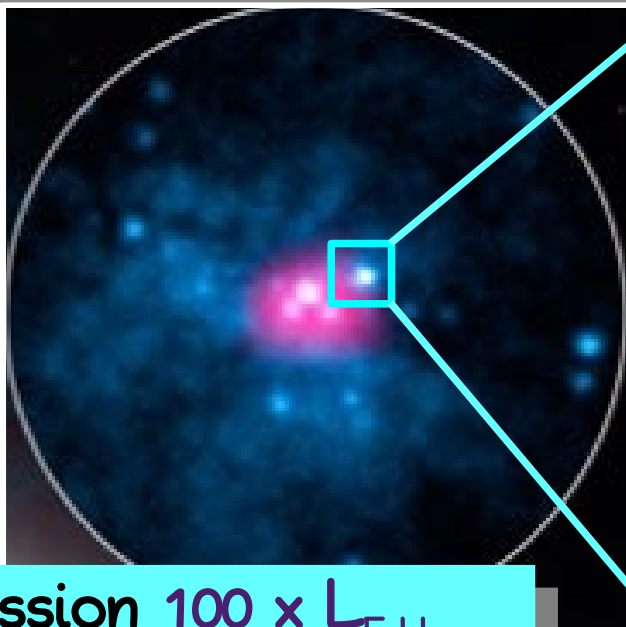
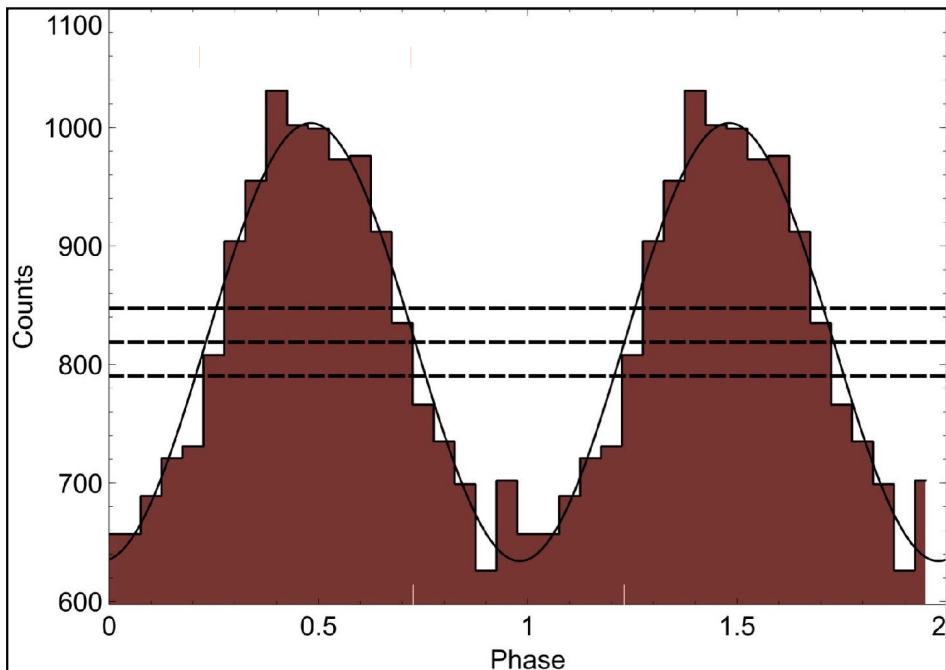
In 2014

~~A long time ago in a galaxy far,  
far away.... namely M82~~



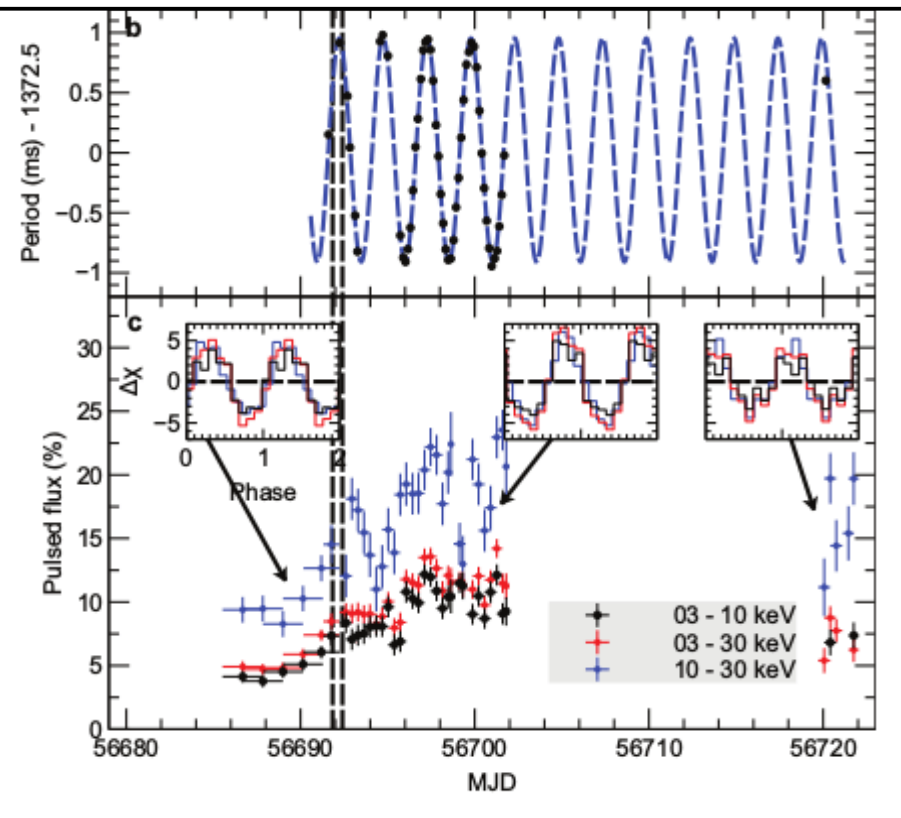
# ULXs and M82 X-2

Pulsations at 1.37s discovered from NuSTAR obs of M82 X-2  
Sinusoidal pulse shape; PF~20%  
 $L_x \sim 2e40 \text{ erg/s}$  (@3.2Mpc)  $\sim 100 L_{\text{Edd}}$   
 $\dot{P}$  (secular)  $-2e-10 \text{ s/s}$   
 $P/\dot{P} = 300 \text{ yr}$   
 $P_{\text{orb}} = 2.5 \text{ days}$   
 $M_c > 5.2 M_{\odot}$



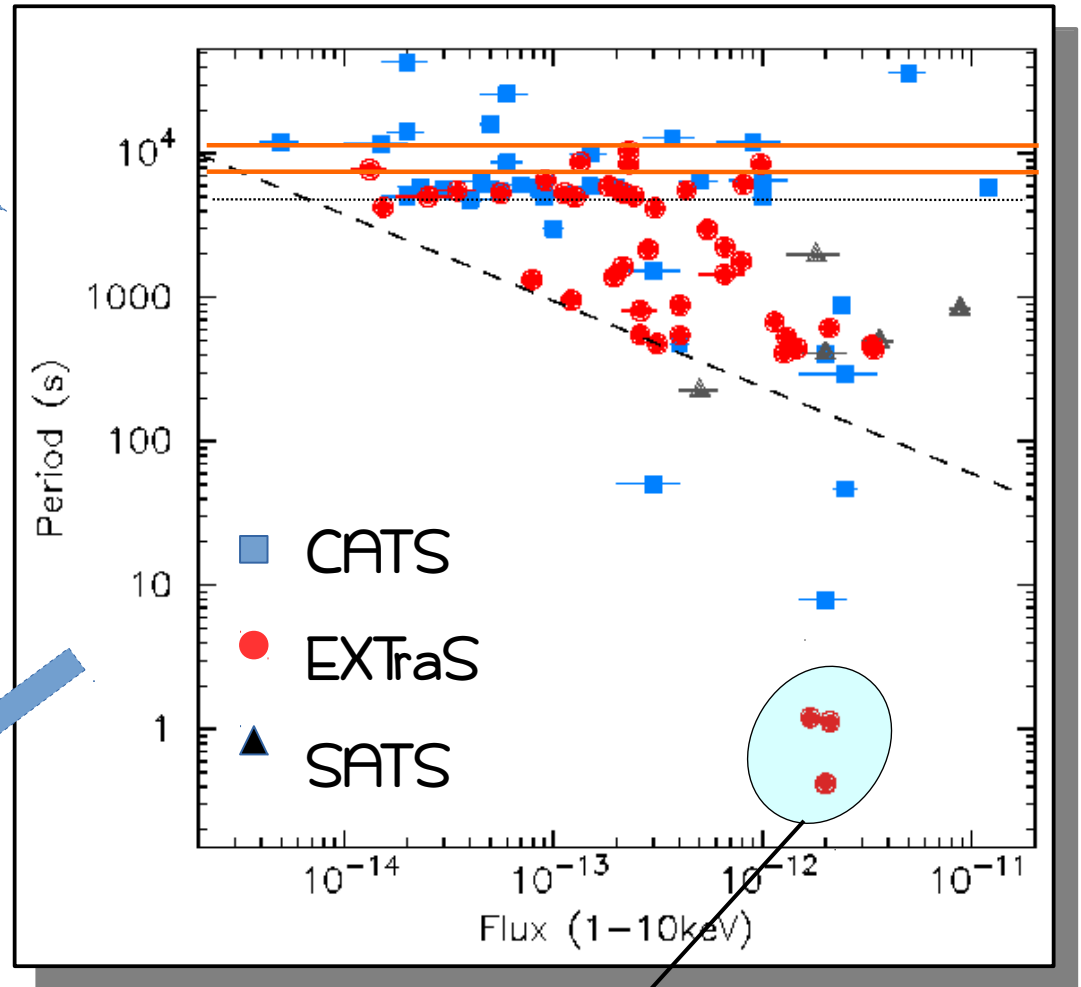
PULX emission  $100 \times L_{\text{Edd}}$

ULXs are not BHs only !!





60 new pulsators (out of 120000 “spurious” detections)!! and still counting



ULX ??

Fastest signals are extragalactic !!



# EXTraS: first NS discovered in M31

ESA SPACE SCIENCE



European Space Agency

Our Universe

- About Space Science
- ESA's 'Cosmic Vision'

ESA > Our Activities > Space Science

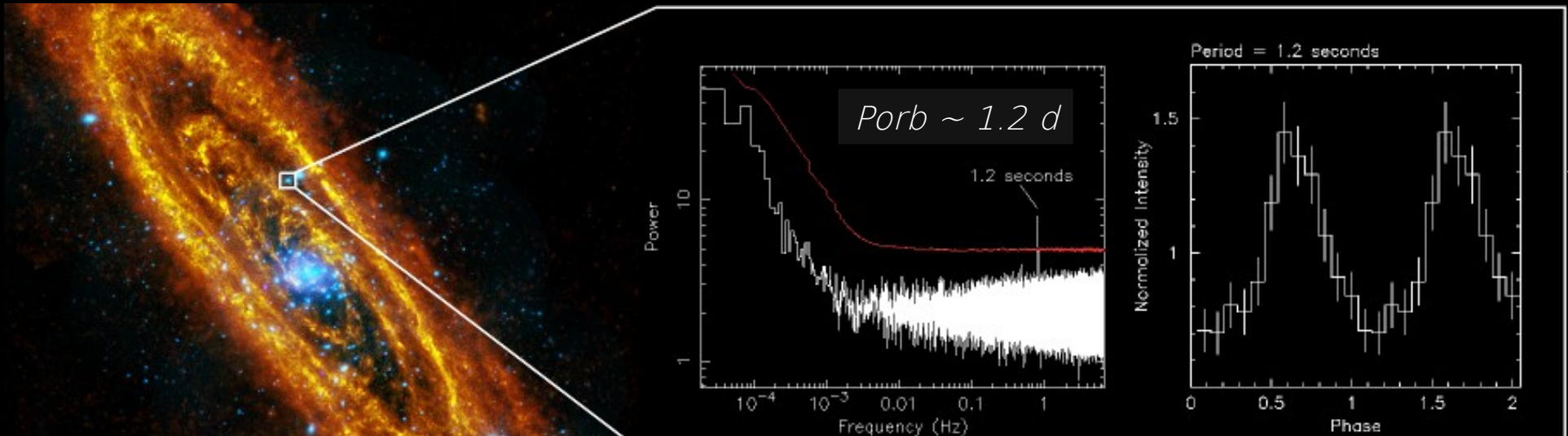
Science missions

- Mission navigator

Target groups

## FOUND: ANDROMEDA'S FIRST SPINNING NEUTRON STAR

31 March 2016 Decades of searching in the Milky Way's nearby 'twin' galaxy Andromeda have finally paid off, with the discovery of an elusive breed of stellar corpse, a neutron star, by ESA's XMM-Newton space telescope.



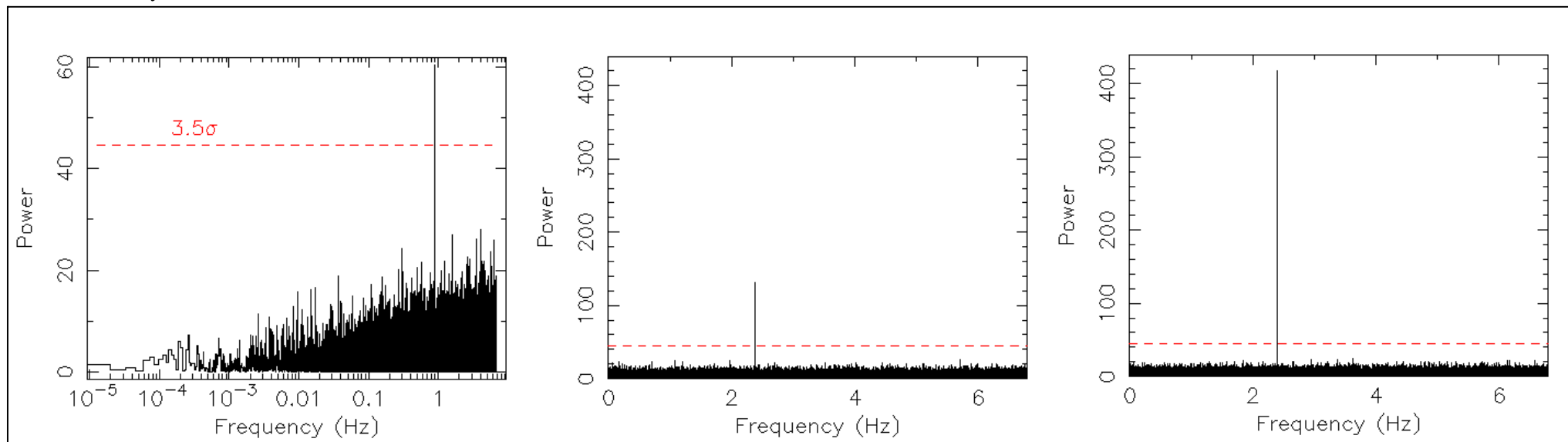
(Esposito+16)

# exTras and the ULXs

About 500 XMM datasets including the position of cataloged or suspected ULX.

We simply checked all the peaks detected by our pipeline in the ~500 datasets

We found 3 significant peaks from two different sources (both known ULXs).



Source 1

Source 2

# Source 1 = NGC 5907 ULX

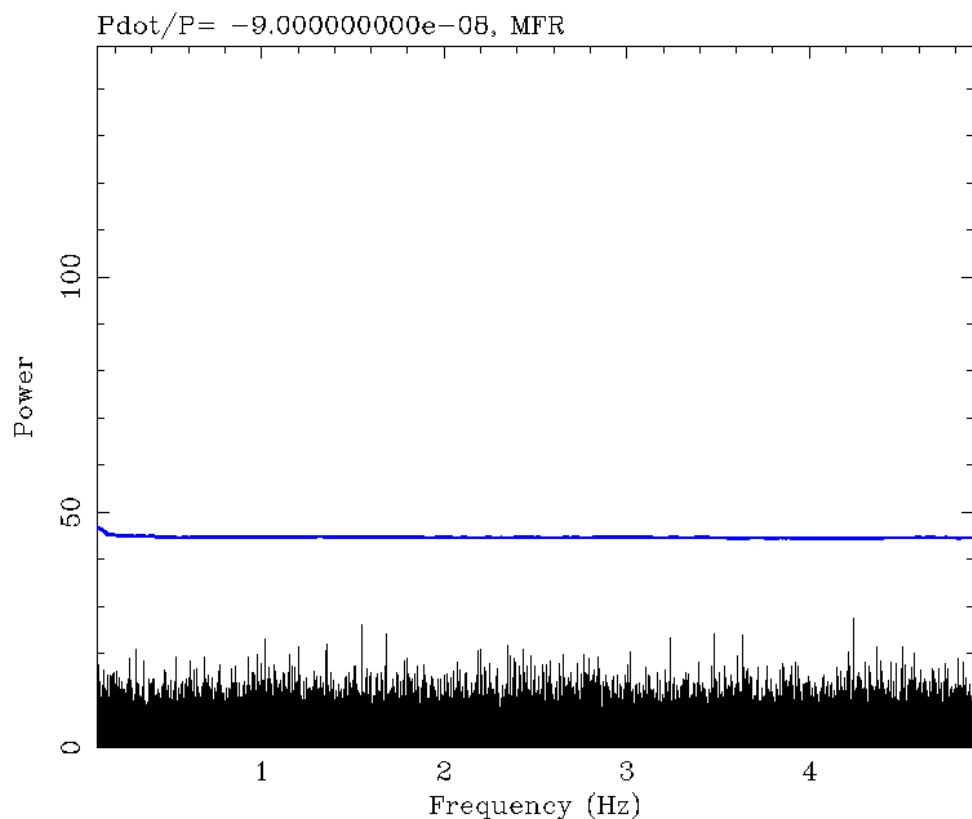
7 XMM pointings (6 source detection)+5 NuSTAR pointings (3 detection)

XMM data reveals a rather large “local”  $\dot{P}$  of several  $-10^{-9}$  s/s

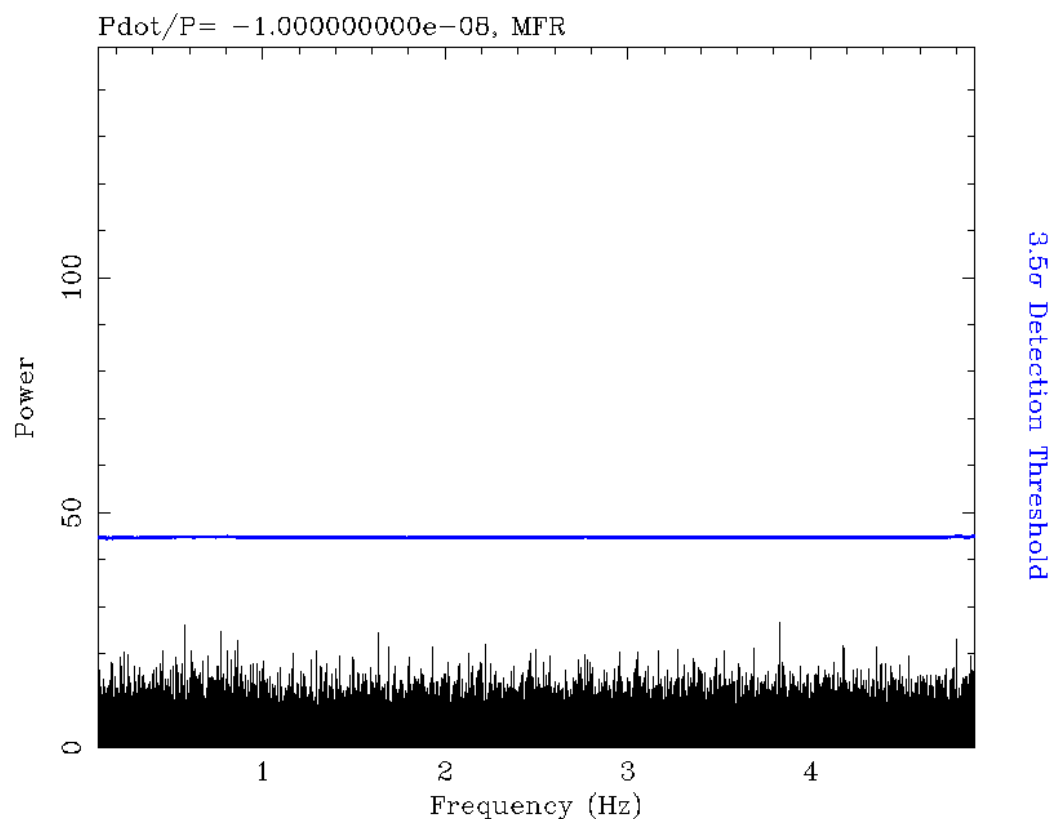
We applied an accelerated search on the 9 XMM+NuSTAR pointings

Detection of the signal in 2 XMM and 2 NuSTAR observations

XMM 2003



NuSTAR 2014



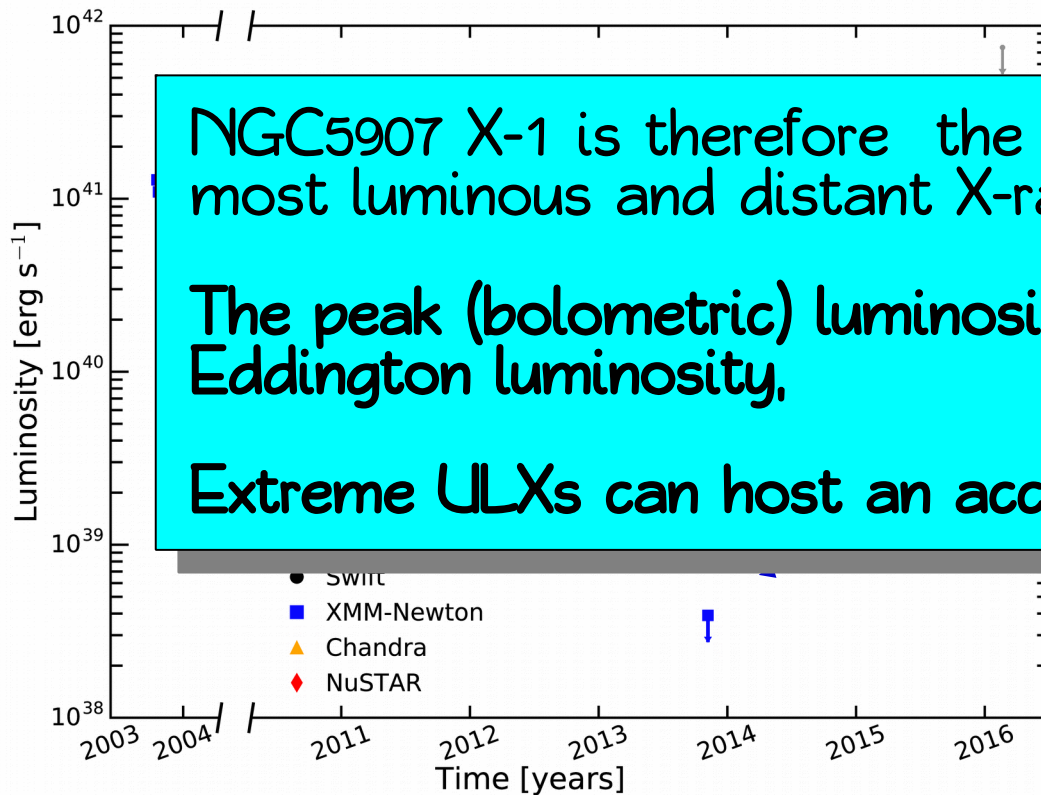
# The PULX in NGC5907 ULX

Start Date	2003 Feb. 28	2014 Jul. 09	2014 Jul. 09	2014 Jul. 12
Mission	<i>XMM-Newton</i>	<i>NuSTAR</i>	<i>XMM-Newton</i>	<i>NuSTAR</i>
Epoch (MJD)	52690.9	56848.0	56848.2	56851.5
$P$ (s)	1.427579(3)	1.137403(1)	1.137316(2)	1.136041(1)
$\dot{P}$ (s s <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>a</sup> × 10 <sup>-9</sup>	-9.6(7)	-5.2(1)	-5.0(4)	-4.7(1)

$\dot{P}(\text{secular}) = -8.1(1)e-10 \text{ s/s}$      $P/\dot{P} \sim 40 \text{ yr}$

The factor of 10 lower than the local  $\dot{P}$  suggests orbital contribution  
 $P_{\text{orb}} = 5.3[+2.0, -0.9] \text{ days}$  ( $1\sigma$ ) and  $M_c < 20M_{\odot}$

For a distance of 17.1 Mpc  
the (isotropic) luminosity



NGC5907 X-1 is therefore the most luminous and distant X-ray pulsar ever detected.

The peak (bolometric) luminosity is ~1000 times the Eddington luminosity.

Extreme ULXs can host an accreting NS !

erg/s

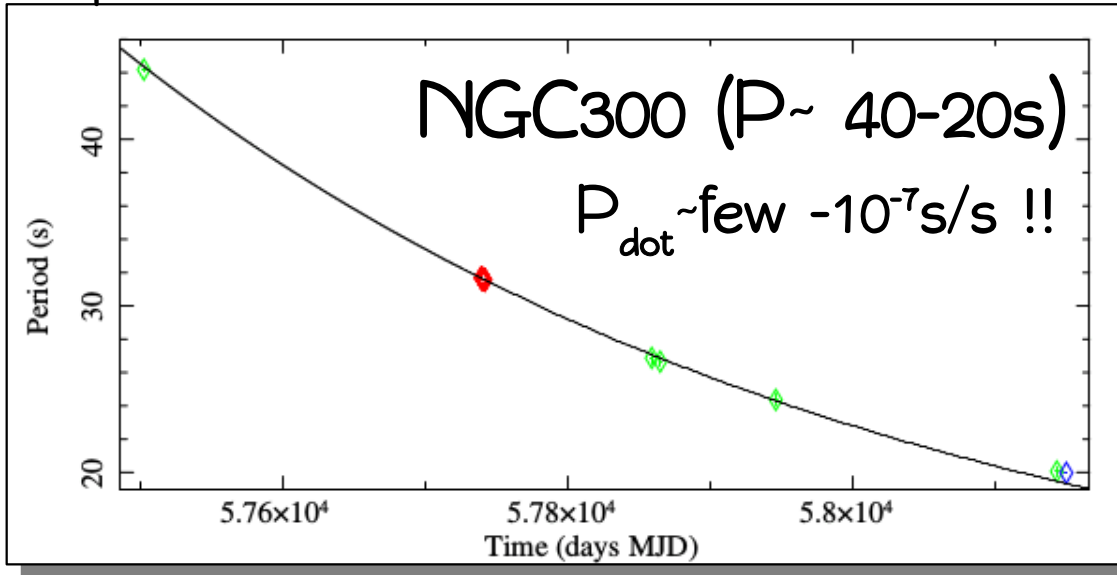
of

ected

(GLI+ 17a, Science)

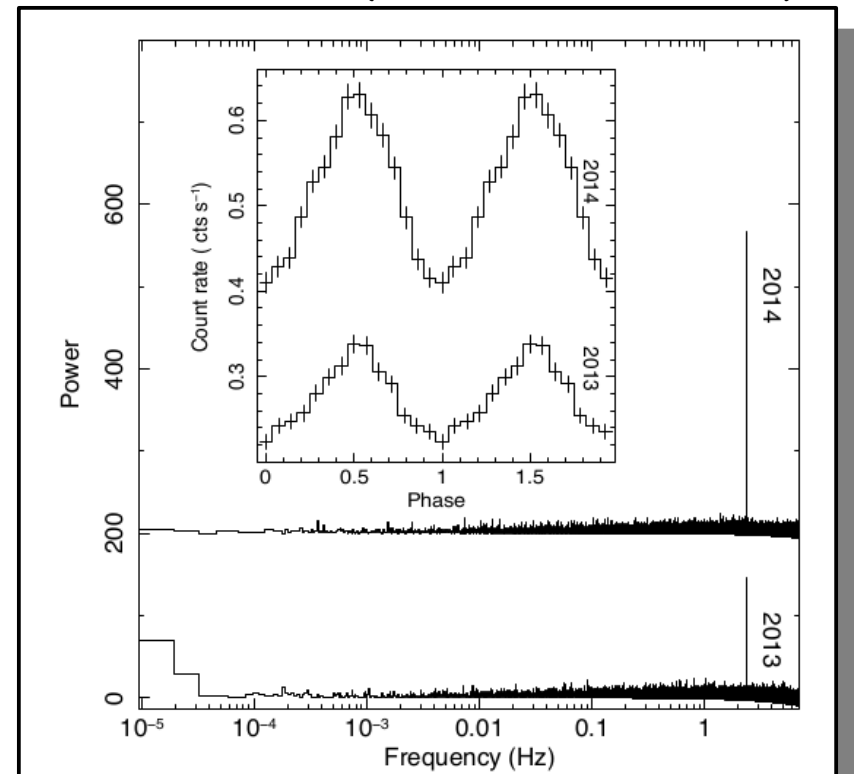
# More PULXs discovered (data mining)

Carpano+18



+ 2 transient pulsars in  
NGC1313 (766s) and  
NGC2403 (18s) with  
 $L_x \sim \text{few } 10^{39} \text{ erg/s}$   
(Trudolyubov 2008,2010)

(GLI+17b, Fürst+ 16)



NGC7793 P13 ( $P \sim 0.42s$ )

# PULXs overall properties

	M82 X-2	NGC 7793 P13	NGC 5907 ULX1	NGC300 ULX1
Pulse Period	1.37s	0.42s	1.1s	40-20s
Spin-up ( $\dot{P}$ )	$2 \times 10^{-10}$ s/s	$3.5 \times 10^{-11}$ s/s	$8 \times 10^{-10}$ s/s	$6 \times 10^{-7}$
Orbital Period	2.5 d	64d	5.3 d	Long or face-on
Superorb. P.	63.8 d	?	78 d	?
Max. Luminosity	$2 \times 10^{40}$ erg/s	$6 \times 10^{39}$ erg/s	$> 10^{41}$ erg/s	$5 \times 10^{39}$ erg/s
Min. Luminosity	$< 2.5 \times 10^{38}$ erg/s	$\sim 4 \times 10^{37}$ erg/s	$< 4 \times 10^{38}$ erg/s	transient
Optical Comp.	$M > 5 M_{\odot}$	SG B9I	$M \lesssim 30 M_{\odot}$	$M < 20 M_{\odot}$
References	Bachetti et al. 2014; Brightman et al. 2017; Dall'Osso et al. 2015	Fürst et al. 2016; Israel et al. 2017a	Israel et al. 2017b; Fürst et al. 2017; Walton et al. 2015	Carpano+ 18

Not easy to identify convincing similarities....

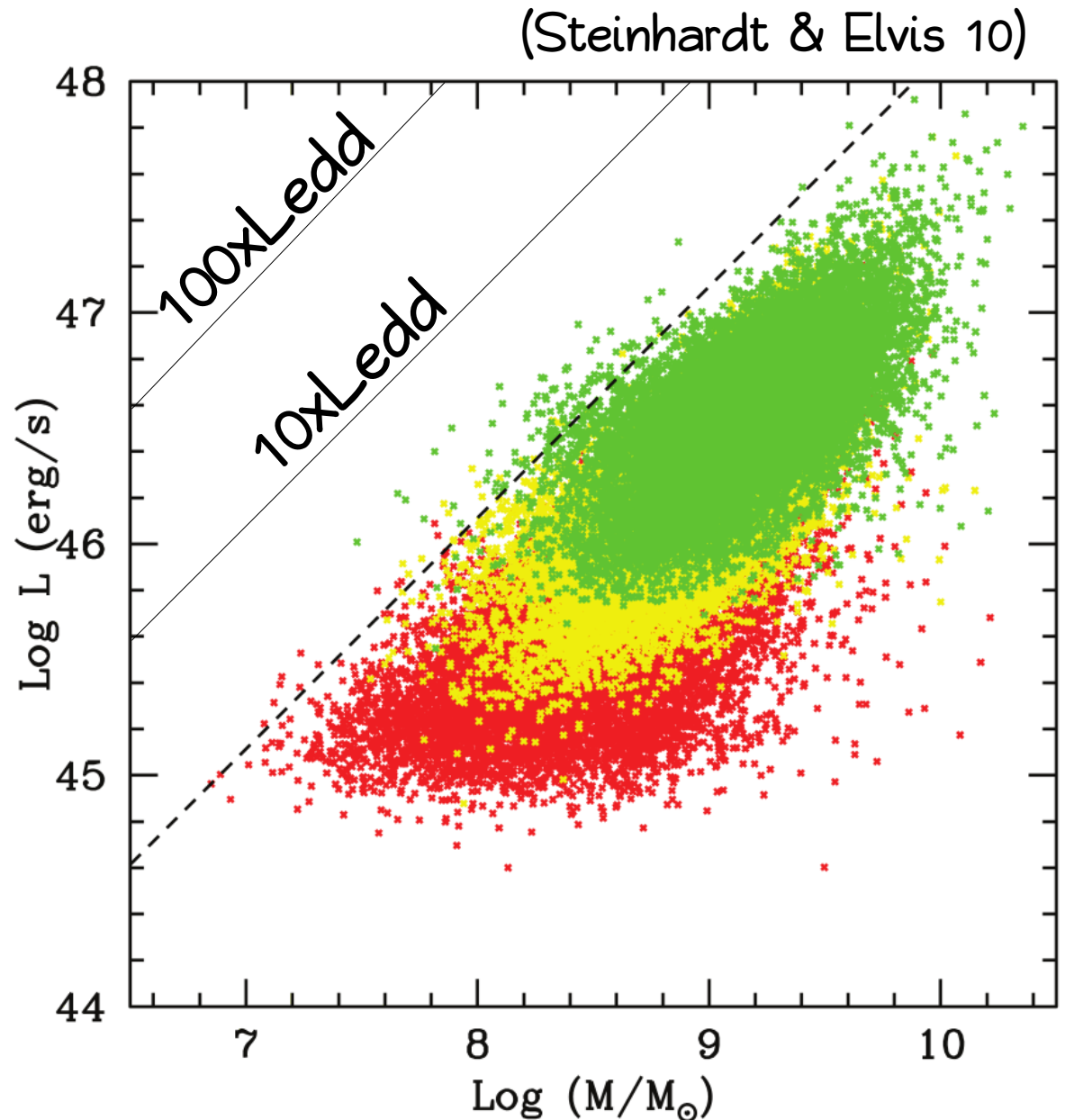
$L_x > 10^{39}$  erg/s and likely massive companions (HMXB or IMXB)

Exceeding  $L_{\text{edd}}$  by 30-500 times



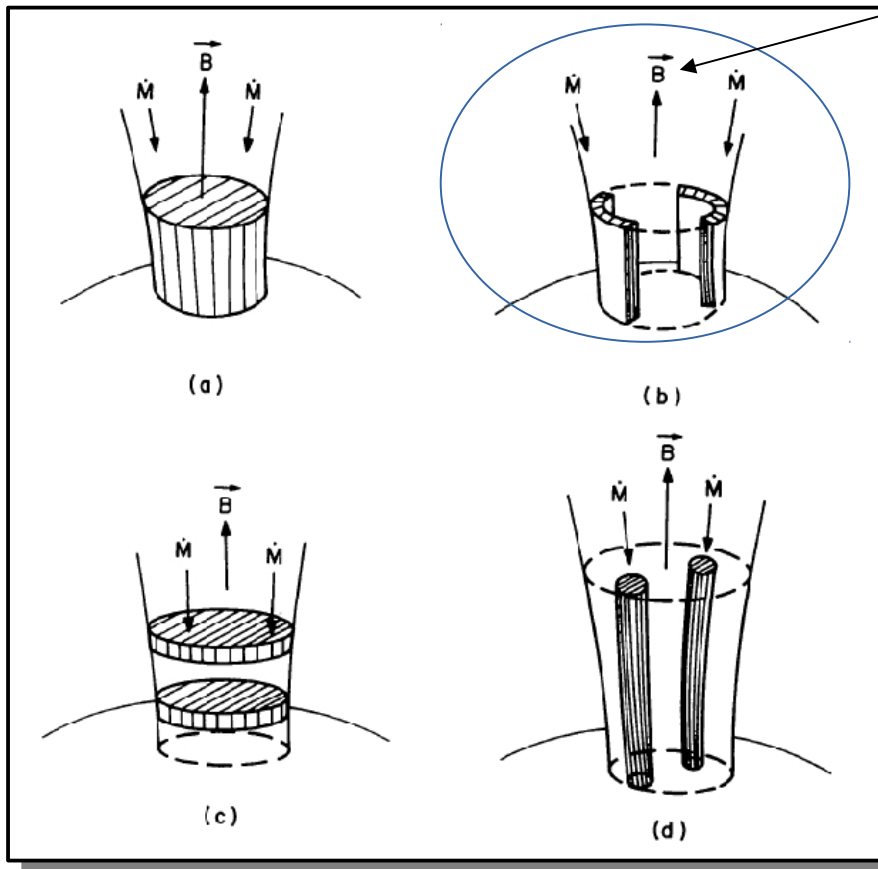
# BHs and Ledd

62,000 quasars (BHs) at different  $z$ .  
Even assuming the uncertainties in the distances and in the virial mass determination NONE of them is above the Ledd by a factor of 10 or 100.



# PULXs accretion

- The maximum X-ray luminosity ( $L_{\text{Edd}}$ ) for a NS depends (at least) from the accretion rate, the magnetic field, the geometry of accretion (highest for a thin hollow funnel) and beaming.
- up to a factor of about 40 higher in  $L$  can be reached if  $B > 10^{13}$  G assuming a thin hollow funnel



# Luminosities

NGC5907 X-1 isotropic peak $L_{x,bol}$ is	1000 times	$L_{Edd}$
NGC7793 P13 isotropic peak $L_{x,bol}$ is	500 times	$L_{Edd}$
M82 X-2 isotropic peak $L_{x,bol}$ is	100 times	$L_{Edd}$
NGC300 X-1 isotropic peak $L_{x,bol}$ is	50 times	$L_{Edd}$

In principle, if  $B$  is high enough the electron scattering cross section is reduced (in the extraordinary mode for  $E < E_{cyc}$ ).

$L_{Edd,B}(r) \simeq 2L_{Edd} \left( \frac{B}{10^{12} \text{ G}} \right)^{4/3}$  For  $B = \text{few } \times 10^{15} \text{ G}$  up to  $10^{41} \text{ erg/s}$  can be released on the NS surface ...

Moreover, with that  $B$  value and 1.13s spin period the NS in NGC5907 ULX should be deeply in the propeller phase ( $r_m \gg r_c$ )!

A moderate beaming factor  $b < 1$  ( $b \cdot L_{iso} = L_{acc}$ ) is also likely present (at least because we see pulsations) (King+ 2001)  
 $b = 1/100$  pushes NGC5907 out from the propeller but not able to account for the observed  $\dot{P}$

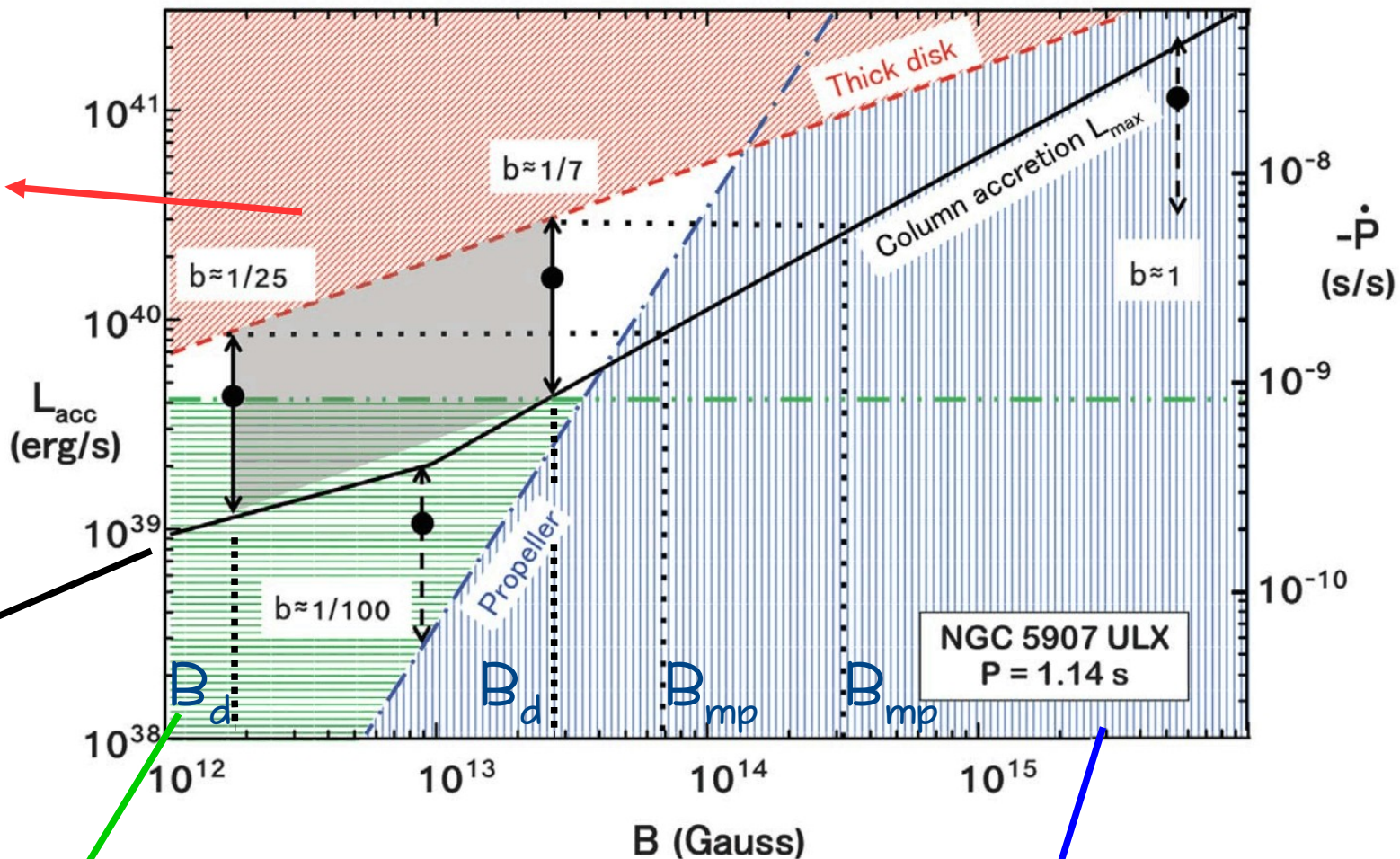
# Possible scenario for NGC5907 ULX

Super-Eddington emission from the disk; escaping radiation stopped

Maximum  $L_x$  attainable by the accretion column

Minimum  $\dot{M}$  in order to obtain the observed  $\dot{P}$

Propeller regime: no accretion possible on the NS surface, no pulsations



# Possible scenario

Expected **dipolar B component** (close to the Magnetospheric boundary) of the order of

NGC5907 ULX:  $(0.7 - 3.0)e12 \text{ G}$  @  $b \sim 1/10 - 1/7$

**Quadrupolar B component** (close to the surface/bottom of the accretion column)

NGC5907 ULX:  $(3-30)e13 \text{ G}$

Accretion stream is channeled by the dipolar field on large scale but feels the quadrupolar component on small scales (polar region)

Fiore+19 show that the scenario is possible (numerical calculation)

---

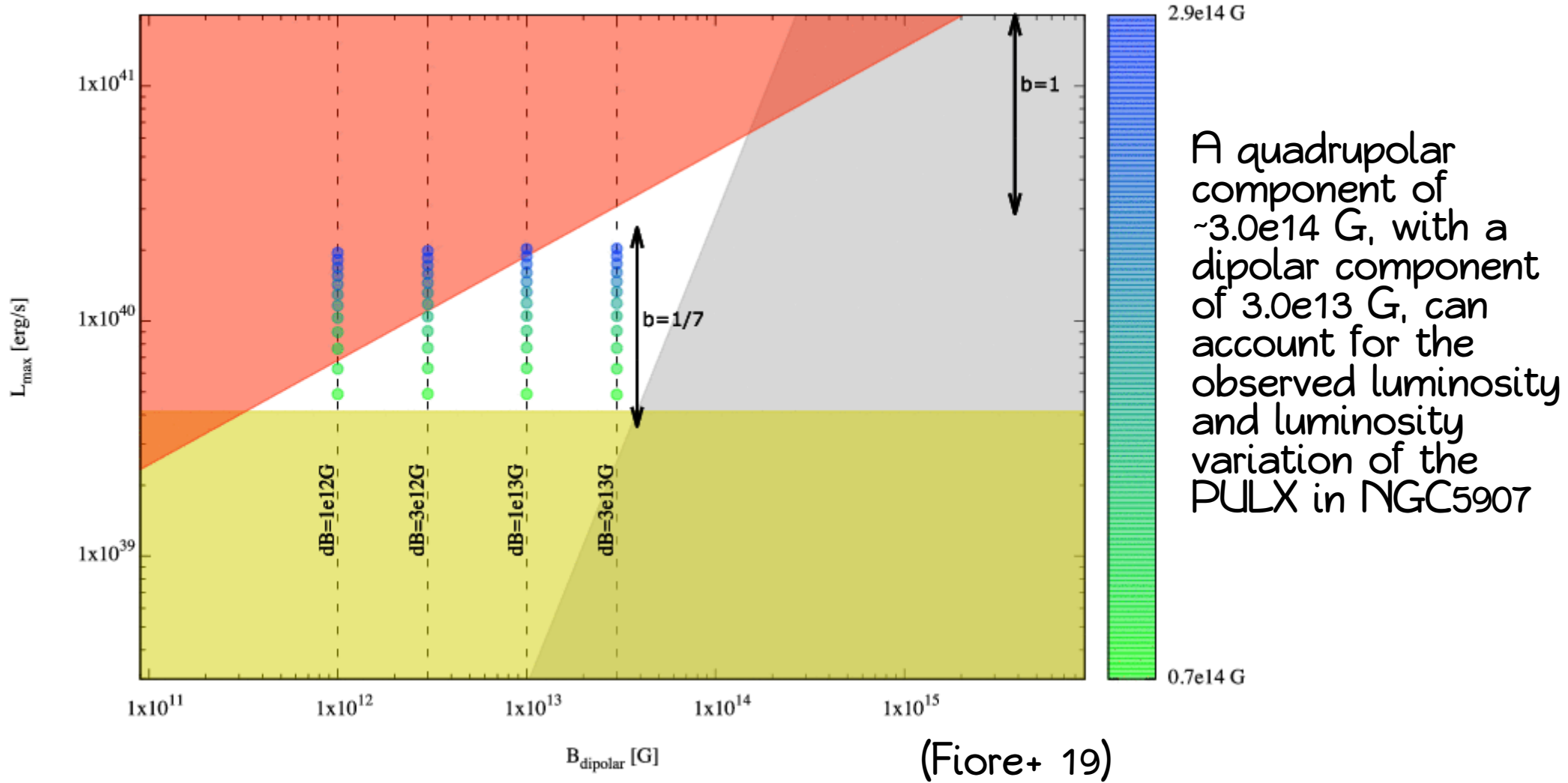
p-CRSFs detected in magnetars  $\rightarrow B \sim 1-10 \times 10^{14} \text{ G}$  close to the surface, 10 times larger than their dipolar component (Tiengo+13).

Super-Eddington outburst of SMC X-3 (Tsygankov+17):  
Dipolar ( $1-5 \times 10^{12} \text{ G}$ ) + Multipolar ( $2-3 \times 10^{13} \text{ G}$ ) components

# Numerical calculation of the maximum $L_x$

Maximum accretion luminosity of NGC5907-ULX1

Intensity of the quadrupolar component



NGC 5907-ULX1

# New directions

How many PULXs?  
4 out of 300, ~1% ?

We detected PULXs in observations with at least 10,000 counts (XMM)

How many ULXs with such statistics?

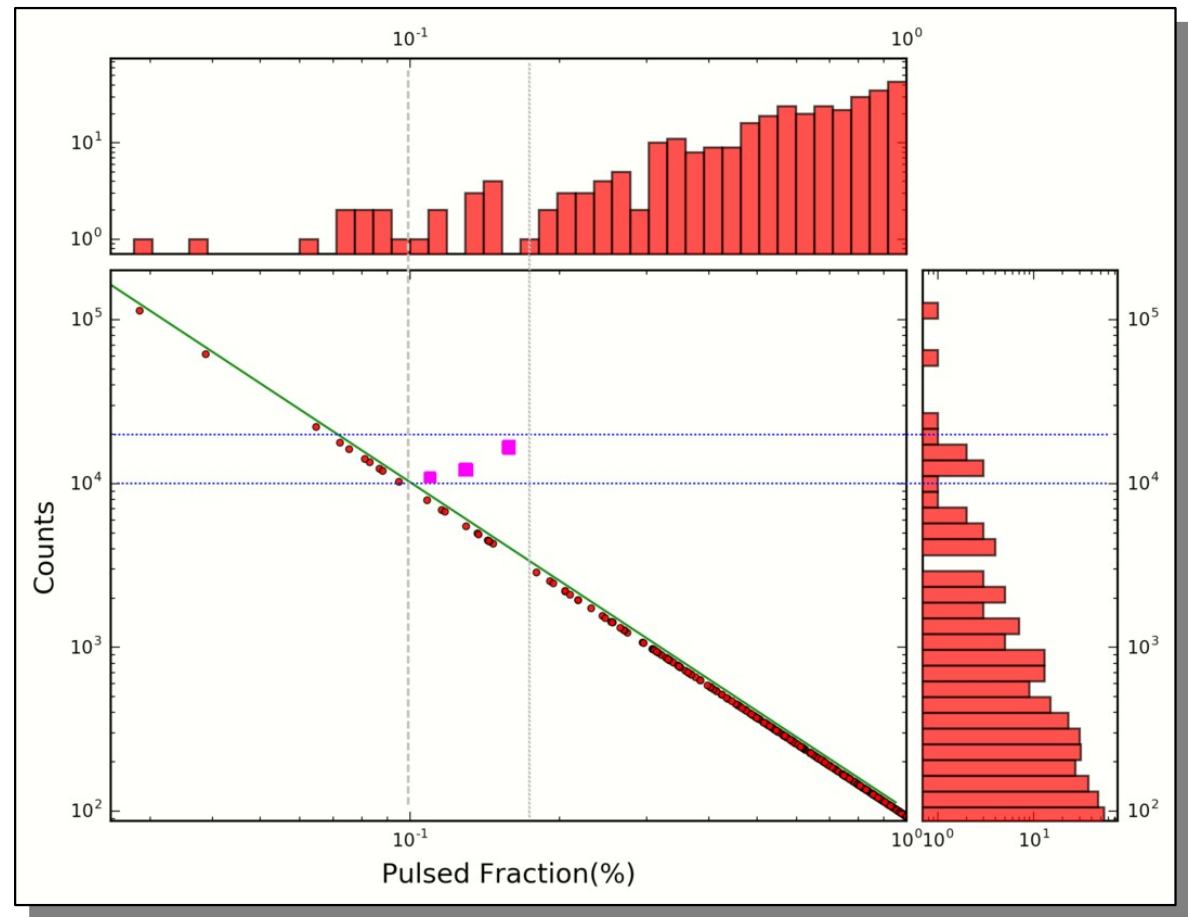
14 ULXs (<5% of all known ULXs) → 29% are PULXs

How many ULXs with a statistics such that pulsations with 20% pulsed fractions might be detected?

18 ULXs → 21% are PULXs

Not all pulsars are expected to be beamed towards us.

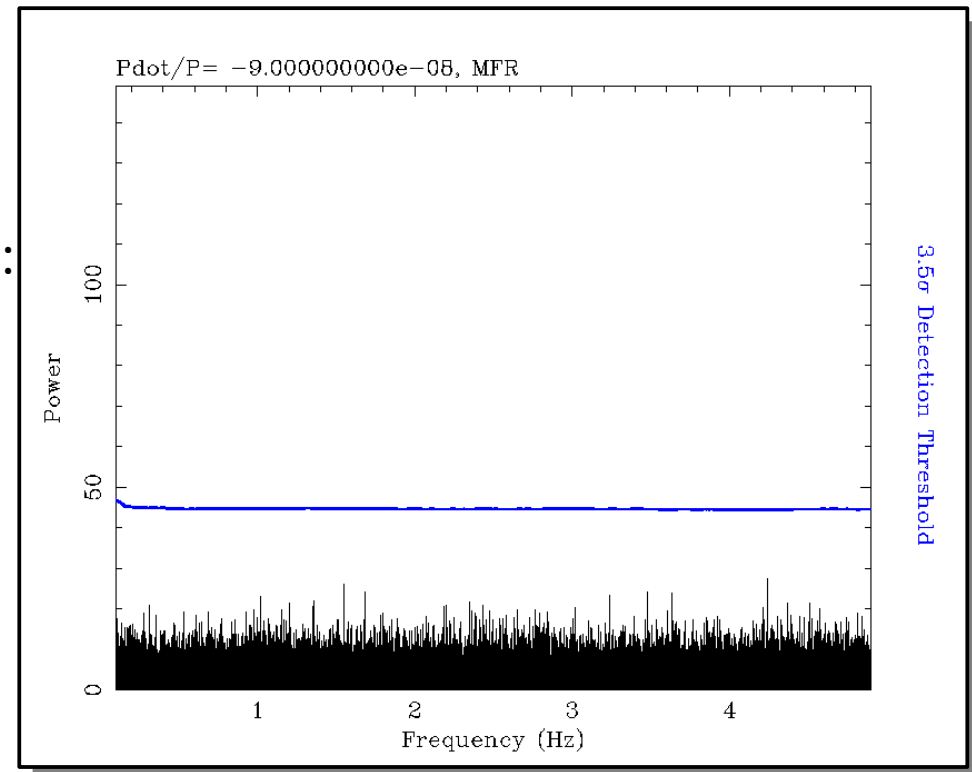
2-3 ULXs likely BHCs ( $M > 5M_{\text{sun}}$ ,  $L_x > 10^{42}$  erg/s) out of 300 ULXs, ~1%



# Hybrid Approach: II. More sophisticated tools for analysis and computing

Since in several observations of NGC5907 and M82 the signal went undetected, we conceived the ULX Pulsation Accelerated Search for Timing Analysis (PASTA) project, which based on the timing properties of known PULXs carries out an ad hoc timing analysis which also takes into account an eventual (large)  $\dot{P}$  component; correcting the ToA of the events assuming a wide range of  $\dot{P}$  values.

The next step was to correct the ToA for the “UNKNOWN” orbital parameters : We developed a new pipeline, namely Search for Orbital Periods with Acceleration (SOPA and eSOPA) to be applied to all ULXs +candidates. Requires tens of millions cpu-hours on HPCs/HTCs. We have been awarded with several millions cpu-hours We are first using SOPA with the UNSEEN targets.



( $P_{orb}$ ,  $a_x \sin(i)$ , Time of the asc. node, [ $e$ , time of periastron])

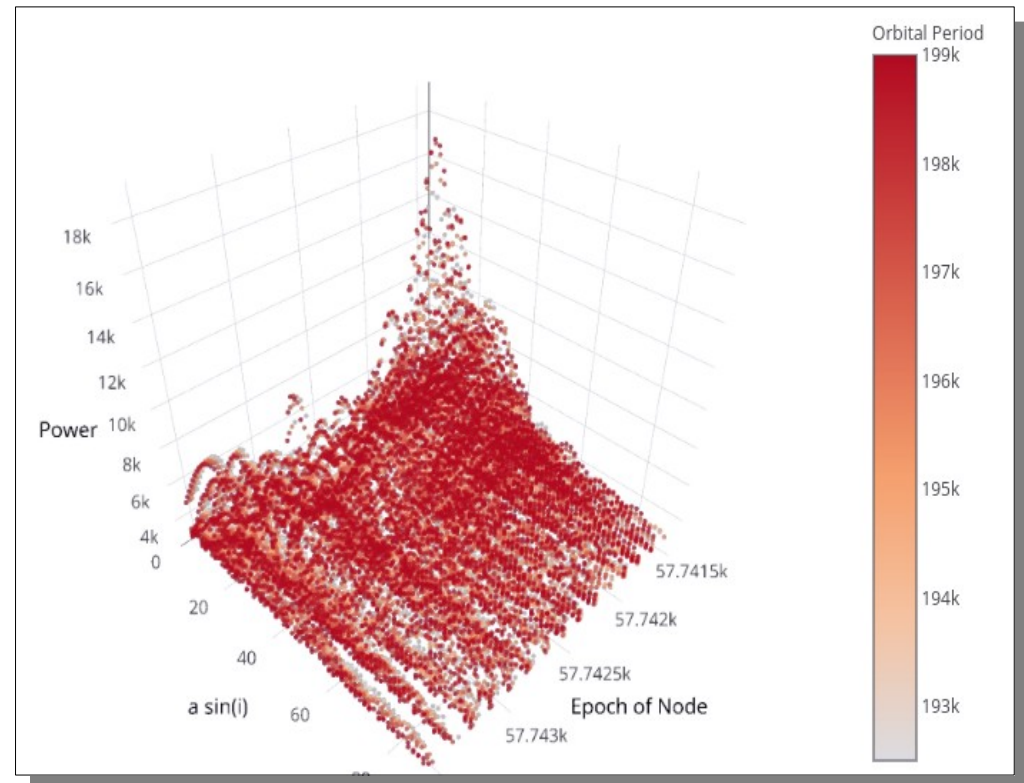
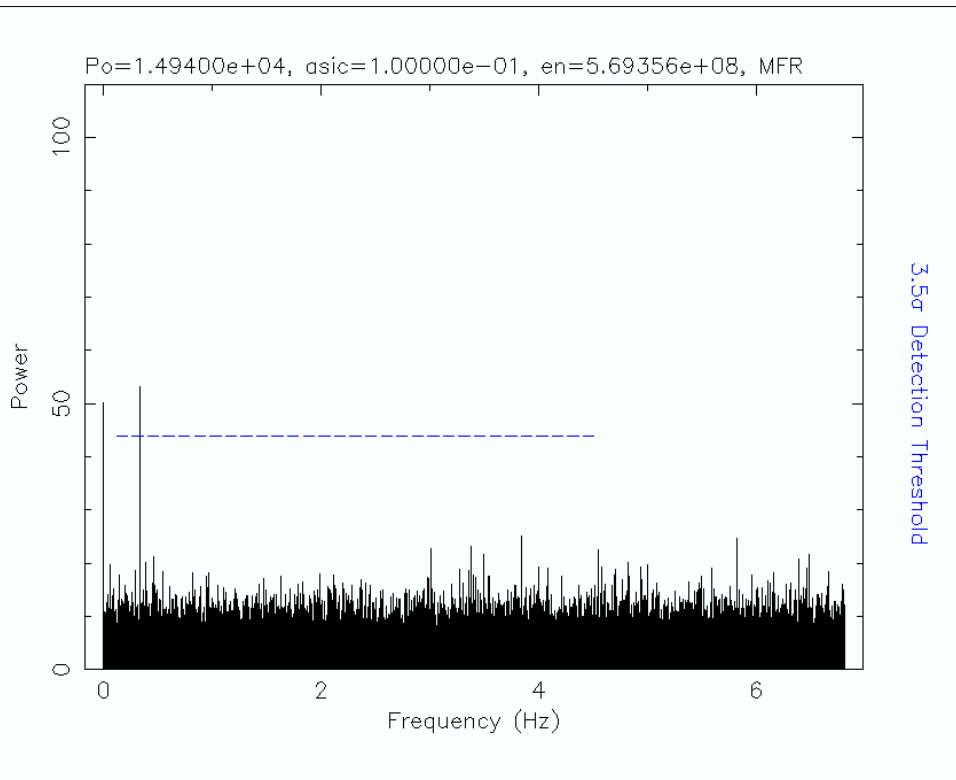


# "Big data" and Computing issue

PULX signal detection strongly affected by  $\dot{P}$  and orbital motion:  
Events correction in a 3D parameter-space:  $P_{\text{orb}}$ ,  $a_X \sin(i)$ ,  $T_{\text{node}}$ :

$$t' = t - (a_X \sin i / c) \sin[2\pi(t - T_{\text{node}}) / P_{\text{orb}}]$$

For a reasonable grid  $\sim 10^5$  FFTs/periodograms per source  $\rightarrow$   
Need for High Performing Computing (HPC: INAF-CHIPP, INAF-CINECA)  
and efficient handling of huge amounts of data: tested on M31  $\rightarrow$   
 $\rightarrow$  Second Pulsar discovered in M31! (Rodriguez+ 18 APJL)



# Taking the beat of the UNSEEN

Recently accepted as LP in AO17:

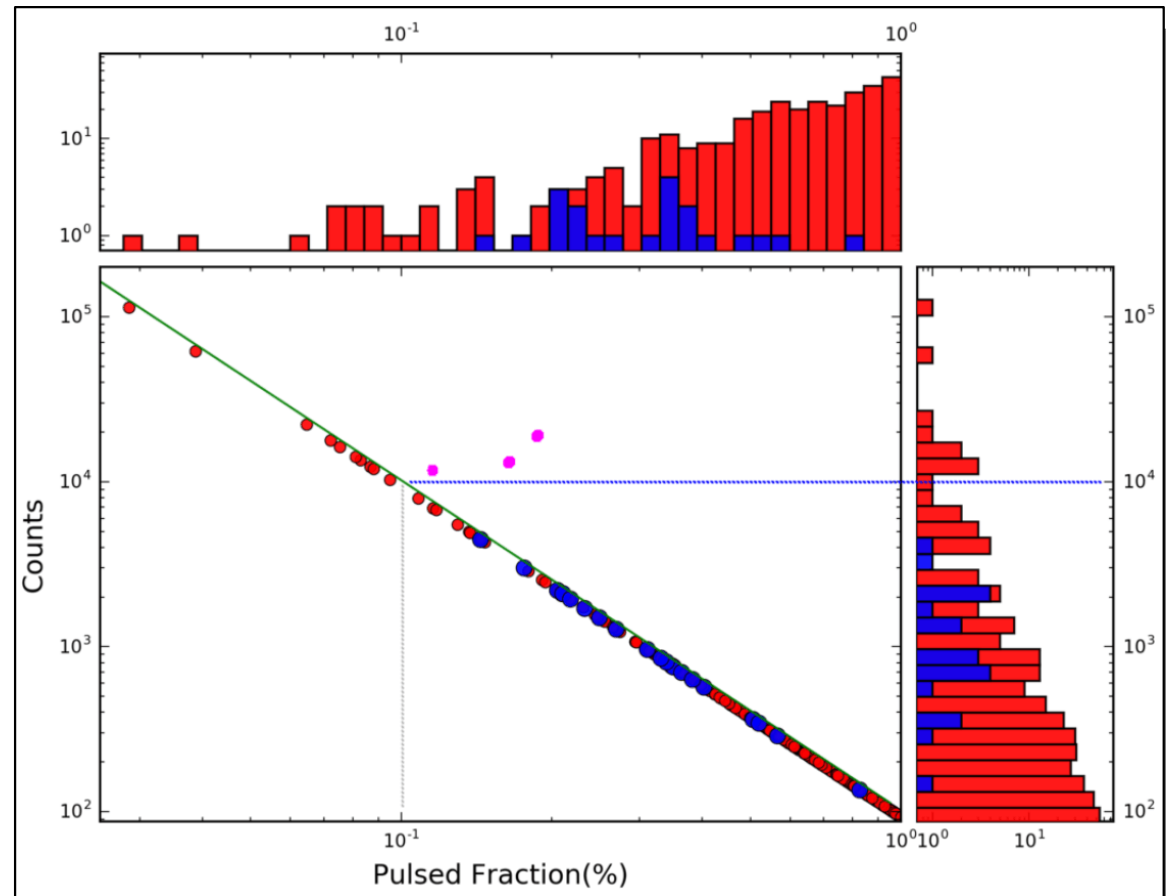
**UNSEEN:**  
Ultraluminous  
NS Extragalactic  
Extreme population

8 pointings + 3 DDTs  
986.000 seconds  
274 hours  
~15 ULXs (>10.000 cts)  
~30 additional S-Edd  
sources  
1-3 new PULXs  
expected to be detected!

Just completed

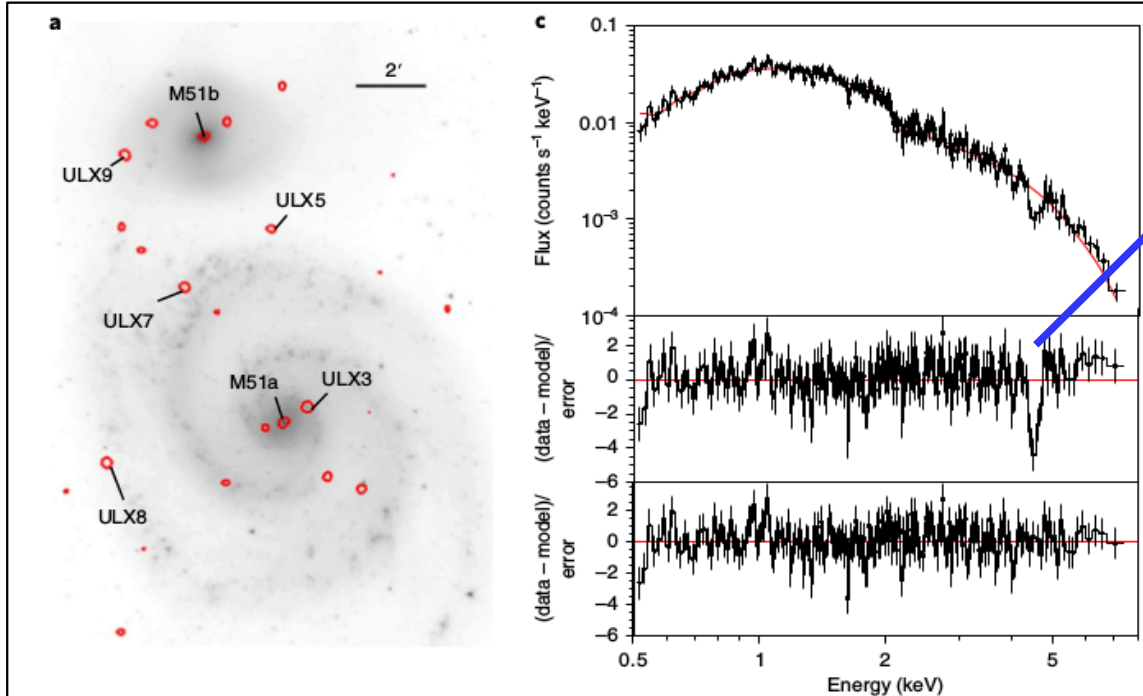
The UNSEEN Collaboration:

G.L. Israel, G. Rodriguez,  
F. Bernardini, H. Earnshaw, T. Roberts, M. Bachetti, A. De Luca,  
A. Tiengo, A. Belfiore, R. Turolla, M. Mapelli, L. Zampieri, F. Pintore,  
M. Middleton, P. Esposito, F. Fuerst, D. Walton, P. Casella, S. Dall'Osso,  
D. Dagostino, G. Novara, R. Salvaterra, F. Harrison, M. Brightman,  
C. Pinto, F. Haberl, M. Marelli, A. Wolter, L. Stella, A. Papitto



Strongly magnetized NSs are unveiled not only through pulsations but owing to (proton) cyclotron lines, similar to the case of magnetars.....

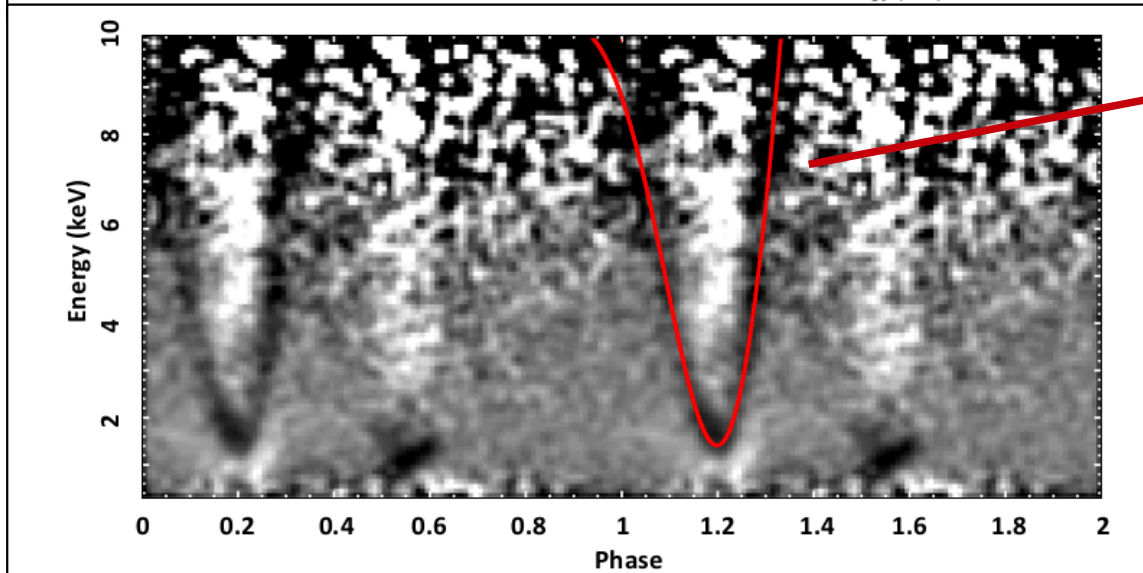
**UNSEEN:**  
 Ultraluminous  
 NS Extragalactic  
 Extreme population



Non pulsating ULX in M51

$\Delta E = 6.3(1+z)^{-1}(B/10^{15} \text{ G}) \text{ keV}$   
 where  $z \sim 0.3$  for a NS

$B \sim 10^{14} \text{ G}$   
 Chandra spectrum with  
 ~10000 cts  
 (Brighman+ 18, Nature Astr.)



Magnetar

$B \sim 1-10 \times 10^{14} \text{ G}$  (phase-dep.)

Structure (loop?) close to the surface (a factor of 10 larger than their dipolar component)

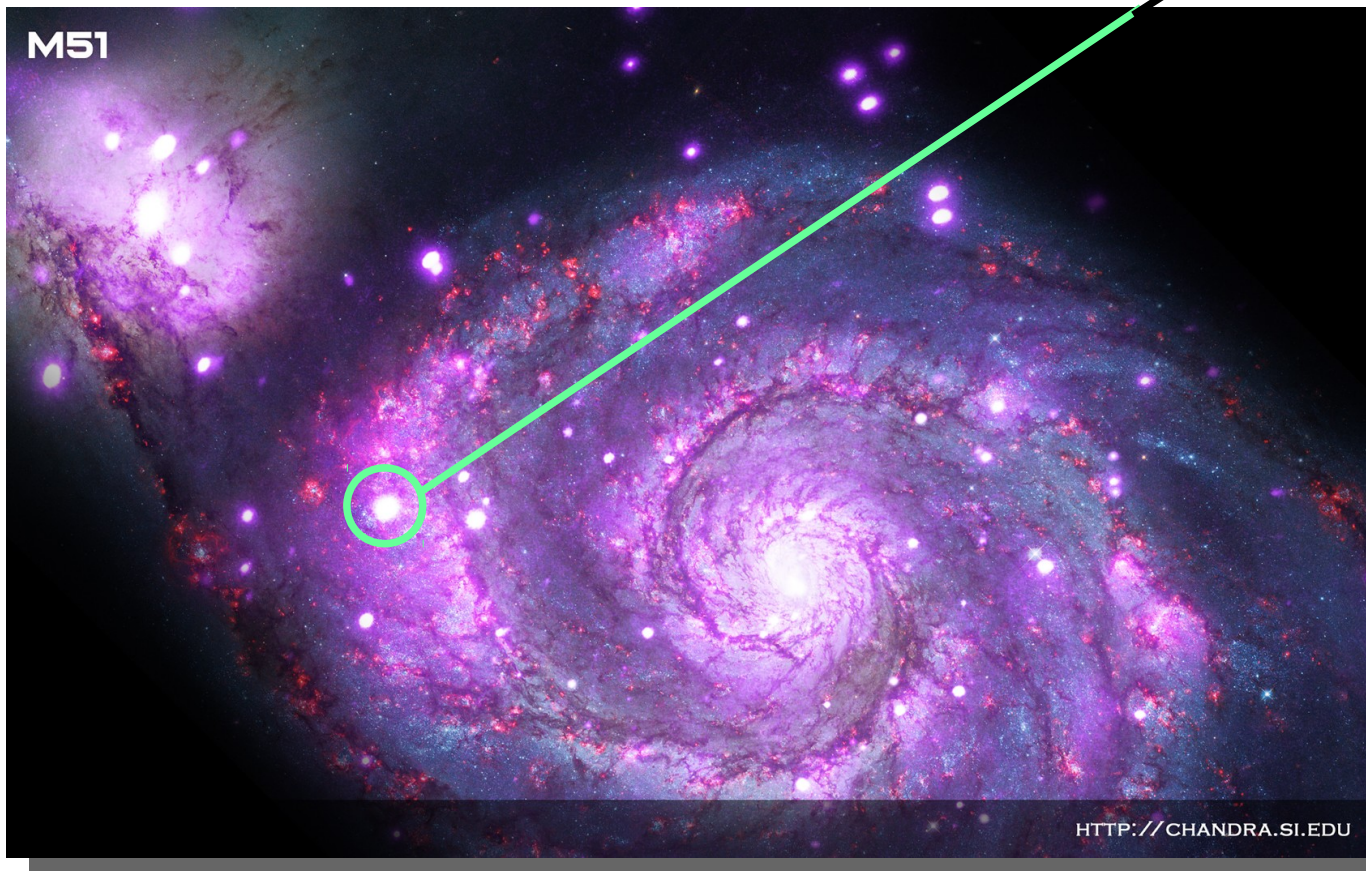
(Tiengo+ 2013, Nature)

# XMM LP

M51 observed in May 2018 for about 75ks

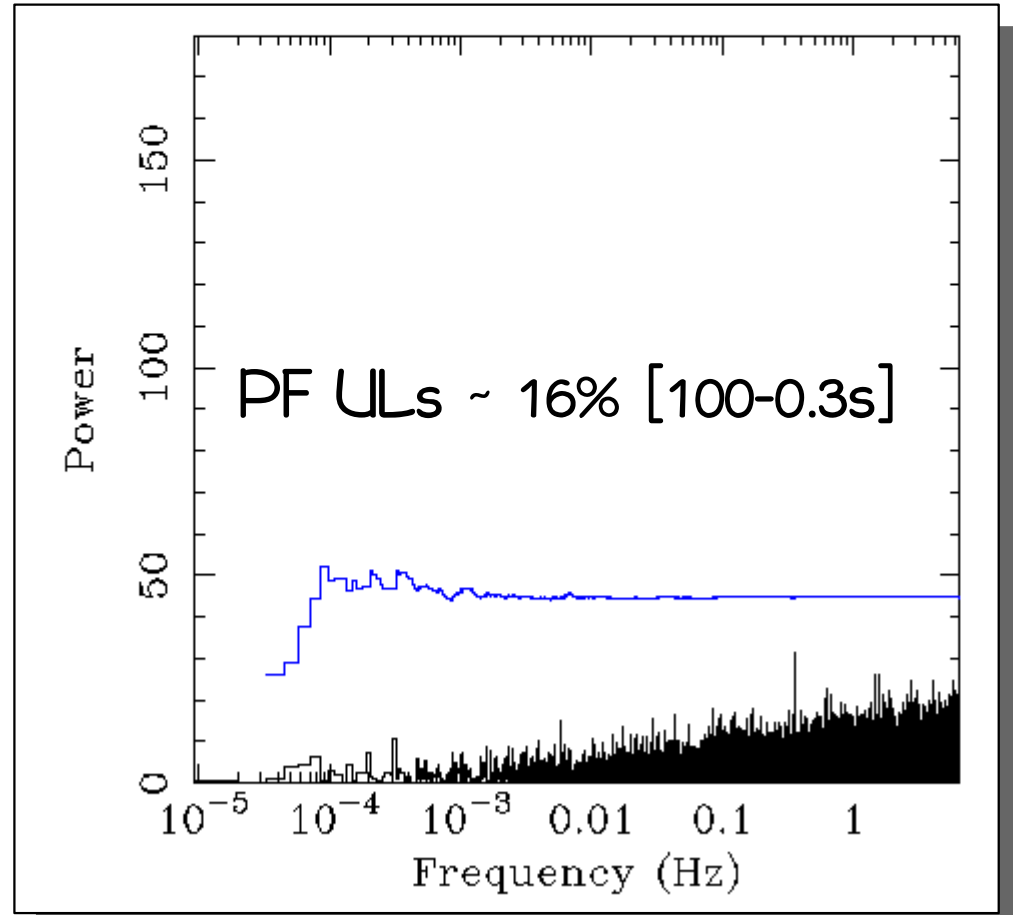
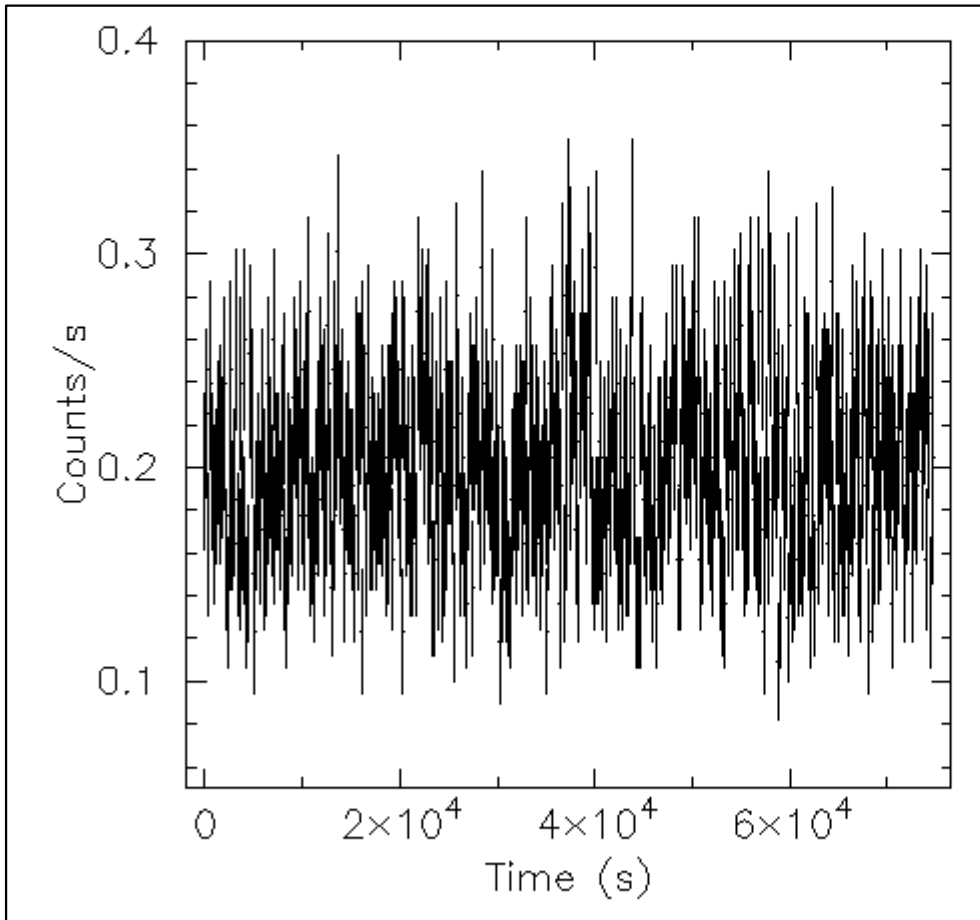
+ 3 DTT (96+63+64ks) requested on in June 2018

ULX7: a variable  
source:  $L_x$  peaks  
at almost  
 $10^{40}$  erg/s

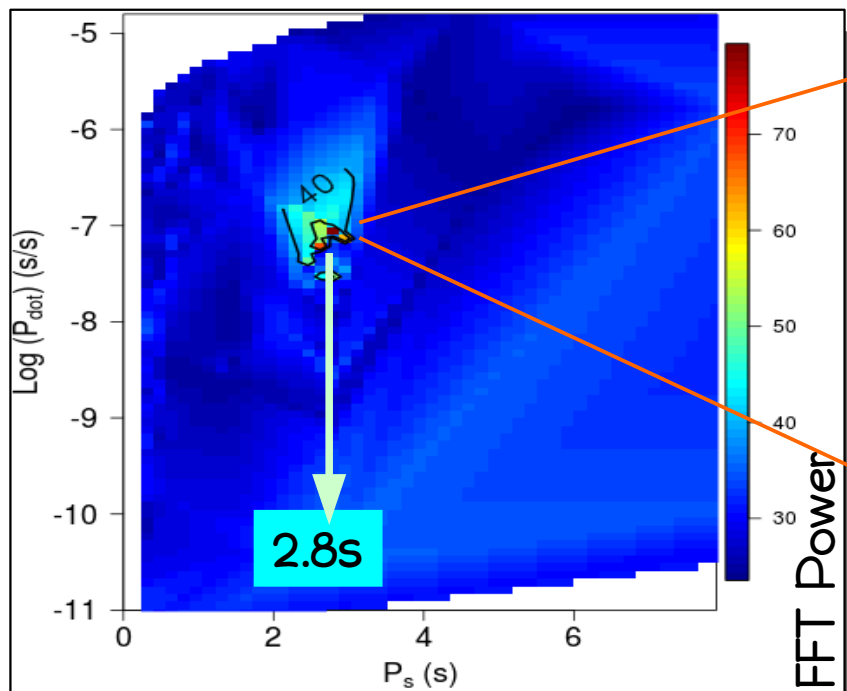


# M51 ULX7

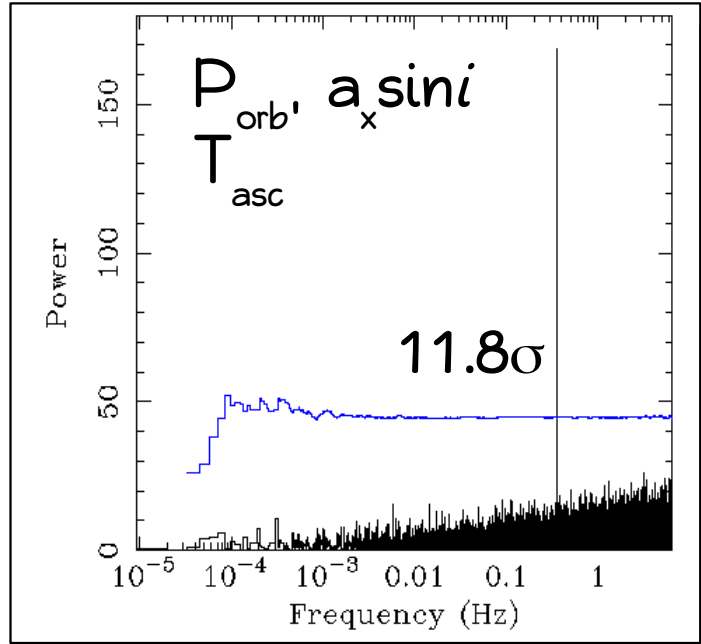
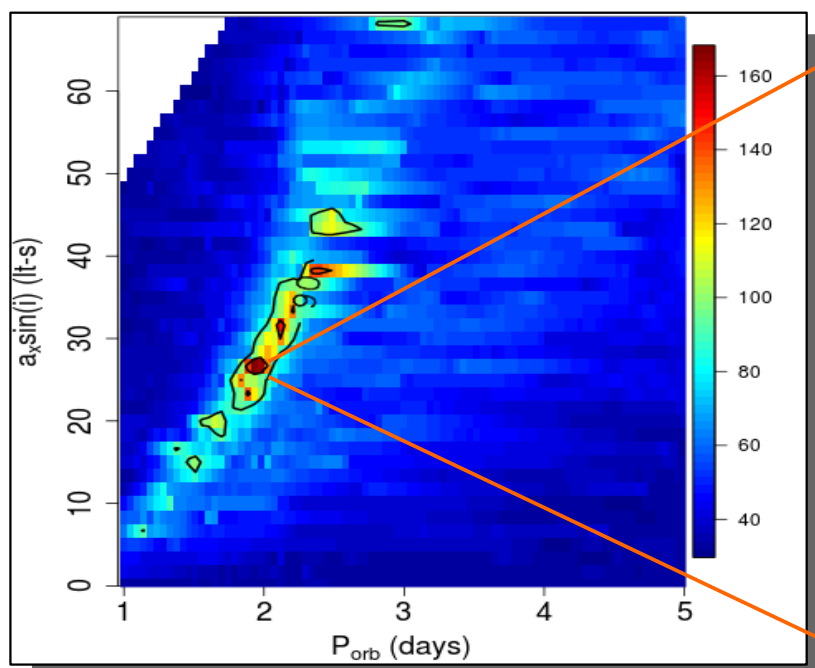
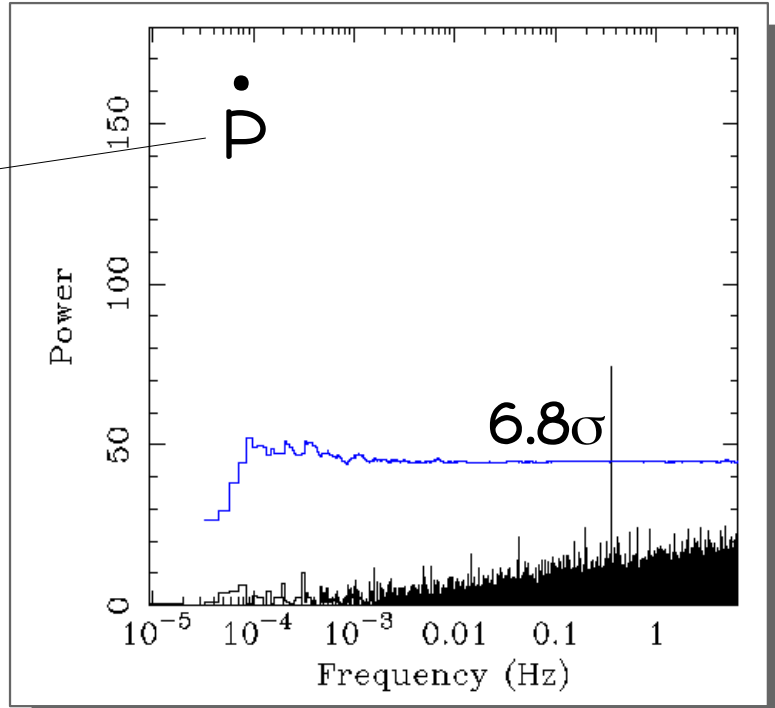
One of the best example of Poissonian process  
and white noise !



# Accelerated search



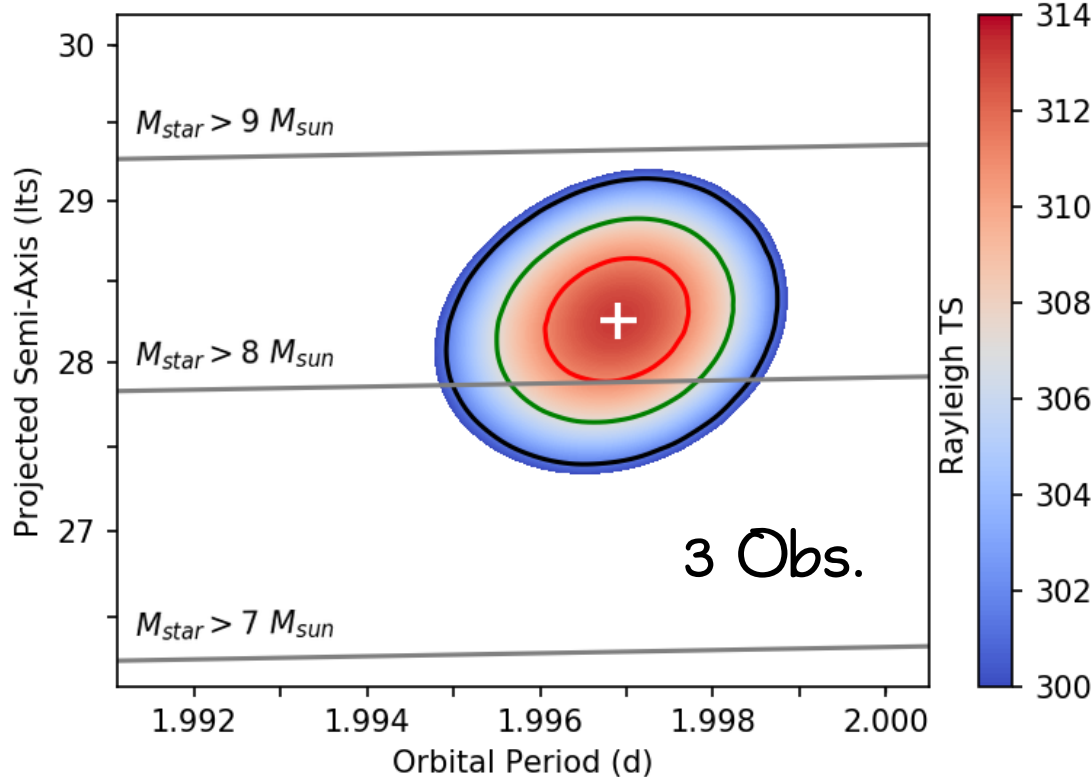
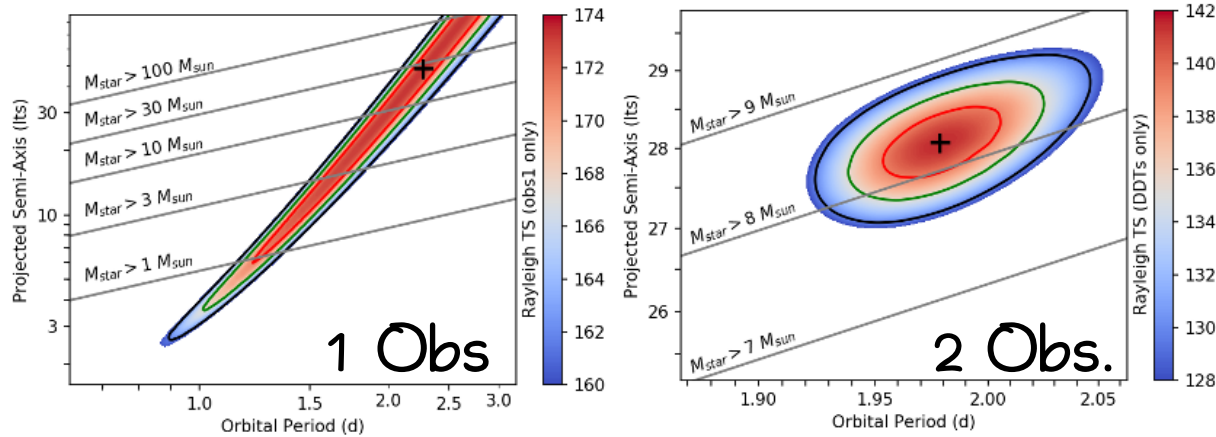
Dominated by orbital motion



Up to  $10^6$  FFTs needed to cover the 4D phase space.  
Use of HPCs

# The binary system hosting M51 ULX7

Orbital parameters inferred by means of likelihood Rayleigh test statistics (GLI+ 17b).



$$M_c/M_\odot = 8.3/\sin i$$

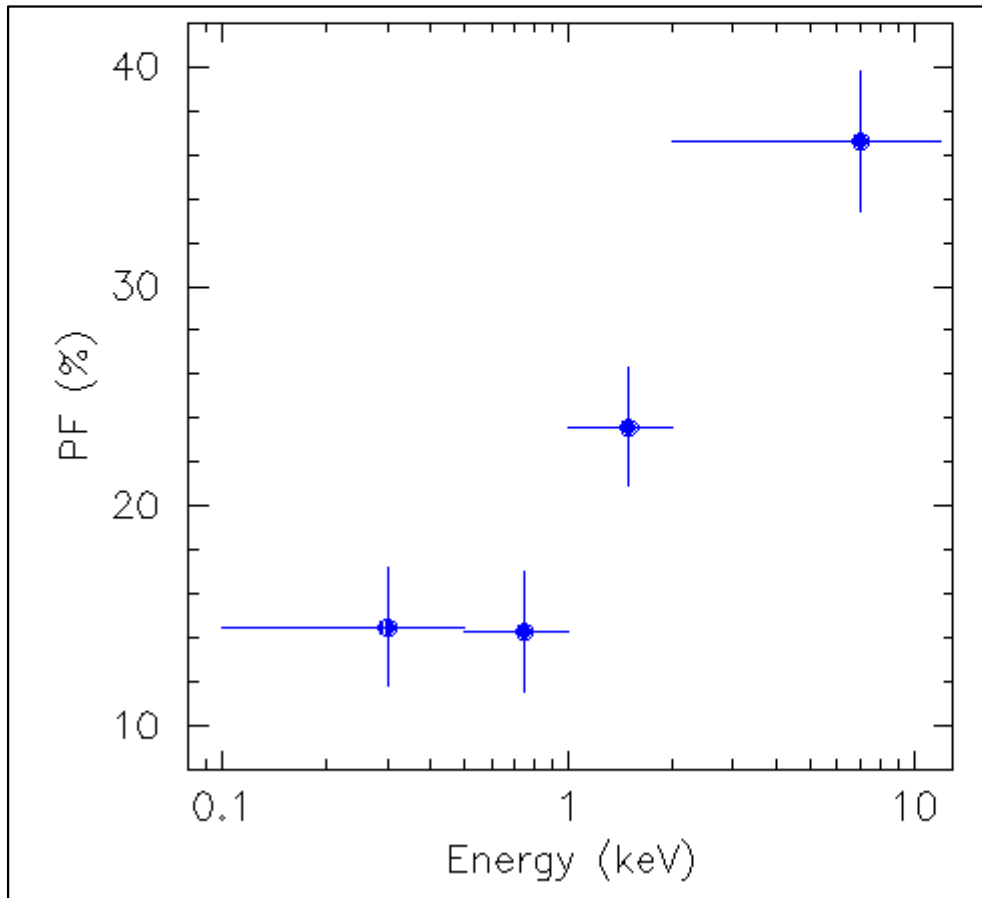
No eclipses/dips detected ( $i \gtrsim 30^\circ$ )  $\rightarrow M_c < 80 M_\odot$

$M_c \simeq 13 M_\odot$  for average sine values  $\rightarrow$  HMXB

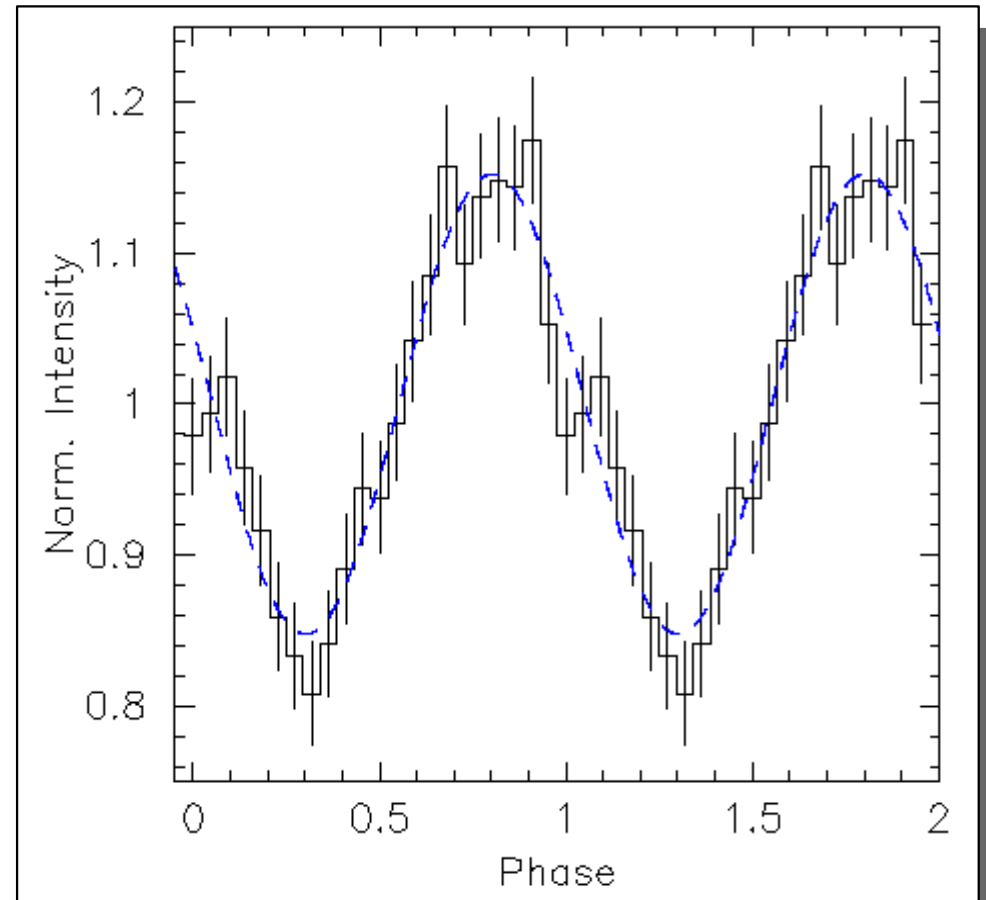
$$\dot{P}_{\text{sec}} \simeq -10^{-9} \text{ s/s}$$

$P_{\text{orb}}$ (d)	1.9969(7)
$a_X \sin i$ (lt-s)	28.3(4)
$T_{\text{asc}}$ (MJD)	58285.0084(12)
$e$	$< 0.22$
Mass function ( $M_\odot$ )	6.1(3)
Companion mass ( $M_\odot$ )	$8.3(3)/\sin i$

# M51 ULX7



$$\langle PF \rangle = 15 \pm 1\%$$



In terms of  $P$ ,  $P_{dot}$ ,  $P_{orb}$ ,  $a \sin i$ ,  $PF$  and Counts ULX7 is exactly where we expected to find a PULXs



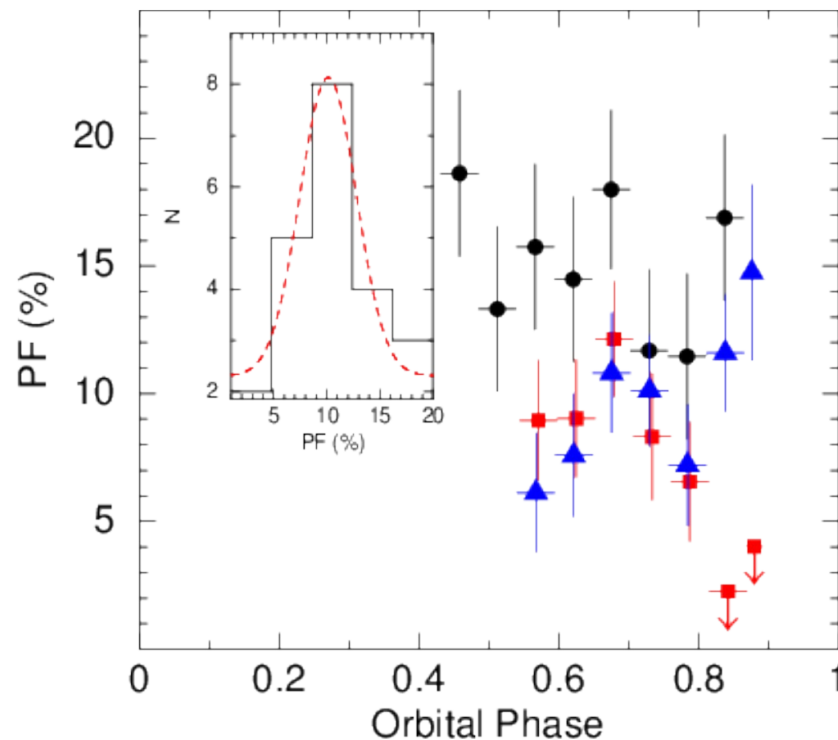
# Expectations versus Observations

1 new PULX found so far in the XMM LP  
+  
1-3 expected based on our statistics  
=  
marginally consistent results

BUT

1 new PULX discovered in the XMM archive (Carpano+ 18)

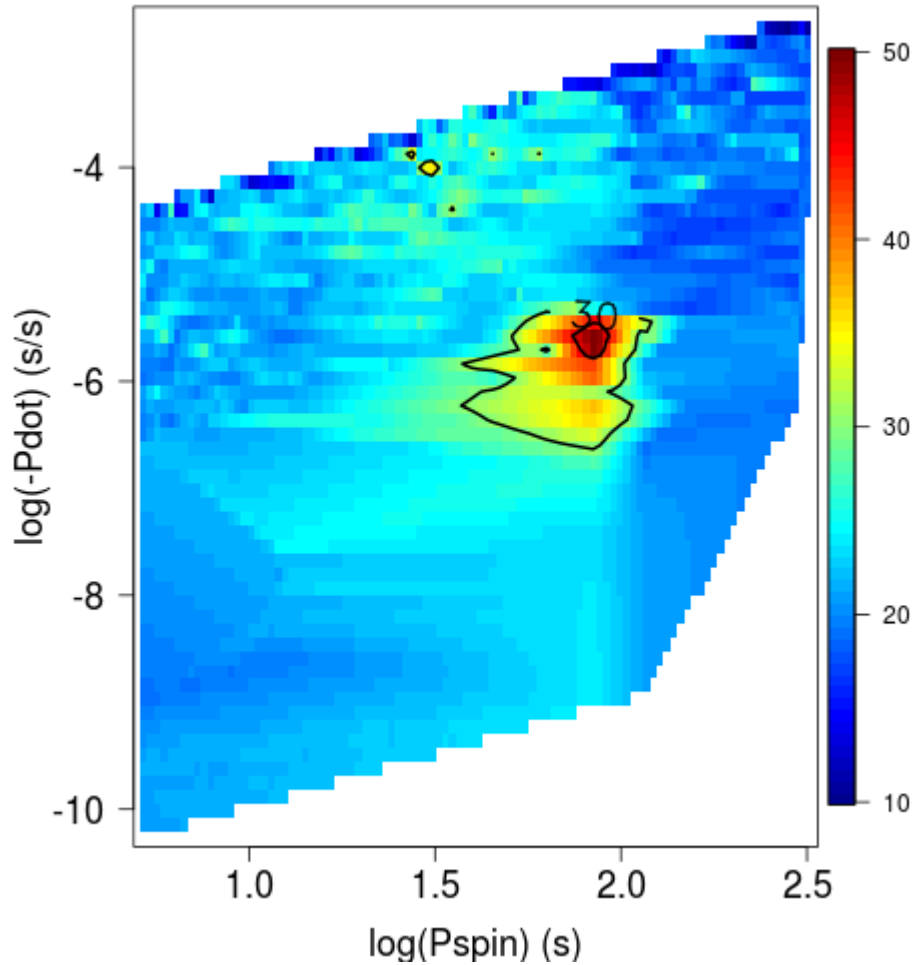
And...



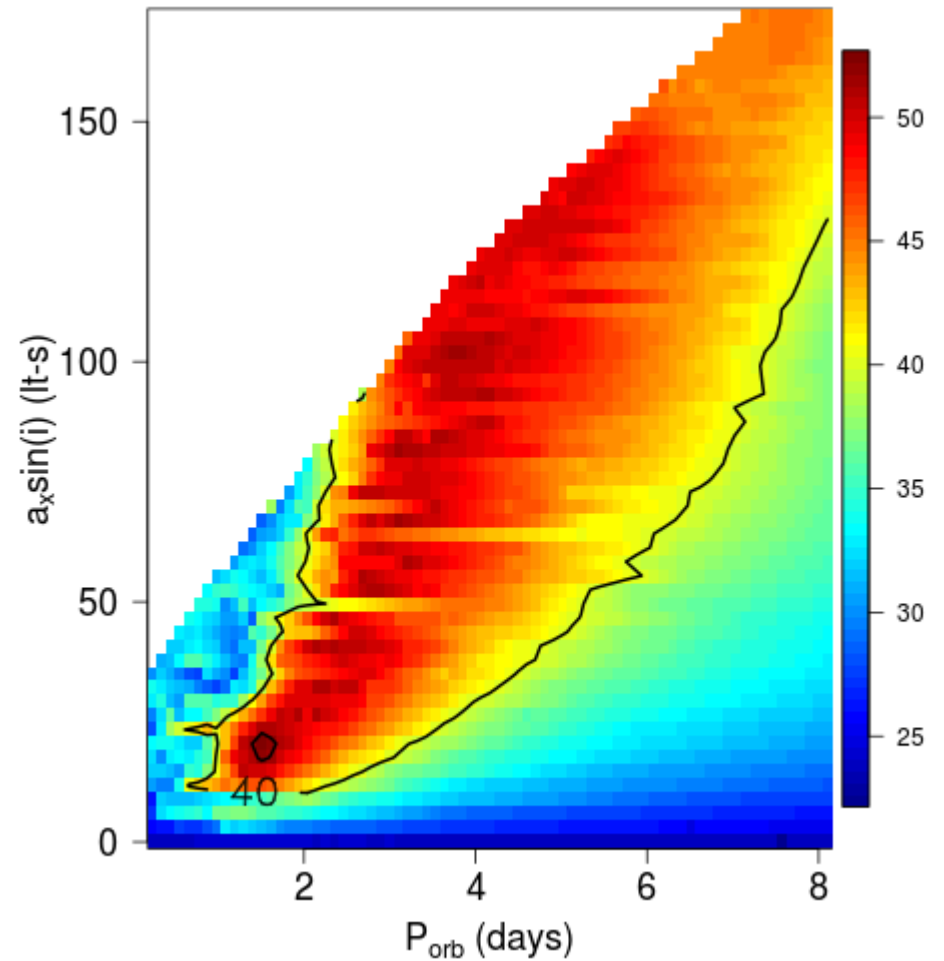
large variability in the signals

undetected for about 3hr

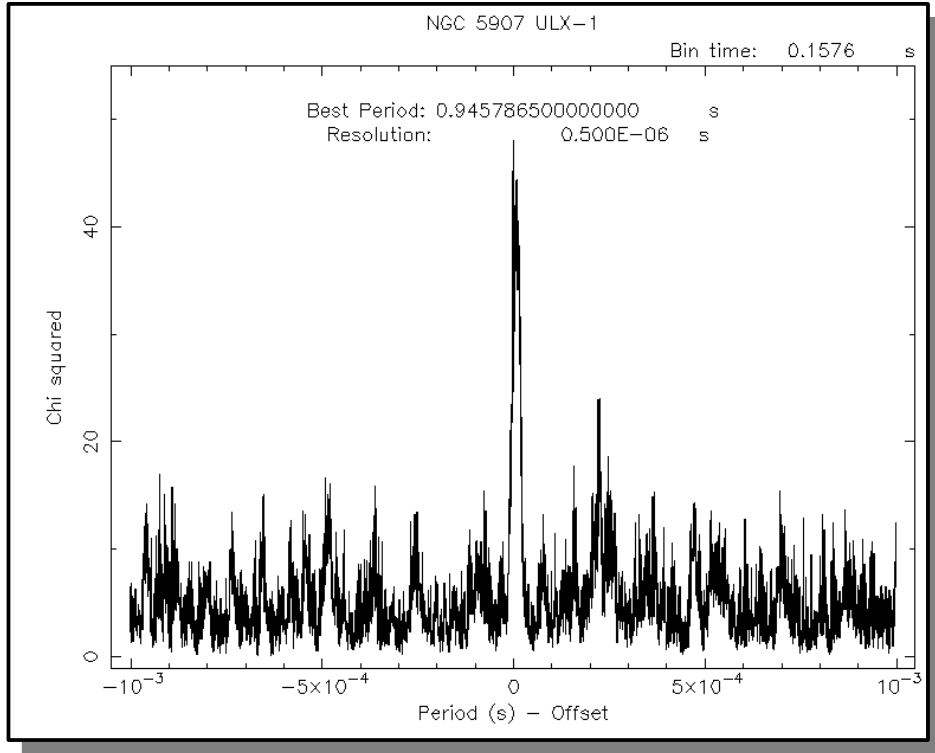
# Searching new PULX candidate...



... both in the XMM LP and in the XMM/NuSTAR archive



# NGC5907 Follow-up obs

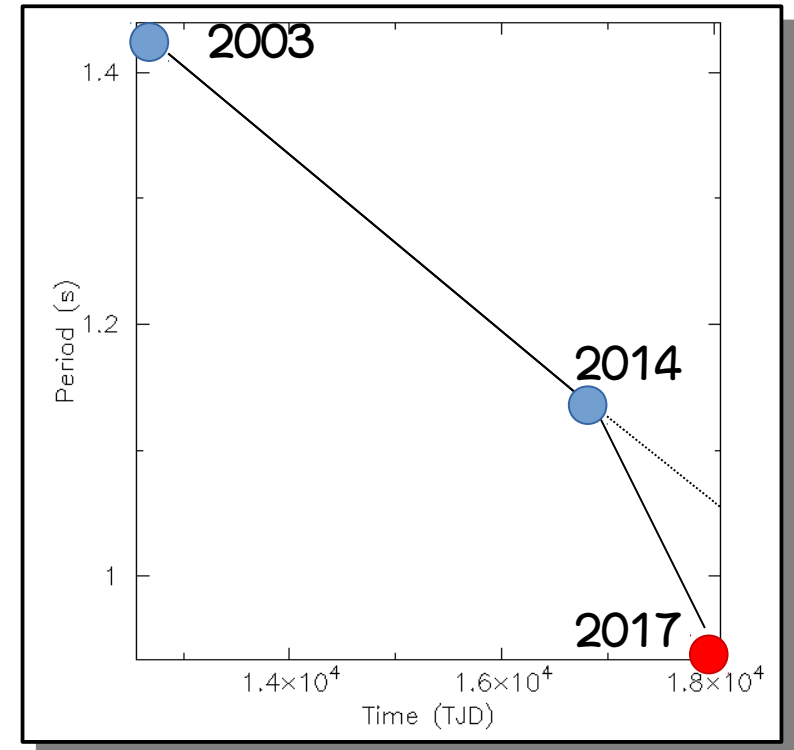
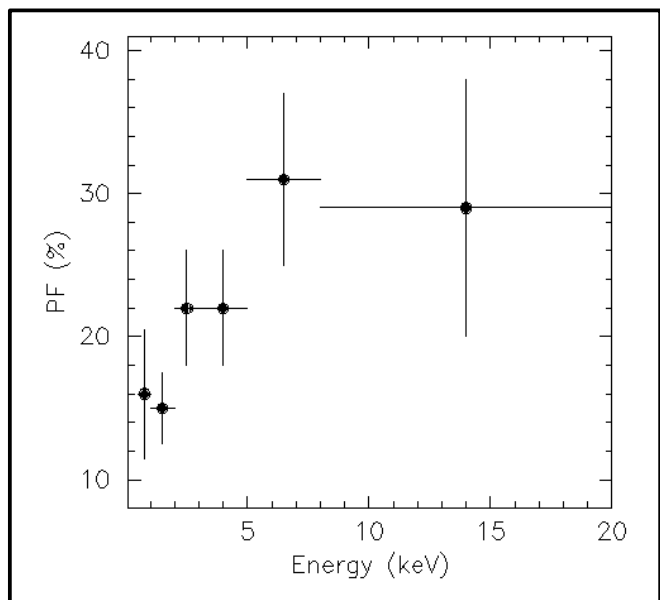


XMM LP AO16 (PI M/A Belfiore)

Faint signal at ~946ms

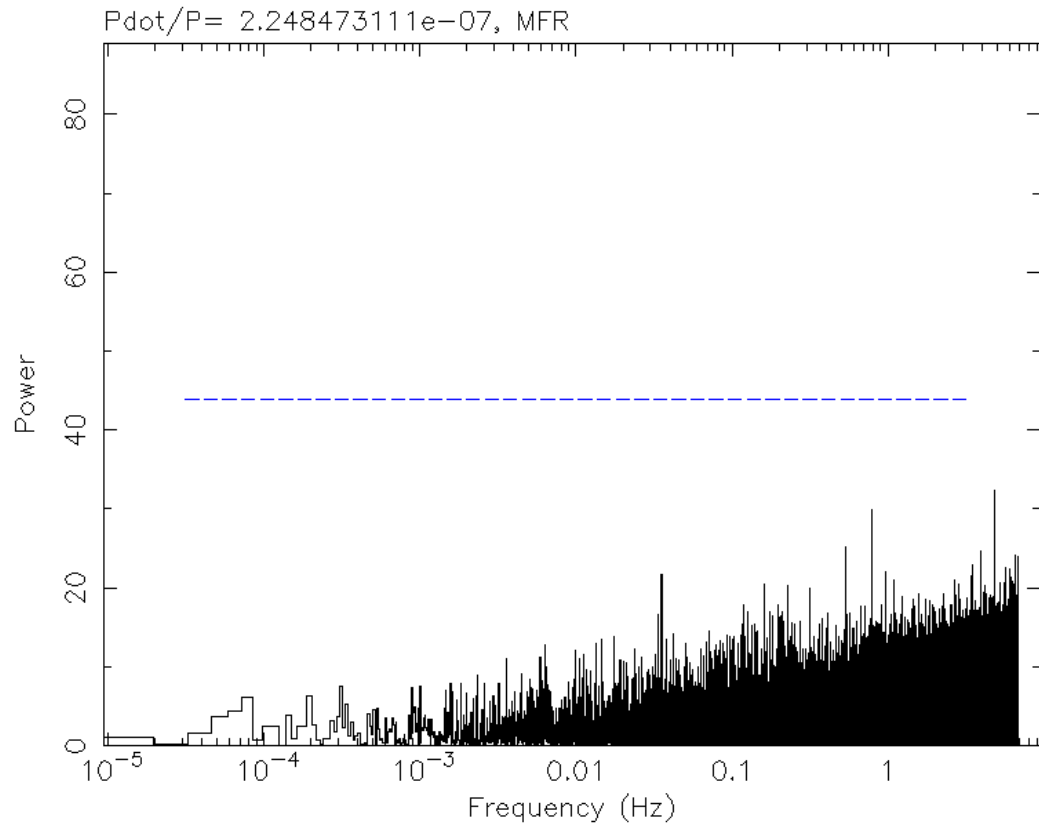
Pulsed fraction unchanged

Spin-up rate increased



# Some implications/Conclusions

- + 5 out of 9 known Extragalactic NSs discovered thanks to EXTraS and its heritage. INAF --> strong knowhow in HE data-mining and timing
- + Even **extreme ULXs** ( $>1e41$  erg/s), like NGC5907 ULX-1, can **hosts accreting NSs**
- + **Spectral classification/Lx is not an unambiguous way to classify ULXs**: NGC 5907 ULX, NGC7793 P13 and M51 ULX7 have spectra/Lx not dissimilar from other ULXs (but harder) --> many ULXs might host NSs
- + The large “local” Pdot, the orbital effects, the pulse intermittance and small PF make **difficult the detection of these pulsars** with standard tools and current instruments.  
*Athena is expected to make a significant contribution for PULXs.*
- + **PULXs challenge the current models of accretion**, even assuming a moderate beaming.  
A multipolar B component close to the surface might account for The PULXs properties (other scenarios are still viable)
- + Developed pipelines can be applied straightforwardly to NuSTAR, NICER and Chandra data and, in the future, to eXTP and Athena



~~UNSEEN!~~

