

Global numerical simulations of vortex-mediated pulsar glitches in full general relativity

Aurélien Sourie



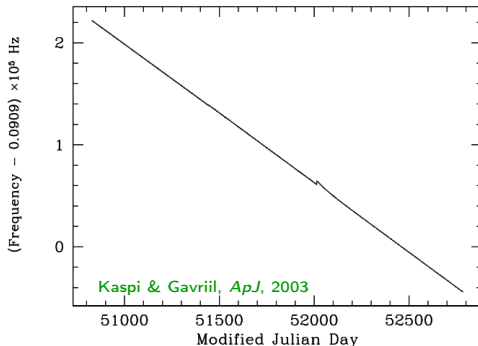
in collaboration with

N. Chamel (ULB), J. Novak (LUTH) & M. Oertel (LUTH)

Sourie, Oertel & Novak, *PRD*, 2016
Sourie, Chamel, Novak & Oertel, submitted to *MNRAS*

- 1 Introduction
 - Observations
 - Vortex-mediated glitch theory
- 2 Simulations of pulsar glitches in GR
 - Realistic equilibrium configurations
 - Dynamics of giant glitches
 - Astrophysical considerations
- 3 Conclusion

The glitch phenomenon



Observational features

Espinoza et al., *MNRAS*, 2011

- **amplitude:**

$$\Delta\Omega/\Omega \sim 10^{-11} - 10^{-5}$$

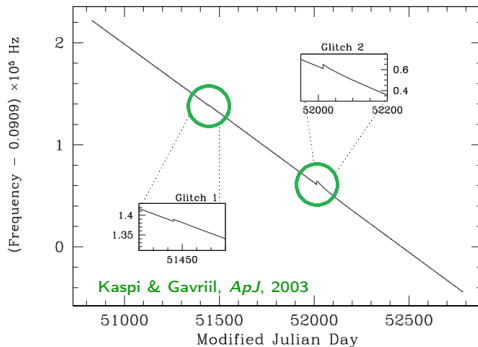
- **short rise time:**

$$\tau_r < 30 \text{ s} \quad \leftarrow \text{Vela}$$

- **exponential relaxation** on several days or months.

→ glitch = manifestation of an **internal process**
(except possibly for highly magnetised neutron stars)

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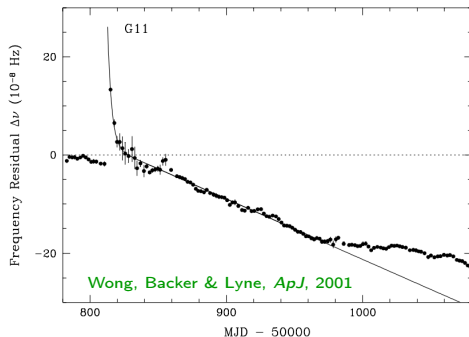
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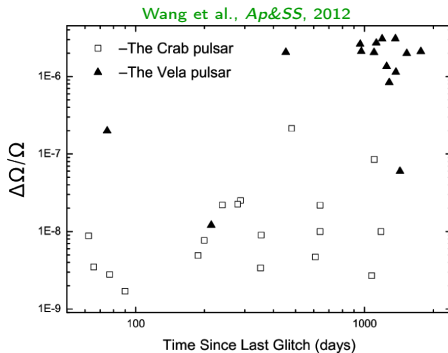
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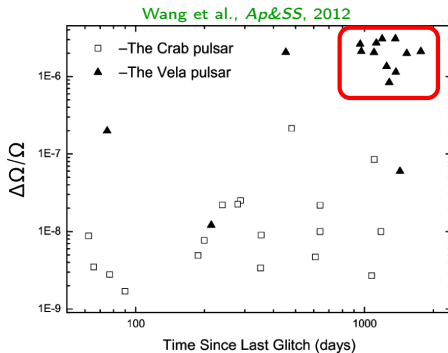
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Distinct glitching behaviors

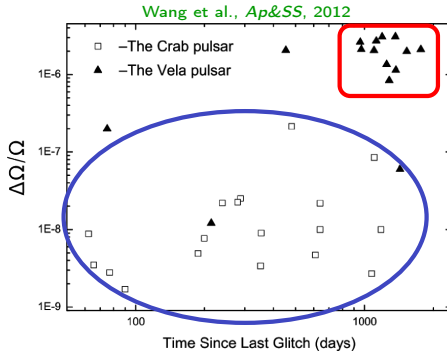


Distinct glitching behaviors



quasi-periodic giant glitches with
a very narrow spread in size

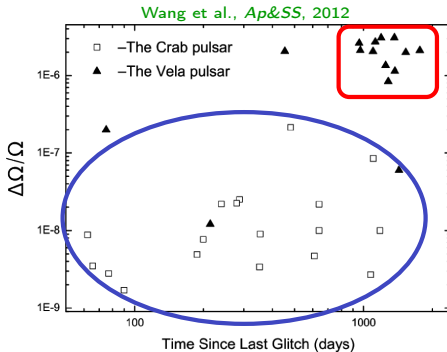
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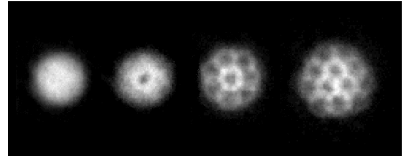
Different models of glitches Haskell & Melatos, *IJMPD*, 2015

- ▶ Rearrangement of the moment of inertia \rightarrow crustquakes,
- ▶ Angular momentum transfer between two fluids \rightarrow **superfluidity**.

Superfluidity in neutron stars

Superfluid properties:

- zero viscosity,
- angular momentum quantized into *vortex lines*.



Madison et al., *PRL*, 2000

Theoretical predictions for NSs

$$T \lesssim T_c \sim 10^9 - 10^{10} \text{ K}$$

- ▶ **superfluid neutrons** in the core & in the inner crust of NSs.
- ▶ **superconducting protons** in the core.

Observational evidence

- *Long relaxation time scales in pulsar glitches,*
- Fast cooling in Cassiopeia A,
- QPOs from SGRs, ...

Vortex-mediated glitch theory

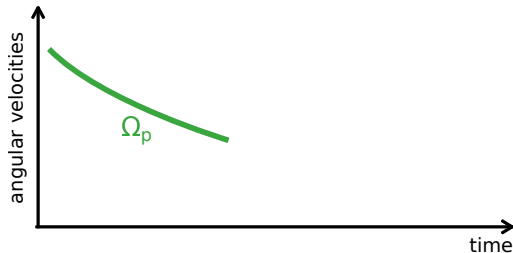
Anderson & Itoh, *Nature*, 1975

Two-fluid model

Baym et al., *Nature*, 1969

- Charged particles:

$$\Omega_p = \Omega \leftrightarrow \text{pulsar}$$



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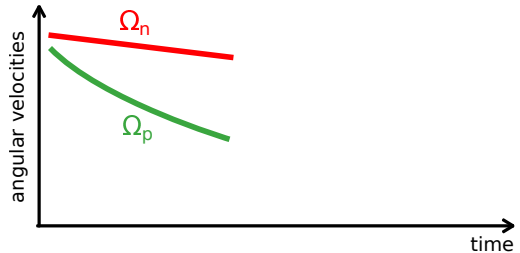
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- Charged particles:

$$\Omega_p = \Omega \leftrightarrow \text{pulsar}$$

- Superfluid neutrons:

$$\Omega_n \gtrsim \Omega_p$$



Key assumption: the vortices can **pin** to the crust and/or to flux tubes.

Vortex-mediated glitch theory

Anderson & Itoh, *Nature*, 1975

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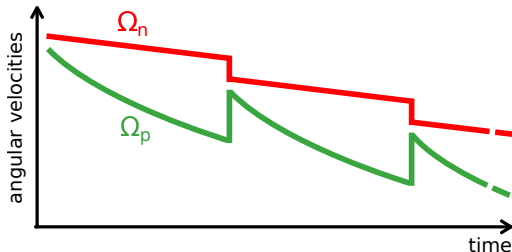
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Once a critical lag $\Omega_n - \Omega_p$ is reached:

some vortices get **unpinned** and are allowed to move **radially**

--> angular momentum **transfer** between the fluids

This work

Question:

What is the impact of **general relativity** on the global dynamics of superfluid neutron stars during a glitch spin-up ?

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→ global simulations based on a smooth-averaged *hydrodynamical* approach (for Vela: $\sim 10^{17}$ vortices).

This work

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What is the impact of **general relativity** on the global dynamics of superfluid neutron stars during a glitch spin-up ?

→ global simulations based on a smooth-averaged *hydrodynamical* approach (for Vela: $\sim 10^{17}$ vortices).

→ *fundamental hypothesis*:

hydrodynamical time ~ 0.1 ms \ll **rise time** (dissipation)

the glitch event can be well described by a sequence of **quasi-stationary equilibrium** configurations

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Assumptions & Ingredients

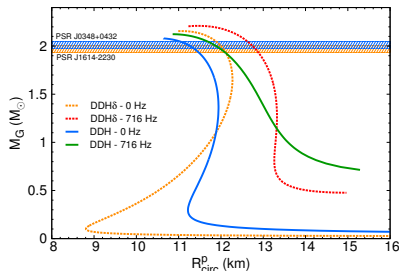
Prix et al., *PRD*, 2005 & Sourie et al., *PRD*, 2016

Equilibrium configurations:

- ▶ $T = 0$,
- ▶ no magnetic field,
- ▶ dissipative effects are **neglected**,
- ▶ **uniform** composition: p, e^-, n ,
 ↳ the crust is not considered,
- ▶ asymptotically flat, **stationary**,
axisymmetric & **circular** metric,
- ▶ **rigid-body** rotation: Ω_n, Ω_p .

Equations of state:

- Polytropic EoSs,
- *Density-dependent RMF models (DDH & DDH δ).*



Fluid couplings

Moments of inertia:

$$dJ_X = I_{XX} d\Omega_X + I_{XY} d\Omega_Y \quad X, Y \in \{\text{n, p}\}$$

$$\hat{I}_X = I_{XX} + I_{XY} \quad \hat{I} = \hat{I}_n + \hat{I}_p$$

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In the slow-rotation approximation ($\Omega_n, \Omega_p \ll \Omega_K$), the fluids are mainly **coupled** through two *non-dissipative* mechanisms:

■ entrainment effect

due to the strong interactions between nucleons *in the core*:

$$p_X^\alpha = \mathcal{K}^{XX} n_X u_X^\alpha + \mathcal{K}^{XY} n_Y u_Y^\alpha$$

Andreev & Bashkin, *SJETP*, 1976

■ relativistic frame-dragging effect

associated with the rotation of the two fluids, Ω_n and Ω_p :

$$g_{t\varphi} \neq 0$$

Carter, *Annals of Physics*, 1975

Entrainment VS frame-dragging

Coupling coefficients:

$$\hat{\varepsilon}_X = I_{XY} / \hat{I}_X$$

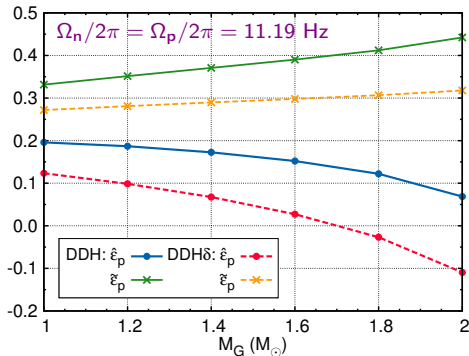
In the slow-rotation approximation:

$$\hat{\varepsilon}_p = \frac{\tilde{\varepsilon}_p - \varepsilon_{n \rightarrow p}^{LT}}{1 - \varepsilon_{p \rightarrow p}^{LT} - \varepsilon_{n \rightarrow p}^{LT}}$$

Remarks:

- $\tilde{\varepsilon}_X$ characterizes entrainment,
- in Newtonian gravity:

$$\hat{\varepsilon}_X = \tilde{\varepsilon}_X$$



$$NB: \hat{\varepsilon}_n = \hat{I}_p / \hat{I}_n \times \hat{\varepsilon}_p \simeq 0.05 \times \hat{\varepsilon}_p$$

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Angular momentum transfer

Langlois et al., *MNRAS*, 1998 & Sidery et al., *MNRAS*, 2010

$\Omega_n - \Omega_p = \delta\Omega_0 \Rightarrow$ the dynamics is governed by **mutual friction forces**

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Assuming *straight vortices*, the **mutual friction moment** considered reads

$$\Gamma_{\text{int}} = - \int \frac{\mathcal{R}}{1 + \mathcal{R}^2} \Gamma_n n_n \varpi_n \chi_{\perp}^2 d\Sigma \times (\Omega_n - \Omega_p) = -2\bar{\mathcal{B}} \hat{l}_n \Omega_n \zeta \times \delta\Omega$$


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superfluid vorticity 

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resistivity coefficient (points to \mathcal{R})

lag (points to $(\Omega_n - \Omega_p)$)

superfluid vorticity (points to $\Gamma_n n_n$)

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resistivity coefficient → \mathcal{R}

lag → $(\Omega_n - \Omega_p)$

superfluid vorticity → $\Gamma_n n_n \varpi_n \chi_{\perp}^2$

mean mutual friction parameter → $\bar{\mathcal{B}}$

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mean mutual friction parameter $\rightarrow \bar{\mathcal{B}}$

\rightsquigarrow the geometry of the vortex array and the interactions between superfluid vortices and superconducting flux tubes are **poorly known**.

Spin-up time scale

Evolution equations:

$$\begin{cases} \hat{j}_n &= + \Gamma_{\text{int}}, \\ \hat{j}_p &= - \Gamma_{\text{int}}. \end{cases} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{\delta\dot{\Omega}}{\delta\Omega} = - \frac{\hat{I}_n}{I_{nn}I_{pp} - I_{np}^2} \times 2\bar{B}\zeta\Omega_n$$

► Theoretical rise time:

$$\rightsquigarrow \delta\Omega(t) = \delta\Omega_0 \times e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_r}}$$

$$\tau_r = \frac{\hat{I}_p}{\hat{I}} \times \frac{1 - \hat{\varepsilon}_p - \hat{\varepsilon}_n}{2\zeta\bar{B}\Omega_n}$$

► Numerical modelling:

Computation of $\Omega_n(t)$ & $\Omega_p(t)$
profiles from $\Omega_{n,0} > \Omega_{p,0}$

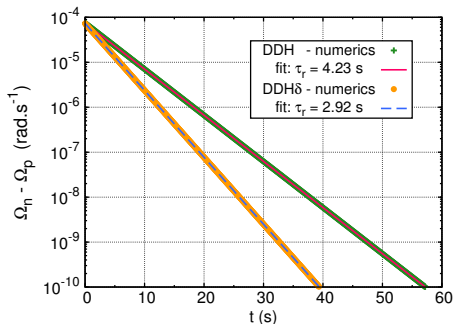
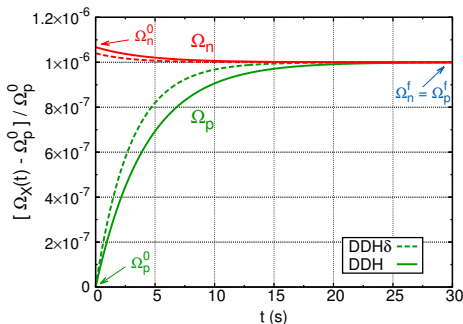
Input parameters

$M_G, \Omega, \Delta\Omega/\Omega, EoS, \beta\text{-eq.}, \bar{B}$

Time evolution

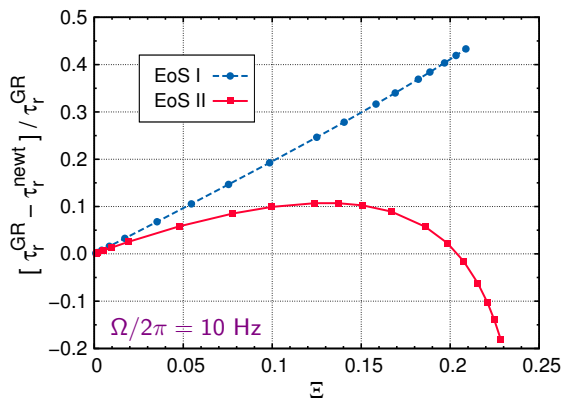
$$\Delta\Omega/\Omega = 10^{-6}, \Omega_n^f = \Omega_p^f = 2\pi \times 11.19 \text{ Hz},$$

$$M_G = 1.4 M_\odot \text{ \& } \bar{B} = 10^{-4}$$



---> the spin-up time scale can be very precisely estimated
from *stationary configurations* only.

Influence of general relativity on τ_r



- ▶ polytropic EoSs
- ▶ **compactness** parameter:

$$\Xi = \frac{G M_G}{R_{c,\text{eq}} c^2}$$

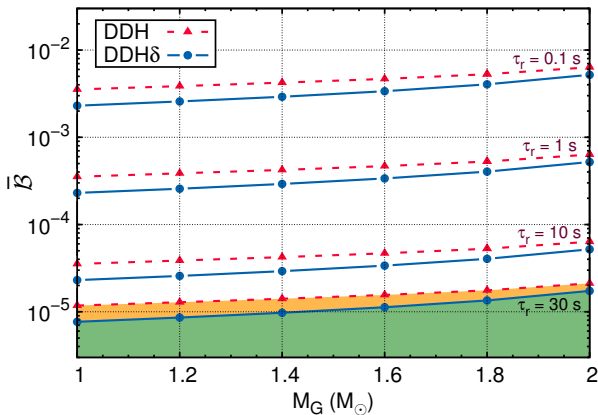
NB: for NSs, $\Xi \simeq 0.2$

- ▶ these relative differences also depend on Ω

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The Vela pulsar

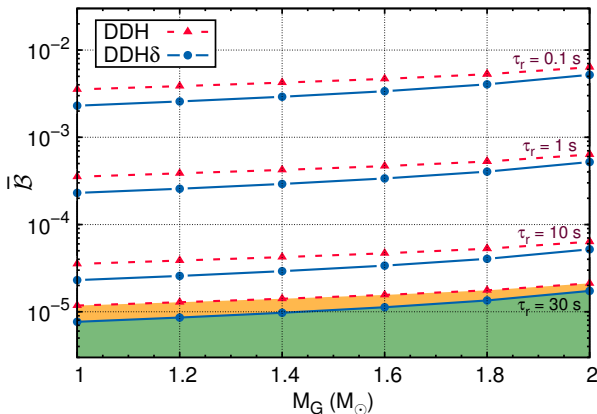
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$\triangleright \bar{B} \nearrow \Rightarrow \tau_r \searrow$

The Vela pulsar

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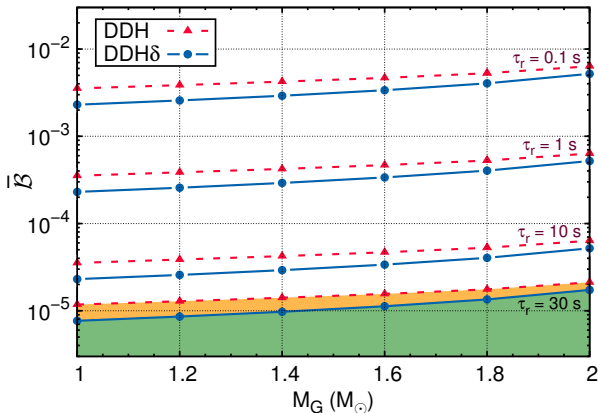
► $\bar{B} \nearrow \Rightarrow \tau_r \searrow$

► *Constraint on \bar{B} :*

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► *Constraint on \bar{B} :*

$$\tau_r < 30 \text{ s} \Rightarrow \bar{B} > 10^{-5}$$

► $\bar{B} < 0.5 \rightsquigarrow \tau_r > 0.6 \text{ ms}$

↪ the glitch event is a **quasi-stationary** process

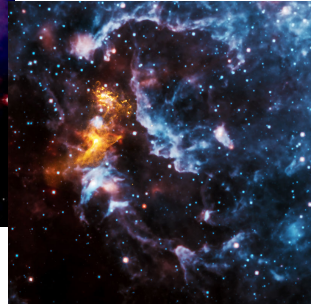
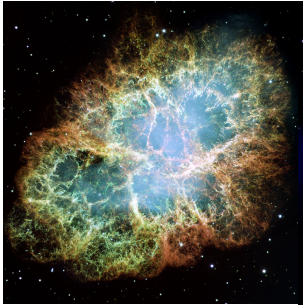
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Conclusion & perspectives

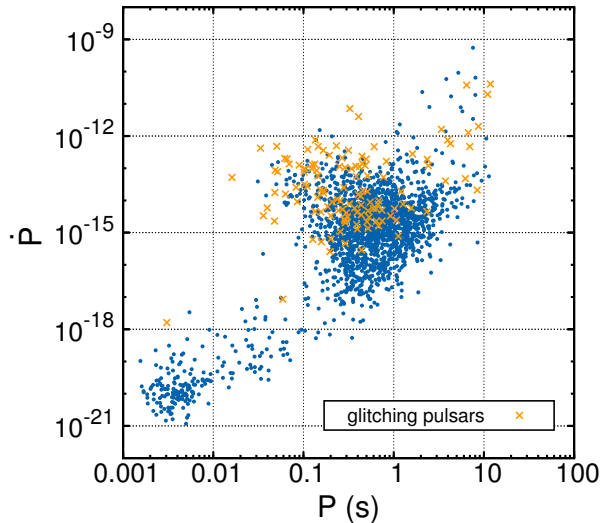
- *Additional coupling* through relativistic frame-dragging effects,
- *Relativistic corrections* on the spin-up time: $\sim 50\%$ (core),
 ↪ should be included in a quantitative model of glitches.

Future work:

- ▶ Improve our numerical models by including the crust and considering that only a small amount of vortices is involved in the glitch event,
- ▶ Compare with future accurate observations of glitches,
- ▶ Include interactions with flux tubes in a more realistic mutual friction moment.



Thank you!

$P - \dot{P}$ diagramATNF Pulsar Database ; Manchester et al., *Astron. Journal*, 2005

Glitch activity

Observables

Link, Epstein & Lattimer, *PRL*, 1999

- Average glitch activity:

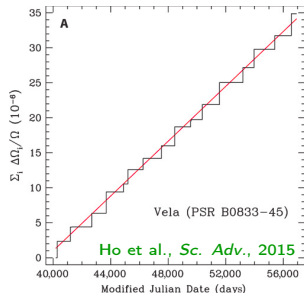
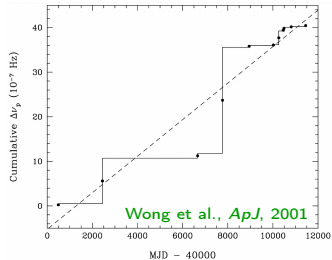
$$\bar{A} = \frac{1}{t_{\text{obs}}} \frac{\sum_i \Delta\Omega_i}{\Omega}$$

- Coupling parameter:

$$G = \frac{\Omega}{|\dot{\Omega}|} \times \bar{A}$$

→ **Vela:** $G \simeq 1.62 \times 10^{-2}$

→ **Crab:** $G \simeq 1.45 \times 10^{-5}$



Spacetime metric

Bonazzola, Gourgoulhon, Salgado & Marck, *A&A*, 1993

Rotating neutron stars, at **equilibrium**, described by $(\mathcal{E}, \mathbf{g})$:

- **asymptotically flat**: $\mathbf{g} \rightarrow \boldsymbol{\eta}$ at spatial infinity ($r \rightarrow +\infty$),
- **stationary** & **axisymmetric**: $\frac{\partial g_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial g_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial \varphi} = 0$,
- **circular**: perfect fluids \Rightarrow *purely circular* motion around the rotation axis with Ω_n , Ω_p (+ **rigid rotation**).

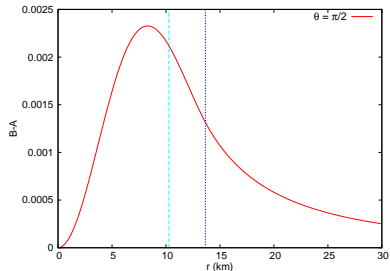
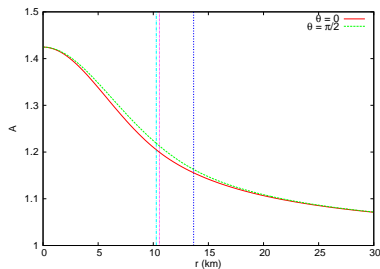
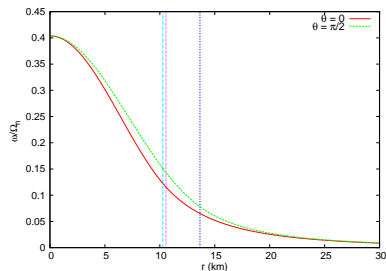
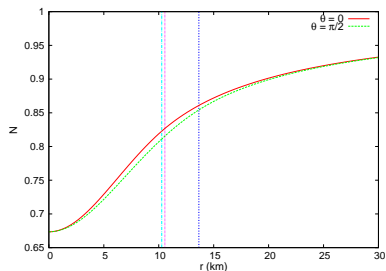
Spacetime metric in quasi-isotropic coordinates:

$$g_{\alpha\beta} dx^\alpha dx^\beta = -N^2 dt^2 + A^2(dr^2 + r^2 d\theta^2) + B^2 r^2 \sin^2 \theta (d\varphi - \omega dt)^2$$

At spatial infinity

$$N, A, B \rightarrow 1 \quad \& \quad \omega \rightarrow 0$$

Metric potentials



Relativistic two-fluid hydrodynamics

Carter, "Covariant theory of conductivity in ideal fluid or solid media", 1989 & Carter & Langlois, *Nuc. Phys. B*, 1998

System = two **perfect** fluids:

- superfluid neutrons $\rightarrow \vec{n}_n = n_n \vec{u}_n$,
- protons & electrons $\rightarrow \vec{n}_p = n_p \vec{u}_p$.

Energy-momentum tensor

$$T_{\alpha\beta} = n_{n\alpha} p_{\beta}^n + n_{p\alpha} p_{\beta}^p + \Psi g_{\alpha\beta}$$

\hookrightarrow conjugate momenta

Entrainment matrix:

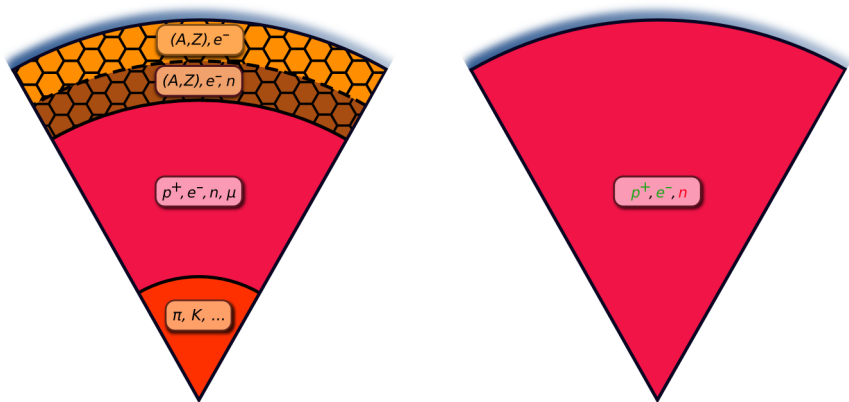
$$\begin{cases} p_{\alpha}^n = \mathcal{K}^{nn} n_{\alpha}^n + \mathcal{K}^{np} n_{\alpha}^p \\ p_{\alpha}^p = \mathcal{K}^{pn} n_{\alpha}^n + \mathcal{K}^{pp} n_{\alpha}^p \end{cases}$$

\dashrightarrow entrainment effect

Equation of state

$$\mathcal{E}(n_n, n_p, \Delta^2)$$

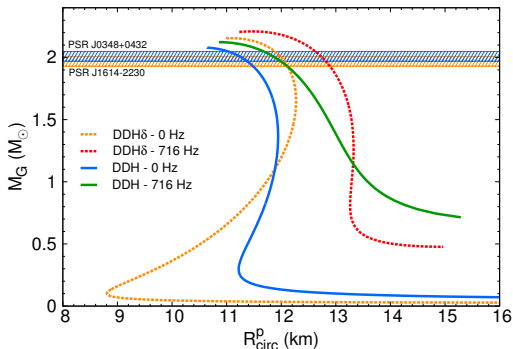
Neutron stars interior



Equations of state

Relativistic Mean-Field Theory:

strong interaction between nucleons \Leftrightarrow exchange of effective mesons



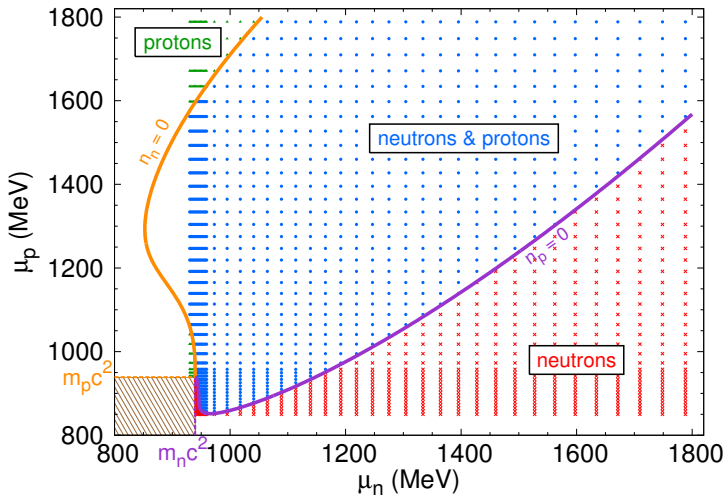
- Gravitational mass:

$$M_G = M^B + E_{\text{bind}},$$

- Circumferential radius:

$$R_{\text{circ, eq}}^X = C^X / 2\pi.$$

Tabulated EoS



Entrainment effects

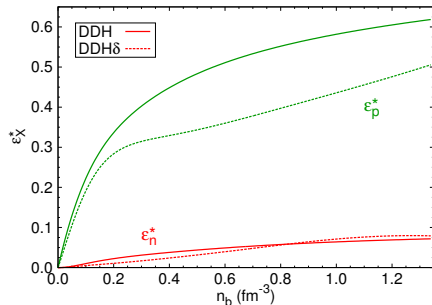
Dynamical effective mass:

$${}^3\vec{p}_X = m_X^* {}^3\vec{u}_X$$

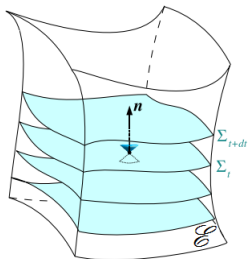
→ in the *rest frame* of the second fluid.

Zero-velocity frame:

$$m_X^* = \underbrace{\mu^X}_{\text{special relativity}} \times \left(1 - \underbrace{\epsilon_X^*}_{\text{entrainment}} \right)$$



3+1 formalism



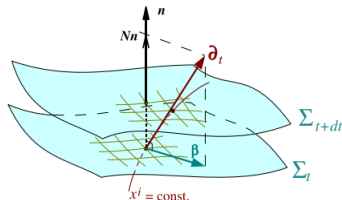
Foliation of the spacetime (\mathcal{E}, g) by $(\Sigma_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$, with unit normal \vec{n}

Eulerian observer \mathcal{O}_n : 4-velocity = \vec{n}

- **lapse** function N : $\vec{n} = -N\vec{\nabla}t$,
- **shift** vector $\vec{\beta}$: $\vec{\partial}_t = N\vec{n} + \vec{\beta}$.

3+1 metric:

$$g_{\alpha\beta} dx^\alpha dx^\beta = -N^2 dt^2 + \gamma_{ij} (dx^i + \beta^i dt) (dx^j + \beta^j dt)$$



Numerical procedure

Paramètres d'entrée :

- une EOS
- H_c^n , H_c^p
- Ω_n , Ω_p

$i = 0$

Initialisation :

- $N = A = B = 1$ et $\omega = 0, \forall (r, \theta)$
- $U_n = U_p = 0$
- $H_0^i(r, \theta) = H_c^i \left(1 - \frac{r^2}{R^2}\right)$

Convergence threshold

$$|H_{k+1}^i(r, \theta) - H_k^i(r, \theta)| < \epsilon$$

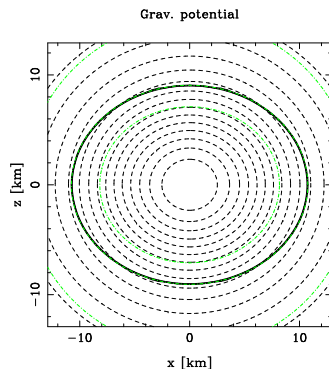
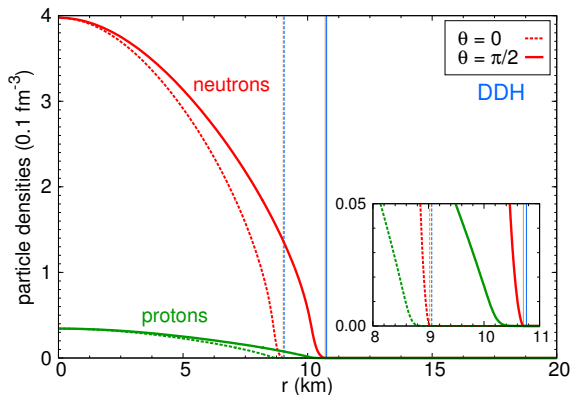
At each iteration

For given values of (μ^n, μ^p, Δ^2) , we compute:

1. Ψ , n_n , n_p and α from the EoS
2. The source terms E , p_φ , S^i_i ,
3. Einstein Equations are solved,
4. Kinetic terms U_i et Γ_i ,
5. Computation of H_{k+1}^i .

Density profiles

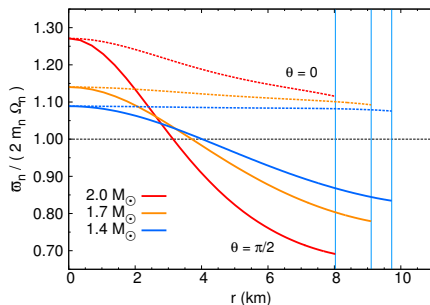
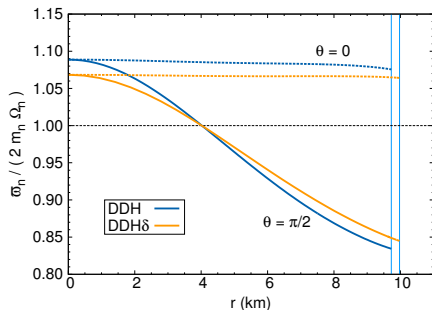
$$M_G = 1.4 M_\odot, \Omega_n/2\pi = \Omega_p/2\pi = 716 \text{ Hz}$$



Vorticity

Superfluid vorticity

$$w_{\mu\nu} = \nabla_\mu p_\nu^n - \nabla_\nu p_\mu^n \quad \longrightarrow \quad \varpi_n = \sqrt{\frac{w_{\mu\nu} w^{\mu\nu}}{2}}$$



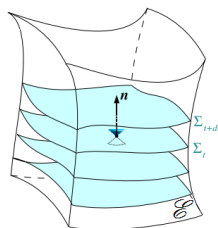
$$\Omega^n / 2\pi = \Omega^p / 2\pi = 716 \text{ Hz}$$

Angular momenta

Axisymmetry $\leftrightarrow \vec{\chi}$

Komar definition:

$$J_K = - \int_{\Sigma_t} \underbrace{\mathbf{T}(\vec{n}, \vec{\chi})}_{-p_\varphi} d^3V$$



Eulerian observer \vec{n} (3+1)

Angular momentum of each fluid

Langlois, Sedrakian & Carter, *MNRAS*, 1998

$$p_\varphi = \underbrace{\Gamma_n n_n p_\varphi^n}_{j_\varphi^n} + \underbrace{\Gamma_p n_p p_\varphi^p}_{j_\varphi^p}$$

$$J_X = \int_{\Sigma_t} j_\varphi^X A^2 B r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\varphi$$

Fluid couplings

In the slow-rotation approximation and to first order in the lag $\delta\Omega = \Omega_n - \Omega_p$, the **angular momentum of fluid X** reads

$$J_X \simeq \int_{\Sigma_t} n_X \mu^X \frac{B}{N} (\Omega_X - \omega) r^2 \sin^2 \theta \, d^3V \\ + \int_{\Sigma_t} n_X \mu^X \varepsilon_X \frac{B}{N} (\Omega_Y - \Omega_X) r^2 \sin^2 \theta \, d^3V$$

Introducing $i_X \equiv n_X \mu^X \frac{B}{N} r^2 \sin^2 \theta$, we characterize the couplings by

• **Entrainment:**

$$\tilde{l}_X \, \tilde{\varepsilon}_X \equiv \int_{\Sigma_t} i_X \, \varepsilon_X \, d^3V$$

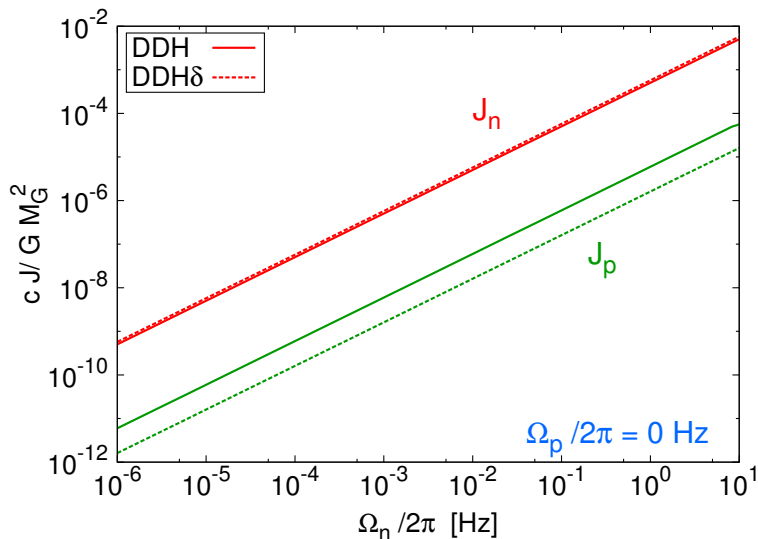
• **Lense-Thirring:**

$$\tilde{l}_X (\varepsilon_{X \rightarrow X}^{LT} \Omega_X + \varepsilon_{Y \rightarrow X}^{LT} \Omega_Y) \equiv \int_{\Sigma_t} i_X \, \omega \, d^3V$$

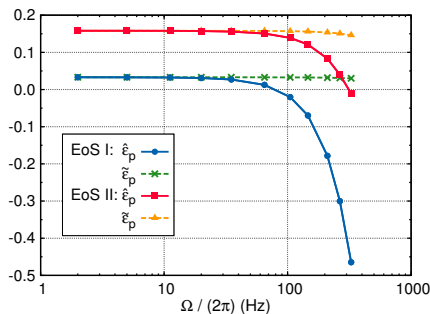
$$\text{where } \tilde{l}_X \equiv \int_{\Sigma_t} i_X \, d^3V$$

$$J_X = \tilde{l}_X (1 - \varepsilon_{X \rightarrow X}^{LT} - \tilde{\varepsilon}_X) \Omega_X + \tilde{l}_X (\tilde{\varepsilon}_X - \varepsilon_{Y \rightarrow X}^{LT}) \Omega_Y$$

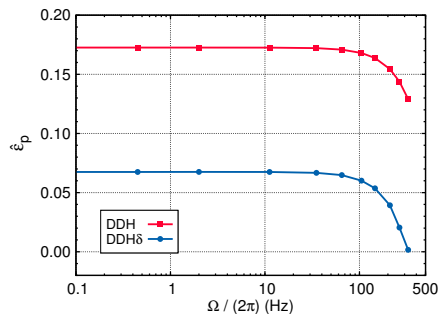
Fluid couplings



Influence of Ω on the couplings



Newtonian gravity



general relativity

Where does the vortex unpinning take place?

Glitches have been generally thought to originate from the **crust**, because:

- the core superfluid was expected to be strongly coupled to the crust
Alpar et al., ApJ, 1984
- the analysis of glitch data suggested that the superfluid represents a few percent of the total angular momentum of the star *Link et al., PRL, 1999*

However, this scenario has been recently **challenged**:

- ▶ considering entrainment effects, the crust does not carry enough angular momentum *Andersson et al., PRL, 2012 & Chamel, PRL, 2013*
- ▶ a huge glitch has been observed in PSR 2334+61 *Alpar, AIP Conf.Proc., 2011*
- ▶ the core superfluid could be decoupled from the rest of the star, if vortices are pinned to flux tubes *Gügercinoglu & Alpar, ApJ, 2014*

The core superfluid plays a more important role than previously thought.

Additional physical inputs

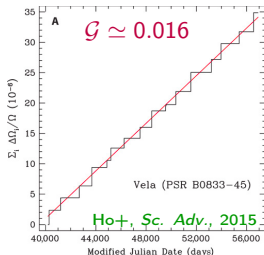
So far, we assumed that **all** the neutrons can decouple from the protons.

- only a *small fraction* of the neutron fluid could be involved in the glitch:

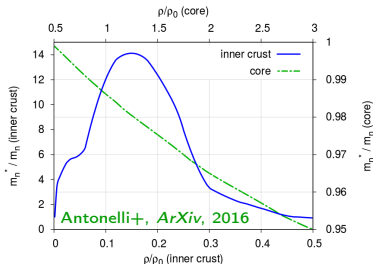
$$\bar{I}_n / \bar{I} > f \equiv I_n^{\text{nc}} / \bar{I} \gtrsim \mathcal{G} \times (1 - \epsilon_n^{\text{nc}})$$

- we need to account for *crustal entrainment* (Bragg scattering):

$$-14 \lesssim \epsilon_n^{\text{nc}} \lesssim 0$$

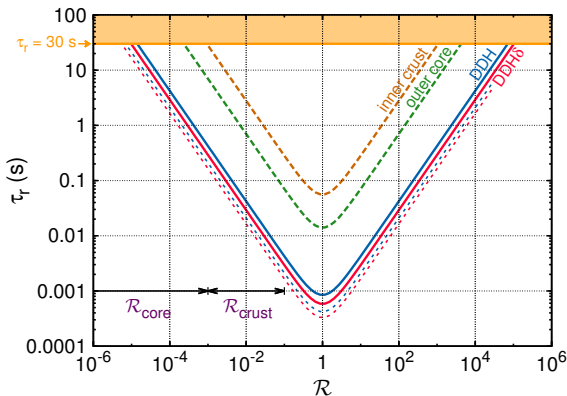


See also: [Link+, PRL, 1999](#) & [Lyne+, MNRAS, 2000](#)



See also: [Chamel, PRC, 2012](#)

Constraining the interior of NSs



$$\tau_r = \frac{1 - f - \varepsilon_n^{\text{nc}}}{2\bar{B}\Omega_n}$$

► whole core:

$$f = 0.94, \varepsilon_n^{\text{nc}} = 0.03 \text{ (DDH)}$$

$$f = 0.96, \varepsilon_n^{\text{nc}} = 0.02 \text{ (DDH}\delta\text{)}$$

► outer core:

$$f = 0.016, \varepsilon_n^{\text{nc}} = 0$$

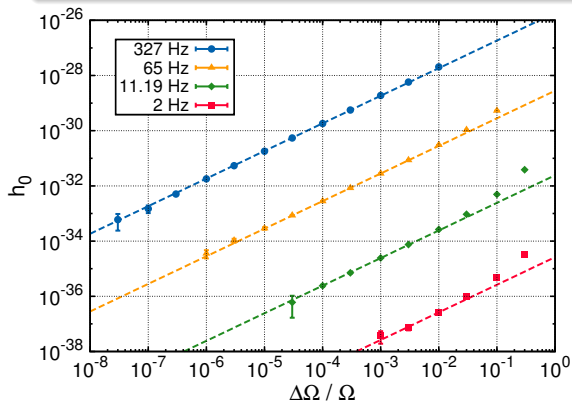
► inner crust:

$$f = 0.064, \varepsilon_n^{\text{nc}} = -3$$

$\tau_r^{\text{min}} \simeq 1 \text{ ms} - 0.1 \text{ s} \dashrightarrow$ the glitch event is a quasi-stationary process ✓

Gravitational wave amplitude

$$h_+(t) = -\frac{3}{2} \sin^2 i \frac{G}{Dc^4} \ddot{Q} = h_0 \sin^2 i e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_r}}$$



- $D = 1$ kpc,
- $\bar{B} = 10^{-3}$,
- $M_G = 1.4 M_\odot$,
- DDH EoS.

$$h_0 \simeq 1.0 \times 10^{-37} \left(\frac{D}{1 \text{ kpc}} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{\bar{B}}{10^{-3}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\Omega}{10^2 \text{ rad.s}^{-1}} \right)^4 \left(\frac{\Delta\Omega/\Omega}{10^{-6}} \right)$$