

INTEGRAL spectroscopy of the accreting millisecond pulsar XTE J1807–294 in outburst

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Abstract. The transient X-ray accreting millisecond pulsar XTE J1807–294 was observed during its February/March 2003 outburst by *INTEGRAL*, partly simultaneously with the *XMM-Newton* and *RXTE* satellites. We present here the first study of the 0.5–200 keV broad-band spectra of the source. On February 28, the source spectrum was consistent with thermal Comptonization by electrons of temperature ~ 40 keV, considerably higher than the value (~ 10 keV) previously derived from the low energy *XMM-Newton* data alone. The source is detected by *INTEGRAL* up to 200 keV with a luminosity in the energy band (0.1–200) keV of 1.3×10^{37} erg s⁻¹ (assuming a distance of 8 kpc). 22 days later the luminosity dropped to 3.6×10^{36} erg s⁻¹. A re-analysis of *XMM-Newton* data yields the orbital Doppler variations of the pulse period and refines the previous ephemeris. For this source, with shortest orbital period of any known binary radio or X-ray millisecond pulsar, we constrain the companion mass $M_c < 0.022 M_\odot$, assuming minimum mass transfer driven by gravitational radiation. Only evolved dwarfs with a C/O composition are consistent with the Roche lobe and gravitational radiation constraints, while He dwarfs require an unlikely low inclination.

Key words. accretion, accretion disks – X-rays: binaries – stars: individual: XTE J1807–294 – stars: neutron

1. Introduction

Neutron stars (NS) in low-mass X-ray binaries (LMXB) are spun up by accretion to millisecond periods. The end point of their evolution is expected to be a millisecond pulsar (MSP), i.e. a rapidly spinning NS with a rather weak, $\sim 10^8$ G, surface magnetic field (for a review see Bhattacharya & van den Heuvel 1991). Although evidence for rapidly spinning neutron stars in LMXBs was obtained from the burst oscillations that were seen during type I X-ray bursts in several systems (see Strohmayer 2001) and from the discovery of kHz QPOs (see van der Klis 2000, for a review), the detection of millisecond pulsations in the persistent emission remained elusive for many years, until the discovery of the first accreting millisecond pulsar by Wijnands & van der Klis (1998). Since that time, a total of six accreting MSPs have been detected (see review by Wijnands 2005). The latest one, IGR J00291+5934, was discovered very recently with *INTEGRAL* (Eckert et al. 2004) and turned out to be the fastest rotating object among the six with a frequency of 599 Hz (Markwardt et al. 2004). The other pulsar spin frequencies are between 180 and 435 Hz. All of the accreting MSPs are X-ray transients. The

accreting MSPs spend most of the time in a quiescent state, with X-ray luminosities of the order of 10^{31} – 10^{32} erg s⁻¹ and sometimes go into outburst reaching luminosities of $\leq 10^{38}$ erg s⁻¹. The millisecond pulsar XTE J1807–294 was discovered in outburst on February 2003 with the *Rossi X-ray Timing Explorer (RXTE)* during the monitoring observations of the Galactic center region (Markwardt et al. 2003). It has a pulse period of 5.25 ms. The orbital period of ~ 40 min is the shortest one of any known binary radio or X-ray millisecond pulsar. An *XMM-Newton* Target of Opportunity observation was used to derive the low energy spectrum and the source pulse profile (Campana et al. 2003; Kirsch et al. 2004). In this paper, we analyze the *INTEGRAL* hard X-ray spectra of this source obtained simultaneously with *XMM-Newton* and *RXTE* during the February/March 2003 outburst.

2. Observations and data analysis

2.1. INTEGRAL

The pulsar was observed by *INTEGRAL* (Winkler et al. 2003) twice. The first observation was obtained during a Target of

Opportunity (ToO) pointing at the Galactic center region, performed from February 28 to March 1, 2003 (satellite revolution 46) which was contemporaneous with the *RXTE* observation of the pulsar. The second observation during a Galactic Center Deep Exposure (GCDE) observation was contemporaneous with both the *XMM-Newton* and *RXTE* observations on March 20–22, 2003 (satellite revolutions 52/53). Hereafter we call the two datasets rev-46 and rev-52, respectively.

We observed XTE J1807–294 with one of the main gamma-ray instruments, IBIS/ISGRI (Ubertini et al. 2003; Lebrun et al. 2003), on-board the spacecraft. The effective exposure time was 157 ks and 263 ks for rev-46 and rev-52, respectively. The data were extracted for all pointings with a source position offset $\leq 12^\circ$. Data reduction was performed using the standard Offline Science Analysis (OSA) version 3.0 distributed by the *INTEGRAL* Science Data Center (Courvoisier et al. 2003). The algorithms used in the analysis are described in Goldwurm et al. (2003).

2.2. *XMM-Newton*

XTE J1807–294 was observed with *XMM-Newton* (Jansen et al. 2001) on March 22, 2003 for about 17 ks with the first results reported in Campana et al. (2003) and Kirsch et al. (2004). The data, simultaneous with the rev-52 *INTEGRAL* dataset, were retrieved from the *XMM-Newton* database and re-analyzed to produce a 0.5–10 keV spectrum contemporary with the *INTEGRAL* observations. We used the data from the EPIC-pn camera (Strüder et al. 2001) operating in Timing mode, the MOS1 camera operating in Small Window mode and MOS2 in Prime Full Window mode (Turner et al. 2001). The total amount of good exposure time selected was 14 ks and 9 ks for MOS2 and the other instruments, respectively. The Observation Data Files (ODFs) were processed to produce calibrated event lists using the *XMM-Newton* Science Analysis System (SAS version 5.4.1). The *XMM-Newton* data reduction and analysis was similar to the procedure described in Campana et al. (2003) with a special care taken to select the events and eliminate pile-up.

2.3. *RXTE*

We used publicly available data from the proportional counter array (PCA) and the High Energy X-ray Timing Experiment (HEXTE) on board *RXTE*. XTE J1807–294 was monitored from February 28 to June 16, 2003. We analyzed only the data contemporary with *INTEGRAL* for February 28 to March 1 and also with *XMM-Newton* on March 20–22. The effective exposure time for the first observation was 15.2 ks and for the later observation 23 ks. We carried out a spectral analysis, using standard-2 data (with 16 s time resolution) for the PCA and standard cluster-A data for HEXTE. To improve the signal-to-noise for the PCA we extracted only the data from the top layers of PCU2 and PCU3. The data were extracted for the Good Time Intervals defined by standard criteria. The PCA response matrix was created by FTOOLS version 5.3 for 129 energy channels to cover the energy range from 2–60 keV. For HEXTE we

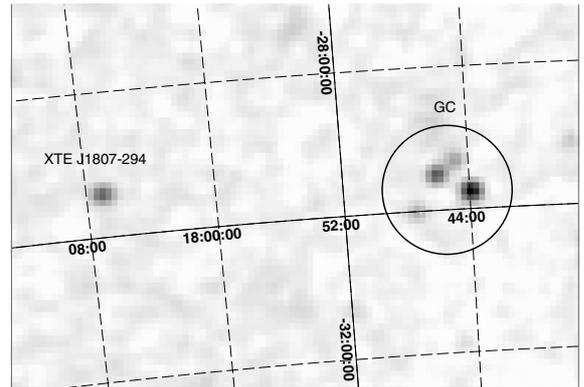


Fig. 1. The *INTEGRAL* IBIS/ISGRI mosaiced and deconvolved image in the 20–40 keV energy interval from the rev-46 observation. The image size is $\sim 9.5 \times 5.5$. The pixel size is $5'$. The source XTE J1807–294 was detected at a significance of 28σ . The other sources in the Galactic center region (circle labeled GC) are 1E 1740.7–2942 (53σ detection), KS 1741–293 (17σ), A 1742–294 (33σ) and SLX 1744–300 (14σ).

used the standard 64 energy channel response matrix for the 15–250 keV energy range.

3. Results

3.1. IBIS/ISGRI image and light curves

Figure 1 shows a significance map of the Galactic center region in the 20–40 keV energy range. Single pointings were deconvolved and analyzed separately, and then combined in mosaiced images. In the FOV of the image, XTE J1807–294 is clearly detected at a significance level of 28σ . In the 40–80 keV energy band the source was detected at 14.5σ , and at higher energies, 80–120 keV, at 6σ and from 120–200 keV the detection significance dropped below $\sim 3\sigma$. The source was observed at the position $\alpha_{J2000} = 18^{\text{h}}07^{\text{m}}00^{\text{s}}.38$ and $\delta_{J2000} = -29^{\circ}24'30''.8$, with a positional error of $1'$ at 90% confidence (Gros et al. 2003). This is fully consistent with the position given by Markwardt et al. (2003). It is located $5.7'$ away from the Galactic center.

The *INTEGRAL* 20–100 keV high-energy light curve has been extracted from the images using all available pointings (all GCDE observation with the source in the FOV from) and is shown in Fig. 2, averaged over 1-day intervals. A clear exponential decay $e^{-t/\tau}$ with a time-scale of $\tau = 19 \pm 2$ days is seen over the ~ 60 days of the *INTEGRAL* observations. The corresponding *RXTE*/PCA outburst light curve in the 2–20 keV range is also shown in Fig. 2. The first five points are taken from Markwardt et al. (2003), where the source was observed with a peak 2–20 keV flux of $\sim 2 \times 10^{-9}$ erg s $^{-1}$ cm $^{-2}$. The light curve shows also some short flares during the decay around March 9, 15, 30 and April 5 (see Zhang et al. 2005). The *RXTE* decay time-scale, $\tau = 19.22 \pm 0.04$ d, is fully consistent with the *INTEGRAL* value at higher energy. The equality of the *RXTE* and *INTEGRAL* timescales shows that the spectrum did not change much during the outburst. After 50 days the decay became slower with a time-scale of 122 ± 3 days. The

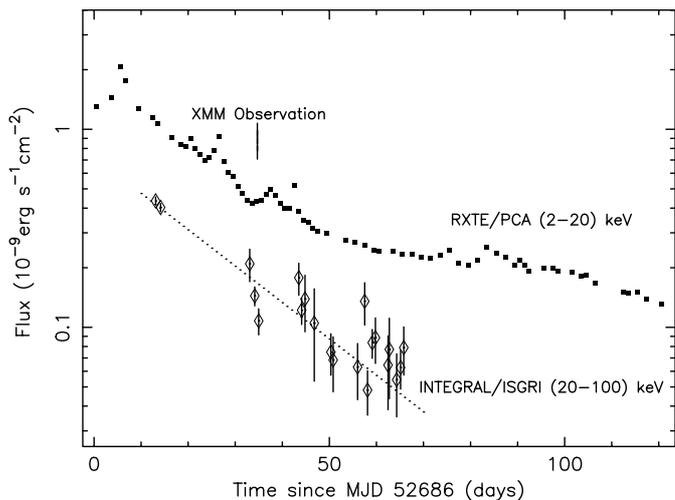


Fig. 2. *RXTE/PCA* and *INTEGRAL/ISGRI* light curves in the 2–20 keV and 20–100 keV energy band, respectively (averaged over 1-day intervals). The *INTEGRAL* data are taken from the GCDE observations and have been converted to flux units assuming a Comptonization model (see Table 1). The arrow indicates the *XMM-Newton* observation time. The dotted line corresponds to $F \propto e^{-t/19.2 \text{ d}}$ for the ISGRI data.

XTE J1807–294 outburst lasted much longer than that for other accretion powered MSPs such as SAX J1808.4–3658 (with $\tau \sim 14$ d) and XTE J1751–305 (with $\tau \sim 7$ d). XTE J1807–294 is up to now the only MSP which shows a decay of the outburst profile without a distinct knee as seen in the other five MSPs (see Wijnands 2005).

Using the rev-46 dataset with the highest S/N, detailed light curves in different energy bands have been produced, which are shown in Fig. 3. The count rates, averaged over ~ 2.2 ks intervals, have been converted to flux values using a Comptonization model (see Sect. 3.2). The hardness ratio as a function of time indicates that no significant spectral variability was detected. The hardness ratio between the highest energy band and the lowest energy band was found to be consistent with constant 0.5 ± 0.1 . Pulsations with a period of 5.25 ms were also marginally detected in the the 20–50 keV IBIS ISGRI energy band. The pulse fraction was $\sim 8\%$. These results will be reported in Finger et al. (2005).

3.2. Spectral analysis

The spectral analysis was done using XSPEC version 11.3 (Arnaud 1996), combining *INTEGRAL/ISGRI* data with available simultaneous lower energy *RXTE* and *XMM-Newton* data. A constant factor was included in the fit to take into account the uncertainty in the cross-calibration of the instruments. A systematic error of 2% was applied to IBIS/ISGRI spectra which corresponds to the current uncertainty in the response matrix and 1% for all the *XMM-Newton* and *RXTE* instruments. All spectral uncertainties in the results are given at a 90% confidence level for a single parameter ($\Delta\chi^2 = 2.71$). The distance, D , to the source is not known. As it might be related to the Galactic center, it is not unreasonable to assume $D \sim 8$ kpc.

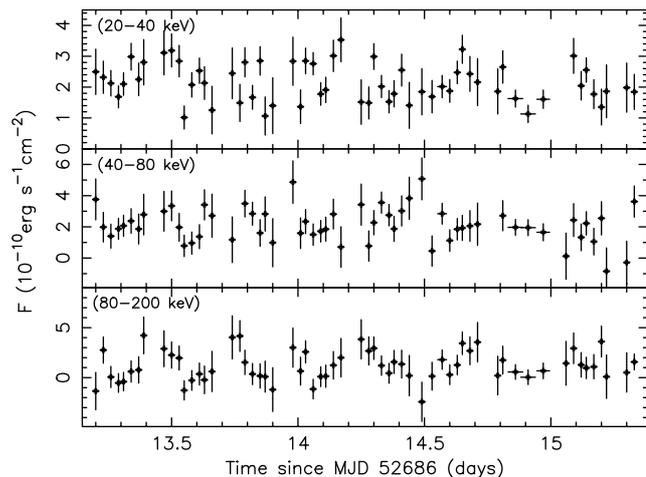


Fig. 3. The rev-46 high-energy light curve of XTE J1807–294 in different energy bands. Each point corresponds to a ~ 2.2 ks interval.

3.2.1. The rev-46 spectrum

In the rev-46 dataset, the joint *INTEGRAL/RXTE* (2.5–200 keV) spectrum was first fitted with a simple model consisting of a photoelectrically-absorbed power-law (PL). Given that we were not able to constrain the N_{H} value (as the *RXTE/PCA* bandpass starts above 2.5 keV) we fixed it to the value found from *XMM-Newton* lower energy data (see Sect. 3.2.2 below). A simple PL model is found inadequate with $\chi^2/\text{d.o.f.} = 273/65$. The addition of a cut-off above ~ 60 keV significantly improves the fit to $\chi^2/\text{d.o.f.} = 97/64$ (the probability of chance improvement is $\sim 10^{-14}$). The best fit is found for a photon index of ~ 1.8 and a cut-off energy at ~ 80 keV. However, the model does not describe the spectrum below 15 keV well, which requires a more complex description.

We then substituted this phenomenological model by a more physical thermal Comptonization model. The emission from the accretion shock onto the NS is well described by thermal Comptonization of the black body seed photons from the star (see Gierliński et al. 2002; Poutanen & Gierliński 2003; Gierliński & Poutanen 2005). We model the shock emission with the COMPPS model¹ (Poutanen & Svensson 1996). In this model, the exact numerical solution of the Comptonization problem in different geometries is obtained by considering successive scattering orders. We approximate the accretion shock geometry by a plane-parallel slab at the NS surface. The main model parameters are the Thomson optical depth τ_{T} across the slab, the electron temperature kT_{e} , and the soft seed photon temperature kT_{seed} . The emitted spectrum depends also on the angle between the normal and the line of sight θ which does not coincide with the inclination of system because of light bending. The seed photons are injected from the bottom of the slab. A fraction $\exp(-\tau_{\text{T}}/\cos\theta)$ of these photons reaches the observer directly, while the remaining part is scattered in the hot gas. Thus, the total spectrum contains unscattered black body photons and a hard Comptonized tail. The best

¹ COMPPS is available on the WWW at <http://ftp.astro.su.se/pub/juri/XSPEC/COMPPS>

Table 1. Best fit parameters for rev-46 and rev-52 data.

Dataset	rev-46	rev-52
Models	COMPPS	COMPPS+DISKBB
$N_{\text{H}}(10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2})$	0.56 (f)	$0.56^{+0.01}_{-0.02}$
kT_{disk} (keV)	–	$0.43^{+0.04}_{-0.04}$
$R_{\text{in}} \sqrt{\cos i}$ (km)	–	$13.4^{+2.2}_{-1.3}$
kT_{e} (keV)	18^{+3}_{-3}	37^{+28}_{-10}
kT_{seed} (keV)	$0.8^{+0.04}_{-0.05}$	$0.75^{+0.04}_{-0.04}$
τ_{T}	$2.7^{+0.1}_{-0.2}$	$1.7^{+0.5}_{-0.8}$
A_{seed} (km ²)	86^{+15}_{-8}	26^{+23}_{-12}
$\cos \theta$	$0.80^{+0.06}_{-0.09}$	$0.79^{+0.07}_{-0.06}$
$\chi^2/\text{d.o.f.}$	36/62	214/198
$L_{0.1-200 \text{ keV}}$ ($10^{37} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$)	1.26	0.36

^a Assuming a distance of 8 kpc.

fit with $\chi^2/\text{d.o.f.} = 36/62$ is then obtained for $kT_{\text{seed}} = 0.8$ keV, $kT_{\text{e}} \approx 20$ keV, $\tau_{\text{T}} = 2.7$, and $\cos \theta = 0.8$ (see Table 1). The model also allows us to determine the apparent area of the seed photons, which turns out to be $A_{\text{seed}} \sim 86(D/8 \text{ kpc})^2 \text{ km}^2$ in the best fit. This corresponds to a hot spot radius of ~ 5 km in this outburst phase.

No additional thermal-like component (either blackbody or disk blackbody) was required by the fit, very likely because the bulk of its emission occurs below 3 keV, outside the covered energy range. Neither iron line emission nor a reflection component were significantly detected.

The best fit parameters of the model together with its errors are reported in Table 1. The unabsorbed EF_{E} spectrum and the residuals of the data to the model are shown in Fig. 4.

3.2.2. The rev-52 spectrum

The *INTEGRAL* rev-52 dataset was obtained 22 days later than rev-46, this time also simultaneously with the *XMM-Newton* ToO observation. We were therefore able to construct a combined spectrum covering the 0.5–200 keV range. The thermal emission from the accretion disk can contribute at low energies in the *XMM-Newton* range. The presence of the emission from the accretion disk is supported by the decrease of the pulse fraction below 2 keV (Campana et al. 2003; Kirsch et al. 2004). We model this emission with DISKBB, a multi-temperature disk model of Mitsuda et al. (1984). It is characterized by the inner disk temperature kT_{in} and normalization which can be transformed to the inner disk radius R_{in} . The spectrum was then fitted with this component combined with a simple PL, everything photoelectrically absorbed. The model gives a good fit with $\chi^2/\text{d.o.f.} = 237/200$. The absorption is determined to be $N_{\text{H}} = 0.56 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, comparable to that found by Campana et al. (2003), and the best PL index is $\Gamma \sim 1.9$. However, the inner disk radius, $R_{\text{in}} \sqrt{\cos i}$, is then around 2 km, which is not consistent with the disk size, assuming a 10 km NS radius. To have a direct comparison with the results of the rev-46 data we

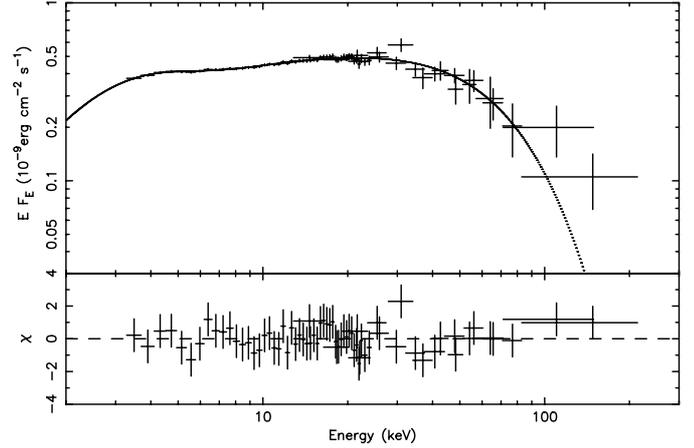


Fig. 4. The unfolded spectrum of XTE J1807–294 observed by *INTEGRAL*/ISGRI and *RXTE*/PCA/HEXTE during rev-46 along with the best fit COMPPS model. The lower panel shows the residuals between the data and the model.

replaced the PL component with COMPPS in a slab geometry assuming a black body seed photon spectrum.

The results of the DISKBB + COMPPS fit are reported in Table 1, while the EF_{E} spectrum and the residuals are shown in Fig. 5. With a typical plasma temperature of $kT_{\text{e}} \sim 40$ keV, the joint *INTEGRAL*/*XMM-Newton*/*RXTE* fit is at variance with the parameters derived from the low energy *XMM-Newton* data only which gave $kT_{\text{e}} \sim 10$ keV (see Campana et al. 2003), confirming the importance of high energy observations. Comparison with the rev-46 results shows that the decay of the outburst is marked by a constant seed photon temperature, a significant increase of plasma temperatures correlated with a significant decrease of the scattering opacity. The fit required a inner disk radius, $R_{\text{in}} \sqrt{\cos i} \sim 13$ km, this time fully compatible with the radius of a NS. The apparent area of the seed photons is $A_{\text{seed}} \sim 26(D/8 \text{ kpc})^2 \text{ km}^2$, which is also what expected from a hot spot on a NS surface. The hard component contributes 83 per cent of the unabsorbed flux in the 0.1–200 keV energy range. Also in this case reflection was not significantly detected.

4. Companion star and the system geometry

The orbital elements of XTE J1807–294 have been derived from a re-analysis of the *XMM-Newton* temporal data, using a Doppler pulse-variation procedure instead of the complex 2D-parameter search made by Campana et al. (2003) and Kirsch et al. (2004). The barycentric photon arrival times were grouped into 240 s intervals and the best period was determined using the Z-statistic (Buccheri et al. 1983). The resulting 39 best period values clearly show a sinusoidal modulation expected for a circular orbit (see Fig. 6). A sine-fit to the modulation yields a mean pulsation period of $0.005245948(4)$ s, a projected orbital radius of $a_x \sin i = 4.75(39) \times 10^{-3}$ lt-s and a barycentric positive-crossing time (mean longitude $+90^\circ$) of $T_0 = 2\,452\,721.168(2)$ JD, where the errors are given in parentheses. The poorly constrained orbital period was assumed here to be 40.0741 min (Markwardt et al. 2004). The spin period

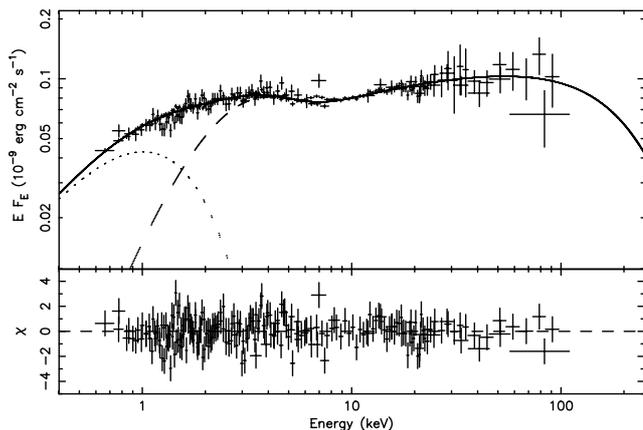


Fig. 5. Simultaneous *INTEGRAL*, *XMM-Newton* and *RXTE* spectra of XTE J1807–294 fitted with an absorbed disk black body, *DISKBB*, plus *COMPPS* model. The *EPIC-pn* and *MOS2* spectra in the 0.5–10 keV range and *PCA/HEXTE* in the 3–200 keV and *IBIS/ISGRI* in the 20–200 keV range are shown. The *DISKBB* model is shown by a dotted curve, the dashed curve gives the *COMPPS* model, while the total spectrum is shown by a solid curve. The lower panel presents the residuals.

and orbit projected radius values are consistent with the previous determinations by Campana et al. (2003) (once corrected for typing errors) and Kirsch et al. (2004), but with more reliable uncertainties. However, the epoch of mean longitude differs very significantly, by more than 0.005 d, most probably due to the inaccuracy of the complex method used by these authors. The introduction of an eccentricity does not improve the fit. A small linear slope is visible in the residuals (see Fig. 6), but not significant. However phase deviations (rms of ~ 15 ns) are also seen (Fig. 6), corresponding to highly erratic period variations. Such a behavior was already noted by Markwardt (2004) who reported apparent spin-up and spin-down rate of $\sim \pm 3 \times 10^{-16} \text{ s s}^{-1}$ on longer timescales. The instability of the period may therefore be also present on very short timescale (~ 5 min) which is a strong indication that we do not see the real clock, but rather a moving spot at the surface of the neutron star.

With a mass function of $f(m) = 1.49^{+0.40}_{-0.34} \times 10^{-7} M_{\odot}$, the minimum companion mass obtained for inclination of $i = 90^{\circ}$ is $M_c = 0.0053, 0.0066$ and $0.0084 M_{\odot}$ for $M_x = 1.0, 1.4$ and $2.0 M_{\odot}$, respectively.

The assumption of a Roche lobe-filling companion (Paczynski 1971) implies the mass-radius relation shown in Fig. 7 (thick line). In the very low-mass regime, recent models of low-mass degenerate dwarfs have been produced incorporating the effect of different compositions and temperatures (Deloye & Bildsten 2003). The corresponding M_c versus R_c relations are also shown in Fig. 7. For a mean inclination of $i \sim 60^{\circ}$, only low temperature C dwarfs and O dwarfs are allowed, clearly excluding He dwarfs which would require very low inclinations $i \leq 30^{\circ}$. This strongly constrains the evolution of the system.

An interesting constraint is given by the minimum accretion rate driven by gravitational radiation in a close binary (see Verbunt & van der Heuvel 1995, for a review). The outburst

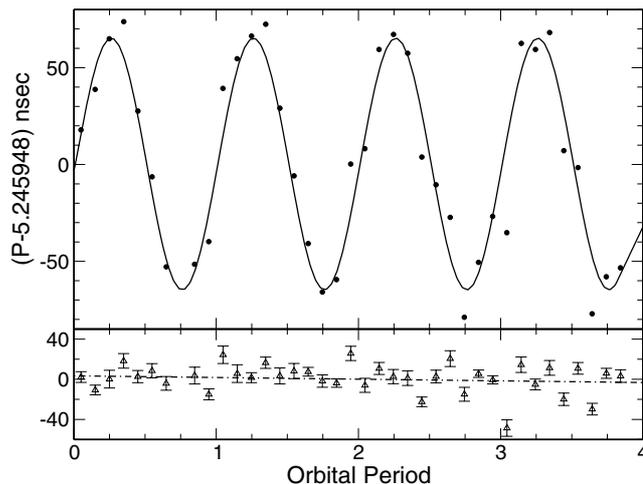


Fig. 6. Doppler variations of the spin period as a function of orbital phase and the best sine fit. Each point corresponds to a 240 s interval. Significant residuals are seen with rms of ~ 15 ns.

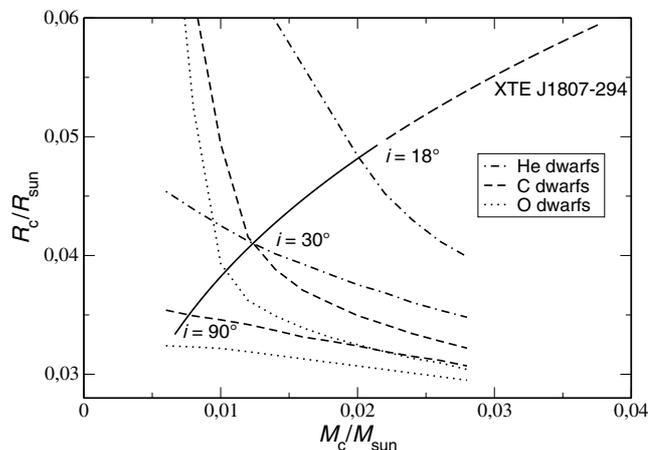


Fig. 7. Companion mass M_c vs. radius R_c plane, showing the Roche lobe constraints for XTE J1807–294 (thick line), for $M_x = 1.4 M_{\odot}$. The figure shows also the low mass regime degenerate dwarf models incorporating different compositions (dotted O, dashed C, dot-dash He) and low (10^4 K) or high (3×10^6 K) central temperatures (lower and upper curves).

main peak was observed on February 21, 2003 (52 691 MJD), and follows the outburst shape (see Fig. 2); we estimated the total flux to be $7.7 \times 10^{-3} \text{ erg cm}^{-2}$. Following Bildsten & Chakrabarty (2001) we can constrain the source distance as a function of inclination angle and companion mass through the mass function and mass loss rate due to gravitational radiation. From randomly selected orbits, the probability of having an inclination $i < i_0$ is $1 - \cos i_0$, so that a maximum mass at a confidence level 95% can be derived for $i < 18^{\circ}$ with the value $M_c \leq 0.022 M_{\odot}$. Note that for this source the recurrence time of the outburst is unknown. Assuming a recurrence time of 5 years, the source is calculated to be at 8 kpc with an inclination angle of 18° ($M_c = 0.022 M_{\odot}$). At a mean inclination angle of 60° ($M_c = 0.0077 M_{\odot}$), the source must be located at 3 kpc. With a recurrence time of 39 years, the source is located at 8 kpc with an inclination angle of 60° . This calculation predicts that a He dwarf companion star is favorable for a low

inclination angle and the system located at ~ 8 kpc. A high inclination implies that the system be located at ~ 3 kpc with a C/O dwarf companion star. A solution of this problem can be obtained if a future outburst is observed, giving the recurrence time of outburst.

The mass transfer driven by gravitational radiation implies an inclination $i > 60^\circ$, assuming a source distance of 8 kpc and NS masses between 1.0 and 2.0 M_\odot , giving only a long recurrence time of the outburst. On the other hand, there were no X-ray eclipses or dips detected in the EPIC-pn light curves. We therefore put an upper limit on the binary inclination of $i < 83^\circ$ for a Roche lobe-filling companion. A very low inclination is also possible, since that would imply a high companion mass and thus a large mass transfer rate. There is also no evidence for an X-ray modulation during the binary period, which might have implied propagation through a scattering atmosphere in a near edge-on geometry (Bildsten & Chakrabarty 2001). If the source is most likely at an inclination of 60° – 83° , we get the inner disk radius (see Table 1) in the range 20–40 km.

5. Conclusions

We have found that the spectrum of XTE J1807–294 is well described by a combination of thermal Comptonization and a disk black body. The electron temperature of $kT_e \sim 40$ keV is considerably larger than previously determined from lower energy observations (Campana et al. 2003). The hard spectral component contributes most of the observed flux (83 percent), even though a soft component (disk black body) is required by the data. If the accretion disk is truncated at the magnetosphere radius, where the material can accrete along the magnetic field towards the pole of a NS, the matter over the pole is heated by a shock to a temperature of ~ 40 keV. The hot spot at the surface with temperature ~ 0.8 keV gives rise to the seed photons for Comptonization in the hot plasma. Since the hard X-ray emission is pulsed (see e.g. Gierliński & Poutanen 2005), a fraction of it must originate from the regions confined by the magnetic field. The most obvious source of hard X-rays is the place where material collimated by the magnetic fields impacts the surface.

If we consider the inclination of the system to be $60^\circ < i < 83^\circ$, this allows us to determine the inner disk radius which lies in the range 20–40 km (for the distance of 8 kpc). Many characteristics of the source are similar to those observed in other MSPs, SAX J1808.4–3658 (Gierliński et al. 2002; Poutanen & Gierliński 2003) and XTE J1751–305 (Gierliński & Poutanen 2005).

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