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Neutron star magnetospheric emission models

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ost current pulsar emission models assume photon production and emission within the magnetosphere although recently some attempts were made to explain pulsed emission emanating from the striped wind. Low frequency radiation is preferentially produced in the vicinity of the polar caps whereas the high-energy tail is shifted to regions closer but still inside the light-cylinder (that is within the magnetosphere). We conducted a systematic study of the merit of several popular radiation sites like the polar cap, the outer gap and the slot gap. We computed sky maps emanating from each emission site according to a prescribed distribution function for the emitting particles made of an electron/positron mixture. Calculations are performed using a three dimensional integration of the plasma emissivity in the vacuum electromagnetic field of a rotating centered general relativistic dipole. We compare Newtonian electromagnetic fields to their general relativistic counterpart. In the latter case, light bending is also taken into account. As a typical example, light-curves and sky maps are plotted for several powerlaw indices of the particle distribution function. The detailed pulse profiles strongly depending on the underlying assumption about the fluid motion subject to strong electromagnetic fields. From this electromagnetic topology we deduced the photon propagation directly or indirectly from aberration effects. We also discuss the implication of a net stellar electric charge on to the sky maps. Taking into account the electric field in the photon propagation direction strongly affects the light-curves originating close to the light-cylinder where the electric field strength becomes comparable to the magnetic field strength. We plan to include plasma screening in the force free limit as well as some quantum electrodynamics effects and an off-centered dipole.

Biography

Jérôme Pétri is an Expert in Theory and Modeling of Neutron Star Electrodynamics and Relativistic Radiation Mechanisms in strong magnetic fields. He has tackled several problems related to relativistic plasma dynamics with special emphasizes to magneto hydrodynamics and kinetic neutral/non-neutral plasma configurations arising around compact stellar objects, investigating their stability properties. He has also developed himself several algorithm to solve nonstandard relativistic astrophysics plasma problems, like linear dispersion relations for the two-stream and tearing instabilities, evolution of the diocotron and magnetron instabilities in linear and non-linear stages, pulsar magnetosphere including strong gravity and strong electromagnetic field effects. He had computed polarized synchrotron and inverse Compton emission emanating from the striped pulsar wind or from an off-centered magnetic dipole. Recently he computed neutron star magnetospheres in general relativity including quantum electrodynamics corrections and radiation from general-relativistic rotating magnetic multipoles.

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