



# High-Mass X-ray Binaries: nature, formation & evolution

S. Chaty

Université Paris 7 / CEA Saclay

Colloquium APC, 11/10/2011

# Kick-off of X-ray



VIEW  
S

---

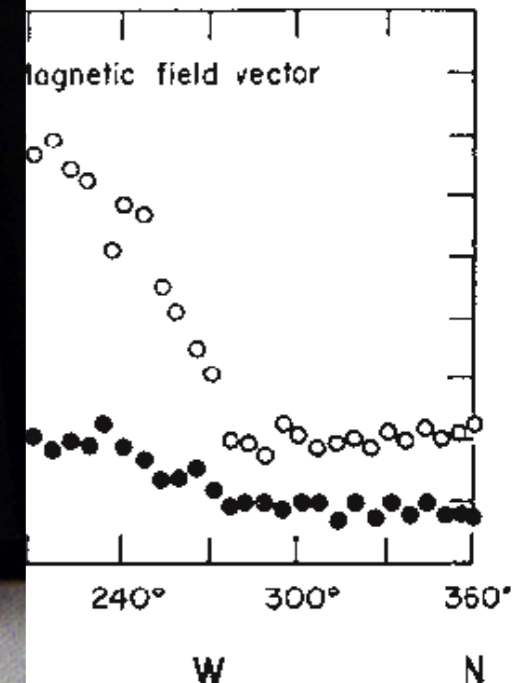
NUMBER 11

---

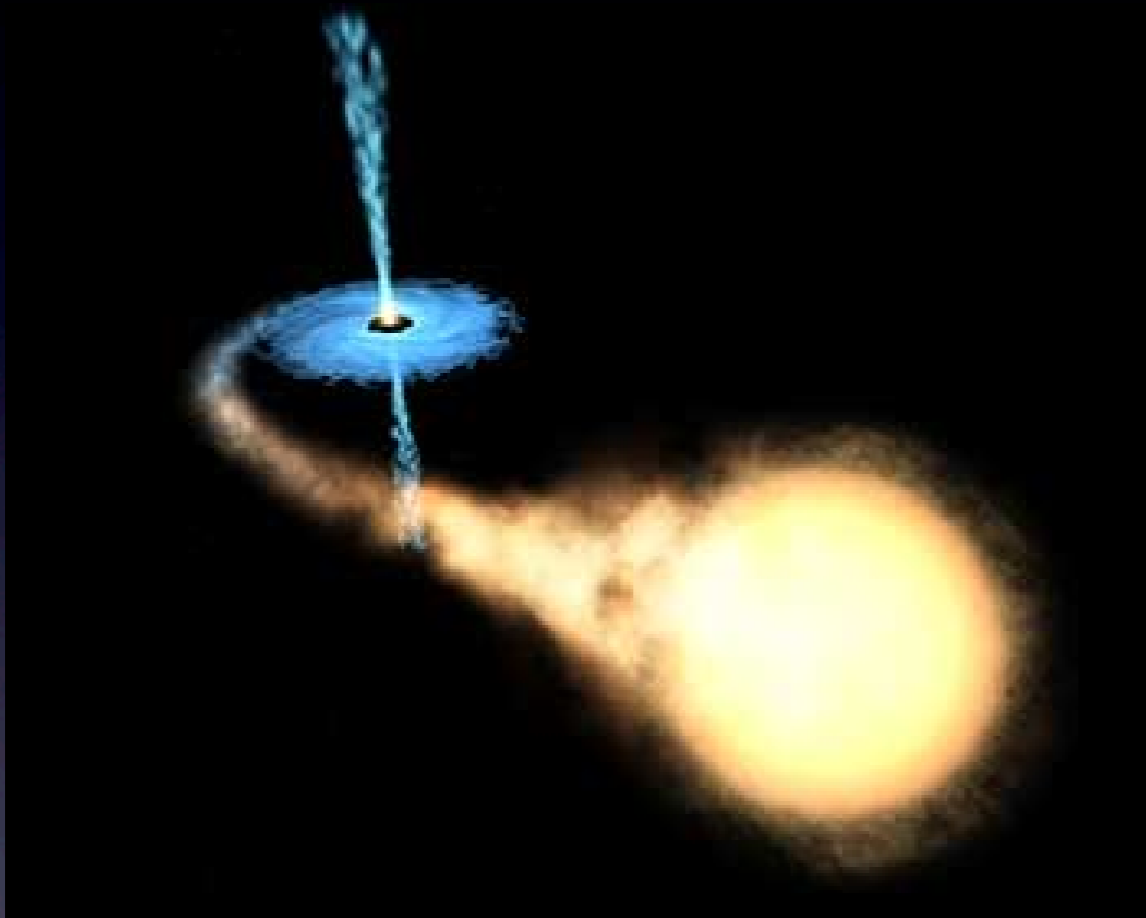
IDE THE SOLAR SYSTEM\*

d Frank R. Paolini  
bridge, Massachusetts

ridge, Massachusetts  
(2)

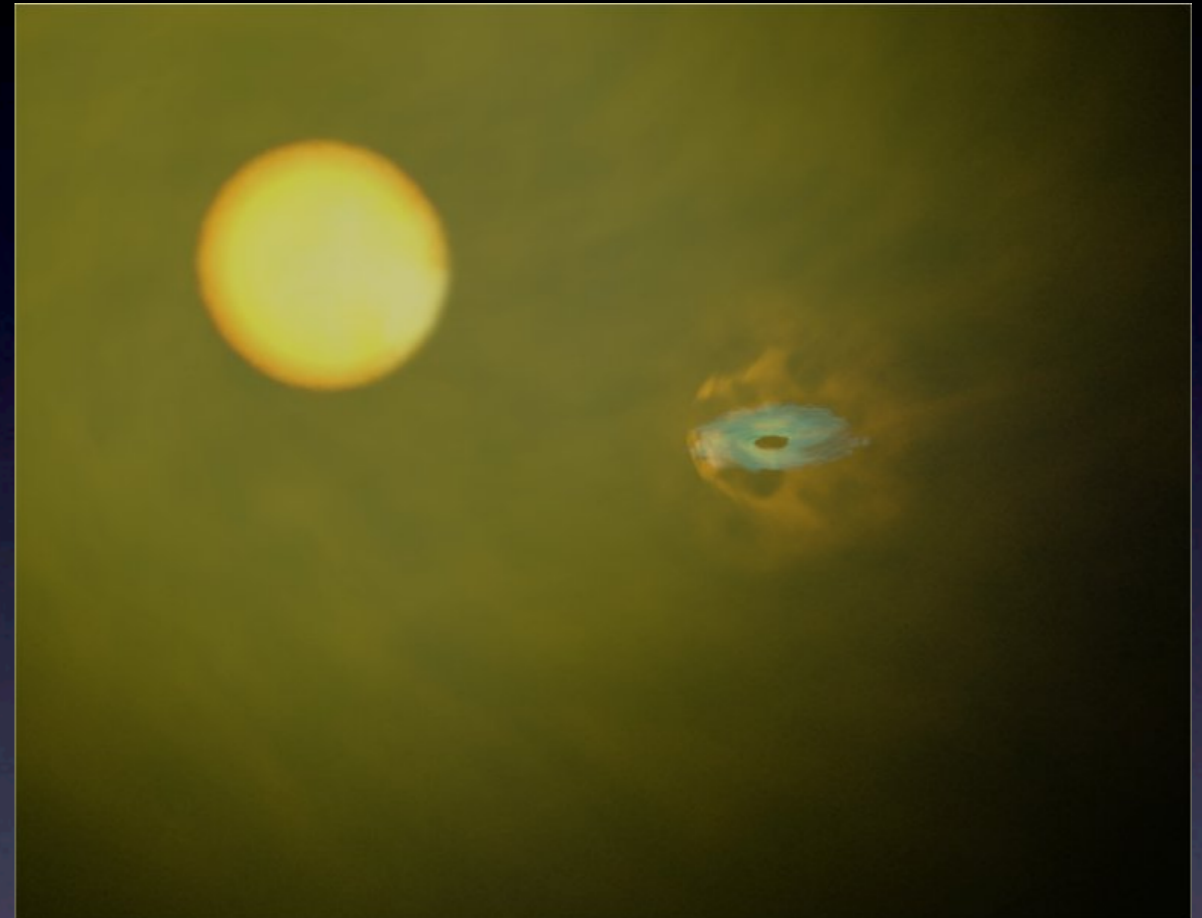


# High energy binary systems



Low-mass X-ray Binaries  
(LMXBs):

Roche lobe overflow

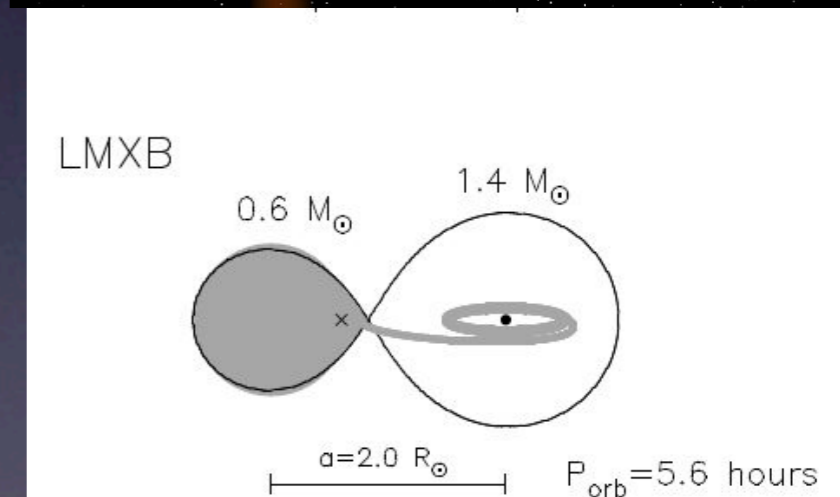
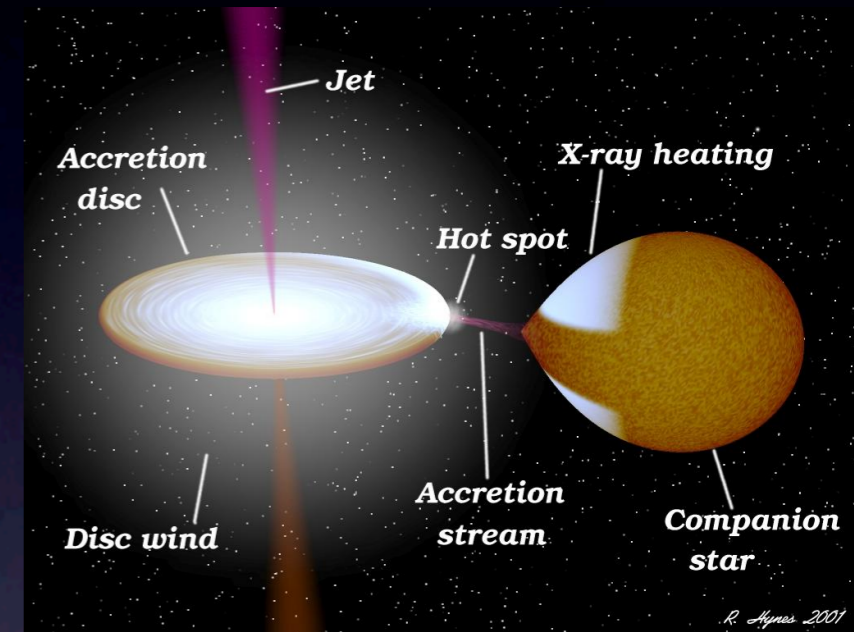


High-mass X-ray Binaries  
(HMXBs):

Stellar wind accretion

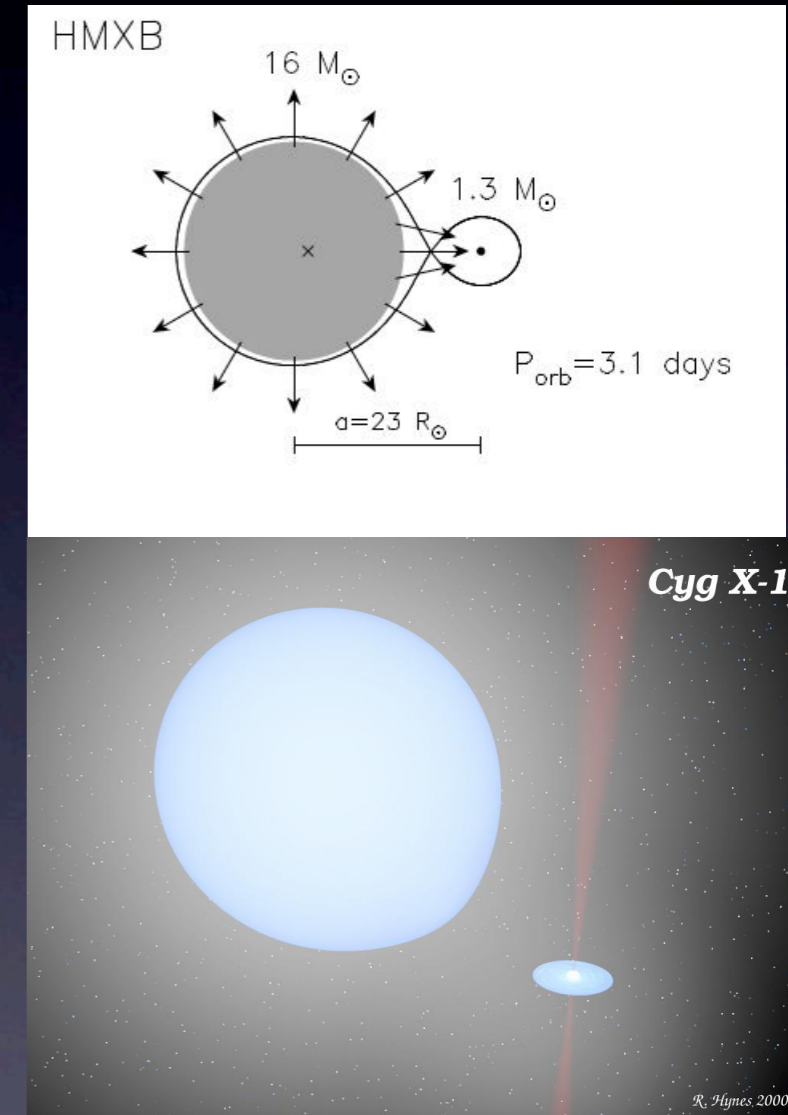
# Galactic X-ray binaries

- 300 Galactic X-ray binaries  
(Liu et al 2006, 2007): LMXBs + HMXBs
- 187 LMXBs (62%):
  - Companion later than B ( $M < 1 M_{\odot}$ )
  - Mass transfer: Roche lobe filling, accretion disk
  - BH or NS LMXBs (Z/Atoll sources...): Sco X-1 ...
- + IMXBs with intermediate masses...



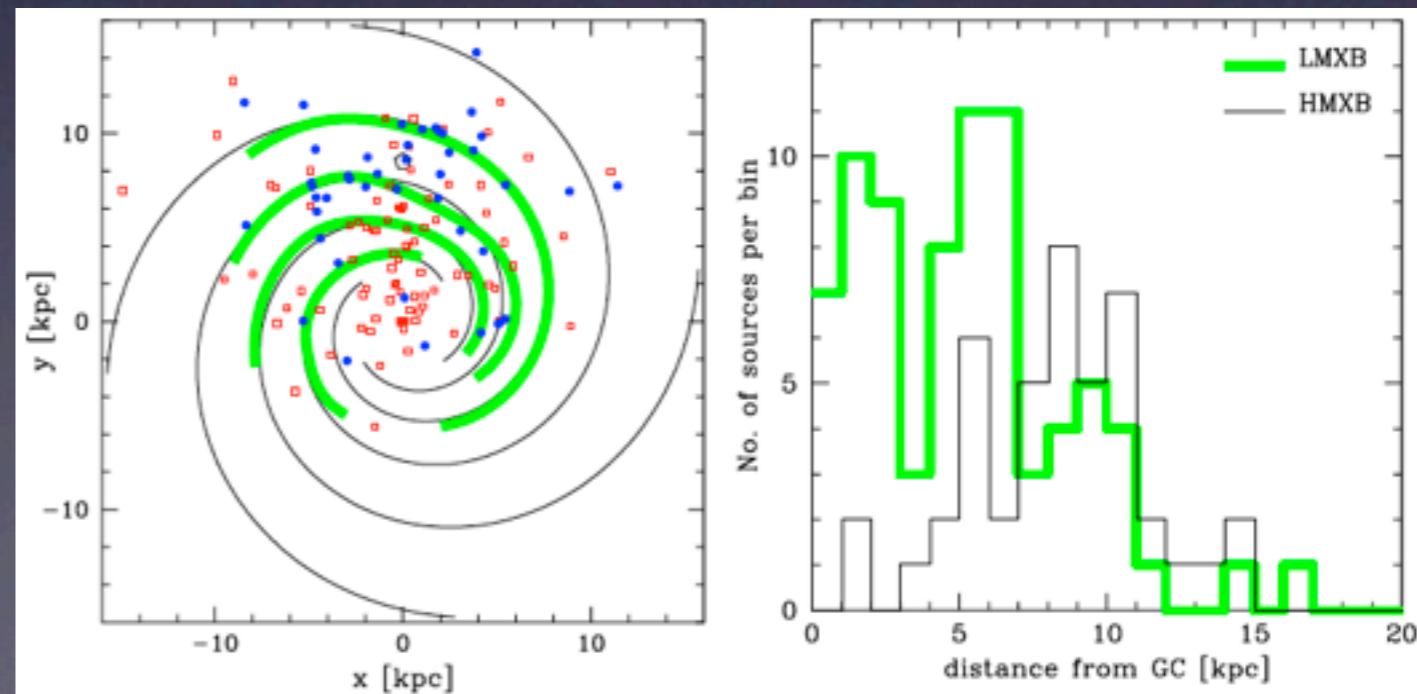
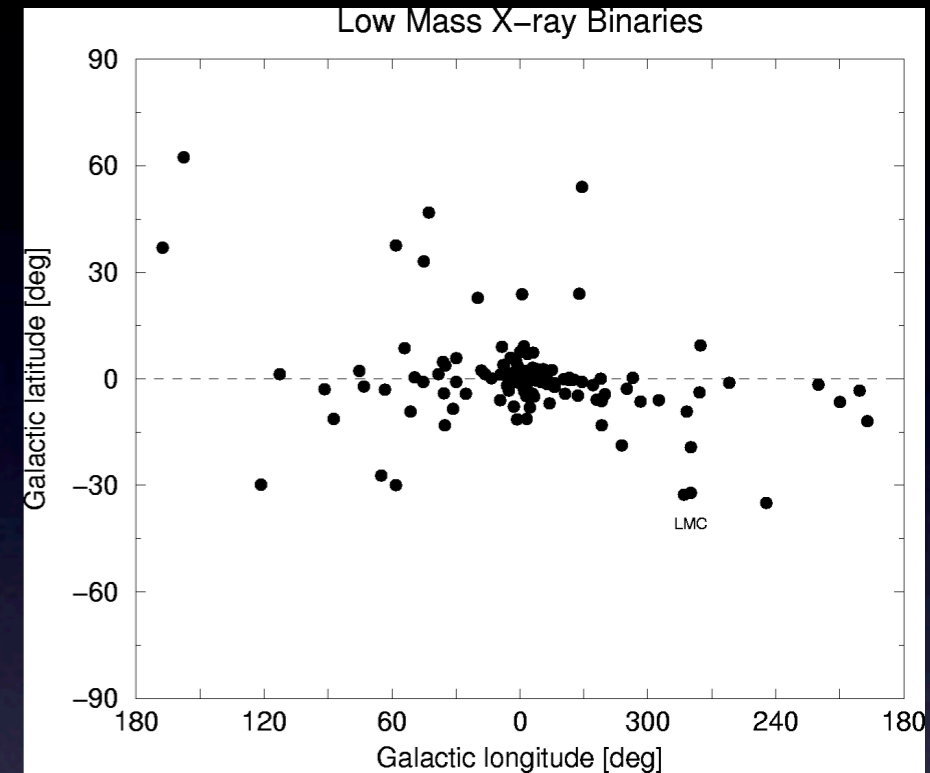
# Galactic X-ray binaries

- 114 HMXBs (38%):
  - Luminous early-type OB companion ( $M > 10 M_{\odot}$ )
  - Mass transfer:
    - Direct accretion from circumstellar disk (+ Roche lobe overflow) (Be III-V stars): BeXBs
    - Radially outflowing stellar wind or Beginning Atmospheric Roche Lobe Overflow (sg I/II stars): sgXBs



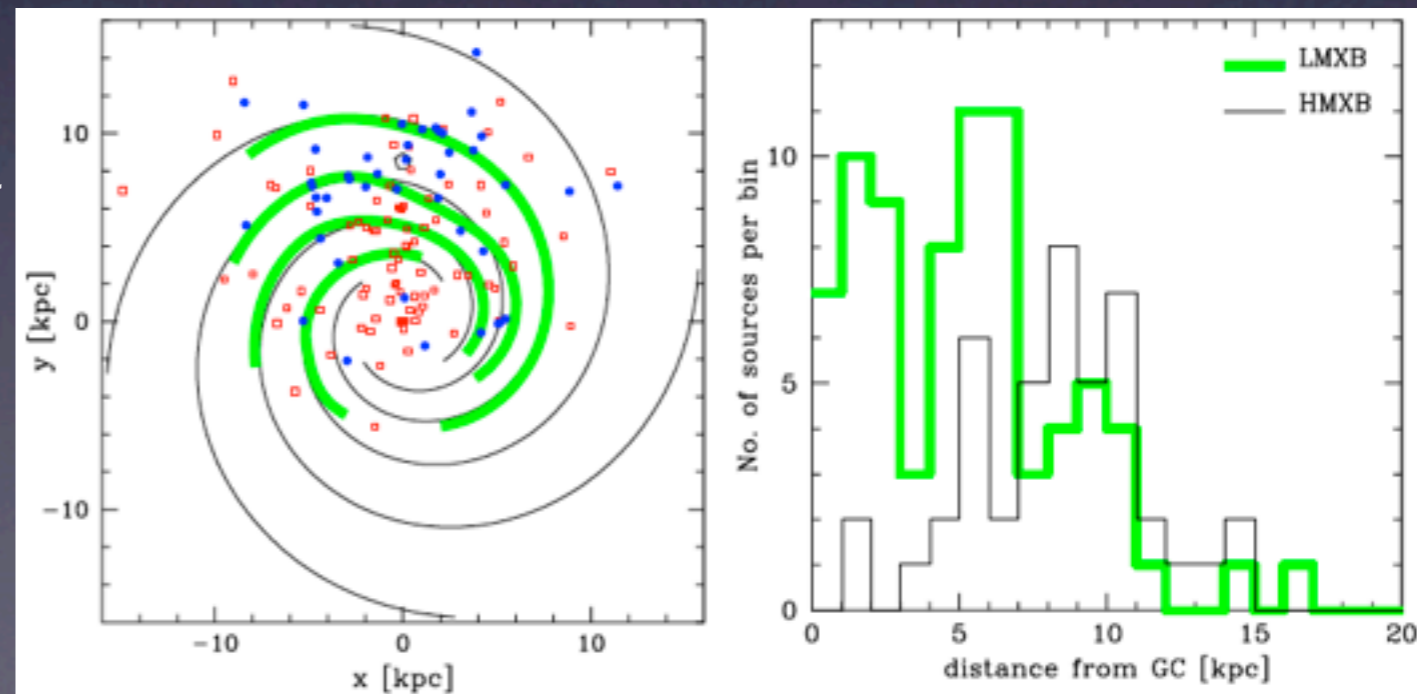
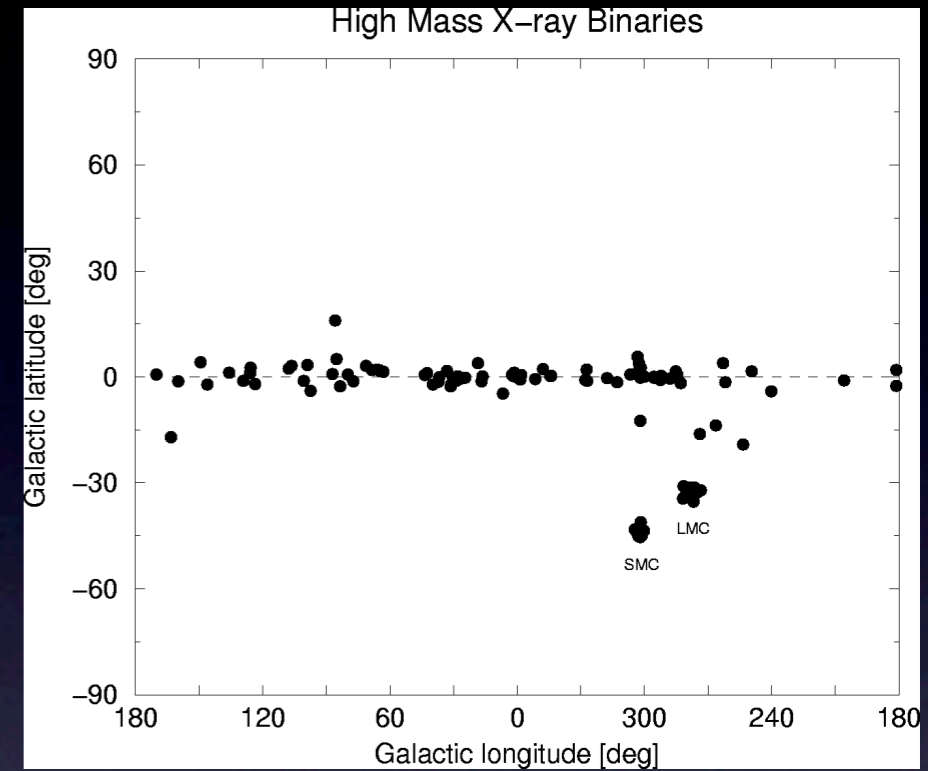
# Galactic distribution of LMXBs

- LMXBs (old companion stars) concentrated in Galactic bulge & migration off the plane ( $|b| > 3-5^\circ$ )
- LMXBs peak at the center and gradually decrease: association with Galactic bar?



# Galactic distribution of HMXBs

- HMXBs (young companion stars): underabundant in central kpc, uneven distribution on Galactic plane towards tangential directions of spiral arms
- Impact of recent stellar formation & evolution, already noticed with Ginga & RXTE (Koyama et al. 1990; Grimm et al. 2002)



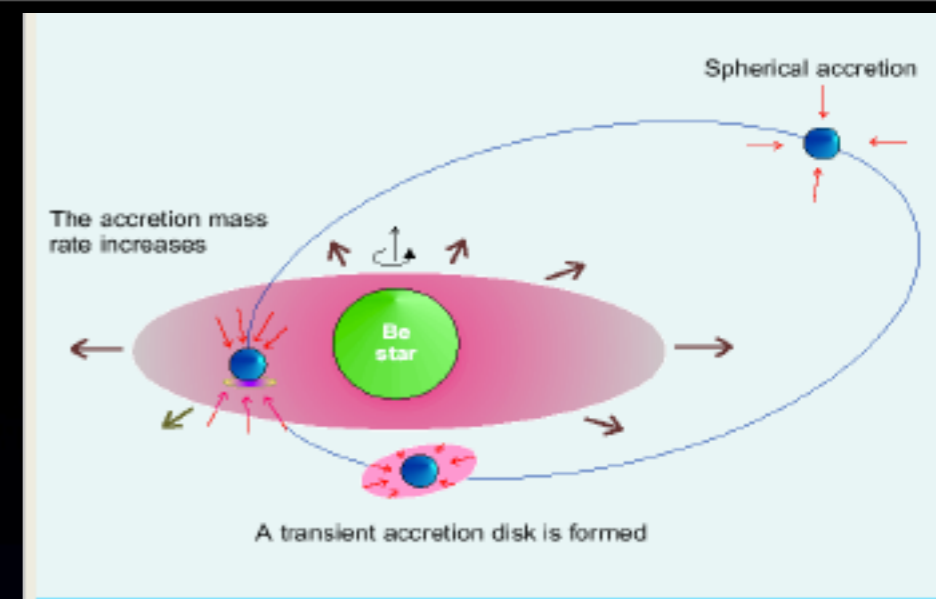
# General properties of HMXBs

Type	Percent of all (100) HMXBs	Luminosity class	Pulse periods (s)	Binary period (d)	Binary eccentricity	Log Lx (erg/s)
BeXB	57	III-V	0.05-500	2-260	0.3-0.9	36-38
(XP*)	10	III-V	200-1400	250	0.03	34-35
sgXB	25	I-II	200-700	3-40	0-0.3	34-35
Others	8					

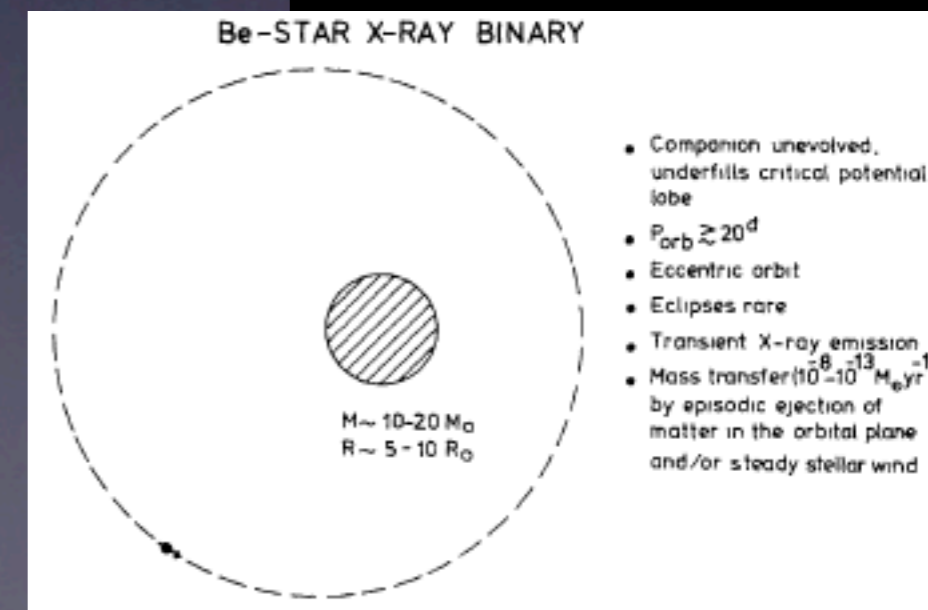
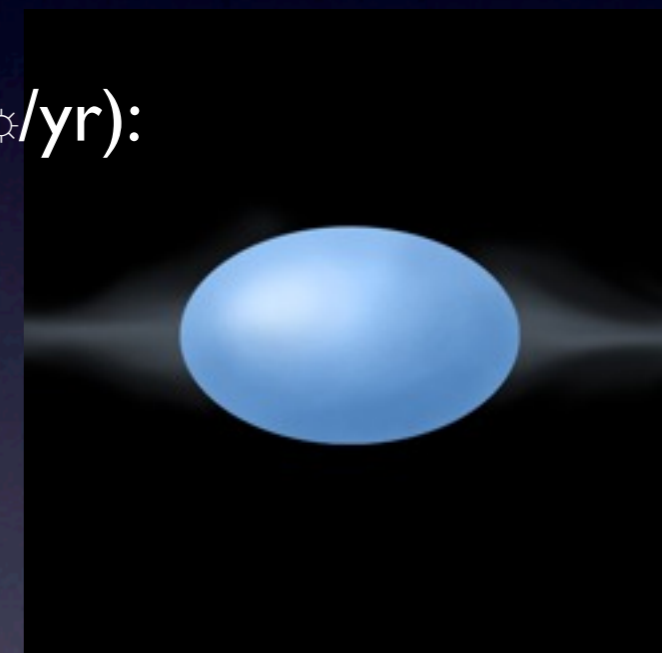
- Taken from the review on X-ray binaries by Charles & Coe 2006
- \*X Per-like systems: long pulse periods, persistent low flux, low variability, rare uncorrelated weak X-ray outbursts



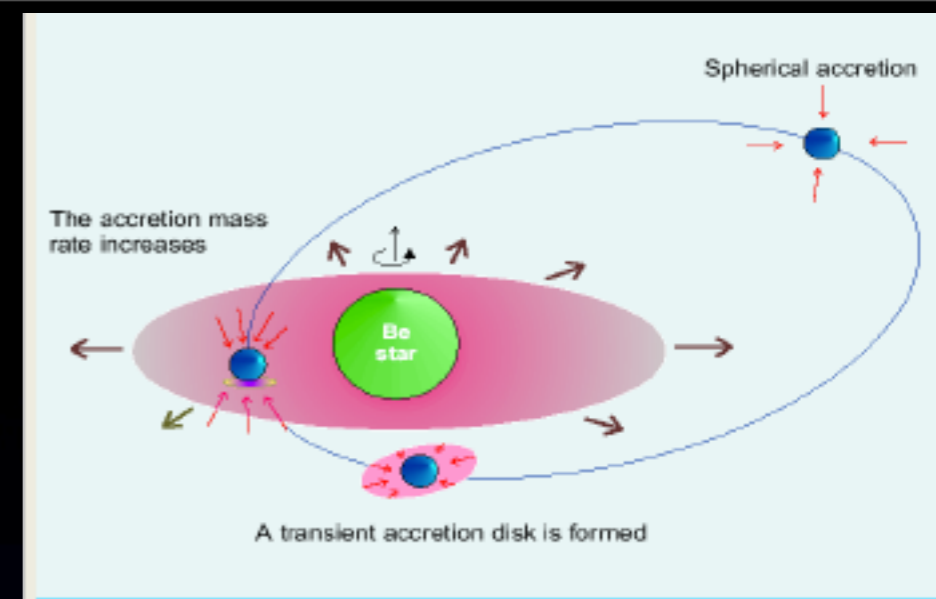
# Be X-ray binaries (BeXBs)



- Donor: B0-B2e star with circumstellar «decretion» disc of gas (Coe 2000, Negueruela 2004)
- created by low-velocity/high-density wind ( $10^{-7}M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$ ):  
H $\alpha$  emission line (disc size)  
+ continuum free-free/free-bound (IR excess)
- Compact object: NS in a wide & eccentric orbit
- Transient & bright X-ray outbursts when NS crosses decretion disk
- ~50 in MW, >35 in SMC



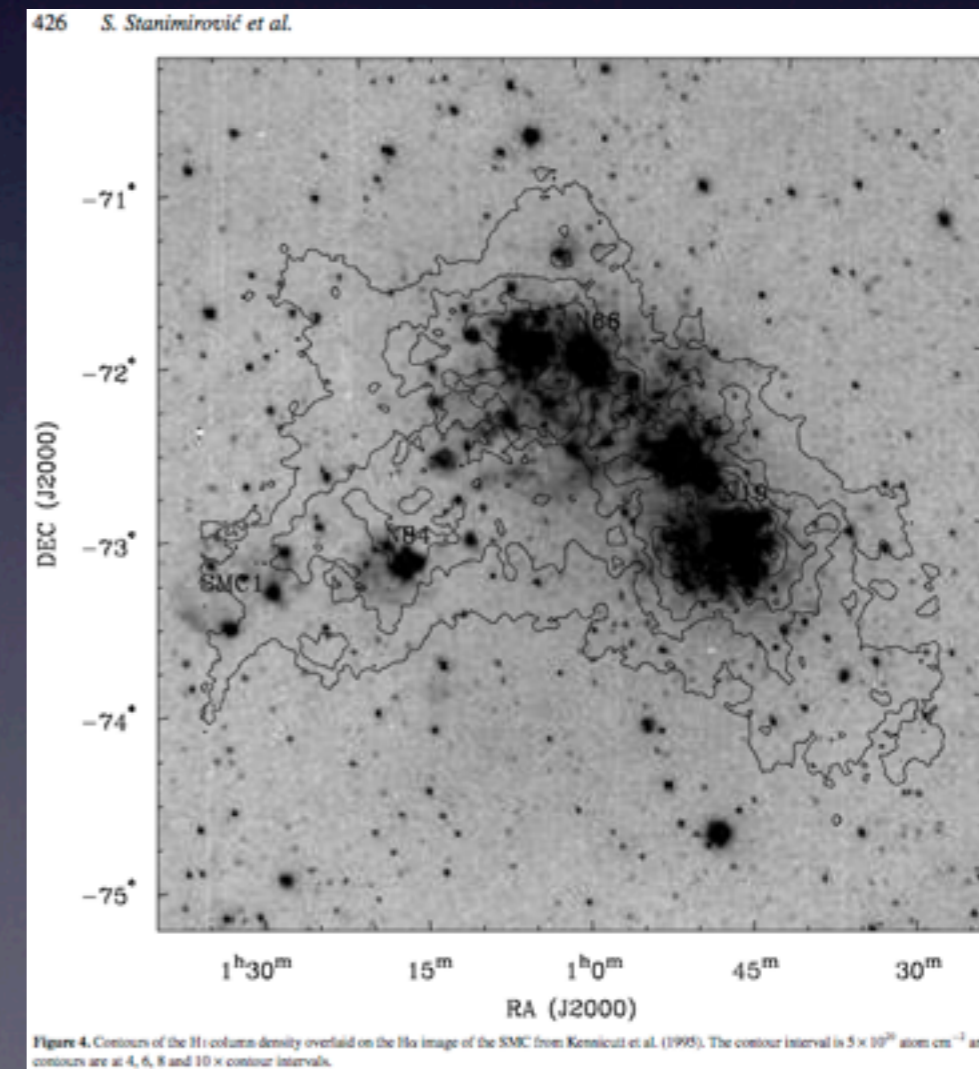
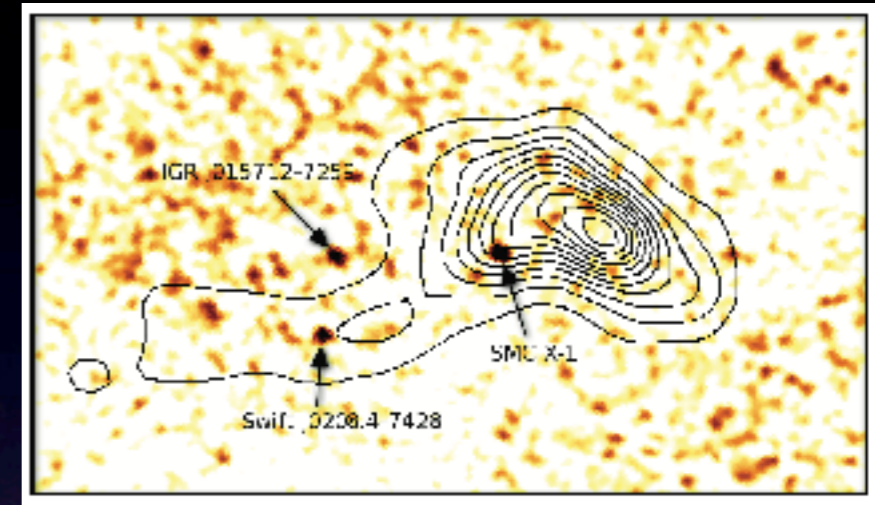
# BeXBs in X-rays



- Type I: regular periodic outbursts at periastron
- Type II: giant outbursts at any phase: dramatic expansion of circumstellar disc including NS
- «Missed» outbursts: low  $H\alpha$  emission (small disc) or centrifugal inhibition of accretion
- «Shifting phase» outbursts: rotation of density structures in circumstellar disc

# BeXBs: MW vs S/LMC

- Large number of BeXBs in SMC (>35) instead of  $\sim 3$  predicted by galactic mass ratio of 50! Probably due to bridge of material MW/MCs (McBride et al. 2008)
- Previous closest SMC/LMC approach  $\sim 100$  Myr ago: new massive stars formed current HMXB population
- Large number of SNRs of similar age ( $\sim 5$  Myr): increased starbirth due to tidal interactions (Staveland-Smith et al. 1997; Stanimirovic et al. 1999)



# BeXBs: MW vs S/LMC

- Strong spatial correlation between emission line stars & 8-12 Myr stars with BeXBs in SMC (Meyssonier & Azzopardi 1993, Maragoudaki et al 2001)
- Number of HMXBs: indicator of SFR & starburst activity (Popov et al. 1998, Grimm et al. 2003)
- SMC/LMC provide good sample of BeXBs in a compact region

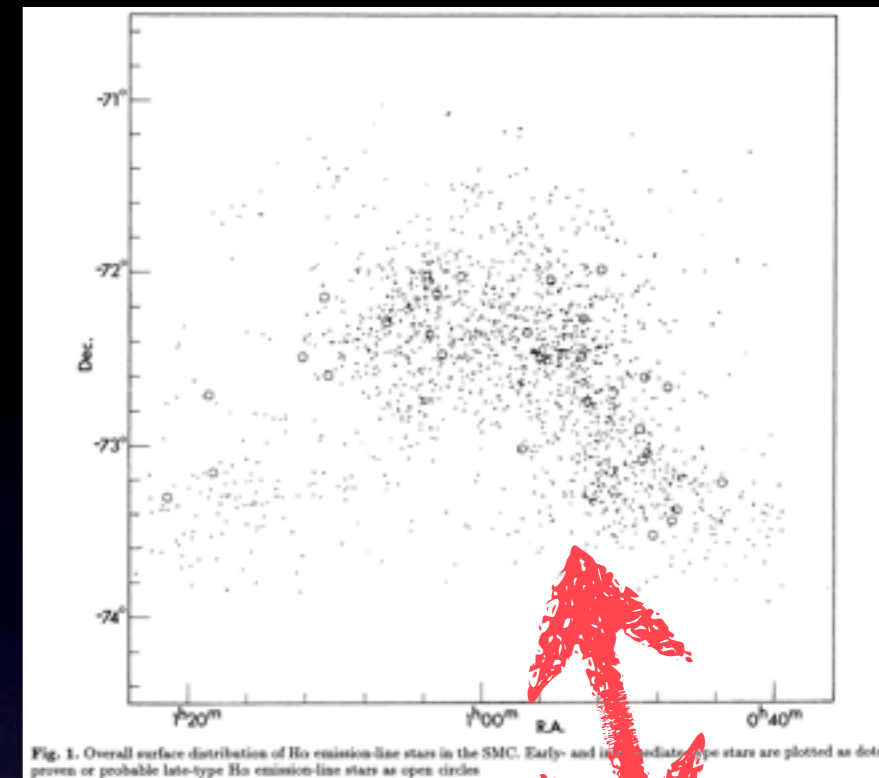
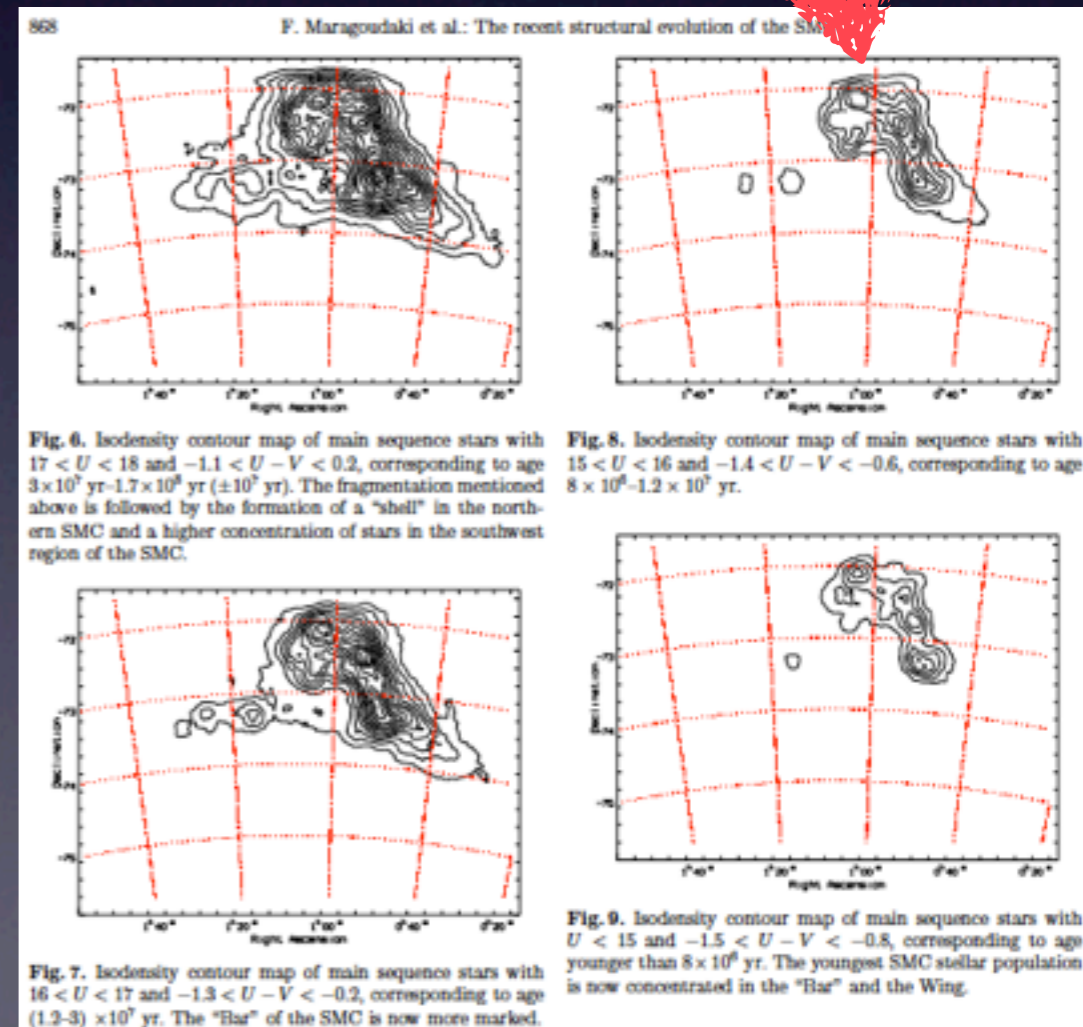


Fig. 1. Overall surface distribution of H $\alpha$  emission-line stars in the SMC. Early- and intermediate-type stars are plotted as dots, proven or probable late-type H $\alpha$  emission-line stars as open circles



868

F. Maragoudaki et al.: The recent structural evolution of the SMC

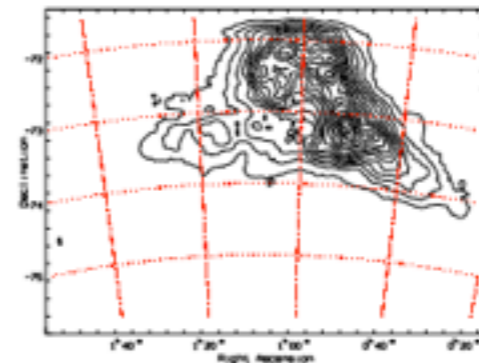


Fig. 6. Isodensity contour map of main sequence stars with  $17 < U < 18$  and  $-1.1 < U - V < 0.2$ , corresponding to age  $3 \times 10^8$  yr -  $1.7 \times 10^9$  yr ( $\pm 10^7$  yr). The fragmentation mentioned above is followed by the formation of a "shell" in the northern SMC and a higher concentration of stars in the southwest region of the SMC.

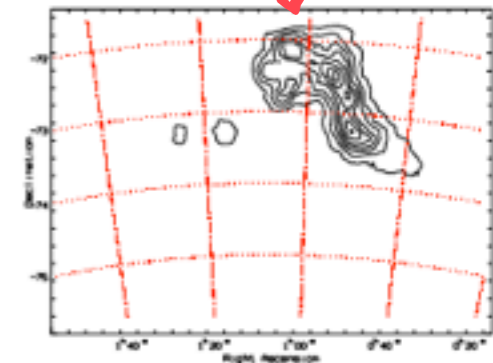


Fig. 8. Isodensity contour map of main sequence stars with  $15 < U < 16$  and  $-1.4 < U - V < -0.6$ , corresponding to age  $8 \times 10^8$  -  $1.2 \times 10^9$  yr.

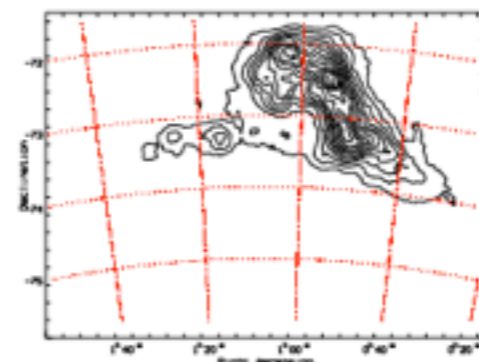


Fig. 7. Isodensity contour map of main sequence stars with  $16 < U < 17$  and  $-1.3 < U - V < -0.2$ , corresponding to age  $(1.2-3) \times 10^8$  yr. The "Bar" of the SMC is now more marked.

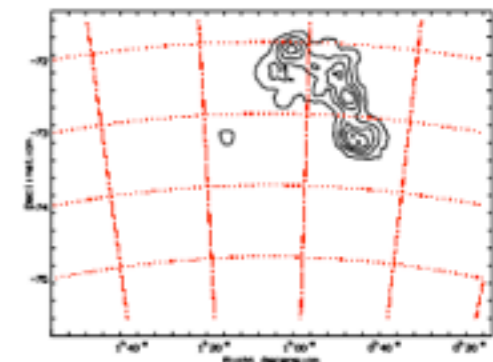


Fig. 9. Isodensity contour map of main sequence stars with  $U < 15$  and  $-1.5 < U - V < -0.8$ , corresponding to age younger than  $8 \times 10^8$  yr. The youngest SMC stellar population is now concentrated in the "Bar" and the Wing.

# BeXBs: MW vs S/LMC

- Similar BeXB populations:
  - MW (solid) & SMC (dashed)  
(McBride et al. 2008)
  - MW (white) & LMC (black)  
(Negueruela & Coe 2002)

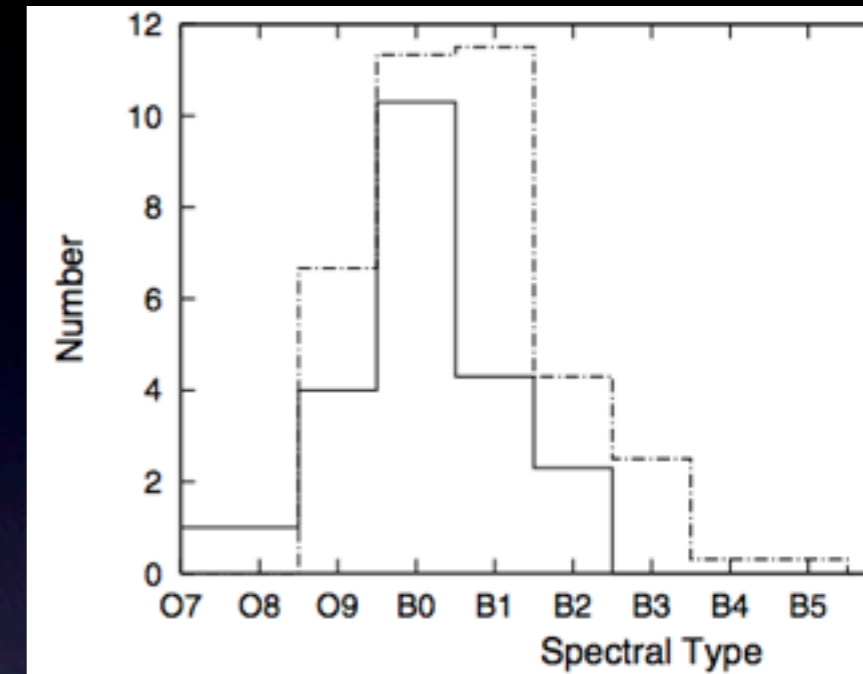
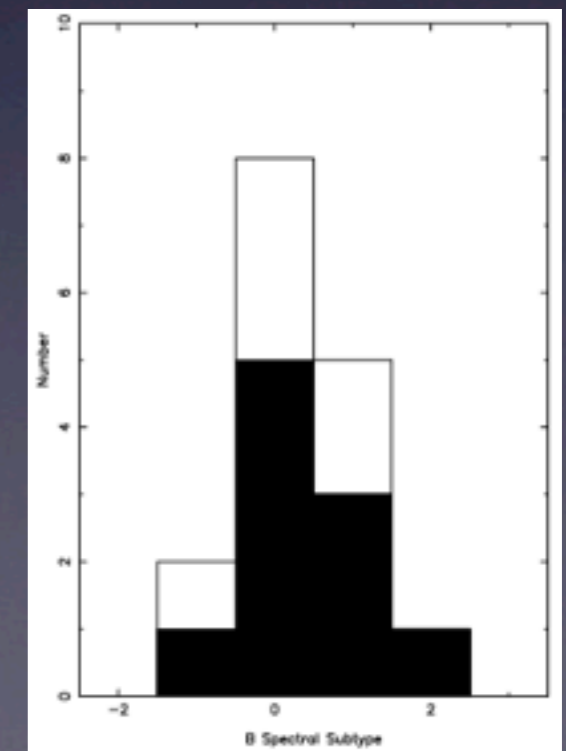
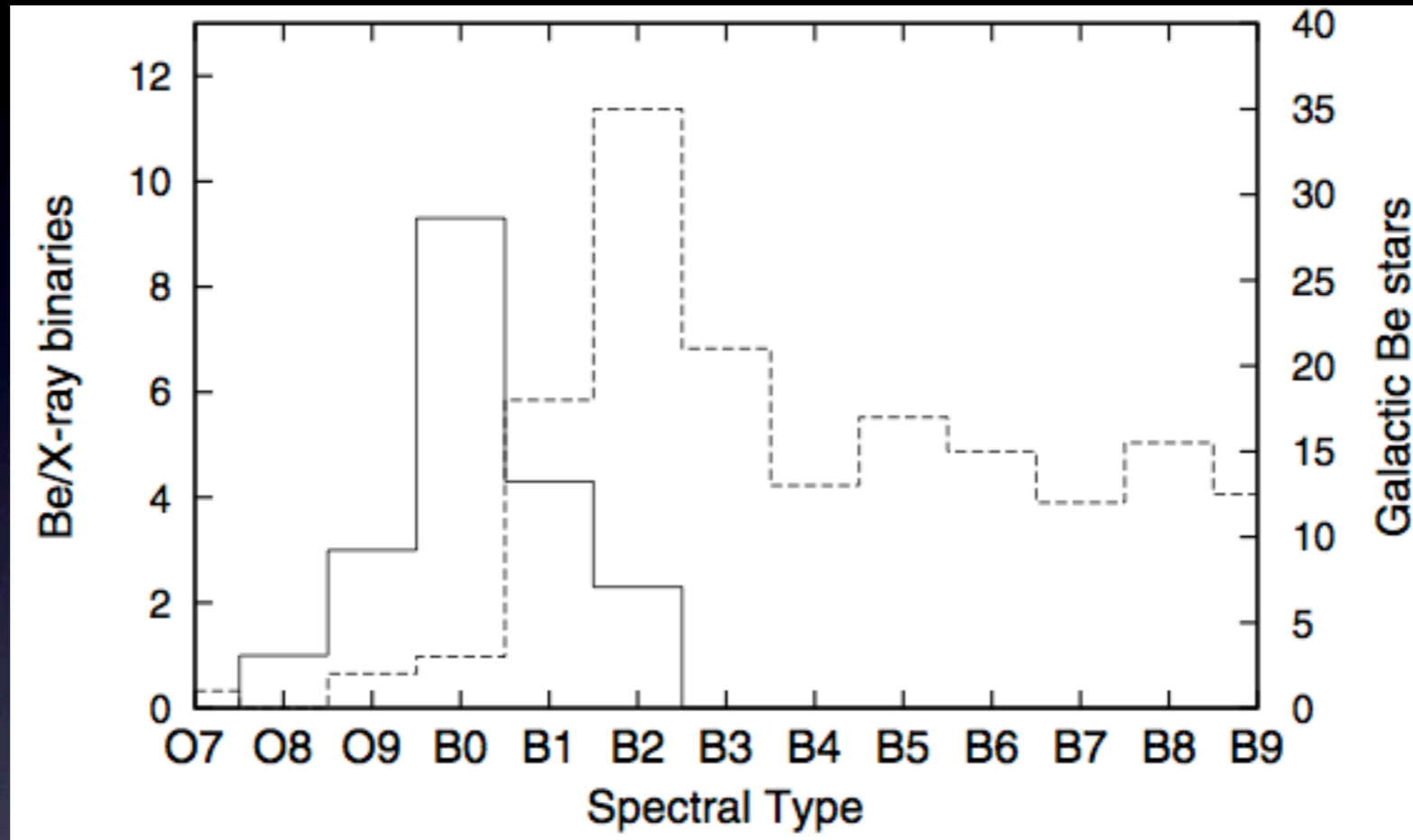


Figure 4. Spectral distribution, as determined from high resolution blue spectra, of Be/X-ray binaries in the SMC (dot-dashed) and the distribution of Be/X-ray binaries in the Galaxy (solid).

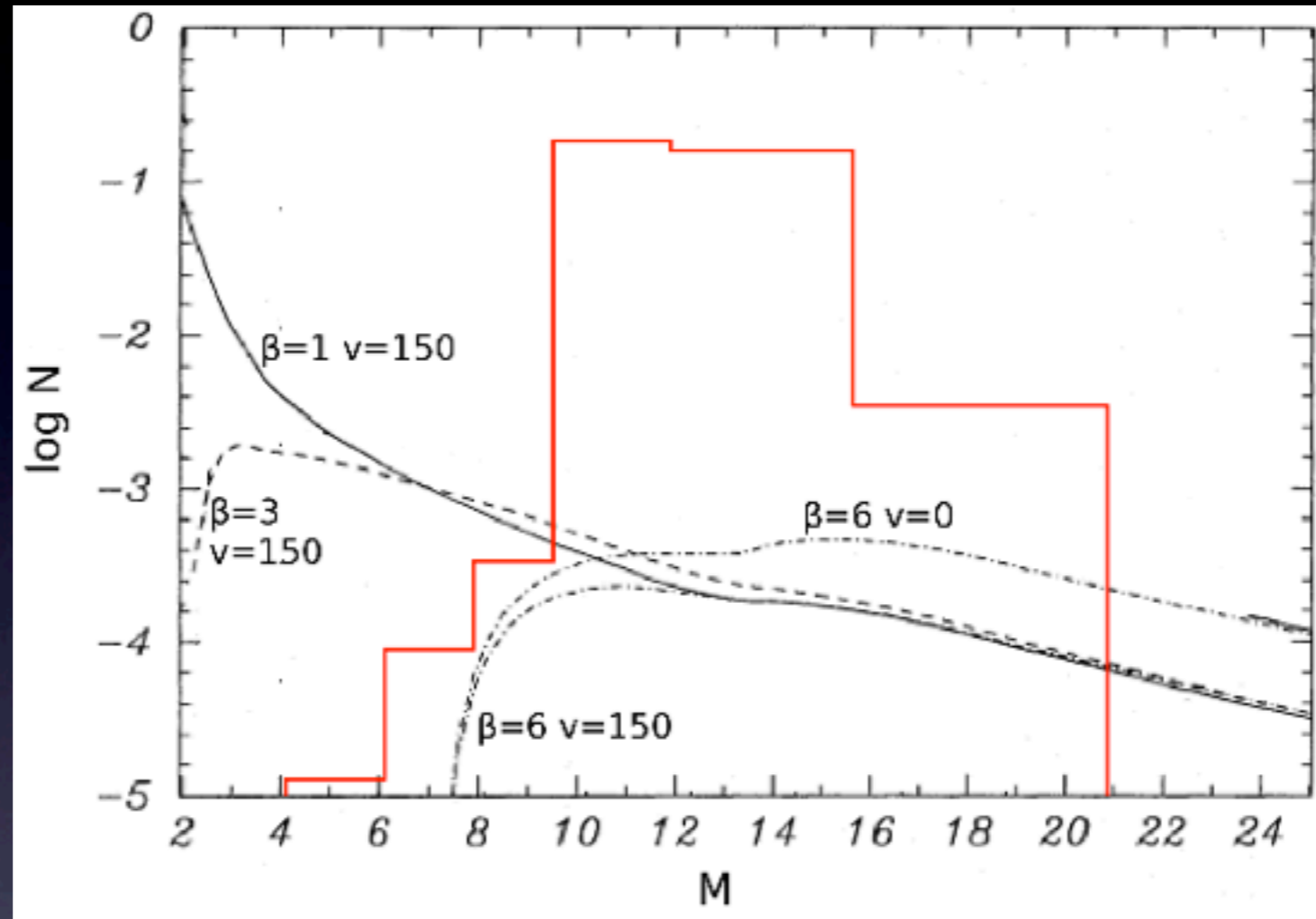


# BeXBs vs isolated Be



- MW BeXBs (solid) & isolated Be (dashed) (McBride et al. 2008)
- Narrow spectral type distribution of BeXBs begins at O8 ( $\sim 22 M_{\odot}$ ), peaks at B0 ( $\sim 16 M_{\odot}$ ) and stops at B2 ( $\sim 10 M_{\odot}$ ): wide orbits vulnerable to disruption during SN event, especially for less massive B stars

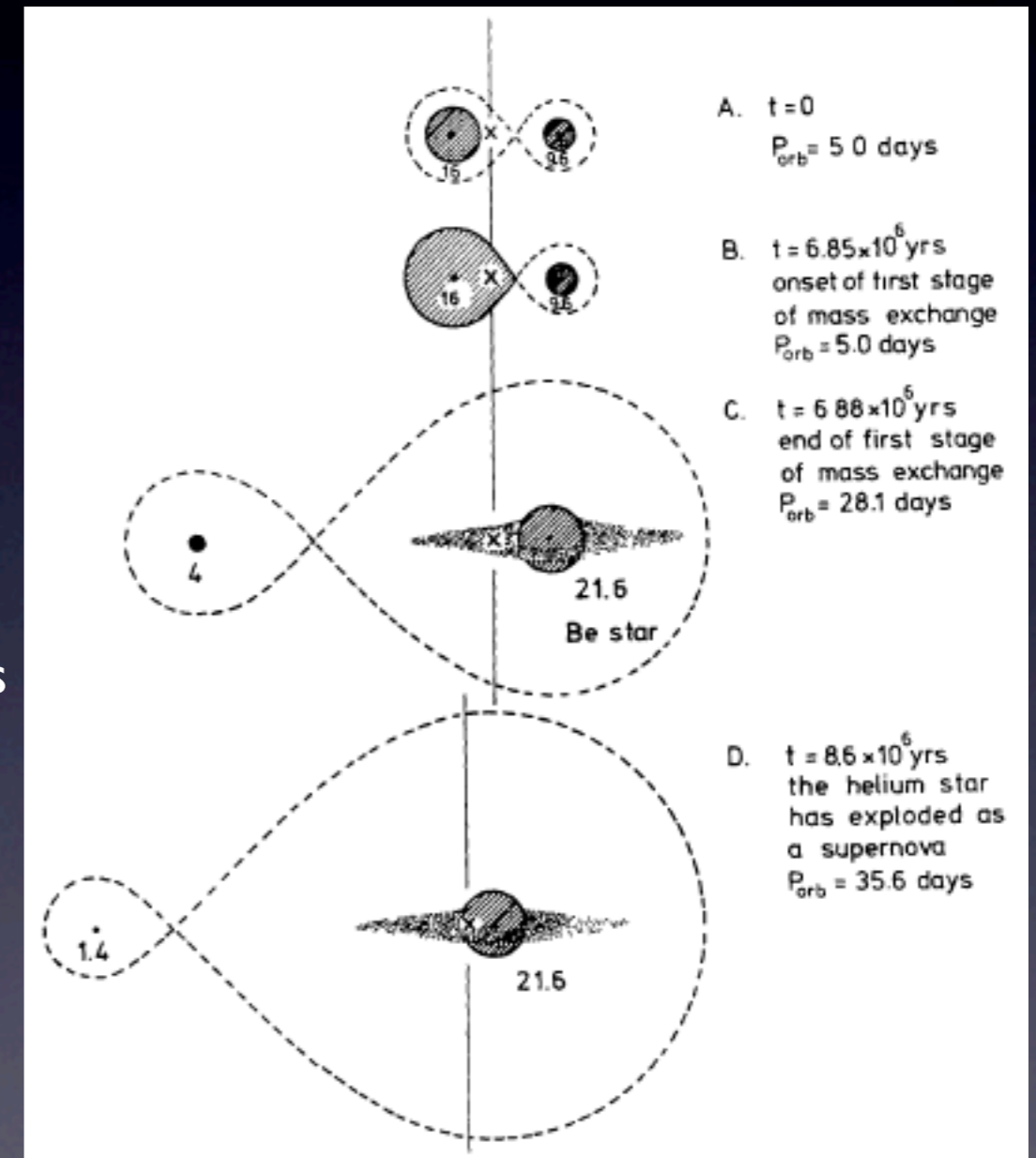
# Formation of BeXBs



- Distribution of Be stars (Portegies Zwart 1995)
- Low-mass systems ( $< 8 M_{\odot}$ , later than B2 V): disrupted by SN kick velocities & angular momentum loss
- Heavier systems ( $> 22 M_{\odot}$ , earlier than O9V): become sgXBs

# Formation of BeXBs

- Model of Rejuvenation: product of binary evolution
- Mass transfer spins up (outer layers of secondary star => Be phenomenon (not born as fast rotators, nor spun-up in final MS stages)
- Systems formed from moderately massive binaries undergoing semi-conservative mass transfer evolution
  - Wide orbits (200-600d) produced before SN event
  - eccentricity produced by small asymmetries during SN event



(Rappaport & van den Heuvel 1982;  
van den Heuvel 1983;  
Verbunt & van den Heuvel 1995)



# Be circumstellar disc

- Natural disk truncation due to tidal torques at certain resonance points ( $P_{\text{Keplerian}} = \text{integer fraction of } P_{\text{orb}}$ ): no transport of matter beyond these points
- BeXBs with high eccentricities allow size of disc to depend on orbital phase, at periastron the disc can include NS orbit => Type I X-ray outbursts
- Accretion on NS unlikely for BeXBs with circular orbits always truncated at fixed size, smaller than Roche lobe => Persistent low-level X-ray emission from stellar wind + occasional Type II outbursts

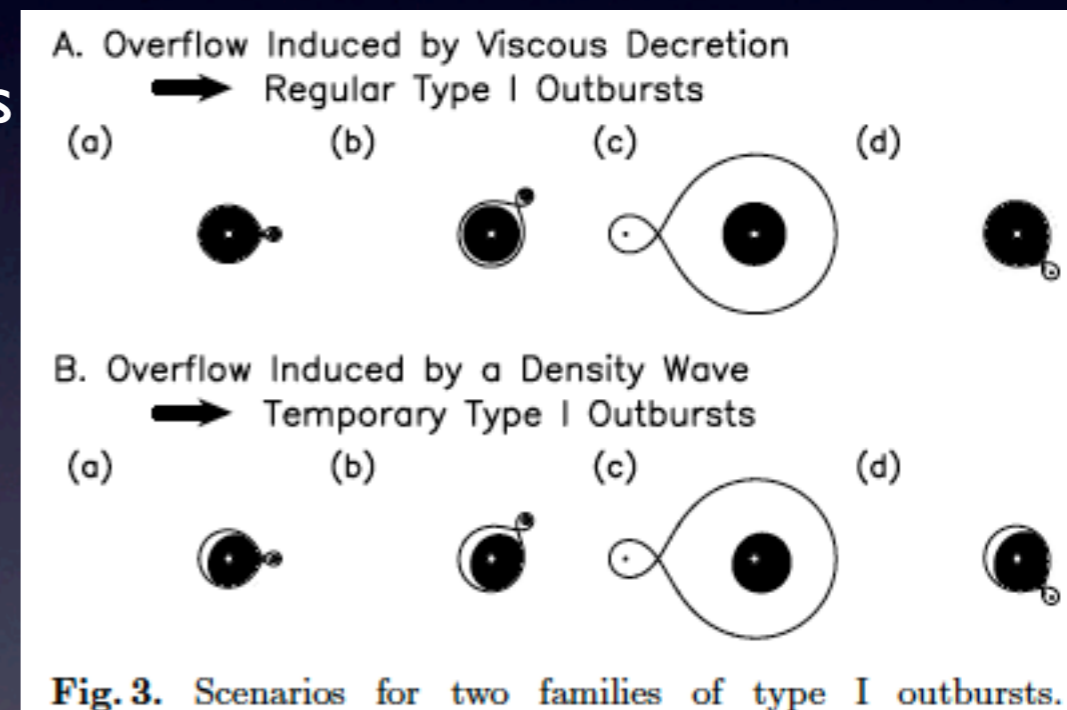
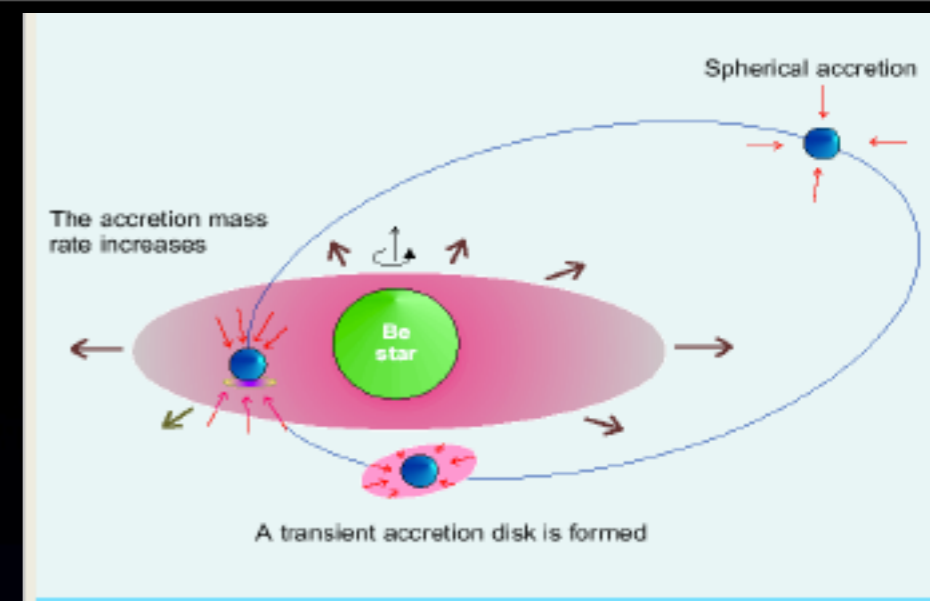


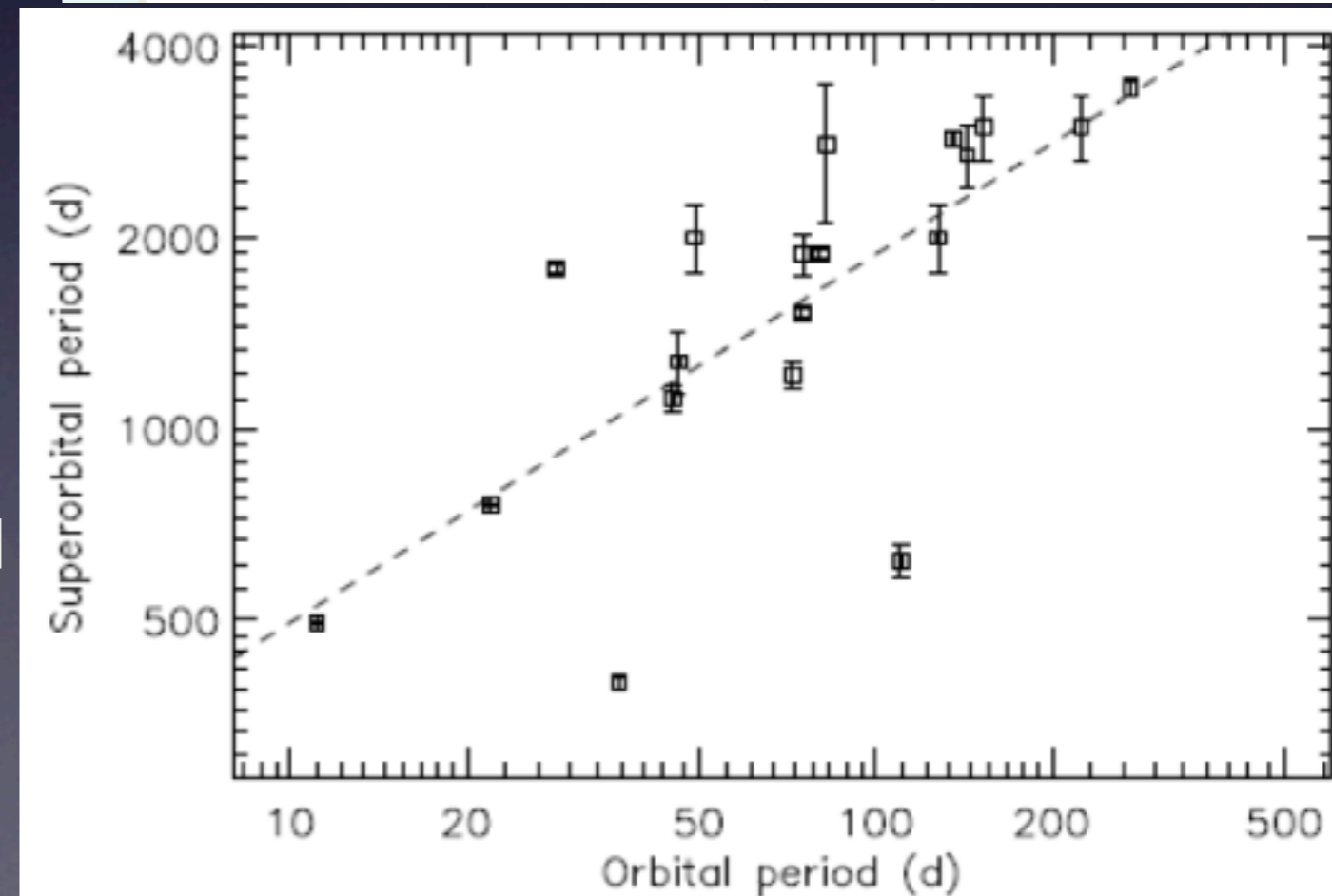
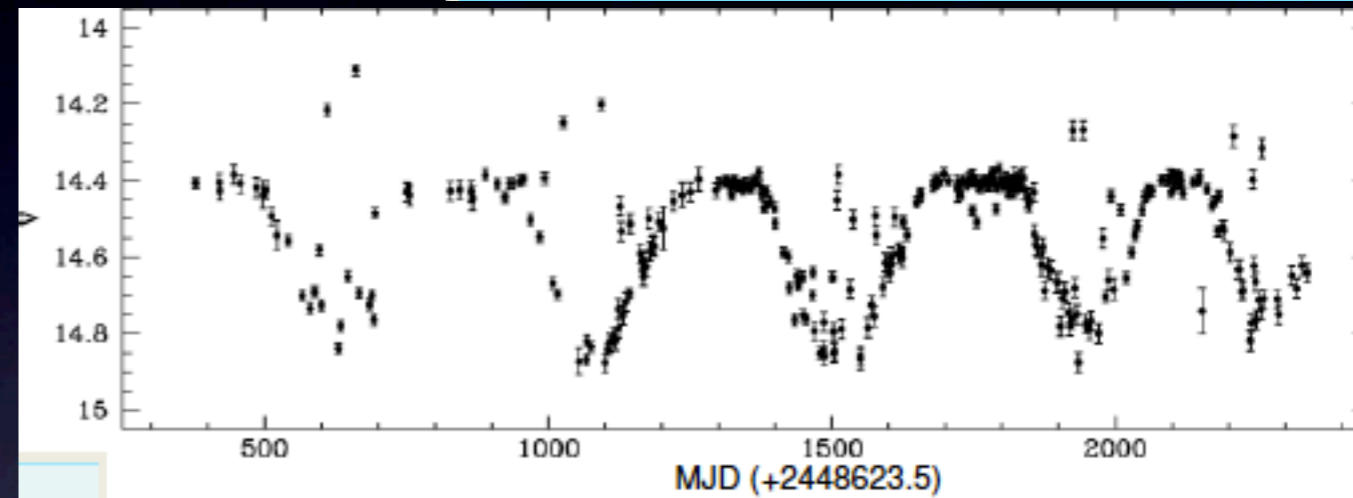
Fig. 3. Scenarios for two families of type I outbursts.

(Okazaki & Negueruela 2001)

# Be circumstellar disc



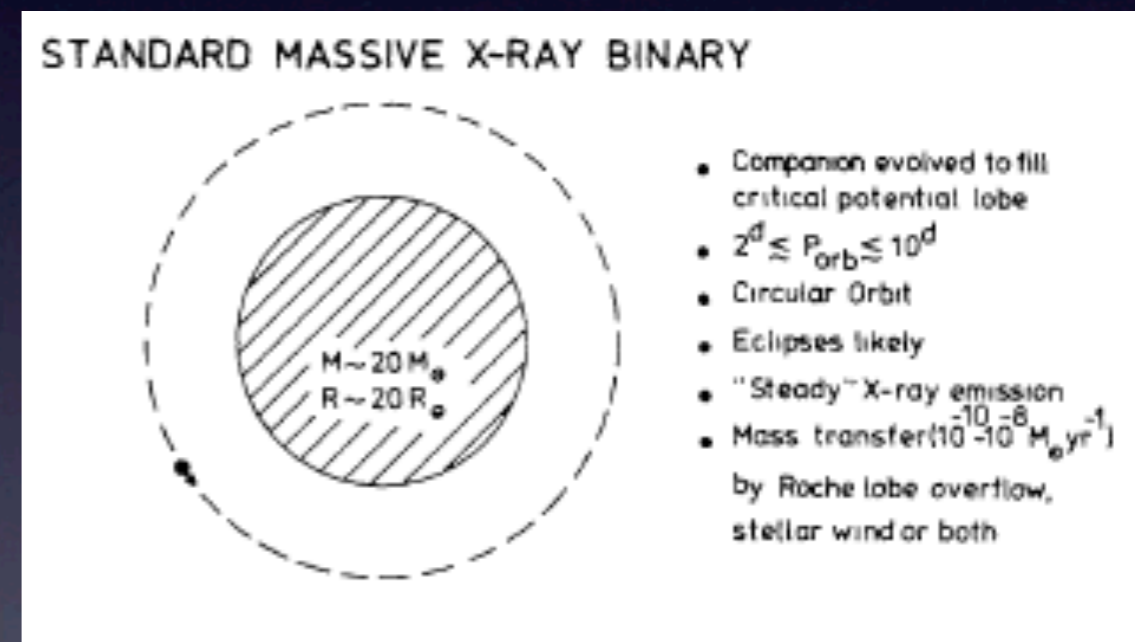
- Activity cycle variations in Be circumstellar disc, which forms and disperses...
- 3 periods: spin, orbital, and super-orbital
- BeXB A0538-66:  
 $P_{\text{orb}} = 16.65\text{d}$ ;  $P_{\text{sup}} = 421\text{d}$
- MACHO + OGLE: 18yr light-curves:  $P_{\text{sup}}$ : 300-3000d



Mc Gowan & Charles 2003  
 Rajoelimanana et al. 2011

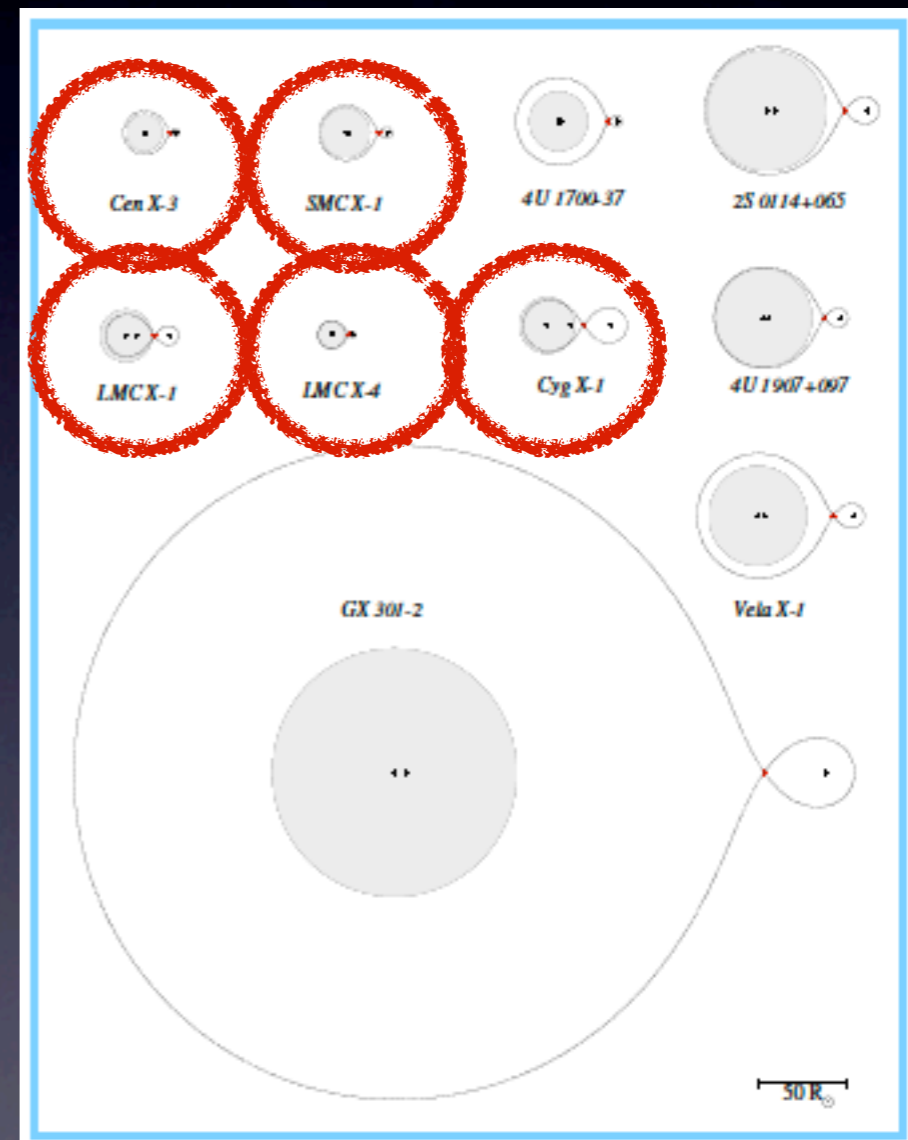
# sg X-ray binaries (sgXBs)

- Donor: early-type sgOB star with steady wind outflow
- Compact object: NS in circular orbit
- 2 distinct groups:
  - Roche-lobe overflow systems
  - Wind-fed accreting systems



# Roche-lobe overflow sgXBs

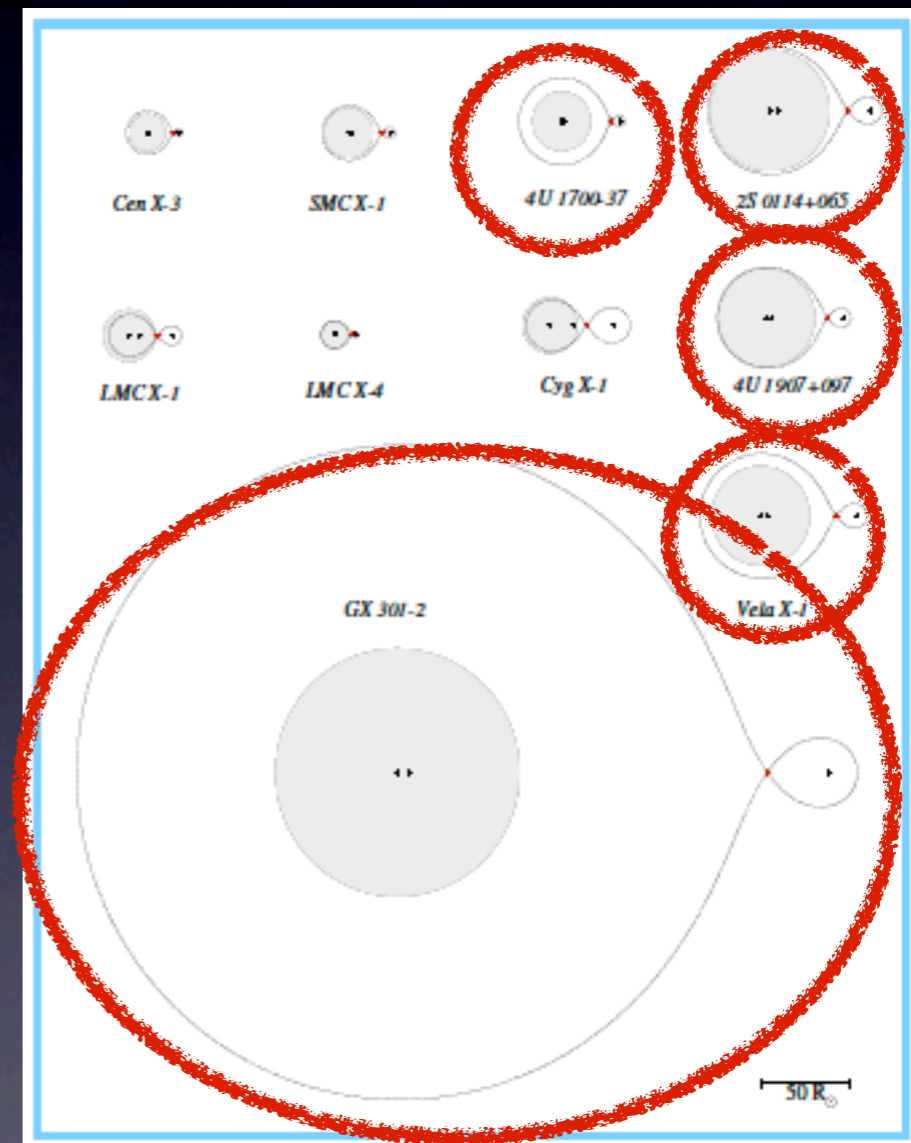
- Classical «bright» sources, NS on circular orbit
- Matter flows via inner Lagrangian point to accretion disc -> high X-ray luminosity ( $L_x \sim 10^{38}$  erg/s) during outbursts
- Cyg X-1: the only sgXB with RL overflow (and stellar wind accretion) hosting a confirmed BH



(Kaper et al 2004)

# Wind-fed sgXBs

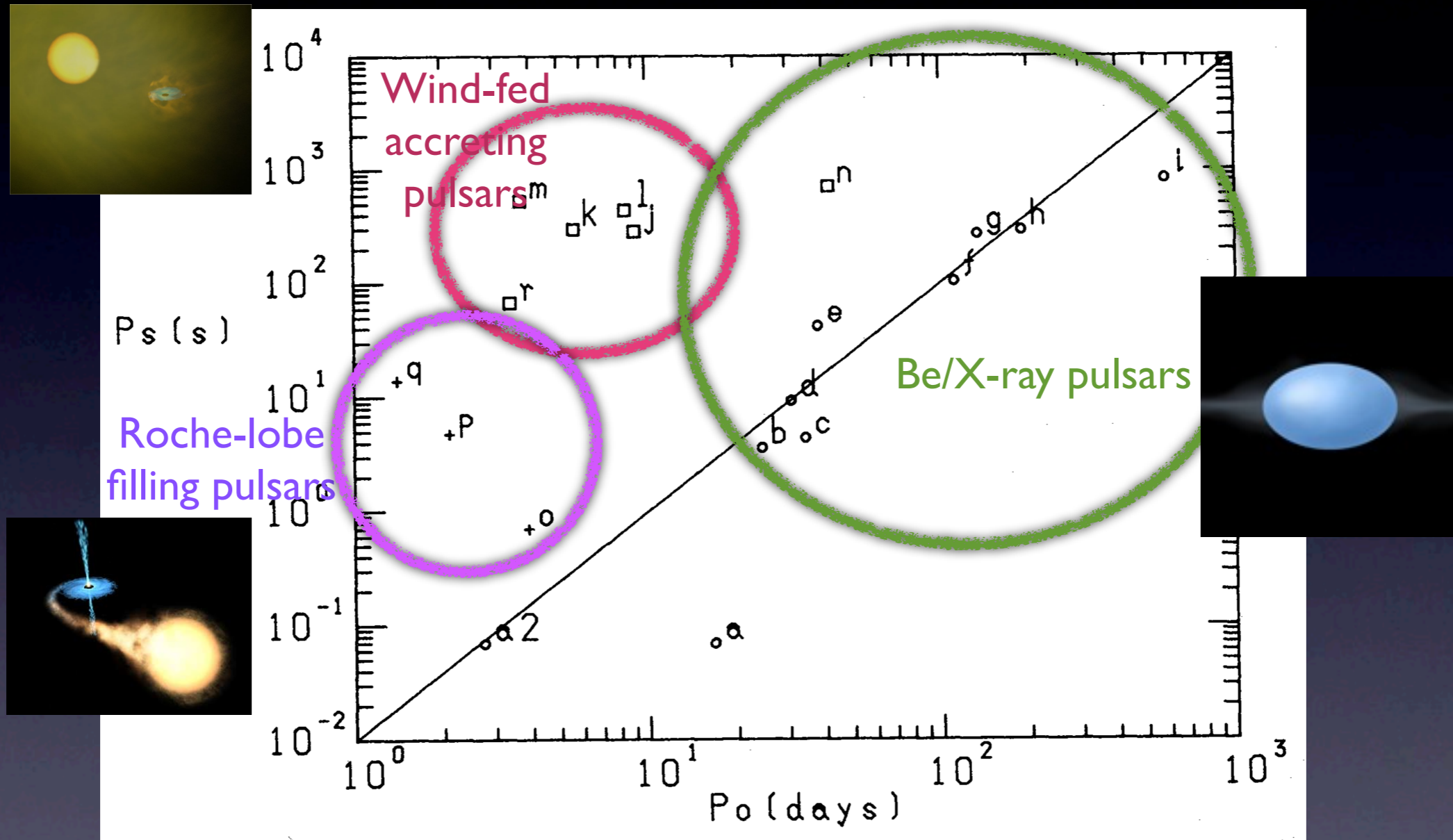
- NS on close orbit ( $P_{\text{orb}} < 15\text{d}$  with low eccentricity), accretes deep inside strong steady radiation-driven highly supersonic stellar wind
- Persistent X-ray emission at regular low-level effect ( $L_x \sim 10^{35-36}$  erg/s); rare Type II outbursts, no Type I
- Large variations on short timescales (wind inhomogeneities)
- Orbits circularize with time & increasing mass-transfer rate



(Kaper et al 2004)

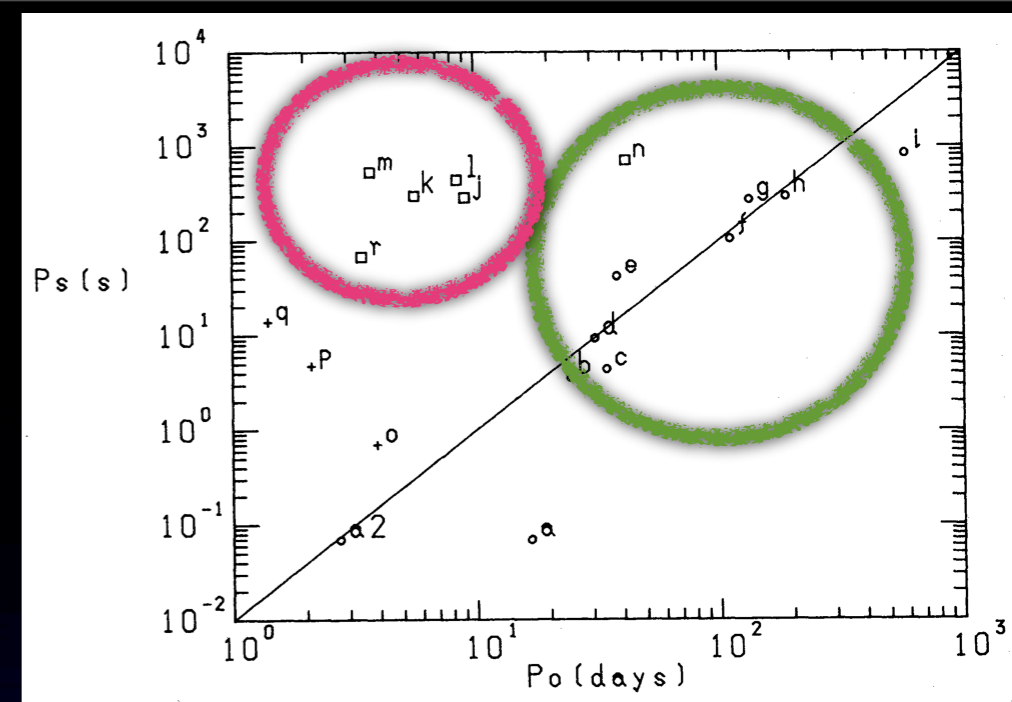
# The Corbet diagram

# The original Corbet Diagramme (1986)



- 3 types of HMXB populations (X-ray accretion-powered pulsars) in different places due to dominant accretion process

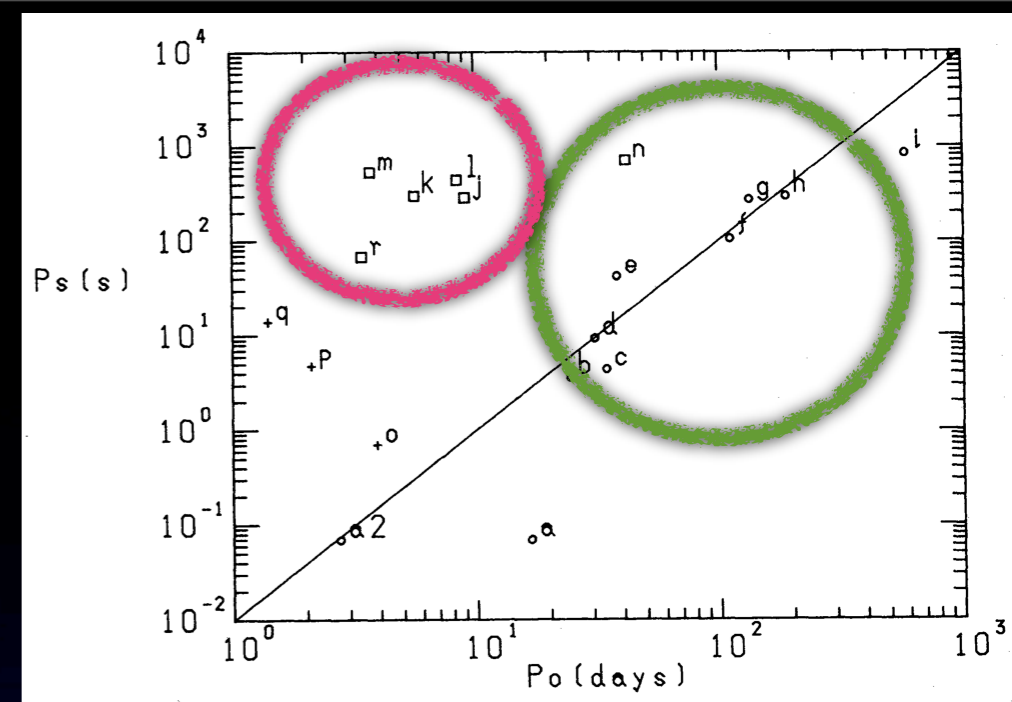
# BeXB correlation



- BeXBs: strong correlation NS  $P_{\text{spin}} \propto (P_{\text{orb}})^2$ 
  - Accretion of significant angular momentum
  - Small/wide orbit  $\Rightarrow$  high/low average wind density  
 $\Rightarrow$  strong/weak accretion pressure  
 $\Rightarrow$  low/high  $P_{\text{spin}}$  ( $\sim$ high/weak centrifugal inhibition)
- sgXBs: no correlation due to low net angular momentum of accreted matter...

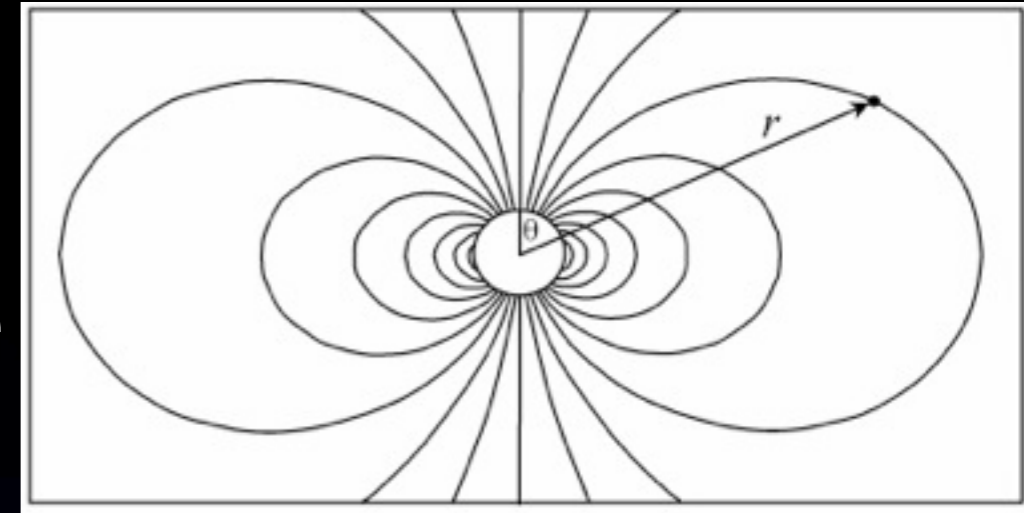


# NS $P_{\text{spin}}$ on the Corbet Diagramme



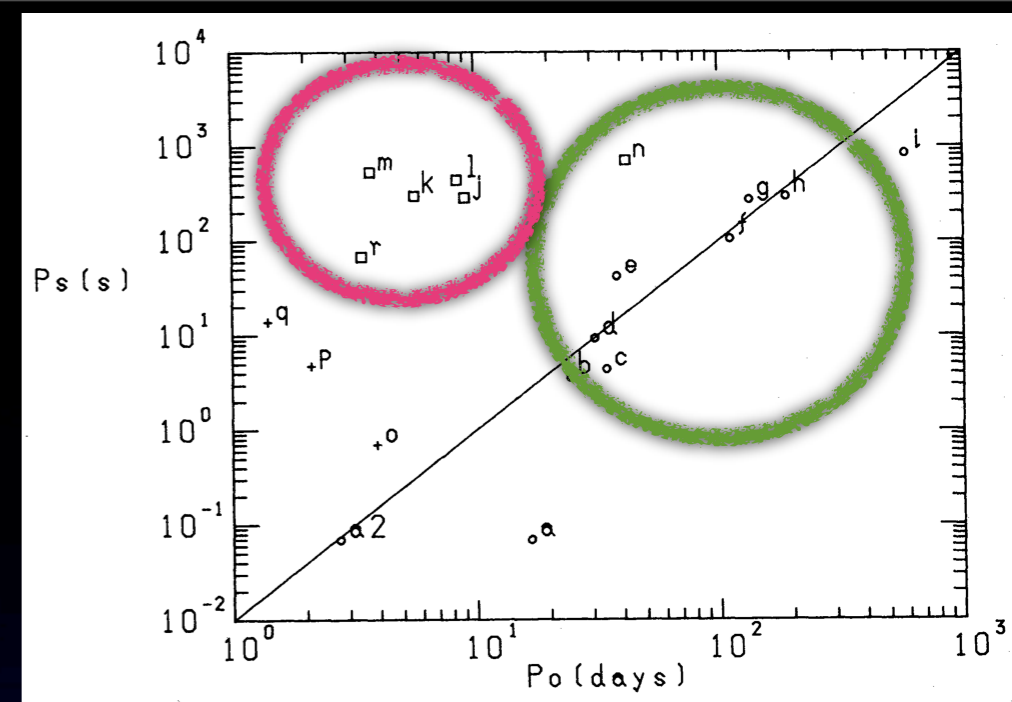
- HMXB  $P_{\text{spin}}$  regulated by stellar wind characteristics:
  - Supergiants: spherically-symmetric wind: density  $\rho(r) \propto r^{-2}$ ; velocity  $v$ :  $\sim 600-900$  km/s
  - Be stars: wind density drops faster:  $\rho(r) \propto r^{-3 \rightarrow -3.5}$ ;  $v$ :  $\sim 200-300$  km/s
- Larger gradients of  $\rho$  &  $v$  at NS distance in BeXBs  $\Rightarrow$  accretion of angular momentum more efficient (Waters et al. 1988; Waters & van Kerkwijk 1989)

# NS $P_{\text{spin}}$ on the Corbet Diagramme



- Accretion occurs on magnetized NS only if pressure of infalling material  $>$  centrifugal inhibition (Alfven radius inside magnetospheric boundary)
- Equilibrium period  $P_{\text{eq}}$  for which corotation velocity  $V_C =$  Keplerian velocity  $V_K$  (at magnetospheric radius)
  - $V_C > V_K$  ( $\sim P_{\text{spin}} < P_{\text{eq}}$ ): Propeller mechanism increases  $P_{\text{spin}}$  (material spun away taking angular momentum)
  - $V_C < V_K$  ( $\sim P_{\text{spin}} > P_{\text{eq}}$ ): accretion reduces  $P_{\text{spin}}$  (Illarionov & Sunyaev 1975)

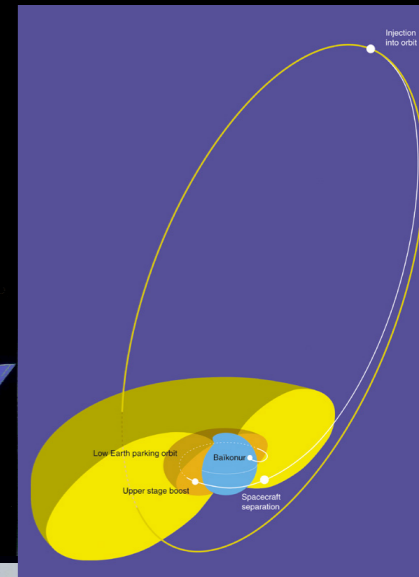
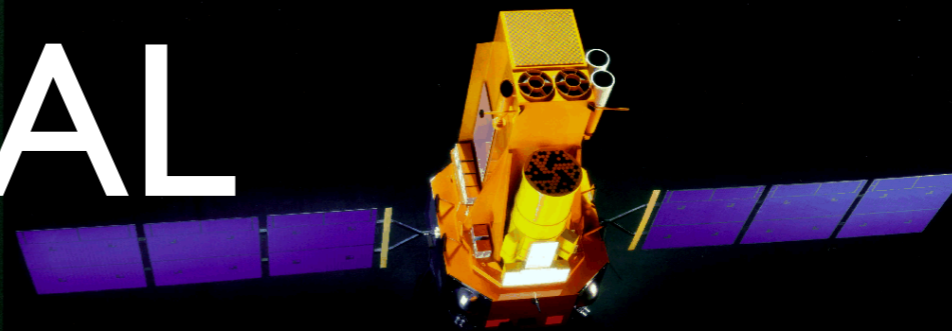
# NS $P_{\text{spin}}$ on the Corbet Diagramme



- Given density & steady accretion rate depending on direction of angular momentum vs NS spin:  
 $P_{\text{spin}}$  reaches  $P_{\text{eq}} \propto \rho^{-3/7}$
- Current NS  $P_{\text{spin}}$  in sgXBs longer than predicted, closer to  $P_{\text{eq}}$  of stellar wind while the star was still a MS O star (Waters & van Kerkwijk 1989)
- $P_{\text{spin}} \neq P_{\text{eq}}$  in BeXBs, constantly adjusting to changing conditions in wind: reflect values of earlier evolutionary stage (King 1991)

# The INTEGRAL Legacy

# The INTEGRAL observatory

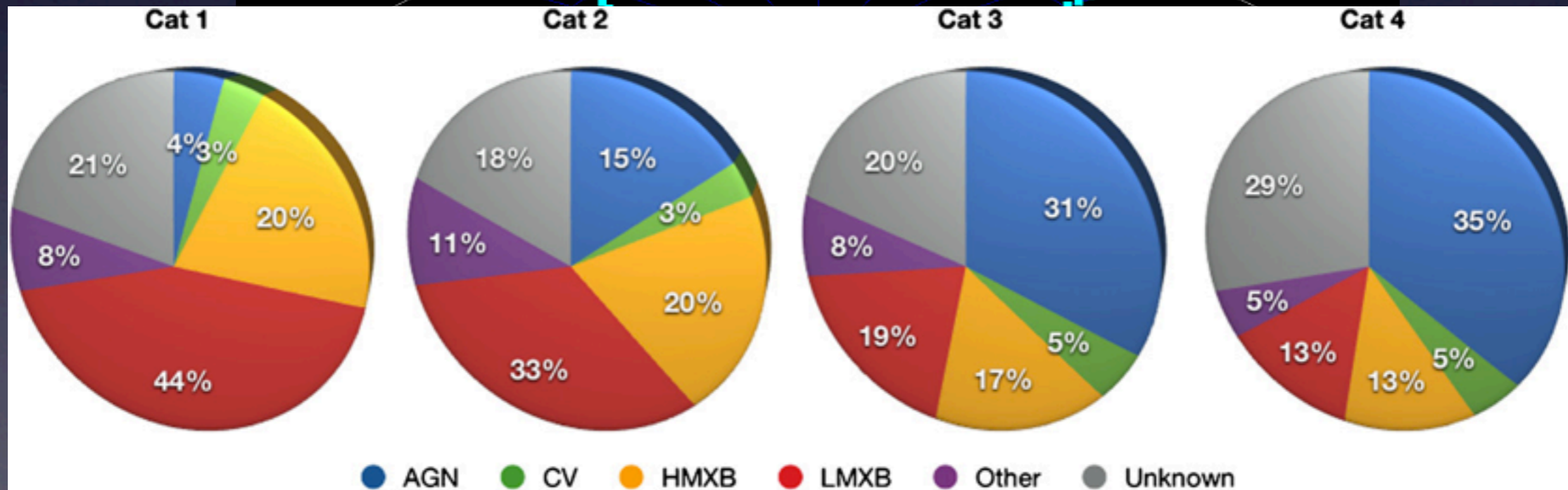
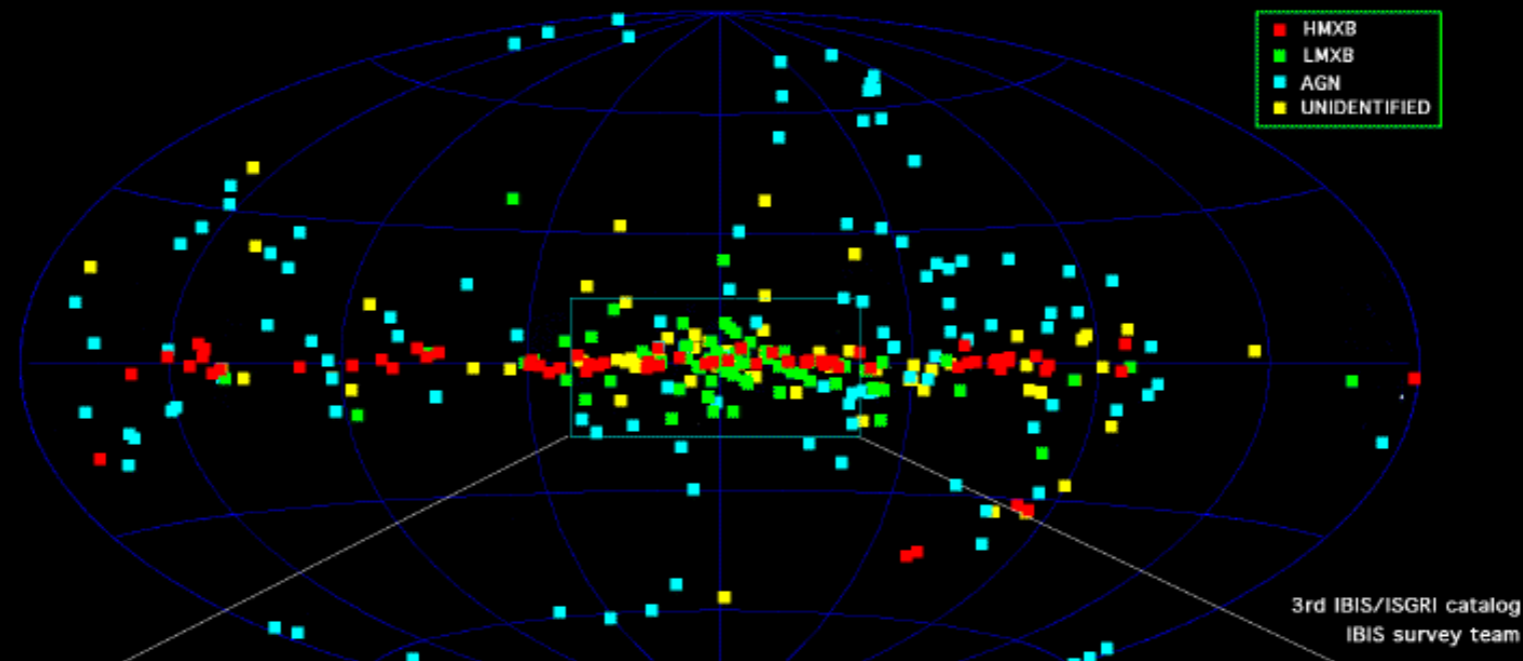


- ESA satellite launched on 17/10/2002 by PROTON rocket on eccentric orbit
- 2  $\gamma$ -ray coded mask telescopes  
10 keV-10 MeV, 12' resolution,  
19° fov



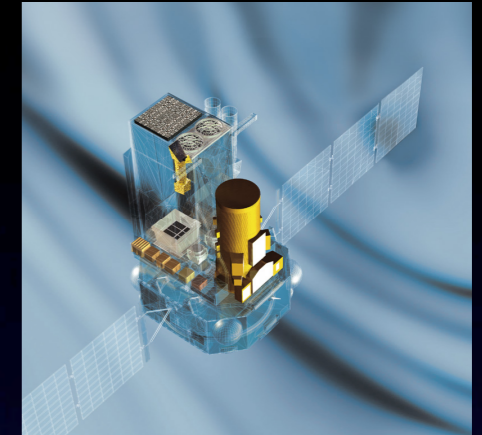
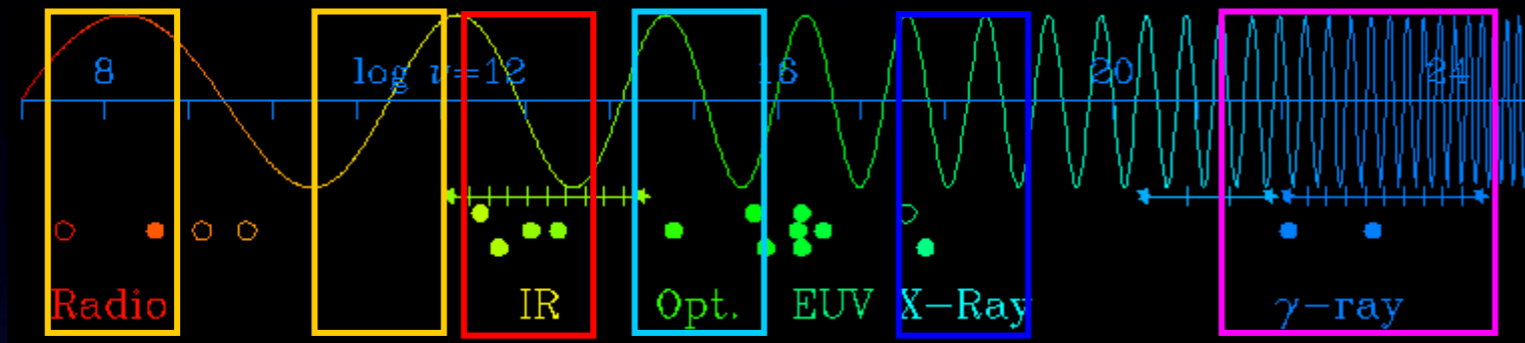
© ESA - S.CORVAJA - October 2002

# The Milky Way



Bird et al. 2007  
Bird et al. 2010

# Multiwavelength observations



- Discovery: INTEGRAL (X/ $\gamma$ )
- Localisation: XMM/Swift/Chandra (X)
- Identification: opt/IR (ESO Paranal VLT / La Silla NTT)

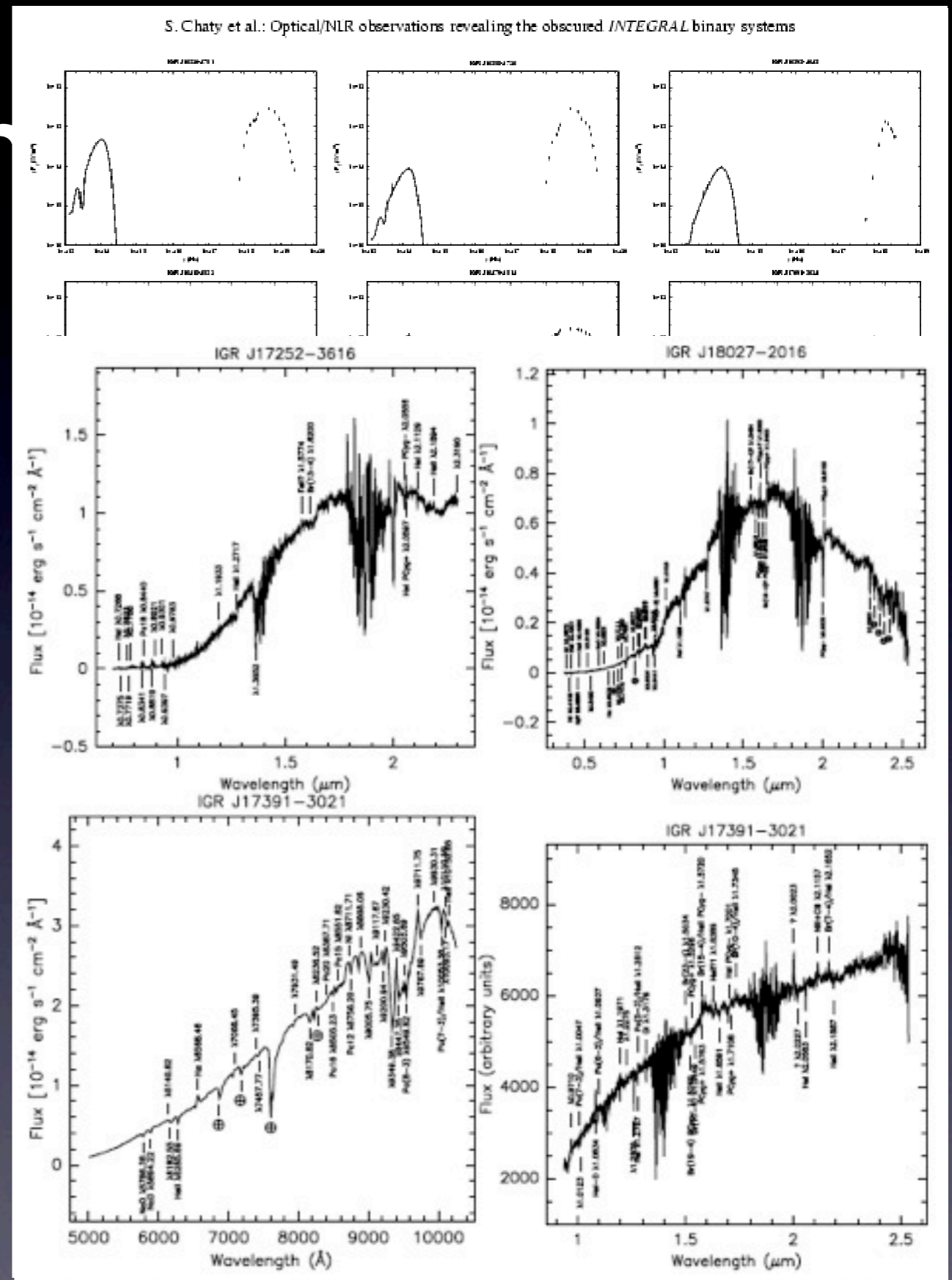
# Identification of sources

- **4+20+1+5 IGRs localised with Chandra:**  
Butler et al. 2009; Paizis et al. 2007; Tomsick, Chaty, Rodriguez et al. *ApJ*, 2006, 2008, 2009
- **12+17 IGRs localised with Swift:**  
Rodriguez, Tomsick, Chaty, *A&A*, 2008a and 2008b
- **Multi-wavelength follow-up of ~50 sources:**  
Chaty, Rahoui, Foellmi et al., *A&A*, 2008; Filliatre & Chaty 2004; Rahoui et al. *A&A* 2008; Filliatre & Chaty, *ApJ* 2004, Pellizza, Chaty, Negueruela *A&A* 2006; Rahoui & Chaty 2010; Zurita Heras & Chaty 2008, 2009; Curran et al. 2011 abc



# Identification

- Astrometry
- Photometry
- Spectroscopy
- Results: ~20 sgHMXBs, some with MIR excess



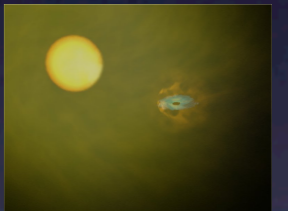
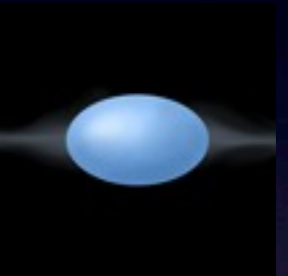
Chaty, Rahoui, Foellmi, Rodriguez, Tomsick, Walter et al. 2008

# 3 observational facts:

- I. INTEGRAL has quadrupled the known population of sgXBs
- II. INTEGRAL has revealed a previously hidden population of obscured sgXBs
- III. INTEGRAL has discovered huge and fast transient flares in sgXBs

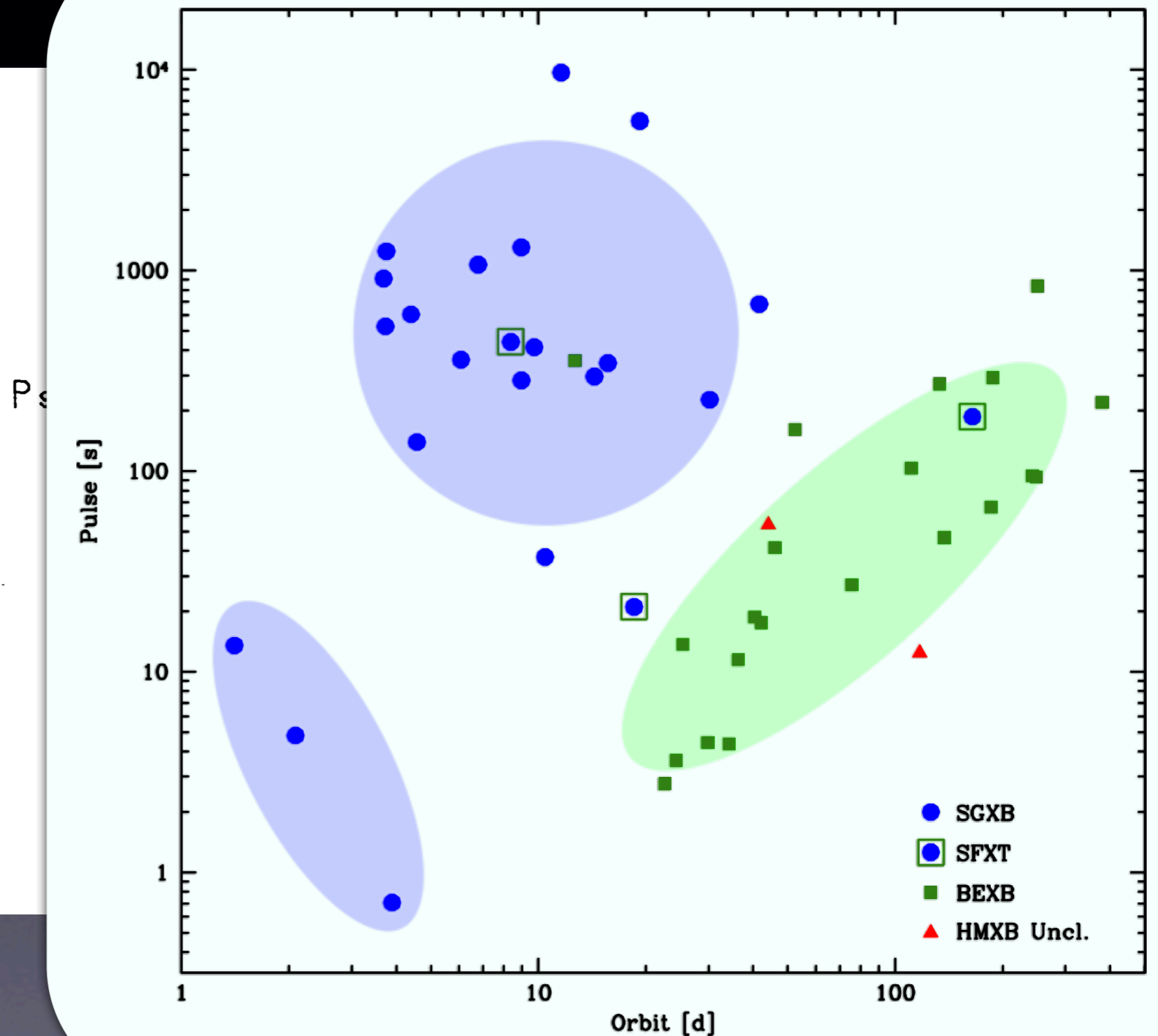
# Statistics on HMXBs

- Before INTEGRAL launch, HMXBs were mostly BeXBs: 54 (42%) BeXBs & 7 (5%) sgXBs (out of 130 HMXBs, Liu et al. 2000)
- 9 years later: 52 (46%) BeXBs & 29 (25%)(x5) sgXBs (out of 114 HMXBs, +128 in MCs, Liu et al. 2006)
- From study of individual sgXBs (GX 301-2, 4U 1700-377, Vela X-1...) to characteristics of whole population...



# The Corbet Diagramme revisited by IBIS/ISGRI

- 22 BeXBs
- 20 sgXBs
- 3 SFXTs
- 2 unclXBs
- $P_{\text{spin}}: 0.6 \rightarrow 10^4 \text{s}$



Bodaghee et al. 2007

# 3 observational facts:

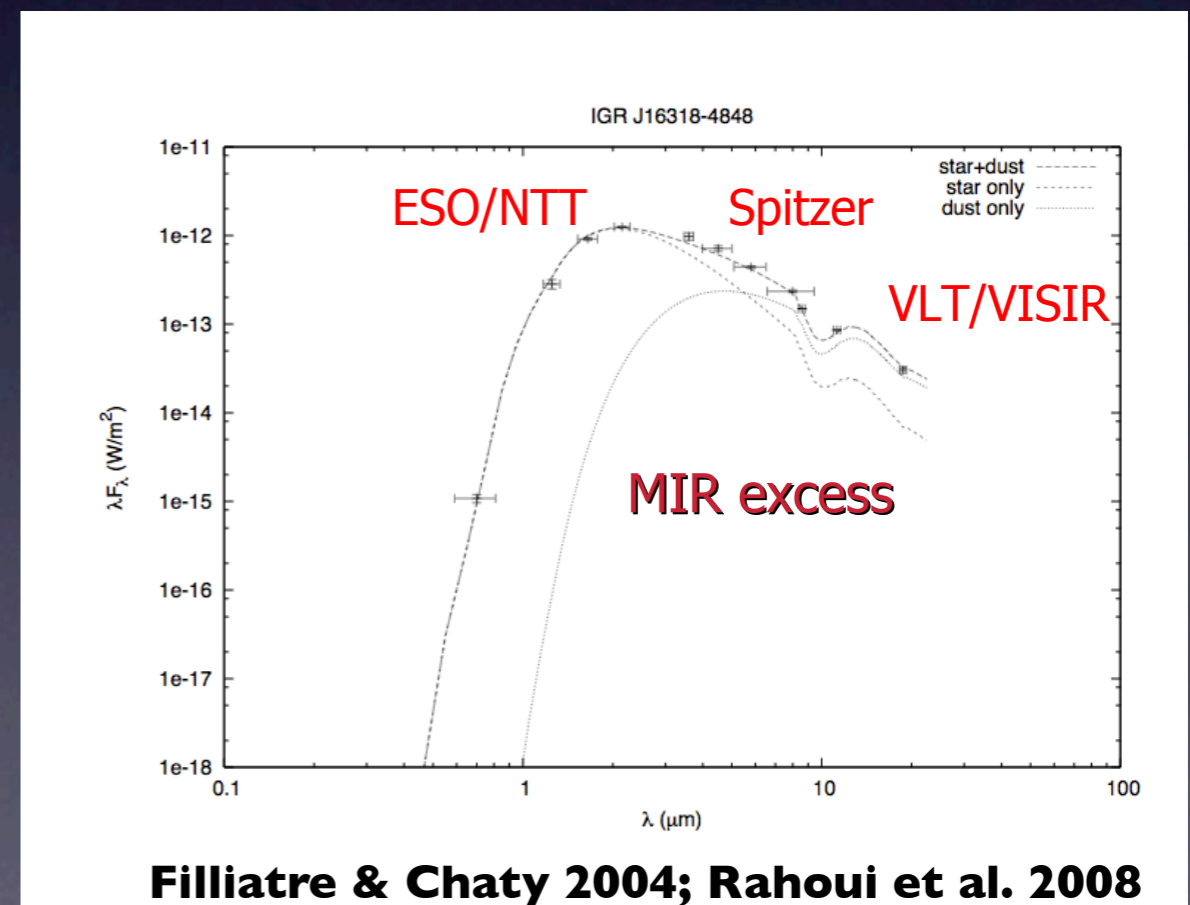
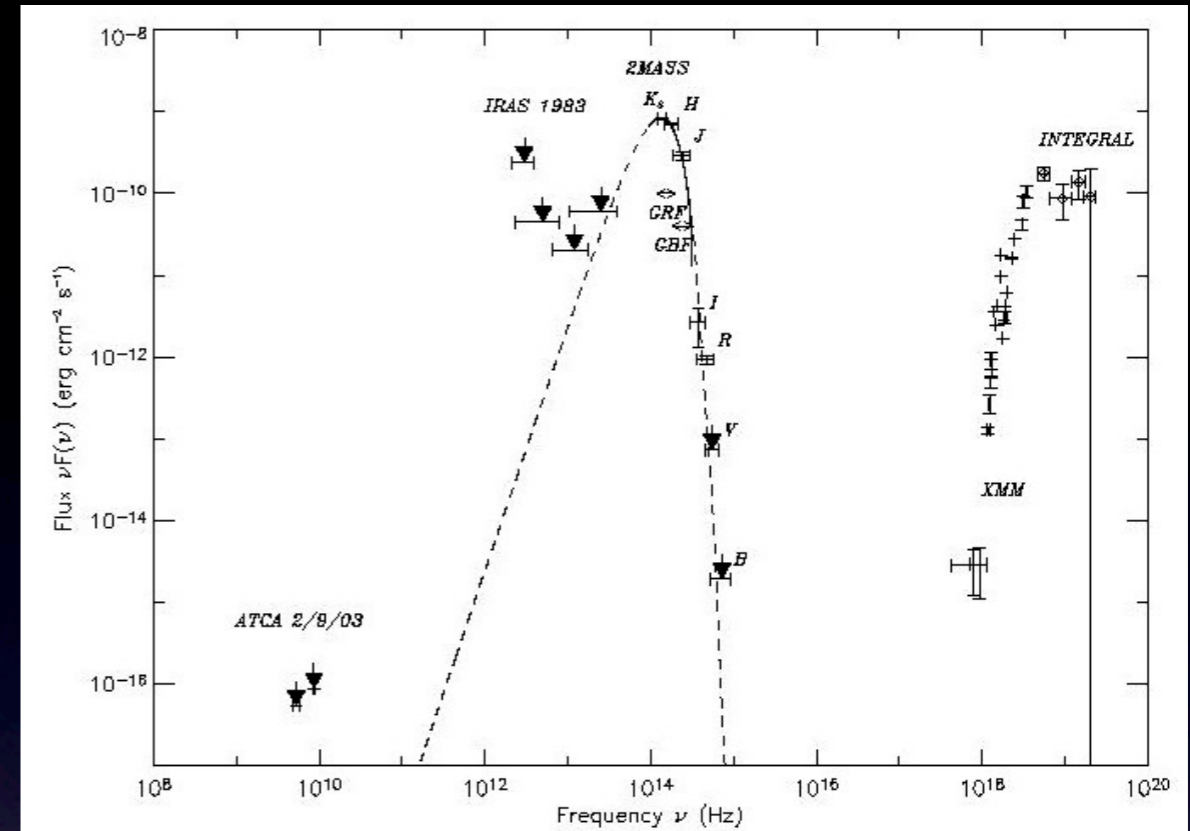
- I. INTEGRAL has nearly quadrupled the known population of sgXBs

- II. INTEGRAL has revealed a previously hidden population of obscured sgXBs

- III. INTEGRAL has discovered huge and fast transient flares in sgXBs

# Obscured source: IGR J16318-4848

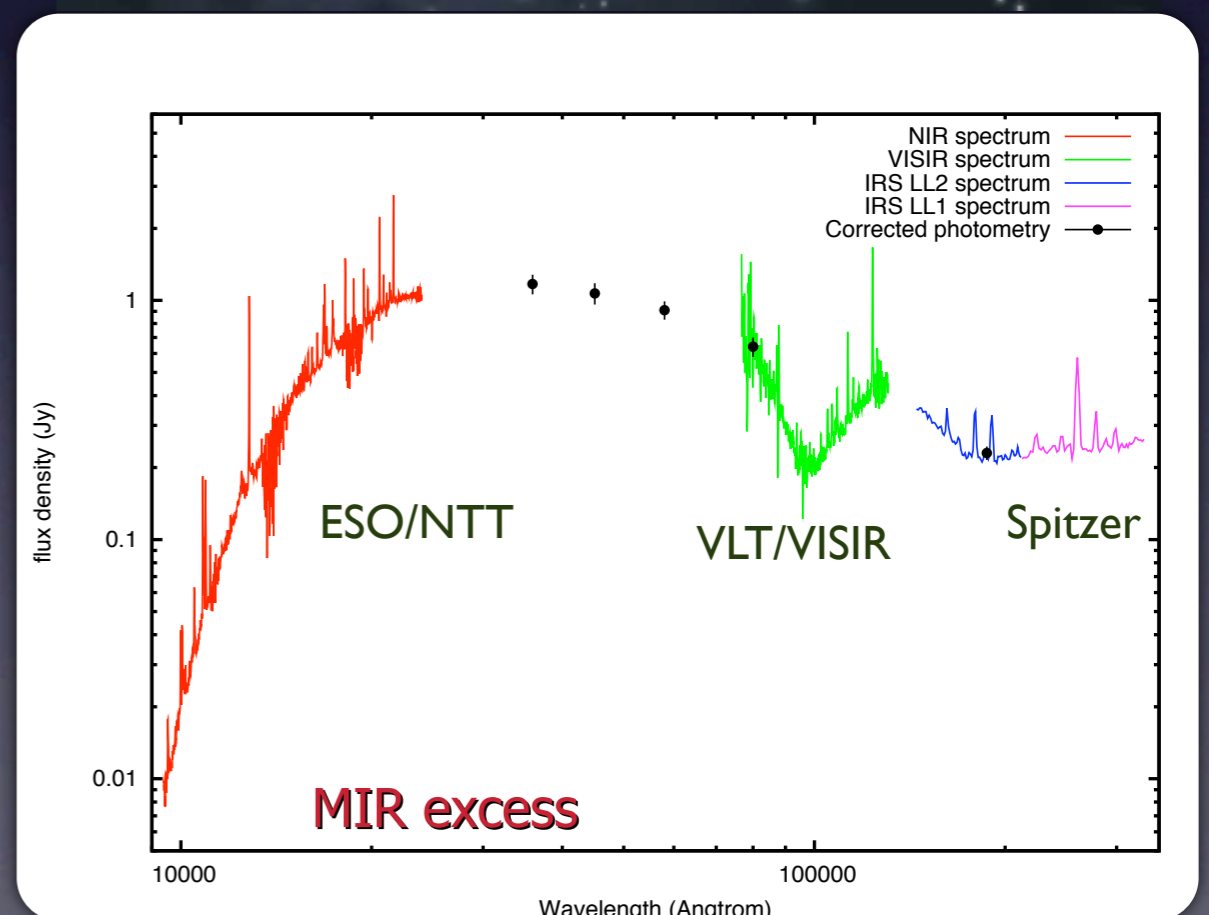
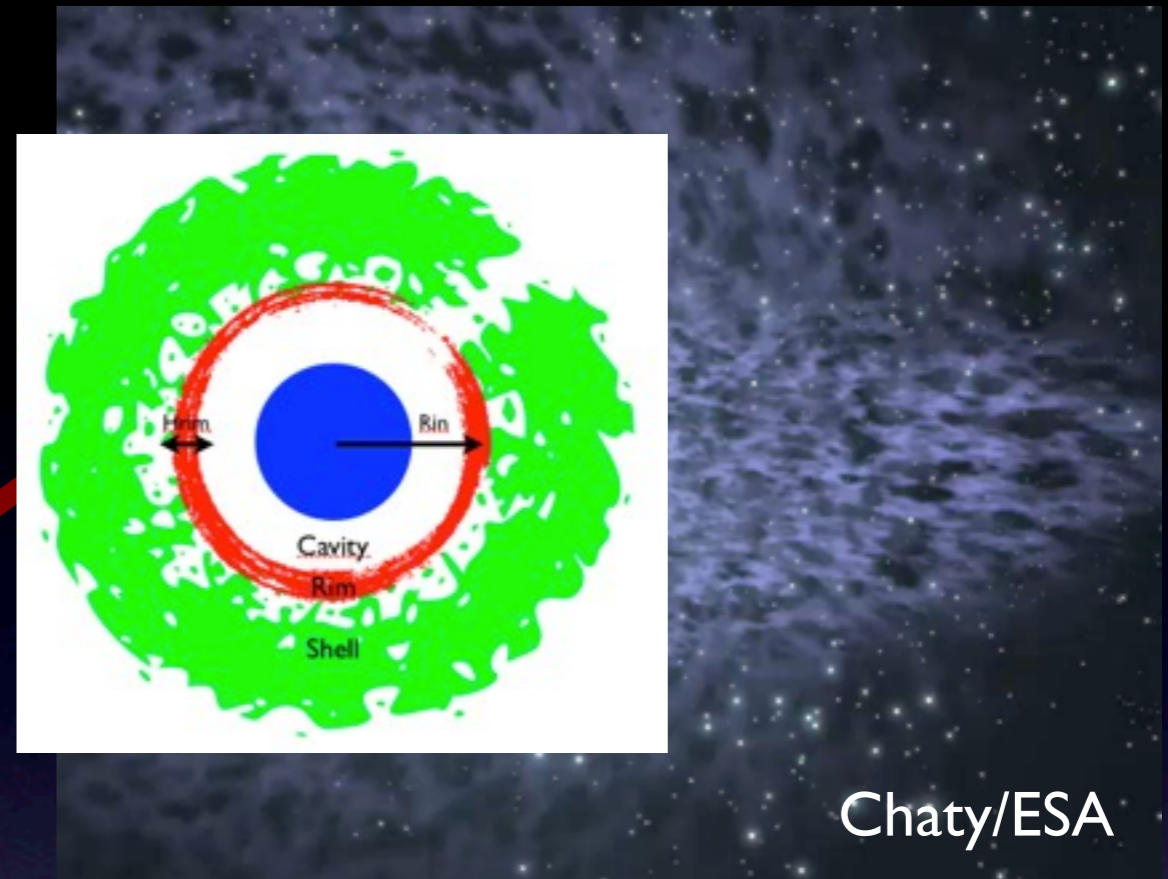
- 1<sup>st</sup> source discovered by INTEGRAL; bright IR counterpart
- Unusual absorption  $A_V=17$  mag,  $100\times>IS$ , but  $100\times<X$
- MIR excess (ESO/NTT+VLT & Spitzer observations)



Filliatre & Chaty 2004; Rahoui et al. 2008

# Obscured source: IGR J16318-4848

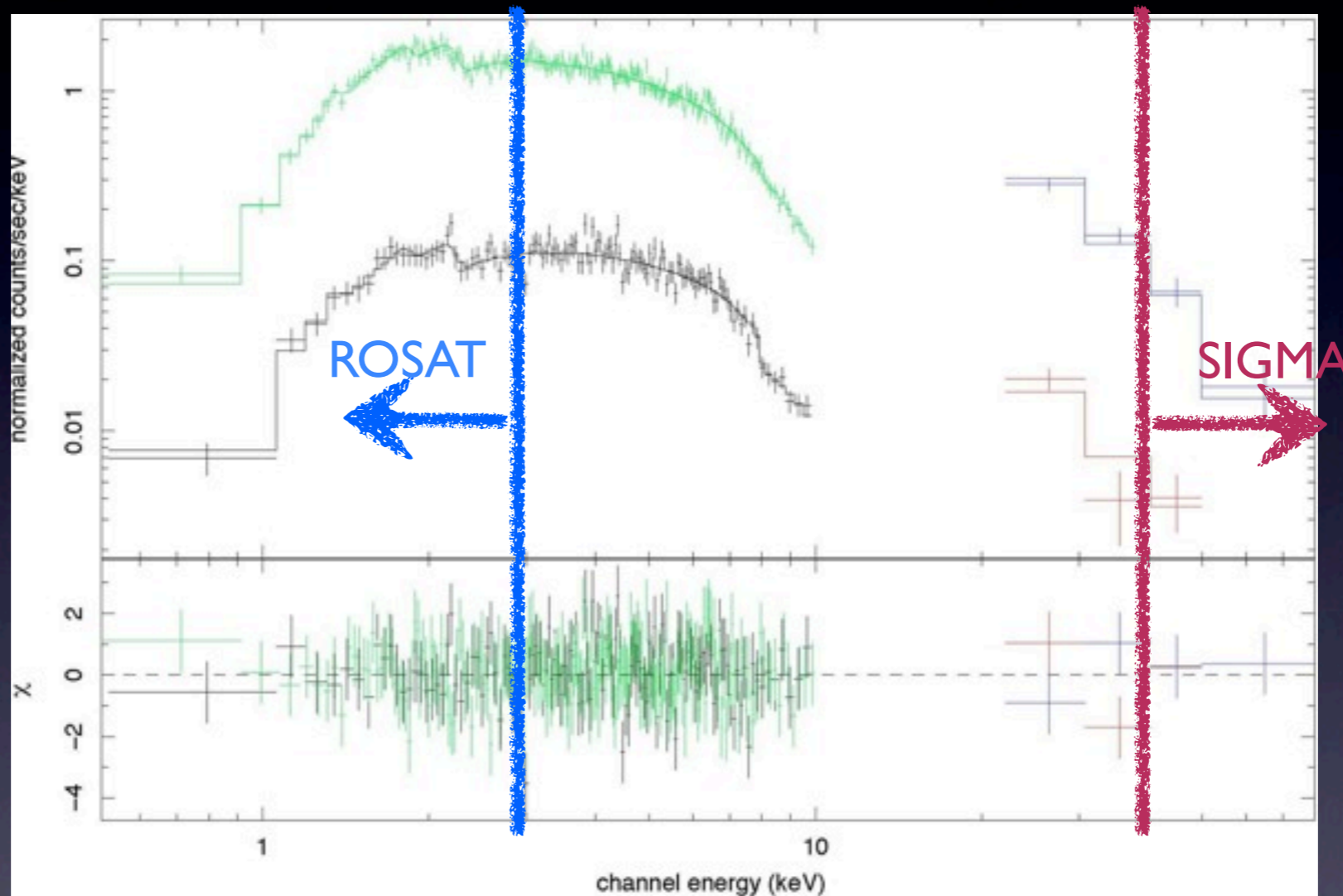
- NIR spectrum: stratified circumstellar envelope, wind:  
Luminous sgB[e] star:  $10^6 L_{\odot}$ ,  $30 M_{\odot}$ , 22000K,  $20 R_{\odot} = 0.1 \text{ au}$
- MIR VISIR photometry:  
 $T_d = 1100\text{K}$ ,  $R_d = 12 R_* = 240 R_{\odot}$   
(= 1 au) If  $P_{\text{orb}} = 10 \text{ d} \Rightarrow a = 50 R_{\odot} < R_d$   
 $\Rightarrow$  dust cocoon enshrouds the whole binary system
- MIR VISIR+Spitzer spectrum:  
aspheric geometry, disk rim at 5500K, warm dust shell at 900K



Chaty & Rahoui 2011;

S. Chaty Filliatre & Chaty 2004; Rahoui et al. 2008

# Why INTEGRAL?



- ISGRI (>20 keV) immune to absorption that prevented discovery of intrinsically absorbed sources with earlier soft X-ray telescopes (Spectrum IGR J18450-0435)



# Why INTEGRAL?

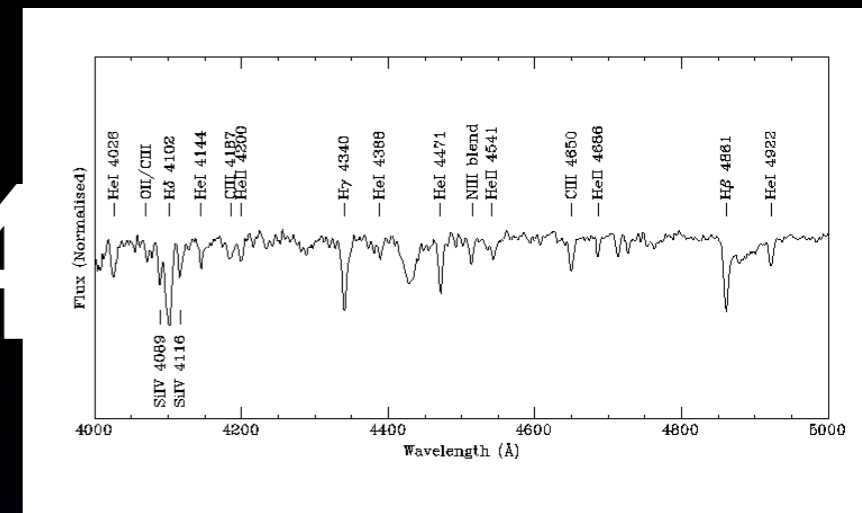
- Flux (40-100 keV) in mCrab (Bird et al. 2010)
  - SFXT IGR J17544 =  $0.2 \pm 0.1$  (8 Ms) (Peak flux 20-40 keV = 33.7 mCrab)
  - SFXT XTE J1739 =  $0.8 \pm 0.1$  (8 Ms) (Peak flux 20-40 keV = 43.9 mCrab)
  - Obscured IGR J16318 =  $14.2 \pm 0.1$  (3.4Ms) IGR J16320 =  $5.7 \pm 0.1$  (3.3Ms)
  - Vela X-1 =  $54.3 \pm 0.2$  (3 Ms) 4U1700-377 =  $120.8 \pm 0.1$  (5.5 Ms)
- This explains why only bright sgXBs ( $\sim$ Vela X-1) were known before...

# 3 observational facts:

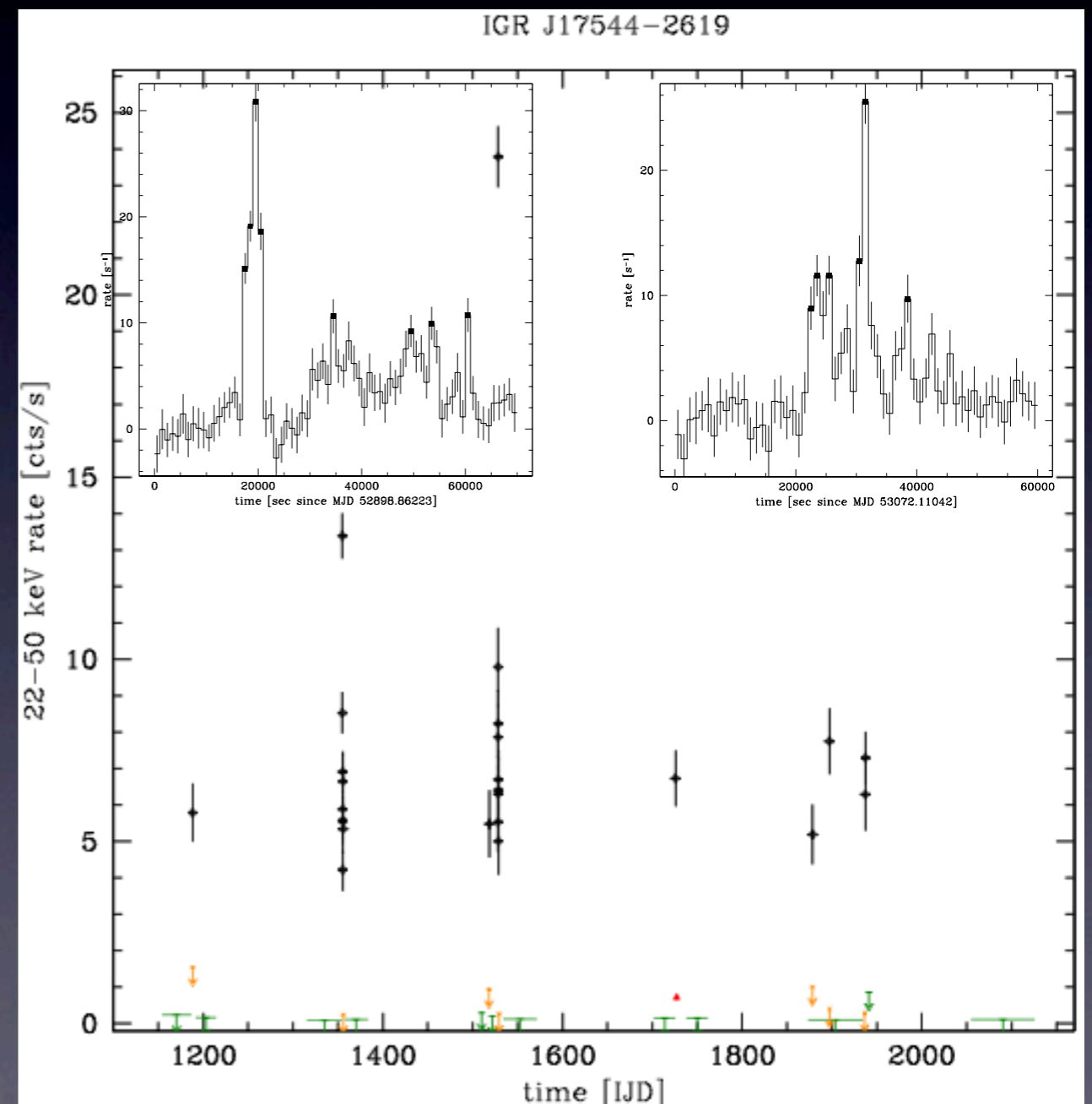
- I. INTEGRAL has nearly quadrupled the known population of sgXBs
- II. INTEGRAL has revealed a previously hidden population of obscured sgXBs

- III. INTEGRAL has discovered huge and fast transient flares in sgXBs

# SFXTs: IGR J1754



- sgXB: NS + blue O9Ib supergiant star ( $25M_{\odot}$ ,  $31000K$ ,  $22R_{\odot}$ ),  $P_{orb}=4.9d$  ( $1/2$  of bright & persistent source Vela X-1!)
- X-ray study: short ( $\sim hr$ ) but complex & intense X-ray flares (factor of  $10^{4-5}$ )
- SFXT = Supergiant Fast X-ray Transient  $10^{32-34}$  erg/s



Pellizza, Chaty, Negueruela 2006  
Zurita Heras & Chaty 2009

# Accretion processes

- **Accretion from clumpy stellar wind:  
study of density, structure & size of clumps**  
(Owocki 2009; in't Zand 2005; Walter & Zurita Heras 2007, Negueruela et al. 2008, Ducci et al. 2009)
- **Formation of transient accretion disks**  
(Ruffert 1997; Ducci et al. 2010)
- **Accretion with centrifugal/magnetic barriers**  
(Bozzo et al. 2008)

# Macro-clumping scenario

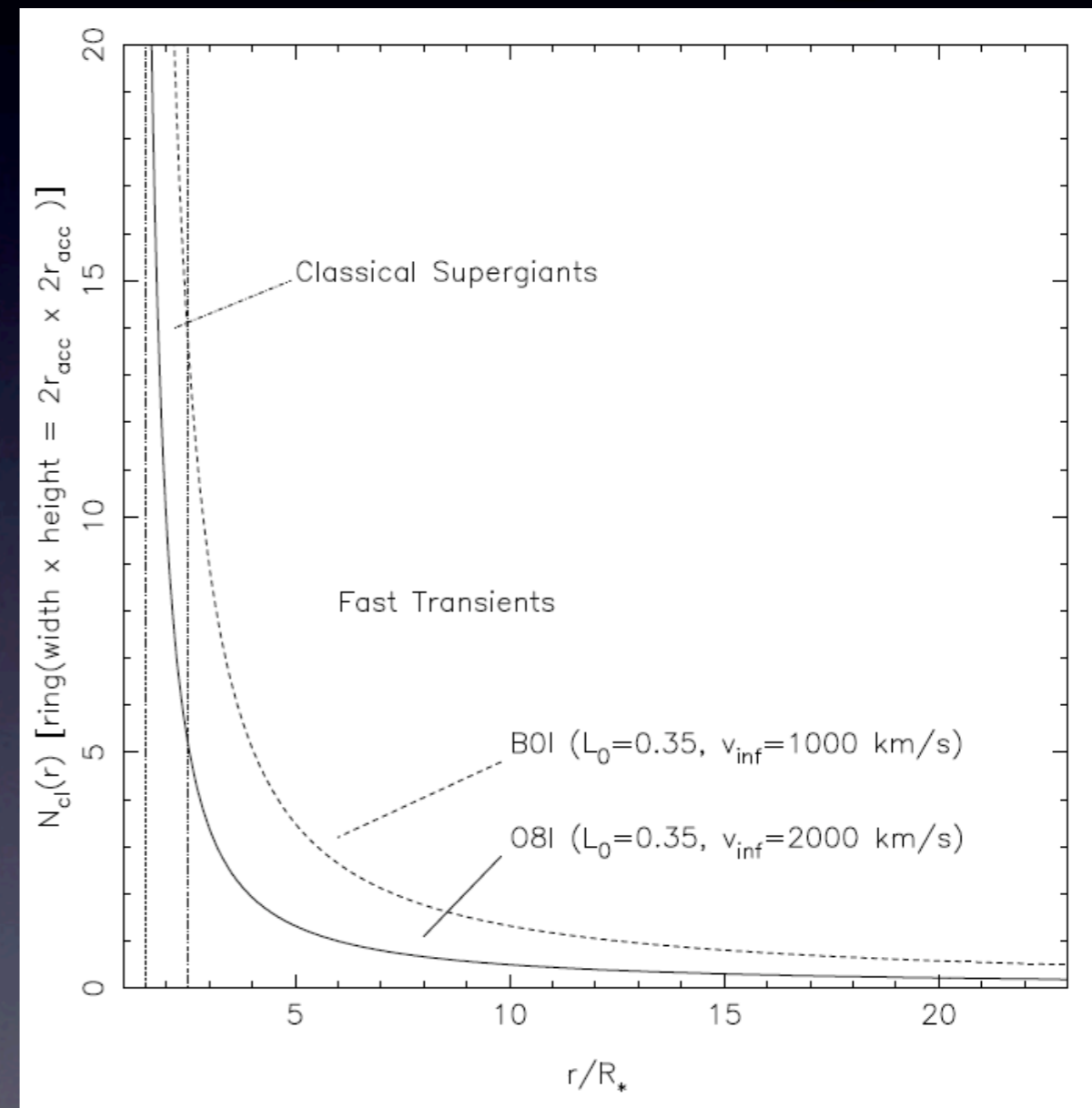
- Each SFXT outburst due to accretion of single clump, X-ray lightcurve = direct tracer of wind density
- Very high degree of porosity (macro-clumping) required to reproduce outburst frequency in SFXTs: good agreement with UV line profiles
- Flare/quiescent count rate ratio => clumps/inter-clump density ratio:
  - 15-50 in Intermediate systems
  - $10^{2-4}$  in SFXTs ( $\sim$ line-driven instabilities at large radii)

# Macro-clumping scenario

- Typical wind clump parameters:
  - Compact object with large orbital radius:  $10 R_*$
  - Clump size: few tenths of  $R_*$
  - Clump mass:  $10^{22-23}$  g (for  $N_H = 10^{22-23}$  cm $^{-2}$ )
  - Mass loss rate:  $10^{-(5-6)} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$
  - Clump separation of order  $R_*$  (at orbital radius)
  - Volume filling factor: 0.02  $\rightarrow$  0.1

# sgXBs vs SFXTs

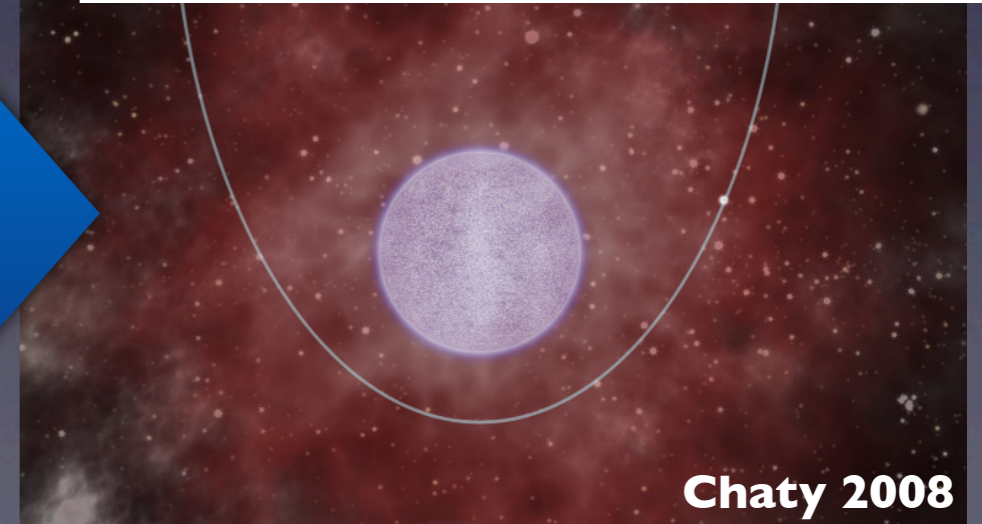
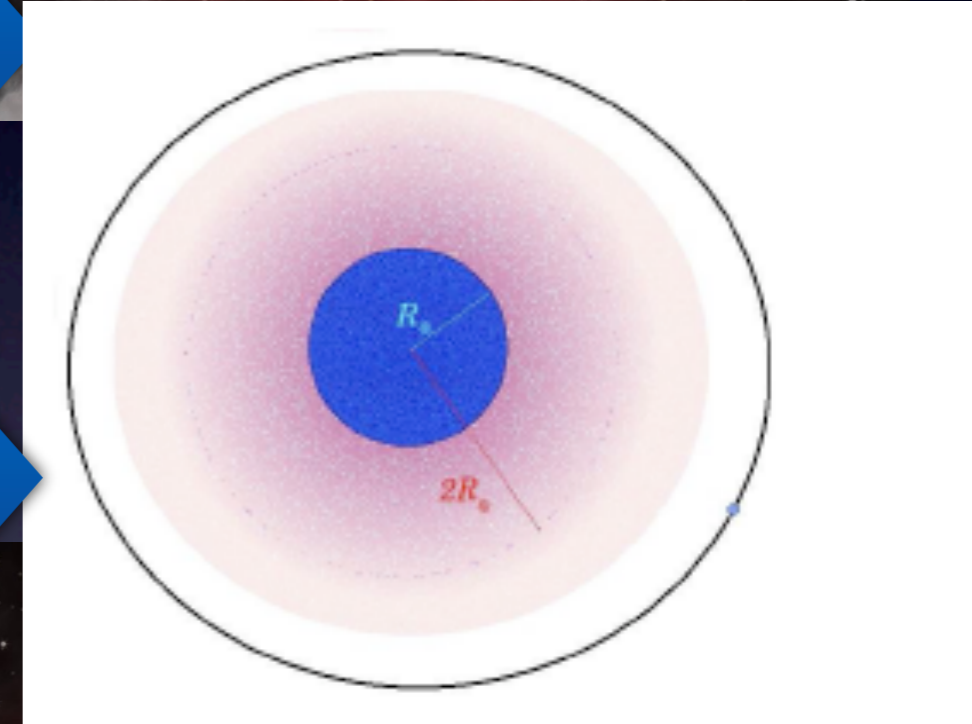
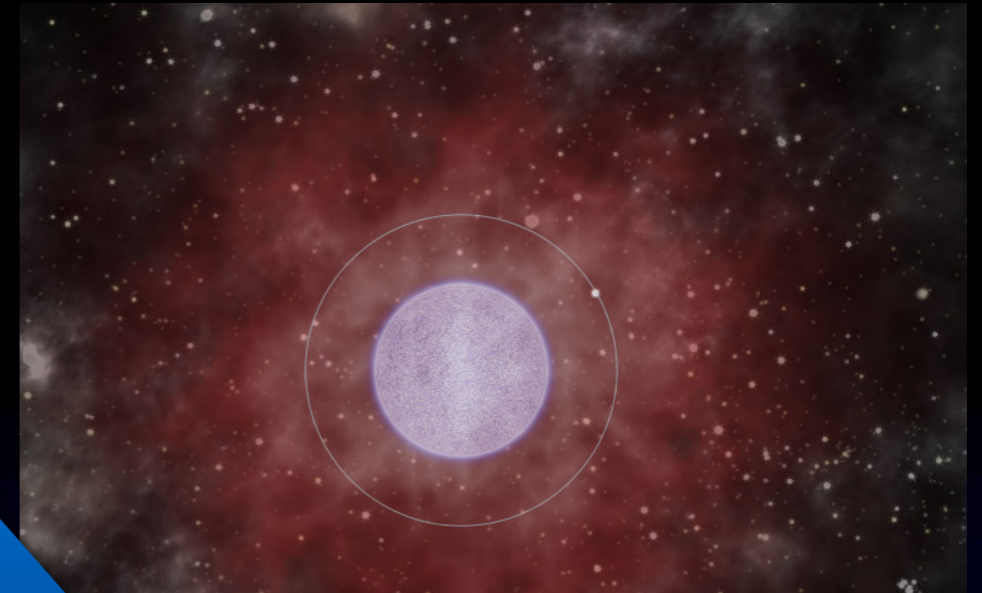
- Basic model of porous wind predicts a substantial change in properties of the wind «seen by NS» at distance  $r \sim 2R_*$
- $r < 2R_*$ : NS sees a large number of clumps, embedded in quasi-continuous wind
- $r > 2R_*$ : clump density so small that NS is effectively in empty space
- sgXBs can only lie within the 2 vertical lines



Negueruela et al. 2008

# sgXB configurations

- Classical sgXB: NS on circular orbit inside dust cocoon ( $10R_*$ ) enshrouding whole binary system ( $\sim$ obscured source IGR J16318): persistent X-ray emission
- Intermediate SFXT: NS outside dense region, on circular orbit
- SFXT: NS occasionally accretes from clumpy stellar wind on wider, eccentric orbit, longer quiescence ( $\sim$ XTE J1739  $P_{\text{orb}}$  50d)



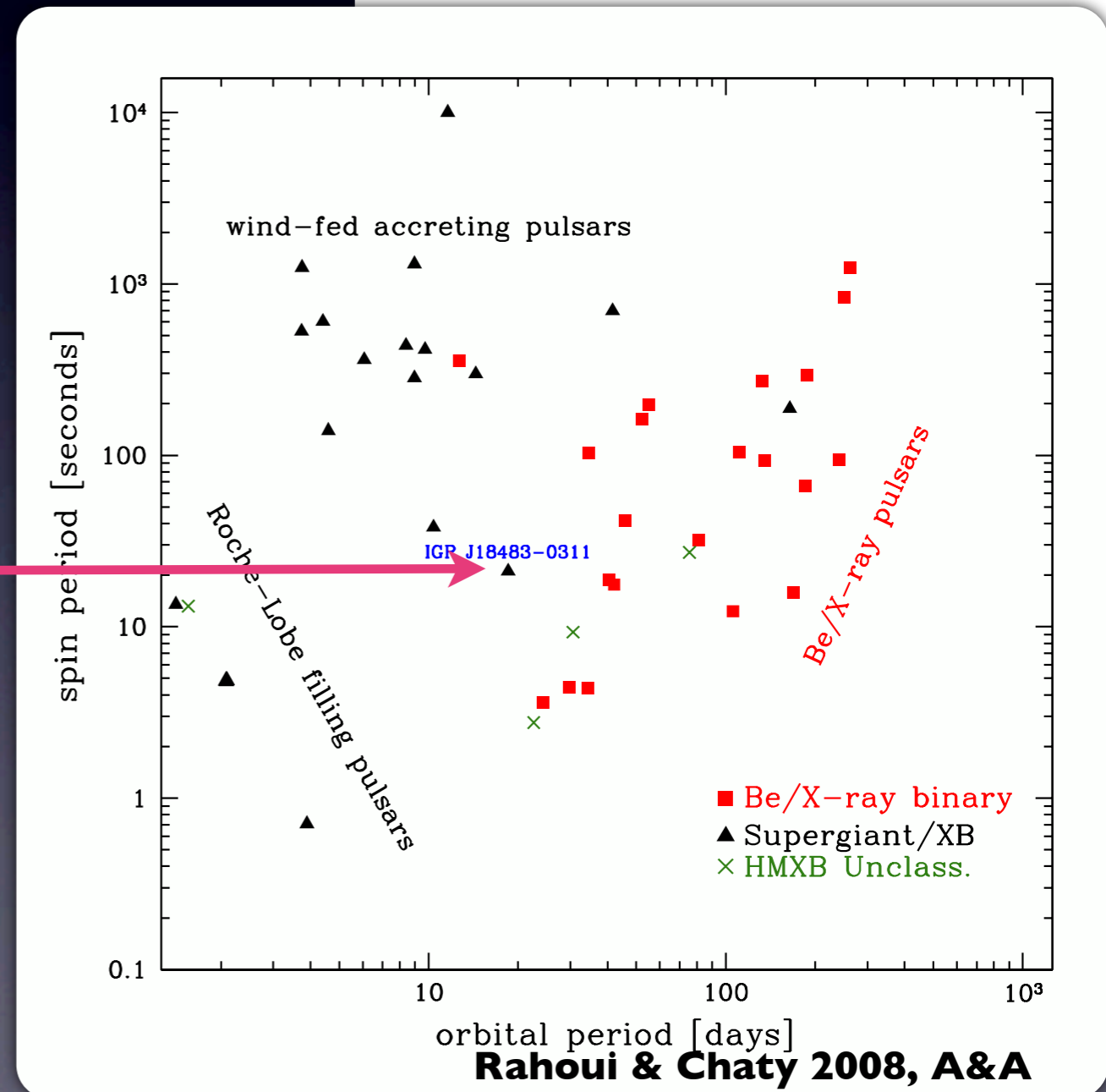
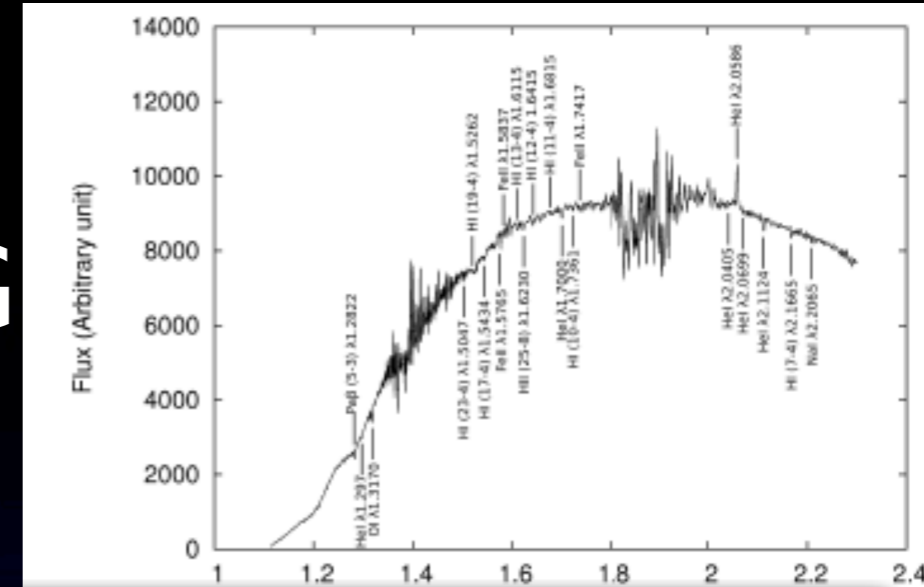
Chaty 2008



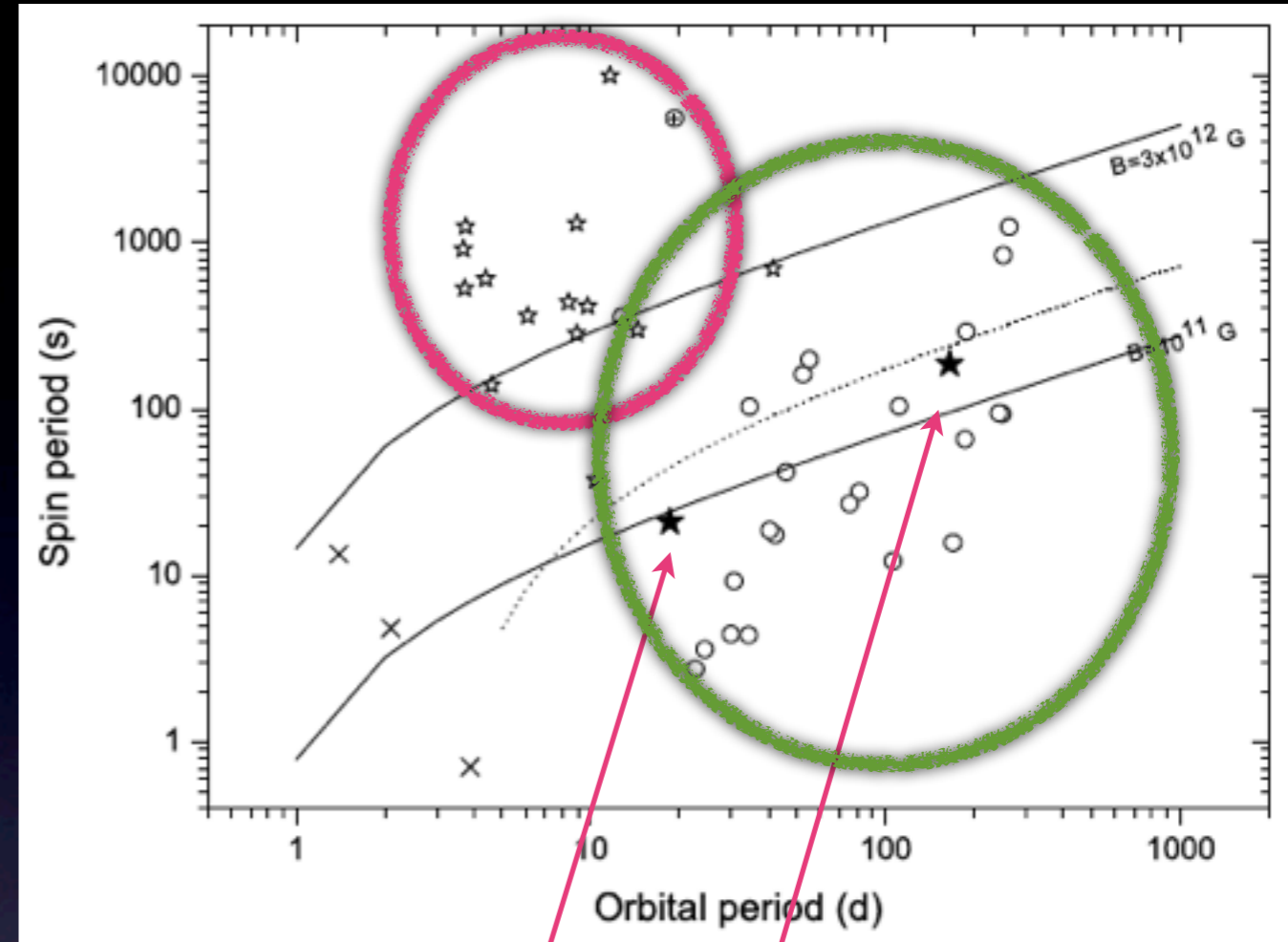
# Evolution of HMXBs

# The missing link: IGR

- Unusual SFXT behaviour:
  - outbursts of a few days (usually hours)
  - High level quiescence:  $L_{\max}/L_{\min}=10^3$  (usually  $10^4$ )
- Companion star: sg B0.5Ia;  $P_{\text{orb}}=18.5\text{d}$ ,  $P_{\text{spin}}=21.05\text{s}$
- Intermediate SFXT: NS in narrow transition zone between high/low clump density



# Origin of «misplaced» sgXBs?

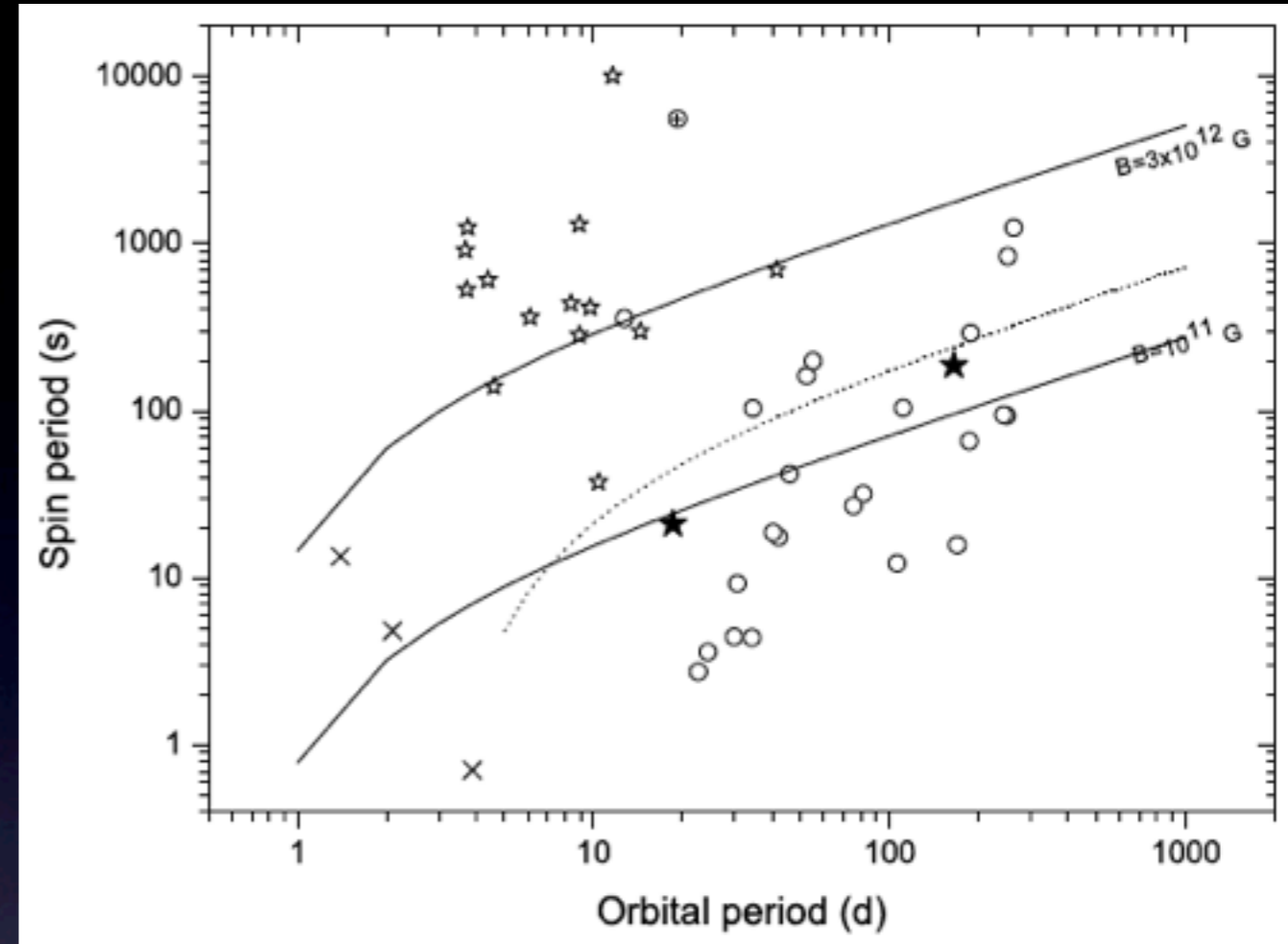


- There are 2 «misplaced» SFXTs: IGR J18483-0311 (B0.5 Ia)  
& IGR J11215-5952 (B1 Ia)
- They should have evolved from normal MS OB-type star

Liu, Chaty, Yan, MNRAS

# Origin of «misplaced» sgXBs?

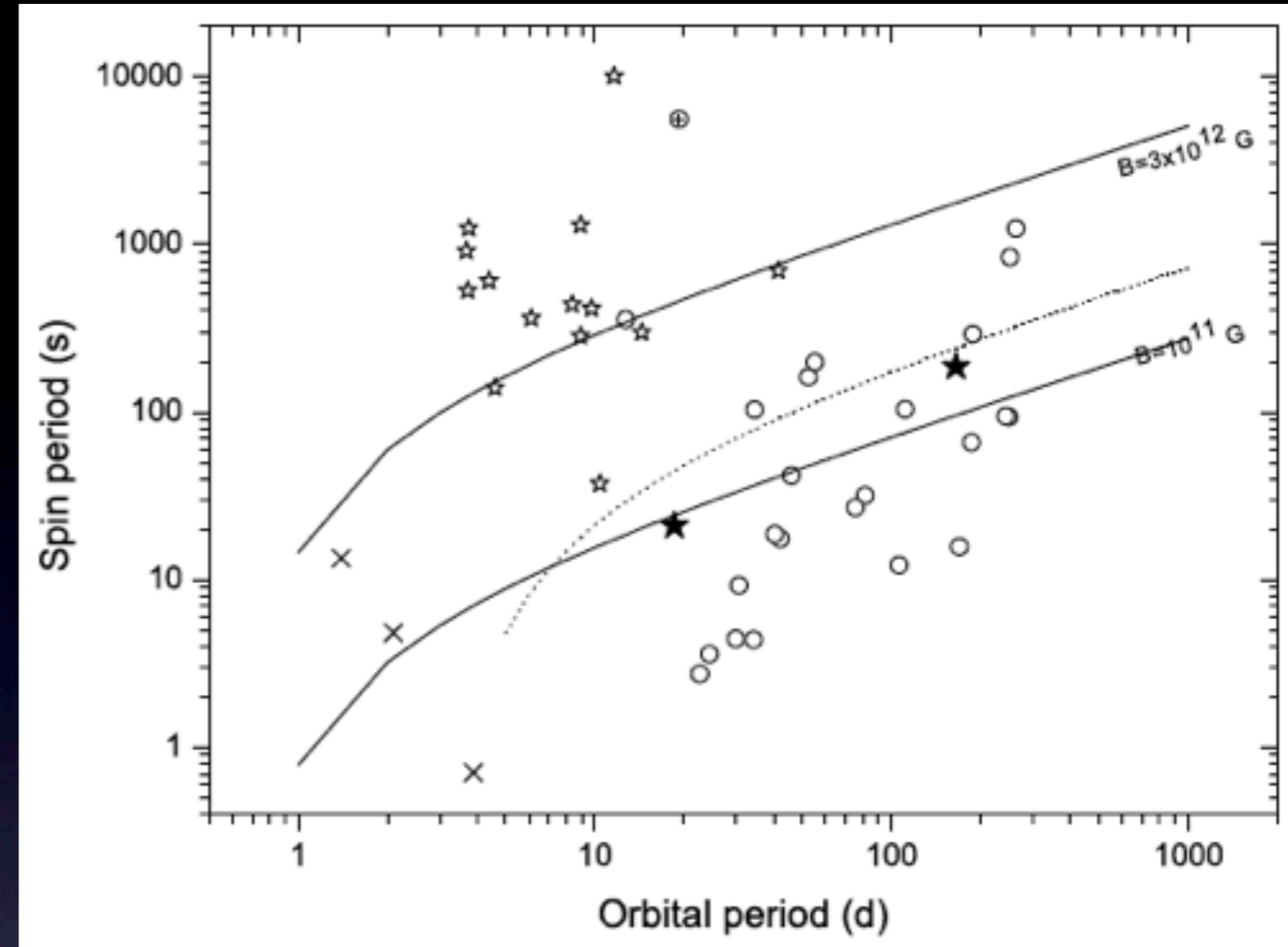
Current  $P_{\text{spin}} = P_{\text{eq}}$  while on MS  
(Waters & van Kerkwijk 1989)  
Lines: Theoretical NS  $P_{\text{eq}}$  for  
O7V stars (solid lines) &  
BI Ia with  $3 \times 10^{12} \text{G}$  (dotted line)



- But they are not spinning at  $P_{\text{eq}}$  of OV stars (or only if low  $B \sim 10^{11} \text{G}$ )
- They can not have spun up after reaching  $P_{\text{eq}}$  since stellar wind accretion phases will randomly spin up & down
- The NS have not reached  $P_{\text{eq}}$ : not enough time due to weak stellar wind and eccentric orbit during MS stage

Liu, Chaty, Yan, MNRAS

# Origin of «misplaced» sgXBs?

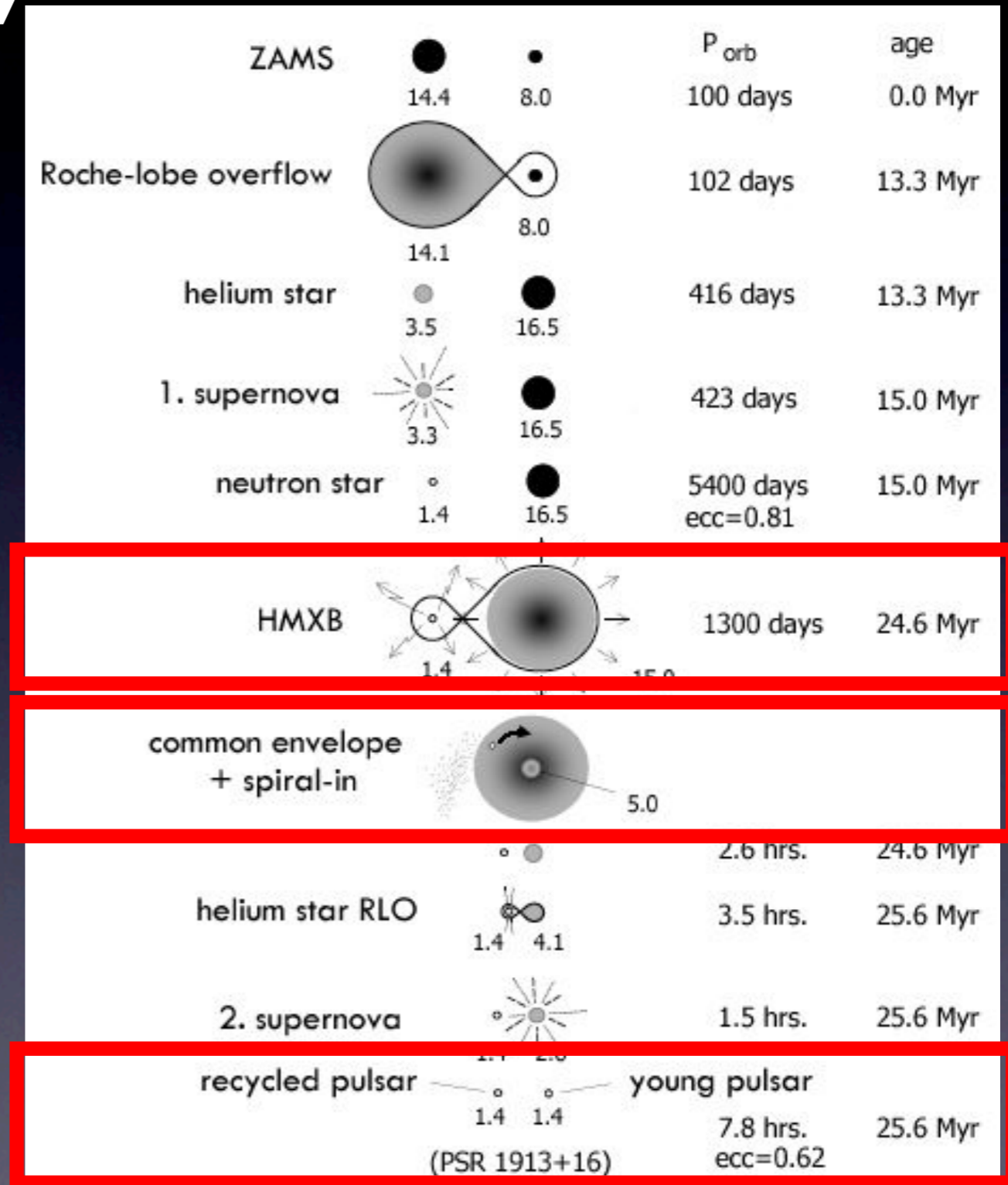


- Therefore they can not have evolved from normal MS OB-type stars as usual sgXBs
- They must be descendants of BeXBs (O-type emission line stars) after NS reaches  $P_{eq}$  (i.e. with previous accretion phase)
- And there must be many more such intermediate SFXTs...

Liu, Chaty, Yan, MNRAS

# Population Synthesis

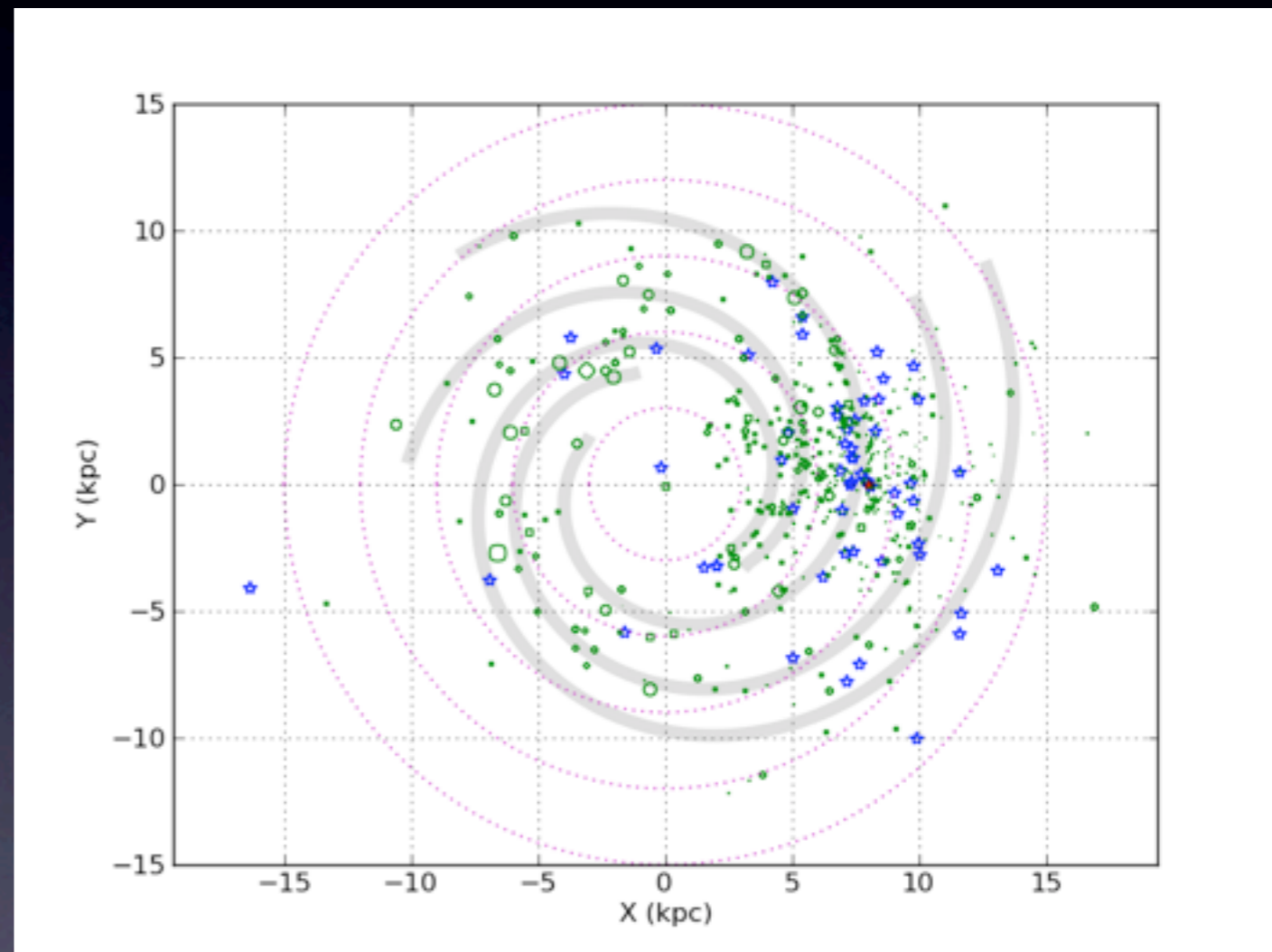
- Long-period  $\sim 100$ d sgXBs require initial systems with  $P_{orb} \sim 10$ d
- These systems will survive Common Enveloppe Phase (poorly known phase of stellar evolution)
- End as close eccentric radio pulsar binary systems (double NS or BH/NS)
- Search for massive progenitors



Tauris & van den Heuvel 2006

# Galactic distribution

- Study of HMXBs environment & birthplace
- Correlation between HMXBs and active OB stellar complexes
- Typical cluster size: 0.3 kpc  
Inter-cluster distance: 1.7 kpc  
Distance uncert.: 0.65 kpc



Coleiro & Chaty 2011

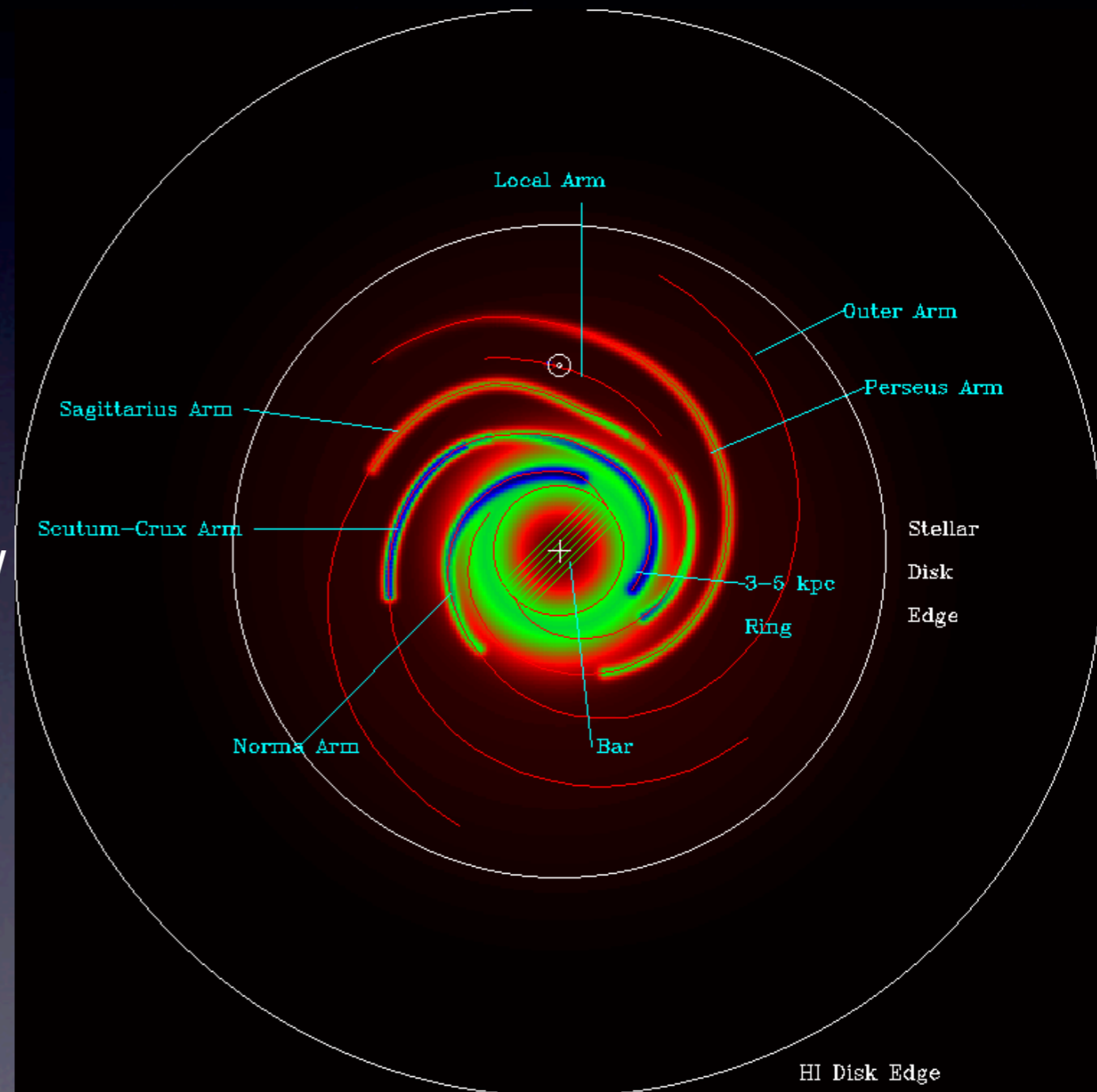
# Galactic rotation

- Propagation of density waves induces star formation in spiral arms (Lin et al 1969): angular velocity of spiral arm pattern  $\Omega \sim 20-60/\text{Gyr}$  (Bissantz et al 2003)
- Delay of  $\sim 10$  Myr between star formation & maximum number of HMXBs: Galactic rotation changed apparent position of arm
- Distribution of HMXBs should be offset by  $\sim 40^\circ$  with current spiral arm pattern at a distance of  $\sim 5$  kpc.
- Uncertainties: distance of HMXBs, location of arms, Sun GC distance (Dean et al 2005)



# Galactic distribution

- Norma arm region: the most active formation site of young supergiants (Bronfman et al 1996): precursors to HMXBs
- Galactic bulge & Scutum/Sagittarius arms
- Ongoing Herschel observations of INTEGRAL sources...



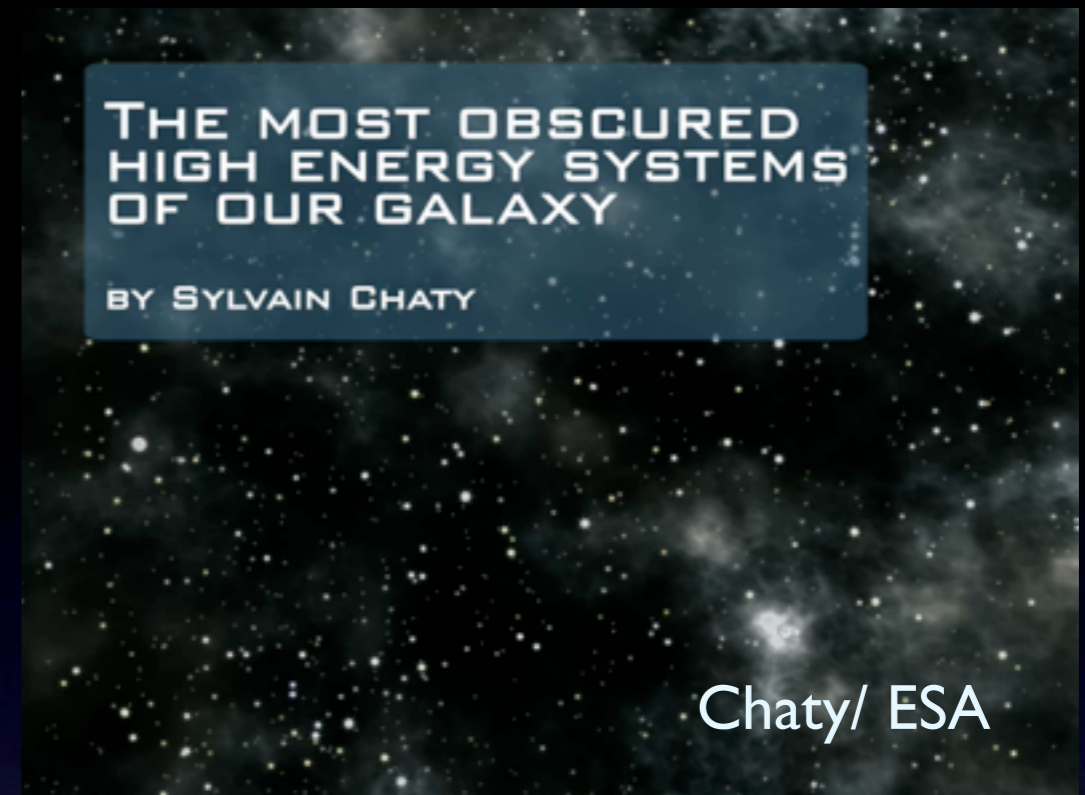
# Do we better understand HMXBs?

- Do we better understand the 3 populations of HMXBs?
- Do we better understand accretion processes, in particular in sgXBs?
- Do we understand fast transient flares (clumpy wind/transient accretion disks)?

Probably not fully yet, but at least we now have more sources to play with...

...and study formation and evolution processes...

# Conclusions & Perspectives



- Continuity in sgXBs (obscured to SFXTs): differences naturally explained by simple orbital configurations
- Laboratory for studying physics of NS accretion:
  - \* direct accretion (formation of transitory accretion discs)
  - \* stellar winds (structure, high/low density, clumps...)
- Study of formation, evolution and final stages of NS/BH binaries

**Thank you!**