

STARS2015 - 3rd Caribbean Symposium on Cosmology, Gravitation, Nuclear
and Astroparticle Physics / SMFNS2015 - 4th International Symposium on
Strong Electromagnetic Fields and Neutron Stars

Contribution ID: 72

Type: **Talk**

Ultraluminous X-ray pulsar: accreting magnetar?

Friday 15 May 2015 11:00 (30 minutes)

Magnetars are neutron stars powered by their superstrong magnetic field.

The discovery of low magnetic field magnetars etc has deepened our understanding of magnetars. Accreting normal neutron stars are discovered 40 years ago. However,

no strong evidence for the existence of accreting magnetars are found up to now.

Recently, an ultraluminous X-ray source powered by an accreting neutron star is discovered (Bachetti et al. 2014, Nature, 514, 202). It may be an accreting magnetar candidate. For an aged magnetar, it is more likely to be a low magnetic field magnetar. An accreting low magnetic field magnetar may explain both the radiative and timing observations of the ultraluminous X-ray pulsar. Combined with previous researches, three signatures of accreting magnetar are available at present: (1) magnetar-like bursts, (2) a hard X-ray tail, and (3) an ultraluminous X-ray pulsar.

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Track Classification: SMFNS2015