



# X-Ray Observation of the Roche-lobe-filling White Dwarf plus Hot Subdwarf System ZTF J213056.71+442046.5

S. Mereghetti<sup>1</sup>, N. La Palombara<sup>1</sup>, T. Kupfer<sup>2</sup>, T. R. Marsh<sup>3</sup>, C. M. Copperwheat<sup>4</sup>, K. Deshmukh<sup>2</sup>, P. Esposito<sup>5,1</sup>,  
T. Maccarone<sup>2</sup>, F. Pintore<sup>6</sup>, M. Rigoselli<sup>1</sup>, L. Rivera Sandoval<sup>7</sup>, and A. Tiengo<sup>5,8,1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> INAF—Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica, Via A. Corti 12, I-20133 Milano, Italy; [sandro.mereghetti@inaf.it](mailto:sandro.mereghetti@inaf.it)

<sup>2</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, Texas Tech University, P.O. Box 41051, Lubbock, TX 79409, USA

<sup>3</sup> Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Gibbet Hill Road, Coventry CV4 7AL, UK

<sup>4</sup> Astrophysics Research Institute, Liverpool John Moores University, IC2, Liverpool Science Park, Liverpool L3 5RF, UK

<sup>5</sup> Scuola Universitaria Superiore IUSS Pavia, Palazzo del Broletto, piazza della Vittoria 15, I-27100 Pavia, Italy

<sup>6</sup> INAF—IASF Palermo, via U. La Malfa 153, I-90146 Palermo, Italy

<sup>7</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville, TX 78520, USA

<sup>8</sup> Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Pavia, via A. Bassi 6, I-27100 Pavia, Italy

Received 2022 March 28; revised 2022 April 18; accepted 2022 April 19; published 2022 May 19

## Abstract

ZTF J213056.71+442046.5 is the prototype of a small class of recently discovered compact binaries composed of a white dwarf and a hot subdwarf that fills its Roche lobe. Its orbital period of only 39 minutes is the shortest known for the objects in this class. Evidence for a high orbital inclination ( $i = 86^\circ$ ) and for the presence of an accretion disk has been inferred from a detailed modeling of its optical photometric and spectroscopic data. We report the results of an XMM-Newton observation carried out on 2021 January 7. ZTF J213056.71+442046.5 was clearly detected by the Optical Monitor, which showed a periodic variability in the UV band (200–400 nm), with a light curve similar to that seen at longer wavelengths. Despite accretion on the white dwarf at an estimated rate of the order of  $10^{-9} M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$ , no X-rays were detected with the EPIC instrument, with a limit of  $\sim 10^{30} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$  on the 0.2–12 keV luminosity. We discuss possible explanations for the lack of a strong X-ray emission from this system.

*Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts:* [White dwarf stars \(1799\)](#); [Stellar accretion \(1578\)](#); [B subdwarf stars \(129\)](#); [Compact binary stars \(283\)](#)

## 1. Introduction

A class of close binary systems consisting of Roche-lobe-filling hot subdwarfs with white dwarf (WD) companions has been recently identified thanks to optical surveys devoted to the discovery of transient and variable sources (Kupfer et al. 2020a). Hot subdwarfs (see Heber 2016 for a review) are low-mass stars ( $\sim 0.3\text{--}0.8 M_\odot$ ), spectrally classified as sdO or sdB based on their effective temperature above or below 38 kK, respectively. They are believed to originate from the evolution of stars that have lost most of their envelopes during the red-giant phase. One of the possible mechanisms responsible for the loss of the massive hydrogen envelopes necessary to form hot subdwarfs is nonconservative mass transfer in a binary. This is observationally supported by the large number of hot subdwarfs, particularly of sdB type, found in close binary systems (Morales-Rueda et al. 2003; Napiwotzki et al. 2004). Evolutionary models predict that most of the companions of sdB stars in systems with orbital periods shorter than  $\sim 10$  days should be either late-type main-sequence stars or WDs (Han et al. 2002, 2003).

Hot subdwarfs with WD companions are particularly interesting because they might be among the progenitors of Type Ia supernovae (Iben & Tutukov 1994) and some of the nearby systems with ultrashort orbital periods are expected to be sources of gravitational waves detectable by LISA (Kupfer

et al. 2018). Furthermore, the determination of the mass and evolutionary stage of the two components, as done, e.g., for KPD 0422+5421 (Orosz & Wade 1999), KPD 1930+2752 (Geier et al. 2007), and HD 49798 (Mereghetti et al. 2009), can shed light on the poorly known processes that take place during the common-envelope evolutionary phase.

The hot subdwarfs with WD companions that exit the common-envelope phase at orbital periods  $P_{\text{orb}} \lesssim 2$  hr will reach contact while the sdB is still burning He (Bauer & Kupfer 2021). Due to the emission of gravitational waves, the orbit will shrink until the sdB star fills its Roche lobe at an orbital period dependent on the evolutionary stage of the subdwarf (Iben & Tutukov 1991; Yungelson 2008). The known population of sdB binaries consists mostly of systems with orbital periods too large to start accretion before the sdB turns into a WD (Kupfer et al. 2015). Until recently, only five binaries of this kind with  $P_{\text{orb}} \lesssim 2$  hr were known (Vennes et al. 2012; Kupfer et al. 2017b, 2017a, 2022; Pelisoli et al. 2021). The sdBs in these systems do not fill their Roche lobe. X-ray observations of one of them (CD  $-30^\circ$  11223,  $P_{\text{orb}} = 70$  minutes) provided an upper limit on the X-ray luminosity indicating a wind mass-loss rate from the sdB star lower than  $\sim 3 \times 10^{-13} M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$  (Mereghetti et al. 2014).

The first Roche-lobe-filling subdwarf with a WD companion, ZTF J213056.71+442046.5 (hereafter ZTF J2130; Kupfer et al. 2020b), was identified in a search for periodic objects in a catalog of  $\sim 40,000$  hot subdwarf candidates (Geier et al. 2019) and was first discovered in a dedicated high-cadence survey with the Zwicky Transient Facility (Bellm et al. 2019). ZTF J2130 consists of an sdB star with mass  $\sim 0.35 M_\odot$  and radius  $0.13 \pm 0.1 R_\odot$  and a WD of  $\sim 0.56 M_\odot$ . The orbital period of this system,  $P_{\text{orb}} = 39$  minutes (also independently

**Table 1**  
Ultraviolet and X-Ray Measurements of ZTF J2130 Obtained with XMM-Newton

Instrument	Band	$\lambda_{\text{eff}}$ (nm)	Exposure (ks)	Mean Magnitude (Vega)	Flux $\times 10^{-11}$ erg cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$	Luminosity $\times 10^{33}$ erg s $^{-1}$
OM	UVW1	291	26.4	13.849 $\pm$ 0.289	3.16 $\pm$ 0.84	6.3 $\pm$ 1.4
OM	UVW2	212	37.32	13.809 $\pm$ 0.003	3.27 $\pm$ 0.01	6.51 $\pm$ 0.02
EPIC	0.2–12 keV	...	31 (pn), 37 (MOS)	...	<0.0012	<0.0025

**Note.** Errors in luminosity include the error in distance and are given at  $1\sigma$ . Magnitudes are not dereddened. The upper limit in the X-ray luminosity is valid for the blackbody and thermal bremsstrahlung models.

discovered by G. Murawski<sup>9</sup>), is the shortest of any known hot subdwarf binary. The radial velocity curve of ZTF J2130 indicates a circular orbit with a velocity semiamplitude  $K = 429 \pm 28$  km s $^{-1}$ . The periodic variability is primarily caused by the ellipsoidal modulation of the subdwarf, due to its tidal deformation under the gravitational influence of the companion. However, the optical light curve cannot be described with a simple model composed of two detached stars.

Kupfer et al. (2020b) showed that the subdwarf in this system fills its Roche lobe and the WD is surrounded by an optically thick accretion disk of size  $\sim 0.14R_{\odot}$ . The formation of a disk is not surprising in a Roche-lobe-filling system, and its presence suggests the possible emission of accretion-powered X-rays. A short pointing (1 ks) carried out with the X-ray Telescope on the Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory in 2019 did not detect X-rays (Rivera Sandoval et al. 2019), giving a flux upper limit of the order of a few  $10^{-13}$  erg cm $^{-2}$  s $^{-1}$ . Here we report on a much deeper observation of ZTF J2130 obtained with the XMM-Newton satellite. In the following we use the source distance of  $1.29_{-0.04}^{+0.06}$  kpc, derived from the Gaia EDR3 parallax (Bailer-Jones et al. 2021).

## 2. Data Analysis and Results

The field of ZTF J2130 was observed with the XMM-Newton satellite for about 65 ks starting at 23:47 UT of 2021 January 6. We used the X-ray data obtained with the EPIC instrument, comprising one pn (Strüder et al. 2001) and two MOS cameras (Turner et al. 2001) operating in the 0.2–12 keV energy range, and with the Optical Monitor (OM; Mason et al. 2001). The three EPIC cameras were used in full frame mode with the thin optical filter. The OM provided data in the UVW1 band ( $\lambda_{\text{eff}} = 291$  nm,  $\Delta\lambda = 83$  nm) for the first 26.4 ks and in the UVW2 band ( $\lambda_{\text{eff}} = 212$  nm,  $\Delta\lambda = 50$  nm) for the remaining part of the observation. All the data were processed with Version 19.0.0 of the Science Analysis Software (SAS).<sup>10</sup>

### 2.1. EPIC X-Ray Data

The EPIC data were affected by periods of high background caused by soft proton flares. Removing the corresponding time intervals resulted in net exposure times of 31 ks for the pn and 37 ks for the MOS. We extracted images from the three cameras in five different energy ranges (0.2–0.5, 0.5–1, 1–2, 2–4.5, and 4.5–12 keV), both using the cleaned data and the whole observation. Many sources were clearly visible in these images, but none at the position of ZTF J2130.

We performed a more detailed analysis by means of a source detection procedure over the whole field of view using the data of the three cameras simultaneously. This was done in the five energy bands given above using the SAS task EDETECT\_CHAIN,<sup>11</sup> as described in the Appendix, and resulted in the detection of 51 sources (see Table 2 in the Appendix) above a threshold likelihood  $L = 10$ , corresponding to a confidence level of 99.9955%. ZTF J2130 was not detected and we derived an upper limit of 1.68 counts ks $^{-1}$  on its count rate in the 0.2–12 keV energy range (with a threshold likelihood  $L = 8$ , i.e., 99.97% confidence level). The limits in the 0.2–0.5 and 0.5–4.5 keV ranges were 0.69 and 1.34 counts ks $^{-1}$ , respectively.

### 2.2. OM Ultraviolet Data

ZTF J2130 was clearly detected by the OM, with average count rates of 22 counts s $^{-1}$  in the UVW1 filter (291 nm) and 2.5 counts s $^{-1}$  in the UVW2 filter (212 nm) (Table 1). Figure 1 shows the OM light curves in the two filters folded at the orbital period according to the ephemeris of Kupfer et al. (2020b). In both filters, the orbital modulation is consistent with that seen in the optical band, as it is shown by the superimposed solid lines representing the profiles obtained in the  $g$  band with HiPERCAM (Kupfer et al. 2020b). Some small residuals remain. These are most likely to be indicating factor of  $\sim 2$  variability in the accretion disk flux.

A search of periodicities was performed using the OM UVW1 data, but the periodogram did not reveal any additional periodicity beyond the known orbital period of 39 minutes.

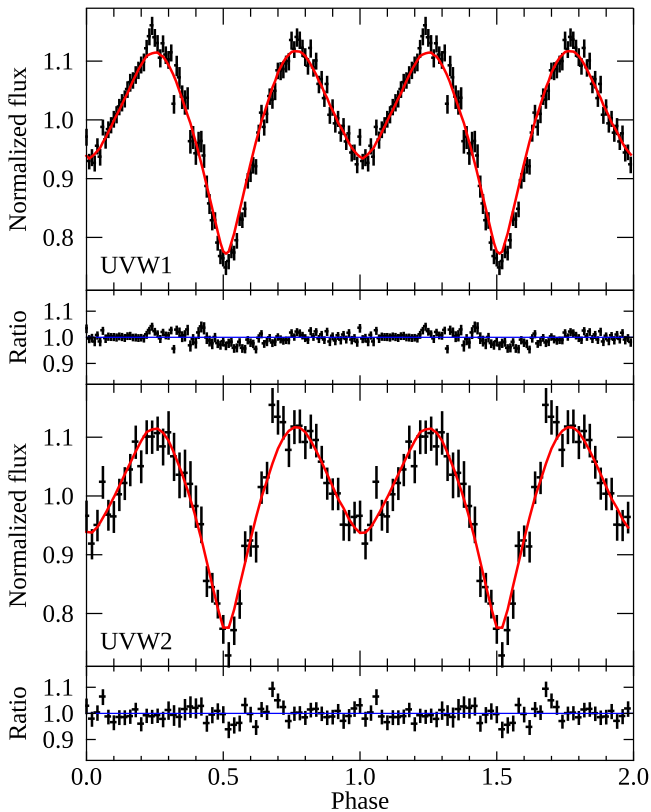
## 3. Discussion

Given the well-known distance of ZTF J2130, the most important factors affecting the conversion of the count rate upper limits derived in Section 2.1 to an upper limit on the luminosity are the spectral shape assumed for the X-ray emission and the amount of interstellar absorption. Accreting WDs have complex X-ray spectra, with different components depending on many factors, including, e.g., the WD mass and magnetic field, the geometry of the accretion flow, the binary orientation with respect to the line of sight (see, e.g., Mukai 2017 for a review). Optically thin thermal emission originates from the shocked plasma, which in magnetic WDs is usually channeled in an accretion column. Depending on the plasma temperature, significant line emission can be present, in addition to the continuum bremsstrahlung flux. Part of the emission from the accretion column can heat the star surface and will then be reradiated as an optically thick soft thermal

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.aavso.org/vsx/index.php?view=detail.top&oid=689728>

<sup>10</sup> [https://xmm-tools.cosmos.esa.int/external/xmm\\_user\\_support/documentation/sas\\_usg/USG/](https://xmm-tools.cosmos.esa.int/external/xmm_user_support/documentation/sas_usg/USG/)

<sup>11</sup> [https://xmm-tools.cosmos.esa.int/external/sas/current/doc/edetect\\_chain/index.html](https://xmm-tools.cosmos.esa.int/external/sas/current/doc/edetect_chain/index.html)

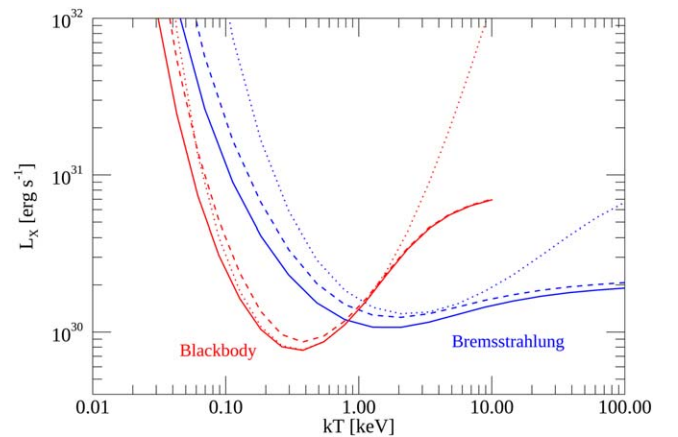


**Figure 1.** The black points show the Optical Monitor light curves of ZTF J2130 in two UV bands folded at the orbital period. The red lines show for comparison the  $g$ -band light curves. The second and fourth panels from the top show the ratios between the UV and  $g$ -band light curves. The WD is between the observer and the sdB star at phase 0.5.

component. Other spectral components can arise from Compton reflection of the hardest X-rays, from the inner part of an accretion disk, from the boundary layer, and from a hot corona above the disk. Detailed models for many of these emission components have been developed, but for our purpose it is sufficient to adopt two simple models, blackbody and thermal bremsstrahlung, which provide an adequate phenomenological description of the hard and soft components observed in accreting WDs.

The 3D extinction maps of Green et al. (2019) give a reddening of  $E(g-r) = 0.18$  at the distance of ZTF J2130. This corresponds to  $A_V \sim 0.6$  mag, which, using the relation between  $A_V$  and interstellar absorption derived by Bahramian et al. (2015), gives  $N_H = 1.7 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ . This value is consistent with the upper limit provided by the total column density in this direction,  $N_H = 2.4 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  (HI4PI Collaboration et al. 2016).

Therefore, we computed the count rate to flux conversion factors for blackbody and thermal bremsstrahlung models and two representative values of absorption (the nominal and the maximum values,  $1.7$  and  $2.4 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , respectively). This was done using the response matrix for the EPIC instrument (i.e., the sum of the pn and two MOS) computed for the position of ZTF J2130 in the instrument field of view. The resulting upper limits on the luminosity are plotted as a function of the spectral temperature in Figure 2. Except for the case of very soft spectral shapes, for which most of the emission falls outside the energy range sampled by the EPIC instrument, the limits are quite constraining and indicate a



**Figure 2.** Upper limits on the luminosity of ZTF J2130 as a function of temperature, for an assumed blackbody (red) or thermal bremsstrahlung (blue) spectrum. The solid and dashed lines give the unabsorbed luminosity in the 0.2–12 keV range for  $N_H = 1.7 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  and  $2.4 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , respectively. The dotted lines give the bolometric (0.001–100 keV) unabsorbed luminosity for  $N_H = 1.7 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ .

luminosity below  $\sim 10^{30} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$  for a wide range of assumed temperature values.

By modeling the evolutionary history of ZTF J2130, Kupfer et al. (2020b) estimated that the WD in this system is accreting at a rate of  $\sim 10^{-9} M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$ . Taken at face value, this would imply an accretion-powered luminosity of

$$L_{\text{acc}} = G \frac{M}{R} \dot{M} = 5 \times 10^{33} \dot{M}_{-9} \text{ erg s}^{-1}, \quad (1)$$

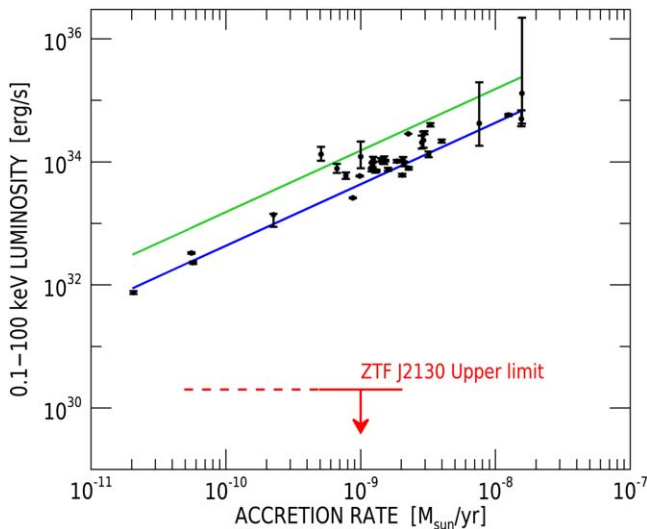
where  $G$  is the gravitational constant,  $\dot{M}_{-9}$  is the mass accretion rate in units of  $10^{-9} M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$ , and we used the values of  $M = 0.545 M_\odot$  and  $R = 9400 \text{ km}$  appropriate for this WD. This luminosity is orders of magnitude larger than the upper limit derived with XMM-Newton, but there are possible explanations for the lack of detectable X-ray emission in ZTF J2130.

First, it must be considered that about half of the accretion power is dissipated in the accretion disk, which is too cold to emit in the X-ray band. Most of the disk luminosity occurs at IR/optical/UV wavelengths and is outshined by the much brighter emission from the hot subdwarf present in this system. The latter has an effective temperature of 42,400 K and a bolometric luminosity of  $41 \pm 9 L_\odot$ . From the absence of optical emission lines, Kupfer et al. (2020b) concluded that the accretion disk contributes at most 3% of the overall luminosity, which is consistent with the above estimate of  $L_{\text{acc}}$ .

X-rays from accreting WDs can be emitted from the boundary layer between the disk and the star surface or, in the case of intermediate polars, where the magnetic field is sufficiently strong to channel the accretion flow, from the shocked plasma in the accretion column. In this case, the maximum plasma temperature  $T$  in the postshock region is an increasing function of the WD mass. A simple estimate (e.g., Frank et al. 2002) is

$$T = \frac{3}{8} \frac{GM\mu m_p}{kR}, \quad (2)$$

which gives  $kT = 19 \text{ keV}$  for ZTF J2130 ( $m_p$  is the proton mass and we used a mean molecular weight  $\mu = 0.615$ ). Our luminosity upper limit for a thermal bremsstrahlung spectrum of this temperature is compared in Figure 3 with the



**Figure 3.** Luminosity vs. mass accretion rate in a sample of intermediate polars studied by Suleimanov et al. (2019). The values predicted by Equation (1) are shown by the blue and green lines for  $M_{\text{WD}} = 1$  and  $0.5 M_{\odot}$ , respectively. The red line shows the upper limit we derived on the X-ray luminosity of ZTF J2130.

luminosities of a sample of intermediate polars observed in the hard X-ray range (Suleimanov et al. 2019). It is clear that, even if the mass accretion rate derived by Kupfer et al. (2020b) were overestimated by up to a factor  $\sim 100$ , the XMM-Newton limit implies a luminosity much lower than that of intermediate polars, which disfavors the presence of a magnetic WD in this system.

If the WD in ZTF J2130 has a low magnetic field, the available accretion power is mainly released in the boundary layer between the disk and the star, which might be optically thick, and from the heated WD surface. The resulting spectrum would peak at soft X-ray/EUV energies and thus escape detection in the energy range covered by the EPIC instrument. Considering the high inclination of this system, it is also possible that the emitting region is occulted by the accretion disk. In this respect, it is interesting to note the anticorrelation between soft X-ray luminosity and inclination found in nonmagnetic cataclysmic variables by van Teeseling et al. (1996).

Finally, we note the possibility that the accretion rate derived from the evolutionary model used by Kupfer et al. (2020b) has been overestimated. An evolutionary phase with an accretion rate at  $\sim 10^{-9} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  is required to explain the current properties of this system, but it is possible that this phase is now ending and the sdOB has already started to shrink and underfill the Roche lobe.

#### 4. Conclusions

ZTF J2130 is the WD with a hot subdwarf binary companion with the shortest known orbital period. The evidence, derived from optical observations, for an accretion disk around the WD, caused by Roche-lobe overflow of its sdB companion, motivated a search for X-ray emission.

Our XMM-Newton observation, despite reaching a flux limit more than 2 orders of magnitude below the previously available one, could not reveal X-ray emission. The luminosity upper limit is in the range  $\sim (0.5\text{--}2.5) \times 10^{30} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ ,

depending on the assumed spectral temperature. For the hard Bremsstrahlung spectra typical of accreting magnetic WDs, this limit is significantly below the luminosity expected from the mass accretion rate of  $\sim 10^{-9} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  deduced from the evolution model of this binary. This suggests that ZTF J2130 contains a nonmagnetic WD that can have a luminosity up to a few  $10^{33} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ , consistent with the theoretical accretion rate, but characterized by a soft spectrum peaking in the EUV range and thus undetectable by X-ray observatories. Alternative explanations for the lack of observable X-rays are either intrinsic absorption in the system, due to its high inclination ( $i = 86^{\circ}$ ), or an overestimate of the current accretion rate implying that the Roche-lobe-filling phase is nearly ending.

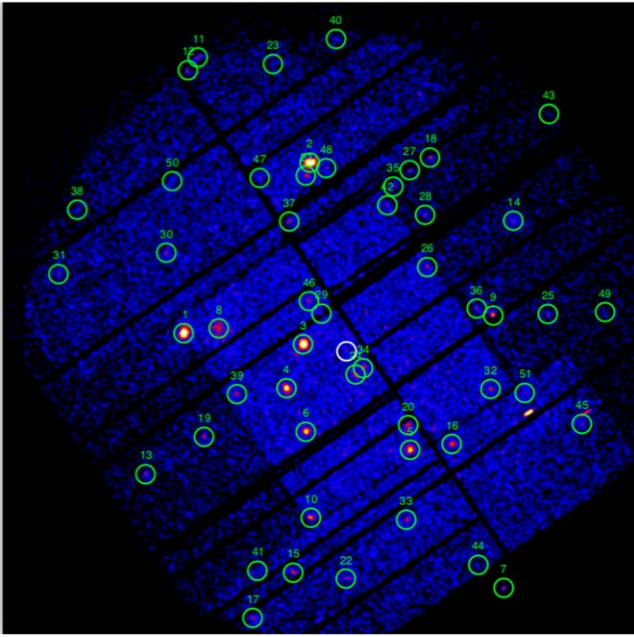
We acknowledge support via ASI/INAF Agreement n. 2019-35-HH and PRIN-MIUR 2017 UnIAM (Unifying Isolated and Accreting Magnetars, PI S. Mereghetti). T.K. acknowledges support from the National Science Foundation through grant AST #2107982, from NASA through grant 80NSSC22K0338 and from STScI through grant HST-GO-16659.002-A. T.R.M. acknowledges support from the UK's Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), grant No. ST/T000406/1. This work is based on data obtained with XMM-Newton, an ESA science mission with instruments and contributions directly funded by ESA Member States and the USA (NASA). This research has made use of the SIMBAD database, operated at CDS, Strasbourg, France.

#### Appendix

We performed the detection, characterization, and identification of several X-ray sources present in the EPIC images of the sky region around ZTF. To this aim, we applied the SAS task edetect\_chain, with the default configuration and input parameters, using the images in five energy ranges (0.2–0.5, 0.5–1, 1–2, 2–4.5, and 4.5–12 keV) of the three EPIC cameras simultaneously. This resulted in the detection of 51 distinct sources (Figure 4). For each of them we obtained the X-ray position and its uncertainty, the detection likelihood (defined as  $L = -\ln P$ , where  $P$  is the probability of a spurious detection due to a Poissonian random fluctuation of the background) and the determination of its point or extended nature. We derived the source fluxes from the measured count rates assuming the same absorbed power-law model (with photon index  $\Gamma = 1.7$  and hydrogen column density  $N_{\text{H}} = 3 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ ) used in the 3XMM source catalog (Rosen et al. 2016).

We used the task eposcorr to correct the position of the detected sources, through their cross correlation with the Gaia EDR3 source catalog (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2016, 2021). The average R.A. and decl. correction offset applied to the X-ray positions was  $2''.26$  and  $1''.60$ , respectively.

The last step of our analysis was the identification of each detected source with a known optical counterpart, or at least the assessment of its stellar or nonstellar nature. We performed this task with the cross correlation with two different optical catalogs. The first choice was again the Gaia EDR3 catalog, which to date is the most complete and accurate optical catalog. For each X-ray source, we looked for all Gaia sources closer than 3 times the uncertainty of the X-ray position: due to the high accuracy of the Gaia positions, this approach gives us high confidence that no potential Gaia counterpart is missed. In this way we found at least one candidate Gaia counterpart for only



**Figure 4.** EPIC image in the 0.2–12 keV energy range of the sky region around ZTF J213056.71+442046.5 with the position of the 51 detected X-ray sources. North is to the top; east is to the left. The white circle indicates the position of ZTF J2130.

29 of the sources. Therefore, we integrated our analysis by cross-correlating the X-ray sources (with the same criteria) also with the Guide Star Catalogue (GSC; Lasker et al. 2008),<sup>12</sup> which also provides a tentative classification of the source nature.<sup>13</sup> We found a candidate GSC counterpart for 11 of the X-ray sources without Gaia counterparts. For 12 X-ray sources we found two or more candidate counterparts, while 11 X-ray sources remained uncorrelated to any optical counterpart.

In Table 2 we report the main parameters of the detected X-ray sources and of their candidate counterparts, together with

the proposed identification. For each possible counterpart, we report the distance from the X-ray source, the source class given in the GSC catalog (Star, Non-Star, or Unclassified), the magnitude type and value, and the estimated value and error (in logarithm) of the X-ray-to-optical flux ratio. Three of the brightest sources (#10, #13, and #17) can unambiguously be identified with a known bright optical source of the Tycho catalog (Høg et al. 2000).

Two sources (#8 and #14) are clearly extended. The analysis of the EPIC images shows that they are clearly visible between 0.5 and  $\simeq 5$  keV, while outside this energy range they are confused with the background signal. Since for both objects there is no clear identification, we investigated their spectrum in order to obtain additional information on their properties. In both cases the count rate is very low ( $2.7 \times 10^{-2}$  and  $7.8 \times 10^{-3}$  cts  $s^{-1}$ , respectively), so the count statistics is limited. The spectrum of source #8 is rather hard and extends up to 10 keV. It can be equally well described with a power-law model with a photon index  $\Gamma \simeq 1.6$ , or with a collisionally heated plasma emission model with a high temperature ( $kT \sim 10$  keV). With both models the estimated flux (in the energy range 0.2–10 keV) is  $\simeq 10^{-13}$  erg  $cm^{-2}$   $s^{-1}$ . The high temperature of the thermal model suggests that the identification with a cluster of galaxies is unlikely. The hard power-law spectrum suggests a pulsar wind nebula nature, but no pulsars at this positions are known. The spectrum of source #14 is significantly softer: it can be described with either a power-law model with  $\Gamma \simeq 2$  or with a plasma model with  $kT \sim 5$  keV. Therefore, in this case the estimated plasma temperature is consistent with a cluster of galaxies or with a supernova remnant. However, the limited count statistics prevents clearly discriminating between a thermal or nonthermal emission model. The estimated flux of this source is  $\simeq 6 \times 10^{-14}$  erg  $cm^{-2}$   $s^{-1}$ . In summary, based on the EPIC data, we cannot suggest any identification of these extended sources with a known class of X-ray sources.

<sup>12</sup> <http://gsss.stsci.edu/webservices/GSC2/WebForm.aspx>

<sup>13</sup> [http://gsss.stsci.edu/Catalogs/GSC/GSC2/gsc23/gsc23\\_release\\_notes.htm#ClassificationCodes](http://gsss.stsci.edu/Catalogs/GSC/GSC2/gsc23/gsc23_release_notes.htm#ClassificationCodes)

**Table 2**  
Main Parameters of the 51 Detected X-Ray Sources

$N$ n/a (1)	R.A. <sub>x</sub> ( $^{\circ}$ ) (2)	Decl. <sub>x</sub> ( $^{\circ}$ ) (3)	ERR " (4)	CR (cts s <sup>-1</sup> ) (5)	Flux ( $\times 10^{-14}$ erg cm <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ) (6)	Detection Likelihood (7)	Extended Source (8)	$d$ " (9)	Class n/a (10)	Magnitude		X/O Ratio Log10 (13)	Counterpart (14)
										Type (11)	Value (12)		
1	322.9037	44.3588	0.2	0.119 $\pm$ 0.004	12.50 $\pm$ 0.38	3343.42	NO	0.5	Star	GaiaG	11.2	-3.62 $\pm$ 0.05	Gaia EDR3 1970952112669846528 1RXS J213137.1+442125
2	322.7730	44.4847	0.2	0.141 $\pm$ 0.004	22.50 $\pm$ 0.58	3254.26	NO	0.4	Star	GaiaG	14.4	-2.07 $\pm$ 0.04	Gaia EDR3 1970957197911088256
3	322.7798	44.3510	0.2	0.061 $\pm$ 0.002	6.25 $\pm$ 0.18	2269.45	NO	0.2	...	GaiaG	14.3	-2.68 $\pm$ 0.01	Gaia EDR3 1970951219316446848
4	322.7973	44.3185	0.4	0.024 $\pm$ 0.001	7.11 $\pm$ 0.37	537.44	NO	0.6	Non-Star	SDSS_r	22.4	1.38 $\pm$ 0.14	GSC2 N0331212284370
5	322.6702	44.2730	0.4	0.022 $\pm$ 0.001	7.70 $\pm$ 0.46	400.99	NO	...	...	...	...	...	?
6	322.7772	44.2866	0.4	0.019 $\pm$ 0.001	4.79 $\pm$ 0.30	301.96	NO	0.5	Non-Star	SDSS_g	21.7	0.70 $\pm$ 0.10	GSC2 N0331212271069
7	322.5740	44.1716	0.6	0.016 $\pm$ 0.002	9.42 $\pm$ 0.90	199.27	NO	...	...	...	...	...	?
8	322.8676	44.3626	1.0	0.073 $\pm$ 0.005	14.20 $\pm$ 1.05	194.75	YES	2.9	Non-Star	SDSS_r	21.4	1.30 $\pm$ 0.15	GSC2 N0331212285756
9	322.5840	44.3718	0.5	0.023 $\pm$ 0.002	4.96 $\pm$ 0.49	183.53	NO	...	...	...	...	...	?
10	322.7726	44.2233	0.6	0.014 $\pm$ 0.001	1.33 $\pm$ 0.11	171.66	NO	1.2	Star	GaiaG	10.2	-4.98 $\pm$ 0.11	TYC 3195-1291-1 (Gaia EDR3 1970937647223334784)
11	322.8890	44.5620	0.8	0.042 $\pm$ 0.005	23.70 $\pm$ 2.90	154.79	NO	1.1	Star	GaiaG	14.9	-1.85 $\pm$ 0.14	Gaia EDR3 1971050931274339456
12	322.8995	44.5525	0.9	0.021 $\pm$ 0.005	7.74 $\pm$ 1.92	112.35	NO	2.7	Star	GaiaG	18.6	-0.87 $\pm$ 0.44	Gaia EDR3 1971050720812613632
13	322.9422	44.2552	0.9	0.011 $\pm$ 0.001	0.98 $\pm$ 0.12	94.56	NO	0.9	Non-Star	SDSS_i	14.7	-2.44 $\pm$ 0.29	GSC2 N0331212310632
								1.4	Star	GaiaG	11.4	-4.62 $\pm$ 0.29	TYC 3195-1009-1 (Gaia EDR3 1970938781091225472)
								2.0	Non-Star	SDSS_g	13.2	-3.39 $\pm$ 0.29	GSC2 N0331212271457
14	322.5631	44.4418	0.7	0.045 $\pm$ 0.005	9.83 $\pm$ 1.03	91.29	YES	...	...	...	...	...	?
15	322.7897	44.1830	0.8	0.013 $\pm$ 0.002	3.93 $\pm$ 0.51	75.79	NO	0.7	Star	GaiaG	19.8	-0.68 $\pm$ 0.20	Gaia EDR3 1970937372330018944
								1.1	...	GaiaG	17.1	-1.76 $\pm$ 0.06	Gaia EDR3 1970937372341684864
16	322.6268	44.2773	0.7	0.010 $\pm$ 0.001	5.43 $\pm$ 0.61	70.91	NO	1.4	Non-Star	SDSS_i	21.8	1.15 $\pm$ 0.10	GSC2 N0331212276990
								2.0	Unclassified	WISE_w1	15.7	...	GSC2 N0331212380540
17	322.8324	44.1495	0.8	0.017 $\pm$ 0.002	6.91 $\pm$ 0.90	70.69	NO	0.8	Non-Star	SDSS_r	11.4	-3.03 $\pm$ 0.16	GSC2 N0331212325476
								1.3	Star	GaiaG	11.2	-3.89 $\pm$ 0.15	TYC 3195-1810-1 (Gaia EDR3 1970936375909299712)
								2.2	Star	GaiaG	19.5	-0.56 $\pm$ 0.15	Gaia EDR3 1970936375899213440
18	322.6491	44.4884	1.1	0.014 $\pm$ 0.002	4.83 $\pm$ 0.65	66.51	NO	1.3	Non-Star	SDSS_g	21.9	0.78 $\pm$ 0.20	GSC2 N0331212254829
19	322.8823	44.2828	0.9	0.009 $\pm$ 0.001	2.60 $\pm$ 0.35	62.60	NO	1.1	Star	GaiaG	16.8	-2.07 $\pm$ 0.20	Gaia EDR3 1970939537005448064
20	322.6726	44.2914	0.9	0.008 $\pm$ 0.001	0.76 $\pm$ 0.09	54.98	NO	2.1	Star	GaiaG	16.3	-2.80 $\pm$ 0.27	Gaia EDR3 1970944931484039552
21	322.7768	44.4750	0.9	0.010 $\pm$ 0.001	1.44 $\pm$ 0.21	47.15	NO	0.5	Star	GaiaG	18.8	-1.52 $\pm$ 0.36	Gaia EDR3 1970956437691046144
22	322.7357	44.1784	0.9	0.014 $\pm$ 0.002	2.25 $\pm$ 0.36	44.78	NO	...	...	...	...	...	?
23	322.8111	44.5572	1.3	0.011 $\pm$ 0.002	0.59 $\pm$ 0.13	37.34	NO	2.7	Non-Star	SDSS_r	21.7	0.01 $\pm$ 0.96	GSC2 N0331212239468
								3.3	Non-Star	SDSS_r	21.6	-0.03 $\pm$ 0.96	GSC2 N0331212254752
								3.3	Non-Star	SDSS_i	21.2	-0.05 $\pm$ 0.96	GSC2 N0331212265386
24	322.7257	44.3285	1.0	0.006 $\pm$ 0.001	2.10 $\pm$ 0.28	37.10	NO	...	...	...	...	...	?
25	322.5279	44.3729	1.1	0.008 $\pm$ 0.001	1.98 $\pm$ 0.32	34.78	NO	2.0	Star	GaiaG	17.9	-1.72 $\pm$ 0.26	Gaia EDR3 1970996157547913856
26	322.6523	44.4078	0.8	0.005 $\pm$ 0.001	0.75 $\pm$ 0.12	34.74	NO	...	...	...	...	...	?
27	322.6700	44.4790	1.1	0.008 $\pm$ 0.001	1.13 $\pm$ 0.19	34.26	NO	0.7	Star	GaiaG	14.8	-3.22 $\pm$ 0.36	Gaia EDR3 1971002827645828352
28	322.6544	44.4462	1.0	0.007 $\pm$ 0.001	1.12 $\pm$ 0.22	30.88	NO	2.2	Non-Star	SDSS_g	21.9	0.14 $\pm$ 0.61	GSC2 N0331212233476
29	322.7616	44.3734	0.9	0.007 $\pm$ 0.003	2.82 $\pm$ 0.98	29.88	NO	0.9	Non-Star	SDSS_i	22.0	0.94 $\pm$ 0.39	GSC2 N0331212287517
30	322.9213	44.4183	1.0	0.009 $\pm$ 0.002	2.52 $\pm$ 0.45	29.64	NO	2.7	Star	GaiaG	18.2	-1.53 $\pm$ 0.31	Gaia EDR3 1970952524975861504
								3.0	Star	GaiaG	13.3	-3.48 $\pm$ 0.31	Gaia EDR3 1970952524986698624
31	323.0323	44.4024	1.3	0.013 $\pm$ 0.002	1.29 $\pm$ 0.20	29.19	NO	2.5	Star	GaiaG	16.2	-2.62 $\pm$ 0.38	Gaia EDR3 1971034266801276288
32	322.5873	44.3178	1.0	0.006 $\pm$ 0.001	2.34 $\pm$ 0.38	28.27	NO	1.6	Non-Star	SDSS_i	21.1	0.49 $\pm$ 0.20	GSC2 N0331212281960
33	322.6738	44.2218	1.0	0.007 $\pm$ 0.001	1.10 $\pm$ 0.17	27.42	NO	2.3	Star	GaiaG	20.1	-1.13 $\pm$ 0.29	Gaia EDR3 1970944446140502272









9

**Table 2**  
(Continued)

N n/a (1)	R.A. <sub>x</sub> (°) (2)	Decl. <sub>x</sub> (°) (3)	ERR " (4)	CR (cts s <sup>-1</sup> ) (5)	Flux ( $\times 10^{-14}$ erg cm <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ) (6)	Detection Likelihood (7)	Extended Source (8)	$d$ " (9)	Class n/a (10)	Magnitude		X/O Ratio Log10 (13)	Counterpart (14)
										Type (11)	Value (12)		
34	322.7184	44.3332	0.9	0.004 ± 0.001	0.60 ± 0.09	25.85	NO	1.4	Star	GaiaG	17.3	-2.48 ± 0.24	Gaia EDR3 1970950978798273920
35	322.6870	44.4670	1.1	0.008 ± 0.001	4.28 ± 0.78	23.26	NO	2.9	Non-Star	SDSS_r	21.6	0.85 ± 0.17	GSC2 N0331212262403
36	322.6012	44.3770	1.2	0.006 ± 0.001	3.43 ± 0.61	22.24	NO	1.6	Star	GaiaG	20.9	-0.29 ± 0.16	Gaia EDR3 1970949260801367296
37	322.7944	44.4414	1.1	0.006 ± 0.001	1.95 ± 0.37	22.00	NO	1.7	Star	GaiaG	15.0	-2.89 ± 0.30	Gaia EDR3 1970956167118744320
38	323.0129	44.4497	1.0	0.015 ± 0.003	11.40 ± 2.40	21.17	NO	2.9	Star	GaiaG	20.3	-0.03 ± 0.09	Gaia EDR3 1971046292698993152
								3.1	Star	GaiaG	17.9	-1.00 ± 0.17	Gaia EDR3 1971046288408505344
39	322.8485	44.3143	1.0	0.006 ± 0.001	1.93 ± 0.31	20.26	NO	1.8	Non-Star	SDSS_g	22.2	0.48 ± 0.20	GSC2 N0331212276215
40	322.7466	44.5755	2.3	0.011 ± 0.004	7.22 ± 2.36	17.86	NO	2.2	Star	GaiaG	15.3	-2.24 ± 0.35	Gaia EDR3 1971004957949785728
								2.6	Non-Star	SDSS_g	20.7	0.48 ± 0.35	GSC2 N0331212232458
41	322.8268	44.1844	1.4	0.003 ± 0.001	1.51 ± 0.72	16.89	NO	2.2	Star	GaiaG	20.1	-0.97 ± 0.50	Gaia EDR3 1970936650776371968
								4.2	Star	GaiaG	20.0	-1.04 ± 0.50	Gaia EDR3 1970936650787455744
42	322.6930	44.4533	1.1	0.005 ± 0.001	1.70 ± 0.37	16.48	NO	...	...	...	...	...	?
43	322.5266	44.5201	1.0	0.011 ± 0.006	8.61 ± 4.49	16.15	NO	2.1	Non-Star	GaiaG	21.1	0.16 ± 0.23	Gaia EDR3 1971006572852951296
44	322.6004	44.1886	1.3	0.004 ± 0.001	0.40 ± 0.14	15.54	NO	...	...	...	...	...	?
45	322.4930	44.2919	1.1	0.007 ± 0.001	1.70 ± 0.35	15.06	NO	...	...	...	...	...	?
46	322.7744	44.3828	1.0	0.004 ± 0.001	1.34 ± 0.24	15.00	NO	0.6	...	GaiaG	17.7	-1.99 ± 0.08	Gaia EDR3 1970951528542823296
								1.1	Star	GaiaG	20.1	-1.04 ± 0.21	Gaia EDR3 1970951528554080768
								2.5	Star	GaiaG	20.9	-0.73 ± 0.21	Gaia EDR3 1970951528543900544
								2.5	Non-Star	SDSS_z	19.8	-0.18 ± 0.21	GSC2 N0331212259744
47	322.8249	44.4733	1.3	0.006 ± 0.002	4.47 ± 1.05	13.65	NO	...	...	...	...	...	?
48	322.7561	44.4806	1.2	0.005 ± 0.001	0.35 ± 0.08	11.87	NO	2.3	Star	GaiaG	17.0	-2.87 ± 0.92	Gaia EDR3 1970957094831654784
								3.5	Star	GaiaG	19.4	-1.89 ± 0.92	Gaia EDR3 1970957094820313856
49	322.4694	44.3742	2.0	0.006 ± 0.001	0.87 ± 0.20	10.76	NO	1.6	Star	GaiaG	18.9	-1.68 ± 0.38	Gaia EDR3 1970996672943997568
50	322.9151	44.4709	2.4	0.008 ± 0.002	2.14 ± 0.50	10.68	NO	3.8	Non-Star	SDSS_z	20.5	0.30 ± 0.37	GSC2 N0331212267844
								6.2	Star	GaiaG	18.3	-1.55 ± 0.37	Gaia EDR3 1971047284838488704
								6.9	Non-Star	SDSS_i	20.6	0.26 ± 0.37	GSC2 N0331212251938
51	322.5518	44.3149	1.5	0.006 ± 0.002	3.45 ± 0.93	10.03	NO	3.0	Star	GaiaG	16.3	-2.13 ± 0.18	Gaia EDR3 1970948504896789632

**Note.** The sources are sorted by decreasing detection likelihood. Column descriptions: (1) X-ray source ID number; (2), (3) X-ray position; (4) X-ray position uncertainty; (5) count rate in the range 0.2–12 keV; (6) flux in the range 0.2–12 keV, assuming an absorbed power-law spectrum with photon index  $\Gamma = 1.7$  and hydrogen column density  $N_{\text{H}} = 3 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ ; (7) detection likelihood; (8) source morphology; (9) angular distance of the candidate optical counterpart from the X-ray position; (10) classification of the candidate counterpart; (11) magnitude type; (12) magnitude value; (13) logarithmic value of the X-ray-to-optical flux ratio; (14) proposed source identification.

## ORCID iDs

S. Mereghetti  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3259-7801>  
 N. La Palombara  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7015-6359>  
 T. Kupfer  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6540-1484>  
 T. R. Marsh  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2498-7589>  
 C. M. Copperwheat  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7983-8698>  
 K. Deshmukh  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5253-3480>  
 P. Esposito  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4849-5092>  
 T. Maccarone  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0976-4755>  
 F. Pintore  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3869-2925>  
 M. Rigoselli  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6641-5450>  
 L. Rivera Sandoval  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9396-7215>  
 A. Tiengo  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6038-1090>

## References

- Bahramian, A., Heinke, C. O., Degenaar, N., et al. 2015, *MNRAS*, **452**, 3475  
 Bailer-Jones, C. A. L., Rybizki, J., Fousneau, M., Demleitner, M., & Andrae, R. 2021, *AJ*, **161**, 147  
 Bauer, E. B., & Kupfer, T. 2021, *ApJ*, **922**, 245  
 Bellm, E. C., Kulkarni, S. R., Graham, M. J., et al. 2019, *PASP*, **131**, 018002  
 Frank, J., King, A., & Raine, D. J. 2002, *Accretion Power in Astrophysics: Third Edition* (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press)  
 Gaia Collaboration, Brown, A. G. A., Vallenari, A., et al. 2021, *A&A*, **649**, A1  
 Gaia Collaboration, Prusti, T., de Bruijne, J. H. J., et al. 2016, *A&A*, **595**, A1  
 Geier, S., Nesslinger, S., Heber, U., et al. 2007, *A&A*, **464**, 299  
 Geier, S., Raddi, R., Gentile Fusillo, N. P., & Raddi, T. R. 2019, *A&A*, **621**, A38  
 Green, G. M., Schlafly, E., Zucker, C., Speagle, J. S., & Finkbeiner, D. 2019, *ApJ*, **887**, 93  
 Han, Z., Podsiadlowski, P., Maxted, P. F. L., & Marsh, T. R. 2003, *MNRAS*, **341**, 669  
 Han, Z., Podsiadlowski, P., Maxted, P. F. L., Marsh, T. R., & Ivanova, N. 2002, *MNRAS*, **336**, 449  
 Heber, U. 2016, *PASP*, **128**, 082001  
 HI4PI Collaboration, Ben Bekhti, N., Flöer, L., et al. 2016, *A&A*, **594**, A116  
 Høg, E., Fabricius, C., Makarov, V. V., et al. 2000, *A&A*, **355**, L27  
 Iben, I. J., & Tutukov, A. V. 1991, *ApJ*, **370**, 615  
 Iben, I. J., & Tutukov, A. V. 1994, *ApJ*, **431**, 264  
 Kupfer, T., Bauer, E. B., Burdge, K. B., et al. 2020a, *ApJL*, **898**, L25  
 Kupfer, T., Bauer, E. B., Marsh, T. R., et al. 2020b, *ApJ*, **891**, 45  
 Kupfer, T., Bauer, E. B., van Roestel, J., et al. 2022, *ApJL*, **925**, L12  
 Kupfer, T., Geier, S., Heber, U., et al. 2015, *A&A*, **576**, A44  
 Kupfer, T., Korol, V., Shah, S., et al. 2018, *MNRAS*, **480**, 302  
 Kupfer, T., Ramsay, G., van Roestel, J., et al. 2017a, *ApJ*, **851**, 28  
 Kupfer, T., van Roestel, J., Brooks, J., et al. 2017b, *ApJ*, **835**, 131  
 Lasker, B. M., Lattanzi, M. G., McLean, B. J., et al. 2008, *AJ*, **136**, 735  
 Mason, K. O., Breeveld, A., Much, R., et al. 2001, *A&A*, **365**, L36  
 Mereghetti, S., La Palombara, N., Esposito, P., et al. 2014, *MNRAS*, **441**, 2684  
 Mereghetti, S., Tiengo, A., Esposito, P., et al. 2009, *Sci*, **325**, 1222  
 Morales-Rueda, L., Maxted, P. F. L., Marsh, T. R., North, R. C., & Heber, U. 2003, *MNRAS*, **338**, 752  
 Mukai, K. 2017, *PASP*, **129**, 062001  
 Napiwotzki, R., Karl, C. A., Lisker, T., et al. 2004, *Ap&SS*, **291**, 321  
 Orosz, J. A., & Wade, R. A. 1999, *MNRAS*, **310**, 773  
 Pelisoli, I., Neunteufel, P., Geier, S., et al. 2021, *NatAs*, **5**, 1052  
 Rivera Sandoval, L. E., Maccarone, T., & Murawski, G. 2019, *ATel*, **12847**, 1  
 Rosen, S. R., Webb, N. A., Watson, M. G., et al. 2016, *A&A*, **590**, A1  
 Strüder, L., Briel, U., Dennerl, K., et al. 2001, *A&A*, **365**, L18  
 Suleimanov, V. F., Doroshenko, V., & Werner, K. 2019, *MNRAS*, **482**, 3622  
 Turner, M. J. L., Abbey, A., Arnaud, M., et al. 2001, *A&A*, **365**, L27  
 van Teeseling, A., Beuermann, K., & Verbunt, F. 1996, *A&A*, **315**, 467  
 Vennes, S., Kawka, A., O'Toole, S. J., Németh, P., & Burton, D. 2012, *ApJL*, **759**, L25  
 Yungelson, L. R. 2008, *AstL*, **34**, 620