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Progress on the knowledge of magnetic fields in neutron stars

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With about 300 refereed papers published each year, XMM-Newton is one of the most successful scientific missions of ESA ever. Neutron stars are classical targets of X-ray observatories and consequently huge expectations were accompanying the launch of the spacecraft. Contrary to expectations, the spectra of neutron stars were generally found continuum dominated exclusive any spectral features.

The situation has dramatically changed during the last years as variable spectral features were detected for several neutron stars and magnetars. These findings allow unique view of the different magnetic field components of neutron stars. In the talk I will illustrate the achieved progress with selected highlights of XMM-Newton observation of neutron stars.

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