



# Deep X-Ray and Radio Observations of the First Outburst of the Young Magnetar Swift J1818.0–1607

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## Abstract

Swift J1818.0–1607 is a radio-loud magnetar with a spin period of 1.36 s and a dipolar magnetic field strength of  $B \sim 3 \times 10^{14}$  G, which is very young compared to the Galactic pulsar population. We report here on the long-term X-ray monitoring campaign of this young magnetar using XMM-Newton, NuSTAR, and Swift from the activation of its first outburst in 2020 March until 2021 October, as well as INTEGRAL upper limits on its hard X-ray emission. The 1–10 keV magnetar spectrum is well modeled by an absorbed blackbody with a temperature of  $kT_{\text{BB}} \sim 1.1$  keV and apparent reduction in the radius of the emitting region from  $\sim 0.6$  to  $\sim 0.2$  km. We also confirm the bright diffuse X-ray emission around the source extending between  $\sim 50''$  and  $\sim 110''$ . A timing analysis revealed large torque variability, with an average spin-down rate  $\dot{\nu} \sim -2.3 \times 10^{-11}$  Hz<sup>2</sup> that appears to decrease in magnitude over time. We also observed Swift J1818.0–1607 with the Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array on 2021 March 22. We detected the radio counterpart to Swift J1818 measuring a flux density of  $S_{\nu} = 4.38 \pm 0.05$  mJy at 3 GHz and a half-ringlike structure of bright diffuse radio emission located at  $\sim 90''$  to the west of the magnetar. We tentatively suggest that the diffuse X-ray emission is due to a dust-scattering halo and that the radio structure may be associated with the supernova remnant of this young pulsar, based on its morphology.

*Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts:* Neutron stars (1108); Magnetars (992)

## 1. Introduction

Magnetars are a subgroup of isolated neutron stars with ultrahigh magnetic fields of  $B \approx 10^{14}$ – $10^{15}$  G. As suggested by Duncan & Thompson (1992), the decay of their extremely strong magnetic fields in the interior of the star is the main energy source of their electromagnetic radiation (for recent reviews, see, e.g., Kaspi & Beloborodov 2017; Esposito et al. 2021).

The observational characteristics of magnetars place them in the top right corner of the  $P$ – $\dot{P}$  diagram (where  $P$  is the period and  $\dot{P}$  is the period derivative), with relatively long spin periods in the range of 0.3–12 s and spin-down rates between  $\dot{P} \sim 10^{-13}$ – $10^{-11}$  s s<sup>−1</sup>. Generally, magnetars show bright soft

X-ray emission with luminosities in the range of  $L_X \approx 10^{31}$ – $10^{36}$  erg s<sup>−1</sup>, sometimes reaching into the hard X-ray energies. The soft X-ray spectrum of magnetars (0.5–10 keV) typically consists of (i) a thermal component that is usually well modeled by a blackbody with a temperature of  $kT_{\text{BB}} \sim 0.3$ –1 keV and (ii) a nonthermal component that can be described by a power law with a photon index  $\Gamma \sim 2$ –4. If emitting at hard X-rays, their spectra above 10 keV are nonthermal and well modeled with a power law (Turolla et al. 2015; Kaspi & Beloborodov 2017; Esposito et al. 2021).

In addition, magnetars exhibit several types of transient activity ranging from short-lived X-ray bursts (timescales of milliseconds to seconds) to longer duration events called giant flares (timescale of seconds to tens of minutes). The luminosities of these flares range between  $10^{39}$  and  $10^{47}$  erg s<sup>−1</sup>. Furthermore, magnetars exhibit so-called outbursts, during which their persistent X-ray fluxes suddenly increase by a factor of 10–1000 and then gradually decay over a months-to-years

timescale (Rea & Esposito 2011; Coti Zelati et al. 2018; see the Magnetar Outburst Online Catalog<sup>19</sup>).

To date, pulsed radio emission has been detected in six magnetars and has been associated with X-ray outbursts in most cases.<sup>20</sup> This emission is characterized by variable radio flux and spectra and bright single pulses. The magnetar SGR J1935+2154 emitted a radio burst with properties similar to those of fast radio bursts (FRBs) during the early stage of its 2020 outburst (Andersen et al. 2020; Bochenek et al. 2020). FRBs are bright radio pulses characterized by a millisecond duration and dispersion measures greater than the Galactic radio pulses, suggesting an extragalactic origin (for a detailed review, see Petroff et al. 2022 and references therein). The progenitor engines of FRBs are still broadly discussed in the literature. However, the detection of FRB-like bursts from SGR J1935+2154 supports the scenario that magnetars can power at least a subgroup of FRBs.

On 2020 March 12, the Burst Alert Telescope (BAT) on board the Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory (Gehrels et al. 2004) triggered on a short burst of  $\sim 0.1$  s, which led to the discovery of a new magnetar (Evans et al. 2020). Following this trigger, 64.2 seconds later, the Swift X-ray Telescope (XRT) started observing the field and reported a new X-ray source, Swift J1818.0–1607 (hereafter, Swift J1818). Four hours after the Swift X-ray Telescope (XRT)/BAT alert, the Neutron star Interior Composition Explorer (NICER) started a series of observations of the source that revealed a coherent periodicity of 0.733417(4) Hz (Enoto et al. 2020). The NICER periodicity and the magnetar-like burst detected by Swift/BAT suggested that Swift J1818 is a new fast-spinning magnetar with a spin period of 1.36 s.

Follow-up radio observations performed by the 100 m Effelsberg radio telescope and the 76 m Lovell Telescope detected radio pulsations at a frequency of 0.7334110(2) Hz, confirming Swift J1818 as a radio-loud magnetar (Karuppusamy et al. 2020). The radio monitoring campaign provided a measurement of the spin-period derivative of  $\dot{P} = 8.16(2) \times 10^{-11} \text{ s s}^{-1}$ , resulting in the first estimate of the dipolar surface magnetic field at the equator of  $B \sim 3.4 \times 10^{14}$  G and a characteristic age of  $\sim 265$  yr (Champion et al. 2020a; Esposito et al. 2020; Karuppusamy et al. 2020). Even from these early estimates of the timing parameters, it was clear that this new magnetar is very young compared to the rest of the magnetar population. Additionally, the dispersion measure  $DM = 706(4) \text{ cm}^{-3} \text{ pc}$  suggested a source distance of 4.8 or 8.1 kpc, depending on the model used for the Galactic free electron density (Champion et al. 2020a; Karuppusamy et al. 2020).

Since its discovery, several X-ray (Esposito et al. 2020; Blumer & Safi-Harb 2020; Hu et al. 2020) and radio telescopes (Champion et al. 2020b; Karuppusamy et al. 2020; Lower & Shannon 2020; Lower et al. 2020a; Huang et al. 2021; Rajwade et al. 2022) have monitored this young magnetar during the evolution of its outburst, confirming its noisy spin-period evolution and X-ray outburst decay. Here we report on follow-up observations with the XMM-Newton, Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope ARray (NuSTAR), Swift, and INTEGRAL to study the X-ray spectral and timing evolution of Swift J1818 along the decay of its first outburst, covering  $\sim 19$  months since

the outburst onset. Furthermore, we report on radio continuum observations performed with the Very Large Array (VLA), which allowed us to search for the supernova remnant around this young pulsar, left over from the ejected materials after the supernova explosion (see Vink 2012 for a full review).

We describe the observations and data reduction in Section 2. In Section 3, we introduce the X-ray spectral analysis for the diffuse emission observed around the magnetar (Section 3.1) and for the magnetar itself (Section 3.2), a burst search (Section 3.3), the X-ray timing analysis (Section 3.4), and the analysis of radio continuum data (Section 3.5). Finally, we discuss the results in Section 4.

## 2. X-Ray Observations and Data Reduction

We report the log of observations used in this work in Table A1. We performed the data reduction using the HEASOFT<sup>21</sup> package (v.6.29c; Nasa High Energy Astrophysics Science Archive Research Center 2014). All uncertainties in the text are reported at  $1\sigma$  confidence level, unless otherwise specified. Throughout this work, we adopt a distance of 4.8 kpc (Karuppusamy et al. 2020).

### 2.1. XMM-Newton

Swift J1818 was monitored four times with the European Photon Imaging Camera (EPIC) on board the XMM-Newton satellite between 2020 March 15 and October 8 for a total exposure time of  $\sim 137$  ks. The exposures ranged from 22 to 49 ks (Table A1). The EPIC-pn (Strüder et al. 2001) was set in large window (LW; timing resolution of 47.7 ms) mode for the first observation and in full frame (FF; timing resolution of 73.4 ms) mode for the remaining observations, while both metal oxide semiconductor (MOS; Turner et al. 2001) cameras were operating in small window (SW; timing resolution of 0.3 s) mode. Raw data were analyzed with the SAS<sup>22</sup> software package (v.19.1.0; Gabriel et al. 2004). We cleaned the observations from periods of high background activity. This resulted in a net exposure time of 11.2, 9.5, 16.4, and 19.6 ks for the four observations ordered chronologically. No pileup was detected. We selected the source photon counts from a circle of  $30''$  radius, while the background level was estimated from a circle of  $100''$  radius on the same CCD away from the source. For the diffuse emission, we extracted the spectrum by selecting source photon counts from an annulus of radii  $50''$ – $110''$  centered on the source and used the same background region as adopted for the point-like source (more details in sub-Section 3.1). We focused this study on the EPIC-pn data but checked that MOS data gave consistent results.

### 2.2. NuSTAR

The NuSTAR (Harrison et al. 2013) observed Swift J1818 six times starting on 2020 March 3 and ending on 2020 September 7 for a total exposure time of  $\sim 180$  ks (see Table A1). The longest exposure was 59 ks taken under Obs. ID 80402308004, while the shortest exposure was 12 ks for Obs.ID 80402308010. The source photon counts were extracted from a circle of radius  $100''$  in the first three observations and from a smaller circle in the following three observations (the adopted radii varied in the range of  $50''$ – $80''$ ,

<sup>19</sup> <http://magnetars.ice.csic.es/>

<sup>20</sup> We include SGR J1935+2154 in the subgroup of radio-loud magnetars. For this source, the detection of a periodic radio emission by FAST was claimed in the aftermath of a radio bursting period in 2020 October (Zhu et al. 2020).

<sup>21</sup> <https://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/software/heasoft/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/xmm-newton/sas>

mainly depending on the presence of significant stray light contamination near the source position). The background level was estimated from a circle of radius  $100''$  located near the source position in all cases.

### 2.3. Swift

Swift/XRT (Burrows et al. 2005) extensively monitored Swift J1818 since the outburst onset until the end of 2021 October. The observations were carried out either in photon counting (PC; time resolution of 2.51 s) mode or in windowed timing (WT; time resolution of 1.779 ms) mode. Data were reprocessed using standard prescriptions and software packages such as XRTPIPELINE.<sup>23</sup> Source counts were accumulated within a circular region of a radius of 20 pixels (1 XRT pixel corresponds to  $2''/36$ ), while the background photons were extracted from an annulus with radii of 100–150 pixels and from a 20 pixel radius circle for PC-mode and WT-mode observations, respectively.

### 2.4. INTEGRAL

INTEGRAL (Winkler et al. 2003) observed Swift J1818 between 2020 March 13 at 21:22:56 UT and 2020 March 16 at 03:47:32 UT as part of our approved magnetar target of opportunity (ToO) program, for a total exposure time of about 105 ks. Unfortunately, its soft X-ray spectrum did not allow detection in the hard X-ray band. We derived  $3\sigma$  upper limits on the observed flux with ISGRI (Lebrun et al. 2003) at the level of  $1.8 \times 10^{-11} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  (28–40 keV) and  $3.5 \times 10^{-11} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  (40–80 keV).

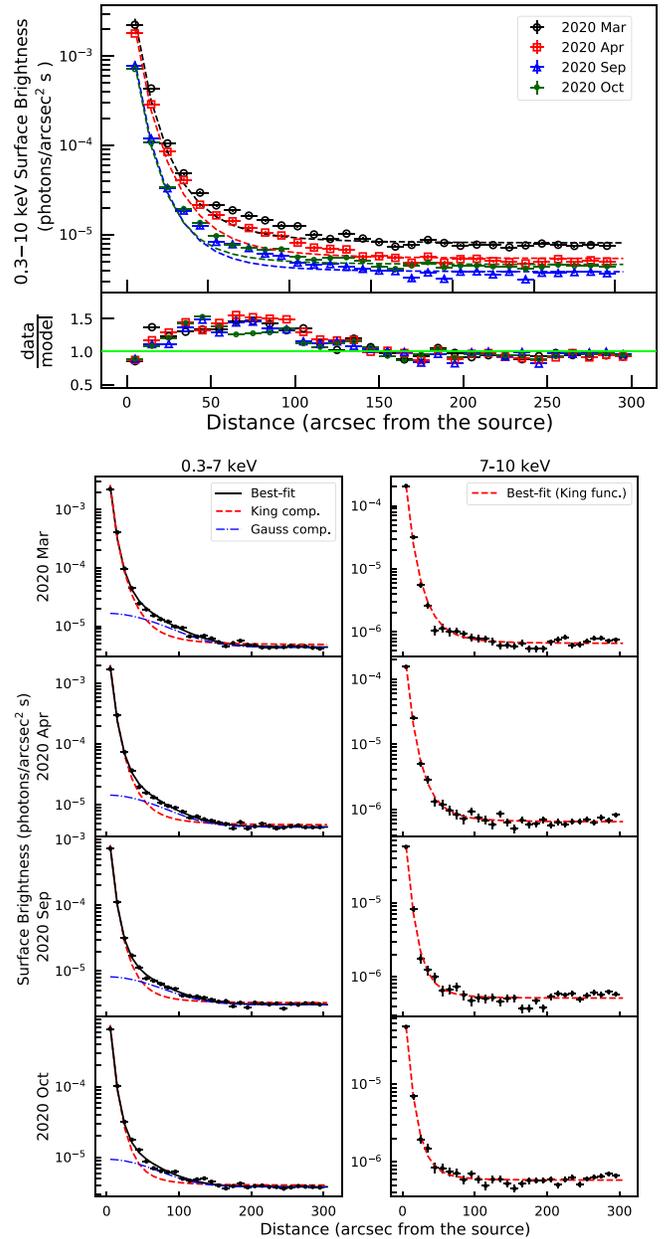
## 3. Analysis and Results

### 3.1. Diffuse Emission

The diffuse emission around Swift J1818 has been investigated in a number of previous studies. Using an XMM-Newton observation performed a few days after the outburst onset, Esposito et al. (2020) reported the detection of diffuse emission extending between  $50''$  and  $110''$  around Swift J1818. Another study by Blumer & Safi-Harb (2020) showed the presence of diffuse emission also on smaller angular scales, up to  $10''$  using Chandra observations.

To constrain the spatial extent of the large-scale diffuse emission, we extracted the radial profile of the observed surface brightness up to a distance of  $300''$  away from the source for all four XMM-Newton observations. We fit it using a King function reproducing the EPIC-pn point-spread function (PSF; Ghizzardi 2002) with the addition of a constant term to model the background level. We found a photon excess associated with the diffuse emission at radial distances within  $\sim 50$ – $110$  arcsec in all four pointings (see Figure 1, top panel).

To further investigate the energy dependency of the diffuse structure, we built surface brightness profiles in two different energy bands, 0.3–7 keV and 7–10 keV (see Figure 1, bottom panel). In the soft energy interval, we included a Gaussian function in the above-mentioned model in order to properly describe the observed photon excess, while this component is not required in the hard band ( $F$ -test probability  $> 0.001$  for its inclusion).



**Figure 1.** Top panel: Observed X-ray surface brightness up to a radial distance of  $300''$  in the 0.3–10 keV energy range extracted from the four XMM-Newton observations (the error bars are smaller than the size of the markers). The dashed lines represent the best-fit PSF model. The ratio between the data and the best-fit model is plotted in the lower subpanel. Bottom panels: Observed X-ray surface brightness up to a radial distance of  $300''$  in two different energy bands, 0.3–7 keV (left) and 7–10 keV (right). The best-fitting models are superimposed.

We extracted the 0.2–7.5 keV spectra associated with the diffuse emission by selecting photons within an annulus centered on Swift J1818 with radii of  $50''$  and  $110''$  respectively and grouped them using the SPECGROUP tool to have a minimum bin size of 100 counts per bin. The ancillary response files for the diffuse emission spectra were generated using the ARFGEN tool with the `extendedsource` parameter set to `yes`, while the redistribution matrix files were created via the RMFGEN script.

To study the spectral behavior of the diffuse component, we performed a simultaneous fit of the source and diffuse emission spectra obtained from the four EPIC-pn observations. The

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.swift.ac.uk/analysis/xrt/xrtpipeline.php>

**Table 1**  
Results of the Joint Fit of the XMM-Newton and NuSTAR Spectra of Swift J1818.0–1607

Instrument	Obs.ID	$F_{X,obs}^a$ ( $\times 10^{-11}$ erg s $^{-1}$ cm $^{-2}$ )	$F_{X,unabs}^a$ ( $\times 10^{-11}$ erg s $^{-1}$ cm $^{-2}$ )	$kT_{BB}$ (keV)	$R_{BB}^b$ (km)	$kT_{diff}^c$ (keV)	$F_{X,diff}^a$ ( $\times 10^{-12}$ erg s $^{-1}$ cm $^{-2}$ )
XMM/EPIC-pn	0823591801 <sup>d1</sup>	$1.414 \pm 0.003$	$3.036 \pm 0.005$	$1.13 \pm 0.01$	$0.56 \pm 0.01$	$0.86 \pm 0.02$	$1.93 \pm 0.01$
NuSTAR/FPMA	80402308002 <sup>d1</sup>	...	...	...	...	...	...
XMM/EPIC-pn	0823593901 <sup>d2</sup>	$1.142 \pm 0.003$	$2.417 \pm 0.005$	$1.149 \pm 0.007$	$0.501 \pm 0.009$	$0.91 \pm 0.03$	$1.59 \pm 0.02$
NuSTAR/FPMA	80402308004 <sup>d2</sup>	...	...	...	...	...	...
NuSTAR/FPMA	80402308006	$1.098 \pm 0.005$	$2.264 \pm 0.007$	$1.19 \pm 0.01$	$0.44 \pm 0.01$	...	...
NuSTAR/FPMA	80402308008	$0.652 \pm 0.008$	$1.43 \pm 0.01$	$1.14 \pm 0.02$	$0.35 \pm 0.02$	...	...
NuSTAR/FPMA	80402308010	$0.70 \pm 0.01$	$1.42 \pm 0.01$	$1.19 \pm 0.03$	$0.36 \pm 0.02$	...	...
XMM/EPIC-pn	0823594001 <sup>d3</sup>	$0.448 \pm 0.004$	$0.951 \pm 0.007$	$1.13 \pm 0.01$	$0.320 \pm 0.008$	$0.96 \pm 0.04$	$0.72 \pm 0.02$
NuSTAR/FPMA	80402308012 <sup>d3</sup>	...	...	...	...	...	...
XMM/EPIC-pn	0823594201	$0.416 \pm 0.006$	$0.876 \pm 0.007$	$1.17 \pm 0.02$	$0.28 \pm 0.01$	$0.89 \pm 0.03$	$0.68 \pm 0.02$

#### Notes.

<sup>a</sup> The fluxes are measured in the 0.3–10 keV energy range.

<sup>b</sup> The blackbody radius is derived assuming a source distance of 4.8 kpc.

<sup>c</sup> The fit of the diffuse emission is performed in the 2–7.5 keV energy range.

<sup>d</sup> These observations were fitted simultaneously.

former were described by an absorbed two-blackbody model, while for the latter we adopted a single absorbed blackbody. The hydrogen column density  $N_H$  was quantified with the TBABS model with the abundance of the interstellar medium taken from Wilms et al. (2000) and the photoionization cross-sectional model from Verner et al. (1996). In the fits, the  $N_H$  was forced to be the same among all the data sets. At each epoch, the diffuse emission temperature and normalization were tied up between the source and diffuse emission spectra. Overall, the fit gave a satisfactory description of the data with  $N_H = (1.23 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{23}$  cm $^{-2}$  and a reduced chi-squared  $\chi_\nu^2 = 1.2$  for 332 degrees of freedom (dof). The best-fitting values for the temperature  $kT_{diff}$  and the observed 0.3–10 keV flux  $F_{X,diff}$  for the diffusion emission are listed in Table 1. Figure 2 shows the unfolded spectra of the diffuse emission at the four different epochs with the best-fitting model, marked by a solid line, and the residuals with respect to this model.

We detected a flux reduction of the diffuse X-ray emission of about 35% (decreasing from 1.9 to  $0.6 \times 10^{-11}$  erg s $^{-1}$  cm $^{-2}$ ) between 2020 March and October. The large flux variability and the soft X-ray spectrum suggest a dust-scattering halo as the source of this diffuse emission.

### 3.2. Spectral Analysis

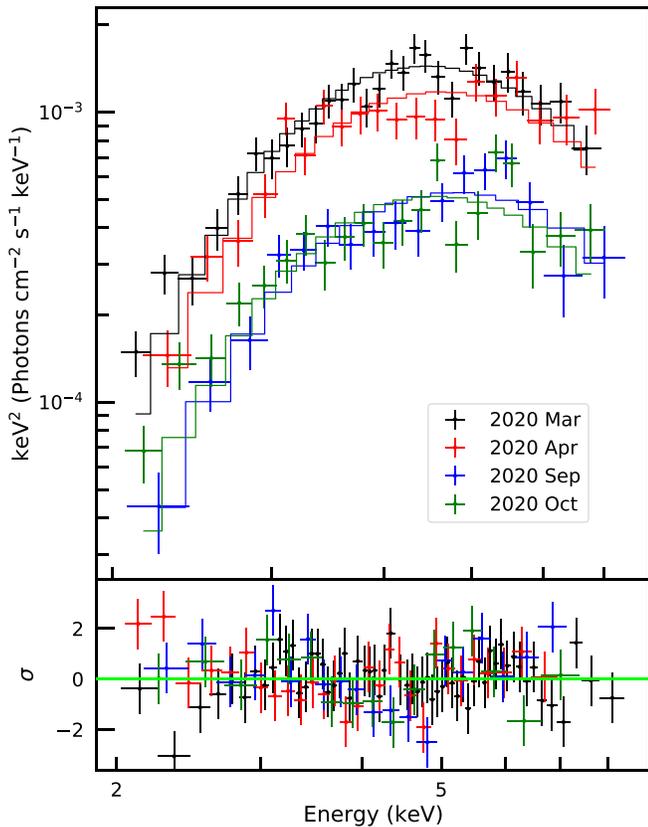
We used the XMM-Newton and NuSTAR data to study the X-ray emission of Swift J1818 from soft to hard X-rays. For the XMM-Newton/EPIC-pn observations, we grouped the X-ray spectra using the SPECGROUP tool to have a minimum bin size of 100 counts per bin. For the NuSTAR/FPMA observations, the spectra were grouped with GRPPHA to have a minimum bin size of 50 counts per bin.

The spectral fitting was performed using XSPEC (v12.11.1; Arnaud 1996). To model the spectra, we selected the 3–13 keV energy range for all NuSTAR spectra, except for the first spectrum (Obs.ID 80402308002), which was modeled in the 3–20 keV energy range. We restricted the energy range of the EPIC-pn spectra to 1–10 keV due to the domination of the background below 1 keV for this highly absorbed source. To quantify the hydrogen column density  $N_H$ , we adopted the TBABS model with the interstellar-radiation abundance from

Wilms et al. (2000) and the photoionization cross-sectional model from Verner et al. (1996).

We modeled the EPIC-pn and FPMA spectra of Swift J1818 simultaneously with two blackbodies plus a power-law component. We fixed the temperature and normalization of the first blackbody component to the aforementioned values derived from the diffuse emission fit (see Section 3.1 and Table 1). We also added a constant term between the two instruments to account for cross-calibration uncertainties. The constant was fixed to 1 for the XMM-Newton/EPIC-pn spectra and left free to vary for the NuSTAR/FPMA spectra. We linked the hydrogen column density between all the spectra and obtained  $N_H = (1.24 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{23}$  cm $^{-2}$ . We found that the model fits the data with  $\chi_\nu^2 = 1.41$  for 607 dof (see Figure 3). We note that the power-law component is required only for the spectrum at the outburst peak, i.e., the 2020 March 15 epoch; thus we did not include this component in the model for the remaining spectra. We obtained a power-law photon index of  $\Gamma = 1.0 \pm 0.6$ , which is consistent with the result reported by Esposito et al. (2020),  $\Gamma = 0.0 \pm 1.3$ . In Table 1, we list the best-fit parameters for the blackbody temperatures  $kT_{BB}$  and radii  $R_{BB}$ , as well as the observed  $F_{X,obs}$  and unabsorbed  $F_{X,unabs}$  fluxes estimated in the 0.3–10 keV energy interval.

To supplement the XMM-Newton and NuSTAR observations, we initiated a Swift/XRT monitoring campaign of Swift J1818. These pointings were used to sample the flux and spectral evolution of the magnetar over a longer time span. We fit all the Swift spectra simultaneously with an absorbed blackbody model, fixing  $N_H$  to the value obtained from the broadband fit with XMM-Newton and NuSTAR data. Figure 4 shows the temporal evolution of the blackbody temperature and radius and the 0.3–10 keV observed flux from the outburst onset on 2020 March 12 until 2021 October 24. The 0.3–10 keV observed flux of Swift J1818 has shown a rapid decay since the outburst peak, from  $\sim 1.4 \times 10^{-11}$  erg s $^{-1}$  cm $^{-2}$  to  $\sim 6.6 \times 10^{-13}$  erg s $^{-1}$  cm $^{-2}$  after about 19 months (see Figure 4, bottom panel). Similarly, the blackbody radius decreased from  $\sim 0.6$  to  $\sim 0.3$  km during the first 7 months and then settled at an average value of  $\sim 0.2$  km (middle panel). We did not observe significant variability in the blackbody



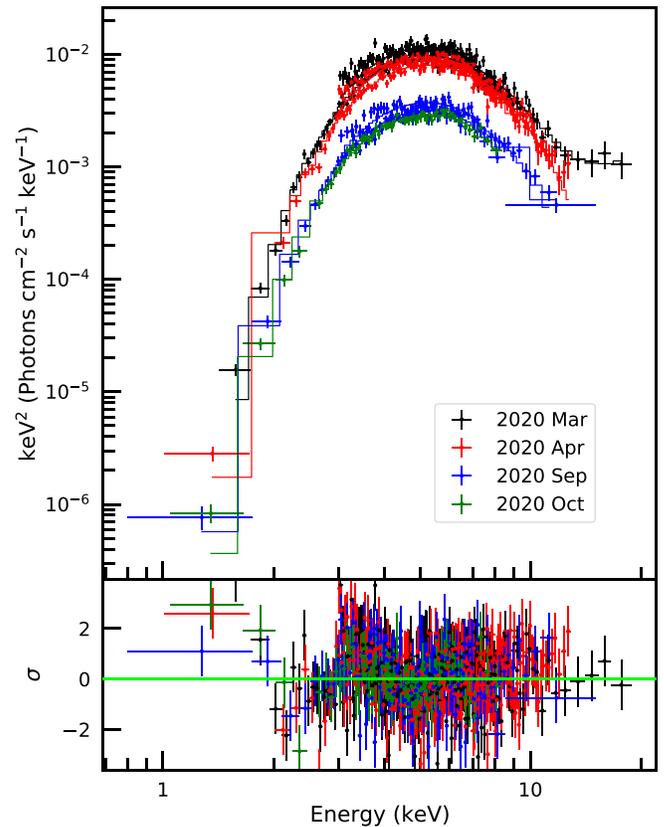
**Figure 2.**  $E^2 f(E)$  unfolded spectra of the diffuse emission extracted from the four XMM-Newton observations. The solid lines mark the absorbed blackbody model. Post-fit residuals in units of standard deviations are shown in the bottom panel.

temperature, which attained a constant value of  $\sim 1.1$  keV over the whole monitoring campaign (top panel).

### 3.3. Burst Search

The sky region of Swift J1818.0–1607 has been extensively observed every year by the INTEGRAL satellite, starting from 2003 March. We have carried out a search for bursts from Swift J1818 using the data of IBIS/ISGRI, a coded mask imaging instrument with angular resolution of  $\sim 12'$  and field of view of  $29^\circ \times 29^\circ$  (Ubertini et al. 2003). We selected all the public data with Swift J1818 in the field of view obtained until 2021 April. After the removal of time intervals with high and variable backgrounds, this amounted to an exposure time of about 43 Ms. Most of the considered data (41 Ms) were obtained before the discovery outburst.

The burst search was done with the procedure described by Mereghetti et al. (2021). Briefly, this consists of a first screening of the light curves binned at eight logarithmically spaced timescales from 0.01 s to 1.28 s to select excesses with respect to the locally measured background count rate. The search is carried out in the nominal 20–100 keV, 30–100 keV, and 30–200 keV energy ranges. In this first step, a threshold corresponding to  $\sim 0.001$  false positives per science window and timescale is adopted (INTEGRAL data are divided into science windows of a few ks duration). All these excesses are then examined through an imaging analysis in order to reject the events caused by instrumental background or by bright sources located outside the field of view. This procedure led to the (re)discovery of several bursts from other sources in the



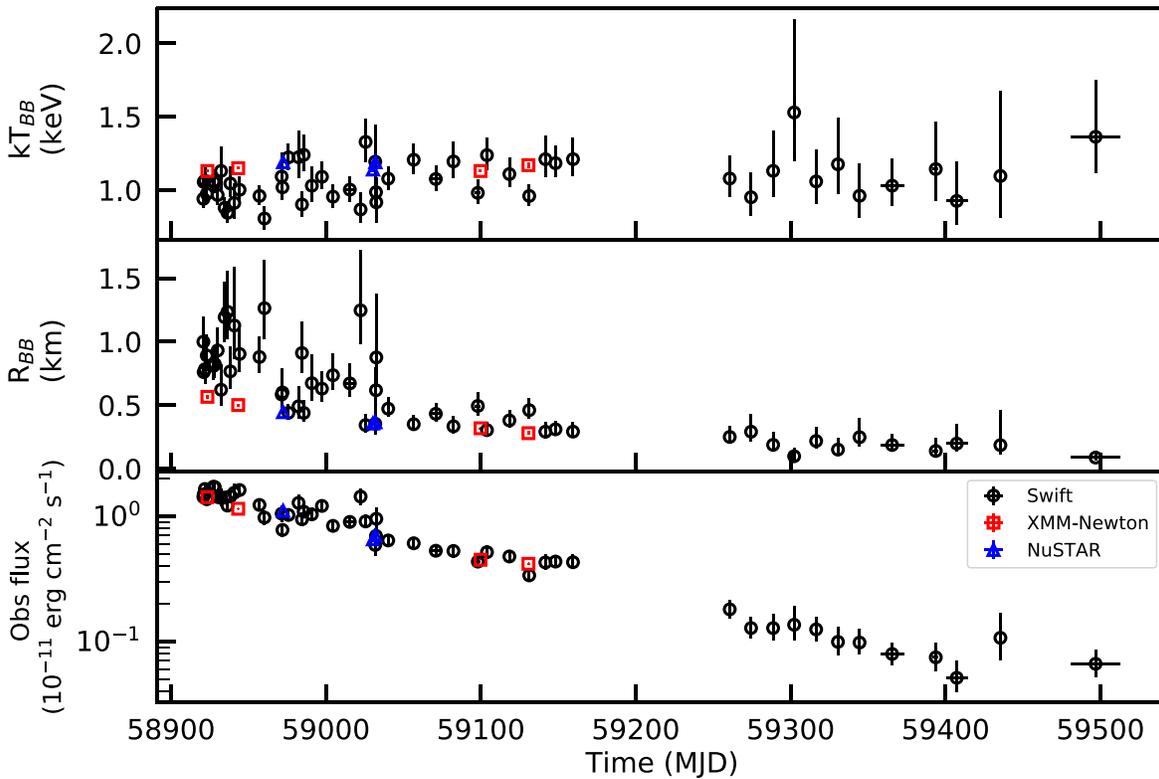
**Figure 3.**  $E^2 f(E)$  unfolded spectra of Swift J1818 from XMM-Newton and NuSTAR observations. In the fit, we adopted a model consisting of two blackbodies, except for the 2020 March spectra where we included a power law ( $\chi^2_\nu = 1.41$  for 607 dof). Post-fit residuals in units of standard deviations are shown in the bottom panel.

field of view, most of which originated from the magnetar SGR 1806–20 (Götz et al. 2006), located at about  $5^\circ$  from Swift J1818. However, no significant bursts were found from Swift J1818, with a  $3\sigma$  upper limit on the 20–200 keV fluence of about  $10^{-8}$  erg  $\text{cm}^{-2}$ .

We also performed a burst search on XMM-Newton and NuSTAR data, using the method described by Borghese et al. (2020; see also, e.g., Gavriil et al. 2004). We built the source-barycentered light curves with time resolutions of 1/16, 1/32, and 1/64 s. We tagged as bursts the bins with a probability  $< 10^{-4} (NN_{\text{trials}})^{-1}$ , where  $N$  is the total number of time bins in a given light curve and  $N_{\text{trials}}$  corresponds to the number of timing resolutions used in the search. No bursts were detected in the XMM-Newton/EPIC-pn light curves, while we list the epochs of the bursts found in the NuSTAR data sets in Table B1. Due to the low photon statistics, we were unable to model the corresponding spectra.

### 3.4. Timing Analysis

For the timing analysis of Swift J1818, we used the XMM-Newton and NuSTAR data sets as shown in Table A1. For NuSTAR, we applied the clock corrections with up-to-date clock files and combined the FPMA and FPMB events files for each observation. For both XMM-Newton and NuSTAR data sets, we referred the photon arrival times to the solar system barycenter, adopting the source coordinates by Esposito et al. (2020), i.e., R.A. =  $18^{\text{h}}18^{\text{m}}00^{\text{s}}.16$ , decl. =  $-16^\circ 07' 53''.2$  (J2000.0), and the JPL planetary ephemeris DE200.



**Figure 4.** Temporal evolution of the blackbody temperature (top panel) and radius (middle panel). The latter is evaluated for a distance of 4.8 kpc (see Section 3.2 for more details). The bottom panel shows the temporal evolution of the observed flux in the 0.3–10 keV energy range.

In an attempt to derive a phase-coherent timing solution, we first used a provisional ephemeris to assign the rotational phase of each photon in the data sets through an unbinned maximum likelihood method (Livingstone et al. 2009; Ray et al. 2011). This was done with the PHOTONPHASE tool of the PINT<sup>24</sup> pulsar timing package (Luo et al. 2021). To account for the different energy bandpasses, we created two separate template profiles for the XMM-Newton and NuSTAR observations by folding the strongest detection in their respective data set. Two-component Gaussian models were fitted to the binned profiles to construct smoothed standard templates. Times of arrival (TOAs) and associated errors were then computed for a number of subintegrations from the predicted photon-phase information, using the smoothed profile templates to define the fiducial point in the pulse phase.

Using the TEMPO timing software (Nice et al. 2015), we then tried to obtain a coherent timing solution that simultaneously fits the XMM-Newton and NuSTAR TOAs. Similar to the postoutburst spin evolution seen in other magnetars (see the review by Kaspi & Beloborodov 2017), we also observed significant variability in the spin-down behavior of Swift J1818, particularly a large jump in spin frequency between MJDs 58972 and 59030. This could be evidence for the presence of discrete timing events and/or strong timing noise, which is consistent with the erratic timing behavior reported by Champion et al. (2020a), Hu et al. (2020), and Rajwade et al. (2022). To account for the large spin variability of Swift J1818, we included up to four spin frequency derivatives in our timing model. However, due to the sparsity of our observations, we encountered phase-count ambiguity during the phase-

**Table 2**  
Best-fit Spin Frequencies Calculated with TEMPO in Individual XMM-Newton and NuSTAR Observations

Instrument/Obs.ID	Ref. Epoch (MJD)	$\nu$ (Hz)
XMM/0823591801	58923.40	0.7334073(7)
NuSTAR/80402308002	58923.40	0.7334068(2)
XMM/0823593901	58943.30	0.733356(6)
NuSTAR/80402308004	58944.00	0.7333558(6)
NuSTAR/80402308006	58972.40	0.73329(3)
NuSTAR/80402308008	59030.40	0.7331763(4)
NuSTAR/80402308010	59031.90	0.733173(1)
NuSTAR/80402308012	59099.50	0.7330509(3)
XMM/0823594001	59099.80	0.7330506(5)
XMM/0823594201	59130.60	0.7330035(5)

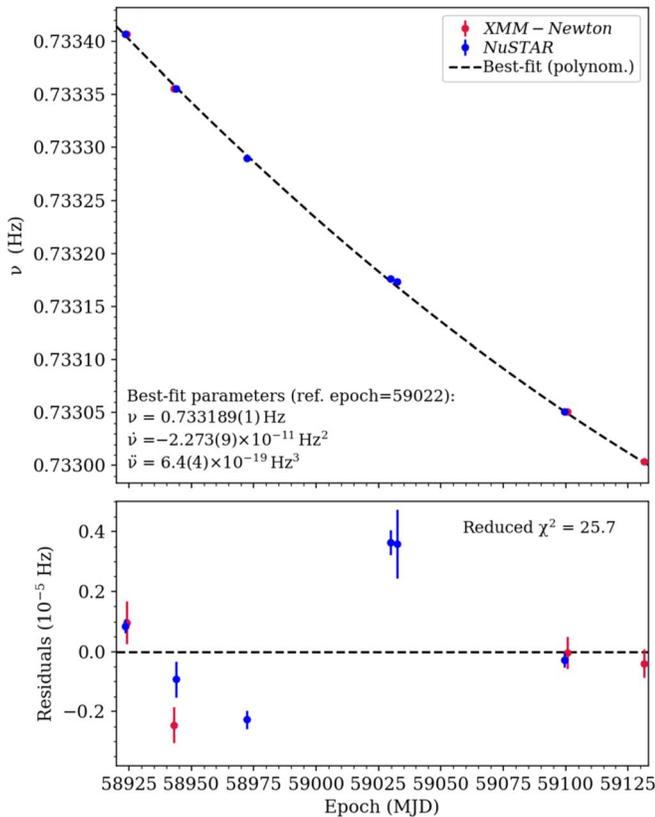
**Note.** Numbers in parentheses are the  $1\sigma$  uncertainties on the last digit reported by TEMPO.

connection procedure that could not be resolved even with the aid of automated algorithms such as Dracula<sup>25</sup> (Freire & Ridolfi 2018).

Nevertheless, we examined the rotational evolution of Swift J1818 by measuring the spin frequency  $\nu$  of the magnetar in each observation using the computed TOAs and TEMPO. The resulting  $\nu$  values are listed in Table 2 and shown in Figure 5. We modeled the long-term average spin evolution  $\nu(t)$  with a second-order polynomial function (dashed line in Figure 5), and the resulting best-fit spin-down rate on MJD 59022 is  $\dot{\nu} = -2.273(9) \times 10^{-11} \text{ Hz}^2$ . However, this simple model

<sup>24</sup> <https://github.com/nanograv/PINT>

<sup>25</sup> <https://github.com/pfreire163/Dracula>



**Figure 5.** TEMPO-derived values of the spin frequency  $\nu$  in each observation. The epochs of the XMM-Newton and NuSTAR observations are shown as red and blue filled circles. Error bars correspond to the  $1\sigma$  uncertainties reported by TEMPO. Black dashed-dotted lines are the best-fit models for  $\nu(t)$  (see text in Section 3.4). As evidenced by the large reduced  $\chi^2$  values we measured (provided in the top right corner of the bottom panel), the  $\nu(t)$  solutions poorly fit the data. This is explained by the large timing noise present in Swift J1818 and the simplicity of our models.

poorly fits the data ( $\chi^2_\nu$  of 25.7), and because of the large time gaps between our observations, we cannot determine whether the large residuals are caused by an unmodeled timing anomaly (glitch) or timing noise.

We also note that we attempted to fold the XMM-Newton and NuSTAR data using the timing ephemerides provided by Champion et al. (2020a), Hu et al. (2020), and Rajwade et al. (2022). These ephemerides fail to predict the rotational phase of the source during our XMM-Newton and NuSTAR observations, with one exception: the solution from Rajwade et al. (2022) extrapolates well the rotation of Swift J1818 during our last XMM-Newton observation in 2020 September (MJD 59130). This is not surprising considering that large variations in spin down are reported by Champion et al. (2020a), Hu et al. (2020), and Rajwade et al. (2022) for MJDs before  $\sim 59100$ , after which the spin down appears to stabilize around a mean value of  $\dot{\nu} \sim -1.37 \times 10^{-11} \text{ Hz}^2$  (Rajwade et al. 2022).

Considering our limited and sparse data set, as well as the poorly understood impact of magnetospheric processes on spin behavior associated with magnetar outbursts, we do not attempt to further model, quantify, and/or interpret the timing properties of Swift J1818 in the XMM-Newton and NuSTAR data.

To study possible changes in the shape and amplitude of the X-ray pulse profile with photon energy, we extracted energy-resolved pulse profiles from the EPIC-pn data sets in three

energy bands: 0.3–3, 3–5, and 5–10 keV (see Figure 6). This is performed by folding the time series on the spin periods reported in Table 2. The rows in Figure 6 show the evolution of the pulse profile in time, while the columns show their evolution in energy. For each panel, we also reported the corresponding values of the pulsed fraction (PF) that is defined as

$$\text{PF} = \frac{(\text{CR}_{\text{max}} - \text{CR}_{\text{min}})}{(\text{CR}_{\text{max}} + \text{CR}_{\text{min}})}, \quad (1)$$

where  $\text{CR}_{\text{max}}$  and  $\text{CR}_{\text{min}}$  are the count rates at the maximum and minimum of the pulse profile. For a given energy band, the PF increased in time from 2020 March to October epochs. Additionally, we also estimated the PF for the 0.3–10 keV energy interval: it increased with time, from  $(53 \pm 2)\%$  to  $(64 \pm 3)\%$  between 2020 March and October.

### 3.5. Radio Observations

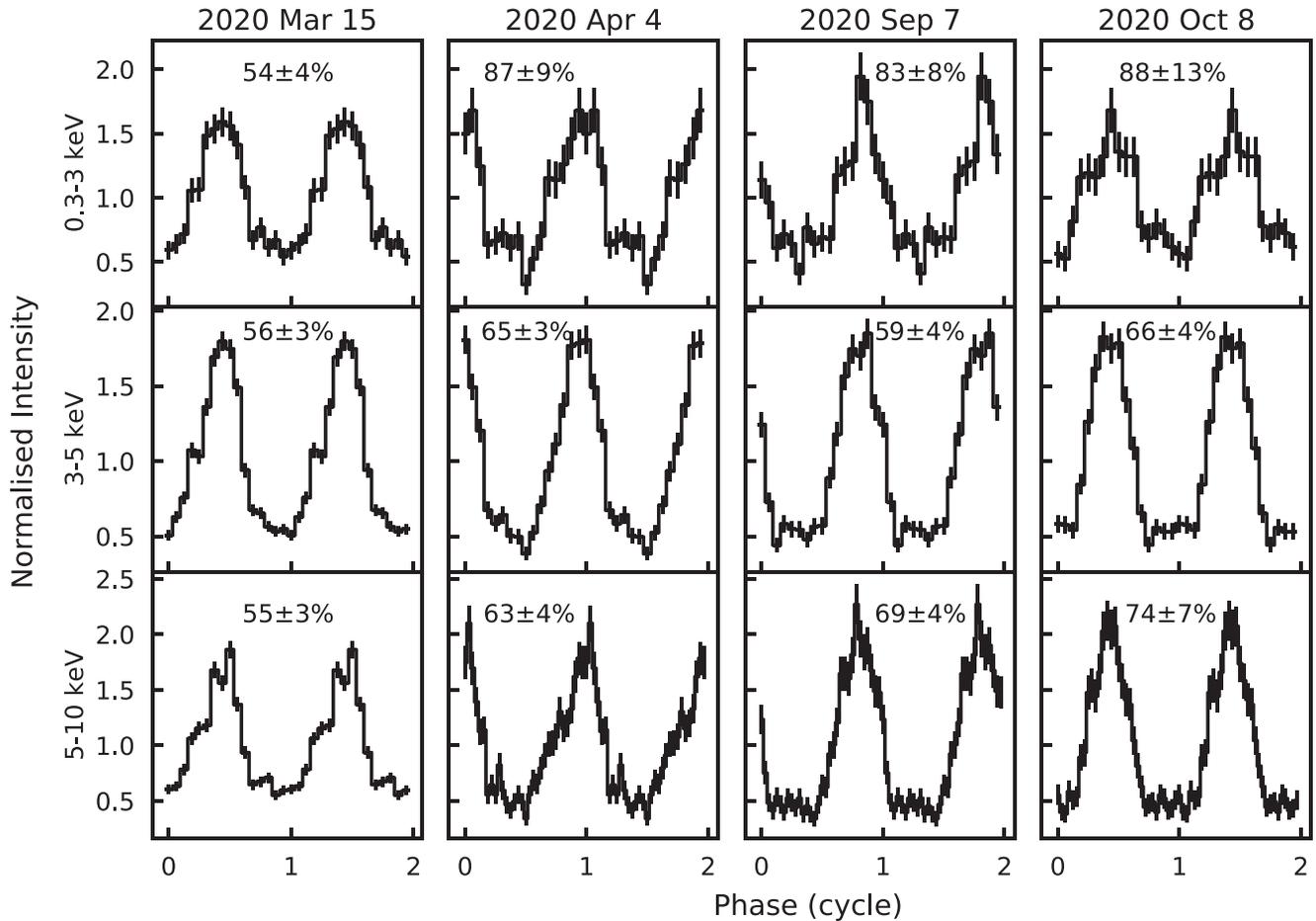
We observed Swift J1818 with the VLA under project code 21A-111 with the aim to detect the radio counterpart of Swift J1818, as well as the presence of any diffuse radio emission around the source. The VLA observation was performed on 2021 March 22 (MJD 59295) with the telescope on source between 14:58 and 15:38 UT. The data were carried out in the S band at the central frequency of 3 GHz and a total bandwidth of 2 GHz (comprised of sixteen 128 MHz sub-bands made up of sixty-four 2 MHz channels). 3C 286 was used for the bandpass and flux calibration, while the nearby ( $6.5^\circ$  away) source J1822–0938 was used for phase calibration.

Raw data were flagged for radio frequency interference, calibrated, and imaged following standard procedures with the Common Astronomy Software Application CASA (v.5.1.2; THE CASA TEAM et al. 2022). We first imaged the field with a Briggs robust parameter of zero to balance sensitivity and resolution and reduce image side lobes. We detected the radio counterpart of Swift J1818 as a point source with peak flux density of  $S_\nu$ , of  $4.38 \pm 0.05 \text{ mJy}$ , where  $\nu$  is the observing frequency (3 GHz). We also measured an in-band spectral index,  $\alpha$ , of  $-2 \pm 1$ , where  $S_\nu \propto \nu^\alpha$ .

We also imaged the field with a Briggs robust parameter of 2 (corresponding to a natural weighting) to emphasize any diffuse emission in the field (Figure 7) although this did increase the image noise (to  $\sim 0.09 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ ). We detected a relatively bright (peaking at  $\approx 2.2 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ ) half ring of diffuse emission located  $\sim 90''$  to the west of Swift J1818. The diffuse structure exhibits a radio spectral index between  $-1 (\pm 1)$  and  $-3 (\pm 1)$ . Unfortunately, from the radio image alone, we are unable to unambiguously connect this diffuse emission to Swift J1818, where, instead, the emission may be related to another source in the field (in particular the second bright source to the southeast of Swift J1818). However, taking into account the shape around Swift J1818, we lean toward the scenario in which this diffuse radio emission is related to the magnetar. Further radio observations are planned/ongoing to identify the nature and behavior of this emission.

## 4. Discussion

We have presented the evolution of the X-ray spectral and timing properties of the magnetar Swift J1818 following its first outburst with onset on 2020 March 12, as well as a VLA radio observation of the field. The X-ray monitoring campaign



**Figure 6.** Energy-resolved pulse profiles of Swift J1818 extracted from the four XMM-Newton data sets presented in this work. The profiles were obtained by folding the light curves using the frequencies reported in Table 2. The corresponding PF values are reported in each panel. Two cycles are shown for clarity.

covered  $\sim 19$  months of the outburst decay, allowing us to characterize accurately the behavior of the source over a long time span.

#### 4.1. Long-term Light Curve Modeling

The 0.3–10 keV luminosity reached a peak value of  $\sim 9 \times 10^{34} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$  only a few minutes after the detection of the short burst that triggered Swift/BAT on 2020 March 12 (Evans et al. 2020). Then, it decreased down to  $\sim 3 \times 10^{33} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$  after 575 days. To study the postoutburst luminosity decay, we modeled the temporal evolution of the 0.3–10 keV luminosity with a phenomenological model consisting of the exponential function

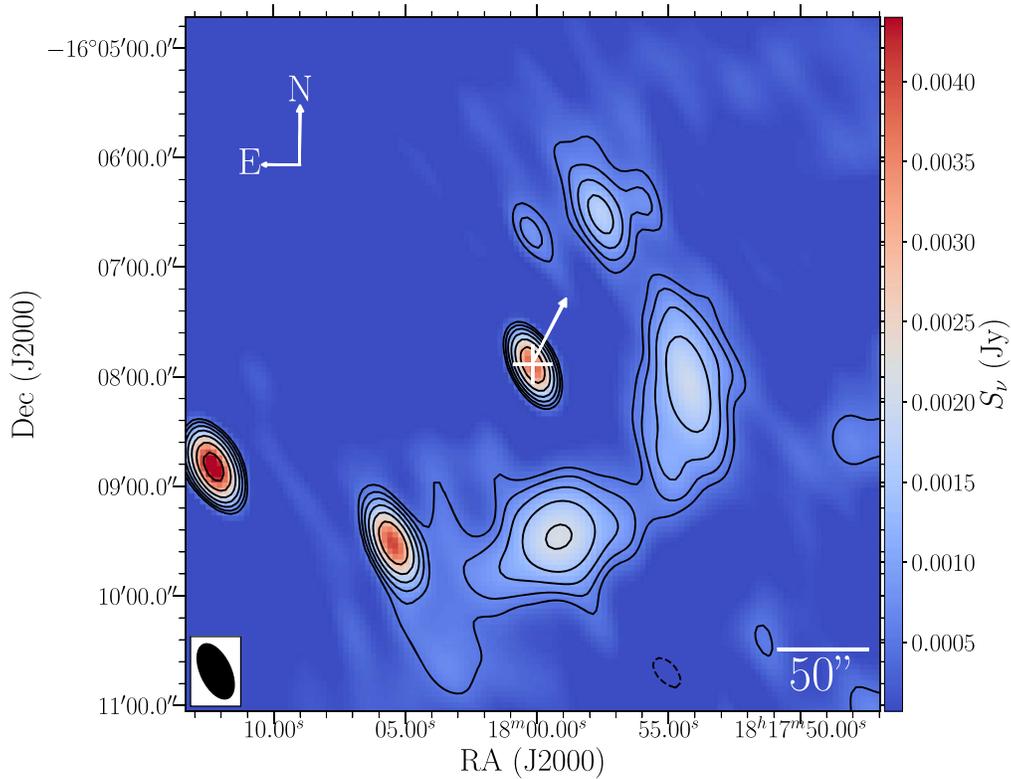
$$L(t) = A \exp[-(t - t_0)/\tau], \quad (2)$$

where  $t_0$  is the epoch of the outburst onset fixed to MJD 58920.8866 (2020 March 12, 21:16:47 UTC; Evans et al. 2020) and the  $e$ -folding time  $\tau$  can be interpreted as the decay timescale of the outburst. The fit resulted in  $\tau = 153 \pm 1$  days for a reduced  $\chi^2_\nu = 0.8$  for 59 dof assuming an uncertainty of 20% on all the nominal values of the luminosity. We can compare this result with that obtained by Hu et al. (2020), who modeled the first  $\sim 100$  days of the luminosity temporal evolution using a double exponential function, giving  $e$ -folding timescales of  $\tau_1 = 9 \pm 2$  and  $\tau_2 = 157 \pm 13$  days. The latter reflects the decay trend on a longer timescale and is fully

consistent within the uncertainties with the value derived in this work using data covering the first  $\sim 19$  months of the outburst. We then integrated the best-fitting model over a time range spanning from the outburst onset (2020 March) to the last epoch of our observing campaign (2021 October) and estimated a total energy released in the outburst of  $\approx 10^{42}$  erg. The reported results of the decay timescale and the released energy of the outburst of Swift J1818 are in agreement with those derived by Coti Zelati et al. (2018) for magnetars showing major outbursts (e.g., SGR 1833–0832) and follow the correlation trend between these two quantities, implying that the decay pattern of this outburst is similar to that observed for other magnetar outbursts.

#### 4.2. Timing Analysis

We attempted to derive a phase-connected timing solution from the XMM-Newton and NuSTAR data set, which covered a 7 month period from 2020 March to October. However, the sparsity of the observations led to phase ambiguity and prevented us from identifying the correct timing model for the source. During the monitoring campaign, the spin-down rate  $\dot{\nu}$  of the source fluctuates but is overall increasing with time. Despite being poorly constrained, the spin evolution we observe is consistent with the timing results obtained by Rajwade et al. (2022) from the radio monitoring of the source after 2020 July although we note a more rapid slowdown over



**Figure 7.** 3 GHz VLA radio image of Swift J1818 and the surrounding diffuse emission. This image was created using a natural weighting scheme to ensure that any diffuse emission was retained. The position of Swift J1818 is marked by the white cross. The white arrow originating from the source position indicates its proper motion multiplied by a factor of 5000 (Ding et al. 2022). Contours are drawn at intervals of  $\sqrt{2^n} \times \text{rms}$ , where  $n = 5, 6, 7, 8, \dots$ , and the image rms (near the source region) was  $90 \mu\text{Jy beam}^{-1}$ . The negative contour at the bottom of the figure is marked by dashed lines. The black filled ellipse in the bottom left corner represents the shape and size of the synthesized beam. Swift J1818 is clearly detected as a bright point source, which is surrounded by a half-ringlike structure of diffuse emission.

the (earlier) time coverage of our X-ray data. At the reference epoch (MJD) 59022, we estimate a characteristic age  $\tau_c \sim 510$  yr that is consistent with other measurements reported shortly following the onset of the outburst (e.g., Champion et al. 2020a; Hu et al. 2020) but younger than the late-time radio measurements by Rajwade et al. (2022; 860 yr), which are more likely to reflect the true spin-down rate of the magnetar. Despite the torque variability of Swift J1818, it remains clear that this object is one of the youngest neutron stars in the Galaxy. However, a targeted monitoring campaign of the source during its quiescent state is needed to determine a more accurate secular spin-down rate.

#### 4.3. Constraining the Emission Geometry via Pulsed-fraction Modeling

We constrain the emission geometry of Swift J1818, namely the orientation of the hot spot, with respect to the line of sight and the rotational axis by comparing the PF observed in the XMM-Newton data to a set of simulated PFs calculated using the approach described by Perna et al. (2001) and Gotthelf et al. (2010).

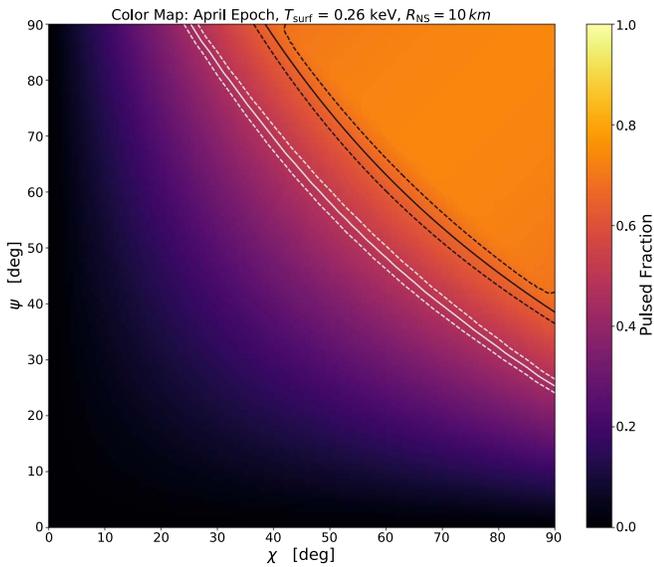
We define a temperature map on the stellar surface characterized by a uniform background temperature plus a single hot spot with a Gaussian temperature profile. The hot spot is oriented at an angle  $\chi$  with respect to the star’s rotational axis. After defining our line of sight as oriented at an angle  $\psi$  with respect to the rotational axis, we calculate the observed phase-resolved spectra by integrating the local blackbody emission on the visible portion of the stellar surface.

We take into account the gravitational light bending by approximating the ray-tracing function (Pechenick et al. 1983; Page 1995) with the formula derived by Beloborodov (2002). The interstellar medium absorption was also taken into account.

For each combination of  $(\chi, \psi)$  angles in the range  $[0^\circ, 90^\circ]$ , we integrate the phase-resolved spectra in the energy range 0.3–10 keV to obtain a light curve whose maximum and minimum values allow us to calculate the PF, according to Equation (1).

We performed the analysis using the hot-spot parameters measured in the 2020 April epoch ( $kT_{BB} = 1.15$  keV and  $R_{BB} = 0.50$  km) and the 2020 October epoch ( $kT_{BB} = 1.17$  keV and  $R_{BB} = 0.28$  km). We used two different setups: a setup where we consider only the hot-spot contribution to the flux, neglecting the rest of the surface, and another setup, where we consider also the emission from the remaining surface, whose temperature is set as  $kT_{\text{star}} = 0.26$  keV (this latter setup describes a case where the contribution of the stellar background to the flux is maximal). This value is an upper limit estimated by assuming uniform blackbody emission from the entire stellar surface (we have adopted a stellar radius of 10 km) and taking into account the effects of interstellar absorption (we fixed the absorption column density to  $N_{\text{H}} = 1.24 \times 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ ): it is the one that gives an observed flux consistent with the count-rate upper limits derived using XMM-Newton at preoutburst epochs ( $0.008 \text{ counts s}^{-1}$  at  $3\sigma$ ; see Esposito et al. 2020).

Figure 8 shows the PF variation in the  $\chi - \psi$  plane. The color scale represents the PF calculated using the hot-spot



**Figure 8.** Constraints on the emission geometry of Swift J1818, based on the PF measured in April 2020. The color scale represents the 0.3–10 keV PF at different angles calculated by employing a surface temperature of  $kT_{\text{star}} = 0.26$  keV. The black lines represent the measured value (PF =  $66\% \pm 3\%$ ). The white lines represent the same contours calculated considering only the flux from the hot spot, neglecting the contribution from the rest of the star.

parameters derived from the April epoch with the second setup, where the contribution of the whole surface is considered. The black lines represent the constant PF contour equivalent to the measured value for this epoch, i.e., PF =  $66\% \pm 3\%$ . The white lines instead represent the same contour but derived from the first setup, where only the hot spot emits. It is worth noticing that including the emission from the entire surface causes a shift of constant PF lines toward the upper right corner. The reason is that this additional contribution acts in the direction of decreasing the PF so that in order to keep the PF at the same value, we have to move toward higher values of  $\chi$  and  $\psi$ . In this way, the hot-spot+surface and the only-hot-spot setups determine an upper and lower limit, respectively, in the  $\chi - \psi$  plane. These limits constrain the geometry of the source. Since the result for the April epoch is more constraining than those for the October epoch, we report here only the former results. The geometrical constraints that we derive through modeling the rotation of the brightest hot spot cannot be directly compared with those usually derived via radio polarimetric observations (Johnston & Kerr 2018). During a magnetar outburst, the magnetosphere is very dynamic, and as a consequence, the radio emission is highly variable in terms of intensity, pulse profile, and polarization position angle (PA) on timescales ranging from hours to days (see Lower et al. 2020b). For this reason, PA swings during magnetar outbursts are not a direct trace of the system geometry. On the other hand, the surface hot spot (which may or may not be located close to the magnetic pole) cannot move during the outburst and is a better proxy for the system geometry. For sources undergoing multiple outbursts, the properties of the heated spots may differ from event to event, depending on the exact position and extension of the bundle that triggers that particular outburst. However, once formed, the hot spot cools down but does not move on the surface as the outburst decays.

#### 4.4. Spectral Evolution of the Source and Diffuse Emission

We detected diffuse emission around Swift J1818 in the XMM-Newton/EPIC-pn observations, which confirms the result previously obtained by Esposito et al. (2020). Extracting the surface brightness profiles, we found that the diffuse emission extends within  $50''$ – $110''$  (Figure 1, top panel). The spectra of this component are well described by a single blackbody model (Figure 2). The best-fitting values show that the temperature of the diffuse emission  $kT_{\text{diff}}$  does not vary in time, while we see a clear decrease in the flux  $F_{\text{X,diff}}$  of  $\approx 35\%$  between 2020 March and October. Since an angular scale of  $110''$  corresponds to an extent of more than 8 lt-yr at a distance of 4.8 kpc, we can explain this variability in such a short time only by invoking a projection effect, such as in the case of a dust-scattering halo.

The study of the long-term spectral evolution of Swift J1818 from EPIC-pn and FPMA observations showed that the X-ray spectrum is well described by a single blackbody, except for the epoch close to the outburst onset, where a power law was required to model the emission. To improve the sampling of the long-term magnetar flux evolution and trace the blackbody radius and temperature, we complemented these data sets with additional observations from the Swift/XRT (see Table A1). Figure 4 shows the temporal evolution of the X-ray flux, the blackbody temperature, and radius for Swift J1818. While the temperature remained constant around 1 keV across the time span covered by the observations, the observed 0.3–10 keV flux as well as the radius of the emitting region showed an exponentially decreasing trend.

To compare the decay rate of the 0.3–10 keV flux of the thermal and nonthermal components of Swift J1818 in the early stages of the outburst, we evaluated the rate of the flux decrease separately for the two components over the period from 2020 March to April. In the case of the XMM-Newton+NuSTAR observations performed in 2020 April, we added a power-law component in the spectral modeling, fixing the index at the value measured during the March epoch ( $\Gamma = 1.04$ ). We found that, between the two epochs, the flux decay of the power-law component is about 2 times faster than that of the blackbody component.

#### 4.5. Point-like and Diffuse Radio Emission

Large radio flux variability was observed from Swift J1818 during its outburst evolution, in line with what is typically seen in other radio-loud magnetars. The point-like continuum radio emission observed from Swift J1818 in our VLA observations had a flux density of  $4.38 \pm 0.05$  mJy at 3 GHz. Comparing this flux with the pulsed flux evolution reported by Rajwade et al. (2022) at 1.4 GHz, the source continuum emission appears to be compatible with the reported pulsed flux assuming a flat spectrum between the two bands. The different bands, the large variability of the radio spectrum of this object, and the nonsimultaneous flux measurements do not allow us to draw any strong conclusion about the presence of a nonpulsed continuum radio emission (i.e., a pulsar wind nebulae component).

Recent preliminary indication of a proper motion detected by VLBA (Ding et al. 2022) hints to a motion of the source in the northwest direction, which would be toward the higher end of the observed radio-ringlike structure.

The presence of X-ray and radio diffuse emission on similar scales ( $\sim 90''$ ) might, in the first place, lead to a tentative association of these two emission regions. However, the variability we observe in the X-ray diffuse emission, its relatively soft X-ray spectrum, as well as the large  $N_{\text{H}}$  we measure along the line of sight, lead us to interpret the X-ray diffuse emission as a dust-scattering halo that is not expected to have radio counterparts. In addition, we stress that it is also possible that the diffuse radio emission is unrelated to Swift J1818.

If it is related to Swift J1818, the radio diffuse emission, with its semicircular and patchy appearance, is similar to that observed in some supernova remnants. At a distance of 4.8 kpc, the  $\sim 90''$  structure translates to a physical dimension of  $\sim 2$  pc. Assuming that this radio emission comes from the supernova remnant associated with the magnetar, we attempt to study its evolutionary status. The evolutionary path of a supernova remnant can be described in the radio domain by the  $\Sigma$ - $D$  diagram (Urošević 2020, Figure 3), where  $\Sigma$  is the radio surface brightness and  $D$  is the diameter. We used the information obtained from our radio observation to assess the position of the remnant in this diagram and the associated evolutionary status.

The integrated flux density of the nebula is  $\sim 3.6 \times 10^{-2}$  Jy at 3 GHz, from which we obtained a surface brightness at 1 GHz of  $\Sigma \sim 1.1 \times 10^{-21}$  W m $^{-2}$  Hz $^{-1}$  sr $^{-1}$  assuming a spectral index  $\alpha$  of 0.5 (corresponding to the mean radio spectral index of the observed Galactic supernova remnants; e.g., Dubner & Giacani 2015). Assuming a distance of 4.8 kpc, this value would imply that the supernova remnant lies in the left corner of the  $\Sigma$ - $D$  diagram. Such a position is relative to free expansion in an extremely low-density medium, which seems rather untenable (a similar scenario is discussed and rejected by Filipović et al. 2022 for the supernova remnant J0624-6948). On the other hand, if the source distance is 8.1 kpc (Champion et al. 2020a), the supernova remnant would lie in the lower right corner of the diagram, meaning that it is in full Sedov phase. We also used the equipartition (eqp) calculator (Urošević 2020<sup>26</sup>) to estimate the magnetic field strength by considering a distance of the remnant of 8.1 kpc and  $\alpha = 0.5$ . We obtained  $B \sim 40$   $\mu$ G, which is consistent (in terms of order of magnitude) with the value obtained for other well-studied supernova remnants in the same evolutionary phase (see the case of the middle-aged Cygnus Loop supernova remnant; Loru et al. 2021).

Further radio observations are planned to disentangle the spectrum of this diffuse radio emission and possibly confirm its

remnant nature (the corresponding results will be presented in a future paper).

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*Facilities:* XMM-Newton, NuSTAR, Swift, INTEGRAL, VLA.

*Software:* CIAO (v6.29c; Fruscione et al. 2006), SAS (v19.1.0; Gabriel et al. 2004), HEASoft pack- age (v.6.29c; Nasa High Energy Astrophysics Science Archive Research Center (HEASARC), 2014), NUSTARDAS (v.2.1.1) and CALDB (v.20211202), TEMPO timing software (Nice et al. 2015), CASA (v5.1.2; THE CASA TEAM et al. 2022), Xspec (v12.11.1; Arnaud 1996).

## Appendix A Observation Log of Swift J1818.0–1607

In this section we report observations log of Swift J1818 carried out by XMM-Newton, NuSTAR and Swift satellites. We also provide the properties for the bursts detected in the NuSTAR light curves.

<sup>26</sup> <https://poincare.matf.bg.ac.rs/~arbo/eqp/index.php?out=1##end>

**Table A1**  
Observation Log of Swift J1818, Including the Observations Analyzed by Esposito et al. (2020) above the Double-horizontal Solid Lines

Instrument <sup>a</sup>	Obs.ID	Start YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss (TT)	Stop	Exposure (ks)	Count rate <sup>b</sup> (counts s <sup>-1</sup> )
Swift/XRT (PC)	00960986000	2020-03-12 21:18:22	2020-03-12 21:36:48	1.1	0.15 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (PC)	00960986001	2020-03-12 22:57:45	2020-03-13 05:13:02	4.9	0.14 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00960986002	2020-03-13 20:47:55	2020-03-13 21:21:15	2.0	0.16 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (PC)	00960986003	2020-03-15 00:10:37	2020-03-15 03:36:52	1.5	0.14 ± 0.01
NuSTAR/FPMA	80402308002	2020-03-15 03:58:21	2020-03-15 15:58:03	22.2	0.443 ± 0.005
XMM/EPIC-pn (LW)	0823591801	2020-03-15 07:57:47	2020-03-15 14:41:12	22.1	1.45 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00960986004	2020-03-19 09:33:11	2020-03-19 11:16:56	1.7	0.19 ± 0.02
Swift/XRT (WT)	00960986005	2020-03-20 04:34:19	2020-03-20 04:49:56	1.8	0.20 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00960986006	2020-03-22 02:35:21	2020-03-22 03:01:56	1.6	0.16 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00960986007	2020-03-24 05:51:38	2020-03-24 09:02:56	1.2	0.13 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00960986008	2020-03-26 05:40:29	2020-03-26 23:20:56	1.1	0.19 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00960986009	2020-03-28 03:40:53	2020-03-28 18:07:56	1.2	0.18 ± 0.02
Swift/XRT (WT)	00960986010	2020-03-29 16:25:13	2020-03-30 21:03:56	1.3	0.16 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00960986011	2020-04-01 19:17:34	2020-04-01 19:25:56	0.5	0.17 ± 0.02
NuSTAR/FPMA	80402308004	2020-04-04 02:01:09	2020-04-05 13:36:09	59.1	0.339 ± 0.002
XMM/EPIC-pn (FF)	0823593901	2020-04-04 03:44:15	2020-04-04 13:32:52	33.4	1.08 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00089033001	2020-04-05 05:51:22	2020-04-05 06:18:56	1.6	0.13 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00960986012	2020-04-17 11:22:40	2020-04-18 17:58:56	2.1	0.22 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00960986013	2020-04-21 01:15:46	2020-04-21 12:42:55	1.3	0.17 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00960986014	2020-05-02 07:58:09	2020-05-02 12:50:56	1.3	0.13 ± 0.02
NuSTAR/FPMA	80402308006	2020-05-02 20:56:09	2020-05-03 20:26:09	42.2	0.277 ± 0.003
Swift/XRT (PC)	00089033002	2020-05-02 22:22:26	2020-05-02 22:49:53	1.6	0.08 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (PC)	00969823991 <sup>c1</sup>	2020-05-06 17:38:19	2020-05-06 17:48:46	0.6	0.08 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (PC)	00969823001 <sup>c1</sup>	2020-05-06 18:43:12	2020-05-06 20:42:42	1.9	0.09 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00969823002	2020-05-13 05:39:09	2020-05-13 10:16:56	1.3	0.13 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00969823003	2020-05-15 05:19:42	2020-05-15 20:02:56	1.6	0.13 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (PC)	00972614991	2020-05-16 15:04:54	2020-05-16 16:27:25	1.7	0.08 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00969823004	2020-05-21 20:38:46	2020-05-21 22:24:56	1.9	0.10 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00969823005	2020-05-28 00:46:46	2020-05-28 20:09:56	2.5	0.14 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00969823006	2020-06-04 08:14:35	2020-06-04 18:08:56	2.7	0.12 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00969823007 <sup>c2</sup>	2020-06-12 01:11:04	2020-06-13 07:21:56	1.5	0.13 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00969823008 <sup>c2</sup>	2020-06-15 08:53:23	2020-06-15 12:12:55	0.4	0.12 ± 0.02
Swift/XRT (WT)	00969823009 <sup>c2</sup>	2020-06-18 19:16:44	2020-06-18 19:21:56	0.3	0.10 ± 0.02
Swift/XRT (WT)	00969823010	2020-06-21 20:47:49	2020-06-22 21:07:56	3.1	0.05 ± 0.01
Swift/XRT (WT)	00969823011	2020-06-25 05:54:07	2020-06-25 23:46:56	3.1	0.07 ± 0.01
NuSTAR/FPMA	80402308008	2020-06-30 02:46:09	2020-06-30 15:16:09	23.5	0.129 ± 0.002
NuSTAR/FPMA	80402308010	2020-07-01 19:01:09	2020-07-02 01:01:09	12.3	0.161 ± 0.003
Swift/XRT (PC)	00089033003	2020-07-01 19:49:42	2020-07-01 20:12:54	1.4	0.041 ± 0.006
Swift/XRT (PC)	00980513991	2020-07-02 07:11:35	2020-07-02T08:34:14	1.7	0.061 ± 0.006
Swift/XRT (WT)	00969823012	2020-07-02 08:49:43	2020-07-02 16:22:56	1.7	0.059 ± 0.006
Swift/XRT (PC)	00089033004	2020-07-10 01:31:26	2020-07-10 08:10:54	3.6	0.059 ± 0.004
Swift/XRT (PC)	00089033005	2020-07-26 12:23:40	2020-07-26 18:58:52	3.8	0.050 ± 0.003
Swift/XRT (PC)	00089033006 <sup>c3</sup>	2020-08-07 03:12:00	2020-08-07 08:10:52	2.8	0.057 ± 0.005
Swift/XRT (PC)	00089033007 <sup>c3</sup>	2020-08-12 17:14:14	2020-08-12 17:33:52	1.2	0.031 ± 0.005
Swift/XRT (PC)	00089033008	2020-08-21 00:20:13	2020-08-21 14:47:27	3.0	0.044 ± 0.004
Swift/XRT (PC)	00089033009 <sup>c4</sup>	2020-09-04 07:12:43	2020-09-04 10:36:53	1.4	0.041 ± 0.006
NuSTAR/FPMA	80402308012 <sup>d</sup>	2020-09-07 00:41:09	2020-09-08 00:11:09	39.3	0.097 ± 0.001
XMM/EPIC-pn (FF)	0823594001	2020-09-07 15:12:48	2020-09-07 22:38:50	26.7	0.429 ± 0.005
Swift/XRT (PC)	00089033010 <sup>c4</sup>	2020-09-07 17:58:15	2020-09-07 19:30:52	2.0	0.043 ± 0.005
Swift/XRT (PC)	00089033011	2020-09-11 17:17:33	2020-09-12 04:34:52	4.8	0.044 ± 0.003
Swift/XRT (PC)	00089033012	2020-09-26 00:03:15	2020-09-26 20:39:53	4.5	0.040 ± 0.003
XMM/EPIC-pn (FF)	0823594201	2020-10-08 10:24:17	2020-10-09 00:49:31	49.4	0.288 ± 0.004
Swift/XRT (PC)	00089033013	2020-10-08 14:47:04	2020-10-09 20:58:54	4.8	0.036 ± 0.003
Swift/XRT (PC)	03110882001	2020-10-19 08:54:19	2020-10-19 23:37:52	4.7	0.037 ± 0.003
Swift/XRT (PC)	00089033014	2020-10-25 09:43:50	2020-10-26 23:59:52	4.2	0.038 ± 0.003
Swift/XRT (PC)	00089033015	2020-11-06 06:55:28	2020-11-06 16:48:54	4.2	0.035 ± 0.003
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996001	2021-02-15 09:24:24	2021-02-15 22:35:52	4.5	0.018 ± 0.002
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996002	2021-03-01 00:16:23	2021-03-01 21:05:53	3.8	0.013 ± 0.002
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996003	2021-03-15 14:26:25	2021-03-15 17:58:53	4.6	0.009 ± 0.002
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996004	2021-03-29 01:52:19	2021-03-29 10:10:54	4.5	0.009 ± 0.001

**Table A1**  
(Continued)

Instrument <sup>a</sup>	Obs.ID	Start YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss (TT)	Stop	Exposure (ks)	Count rate <sup>b</sup> (counts s <sup>-1</sup> )
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996005	2021-04-12 03:40:52	2021-04-12 18:18:52	4.3	0.011 ± 0.002
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996006	2021-04-26 02:28:48	2021-04-26 23:20:53	4.2	0.010 ± 0.002
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996007	2021-05-10 02:30:39	2021-05-10 20:22:55	4.5	0.008 ± 0.002
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996008 <sup>c5</sup>	2021-05-24 02:30:31	2021-05-24 10:38:17	2.3	0.008 ± 0.002
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996009 <sup>c5</sup>	2021-05-29 19:27:09	2021-05-29 22:51:54	2.4	0.005 ± 0.002
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996010 <sup>c5</sup>	2021-06-06 03:11:41	2021-06-07 22:04:51	1.6	0.010 ± 0.002
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996011 <sup>c6</sup>	2021-06-26 18:32:43	2021-06-26 18:41:52	0.5	0.008 ± 0.004
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996012 <sup>c6</sup>	2021-06-28 00:48:50	2021-06-28 18:02:52	1.0	0.007 ± 0.003
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996013 <sup>c6</sup>	2021-06-29 06:56:55	2021-06-29 21:32:54	2.1	0.007 ± 0.002
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996014 <sup>c6</sup>	2021-06-30 02:07:20	2021-06-30 14:40:52	2.7	0.008 ± 0.002
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996015 <sup>c7</sup>	2021-07-05 11:13:57	2021-07-06 17:19:06	1.0	0.007 ± 0.003
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996016 <sup>c7</sup>	2021-07-08 01:13:22	2021-07-08 12:38:52	0.6	0.002 ± 0.002
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996017 <sup>c7</sup>	2021-07-13 06:45:26	2021-07-13 18:11:53	2.6	0.005 ± 0.002
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996018 <sup>c7</sup>	2021-07-18 01:52:35	2021-07-18 23:59:52	0.3	0.005 ± 0.001
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996019 <sup>c8</sup>	2021-08-08 10:46:46	2021-08-08 12:26:54	0.6	0.010 ± 0.005
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996020 <sup>c8</sup>	2021-08-10 08:34:29	2021-08-10 08:45:53	0.7	0.010 ± 0.004
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996021 <sup>c9</sup>	2021-09-24 02:13:29	2021-09-24 23:07:52	4.1	0.006 ± 0.001
Swift/XRT (PC)	00013996022 <sup>c9</sup>	2021-10-24 02:27:38	2021-10-25 15:15:53	4.4	0.004 ± 0.001

**Notes.**<sup>a</sup> The instrumental setup is indicated in parentheses: PC = photon counting, WT = windowed timing, LW = large window, and FF = full frame.<sup>b</sup> The count rate is in the 0.3–10 keV energy range, except for NuSTAR (3–10 keV).<sup>c</sup> Observations with the same superscripts were merged for the spectral analysis.<sup>d</sup> Data collected with FPMB were not included in the analysis as they are heavily affected by stray light contamination.**Appendix B**  
**NuSTAR Bursts: Fluence and Duration**

In Table B1, we report the properties for the bursts detected in the NuSTAR light curves. In the table, the epochs refer to the solar system barycenter, the fluence refers to the 3–79 keV range, and the duration has to be considered as an approximate value. We estimated it by summing the 15.625 ms time bins showing enhanced emission for the structured bursts and by setting it equal to the coarser time resolution at which the burst is detected in all the other cases. Therefore, it has to be considered as an approximate value. Except for burst 1 on 2020 May 3 (125 ms), all the remaining bursts have a duration of 62.5 ms.

**Table B1**  
Log of X-ray Bursts Detected in the NuSTAR Light Curves

Obs.ID	Burst epoch		Fluence (counts)
	YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss (TDB)		
80402308002	2020-03-15	05:25:59 05:45:51	10 8
80402308002	2020-04-05	04:12:22	7
80402308002	2020-05-03	18:05:07	22

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