Changes in the pulse phase dependence of X-ray emission lines in 4U 1626-67 with a torque reversal

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ABSTRACT
We report results from an observation with the XMM-Newton observatory of a unique X-ray pulsar 4U 1626–67. EPIC-pn data during the current spin-up phase of 4U 1626–67 have been used to study pulse phase dependence of low energy emission lines. We found strong variability of low energy emission line at 0.915 keV with the pulse phase, varying by a factor of 2, much stronger than the continuum variability. Another interesting observation is that behavior of one of the low energy emission lines across the pulse phase is quite different from that observed during the spin-down phase. This indicates that the structures in the accretion disk that produce pulse phase dependence of emission features have changed from spin-down to spin-up phase. This is well supported by the differences in the timing characteristics (like pulse profiles, QPOs etc) between spin-down and spin-up phases. We have also found that during the current spin-up phase of 4U 1626–67, the X-ray pulse profile below 2 keV is different compared to the spin-down phase. The X-ray light curve also shows flares which produce a feature around 3 mHz in power density spectrum of 4U 1626–67. Since flares are dominant at lower energies, the feature around 3 mHz is prominent at low energies.

Key words: X-ray: Neutron Stars - accretion, pulsars, individual: 4U 1626–67

1 INTRODUCTION
4U 1626–67 is a remarkable ultra-compact X-ray binary bearing a neutron star with pulse period of 7.7 seconds (Rappaport et al. 1977). Evidence of binary motion has never been revealed from X-ray timing measurements (see e.g., Rappaport et al. 1977; Joss et al. 1978; Jain et al. 2008). Orbital period of 42 minutes has been inferred from the pulsed optical emission reprocessed on the surface of secondary (Middleditch et al. 1981; Chakrabarty 1998). An upper limit of 10 lt-ms for pulse arrival delay has been reported by Jain et al. (2008) using X-ray data from RXTE-PCA. Time-scales of torque reversals observed in most of the accretion powered pulsars varies from weeks to months and years and, in most cases accretion torques are often related to the X-ray luminosity. 4U 1626–67, a persistent X-ray source underwent two torque reversals since its discovery (Camero-Arranz et al. 2010). It was initially observed in spin-up state, this trend reversed in 1990 and the neutron star began to spin-down. After the steady spin-down phase of about 18 years, a transition to spin-up took place in 2008. The second torque reversal was detected with RXTE-PCA (Jain & Paul 2009) and Fermi-GBM (Camero-Arranz et al. 2009). Moreover, it is observed that this source does not obey standard X-ray luminosity-accretion torque relation (Beri et al. 2014). X-ray features during spin-down phase were different in comparison with both spin-up phases. The most outstanding difference in energy resolved pulse profiles of the two spin-up eras and the spin down era was disappearance of the sharp double peaked profile during spin-down era (for details see Beri et al. 2014). Quasi periodic oscillation (QPO) at 48 mHz was observed in all the observations during spin-down phase (Kaur et al. 2008), this feature was absent in the power density spectra (PDS) created using X-ray data during current spin-up phase (Jain et al. 2010).

The X-ray spectrum of 4U 1626–67 is well described using two continuum components: a hard power law and a black body. X-ray spectra during both spin-up phases showed blackbody temperature of about 0.6 keV while during the spin-down phase of 4U 1626–67 the blackbody temperature decreased to ~ 0.3 keV. Moreover, the energy spectrum became harder during the spin-down phase. The power law photon index showed a value of ~ 1.5 during the first spin-up phase which changed to ~ 0.4-0.6 during
the spin-down phase and during the second spin-up phase it showed a value in the range of 0.8-1.0 (see Beri et al. 2014, references therein). Detailed study of this source during each phase of torque reversal suggests that accretion flow geometry is different during the spin-up and spin-down phases and plays an important role in transfer of angular momentum (Jain et al. 2010; Beri et al. 2014).

X-ray spectrum of 4U 1626–67 is unique, unusually bright Neon (Ne) and Oxygen (O) lines have been reported from many spectroscopic observations (Angelini et al. 1995; Owens et al. 1997; Schulz et al. 2001; Krauss et al. 2007). Observations made with Chandra revealed double peaked nature of low energy emission line features, indicating their formation in the accretion disk (Schulz et al. 2001). Continuum of the spectra is well described using a soft emission component and a power law (see Beri et al. 2015, and references therein) though.

Observations made during spin-down and spin-up phase of 4U 1626–67 with the Suzaku observatory were used to measure spectral changes with torque reversal in 2008 (Camero-Arranz et al. 2012). The authors confirmed that the equivalent width and the intensity of these emission lines are variable. They found that fluxes of all the emission lines have increased almost by factor of ∼5 with an exception of Ne X (1.02 keV) emission line that showed an increase by factor of ∼8 after the torque reversal. Pulse phase resolved spectroscopy performed using data from the XMM-Newton observatory during spin-down phase of 4U 1626–67 revealed that line fluxes show pulse phase dependence (Beri et al. 2015). One of the emission line (O VII) showed the line flux to vary by a factor of about four, significantly larger compared to the relative variation of total flux. Warp-like structures in the accretion disk are believed to be the cause of observed line flux variability.

An interesting possibility for the cause of spin-down is the radiation pressure induced warping of the inner accretion disk which may become retrograde leading to negative accretion torque (van Kerkwijk et al. 1998). Moreover, changes in the timing characteristics (like the pulse profile, the QPO’s etc) in the spin-down phase compared to spin-up phase are understood to be due changes in the inner accretion flow from a warped accretion disk in the spin-down phase. Therefore, we expect to observe changes in the accretion flow and probably also the accretion disk structures of 4U 1626–67 during the spin-up phase. We carried out a pulse phase resolved spectroscopy to investigate if this results into a different modulation of the emission lines during its current spin-up phase. In this paper we present results obtained from timing and spectral study of 4U 1626–67, performed using data obtained with the XMM-Newton observatory during its current spin-up phase. The paper is structured as follows: we describe observation details and data reduction procedure in Section 2. This is followed by the results from timing analysis (Section 3). In Section 4 we present results from the spectral analysis. The last section (Section 5) of the paper presents results and discussions.

2 OBSERVATIONS AND DATA REDUCTION

We have obtained a 56 ks observation of 4U 1626–67 during its current spin-up phase with XMM-Newton. The observation was performed on October 5, 2015 bearing an ID-0764860101. XMM-Newton satellite has three X-ray telescopes, each with an European photon imaging camera (EPIC) at the focus (Jansen et al. 2001). Two of the EPIC imaging spectrometers use metal-oxide semiconductors (MOS) CCDs (Turner et al. 2001) and one used pn CCD (Strüder et al. 2001). Reflection grating spectrometer (RGS) and optical monitor (OM) are two other instruments on-board XMM-Newton satellite. RGS comprises of two spectrometers namely, RGS1 and RGS2. Two RGS have a bandpass of 0.35–2.5 keV and first-order spectral resolution of about 200 to 800 in 0.35–2.5 keV. They are attached to two of the X-ray telescopes with MOS. Simultaneous optical/UV observations are carried out with the optical monitor (OM).

In this work we performed analysis using data from the EPIC-pn and the RGS on-board XMM-Newton. EPIC-pn data were collected in timing mode using medium filter with a frame time of 6 ms. In timing mode only one CCD chip is in operation and data is collapsed into one dimensional row and read out at high speed. RGS data was operated in standard ‘spectral’ mode.

We processed the XMM-Newton observation data files, using the science analysis software (SAS version 15.0). Latest updated calibration files available as on April 2016 were applied.

Standard SAS tool epproc was used to obtain EPIC-pn event file. We first checked for flaring particle background in the data. A light curve was extracted using selection criterion: PATTERN=0 in the energy range of 10-12 keV. We found no evidence of soft proton flaring. Thereafter, we extracted EPIC-pn cleaned event list by selecting events with PATTERN<4, FLAG=0 and energy in the range 0.3-12 keV. This cleaned event file was used to extract source events and background files. We used rectangular box with RAWX = 30-46 for source events and RAWX = 2-4 for background. Source event file was also checked for photon pile-up using SAS tool epatplot. No significant photon pile-up was found. Barycenter correction was performed using SAS tool barycen. For extraction of light curves and spectra SAS tool evselect was used. Response matrix and Ancillary response files were generated using the SAS task rmfgen and arfgen, respectively.

For the RGS data reduction, we used SAS tool rgsproc to reduce and extract calibrated source and background spectrum and response files. Standard procedure as mentioned in SAS analysis thread was followed.

3 TIMING ANALYSIS

Left hand side of Figure 1 shows barycenter corrected and background subtracted light curve of 4U 1626–67 obtained using the EPIC-pn data. Light curve is highly variable. It includes both flares and dip features in it. X-ray flares have also been observed in the light curves created using previous
Figure 1. Light curves in 0.3-12 keV band of 4U 1626–67, created using data from EPIC-pn on-board XMM-Newton are shown in left. We divided data into four short segments each of ~ 14 ks for visual clarity of flares. Light curves are binned using 7.7 seconds. In the right, we show power density spectrum (PDS) created using the same light curve.

observations made during its spin-up phase (see Beri et al. 2014, and references therein). Amplitude of flares is 2-3 times above the persistent level (Figure 1). Duration of flares is few hundred of seconds. Recurrence time-scales of these flares varies between 300 to 1000 seconds and these time-scales are consistent with the previous reports (see Joss et al. 1978; Li et al. 1980; Raman et al. 2016)

Unlike other flaring sources like LMC X-4, SMC X−1, where persistent emission begins just after the end of flares, it is interesting to notice a sharp dip in the light curve near the decay of bright flares at 18000, 23000 seconds (second panel) and 51000 seconds (fourth panel) of Figure 1. This feature has never been reported before in 4U 1626–67. Similar kind of dip near the end of outburst has also been observed in the light curves of bursting pulsar (GRO J1744-28) (eg., Giles et al. 1996).

3.1 Power density Spectrum

Power density spectrum (PDS) generated using the EPIC-pn light curve is shown in Figure-1. The light curve was divided into stretches of 8192 seconds. PDS from all the segments were averaged to produce the final PDS and were normalized such that their integral gives squared rms fractional variability and the white noise level was subtracted. PDS showed narrow peak at around 0.130 Hz which corresponds to the spin frequency of the neutron star. Multiple harmonics are also seen in the PDS of the source. In addition to the main peak, a QPO feature is seen at ~ 3 mHz with fractional rms amplitude of ~ 7.26 ± 0.07 %. 3 mHz QPO can be due to flares seen in the light curve and this feature is observed for the first time in the X-ray data during current (spin-up) phase of 4U 1626–67. A similar mHz QPO was however observed in the PDS generated with X-rays during the first spin-up phase of 4U 1626–67 (see e.g., Joss et al. 1978). Another interesting observation is dependence of 3 mHz QPO on energy (Figure 2). It is evident from Figure 2 that flares are more prominent at lower energies and therefore sharp feature in the PDS around 3 mHz is dominant at energies below 5 keV. Fractional rms amplitude of 3 mHz QPO feature in the PDS created using light curves in different energy bands namely, 0.3-2 keV, 2-5 keV, 5-8 keV and 8-12 keV are 7.8 ± 0.1 %, 9.4 ± 0.4 %, 4 ± 2 %, 4 ± 2 % respectively. We also detect a signature of broad QPO around 48 mHz with rms amplitude of ~ 5 %, much smaller than the rms in the 48 mHz QPO seen during the spin-down phase (e.g., Kramers et al. 1998).

3.2 Pulse Profiles

Spin-period was determined to be 7.67255 ± 0.00009 seconds using epoch folding $\chi^2$ maximization technique. This period was used for creating pulse profiles. We first created average pulse profile with 64 phase bins, using light curve in 0.3-12 keV energy band (Figure 3). The bi-horned peaks observed in the pulse profiles look similar to the previously reported pulse profiles of 4U 1626–67 during its spin-up era (see e.g., Beri et al. 2014). However, in 0.3-12 keV band amplitude of first peak is slightly small compared to the
Figure 2. Energy resolved light curves binned with 77 seconds are shown in left. These light curves were used to generate power density spectra, shown in the right. This plot shows a QPO feature at $\sim 3$ mHz and some energy dependence of Power Density Spectrum of 4U 1626–67.

Figure 3. Left: The average pulse profile created in the energy band 0.3-12 keV. Right: The energy resolved pulse profiles. Pulse profiles are binned into 64 phasebins.

The energy resolved pulse profiles were created using the light curves in the energy bands of 0.3-2 keV, 2-5 keV, 5-8 keV, 8-12 keV. Thanks to XMM-Newton which enabled us to investigate pulse profiles below 2 keV during its current spin-up phase for the first time. Pulse profile in 0.3-2 keV band looks simple having shoulder-like structure. It has a sharp dip around phase 0.0. It seems that the sharp dip observed in the 0.3-2 keV profiles mainly contributes...
Pulse phase dependence of emission lines in 4U 1626–67

Figure 4. Pulse Profile created in the energy band of 0.3-2 keV using XMM-Newton-pn data of spin-down is shown in red. This figure demonstrates that pulse profile below 2 keV is quite different from that seen in the current spin-up phase (blue).

to the dip observed between the two horns in the energy averaged profiles (0.3-12 keV). Profile shape in 0.3-2 keV band is similar to that seen during the first spin-up phase (Pravdo et al. 1979). It is interesting to see that pulse profile below 2 keV is quite different from that observed in other energy bands. This suggests that pulsation of soft component is different from that in higher energy band pulse profiles which indicate that pulsation of thermal component is different from power law component. A soft spectral component, that pulsates differently from the power law component has been detected in other sources with low absorption column density (e.g., SMC X–1 and LMC X–4) and have been interpreted as reprocessed thermal emission from the inner accretion disk (Paul et al. 2002).

4 SPECTROSCOPY

4.1 Phase Averaged Spectroscopy

We performed simultaneous spectral fitting, using data from RGS and EPIC-pn (Figure 5). Spectra of 1st order obtained using RGS1 and RGS2 were grouped using the tool GRPPHA (HEASOFT Version-6.17) to contain 6 channels per bin. We have used 0.35-1.8 keV band of RGS for spectral fitting. Mean spectrum extracted using EPIC-pn was rebinned using the SAS task SPECGROUP to oversample the FWHM of energy resolution by factor of 3 and to obtain minimum of 25 counts/bin. There is no reliable calibration below 0.7 keV for EPIC-pn in timing mode 1 and the disagreement between the EPIC-pn and the RGS is larger below 0.7 keV. Therefore, we have used 0.8-12 keV band of EPIC-pn for spectral fitting. All the spectral parameters other than the relative instrument normalization, were tied together for both RGS and EPIC-pn. We fixed the instrumental normalization of RGS1 to 1, and freed the normalization of the RGS2 and EPIC-pn instruments. The values of constant model component obtained for RGS2 and EPIC-pn are 0.977 ± 0.007 and 1.04 ± 0.01 respectively. A blackbody component and a power law well describes the continuum of the phase-averaged spectrum (Pravdo et al. 1979; Kii et al. 1986; Angelini et al. 1995; Owens et al. 1997; Orlandini et al. 1998; Schulz et al. 2001; Krauss et al. 2007; Jain et al. 2010; Iwakiri et al. 2012). Therefore, we modelled the continuum of the spectrum using $tbabs*(bbodyrad+powerlaw)$. Using only the continuum model showed a significant excess in the residuals in the form of emission lines. The second panel of Figure 5 shows the ratio between data and model, 1 http://xmm2.esac.esa.int/docs/documents/CAL-TN-0018.pdf

To compare pulse profiles below 2 keV during its current phase with that of the spin-down phase, we created pulse profile in the energy band of 0.3-2 keV using data from previous XMM-Newton observation (ObsID-0152620101) during its spin-down phase. We performed data reduction and analysis in the same way as discussed in our previous paper on 4U 1626–67 (Beri et al. 2015). It is interesting to see that pulse profile during spin-down phase is quite different from that during its current phase. Pulse profile below 2 keV has many structures during spin-down phase which is not the case during its current spin-up phase (see Figure 4). Pulse profiles in remaining energy bands are consistent with previous observations in spin-up state (see Beri et al. 2014, and references therein).
indicating the presence of low energy emission lines (below 1 keV). The raw RGS spectrum shows the presence of two strong emission lines around 0.65 keV and 1.0 keV, therefore, we added two Gaussian components around 0.65 and 1.0 keV. These line energies correspond to Ne X and O VIII. Adding these two Gaussian components was not adequate to obtain a good spectral fit. The presence of additional emission features at 0.73 keV, 0.571 keV, and 0.913 keV was observed in the residuals of the RGS data. The presence of O VII and Ne IX emission lines around 0.569 keV and 0.915 keV respectively in the X-ray spectrum of 4U 1626-67 have been reported earlier by several authors (see e.g., Schulz et al. 2001; Krauss et al. 2007). Therefore, to obtain an appropriate fit we added two additional Gaussian components at these line energies. However, we required an additional Gaussian component to model the excess seen around 0.73 keV. This line energy correspond to iron (Fe-L shell) emission feature. Table 1 shows the best fit parameters obtained. They are consistent with the previous results during spin-up phase of 4U 1626-67 (see e.g., Camero-Arranz et al. 2010). The equivalent widths (EW) of O VII (0.571 keV), O VIII (0.653 keV), Fe-L shell (0.73 keV), Ne IX (0.913 keV) and Ne X (1.02 keV) emission lines are 17.0±1.0 eV, 34±2 eV, 9.0±1.0 eV, 20±3.0 eV, 42.0±1 eV respectively.

Here, we emphasize that for the first time the X-ray spectrum of 4U 1626-67 showed an Fe-L shell fluorescence emission feature and the detection of this feature at 0.73 keV is statistically significant as the value of chi-squared ($\chi^2$) increased from 2049 to 2458 (1341 degrees of freedom) on fixing its normalization to zero. A systematic error of 2% was added quadratically to each energy bin to account for all the artifacts due to calibration issues in the EPIC-pn timing mode data. The residuals of EPIC-pn showed the presence of a weak iron fluorescence emission line around 6.8 keV. Therefore, we added another Gaussian component with line energy centered around 6.8 keV to the spectrum. Equivalent width of the emission line observed at 6.8 keV is $\sim 0.02 \pm 0.01$ keV. The spectral fit resulted into reduced $\chi^2$ ($\chi^2/\nu$) of 1.43 for 1337 degrees of freedom (see Table 1). We also observed that on fixing the normalization of Fe K shell line to zero lead to an increase in the value of chi-squared ($\chi^2$) from 1914 to 1930 (1338 degrees of freedom) which suggests that the detection of this emission feature is statistically significant. The presence of Fe K$\alpha$ emission line was also observed in the MOS 2 spectrum. The values of line flux and the equivalent width observed in the MOS 2 data are $0.58^{+0.5}_{-0.3} \times 10^{-4}$ photons cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ and 0.015 $\pm 0.010$ keV respectively. These values are similar to that observed in the pn data and on fixing the normalization to zero of this line in the MOS 2 data also showed increase in the value of chi-squared (172 to 183 for 171 degrees of freedom) which is similar to that observed in the pn data. The addition of the systematic error to the pn data is not likely to introduce any pulse phase dependence of emission line fluxes which is the main motivation of the present work. Here, we would like to mention that owing to limited statistical significance of Fe K$\alpha$ emission line we have not performed phase resolved spectroscopy for this line.

It is believed that Ne/O emission lines observed in the X-ray spectra of 4U 1626-67 originate from highly ionized layers of the accretion disk. The existence of double-peaked profiles support their disk origin (Schulz et al. 2001; Krauss et al. 2007). Interestingly, we noticed that one of the emission lines at 0.653 keV (O VIII) showed the...
presence of double-peaked profiles in the high resolution data of RGS (Figure 6). Therefore, we fit this line with a pair of Gaussian to resolve into the doppler pairs and to estimate the disk velocities of red and blue-shifted components. The line velocities measured using the RGS data along with the previous known values are given in Table 2. The single-Gaussian fit revealed a broad emission line at 1.02 keV (Ne X) in the RGS2 spectrum. Therefore, we fit this line as well with a pair of Gaussian to resolve into the doppler pairs and to estimate the disk velocities of red and blue-shifted components. The line velocities measured using the RGS data along with the previous known values are given in Table 2. Ne IX emission line observed in the XMM-Newton data did not allow us to measure doppler velocities.

### 4.2 Pulse Phase Resolved Spectroscopy

For performing pulse phase resolved spectroscopy we have used data from EPIC-pn. We added ‘PHASE’ column to the pn event list. This was performed using SAS task PHASECALC with phase zero fixed at the reference time (epoch) used for creating pulse profiles. Thereafter, appropriate good time intervals (GTI) files were created for narrow phase bins of 0.05. These GTI files were used for the extraction of 20 phase resolved source spectra. Response matrices and ancillary response files used for phase averaged spectroscopy were used again for performing phase resolved spectroscopy. Spectral fitting was done in the energy range of 0.8-12 keV with the same spectral model consisting of a power-law, a blackbody and several emission lines. We fixed the neutral hydrogen column density, line energies and line widths to the values obtained from the phase averaged spectrum. Left plot of Figure 7 shows variation of flux of low energy emission lines with pulse phase. From the plot we observe:

- Ne IX H\text{He}\alpha emission line at 0.913 keV shows strong variation with pulse phase (factor of \sim 2.0 \pm 0.3). \chi^2 value of 103 for 20 phase bins was observed after fitting a constant to the flux of line at 0.913 keV.
- Ne X Ly\alpha emission line at 1.02 keV shows no significant variation with pulse phase. This is similar to the previous observations made during spin-down phase of 4U 1626-67 (Angelini et al. 1995; Beri et al. 2015). A constant fitted to the flux of Ne X Ly\alpha emission line showed a \chi^2 value of 32 for 20 phase bins.

We estimated the observed total continuum flux in the energy band of 0.7-12 keV, power law flux in 2-12 keV band and the blackbody flux in 0.7-2 keV band using the CFLUX convolution model in XSPEC. The continuum flux profile plotted in right hand side of Figure 7 shows that the modulation of the power law is same as the modulation of the total flux while the flux modulation of the blackbody component has a different shape. The blackbody component

| Parameter                  | Model Values          |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| N\text{H} (10^{22}\text{atoms cm}^{-2}) | 0.085 \pm 0.003       |
| kT\text{bodyrad} (keV)    | 0.427 \pm 0.005       |
| PowIndex (\Gamma)         | 0.914 \pm 0.014       |
| N\text{Fe (Kshell)}\text{P L}\alpha | 0.0229 \pm 0.0006     |
| LineEnergy\text{Fe (Kshell)} | 5.71 \pm 0.001       |
| O VII                     | 0.009 \pm 0.001       |
| O VIII                    | 0.075 \pm 0.0002      |
| Ne IX                     | 0.035 \pm 0.003       |
| Ne X                      | 0.0115 \pm 0.0006     |
| Fe (Lshell)               | 0.009 \pm 0.002       |
| Fe (Kshell)               | 0.14 \pm 0.09         |
| LineWidth\text{Fe (Kshell)} | 11 \pm 1.             |
| LineFlux\text{O VII}      | 25. \pm 1.            |
| LineFlux\text{O VIII}     | 23.0 \pm 1.           |
| LineFlux\text{Fe (Lshell)} | 7. \pm 0.7            |
| LineFlux\text{Fe (Kshell)} | 0.6 \pm 0.3           |
| Reduced \chi^2            | 1.43(dof 1337)        |

Note: Errors quoted are with 90 % confidence range.

Energy range used is 0.35-1.8 keV for RGS1 and RGS2 and 0.8-12.0 keV for EPIC-pn. 

- a \rightarrow Powerlaw normalisation (N\text{Fe (Kshell)}\text{P L}\alpha) is in units of photons cm\text{-2} s\text{-1} keV\text{-1} at 1 keV
- b \rightarrow Line Energy in units of keV.
- c \rightarrow Line width in units of keV.
- d \rightarrow Gaussian normalisation is in units of \text{10}^{-4} photons cm\text{-2} s\text{-1}
Figure 6. Double-peaked emission lines. Left: the hydrogenic O VIII emission line observed with RGS-1 & 2. Right plot shows the broad hydrogenic Ne X emission line as observed with the RGS-2 data.

Figure 7. Variation of line flux across the pulse phase is plotted in left while the plot in right shows the variation of continuum flux with pulse phase. Line fluxes are in units of $10^{-4} \text{photons/cm}^2/\text{sec}$ while all the continuum fluxes ($f_{\text{total}}$, $f_{\text{BB}}$, $F_{\text{PL}}$) are measured in $10^{-10} \text{ergs/cm}^2/\text{sec}$. All the errors are quoted with $1\sigma$ confidence.
shows a broad dip, consistent with the pulse profile in the 0.3-2.0 keV band in which the blackbody component dominates. Shape of the power law profile can be imagined to have formed as a narrow dip at the centre of a broad pulse peak, while the blackbody profile is a broad dip on an otherwise constant emission.

Continuum parameters also showed variation with pulse phase (Figure 8). Blackbody temperature shows strong variation with possible correlation with the pulse profile. However, blackbody normalization profile shape is anti-correlated to its temperature profile. Power law index profile shows a sharp dip at phase 0.2 with some structures in rest of the profile while power law normalization shows strong correlation with the pulse profile shape (bi-horned peaks around pulse phase 0.9 and 1.1). The blackbody flux is a few percent of the total flux and given the systematic errors in EPIC-pn, one should be cautious about the blackbody parameters. The flux modulation of the blackbody is however certainly different from the power law flux variation, as is evident from the energy-resolved pulse profiles.

### 4.3 Intensity Resolved Spectroscopy

Since strong variation in count-rates is observed in light curve shown in Figure 1, we extracted intensity resolved spectra from EPIC-pn data using SAS task evselect. Good time intervals (GTIs) were created in different intensity ranges: sharp dip seen just after the end of first flare seen in Figure 1 and pn count-rates between 90-150 c/s, 150-200 c/s, 200-320 c/s were used to extract intensity resolved spectra. For spectral fitting we used the same technique which we opted while performing phase resolved spectroscopy. Neutural hydrogen column density, line energies and widths were fixed to the phase averaged values. We also added 2% systematics while performing the spectral fitting. Fitted model components are shown in Figure 9. Temperature of blackbody and the power-law index was found to increase. The line fluxes and fractional contribution of the blackbody flux also found to increase with total flux (Figure 10).

### Table 2. DOUBLE-GAUSSIAN EMISSION LINE FITS

| Observatory     | MJD  | Blueshifted Lines V (km s^{-1}) | Flux^a | Redshifted Lines V (km s^{-1}) | Flux^a | Reference       |
|-----------------|------|---------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|-----------------|
|                 |      |                                 |        |                                 |        | O VIII (0.655 keV) |
| Chandra         | 51803.6 | 1740±440 14.04±2.52            | 1900±480 17.82±0.57 | Schulz et al. (2001) |
| XMM-Newton      | 52145.1 | 1930±260 17.6±4.7              | 1930±260 21.9±4.9   | Krauss et al. (2007) |
| Chandra         | 52795.1 | 1770±330 13.0±4.9              | 1770±330 13.7±5.0   | Krauss et al. (2007) |
| XMM-Newton      | 52871.2 | 1810±180 12.7±1.5              | 1810±180 12.4±1.8   | Krauss et al. (2007) |
| XMM-Newton      | 56397  | 1535±158 71±6                  | 1306±158 61±6       | Current Work     |
|                 |      |                                 |        |                                 |        | Ne X (1.02 keV)  |
| Chandra         | 51803.6 | 2220±350 8.15±0.93             | 1240±220 15.94±1.65 | Schulz et al. (2001) |
| XMM-Newton      | 52145.1 | 1910±450 11.1±4.8              | 1910±450 14.4±3.4   | Krauss et al. (2007) |
| Chandra         | 52795.1 | 1670±180 8.2±1.5               | 1670±180 10.5±1.8   | Krauss et al. (2007) |
| XMM-Newton      | 52871.2 | 1780±420 11.3±2.6              | 1780±420 9.0±2.6    | Krauss et al. (2007) |
| XMM-Newton      | 56397  | 1731±247 65±20                 | 1484±247 98±22      | Current Work     |

Note: *a* → The Gaussian normalization is in units of 10^{-5}photons cm^{-2} s^{-1}

**Figure 8.** In this plot we show variation of continuum parameters across the pulse phase.
**Figure 9.** Best fit model components for Intensity Resolved Spectra. Blue colour represents the spectrum created using intensity range of 200-320 counts/s, green : 150-200 counts/s, red for 90-100 counts/s and black for spectrum during dip. From the figure it is clear that normalisation varies with the change in intensity.

**Figure 10.** Left hand plot shows the variation of continuum parameters with the increase in intensity, the bottom panel of this plot shows the variation of ratio of blackbody flux and the power law flux. On the right: Top plot shows the variation of line flux with the increase in intensity. Line fluxes are in units of $10^{-4}$ photons/cm$^2$/sec while the bottom plot shows the variation of equivalent width of Ne IX and Ne X emission lines with the increase in intensity. Note: X-axis label refer to average count-rate during different intensity resolved spectra. All the errors are quoted with 1 $\sigma$ confidence.
5 DISCUSSION & SUMMARY OF RESULTS

In this paper we present results obtained using data from the XMM-Newton observatory during the current spin-up phase of 4U 1626–67. Several new and significant changes have been observed in comparison to the previous observation made during its spin-down phase. The main focus of our study is to observe a pulse phase dependence of low energy emission lines seen in the X-ray spectrum of 4U 1626–67. Strong pulse phase dependence of O VII emission line at 0.569 keV was observed during spin-down phase of 4U 1626–67. This strong variation was interpreted as a result of warps in the accretion disk (Beri et al. 2015). Dissimilarities in timing characteristics (such as pulse profile, QPOs) during spin-down and spin-up eras are believed to be due to difference in the inner accretion flow from a warped accretion disk during spin-down phase (Beri et al. 2014; Kaur et al. 2008). Therefore, one expects to see a different behavior of line fluxes with pulse phase during current spin-up phase of this source. The calibration issues below 0.7 keV in the timing mode data of EPIC-pn did not allow us to study the pulse phase dependence of emission line features at 0.571 keV (O VII), 0.653 keV (O VIII) and 0.733 keV (Fe L). However, we investigated the behavior of emission lines at 0.913 keV (Ne IX) and 1.02 keV (Ne X) with the pulse phase.

We summarize the results as follows:

- Light curve obtained using the EPIC-pn data during its current spin-up phase showed dips. Unlike other flaring sources like LMC X-4, SMC X-1 it is interesting to notice a broad dip in the light curve soon after the decay of a large flare. This feature is similar to that observed in the bursting pulsar, GRO J1744-28. The light curve of GRO J1744-28 showed the presence of a dip and recovery period following each outburst (see e.g., Giles et al. 1996) and the X-ray spectrum of GRO J1744-28 showed no significant change going from quiescence to outburst (Cannizzo 1996). The same authors proposed that the outbursts observed in the bursting pulsar could be due to Lightman-Eardley (LE) instability (Lightman & Eardley 1974) in the accretion disk and the material that is evacuated onto the pulsar during an accretion event is replenished by material flowing in from further out; hence, the dip and recovery in the light curve following an outburst. After performing intensity resolved spectroscopy of 4U 1626-67 we found that overall there is no change in the shape of shape of the spectrum (see Figure 9) except that the continuum and line parameters follow an increasing trend with intensity. Therefore, it is plausible that a similar mechanism might be responsible for the presence of flares, sharp dips in the light curve of 4U 1626–67.

- QPO feature around 3 mHz is observed in the PDS. This feature has been observed for the first time using X-ray data of current spin-up phase. The feature at 3 mHz also shows strong energy dependence. The feature is sharp at low energies as flares dominate at low energies.

The energy dependence of fractional rms amplitude of QPO has been used as a tool to understand the physical origin of QPO (see e.g., Gilfanov et al. 2003; Cabanac et al. 2010; Mukherjee & Bhattacharyya 2012). The fractional rms amplitude of 3 mHz QPO observed in 4U 1626–67 showed an increase up to 5 keV and thereafter its value saturates (probably due to lower count rates at higher energies). Therefore, it seems that fluctuations in the blackbody component could be a plausible cause of the observed mHz QPO in 4U 1626–67.

- We found that the pulse profile shape below 2 keV is different from that seen during spin-down phase of 4U 1626–67 (Figure 4). Moreover, during its spin-up phase pulse profiles below 2 keV are quite different from that seen above 2 keV (Figure 3). A possible explanation to these observations is changes in the emission diagram of the accretion column. During the low luminosity phase (spin-down) of 4U 1626–67, the emission of the accretion column is concentrated in a beam, oriented along the magnetic field axis while during the high luminosity phase (spin-up) the emission diagram changed to the fan beam pattern (Basko & Sunyaev 1975). Soft X-ray emission (below 2 keV) is attributed to reprocessing of the primary emission by the optically thick material (i.e., the inner accretion disk) and, therefore, changes in the emission diagram might lead to the changes in the illumination of the inner accretion disk and hence, different pulse profiles below 2 keV during the spin-up phase compared to the spin-down phase of 4U 1626–67. We also note that the similar hypothesis was also proposed by Koliopanos & Gilfanov (2016) to explain the origin of the iron line during spin-up phase.

- Values of EW of emission lines observed in the phase averaged spectrum suggests that the EW of O VIII has increased by a factor of 4 compared to the value (∼7 eV) measured with Suzaku during its spin-down phase by Camero-Arranz et al. (2012). However, EW measured with ASCA and XMM-Newton during its spin-down phase was ∼14 eV (Angelini et al. 1995; Krauss et al. 2007). Observations made with ASCA and XMM-Newton during spin-down phase of 4U 1626–67 revealed EW of O VII to be ∼31 eV and ∼23 eV respectively (Angelini et al. 1995; Krauss et al. 2007) while the measurement made during spin-up phase with the Suzaku observatory showed a much lower value (1.3 eV). EWs of Ne IX and Ne X emission
lines are almost consistent with the previous measurements made during its spin-up phase (Camero-Arranz et al. 2012).

- From the intensity resolved spectroscopy, we found that there is an increase in the ratio between blackbody and power law flux which suggests that the spectrum softens with the intensity. The values of line fluxes at 0.913 keV and 1.02 keV also showed an increase with intensity. However, we did not notice any correlation between the equivalent width of these emission lines with the intensity (Figure 10).

- From the phase resolved spectroscopy of 4U 1626-67, we observed a strong variation of Ne IX emission line with the pulse phase while the emission line at 1.02 keV (Ne X) showed a lack of pulsations. A different behaviour of Ne IX and Ne X emission lines across the pulse phase suggests that these emission lines might have a different origin. It may be possible that Ne IX emission line originates from the accretion disk and thus, showing a strong pulse phase dependence while the Ne X emission line originates from highly ionized optically thin emission i.e. from the material trapped in the Alfvén shell (Basko 1980). If this scenario is true, it also provides an explanation to the different line shapes of Ne IX and Ne X emission lines. The broadening observed in the profile of Ne IX emission line could be due to the Doppler shifts while the microscopic processes may be the cause of the broadening of Ne X emission line.

Current observation made during spin-up phase of 4U 1626-67 showed a different line intensity modulation pattern of Ne IX emission line compared to the earlier XMM-Newton observation in the spin-down phase. Pulse phase dependence of low energy fluxes in 4U 1626-67 is believed to be due to geometrical effect called “warping” of the accretion disk (Beri et al. 2015). Due to warps (wherein tilt angle of the normal to the local disk surface varies with azimuth) in the accretion disk, one expects to observe modulation in the flux of reprocessed emission visible along our line of sight. Several possibilities have been discussed in the literature that might lead to warps in the accretion disk. One of the widely accepted possibility is that if the accretion disk is subject to strong central irradiation, then it is unstable to warping (see e.g., Petterson 1977; Pringle 1996). We also note that Pringle (1996) suggested that radiation-driven warping is strongest in the outer regions of the accretion disks. From Table 2, it is interesting to notice that O VIII emission line at 0.653 keV showed a lower value of velocity compared to the values measured during the spin-down phase of 4U 1626-67. This indicates that the radius of the accretion disk at which this emission line is formed has moved outward during spin-up phase.

In order to further investigate the above, we estimated radii of Ne/O emission line formation regions using the expression for ionization parameter ($\zeta = L_X/nR^2$), where $L_X$ is the X-ray luminosity, $n$ is the ion number density and $R$ is the radius (see Table 3) The values of ionization parameters calculated using the XSTAR code (Kallman & McCray 1982) for the optically thin photoionized model were opted for our calculations. We further assumed a constant value ($10^{13}$ $cm^{-3}$) for the electron number density. This is a reasonable assumption as comparable values of number density were estimated by Schulz et al. (2001). It is interesting to notice from Table 3 that the radius of line formation region for each of the ion species has moved outwards compared to the values obtained using $L_X$ measured during spin-down phase. This further supports our interpretation that a strong variation of Ne IX line during the current spin-up phase of 4U 1626-67 is because the structures (or warps) in the accretion disk (that produce pulse phase dependence of emission lines) have changed during its spin-up phase or the line forming region has moved outwards where the warps dominates.

Different pulse phase dependence of Ne IX emission line observed during current spin-up phase of 4U 1626-67, therefore, supports that there is a possible change in accretion flow geometry. Accretion flow geometry plays an important role in transfer of angular momentum and therefore any change in it would suggest a change in the interaction between the Keplerian disk and the stellar magnetic field at the corotation radius.

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