Title:	Discovery of a Magnetar Associated with the Soft Gamma Repeater SGR 1900+14
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Abstract

The soft gamma repeater SGR 1900+14 became active again on 1998 June after a long period of quiescence; it remained at a low state of activity until 1998 August, when it emitted a series of extraordinarily intense outbursts. We have observed the source with the Rossi X-Ray Timing Explorer twice, during the onset of each active episode. We confirm the pulsations at the 5.16 s period reported earlier from SGR 1900+14. Here we report the detection of a secular spin-down of the pulse period at an average rate of 1.1x10^-10 s s^-1. In view of the strong similarities between SGRs, we attribute the spin-down of SGR 1900+14 to magnetic dipole radiation, possibly accelerated by a quiescent flux, as in the case of SGR 1806-20. This allows an estimate of the pulsar dipolar magnetic field, which is 2-8 x 10^14 G. Our results confirm that SGRs are magnetars.

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