White Dwarfs / Neutron Stars

Reading assignment TUESDAY 12/8: 15.4 (Gamma ray bursts)

Homework Assignment #5 due by: TUESDAY 12/15 before 9AM.

ALGOL binary system:

A (more evolved) sub-giant star of 0.8 M_{Sun} with a main-sequence companion of 3.7 M_{Sun} .

What's wrong with this system?



When a WD is the primary component of a semi-detached binary system:

- Dwarf nova
- Classical nova
- Supernova (type Ia) [single-degenerate]

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Classical nova: high accretion rates (10⁻⁸-10⁻⁹ M_{Sun}/yr) from the companion

The H-rich gas accumulates on the surface of the WD, where it compresses and heats. At the base of the H layer, H is mixed with C, O, N and supported by electron degenerate pressure. When 10^{-4} - 10^{-5} M_{Sun} of H has accumulated and T~ a few 10^6 K, explosive (because degenerate matter) H fusion ignites through the CNO cycle in the shell, resulting in the ejection of material. This phenomenon is recurrent, with a period of 10^4 - 10^5 yr.



There are two principle avenues for WD mass growth



In either case, if the mass exceeds the Chandrasekhar mass, then the electron degeneracy pressure cannot support the star and it collapses under gravity resulting in a supernova — *no remnant*!

Accretion disks



Accretion disks



Type Ia (white dwarf) SN



The Center for Astrophysical Thermonuclear Flashes

Simulation of the Deflagration and Detonation Phases of a Type Ia Supernovae

30 initial bubbles in 100 km radius. Ignition occurs 80 km from the center of the star. Hot material is shown in color and stellar surface in green.

This work was supported in part at the University of Chicago by the DOE NNSA ASC ASAP and by the NSF. This work also used computational resources at LBNL NERSC awarded under the INCITE program, which is supported by the DOE Office of Science.



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Type Ia supernovae light curves:



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Empirical adjustment can be made so all have the same absolute magnitude, i.e. luminosity.

The same luminosity means that if you identify that something is a Type la supernova, it can be used as a standard candle to get distance.



This is used to constrain cosmological models specifically the fact that we are dominated by dark energy (here Ω_A)

(more on this in Astro 32!)

A neutron star (NS) is supported by neutron degeneracy pressure (which can be derived using the mass of the neutron instead of the electron mass and the mean molecular weight of 1).

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Compare with the radius of a WD: $R_{wd} \approx \frac{(18\pi)^{2/3}}{10} \frac{\hbar^2}{Gm_e M_{wd}^{1/3}} \left[\left(\frac{Z}{A}\right) \frac{1}{m_H}\right]^{5/3}$

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Neglecting factors of ~2 which include Z/A and mass difference: $\frac{R_{wd}}{R_{ns}} \approx \frac{m_H}{m_e}$ ~10³

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If R_{WD} is roughly the radius of Earth (~10,000 km), this implies R_{NS} ~10 km



$$R_{NS} \approx \frac{5 \times 10^{5} \text{ cm}}{(M_{NS}/M_{\odot})^{1/3}} \stackrel{N}{I} \frac{4 \text{ km}}{M_{NS} \approx 1.4 \text{ M}_{\odot}}$$

A neutron star (NS) is extremely compact and dense:

$$M_{NS}/M_{m} = \frac{1.4 M_{\odot}}{m_{n}} \approx 10^{57} \text{ neutrous}$$

< $8^{3} \approx 6.65 \times 10^{14} g/cm^{3}$

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Effects of general relativity must be included for an accurate description of NS.



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When the density reaches $\sim 4x10^{11}$ g cm⁻³:

The minimum-energy arrangement is with some of the neutrons outside of the nuclei. This is call **neutron drip**, with the appearance of free neutrons, with a mixture of a lattice of neutron-rich nuclei (e.g., ¹¹⁸Kr), non-relativistic degenerate neutrons, and relativistic degenerate electrons (for charge neutrality). A fluid with free neutrons has no viscosity —> **superfluid**, flowing without resistance.

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Everything is extreme with NS, their interior state (simulating a huge nucleus), the velocity of sound (~60% of the speed of light), their rotation (frequency of 1-1000 Hz), and their magnetic field (up to 10¹² Gauss; the magnetic field at Earth's surface is <1 Gauss).

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As the density approaches the density of the nucleus (**~2.4x10**¹⁴ **g cm**-³), the nuclei effectively dissolve, resulting in a degenerate fluid mixture of free neutrons, protons and electrons dominated by neutron degeneracy pressure, with neutrons and protons (number of protons <1%) paired to form superfluids. The fluid of pairs of protons is superconductive.

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As density further increases, the limit n:p:e = 8:1:1 is reached.





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Core?: made of pions or other sub-nuclear particles. The Fermi energy of the degenerate neutrons gradually exceed the rest-mass of hyperons of lowest mass, and these particles will then appear, beginning the hyperonization of the core.

NOTES

With the considered densities, the interaction between nucleons is far from being negligible, and it dominates the behavior:

 uncertainties due to the absence of a rigorous theory and of experiments at such high densities of how particles interact.

- uncertainty connected with the appearance of new particles when the density increases. When Hyperons occur in sufficient number, they contribute to the density but scarcely to the pressure -> hyperonization makes the gas even more compressible!

==> Extremely uncertain equation of state

Like WDs, NS also obey $M_{NS} V_{NS} = constant$, i.e., NS become smaller and more dense with increasing mass.

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Max $M_{NS} \sim 2.2 M_{sun}$ if the NS is static Max $M_{NS} \sim 2.9 M_{sun}$ if the NS is rapidly rotating If M_{NS} larger than this limit -> BLACK HOLE.

NOTE: M_{NS} sets constraints on the equation of state, and so on the particle physics determining it.

NOTE: M_{ch}=5.73 M_{Sun}, but M_{NS}<M_{Ch} because of general relativity effects

Treating a star like a sphere with a moment of inertia:

$$I = CMR^{2} \longrightarrow I; w; = I \neq w p$$

$$L_{p} w p = w; (\frac{Ri}{Rp})^{Q}$$

$$P_{f} = P_{i} (\frac{Rf}{R_{i}})^{2}$$

Angular velocity

Period

Treating a star like a sphere with a moment of inertia:

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$$R \operatorname{core}/R_{NS} \simeq \frac{M_N}{M_{\tilde{e}}} \left(\frac{Z}{A}\right)^{5/3} \sim 512$$

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PNS 2 3.8×10-6 Pcore ~ 5×10-3 5 (200/5)

NS rotates very rapidly when they are formed, with period of a few milliseconds. The magnetic field flux through the surface of a WD is conserved as it collapses to form a NS:

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$$B_{i} \ 4\pi R_{i}^{2} = B_{f} \ 4\pi R_{f}^{2}$$

$$= B_{AS} \approx B_{ND} \left(\frac{R_{ND}}{R_{NS}}\right)^{2} \approx 1.3 \times 10^{10} T$$

Huge magnetic field

 B_{WD} ~5x10⁴ T (extreme case) B_{Sun} ~1x10⁻⁴ T The temperature T of NS when formed out of the SN explosion is extremely high, T~10¹¹ K.

During the first day, the NS cools by emitting neutrinos via:

$$P^{+} + e^{-} \rightarrow N + Ve$$

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When T~10⁹ K, protons and neutrons become degenerate (after ~1 day) and those processes stop. Other neutrino-dominated processes dominate the cooling in the following ~10³ years, and then photons from the surface take over. After ~10² years, internal temperature is $T_{internal}$ ~10⁸ K (hence the neutrons are degenerate, nearly relativistic), with the surface temperature of $T_{surface}$ ~10⁶ K. Therefore:

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But in the X-rays (~2.9 nm) region of the electronmagnetic spectrum

Supernova

Crab nebula: SN explosion is AD 1054 + pulsar at its center (synchrotron radiation)

Synchrotron radiation

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- v perpendicular to B produces a circular motion around the magnetic field lines
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The rotting NS provides the required energy to accelerate the expansion of the nebula, the relativistic electrons, and the magnetic field.









Pulsars were **discovered in 1967 by then graduate student Jocelyn Bell** and her advisor Anthony Hewish.

Jocelyn Bell in 1967

Example pulsar light curve (radio).



Image Credit: Manchester, R.N. and Taylor, J.H., Pulsars, Freeman, 1977.



Image Credit: Michael Kramer (University of Manchester)

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$$K = \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2 = \frac{2\pi^2 I}{P^2}$$

The energy per second (power) emitted by the rotating magnetic dipole is:



permeability of free space



B is the strength of the field at the magnetic pole of the star with radius R and period or rotation P

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I: moment of inertia P: period





NOTE: the emission of radiation is one of the mostly poorly known/understood aspects of pulsars

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