General Seminar
"Frustrated spins on a metallic pyrochlore"

Dr. Satoru Nakasutji
Kyoto University
Tuesday, March 8, 2005 at 3:40 PM in Room 109 Nicholson Hall
Host: Dr. John DiTusa
(Refreshments served at 3:15 p.m. in Room 229 Nicholson)

General Seminar
"Mapping Accretion in Ultra-compact Binary Stars"

Dr. Danny Steeghs
Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
Thursday, March 10, 2005 at 3:40 PM in Room 109 Nicholson Hall
Host: Dr. Robert Hynes
(Refreshments served at 3:15 p.m. in Room 229 Nicholson)

ABSTRACT
Recent surveys have unveiled a large population of several hundred million double white dwarf binaries in our galaxy. I discuss the possible outcomes of such systems as they evolve to shorter and shorter orbital periods, and focus on the sub-set of double degenerate binaries that undergo mass transfer. The accretion geometry is crucial in determining the evolution of such objects. I present recent observations of the known accreting ultra-compact systems with orbital periods as short as 5 minutes. Doppler mapping allows us to establish their accretion geometry and derive fundamental binary parameters. Such observations are crucial in determining the contribution of these binaries to the galactic populations of UV, X-ray and gravitational wave sources.

Welcome To:
Dr. Hwang Lee, Assistant Professor. He is located in Room 451, 578-2365.
Dr. Joseph Dugas, a Postdoctoral Researcher with Professor Kenneth Hogstrom. He is located in Room 459-A, 578-4289.

PUBLICATIONS


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