

Evolution of Compact Binaries

6–11 March 2011, Valparaíso, Chile

Compact binaries divide into many classes depending on the mass of either component, the mass transfer rate, the magnetic fields involved and whether the primary star is a white dwarf, neutron star or black hole.

However, the evolution of all these objects is driven by a common mechanism: angular momentum loss. This process controls the change of the orbital period as well as, in the phases of interaction, the mass transfer rate. This means that the basic physics behind all these objects is the same, and, by comparing the results found for one class, we might be able to understand similar problems in another. Some of the open questions that are common to all classes of compact binaries are, for example:

- the impact of the common envelope phase;

- the role of rotation in the evolution of the secondary;
- the role of magnetic fields in binary evolution;
- possible braking mechanisms and their efficiency;
- physical mechanisms to increase the mass of the compact component to finally reach a point of ignition.

With this workshop we plan to bring together people from different communities; and in this sense it is a very broad and open workshop. On the other hand, it will also be focused as it concentrates on one specific problem, namely binary evolution, which, over the last decade, has emerged as one of the most active fields within the compact binary communities.

The deadline for registration is 15 January 2011.

Scientific Organising Committee: Jarrod Hurley, Australia; Andrew King, UK; Ulrich Kolb, UK; Mario Livio, USA; Félix Mirabel, France; Linda Schmidtobreick, ESO; Matthias Schreiber, Chile.

Local Organising Committee: Moira Evans, Centro de Astrofísica de Valparaíso; María Eugenia Gómez, ESO; Paulina Jirón, ESO; Elena Mason, ESO; Kieran O'Brien, UCSB; Retha Pretorius, ESO; Alberto Rebassa, Univ. de Valparaíso; Linda Schmidtobreick (co-chair), ESO; Matthias Schreiber (co-chair), Univ. de Valparaíso; Claus Tappert, Univ. de Valparaíso; Maja Vuckovic, ESO; Mónica Zorotovic, ESO–PUC.

Further information can be found at http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/Binary_Evolution2011/ and more details can be obtained by e-mail: binary-evolution-2011@eso.org.

Personnel Movements

Arrivals (1 July–30 September 2010)

Europe

Bonzini, Margherita (I)	Student
Cortese, Luca (I)	Fellow
Delorme, Alain (F)	Senior Contract Officer
Diaz Trigo, Maria (E)	Operations Scientist
Dietmann, Evelina (I)	Administrative Assistant
Echaniz, Juan Carlos (E)	System Engineer-Product Assurance
Hamilton, Robert (GB)	ERP Consultant
Lagerholm, Carina (S)	Student
Motalebi, Fatemeh (IR)	Student
Munding, Silvia (D)	Librarian
Pineda, Jaime (RCH)	Fellow
Pontoni, Cristian (I)	Mechanical Engineer
Randall, Suzanna (GB)	Operations Scientist
Russell, Adrian (GB)	Director of Programmes
Wallace, Jane (GB)	Executive Assistant

Chile

Brammer, Gabriel (USA)	Fellow
Hau, George (GB)	Operations Staff Astronomer
Lombardi, Gianluca (I)	Fellow

Departures (1 July–30 September 2010)

Europe

Chereau, Fabien (F)	Software Engineer
Conn, Blair (AUS)	Fellow
De Silva, Malcolm (GB)	Contract Officer
Gladysz, Szymon (PL)	Post Doctoral Researcher
Justen, Benedikt (D)	Student
Korhonen, Heidi (FIN)	Fellow
Lind, Karin (S)	Student
Martinez, Patrice (F)	Optical Engineer
Schmidt, Sandra (D)	Secretary/Assistant
Snodgrass, Colin (GB)	Fellow
Wicenc, Andreas (D)	Software Engineer
Ziegler, Bodo (D)	User Support Astronomer

Chile

Evatt, Matthew (USA)	Mechanical Engineer
Gallenne, Alexandre (F)	Student
Mason, Elena (I)	Operations Astronomer
Oestreich, Martin (D)	Electrical Engineer
Ritz, Andre (RCH)	Procurement Officer
Robert, Pascal (F)	Instrumentation Engineer
Wehner, Stefan (D)	Software Engineer
Zorotovic, Monica (RCH)	Student