



#### White Dwarf Stars as Laboratories

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#### **Stellar Evolution**

Mass < 10 M<sub>sun</sub> : White Dwarf



10  $M_{sun}$  < Mass < 25  $M_{sun}$  : Neutron Star

Mass > 25  $M_{sun}$  : Black Hole



### **Planetary Nebula**



Observed by the Hubble Space Telescope

# Sirius and the White Dwarf



### White dwarfs pulsate as they cool



### Intensity Changes With Time



Multiperiodic, P=71s to 1500s, amp=4 mma to 300 mma

#### **Pulsating White Dwarfs**

 Internal structure of the white dwarf (SNIa progenitors)
 Cooling timescale
 Age of the oldest stars in our galaxy
 High energy and high density physics

#### **Pulsating White Dwarfs**

White Dwarfs ~ 6000 (doubled in 2004) Variable~ 115 (tripled in 2004)

 DOV T<sub>eff</sub>=160 000-75 000K 10 known, M= -1
 DBV T<sub>eff</sub>=25 000-22 000K 13 know, M= 8
 DAV T<sub>eff</sub>=12 000K 92 known, M=12



Structure – SNIa progenitors

### **DBV GD 358**



# **Pulsations ... Seismology**



# Pulsations/Seismology: Y<sub>10</sub> e Y<sub>11</sub>





# **Pulsations are global**





Brasópolis, MG

### Whole Earth Telescope



### Mass determination

UV spectra
 Optical spectra
 T<sub>ef</sub> = 12 500K
 Massa = 1,1 M<sub>sol</sub>



### Mass distribution



# **SDSS**



We fit all 1872 DA white dwarfs in SDSS

# SDSS T<sub>eff</sub> determination



# SDSS log g determination



### Transição de fase para cristal



A parte pontilhada corresponde a P(líquido quântico)/P(gás ideal) > 1. Efeitos quânticos iônicos são importantes à direita desta linha ( $\theta$ =1).

### **DAV** instability strip



Need high S/N spectra of variables and non-variables to refine Teff and log g Need to find more variables and non-variables to determine log g dependence

# Most Massive Pulsating WD



17 light yr distant (40 quadrillion km)

#### **BP**M37093 – Diamond in the Sky!









### **Pulsations Present**



### Period in seconds





### Crystallized or not?





### **BPM37093** in 1999



# Super-Diamond?



#### Diamond

- C crystal
  - FCC
  - 3,08Å between atoms
  - 2 shared electrons
- T < 8000 K
- 10 K atm  $< P < 1,2x10^8$  atm

#### **BPM37093**

- C crystal
- BCC
- 0,01Å between nucleons
- all electrons are free (degenerate)
- T = 7 million K
- P = 5x10<sup>18</sup> atm
  - **\rho = 36 \text{ Ton/cm}^3**
  - E<sub>ions</sub>> 2kT (quantized)
  - metallic quantum crystal

### **DBV** instability strip



#### **181** periodicities detected

Mass of each layer
M(R): Luminosity -> distance (1/10 uncertainty of parallax)
Rotation law(r) [splitting (k)]
Magnetic field limit (6000 G)
6<sup>th</sup> order harmonics and combinations
#### Nuclear reaction rate

#### •Quantity of <sup>22</sup> Ne dependes mainly on $\sigma [C^{12}(\alpha, \gamma)O^{16}(\alpha, \gamma)Ne^{20}(\alpha, \gamma)Mg^{24}(\alpha, \gamma)]$



Non Resonant Reaction

 $T > 10^8$  K and  $\rho > 10^5$  g/cm<sup>3</sup> Uncertainty is around 50%!





# Mode identification with HST



#### **GD358** mode identification HST

Bárbara Castanheira  $\ell = 1$  for k=8 and 9 in 1996 probably  $\ell = 1$  for other modes in 2000



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## **PNNV – DOV instalibility strip**



#### PG1159-035





#### PG1159-035: 101 pulsations detected

T<sub>eff</sub> = 140 000K
 Total mass : (0.586 +/- 0.001) M <sub>Sun</sub>
 M(R): Luminosity -> distance
 Mass of external layers
 no harmonics or linear combination (no convection zone)

## PG1159-035 modes detected



#### **Direct** Method dP/dt



#### **But period increases with time!**





#### Most stable optical clock known

G117-B15A CFHT 3.6m



## Most stable optical clock known



G117-B15A





Stable?

# Time scale = $\frac{P}{\vdots} \cong 2.2 \text{ Gyr}$ $\frac{P}{P}$

Pulsars with dP/dt =  $10^{-18}$  s/s have timescale 0.1 Gyr, but PSR B1885+09, with P=5.3 ms and dP/dt= $1.8 \times 10^{-20}$  s/s has timescale of 9.5 Gyr.

## *Axions*



## *Axions*

#### $m_{ax} > 1 \ \mu eV$ or $\Omega_{ax} > 1$ tan $\beta$ : ratio of the vacuum energy of the two Higgs fields

#### **Gravitons**?

Biesada & Malec (2002) Phys Rev D, 65 dP/dt: the string mass scale  $M_s \ge 14,3 \ TeV/c^2$  for 6 dimensions for Kaluza-Klein gravitons. The limit is negligible for higher dimensions

#### Variable G?



Asteroseismological bound on *G/G* from pulsating white dwarfs Omar G. Benvenuto, Enrique García-Berro, and Jordi Isern PHYSICAL REVIEW D **69**, 082002 (2004)

#### Why do pulsation periods change?

$$\frac{\frac{P}{\dot{P}} = -a\frac{T}{\dot{r}} + b\frac{R}{\dot{R}}}{\frac{\dot{r}}{T} - \frac{\dot{R}}{R}}$$

DAV

•R = 9,6 x 10<sup>8</sup> cm, dR/dt = 1 cm/yr •T<sub>nucleus</sub>=12 million K, dT/dt = 0.05 K/year

$$\frac{\frac{R}{R}}{\frac{R}{R}} = 0,025 \quad \frac{T}{\frac{T}{T}} \implies \text{Cooling dominates!}$$

## **Photon vs neutrino emission**





# The Feynman diagram



# **Plasma neutrino (Weak interaction)**

$$\hbar^2 w^2 = \hbar^2 w_p^2 + k^2 c^2$$

$$w_p^2 = \frac{4\pi n_e e^2}{m_e} \left[ 1 + \left(\frac{\hbar}{m_e c}\right)^2 \left(3\pi^2 n_e\right)^{2/3} \right]^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

#### Two keys...

To excite the plasmon we must have  $h\omega_o \leq kT$ 

The plasma frequency is much higher for a degenerate gas, and increases with increasing density....









Age of the disk: 9 ± 2 yr



# Age of the Universe

Age of Universe =Age of disk + Halo + Formation of galaxy $9 \pm 2$  $1,5 \pm 1,5$  $1 \pm 1$  billion yr

# $Age = (11, 5 \pm 2, 7)$ billion years

## HST: Galaxies formed 1 Gyr after Big-Bang







# Age of the Universe in 2004

10 years ago only white dwarfs gave age smaller than 15 billion years:

CMB - WMAP =
Hubble constant: 1/H =
Globular clusters:
Radiactive decay:
Cooling of white dwarf stars:
Distances to SNIa:

(13.7<u>+</u>0.2) Gyr (12 ± 1) Gyr (13.2 ± 1.5) Gyr (12.5 ± 3) Gyr (12.7 ± 0.7) Gyr 14.9± 1.4 (0.63/h)Gyr,A









# Spectra of DA, DB and DO


## Mode identification with SOAR



## Find more variables

(V=18.6)



### **Detection of extra-solar planets**



Spectroscopy: detection of radial velocity variation around the center of mass

G117-B15A





## Jupiter around G117-B15A?



P=11.86 years, a=5.2 UA

## Saturn around?



#### Search for planetary companions

*monitoring changes in pulse arrival time due to motion of star around barycenter.* 

Orbit around center of mass with planetary companion



















#### CCD vs PMT



#### CCD vs PMT



## Measured Amplitude Difference



# Change in Amplitudes

	Temperature			Difference in Amp		
DAV	Flux				2	юр
CCD	11500	12000	Rel/PMT	12500	Amplitude	% Rel/PMT
FI	$1.417e{+18}$	$1.528\mathrm{e}{+18}$	1.29	$1.623e{+}18$	0.134	-20.85
TBI2	$2.964e{+}18$	$3.215\mathrm{e}{+18}$	2.71	$3.427e{+}18$	0.143	-15.27
TBI	$3.544e{+18}$	$3.856e{+18}$	3.26	4.117e + 18	0.148	-12.43
TBI + BG39	$1.838e{+}18$	$2.015\mathrm{e}{+18}$	1.70	$2.163e{+}18$	0.161	-4.86
$TBI + CuSO_4$	$2.406e{+}18$	$2.638e{+}18$	2.23	$2.832e{+18}$	0.161	-4.90
PMT	$1.074e{+}18$	$1.182e{+18}$	1.00	$1.275e{+}18$	0.169	0.00
$\mathbf{DBV}$						
CCD	25500	26000	$\operatorname{Rel}/\operatorname{PMT}$	26500	Amplitude	% Rel/PMT
FI	1.128e + 19	$1.155e{+}19$	0.901	$1.183e{+}19$	0.0477	-14.57
TBI2	2.541e + 19	$2.606e{+}19$	2.032	$2.671e{+}19$	0.0497	-10.99
TBI	$3.130e{+}19$	$3.210\mathrm{e}{+19}$	2.503	$3.291\mathrm{e}{+19}$	0.0503	-9.95
TBI + BG39	$1.706e{+}19$	$1.752\mathrm{e}{+19}$	1.366	$1.797\mathrm{e}{+19}$	0.0516	-7.60
$TBI + CuSO_4$	$2.312e{+}19$	$2.374e{+}19$	1.851	$_{2.436\mathrm{e}+19}$	0.0522	-6.56
PMT	$1.246\mathrm{e}{+19}$	$1.282e{+}19$	1.000	$1.318\mathrm{e}{+19}$	0.0559	0.00
DOV						
CCD	130000	135000	$\operatorname{Rel}/\operatorname{PMT}$	140000	Amplitude	% Rel/PMT
FI	1.068e+21	1.132e + 21	0.743	$1.181e{+}21$	0.100161	-0.719
TBI2	$2.720e{+}21$	$2.883e{+}21$	1.893	$3.010\mathrm{e}{+21}$	0.100483	-0.400
TBI	3.153e+21	3.342e + 21	2.195	$3.488e{+}21$	0.100374	-0.508
TBI + BG39	1.761e + 21	1.867e + 21	1.226	$1.949e{+}21$	0.100471	-0.412
$TBI + CuSO_4$	2.422e+21	$2.568\mathrm{e}{+21}$	1.686	$2.681\mathrm{e}{+21}$	0.100523	-0.360
PMT	1.436e+21	$1.522\mathrm{e}{+21}$	1.000	$1.589\mathrm{e}{+21}$	0.100887	0.000

## Amplitude vs Wavelength





## CCD Data Analysis









