

MULTIPLE TIME SCALES IN CATAclySMIC VARIABLES: OBSERVATIONS VS. MATHEMATICAL MODELS

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Theoretical models and observational evidence for various processes in magnetic cataclysmic variables are briefly reviewed. Among them: modulation of the accretion rate by the magnetic field of the white dwarf; excitation of the orientation change of the magnetic axis of the white dwarf with respect to the secondary; structure of the accretion column and its instability; mass and angular momentum transfer; magnetic activity of the secondary; high/low luminosity state transitions; QPO's, "shot noise" and "red noise" in polars, intermediate polars and nova-like objects.