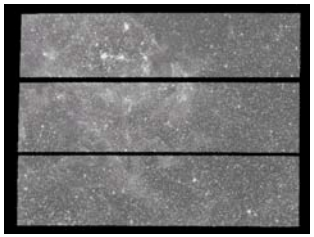
Books - Coop, print-on-demand second week of February

Posted pdf files of draft of chapters 1 - 5 under "Reading Assignments.

Thursday help session 5 PM RLM 15.216B

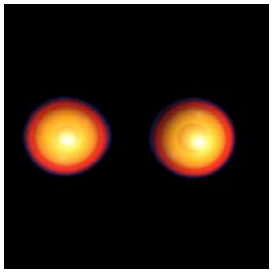
Astronomy in the news?

Pic of the day, Light "echoes" from Supernova 1987A in the Large Magellanic Cloud galaxy

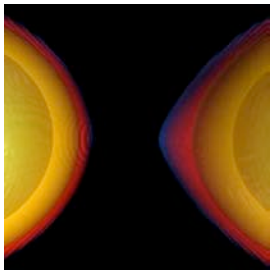


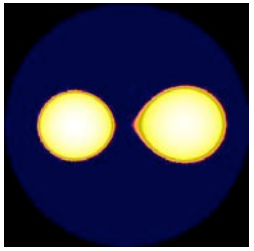
Solution to the ***Algol Paradox***, how the evolved star can be the least massive - ***Mass Transfer*** through the ***Roche Lobe*** of the initially more massive, evolving star.

Stable: no mass transfer



Unstable: mass transfer





Side view

Equatorial slice

http://www.phys.lsu.edu/astro/movie_captions/motl.binary.html

First star evolves, sheds its envelope, leaves behind a white dwarf.

Then the second star that was ***originally*** the less massive evolves, fills its Roche Lobe and sheds mass onto the white dwarf.

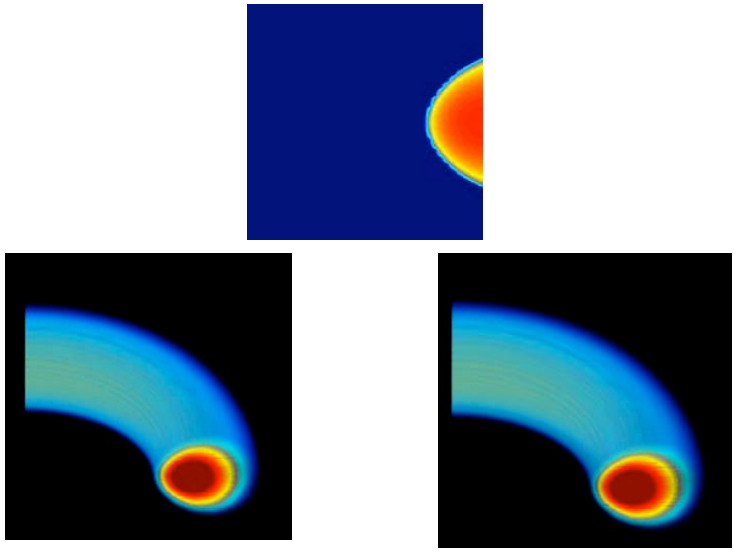
The white dwarf is a tiny moving target, the transfer stream misses the white dwarf, circles around it, collides with itself, forms a ring, and then settles inward to make a flat disk.

Matter gradually spirals inward, a process called ***accretion.***

⇒ the result is an ***Accretion Disk*** (Chapter 4).

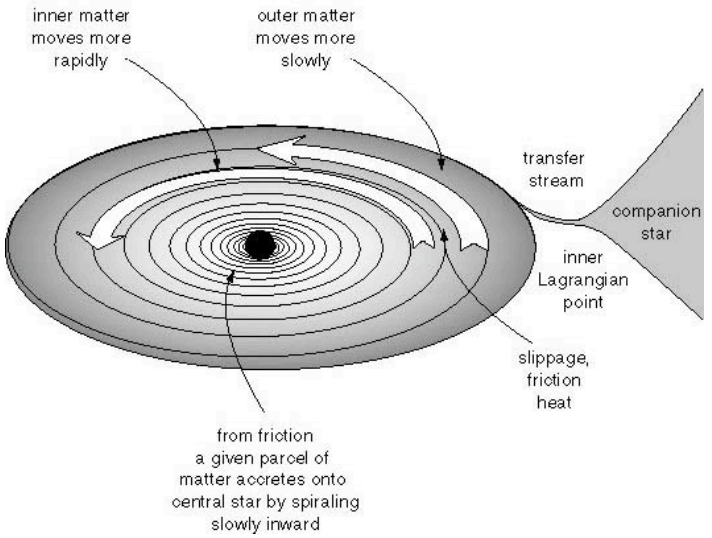
An accretion disk requires a transferring star for supply and a central star to give gravity, but it is essentially a separate entity with a structure and life of its own.

Ring of transferred matter evolves into an accretion disk



http://www.astro.virginia.edu/~jh8h/nraf/

Basic Disk Dynamics - Figure 4.1



Two stars are born orbiting one another in a binary system. Which star will transfer matter first?

A The most massive star

B The least massive star

C Insufficient information is given

Basic Disk Dynamics

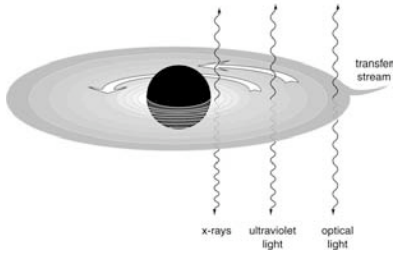
Orbits closer to the center are faster.
This creates rubbing and friction and heat, everywhere in the disk.

Friction tries to slow the orbiting matter, but it falls ***inward*** and ends up moving ***faster***.
(Just as removing heat from a normal star causes it to get hotter)
Slow settling inward by friction -- ***accretion***

Friction also causes ***heat.***

Hotter on inside, cooler on outside

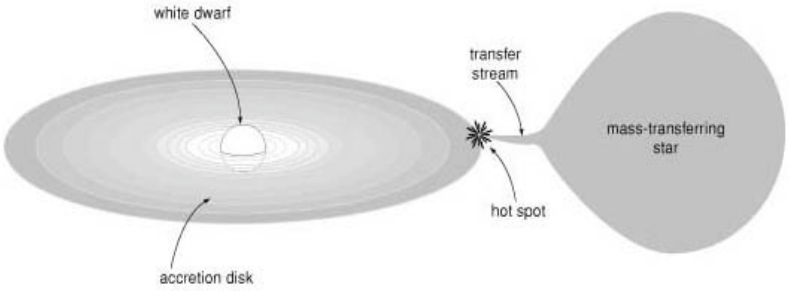
Optical → UV → X-rays
WD NS BH



Cataclysmic Variables

General Category "Novae"
"New" stars flare up, see where none had been seen before.

All share same general features: ***transferring star***, ***transfer stream***, ***hot spot***, ***accretion disk***, and ***white dwarf***.



Cataclysmic Variables

Dwarf Nova - flare × 10 brighter
intervals of weeks to months
last days to weeks

Recurrent Nova - flare × 1000 brighter
every 10-100 years
last weeks to months
U Sco is a Recurrent Nova

Classical Nova - 10^4 to 10^5 times brighter
never observed to recur -- suspect 10^4 years
last months to years

Supernova - (one type might originate in a cataclysmic variable)
flare once 10^{10} × brighter (10 billion times)
last months to years