Binary and Multiple Stars in the Era of Big Sky Surveys 2024 September 13 Litomyšl

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Be stars as post-mass-transfer binaries: interferometric detections & orbits of stripped companions

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Credit: Faes & Carciofi

Pleione, Alkyone, Electra, Merope

Classical Be stars

Rapidly rotating and non-radially pulsating main-sequence **B-type** stars with ionized, gaseous **decretion disks** in Keplerian rotation

Secchi 1866 Struve 1931 Underhill & Doazan 1982 Slettebak 1988 Porter & Rivinius 2003 Reig+ 2011 Rivinius+ 2013 Smith+ 2016



Formation:

B-type star acquires excess angular momentum \rightarrow Spins up and forms a viscous decretion disk to shed it



Be stars as Roche-lobe overflow mass-transferring binaries?



Massive (early-type) CBe stars



Massive (early-type) CBe stars





adapted from Tauris+ 2017

CHARA & VLTI near-IR interferometric program on the binarity of Be stars

- ~70 confirmed/candidate Be binaries observed
- at least **16 detections** of close companions (9 published) faintest detection at $\Delta H = 5.3$ mag (f = 0.76%)
- at least 14 SB1 + astrometric orbital solutions (7 published)
- at least 12 dynamical masses for both components (7 published) mostly limited by RVs (and distances)



Be + bloated stripped star

Be stars with bloated pre-sd companions





Be + bloated stripped star



Be stars with bloated pre-sd companions

Extreme mass ratio but similar brightness

Astrometric orbit from VLTI/GRAVITY



P = 40.3 d

HR 6819 (V = 5.4)

First dynamical masses

- Gaia parallax biased by binary motion
- M_Be = 4.2 ± 0.5 M_☉
- M_pre-sd = 0.271 ± 0.064 M_o
- d = 294 ± 14 pc

Be + bloated stripped star

Be stars with bloated pre-sd companions

One of 12 GRAVITY snapshots – modeled by two stars (UD) + Keplerian disk



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Be+stripped star



Be stars with sdOB companions

High mass and luminosity ratio but companion hotter than the Be star

sdOB detection in FUV spectra

~20 confirmed & strong candidate Be+sdOB binaries

sdO Detection in optical spectra

He II 4686 profiles detected in cophased spectra



Be+stripped star

Be stars with sdOB companions

High mass and luminosity ratio but companion hotter than the Be star



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Be stars with y Cas-like X-rays (Be + WD candidates)

Single-lined spectroscopic binaries with accreting WD?



Tsujimoto+ 2018

Not detectable by interferometry – but can be "confirmed" by ruling out sdOB or MS companion in SB1 Be binaries



Be stars with y Cas-like X-rays (Be + WD candidates)

Single-lined spectroscopic binaries with accreting WD?



Not detectable by interferometry – but can be "confirmed" by ruling out sdOB or MS companion in SB1 Be binaries Disk structure in binaries

New hydrodynamic (SPH) simulations now confirming what was suggested by observations

HR 2142 (V = 5.2)



SPH simulation of a Be disk in a close binary



Disk structure in binaries

SED of Be stars at radio wavelengths suggests the presence of extended circumbinary structures



Klement+ 2019

Conclusions

Binary formation channel prominent for early types but confirmed to extend to at least mid-type Be stars (B6)

- Be + bloated pre-sd
 - HR 6819 dynamical masses and dynamical parallax
 - Six now confirmed with interferometry
- Be + sdOB
 - Seven dynamical masses of both components published, more to come
 - First sdB companion confirmed
 - No confirmed progenitor of Be X-ray binaries (Be + NS)
- Be + WD
 - WD companions the only option for X-ray sources γ Cas and π Aqr
 - X-ray-faint WDs prominent around later types?
- Disk structure in binaries
 - Observations and simulations converging on complex structure including circumbinary spiral arms, circumcompanion gas, and streams

Dynamical masses of Be stars and stripped companions



Disk structure in binaries

Interferometric Detection of circumcompanion gas in HR 2142



This is Bry line but similar emission also seen in He I 2058

Klement+ 2024



Next steps

- Be + bloated pre-sdOB
 - Spectroscopic analysis to determine abundances
 - Spectral disentangling to determine RVs of the Be stars \rightarrow dynamical masses independent of biased parallaxes
- Be + sdOB
 - Expand FUV searches to cooler sdOB companions (thus far done assuming T_{eff} ~ 45 kK)

Be + sdOB / (pre-)WD population

Be + sdOB systems (Wang+ 2021, Klement+ 2022a)



κ Dra (B6 IIIe) + sdB (Klement+ 2022b)
V658 Car (mid-type Be) + late-type sdB (de Amorim+ 2023)
Regulus (B8 IVn) + pre-WD companion (Gies+ 2020)

sdOB companions - indirect detection

Evidence in optical spectra

variable emission components in Hel lines (Rivinius & Štefl 2000 – 59 Cyg, Rivinius+ 2004 – FY CMa)





