
Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>xvii</i>
1 Historical Development	1
1.1 Pre-1900 Observations of Novae	1
1.2 Discovery and Early Observations of Dwarf Novae	3
1.3 Photoelectric Photometry 1940–75	7
1.4 Spectroscopic Observations	12
1.4.1 Early Spectroscopic Studies	12
1.4.2 Spectroscopic observations 1940–75	15
1.5 Observations from Space: UV	16
1.6 Observations from Space: X-ray Emission	20
1.7 IR Observations	23
1.8 Radio Observations	25
1.9 GammaRay Observations	25
2 Structure of Non-Magnetic Systems	27
2.1 Classification of CVs	27
2.2 Distributions of Orbital Periods	28
2.3 Roche Lobe Geometry	30
2.4 Mass Transfer	34
2.4.1 Roche Lobe Overflow	34
2.4.2 Stream Trajectory	36
2.4.3 Bright Spot	38
2.5 Accretion Discs	40
2.5.1 Theory of Accretion Discs	41
2.5.2 Viscosity	48
2.5.2.1 Turbulence	48
2.5.2.2 Magnetic Stresses	49
2.5.2.3 Collective Hydrodynamic Effects	50
2.5.3 Numerical Simulation of Discs	51
2.5.4 Boundary Layer	53
2.5.5 Tidal Limitation	57
2.5.6 Disc Precession	58
2.6 Comparison with Observation	59
2.6.1 Flux Distributions	59
2.6.1.1 Computed Flux Distributions	59
2.6.1.2 Observed Flux Distributions	62
	ix

x	<i>Contents</i>	
	2.6.1.3 $\dot{M}(d)$ from M_v	63
	2.6.1.4 IR Observations	66
	2.6.1.5 X-ray Observations	67
	2.6.1.6 Polarization from Discs	69
	2.6.2 Eclipse Analysis	69
	2.6.3 Eclipse Simulation	72
	2.6.4 Eclipse Mapping	74
	2.6.5 The Bright Spot and Flickering	80
	2.6.6 Evidence for Disc Precession	84
	2.7 Lines from Discs	85
	2.7.1 Optically Thin Emission	86
	2.7.2 Chromospheric Emission	86
	2.7.3 Winds from CVs	90
	2.7.4 Disc Emission-Line Profiles	93
	2.7.5 Doppler Imaging of Discs	98
	2.7.6 RV Curves	99
	2.7.7 Absorption Lines from Discs	102
	2.8 Masses and Mass Ratios	103
	2.8.1 Methodologies of Measurement	103
	2.8.2 Masses of the Primaries	107
	2.8.3 Mass–Radius Relationship and Masses for the Secondaries	109
	2.9 Primaries and Secondaries	111
	2.9.1 Temperatures of the Primaries	111
	2.9.2 Radii of the Primaries	113
	2.9.3 Spectra of the Primaries	115
	2.9.4 Spectral Types of the Secondaries	115
	2.9.5 Photometric Properties of the Secondaries	116
	2.9.6 Irradiation of the Secondary	119
	2.9.7 X-Rays from Secondary Stars	125
	3 Dwarf Novae	126
	3.1 Well-Observed DN	126
	3.2 DN In Quiescence	127
	3.2.1 Spectra of DN in Quiescence	127
	3.2.2 Photometry of DN in Quiescence	131
	3.2.3 Absolute Magnitudes at Minimum Light: $M_v(\min)$	138
	3.2.4 X-Rays in Quiescence	139
	3.3 Outbursts of DN	140
	3.3.1 Morphology	140
	3.3.2 Outburst Frequencies	142
	3.3.3 Correlations	143
	3.3.3.1 Statistics of Outburst Behaviour	143
	3.3.3.2 The Kukarkin–Parenago Relation	143
	3.3.3.3 The Correlations of $M_v(\min)$ and $M_v(\text{mean})$ with T_n	145
	3.3.3.4 The $M_v(\max)$ – P_{orb} Relation	146
	3.3.3.5 The Decay Time– P_{orb} and Outburst Width– P_{orb} Relations	146
	3.3.4 Photometric Behaviour	147

<i>Contents</i>	xi
3.3.4.1 Colour Variations	148
3.3.4.2 Luminosity Variations	149
3.3.4.3 Eclipse Profiles and Accretion Disc Radii	150
3.3.4.4 Optical Polarization	152
3.3.5 Spectra During Outburst	153
3.3.5.1 Line Spectra	153
3.3.5.2 Flux Distributions during Outburst	155
3.3.5.3 Secular Trends Between Outbursts	160
3.3.5.4 Outburst Precursors	161
3.3.6 X-Rays During Outburst	161
3.3.7 Radio Observations of DN	163
3.4 Standstills: The Z Camelopardalis Stars	163
3.5 Theories and Models of DN Outbursts	167
3.5.1 Early Developments	167
3.5.2 The Theory of Mass Transfer Instability (MTI)	168
3.5.3 The Theory of DI	169
3.5.3.1 Early Development	169
3.5.3.2 The S-Curve in the Σ - T_e Plane	170
3.5.3.3 Stability of an Annulus	172
3.5.3.4 The Thermal Limit Cycle	173
3.5.3.5 The Region of DI	174
3.5.4 Time-Dependent Disc Models	175
3.5.4.1 Transition Waves	175
3.5.4.2 Model Light Curves	179
3.5.4.3 Variations in Disc Radii	183
3.5.4.4 Disc Radial Temperature Distributions	184
3.5.4.5 Theoretical Outburst Intervals	185
3.6 Superoutbursts: The SU UMa Stars	187
3.6.1 Morphology of Superoutbursts	188
3.6.2 Superoutburst Frequencies	188
3.6.3 Correlations	191
3.6.4 Photometry of Superoutbursts	192
3.6.4.1 Photometry of Superhumps	194
3.6.4.2 Onset of Superhumps	195
3.6.4.3 The Interregnum	197
3.6.4.4 Superhump Periods: The Beat Cycle	197
3.6.4.5 Late Superhumps	199
3.6.4.6 Location of the SLS: Eclipses and Eclipse Mapping	199
3.6.5 Spectroscopy During Superoutbursts	202
3.6.5.1 RVs During Superoutbursts	202
3.6.6 Theories and Models of Superoutbursts	203
3.6.6.1 Historical Overview of Superhump Models	203
3.6.6.2 The Tidal Resonance Model	205
3.6.6.3 Superhump Chronology	209
3.6.6.4 The Nature of the Superoutburst	211
3.7 Energetics of DN Outbursts	214
3.7.1 Normal Outbursts	214
3.7.2 Superoutbursts	214

xii	<i>Contents</i>	
	4 Nova-like Variables and Nova Remnants	216
	4.1 Classifications	216
	4.2 Spectroscopic Observations	221
	4.2.1 The RW Tri Stars	223
	4.2.2 The UX UMa Stars	226
	4.2.3 The SW Sex Stars	232
	4.2.4 The VY Scl Stars	235
	4.2.5 NRs	237
	4.2.5.1 Classical NRs	237
	4.2.5.2 RN in Quiescence	240
	4.3 Photometry of NLs	242
	4.3.1 Long Term Brightness Variations	242
	4.3.2 VY Scl Stars	243
	4.3.3 Absolute Magnitudes of NLs	245
	4.3.4 Orbital Brightness Variations	245
	4.3.5 Flickering in NLs	247
	4.4 Photometric Observations of Novae at Minimum Light	248
	4.4.1 Pre-Eruption Light Curves	248
	4.4.2 Post-Eruption Light Curves	249
	4.4.3 Absolute Magnitudes of NRs	251
	4.4.4 Brightness Modulations on Orbital Time Scales	253
	4.4.4.1 Orbital Modulation	253
	4.4.4.2 Eclipse Mapping	253
	4.5 Multiple Periodicities	254
	4.6 Radio Emission	256
	5 Novae in Eruption	257
	5.1 Nova Discovery	257
	5.2 Photometry of Nova Eruptions	258
	5.2.1 Morphology of Nova Visual Light Curves	258
	5.2.2 Colours of Novae	261
	5.2.3 Absolute Magnitude versus Rate of Decline	263
	5.2.4 Range versus Rate of Decline	266
	5.2.5 Absolute Magnitude at $t = 15$ d	266
	5.2.6 Flux Distributions and Luminosities	266
	5.2.7 IR Photometry	267
	5.3 Spectroscopy of Nova Eruptions	270
	5.3.1 Pre-Maximum Spectra	270
	5.3.2 The Principal Spectrum	271
	5.3.3 The Diffuse Enhanced Spectrum	272
	5.3.4 The Orion Spectrum	273
	5.3.5 The Nebular Spectrum	274
	5.3.6 Neon Novae	275
	5.3.7 Modern Spectral Classification	277
	5.3.8 Geometry of the Ejected Envelope	279
	5.3.9 Ejecta Abundances and Masses	279
	5.4 Radio Observations of Novae	280
	5.4.1 Radio Light Curves	280

<i>Contents</i>	xiii
5.4.2 Radio Images	282
5.5 X-Ray Observations	282
5.6 Nova Shells	283
5.6.1 Expansion Parallaxes	284
5.6.2 Geometry of Nova Shells	284
5.6.3 Abundances in Nova Shells	285
5.7 Light Echoes	286
5.8 Theory of Nova Eruptions	287
5.8.1 The Nova Process	287
5.8.2 Nuclear Reactions	288
5.8.3 The Nova Progress	291
5.8.4 Continuous Ejection	293
5.8.5 Common Envelope Phase	294
5.8.6 Evolution through a Complete Nova Cycle	295
5.8.7 Novae and the Interstellar Medium	298
5.8.8 QPOs During Eruption	298
5.9 RN	299
5.9.1 The T Pyx Subclass	299
5.9.2 The U Sco Subclass	299
5.9.3 The T CrB Subclass	300
5.9.4 Amplitudes and Recurrences	302
5.9.5 Theory of RN	302
5.10 Symbiotic Novae	303
6 Polars	307
6.1 Historical Development	307
6.2 Magnetically-Controlled Accretion for Synchronous Rotation	308
6.2.1 The Magnetosphere	308
6.2.2 The Accretion Stream	313
6.2.3 The Standard Accretion Column	317
6.2.4 Cyclotron Emission	321
6.2.5 Inhomogeneous Accretion	323
6.3 Photometric and Polarimetric Observations	326
6.3.1 Long Term Light Curves	326
6.3.2 Orbital Variations	326
6.3.2.1 Geometrical Considerations	328
6.3.2.2 V834 Centauri	329
6.3.2.3 ST Leo Minoris	330
6.3.2.4 VV Puppis	330
6.3.2.5 Two-Pole Accretion in Other Systems	334
6.3.2.6 Eclipsing Polars	334
6.3.3 Magnetic Field Strengths from Polarization	336
6.3.4 Low State Observations	338
6.3.5 IR Ellipsoidal Variations	339
6.3.6 Flickering, Flaring and QPOs	339
6.4 X-Ray Observations of Polars	343
6.4.1 The Hard X-Ray Spectrum	343
6.4.2 Soft X-Ray and UV Spectrum	344

xiv	<i>Contents</i>	
	6.4.3 The Ratio of Soft to Hard X-Ray Flux	346
	6.4.4 X-Ray Light Curves	348
	6.4.5 X-Ray Variability	351
	6.5 Spectroscopic Observations	352
	6.5.1 The Line Spectrum of the Accretion Flow	352
	6.5.1.1 Physical Conditions in the Gas	354
	6.5.1.2 Emission-Line Profiles	354
	6.5.1.3 Location of the Line Emitting Regions	356
	6.5.2 Spectrum of the Secondary	357
	6.5.3 Field Strengths from Zeeman Splitting	358
	6.5.4 Field Strengths from Cyclotron Harmonics	360
	6.6 Synchronization of the Primary	361
	6.7 Magnetic Fields and Nova Eruptions	364
	6.8 Radio Emission	366
	6.9 Gamma-Ray Observations	366
	7 Intermediate Polars	367
	7.1 Historical Development	367
	7.2 Magnetically-Controlled Accretion for Asynchronous Rotation	368
	7.2.1 Accretion from a Disc	369
	7.2.2 Accretion without a Disc	376
	7.2.3 Accretion Torques and Primary Spin Rate	378
	7.2.4 Instabilities in Truncated Discs	380
	7.3 Photometric Variations	382
	7.3.1 Long Term Light Curves	382
	7.3.2 Orbital Modulations	382
	7.3.3 Rotational Modulations	383
	7.3.3.1 $P_{\text{rot}}(1)$ and P_{syn}	383
	7.3.3.2 Flux Distributions of the Pulsed Sources	385
	7.3.3.3 Reprocessing Site: Bright Spot or Secondary?	386
	7.3.4 Optical Orbital Sidebands	386
	7.3.5 Period Changes	388
	7.3.5.1 Variation of Orbital Period	388
	7.3.5.2 Variations of Rotation Period	388
	7.4 Polarimetric Observations	391
	7.5 X-Ray Observations	392
	7.5.1 X-Ray Light Curves	392
	7.5.1.1 Orbital Modulation	392
	7.5.1.2 Rotational Modulation	393
	7.5.1.3 X-Ray Orbital Sidebands	397
	7.5.2 X-Ray Fluxes and Spectra	397
	7.5.3 Magnetic Moments from Rates of Mass Transfer	399
	7.6 Spectroscopic Observations	400
	7.6.1 Line Profiles and Modulations: Theory	400
	7.6.2 Line Profiles and Modulations: Observation	402
	7.6.3 Orbital Sidebands	403
	7.6.4 Eclipse Disturbance	405

<i>Contents</i>	<i>xv</i>
7.6.5 Orbital S-Wave and Conditions in the Bright Spot	405
7.6.6 Flux Distributions	406
7.7 Outbursts	408
7.8 Radio Emission	411
8 DQ Her Stars and Other Rapid Rotators	412
8.1 DQ Her	412
8.1.1 Photometry of the 71 s Oscillations	412
8.1.2 Polarimetric Observations of DQ Her	414
8.1.3 Spectroscopic Observations of DQ Her	414
8.1.4 Models of the 71 s Oscillations in DQ Her	415
8.1.5 Radio Emission	416
8.2 AE Aqr	417
8.2.1 Photometry of AE Aqr	417
8.2.2 Polarization of AE Aqr	419
8.2.3 X-Ray Observations of AE Aqr	419
8.2.4 Radio Observations of AE Aqr	419
8.2.5 Gamma-Ray Observations of AE Aqr	420
8.2.6 The Energetics of AE Aqr	420
8.3 V533 Her	420
8.4 WZ Sge	421
8.5 Magnetic Fields in the DQ Her Stars	422
8.6 DNOs	422
8.6.1 Introduction	422
8.6.2 DNO Behaviour During Outburst	426
8.6.3 Phase Shifts and Stability of DNOs	427
8.6.4 X-Ray Observations of DNOs	430
8.6.4.1 SS Cyg	430
8.6.4.2 U Gem	431
8.6.4.3 VW Hyi	432
8.6.5 Models of DNOs	432
8.6.5.1 Statistical Models	432
8.6.5.2 Physical Models	434
8.7 QPOs	437
8.8 Distribution of Magnetic Moments in CVs	439
9 Evolution of CVs	441
9.1 Transfer and Loss of Mass and Angular Momentum	441
9.1.1 Mass and Angular Momentum Transfer	441
9.1.2 Angular Momentum Loss	443
9.1.2.1 Magnetic Braking in Single Stars	443
9.1.2.2 Magnetic Braking in Binaries	445
9.1.2.3 Braking by Gravitational Radiation	447
9.1.3 Tidal Synchronization and Circularization	447
9.2 Pre-Cataclysmic Evolution	449
9.2.1 CE Binaries	450
9.2.1.1 Evolution into Contact	450
9.2.1.2 Dynamical Mass Transfer	450

xvi	<i>Contents</i>	
	9.2.1.3 The CE	450
	9.2.2 Observtions of Pre-Cataclysmic Binaries	452
	9.2.2.1 PN	452
	9.2.2.2 PN Nuclei	453
	9.2.2.3 Other Detached Binaries	453
	9.2.3 Evolution into Contact	453
9.3	Secular Evolution	457
	9.3.1 Response of the Secondary Star	457
	9.3.2 The Minimum Orbital Period	461
	9.3.3 The Period Gap	464
	9.3.4 Evolved Secondaries	466
	9.3.5 The Effects of Nova Eruptions	467
	9.3.6 Spin Evolution of the Primary	468
	9.3.7 Evolution of Magnetic Systems	469
	9.3.7.1 Orbital Evolution	469
	9.3.7.2 Spin Evolution	470
9.4	Departures from Evolutionary Equilibrium	471
	9.4.1 Evolved Secondaries	471
	9.4.2 Magnetism in the Secondaries	472
	9.4.3 Cyclical Evolution and Hibernation	475
	9.4.4 Temperature Evolution of the Primaries	478
9.5	Space Densities and Population Characteristics	479
	9.5.1 DN and other low $\dot{M}(2)$ Systems	480
	9.5.2 Nova-Like Systems	483
	9.5.3 CN	483
	9.5.4 Population Models	484
	9.5.4.1 Pre-Cataclysmic Systems	484
	9.5.4.2 CV Populations	485
	9.5.4.3 Selection Effects	485
9.6	CVs in Clusters	486
9.7	Ultimate Evolution	488
	9.7.1 Hydrogen-Rich Systems	488
	9.7.2 Helium-Rich Systems	489
	9.7.2.1 The AM Canis Venaticorum Stars: Discovery and Nature	489
	9.7.2.2 Spectroscopy of the AM CVn Stars	491
	9.7.2.3 Photometry of AM CVn Stars	495
	9.7.2.4 The Structure of AM CVn Stars	497
	9.7.2.5 Helium Accretion Discs	499
	9.7.2.6 Space Density of AM CVn Stars	500
	9.7.3 Supernovae from CVs	501
	<i>References</i>	502
	<i>Object index</i>	563
	<i>Subject index</i>	568