

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-84330-0 - Classical Novae, Second Edition
Edited by Michael F. Bode and Aneurin Evans
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CLASSICAL NOVAE

Second Edition

Since the first edition of this book was published, knowledge regarding the nova phenomenon has grown significantly. This is due to the advent of new observational facilities, both on the ground and in space, and considerable advances in theoretical work. This second edition has been fully updated and revised and contains new contributions which comprehensively cover the important developments in this field, and reflect on interesting new insights into the outbursts of classical novae.

The book begins with an historical perspective and an overview of nova properties. It then examines in detail thermonuclear processes, the evolution of nova systems, nova atmospheres and winds, abundance studies, the evolution of dust and molecules in novae, nova remnants, and observations of novae in other galaxies. The book details knowledge gained from observations across the electromagnetic spectrum, from radio to gamma rays, and discusses some of the most important outstanding problems in classical nova research.

This is the only book devoted solely to the study of classical novae, and as such is an important reference for researchers actively engaged in the subject and graduate students seeking an introduction. The contributors to this book are internationally recognized experts in their field, and present a balanced mix of observation and theory.

MICHAEL BODE is Director of the Astrophysics Research Institute and Professor of Astrophysics at Liverpool John Moores University. His research interests include the study of novae, interstellar and circumstellar dusts, and the use of robotic telescopes to further ‘time domain astrophysics’ in general.

ANEURIN EVANS is Professor of Astrophysics at Keele University. His research interests include the study of novae, ‘born-again’ systems like ‘Sakurai’s Object’, the interstellar medium in globular clusters, and mapping the Galactic plane at sub-mm wavelengths.

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SECOND EDITION

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Contents

<i>List of contributors</i>	<i>page</i> x
<i>Preface to the first edition</i>	xii
<i>Preface to the second edition</i>	xiv
<i>List of symbols</i>	xv
1 Novae: an historical perspective	1
<i>Hilmar W. Duerbeck</i>	
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Definition of novae and related stars	1
1.3 Theories of novae until the mid twentieth century	3
1.4 Pre-telescopic discoveries, observations and catalogues	4
1.5 Modern discoveries, observations and catalogues	7
1.6 Photometric and spectroscopic properties of novae	7
1.7 Novae and related stars	10
1.8 Concluding remarks	12
<i>References</i>	13
2 Properties of novae: an overview	16
<i>Brian Warner</i>	
2.1 Introduction	16
2.2 Frequency and Galactic distribution of novae	16
2.3 Light curves during eruption	18
2.4 Relationships among amplitude, rate of decline, absolute magnitude and expansion velocity	19
2.5 Spectral evolution during eruption	23
2.6 Novae as close binaries	25
2.7 Recurrent novae	26
2.8 Novae in quiescence and before eruption	27
2.9 Magnetic novae	30
2.10 Rapid photometric oscillations in novae	31
2.11 Conclusions	31
<i>References</i>	32
	v

vi	Contents	
	3 The evolution of nova-producing binary stars	34
	<i>Icko Iben Jr. and Masayuki Y. Fujimoto</i>	
3.1	Introduction	34
3.2	Origin and evolution: overview	36
3.3	Mean mass transfer rates in CVs and symbiotic stars	38
3.4	A zeroth-order model for CV evolution	47
3.5	Hydrogen-burning outbursts and critical helium-layer masses	52
3.6	Over-abundances of heavy elements in the cyclical model	59
3.7	Mixing due to rotation-induced instabilities	63
3.8	Symbiotic star evolution	66
3.9	Remarks on CVs and symbiotic stars as Type Ia supernova precursors	72
	<i>References</i>	74
	4 Thermonuclear processes	77
	<i>Sumner Starrfield, Christian Iliadis and W. Raphael Hix</i>	
4.1	Introduction	77
4.2	The thermonuclear runaway	78
4.3	Initial conditions for the outburst	80
4.4	The effects of the nuclear reactions and reaction rates on the outburst	83
4.5	Multi-dimensional studies of the thermonuclear runaway	92
4.6	Nucleosynthesis in CO and ONe novae	94
4.7	Mass of the ejecta	95
4.8	Relationship of classical novae to supernovae of Type Ia	96
4.9	Summary and discussion	98
	<i>References</i>	99
	5 Nova atmospheres and winds	102
	<i>Peter H. Hauschildt</i>	
5.1	Introduction	102
5.2	Modeling nova atmospheres and spectra	103
5.3	Results: theory	105
5.4	Results: comparison with observations	113
5.5	Summary and conclusions	117
	<i>References</i>	120
	6 Observational mysteries and theoretical challenges for abundance studies	121
	<i>Jordi José and Steven N. Shore</i>	
6.1	Introduction	121
6.2	Photo-ionization analysis of the ejecta	121
6.3	Dust in novae: some open questions	127
6.4	Multi-dimensional modeling of a nova outburst: progress and prospects	131

Contents	vii
6.5 The nuclear perspective	134
6.6 Closing remarks	137
<i>References</i>	138
7 Radio emission from novae	141
<i>E. R. Seaquist and M. F. Bode</i>	
7.1 Introduction	141
7.2 Nature and measurement of radio emission from novae	141
7.3 Radio thermal bremsstrahlung from an expanding cloud	142
7.4 Shell kinematics	147
7.5 Discussion of selected classical novae: first class data	150
7.6 Discussion of selected classical novae: second class data	159
7.7 Estimates of distance, shell mass and kinetic energy	160
7.8 Radio emission from related objects	162
7.9 Concluding remarks	163
<i>References</i>	165
8 Infrared studies of classical novae	167
<i>Robert D. Gehrz</i>	
8.1 Introduction	167
8.2 Nova explosions in the context of Galactic chemical evolution	167
8.3 The infrared temporal development of novae	168
8.4 Determination of physical parameters	171
8.5 Abundances in nova ejecta	183
8.6 Nova grain properties	185
8.7 Spitzer Space Telescope observations of classical novae	188
8.8 Summary and conclusions	190
<i>References</i>	191
9 Optical and ultraviolet evolution	194
<i>Steven N. Shore</i>	
9.1 Introduction	194
9.2 The ultraviolet–optical connection and the production of the visible spectrum	195
9.3 Stages of the spectral development and the light curve	198
9.4 Structure of the unresolved ejecta	210
9.5 Mass determinations for the ejecta	222
9.6 The X-ray turn-off seen from the ultraviolet	223
9.7 Recurrent novae as special cases	225
9.8 Summary	228
<i>References</i>	230
10 X-ray emission from classical novae in outburst	232
<i>Joachim Krautter</i>	
10.1 Introduction	232
10.2 Sources of X-rays	233

viii	Contents	
10.3	X-ray light curves	234
10.4	The soft component	236
10.5	The hard component	242
10.6	Re-establishment of accretion	244
10.7	Emission line spectra	245
10.8	Short-term variability	245
10.9	Concluding remarks	249
	<i>References</i>	250
11	Gamma-rays from classical novae	252
	<i>Margarita Hernanz</i>	
11.1	Introduction	252
11.2	Origin of gamma-rays from novae	254
11.3	Gamma-ray spectra and light curves of individual novae	263
11.4	Cumulative Galactic gamma-ray emission of novae	270
11.5	Observations	272
11.6	Observations with INTEGRAL	278
11.7	Discussion	279
	<i>References</i>	282
12	Resolved nebular remnants	285
	<i>T. J. O’Brien and M. F. Bode</i>	
12.1	Introduction	285
12.2	Optical and near-infrared imagery	286
12.3	The combination of optical imaging and spectroscopy	294
12.4	Radio imagery	297
12.5	Remnant shaping	299
12.6	GK Persei	301
12.7	Concluding remarks	303
	<i>References</i>	306
13	Dust and molecules in nova environments	308
	<i>A. Evans and J. M. C. Rawlings</i>	
13.1	Introduction	308
13.2	Molecules in nova ejecta	308
13.3	Observation of dust in nova ejecta	312
13.4	Chemistry in nova winds	318
13.5	Dust formation and growth	325
13.6	The ‘chemical dichotomy’ in nova dust	327
13.7	Processing of dust	327
13.8	Nova remnants	328
13.9	Isotopic ratios	330
13.10	Concluding remarks	331
	<i>References</i>	333

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-84330-0 - Classical Novae, Second Edition
Edited by Michael F. Bode and Aneurin Evans
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

<i>Contents</i>	ix
14 Extragalactic novae	335
<i>Allen W. Shafter</i>	
14.1 Introductory remarks	335
14.2 Nova populations	338
14.3 Extragalactic nova rates	345
14.4 Novae as distance indicators	350
14.5 Directions for future studies	355
<i>References</i>	357
 <i>Object index</i>	 360
<i>Subject index</i>	365

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

List of contributors xi

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Preface to the first edition

Some years ago we blundered, almost by accident, into the field of classical novae. Our prime interest at the time was in their dust formation properties and infrared development; however, it soon became evident that a full understanding of this relatively restricted aspect of the nova outburst could not be achieved without considering *all* aspects of the nova phenomenon. Fortunately, from our point of view, the 1970s was a decade during which several significant advances were made in the understanding of classical novae on both observational and theoretical fronts. Accordingly we were able to take advantage of these advances as they appeared in the research literature. However, with the exception of occasional published conference proceedings, it was apparent that no text existed that covered all aspects – both theoretical and observational – of the classical nova phenomenon.

This book arose out of a casual conversation with Dr Jim Truran during which we bemoaned the fact that there seemed to be no modern equivalent of *the* classic book on the subject, Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin's *The Galactic Novae*. It seemed to us that such a volume was long overdue. However, it was clear that, with rapid developments in several aspects of the study of novae, no single author could do justice to all the relevant theoretical and multi-wavelength observational material. It was for this reason that we decided to opt for the multi-author approach that the reader will find in this volume. Our initial hope was to produce an up-to-date replacement for *The Galactic Novae*. We now realize, of course, that such an aim was foolhardy, not to say arrogant: Payne-Gaposchkin's book will always remain a classic and we can only hope that present-day and future workers in the field will see fit to use *Classical Novae* to complement *The Galactic Novae*.

Our aim has been to put together a book that presents a balanced mix of observation and theory, without presenting any particular point of view too dogmatically. The book begins with an overview of the general properties of novae, then progresses to discuss the accretion process in nova systems and the physics of the nova outburst. Historically, of course, most of the published observational work on novae has been carried out in the optical, and it is therefore appropriate that a good deal of attention is devoted to a discussion of the available optical data. Also discussed in this context is the way in which optical data relate to major aspects of the nova outburst and to observations at other wavelengths. Subsequent chapters discuss in turn the observational data at radio, infrared, ultraviolet and X-ray wavelengths. The penultimate chapter seeks to place classical novae in the broader family of cataclysmic variables. We hope that the contents will prove useful not only to those familiar with the field of classical novae but also to those in other disciplines who may wish to find a balanced overview of a particular aspect, or who wish to find a particular reference; Chapter 13, on 'Data on Novae', should prove especially valuable in this respect.

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Preface to the first edition

xiii

This book has had an extremely long gestation period: it has taken far longer from initial conception to delivery than we had originally intended (indeed during this time one of the editors has taken up positions in four different research establishments!). However, even since the first drafts of the various chapters came to hand, there have been a number of significant developments in the field, including the discovery of the remarkable radio remnant associated with the old nova GK Per, the detection of X-ray emission from GQ Mus during its 1983 outburst, the availability of the IRAS satellite infrared data, the realization that the primary in some novae must be O-Ne-Mg white dwarfs and the proposed ‘hibernation’ of novae between outbursts. Had we kept to our original schedule the book would have become dated rather quickly. However, the time had now come to draw a line and to leave any further developments to future volumes. We would very much like, therefore, to express our heartfelt thanks to the contributing authors, some of whom must have despaired at times of ever seeing their chapters in print. We would also like to record our thanks to various workers and institutions who have granted permission to reproduce material from the published literature.

Finally we must record our gratitude and debt to John Wiley & Sons Ltd and their officers, not only for taking on this venture but also for their ready help and patience during its preparation and production.

MIKE BODE

September 1988

NYE EVANS

Preface to the second edition

First conceived around 1981, the first edition of *Classical Novae* was published in 1989, after rather a long gestation period. This was at a time when the International Ultraviolet Explorer observatory was still going strong, the Hubble Space Telescope and the ROSAT X-ray observatory still lay in the future, and observatories that are now delivering data of stunning quality, such as Chandra, XMM and Spitzer, were still on the drawing board. Despite the comment in the preface to the first edition ‘had we kept to our original schedule the book would have become dated rather quickly’, *Classical Novae* dated *very* quickly, as was inevitable.

We had toyed with the idea of a second edition for some time. It was clear that tinkering at the edges of the first edition would not do: so much had changed since the publication of what we began to refer to as ‘CNI’. There were of course the inevitable advances in the quality and nature of the observations’ over the entire electromagnetic spectrum, and in our theoretical understanding of the classical nova phenomenon as computing power grew. However, there was also the advent of the NASA Astrophysics Data System (ADS), and the facility to prepare a finding chart at the click of a mouse button (R. A. Downes & M. M. Shara 1989, *PASP* **105**, 127): who could have foreseen this when CNI was being compiled? The latter two rendered the *Data on Novae* chapter of the first edition completely obsolete. There was no alternative but to start what inevitably became known as ‘CNII’ effectively with a clean sheet.

The catalyst for reinvigorating our enthusiasm for the second edition was the highly successful *Classical Nova Explosions* meeting, held at Sitges, Catalonia, Spain, in May 2002 (M. Hernanz & J. Jose, eds., *American Institute of Physics Conference Proceedings*, Vol. **637**, New York: Melville). This gave us the opportunity to corner several potential authors and invite them to contribute. Even so at least 18 months passed before we were able to negotiate our release from Wiley and to enter discussions with Cambridge University Press.

On the whole the content of CNII differs from that of CNI, and much has changed in this edition (not least the wanderlust of editors). However, several of the authors who contributed to the first edition have also been persuaded to contribute to the second, and the general mix of observation and theory is retained. As far as possible the notation used in the first edition is carried over into the second edition.

We take this opportunity of thanking the authors for their contributions and their willingness to take on board comments and suggestions from the editors, Jacqueline Garget, Vince Higgs, Dawn Preston, and Lindsay Nightingale of Cambridge University Press, and Suresh Kumar and Johnny Sebastian of TEX support, for their advice and support; and the officers of J. Wiley & Sons for releasing us and the contributors to CNI from our obligations with them.

List of symbols

We have attempted to standardize the notation and, as far as possible, the symbols used are the same as those used in the first edition. Included in the right hand column of the listing under ‘other symbols’ below is the chapter number where each symbol is first defined. Inevitably, some symbols are used for more than one quantity, but where this does occur, the correct meaning should be clear and there should be no ambiguity.

Physical and astronomical constants

c	velocity of light
G	gravitational constant
h	Planck’s constant
k	Boltzmann’s constant
$L_{\odot}$	solar luminosity
m_H	mass of hydrogen atom
$M_{\odot}$	solar mass
N_A	Avogadro’s number
$R_{\odot}$	solar radius
σ	Stefan–Boltzmann constant

Other symbols

Roman characters

a	grain radius	8
a_{grav}	gravitational acceleration	5
a_{max}	maximum grain radius	8
a_n	MMRD constant	2
a_{rad}	radiative acceleration	5
A	amplitude in magnitudes of outburst	2
	atomic mass	11
	constant in the law describing the density profile	7
	semimajor axis of orbit	3
A_V	visual extinction in magnitudes	8
A_0	density parameter at $t = t_0$	7

xvi	<i>List of symbols</i>	
b_{crit}	impact parameter (of wind accretion)	3
b_n	MMRD constant	2
B	magnetic field	2
	blue magnitude	2
B_λ, B_ν	Planck function in wavelength/frequency units	7, 8
$C(m)$	completeness function	14
D	distance to nova	7
$\mathbf{D}$	gradient of rotational velocity	3
D_{max}	maximum observable distance	3
$E(B - V)$	colour excess due to dust extinction	9
E_{H}	energy released per unit mass by fusion of hydrogen	3
E_{sp}	specific energy	3
f	flux density	7
f_{max}	maximum flux density	7
f_{min}	minimum detectable flux	3
f_{ONe}	fraction of ONe novae	11
f_λ, f_ν	flux in unit wavelength/frequency interval	7, 8
g	acceleration of gravity	5
h_{p}	pressure scale height	6
H_{disk}	scale height of Galactic disk	3
i	inclination to the plane of the sky	12
I	intensity	8
j_{b}	emission measure at time t_{b}	9
J	mean intensity of radiation field	5
J_{orb}	orbital angular momentum	3
J_{s}	spin angular momentum	3
$\dot{J}_{\text{GWR}}$	rate of change of angular momentum due to gravitational radiation	3
$\dot{J}_{\text{MSW}}$	rate of change of angular momentum due to magnetic stellar wind	3
$\dot{J}_{\text{orb}}$	rate of change of orbital angular momentum	3
K	infrared (K) magnitude	14
$K_\rho^{(\text{H})}, K_\rho^{(\text{V})}$	material diffusivity in the horizontal and vertical directions	3
ℓ	length scale of emitting region	7
	thickness of ejected shell	8
l_{max}	maximum length scale of eddies	6
	characteristic length scale of hydrodynamic instabilities	3
l_{mix}	mixing length	3
L	luminosity	3
L_{bol}	bolometric luminosity	5

<i>List of symbols</i>	xviii
luminosity at blue point of central star of planetary nebula	3
luminosity of donor star	3
Eddington luminosity	8
luminosity due to hydrogen burning	3
luminosity of helium star	3
hard X-ray luminosity	10
infrared luminosity	8
maximum luminosity	9
luminosity of red giant	3
luminosity of nova	3
peak luminosity of TNR	4
plateau luminosity	3
Lyman continuum luminosity	7
luminosity of white dwarf	3
luminosity at outburst	8
apparent visual magnitude	2
apparent magnitude at minimum, maximum	14
apparent photographic magnitude	14
limiting apparent photographic magnitude	14
light curve decline rate	14
mass	3
total mass of star	3
mass of accretor star	3
mass accreted	3
absolute bolometric magnitude	9
Chandrasekhar mass	9
mass of electron-degenerate CO or ONe core	3
critical accreted mass for TNR	3
mass of convective shell	3
mass of donor star	3
mass of dust shell	8
dredge-up mass	3
mass of hydrogen-rich envelope	3
mass of ejecta	7
mass of ejected gas	8
mass of hydrogen in shell	10
mass of helium core	3
initial mass of helium layer on white dwarf	3
absolute magnitude at minimum, maximum	2
absolute photographic magnitude	14
Galactic mass isotope A contributed by novae	11
mass of planetary nebula central star	3
net remnant mass	3
critical hydrogen-rich envelope mass	3
mass of shocked gas	10

xviii	<i>List of symbols</i>	
M_t	total binary mass	3
M_V	absolute visual magnitude	2
M_{WD}	mass of white dwarf	3
$\langle M_{15} \rangle$	absolute magnitude 15 days post-maximum	2
M_2	mass of secondary star	2
$\dot{M}$	mass transfer rate in binary	2
	mass loss rate	5
$\dot{M}_{acc}$	mass accretion rate	3
$\dot{M}_{bp}$	mass accretion rate at blue point	3
$\dot{M}_H$	rate of hydrogen burning	3
$\dot{M}_{nova}^{pl}$	rate of burning mass during plateau phase	3
$\dot{M}_{RG}$	mass loss rate from red giant or sub-giant	3
$\dot{M}_{rgw}$	mass loss rate from red giant or AGB star wind	3
$\dot{M}_{MSW}$	mass loss rate due to magnetic stellar wind	3
$\dot{M}_w$	wind mass loss rate from erupting star	3
n	number density	13
n_e	number density of electrons	3
n_H	number density of hydrogen	5
n_i	number density of ions	5
$\mathcal{N}$	Brunt–Väisälä frequency	3
N_X	abundance by number of element X	3
N_H	hydrogen column density	3
$N_{GWR},$	number of interacting binaries in Galaxy below/above period gap	3
N_{MSW}		
N_{gap}	number of CVs in the Galaxy in the period gap	3
N_{nova}	number of novae observed	14
N_{obs}	number of observed systems	3
$\langle N_{fast} \rangle,$	number of fast/slow accretion systems in the Galaxy	3
$\langle N_{slow} \rangle$		
p	exponent in density law	7
P	pressure	13
P_{crit}	critical pressure for thermonuclear ignition	4
P_{orb}, P_{rot}	orbital/rotation period	2
q	mass ratio M_d/M_a	3
$\langle Q_a \rangle, \langle Q_e \rangle$	Planck mean absorptivity/emissivity	8, 13
r	radial coordinate	5
r'	Sloan r' magnitude	14
r_{red}	$= \dot{M}_w/\dot{M}_H$	3
R	apparent R magnitude	9
	radius	3
	spectral resolution	8
$\mathcal{R}$	nova rate	11

<i>List of symbols</i>		xix
R_{bp}	radius at blue point of central star of planetary nebula	3
R_{cond}	dust condensation radius	8
R_{d}	radius of donor star	3
R_{He}	radius of helium star	3
R_{HeWD}	radius of helium white dwarf	3
R_{i}	inner radius of shell	7
R_{in}	inner radius of nova atmosphere	5
R_{L}	Roche lobe radius	3
R_{L1}	radius to L1 point	3
R_{max}	maximum radius	3
R_{o}	outer radius of shell	7
R_{out}	outer radius of nova atmosphere	5
R_{WD}	radius of white dwarf	3
Rf	flux-Richardson number	3
Ri	Richardson number	3
$R_{\tau_{\text{std}}}$	effective radius at τ_{std}	5
S	entropy	3
	superheat of grain	8
t	time	2
$\langle t \rangle$	mean period of nova visibility	14
t_{b}	time of break in He II emissivity	7
t_{blue}	lifetime of nuclear burning evolution of blue phase	3
t_{cond}	grain condensation time	8
t_{d}	time of maximum emission from forming dust shell	8
t_{H}	hydrogen burning time-scale	3
t_{i}	ionization time-scale of ejected shell	8
t_{max}	time of maximum radio flux	7
t_n	time for light curve to decay n magnitudes from peak	1
t_{PN}	time-scale for hydrogen burning by central stars of planetary nebulae	3
t_{r}	time between outbursts	2
t_{red}	lifetime of nuclear burning evolution of red phase	3
t_{s}	time-scale for increase in Strömgren sphere radius	9
t_{T}	time for spectral energy distribution to depart from black body	8
t_0	turn-off time of photoionizing source	9
	time parameter in wind mass ejection law	7
t_1	time-scale over which mass is ejected	7
T	temperature	4
T_{b}	temperature at base of envelope	6
	brightness temperature	7
T_{BB}	black body temperature	8
T_{blue}	theoretical prediction of lifetime of blue phase	3
T_{cond}	condensation temperature of grains	8
T_{d}	dust grain temperature	8
T_{e}	electron temperature	7
$(T_{\text{e}})_{\text{bp}}$	effective temperature at blue point of central star of planetary nebula	3

xx	<i>List of symbols</i>	
T_{eff}	effective temperature	5
T_{gr}	grain colour temperature	8
T_{peak}	peak temperature of TNR	6
T_{rad}	temperature of radiation field	9
T_{red}	theoretical prediction of lifetime of red phase	3
T_{UV}	temperature derived from ultraviolet observations	5
v_K	luminosity-specific nova rate (at K)	14
V	velocity	3
	visual magnitude	9
V_{conv}	velocity of convection	3
V_{d}	equatorial velocity of donor star	3
V_{def}	velocity of the deflagration front	6
V_{ej}	velocity of ejecta	2
V_{G}	volume of the Galaxy	3
$V_{\text{i}}, V_{\text{o}}$	velocity of inner/outer shell boundary	7
V_{max}	maximum velocity	5
	maximum visual brightness	10
V_{rgw}	velocity of red giant wind	3
V_{w}	velocity of wind	3
V_{∞}	terminal velocity of wind	5
	velocity at infinity	3
X	mass fraction of hydrogen	3
X_i	abundance of the i th element	3
Y	mass fraction of helium	3
Z	atomic number	6
	mass fraction of metals	3
Z_{CNO}	mass fraction CNO elements	3

Greek characters

α	recombination coefficient	9
	radio spectral index	7
β	ratio of velocity to velocity of light	5
	spectral index of emissivity of dust	13
γ	electron-to-ion number ratio	7
δ	power law exponent of mass ejection rate	7
$\Delta M_{\text{He}}^{\text{det}}$	critical mass helium layer for detonation of carbon core of white dwarf	3
Δt_{gap}	time-scale for evolution through period gap	3

<i>List of symbols</i>		xxi
Δt_{RG}	time-scale for growth of red giant helium core	3
ΔX_{nuc}	mass fraction of H burnt	3
ΔY_{nuc}	mass fraction of helium produced in convective zone	3
ϵ_{nuc}	nuclear energy generation rate	4
ϵ_{grav}	gravothermal luminosity	3
θ	angular diameter	8
θ_{BB}	black body angular diameter	8
θ_{dust}	angular diameter of dust shell	8
θ_{gas}	angular diameter of ejected gas	8
θ_{max}	angular diameter at maximum radio flux	7
κ	absorption coefficient	7
κ_{ff}	Kramers (free–free) opacity	8
κ_{T}	Thomson scattering opacity	8
λ	wavelength	7
λ_{c}	free–free self-absorption cut-off wavelength	8
μ	mean atomic weight	7
μ_{e}	molecular mass per electron	3
ν	frequency	7
	viscosity	3
ξ	micro-turbulent velocity	5
ρ	mass density	5
ρ_{crit}	critical density for dust condensation	8
ρ_{d}	density of grain material	8
σ_{acc}	wind accretion capture cross-section	3
Σ_5	surface brightness at 5 GHz	12
τ	optical depth	5
	e-folding time of radioactive decay	11
τ_{burn}	nuclear burning time-scale	6
τ_{cycle}	duration of outburst cycle	3
τ_{ff}	free–free absorption optical depth	8
τ_{GWR}	time-scale for orbital shrinkage by gravitational wave radiation	3
τ_{H}	hydrogen burning time-scale	3
τ_{hyd}	dynamical time-scale	4
τ_J	time-scale for orbital angular momentum loss	3
τ_{lim}	mean nova lifetime	14
τ_{MSW}	lifetime of a long period CV	3
$\tau_{\text{obs}}^{\text{blue}}, \tau_{\text{obs}}^{\text{red}}$	observed lifetime of blue/red phase	3

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[More information](#)

xxii	<i>List of symbols</i>	
τ_{std}	standardized optical depth	5
τ_{th}	gravothermal time-scale	3
τ_{UV}	optical depth in the ultraviolet	9
$\tau_{\lambda}, \tau_{\nu}$	optical depth at wavelength λ /frequency ν	5, 7
$\tau_{1/2}$	radioactive half-life	4
ϕ	volume filling factor	7
$\omega_{\text{i,max}}$	upper bound on growth rates of hydrodynamical instabilities	3
Ω	angular velocity	3
Ω_{K}	angular velocity of Keplerian rotation	3