

The Golden Age of Cataclysmic Variables and Related Objects—III: Concluding Remarks

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The cataclysmic variables continue to represent important part of modern astrophysics, as demonstrated, already third time, by the conference Golden Age of Cataclysmic Variables and Related Objects III held on Mondello (Palermo) in September 2015.

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1. Introduction

Cataclysmic Variables (CVs) represents in many aspects true astrophysical laboratory where various physical processes and models may be observed, investigated, and tested. They even may play a significant role in the generation of galactic X-ray background, a consequence of surprisingly large fraction of CVs in hard X-ray sources detected by the ESA satellite INTEGRAL. Despite of large theoretical and experimental progress in last years there are still numerous important questions to be answered. Even for well known and studied objects such as SS Cyg or AE Aqr, there are still different opinions in the astronomical community about their nature and involved physical processes. The field is quite complex and interdisciplinary, and only such complex approach has a chance to deliver answers to our questions.

Many important questions regarding investigation of CVs and related objects were addressed in Palermo, not only during scientific sessions, but also during numerous discussions among participants. There were plenty opportunities for such discussions during coffee breaks, breakfasts, lunches and dinners, and also during various social activities, all this enjoying the pleasant atmosphere of Sicily (including delicious food, coffee, and wine).

2. Few subjective comments

The cataclysmic variables conference in Palermo represents, in my opinion, another successful workshop confirming Prof. Franco Giovannelli/Vulcano theorem (adopted from famous Vulcano Frascati workshops), namely that one can make serious science even keeping smiling. As already confirmed before by long series of Vulcano Frascati (and analogous) workshops, the key for productive workshop is as follows: nice environment, dining and staying together, enough (and good) wine (or beer in countries like Czech Republic). And great participants and speakers, of course, and last but not least experienced conference organizers. There was really wide international participation including countries we only rarely meet on conferences. There was participation of both field leaders as well as young scientists in our conference - many of them have got the possibility to meet the famous professors and senior scientists they know from the literature for the first time.

Personally, I have much appreciated the very high quality of most of invited and review talks. In my opinion, this is not trivial as we face the problem of declining quality of such talks at numerous other conferences.

There were nice carefully prepared reviews by various key speakers covering both theory as well as experiment. These lectures have illustrated and demonstrated the great progress both in theory as well as observation/experiment of CVs and related objects over last years. In addition to that, numerous new and mostly detailed observations on particular CVs were presented and discussed, mostly by young scientific fellows.

Common conclusion of many speakers was as follows: we need more and better data, as well as better statistics. Prospects of some of the future experiments/projects still need to be better formulated. In general, there is a need for better monitoring, multi-lambda observations, and in this direction Robotic Telescopes (RTs, e.g. GLORIA) and novel space experiments may help, as proposed and discussed during the workshop.

3. Selected pictures

In my opinion, the following selected pictures taken during the workshop may much better illustrate the scope, atmosphere, and success of the conference better than any more words.



Figure 1: Conference group photograph.



Figure 2: Conference organizers.

4. Conclusions

In my opinion, we definitely need this type of workshop, perhaps every 2 years or so. If compared to the situation 4 years ago when various future meeting sites were proposed and discussed, I have got feeling that this time, the opinion of majority of participants was unique: Franco Giovannelli and his team and Palermo/Sicily remains to be the best option. To conclude, see all of you again in Palermo in 2017.



Figure 3: Scientific sessions.



Figure 4: Scientific sessions.



Figure 5: Scientific sessions.

5. Acknowledgements

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Figure 6: Speakers.



Figure 7: Speakers.



Figure 8: Etruscan wine party.

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Figure 9: Coffee breaks with delicious Sicilian coffee.



Figure 10: Conference trip to Monreale, the weather was not very good.



Figure 11: Discussions among participants represent important part of the conference.



Figure 12: Discussions among participants represent important part of the conference.



Figure 13: Discussions among participants represent important part of the conference.