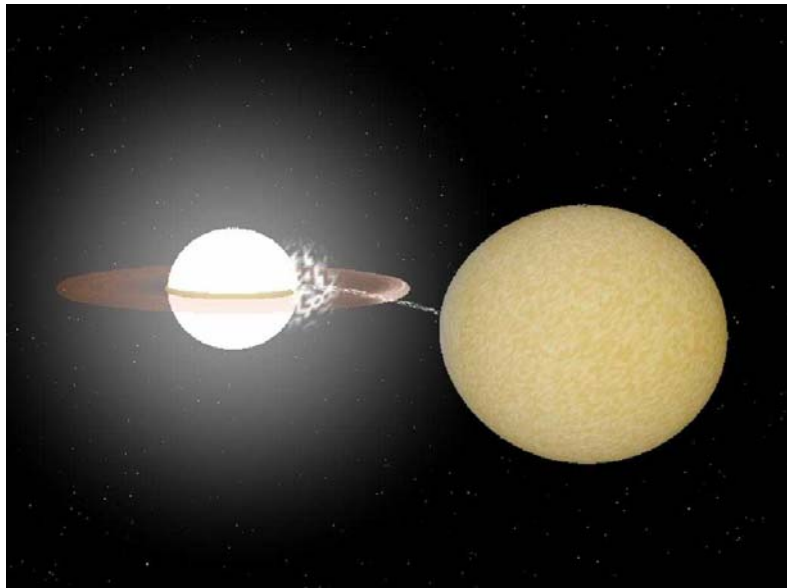


Ultracompact binaries at the crossroads of astrophysics

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Ultracompact binaries consisting of two stellar remnants in a very tight binary find themselves at the crossroads of a number of fields in astrophysics. They are the ultimate endpoint of binary evolution, they are possible progenitors of supernovae Type Ia, they are the strongest sources of low-frequency gravitational waves and through their gravitational and tidal interactions we can learn about the equation of state of degenerate, cold material. I will give an overview of the current state of knowledge of Ultracompact binaries and the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.