The Beginning and Ends of Double White Dwarfs



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Double White Dwarfs and the Incidence of Magnetism

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About 10% of white dwarfs in the solar neighborhood are strongly magnetic, with field strengths of up to 1000 MG. Curiously, high field magnetic white dwarfs are never found in wide binary systems with late-type stellar companions. This suggests that merging binaries within a common envelope may be required to explain the incidence of magnetism in these objects. However, there are also several high field magnetic white dwarfs known or suspected to be in common proper motion or short period binaries with other white dwarfs. I will present an overview of these systems, and also present time-series spectroscopic observations of an intriguing binary candidate.

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