The Beginnings and Ends of Double White Dwarfs

Contribution ID: **50** Type: **Talk**

Stellar mergers

Wednesday, 3 July 2019 10:10 (20 minutes)

There are several indications that stellar mergers are common outcomes of binary evolution. Mergers involving white dwarfs are linked to several classes of transients, such as supernova type, and may leave imprints in other observables as well, e.g. the WD mass distribution. The alleged excess of WDs with masses around 0.8solar masses has been linked to double white dwarf mergers. Here we present our results of a population synthesis study focused on stellar mergers. From a theoretical point of view, do we expect to see the imprint of double white dwarf mergers and other mergers on the WD mass distribution? And how about other demographics?

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Session Classification: Observed WD Populations 2