



Preface: Novae from radio to gamma rays

Nova (which comes from the Latin words for a new star, *stella nova*; the plural form being *novae* from *stellae novae*) represents a thermonuclear runaway event on a white dwarf due to accretion of matter from a companion star. Observationally it is seen as a sudden brightening of the star followed by a decline in brightness on time scales of months to years. With systematic monitoring of the sky by photographic means, and starting approximately with the discovery of T Aur around 1892, novae have been extensively catalogued and studied both in our Galaxy and external galaxies.

Since the publication of Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin's classic book titled *The Galactic Novae* in 1964, more recent developments particularly with the growth of multi-wavelength observations, have been very comprehensively presented in the book *Classical Novae* by M. F. Bode and N. Evans, the second edition of which was published in 2008. The field has grown rapidly in the last few years as well, and we thought it appropriate to summarize the current state of our understanding of different aspects of these objects by leading workers in the field. We have covered both theory and observations, with the latter ranging from the low-energy radio frequencies where there have been exciting new results especially from the Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array, to the high-energy γ -rays, where the long-awaited detection has come from the Fermi Large Area Telescope.

We hope that the current volume will provide easy access to excellent reviews describing the current status of the field in different areas. We thank all the authors for their contributions, and Sandra Rajiva for her help in putting the issue together.

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Editors of this issue