

Putting together the puzzle of common envelope evolution

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Common Envelope Evolution (CEE) is a critical phase in the evolution of binary stars. It is required to shrink the orbits of stars born in pairs towards much tighter configurations, with final orbital periods of days, hours, or even minutes. Many high-energy astrophysical phenomena are created this way: type Ia supernovae, X-ray binaries, or gravitational wave sources among others. Unfortunately, the CEE phase is also one of the most complex problems in modern-day stellar astrophysics. In my talk, I will explain what are the main pieces of the puzzle of CEE and how observations can help to put them together.

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