The Search for Binaries in Post-AGB Stars: Do Binary Companions Shape the Nebulae?

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- Motivation for question
- How to detect
- Photometric study
- Radial velocity study
- Results & Implications



(PhD thesis advisor: Robert H. Koch - binary stars)

Koch Memorial Conference (Villanova University, August 10-12 2011)

Shapes of planetary nebulae (PNs):

- Basic classification of round, elliptical, butterfly (Balick)
- Commonly show an axial or point symmetry

Shapes of proto-planetary nebulae (or pre-PNs, PPNs):

- Preceeding stage of evolution
- Star making transition from AGB to PN
- Images show the axial structure already formed
- Many are bipolar
- Some show an obscured equatorial region
- How is this formed? \rightarrow binary?
- PPNs are focus of this talk









HST images







What are possible mechanisms to produce axial and point symmetry?

- 1. Binary companion
 - Focusing mass loss into orbital plane --> disk (collimating outflow)
- 2. Rapid rotation
 - Spinning up star to increase mass loss at equator --> disk (This might be enhanced or sustained by a binary companion)
- 3. Magnetic field
 - Magnetically confined ionized mass outflow to bipolar lobes (Probably need a binary companion to sustain the magnetic field through transfer of angular momentum)
- Thus all 3 mechanisms appear to require or are sustained by a binary companion

Thus common to hear it stated that bipolar PNs and PPNs are due to or even imply a binary companion --> Let's examine this claim

Identification of PPNs: What are the difficulties?

- Short lifetime: few thousand years $(10^3 \text{yr}/10^9 \text{yr} \sim 15 \text{ min}/75 \text{ yr})$
- Partial obscuration by circumstellar gas, dust
- Prior to 1983, only a few known (ex., Egg Nebula)

Key to Discovery of PPNs: (led by Sun Kwok)

- Surrounding dust is cool, radiates in infrared
- IRAS satellite, all-sky survey (1983)
 - 4 wavelengths: 12, 25, 60 100 µm
 - ~250,000 objects
 - We selected candidates based on IR brightness and color
- Visible counterparts found by matching the positions of IRAS objects with stars in catalogs
- or (ideally) searches at telescope with IR detector





Properties of PPNs

- Objects evolving at constant L (AGB \rightarrow PPN \rightarrow PN), increasing T
- SpT: G B Iab central star
- Evidence of mass loss on AGB
 - Circumstellar envelope, seen in faint scattered visible light
 - CO gas, seen in sub-mm,
 - Dust, seen in mid-IR
 - $M(CSE)=0.1-0.5 M_{\odot}$
- Evidence of nucleosynthesis
 - Enhanced C, s-process elements
- Physical properties of star (ranges)
 - T: 5000 30,000 KL: $5000 - 10,000 \text{ L}_{\odot}$ (assumed)
 - R: $100 4 R_{\odot}$ M: 0.5 - 0.8 M_{\odot} (assumed)







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 - T: 5000 30,000 KL: $5000 - 10,000 \text{ L}_{\odot}$ (assumed)
 - R: $100 4 R_{\odot}$ M: 0.5 - 0.8 M_{\odot} (assumed)
 - ~100 PPNs & candidates





2. HOW TO DETECT BINARIES IN PPNs?

1. Photometric variations

- Eclipse unlikely unless very short P
- Irradiation effect: by a hot companion
- Ellipsoidal effect: tidal distortion

$$(P_{ptm} = P_{orbit})$$
$$2P_{ptm} = P_{orbit})$$

Methods used by Bond (2000), Miszalski et al. (2009), Hillwig & others to identify binary companions to central stars of PNs (CSPNs)

- Results: #=40, P = 1-8 d --> 10-20% of PNe have close binaries
- Periodic obscuration by circumbinary dust of binaries in longer-P orbits
 - Observed in some post-AGB or post-RG binaries (e.g., Red Rectangle)
 - Note, however, that evolved binaries in this class typically do not possess a nebula and will not evolve into PNs

3. PHOTOMETRIC VARIATIONS IN PPNs

Light studies of the central star:

Photometric monitoring program at Valparaiso University,
1994 - present (>17 yrs), 30 PPNs, V=8-14 mag,
0.4-m campus telescope with CCD, undergraduate students



Only 1 other group doing LC studies of PPNs (Arkhipova et al. $\Delta T \sim 6$ yrs)

3. OUR LONG-TERM LIGHT CURVE STUDY OF PPNs



3. OUR LONG-TERM LIGHT CURVE STUDY - RESULTS

- All vary in brightness; range 0.15 0.6 mag
- P = 150 35 d (G8 F3) for sample of 12 C-rich
- Trend of shorter P with higher T_{eff}
- Hotter ones (SpT=B) vary on even shorter timescale (days)
- Multi-P or variable amplitude \rightarrow pulsation
- Photometric variability due to pulsation; no evidence for binarity
 What constraints does this set? What would we expect?





(see Hrivnak et al. 2009, ApJ, 709, 1042)

3. PHOTOMETRIC VARIATIONS IN PPNs

What would these look like? - Ellipsoidal



However,

• If PPN avoided Roche lobe overflow at **tip of AGB**,

when $R \sim 400 R_{\odot} \rightarrow P_{orbit} = 11 \text{ yr}$

• Then at SpT=G, R = 90 R_{\odot} <<R(Roche) $\rightarrow i = 90^{\circ}: \Delta V = 0.002$ mag

Binary photometric variations would require special condition (edge-on, orbital decay, ...) → non-detection not a strong constraint

2. HOW TO DETECT BINARIES IN PPNs?

1. Photometric variations

2. Radial velocity variations

- Orbital motion
- Used in some searches for binary central stars of PNs; complicated by intrinsic variations, winds unsuccessful
- Can sample companions of intermediate separations, 1 mo < P < few x 10 years

• Illustration:

- PPN: $M_{PPN} = 0.62 M_{\odot}$ Companion: Main Seq, $M_2 = 0.5 M_{\odot}$
- PPN just within Roche lobe at SpT=G $P_{orbit} = 1.0 \text{ yr}$
- \rightarrow V_{PPN} = 13 km/s (measure K = Vsin*i* but sin 30° = 0.5)
- If $P_{orbit}=11 \text{ yr} \rightarrow V_{PPN}=6.3 \text{ km/s}$ (just detached at tip of AGB)
- If $P_{orbit}=30 \text{ yr} \rightarrow V_{PPN}=4.5 \text{ km/s}$

4. OUR RADIAL VELOCITY STUDY OF PPNs

- **Targets: 7 bright PPNs, SpT = F-G Iab**
- Many, sharp lines (advantage over hot central stars of PNs)
- V = 7 11 mag
- Goal to find binaries (or at least set limits on them)
- Observations at the Dominion Astrophysical Obs (Victoria, Canada)
 - 1991 1995 (initial study)
 - 2007 present (new study)
 - No. obs. each = 40 100
 - Precision ~ 0.7 km/s
 - Collaborators: D. Bohlender, A. Woodworth, S. Morris, (DAO), C. Scarfe (U. Vic)





1.2-m telescope





4. RADIAL VELOCITIES IN PPNs: Long-term Results



One case of clear velocity change beyond pulsation

- IRAS 22272+5435 $\Delta Vr (early-1990s late-2000s) = 2.6 \text{ km/s}$
- P > 22 years, K = 1.3 km/s
- Limiting case: If we assume P = 22 yr, K = 1.3 km/s, $M_{PPN} = 0.62 M_{\odot}$, and e = 0, then M_2 = depends on inclination *i*:
- $i = 25^{\circ}$ from model (Ueta et al. 2001, mid-IR) $\rightarrow M_2 = 0.27 (+/-0.04)$
- If circular orbit, a = 8 AU = 1700 Rs >> R(AGB) >> R(PPN)
- Would survive detached at tip of AGB
- → Likely binary

4. RADIAL VELOCITIES IN PPNs: Long-term Results

Others show no long-term variations beyond pulsation HST images



Our observations (filled circles) and others from literature (open circles).

4. RADIAL VELOCITY VARIATIONS IN PPNs

Others show no long-term variations beyond pulsation

HST images



4. RADIAL VELOCITIES IN PPNs: Long-term Results

What about possible bias - selection effects? - Chose brightest, more likely seen at low inclination (less obscuration), more pole-on

Any undetected binaries have low mass or/and long periods



However, non-detection sets constraints on possible binaries

If M ₂ &	<i>i</i> > 15°	$i > 30^{\circ}$	<i>i</i> > 45°
0.4 M _☉	P > 3.5 yr	P > 24.5 yr	
0.25 M _☉	P > 1.1yr	P > 8 yr	P > 23 yr
Maria (Statistic 198			

or, for example

• $M_2 > 0.3 M_{\odot}$ is excluded for P<13 yr at *i*>30°

 M_2 and P for various inclinations (*i*) (Assuming M_{PPN}=0.62 M_{\odot}, K=2.0 km/s, circular orbits)

(see Hrivnak et al. 2011, ApJ, 734, 25)

5. RESULTS OF VARIABILTY STUDIES OF PPNs

- Photometric (#=30): All vary due to pulsation; no evidence of binaries
- **Radial Velocity (#=7):** All vary due to pulsation; **1 tentative binary**
 - Likely binary ($P > 22 \text{ yrs}, M_2 > 0.27 \text{ M}_{\odot}$)
 - Possible selection effects, but
 - **Results set constraints** on possible binary companions
 - Must have low mass (< $0.25 M_{\odot}$) or long period (P > 30 yrs)
 - Could be brown dwarfs or super Jupiters
 - Will not evolve into short-P binary central stars of PNe

Ideally observe edge-on bipolar PPNe with obscuring torus

5. NEW PROGRAM: Edge-on PPNs in Near-IR Spectroscopy



Bipolar, equatorial enhancement obscuring star

3 edge-on PPNs, but each of which has a visible star in near-IR

ex. IRAS 17441-2411

New observing program:

near-IR

mid-IR



- Began this last year Near-IR, high-resolution spec, 8-m telescopes
- Gemini-S (Ken Hinkle NOAO) Phoenix (R=70,000) discontinued
- ESO (Florian Kerber ESO) CRIRES (R=100,000)
- Data reduction in process
- If $\Delta V_R > 10-15$ km/s (larger than pulsation) \rightarrow (possible/likely) binary

5. RESULTS OF VARIABILTY STUDIES OF PPNs

Implications of non-detections

- Comparison with results of **PNs binary** studies
 - 10-20 % CSPN have short-period (P~1 day) photometric binaries
 - Short P --> Common envelope evolution
- Q Might PPNs be binaries, but

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- In common envelope but this lasts only a short time (~1 yr), unlikely
- Long P (P>30-100 years) but then effect on shaping may be small
- Secondary is not a MS star but brown dwarf or a massive planet would not be detected.
- If 50% stars are binaries, why not more detected?
 - Binary fraction of Duquennoy & Mayor (F-G) 33% SB, but
 - 14% of small sample (1/7) not discrepant

5. RESULTS OF VARIABILTY STUDIES OF PPNs

• What does cause PN & shape the nebula?

- Since it appears that these 7 objects are PPNs and shaping has started,
 then this suggests two ways to form PNs & shape the nebulae:
 - Common envelope (CE) evolution with ejection and shaping of the envelope → short-period binary central star of PNs
 - Non-CE Since CE spiral-in and ejection timescale on order of 1 yr and we find PPNs still retaining their envelopes, thus CE ruled out by statistics and time scale. So ...
 - Binary, with companion of low mass (< 0.25 M_☉) or long period (P > 30 yrs), or
 - Non-binary (pulsational induced?)

Studies continuing

- Continuing to monitor
 - V_R : to further constrain possible binary properties
 - LC: study pulsation
 - To investigate ΔP (decades) \rightarrow rate of evolution of post-AGB
 - New PPNs in SH (with Henson, Hillwig, Kaitchuck SARA)

Pulsation - New contemporaneous light, color, and velocity curves



Results: Pulsational Variability in PPNs

- 1. All vary in light:
 - $\Delta V \sim 0.15 0.60$ mag
 - not simple periodic var.: varying ampl., varying or multiple P
 - P = 153 35 d, G-F stars; short-term variability among B stars
 - Trend of decreasing P, Amplitude with increasing T_{eff}
- 2. All vary in velocity:
 - $\Delta V_r \sim 8-12 \text{ km/sec}$
 - $P(Vr) \sim P(LC)$
- 3. Contemporaneous Light & Velocity: (in progress)
 - ~ Smallest when brightest, hottest -- only 1 good case thus far, but more in progress
 AV > I

 $\Delta V \rightarrow L_{max}/L_{min} \quad \Delta(V-R) \rightarrow \Delta T_{eff} \rightarrow R(L_{max})/R(L_{min})$ $\Delta Vr \rightarrow \Delta R \text{ (during pulsation cycle)} \rightarrow R_{max}, R_{min}, <R >$ $R \& T_{eff} \qquad \rightarrow L \quad -- \text{ first direct determinations for PPNs}$ $\& R \text{ with log } g \text{ (model atm)} \rightarrow \sim M \qquad \text{(distance>1 kpc)}$

Analyses of Pulsational Variability

Models needed

Fokin et al. (2001)
non-linear radiative models of post-AGB
M: 0.6, 0.8 M_{Sun}
T_{eff}: 5600 - 6000 K
L: 5000 - 8000 L_{Sun}
Results

P=25-50 d, ΔV =0.2-0.4 mag, ΔV_r =+/-5 km/s

Models: $M = 0.8 M_{Sun}$ - X=0.7, Z=0.004



Fig. 1. Grid of computed bolometric light curves ($M = 0.8 M_{\odot}$, X = 0.7, Z = 0.004 and with the OPAL92 opacity table). Model axes are the time (in days) as abscissa, and Δm_{bol} as ordinates.

6. Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

- Wen Lu (Valparaiso U) & ~ 25 students over past 17 years (LC)
- Dominion Astrophysical Observatory & collaborators (VC)
- National Science Foundation
- Indiana Space Grant Consortium (student funding)

Robert H. Koch

6. Acknowledgements

Robert H. Koch

- PhD advisor
 - Diligently
 - Carefully



1980 (following my thesis defense)

- Collaborator
 - Respect the data
 - Bigger picture
 - 5 papers together



1985 IAU New Delhi, Com 42 - he asked me to serve as secretary)

- Friend
 - Encouragement



2008 - dinner together with Joanne and my wife Lucy during a Philadelphia visit



Pulsation - New contemporaneous light, color, and velocity curves





1. MOTIVATION: Searching for Candidates

Image of IRAS 19477+2401 - no visible star

Discovery of IRAS 18095+2704 - bright star! (V=10.5)



3. PHOTOMETRIC VARIATIONS IN PPNe

PPNe	P(d)	SpT	T _{eff} *	Δ (V-R)	ΔT_{eff}	ΔV(mag)
05113	133	G8 Ia	5250	0.12	520	0.67
02229	153	G8 Ia	5500	0.08	500	0.54
20000	153	G8 Ia	5350	0.10	400	0.59
22272	130	G5 Ia	5750	0.09	590	0.49
07430	136:	G5 Ia	6000	0.05	310	0.23
05341	94	G2 Ia	6500	0.07	510	0.13
22223	89	GO Ia	6500	0.06	440	0.21
23304	85	G2 Ia	6750	0.08	590	0.20
AFGL2688		F5 Iae	6500	0.05	370	0.18
04296	71:	G0 Ia	7000	0.06	470	0.13:
07134	35:	F5 I	7250	0.04	340	0.18
19500	38:	F3 I	8000	0.05	640	0.13
T _{eff} from model atmosphere analysis						

*

RESULTS OF OUR RADIAL VELOCITY STUDY OF OTHER POST-AGB OBJECTS

- Are we not able to find binaries? Yes, we can
- HD 46703 $\Delta V = 32$ km/s

• P(RV) = 606 d, K = 16.3 km/s, e = 0.27 --> binary



RESULTS OF OUR RADIAL VELOCITY STUDY OF OTHER POST-AGB OBJECTS

- Are we able to find binaries with pulsators? Yes
- 89 Her $\Delta V = 12$ km/s P(RV) = 292 d (our data), 289 d (all data), K = 3.3 km/s, e = 0.18 --> binary







Including observations by Waters et al. (1993)

89 Her - with binary orbit removed P(RV) = 66 d ~ P(LC) = 65 d, K= 1.6 km/s --> pulsator

2. HOW TO DETECT BINARIES IN PPNe?

1. Visible companions

- Distant companions: 0.5" at 1 kpc \Rightarrow a = 500 AU \Rightarrow P~10⁴ yrs
- **Results:**
 - HST WFPC2: # objects~66, # binaries = 0 (Ueta; Sahai; #48)
 - HST NICMOS: $\# \text{ obj.} \sim 20, \# \text{ binaries} = 0$ (Su; Hrivnak; Sahai) •
 - Ground-based NIR AO: # obj.~9, # binaries=1: (Sanchez Contraras)
 - (These studies were NOT optimized to find faint companions)
- If too distant, effect on shaping is likely small

2. Photometric variations

- Eclipse unlikely unless very short P
- "Reflection" (re-radiation) effect: hot + cool stars
- Ellipsoidal effect: tidal distortion
 - $(2P_{ptm} = P_{orbit})$ Methods used by Bond to identify binary companions to PNNe

 $(P_{ptm} = P_{orbit})$

Results: Reflection or Ellipsoidal - #=10, Eclipsing - #=6:

 $P = 1-16 d \rightarrow 10-15\%$ of PNe are binaries.

(Bond 2000 (APN2); DeMarco 2006)

Close companions: P < 20 d

HOW TO SEARCH FOR BINARIES IN PPNe? - 2

3. Composite spectra

- Unlikely, would require both objects to be AGB, post-AGB
- Could have any separation, P

4. Radial velocity variations

- Orbital motion
- Used in more recent searches for binary PNNe (DeMarco et al. 2006)
- Can sample companions of intermediate separations

•	Assume $M_1 = 0.6, M_2 = 0.6, e = 0$	<u>(i=90°)</u>	<u>(i=30°)</u>
	• $K_1 = 20 \text{ km/s}>$	$P \sim 0.5 \text{ yr}$	P ~ 20 d
	• $K_1 = 10 \text{ km/s}>$	$P \sim 4 yr$	P~ 0.5 yr
	• $K_1 = 3 \text{ km/s}>$	P ~ 150 yr	P ~ 20 yr
•	Case 2 $M_1 = 0.6, M_2 = 0.2$	<u>(i=90°)</u>	<u>(i=30°)</u>
	• $K_1 = 10 \text{ km/s} \text{>}$	$P \sim 0.3 \text{ yr}$	P~ 15 d
	• $K_1 = 3 \text{ km/s}>$	P ~ 12 yr	P ~ 1.5 yr
•	Case 3 M_1 =0.8, M_2 =0.4	<u>(i=90</u> °)	<u>(i=30°)</u>
	• $K_1 = 10 \text{ km/s}>$	$P \sim 1.2 \text{ yr}$	P~ 50 d
	• $K_1 = 3 \text{ km/s}>$	P ~ 40 vr	$P \sim 4 vr$

IMPLICATIONS OF OUR NON-DETECTION OF BINARY PPNe

- Comparison with results of PNe binary studies
 - % short-period photometric binaries ~ 10-15% (Bond)
 - short P --> Common envelope evolution
 - RV studies: many (most) variable, but that does not mean binary (DeMarco 2006)
- ? Might **PPNe** be binaries, but
 - In common envelope
 - But this lasts only a short time, unlikely
 - Long P (P>10-100 years) but then effect on shaping may be small
 - Secondary is not a MS star but brown dwarf or a planet would not be detected.
- Since it appears that these 7 objects are PPNe and shaping has started
 - then this suggests two ways to form PNe,
 - Common envelope evolution (binary PNNe)
 - Non-common envelope process (occurring in these PPNe)
 - Distant, low-mass companions?
 - Single, pulsating PPNe?

RESULTS OF OUR RADIAL VELOCITY PROGRAM OF PPNe

- No binaries found among PPNe sample (#=7) with K > 2.5 km/s
 - For *i*=30 --> a > 6 AU, P > 14 yr
 - For *i*=60 --> a > 17AU, P > 70 yr
- •Why no binaries detected?
 - Not primarily selection effect (bright --> low *i*, low V amplitude)
 - •Binary, but in common envelope
 - But this lasts only a short time, unlikely
 - Long P (P>10-100 years) but then effect on shaping may be small

3. PHOTOMETRIC VARIATIONS IN PPNs

What would these look like? - Ellipsoidal



- If PPN avoided Roche lobe overflow at **tip of AGB**, when $R \sim 400 R_{\odot} \rightarrow P_{orbit} = 11 \text{ yr}$
- Then at SpT=G, R = 90 R_{\odot} << R(Roche) $\rightarrow i = 90^{\circ}$: $\Delta V = 0.002$ mag

Binary photometric variations would require special conditions



4. RADIAL VELOCITIES IN PPNe: Long-term Results

Bias - Selection effects: Chose brightest – more likely seen at low inclination, more pole-on

Any undetected binaries have low mass or/and long periods



(Assuming $M_{PPN}=0.62 M_{\odot}$, K=2.0 km/s,

circular orbits)

However, non-detection sets constraints on possible binaries:

If M₂ = 0.4 M_☉, then P>3.5 yr if *i*>15°, P>24.5 yr if *i*>30°
If M₂ = 0.25 M_☉, then P>1.1yr if *i*>15°, P>8 yr if *i*>30°, P>23 yr if *i*>45°

• $M_2 > 0.3 M_{\odot}$ is excluded for P<13 yr at *i*>30°

(see Hrivnak et al. 2011, ApJ, 734, 25)

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Beginning the Search: Finding Candidates (1st decade)





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- Two paths to form & shape PN?
 - Common envelope (CE) evolution with ejection and shaping of the envelope → short-period binary central star of PNs
 - 2. Non-CE since CE spiral-in and ejection timescale on order of 1 yr and we find PPNs still retaining their envelopes, thus non-CE
 - Binary, with companion of low mass (< 0.25 M_☉) or long period (P > 30 yrs), or
 - Non-binary (pulsational induced?)