FUSE Results on Magnetic CVs: VV Pup, YY Dra, LS Peg and DW UMa

Paula Szkody, Donald W. Hoard, Albert P. Linnell

Dept. of Astronomy, University of Washington, Box 351580, Seattle, WA 98195

Knox Long

Space Telescope Science Institute, 3700 San Martin Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218

Gary Schmidt

Steward Observatory, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721

Edward M. Sion

Department of Astronomy, Villanova University. Villanova, PA 19085

Abstract. In Cycles 2 and 3, we obtained FUSE observations of the Polar VV Pup, and the IP/SW Sex stars YY Dra, LS Peg and DW UMa. The spectra show a wide range of line intensities and structure. The phase-resolved spectra in each case reveal interesting properties about the hot accretion zones.

1. Introduction

FUSE provides important far-UV spectra that leads to new information about the hot accretion poles and the accretion curtains in magnetic CVs. The FUSE bandpass of 900-3000Å contains a wide range of line transitions over a large range of temperatures. The high resolution resolves narrow interstellar lines as well as narrow components within the broad emission lines from the accretion areas, and obtain velocities of the line-forming regions. Thus, the FUSE spectra can constrain the temperature structure in the accretion areas and obtain the geometry of the flow in magnetic systems. Some limitations to FUSE data are imposed by the low earth orbit i.e. gaps in the coverage due to earth blockage and significant airglow emission lines from oxygen and hydrogen. In addition, molecular hydrogen can be a problem for galactic plane locations. The current sensitivity reaches $\sim V < 17.5$. We report results on one polar (VV Pup), one intermediate polar (YY Dra) and two SW Sex stars (LS Peg and DW UMa).

2. VV Pup

This Polar has a 100 min orbital period, a distance of 145 pc and a magnetic field strength of ~30MG at the accreting pole. The geometry (i~75°, β ~150°) results in the accretion pole being visible for about 45% of the orbit. The 11 orbits with FUSE (with simultaneous optical photometry) cover phases 0.7 to slightly past 0.0. The phase-resolved FUSE spectra reveal an increasing continuum and decreasing line flux as the accretion spot comes into view. A hot 90,000K black body fits both the FUSE and IUE fluxes, and gives a radius of 425 km for the FUV emitting area (details in Hoard et al. 2002).

3. YY Dra

YY Dra is an Intermediate Polar with an orbital period near 4 hrs, a white dwarf spin period of 529 sec and a distance of 155 pc. The 2 contributing accretion poles lie close to the equator. The 14 orbits of FUSE spectra were phased on the spin cycle and show that the lines are 180° out of phase with the continuum. BINSYN was used to model the phase resolved spectra with 2 spots of 200,000K that have an angular radius of 5° on a 21,500K white dwarf.

4. DW UMa

This well-known eclipsing SW Sex star (IP?) has a high inclination (82°) and an orbital period of 3.3 hrs. The 6 FUSE orbits covered all phases except for phases 0.0 and 0.5. A narrow component feature that shifts from red (phase 0.9) to blue (phase 0.4) is evident in the CIII line and could be due to different views of the accretion stream or the magnetic accretion curtains.

5. LS Peg

This low inclination SW Sex star is one of only a few with measured circular polarization (Rodriguez-Gil et al. 2001). Unlike all the systems above, the lines of LS Peg are all in absorption, signifying a very thick accretion disk. Unfortunately, the contamination by molecular hydrogen is very strong, making it difficult to determine a proper continuum level. There is orbital variability in the OVI and CIII lines that may be related to the phase-related absorption effects in the Balmer lines that identify the SW Sex category.

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References

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