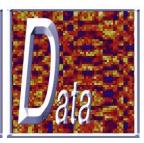




ASTROPHYSICS SEMINAR









Friday, 1 June 2007 at 11:00

Searching for Type Ia Supernova Progenitors

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Abstract. The identification of progenitors of supernovae of type Ia (SN Ia) remains elusive. I will review the case for single-degenerate systems versus double-degenerate systems. A promising channel leading to a SN Ia event involves accreting white dwarfs that sustain steady nuclear burning. They are observed as close binary X-ray sources with a supersoft spectrum (CBSS). I will discuss the properties of these systems based on an on-going multi-wavelength (Spitzer, Chandra and XMM-Newton) study of CBSS.