

Contents

Contents	i
Curriculum vitae	iv
1 Introduction and summary	1
1.1 The evolution of single stars	1
1.2 Binary-star evolution	2
1.3 Summary of this thesis	4
1.3.1 The formation of luminous X-ray binaries in globular clusters . . .	5
1.3.2 The presumed ultra-compact X-ray binary 2S 0918–549	9
1.3.3 The formation of double white dwarfs	10
2 Creating ultra-compact binaries in globular clusters through stable mass transfer	15
2.1 Introduction	16
2.2 Binary evolution code	18
2.2.1 The stellar evolution code	18
2.2.2 Angular momentum losses	19
2.3 Binary models	19
2.3.1 Calculated grid	19
2.3.2 Interpretation of the models	20
2.3.3 Bifurcation models	26
2.4 Statistics	27
2.4.1 Interpolation between models	27
2.4.2 Results for $Z=0.01$	28
2.4.3 Results for other metallicities	29
2.5 Discussion	34
2.5.1 The importance of converging evolution for the formation of ultra-compact binaries	34
2.5.2 Comparison to Pylyser & Savonije	38
2.5.3 Comparison to Podsiadlowski et al.	39
2.5.4 Comparison with observations and other models	40

3	Reduced magnetic braking and the magnetic capture model for the formation of ultra-compact binaries	43
3.1	Introduction	44
3.2	Binary evolution code	44
3.2.1	The stellar evolution code	44
3.2.2	Angular momentum losses	44
3.3	Creating theoretical period distributions	46
3.3.1	Binary models	46
3.3.2	Statistics	47
3.4	Results	47
3.4.1	Reduced magnetic braking	47
3.4.2	Saturated magnetic braking	49
3.4.3	The influence of mass loss	50
3.5	Discussion	52
3.6	Conclusions	55
4	On the possibility of a helium white dwarf donor in the presumed ultracompact binary 2S 0918–549	57
4.1	Introduction	58
4.2	Synopsis of X-ray bursts from 2S 0918–549	59
4.3	Analysis of the long burst	62
4.4	Flux history of persistent emission	66
4.5	Discussion	68
4.5.1	Short and long helium bursts	68
4.5.2	Evolutionary considerations	72
4.6	Conclusion	77
5	Modelling the formation of double white dwarfs	79
5.1	Introduction	80
5.2	Observed double white dwarfs	81
5.3	The stellar evolution code	82
5.4	Giant branch models	84
5.4.1	Basic models	85
5.4.2	Chemical enrichment by accretion	88
5.4.3	Wind mass loss	90
5.5	Second mass-transfer phase	93
5.5.1	The treatment of a spiral-in	95
5.5.2	Results of the spiral-in calculations	97
5.6	First mass-transfer phase	100
5.6.1	Conservative mass transfer	101
5.6.2	Unstable mass transfer	107
5.6.3	Formation by multiple mechanisms	112
5.6.4	Constraining the age difference	113

5.6.5	Description of the individual solutions	115
5.7	Discussion	119
5.7.1	Comparison to other work	119
5.7.2	Alternative formation scenario for massive white dwarfs	120
5.8	Conclusions	122
5.9	Appendix: Table of model solutions	123
6	Vorming en evolutie van compacte dubbelsterren	127
6.1	Ontstaan en evolutie van enkele sterren	127
6.2	Evolutie van dubbelsterren	131
6.3	Dit proefschrift	135
6.3.1	Ontstaan en evolutie van compacte röntgendubbelsterren	136
6.3.2	De vorming van dubbele witte dwergen	138
7	Formation und Evolution von kompakten Doppelsternen	139
7.1	Entstehung und Evolution von einzelnen Sternen	139
7.2	Evolution von Doppelsternen	142
7.3	Diese Dissertation	145
7.3.1	Formation und Evolution von kompakten Röntgendoppelsternen	146
7.3.2	Die Formation von doppelten Weissen Zwergen	148
	Acknowledgements	149
	References	151

Curriculum vitae

I was born in De Bilt, the Netherlands on Thursday, January 15, 1976, around 15:50. I studied astrophysics at the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, and obtained the degree 'Master of Science' in 2001. From 2001 to 2006 I did my PhD research at the Astronomical Institute in Utrecht, of which this thesis is the result. I will defend my thesis on May 2nd, 2006. From March to August 2006 I have a short postdoc position at the Astronomical Institute in Utrecht. On September 1st 2006 I will start working as a postdoc at Northwestern University in Illinois, U.S.A.

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