NY Serpentis: SU UMa-type nova in the period gap with diversity of normal outbursts

Elena P. PAVLENKO,1,2,* Taichi KATO,2 Oksana I. ANTONYUK,1 Tomohito OHSHIMA,2 Franz-Josef HAMBSCH,3,4,5 Kirill A. ANTONYUK,1 Aleksei A. SOSNOVSKIY,1 Alex V. BAKLANOV,1 Sergey Yu. SHUGAROV,6,7 Nikolaj V. PIT,1 Chikako NAKATA,2 Gianluca MASI,8 Kazuhiro NAKAJIMA,9 Hiroyuki MAEHARA,10 Pavol A. DUBOVSKY,11 Igor KUDZEJ,11 Maksim V. ANDREEV,12,13 Yuliana G. KUZNYETSOVA,14 and Kirill A. VASILISKOV15

1Crimean Astrophysical Observatory, 98409, Nauchny 19/17, Crimea, Ukraine
2Department of Astronomy, Kyoto University, Kitashirakawa-Oiwake-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, Kyoto 606-8502, Japan
3Groupe Européen d’Observations Stellaires (GEOS), 23 Parc de Levesville, 28300 Bailleau l’Evêque, France
4Bundesdeutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Veränderliche Sterne (BAV), Munsterdamm 90, 12169 Berlin, Germany
5Vereniging Voor Sterrenkunde (VVS), Oude Bleken 12, 2400 Mol, Belgium
6Sternberg Astronomical Institute, Lomonosov Moscow University, Universitetsky avenue, 13, Moscow 119992, Russia
7Astronomical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, 05960, Tatranska Lomnica, The Slovak Republic
8The Virtual Telescope Project, Via Madonna del Loco 47, 03023 Ceccano (FR), Italy
9Variable Star Observers League in Japan (VSOLJ), 124 Teradani, Isato-cho, Kumano, Mie 519-4673, Japan
10Kiso Observatory, Institute of Astronomy, School of Science, The University of Tokyo, 10762-30 Mitake, Kiso-machi, Kiso-gun, Nagano 397-0101, Japan
11Vihorlat Observatory, Mierova 4, Humenne, Slovakia
12Institute of Astronomy, Russian Academy of Sciences, 361605 Peak Terskol, Kabardino-Balkaria, Russia
13International Center for Astronomical, Medical and Ecological Research of NASU, Ukraine 27 Akademika Zabolotnoho Str. 03680 Kiev, Ukraine
14Main Astronomical Observatory of NASU, Ukraine 27 Akademika Zabolotnoho Str. 03680 Kiev, Ukraine
15Taras Shevchenko National University, Kiev 022, prospect Glushkova 2, Ukraine

*E-mail: eppavlenko@gmail.com

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Abstract

We present a photometric study of NY Ser, an in-the-gap SU UMa-type nova, in 2002 and 2013. We determined the duration of its superoutburst and the mean period of its superhump are 18 d and 0.10458 d, respectively. We detected in 2013 that NY Ser showed two distinct states separated by a superoutburst. A state of rather infrequent normal outbursts lasted at least 44 d before the superoutburst, and a state of frequent outbursts started immediately after the superoutburst and lasted at least 34 d. Unlike a typical SU UMa star with a bimodal distribution of outburst duration, NY Ser displayed...
a diversity of normal outbursts. In the state of infrequent outbursts, we detected a wide
$\sim 12 \text{ d}$ outburst accompanied by $0.098 \text{ d}$ orbital modulation but without superhumps
ever established in NY Ser. We classified this as a “wide normal outburst.” The orbital
period was dominant both in quiescence and during normal outbursts in this state.
In the state of the most frequent normal outbursts, the $0.10465 \text{ d}$ positive superhump
period was dominant and coexisted with the orbital modulation. In 2002 we detected the
normal outburst of “intermediate” $5–6 \text{ d}$ duration that was also accompanied by orbital
modulations.

Key words: accretion, accretion disks — novae, cataclysmic variables — stars: dwarf novae —
stars: individual (NY Serpentis) — stars: individual (V1006 Cygni)

1 Introduction

Cataclysmic variables (CVs) are close binary stars at the
late stage of their evolution (Warner 1995; Hellier 2001
for reviews). In these binaries the late-type star fills its
Roche lobe and transfers matter onto the compact compo-
nent (white dwarf) through an accretion disk. The thermal
viscous instability in the accretion disk causes outbursts
(Cannizzo 1993; Lasota 2001).

The SU UMa-type star is a subgroup of the short-periodic
nonmagnetic CVs occupying a range of orbital periods
bounded by the minimum period at $\sim 76 \text{ min}$ and the upper
limit of the “period gap,” $3.18 \text{ hr}$ (Knigge 2006). SU UMa
stars show the well-known bimodality of outburst duration
(van Paradijs 1983; Warner 1995): the narrow “normal”
outbursts lasting for a few days and the wide superout-
bursts that are longer in duration by a factor of 5–10 in the
same system. A typical superoutburst lasts for about two
weeks. Several normal outbursts occur between the super-
outbursts. The amplitudes of superoutbursts are slightly
higher than, or equal to, those of normal outbursts. It was
pointed out by van Paradijs (1983) that almost all dwarf
novae have a bimodal distribution of the outburst dura-
tion. Only SU UMa stars, however, have the wide outbursts
(superoutbursts) accompanied by what are called positive
superhumps, which are brightness variations with a period
a few percent longer than the orbital period.

According to the modern paradigm of the tidal insta-
bility, the 3:1 resonance in the accretion disk orbiting the
white dwarf in the system with a mass ratio of
$q = m_2/m_1 \leq 0.25$, where $m_2$ is the mass of the late-type
star and $m_1$ is that of the white dwarf, is responsible for
its eccentric deformation, resulting in positive superhumps
(Whitehurst 1988; Hirose & Osaki 1990; Lubow 1991).
Osaki (1996) proposed a thermal-tidal instability model in
which the ordinary thermal instability is coupled with the
tidal instability.

A detailed study of superoutbursts and the evolution of
the positive superhumps is given in a series of papers by
Kato et al. (2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014a, 2014b). The
duration of a superoutburst varies from system to system,
but it is rather stable for the same star (Warner 1995) on
different occasions.¹

On the other hand, the durations of normal outbursts
depend both on the orbital period and on the supercycle
phase. It was found by the early investigations (van Paradijs
1983) that the duration of the narrow outburst, $t_b$, for
several CVs increases with the orbital period. For SU UMa
stars, the empirical correlation between $t_b$ and the orbital
period held true for $t_b \sim 2.5–5 \text{ d}$. Recently, Cannizzo et al.
(2012) explored the Kepler light curves of the SU UMa
stars, V1504 Cyg and V344 Lyr, and found a systematic
increase of $t_b$ between two consecutive superoutbursts: $t_b =
1.1–2.9 \text{ d} \text{ for V1504 Cyg and } t_b = 2.5–5.0 \text{ d} \text{ for }
V344 Lyr.

The 2.15–3.18 hr period gap (Knigge 2006) represents a
division between the long-period system with a high mass-
transfer rate (above the period gap) and the short-period
system with a low mass-transfer rate (below the period gap).
The evolution of the long-period CV is mainly driven by
magnetic braking, while the evolution of the short-period
CV is driven by gravitational wave radiation (Kraft 1962;
Verbunt & Zwaan 1981; Knigge 2006). According to the
theoretical predictions, the secondary loses contact with its
Roche lobe at an orbital period of $\sim 3 \text{ hr}$ and the secondary
makes contact again at an orbital period of $\sim 2 \text{ hr}$. This
causes the dearth of CVs in this region of orbital periods,
and then this region is called the “period gap.” Despite the
fact that the number of SU UMa-type stars in the period
gap have grown with time (see, for example, Katysheva &
Pavlenko 2003; Dai & Qian 2012; Schmidtobreick & Tap-
pert 2006), the properties of these systems are still poorly
studied.

¹ There are, however, exceptions especially to systems with low outburst frequen-
cies. The notable example is BC UMa (Romano, 1964). See also Kato (1995).
NY Ser is the first in-the-period-gap SU UMa-type dwarf nova. It was discovered to be an ultraviolet-excess object PG 1510+234 (Green et al. 1986, 1982). Iida, Nogami, and Kato (1995) identified this object as a frequently outbursting dwarf nova. Nogami et al. (1998) detected superhumps during a long outburst in 1996 April, establishing this object as an SU UMa-type. Its supercycle was estimated to be 85–100 d in 1996 by Nogami et al. (1998) and 60–90 d by Patterson et al. (2003), who observed mostly in 1999. NY Ser displayed rather frequent normal outbursts every 6–9 d (Nogami et al. 1998; Iida et al. 1995) that were ∼3 d in duration, typical of most SU UMa-type dwarf novae. However, the outburst activity of NY Ser in recent years differed from those of “normal” SU UMa-type stars. Using American Association of Variable Star Observation (AAVSO) data, Kato et al. (2014a) found the existence of outbursts of “intermediate” durations (∼4 d) that were observed in 2011 and 2012 in addition to normal outbursts of durations of ∼3 d and superoutbursts of longer durations.

The period of positive superhumps of NY Ser has been estimated by both Nogami et al. (1998) and Patterson et al. (2003). However, the details of the period evolution were not defined due to an insufficient amount of data. Only a 3 d series of outbursts was obtained by Nogami et al. (1998) during the 1996 superoutburst and a 5 d series was obtained by Patterson et al. (2003) during the 1999 superoutburst. The analyses yielded periods of 0.106 d and 0.104 d, respectively. This discrepancy in period between these two measurements is probably because the superhump period was measured for different parts of their superoutbursts.

Patterson et al. (2003) found an orbital period of 0.0975 d in quiescence and confirmed this value [0.09756(3)d] on the 8 d baseline covering both quiescence and outburst.

We undertook a photometric study of NY Ser to clarify the peculiarity of its outbursts and the behavior during the different phases of its outburst activity.

2 Observations and data reduction

The photometric CCD observations of NY Ser were carried out in 2002 and 2013. In 2002, the star was observed during the period of ∼66 d at the Crimean Astrophysical Observatory (CrAO) and in 2013 during the period of ∼100 d at several observatories located at different longitudes. The details of observations are given in e-table 1. Standard aperture photometry (de-biasing, dark subtraction, and flat-fielding) was used for measuring the variable and comparison stars, the latter being the star USNO (Naval Observatory) B1.0 1132-0246239. On 2006 July 7, we measured the brightness of the comparison star relative to the Landolt sequence stars 10971, having $V = 11.493$, $B - V = 0.323$, and $V - R = 0.186$, and 109381, having $V = 11.73$, $B - V = 0.704$, and $V - R = 0.428$. We determined the magnitudes of the comparison star are $B = 16.48$, $V = 15.92$, and $R = 15.56$; B. A. Skiff (2007) gave $V = 15.89$ and $B - V = 0.58$.

Most of the observations were carried out without filters, giving a system close to the R band in our case. The accuracy of a single brightness measurement depended on the telescope, the exposure time, weather conditions, and the brightness of NY Ser. It was 0.007–0.03 mag during the outburst and superoutburst, and 0.05–0.10 mag in quiescence. A much higher accuracy of ∼0.005 mag during outbursts and 0.01 mag in quiescence was achieved from the observations with the 2.6 m telescope.

The time of observations is expressed in barycentric Julian Date (BJD). Phase dispersion minimization (PDM: Stellingwerf 1978) is used for period analysis, and 1σ errors were estimated by the methods of Fernie (1989) and Kato et al. (2010). Before starting to conduct the period analysis, we corrected the differences of zero-point among data obtained with different telescopes and subtracted a long-term trend of the outbursts and the quiescent light curve by a smoothed light curve obtained by locally weighted polynomial regression (LOWESS: Cleveland 1979).

3 2002 light curve

The observations of NY Ser carried out in 2002 are shown in figure 1. The 66 d light curve covered the five outbursts of different durations that were separated on average by 9 d. While there is only an indication of the first outburst, the next two outbursts were observed in sufficient detail. The second outburst was caused between BJD 2452445 and 2452450 and had a duration of at least 5 d (the possibility of 6 d cannot be excluded either). The third outburst occurred at around BJD 2452485 and lasted for ∼3 d. The last two outbursts were also separated by ∼9 d on average. The outburst on around BJD 2452485 has not been properly defined, but its duration was not shorter than 3 d. The next outburst began on BJD 2452490 and lasted for at least 11 d. In what follows, we call the second outburst in 2002 the 2002 first wide outburst, and the fifth one the 2002 second wide outburst. The mean amplitude of both the wide outbursts was ∼2.5 mag.

2 E-table 1 is available only on the online edition at (http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/pasj/psu099).

3 UBVRI photometry of faint field stars (http://vizier.nao.ac.jp/viz-bin/Cat?II/277).
Overall light curve of NY Ser in 2002.

The long-term light curve of NY Ser in 2013 is presented in figure 2. This overall light curve consists of ten outbursts. Contrary to the “usual” SU UMa-type nova, having a sequence of short-term normal outbursts between superoutbursts, NY Ser demonstrated a large variety of outbursts for the 100 d duration. During the 24 d segment before BJD 2456464, the outburst behavior of NY Ser resembled its known behavior (Nogami et al. 1998; Patterson et al. 2003); the first and second outbursts in figure 2 looked like normal ones separated by ~8 d and lasted for 3–3.5 d. Their approximate amplitudes (~2.5 mag) are consistent with the previously reported value. The third outburst in figure 2 that appeared approximately at the expected time was, however, entirely different. First, its duration was not shorter than 12 d but not longer than 15 d; this has never happened among the normal outbursts of SU UMa-type stars, but is common to the majority of superoutbursts. Secondly, the mean amplitude of this outburst was probably less than those of the previous normal outbursts and did not exceed 1.8 mag. Thirdly, the profile of this outburst looks rather symmetrical, with a structured maximum lasting at least 11 d. We call the third outburst in 2013 the 2013 first wide outburst below.

After the 5 d minimum following this outburst, the next wide outburst (the fourth outburst in 2013 which we hereafter call the 2013 second wide outburst) resembling a superoutburst in duration was detected. Its amplitude was ~2.5 mag and the duration was 18 d, taking into account the precursor-like structure around between BJD 2456485 and 2456487. Note also the prominent round shape of the maximum of this outburst. The slow decline lasted only for 6 d and occurred with a rate of ~0.12 mag d\(^{-1}\).

The sequence of six short outbursts with a mean amplitude of ~2 mag was observed immediately after the end of the longest outburst and this sequence lasted for 34 d. The frequency of the outbursts changed dramatically; the separation between the first two outbursts was only 5 d (that has never been recorded before) and the rest of the outbursts appeared every 6 d. Note that the amplitudes of the first two outbursts were also the smallest ones, reaching only 1.5 mag.

While the short outbursts are undoubtedly “normal” outbursts according to the accepted definition of such outbursts in SU UMa stars, the nature of the two wide outbursts requires further study. We investigated the nightly short-term periodicity (potential orbital and superhump periods) to clarify the nature of these outbursts.

5 Short-term variability at different states of the dwarf nova activity

In all states of outburst activity in NY Ser, it displayed short-term brightness variations. Some examples of the nightly light curves are shown in figures 3, 4, and 5.

We studied the periodicity of NY Ser for the two data sets at the selected states of its activity in a range of frequencies including the orbital and superhump frequencies. The corresponding periodograms contain indications of a real signal and its one-day aliases. In the case of insufficient quantity and low quality of the data, the formal probability of the real signal is not always higher than that of a false (aliased) signal. So in all the periodograms we preferred the period that coincided with, or was close to, the known periods ever observed in NY Ser.

5.1 2002 first wide outburst

We selected the five light curves for the 2002 first wide outburst (BJD 2452445–2452449). The corresponding PDM analysis of these data (the central part of the outburst) is presented in figure 6. One of the two most significant one-day alias signals on the periodogram points to the 0.09748(17) d period that coincides with the orbital one within the limits of errors. The mean amplitude of the
Fig. 3. Example of the light curves during selected nights in the 2013 quiescent state. The magnitudes are given relative to the comparison star.

Fig. 4. Example of the light curves for the declining branch of the normal outburst. The magnitudes are given relative to the comparison star.

Fig. 5. Example of the nightly light curves during the 2013 superoutburst. The magnitudes are given relative to the comparison star.

5.2 2002 second wide outburst

A PDM analysis of the data BJD 2452445–2452448 yielded a period which differs from the previous one (see figure 7). One of the one-day aliased periods, 0.10495(13) d, as is the case above, also falls within the range of published superhump periods (Nogami et al. 1998; Patterson et al. 2003). Since the one-day alias for the 0.10495(13) d period is far from the orbital one, we accept the 0.10495(13) d period as the true one. The phase-averaged light curve is single-humped and has an amplitude of $\sim 0.2$ mag.

Fig. 6. Above: PDM analysis of the 2002 first wide outburst (BJD 2452445–2452448). The 90% confidence interval for $\theta$ is shown by the green strip. The preferable period is marked. Below: Phase-averaged profile of the data folded on the 0.09748 d period. For clarity data are reproduced twice. (Color online)

We identified the first wide outburst having a duration of 5–6 d as a wide normal outburst, while the second wide one represents a fragment of superoutburst, where the outburst on the first three nights probably belongs to the superoutburst precursor.
5.3 2013 first wide outburst

The periodogram obtained from the PDM analysis of all the data by using the most densely observed part of this outburst (BJD 2456466–2456474) is shown in figure 8. Contrary to our expectation of detecting superhumps in this wide outburst, the periodogram yields only the period of 0.09783(2) d that coincides with the orbital one. So we classified this outburst as a “wide normal outburst.”

5.4 2013 second wide outburst

We selected the data for 12 nights during the period from BJD 2456489 and 2456502 for the next wide outburst following the 5 d quiescence after the previous 12 d outburst, skipping the data of the first two nights. The result of PDM analysis for the de-trending data is shown in figure 9.

The most significant signal points to a period of 0.104531(37) d. This period is close to the positive superhump period obtained from the 2002 superoutburst and to the evaluations reported by Nogami et al. (1998) and Patterson et al. (2003). The mean light curve obtained from this period has a single-humped profile with an ∼0.1 mag amplitude. This 18 d wide outburst is identified as a superoutburst.

Using the frequency of these positive superhumps, \( F_{sh} \), and the frequency of the known orbital period, \( F_{orb} \), we obtain the fractional period excess (in frequency) \( \epsilon^* = 1 - (F_{sh}/F_{orb}) = 0.072 \).

5.5 Periodicity outside the superoutburst

In figure 3, selected nightly light curves in the quiescent state of NY Ser are shown. One can see strong brightness variations on a scale of ∼0.1 d and some low-amplitude oscillations superposed on the light curve. Despite of the same mean brightness, the amplitude of the quiescent light curves is not stable. Thus it reached 0.4 mag on BJD 2456461 and BJD 2456482, but it was only ∼0.2 mag on BJD 2456483. Prominent flickering with amplitudes of up to 0.1–0.2 mag was superposed on some quiescent light curves.

Figure 4 shows the nightly light curves of the eighth normal outburst in figure 2 when it proceeded from maximum to quiescence. In magnitude units, the amplitude of brightness modulation gradually increases from ∼0.05 to ∼0.4 mag over the outburst decline. The shape of the light...
curves at the top of the outburst and during the middle of the declining phase is rather structured.

We searched for periodicity of the observations in 2013 of NY Ser outside the superoutburst state. Taking into account that before the superoutburst NY Ser was in a state of less-frequent normal outbursts than after its superoutburst, we studied the periodicity of these states separately. The first data set included all the data both in minimum and in all normal outbursts before the superoutburst (see figure 10). One can see a strong, sharp signal on the periodogram of the first data set pointing to the period of 0.097531(4) d that coincides with the orbital one. The one-day alias period of 0.108 d is also presented. The phase-averaged light curve has an amplitude of $\sim 0.1$ mag and some dip at a phase of around 0.3–0.4.

The second data set included the data of the highest activity outburst, i.e., the fifth and sixth normal outbursts, and the quiescence around them. The result of PDM analysis is shown in figure 11. This periodogram contains the two strongest signals at periods of 0.10465(12) d and 0.09744(5) d, which we believe to be the period of positive superhumps and the orbital period, respectively.

Our conclusion is that in the state of relatively infrequent outbursts the orbital modulation was the dominant signal both in normal outbursts and in quiescence. In the state of the most frequent outbursts we confidently detected the coexistence of the surviving positive superhumps and the orbital period.

As mentioned above, after this superoutburst the cycle length of the normal outbursts shortened up to 5–6 d. The effect of a change of the normal outburst frequency has been detected in several stars. In V1504 Cyg (Osaki & Kato 2013a) and V344 Lyr (Osaki & Kato 2013b) it was established that the decrease in the frequency of normal outbursts is accompanied by the appearance of negative superhumps and vice versa. The disappearance of negative superhumps was found in V503 Cyg (Kato et al. 2013; Pavlenko et al. 2012) in the stage of frequent normal outbursts. Since NY Ser entered the stage of frequent normal outbursts after the 2013 superoutburst, we checked whether there were negative superhumps or “impulsive” negative superhumps (Osaki & Kato 2013b) in the data in the state of relatively infrequent normal outbursts including the wide outburst.

Using the ratio $\epsilon_\ast^p/\epsilon_\ast^n \sim 7/4$ (Osaki & Kato 2013b), where $\epsilon_\ast^p$ and $\epsilon_\ast^n$ are 0.067 and 0.038, respectively, we
found an expected period of negative superhumps to be \( \sim 0.09379 \text{ d} \).

We did not find any indications of negative superhumps either for the state with relatively infrequent outbursts or for the state with frequent outbursts.

### 6 Discussions

#### 6.1 Variation in long-term behavior and its relation to variation in outburst activity

NY Ser has been recorded in the Catalina Real-time Transient Survey (CRTS: Drake et al. 2009) since 2010 May.\(^\text{4}\) The quiescent magnitudes of NY Ser before the 2012 season were around 18 mag, while they became brighter (17.0–17.5 mag) in the 2012 and 2013 seasons. This brightening of the quiescent magnitude may suggest an increase in the mass-transfer rate or an increased dissipation in the quiescent disk (e.g., increased quiescent viscosity). Although the cause of such a variation is not clear, this systematic variation of the state in this system may be responsible for the variation in the outburst activity in the last two years.

#### 6.2 NY Ser and SU UMa stars in the period gap

NY Ser is a rare, but not unique, binary among SU UMa-type stars showing some deviation from the bimodality of outbursts. But Warner (1995, and references therein), mentioned that TU Men, the SU UMa dwarf nova with the longest orbital period within the period gap, has a trimodal distribution of outburst widths. The widest outbursts were confirmed to be superoutbursts with a duration of \( \sim 20 \text{ d} \); the wide outbursts have a duration of 8 d and the narrow outbursts last only for \( \sim 1 \text{ d} \). Another candidate for an object showing a trimodal distribution is YZ Cnc (Patterson 1979). Its period is slightly below the period gap. NY Ser is the first SU UMa dwarf nova possessing a much richer diversity of normal outbursts.

In some respects, the morphology of outbursts of NY Ser is reminiscent of CVs above the period gap (having a longer time scale). Note that the novalike could have the same orbital period as the dwarf nova, but a higher mass-transfer rate. For example, the novalike MV Lyr, located close to the long-period end of the period gap, at some epochs showed a variety of outbursts looking like an alternation of the sequence “wide outburst–several narrow outbursts” without confirmed superhumps (Pavlenko & Shugarov 1999; Honeycutt & Kafka 2004).

The existence of nonmagnetic CVs in the period gap is still an open question. If we apply the theory of magnetic braking (Hameury et al. 1988), it follows that when the secondary becomes fully convective, it shrinks and goes into the Roche lobe that happens at a period of \( \sim 3 \text{ hr} \) and fills it again at \( \sim 2 \text{ hr} \). This simplest evolutionary scenario indicates that there should be no CVs in the period gap. However, from the Ritter and Kolb (RK) catalog (Ritter & Kolb 2003, Edition 7.20), orbital periods in Pavlenko et al. (2010), and E. P. Pavlenko et al. (in preparation) for 1RXS J003828.7+250920 (Kato et al. 2012), there are 26 known dwarf novae in the 2.15–3.18 hr period gap by the middle of 2013. They are listed in table 1. The majority of them, namely 23 systems, are SU UMa-type stars. The distribution of the orbital periods of these SU UMa-type stars is presented in figure 12.

One can see that this distribution is not uniform. The number of systems strongly increases as the orbital period becomes shorter. A little more than half of the SU UMa-type stars are concentrated in a range of 2.18 to 2.3 hr. However, this tendency is apparently applied only to the distribution of SU UMa stars. Knigge (2006) indicates that the

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\(^\text{4}\) The public data are available at [http://nesssi.cacr.caltech.edu/DataRelease/](http://nesssi.cacr.caltech.edu/DataRelease/).
Table 1. Dwarf novae in the gap.

| Object name          | Orbital period (d) | Type |
|----------------------|-------------------|------|
| TU Mensae            | 0.1172            | SU   |
| V405 Vulpeculae      | 0.1131*           | SU   |
| CI Geminorum         | 0.11+             | SU   |
| CS Indi              | 0.11              | DN   |
| AX Capricorni        | 0.109+            | SU   |
| SDSS J162718.39+120435.0 | 0.104+  | SU   |
| CSS 10531:134052+151341 | 0.1021  | DN   |
| V1239 Herculis       | 0.1000            | SU   |
| MN Draconis          | 0.100+            | SU   |
| OGLE J175310.04−292120.6 | 0.100+  | SU   |
| CSS 120813:203938−042908.04 | 0.100+  | SU   |
| V1006 Cygni          | 0.09904           | DN   |
| NY Serpentis         | 0.0978            | SU   |
| DV Scorpii           | 0.0950+           | SU   |
| V444 Pegasi          | 0.0947+           | SU   |
| CSS 110628:142548+151502 | 0.094+  | SU   |
| V725 Aquilae         | 0.0939+           | SU   |
| IRXS J003828.7+250920 | 0.094511 | SU   |
| SBSS 0150+339        | 0.093+            | SU   |
| CSS 110205:120053−152620 | 0.093+  | SU   |
| CSS 111004:214738+244554 | 0.0927  | SU   |
| AD Mensae            | 0.0922            | SU   |
| TCP J08461690+3115554 | 0.09138           | SU   |
| CSS 080427:131626−151313 | 0.091+  | SU   |
| V589 Herculis        | 0.0905            | SU   |
| GV Piscium           | 0.090+            | SU   |

*+ means that the orbital period was indirectly determined from the positive superhumps.

increasing orbital period to reach. Considering that the 3:1 resonance responsible for an appearance of superhumps occurs for $q \leq 0.25$ (Whitehurst 1988; Hirose & Osaki 1990; Lubow 1991), we could expect such a condition to be achieved in dwarf novae closer to the lower bound of the period gap. It seems that NY Ser is not capable of achieving the 3:1 resonance in some of long outbursts.

6.3 V1006 Cyg case

From spectroscopic observations (Sheets et al. 2007), the orbital period of V1006 Cyg is 0.09903(9) d, qualifying it for a dwarf nova in the period gap. In the RK catalog, V1006 Cyg is classified as an SU UMa-type star by referring to a preliminary report on the period (vsnet-alert 9487), which was corrected later (vsnet-alert 9489). We report here the result of analysis of this dwarf nova from the VSNET Collaboration (Kato et al. 2004) obtained during its long outbursts in 2007 and 2009. The light curves of the 2007 and 2009 outbursts are shown in figures 13 and 14.

A PDM analysis yielded the periods, 0.09883(12) d for the 2007 outburst and 0.09892(28) d for the 2009 (see figures 15 and 16), that within the errors coincide with the orbital period discovered from spectroscopy. The amplitude of the light curve for both outbursts is $\sim 0.02$ mag. So we found only the orbital modulation in each outburst and there were no indications of the expected superhump period. Since superhumps are not yet detected in V1006 Cyg, we should regard it as an SS Cyg-type star rather than an SU UMa-type star. It is not clear whether these outbursts represent wide ones similar to the NY Ser-like wide outbursts with the orbital modulation,
and similarly in the case of NY Ser or TU Men, one could expect the appearance of superhumps during a much longer outburst. On the other hand, V1006 Cyg would remain a genuine SS Cyg-type star which never reaches the 3:1 resonance. The presence of an apparent SS Cyg-type star having a long outburst without superhumps in the period gap supports our second suggestion that the 3:1 resonance is harder to achieve in longer periods of the period gap, which would explain the distribution of SU UMa stars inside the period gap.

### 7 Conclusion

In this work we discovered in NY Ser unusually long 12 d outbursts without superhumps but displaying orbital light variations.

In his monograph considering the SU UMa-type stars, Warner (1995) wrote: “if dwarf novae are ever found with superoutbursts lacking superhumps they will define a class of their own.” NY Ser could be an example of an intermediate subclass of dwarf novae possessing some properties of cataclysmic variables below the period gap or above it.

In the state of relatively infrequent outbursts the orbital modulation was the dominant signal both during normal outbursts and in quiescence. In the state of the most frequent outbursts immediately followed by the 2013 superoutburst, we confidently detected the coexistence of the surviving positive superhumps and the orbital period.

We were not able to detect a sufficient number of the superhump maxima during the superoutburst because of the limited length of nightly light curves. We leave the study of the evolution of the positive superhumps in this system for the future. We hope that within the future international multilongitude campaign we could also define the frequency of the appearance of a different type of normal outbursts and understand the phenomenon of this unique dwarf nova that could bring us closer to understanding the evolution of CVs inside the period gap.

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Fig. 16. Above: PDM analysis of the data of V1006 Cyg (the 2009 outburst). The 90% confidence interval for $\theta$ is shown by the green strip. The preferable period is marked. Below: Phase-averaged light curve of the 0.09892 d period. For clarity data are reproduced twice. (Color online)

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Supporting Information

Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article: E-table 1.

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