Orbital periods of cataclysmic variables identified by the SDSS.

VI. The 4.5-hr period eclipsing system SDSS J100658.40+233724.4

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Received ???, accepted ???

Abstract

We present time-resolved spectroscopy and photometry of SDSS J100658.40+233724.4, which we have discovered to be an eclipsing cataclysmic variable with an orbital period of 0.18591324 days (267.71507 min). The observed velocity amplitude of the secondary star is 276 ± 7 km s\(^{-1}\), which is 14\% of the orbital velocity. The mass function relation gives a mass of 0.23 ± 0.03 M\(_\odot\). The spectral energy distribution is consistent with a temperature of 16500 ± 2000 K.

Key words. stars: dwarf nova — stars: novae, cataclysmic variables – stars: binaries: eclipsing – stars: binaries: spectroscopic – stars: white dwarfs – stars: individual: SDSS J100658.40+233724

1. Introduction

Cataclysmic variables (CVs) are interacting binary systems containing a low-mass secondary star losing material to a white dwarf primary star. The Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) has spectroscopically identified 252 of these objects, 204 of which are new discoveries (see Szkody et al. 2009, and references therein). This sample of SDSS CVs is valuable because of its large size and homogeneity (Gänsicke et al. 2009) and we are undertaking a project to characterise its constituent objects (see Gänsicke et al. 2006, Dillon et al. 2008, Southworth et al. 2006, and references therein). In the course of this work we have discovered that SDSS J100658.40+233724.4 (hereafter SDSS J1006) shows deep eclipses which are identifiable both spectroscopically and photometrically. The presence of eclipses allows us to determine the basic physical properties of the system, information which is difficult or impossible to obtain for the great majority of CVs (Smith & Dhillon 1998; Knigge 2006, Littlefair et al. 2006).

SDSS J1006 was discovered to be a CV by Szkody et al. (2007) on the basis of an SDSS spectrum which showed strong and wide Balmer emission lines. The continuum is blue at bluer wavelengths but clearly shows the spectral features of the M-type secondary star at redder wavelengths. SDSS J1006 is one of a select bunch of long-period CVs in which the eclipse of the white dwarf (WD) is directly visible in the light curve. In this work we present and analyse time-resolved spectroscopy and photometry of SDSS J1006, from which we measure the masses and radii of the WD and secondary star.

2. Observations and data reduction

2.1. Spectroscopy

Spectroscopic observations were obtained in 2008 January, using the ISIS double-beam spectrograph on the William Herschel Telescope (WHT) at La Palma (Table I). For the red arm we used the R316R grating and Marconi CCD binned by factors of 2 (spectral) and 3 (spatial), giving a wavelength range of 6115–8840 Å at a reciprocal dispersion of 1.85 Å per binned pixel. For the blue arm we used the R600B grating and EEV12 CCD with the same binning factors as for the Marconi CCD, giving a wavelength coverage of 3575–5155 Å at 0.88 Å per binned pixel. From measurements of the full widths at half maximum of arc lamps and night-sky spectral emission lines, we find that this gave resolutions of 3.5 Å (red arm) and 1.8 Å (blue arm).

Data reduction was undertaken by optimal extraction (Horne 1986) as implemented in the PAMELA code (Marsh 1989), which also uses the STARLINK\textsuperscript{3} packages FIGARO and KAPPA; further details can be found in Southworth et al. (2007a,b). Copper-neon and copper-argon arc lamp exposures were taken every hour during our observations and the wavelength calibration for each science exposure was linearly interpolated from the two arc observations bracketing it. We removed the telluric lines and flux-calibrated the target spectra using observations of Feige 110, treating each night separately.

\textsuperscript{1} PAMELA and MOLLY were written by TRM and can be obtained from \url{http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/trmarsh}
\textsuperscript{2} The Starlink software and documentation can be obtained from \url{http://starlink.jach.hawaii.edu/}
Table 1. Log of the observations presented in this work. The mean magnitudes are calculated excluding observations taken during eclipse.

| Date       | Start time (UT) | End time (UT) | Telescope and instrument | Optical element | Number of exposures | Exposure time (s) | Mean magnitude |
|------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 2008 01 04 | 00:11           | 01:49         | WHT/ISIS                 | R600B R316R gratings | 10                 | 600               |                |
| 2008 01 04 | 04:43           | 05:50         | WHT/ISIS                 | R600B R316R gratings | 7                  | 600               |                |
| 2008 01 05 | 00:48           | 06:46         | WHT/ISIS                 | R600B R316R gratings | 62                 | 300               |                |
| 2008 02 01 | 02:31           | 05:41         | NOT/ALFOSC               | Wide-V filter    | 197                | 10–60            | 18.8           |
| 2008 03 14 | 00:06           | 03:07         | CAHA 2.2m/CAFOS          | unfiltered       | 235                | 20–30            | 18.5           |
| 2008 03 14 | 20:55           | 02:24         | CAHA 2.2m/CAFOS          | unfiltered       | 199                | 20–30            | 19.0           |
| 2008 03 15 | 22:56           | 02:18         | CAHA 2.2m/CAFOS          | unfiltered       | 312                | 20–30            | 18.4           |
| 2008 12 21 | 03:17           | 05:17         | NOT/ALFOSC               | Wide-V filter    | 362                | 10               | 18.7           |

Fig. 1. Flux-calibrated average spectrum of SDSS J1006. Data from the blue arm of ISIS are shown in the left panel, and from the red arm in the right panel. The most prominent emission and absorption features are labelled.

The averaged WHT spectra are shown in Fig. 1. Trailing greyscale plots of the phase-binned spectra are shown in Fig. 2, for the H$_\alpha$, He I 6678 Å and Ca II 8662 Å emission lines, and Na I 8183 and 8194 Å absorption lines, and will be discussed in Section 3.

2.2. Photometry

Time-series photometry of SDSS J1006 was obtained in service mode using two telescopes equipped with imaging spectrographs: the Nordic Optical Telescope (NOT) with ALFOSC, and the Calar Alto (CAHA) 2.2 m telescope with CAFOS. For the NOT observations we used the No. 92 filter, which has a wide-$V$ passband with points of half transmission at approximately 4400 and 7000 Å. The CAHA observations were made unfiltered to maximise throughput. The CCDs were mostly binned and windowed to reduce readout time, and short exposure times were used to maximise the cadence of the observations.

The 2008 December observations obtained with the NOT were reduced with the pipeline described by Southworth et al. (2009), which uses an IDL implementation of DOPHOT to perform aperture photometry. The remaining photometric data were reduced using the pipeline described by Gänsicke et al. (2004), which performs bias and flat-field corrections within midas and aperture photometry with the SExtractor package (Bertin & Arnouts 1996). Instrumental differential magnitudes were converted into $V$-band apparent magnitudes, using the SDSS $ugriz$ apparent magnitudes of several comparison stars and the transformation equations given by Lupton.

The light curves are plotted in Fig. 3 with the measured eclipse midpoints indicated. It is apparent from this plot that the depth of the eclipse is dependent on the wavelength of observation: the Calar Alto data were unfiltered, so are more affected by the light of the secondary star and thus show shallower eclipses.

3. Analysis

3.1. Orbital ephemeris

Our first observations of SDSS J1006 were spectroscopic. Radial velocities (RVs) measured from the emission lines (see below) clearly showed anomalies due to three eclipses, on an unambiguous period of 267.9 min. The resulting preliminary ephemeris was sufficiently accurate for us to photometrically observe eclipses, on which more precise period measurements could be based.

For each of the four eclipses, a mirror-image of the light curve was shifted until the two representations of the central parts of the eclipse were in the best possible agreement. The time defining the axis of reflection was taken as the midpoint and uncertainties were estimated based on how far this could be shifted before the agreement was clearly poorer. We have fitted a linear ephemeris to these times of minimum light, finding

$$\text{Min I (HJD)} = 2454540.57968(40) + 0.18591324(42) \times E$$

The $ugriz - BVRI$ transformation equations are attributed to “Lupton (2005)” but appear to be unpublished. They can be found at [http://www.sdss.org/dr6/algorithms/SDSSUBVRITransform.html](http://www.sdss.org/dr6/algorithms/SDSSUBVRITransform.html).
Table 2. Times of eclipse for SDSS J1006 and the residuals with respect to the linear ephemeris given in Section 3.1.

| Cycle | Time of eclipse (HJD) | Residual (d) |
|-------|----------------------|--------------|
| -231  | 2454497.6338 ± 0.0010 | 0.0001       |
| 0     | 2454540.5802 ± 0.0010 | 0.0005       |
| 5     | 2454541.5091 ± 0.0005 | -0.0002      |
| 1512  | 2454821.6809 ± 0.0005 | 0.0000       |

Table 3. Best-fitting spectroscopic orbits found using sbop. The reference times are time of maximum negative rate of change of RV. The uncertainties include both random and systematic contributions.

| Orbital period (d) | 0.18591324 (fixed) |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Eccentricity       | 0.0 (fixed)       |

Emission-line radial velocities:

| Reference time (HJD) | 2454497.6411 ± 0.0023 |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Velocity amplitude $K_1$ (km s$^{-1}$) | 127.1 ± 4.6 |
| Systemic velocity (km s$^{-1}$) | -20.2 ± 6.0 |
| $\sigma_{\text{rms}}$ (km s$^{-1}$) | 20.1 |

Absorption-line radial velocities:

| Reference time (HJD) | 2454497.6338 (fixed) |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Measured $K_2$ (km s$^{-1}$) | 276 ± 7 |
| Corrected $K_{\text{AD}}$ (km s$^{-1}$) | 258 ± 12 |
| Systemic velocity (km s$^{-1}$) | -20 ± 10 |
| $\sigma_{\text{rms}}$ (km s$^{-1}$) | 20.8 |

where $E$ is the cycle number and the parenthesised quantities indicate the uncertainty in the last digit of the preceding number. This corresponds to an orbital period of 267.71507 ± 0.00060 min. The measured times of minimum light and the observed minus calculated values are given in Table 2. All phases in this work are calculated using this ephemeris.

3.2. Emission-line radial velocities

The spectrum of SDSS J1006 (Fig. 1) shows strong emission at the wavelengths of the hydrogen Balmer lines and some helium lines. These emission lines are produced by the accretion disc which surrounds the WD, so variations in their velocity hold information on the motion of the WD itself. However, spectroscopic studies of CVs often show a phase difference between the RV variation of emission lines and the orbital phases measured using other methods (Thorstensen 2000; Thoroughgood et al. 2005; Unda-Sanzana et al. 2006; Steeghs et al. 2007). This casts doubt on whether emission lines are good indicators of the motion of WDs in CVs, and due to this we did not use emission-line RVs in calculating the physical properties of SDSS J1006.

We measured RVs from the H$\alpha$ emission, which is the strongest emission line, using the double-Gaussian method (Schneider & Young 1980) as implemented in molly. The full width half maximum of the Gaussian functions was set to 300 km s$^{-1}$, which is a good compromise between resolving emission-line features and minimising the random noise in the RV measurements. The separation of the two Gaussians, $\xi$, was varied from 800 to 3000 km s$^{-1}$ in jumps of 100 km s$^{-1}$. For each value of $\xi$ a spectroscopic orbit was fitted to the measured RVs using the sbop code, which we find gives reliable error estimates for the optimised parameters (Southworth et al. 2003). The orbital period was fixed at the ephemeris value (Section 3.1), a circular orbit was assumed, and the phase zeropoint was included as a fitted parameter. RVs between phases 0.9 and 0.1 were rejected as they are affected by the eclipse of the accretion disc by the secondary star.

We have constructed a diagnostic diagram (Shafer 1983; Shafer et al. 1986) for SDSS J1006 (Fig 4), which shows that the properties of the spectroscopic orbit change only slowly for $\xi = 1600–2200$ km s$^{-1}$, and that the lowest scatters in the residuals ($\sigma_{\text{rms}}$) occurs for $\xi = 1700–2000$ km s$^{-1}$. The offset between the orbital phase and the phase of greatest negative change in the RVs is only about 0.04 for these separations, which indicates that the emission-line RVs might trace the motion of the WD with reasonable accuracy. We have adopted the spectroscopic orbit for $\xi = 1800$ km s$^{-1}$, which gives the lowest $\sigma_{\text{rms}}$, and these quantities are given in Table 3. The RVs and best fit are shown in Fig 5. Our error estimates include the standard errors given by sbop, plus a contribution to account for variations between the solutions for $\xi = 1500–2200$ km s$^{-1}$ (where the $\sigma_{\text{rms}}$ values are the lowest). We also calculated a diagnostic diagram for the H$\beta$ emission line, which yielded similar results but a greater scatter due to the weaker emission-line flux.
3.3. Absorption-line radial velocities

The secondary component of SDSS J1006 is clearly visible in our red-arm WHT/ISIS spectra, but very few features can be seen by the naked eye to vary in velocity, due to the modest signal-to-noise ratio of individual spectra. This velocity variation plays a vital role in constraining the properties of the system, so we have used two methods to tease out the absorption-line velocity amplitude.

Firstly, the observed spectra were augmented with a set of template M dwarf spectra from the SDSS, then velocity-binned and subjected to a cross-correlation analysis. The orbital ephemeris was fixed to the numbers in Section 3.1 after verifying that this does not cause a significant change in the results. The cross-correlation functions were examined interactively and measured for velocity if they contained a clear peak from the secondary star, and the resulting RVs were fitted with a circular orbit using \( sbop \). We did this for many different spectral regions and template spectra, finding that the resulting velocity amplitudes were always in the interval 270–282 \( \text{km s}^{-1} \). For illustration, in Fig. 5 we plot the absorption-line RVs found using an M4 spectral template and the full red-arm wavelength interval (with the \( \text{H} \alpha \) and helium emission lines masked out).

The second method is designed to cope well with spectra of a low signal-to-noise ratio, and to target the strongest spectral features observed to come from the secondary star. Using the \( \text{mgfit} \) routine in \( \text{molly} \) we fitted a double Gaussian function plus spectroscopic orbit to the sodium doublet at 8183.3 and 8194.8 Å. All 79 spectra were fitted simultaneously, yielding a direct measurement of the velocity amplitude: \( K_2 = 275.8 \pm 3.6 \text{km s}^{-1} \). Fig. 2 shows the phase-binned and trailed spectra of SDSS J1006 in the region of the Na doublet. We have been unable to completely remove the effects of telluric absorption from our spectra, so have also performed fits with extra Gaussians added to account for the residual absorption. We find that our \( K_2 \) measurement is not significantly affected.

Given the good agreement between the two methods, we adopt a value of \( K_2 = 276 \pm 7 \text{km s}^{-1} \), where the error estimate accounts for both the random errors and the variation in results from different analysis techniques (Table 3). The two methods agree well on the value of \( K_2 \) but produce slightly discrepant systemic velocity measurements. This is likely due to difficulties in

Fig. 3. Plot of the four light curves obtained covering eclipses of SDSS J1006. The eclipse midpoints have been aligned on the panels.

Fig. 4. Diagnostic diagram showing the variation of the best-fitting spectroscopic orbital parameters for RVs measured with a range of separations using the double Gaussian function. \( \sigma_{\text{rms}} \) denotes the scatter of the RV measurements around the fitted orbit.
Fig. 5. The measured RVs (circles) and the spectroscopic orbits fitted to them (solid curves). The emission-line RVs (filled circles) were calculated using $\xi = 1800$ km s$^{-1}$. The measurements at phases 0.9–0.1 are affected by the eclipse of the accretion disc and were not included in the fit. The absorption-line RVs (open circles) were obtained by cross-correlation against an M4 template spectrum, and include only those spectra which yielded a reliable cross-correlation function.

placing the continuum, due to the complex spectrum of the secondary star. We adopt a value of $V_y = -20 \pm 10$ km s$^{-1}$, which encompasses most of the systemic velocities found during our analysis. A better measurement of $V_y$ will require further data.

3.3.1. $K$-correction for the absorption-line velocities

Our measured $K_2$ cannot be assumed to represent the motion of the centre of mass of the secondary star, $K_{MD}$, due to irradiation of the inner hemisphere by the WD and accretion disc. The irradiated surface has a lower vertical temperature gradient and thus weaker absorption lines. RV measurements from these lines are therefore skewed towards the motion of the outward-facing part of the star, causing $K_2$ to overestimate $K_{MD}$. (Hessman et al. 1984; Wade & Horne 1988; Billington et al. 1996).

To estimate the correction $\Delta K = K_2 - K_{MD}$ we have measured the equivalent widths of absorption features arising from the secondary star, as a function of orbital phase. The wavelength scales of the spectra were moved to shift out the motion of the star, and the spectra were then rectified to a continuum level of 1 and binned into twenty phase intervals. The resulting plots (Fig.6) show that the equivalent widths vary by approximately 30% outside eclipse. Extrapolating to the phase of secondary mid-eclipse and considering the errors on this approach and on the equivalent width measurements, we find a total variation in equivalent width (and thus in the light from the secondary star) of $35 \pm 15\%$.

Wade & Horne (1988) obtained the expression

$$\Delta K = f \frac{R_{MD}}{a_{MD}} K_{MD}$$

where $f$ is the size of the displacement as a fraction of $R_{MD}$, the radius of the secondary star, and $a_{MD}$ is the semimajor axis of the orbit of this component. The light curve analysis (see below) gives a mass ratio of $q = 0.51 \pm 0.10$, which results in a secondary star radius of $R_{MD} = (0.49 \pm 0.06)a_{MD}$. The largest value of $f$ is $4/3\pi \approx 0.42$ and occurs when the spectral lines are totally quenched on the irradiated hemisphere of the star. We therefore adopted $f = 0.42 \times (0.35 \pm 0.15) = 0.15 \pm 0.06$, resulting in a $K$-correction of $\Delta K = (0.07 \pm 0.04)K_{MD}$. Armed with this correction we have determined the velocity amplitude of the centre of mass of the secondary star to be $K_{MD} = 258 \pm 12$ km s$^{-1}$ (Table3).

3.4. Doppler tomography

To investigate the properties of the accretion disc of SDSS J1006 we have constructed Doppler maps of several of the emission lines using the maximum entropy method (Marsh & Horne 1988). The maps are shown in Fig.7 and phase-binned and trailed plots of the emission lines are shown in Fig.2. The $\chi^2$ value for the Doppler maps were chosen to be marginal less than the values for which noise features start to be visible, and the orientation of the maps was specified using the eclipse ephemeris. Overlaid on the Doppler maps are interpretations of the system properties, adopting $K_{WD} = 127$ km s$^{-1}$ and $K_{MD} = 258$ km s$^{-1}$.

The Doppler maps for the Balmer emission lines (see the H$\alpha$ map in Fig.7) have an unusual wide double-lobe structure. The H$\alpha$ map also shows emission attributable to the secondary star, although this is oddly offset from the line of centres of the system. The shape of the accretion disc and the offset of the secondary star emission may be artefacts of the breakdown of an important assumption of Doppler tomography: that emitting regions are optically thin.
Fig. 7. Doppler maps of Hα (left), He I 6678 Å (centre) and Ca II 8662 Å (right). Assuming \( K_1 = 127 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) and \( K_2 = 258 \text{ km s}^{-1} \), the Roche lobe of the secondary is shown with a solid line, the centres of mass of the system and of the two stars are shown by crosses, and the velocity of the accretion stream and the Keplerian velocity of the accretion disc are indicated by dots with a constant spacing in position. The orientation of the maps has been set using the eclipse ephemeris.

Table 4. Results of the light curve modelling process. The formal uncertainties come from the MCMC analysis and the adopted uncertainties are increased to account for several additional sources of uncertainty. Several parameters are given in units of \( a \), the orbital semimajor axis.

| Quantity                          | Value   | Formal uncertainty | Adopted uncertainty |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Reference time (HJD)              | 2454821.68051 | 0.00002            | 0.0002              |
| Orbital period (d)                | 0.18591324   | (fixed)            |                     |
| Orbital inclination (°)           | 81.3      | 0.8                | 2.0                 |
| Mass ratio                        | 0.51      | 0.04               | 0.08                |
| Disc radius (\( a \))             | 0.189     | 0.015              | 0.05                |
| White dwarf radius (\( a \))      | 0.0110    | 0.0013             | 0.003               |
| Secondary star radius (\( a \))   | 0.322     | 0.006              | 0.010               |

Doppler maps of the He I emission lines show weak and diffuse emission in the region of the bright spot, which is where the accretion stream from secondary star encounters the edge of the accretion disc. The bright spot is not a major source of He I emission, but very little else is seen in the He I maps.

We have also constructed a Doppler map of the Ca II 8662 Å emission, which is the line of the calcium triplet which is least affected by night-sky emission and telluric lines. The map (Fig. 7) shows a circular accretion disc feature and clear emission arising from the secondary star. The latter emission can be seen describing a S-wave in trailed spectra (Fig. 2), and its position in the map supports our measurement of the velocity amplitude of this star.

3.5. Light curve modelling

Our light curves show deep eclipses due to obscuration of the WD and accretion disc by the secondary star. To obtain constraints on the system properties, the best dataset (2008 December) was compared to synthetic light curves created using the lcurve code written by TRM (see Pyrzas et al. 2009). This uses grids of points to model the WD as a sphere, the secondary star using Roche geometry, a flat circular accretion disc, and an exponentially decreasing bright spot. The best fit to the observed data was obtained with a combination of the downhill simplex and Levenberg-Marquardt algorithms (Press et al. 1992). The outside-eclipse data show strong stochastic variation (termed flickering; see Bruch 1992 and Bruch 2000) arising from the mass-transfer process in SDSS J1006. We have downweighted data outside the phase interval \([-0.07, 0.08]\) by a factor of three, to limit their influence on the fit.

The small gap in the light curve at HJD 2454821.69 is unfortunate, as the egress of the bright spot occurs somewhere during this time. We find two main families of good fits to the light curve corresponding to different WD radii and mass ratios: the first family is in the region of \( R_{WD} = 0.011a \) and \( q = 0.51 \) and is our preferred solution. The second centres on \( R_{WD} = 0.023a \), which is unphysically large, and \( q = 0.60 \). After extensive exploration of the parameter space we adopt the first solution but increase the errorbars of the light curve parameters to include the full range of plausible solutions which we found.

Internal parameter errors were determined by \( 10^5 \) Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) simulations. For these simulations we accepted a certain fraction of random jumps in parameter val-
ues and evaluated how they changed the quality of the fit. After the simulations showed reasonable convergence, the errors and covariances could be computed from examining the parameters from the accepted jumps. We rejected typically the first 10% of values to avoid a dependence on the initial parameter values. This gives a more realistic view of the parameter uncertainties compared to the values computed simply from the analytic errors alone, an aspect which is particularly important given the correlated noise due to flickering.

The results of the light curve modelling process are given in Table 4 and the best-fitting model is compared to the data in Fig. 8. The radii of the stars and accretion disc are given in units of the orbital semimajor axis, a. The uncertainties yielded by the MCMC analysis still do not fully take into account the flickering or the range of plausible solutions we found. We have increased the uncertainties to include the full range of reasonable trial solutions we found (Table 4), and regard the results as conservative. A substantial improvement will require high-speed photometry of several eclipses of the SDSS J1006 system.

### 4. The physical properties of SDSS J1006

The spectroscopic and eclipsing characteristics of SDSS J1006 allow the determination of the masses and radii of the WD and its low-mass companion. From measurements of the times of mid-eclipse we have obtained an accurate orbital period of 0.18591324(41)d. From the infrared sodium doublet we have measured the velocity amplitude \( K_2 = 276 \pm 7 \text{ km s}^{-1} \). A correction for irradiation effects leads to the secondary star velocity amplitude \( K_{MD} = 258 \pm 12 \text{ km s}^{-1} \). From modelling the eclipse morphology of SDSS J1006 we have found an orbital inclination of \( i = 81.3^\circ \pm 2.0^\circ \) and a mass ratio of \( q = 0.51 \pm 0.08 \).

Combining these results yields the masses and radii of the WD and secondary star in SDSS J1006 (Table 5). The mass of the former, 0.78 M\(_\odot\), is higher than the average for single WDs, in agreement with previous results for CVs (Smith & Dhillon 1998; Littlefair et al. 2008). Its radius is consistent (within its large uncertainty) with the theoretical mass–radius relationship for a \( T_e = 15000 \text{ K} \) WD (Bergeron et al. 1995). The secondary star has a mass of 0.40 M\(_\odot\) and a radius of 0.47 R\(_\odot\), which is distended compared to a normal object – a mass–radius relation based on detached eclipsing binary star systems (Southworth 2009) predicts a radius of 0.41 R\(_\odot\) – but in excellent agreement with the semi-empirical sequence for CV secondary stars constructed by Knigge (2006). This is expected because the mass transfer timescale becomes similar to the thermal timescale for the secondary components of CVs above the period gap, allowing continued mass transfer to drive the star out of thermal equilibrium.

#### 4.1. Distance and white dwarf temperature

The secondary star dominates the red end of the optical spectrum of SDSS J1006, exhibiting the strong TiO bandheads that are characteristic of mid-to-late M dwarfs. We have obtained the star’s spectral type using the M dwarf template library that Rebassa-Mansergas et al. (2007) assembled from SDSS spectroscopy, interpolated onto a finer grid spanning types M0 to M9 in steps of 0.2 subtypes. These templates were scaled and subtracted from the SDSS spectrum of SDSS J1006 to obtain the residual spectrum at \( P = 16500 \text{ K} \) model spectrum scaled for \( R_{WD} = 0.016 \text{ R}_\odot \) and \( d = 676 \text{ pc} \).

### Table 5. Physical properties of the stellar components of SDSS J1006.

| Quantity     | White dwarf | M dwarf   |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| Semimajor axis (R\(_\odot\)) | 1.45 ± 0.10 |           |
| Mass (M\(_\odot\))          | 0.78 ± 0.12 | 0.40 ± 0.10 |
| Radius (R\(_\odot\))        | 0.016 ± 0.006 | 0.466 ± 0.036 |
| log g [cm s\(^{-2}\)]       | 7.93 ± 0.33 | 4.701 ± 0.079 |

Fig. 9. Black line: the SDSS spectrum of SDSS J1006. Red line: an M3.2 template spectrum scaled to match the strengths of the spectral features of the companion star in SDSS J1006. Blue line: the residual spectrum obtained after subtracting the M-dwarf template from the spectrum of SDSS J1006.

Fig. 10. Spectral energy distribution of SDSS J1006, showing the observed (solid error bars) and dereddened (\( E_{B-V} = 0.03 \); dashed error bars) GALEX UV fluxes, the optical SDSS spectrum, and the 2MASS near-IR fluxes (black triangles). Shown in gray are the M3.2 SDSS template from Fig 9 near-IR fluxes for an M3.2 star interpolated from Sandy Leggett’s archive of M-dwarf spectra, and a log g = 7.93, \( T_{WD} = 16500 \text{ K} \) model spectrum scaled for \( R_{WD} = 0.016 \text{ R}_\odot \) and \( d = 676 \text{ pc} \).
Using the polynomial expressions of Beuermann (2006), we obtained the $F_{\text{TiO}}$ surface fluxes for secondary stars with spectral types in the range M3.0 to M3.4. Taking $R_2 = 0.466 R_\odot$, we find a distance of

$$d = \sqrt{\frac{R_2^2 F_{\text{TiO}}}{f_{\text{TiO}}}} = 676 \pm 40 \text{ pc}$$

where the uncertainty in $d$ is dominated by that in $R_2$.

SDSS J1006 has also been detected in the ultraviolet (UV) all-sky survey carried out by GALEX (Martin et al. 2005), from which we can estimate the WD’s effective temperature, $T_{\text{WD}}$. The GALEX observations were obtained during the phase interval 0.117–0.124, which is outside the WD eclipse to high confidence. We adopt $\log g = 7.93$ for the WD (Table 5), and $d = 676 \pm 40$ pc. Under the assumption that the UV flux is entirely due to the unobscured photospheric emission of the WD, the only free parameter to reproduce the observed GALEX fluxes is then $T_{\text{WD}}$. The observed far-UV flux implies $T_{\text{WD}} \approx 16000 \text{ K}$, or $T_{\text{WD}} \approx 17000 \text{ K}$ if a maximum reddening of $E_{B-V} = 0.031$ (Schlegel et al. 1998) is assumed (Fig. 11), with an uncertainty of $\pm 1500 \text{ K}$. We therefore adopt $T_{\text{WD}} = 16500 \pm 2000 \text{ K}$. This value is only an estimate, because it is possible that the WD is partially veiled by the accretion disc, and that the disc, bright spot and boundary layer contribute to the observed UV fluxes. A more reliable $T_{\text{WD}}$ measurement could be obtained from UV spectroscopy.

This $T_{\text{WD}}$ is unusually low for a dwarf nova with $P_{\text{orb}} \sim 4 \text{ hr}$ (e.g. Urban & Sion 2006; Townsley & Gansicke 2009) — by comparison the well-studied dwarf nova U Gem has overall properties which are very similar to SDSS J1006 but harbours a WD with $T_{\text{WD}} \approx 30000 \text{ K}$ (Sion et al. 1998; Long et al. 2006). Given that SDSS J1006 is a high-inclination system, it might be possible that the WD is partially veiled by extended structures above the accretion disc, similar to those seen in OY Car (Horne et al. 1994). If veiling is not the cause of the low observed UV flux (no veiling is observed in U Gem), the low $T_{\text{WD}}$ implies a secular mean accretion rate of a few $10^{-9} M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$ (Townsley & Gansicke 2009), which is a factor of about three lower than in U Gem.

### 4.2. Outburst characteristics

SDSS J1006 has been observed by the Catalina Sky Survey observations of SDSS J1006 (blue lower line) and the number of outbursts which would have been detected for SDSS J1006 (black upper line), as a function of the outburst period.

From the observations presented in this work we have discovered that SDSS J1006 is an eclipsing CV, measured the orbital period, and calculated the masses and radii of its component stars. This was achieved through a parametric model of its eclipses, combined with a spectroscopic velocity amplitude for the secondary star corrected for the effects of irradiation. Doppler maps of the infrared calcium triplet reveal emission from the secondary star and are in agreement with this $K_{\text{MD}}$. From the spectral characteristics of the system we have also found a WD effective temperature of $T_{\text{WD}} = 16500 \pm 2000 \text{ K}$, a secondary star spectral type of M3.2$\pm$0.2, and a distance of $d = 676 \pm 40$ pc. A dwarf nova outburst interval of roughly 400 d agrees with the available photometric observations of SDSS J1006.

We measured radial velocities for the WD from the H$\alpha$ and H$\beta$ emission lines, finding a velocity amplitude $K_1 = 127.1 \pm 4.2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Despite using the diagnostic diagram approach, our RVs still have a phase offset of 0.04 from the eclipse ephemeris. We therefore could not assume that they represent the motion of the WD, so did not use them in obtaining the physical properties of SDSS J1006. Notwithstanding this, the $K_1$ we measured turns out to be in excellent agreement with the expected WD velocity amplitude of 131.5 km s$^{-1}$.

The mass of the WD is $0.78 \pm 0.12 M_\odot$, and its radius is consistent with theoretical expectations. The secondary star has a mass and radius of $0.40 \pm 0.10 M_\odot$ and $0.456 \pm 0.036 R_\odot$, respectively, which is in excellent agreement with the semi-empirical sequence for CV secondary stars constructed by Knigge (2006).

The uncertainties in the system parameters are dominated by the

\[\text{See http://nesssi.cacr.caltech.edu/catalina/2006/0301/SDSSCV.html#table77}\]
moderate quality of the light curve, and an improved photometric study of this object is warranted.

In Table 6, we have assembled a list of the component masses and radii of eclipsing CVs with long orbital periods (greater than 3.0 hr). We discount systems with uncertain properties or whose analysis rests on emission-line RVs (not always reliable) or mass–radius relations for the secondary star (to avoid circular arguments). The list is worryingly short: only 10 systems (including SDSS J1306) satisfy our criteria, of which one is magnetic (DQ Her). The weighted mean and standard deviation of the WD masses is 0.78 ± 0.19 M⊙. The masses and radii of the secondary stars display a clear negative correlation with orbital period, as expected by our current understanding of the evolution of CVs. The WD masses display no correlation with orbital period or with the secondary star masses, in agreement with studies which show that WDs in CVs do not undergo large overall changes in mass (Prialnik & Kovetz 1995; Knigge 2006).

### Acknowledgements

The reduced observational data presented in this work will be made available at the CDS (http://cdsweb.u-strasbg.fr/) and at http://www.astro.keele.ac.uk/jkt/ We are grateful to Andrew Drake for providing the Catalina Sky Survey observations of SDSS J1306, and to the anonymous referee for a positive report. JS, TRM, BTG and CMC acknowledge financial support from STFC in the form of grant number ST 1357520. Based on observations made with the William Herschel Telescope, operated by the Isaac Newton Group, and the Nordic Optical Telescope, operated jointly by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, both on the island of La Palma in the Spanish Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias. Based on observations collected at the Centro Astronómico Hispano Alemán (CAHA) at Calar Alto, Spain, operated jointly by the Max-Planck Institut für Astronomie and the Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía (CSIC). The following internet-based resources were used in research for this paper: the ESO Digitized Sky Survey; the NASA Astrophysics Data System; the SIMBAD database operated at CDS, Strasbourg, France; and the arXiv scientific paper preprint service operated by Cornell University.

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Table 6. Eclipsing cataclysmic variables for which masses and radii of one or both components have been measured accurately and precisely. Those secondary radii without errorbars are not available from the original reference so have instead been calculated assuming Roche geometry.

| Name   | Orbital period (d) | Mass ratio | White dwarf mass (M⊙) | White dwarf radius (R⊙) | Secondary mass (M⊙) | Secondary radius (R⊙) | References |
|--------|--------------------|------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| IP Peg | 0.358206           | 0.48 ± 0.01| 1.16 ± 0.02            | 0.0064 ± 0.0004         | 0.55 ± 0.02         | 0.47 ± 0.01           | 1, 2       |
| GY Cnc | 0.175442           | 0.387 ± 0.031| 0.99 ± 0.12            | 0.0067 ± 0.0008         | 0.41 ± 0.02         | 0.43 ± 0.06           | 6, 7, 8, 9 |
| U Gem  | 0.176906           | 0.362 ± 0.010| 1.14 ± 0.07            | 0.016 ± 0.006           | 0.40 ± 0.10         | 0.46 ± 0.036          | This work  |
| DQ Her | 0.193621           | 0.62 ± 0.05 | 0.60 ± 0.07            | 0.013 ± 0.001           | 0.56 ± 0.02         | 0.57 ± 0.02           | 12, 13, 14 |
| EX Dra | 0.209937           | 0.75 ± 0.01 | 0.75 ± 0.02            | 0.013 ± 0.001           | 0.56 ± 0.02         | 0.57 ± 0.02           | 12, 13, 14 |
| V347 Pup| 0.213936           | 0.83 ± 0.05 | 0.63 ± 0.04            | 0.02 ± 0.06             | 0.60 ± 0.02         | 0.60 ± 0.02           | 15         |
| EM Cyg | 0.290909           | 0.88 ± 0.05 | 1.13 ± 0.08            | 0.09 ± 0.12             | 0.87 ± 0.07         | 0.87 ± 0.07           | 15         |
| AC Cnc | 0.300477           | 1.02 ± 0.04 | 0.76 ± 0.03            | 0.07 ± 0.05             | 0.83 ± 0.16         | 0.83 ± 0.16           | 16         |
| V363 Aur| 0.321242           | 1.17 ± 0.07 | 0.90 ± 0.06            | 0.10 ± 0.01             | 0.90 ± 0.11         | 0.90 ± 0.11           | 16         |

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