Discovery of a New Deeply Eclipsing SU UMa-Type Dwarf Nova, IY UMa (= TmzV85)

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Abstract

We discovered a new deeply eclipsing SU UMa-type dwarf nova, IY UMa, which experienced a superoutburst in 2000 January. Our monitoring revealed two distinct outbursts, which suggest a superoutburst interval of \( \sim 800 \) d, or its half, and an outburst amplitude of 5.4 mag. From time-series photometry during the superoutburst, we determined a superhump and orbital period of 0.07588 d and 0.0739132 d, respectively.

Key words: accretion disks — binaries: eclipsing — stars: cataclysmic variables — stars: individual (IY UMa)

1. Introduction

Dwarf novae are cataclysmic binary stars which exhibit repetitive outbursts of several magnitudes. They contain a Roche-lobe-filling cool dwarf star that loses mass through the inner Lagrangian point, and a white-dwarf star accreting it (Warner 1995). The SU UMa stars form a sub-class of dwarf novae, showing two types of out-
burst, namely, a short “normal” outburst and a long “superoutburst”. According to theories for the superoutburst mechanism (e.g. Osaki 1996), after the accretion disk grows over a critical radius it becomes tidally unstable due to a gravitational interaction with the secondary. In this model the precession of an eccentric disk can explain the “superhump” modulation present in the superoutburst.

Eclipsing systems provide a unique opportunity to reconstruct the brightness distribution of an accretion disk from the observed integrated light (Horne 1985; Baptista, Steiner 1991, 1993). There are only five known SU UMa stars which exhibit deep eclipses, indicating occultation of the accretion disk and the white dwarf by the secondary star. Of these systems, HT Cas (Zhang et al. 1986), OY Car (Krzeminski, Vogt 1985), and Z Cha (Bailey 1979) have long been studied; these limited samples have historically provided almost all of our knowledge concerning the spatial structure and time-evolution of accretion disks in SU UMa stars. Although two more eclipsing SU UMa stars, DV UMa (Nogami et al., in preparation) and V2051 Oph (Kiyota, Kato 1998), have recently been discussed, the low frequency of superoutbursts and the small number of the known eclipsing systems still make it difficult to directly clarify the eccentric disk, itself, and its evolution with time by an observational approach.

In this letter we report on the discovery of a new deeply eclipsing northern SU UMa-type dwarf nova, IY UMa (= TmzV85), along with the results of our photometric monitoring and time-resolved photometry. A more detailed analysis of the eclipses, including the time-evolution of the accretion disk during this superoutburst and the subsequent rapid fading phase, will be presented in a separate paper.

2. Discovery and Observations

Takamizawa (1998) discovered a new variable star which had been brightening at a photographic magnitude of 13.0 on 1997 November, 9.751 (UT) more fainter than 14.9 mag on November 1.753 (UT). He reported this star as TmzV85 to the Variable Star network (VSNET, http://www.kusastro.kyoto-u.ac.jp/vsnet) along with his comment that this is a potential dwarf nova based on the lack of detections on other films and the relatively blue color of the corresponding USNO star. Following this report, visual and CCD monitoring was conducted, yielding negative results until 2000 January 13.509, when Schmeer (2000) detected a second brightening at an unfiltered CCD magnitude of 14.0. We started CCD time-series observations, which immediately revealed the presence of superhumps and deep eclipses, establishing that TmzV85 is a new deeply eclipsing SU UMa-type dwarf nova (Uemura et al. 2000). This object has subsequently been given the designation IY UMa (Samus 2000). This is the first case in which both superhumps and eclipses were discovered simultaneously. The position of IY UMa, derived by H. Yamaoka (in private communication), is R.A. = 10h 43m 56s.87, Decl. = +58° 07’ 32” .5 (equinox 2000.0). Figure 1 gives the finding chart of IY UMa.

A description of the equipment of CCD time-series photometry is given in table 1. After correcting for the standard de-biasing and flat fielding, we processed object frames with the PSF and aperture photometry packages. We performed differential photometry relative to the comparison star, C1, shown in figure 1, whose constancy was confirmed by check stars, C2 and C3.

3. Results

The first outburst occurred in 1997, which was recorded as two photographic magnitudes of 13.0 (November 9.751) and 13.4 (November 9.756); the second outburst was observed at 14.0 mag on 2000 January 13.509. The first outburst was most certainly also a superoutburst, because the observed maximum was brighter than that of the second outburst. This means the amplitude of a superoutburst of 5.4 mag, determined by the minimum magnitude of 18.4 (Henden 2000). No other outburst over 15.3 mag has been recorded since 1994 November 11 when K. Takamizawa took his oldest photographic image of the field of IY UMa, although this object has been relatively closely monitored, particularly since 1999. Because we cannot exclude the possibility of overlooking another superoutburst before 1999, we suggest the typical time interval between two subsequent superoutbursts, called “supercycle”, is ∼800 d, or its half.

The light curve of the outburst in 2000 January is given in figure 2. The abscissa and ordinate denote time in heliocentric julian date and unfiltered CCD or visual magnitude, respectively. The points and their errorbars denote the nightly averaged outside-eclipse magnitudes of
Table 1. Equipment for time-series photometry.

| Observer      | Telescope | CCD    | $T_{\text{exp}}$ (s) |
|---------------|-----------|--------|---------------------|
| Kyoto team    | 25-cm SC  | ST-7   | 30                  |
| L. T. Jensen  | 25-cm SC  | ST-6   | 60                  |
| B. Martin     | 31-cm N   | CB245  | 200                 |
| R. Novák      | 40-cm N   | ST-7   | 50                  |
| D. Buczynski  | 33-cm N   | SXL8   | 45                  |
| Nyrola team   | 40-cm SC  | ST-7E  | 120/60              |
| J. Pietz      | 20-cm SC  | ST6-B  | 90/60               |
| T. Vanmunster | 35-cm SC  | ST-7   | 60                  |
| L. Cook       | 44-cm N   | CB245  | 16                  |

SC = Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope  
N = Newtonian telescope

CCD time-series photometry and their standard error, respectively. The open circles denote the magnitude by CCD monitorings. The last recorded magnitude before the outburst of 17.6 mag on January 8.463 and the discovery date of the outburst suggest that the duration of this superoutburst was between 12 and 18 days.

Figure 3 provides the light curve on HJD 2451561.9 – 2451562.7, representative of the intermediate stage of the superoutburst (upper panel) and HJD 2451567.1 – 2451567.9, representative of the advanced stage (lower panel), which clearly show the superhumps and the deep eclipses. The superhump amplitude of about 0.5 mag in the intermediate stage becomes smaller at the late stage, about 0.3 mag. On the other hand, the eclipses become deeper with time; the typical depth of the eclipse are about 1.3 mag in the upper panel and about 1.8 mag in the lower panel, which suggests that the brightness of the outer part of the disk gradually fades and/or the disk, itself, shrinks during the advanced stage. The profile of the eclipse is quite asymmetric, suggesting the presence of a strongly asymmetric disk.

We first determined the ephemeris of the eclipse center, $T$ (in HJD):

$$T = 2451561.24546(\pm0.00011) + 0.0739132(\pm0.0000018) \times E ,$$

where $E$ is a cycle number. To determine the superhump period, we rejected observations within phase 0.10 of the eclipse center from all of the data obtained during the outburst (HJD 2451561.2098 – HJD 2451569.5865). After removing a linear trend of the decline, we performed a period analysis using the Phase Dispersion Minimization (PDM) method (Stellingwerf 1978), which indicates 0.07588 ± 0.0000113 d as the best estimated superhump period. The superhump excess, $\varepsilon$, defined by $\varepsilon = (P_{\text{sh}} - P_{\text{orb}})/P_{\text{orb}}$, where $P_{\text{orb}}$ and $P_{\text{sh}}$ denote the orbital and superhump period, respectively, is consequently calculated as 0.027.

Fig. 2. Superoutburst light curve of IY UMa. The outburst duration and the decline rate are typical for SU UMa stars. The long tail after the outburst is characteristic for this outburst of IY UMa.

4. Discussion and Summary

We have derived some of the physical parameters of the newly discovered SU UMa-type dwarf nova with a deep eclipse, IY UMa, and summarize them in table 2 along with those of the other eclipsing SU UMa stars. As shown in this table, the orbital period of IY UMa is quite similar to those of Z Cha and HT Cas. Because the normal outburst of IY UMa has historically not been detected, continuous observations are essential to determine the frequency of a normal outburst and the part of accretion disk where the disk-instability begins.

IY UMa is potentially the most valuable northern SU UMa-type dwarf nova with deep eclipses, the bright quiescence magnitude, and relatively frequent superoutbursts compared to HT Cas, which has not been observed to undergo a superoutburst since 1985. The star thus provides a unique opportunity for SUBARU telescope to study the structure of accretion disks of SU UMa-type dwarf novae in quiescence through eclipse-timing spectroscopic observations.

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Fig. 3. Eclipses and superhumps. Upper panel: the light curve on HJD 2451561 (intermediate phase in superoutburst). Lower panel: on HJD 2451567 (late phase in superoutburst). The eclipses become deeper with time.

Table 2. Physical parameters of the known eclipsing SU UMa stars.

| Object Name | $V_{\text{quies}}$ | $V_{\text{super}}$ | $T_{\text{super}}$ | $P_{\text{orb}}$ | $P_{\text{sh}}$ |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Z Cha       | 15.3              | 11.9               | 287               | 0.074499        | 0.07740      |
| OY Car      | 15.3              | 11.4               | 318               | 0.063121        | 0.064544     |
| V2051 Oph   | 15.0              | 11.7               | 430*              | 0.062428        | 0.064231     |
| HT Cas      | 16.4              | 11.9               |                   | 0.073647        | 0.076077     |
| DV UMa      | 18.6              | 14.0               | 970*              | 0.08587        | 0.088673     |
| IY UMa      | 18.4*             | 13.0               | 400 or 800        | 0.073913        | 0.07588      |

$V_{\text{quies}}$: magnitude at quiescence, $V_{\text{super}}$: maximum magnitude during superoutburst, $T_{\text{super}}$: supercycle, $P_{\text{orb}}$: orbital period, and $P_{\text{sh}}$: superhump period.

Data without symbols from Ritter and Kolb (1998)

* from VSNET data, † IBVS 4644, ‡ IAU Circ. 4027, § Uemura et al. 2000 in preparation
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