

COMMISSION 27 OF THE I. A. U.
INFORMATION BULLETIN ON VARIABLE STARS
NUMBER 873

Konkoly Observatory
Budapest
1974 March 4

COORDINATED CAMPAIGN FOR OBSERVATIONS OF X-RAY BINARIES
I.A.U. COMMISSION 42 IN COORDINATION WITH COMMISSION 44

The Committee for Coordinated Observing Programs (Chairman, K. Gyldenkerne) of the IAU Commission 42, in collaboration with its Committee for Astronomical Observations from Outside the Earth's Atmosphere (Chairman, Y. Kondo), announces its sponsorship of a coordinated campaign to observe X-ray binaries. The campaign is also being coordinated with the IAU Commission 44 (President, A. D. Code).

The objects selected for this campaign include in the first place 3U1653+35 (=Her X-1 = HZ Her), 3U1956+35 (=Cyg X-1 = HDE226868), 3U0900-40 (= HD77581), and 3U1700-37 (=HD153919). In addition to these, the following objects, for which possible optical identifications have been made or proposed, will be treated in the campaign communications and will perhaps be included in this campaign: 3U1118-60 (=Cen X-3 = the star suggested by Krzeminski in IAU Circular No. 2162), 3U0115-73 (=SMC X-1 = Sanduleak 160), 3U0352+30 (= X Per), Cep X-4 (= HD 206267, a 7th magnitude 06 spectroscopic binary, $P = 3.7$ days), 3U0032+24 (= ζ And, $P=17^d.8$ days, an elliptical variable?), 3U0918-55 (= κ Vel, variable radial velocity), 3U0527-05 (= σ^2 Ori A, a 5th magnitude 09.5 V spectroscopic binary, $P = 21.0$ days, massive invisible companion, within the error box of the X-ray source), and 3U1820-30 (= Variable Star No. 14 of the globular cluster NGC 6624, within the error box of the X-ray source). This additional list of objects are based primarily on the suggestions kindly offered by Dr. W. Liller. Other objects may be added subject to future optical identification. For additional information on these binaries selected for the campaign the reader is referred to the recent issues of the IAU Circulars (published by Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory), I. B. V. S. and the Astrophysical Journal (especially Part II), among other publications. 3U numbers refer to those given in the third Uhuru Catalogue of X-ray sources, which is soon to be published.

Sometime after the end of March 1974, the University College London X-ray experiment on the Copernicus satellite is scheduled to observe Her X-1 in the energy range 3-1 keV. The exact schedule is expected to be

available about 10 days prior to the onset of the observing period. Active participants in the campaign will be informed of these dates as soon as they are determined. Most X-ray experimenters on the UK5, ANS and OSO-I satellites have already expressed their interests in participating in the Campaign. The UK5 satellite is currently scheduled for launch in June 1974, while the ANS is slated to be launched in August, 1974. OSO-I is planned for launch in March, 1975. Dr. S. S. Holt, the NASA project scientist for the UK5, states that preliminary observing schedules for it will be established a few months in advance although the actual observing plans may not be finalized until a few weeks prior to the execution. According to Dr. H. Gursky, the principal investigator for the ANS hard X-ray experiment, the ANS observing plans are expected to be established a few months in advance.

If you are involved in X-ray binary research and interested in participating in this campaign, you are invited to write to the coordinator briefly describing your current and near future plans. Although we shall be primarily concerned with space and ground observations, those interested in theoretical interpretation are also encouraged to participate in this campaign through suggestions to observers. The status of the reported ongoing research activities will be contained in the forthcoming issues of the campaign circulars. X-ray satellite observing plans will also be announced and kept current in the Circular Letters and/or Special Bulletins.

Communications to the coordinator should be addressed to:

Y. Kondo
Astrophysics Section (TN23)
Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas 77058 U. S. A.

KJELD GYLDENKERNE
Chairman
Committee for Coordinated
Observing Programs
IAU Commission 42

YOJI KONDO
Coordinator
Coordinated Campaign for Observations
of X-Ray Binaries
IAU Commissions 42 and 44