WHITE DWARFS IN THE HET DARK ENERGY EXPERIMENT

Barbara G. Castanheira

University of Texas/University of Vienna

Recently, large scale surveys have discovered not only a large number of white dwarfs, but also different flavors, including a new class of pulsators (Montgomery et al. 2008). HET Dark Energy Experiment (HETDEX) will use the 9.2 m Hobby-Eberly Telescope at McDonald Observatory and a set of spectrographs to map the three-dimensional positions of one million galaxies, to look for dark energy. Among the by-products of this unique magnitude limited survey, we expect to observe spectroscopically about 20,000 white dwarfs. In this paper, I'll present the specifications and future capabilities of HETDEX for white dwarf science. Furthermore, I'll show first results from observations of white dwarfs in the pilot survey.