

## UPDATE ON UHE WHITE DWARFS

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What happens when a star transforms into a white dwarf? Admittedly, for about 10% of all stars in the universe we fail to answer this question, because – suddenly – these freshly born white dwarfs display weird absorption lines, which were tentatively identified as Rydberg transitions of ultra highly excitation (UHE) metal lines. This UHE phenomenon is known for almost three decades, yet no satisfying answer has been found. In this talk I will present recent progress on UHE white dwarfs that was made thanks to Gaia, photometric surveys like TESS or ZTF, dedicated spectroscopic and spectropolarimetric follow-up, and discuss open questions.