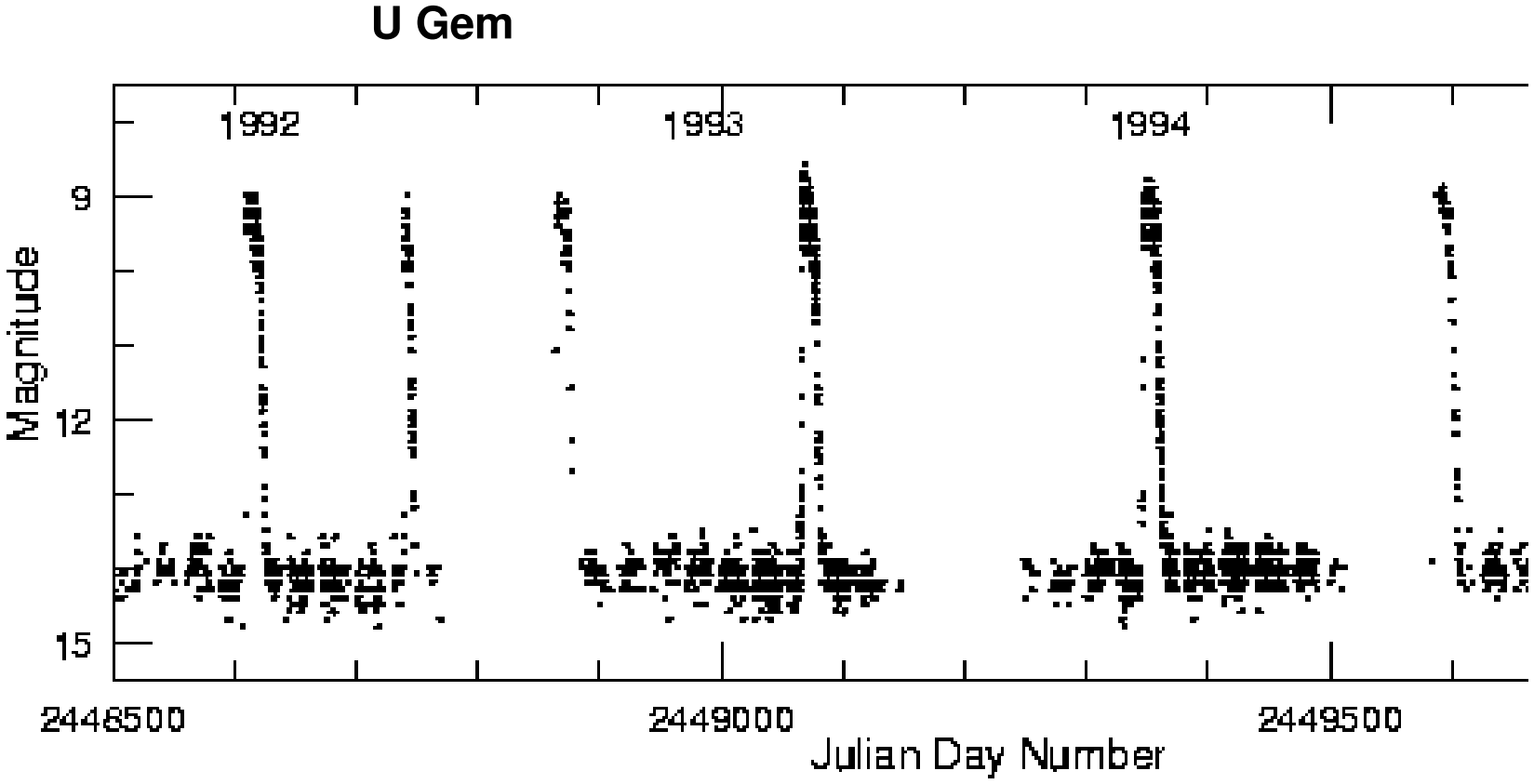
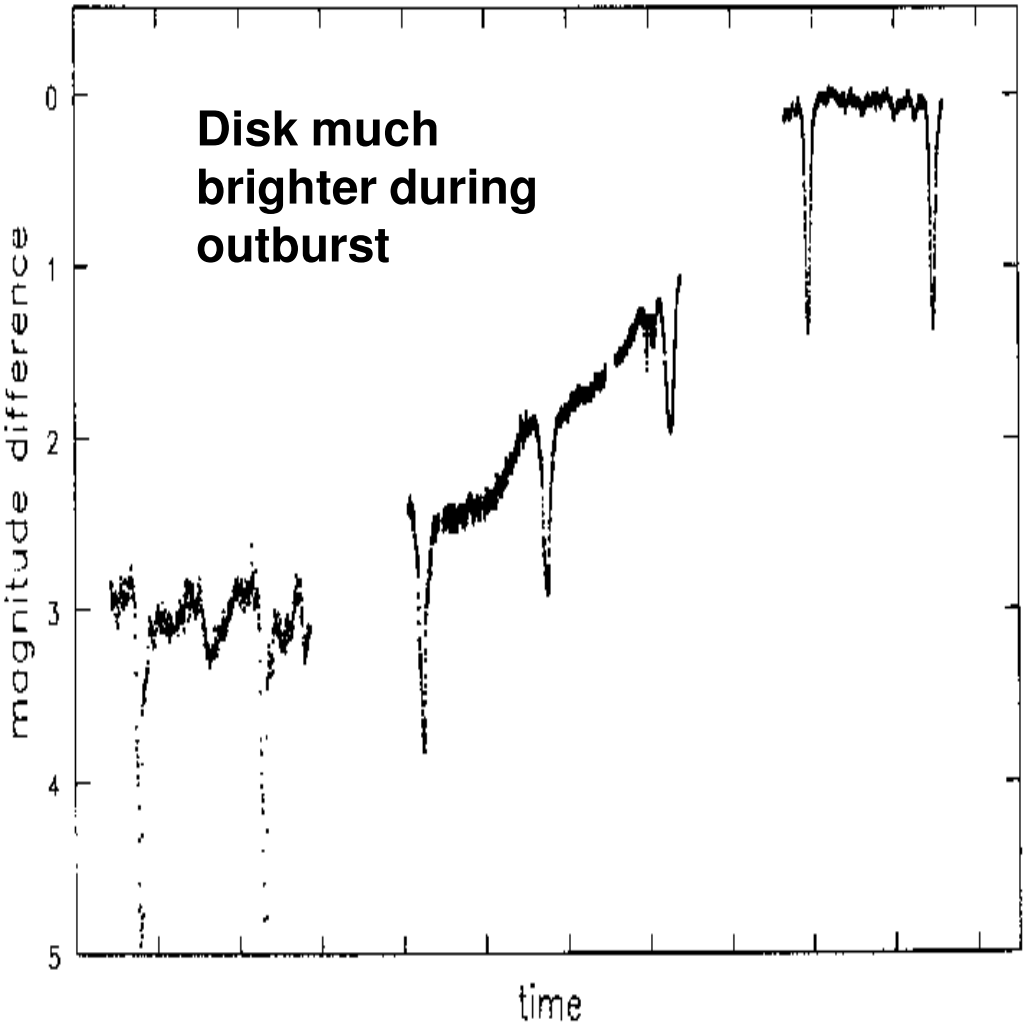
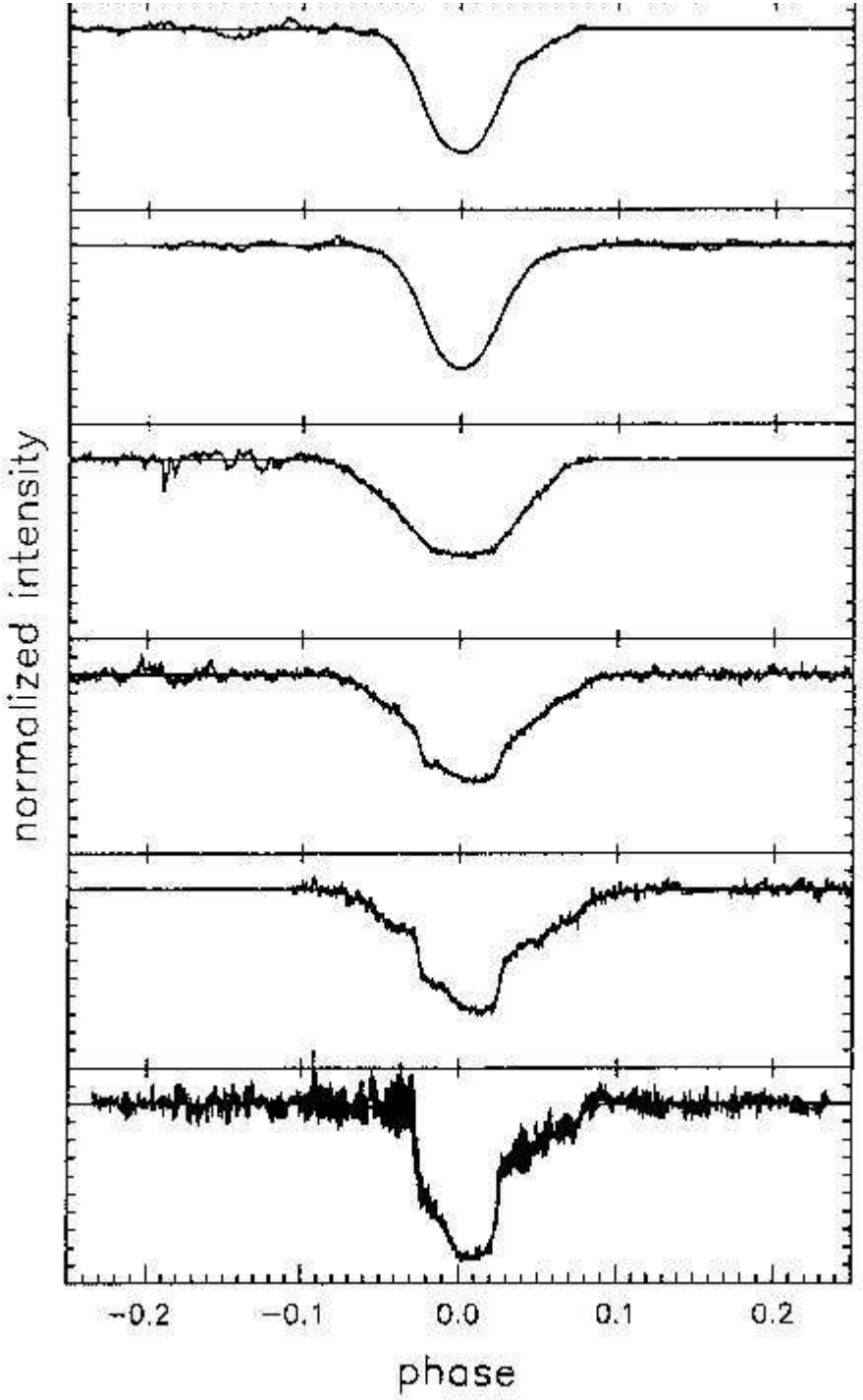
Dwarf Nova Outbursts



Eclipses on the Rise to Outburst



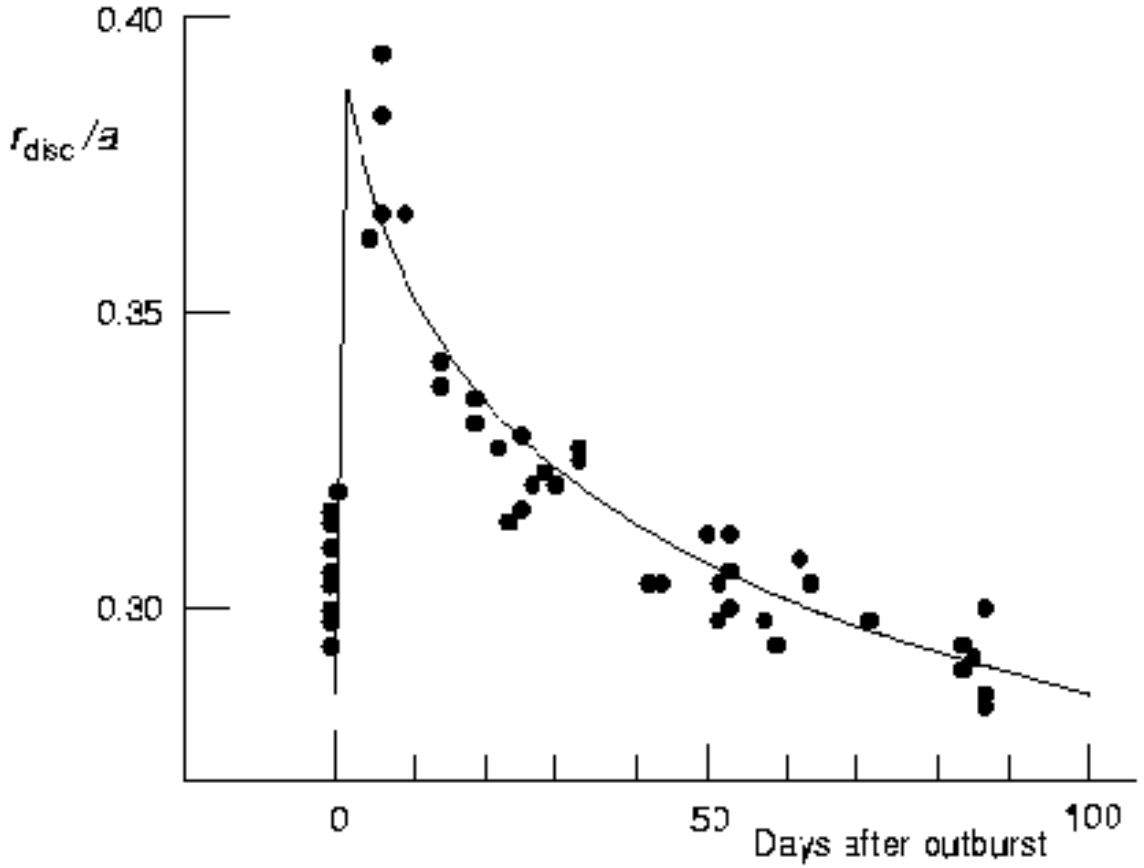


Disc Radius Variations

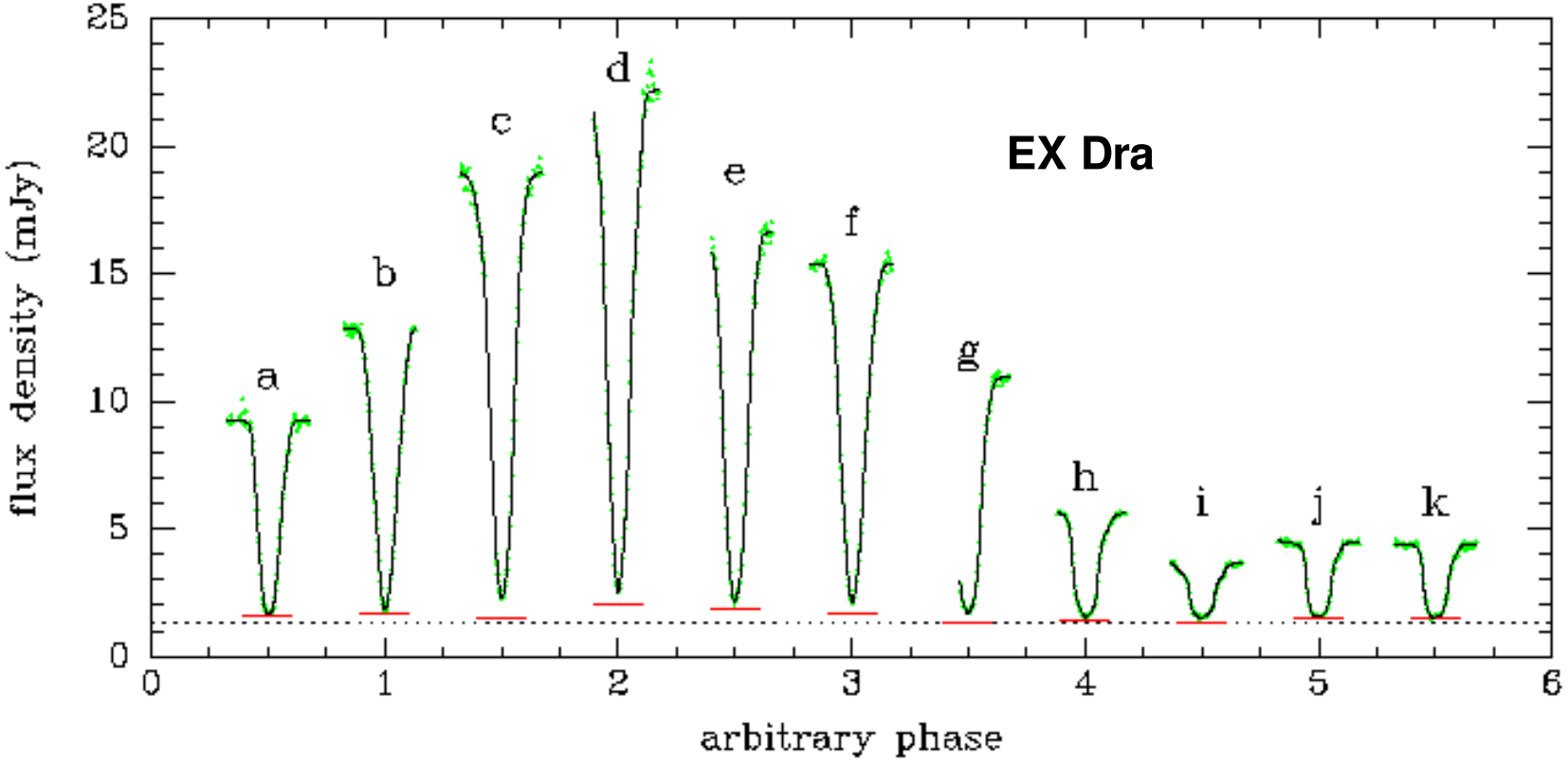
Disk radius

increases rapidly during outburst

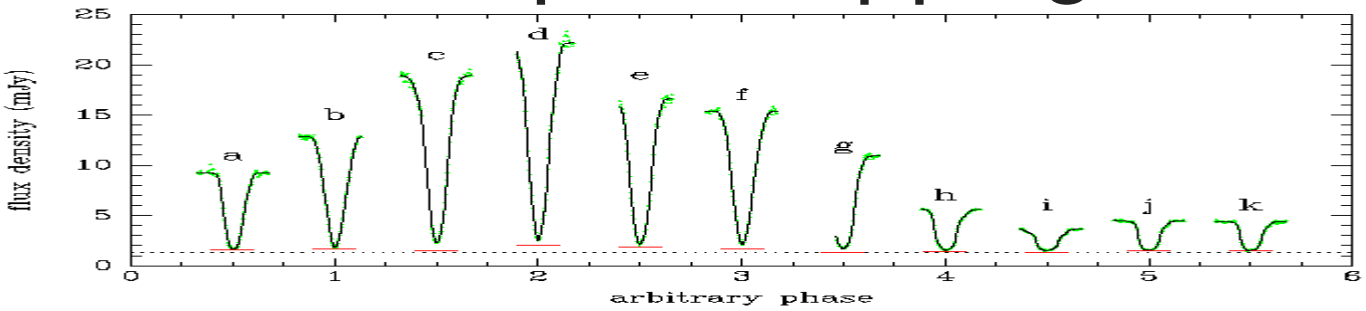
decreases slowly during quiescence

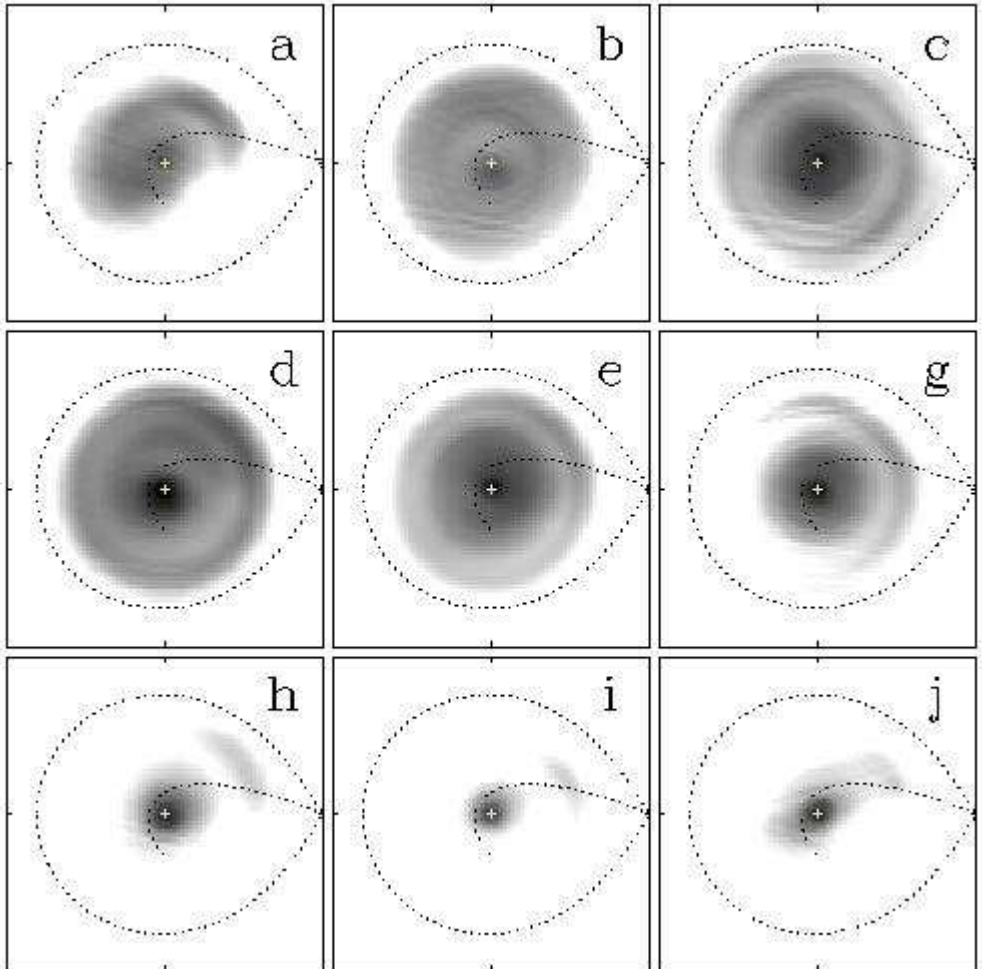


Eclipse Mapping

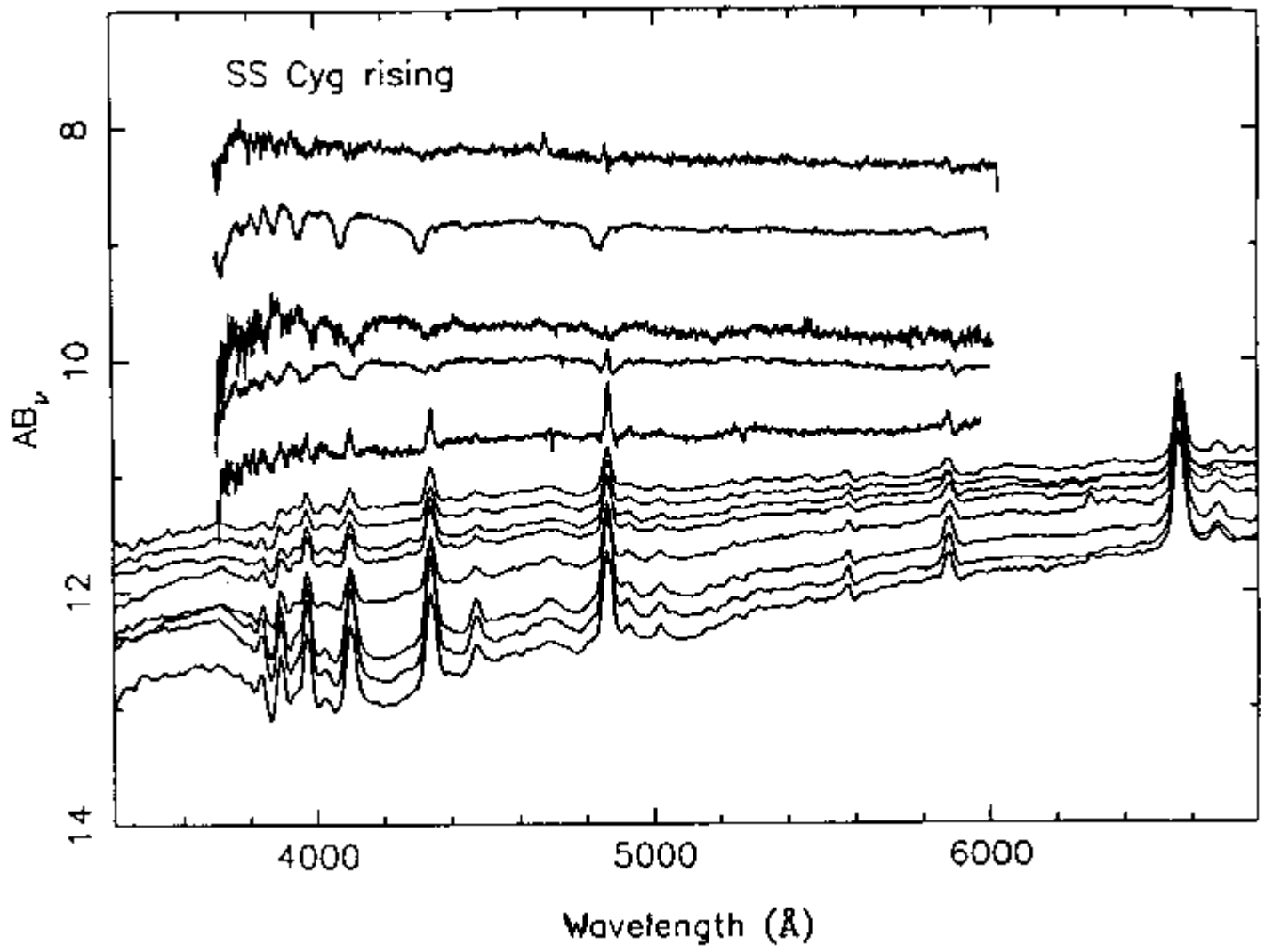


Eclipse Mapping

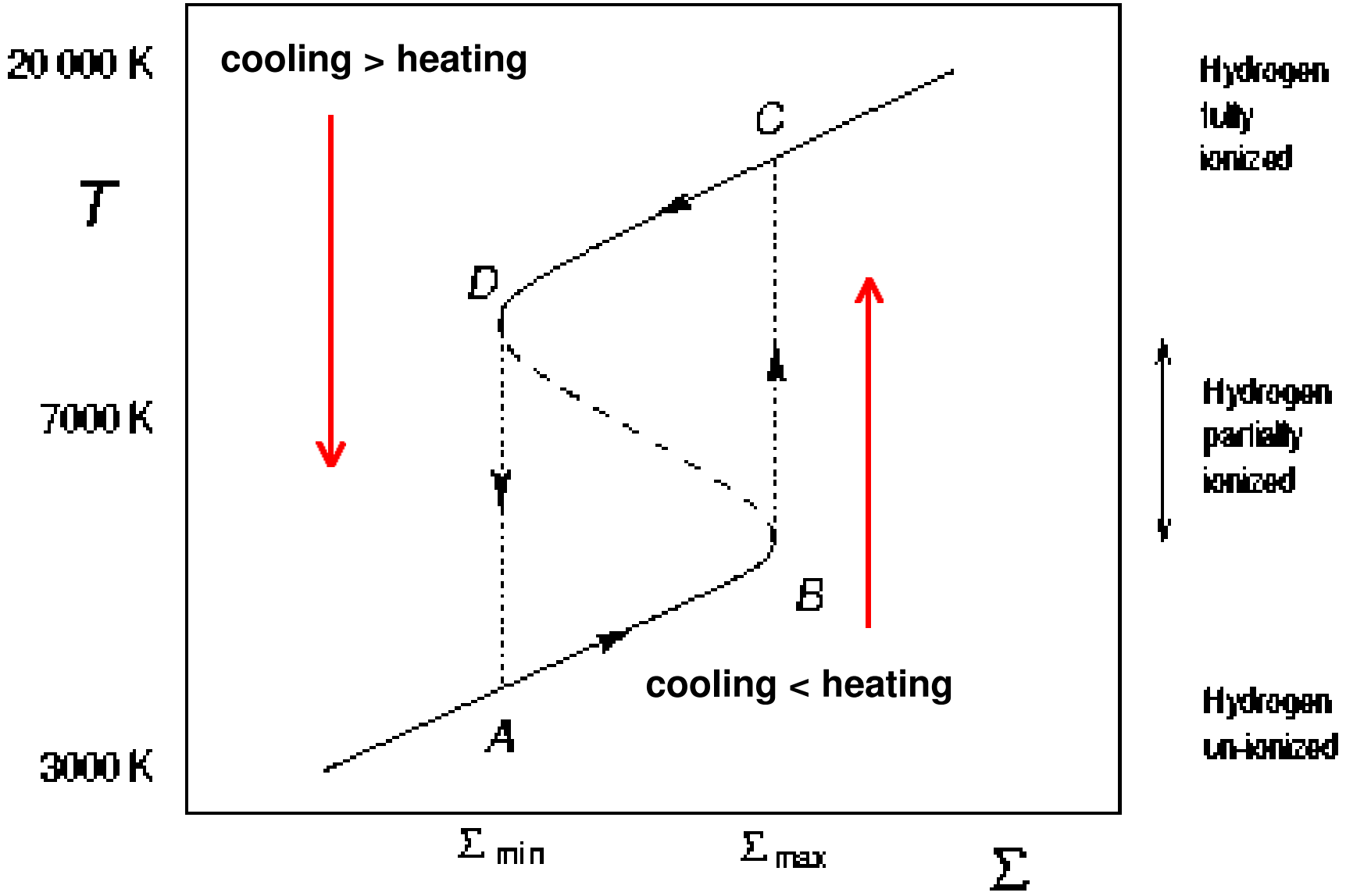




Spectra on the Rise to Outburst



Thermal Equilibrium S-curve



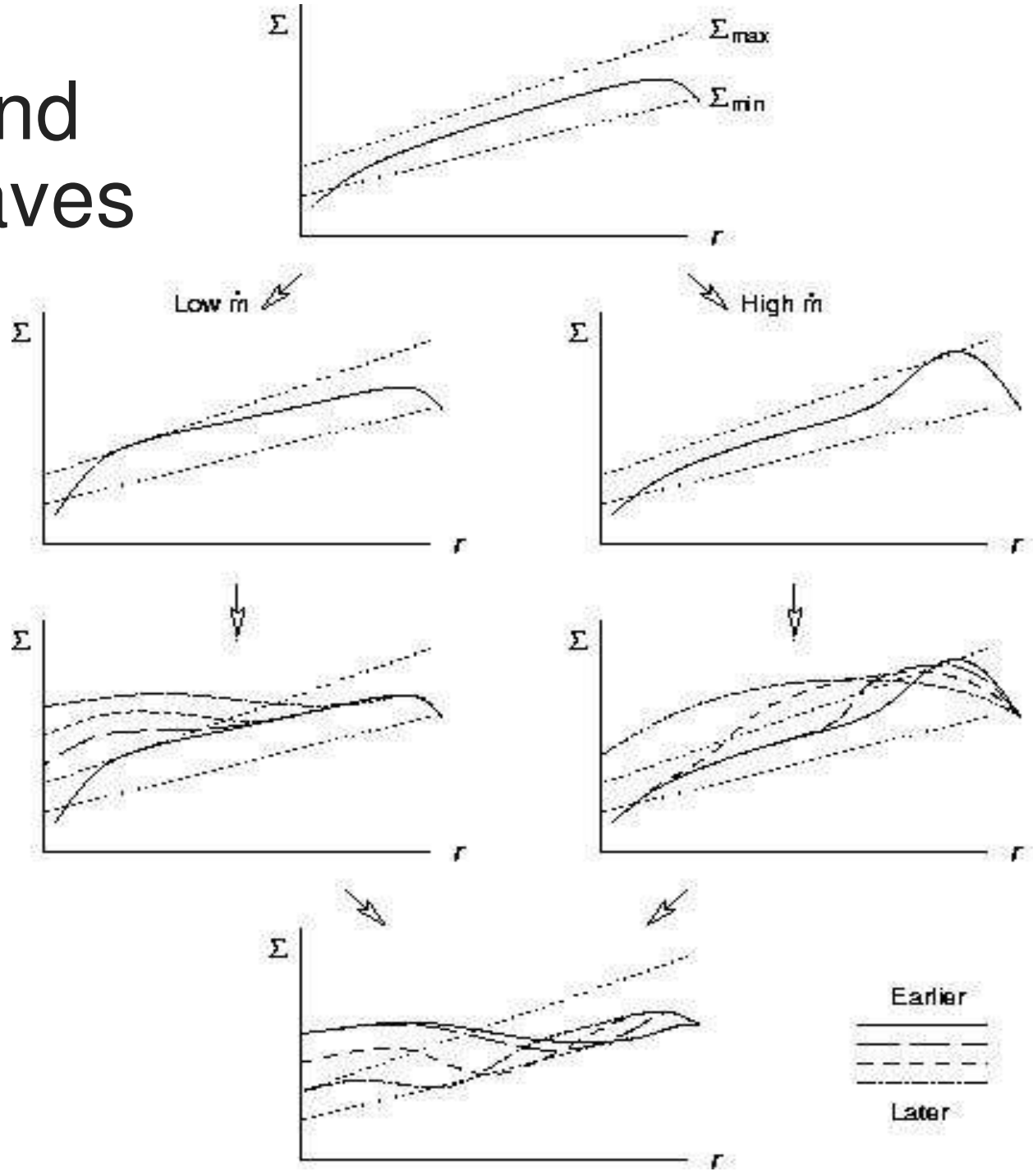
Heating and Cooling Waves

Outburst triggers at small / large R for small / large Mdot

Heating wave switches disk to outburst state

Inmoving wave is faster (avalanche)

Cooling wave switches disk to quiescent state



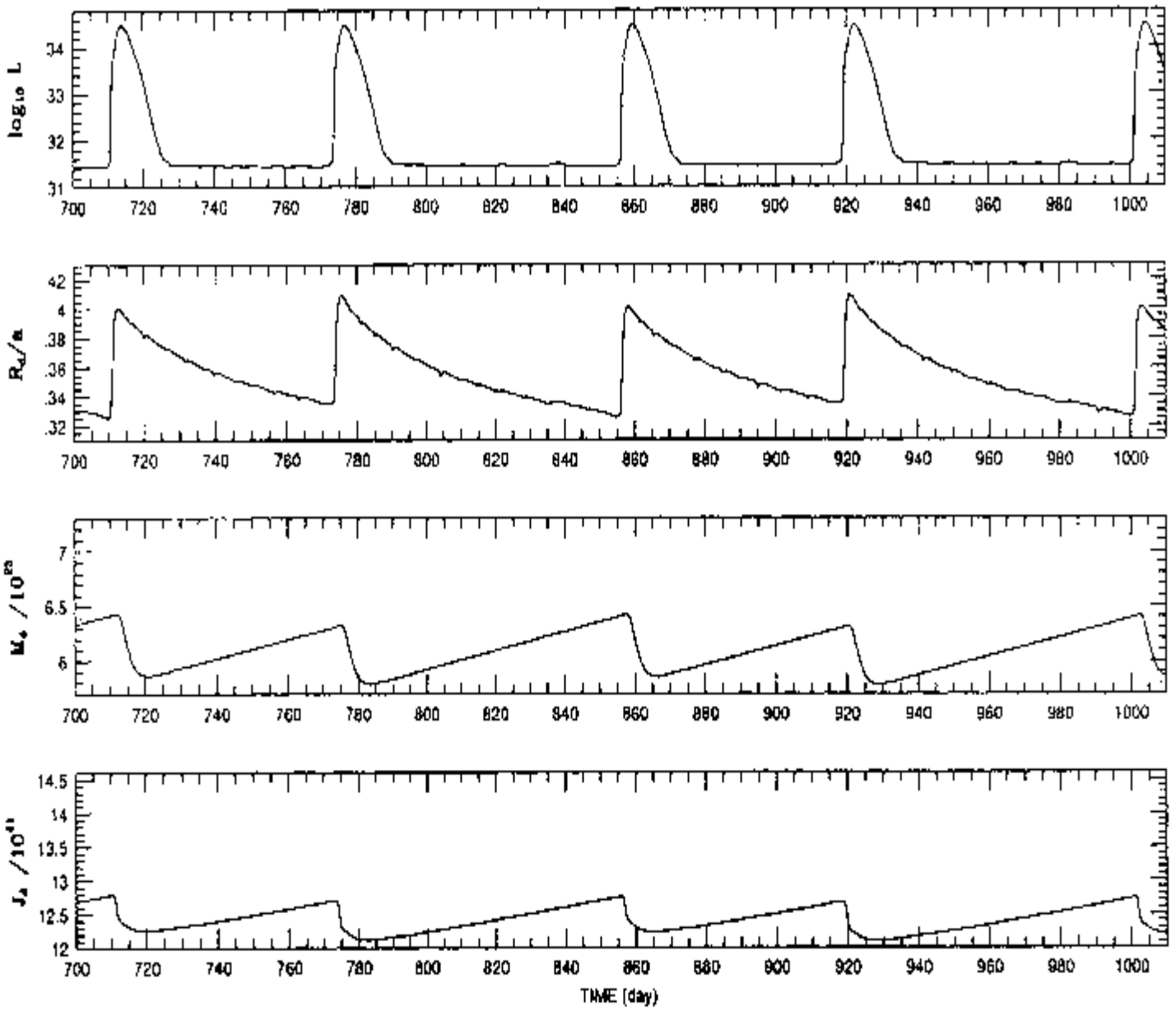
Disk Instability Models

Luminosity

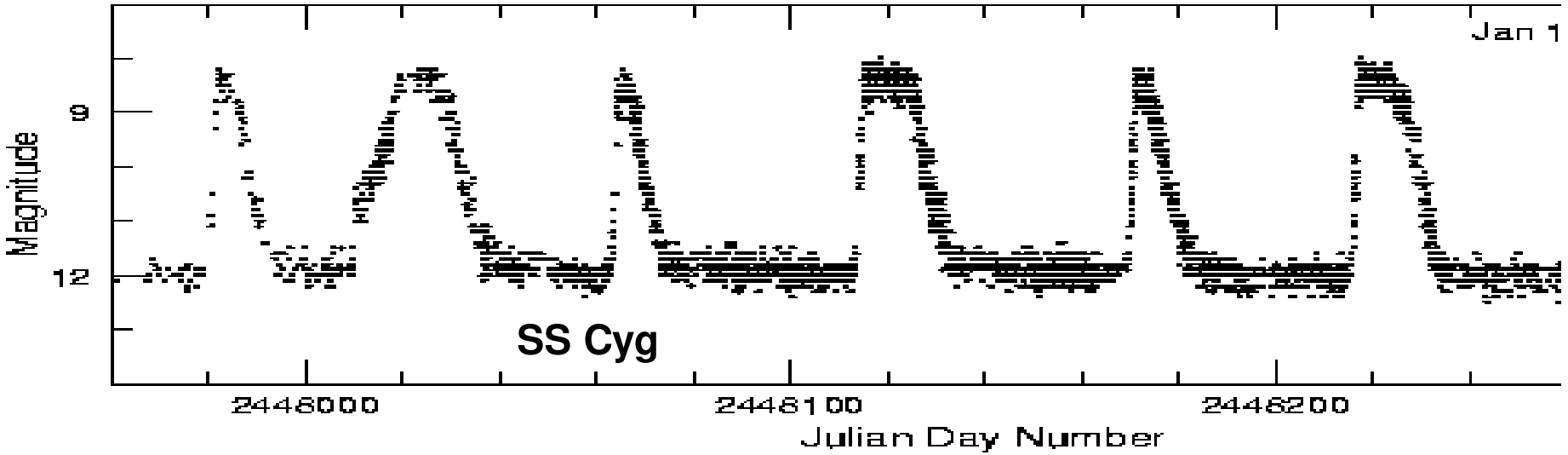
Radius

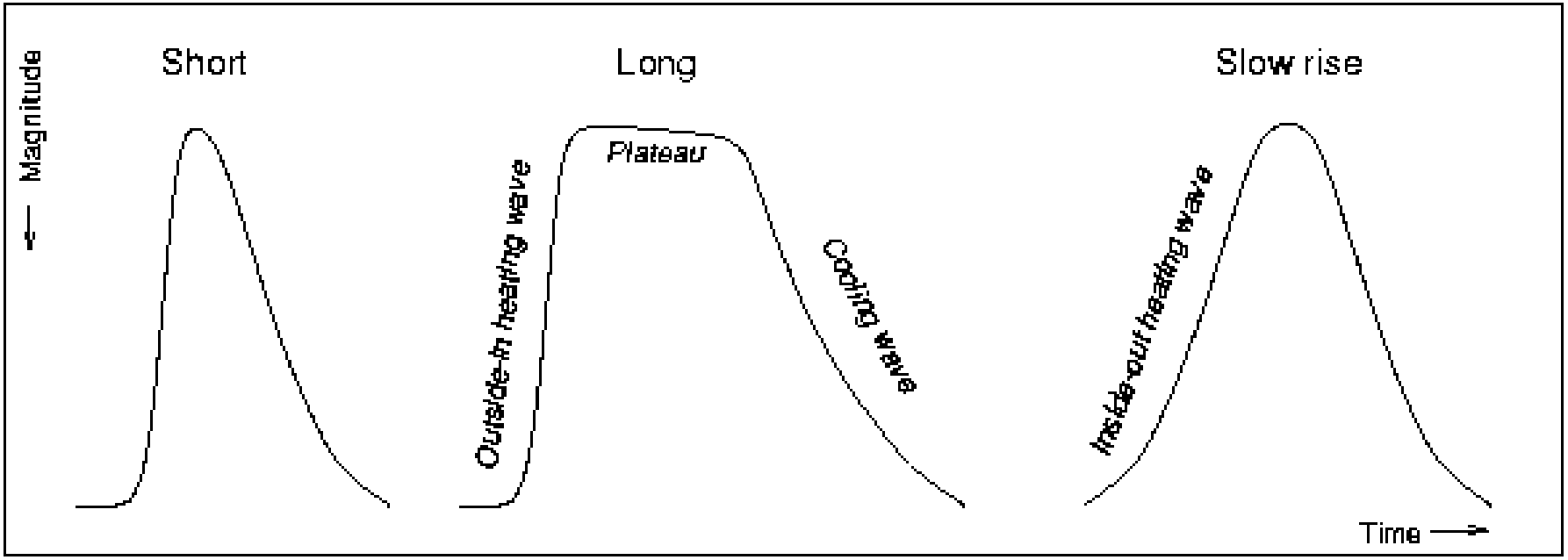
Mass

Angular momentum

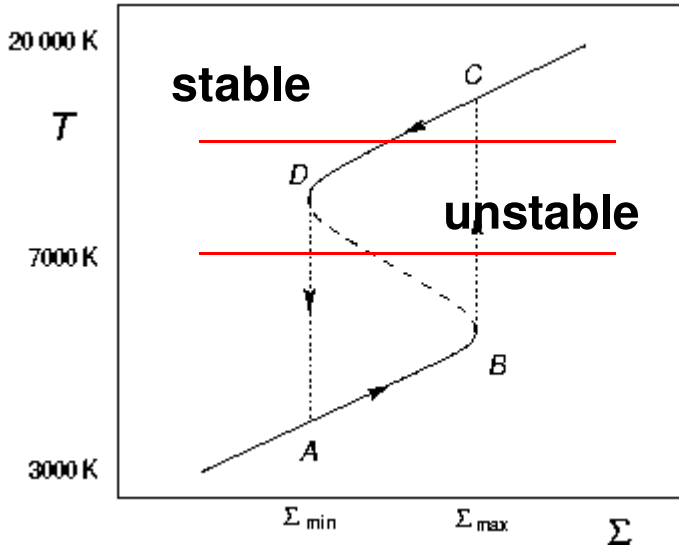


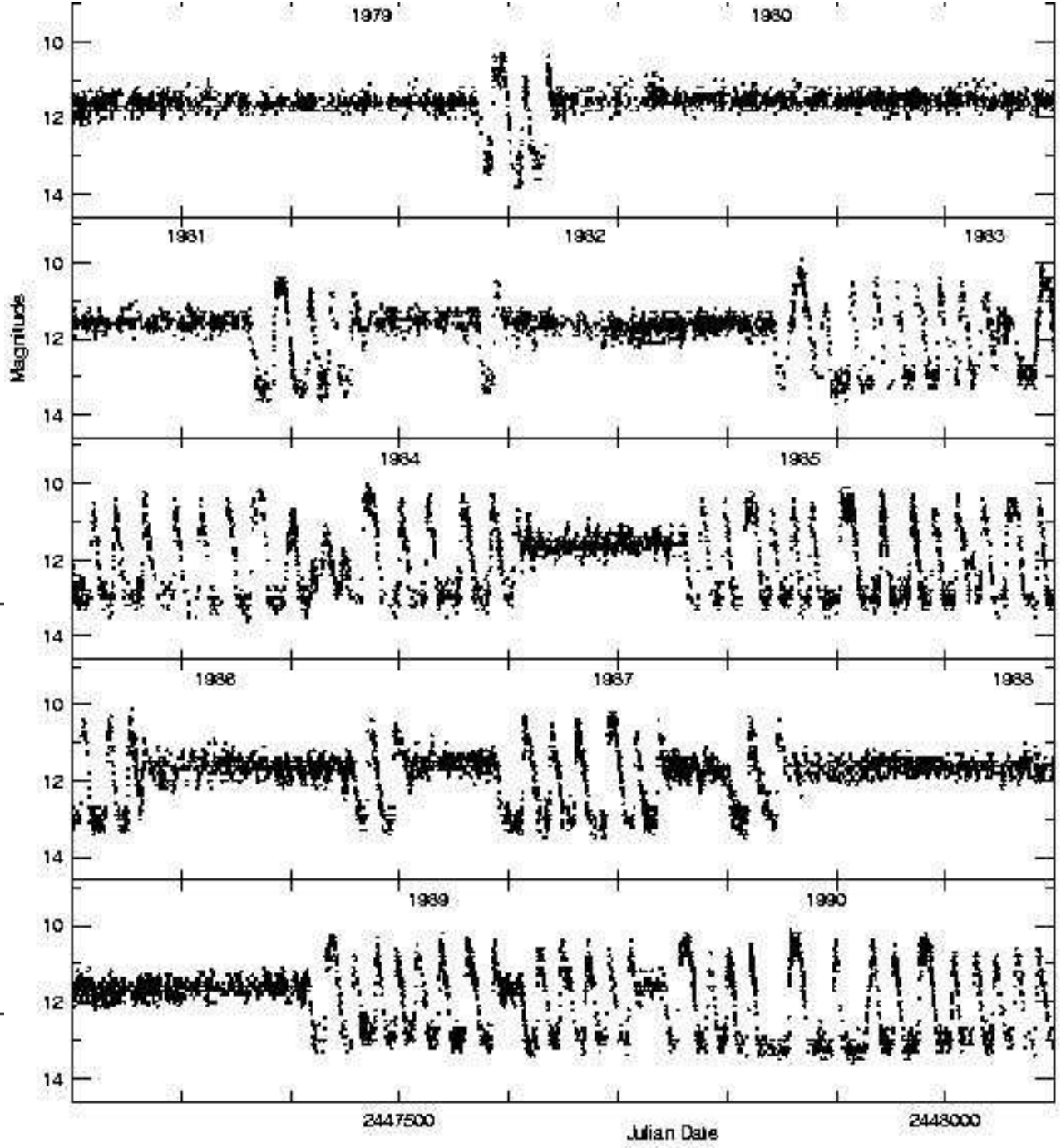
Short, Long, and Slow-Rise





Z Cam Outbursts

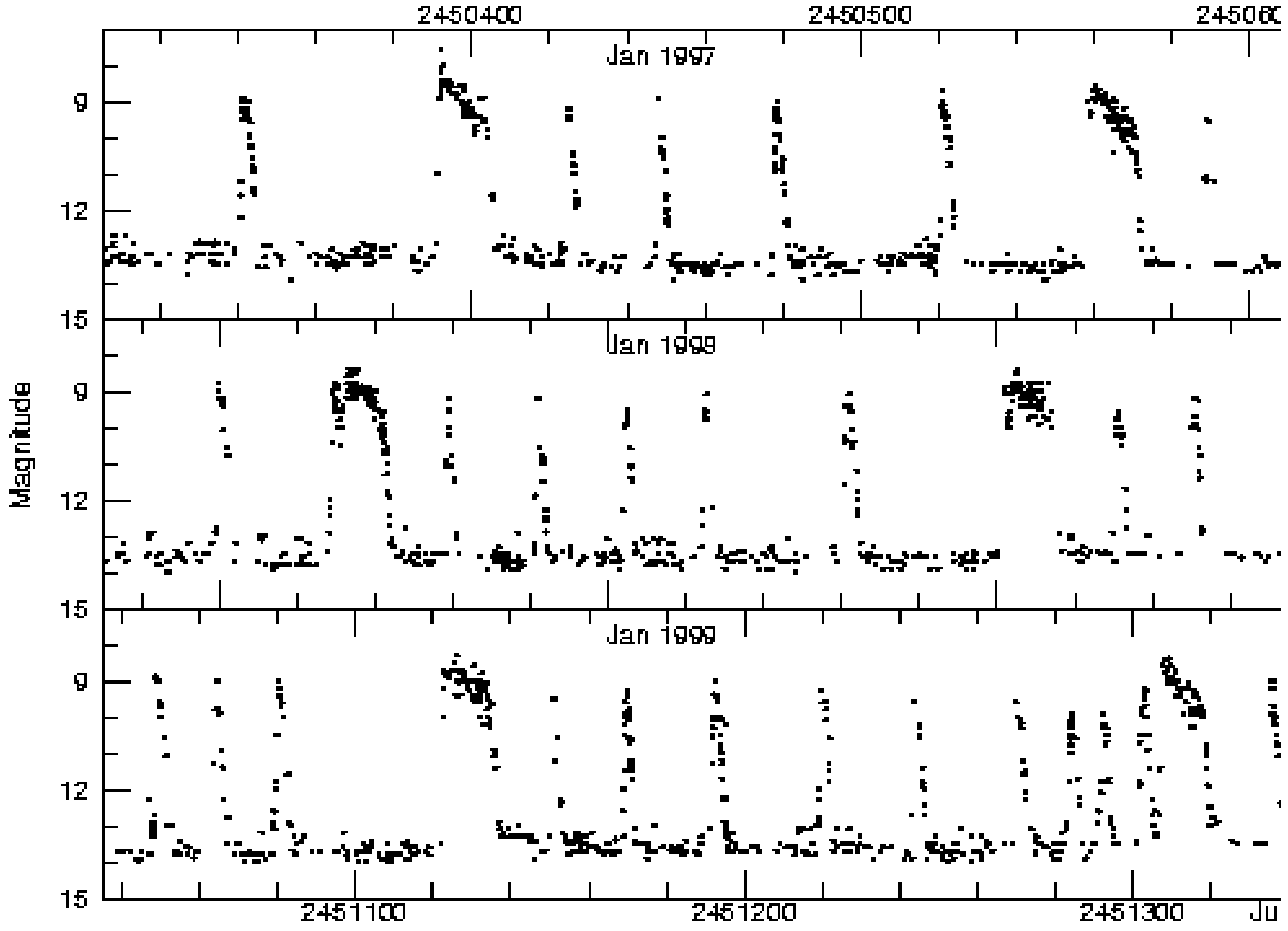




Super Outbursts

Longer and brighter

than normal outbursts

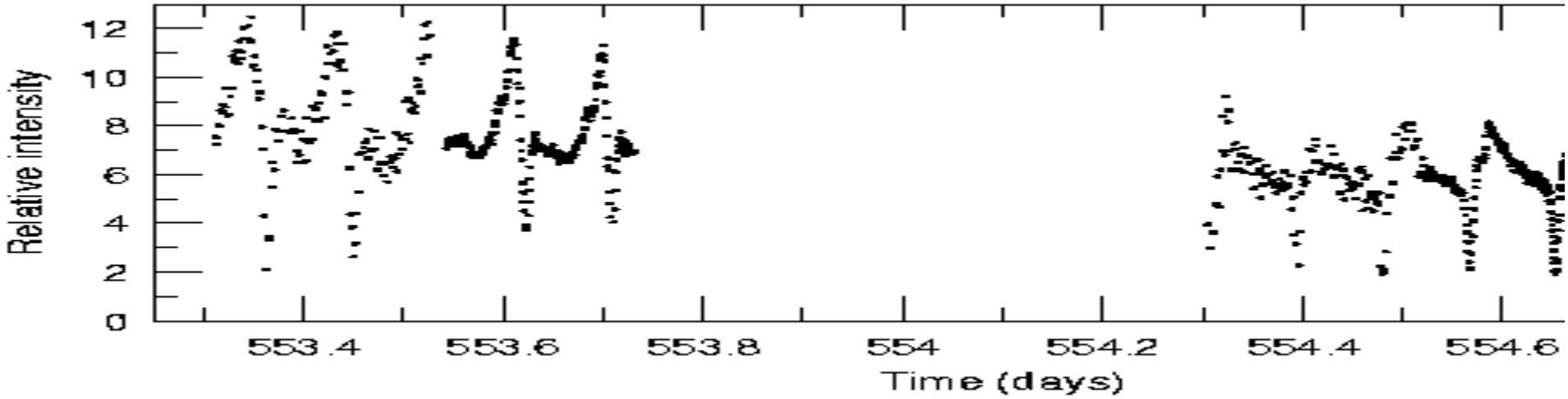


VW Hya

Super Humps

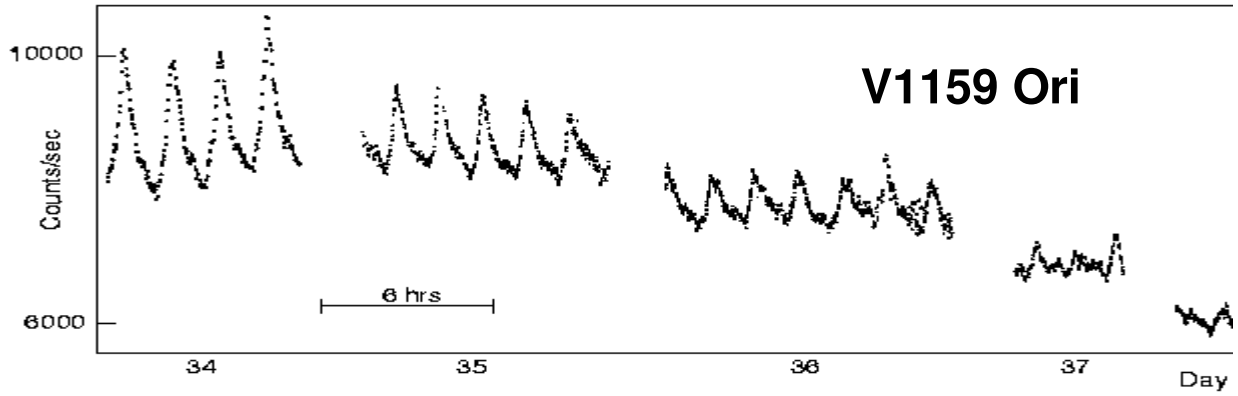
Photometric modulations with period a few percent longer than the orbital period.

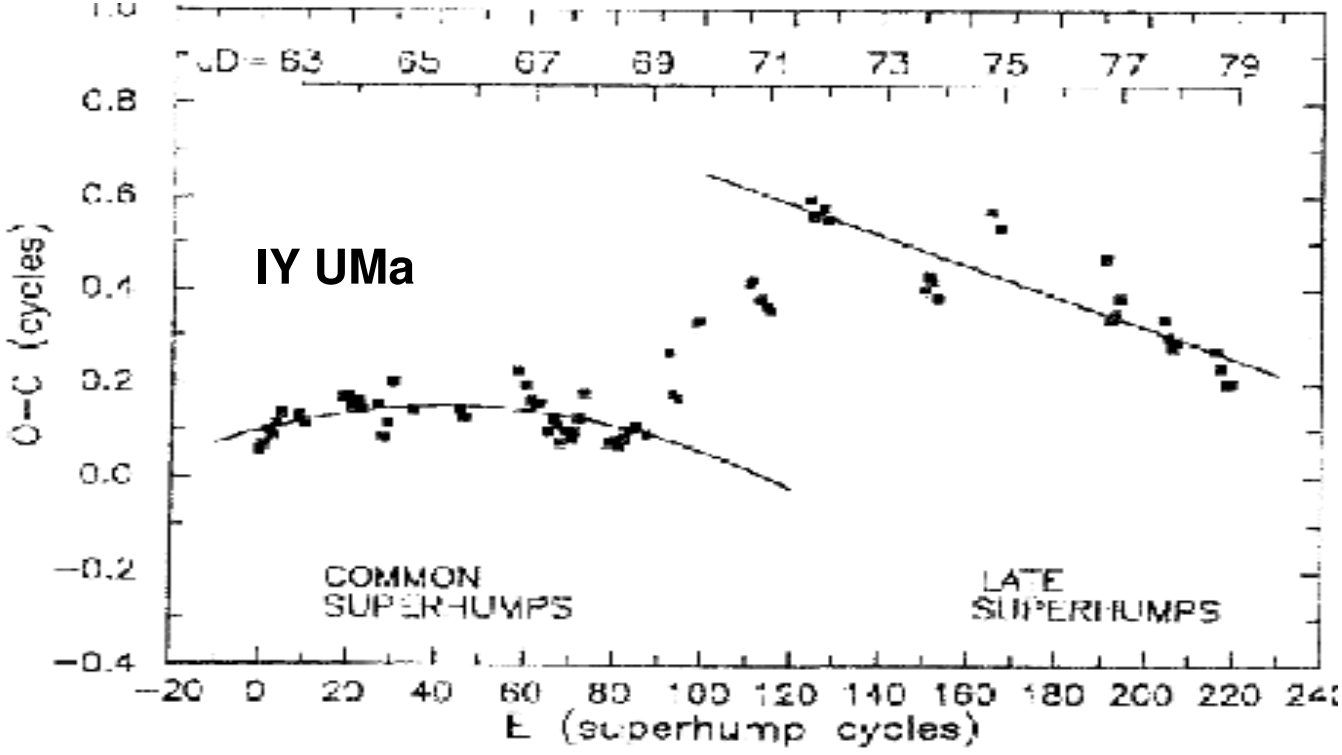
Occur during Super Outbursts



DV UMa

Superhump Period Changes

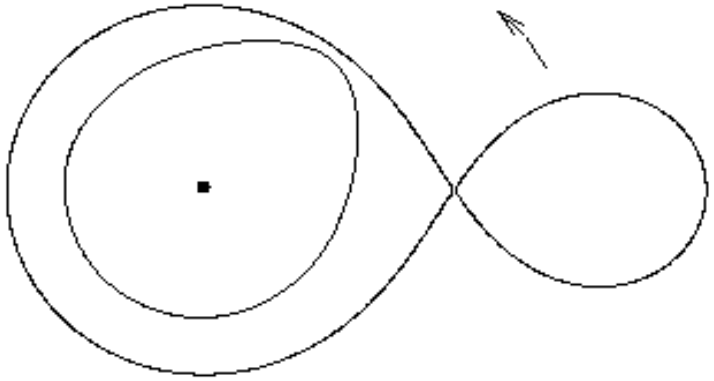




Tides and Resonances

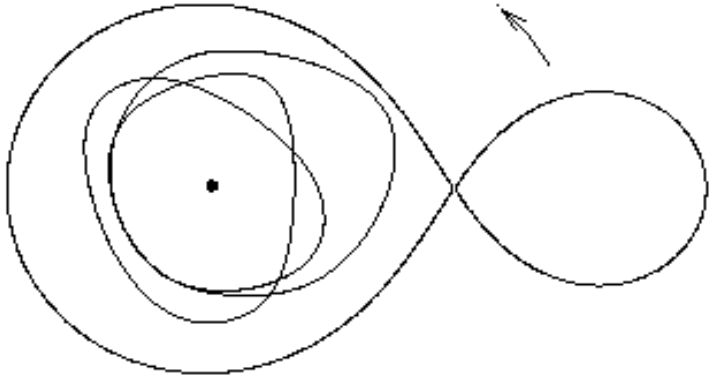
Disk Tide

angular momentum moves from the disk to the binary orbit.

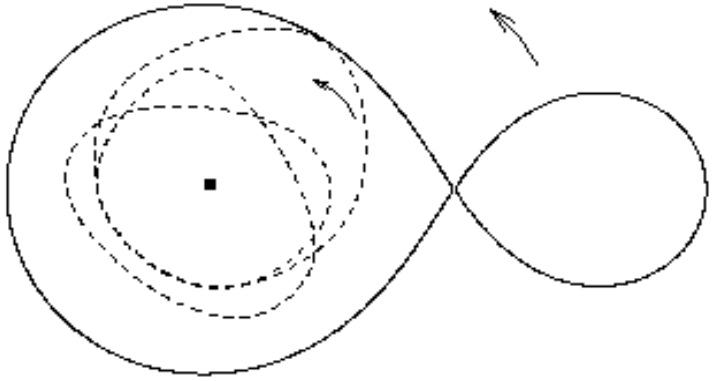


3:1 resonance

3 cycles around the disk per orbit



Slow precession of resonant orbits



Eccentric Precessing Disc

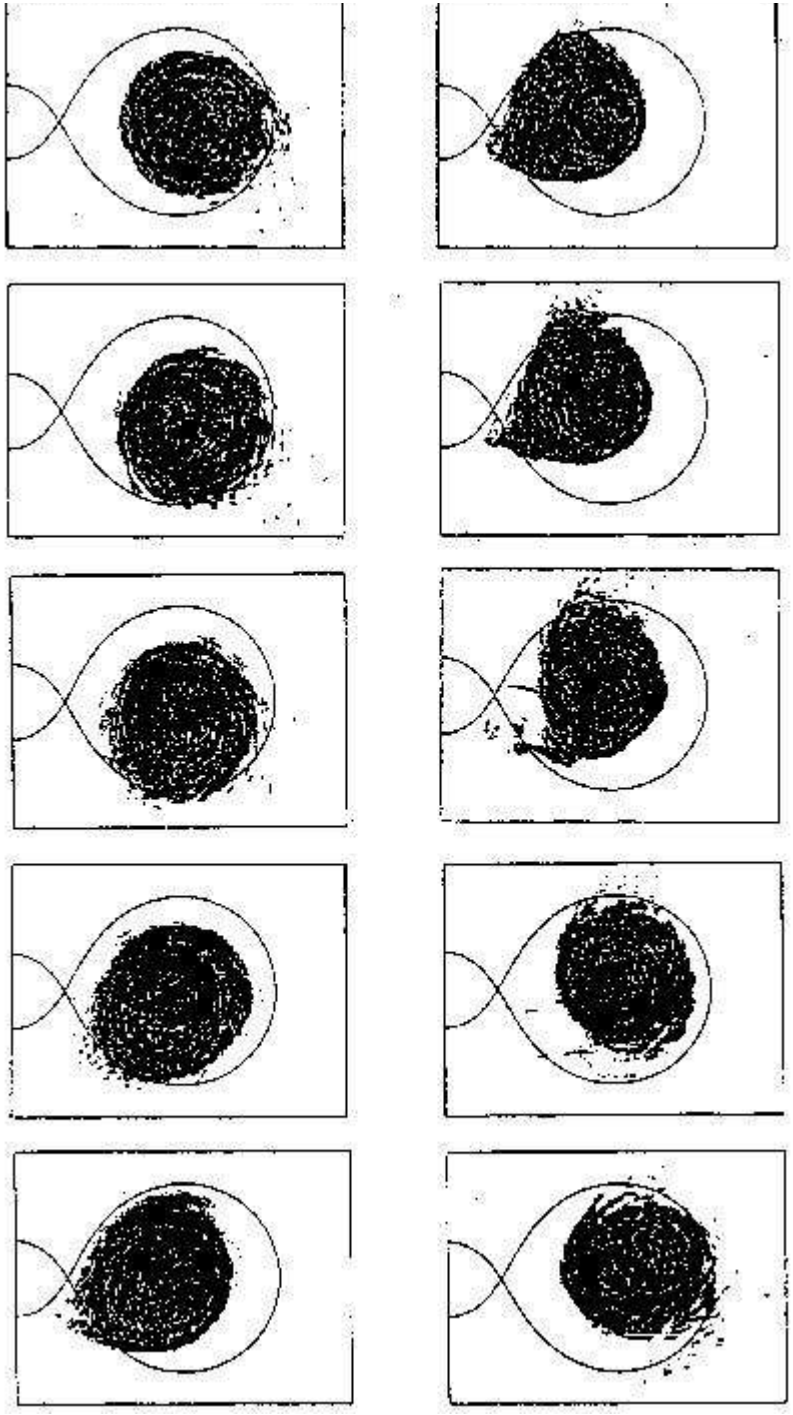
Orbit period -- few hours

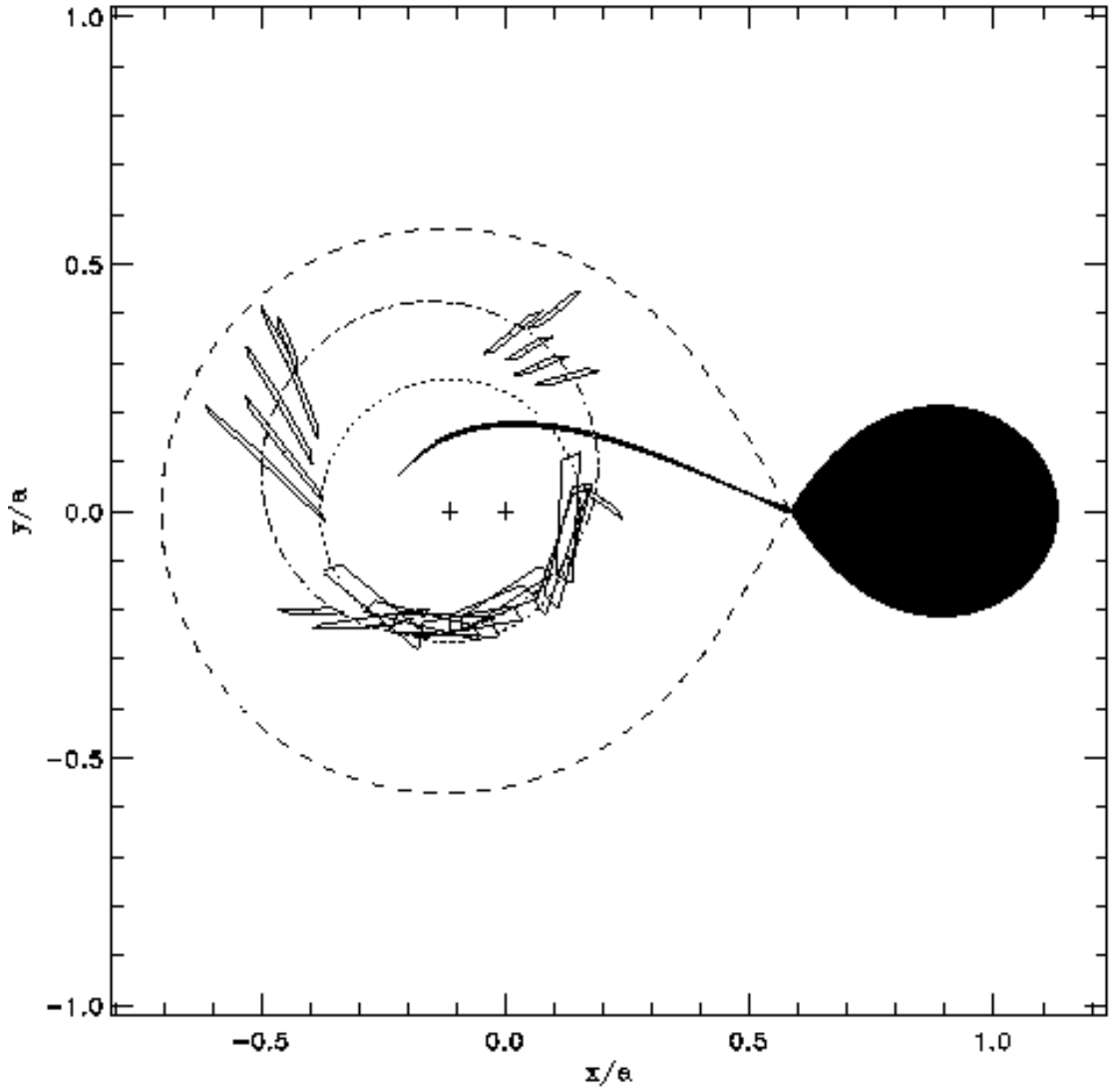
Precession period -- few days

Beat period = superhump period

$$\frac{1}{P_{SH}} = \frac{1}{P_{orb}} - \frac{1}{P_{prec}}$$

Superhumps caused by extra tidal heating of outer disc as the eccentric bulge precesses past the companion star.



Observed Shape of Eccentric Disc

Derived from eclipse timings at different superhump phases.