



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA



DATE: 24th August 2016

TIME: 15:00 - 16:00

LOCATION: Osservatorio Astronomico di Asiago, via dell'Osservatorio, 8; Asiago, Vicenza

From the Chinese Supernova of 1054 AD (Crab Nebula) to Dark Energy

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ABSTRACT

Like living beings, the stars, the basic building blocks of the Universe, are born and die. Furthermore, just as living beings are different from each other, and such differences have strong impact on their lives and deaths, so are stars.

Some stars simply pass away quietly, other die with terrific explosions releasing all the material they are made of in the circumstellar environment, thus available for generating new stars. Such terrific explosions are called Supernovae and are among the most interesting events in the Universe.

My contribution will be a review for non-specialists, aimed at illustrating the past knowledge on Supernovae, dated over a millennium of years ago, from China. I will then describe their present scientific interest and the perspective for the future.

FURTHER READINGS

- 1- Supernovae, Dark Energy and the accelerating Universe, Perlmutter, S., Phys. Today 56, 4, 53 (2003).
- 2- 1604-2004: Supernovae as Cosmological Lighthouses, ASP Conference Series, Vol. 342, Proceedings of the conference held 15-19 June, 2004 in Padua, Italy. Edited by M. Turatto, S. Benetti, L. Zampieri, and W. Shea. San Francisco: Astronomical Society of the Pacific, (2005).