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Talk Title: Hot subdwarf stars in the halo - From close binaries to the fastest unbound star in the Galaxy

Talk Abstract: Hot subdwarf stars (sdO/Bs) are the stripped cores of red giants located at the bluest extension of the horizontal branch. They constitute the dominant population of UV-bright stars in old stellar environments and are most likely formed by binary interactions. We present the first systematic, spectroscopic analysis of a sample of those stars in the Galactic halo based on data from SDSS. In the course of this project we discovered about 200 close binary candidates and a hypervelocity star, which turned out to be the fastest unbound star known in our Galaxy.