Spectrum of $\eta$ Argus (the central star) in March 1998 (1998.2) and February 1999 (1999.1) based on STIS data. The plotted quantity is $F_\lambda/\lambda$, not $F_\lambda$ -- merely to allow the same vertical scale to apply across the entire wavelength range 1700--10000 Å. The vertical scale, indicated in the first tracing, differs by a factor of 2 between 1998.2 and 1999.1 in order to make the two tracings appear similar even though the star brightened greatly. The horizontal scale is uniform in $\log \lambda$.

Note that many real features and differences between the two episodes may at first sight resemble noise in these tracings. In fact the noise level is small at most wavelengths, although it may be perceptible in some of the UV data and we have not carefully assessed it yet.

— KD, 1999 July 30 —