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Summary. — We present the individual photometric measurements for 45 G and K dwarfs in the Pleiades cluster, many of which are variable. The measurements were obtained during 1980 and 1981 at the European Southern Observatory, La Silla, using the Dutch 91 cm light-collector and the *VBLUW* photometer. Sufficient data have been obtained to determine periods and lightcurves for 11 stars. The lightcurves are typical for stars with non-axially symmetric surface flux distributions. Rotation causes light received from these stars to vary, which phenomenon is known as the BY Draconis syndrome. This type of lightcurve has often been observed to be unstable over periods of weeks to years. We therefore decided to present all our individual measurements, so that they can be incorporated to their full extent in future observations. Data on four variable F type cluster members that were discovered during the same period are also presented here. A thorough check on periodicity led to the revision of four periods presented earlier and brings all photometric periods in agreement with estimates of rotational periods derived from measurements of the projected rotational velocities. As a result, however, a pronounced gap in the distribution of photometric periods between 0.6 and 6.0 days shows up. The current data set shows some of the fascinating details of what is probably the last stage in the pre-main-sequence evolution of a solar-type star.

Key words: Pleiades — G and K dwarfs — BY Dra syndrome — photometry-*VBLUW*.**1. Introduction.**

The lower end of the colour-magnitude diagram of the Pleiades cluster shows its K- and early M-dwarf members to lie very close to the main sequence. If these stars follow the theoretically predicted pre-main-sequence evolutionary tracks, they are 200 to 800 million years old (see e.g. Stauffer, 1982). This is considerably older than the age of 100 million years indicated by the B and A stars of this cluster (see e.g. Maeder and Mermilliod, 1981). A wide spread in ages among the G-dwarfs in the Pleiades appears to be indicated by considerable differences in their Lithium abundances (Duncan and Jones, 1983). In contrast, numerical simulations by Terlevich (1984, 1985) of open clusters like the Pleiades show that the chance of survival for an open cluster over some 400 million years is very small if it is necessary to encounter large amounts of matter to create the massive stars in a later stage. Large age differences between light and massive stars appear to be very unlikely from these models.

The turn-on point of hydrogen-burning of the Pleiades at an age of 100 million years would be expected near to the early K dwarfs (Endal and Sofia, 1981). This is in many ways a transition region in the Pleiades: this is where its brightest flare stars are found, and beyond

which stars show circumstellar polarization (Coyne, 1975) and emission lines in their spectra (McCarthy, 1974). Observations by Robinson and Kraft (1974) and Van Leeuwen, Alphenaar and Brand (1986) (LAB from here on) showed a marked increase in variability beyond spectral type K1. Kunkel (1975) suggested that the BY Draconis syndrome (variability due to rotational modulation) was likely to be present among the Pleiades flare stars. If the transition region represents the turn-on point in the Pleiades, then core contraction times of low mass stars and post main sequence isochrones of massive stars agree upon the cluster age. A major adjustment of the pre-main-sequence tracks for low mass stars would in that case be warranted. More detailed studies of the Pleiades G and K dwarfs were obviously very much needed in order to clarify the cluster-age ambiguity.

Of the phenomena noted for the Pleiades K-dwarfs before 1980, the variability was the least investigated. Considering the additional information contained in variable objects, we thought a pilot study on this subject was justifiable and could possibly help clarifying the status of the Pleiades G- and K-dwarfs. Two series of observations were carried out, aiming at lightcurves for a limited sample of stars and statistical information on a wider sample. The first results of this survey have been presented by Van Leeuwen and Alphenaar (1982) and Van Leeuwen (1983). Some of the data presented here have been described in connection with follow-up observations by Stauffer *et al.* (1984), Stauffer *et al.* (1985), Marcy *et al.* (1985), Micela *et al.* (1985), Van Leeuwen

(*) based on observations obtained at the European Southern Observatory, La Silla, Chile.

(1985, 1986). The present paper is a detailed account of the photometric observations.

The paper has been organized as follows. Section 2 describes the instrument, observations and their reduction. The third section gives a description of lightcurves and periods, and the fourth section provides information on the colour indices. Stars were selected from the Catalogue of the Pleiades by Hertzsprung (1947), numbers indicated by « HII », or from LAB, numbers indicated by « P » (Pels selection). All stars selected from the Hertzsprung catalogue, including the local standard and comparison stars have well determined proper motions and are very probable members (apart from HII 81 and HII 659). Finding charts for stars selected from the Hertzsprung catalogue can be obtained from the first mentioned author, those with Pels numbers were presented by LAB.

2. The photometric measurements.

The aim of the current pilot study has been the verification of variability among the Pleiades G and K-dwarfs, a determination of its extent over spectral types, and possibly the determination of periodicity and lightcurves for a limited number of stars. Eight stars in the magnitude range $11.3 < V < 13.6$ were initially selected for the detailed study, while all other stars in this interval were candidates for a single measurement, to be compared with the 1979 survey by LAB. The eight selected stars were chosen from near to the lower envelope of the $V - V-B$ distribution for the Pleiades stars in this temperature region. It was thought that in this way a possible interference with variability related to duplicity could be avoided. It was later realized, however, that the distribution of the Pleiades K-dwarfs in the V versus $V-B$ diagram is too noisy to make any distinction between single and multiple stars. Selecting from the lower envelope of the $V - V-B$ distribution introduced a bias towards rapidly rotating stars. This was found, however, only after follow-up observations on rotational velocities were presented by Stauffer *et al.* (1984). No account was taken of either flare activity or indications of variability detected among the 1979 measurements. This was done in order to see how wide-spread was the variability among the Pleiades G and K dwarfs.

The first measurements were performed during 1980 October and November by FvL and PA. They led to the discovery of five periodic variables with amplitudes from 0.05 to 0.2 magnitudes. These five stars, plus a new selection of eleven stars, were measured again during 1981 October and November by PA and JJMM. Nine stars of the new selection showed clear signs of variability during 1979 and 1980, while the other two seemed not to be variable. They were included to check on the occurrence of non-variability among the Pleiades K-stars. Table I presents a list of all stars measured, their positions and the relative position of the sky measurement.

The photometric measurements were performed using the *VBLUW* photometer on the Dutch 91 cm telescope on La Silla, ESO. A 16.5 arcsec diaphragm was used

throughout. The telescope and photometer are described by Walraven and Walraven (1960), the data-acquisition system by Rijf *et al.* (1969), the system calibration by Lub and Pel (1977) and the installation of the telescope and the photometer on La Silla by Lub (1979). The incoming light is recorded by this photometer simultaneously in five channels, called *VBLUW*, ranging from visual to near ultra-violet. All data obtained with this photometer will be expressed in $\log(I)$ units, as is the custom in the *VBLUW* system. Multiplying by -2.5 gives a relative scale in magnitudes. The current data are all in the LS2 system of the *VBLUW* photometry (see LAB).

During 1980 we initially used a set of 7 nearby F type members of the Pleiades as comparison stars. Two of these were found to be variable and are described in the next section, while the others did not improve upon the quality of the data either. Table II summarizes the data obtained for the seven comparison stars. Instead, the local sub-standard HII 804 (HD 23409, $m_V = 7.86$, spectral type A3V) has been used for all the determinations of the atmospheric extinctions. This star had proven to be sufficiently stable in 1979, when it was used for the same purpose. Further checks on its stability were made by means of direct comparisons with a very similar and nearby cluster member, HII 652 (HD 23361, $m_V = 8.05$, spectral type A3V). In 1980, we measured during four successive nights 26 pairs, and similarly 25 pairs were measured in 1981. The results of these checks are summarized in table III. The bands of the *VBLUW* system are sufficiently narrow to ensure the safe use of an extinction determination by means of an A3 star over a spectral range covering K stars.

Several standard-stars of the *VBLUW* system were measured before and after the five hours spent each night on measuring Pleiades stars. In addition, during some very good nights, some standards were measured during the culmination of the Pleiades. The latter were used to calibrate HII 804 to the standard system. The others were used mainly as a check on the stability of the atmospheric extinction and the instrument. The mean values after calibrations for HII 804 are also presented in table III. Standard deviations are with respect to the calibration to the *VBLUW* system.

We measured the local standard HII 804 seven times each night, at intervals of half an hour to one hour, such that an even distribution of $\sec(z)$ values between 1.6 and 2.3 was obtained. The extinction determination consisted of a least squares fit to the measurements of HII 804 with a zero point, $\sec(z)$ and the time as variables. Most of the nights had well determined extinctions, while they showed only small variations from one night to the other. Usually a small time dependence of the zeropoint during the night was detected, possibly due to the influence of temperature changes on the high voltage supply. The extinction determinations showed that during good nights on La Silla differential photometry is possible over a field of 2 degrees up to 65 degrees away from the zenith. This provided a maximum of five hours of observing on the Pleiades each night.

Preliminary reductions of the V channel were performed during the observing runs. This allowed us to work interactively with our own data set, and to plan subsequent observations according to their need. As a result, we could obtain in a three weeks interval fully covered lightcurves for stars of which at the start of the observing runs we had at most the suspicion that they could be variable.

3. The periods and lightcurves.

A detailed periodicity analysis has been performed for those stars that had sufficient data points. First, power spectra were obtained using the PERIOD subroutines developed by K. F. Hartley on the STARLINK VAX 11/780 at the Royal Greenwich Observatory. Data from both the 1980 and the 1981 data-sets were incorporated if available. At the period(s) which showed the most pronounced peaks in the power spectrum, we fitted the data-points with a simple model, containing Fourier components up to the second order. The remaining standard deviation served as a further criterion for the goodness of fit of a period.

The second order harmonic model is justified by the very good fit that our best determined lightcurves make to it. The same good fit has been observed for AU Mic by Van Leeuwen *et al.* (in preparation) and for FK Com by Morris and Milone (1983). The goodness of these fits is related to the fact that all these stars are variable due to rotational modulation. Their lightcurves are reflections of the non-axial symmetry of their surface fluxes. Between the actual surface flux distribution and the lightcurve, however, the flux is twice integrated: first over stellar latitude, and then over stellar longitude. Both integrations depress the higher harmonics from the surface flux distribution, and leave only the first and second harmonics in the lightcurve. An inclination of the stellar rotation axis depresses the higher harmonics still further. The plots of residuals given with each lightcurve in figure 1 to 12 show how well the second harmonic « model » fits to these lightcurves.

It is important to realize that the light variations at the current measuring accuracy of approximately 0.005 mag can be represented by no more than 4 parameters: the mean apparent brightness, the amplitudes of the first and second harmonics and their phase difference. The spot models which are often applied to explain these lightcurves need at least two spots (see e.g. Torres *et al.*, 1972). This is the reflection of the two harmonics found in the Fourier analysis. However, a spot model with two spots is based upon at least 9 free parameters: the mean stellar brightness, the sizes and temperatures of the two spots, their latitudes and difference in longitude, and the inclination of the stellar rotation axis. Considering the very limited amount of information contained in the lightcurves, we could not see a justification for applying such a model.

The stars for which multiple measurements were obtained will now be described individually. Periodicity has been detected from the power spectra, but the actual periods (expressed in days) were determined by means of the model fits, from the minimum of a second order

polynomial through the remaining standard deviations at different periods. A measure for the accuracy of the periods has been included, given by the offset in period at which the standard deviation increases by 10 percent. All periods are given in days. The actual standard deviations are also given, and are expressed in $\log(I)$. The accuracy of a standard deviation equals this standard deviation divided by the square root of twice the number of observations, which means that most accuracies are between 8 and 12 percent.

HII 34, a late G dwarf. Three alternative periods appear from the power spectrum, at 0.867, 1.176 and 6.5 days. The model fit provides the following periods, accuracies and standard deviations: 0.86553 ± 0.00016 , sd 0.0031; 1.1764 ± 0.0003 , sd 0.0034; 6.553 ± 0.006 , sd 0.0025. This excludes the second period, and leaves the first and the third with the third as the more likely one, contrary to the earlier findings by Van Leeuwen and Alphenaar (1982) (LA from here on). Figure 1 shows the data folded with the 6.553 days period.

HII 129, a late G dwarf. This star shows a spread in magnitudes of at least 0.026 magnitudes, but not enough data have been gathered for a period determination.

HII 451, an intermediate K dwarf. The spread in magnitudes shown by this star is rather large, possibly up to 0.3 magnitudes. If it is periodic, its period is likely to be much less than one day: variations of up to 0.15 magnitudes were observed within three hours. No significant indications of periodicity were extracted from the present data-set.

HII 625, an intermediate K dwarf. Two alternative periods were detected in the power spectrum, 0.75 and 0.428 days. The model fit provided the following periods, accuracies and standard deviations: 0.748 ± 0.003 , sd 0.006; 0.4282 ± 0.0008 , sd 0.005. As in the visual inspection by LA, the shorter period appears the most likely one. The lightcurve at this period is shown in figure 2.

HII 659, an early K dwarf, shows some signs of variability, but no periodicity could be detected. This star does not look very much like a cluster member from the proper motions. In the $V - V - B$ diagram, however, it is well situated between the more obvious cluster members. The proper-motion shows signs of non linearity (Van Leeuwen, in progress). It was indicated as a possible escaping member by LAB.

HII 686, an intermediate K dwarf. Two alternative periods were detected from the power spectrum, 0.284 and 0.397 days. The model fit for the 1980 observations gives the following periods, accuracies and standard deviations: 0.2838 ± 0.0007 , sd 0.0081; 0.3965 ± 0.0010 , sd 0.0074. Similarly for 1981 observations: 0.2844 ± 0.0005 , sd 0.0072; 0.3974 ± 0.0007 , sd 0.0063. Both sets of observations show the longer period as the more likely one. A combination of the two data-sets provided two possible periods with equal standard deviations: 0.39697 ± 0.00004 , sd 0.00718; 0.39653 ± 0.00004 , sd 0.00715. Figure 3 shows the second of these periods.

HII 727, an F8 dwarf. The power spectrum indicates a period of 8.15 days, with a secondary peak at 0.90 days.

The model fit gives the following periods, accuracies and standard deviations : 0.894 ± 0.006 , sd 0.0045 ; 8.07 ± 0.25 , sd 0.0030. The longer period is thus clearly the more likely one, contrary to the short period used before by Van Leeuwen (1983). The nature of the light variations is still unknown. The period may be double (16.2 ± 0.9 days), as in that case the present data only provide coverage of one minimum. This star is also an X-ray source (Micela *et al.*, 1985) and has very broad absorption lines (Mermilliod, private communication). It could therefore be a close binary. Figure 4 shows the lightcurves at single and double period.

HII 739, an F9 star, indicated by Binnendijk (1946) as peculiar. It shows a few hundreds of a magnitude variations in *V*, but insufficient data were gathered for a periodicity search.

HII 746, a late G dwarf, showing a few hundredths of a magnitude variations on a time-scale of days. Insufficient data for a periodicity search.

HII 879, an early K dwarf. Two possible periods were found from the power spectrum : 0.885 and 7.38 days. The model fit to the 1980 measurements gives the following periods, accuracies and standard deviations : 0.883 ± 0.004 , sd 0.0034 ; 7.4 ± 0.2 , sd 0.0031. Similarly for the 1981 observations : 0.877 ± 0.004 , sd 0.0044 ; 7.10 ± 0.09 , sd 0.0024. Both sets of observations indicate the longer period as the more likely one. The larger difference in standard deviation between the two periods for the 1981 observations is the result of obtaining observations spread through the five hours of observing. The combined data-sets give the following period, accuracy and standard deviation : 7.386 ± 0.009 , sd 0.0034. The observations folded with the latter period are shown in figure 5.

HII 882, an early K dwarf. Two possible periods are indicated by the power spectrum, 0.58 and 1.37 days. The model fit gives the following periods, accuracies and standard deviations : 0.5798 ± 0.0014 , sd 0.0033 ; 1.378 ± 0.018 , sd 0.0057. The first period provides clearly a better fit and is shown in figure 6.

HII 883, an intermediate K dwarf. Only small variations have been observed for this star, up to 0.03 magnitudes. No periodicity has been detected. This is so far the only K-dwarf in the Pleiades that does not appear to be variable.

HII 1039, an intermediate K dwarf. The power spectrum shows two families of periods. The first family is based on a phase shift of ± 0.20 per day, giving the following periods : 0.85, 1.20 and 6.2 days. These periods coincide with peaks in the power-spectrum of the distribution of observations. The second family is based on a shift in phase of ± 0.30 per day, giving the following periods : 0.59, 1.43 and 3.37 days. The model fit gives the following periods, accuracies and standard deviations : 0.848 ± 0.017 , sd 0.0021 ; 1.200 ± 0.021 , sd 0.017 ; 6.2 ± 0.7 , sd 0.0018 ; 0.59 ± 0.02 , sd 0.025 ; 1.428 ± 0.024 , sd 0.0018 ; 3.37 ± 0.12 , sd 0.0022. This star is obviously in need of many more observations before anything further can be said about its periodicity.

HII 1124, an early K dwarf. The power spectrum

indicates two periods, 0.86 and 6.0 days. The model fit for the 1980 observations gives the following periods, accuracies and standard deviations : 0.856 ± 0.007 , sd 0.0058 ; 5.97 ± 0.19 , sd 0.0052. Similarly for the 1981 observations : 0.855 ± 0.004 , sd 0.0043 ; 6.03 ± 0.11 , sd 0.0028. Both data-sets thus indicate the longer period as the more likely. The higher level of distinction in the 1981 data-set was obtained with the better spread of data-points through the nights. In addition, the 1980 observations showed a considerably less stable lightcurve than the 1981 observations. The model fit for the combined data-sets gives the following periods, accuracies and standard deviations : 5.950 ± 0.009 , sd 0.0049 ; 6.051 ± 0.009 , sd 0.0049. The data folded with the second of these periods are shown in figure 7.

HII 1220, a late G type star. This star showed some indications of slow variations with an amplitude in excess of 0.04 magnitudes. The current data-set does not allow for any periodicity check.

HII 1332, an intermediate K dwarf. The power spectrum of this star shows two possible periods : 1.13 and 8.3 days. The model fit gives the following periods, accuracies and standard deviations : 1.135 ± 0.008 , sd 0.0023 ; 8.3 ± 0.3 , sd 0.0021. The latter period seems more likely for this star, contrary to the earlier report by Van Leeuwen and Alphenaar. Figure 8 shows the data-points folded with the 8.3 days period.

HII 1531, an intermediate K dwarf. The power spectrum indicates two possible periods, at 0.325 and 0.483 days. The model fit gives the following values for periods, accuracies and standard deviations : 0.3254 ± 0.0006 , sd 0.0058 ; 0.4830 ± 0.0010 , sd 0.0041. The latter period clearly provides a better fit to the data-points. Figure 9 shows the data points folded with this period.

HII 1797, an F star. This star is definitely variable, but despite quite regular observing no periodicity could be detected. The frequency distribution is irregular and might as best indicate two periods, 1.73 and 0.17 days, with amplitudes of 0.008 and 0.006 magnitudes. The nature of these variations is completely unclear. This star is well outside the Delta Scuti range.

HII 1883, an early K dwarf. The power spectrum clearly shows a period of 0.2354 days. The model fit gives for the 1980 observations the following period, accuracy and standard deviation : 0.23538 ± 0.00006 , sd 0.0029. Similarly, for the 1981 observations : 0.23540 ± 0.00007 , sd 0.0031. The combined observations give the following values : 0.235405 ± 0.000003 , sd 0.0030. The observations folded with this period are shown in figure 10. Observations by Stauffer *et al.* (1986) confirm both the period and lightcurve up to January 1983. After that date and before December 1983 a phase shift of 0.38 periods has taken place. In November 1985 the lightcurve virtually disappeared, to reappear in quite a different shape in January 1986 (Stauffer, private communication, March 1986). A large flare has been observed for this star in October 1983 by Dr. H. S. Chavushian of Byurakan Observatory, using a new stellar track technique. The flare lasted for well over two hours. Marcy *et al.* (1985) discovered a periodic modulation of the broad compo-

ment of the $H\alpha$ emission, which has the same period as the photometric variations. They attribute this modulation to a modulated stellar wind.

HII 2034, an early K-dwarf. The power spectrum of this star shows two possible periods, 0.355 and 0.551 days. The model fit gives the following periods, accuracies and standard deviations: 0.3554 ± 0.0008 , sd 0.0056; 0.5516 ± 0.0017 , sd 0.0044. The latter is clearly better, and is shown in figure 11.

HII 2786, and F9 dwarf. The few measurements obtained for this star indicate variations of more than 0.03 magnitudes in V within a day.

HII 3019, an intermediate K dwarf. This star is variable with an amplitude of at least 0.04 magnitudes over a day. Not enough data were gathered to determine a period.

HII 3163, an early K dwarf. The power spectrum of this star shows a period of 0.418 days. The model fit gives the following period, accuracy and standard deviation: 0.4178 ± 0.0006 , 0.0040. The data-points folded with this period are shown in figure 12.

The individual measurements in V and the colour indices for each of the above mentioned stars are presented in table IV. Table V presents the individual measurements of 24 other cluster members in the same spectral region, as obtained in 1980. Table VI summarizes the Fourier components obtained in the model fit with their accuracies. It gives in column 3 the period in days, and in the next two columns the mean apparent brightness in 1980 and 1981 respectively. Columns 6 and 7 provide the amplitudes of the first and second harmonics, followed by their phase difference and ratio. The remaining standard deviation and the total number of observations used are given in the last two columns. Below each entry the accuracy is given. Table VII gives the phases of the lightcurves at $HJD=2444550.0$ and $HJD=2444900.0$ days. They can serve as the phase reference points of the current data set.

As was mentioned before by Van Leeuwen and Alphenaar (1983), there exists a clear relation between photometric periods and amplitudes for the Pleiades K-dwarfs. Figure 13 shows this relation between the amplitude of the first harmonic and period. What is also clear is the lack of periods between 0.6 and 6.0 days. This has been the reason why all periods between 6 and 10 days were originally put at their *alias* around one day. Comparing the residuals for the four stars concerned shows, however, clearly that in all cases the longer period is the more likely one.

Figure 14 shows the remaining standard deviations as a function of mean brightness. We would expect that the remaining standard deviations are roughly the same for stars of similar brightness. They should also slowly increase towards fainter stars. Figure 14 shows, however, that in three cases (HII 625, HII 686, and HII 1124) there is still additional variation which has not been accounted for. The nature of these variations is still unknown.

A comparison between mean brightness in 1980 and in 1981 shows significant changes for three of the five stars measured in both seasons. It also shows the remarkable

stability of the most rapidly varying star HII 1883. The differences are as follows (1980-1981): HII 34 -0.0087 ± 0.0007 ; HII 686 $+0.0050 \pm 0.0015$; HII 879 $+0.0026 \pm 0.0011$; HII 1124 $+0.0109 \pm 0.0012$; HII 1883 $+0.0003 \pm 0.0007$. An overall variation in brightness appears to be a normal feature for this type of star. The differences in amplitude for the first harmonic are (1980-1981): HII 34 -0.0012 ± 0.0009 ; HII 686 -0.0001 ± 0.0020 ; HII 879 -0.0023 ± 0.0013 ; HII 1124 -0.0047 ± 0.0015 ; HII 1883 -0.0009 ± 0.0009 . All results are again expressed in $\log(I)$. The mean apparent brightness can thus change by almost as much as the amplitude of the light variations without a significant change in the lightcurve.

Stauffer *et al.* (1984) measured projected angular velocities for all stars presented above as periodic. Figure 15 compares their « $v \sin i$ » values with inverse photometric periods on a logarithmic scale relative to the rotation period and the rotation velocity of the Sun (24 days and 2 km/sec). The linear relation is a clear indication that these stars are variable due to rotational modulation. The average radius of these stars derived from the offset of this relation is thus approximately 0.8 R (Sun), or $4.8 * 10^{**} 5$ km. This is a perfectly reasonable value for K0 to K5 dwarfs.

4. The colour indices.

The simultaneous recording of light in five channels by the *VBLUW* photometer permits a description of the colour indices ($V-B$, $B-U$, $U-W$ and $B-L$) on the same basis as the description of the V observations. The information recorded in the near ultra-violet channels is, however, rather noisy for K-type stars due to the lack of photons. In this section we will first describe the general properties of the colour indices of the Pleiades G and K dwarfs, followed by a description of the variations in the colour indices.

The mean colour indices of 17 of the stars presented above have been compared with those of 22 G and K dwarfs, all of which are within 10 pc from the Sun and therefore unlikely to be affected by interstellar reddening. Figures 16, 17 and 18 show the two-colour diagrams for both groups of stars. The $B-U$ and $B-L$ values for some of the Pleiades K-dwarfs with $V-B > 0.43$ are clearly lower (more blue) than those of the nearby K-dwarfs. The $U-W$ values are very similar in both groups. The blue-excess of the Pleiades K-dwarfs starts at the Balmer jump, and is, considering the fact that many of these stars have active chromospheres producing $H\alpha$ and $H\beta$ emission, probably due to Balmer-continuum radiation. There is some indication from figures 16-18 that the fast rotating stars are more active than the slow rotating ones, as would be expected and as was also observed by Stauffer *et al.* (1984). The maximum in the excess blue-radiation appears to be between the U and W channels, leading to little or no change in the $U-W$ colour indices of the Pleiades K-dwarfs. This would mean a temperature of 15000 to 20000 K for the radiating medium.

In order to check on variability in the colour indices, we first had a look at the most prominent variable,

HII 1883. Figure 19 shows the lightcurves of HII 1883 in V and the colour indices. The variations in V are reflected in $(V-B)$ but not in the other indices. A similar colour dependence of photometric amplitudes has been observed for stars in the solar neighbourhood by Vrba and Rydgren (1983). The relation between V and $(V-B)$ is linear as can be seen in figure 20. There are no differences found in this relation between the rising and descending branches of the lightcurve. Figure 21 shows the size and direction of the variations of HII 1883 in a $V - (V-B)$ diagram, together with the data of other cluster members of that spectral region.

Considering the results found for HII 1883, a simultaneous least squares solution was made for all K-dwarfs presented in the previous section, and for which periods had been determined. In this solution, we assumed fixed ratios between the variations in the colour indices and those in V . The zero points in these relations were free parameters for each individual star. Thus, the results presented in table VIII were obtained. The variations in $B-V$ are obvious, and close to what was observed for HII 1883. In $B-U$ and $U-W$ there could be some variation present too, while in $B-L$ no variations are found. The variations in $B-V$ and $B-U$ are quite close to a blackbody approximation, which would be observed if these stars as a whole are slightly cooler on one side compared to the other. However, as was described above, the $BLUW$ channels most likely also receive a significant flux from another, much hotter component next to the flux received from the stellar atmosphere. As it is difficult to quantify the contribution from the stellar atmosphere, it is not possible to reconstruct the flux variations in these channels as received from the stellar atmosphere only. Thus, the $VBLUW$ colour indices may tell us something about the stellar activity, but are not very suitable for a detailed discussion of the stellar surface phenomena.

5. Conclusions.

The current data set together with the follow-up work by Stauffer and his colleagues have revealed a large number of new aspects to the physics of the very young Pleiades G and K dwarfs. One of the most striking is perhaps the

sharpness as a function of $V-I$ of the transition shown by several different aspects (see Stauffer *et al.*, 1984), such as the rapid rotation, the flare activity and chromospheric activity. Even where the rotation and the flare activity are not closely linked, they both start at the same value of $V-I > 0.95$ magnitudes. At $V-I$ values between 0.95 and 1.4 the flare statistics as derived from Haro *et al.* (1982) show that 85 percent of these stars (22 out of 26) are flare stars with an average frequency of 2 flares in approximately 3000 hours of observing (Mirzoyan, 1981). Of the same stars 14 are slow and 12 rapid rotators. The most actively flaring is a slow rotator, HII 357, while two rapid rotators, HII 625 and HII 738, have so far not been observed to flare. At $V-I$ values less than 0.95 no flare stars and no rapid rotators are found. Thus, as figure 22 shows, the two phenomena are linked in occurrence as a function of spectral type and thus as a function of evolutionary status, but are not directly linked as physical processes.

In X-rays (see Micela *et al.*, 1984), the opposite seems to happen : here the main activity is for the slow rotating late G-dwarfs, which no longer show flare activity. Micela *et al.* attribute the X-ray activity to the braking of angular momentum inside these stars.

Given the age of the cluster of approximately $10^{**}8$ years and the Helmholtz-Kelvin contraction times of stars of $0.70 M_{\odot}$ (spectral type K5), which is approximately $10^{**}8$ years, it seems very likely that the transition observed is a reflection of the turn-on point of hydrogen-burning of the Pleiades.

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TABLE I. — *Summary of the stars with multiple measurements.*

HII	RA (2000)	DEC	m V	V-B log(I)	sky pos
	h m s	o ° "			
25	3 42 55	+24 29 41	9.49	0.208	30" S
34	3 43 03	+24 40 17	12.06	0.429	30" S
129	3 43 34	+23 45 49	11.45	0.372	30" S
164	3 43 42	+23 35 47	9.55	0.214	30" N
451	3 44 50	+24 54 46	13.43	0.570	30" N
625	3 45 21	+23 43 45	12.66	0.526	30" S
659	3 45 26	+23 25 55	12.02	0.413	30" N
686	3 45 33	+24 18 17	13.44	0.520	30" W
727	3 45 40	+24 37 44	9.73	0.236	30" S
745	3 45 41	+24 17 25	9.47	0.221	30" N
746	3 45 41	+24 25 59	11.28	0.351	30" S
879	3 46 06	+24 34 08	12.83	0.499	30" N
882	3 46 04	+23 24 26	12.90	0.487	30" S
883	3 46 07	+24 33 52	13.05	0.534	30" N
1039	3 46 27	+23 35 40	13.05	0.572	30" S
1122	3 46 39	+24 06 18	9.31	0.199	30" S
1124	3 46 39	+24 01 53	12.32	0.441	30" N
1220	3 46 53	+22 52 58	11.84	0.372	30" S
1332	3 47 13	+23 42 58	12.52	0.474	30" S
1531	3 47 41	+23 58 25	13.58	0.563	30" N
1797	3 48 17	+23 38 18	10.12	0.243	30" S
1883	3 48 28	+23 18 09	12.61	0.477	30" S
2034	3 48 49	+23 58 44	12.65	0.447	30" S
3019	3 51 24	+24 05 20	13.49	0.567	30" S
3163	3 51 53	+24 23 19	12.73	0.457	30" S

TABLE II. — *Mean values and standard deviations for 7 F-type Pleiades, initially used as comparison stars.*

star nr	V	V-B	B-U ... log(I) ...	U-W	B-L	N
HII 25	-1.0490 ±0.0014	0.2127 ±0.0008	0.3057 ±0.0012	0.1888 ±0.0046	0.2073 ±0.0012	25
HII 164	-1.0759 ±0.0011	0.2207 ±0.0017	0.2961 ±0.0020	0.1902 ±0.0041	0.2078 ±0.0021	9
HII 727	-1.1538 ±0.0053	0.2417 ±0.0017	0.2926 ±0.0028	0.1970 ±0.0039	0.2226 ±0.0023	30
HII 745	-1.0432 ±0.0015	0.2295 ±0.0011	0.3258 ±0.0021	0.1986 ±0.0034	0.2184 ±0.0020	60
HII 1122	-0.9783 ±0.0009	0.2040 ±0.0010	0.2980 ±0.0021	0.1854 ±0.0032	0.2066 ±0.0012	22
HII 1132	-1.0333 ±0.0010	0.2145 ±0.0011	0.3069 ±0.0019	0.1932 ±0.0026	0.2104 ±0.0015	11
HII 1797	-1.3105 ±0.0034	0.2496 ±0.0014	0.2902 ±0.0035	0.2019 ±0.0073	0.2272 ±0.0026	41

TABLE III. — *Differences between HII 652 and HII 804 (the local standard) as measured in 1980 and 1981 and the calibration values for HII 804.*

	V	V-B	B-U	U-W	B-L	N
652-804	-0.0790	0.0124	-0.0008	0.0078	0.0036	26
s.d.	±0.0017	±0.0010	±0.0015	±0.0026	±0.0009	(1980)
652-804	-0.0788	0.0125	-0.0005	0.0083	0.0036	25
s.d.	±0.0030	±0.0010	±0.0017	±0.0027	±0.0010	(1981)
804 cal.	-0.3948	0.0855	0.4435	0.1432	0.2104	9
s.d.	±0.0013	±0.0019	±0.0012	±0.0033	±0.0030	(1980)

TABLE IV (continued).

Table with columns: NUMBER HIT, HELIOC. JULIAN DATE, m V, V, V-B, B-U, U-W, B-L, SEC(Z), NUMBER HIT, HELIOC. JULIAN DATE, m V, V, V-B, B-U, U-W, B-L, SEC(Z). Rows list various astronomical observations with associated data points.

TABLE IV (continued).

NUMBER HII	HELIOC. JULIAN DATE	m V	V	V-Blog(I).....	B-U	U-W	B-L	SEC(Z)
3019	901.69501	13.395	-2.6480	.573	.608		.531	2.0
	901.73827	13.424	-2.6597	.557	.845	.21	.663	1.7
	901.78711	13.403	-2.6510	.548	.631	.60	.542	1.7
	901.83977	13.392	-2.6469	.568	.682	.46	.558	1.9
	905.69064	13.411	-2.6545	.573	.581	.89	.557	1.9
	905.76633	13.409	-2.6536	.565	.615	.24	.508	1.7
	905.82138	13.397	-2.6487	.566	.593	.40	.521	1.9
	906.69536	13.393	-2.6472	.567	.547	.49	.527	1.9
	906.80494	13.393	-2.6470	.567	.649	.37	.578	1.8
	907.67277	13.452	-2.6711	.560	.589		.622	2.0
	907.75935	13.437	-2.6651	.564	.613	.40	.589	1.7
	907.81533	13.361	-2.6340	.505	.402	.31	.385	1.8
	908.71273	13.450	-2.6701	.563	.662	.43	.625	1.7
	908.78010	13.435	-2.6643	.573	.597	.83	.562	1.7
	909.72712	13.422	-2.6589	.562	.642	.02	.626	1.7
	909.80016	13.423	-2.6594	.564	.540	.40	.554	1.8
3163	897.77110	12.648	-2.3453	.464	.484	.34	.494	1.7
	897.81876	12.705	-2.3687	.470	.488	.31	.451	1.7
	897.86247	12.742	-2.3837	.460	.475	.34	.525	2.0
	899.69572	12.652	-2.3472	.456	.516	.24	.466	2.0
	899.74648	12.611	-2.3307	.461	.510	.24	.443	1.7
	899.79814	12.611	-2.3303	.459	.495	.25	.473	1.7
	899.84527	12.644	-2.3440	.467	.517	.40	.463	1.9
	900.68387	12.646	-2.3448	.461	.483	.21	.472	2.1
	900.73230	12.687	-2.3613	.467	.505	.25	.456	1.8
	900.77782	12.726	-2.3771	.468	.509	.23	.449	1.7
	900.82398	12.722	-2.3754	.468	.473	.44	.480	1.8
	901.68158	12.721	-2.3750	.460	.497	.35	.440	2.1
	901.72699	12.693	-2.3638	.463	.484	.30	.426	1.8
	901.77582	12.655	-2.3483	.459	.497	.27	.456	1.7
	901.82821	12.632	-2.3388	.462	.490	.22	.437	1.8
	905.69635	12.633	-2.3394	.468	.511	.26	.456	1.9
	905.74087	12.684	-2.3601	.467	.459	.31	.455	1.7
	905.78458	12.730	-2.3787	.467	.468	.44	.483	1.7
	905.82690	12.730	-2.3785	.461	.523	.32	.460	1.9
	906.72024	12.712	-2.3715	.463	.491	.32	.456	1.8
	906.76201	12.679	-2.3580	.465			.463	1.7
	906.82786	12.645	-2.3441	.450	.529	.30	.467	1.9
	907.72025	12.620	-2.3341	.464	.479	.29	.466	1.7
	907.76517	12.636	-2.3406	.460	.510	.22	.466	1.7
	907.80957	12.673	-2.3556	.459	.520	.26	.499	1.8
	908.66168	12.688	-2.3615	.464	.506	.30	.456	2.1
	908.75124	12.726	-2.3771	.457	.517	.22	.444	1.7
	908.82204	12.691	-2.3627	.463	.441	.38	.451	1.9
	909.78015	12.632	-2.3392	.459	.489	.31	.470	1.7
	910.66308	12.626	-2.3366	.459	.492	.31	.457	2.1
	911.66692	12.725	-2.3766	.458	.473	.26	.463	2.0
	911.79465	12.671	-2.3547	.454	.452	.23	.458	1.8
	912.81090	12.683	-2.3597	.460	.576	.15	.462	1.9
	914.82103	12.626	-2.3367	.460	.473	.36	.459	2.1
	915.65034	12.632	-2.3388	.449	.511	.12	.442	2.1
	915.72997	12.665	-2.3525	.457	.494	.17	.481	1.7
	915.73207	12.665	-2.3525	.472	.475	.35	.432	1.7
	926.70322	12.726	-2.3771	.472	.475	.35	.432	1.7
	926.78430	12.715	-2.3727	.472	.482	.33	.436	2.0

TABLE V. — Individual photometric measurements for 24 late G and early K dwarfs in the Pleiades (P-numbers refer to Van Leeuwen et al., 1986, all others are HII numbers).

NUMBER	HELIOC. JULIAN DATE	m V	V	V-B log(I)	B-U	U-W	B-L	SEC(Z)
81	555.79755	13.534	-2.7044	.417	.411	.49	.412	2.0
97	544.81727	12.648	-2.3453	.495	.585	.21	.532	2.0
357	554.63364	13.323	-2.6188	.586	.622	.55	.586	2.0
380	554.63780	13.321	-2.6179	.571	.679	.52	.675	2.1
522	555.81426	11.906	-2.0450	.413	.467	.29	.472	2.2
559	555.62640	13.309	-2.6130	.528	.596	.90	.516	2.2
636	556.61474	12.435	-2.2591	.463	.541	.34	.503	2.2
738	556.62238	12.293	-2.2017	.521	.515	.40	.421	2.1
740	555.63180	13.268	-2.5964	.488	.579	.19	.489	2.1
870	556.62617	12.572	-2.3149	.563	.503	.47	.447	2.1
945	556.79989	13.342	-2.6266	.492	.591	.08	.553	2.0
1136	557.61399	12.119	-2.1315	.452	.460	.29	.411	2.2
1298	558.60573	12.270	-2.1925	.460	.544	.26	.555	2.3
1553	545.82293	12.280	-2.1965	.497	.492	.33	.508	1.9
P 14	554.81045	11.870	-2.0303	.414	.479	.29	.458	2.2
P 19	544.80771	11.728	-1.9729	.404	.462	.30	.434	1.9
P 28	543.80933	11.697	-1.9604	.455	.477	.35	.454	1.8
P 31	544.80251	11.513	-1.8861	.453	.479	.35	.466	1.8
P 44	546.64124	11.667	-1.9483	.405	.465	.26	.454	2.3
P 66	543.77640	12.346	-2.2231	.467	.545	.25	.530	1.6
P 123	543.79825	11.903	-2.0439	.436	.518	.22	.484	1.8
P 184	543.80207	13.379	-2.6415	.449	.506	.14	.565	1.8
P 189	554.80650	12.246	-2.1829	.439	.492	.35	.486	2.2
P 193	546.83814	11.863	-2.0275	.402	.475	.30	.448	2.1

TABLE VI. — *The compiled information on variations, periods and lightcurves.*

HII	period days	V(1980) log(I)	V(1981) log(I)	A1 log(I)	A2 log(I)	dPh deg.	A2/A1	dV log(I)	N
34	6.61 0.11	-2.0720 0.0004		0.0109 0.0006	0.0019 0.0006	54. 0.18 19. 0.06		0.0027	44
	6.60 0.17	-2.0627 0.0005	0.0121 0.0007	0.0039 0.0008	61. 0.32 12. 0.07			0.0018	19
	6.553 0.006	-2.0719 0.0004	-2.0632 0.0006	0.0110 0.0005	0.0019 0.0005	57. 0.18 14. 0.05		0.0025	63
625	0.4283 0.0009	-2.3672 0.0009	0.0207 0.0013	0.0050 0.0012	33. 0.24 14. 0.06			0.0055	41
686	0.3965 0.0011	-2.6586 0.0008		0.0187 0.0012	0.0023 0.0012	170. 0.13 28. 0.06		0.0073	89
	0.3974 0.0007	-2.6644 0.0012	0.0188 0.0016	0.0053 0.0016	145. 0.28 17. 0.09			0.0063	32
	0.39654 0.00004	-2.6587 0.0008	-2.6642 0.0013	0.0189 0.0010	0.0028 0.0009	163. 0.15 19. 0.05		0.0072	121
879	7.40 0.19	-2.3879 0.0007		0.0134 0.0010	0.0014 0.0011	27. 0.10 40. 0.08		0.0031	21
	7.12 0.10	-2.3903 0.0006	0.0157 0.0009	0.0057 0.0008	65. 0.36 8. 0.06			0.0024	22
	7.387 0.007	-2.3878 0.0008	-2.3904 0.0008	0.0143 0.0009	0.0016 0.0008	63. 0.11 28. 0.05		0.0034	43
882	0.5799 0.0014	-2.3957 0.0006	0.0242 0.0008	0.0021 0.0008	154. 0.09 23. 0.03			0.0033	36
1124	5.94 0.24	-2.2226 0.0009		0.0100 0.0013	0.0042 0.0013	118. 0.42 22. 0.14		0.0052	38
	6.04 0.10	-2.2328 0.0005	0.0157 0.0008	0.0003 0.0007	126. 0.02 150. 0.05			0.0027	27
	6.051 0.009	-2.2222 0.0008	-2.2331 0.0009	0.0122 0.0008	0.0027 0.0009	117. 0.22 20. 0.07		0.0049	65
1332	8.3 0.3	-2.2679 0.0006	0.0093 0.0008	0.0031 0.0008	55. 0.33 15. 0.09			0.0021	21
1531	0.4830 0.0010	-2.6844 0.0007	0.0215 0.0010	0.0017 0.0010	135. 0.08 33. 0.05			0.0041	35
1883	0.23538 0.00007	-2.2984 0.0004		0.0391 0.0005	0.0061 0.0005	93. 0.16 5. 0.01		0.0029	67
	0.23540 0.00007	-2.2989 0.0006	0.0400 0.0008	0.0041 0.0008	84. 0.10 11. 0.02			0.0031	36
	0.235405 0.000003	-2.2984 0.0004	-2.2987 0.0006	0.0395 0.0004	0.0054 0.0004	91. 0.14 5. 0.01		0.0030	97
2034	0.5516 0.0017	-2.3235 0.0008	0.0168 0.0013	0.0016 0.0011	114. 0.10 41. 0.07			0.0044	33
3163	0.4177 0.0004	-2.3565 0.0006	0.0221 0.0008	0.0020 0.0009	92. 0.09 25. 0.04			0.0036	38

TABLE VII. — *Phases at HJD 2444550.0 (Nov. 1980) and HJD 2444900.0 (Nov. 1981).*

HII	period days	phase (1980)	phase (1981)
34	6.553	0.516	0.926
625	0.4282		0.514
686	0.39653	0.947	0.604
727	8.07	0.019	
879	7.386	0.693	0.079
882	0.5798		0.859
1124	6.051	0.895	0.736
1332	8.3		0.769
1531	0.4830		0.102
1883	0.235405	0.770	0.570
2034	0.5516		0.556
3163	0.4178		0.992

TABLE VIII. — *Combined variations in the colour indices for all stars presented in table VI relative to their variations in the V channel.*

	V-B	B-U	U-W	B-L
ratio	-0.22	-0.22	-0.8	-0.08
st.dev	0.02	0.10	0.3	0.09

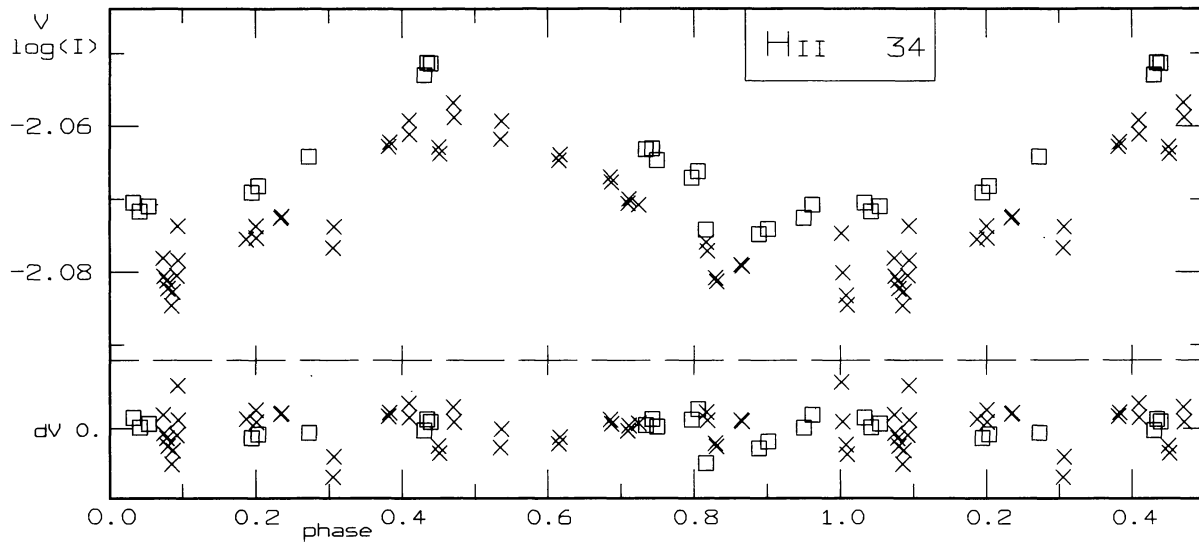


FIGURE 1. — The 1980 and 1981 data for HII 34 in V , folded with a period of 6.553 days. Crosses refer to 1980 and squares to 1981 data points. The lower curve represents the residuals left after a fit with first and second order harmonics as described in the text. The scale for the residuals is the same as for the observations (0.02 in $\log(I)$ equals 0.05 magnitudes). The zero phase coincides with the minimum in the first harmonic.

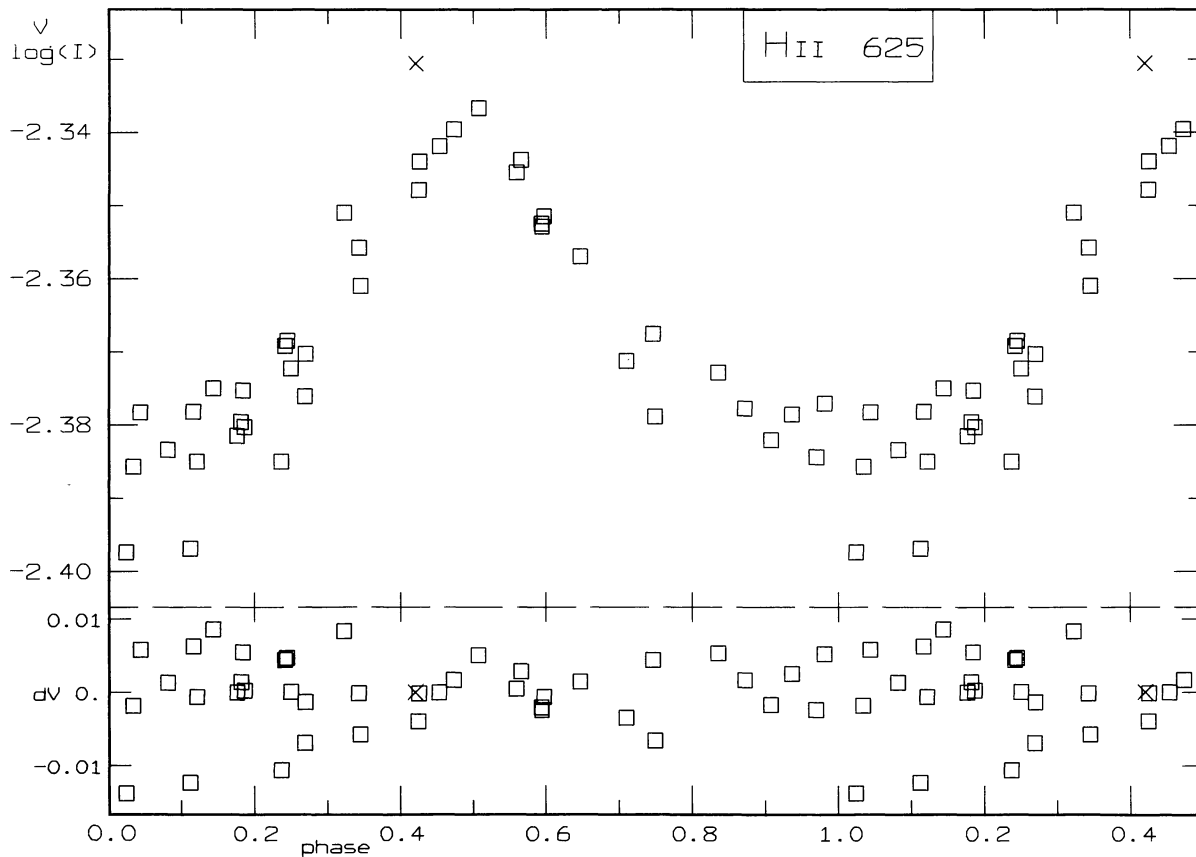


FIGURE 2. — The 1981 data for HII 625 in V , folded with a period of 0.4283 days. Further as figure 1.

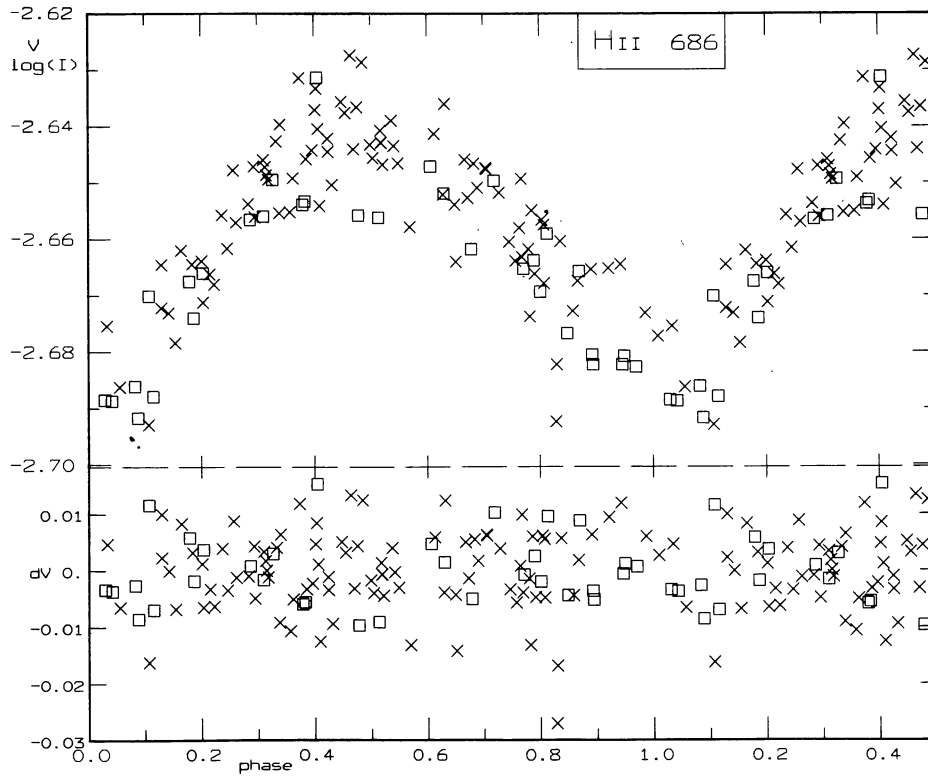


FIGURE 3. — The 1980 and 1981 data for HII 686 in V , folded with a period of 0.39654 days. Further as figure 1.

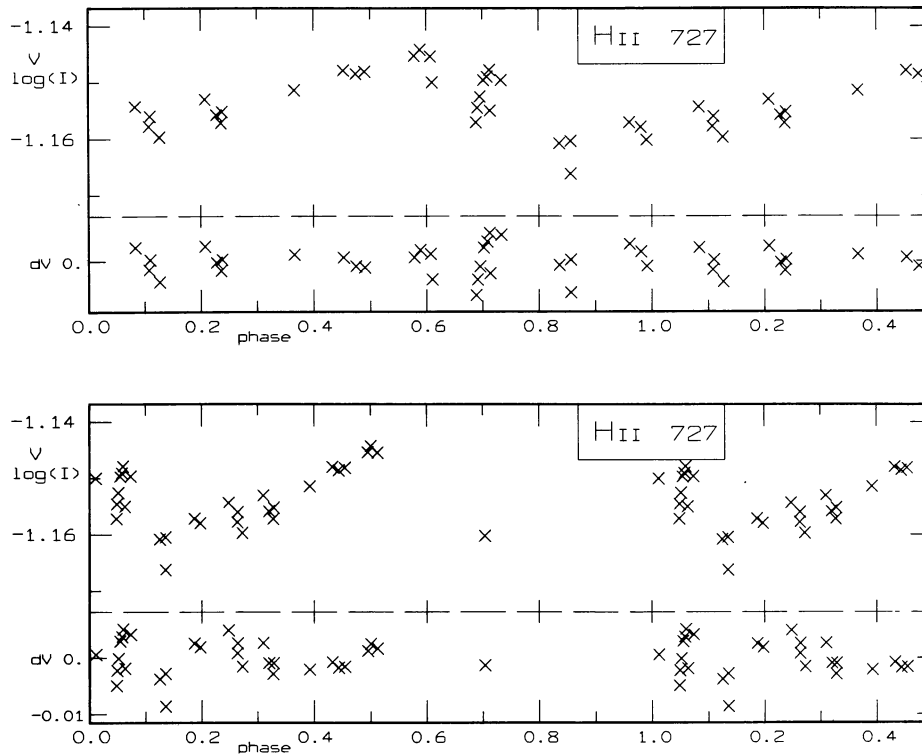


FIGURE 4. — The 1980 data for HII 727 in V , folded with periods of 8.07 and 16.2 days (lower graph).

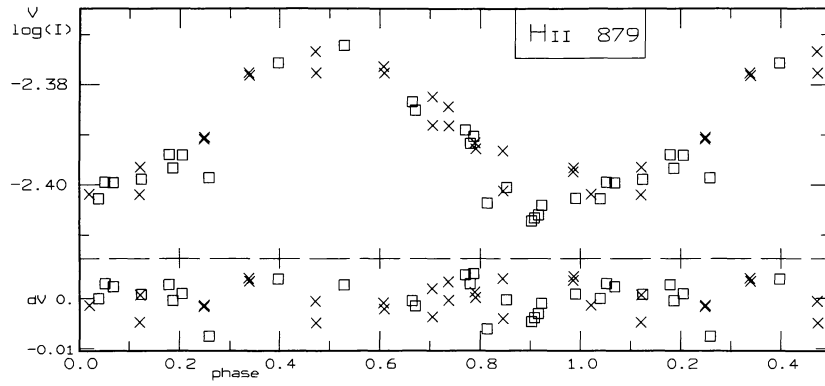


FIGURE 5. — The 1980 and 1981 data for HII 879 in V , folded with a period of 7.387 days. Further as figure 1.

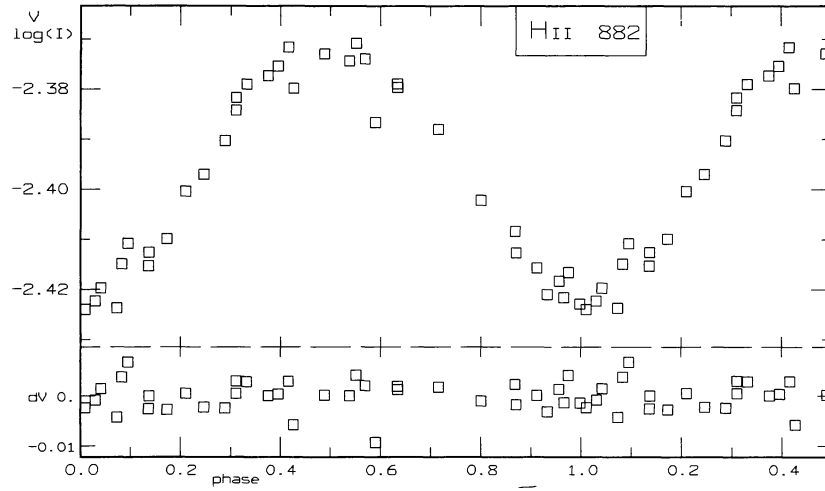


FIGURE 6. — The 1981 data for HII 882 in V , folded with a period of 0.580 days. Further as figure 1.

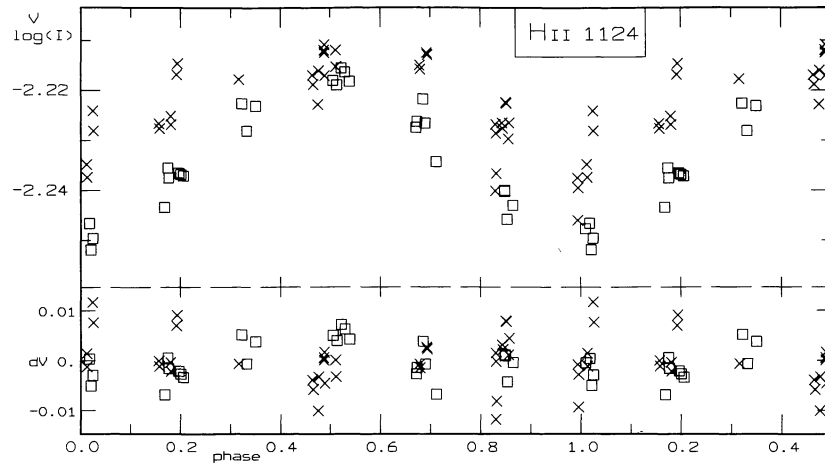


FIGURE 7. — The 1980 and 1981 data for HII 1124 in V , folded with a period of 6.051 days. Further as figure 1.

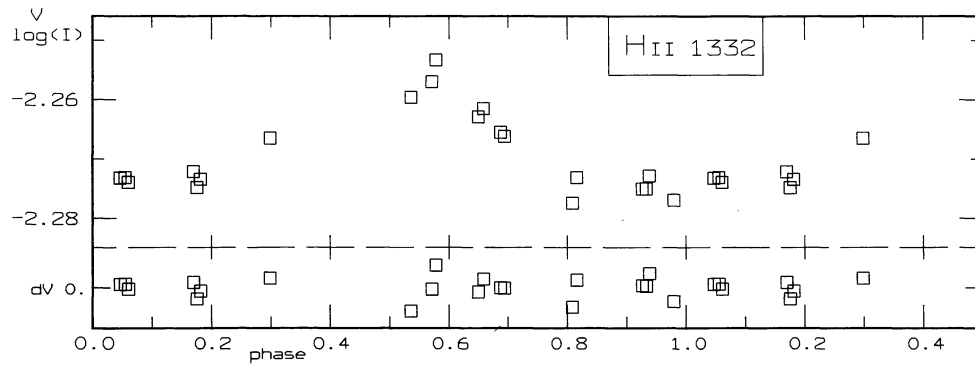


FIGURE 8. — The 1981 data for HII 1332 in V , folded with a period of 8.3 days. Further as figure 1.

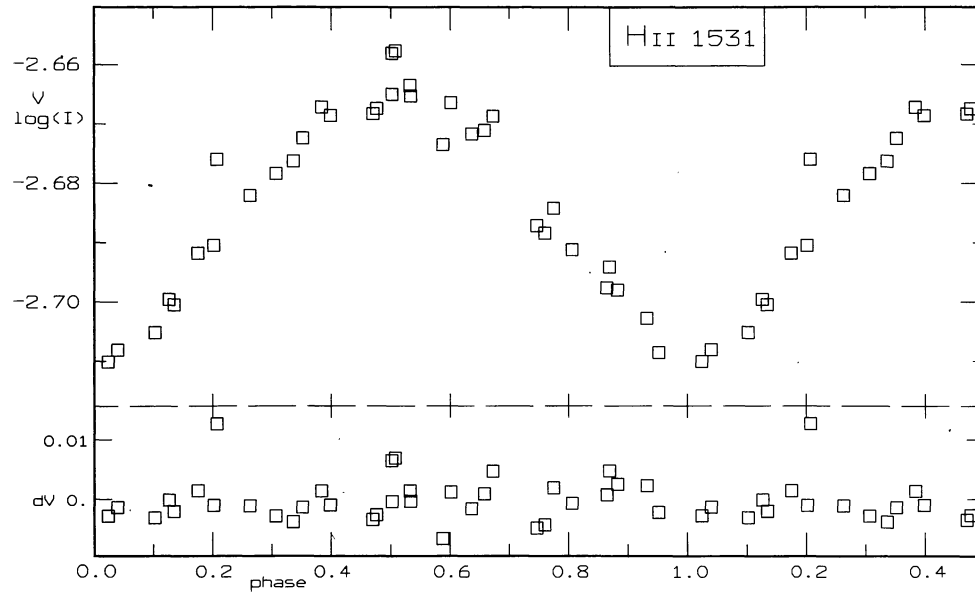


FIGURE 9. — The 1981 data for HII 1531 in V , folded with a period of 0.4830 days. Further as figure 1.

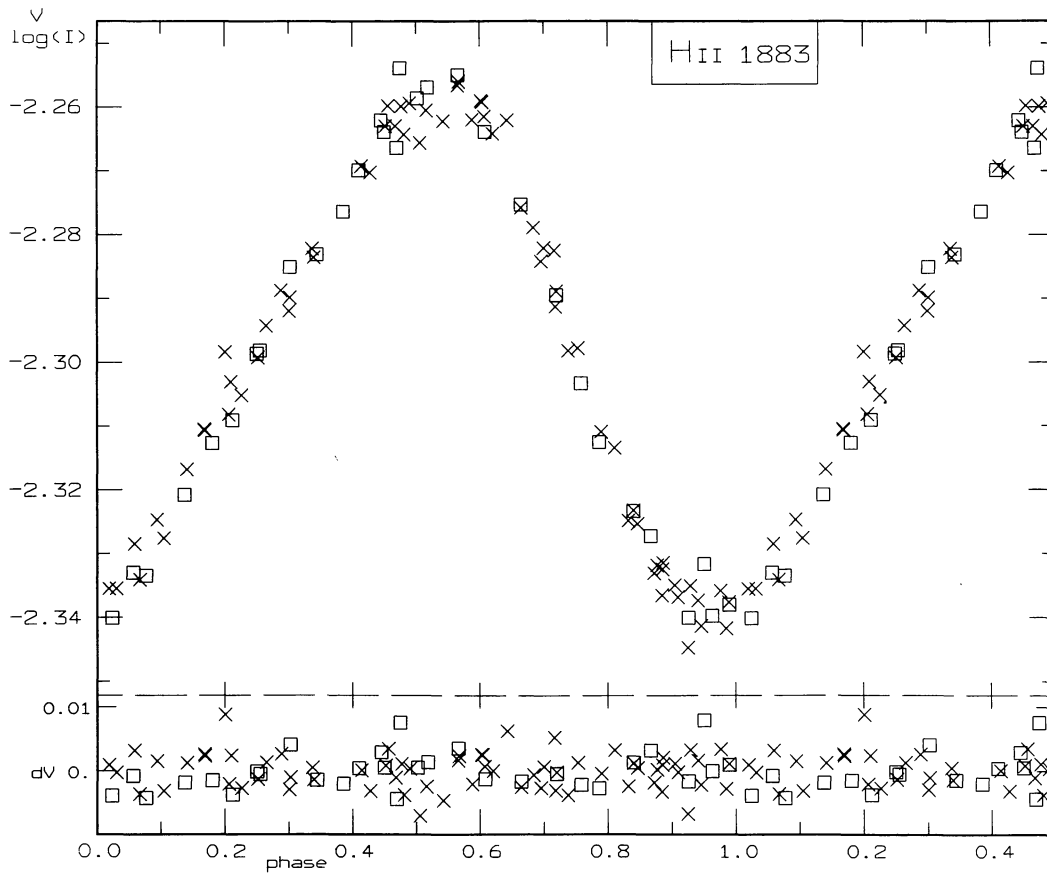


FIGURE 10. — The 1980 and 1981 data for HII 1883 in V, folded with a period of 0.235405 days. Further as figure 1.

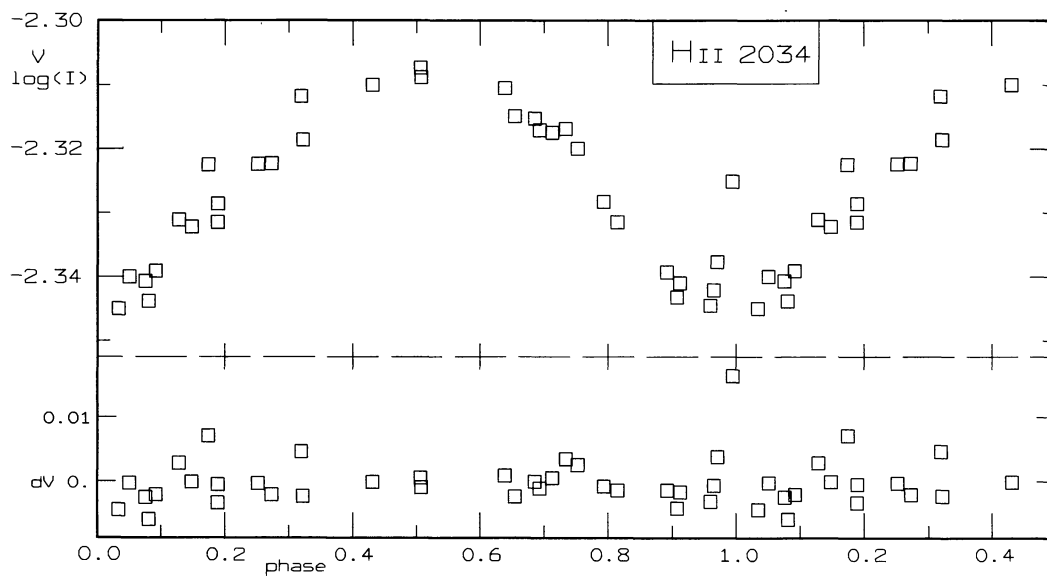


FIGURE 11. — The 1981 data for HII 2034 in V, folded with a period of 0.5516 days. Further as figure 1.

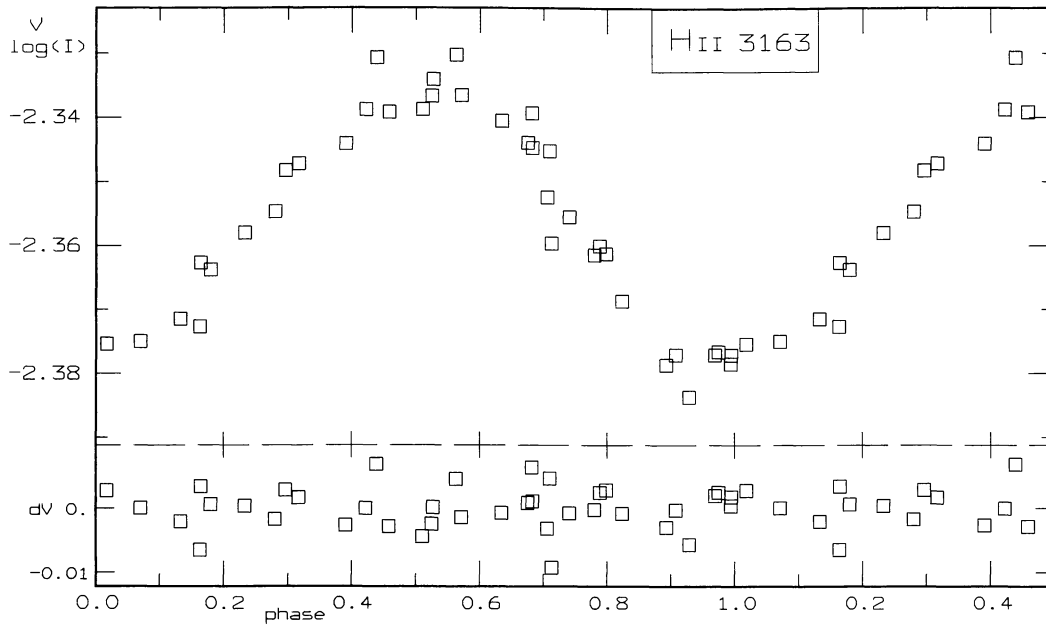


FIGURE 12. — The 1981 data for HII 3163 in V , folded with a period of 0.4177 days. Further as figure 1.

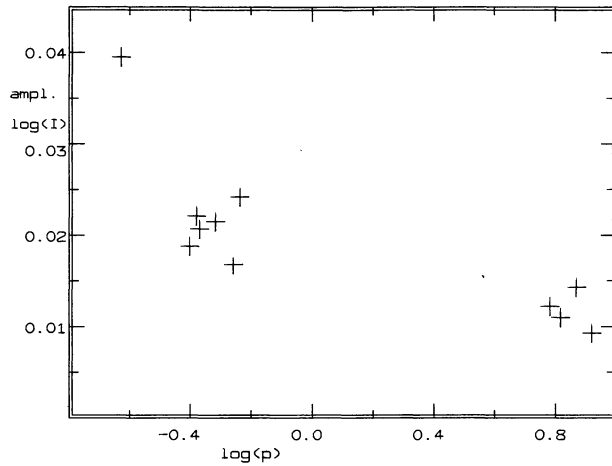


FIGURE 13. — The systematic increase of the first harmonic amplitude with decreasing photometric period. Note also the gap between periods shorter than 0.6 days and longer than 6 days. The scale for the periods is logarithmic.

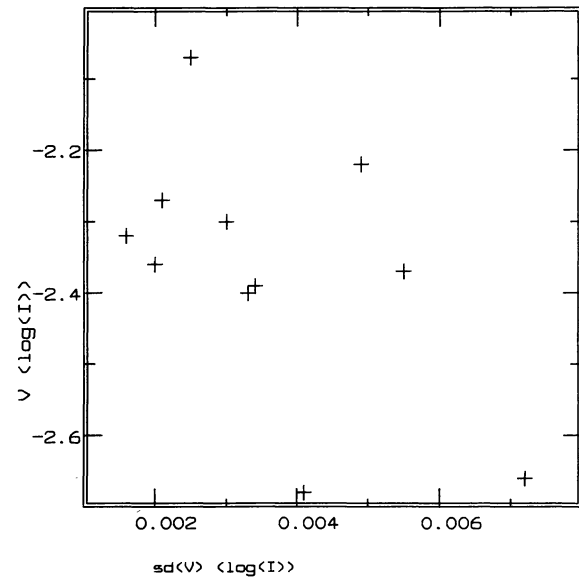


FIGURE 14. — The remaining standard deviation in V after the first and second harmonic fits, as a function of mean brightness. Stars 625, 1124 and 686 (the three points to the right of $sd <log(I)> 0.0045$) show an additional spread in their observations, which still has to be explained.

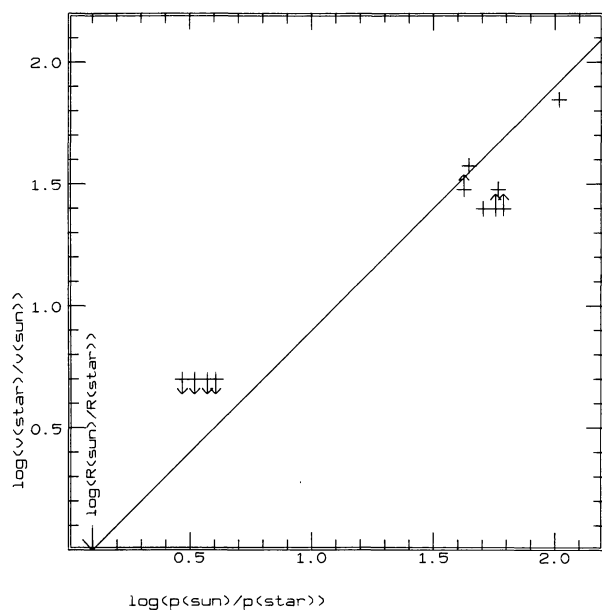


FIGURE 15. — The projected angular velocities as measured by Stauffer *et al.* (1984) as a function of the inverse photometric periods. The clear relation confirms that these stars are variable due to rotational modulation and indicates an average radius of $0.8 R_{\odot}$.

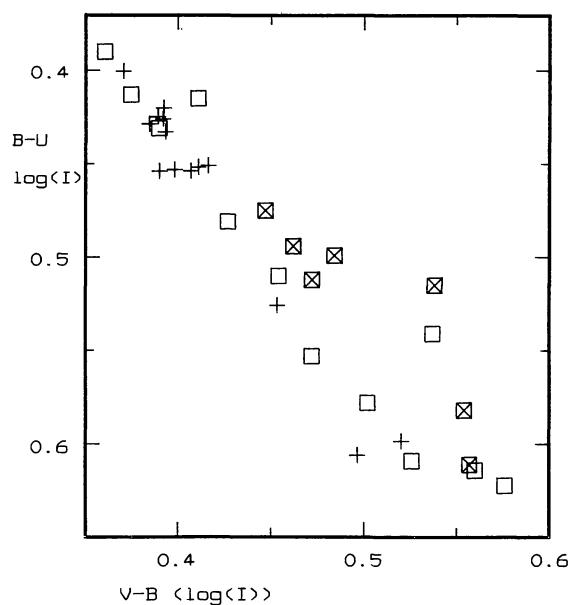


FIGURE 16. — The $V-B$ versus $B-U$ diagram for the Pleiades K-dwarfs and a selection of very nearby K- and G-dwarfs. Beyond $V-B = 0.45$ the Pleiades K-dwarfs can be found well above the relation set by the nearby, probably much older, K-dwarfs. Symbols: « + » nearby stars; squares: Pleiades stars; crossed squares: rapidly rotating Pleiades stars.

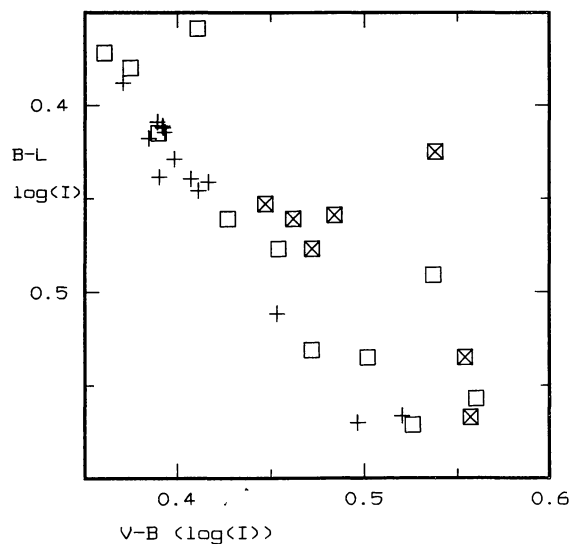


FIGURE 17. — The $V-B$ versus $B-L$ diagram for the same stars as in figure 16. The effects are more pronounced in $B-L$ than in $B-U$, but strongly correlated between these indices. Symbols as in figure 16.

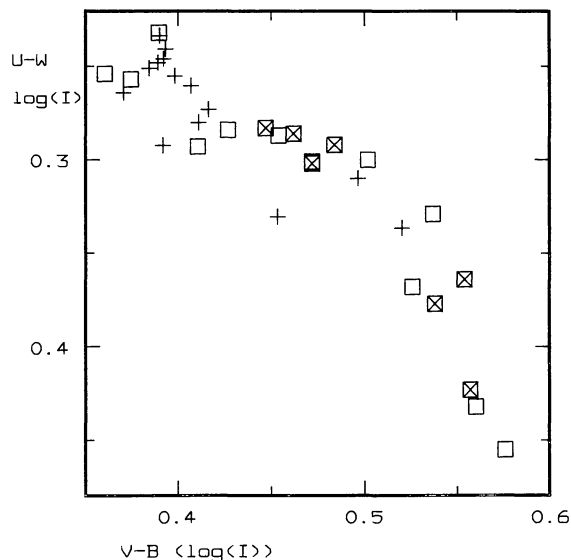


FIGURE 18. — The $V-B$ versus $U-W$ diagram for the same stars as in figure 16. Here no obvious differences between the two groups can be observed, indicating that both U and W are increased by the same ratio. Symbols as in figure 16.

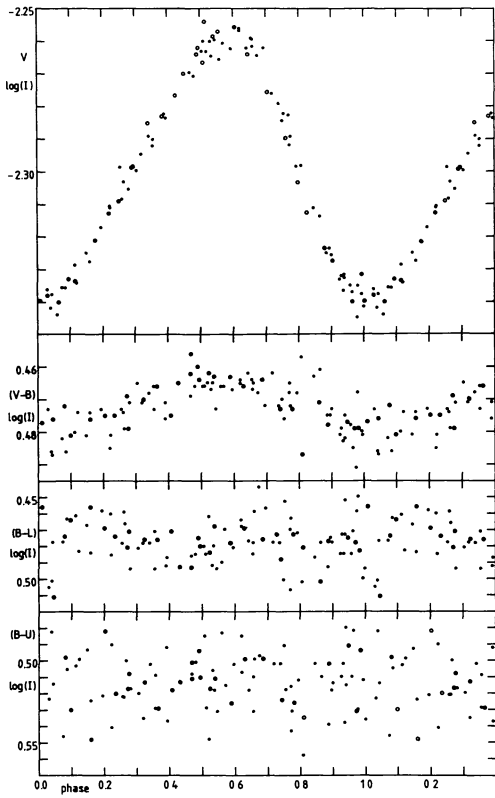


FIGURE 19. — The lightcurves of HII 1883 in the *VBLUW* system *V* channel and *V-B*, *B-L* and *B-U* colour indices. Note the clear variations in *V-B* (equivalent to 0.04 magnitudes) and the lack of variations in the other indices. The 1980 observations are represented by dots, the 1981 observations by open circles.

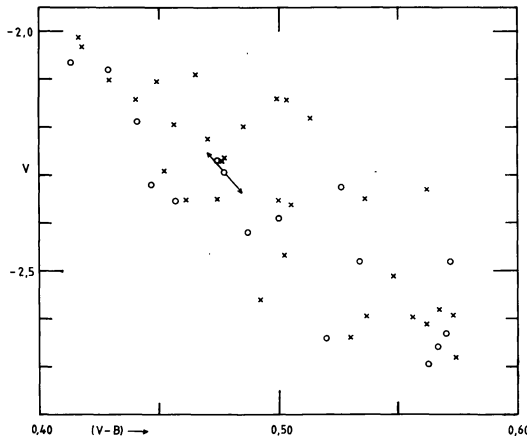


FIGURE 21. — The *V* versus *V-B* relation (in units of $\log(I)$) for the Pleiades K-dwarfs. Open circles represent stars for which multiple measurements were obtained, while crosses represent other members. The size and direction of the variations of HII 1883 are indicated by the arrows.

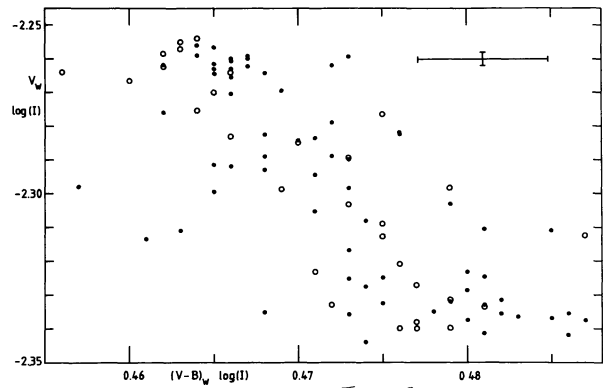


FIGURE 20. — The *V* versus *V-B* relation for HZ 1883 as derived from the 1980 and 1981 observations (symbols as in Fig. 19).

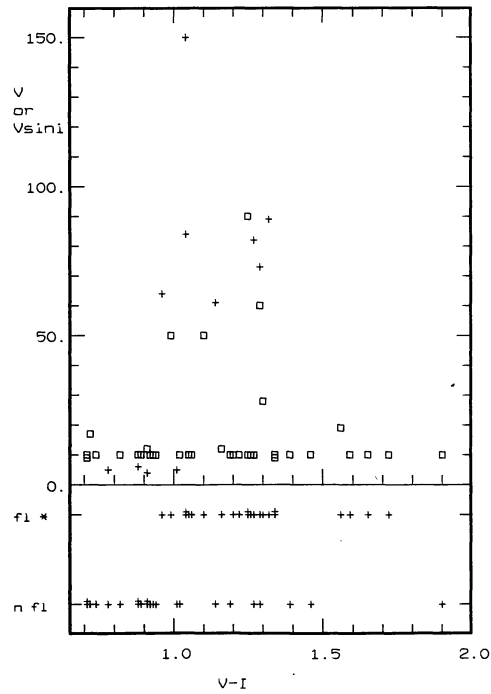


FIGURE 22. — Stellar rotation and flare activity as a function of the *V-I* colour index (data from current paper, Stauffer *et al.*, 1984; Haro *et al.*, 1982). The transition at $V-I = 0.95$ is obvious in both cases, and is most likely a reflection of the turn-on point of hydrogen-burning of the cluster. In the upper graph the squares indicate data from Stauffer *et al.* «+» indicates data from the present paper, and refers to equatorial rotational velocities derived from photometric periods, using a radius of $0.8 R_{\odot}$.