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## Estimates of fifteen variable stars in Vela and Puppis (Errata: 10 146)

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# BULLETIN OF THE ASTRONOMICAL INSTITUTES OF THE NETHERLANDS

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## COMMUNICATION FROM THE OBSERVATORY AT LEIDEN

### Estimates of fifteen variable stars in Vela and Puppis, by *J. de Kort*.

The present estimates of variable stars were made with a ten times enlarging eyepiece on plates taken at Johannesburg by Dr H. VAN GENT and Dr A. DE SITTER with the Franklin-Adams instrument. The plates cover a field of  $10^\circ \times 10^\circ$  with Boss P.G.C. 2267 as centre.

The main results are collected in Table I. In the sixth column the following abbreviations are used: Hzg for E. HERTZSPRUNG <sup>1)</sup>, In for R. INNES <sup>2)</sup>, dK for the writer, Pl for L. PLAUT <sup>3)</sup>. The Julian Days are given in heliocentric mean astronomical time Greenwich. The phases, unless otherwise stated,

TABLE I.

	$\alpha$ (1875°)			$\delta$ (1875°)			type	period	(m.e.) unit: last place	reciprocal period	found by	maxi- mum	minimum	J.D.		m.e. of estimate		
	central epoch		(m.e.)															
	h	m	s	°	'	''		d	±	d <sup>-1</sup>		m	s	m	s	d	±	±
a	7	59	45.2	-48	06	5	long-per.	201	—	—	dK	13.5	2.0	[15.6: [17.0	max	6516	—	—
b	8	04	30.2	-43	37	7	long-per.	461	—	—	In	12.0	-1.2	16.0: 38.1	max	4802	—	—
c	8	04	43.4	-46	09	1	long-per.	303	—	—	Hzg	11.7	-2.0	16.2 29.0	max	7383	—	—
d	8	08	24.4	-48	38	4	Algol	2.710900	13	.3688116	dK	12.9	6.0	[14.9: [33.2	min	6393.910	.024	1.3
e	8	09	17.7	-47	45	2	long-per.	118.5	—	—	dK	11.1	5.4	11.7 8.3	max	6659	—	—
f	8	11	17.3	-45	23	8	W UMa	2 × .1672038	9	2.9903633	dK	13.8	6.1	14.2 13.9	min	6307.690	.001	2.3
g	8	14	01.7	-45	00	2	W UMa	.26498597	23	3.773792	In	12.9	3.4	13.8 10.9	4 br	—	.0016	1.6
h	8	18	09.3	-46	54	4	$\delta$ Cep	3.372462	23	.2965185	dK	14.0	1.9	15.1: 16.9	ris br	6339.204	.013	2.4
i	8	23	48.5	-39	39	4	pec. Algol	7.72461	27	1.294563	dK	12.1	1.2	13.0 7.8	min	6141.36	.018	—
k	8	25	13.7	-41	08	9	pec. nova	—	—	—	dK	13.2	—	14.3	—	—	—	—
l	8	31	05.6	-48	16	0	W UMa	2 × .1510482	6	3.310201	dK	14.0	16	15.1 43	min	6288.617	.003	5.6
m	8	35	41.2	-42	23	1	W UMa	.5162856	12	1.936912	dK	10.5	1.5	11.2 7.4	4 br	—	.004	1.1
n	8	40	29.8	-44	31	8	Algol	4.2308	—	.23636	Pl	12.5	8	13.4 31	min	6183.48	—	3.2
o	8	41	21.8	-46	49	6	W UMa	.4905399	17	2.038569	Pl	14.0	8	15.3 31	ris br	6400.657	.003	2.5
p	8	43	35.7	-42	11	8	Algol	1.344807	6	.743601	dK	13.2	6	15.0 23	des br	6459.522	.002	—

have been computed as follows: Phase = (J.D. — 2420000)  $\times$  the reciprocal period given in Table I. The epochs were defined in various ways, which are briefly indicated in the ninth column. Generally the sharpest definition which was possible, given the character of the variation and the accuracy of the observations, was selected.

The photographic magnitudes given are to be considered as provisional only. They were obtained in the following way. Photographic magnitudes of, on the average, two comparison stars were derived from star counts with the aid of the quantities  $\log N_{m, \beta, \lambda}$  given in *Groningen Publ.* 43. Of the fainter comparison stars no magnitudes were determined in this way, the faintest magnitude actually obtained with our counts being  $14^m.6$ . These magnitudes fix the zero points of our estimates. The scale has been derived from estimates on plates taken with a coarse grating ( $\Delta m = m.97$ ) in front of the

objective. Some of the magnitudes at low brightness will be systematically too bright. When this effect is probably more pronounced, the magnitudes are marked by a colon. In cases where the variable was invisible on the plate, it has been indicated that its brightness is fainter than the faintest visible comparison star. The photographic magnitudes for star *k* were obtained in a different way described below. The values derived from star counts are  $13^m.3$  and  $13^m.6$  for the comparison stars *a* and *c* respectively.

The mean error of a single estimate was usually derived by means of the expression  $\sqrt{\Sigma(\Delta s)^2/2n}$ , where  $\Delta s$  is the difference in brightness between two observations following each other in phase and  $n$  the number of differences.

<sup>1)</sup> Unpublished discovery.

<sup>2)</sup> *U.O.C.* No. 35, 276 (1916), cf. R. PRAGER, *Astr. Abh.* 9, 3 (1934).

<sup>3)</sup> Unpublished discoveries.

TABLE 2.

<i>a</i>			<i>f</i>			<i>l</i>		
a	<sup>m</sup> 13 <sup>s</sup> 2	<sup>o</sup> 4	b	<sup>m</sup> 13 <sup>s</sup> 7	<sup>o</sup> 3 <sup>'</sup> 9	a	<sup>m</sup> 13 <sup>s</sup> 8	<sup>o</sup> 11 <sup>'</sup> 2
b	13 <sup>s</sup> 8	4 <sup>o</sup> 0	c	14 <sup>s</sup> 0	8 <sup>'</sup> 9	b	14 <sup>s</sup> 2	19 <sup>'</sup> 7
c	14 <sup>s</sup> 3	8 <sup>'</sup> 1	d	14 <sup>s</sup> 2	13 <sup>'</sup> 4	c	14 <sup>s</sup> 5	27 <sup>'</sup> 9
d	14 <sup>s</sup> 9	12 <sup>'</sup> 5	e	14 <sup>s</sup> 5	18 <sup>'</sup> 6	d	14 <sup>s</sup> 9	38 <sup>'</sup> 6
e	15 <sup>s</sup> 6	17 <sup>'</sup> 0	f	14 <sup>s</sup> 7	22 <sup>'</sup> 9	e	15 <sup>s</sup> 2	47 <sup>'</sup> 2
<i>b</i>			<i>g</i>			<i>m</i>		
A	<sup>m</sup> 12 <sup>s</sup> 1	<sup>o</sup> 5	g	<sup>m</sup> 13 <sup>s</sup> 8	<sup>o</sup> 4	a	<sup>m</sup> 10 <sup>s</sup> 3	<sup>o</sup> 5
a	12 <sup>s</sup> 6	4 <sup>'</sup> 3	h	14 <sup>s</sup> 1	8 <sup>'</sup> 1	b	10 <sup>s</sup> 8	7 <sup>'</sup> 2
b	13 <sup>s</sup> 0	9 <sup>'</sup> 4	i	14 <sup>s</sup> 5	11 <sup>'</sup> 9	c	11 <sup>s</sup> 1	7 <sup>'</sup> 2
c	13 <sup>s</sup> 5	14 <sup>'</sup> 5	l	14 <sup>s</sup> 9	15 <sup>'</sup> 4	d	11 <sup>s</sup> 5	12 <sup>'</sup> 5
d	14 <sup>s</sup> 1	20 <sup>'</sup> 5	<i>h</i>			a	<sup>so</sup> 10	<sup>sk</sup> 10
e	14 <sup>s</sup> 7	25 <sup>'</sup> 5	<i>i</i>			b	2 <sup>'</sup> 7	2 <sup>'</sup> 9
f	15 <sup>s</sup> 3	30 <sup>'</sup> 0	a	<sup>m</sup> 12 <sup>s</sup> 6	<sup>o</sup> 6	c	4 <sup>'</sup> 4	6 <sup>'</sup> 2
g	15 <sup>s</sup> 6	33 <sup>'</sup> 7	b	13 <sup>s</sup> 2	6 <sup>'</sup> 1	d	8 <sup>'</sup> 4	9 <sup>'</sup> 9
h	16 <sup>s</sup> 1	38 <sup>'</sup> 9	c	14 <sup>s</sup> 0	12 <sup>'</sup> 9	<i>n</i>		
<i>c</i>			<i>j</i>			<i>o</i>		
a	<sup>m</sup> 12 <sup>s</sup> 0	<sup>o</sup> 5	A	<sup>m</sup> 13 <sup>s</sup> 9	<sup>o</sup> 3	a	<sup>m</sup> 12 <sup>s</sup> 2	<sup>o</sup> 6
b	12 <sup>s</sup> 8	5 <sup>'</sup> 4	a	14 <sup>s</sup> 1	3 <sup>'</sup> 3	b	12 <sup>s</sup> 4	6 <sup>'</sup> 0
c	13 <sup>s</sup> 5	10 <sup>'</sup> 0	b	14 <sup>s</sup> 4	6 <sup>'</sup> 9	c	12 <sup>s</sup> 9	17 <sup>'</sup> 7
d	14 <sup>s</sup> 3	15 <sup>'</sup> 7	c	14 <sup>s</sup> 7	11 <sup>'</sup> 0	d	13 <sup>s</sup> 4	30 <sup>'</sup> 7
e	15 <sup>s</sup> 1	21 <sup>'</sup> 2	d	15 <sup>s</sup> 1	15 <sup>'</sup> 7	e	13 <sup>s</sup> 7	40 <sup>'</sup> 0
f	15 <sup>s</sup> 8	25 <sup>'</sup> 7	e	15 <sup>s</sup> 4	20 <sup>'</sup> 2	<i>p</i>		
<i>d</i>			<i>k</i>			<i>q</i>		
A	<sup>m</sup> 12 <sup>s</sup> 4	<sup>o</sup> 4	<i>l</i>			a	<sup>m</sup> 12 <sup>s</sup> 5	<sup>o</sup> 4
a	12 <sup>s</sup> 7	4 <sup>'</sup> 2	<i>m</i>			b	13 <sup>s</sup> 0	4 <sup>'</sup> 1
b	13 <sup>s</sup> 0	7 <sup>'</sup> 9	f	<sup>m</sup> 11 <sup>s</sup> 9	<sup>o</sup> 4	c	13 <sup>s</sup> 4	8 <sup>'</sup> 0
d	13 <sup>s</sup> 3	12 <sup>'</sup> 9	g	12 <sup>s</sup> 5	4 <sup>'</sup> 2	d	13 <sup>s</sup> 8	12 <sup>'</sup> 5
e	13 <sup>s</sup> 7	18 <sup>'</sup> 2	h	13 <sup>s</sup> 1	8 <sup>'</sup> 7	e	14 <sup>s</sup> 2	16 <sup>'</sup> 6
f	13 <sup>s</sup> 9	21 <sup>'</sup> 5	e	13 <sup>s</sup> 6	11 <sup>'</sup> 7	f	14 <sup>s</sup> 7	20 <sup>'</sup> 7
g	14 <sup>s</sup> 2	26 <sup>'</sup> 5	<i>n</i>			<i>r</i>		
h	14 <sup>s</sup> 5	29 <sup>'</sup> 6	<i>o</i>			<i>s</i>		
i	14 <sup>s</sup> 7	33 <sup>'</sup> 2	<i>p</i>			<i>t</i>		
<i>e</i>			<i>q</i>			<i>u</i>		
a	<sup>m</sup> 10 <sup>s</sup> 0	<sup>o</sup> 5	a	<sup>m</sup> 13 <sup>s</sup> 1	<sup>o</sup> 4	<i>v</i>		
b	11 <sup>s</sup> 2	5 <sup>'</sup> 7	b	13 <sup>s</sup> 5	<sup>o</sup> 5	<i>w</i>		
c	12 <sup>s</sup> 3	11 <sup>'</sup> 3	c	13 <sup>s</sup> 7	<sup>o</sup> 6	<i>x</i>		
<i>f</i>			d	14 <sup>s</sup> 0	<sup>o</sup> 7	<i>y</i>		
<i>g</i>			e	15 <sup>s</sup> 1	<sup>o</sup> 8	<i>z</i>		

The brightness of the comparison stars, the observed epochs compared with an ephemeris and the mean light curves are given in the Tables 2, 3 and 4 respectively. Estimates marked as uncertain when made have been omitted from most of the mean light curves.

In Figure 1 the angular size of each diagram is indicated in the lower right corner or along one of the sides.

In Figure 2 each division on the line of abscissae represents one tenth of a period. The phases P.5 and P.0 are marked by larger divisions.

#### Remarks on individual variables.

a. The period was derived from the observed maxima as well as from the branches. The maxima differ in width and their dispersion in brightness is

of the order of  $\pm m.4$ . The minimum brightness probably is below the limit of even the best plates. The mean light curve is, for its observed upper part, approximately of the type  $\alpha_3$  according to LUDENDORFF (*Hb. d. Ap.* 7, 627, 1934). It was used to reduce the observed epochs to the nearest time of maximum.

b. This star has a faint southern companion visible on the sharpest plates. I always endeavoured to estimate the combined brightness of the pair. The apparent range is, probably, not much influenced by the presence of the companion. The mean light curve is of LUDENDORFF's type  $\alpha_2$ . The first of the epochs of maximum given is one of INNES' observations, the second being found on The Photographic Map of the Sky South of  $-19^\circ$  (1875), (cf. *U.O.C.* No. 38)  $-46^\circ$ , 42.

Three old minima at J.D. 2418765, 2419513 and 2421006, the first of which is found on Plate 3 of *H.A.* 72, No. 3, the second on Franklin-Adams Chart No. 32 and the last of which is given by INNES, agree well with the ephemeris.

c. This long-period variable of type  $\beta_2$ , according to LUDENDORFF's classification, was independently rediscovered by the writer. The comparison star designed as a is the star CPD- $46^\circ$  2167 ( $10m.2$ ). The period was computed from observations on five rising branches; the times in Table 3 are those of the computed next following maximum. They are in good agreement with a maximum found on F.-A. Chart No. 32 (J.D. 2419513) and with a minimum on the Union Observatory Map  $-46^\circ$ , 42.

d. The period of this Algol star has been determined by least squares from points on the rising branch of the primary minimum, assuming an increase in brightness of one step in  $0.00602$ . If we reduce them with the aid of this assumption to a brightness of  $37^s$ , we obtain the epochs of Table 3. In the mean light curve the phase is  $d^{-x}.3688116 \times$  (J.D.  $-2426393.910$ ), taken without regard to sign. A secondary minimum appears to be present of  $0.9$  depth and of the same width as the primary, the range of which is of the order of  $30^s$ .

e. The variable is CPD  $-47^\circ$  1986 ( $9m.6$ ) = H.D. 69068 ( $m_{pg} 10m.2$ , Sp Mb). The comparison stars are CPD  $-48^\circ$  1552 ( $8m.8$ ) = H.D. 68809 ( $m_{pg} 9m.2$  Sp Ko), CPD  $-47^\circ$  1971 ( $9m.6$ ) = H.D. 68923 ( $m_p 10.2$ , Sp G5) and CPD  $-47^\circ$  1979 ( $9m.9$ ). The epoch given in Table 3, though mostly derived from rising and descending branches, have been reduced to the epoch of maximum. The residuals O-C will, therefore

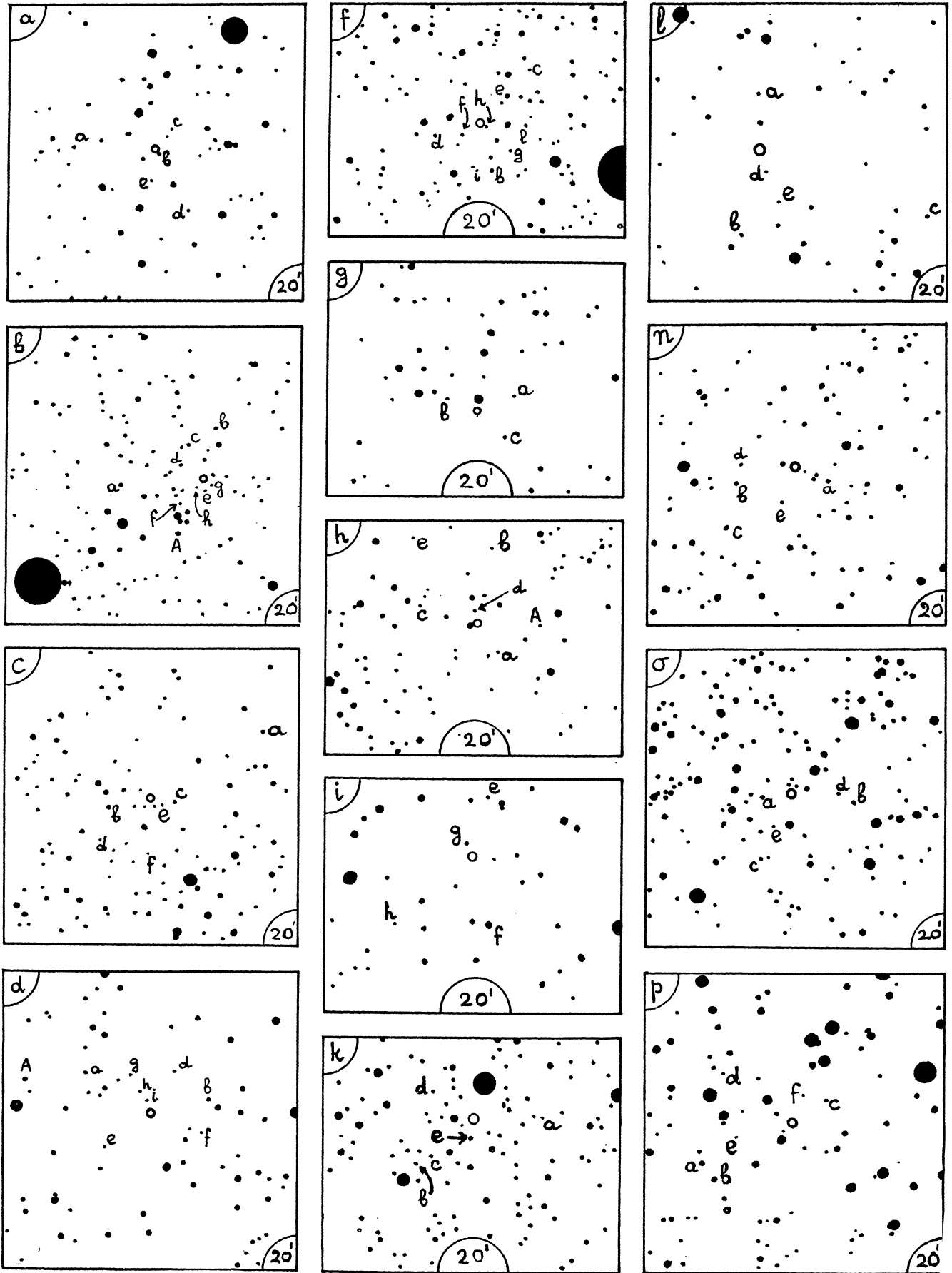


FIGURE 1.

TABLE 3.

J.D.	E	O-C	J.D.	E	O-C	J.D.	E	O-C	J.D.	E	O-C			
<i>a</i>			<i>d</i>			<i>d</i>			<i>d</i>					
2425713	-4	+1	2426303	502	-25	-009	2426087	27	-7	-02	2428307	87	+5203	00
5910	-3	-3	6310	522	+17	-012	6087	34	-7	+05	8519	00	+6021	-02
6110	-2	-4	6324	408	+100	-004	6118	25	-3	+06	8549	22	+6138	00
6320	-1	+5	6337	443	+178	-010	6118	27	-3	+08	8580	44	+6261	-03
6510	0	-6	6338	295	+183	+007	6141	19	0	-17	<i>n</i>			
7530	+5	+9	6362	307	+327	000	6249	59	+14	+08	2425742	28	-105	+06
7720	+6	-2	6388	319	+482	+036	6249	61	+14	+10	5997	35	+44	+01
<i>b</i>			6437	261	+775	-012	6303	46	+21	-12	6014	33	-40	+07
2413282	-25	+5	6513	202	+1229	+018	6303	50	+21	-08	6090	36	-22	-05
2422019	-6	-17	7519	255	+7246	+005	6303	52	+21	-06	6141	19	-10	+01
5692	+2	-32	7802	479	+8940	-014	6396	31	+33	+03	6310	40	+30	00
6175	+3	-10	<i>g</i>			6396	34	+33	+06	6382	35	+47	+01	
7561	+6	-7	2425950	435	-4106	+008	6396	36	+33	+08	6454	21	+64	-05
8523	+8	+33	5971	366	-3948	+005	7516	22	+178	-12	6509	22	+77	-05
8980	+9	+29	5973	493	-3932	+012	7516	35	+178	00	<i>o</i>			
<i>c</i>			5974	413	-3925	+005	<i>l</i>			2425712	378	-1403	+006	
2426157	-4	-14	5997	314	-3752	-015	2425712	371	-3815	+003	5742	306	-1342	+011
6481	-3	+7	6010	324	-3654	+010	5714	304	-3802	-028	5769	417	-879	+002
7715	+1	+29	6029	257	-3511	-004	5742	271	-3617	-005	5769	420	-879	+005
7979	+2	-10	6036	298	-3458	+015	5923	531	-2417	-003	5771	380	-875	+003
8280	+3	-12	6066	226	-3232	000	5928	353	-2385	-014	5772	355	-873	-003
<i>d</i>			6086	364	-3080	-001	6036	505	-1669	-013	5797	371	-822	-004
2425968	292	-157	6094	318	-3020	+003	6039	247	-1651	+010	6028	288	-759	+009
6063	184	-122	6115	241	-2862	-007	6057	377	-1531	+015	6029	256	-757	-006
6063	187	-122	6117	241	-2847	+006	6063	260	-1492	+007	6030	241	-755	000
6063	179	-122	6249	590	-1848	-006	6065	229	-1479	+012	6276	488	-253	-004
6090	298	-112	6305	496	-1426	-012	6087	272	-1333	+002	6303	478	-198	+005
6090	296	-112	6309	484	-1396	+001	6093	328	-1293	+016	6303	467	-198	-006
6266	491	-47	6337	309	-1186	+002	6116	274	-1141	+003	6306	415	-192	-002
6266	487	-47	6337	443	-1185	+004	6126	236	-1075	-004	6337	310	-129	-010
6410	162	+6	6388	297	-801	-020	6126	258	-1075	+018	6337	316	-129	-004
6410	179	+6	6410	317	-635	+007	6266	573	-146	+009	6338	279	-127	-022
7516	232	+414	6412	300	-620	+002	6268	531	-133	+003	6387	340	-27	-015
7516	216	+414	6420	256	-560	+009	6299	484	-72	-009	6387	362	-27	+006
<i>e</i>			6510	208	+119	-002	6306	424	+118	-017	6388	331	-25	-004
2425715	-8	+4	6835	227	+2572	+012	6306	446	+118	+005	6417	274	+34	-004
5945	-6	-3	7515	427	+7706	-007	6310	368	+144	000	6417	288	+34	+010
6065	-5	-15	7516	222	+7712	-007	6310	500	+145	-019	6420	255	+40	+035
6305	-3	+15	7802	414	+9872	000	6310	522	+145	+003	6439	340	+79	-012
6415	-2	-7	9050	227	+19290	-006	6324	408	+237	-008	6439	340	+79	-012
7525	+7	+35.5	<i>h</i>			6324	430	+237	+014	6835	220	+886	+002	
7715	+9	-10.5	2425742	301	-177	+023	6338	318	+329	+006	6835	224	+886	+005
7815	+10	-19	5742	299	-177	+021	6396	309	+713	-006	7807	461	+2868	-006
<i>f</i>			5951	310	-115	-061	6510	208	+1467	+003	7809	433	+2872	+003
2425713	282	-3555	6005	357	-99	+027	7515	427	+8122	-004	7809	440	+2872	+009
5719	294	-3519	6005	217	-99	-113	7516	350	+8128	+013	<i>p</i>			
6028	285	-1671	6015	473	-96	+025	7809	357	+10068	-016	2425971	363	-363	+005
6030	454	-1658	6015	495	-96	+047	<i>m</i>			5971	356	-363	-002	
6057	377	-1497	6086	319	-75	+049	2425713	30	-4848	+04	6030	529	-319	000
6063	237	-1462	6305	436	-10	-044	5731	32	-4778	-02	6115	249	-256	-002
6091	323	-1294	6305	513	-10	+033	6012	47	-3689	+01	6115	262	-256	+011
6115	241	-1151	6305	485	-10	+005	6064	32	-3488	-03	6146	192	-233	-004
6118	249	-1133	6305	527	-10	+047	6094	31	-3372	+02	6264	549	-145	+019
6123	275	-1103	6511	104	+51	-096	6102	31	-3341	+02	6264	533	-145	+003
6264	554	-258	6511	221	+51	+021	6117	25	-3283	-01	6299	501	-119	+011
6265	571	-252	7809	612	+436	+014	6304	42	-2558	+01	6303	507	-116	-017
6266	573	-246	7809	600	+436	+002	6305	44	-2554	00	6303	518	-116	-006
6270	557	-222	<i>i</i>			6309	56	-2538	-02	6396	322	-47	+006	
6270	579	-222	2425971	34	-22	-08	6337	46	-2430	+01	6396	308	-47	-008
6273	587	-204	5971	37	-22	-06	6382	37	-2256	-01	6439	345	-15	-006
<i>g</i>			5971	43	-22	+01	6412	31	-2140	-01	6439	307	-15	+016
<i>h</i>			5971	46	-22	+03	7520	30	+2152	+03	6501	202	+31	-009
<i>i</i>			6002	43	-18	+11	7809	39	+3272	00	6501	215	+31	+004
<i>j</i>			6002	46	-18	+13	7834	95	+3371	+01	7430	465	+722	+011
<i>k</i>			<i>j</i>			8182	96	+4719	+04	7519	234	+788	+004	
<i>l</i>			<i>k</i>			8300	88	+5176	-01	7519	233	+788	+003	





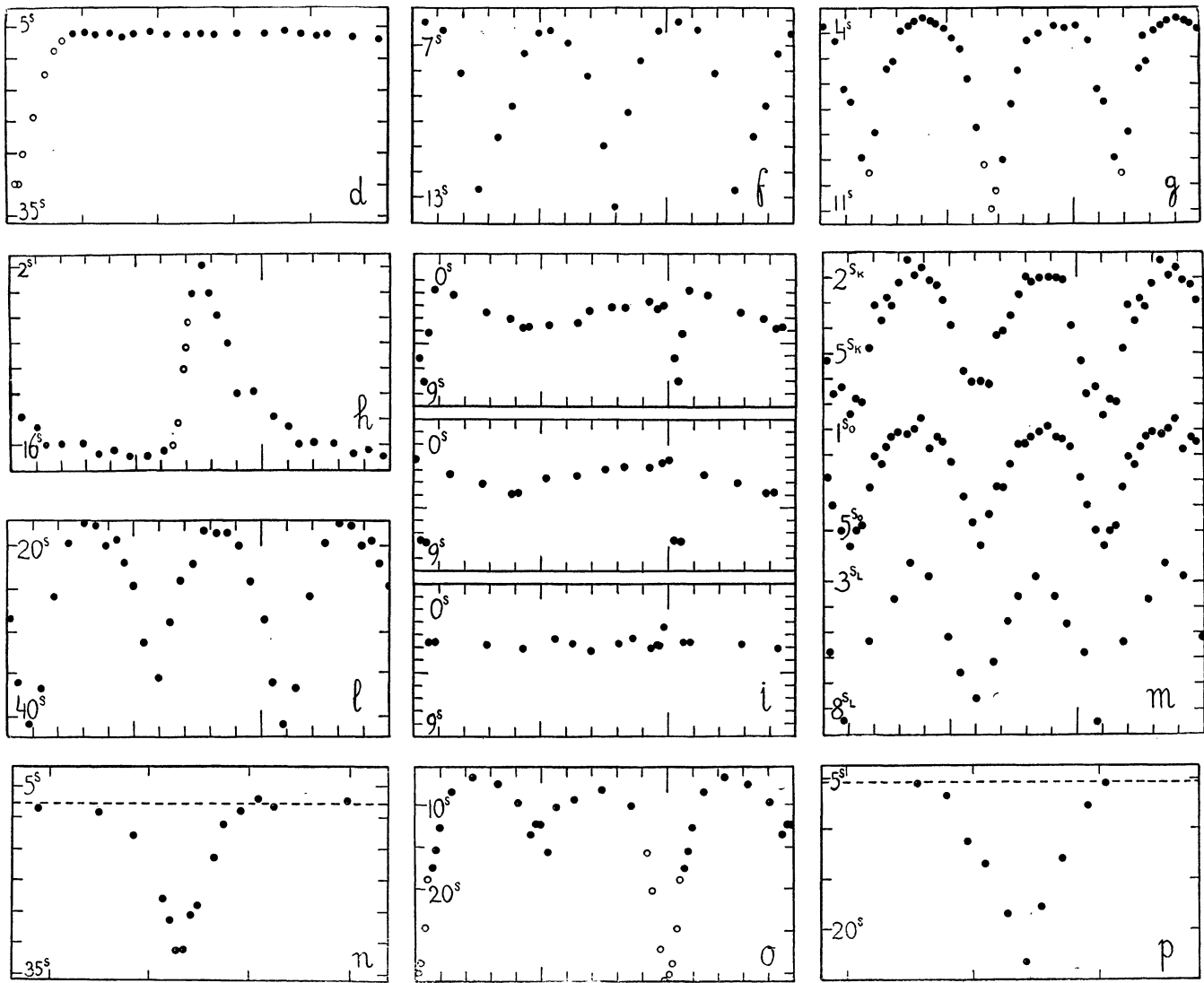


FIGURE 2.

g. The period was derived from the four branches of the light curve by least squares. The following equations of condition were adopted:

$$\alpha_1 E_1 + \alpha_2 E_2 + \alpha_3 E_3 + \alpha_4 E_4 + tP = u,$$

where  $u$  is the time of an observation on one of the branches, reduced to a fixed brightness by means of the adopted slope of the branch. Further  $\alpha_1$  is unity for a point situated on the first branch,  $\alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4$  then

being taken zero, etc. This procedure has the advantage of yielding values for the epochs and the period, the errors of which are independent, if the central epoch is used in each case. From these one can easily obtain the values, together with their mean errors, of the epochs of minimum or their difference in time, or of the widths of the minima, by applying the well known rules for independent errors.

The results of the solution are:

central epoch of descending branch, primary minimum	= $E_1 = 2426710.6479$	$\pm .0016$	(m.e.)
„ „ „ rising „ „ „	= $E_2 = 2426383.4374$	$\pm .0015$	(m.e.)
„ „ „ descending „ secondary „	= $E_3 = 2426526.3537$	$\pm .0016$	(m.e.)
„ „ „ rising „ „ „	= $E_4 = 2426519.5029$	$\pm .0016$	(m.e.)
period	= $P =$	$.26498597 \pm .0000023$	(m.e.)
mean error of unit weight (1 estimate)		$\pm .0075.$	

Phases of the epochs:  $25324^{\text{P}}.589$ ,  $24089^{\text{P}}.765$ ,  $24629^{\text{P}}.101$ ,  $24603^{\text{P}}.248 \pm 0.006$  (m.e.). The epochs are for brightness  $6^{\text{s}}.1$ . In Table 3 some observed minima are compared with an ephemeris computed with half the orbital period.

*h.* The shape of the minimum of this  $\delta$  Cephei variable remains uncertain, the variable during that phase being near the limit of most of the plates. From the residuals in Table 3 there is no indication that the variation is not regular <sup>1)</sup>.

*i.* This Algol variable shows a remarkable shape of the light curve for the phase interval between the principal minima. The mean light curve is given for three intervals of time, viz. J.D.  $2425700-2426200$ , J.D.  $2426200-2426700$ , J.D.  $2426700-2429100$ . It seems that a small shift in phase of the secondary light variation relative to the principal minimum has taken place from the first to the second interval and that its amplitude has vanished in the third interval. No attempt will be made here to explain these features. An explanation by a systematic hour angle error is excluded by the distribution of hour angles over phase.

The principal minimum shows no perceptible changes. It remained unobserved during the third interval. It may be added that in the third interval of time about 30 plates have been included which were taken with the variable near the centre. On the ordinary plates the image is about 1 cm distant from the northern edge.

*k.* On seven plates this variable has been compared in the Schilt microphotometer with its comparison stars and these again with a number of stars in the S.A. No. 172 occurring on the same plates at about the same distance from the centre, the result indicating a nova-like light variation.

J.D.	var
<sup>d</sup>	<sup>m</sup>
2425893.55 (normal brightness)	14.34
6388.30	13.69
6388.32	14.12
7713.55	14.03
7713.57	13.97
7713.59	13.18
7713.61	14.00

The star has been estimated on all the available

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. B.A.N. No. 278, 334 (1936); Riverview Publ. No. 2, 28 (1936).

plates and shows only slight variations in brightness. It is always found intermediate in brightness between the comparison stars *d* and *e*, with the following exceptions:

At J.D.  $2427713.59$ , on a 30 min. exposure, it is about  $1^{\text{m}}.2$  brighter than normal, but immediately before and after this exposure the observed brightening is only one third of a magnitude. The true amplitude was, therefore, probably much larger; it may well have reached 2 magnitudes. No observations of the variable have been made during this night besides the four mentioned above. The next preceding and the next following plates are taken sixteen days before and eighty-eight days after this date respectively. In the vicinity of these dates occasional maxima are observed similar to the maximum noted on J.D.  $2426388$ . This perturbation period, as we may call it, extends from J.D.  $2427513$  to J.D.  $2427808$ .

On all the plates explicitly mentioned the aspect of the star's image is quite normal. Moreover the perturbation period seems to corroborate the reality of the greater change in brightness.

*l.* The orbital period of the present W UMa system is among the shortest known. The mean light curve represents weighted means of the estimates, weight 2 being given to a good estimate. The primary minimum (odd values of *E*) is somewhat deeper than the secondary.

*m.* This variable is CPD  $-42^{\circ} 2793$  ( $9^{\text{m}}.4$ ). The stars  $-42^{\circ} 2781$  ( $9^{\text{m}}.2$ ),  $-42^{\circ} 2779$  ( $9^{\text{m}}.2$ ),  $-42^{\circ} 2784$  ( $9^{\text{m}}.7$ ),  $-42^{\circ} 2782$  ( $9^{\text{m}}.9$ ) were used as comparison stars and named *a*, *b*, *c*, *d* respectively. The star was estimated again on the same plates by Dr OOSTERHOFF. Afterwards the late Rev. W. O'LEARY S.J. kindly made, at my request, 149 estimates on plates of the SX Velorum field, obtained at Riverview College Observatory, Sydney. These plates have been taken during the years 1934-1937 and nearly all our plates are anterior to them. Nevertheless O'LEARY's observations yield a good confirmation of the period owing to the considerable difference in longitude between Johannesburg and Sydney.

In Table 4  $s_o$ ,  $s_L$  and  $s_K$  denote estimates by OOSTERHOFF, O'LEARY and the writer respectively. O'LEARY estimates the stars *b* and *c* of about equal brightness. Approximately  $s_K = .68 + 1.2 s_o = -.14 + 1.08 s_L$ .

The two minima alternate at unequal intervals. This appears in two ways.

First, according to the method described for star  $\xi$  the following elements have been found from the writer's estimates:



central epoch of descending branch, primary	minimum	2426469 <sup>d</sup> .566	± .005	(m.e.)
"    "    "    rising    "    "	"	2426537 <sup>d</sup> .834	± .004	(m.e.)
"    "    "    descending    "    secondary	"	2426607 <sup>d</sup> .174	± .004	(m.e.)
"    "    "    rising    "    "	"	2426531 <sup>d</sup> .906	± .004	(m.e.)
period		.5162856	± .0000012	(m.e.)
mean error of unit weight			± .019	

The epochs are computed for those points on the branches, where  $s_k = 3.6$ , a linear change in magnitude being adopted. The phases corresponding to the four epochs are 12530<sup>P</sup>.980, 12663<sup>P</sup>.209, 12797<sup>P</sup>.515, 12651<sup>P</sup>.727. The phase interval from the midst of primary minimum to the midst of secondary minimum is, with these data,  $P.526 \pm P.008$ . Not only OOSTERHOFF's but also O'LEARY's light curve well agrees with this deviation of the minima. The period computed from the primary minimum alone is  $d.5162862 \pm d.0000016$  (m.e.), from the secondary alone it is  $d.5162851 \pm d.0000024$  (m.e.). Thus no motion of the apsides is shown at present. With the aid of older series of observations it will be easily discerned whether the line of the apsides has rotated.

Secondly, the lines of symmetry, determined in much the same way as described in *B.A.N.* No. 166, 39 (1929) from my own light curve, are at  $P.096 \pm P.001$ <sup>1)</sup> for the primary and at  $P.616 \pm P.003$  for the secondary minimum, the interval being  $P.520 \pm P.004$  (m.e.).

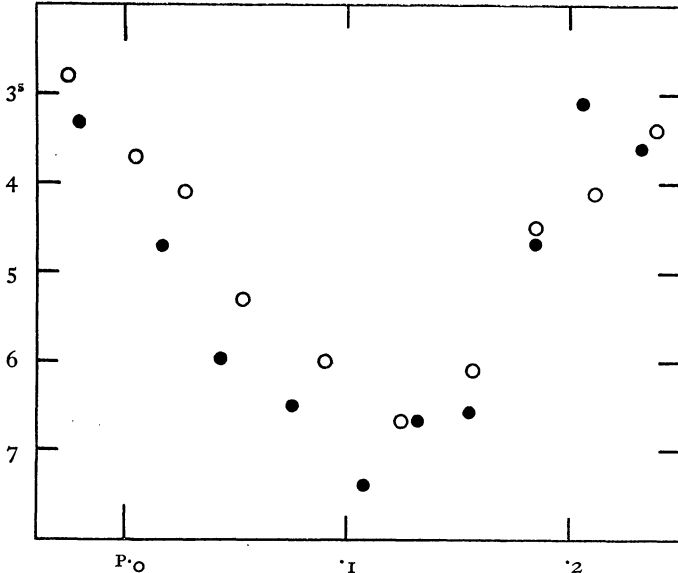


FIGURE 3.

Dots: primary minimum, circles: secondary minimum.

In Figure 3 the three available light curves, reduced to the scale  $s_k$ , have been combined. The secondary minimum is displaced by  $P.5$ , to show its deviation from the half-way position.

We find  $e|\cos \omega| \cdot (1 + \frac{1}{2} \cotg^2 i) = .035$ .

In Table 3 observations near minimum are compared with an ephemeris computed with the period  $d.2581428$  and the epoch J.D. 2426964<sup>d</sup>.746.

n. The reciprocal period  $d^{-1}.23636$  was used for this Algol star. It fitted the descending and rising branches better than the solution obtained by means of the method of least squares from the observations of low brightness. I estimate its uncertainty to be about one part in ten thousand.

o. The period was improved by a solution based on points on the rising branch of the primary minimum. The epochs given are reduced to that point of the branch where the brightness is 18<sup>s</sup>.

p. The period was derived from a solution based on points on the descending branch, the epochs being given for a brightness of 14<sup>s</sup>. There is, perhaps, an indication of ellipticity of the equatorial sections of the stars, the observed semi-amplitude outside the eclipses being of the order of  $s.3$ .

<sup>1)</sup> In order to derive the mean error we shall shortly recapitulate the procedure which has been followed. Let  $s(P)$  express the relation between brightness and phase as defined by  $N$  points of the light curve. The points are equidistant in phase, the constant phase interval being  $\Delta$ . We first reflect the points against a vertical line  $P = P_1$ . Suppose now  $n$  differences  $s(P_1 + \Delta) - s(P_1 - \Delta)$ ,  $s(P_1 + 2\Delta) - s(P_1 - 2\Delta)$ , etc. to be formed and let the sum of their squares be denoted by  $S(P_1)$ . Likewise other sums of  $n$  squares  $S(P_2)$ ,  $S(P_3)$  are defined. The value of  $n$  will be an integer in the vicinity of  $\frac{1}{2}(N-2)$ . Then the curve  $S(P)$  will, by the abscissa  $P_0$  of its minimum, define the line of symmetry,  $P = P_0$ , of the light curve and, by its height and its width, the mean error of  $P_0$ , in the way described by PANNEKOEK (*Untersuchungen über den Lichtwechsel Algols*, p. 215, Diss. Leiden, 1902, see also *B.A.N.* No. 297, 142, 1937). The equations of condition, which have the form  $s(P + \Delta) - s(P - \Delta) = 0$ , etc., are  $n$  in number, the process described above being an equivalent to the standard process of forming normal equations by differentiation of the squared and summed equations of condition. As the number of unknowns is one, the factor  $S(P_0 + \text{m.e.}) / S(P_0)$  is in this case  $n / (n-1)$ . If  $S(P)$  can be approximated to by the parabola  $S = a + bP/\Delta + cP^2/\Delta^2$ , the mean error can be written in the form  $\Delta \sqrt{(a/c - b^2/4c^2) / (n-1)}$ , which will be near  $\Delta \sqrt{2(a/c - b^2/4c^2) / (N-4)}$ , cf. HERTZSPRUNG, *B.A.N.* No. 340, 209 (1941). The expression proposed by HALL (*Ab. 7*, 90, 462, 1939) will be too large, as, in his method, it applies to the mean error corresponding to unit weight. This is, however, without taking into account the uncertainty of his drawn curve. With the present method  $P.99995 \pm P.00102$  (m.e.) is the middle of the visual eclipse and  $P.99986 \pm P.00087$  (m.e.) the middle of the infrared eclipse. The probable errors are thus about 2.5 minutes, whereas HALL finds 6 minutes.