AN UPDATE ON EI CEPHEI AND V377 CASSIOPEIAE

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Abstract

Updated information is given on the eclipsing binary EI Cephei and the unclassified variable V377 Cassiopeiae.

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EI Cephei is an 8.5-day eclipsing binary variable (visual magnitude range 7.6 - 8.4) that seems to show significant variations outside of eclipse (Lowder 1986). Between early 1987 and late February 1990, this star, when not in eclipse, has shown generally slow variations in the range of visual magnitude 7.6 - 8.0, being at the bright end of this range most of the time, and usually nearly constant on any particular night. It was unusually faint - magnitude 8.4 - for single observations made on JD 2447636.501 and 2447638.596. In fact, on the night after the first draft of this note was prepared (JD 2447948.6), the star was at approximately magnitude 8.1, at phase 0.6P, well outside of eclipse, and on the next night it was constant at approximately magnitude 7.8.

The classification of V377 Cassiopeiae (visual magnitude range 7.5 - 8.4) remains uncertain. Both the slow variations and the occasional rapid eclipse-like dips noted in my earlier paper (Lowder 1987) continue to be seen. Definite dips occurred on JD 2447097.65 and 2447481.66, and several others are suspected. No consistent period can be assigned to these episodes.

The references below should be consulted for more details on these two interesting stars, well within the range of binocular observers. Both should be carefully watched.

REFERENCES

Lowder, W. M. 1986, Journ. Amer. Assoc. Var. Star Obs. 15, 279. 1987, Journ. Amer. Assoc. Var. Star Obs. 16, 94.