

Comment: The author, a well-known authority on the observational aspects of variable star astronomy (his monograph on the RR Lyrae stars is now available in English translation), provides here a useful guide to this subject at a level readily understandable to the more advanced amateur observer. The emphasis on the photometric properties of the various classes of variable stars is particularly valuable. Chapter VI includes a detailed discussion of the determination of the properties of light curves from observational data, using as examples 97 individual observations of the eclipsing variable EI Aquarii and 16 estimated dates of maxima of the long-period variable CSV 379. Chapter VIII gives charts and sequences for 63 bright variables, suitable for amateur observation. In short, this is a book nearly ideally designed for the observer of variable stars, amateur or professional.

VISUAL MAGNITUDES OF COMPARISON STARS IN VARIABLE STAR FIELDS

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Existing photoelectric V magnitudes given in Blanco et al. (1968) and later references, together with the standard photovisual sequences published by Wirtanen and Vyssotsky (1945) are being incorporated into the planned AAVSO Atlas of Variable Stars. These data will provide reliable comparison star magnitudes for most of the variable stars brighter than tenth magnitude.

Similar data are rarely available for stars in the fields of fainter variable stars. Many of the visual sequences on the provisional charts prepared by C. B. Ford for new variables in the AAVSO program have been visually estimated at the telescope (mostly by the author and L. Hazel), and are subject to possibly significant errors. Observers noting discrepancies on old or new charts are invited to communicate their comments to the author at 124 Ferndale Road, Scarsdale, New York 10583. Sky-checks of all preliminary charts by several observers will help to insure high quality in the final blueprint charts.

Photoelectric or photometric data, particularly recent or unpublished results, for all stars brighter than tenth magnitude, and for fainter ones in variable star fields would be much appreciated, and such data will be appropriately acknowledged.

REFERENCES

1. V. M. Blanco, S. Demers, G. G. Douglass, and M. P. Fitzgerald 1968, "Photoelectric Catalogue", Publ. U. S. Naval Obs., Vol. XXI.
2. C. A. Wirtanen and A. N. Vyssotsky 1945, "McCormick Photovisual Sequences", Ap.J. 101, 141-178.