PERIODS FOR THREE VARIABLES IN CYGNUS

STEPHEN SANDS Maria Mitchell Observatory Nantucket, MA 02554

Abstract

Periods have been determined for V540 Cygni, V838 Cygni and S4713.

* * * * *

Three variables in Cygnus discovered by Beljawski (1936) have been examined on the available plates at the Maria Mitchell Observatory, spanning more than 50 years. No periods had previously been determined for these stars.

TABLE I Three Variable Stars in Cygnus

Star L	JD.	Period Days	Max. (pg)	Min. (pg)	Obs.	JD Interval
V540 Cyg M	2,443,250	361	12.4	14.8		2,424,684-2,443,670
V838 Cyg RR 2,4	443,365.791	0.4802795	13.3	14.6		2,426,604-2,443,421
S4713 SR	2,443,380	187.5	13.9	14.8		2,424,684-2,443,703

For V838 Cyg the inverse period used to compute the phases was 2.082121. Figure 1 clearly shows its rapidly ascending branch and its slower descending branch with a magnitude range of 1.2 magnitudes, characteristic of a typical RR Lyrae star.

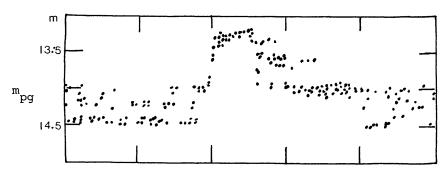


Figure 1. Observations of V838 Cyg plotted against phases computed from the reciprocal period 2.082121(days $^{-1}$). Abscissa markers are at intervals of 0.2 period.

I would like to take this time to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Dorrit Hoffleit, my director while working at the Maria Mitchell Observatory as a research participant during the summer of 1978, for her unlimited guidance. This research was supported partly by an EARTHWATCH scholarship from EARTHWATCH in Belmont, Massachusetts, graciously donated by Mr. DeWitt Wallace of the Readers' Digest in New York, and partly by National Science Foundation grant number AST 78-07405 to the Maria Mitchell Observatory.

REFERENCE

Beljawski, S. 1936, Perem. Zvezdy, 5, 36.